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NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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COPING WITH COVID: FINDING HOPE

‘WE HAVE A CHANCE’

Battling delayed seasons because of the coronavirus pandemic, coaches at Northwestern are keeping athletes motivated and conditioned for playing sports again in the spring

By **DAVID THORNTON**
Student Reporter

With disappointment in the air for athletes, members of Northwestern’s coaching staff still have opportunities to continue coaching and allow teams to compete this year.

Northwestern’s coaches say they have maintained positive attitudes toward continuing the rest of their seasons, regardless of them being delayed.

Unlike most NCAA programs that have gone online and canceled competitions, Northwestern is still on campus and plans to play sports.

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FINDING HOPE

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

PAGES 6,7, and 8:
Student athletes discuss how they feel about their seasons being canceled — and how they’re finding opportunities to grow.

ONLINE:

For more coverage of Northwestern sports, visit <http://northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com/>.



Top: Members of the Northwestern women’s cross country team run laps around the university football field during a Sept. 15 practice (photo by Jara Reeder). Right: Members of the men’s basketball team shoot hoops in the university’s gym during a recent practice (photo by David Thornton). Bottom right: The women’s basketball team practices dribbling Sept. 8 (photo by Jara Reeder). Bottom left: Tyler Berryhill, a member of the men’s golf team, competes at a tournament in Arkansas in November 2019 (photo provided).

News

COACHING: Northwestern coaches say they'll continue to prepare their teams and players for future seasons

Continued from Page 1

Here is a look at how coaches are adapting to the reality of delayed athletic seasons.

SOCCER

"I wish we were playing this fall," said Alex Piekarski, the head woman's soccer coach. "But we are blessed to be here."

Piekarski and his players were aware of the possibility of soccer being delayed. They were disappointed when the news came, but they expected it, he said.

"I told my team just hours after I got the news," he said. "We had a team meeting that night, and it put a damper in our first meeting. We have some savvy and intelligent women on our team, and they saw the trends going on in other leagues."

Piekarski said his team will be able to play in the spring.

"We are preparing to play games in February and March, and our team is excited for it," he said.

The team's training sessions for the season are simple and short, and Piekarski said he is making sure they are fun.

"Our ladies are happy to be back doing soccer again," Piekarski said.

He said players will be doing a lot of physical testing, speed testing and skill testing. He hopes to see improvement from his players later in the year.

To start off Piekarski's first season at Northwestern, his most important goal is to see his players show real passion for the game, and to see that they are being the best they can be both on and off of the field.

It's "not a lot of competing against the opposition this year, but competing against ourselves," he said.

FOOTBALL

Kentrez Bell, the Northwestern football team's wide receiver coach, is the newest member of the football coaching staff. As a senior at Northwestern in 2019-2020, he played as the team's wide receiver.

For the football coaching staff, the past month has been "unpredictable," Bell said.

The delay of the football season put a pause on Bell's first experiences of being a coach.

"I was honestly torn by the decision on the season being pushed back because they canceled it a couple days before we were able to start practicing and getting things going," he said. "I was excited to see the game from the coach's viewpoint."

The news that the season had been delayed took a toll on team members, Bell said.

"To hear that they came back to school to not get to play ball – I



Photo by Jara Reeder

Northwestern volleyball players practice in the university gym in this photo taken in September.

know it's tough," Bell said.

Fortunately, Bell said, the season is not over. Coaches continue to meet with players two times a week to talk about football and read playbooks.

"We have weightlifting three times a week to keep their bodies in shape, and we allow time for the players to come run routes and throw," Bell said.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

"We have a chance to have a really fun season," said Vinay Patel, the head coach of the men's basketball team.

Aug. 14 was when Patel got the news of the season's delay. Regardless of the men's basketball season being delayed, Patel said he still has high expectations for his team. Patel said he knows he has a good group of players this year.

"Initially, they were disappointed," Patel said when asked about how his team took the news of the delayed season.

Patel said he made it clear to his team that this was the best way to ensure the team's eligibility for the season. He reassured his players they will play the same number of games they had scheduled prior to the changes.

"That information made them feel a lot better," Patel said.

The team is practicing on the court together, doing things as safely as possible by wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and not using contact play until further notice. Players are using this time to "perfect the details of our offense and defense, and better our individual game," Patel said.

Patel said he would use one word to describe the past month for him and his program: proactive.

"I've challenged our staff to be proactive instead of reactive," he said. "Be ahead of problems and



Photo by David Thornton

Northwestern basketball players practice in the university gym.

make sure we are doing what's best for our kids.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

"We received the news about the season being moved a couple of days before classes started when the girls were moving in," Tasha Diesselhorst, the head women's basketball coach, said. "I had a feeling this was a possibility, so I was not surprised."

With things changing daily during the pandemic, you have to prepare yourself mentally for just about anything, she said.

Diesselhorst said she made sure to tell her team about the news before they heard it on social media. That was important, she said.

"We told the team on a Zoom meeting, and they were very positive in dealing with the news," she said. "I am very proud of how this group has responded to the season being moved."

The women's basketball team comes in ready to work each day,

she said.

"You wouldn't know by watching them in workouts that their season is so far away," Diesselhorst said.

With this extra time, team members are just having fun and working on getting to know each other. They are excited to have the opportunity to be in the gym practicing, she said.

"This team has really impressed me thus far," she said. "Their energy and passion for the game shows every day. They are a great group of girls that I look forward to seeing improve as the year goes on."

TRACK AND FIELD/ CROSS COUNTRY

According to Jill Lancaster, the head cross country coach, members of the track and field team as well as the cross country teams were all asking one question: "What are we doing next?"

When the news came around to the team, Lancaster said she

appreciated how the Great American Conference and university officials handled the news.

"Looking out for our student athletes is superb," she said. "And our communication is excellent here."

Lancaster said she reminded her teams that this delay does not change their goals, though the training cycle will change.

"We are a youthful team, and in all honestly, these training cycles will pay off for them," Lancaster said. "We get better and better every year."

