

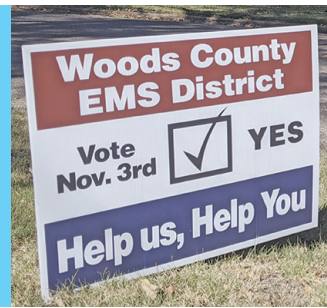
THE MONSTER BASH

Student Government Association members let students beat up an old car with a sledge hammer to relieve midterm exam stress. PAGE 12



CHECK YES OR NO

Woods County voters will vote whether to raise property taxes to fund EMS services. PAGE 3



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2020 ELECTION

Criminal justice, healthcare measures on ballot

By **GEORGE SMITH**
Student Reporter

Oklahomans will vote on state questions affecting criminal justice and healthcare when they go to the polls Nov. 3.

State Question 805, if approved by voters, will lower the amount of time served in prison for people convicted of nonviolent crimes by ending the use of sentence enhancements.

State Question 814, if approved, would take payments to the state's Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust, also known as TSET, and use that money to help fund the state's recently expanded Medicaid program.

WHAT IS A STATE QUESTION?

"State Questions are measures to change Oklahoma laws or the state constitution that appear on the ballot for all voters. They can be added to the ballot by the Legislature or by an initiative petition from citizens," a statement on the Oklahoma Policy Institute's website reads.

See **QUESTIONS**, Page 11

OCTOBER SURPRISE



Photos by Jordan Green

Students get two-day break after snow, ice cover Woods County

Above: Evan Wahpekeche and Juan Dominguez fall off a sled on a country road north of Alva on Monday. At right: Snow covered a decorative pumpkin at Northwestern President Janet Cunningham's home. Classes were canceled at Northwestern on Monday and Tuesday after snow and ice covered the region, and Northwestern students spent

their time sledding and enjoying the wintry weather. The snow came just days before Halloween, covering some fall decorations and coating the leaves of green trees. Though the university canceled fall break because of the coronavirus pandemic, students said they enjoyed an early, but informal, winter break. For more photos, see Page 6 in the News.



Haunted hay maze offers safe, spooky way to celebrate Halloween

By **NICK DILL**
Student Reporter

Employees with Bradt's Menagerie set up a hay maze every year during the fall, but they add a twist to it by having a haunted hay maze.

The haunted hay maze occurs only three days out of the year from Oct. 29 to Oct. 31 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. each night.

JoDe Bradt, co-owner of the Menagerie, said the maze has about 1,000 round bales of hay. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday before Halloween, employees put some "scarers" in the maze. She said there's also a scavenger hunt throughout the maze.

Jerad Bradt, co-owner of the Menagerie, said it takes a couple of days of preparation to set up the maze. He said workers have to place props throughout the maze, including a large coffin, a smoke machine, and lights

and sound equipment. JoDe Bradt said it's not a huge transition, but that it takes a lot of preparation time.

The haunted hay maze costs \$5 per person, and there is no capacity limit.

"If people are concerned about being in close quarters, it's a large outdoor area, and there is plenty of room to spread out," JoDe Bradt said. "We have made the pathways even wider than we have in the past so that people can continue to distance."

Jerad Bradt said workers have put hand sanitizer at each stamp station.

The haunted hay maze includes a lot of volunteers.

"We normally have 30 to 40 people, but it depends," Jerad Bradt said. "Halloween night kind of scares us trying to get volunteers. Several of our volunteers are adults, and they want to go trick-or-treating with their kids."

See **HAY MAZE**, Page 3

NEWS

Page 2 & 3

EDITORIAL

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PHOTOS

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SPORTS

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News

2020 ELECTION

DECISION 2020

Find out where, when and how to vote in the Nov. 3 presidential election

Voters across the nation will head to the polls Nov. 3 to elect the United States president and other government officials across the nation. Here's some basic information about when to vote, where to vote and what names will be on the ballot.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting is open Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Early voting is conducted at the Woods County Election Board office in the county courthouse.

ELECTION DAY

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 3. Lines are possible at peak voting times.

Wait times will likely be shortest mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Anyone in line to vote at 7 p.m. will be allowed to cast a ballot.

CHECKING REGISTRATION

Those who need to look up their polling place or verify their registration can access the information on the Oklahoma State Election Board's website: <http://www.elections.ok.gov>.

Those who vote by mail can also check the status of their ballots using the online voter tool.

Sample ballots are available at the coun-



An American flag waves at the Alva Municipal Cemetery in this November 2019 file photo.

Photo by Jordan Green

ty election board office and on the state website under the "voter tools" tab.

ID REQUIREMENTS

Oklahoma law requires every voter who votes in-person at the precinct polling place or during early voting at the county election board to show proof of identity before receiving a ballot.

There are three ways for voters to prove their identity under the law (only one form is required): a valid photo ID issued by a federal, state, or tribal government; the free voter identification card issued to every voter by the county election board; or a

signed affidavit. (If the information on the affidavit matches official voter registration records, the ballot will be counted after Election Day.)

To obtain a new voter ID card, call 580-327-1452.

DISABLED VOTERS

Polling places have accommodations for: physically disabled voters who cannot enter the polling place; those who need help marking their ballots; blind or visually disabled voters; and illiterate voters.

They may be assisted by a person the

voter chooses. In all cases, a person providing such assistance may not be the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union.

A person providing assistance also must swear or affirm that the voter's ballots will be marked in accordance with the voter's wishes.

