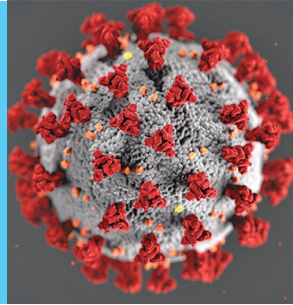


COVID ON CAMPUS

University officials have reported the number of positive coronavirus cases on all NWOSU campuses. PAGE 3



HELLO, HELLO!

Nine new faculty members joined Northwestern this year. Read more about them here. PAGES 6 & 7



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

PRSR.T. STD.
Permit # 5
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Volume No. 82, Issue 2

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

September 3, 2020

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'WE KNEW IT WAS GOING TO HIT'

NWOSU alumnus in Louisiana lives through Hurricane Laura

By SEAN DOHERTY
Assistant Editor

IOWA, La. — In the early morning hours of Aug. 27, Hurricane Laura smashed into southwestern Louisiana's Gulf Coast.

Lake Charles, Louisiana, a city of 80,000, took the brunt of the Category 4 storm, now recognized as one of the most powerful U.S. systems on record. Winds of up to 150 mph conjured up tornadoes. Those winds, mixed with torrential rainfall, produced a storm surge with waves between nine and 12 feet tall, the highest reaching 15 feet. Although the actual surge fell five feet shorter than predicted, the water was more than enough to flatten anything in its path. The area remained dangerous even as the storms passed on. Black smoke could be seen rising from a nearby chemical plant.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University alumnus Maverick Harper lives in the town of Iowa, eight miles east of Lake Charles. Harper was traveling out-of-state



Photo provided by Debra Green

Hurricane Laura destroyed a barn on the property of the Harper & Morgan Rodeo Company in Louisiana.

when the storm passed over his house.

"I was actually at a rodeo in Alamosa, Colorado, but my whole family went to Marshall, Texas,"

Harper said. According to CNBC, 580,000 coastal residents were ordered to evacuate. The Harpers loaded up their trucks and trailers with their horses and roping stock

and evacuated to a family friend's ranch to wait out the storm.

Harper was born in Iowa and lived there until he was 13 years old. He moved to Stephenville,

Texas, to attend high school. He moved to Alva in 2014 and attended NWOSU for five years, majoring in business. Harper competed as a member of the NWOSU rodeo team for four years and served as the assistant coach for one. He represented the NWOSU rodeo team at the College National Finals in 2018 in both the calf roping and team roping events.

In the spring of 2019, Harper moved back to Louisiana. Harper and his older brother offer roping lessons when they aren't roping competitively or helping produce rodeos for their family's rodeo production company.

The family business, Harper & Morgan Rodeo Company, was started in 1958 by the brothers' maternal grandfather, James Harper, and his best friend, Ralph Morgan. It grew to become one of the biggest rodeo production companies in the southeastern United States. Harper plans to run the company someday.

Thankfully, Harper said, all of the livestock from Harper & Morgan were safe in Waskom, Texas. The facilities back in Louisiana were not so lucky.

"(Hurricane Laura) tore down the whole calf barn, and then it
See HURRICANE, Page 2

The show must go on

The Rialto Cinema in downtown Alva has reopened after closing in the spring because of the coronavirus pandemic. The theater began showing "Bill & Ted Face The Music" in August. The movie shows on weeknights at 7 p.m., and shows at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The concession stand, which serves soft drinks and popcorn, among other items, is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. To read a review of "Bill & Ted," see "Face The Music" is a rocking movie" on Page 9 in this edition of The News.

Photo by Jara Reeder



COVID'S IMPACT

Sept. HOCO a no-go

Annual celebration postponed until spring, university announces

By KEVIN FORD
Assistant Editor

Northwestern officials have postponed Homecoming festivities until the spring because of complications with COVID-19, though they have not set a date for the event.

The university announced Friday that the annual event would be postponed. The cancellation is in regards to the fes-

ivities arranged by the Homecoming Committee.

Homecoming is the biggest event of the year at Northwestern. Alumni and familiar faces return to campus. Popular attractions such as the Miss Cinderella Pageant, Rally Round the Ranger, Town Square Parade and all sporting events will not take place this fall in Alva.

"It will be missed," Jacqueline Kephart, payroll clerk at NWOSU, said. Kephart attended the Homecoming football game last year and was fascinated by the energy level and brotherhood among the football
See HOCO, Page 3

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News

HURRICANE: Residents were better prepared for Laura, NWOSU alumnus said

Continued from Page 1
tore off all the tin on the horse barn," Harper explained. "So we're using a lot of pastures right now, and we're all living in our horse trailers."

"One house can be destroyed, and the house right next to it can still be standing. That's kind of what we have. My grandparents' house is fine, and then our business offices got torn down. Our covered arena is still there, and then my uncle's house was leveled. I don't know how, but the arena looks like there wasn't even a storm."
— **Maverick Harper**

Right now, Harper's main tasks are cleaning up debris and piling up destroyed metal for FEMA to collect. Then the rebuilding will begin. Harper said his insurance will pay for about half of the repairs, enough to replace the tin roofs. As bad as it sounds, the damage could have been much worse, he said.

"It is clear that we did not sustain and suffer the absolute, catastrophic damage that we thought was likely," Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said. "But we have sustained a tremendous amount of damage."

"What happens in hurricanes

is they have pop-up tornadoes and winds," Harper said. "So, one house can be destroyed, and the house right next to it can still be standing. That's kind of what we have. My grandparents' house is fine, and then our business offices got torn down. Our covered arena is still there, and then my uncle's house was leveled. I don't know how, but the arena looks like there wasn't even a storm. So it's just kind of hit and miss."

The Associated Press reported 16 deaths in Texas and Louisiana as of Aug. 29. More than half died from carbon monoxide poisoning due to the unsafe operation of generators.

According to CNBC, more than 875,000 people are without power, and the Louisiana Department of Health estimates 220,000 people are without water as of Aug. 31. Repairs to these services could take weeks to months to complete.

Edwards called Hurricane Laura the most powerful hurricane to strike Louisiana – even stronger than Hurricane Katrina, a Category 3 storm when it made landfall in 2005. Although Katrina did not affect Iowa like New Orleans to the east, Hurricane Rita, which came less than a week later, devastated the Lake Charles area.

Harper believes Lake Charles was more prepared this time around.

"(Hurricane Rita) was worse because nobody thought it was going to hit (Iowa), so nobody was prepared," Harper recalls. "So, this time, everybody had generators and stuff. Everybody was kind of ready. (Hurricane Laura) tore down about the same amount. Like, it was the same destruction. But everybody was more prepared this time because we knew it was going to hit."