Lancaster said she sees this as a big benefit. At the same time, it takes some of the stress of competition off of the players so they may better themselves as athletes.

"Olympians train all year but compete two or three times, and that's for a reason: to expand their training cycle by accomplishing a lot more in training," Lancaster said.

Lancaster said she is looking forward to seeing personal growth from her athletes this year. Lancaster said she is also looking for maturity and growth in her players.

"You have a purpose," she said.

The opportunity to keep in-class education going is "pure joy," Lancaster said.

VOLLEYBALL

Days before school began was when Fredrick Aubuchon, the head volleyball coach, received the disappointing information: Volleyball was delayed until late September.

At first, he was highly concerned, and he questioned how practices would go.

"We had really good communication with our team very early," Aubuchon said.

Aubuchon said he tried to be as transparent as possible with his team.

"As more news came in, it was a lot less shocking to them because we prepared them," he said. "We never wanted them to be surprised."

Aubuchon said the pandemic is a "first" for everyone, so no one knows the correct way to conduct preseason and the season in general.

"As coaches, we all talk, but we all don't know the answers," he said. "We just hope. Our focus is to just take care of the day."

It's hard to do that when you see other universities playing, he said, but the athletic department trusts that officials are doing the right things to keep people safe.

Aubuchon said he is "reminding our team there is going to be a tomorrow, and there is going to be a season, just in the spring."

"So right now, let us focus on today," he said. "Our focus is being better at volleyball."

News

SUFFERING FOR SUFFRAGE

Constitution Day exhibit examines women's impact on document

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

Members of Northwestern's Social Sciences Department have set up a display in the J.W. Martin Library commemorating the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Professors prepared the display in honor of Constitution Day, which public universities recognize annually on Sept. 17.

The display offers information about the ways in which the Women's Suffrage Movement affected the nation's history, said Dr. Eric Schmaltz, the chair of the social studies department.

The department is sponsoring the display in conjunction with the Endowed Institute for Citizenship Studies at Northwestern.

HISTORY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Women weren't always given the right to vote in the United States.

The 19th Amendment was officially ratified Aug. 26, 1920. Nearly 30 million women – approximately one-fourth of the nation's population – were able to vote for the first time once the amendment was ratified, said Dr.



Photo by Jordan Green

An exhibit in the Northwestern library is shown in this Wednesday photo. Northwestern professors have set up an exhibit commemorating the signing of the U.S. Constitution and the Women's Suffrage Movement.

Jana Brown, a professor of history.

In some western states, women had the right to vote before the

amendment was passed.

After the United States gave women the right to vote, other nations around the world followed

suit, she said.

With 2020 being an election year, it's important for registered voters to understand how the right

to vote has changed throughout history, Schmaltz said.

Brown obtained the display after reading that the National Archives were giving away educational materials for the anniversary of the ratification.

She jumped on the opportunity to secure a display for Northwestern, she said.

"The National Archives sent out a notice in March or April and said they had some displays to give away," she said. "I said, 'This is great.'"

In previous years, the university has celebrated Constitution Day by hosting guest speakers who discuss the history of the document.

The university couldn't host speakers this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, though Schmaltz said he hopes to have speakers return to campus for future celebrations of Constitution Day.

The exhibit, which is now a part of the university's permanent collection, may be viewed in the J.W. Martin Library during normal operating hours.

COVID ON CAMPUS

Northwestern reports 14 COVID-19 cases

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

Northwestern Oklahoma State University has 14 active student cases of the coronavirus, a decrease of one case compared to Sept. 11, university officials said.

The university had 15 active cases Sept. 4, officials said.

In a recent email to students, University President Janet Cunningham said the total number of positive COVID-19 cases among Northwestern students includes cases at all of the university's campuses 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.

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, Cunningham said. To see the number of cases on all cam-

puses, visit <https://www.nwsu.edu/coronavirus/active-covid-19-cases-nwsu>.

As of press time Wednesday, the City of Alva had 27 cases of the virus, though no new cases have been reported since Sept. 9. Twenty-two of the people who tested positive for the virus have recovered, leaving five active cases in the city. No one in the city has died from the virus, officials said.

Woods County had 33 positive COVID-19 cases as of press time. No new cases have been reported since Sept. 9. Twenty-seven people have recovered from the virus, leaving six positive cases in the county.

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

The State of Oklahoma had 71,314 cases of the virus as of press time, data from the Oklahoma State Health Department shows. Of those cases, 10,409 are active. Statewide, 59,993 people have recovered from the virus, and 912 people have died from it.

The U.S. has more than 6.5 million cases of the virus. More than 194,000 Americans have died from it, and more than 2.4 million have recovered from it.

Jobs will remain vacant

By **LOGAN MERIWETHER**
Student reporter

Three Northwestern professors have left their jobs since the summer of 2019, and their positions will remain vacant.

The English, social sciences and science departments all have vacant positions because teachers have left. Teachers in those departments say they have heavier workloads in order to keep up with the amount of students in their classes.

Dr. Kathryn Lane, an associate professor of English, said having those positions filled would help to lighten the load.

The English department is down one faculty member: professor Jennifer Page. Page left in 2019, and Victoria Hendricks temporarily replaced her. But Hendricks could not stay long because she was having a baby. Page's position remains unfilled.

Dr. Richmond Adams left the university during the summer of this year, and he was replaced by Dr. Matthew Lambert.

Lane and other members of the English department started a job search to fill Page's position, and they received several job applications, she said. But the plug had to be pulled on the hiring process because of budgeting issues.

Lane said she plans to reevaluate the situation this year to see

if the department still needs to fill the position. She said it will ultimately be left up to administrators, but she and the other faculty members in the English Department are arguing that it needs to be filled.

"The reality is that it limits the classes we can offer," she said, "and it means that composition classes have to be more full."

Lane said she likes to give a lot of feedback to her students to help improve their writing.

Her classes are full, with 24 students each. It makes it hard for her to give the students one-on-one attention. It takes her several hours each night, she said, to get everything graded, and to give students feedback.