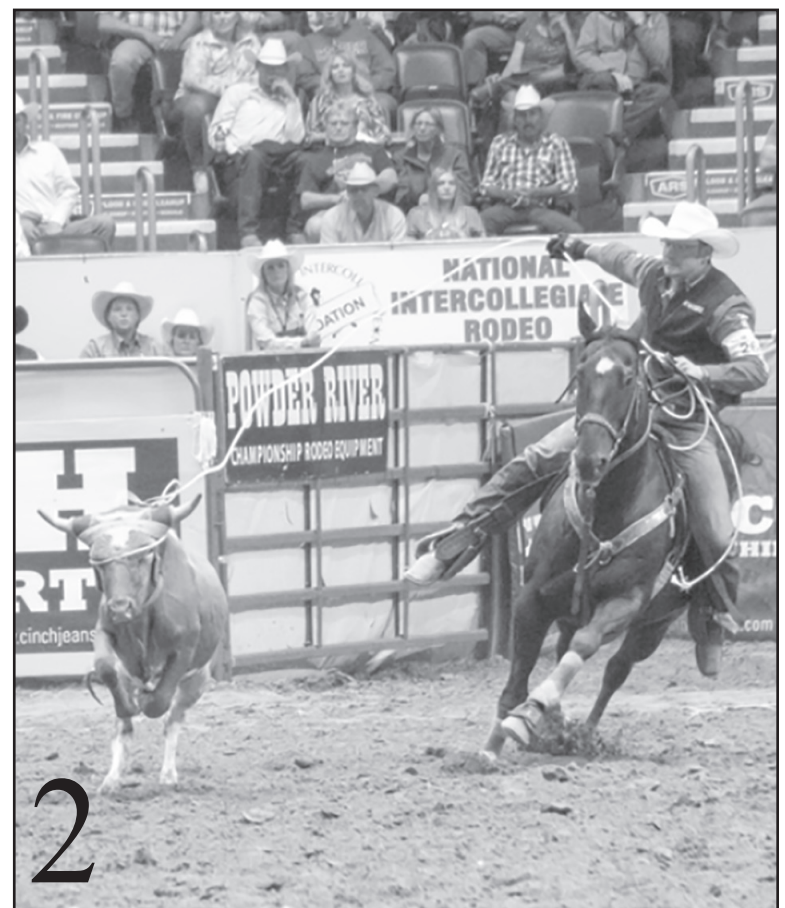
Photos provided by Debra Green

1. Hurricane Laura damaged a building on property belonging to the Harper & Morgan Rodeo Company. High winds knocked down one of the barn's walls, which crashed down on top of a nearby pickup truck and trailer.

2. Maverick Harper competes in the team roping event at the College National Finals Rodeo in 2018. At the time, Harper was still a student at NWOSU.

3. High winds destroyed a barn in which Harper houses roping stock on the Harper & Morgan Rodeo Company property in Iowa, Louisiana.

4. High winds knocked down trees in the area.



News

What's up?

WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE CAF?

Friday:

Breakfast: Scrambled Eggs, Meatless Vegetarian Sausage Patty, Biscuit with Gravy, Potato Cheese Frittata, Pancakes, Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal; Diced Potato, Pepper, and Onion Hash; Turkey Sausage Patty

Lunch: Chicken and Andouille Gumbo, Jalapeno Sweet Cornbread, New Orleans Red Beans, Zucchini & Yellow Squash, Spicy Black Beans, Sicilian Cheese Pizza, Hawaiian Pizza, Pepperoni Calzone, Cream of Mushroom, Tomato Basil Soup; Saltine Crackers, 2ct, Keebler; Patty Melt, French Fries, Pollock Bites

Dinner: Baked Orange Fish, Roasted Corn, Red Roasted Potatoes, Rosemary Roasted Mushroom, Sicilian Cheese Pizza, Hawaiian Pizza, Pepperoni Calzone

WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE CAF?

Saturday:

Breakfast: Scrambled Eggs, Meatless Vegetarian Sausage Patty, Biscuit with Gravy, Vegetable Frittata, Chocolate Oatmeal, Baked Blueberry French Toast, Fried Hash Brown Patty, Pork Bacon

Lunch: Turkey Tater Tot Casserole, California Blend Vegetables, Roasted Potatoes, Sweet Potato Korma with Coconut Milk, Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Sausage Cheese Pizza

Dinner: Coq Au Vin; Fettuccini Noodles, Cooked; Brown Rice

CORRECTION

Dr. Dena Walker's name was misspelled on Page 6 in the last edition of The News.

UNIVERSITY CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Northwestern Oklahoma State University will close for Labor Day on Sept. 7.

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

COVID ON CAMPUS

Six positive coronavirus cases reported at NWOSU

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

Six Northwestern students have tested positive for the coronavirus, university officials said Monday.

In an email to students, Northwestern President Janet Cunningham said the total number of positive COVID-19 cases among Northwestern students includes cases at all of the university's campuses, including those in Alva, Enid, and Woodward.

Officials did not identify the students who tested positive for the virus. No university employees have tested positive for the virus, officials said.

Cunningham thanked students for adhering to the school's safety guidelines and encouraged students to continue wearing face coverings, which they are required to wear inside buildings.

"As we see positive cases reported on campus, we must re-

member that our reopening task force spent much time establishing policies and procedures to guide our responses," she said. "We review these policies and procedures often and monitor changes from the CDC, WHO, and local health officials to ensure we are making the best decisions for our campuses. I urge you to allow these policies and procedures to work so that we may remain as healthy as possible."

University officials will report the number of COVID-19 cases each Friday on the university's website, Cunningham said. 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 19 cases of the virus. Eighteen of the people who tested positive for the virus have recovered, data from the Oklahoma State Health Department shows, leaving one active case in the city.

Woods County had 25 positive COVID-19 cases. Twenty-four people have recovered from the virus, leaving one active case in the county.

The State of Oklahoma had 60,118 cases of the virus. Of those cases, 8,651 are active. Statewide, 50,646 people have recovered from the virus, and 821 people have died from it.

The United States has more than six million cases of the virus. More than 184,000 Americans have died from it, and more than two million have recovered from it, health department data shows.

The coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, is a respiratory illness that originated in China, data from the Centers for Disease Control shows. Symptoms of the virus include fever, shortness of breath, and dry coughing. Symptoms appear 2 – 14 days after a person has been exposed to the virus, which is transmitted by coughing and touching contaminated surfaces.

COVID'S IMPACT

University will leave two professor jobs vacant

By **LOGAN MERIWETHER**
Student Reporter

Two teachers left Northwestern over the summer, and they are not going to have their positions filled for the time being.

Professor Jennifer Paige in the English department and Professor Aaron Place in the science department both quit over the summer. Northwestern officials have decided, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and low class numbers, that they are not going to hire new professors for those positions as of right now.

Dr. Bo Hannaford, the executive vice president of academic affairs, said he has been taking a close look at the budget for this year. After having a reduction in state appropriations by more than 3% and lower enrollment due to COVID-19, faculty on campus have been looking at the number of classes and students in programs.

Hannaford said a large number of students are enrolled in concurrent classes. Many of those students come to Northwestern already having taken general education courses like composition, history and science, he said.

After looking at the numbers and making sure they had the correct number of faculty needed to teach the classes, officials decided this would be a good way to save money on campus. Each year, Northwestern looks at those numbers and factors to see different ways to save money as needed.

Hannaford said he has high hopes that, once the world makes it through the pandemic, enrollment will increase again, and he can go to the president of Northwestern and start hiring teachers to fill those positions.

HOCO: Car show also canceled because of COVID-19

Continued from Page 1

The parade is one of the biggest traditional parades in all of Oklahoma. Members of the Homecoming Committee said they did not have much choice but to cancel it. The monitoring of such large crowds would be incredibly difficult, officials said, particularly the part where the masses must socially distance.

"I think the town is going to take a hit from Homecoming being postponed," Vanessa

Scoggins, a travel and insurance clerk at NWOSU, said. Scoggins is an Alva native and expressed her concern for the town, as the cancelation of Homecoming also causes the annual car show to be suspended as well. She said she was incredibly disappointed when event organizers announced the car show was canceled.

A university spokesperson wrote in a press release that the decision was not an easy one to make.

"I think the town is going to take a hit from Homecoming being postponed."
— **Vannessa Scoggins**

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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.

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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.

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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

Sometimes sad isn't that deep

By MCKAYLA HOLSON
Editorial Editor

So this month is Suicide Awareness month.

Suicide and depression are more than just feeling sad, but I'm going to talk about sadness in this article.

Sometimes people who are sad talk about taking their own life or even attempt or do it.

I've noticed that I've become increasingly emotional and unapologetic about those emotions over the years.

But, me being sad doesn't translate to me having suicidal thoughts or depression.

I'm just sad.

So I'm sad, I've been sad for a while, and that's okay. Some of us are just sad people and we can't help it, it's just how we're wired, and we shouldn't be made to feel weird, different or like it's a bad thing.

I still hide when I feel sad most of the time. It's just so bothersome to other people I feel and there's no way to fix it, it just comes and goes.

I've had friends tell me "you need help," "you need medication" or "you need to talk to someone," but I don't feel I need to and I don't want to.

Why do others feel the need to say things like this to people who are sad? I don't get it.

We're just sad sometimes and that doesn't mean anything is wrong with us. Sometimes medications and counseling help people, but I personally don't need that. I don't want it.

Don't get me wrong, medication and counseling helps, it's just not something that I personally want.

Listen to me, I sound like a broken record.

Emotions are good, emotions need to be expressed. I am a full believer that emotions shouldn't be bottled up, that just makes things worse.

But, because of the reactions others have, people are sometimes scared to express the way they feel.

I don't want to be told what people think I should do. Don't get me wrong, I appreciate the concern, it's just that sometimes people go overboard with it.

Sometimes emotions are happy, sometimes they're not. That's okay.

Speaking of going overboard, don't try to force explanations from people.

Don't repeatedly ask someone why they're sad because sometimes we just don't know.

It's frustrating when someone repeatedly asks me why I'm sad or why I look sad. Sometimes I'm not even really sad or upset at that moment. I just have a sad face I guess.

One of the most frustrating things is when someone doesn't believe me when I say I'm fine and repeatedly asks for an explanation.

And sometimes people just don't want to explain their problems to you. That's fine.

People aren't obligated to explain their lives, thoughts and emotions.

Keep that in mind if you ever press someone for answers.

I'm not saying "don't ask your friend or family member how they're doing," I'm saying don't grill them for answers when they obviously don't have them or don't want to give them to you.

To summarize, sometimes sadness isn't really that deep and nobody owes a soul an explanation as to why they feel sad.

Now, if you do feel sad, or anything else, and feel that you need to talk to someone, reach out.

Reach out to a friend, family member, someone who you can trust or a medical professional and don't be afraid to ask.

Students contact the National Suicide Prevention Hotline or they can request counseling services on the Northwestern website under counseling services <https://www.nwsu.edu/student-services/counseling>

Needing or wanting help is also okay. It's important to reach a point in life where you feel comfortable with who you are as a person.



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EDITOR'S RANT OF THE WEEK

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

Politics. I know, just the word makes people uptight. I don't want to be yelled at for my political beliefs for this article. That's not the point. The point is bigger than that. The two-party system is broken, political ads are only about the negatives of other politicians and we are stuck with two sub-par politicians to be president for the next four years.

It being an election year, we have commercials and advertisements being shoved down our throats. What I don't like is the fact that most of the advertisements are directed at the negatives of the other candidates. Well this guy didn't support this guy when he needed it most, well this guy tried to run over me with his truck (Yes that was really on a commercial).

Shouldn't we be focusing on what the politicians want to change and how they plan on doing it? Why are we constantly being forced to vote for the lesser of two evils?

One of my biggest problems with politics is the fact that everyone can see that the two-party system is broken. The last two years we have been giving sub-par politicians a chance to be president. You can't honestly look at the two candidates for this year and truly believe that they are the

best that are nation has to offer. I know a lot of people agree with me, but what are we doing to fix it. Why do we have a two-party system that's so broken that this is our result?

George Washington warned about splitting into two parties as he was leaving his presidencies. He knew that having a two-party system would end badly and it has. With the two-party system, it's pretty much impossible for any third party to win. People are worried that voting for a third party would throw away their vote, and they aren't going to risk that.

We live in a severely divided nation. Everyone can agree with that. Regardless of what side of the political spectrum you're on, it's evident.

Most people won't even sit down and calmly listen to the other side. If we can't have calm talks about it, then there is no way we'll ever be able to agree on anything, especially when those who are more educated in politics want to speak and you shut them down because they don't believe in what you believe in. Listen, maybe learn something and reevaluate where you stand. Sometimes just listening to the other side will broaden your expectations. Now, I don't mean forcing your side on them, but calmly telling them what you believe in and why you believe in it will help them better understand your side.

Interested in
writing?
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opinions!

Contact McKayla Holson

mrholson30@rangers.nwsu.edu

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Editorial

The highway calls

Sometimes the best way to relax is to take a short drive

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

Pure Prairie League may be one of the most under-appreciated musical groups of all time. You've probably heard their hit "Amie," but have you heard some of their other great works?

One of my favorite songs by the group is "Two Lane Highway." It's a song about – you guessed it – two lane highways.

And of all of the two-lane highways in the United States, Route 66 is my favorite.

I've written before about my love for The Mother Road. A little over a year ago, I penned a column recounting a road trip I took to my hometown of Sayre, Oklahoma.

Driving down the old concrete highway was a trip back in time. For most of the ride, I had my truck's windows rolled down. I listened to the "American Graffiti" soundtrack, which is packed full of hits from the 1950s, and enjoyed the slow, leisurely drive.

When I completed my journey, I shared a lesson I had learned: Every now and then, we need to slow down and get out of life's "rat race."

That lesson is relevant today.