Dr. Bo Hannaford and other university administrators look at the budget each year to determine

where to adjust funding. With a 3.95% reduction in Northwestern's state appropriations and lower enrollment because of the coronavirus pandemic, they did not feel like it was necessary for the time being to refill those positions.

Administrators looked at data and saw a higher number of students taking concurrent classes in those departments and felt it would be a good way to save money by not filling the vacant positions at this time.

Hannaford plans to look over the budget closely and monitor the number of students enrolling in the next school year. He said he hopes to make a proposal to President Janet Cunningham and Vice President for Administration Dr. David Pecha to fill those positions.

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

Letters must be turned in by noon on 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.

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Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

Editorial

“It’s not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.”

— Charles Darwin

Be adaptable

By **MCKAYLA HOLSON**
Editorial Editor

Adaptability is the word. If you can't be adaptable in this world, you sink. It's hard to move forward in the world and even impossible in some situations.

For example, you have to be adaptable for and in your job. Whether it's a part-time job or a full-time career, you have to be able to do more than what you signed on for.

Think about it. Would a company/person rather hire one person who will do only one thing, or would they rather hire someone who will do multiple things? Or, at least, someone who is willing to learn something new.

I work at a state park. The state changes things periodically to make improvements to the way things happen. I have to remain useful, so I have learned how to do more than just working gate like I was originally hired for. I learned how to collect camping fees to help when the other

camping girl was gone and I have become the main one to go out into the campground to collect the fees. I have been through at least three or four system changes for the way we do camping. I've gone through learning the process on paper, tablets, computers and I have taught several people these different processes numerous times. I've had to do everything there from communicating with guests, to building picnic tables and other manual labor tasks as well as running the office when we were shorthanded.

I have another scenario. I work at The Bull here in Alva. I started out as just a server, but I've had to adapt and learn to bartend. Not that much of a difference, but I've also recently started helping out back in the kitchen. Nothing too serious, I just work the fryer and occasionally work as the middleman. I was needed in other areas and I adapted.

If I was unwilling to adapt, what would be the point in keeping me as an employee?

Those are part-time jobs, but it works that way in the big, career

world as well.

I started my internship this semester at the Northwest Technology Center here in Alva. I'm a marketing intern, but I do learn more than just marketing. For example, I will be helping out in the tech department this week. I'll be helping set up laptops for students in case everything has to go online like last year. The guy I'm helping said it won't be hard work, but it's still something different than marketing.

Adaptability is actually in my journal entry that I have to turn in as a part of my internship class. I personally think it's something that everyone should know about.

All the time I hear "oh, I won't ever need to know that," but you probably will actually have to know whatever it happens to be that you're learning.

I'm guilty of saying that on occasion, and boy am I always wrong about it. Skills transfer over.

One of the best pieces of advice I can give is to remain open-minded and adaptable. It'll help you out in the future.

EDITOR'S RANT OF THE WEEK

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

How hard is it to follow the rules?

Personally, even if I don't like them I'm able to follow them without question. Just because a mask makes you uncomfortable or you want to see your significant other doesn't mean you should go against the COVID-19 rules to do so.

I don't care how stupid you think the rules are or how the rules make you feel...if you are potentially going to be saving other people, follow them.

I am not saying that you should never question authority. I feel like "Lemonade Mouth" showed us that. I am just saying there is a time and place to get your voice heard by those in charge but blatantly trying to sneak around the rules is not the way to do so.

I don't like to rant often, but there are things that just make me mad. It is not cute to go against the rules; no one thinks that it makes you cool, so why are you doing it.

Just because you're not in danger due to COVID doesn't mean other people aren't. There are autoimmune diseases that could cause people to die if they get COVID.

I have avoided going home because I do not want to risk the chance that I have come in contact with someone with COVID I don't want to risk giving it to my mom or my little sister or my mom's Daycare kids. Because it could be detrimental to them.

So, don't party just because you are bored. Avoid unnecessary contact with other people and wear your mask. It is really not that hard. You could be saving someone's life.

Why are people still protesting wearing masks? Why are they protesting not being able to visit nursing homes? You could kill one of the residents if you have the disease even if you are not showing symptoms.

At the nursing home I worked for we were not allowed to come in to work if we had any symptoms of anything...Even the common cold or the flu because we can't risk infecting the residents.

In conclusion, Just because something is not effecting you does not mean that its not effecting the people around you. You should not risk someones life because you dont like a rule.

Just be considerate of other people. That's one thing I don't think you can be taught. Think about how your actions are affecting those around you and change your action because of it. Think of your grandparents, siblings or relatives and do the right thing.

Interested in writing? Share your opinions!

Contact McKayla Holson

mrholson30@rangers.nwsu.edu

Editorial

Sharing

By **MCKAYLA HOLSON**
Editorial Editor

I have no idea what to write about. Honestly, I don't know.

There's no story I'd like to share, nothing big happened in my life. Honestly, not much happens usually. Which, I suppose, is not necessarily a negative thing.

So I'd just like to share two things I enjoy doing. I like watching YouTube videos and listening to music and podcasts.

A favorite YouTube channel of mine is GameGrumps. WARNING: They can be pretty explicit at times. Proceed at your own risk. They do "Power Hours" where they just hang out and do random activities or go to random places to do things (at least, before COVID) and they also play videogames. Arin and Danny are the main guys for the channel and they're both involved with music groups as well, it's like a double whammy. I really enjoy Danny's band Ninja Sex Party. Yes, I know, weird name. But, they have pretty funny songs, though usually explicit, and amazing covers. Danny's voice is angelic. In fact, I'm listening to him as I type all this out.

SuperMega, also explicit, is another YouTube channel I enjoy. Matt and Ryan, the main guys for that channel, also play videogames. They're currently doing a Fall Guy series and I love it. The two guys also do skits and Matt has started to make music. I haven't listened to any of it yet, but I'm sure I will eventually.