Everyone's life has been changed in one way or another by the coronavirus pandemic. We've all had to adapt to new work environments; for many of us, our bedrooms have become our offices. Parents and students alike have had to adapt to rapidly shifting school schedules. We've increased sanitation measures around our homes and businesses – hopefully. And we've all gotten caught up in the 24-hour news cycle that revolves around the pandemic.

"Everyone's life has been changed in one way or another by the coronavirus pandemic. We've all had to adapt to new work environments; for many of us, our bedrooms have become our offices."

Many Americans are struggling to adapt to these changes – myself included. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly one-third of all Americans are experiencing some form of anxiety or depression. We've been cut off from the people we love – and for those who have lost loved ones to this silent killer, those separations are permanent.

I could discuss a number of ways I think people could protect their mental health. But what do I know? I'm just a newspaperman, not a counselor.

Yet, from personal experience, I can say this: Taking a short road trip might be good for you.

Going down a country road or an old highway affords we city-dwellers the opportunity to see nature at its finest. I can't help but think of the picturesque stretch of Highway 60 between Ponca City and Pawhuska. One can see cattle grazing in the tall grass growing along the hillsides, a view that never disappoints.

That's just one of the beautiful stretches of highway we have at our disposal. The winding roads around Kaw Lake allow drivers to see a number of birds and animals.

We have some gorgeous scenery around Kay County. But if you're like me, no road is better than Route 66.

The common denominator along all of these routes is neither the pavement nor the broken yellow line down the center of the road. Each of these routes displays the marvels of nature in their endless beauty. I can't think of a sight more relaxing than seeing a field of hay waving in the evening wind.

You can find scenes like that when you follow the yellow-striped road.

Not everyone likes to drive. But for some people, a road trip is the perfect solution to the emotional conundrums brought on by the coronavirus.

Is the two-lane highway calling you today?

"Not everyone likes to drive. But for some people, a road trip is the perfect solution to the emotional conundrums brought on by the coronavirus."

Get inspired!

"You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, love like you'll never be hurt, sing like there's nobody listening, and live like it's heaven on earth."

— William W. Purkey

"Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten."

— Neil Gaiman

"People who wonder if the glass is half empty or full miss the point. The glass is refillable." – Unknown

Songs to drive to

- Way Down We Go- Kaleo
- Sunflower- Post Malone, Swae Lee
- Golden- Harry Styles
- Wasteland Baby- Hozier
- Blinding Lights- The Weekend
- Vultures Fly- Avatar
- Here I Go Again- Whitesnake
- Take Me Away- Ayrton Jones
- The Chain- Fleetwood Mac

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.nwosu.edu or the newspaper at nwnews@nwosu.edu.

Meet the new Ranger faculty members on campus

Dana Roark, Instructor of accounting

By KAYLEA BROWN
Student Reporter

Dana Roark, instructor of accounting, received both a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and a Master of Education degree from Northwestern. She previously worked for Northwestern from 2007 to 2015. Roark is the owner of a tax preparation and bookkeeping business in Kiowa. She is also a Certified Public Accountant.



best part of being back.

Q: What brought you to Northwestern?

A: I was from Alva to start with and I got my bachelor's and master's both from Northwestern. So originally Dr. Jordan was taking a leave of absence and I was asked to take her year that she was gone. That was forever ago. Then I was hired, and I was here for seven years but I've taught adjunct in between the time I was gone and the time I'm back. So this is my second time around full time at Northwestern. So I was here for seven years and then gone and then came back.

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: I have taught online when I was an adjunct. I'm really glad to be back with the students more than just online. I've always liked advising and I'm still very good friends with a few of my students that are now colleagues. So I would say just being back in the classroom, advising students and interacting more than just online like I have been. That would be the

Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?

A: I'm an ultrarunner. I run every morning, probably five to ten miles every morning, but I'm trying to decide if I want to run a 50-miler. I run a few 50ks, which is 32 miles. So I really like running on trails.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: I don't know if I have a superpower, but people have always laughed that I'm Wonder Woman because I have two daughters, a tax business in Kiowa and also teaching. When the girls were young they were busy. They danced and were gone all the time. So I don't know if I have a superpower other than just being able to do a lot of stuff at the same time maybe, juggling things, is that a superpower?

KeEra Busse, Instructor of nursing

By TRINITY ST ANDREWS
Student Reporter

KeEra Busse, instructor of nursing, holds a Bachelor of Science in nursing from West Texas A&M University and a Master of Science in Nursing Education from Western Governors University in Austin, Texas. She has worked as a medical and surgical nurse at BSA Health Systems a clinical instructor at Amarillo College and instructor of nursing at West Texas A&M University.



Q: What brought you to Northwestern?

A: I have family in the area and wanted to move closer to home.

Q: What is your favorite part about the job?

A: Having so much support from other faculty members.

Q: What would be your superpower?

A: To see into the future, to know what to plan for.

Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?

A: I may be young, but there's a lot that I have accomplished.

Dr. Yvette Lowery, Assistant professor of nursing

By ERICK LIVINGSTON
Student Reporter

Dr. Yvette Lowery, assistant professor of nursing, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Norfolk State University (Virginia) and a Master of Science in nursing from Jacksonville University (Florida). She also earned a doctorate of nursing practice from South University (Savannah, Georgia). Her prior work experience includes part-time nursing professor for online programs at Aspen University (Colorado), adjunct nursing professor for online programs at Simmons College of Nursing (Boston, Massachusetts), and 14 years of clinical experience with numerous hospitals and medical offices.



Q: What brought you to NWOSU?

A: I actually was intrigued in the rural nursing program when I saw the listing, I used to work in a rural E.R in Florida.

Q: What is your favorite part of the job?

A: I don't know if I have a superpower, but people have always laughed that I'm Wonder Woman because I have two daughters, a tax business in Kiowa and also teaching. When the girls were young they were busy. They danced and were gone all the time. So I don't know if I have a superpower other than just being able to do a lot of stuff at the same time maybe, juggling things, is that a superpower?

A: Having an impact on future nurses and to share my experiences.

Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?

A: I became a fully licensed nurse at 18.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: The ability to calm people, to help people's anxiety and to calm them down.

Mark Zadorozny, Instructor of health and sports science

By ETHAN EVERSON
Student Reporter

Mark Zadorozny is the new health and sports science instructor at Northwestern.



Q: What brought you to Northwestern?

A: I am a third generation Ranger. My grandparents, mother and father are all Northwestern alumni. When I heard there was a position open in my area, I immediately jumped at the opportunity.

Q: What is your favorite part about this job?

A: I love to teach and be around my students and helping them achieve their goals. It is truly rewarding to see students reach their potential and exceed their own expectations.

Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?

A: I am really into music, but not like the radio plays. I like live music

like band contest, rock concerts and choir concerts. I can also play the guitar myself.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: I never have been into superhero movies, but if I was picking a superpower, I would pick teleportation. I love to travel and it would be a lot easier for me to get around instead of driving and flying.