Don't worry, I also watch channels that don't play a lot of videogames. Joshua Weissman creates cooking videos and he's a hoot and a half. Sometimes he says inappropriate things, but it's not nearly as explicit as the other two I mentioned. I really enjoy the videos of him recreating food from chain restaurants.

Now, podcasts. My attention span is short, so it's hard for me to concentrate on these sometimes. But there's a podcast on Pandora, and probably other streaming services, called "Serial Killers" from the Podcast Network and I love it so far. I enjoy listening to the detailed stories about serial killers and their way of thinking. This podcast goes fairly in depth I'd say. Currently, Pandora has about 205 episodes of the gory goodness. If you're into that sort of thing, I definitely recommend giving it a listen.

As for music, I enjoy listening to most things. I love blues, country, rock, metal, all of it. I have a record player and hearing the music with the rolling of the needle is incredibly soothing.

I love when people suggest new things to watch and listen to, so here are some things you could try out. If you want to at least. If you do, enjoy. If not, that's okay.

It's a hairy situation

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

My dad has always told me to keep my facial hair trimmed. He has a great goatee, but I'm not quite to that point yet. To say my facial hair is spotty is an understatement.

I can't recall exactly when my father told me I needed to start shaving. I was probably in middle school when my "peach fuzz" grew into corn husks.

Dad said it's important to keep one's facial hair looking neat. But even though he raised me up on that premise, he never knew we'd one day live in a world where people just don't care anymore.

Since the pandemic began, I've become the master of the mask-stache. That's right: mask-stache.

In the age of the coronavirus, people often have to wear masks in public places. Very rarely can we ever remove our face coverings

when we're around large crowds. Nobody can see a person's facial hair. So, with our faces covered, what's the problem with letting our cover crops grow?

When I was trapped inside my house in the spring, relegated only to completing college coursework, I had no reason to break out my razors and shaving cream. Who was going to see me? Who did I have to impress? Sure, Mom probably didn't like coming home and seeing her son looking scraggly. But I already have a face only Mother could love, so what's the big deal?

I didn't have to go to many "virtual" classes. Maybe one or two every other week. I'd usually forget about these until the last minute. I'd run to my computer about 30 seconds before the lecture started and hurriedly log in. No time to dash to the bathroom for a shave. Mask-stache will have to do.

Some days, people probably noticed my mask-stache. But a lot of them were donning their own quarantine cuts – or complete lack thereof. Everybody looked like crap. Heck, one guy "Zoomed" into class wearing a rather revealing V-neck T-shirt one day. Judging

from what we saw, I'd say that 'V' was a large, capital letter in bold type. It was big. It was open. And to say the very least, it was a hairy situation.

Chest hair. Head hair. Facial hair. With the coronavirus in the air, we just don't care about our hair – no matter where.

Some of you who are reading this lived through the 1970s. Is this a trip back in time for you? A recurring nightmare? You tell me.

From time to time, I'll shave off my mask-stache. But it's getting harder to say "Good-bye" to my furry friend. He's always there to catch those last few drops of milk from my glass at breakfast. It's nice to have them at my disposal. Nothing like seconds.

And cookie crumbs? Mmm-hmm. Those guys hang around all day.

This mask-stache is pretty helpful. That's why I hate to cut it out of my life – and off of my face.

Maybe this whole "mask" business isn't so bad after all. We don't always get to see people's faces, which is sad. But under this typist's face covering, there isn't any sorrow.

This face is rockin' the mask-stache.

Here's a little inspiration for your day:

"If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or objects."

— *Albert Einstein*

"Always keep your eyes open. Keep watching. Because whatever you see can inspire you."

— *Grace Coddington*

"Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway."

— *Earl Nightingale*

"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals."

— *Henry David Thoreau*

"Instead of wondering when your next vacation is, maybe you should set up a life you don't need to escape from."

— *Seth Godin*

"I destroy my enemies when I make them my friends."

— *Abraham Lincoln*

'LESS STRESSED'



GRACIE RIDDLE
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Gracie Riddle is a redshirt freshman on the volleyball team. She plays right side. She is a health and sports science major.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?

A: Having our season canceled makes me feel honestly really bored, but also a little less stressed. I am a freshman, and I definitely wasn't prepared or experienced enough for the season if it were to have happened this fall. Having more time to learn and bond more with my teammates makes me feel more excited for what is to come.

Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?

A: As of right now, we are taking things slow, running through our defense and offense plays and taking things one practice at a time and not going so fast. I believe, personally, this is giving our veterans and my fellow freshmen time to remember and learn plays.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?

A: Currently, I am a redshirt freshman, which means that, normally, I won't get playing time, and I wouldn't get to do everything the other players get to do. But since season isn't for a while, us freshman have been a little more involved. Most people would see a redshirt next to their name as a bad sign and take things easy in practice, but I don't. I watch my teammates when I am on the sidelines and I remind myself that, if I work hard enough, I can be at that level, and my teammates help me, too. When I get frustrated, they remind me that I am new, but that I am doing a good job and I will get there. It just takes time.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?

A: It has been rough. I have a lot of free time right now, which is sometimes good, but I also have a lot more time to miss my family. If we were in season, my schedule would be packed, and I wouldn't have as much time to miss them. I got my first job ever only because now I have a lot of free time. That doesn't mean coach doesn't keep us busy. I still have an hour and a half of study hall every day. Right now just feels like the end of senior year all over again.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: Coach Aubuchan and Coach Cunningham, of course, are upset about season being canceled, but they're doing their part to keep a defined schedule. They plan on us still playing in the spring and are focused on building a strong team this year between the freshman and veterans. They try every day to keep us motivated and have our eyes set on winning a championship this year.

— Interview by *Ovell Patterson*, student reporter

Disappointing. Boring. Rough. At the same time, optimistic. Less stressed. Enthusiastic.

For Northwestern's student athletes, the news that their athletic seasons had been canceled was upsetting. For some, their last chances of running for the 50-yard line or making the winning basket are gone. They feel hurt. They feel abandoned.