Dr. Matthew Lambert, Assistant professor of English

By DESTINY GARDNER
Student Reporter

Dr. Matthew Lambert, assistant professor of English, has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of North Carolina in Asheville and a Master of Arts in English from the University of South Alabama in Mobile. He also earned a doctorate of philosophy in literary and cultural studies from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has worked as a visiting assistant professor of English at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana.



Dr. Lambert has a book coming out called "The Green Depression: American Ecoliterature of the 1930s and 40s" and will be published by the University Press of Mississippi on October 15th. The book is about ways that American authors, and some filmmakers, responded to major environmental issues of the 1930s and 40s--including flooding, dust storms, urban overcrowding/pollution and nuclear weapons/fallout. Dr. Lambert said, "I think the book has special relevance to Alva, since it was on the edge of the 'Dust Bowl', the region hit hardest by the drought and subsequent dust storms of the 1930s. Now that I am at Northwestern, I'm looking forward to learning more about the experiences of residents in the area during the Dust Bowl."

Q: What brought you to Northwestern?

A: I was just applying for jobs and Northwestern seemed interested. The campus tour and everything was done over the

A: Having an impact on future nurses and to share my experiences.

Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?

A: I became a fully licensed nurse at 18.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: The ability to calm people, to help people's anxiety and to calm them down.

A: Having an impact on future nurses and to share my experiences.

Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?

A: I used to be a street musician who played the guitar, harmonica and wrote songs.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: Being approachable and being considerate of students and trying to give the benefit of the doubt. Also be a lending ear and have my students know that they can go talk to me.



To read more features, see Page 12 in this edition of The News.

Dr. Luis Rocha Antunes, Assistant professor of mass communication

By DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPKECHE
Student Reporter

Dr. Luis Rocha Antunes is a new assistant professor in the mass communication department at Northwestern.

His holds a Bachelors of Arts in Portuguese language from the University of Lisbon in Portugal, and a Master of Arts in communication sciences from New University of Lisbon in Portugal.

Antunes holds doctorates in philosophy from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and from the University of Kent in Canterbury, England.



Q: What brought you to Northwestern?

A: I came to Alva so I can do what I love and not be too comfortable so I can continue growing. At Augusta University in Georgia, I was a lecturer, but found a job opportunity at Northwestern as an assistant professor. I decided it was time for me to take that next step. It is important to keep moving yourself up. It's not about power.

It is about being in a place where you can take full advantage of your skills and doing what you really love doing while pushing yourself to be a little better. You used to have to go to New York City or Los Angeles if you are in the video industry. Nowadays, you don't. There are a lot more opportunities happening everywhere simply

because of the internet.

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: I love the interactions between students and teachers. I love that my students are eager to learn and that I can help these bright and professional students achieve their goals. I see myself a little bit when I was in college. I am addicted to learning. I really love learning. Whenever you are teaching, you never get to a point where you know everything. You always need to keep pushing yourself. Maybe you are assigned a course a little outside your expertise so you go into unknown territory but you go in and find tools that you could bring into your familiar territory. I also love ideas and video. Doing the things I love is great.

Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?

A: Surprised? If we got into everyone's mind in a private place then we would be surprised and shocked with each other. I am not

trying to hide anything, but I think people would be surprised to know that I am big fan of Indiana Jones. Think about it, he is a college professor who does not mind getting dusty and fighting. We tend to have that stereotype about someone in academia, just that guy who is reading all the time. Indiana Jones has the two sides to him. I would love to be that way. When you need to do something that gets your hands dirty, as long as it is ethical obviously then sometimes doing the good involves doing the bad.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: I think I come up with original ideas. I noticed that especially with my research. I try to find an original idea about something. I think my originality of my thinking and thoughts is a superpower. At the same time though, being practical and solving problems.

Kenneth Creech, Instructor of accounting

By JORDAN GREEN
News Editor

When Kenneth Creech got the opportunity to return to northwest Oklahoma, he took it.

Creech, a certified public accountant, is a new instructor of accounting at Northwestern.

Creech earned a bachelor's degree of business administration in accounting and a Master of Business Administration degree from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

Before coming to Northwestern, Creech was an associate professor of accounting at Briar Cliff University in Iowa. He taught management studies at St. Olaf College in Minnesota, and he was an assistant professor of business at the University of Montana Western. He worked as a unit controller at General Signal Corporation, a Connecticut-based manufacturer of railroad crossing signals, and served as chief financial officer at Michigan Wheel Marine, a company that manufactures boat propellers.

Q: What brought you to Northwestern?

A: My family has a long history



were things I really liked about it. The diversity statement was one of them, the mission statement.

Q: What is your favorite part about your job so far?

A: Meeting the new students. I always enjoy working with the young people that are trying to get ready for their careers. I use a lot of real-life examples in the classes, talk about things that have happened to me in business, when we had to apply the different things we're applying. I also have developed realistic projects and case studies for things that I did in business for years. In a lot of my classes, testing is at a minimum, and projects and practice sets of real-life examples is what I spend time on. For example, in the business finance class, the first project they'll do, they'll do two projects. The first one they'll do is, you're in a business, you're going to buy a \$10 million piece of equipment, you have four different financing options. From both a profitability and a cash-flow basis, which of the four options makes the most sense? When I worked with different Fortune 500 companies, I

was doing this kind of an analysis several times a year when we were going to spend a lot of money on things.

Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?

A: Probably that, when I was in college, my summer job was fighting forest fires, primarily in Alaska. But one time, I did get sent out of Alaska to go help on some fires in California. I was employed by the Bureau of Land Management, so they could send me to any BLM property. You did on-site training. I went to smoke-jumper school, did a few jumps. Smoke jumper school is in Helena, Montana, and that's the inter-agency school. ... I grew up in an area with a lot of forests in western Washington, had the opportunity to apply and then got accepted. I like to protect our natural resources when I can.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: I can see, I guess, things in the numbers that other people don't see sometimes.

Feature



Northwestern went online last semester due to the pandemic. Most classes went on via Zoom.

Students struggle with distance learning

Rangers discuss the hardest parts of going online last spring

By **NICK DILL**
Student Reporter

The coronavirus pandemic had an impact on many things, especially Northwestern students' ability to receive a quality education.

Northwestern transitioned to alternative online-only learning from March to May during the 2020 spring semester. This was a huge change for students, and many said they struggled to adapt to the new learning environment.

Classes had to be conducted via Zoom, and students had to complete all assignments on their own time.

Spring sports were also affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Many student-athletes need their sports to help them stay focused, they said. Without seasons, they didn't have that "drive."

Morgan Laneve, a junior health and sports science major from Las Vegas, Nevada, plays third base for the Lady Rangers softball team. She said she struggled with distance learning because of how it impacted her softball season.

"Distance learning did interfere with my college experience because I did not get to finish my sophomore year of softball," Laneve said. "Our softball team was headed in the right direction, and learning that we couldn't play the next day was the hardest thing to hear."

Laneve also said she had trouble with online learning because she was not able to communicate with her professors face-to-face. She said she is a visual learner, and having online classes made it difficult for her to adapt.

"I would rather have in-

"In the beginning, it was difficult since I've never really taken online classes before, but eventually, as time passed, it got easier,"

- Weston Jarvis,
junior health and sports science major

person classes because I am more motivated to go to class and learn in a face-to-face environment," Laneve said. "Face-to-face gives me the opportunity to learn from the professor instead of self-learning."

Laneve said another hard part was balancing homework while being back in her home-learning environment with her family.

Weston Jarvis, a junior health and sports science major from Greenville, Texas, is a catcher for the Northwestern baseball team. Jarvis said the coronavirus pandemic affected his college experience because the baseball season was cut short. He had to adapt to the new reality of school without a baseball season.

"In the beginning, it was difficult since I've never really taken online classes before," Jarvis said. "But eventually, as time passed, it got easier."

Communication was one of the main struggles that students noticed through distance learning, they said.

"I would have to say that it was a lot harder to learn the material compared to listening to a professor explain in person," Jarvis said. "Sometimes, I'd be lost and wouldn't know what to read at times or what assignments to do."

Communication between students and teachers was another struggle.

Jaizac Garcia, a junior wide receiver from Houston, Texas, disliked online learning because he didn't have as much help from teachers in his classes.

"Emailing them didn't really work because teachers were

getting like 100 more emails since everybody was online," he said. "You really had to be more independent as a student."

Garcia also struggled with not being around his friends and teammates on the football team.

Kaitlyn Phillips, a senior general studies major, also said communication between teachers and students was lacking.

"The dislikes were not being able to go into my professor's office and talk when I needed to," Phillips said.

She said emailing her professors was an option, but not everyone is going to have email access at all times.

The coronavirus pandemic affected seniors and their last year of being a Ranger.

Hayden Graham, a senior health and sports science major, was affected by the sudden change from in-person to distance learning in his last semester.

Graham said he didn't prefer online classes because he missed the interactions with his classmates and teachers. He said he had to focus on his time management and make sure to set aside more time for his classes.

He said he did struggle with how the coronavirus pandemic affected the graduation process.

"I was pretty bummed when I was unable to walk for my graduation ceremony due to COVID," Graham said. "The slideshow presentation was put together well, but being able to walk across the stage with that diploma is something that a lot of us look forward to."

LABOR DAY

Labor unions fought for holiday

By **KEVIN FORD**
Assistant Editor

Partly cloudy skies should bring easy temperatures into Alva next Monday as Labor Day sets to extend the weekend one extra day.

Workers and students get to take a day to relax, regroup, spend time with family and reflect on their daily progress.

"I think Labor Day is a great time to reflect," Dr. Dennis Angle, director of student support services, said.

Things will be a bit different this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, no doubt. Angle used to host sleepovers for his grandchildren, but they mainly have been homebodies since March, he said.

"I think people will still be out and about on Labor Day," Angle said. "It is good to get outside and enjoy some fresh air."

Labor Day is celebrated to pay tribute to the achievements and contributions of American workers.

Things were certainly different before the beginning of the 20th century as the Industrial Revolution demanded the attention and work of almost every single citizen.

The typical work day would stretch from 12-18 hours in one day. Another important thing to remember is that workers did not get the weekends off. Saturdays and Sundays were workdays as well.

Children as young as five years old were working adult hours for just a fraction of what the adults were making. Other workers experienced unsafe working conditions, poor

Labor Day is celebrated to pay tribute to the achievements and contributions of American workers.

sanitation and hazardous work environments.

Dangerous contamination and suffering from insufficient access to clean air was a high probability.

As a result of manufacturing increases, labor unions grew more prominent and vocal. Labor Unions first formed in the early 19th century, but caught on more towards the end of that century.

The unions began to organize strikes and rallies to have a say about the poor conditions. They also pushed for individual workers to renegotiate their pay and hours.

The popular Pullman Strike spread across the entire nation as the unions and workers boycotted railroads in the Midwest. The boycott caused railroad traffic and countless delays of shipped cattle and services.

The federal government responded with a bill that would grant a national holiday, termed "Labor Day," to break the strike. Labor unions showed how strength in numbers worked to fight for reform in the workplace.

THEATRE AUDITIONS

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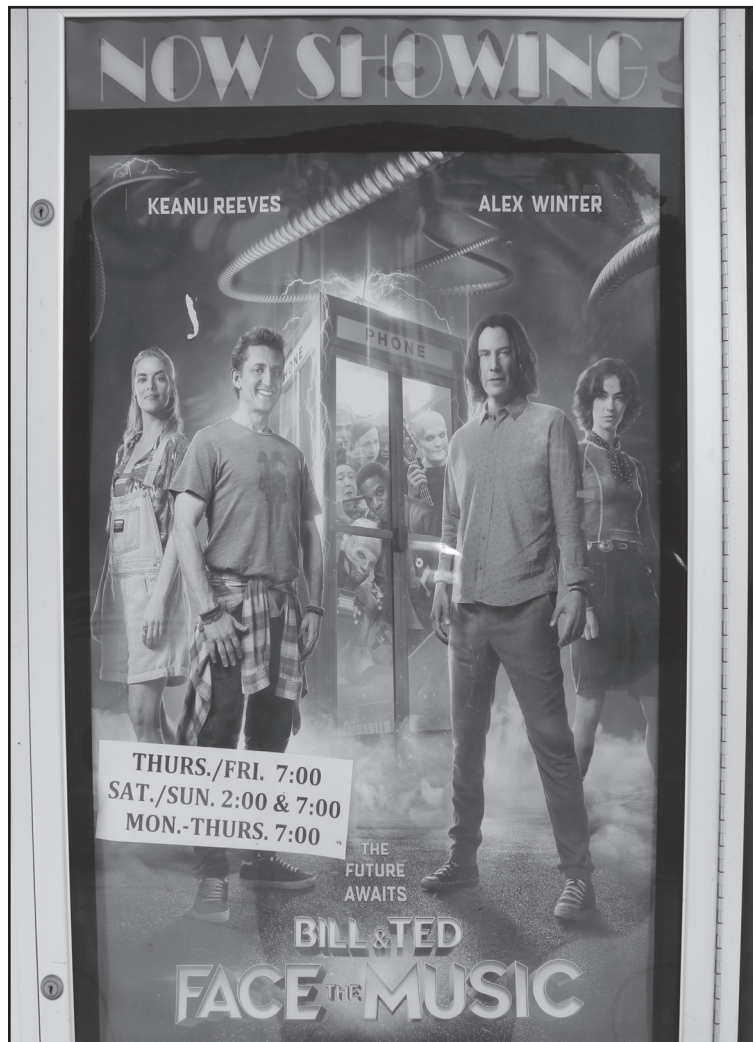
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Entertainment



'Face The Music' in a rocking movie

Bill and Ted get a third movie in their series

By BAILEY RANKIN
Alumna

To put it simply, "Bill & Ted Face the Music" is absolutely ridiculous. And I loved it.