But no matter how tough the situation is, Rangers are all doing one thing. They're all

FINDING HOPE

'TOGETHERNESS'



KAITLYN MORPHY
WOMEN'S SOCCER

Kaitlyn Morphy, a sophomore health and sports science major, plays defense on the women's soccer team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?

A: It's disappointing, but I feel it's a good thing as well. We get time to prepare. There are a lot of new girls on the team who have not played with us yet, so it is kind of better for us to prepare for the season that we potentially will have in the spring. We could "gel together" as a team. Once we start playing in the spring, we have already practiced together and bonded together because it takes time to get that togetherness.

Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?

A: It does suck that I potentially don't know if I will play or not in the spring. I still like playing soccer. It is nice to get your foot on the ball, especially going in the weight room. It keeps us busy even though it feels like we are not working towards something, but you are. In the end, it will benefit you.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?

A: Being around my teammates. They are all so supportive in motivating me to want to get better. Obviously, just me being myself, I always want to get better. The team is really supportive with that. I feel like the girls are just very supportive with the extra "push" each day. I live really far because I am from Canada. I can't even go home until Christmas. I am here for the long haul. I am here for a purpose. I'm here to do soccer and get a degree. It is nice to have your team who makes it feel like a big family, especially during this time.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?

A: I thought it would not affect my class schedule, but it has. Lately, with soccer, obviously, we are busy, but we are not as busy. Just like me being really busy makes me feel more successful in a way. I get more stuff done whenever I have soccer. It really helps with school, and lately, we are busy with soccer, and right now, it is not as busy.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: I think they responded really well. I feel like they are doing whatever it takes. Even though we aren't doing contact, we are doing technical and tactical. They are still making our practices efficient where they benefit in the long run. Little things that our coaches do with COVID guidelines is good, such as social distancing and masks.

— Interview by *Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche*, student reporter

'HAVING HOPE'



MYA JOHNSON
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Mya Johnson, a redshirt junior health and sports science major, plays center on the women's basketball team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?

A: It's pretty disappointing. I was very excited about the season and how far I believe we could go.

Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?

A: It's like you said. We may or may not play, so there is some type of hope or chance that we may play, and just having hope of actually playing this year makes me really push and practice because I want to be in the best shape possible for the season we may have.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?

A: Again, like I said, the fact that it is still up in the air that we may have a season is all the motivation that I need.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?

A: Really hasn't affected my classes or my work schedule because my coaches make sure that practices doesn't interfere with our classes and with the school in general. Coach [Dieselhorst] looks at all of our schedules, and she picks a time slot everybody is free, and that's when we practice.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: I feel like you found it pretty well again. Like I said in a previous statement, there still might be a season, so she's kind of clinging onto the hope of us still playing. It is still approaching the season. ... So we still have practices, start conditioning. We still have all weight, but she does make pre-caution since we are still in a pandemic.

— Interview by *Jara Reeder*, photo editor

'GET BETTER'



PARRISH HEWITT
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Parrish Hewitt, a junior health and sports science major, is a guard on the men's basketball team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?

A: I wish it never did, but it doesn't feel good. But all we can do is get better and do really good when we get our chance to play again.

Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?

A: It sucks because we do all this hard work with no reward of being able to play, but I'm just happy that we get to be back in the gym.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practice?

A: Just getting better and being able to at least practice because nobody thought we would even be able to practice.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?

A: It hasn't changed much yet because we were not officially in basketball season yet, but it probably will when we get to the season.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: Really positive even though they want us to play, but they're being safe and letting us do as much work as they can.

— Interview by *Ethan Everson*, student reporter

'AN OPPORTUNITY'



BRILEY YUNKER
WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Briley Yunker, a sophomore pre-med biology major, is a member of the women's cross country team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?

A: It's really disappointing because I, along with a lot of my other teammates, was really looking forward to the season. But also, you have to look on the bright side and think of it as an opportunity to continue to grow in our sport and continue to improve ourselves.

Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?

A: Again, it's really disappointing. But at the same time, you're like, eventually, we're going to have a season. It might not be this year. It might be next year. I think about athletics as a way to improve yourself and your character, not just your physical aspect. I think we should all just enjoy the time with our teammates and think of it as an opportunity to improve ourselves and live a healthy lifestyle.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?

A: I rely a lot on my teammates, and I know we all "draw" from each other for energy and enthusiasm, and so I think we all just try to have a good time.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?

A: It really hasn't impacted it much besides the fact that we're not doing our competitions on the weekend. Again, on the brighter side, it gives us more of an opportunity to focus on school, so that's nice.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: Coach Binkley and Coach Lancaster have been really optimistic and positive about it. They just try to keep our spirits up and look towards our eventual competition.

— Interview by *Kaylea Brown*, student reporter

For additional interviews, see Page 8

Feature

FINDING HOPE, CONTINUED

‘MORE TIME’



QUINLAN GANTHER

FOOTBALL

Quinlan Ganther, a freshman health and sports science major, is a member of the Northwestern football team. He plays quarterback.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?

A: I'm kind of disappointed because, coming in the summer and everybody working out, it was only a couple of freshmen that came, and then the whole summer doing all this working out, then everybody moved in. Right after my parents left, everybody gets an email talking about how the season is canceled, so then we had a team meeting about it. Everything just got pushed back.

Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?

A: I'm not going to say it's pointless, because I'm a freshman, so I'm really practicing for long-term, for next year and the year after. It's really a learning experience because now I get a lot more time to get the playbook down, and to really get my "feel" of it. In a regular season, you come to fall camp, and right after that, you're in season, so us freshmen, we've got a lot more time to get everything into us.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?

A: I think about the reason why I'm here. The doubts and the people saying I wouldn't have gone D2, and my friends and family who have supported me throughout this whole journey. It keeps my head up and keeps me going.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?

A: It really hasn't affected anything. The coaches do a pretty good job at having our schedules set. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, we lift, and then Tuesday, Thursday we have position meetings, so it's nothing crazy.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: They've really been just trying to keep everybody in Alva because he knows everybody is like, "What are we going to do?" "Are we going to leave?" or "Should I leave?" Everybody is just questioning everything.

— Interview by Kaylea Brown, student reporter

‘NOT BAD’



ASHTON TUCK

WOMEN'S GOLF

Ashton Tuck, a sophomore chemistry major, is a member of the Northwestern golf team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?

A: It's really disappointing to have our season be canceled, but our coaches have done such a great job getting us to stay positive about it. We are just thankful for every day that we get to spend in-person, on-campus. We know how hard the decision was to make, and we know it was made with all of the athletes' best interests at heart.

Q: What is it like to practice for tournaments you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?

A: It's not bad at all. I'm doing something I love a lot. Golf has been one of my greatest loves for a long time, and my routine doesn't feel complete without it. Whether or not we get to play, we're all still working our hardest and improving in hopes that we will get to play.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?

A: The thing I do to stay motivated is think of my parents and everything they sacrifice to allow me to get to play this sport that I love and all the countless hours they've spent at tournaments, driving me to lessons, sitting with me on the range, and being my biggest supporters. I just want to make them proud because I am beyond thankful for the opportunities they've given me.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?

A: It hasn't affected it that much. Golf is an individual sport, and we are all free to go out and practice as much as we want, so we all spend quite a bit of time practicing on our own. Everyone is still working really hard despite the circumstances.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: My coaches have been the reason that all of us have been able to stay positive about this situation. They remind us all the time how lucky we are to be able to be on campus and have the opportunities we have. They're incredibly supportive, not only in golf, but outside of that, too. And they support us all as people, not just as players. ... They haven't been negative about the situation once when it's most definitely a lot easier to complain, than it is to find the bright side.

— Interview by Destiny Gardner, student reporter

‘POSITIVE’



TIMOTHY JACOBSON

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Timothy Jacobson, a sophomore instrumental education major, is a member of the men's cross country team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?

A: It's not our favorite thing, but since we know we are having a season in the spring, we are just preparing for that.

Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?

A: Using our time to practice and get to know each other. Building the team chemistry.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?

A: We give each other encouragement. If we know someone is down, we can encourage them.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?

A: Without the season in the fall, it gives me a lot more free time on the weekends to hang out with friends, practice band and study.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: The coaches have been as positive as can be, encouraging us to be ready for spring and to use this time to stay on top of classes.

— Interview by Trinity St. Andrews, student reporter

Entertainment

This popular game is taking players to a 'New Horizon'

'Animal Crossing' gains in popularity over quarantine

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

I finally did it. I hopped on the hype train and started playing "Animal Crossing New Horizons." I heard a lot about it on TikTok and other social medias and everywhere said it was good.

My suite mate had bought it over the quarantine and now all three of us are playing it together.

Whenever one of us are free, we will be playing and then just trade off if someone else wants to turn.

Personally, I think this is the best way to play because I like to hunt and fish where Taylor likes to sell and focus more on the money aspect. We both have strengths and weaknesses and when playing with someone else they can compensate for what you do not have.

At first, I was scared because I didn't know how we would agree on the simple stuff like the name and the island and other stuff along those lines but, we both have a sense of humor so we named our boy Naval and our island is MeHoyMinoy (The sound doodlebob makes in SpongeBob)

For those of you who do not know "Animal Crossings New



Horizon" follows your character as they get this package where they can live and set up a deserted island.

Your job is to make the island more livable by collecting objects and making DIY projects like beds and bridges. You are also helping catalog what is on the island by donating fish and fossils you find to the museum.

Throughout it, you can get villagers and other friends all as you're growing this island and making it livable for other people.

We're only on about day four, we're already setting up houses for new villagers setting up a bridge, and we have a store.

You can even interact with

other people who have the game by visiting their islands.

I personally find this game a lot of fun. It gives me Sims vibes. However, you have to take care of them less which I like.

I recommend this game to anyone who is task-oriented because many of the things you have to do are set up to help you do something else. I also think anyone who likes the Sims series or apps like HayDay would also enjoy this game because you are making a life for your character while expanding your island.

I give this game 5 out of 5 stars, I think it is set up well it's easy to follow and it's extremely fun.



Random locations and awesome adventures

'Randonautica' becomes popular quarantine game

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



The app "Randonautica" has gained a lot of downloads throughout quarantine and grew popular by the app TikTok.

Basically, the app will give you random quantum points of higher low energy to send Randonauts to (what they call people who use the app). Randonauts will set their intention for the point and head off.

On TikTok a lot of users set their first intentions to colors to test it out and most of them will see the colors that they picked at their spot. There's also been many people who have set their intent as money, friends, something scary and something life changing.

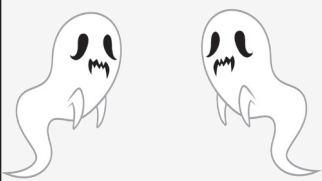
I was intrigued so I downloaded the app and me and my friends decided to try it out. In theory, the app would be good if we did not live in the middle of miles of private owned fields. Throughout our adventures one night we could

not even make it to a single point because they were all blocked by fences.

I wish we could have went to one of the points but I really didn't want to get in trouble for trespassing because of an app. The app does warn users not to trespass because they don't have the technology to know what's private land and what's not. I know from friends who have used it that it is fine when you can make it to your point but I'm sad me and my friends needed to experience that. I give this app two and a half out of five stars because I know it could be good and I know it is good another places but it just really doesn't work in Oklahoma.

Randonautica also has a Reddit page where you can put your experiences and read other people's. It's cool to see what other people set their intention as and what they saw. I would check it out if you haven't already.

Spooky Season Reviews



Stay tuned for reviews of both old and new scary movies, shows and podcast. **All October long**

The good, the bad and the so bad its funny.



The show must go on with social distancing, of course



Photo from NWSU Theatre Instagram

Students socially distance for the first table read for the Theater's upcoming October production of "45 Plays for 45 Presidents."