However silly, zany and dumb "Bill and Ted" may be, that's not to say it's a bad movie. In fact, it's quite an enjoyable film if you go in with the right mindset. And that mindset is to have a good time. The film doesn't take itself seriously, and neither should you as a viewer.

Having never seen the first two instalments of the franchise, "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" (1989) and "Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey" (1991), I had no idea what to expect from this film. All I knew was that there would be music and time travel, and they definitely delivered on those aspects.

Almost 30 years after the events of "Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey," the duo is still trying to write a song that will unite humanity before time and space is destroyed. They've been dealing with this pressure since 1989, so it's no surprise that they haven't delivered yet. So, they go on the same insane adventures through time to finally make the song.

Of course, they run into some



problems, so their daughters Billie and Thea decide to help them out. Billie and Thea are almost direct clones of their fathers. They're 24, unemployed, obsessed with music, and the best parts of this movie. To help their fathers, they go back in time to collect notable musicians so that they can assemble the greatest band of all time. But they have to face challenges, like a murderous robot and a quick trip to hell before meeting up with their dads.

"Bill & Ted Face the Music" will not go down in history as one of the greatest films ever made, but it is a thoroughly enjoyable film with some impressive celebrity cameos, extremely laughable moments and a very sweet and sudden sentiment to end the film.

How would I describe Bill & Ted Face the Music in two words? Most excellent.

Follow "Rankin Reviews" on Instagram

Netflix series shows diverse representation and tackles difficult topics

'One Day at a Time' is worth the watch

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

"One Day at a Time" is a Netflix comedy drama inspired by a 1975 series of the same name.

It follows a Cuban American family as they navigate through life.

A single mom, two kids, and their grandma live in one apartment with their apartment manager, Schneider, who looks at them like a family.

My absolute favorite thing about this series is how it acknowledges some tough subjects like alcohol abuse, anxiety, depression, drugs and how these affect not just the person, but also the family dynamic.

The mom, Penelope Alvarez, is a single parent. She is also a veteran who goes through a lot, including PTSD, anxiety and depression. The series not only shows what it's like to go through these situations, but it also shows how it affects the rest of the family, which I think added an extra aspect to the show.



The two kids are Elena and Alex. Elena is a white-passing gay woman who also struggles with anxiety. You get to see how she struggles coming out to her family. You also see how she copes with her dad not accepting her and leaving her quinceañera early before she can get the father-daughter dance.

Alex gets caught with drugs, and he faces a lot of peer pressure from his friends. You also get a glimpse into the struggle he faces, and you get to see how the fight between Elena and her father hurts the relationship between Alex and their father.

The grandma's name is Lydia. She fled Cuba and still holds a lot of her Cuban tradition. Speaking little English, she talks about her journey from Cuba and how

different it is in America, and about the loss of her husband.

The show also shows the racism the family gets for being Cuban Americans. It makes the whole family a little shook up, but also helps them realize that they shouldn't not be themselves because of mean people out there.

Schneider, their landlord, is of Canadian descent. He struggles with alcohol and drug abuse. He latches onto the family as his one constant in life.

All in all, I give the show five out of five stars. Not only is it able to show some hard conversations without sugarcoating them, it also sheds a light on what other people go through.

This is an extremely good series, and I honestly would hope everyone watches it.

VMA award winners

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

The Weeknd -- "Blinding Lights"

BEST HIP-HOP

Megan Thee Stallion -- "Savage"

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Lady Gaga

BEST ROCK

Coldplay -- "Orphans"

SONG OF THE YEAR

Lady Gaga with Ariana Grande -- "Rain On Me"

BEST MUSIC VIDEO FROM HOME

Ariana Grande & Justin Bieber -- "Stuck with U"

BEST COLLABORATION

Lady Gaga with Ariana Grande -- "Rain On Me"

BEST GROUP

BTS

PUSH BEST NEW ARTIST

Doja Cat

BEST DIRECTION

Taylor Swift -- "The Man" -- Directed by Taylor Swift

BEST POP

BTS -- "On"

VIDEO FOR GOOD

H.E.R. - "I Can't Breathe"

Sports

GAC cancels fall sports

A look into how NWOSU football is handling the news

By **DAVID THORNTON**
Photographer

Adversity has hit the Northwestern football team this month, but the team's coach sees a blessing in all of this.

Football at Northwestern is one of the many sports canceled this fall.

"While obviously disappointed, I know and understand the decision was made in consideration of the health and safety of our students," head football coach Matt Walter said.

Notifying his team full of 140 players all in one meeting is just not a feasible task, Walter said. He opted to inform them via text instead.

"I did not want to wait and have them see the news first on social media, so the best way was to get in touch with them through group text," Walter said.

With his players on campus, he is using this preseason as an opportunity to strengthen and condition his team.

Taking a big focus on his players, Walter said, being together and being able to visit with them is, "essential to their mental health right now."

Ensuring his players are phys-



File photo by riderangerside.com

The 2019 Ranger football team sits for a team photo.

ically and mentally stable, considering all that has happened to these kids very recently and abruptly, it is important to ensure their mental health, Walter said.

Walter made it a point to focus on his team's physical and mental well-being. Making sure everyone in his staff and team is ready.

Walter's plan is to be adaptable this season. To be ready for changes at a moment's notice. Hoping that the team will get the playing season they want soon.

Adversity and blessing; these were the words Walter used to describe his past month.

"Because we are all together in person," Walter said. "This is a critical time for our young people's mental health."

Going on at length about how protecting and making sure his team has great mental health through all of the NCAA news and the coronavirus pandemic is a critical priority.

Athletes inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma

By **ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Northwestern Oklahoma State University inducts 16 student-athletes into the Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society.

Student-athletes inducted in the Northwestern chapter include: Ben Baker, Men's Golf; Bailey Brown, Women's Basketball; Brittany Cirmigliaro, Soccer; Abby Detar, Softball; Kaydee Honeycutt, Volleyball; Chris Kincaid, Mens Cross-Country; Megan Mayfield, Soccer; Selena McDonald, Women's Track & Field; Lindsey McElroy, Softball; Kenny Miller, Football; Tarra Parks, Volleyball; Melissa Perez, Women's Cross-Country; Lexi Wall, Women's Basketball; Ashlie Wilhite, Soccer; Sami Williams, Volleyball; Ryan Willingham, Football.

"We are very proud of these student-athletes and their prestigious induction into Chi Alpha Sigma," stated Northwestern Athletic Director Brad Franz. "They have worked very hard to earn this honor and all of Northwestern athletics is proud of them and their work in the classroom as student-athletes."

Membership into Chi Alpha Sigma is selected by the chapter advisor in consultation with the

individual student-athletes head coach and is based on outstanding scholarship, being on an active roster and excellent character and citizenship.

Chi Alpha Sigma has 273 chapters across the country at NCAA Div. I (64), Div. II (75) and Div. III (134) institutions, as well as at 14 NAIA programs. Other institutions sponsoring chapters in Oklahoma include Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma Panhandle State and Southwestern Oklahoma State.

The organization is the first national scholar-athlete society to honor those student-athletes who have excelled in the classroom and in competition. It was founded in 1996 by Nick Mourouzis, and continues to provide student-athletes with an opportunity to connect with other student-ath-

letes in a fraternal association.

In order to earn this distinction, student-athletes must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 with at least junior academic standing and be of exceptional moral character.

The purposes of Chi Alpha Sigma are: to encourage and reward high academic scholarship of college athletes at four-year accredited colleges or universities; to recognize outstanding academic achievement by intercollegiate varsity athletes; to encourage good citizenship, moral character, and friendship among high academic achievers in college athletics; to recognize and honor the individual athlete, his/her team sport, athletics department, and college or university; to mentor and provide leadership to other college athletes.



Photo by riderangerside.com

NWOSU had 48 student-athletes honored by the D2 ADA for 2019-20.

Student-athletes honored by ADA

By **ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS**

The Division 2 Athletics Directors Association (D2 ADA) announced the 2019-20 recipients of the D2 ADA Academic Achievement Awards.

The Academic Achievement Awards, in its 13th year, is a program that recognizes the academic accomplishments of student-athletes at the Division II level.

Northwestern was one of nine schools from the Great American Conference recognized by the D2 ADA and with 48 individuals selected.

Among the student-athletes to receive the honor were eight from the Rangers football team, seven from baseball, six apiece from women's basketball and soccer, five each from softball and volleyball, four from men's golf, three apiece from cross country and women's track & field and one from women's golf.

In total, there were 15,214 student-athletes from 200 institutions recognized for the 2019-20 Academic Achievement Awards.

These numbers shattered the records for highest number of participating institutions and the largest number of student-athletes being nominated since the award program's inception.

"In a year when we can use all of the good news, the D2 ADA Officers and Board of Directors are proud to recognize the highest number of student-athletes with the Academic Achievement Award than ever before," said D2 ADA President JR Smith, director of athletics at Chadron State College. "The nominations also came from a record number of institutions, showcasing the passion and dedication of our Association and Division II as a whole."

In order for a student-athlete to receive an Academic Achievement Award, the athletics director of the Division II institution must be a current dues-paying member of the D2 ADA.

The student-athlete must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, completed two years of college level work at a two-year or four-year institution and have been an active member of an intercollegiate team during his/her last academic year. Listed below are the students that were honored by the D2 ADA.

Football- Jacob Comp, Dakota Driskill, Sebastian Escalante, Juan Licea, Brycen McClendon, Kenny Miller, Colton Wichert and Ryan Willingham

Baseball- Wyatt Bergner, Brady Bowles, Bryce Donovan, Kaleb Honea, Dax Jallo, Daschal Johnson and Jake White

Women's Basketball- Bailey Brown, Kalea King, Kenzi Lamer, Kyleigh Leverich, Katelyn Schieber and Lexi Wall

Soccer- Alissa Carlson, Brittany Cirmigliaro, Mikayla Edris, Megan Mayfield, Katelyn Schieber and Ashlie Wilhite

Softball- Luran Adcock, Abby Detar, Ariel Forsyth, Kailin Lian and Lindsey McElroy

Volleyball- Kaydee Honeycutt, Tarra Parks, Courtney Russell, Braylee Stute and Jessica Thompson

Men's Golf - Juan Gui Angarita, Ben Baker, Brendan Kates and Colten Person

Men's Cross Country- Jose Amador, Chris Chauncey and Chris Kincaid

Women's Track & Field - Selena McDonald, Melissa Perez and Kelsey Swindle

Women's Golf - Ashley Watts



Photo by riderangerside.com

NWOSU had 16 student-athletes inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma.

News

Where the sidewalk begins



Construction workers pour new concrete for sidewalks between the science building and the Student Center on Aug. 27. Throughout the summer, workers built new concrete steps in front of the Student Center and began pouring the new sidewalks shown here. The work was paid for with money from the university's capital improvement fund.

Photos by Jara Reeder



With state appropriations cut, university raises tuition costs by 3% for the year

By **GEORGE SMITH**
Student Reporter

State legislators adjourned in mid-spring, deciding to cut the budget for higher education by 3.95%.

This, along with an expected decline in enrollment and the rise of mandatory institutional costs, caused Northwestern to raise the

price of tuition by 3%. University officials also decided to leave vacant faculty positions unfilled, cut back on operating expenses and eliminate some capital money that would typically have been available to the academic departments.

"We knew that we had two big 'negatives' going into this fiscal year," Dr. David Pecha, vice president for administration, said.

"We knew we had that loss of state appropriations. ... We also knew that we had some mandatory costs that were increasing."

Those mandatory costs include an increase in property insurance and an increase in health insurance for full-time employees.

Because of these factors, the board deemed the tuition increase appropriate.

Northwestern makes most of

its money through tuition.

State funding is a bonus to the budget and adds benefits to the institution, but those monies do not fund the entire budget altogether, Pecha said.

Matt Adair, director of housing for Northwestern, said the places in a financial budget that will do the least amount of harm to the fewest number of students will be where budget cuts take place.

"We knew we had two big 'negatives' going into this fiscal year."
— *Dr. David Pecha*

New faculty members, cont.

Jack Staats Instructor of agriculture

By DACODA
MCDOWELL-WAHPEKECHE
Student Reporter

Jack Staats is a new faculty member on campus. He will serve as an instructor in the agriculture department here at Northwestern.

Staats obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural education from Oklahoma State University. Then he came to Northwestern to acquire his master's degree.

Staats served as the Oklahoma State FFA adviser for 13 years. He also has served as an educator at schools in Alva, Freedom and Buffalo.

Q: What brought you to Northwestern?

A: Actually, this is my home in Alva. I had taught agriculture education for several years. I basically retired and was coming home, and Northwestern gave me an opportunity to stay involved in agriculture education.

Q: What is your favorite



part of your job?

A: Without question, the interaction with young people. The daily interaction with young people is one of the things that I missed while I was State FFA adviser. As the adviser, I was working with schools and teachers and staff to set policy and to help build agriculture education. I was kind of removed from that interaction.

Q: What would people be

surprised to know about you?

A: Even though I am older and pretty set in my ways, I am very receptive to change if change is for the good of young people and good for the program. Change for change's sake isn't productive for anybody. Change for productivity and improvement is a good thing.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: I would say I have worked very hard to develop my ability to relate to young people. I try to relate to everybody. I think I have always been able to talk to people. Anybody could visit with me, and I could visit with anybody. I have worked very hard to pull that off, and I hope that is a good ability. I think it is a great talent. I am extremely positive, I don't wanna be told why we can't do something I just wanna know why not.

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Burlington, Ok 73722
580-431-3300

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

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

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

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