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Sports

Volleyball practice looks different

By **NICK DILL**
Student Reporter

The Northwestern volleyball team is preparing for a season in the spring. The team is taking it day by day and trying to get better every day.

Unfortunately, the Great American Conference suspended all fall sports through December 31. The Ranger Volleyball team will hopefully have a chance to begin playing games in the spring.

Fred Aubuchon, head volleyball coach for the Rangers, is keeping his players focused this semester despite all the changes.

Aubuchon said his goal for this semester is to take it slow and take everything one day at a time. He said they are doing a few hours a week of practice and trying to mix in weights and conditioning.

The season getting postponed can be looked at in a positive way though.

“Our focus is not trying to rush the spring semester to get here,” Aubuchon said. “We want to take our time and hopefully allow the girls to focus on other things such as academics, social life, on-campus activities and take advantage

of the slower time.”

Aubuchon said that practice is going good and the newcomers are starting to get adjusted.

“It’s about getting them accumulated to our style of doing things,” Aubuchon said. “My veterans have been incredible. They are such good leaders about what we try to do as a team, and they set a good tone for the new players.”

Although Aubuchon said there is a tremendous difference in the format of practice this semester.

“Even for us coaches having a mask on is difficult,” Aubuchon said. “When we have to speak to our team, we have to back away and pull the mask down, so they can hear us. If we get close then obviously the masks do help for that.”

Some new protocols are put in place to help the athletes stay safe.

Aubuchon said that they have plastic on the net. He thinks it helps, but is not sure if it makes a difference or not.

“We’re trying to be cautious and do everything as safe as possible,” Aubuchon said. “It’s definitely hard to feel normal when things aren’t normal.”

Aubuchon said the latest up-

date on the season is that the Rangers will have a ten-game conference schedule. He said they will play everyone on the Oklahoma side of the conference twice, but that’s still not 100% finalized.

He is hoping for more games though.

“It is our hope to play more matches and not just ten,” Aubuchon said. “We’re still waiting to get the word from the commissioner, as well as from our own university with Dr. Cunningham and Brad Franz.

We’re not at that position just yet as being able to make those decisions or add those other games.”

The NWOSU volleyball players are disappointed in the season getting postponed, but are still working hard for the season in the spring.

Avery Osburg, a senior on the volleyball team said it sucks that the season got postponed. She said she wishes that they could play in the fall. She said there are some positives though.

“We have all of the fall to prepare for spring,” Osburg said. “It gives us a whole extra semester to get the freshman in here and integrated.”

Madison Dehlinger, a junior, is



Photo by Jara Reeder

Volleyball team members practice with masks because of new guidelines.

optimistic about this semester.

“It’s not what we hoped for, but we can’t do anything about it,” Dehlinger said. “We just have to work with what we got time-wise and how many hours we can get in the gym.”

The team is facing adversity with this situation. She said it’s not fun playing with a mask and having to clean and everything like that.

“Obviously nothing good ever comes easy,” Dehlinger said. “So we’re doing the best we can.”

Maggie Peterson, a sophomore, looks at this situation as a

chance to grow.

“For me, I didn’t play as much as I wanted to last year,” Peterson said. “Having this time in the fall is giving me a lot of time to get reps in and build my confidence.”

“We can look at this situation as a positive because it gives us bonding time that we don’t usually have,” Peterson said.

The Rangers plan on working hard and staying ready for the season in the spring.

“Our focus is refocus and let’s focus on what we can do,” Aubuchon said. “Which is play in the spring.”

NWOSU hires soccer coach

By **LOGAN MERIWETHER**
Student Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State University recently hired a new head women’s soccer coach who is setting the bar high for his team.

Alex Piekarski, a Wisconsin native, has played and coached at all levels of soccer. He has a lot of experience and is very excited about being at Northwestern.

Piekarski has been at every level of college soccer. From playing division III soccer at Lakeland University, to being the assistant coach assistant coach at a Division I college, Utah State University. He was also the assistant coach at numerous division II schools.

“My heart has always been set on Division II and when the opportunity presented itself to come to Northwestern I couldn’t pass it up,” Piekarski said.

Piekarski was first attracted to Northwestern because it was a Division II.

After being here, he enjoys the small town community and is grateful for their support. Northwestern’s administrations commitment to excellence for both sports and academics attracted him as well.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, Piekarski hasn’t been able to start full contact practice but

has been working on the players skills, strength and conditioning.

Piekarski has been working with the girls being more confident with the ball improving on their dribbling and shooting.

Even though Piekarski would rather be playing right now, he believes this extra time to practice has been great for his team improving on every aspect of the game.

Kennedy Mount the assistant coach for Northwestern’s women’s soccer first got started in soccer by watching her sister play and knew she wanted to follow on her sister’s footsteps.

After having a season ending injury her senior year of college she decided it would be best to work on her masters and become the assistant coach and hopes one day she can be a head coach.

Mount holds Piekarski in high regard, she believes he has handled this different type of season due to the COVID-19 restrictions well.

Mount believes Piekarski has a lot of experience with soccer. Mount said, playing as a goalie helped him gain a lot of knowledge and know how, but also coaching at different levels has taught him a lot as well.

Mount believes Piekarski has set a high standard for the team which she thinks is really great to keep the girls wanting to improve.



Photo provided

Perry Dietz gets ready to compete during a jackpot rodeo.



Photo provided

The rodeo team hosts jackpots.

Rodeo hosts jackpot events

By **GEORGE SMITH**
Student Reporter

For the past couple of weeks and up until later in the fall the NWOSU Rodeo Team is hosting timed-event jackpots for students to participate in on the weekends.

The coronavirus pandemic pushed all sporting competitions back for the NCAA teams in the GAC, including the four collegiate rodeo events that would have been run this fall.

“We tried to keep it as long as we could,” said Stetson Thompson, under-coach of Stockton Graves. “These kids came to rodeo in college; that’s what they look forward to; it’s why they come to school — number one, to get an education, but number two is to rodeo.”

However, these aren’t full-blown premier rodeos that are typically hosted by colleges in the Central Plains Region. These rodeos are better known as jack-

pots. According to head rodeo coach Stockton Graves, these events would have likely taken place regardless of the rodeo schedule being pushed back into the Spring.

At these jackpots, only the timed events are being ran. Timed events at rodeos include everything except the rough-stock events, where the time on the clock is predetermined and your job as a competitor is to make it until the buzzer.

So far, only break-away roping and tie-down roping events have been hosted. The plan is to involve steer-wrestling and team-roping eventually according to Graves.

The winners of these timed events win some of the money from the pot. Hence: jackpot.

The amount of money in the pot is determined by the number of competitors in each event times how much the entry fee is.

These jackpots act as a small fundraiser for the rodeo team

and allow the competitors to win some money to sustain their livestock and stay sharp in their events.

Which is why break-away roper and Junior health and sports science major Cedar Anderson thinks that these jackpots are a good idea.

“It’s pretty great to be so close to home and to run at the money,” she said.

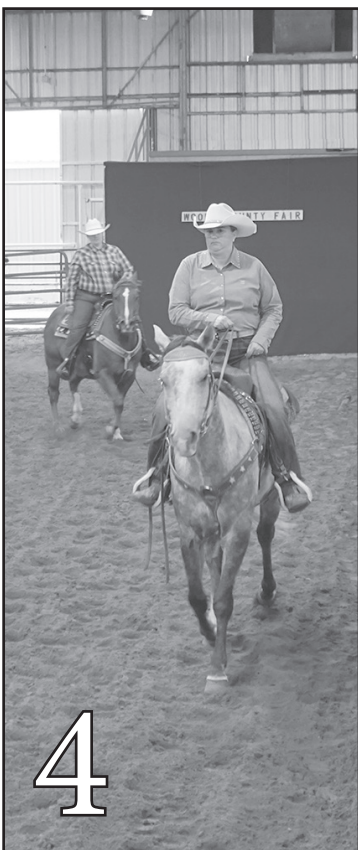
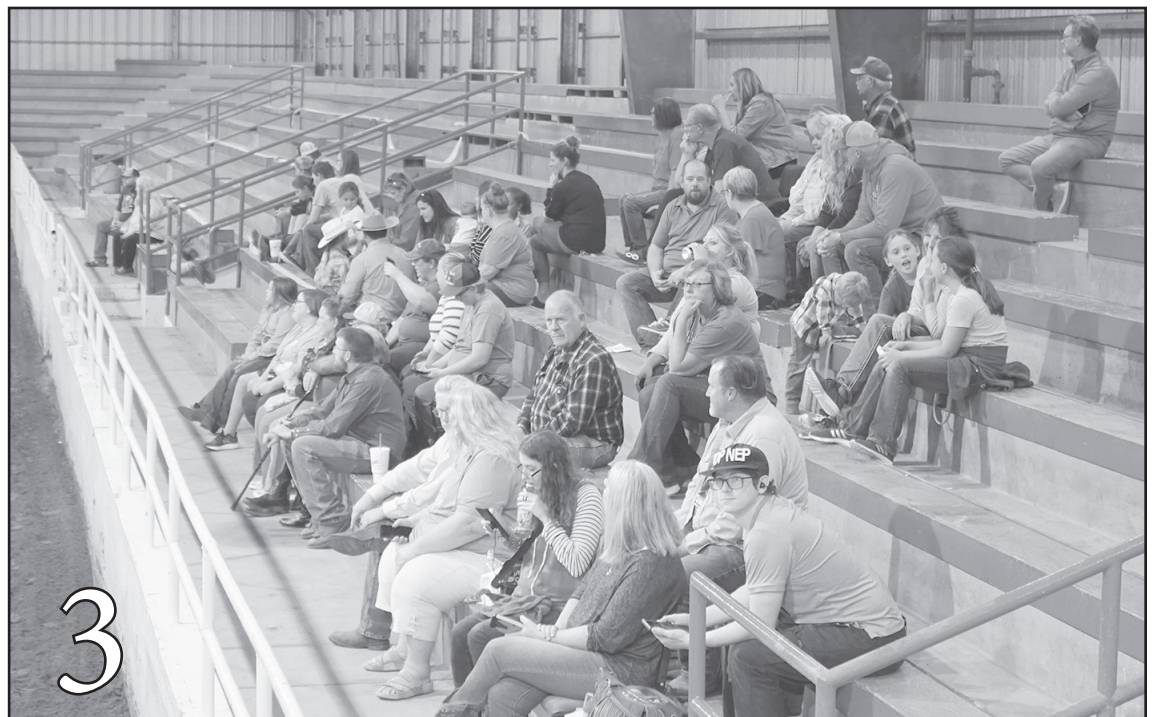
The Central Plains Region typically hosts four rodeos in the fall and six in the spring, but this year all 10 rodeos will happen in a single semester.

Levi Walter, a fifth-year business student on the rodeo team, said that the jackpots are a good place to go to when there isn’t much else around, but in terms of all of the rodeos happening in the spring, he thinks that it will be easier for the team to get in a groove.

“In the past you might go to one a month,” Walter said. “This will be more realistic rodeoing.”

News

SHOWING OFF



Contestants in the Woods County Fair's annual horse show exhibited their horses Friday in the livestock barn at the fairgrounds. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the fair was a shortened, one day-event.

1. Contestants prepare to back their horses up at the request of the judge as part of the walk-trot competition.

2. Bentley Tomberlin placed fourth in the walk-trot competition.

3. Spectators watch contestants in the horse show.

4. Cindy Tomberlin, foreground, rides her horse around the arena with Jennifer Greve, background.

5. Hillary Hurst placed first in the walk-trot category, followed by Cindy Tomberlin in second place and Jennifer Greve in third.

Photos by Jordan Green



Have you forgotten?



Photo by Jordan Green

Alva firefighters on Friday displayed a large American flag on a ladder truck in front of the fire department in memory of those who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York.