Alternatively, all blind, visually impaired, and physically disabled voters in Woods County may use the audio-tactile interface. This is a feature offered on all Oklahoma voting devices during early voting and during Election Day.

I'VE MOVED

Voters who have moved since the last election, but who have not transferred their voter registration to their new address, may do so on Election Day by going to vote at the polling place where their registration has been in the past.

While voting, they may fill out a form instructing the county election board to transfer their registration to the new address before the next election.

DON'T CHEAT

Any violation of election law will be reported to the proper law enforcement authorities. Electioneering is not allowed within 300 feet of a ballot box.

LOCAL BALLOT

OFFICIAL BALLOT
GENERAL ELECTION
November 03, 2020
WOODS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

PRECINCT 760008-REGN1

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STATE QUESTIONS	COUNTY QUESTIONS
<p>STATE QUESTION NO. 805 INITIATIVE PETITION NO. 421</p> <p>This measure seeks to add a new Article II-A to the Oklahoma Constitution. This new Article II-A excepts and does not apply to persons who have ever been convicted of a violent felony. It would prohibit the use of a former felony conviction to increase the statutorily allowable base range of punishment for a person subsequently convicted of a felony. Individuals who are currently incarcerated for felony sentences that were enhanced based on one or more former felony convictions, and whose sentences are greater than the maximum sentence that may currently be imposed for such felonies, may seek sentence modification in court. This new Article sets forth a detailed process for such sentence modification, including but not limited to requirements for a hearing, appointment of counsel for indigent petitioners, and notification of victims, and requires that the court impose a modified sentence no greater than the current maximum sentence which may be imposed on a person convicted of the same felony with no former felony convictions, and which results in no greater time served in prison than under the original sentence. It establishes an appeal procedure, provides an effective date, and contains a severability clause.</p> <p>SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO</p>	<p>PROPOSITION</p> <p>Shall Woods County, Oklahoma, form an Emergency Medical Services District, composed of all of Woods County, for the purpose of providing ambulance services to all county residents to levy a special annual recurring ad valorem tax of three (3) mills on the dollar of assessed valuation, until lawfully repealed, in addition to all other levies, upon the assessed valuation of all taxable property in Woods County, Oklahoma, real and personal, under the authority of Article 10, Section 5c of the Oklahoma Constitution effective in the 2021 Tax Year and thereafter, with the proceeds of such tax levy to be allocated among the existing ambulance service providers furnishing ambulance services in Woods County, and their successors, as assessed and levied each tax year within each service area located within Woods County and paid to the existing ambulance provider, or their successor, principally located and/or serving the majority of the residents of Woods County within such service area, be approved?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR THE PROPOSITION - YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST THE PROPOSITION - NO</p>
<p>STATE QUESTION NO. 814 LEGISLATIVE REFERENDUM NO. 375</p> <p>This measure seeks to amend Article 10, Section 40 of the Oklahoma Constitution (Section 40), which directs proceeds from the State's settlements with or judgments against tobacco companies. Currently, Section 40 directs 75% of proceeds to the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund (TSET Fund), where earnings may only be used for tobacco prevention programs, cancer research, and other such programs to maintain or improve the health of Oklahomans. Meanwhile, the remaining 25% of proceeds are directed to a separate fund for the Legislature (Legislative Fund). The Legislature can also direct some of that 25% to the Attorney General.</p> <p>This measure amends Section 40 to reduce the percentage of proceeds that go into the TSET Fund from 75% to 25%. As a result, the remaining 75% will go to the Legislative Fund and the Legislature may continue to direct a portion to the Attorney General.</p> <p>The measure would also restrict the use of the Legislative Fund. Section 40 currently states only that the Legislative Fund is subject to legislative appropriation. If this measure passes, money from the Legislative Fund must be used to get federal matching funds for Oklahoma's Medicaid Program.</p> <p>SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO</p>	

WHERE DO I GO TO VOTE? LOCAL POLLING PLACES:

The polling places that will be open are based on ZIP codes. They are as follows:

- 760001: Northwest Technology Center
- 760002: Waynoka Housing Authority
- 760003: The Homestead
- 760004: Dacoma Community Center
- 760005: Alva City Hall
- 760008: Freedom Methodist Church

Check the bottom left-hand corner of your voter ID card to find your polling place location.

All mail-in absentee ballots must be received in the election board's office on or before Nov. 3 to be counted.

NATIONAL BALLOT

OFFICIAL BALLOT
GENERAL ELECTION
November 03, 2020
WOODS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

PRECINCT 760008-REGN1

Page 1 / 2

<p>TO VOTE: FILL IN THE BOX NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE(S) LIKE THIS:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correct <input type="checkbox"/> Incorrect</p>	<p>CONGRESSIONAL OFFICERS</p> <p>FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> JIM INHOFE REPUBLICAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ROBERT MURPHY LIBERTARIAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ABBY BROYLES DEMOCRAT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> JOAN FARR INDEPENDENT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A. D. NESBIT INDEPENDENT</p>	<p>COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS DISTRICT 3 Shall GARY L. LUMPKIN of the OKLAHOMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS be retained in office?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>STRAIGHT PARTY</p> <p>A straight party vote is a vote for all candidates of that party in partisan races.</p> <p>STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> REPUBLICAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LIBERTARIAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DEMOCRATIC</p>	<p>FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 03 (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FRANK D. LUCAS REPUBLICAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ZOE MIDYETT DEMOCRAT</p>	<p>JUDGES OF THE OKLAHOMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS</p> <p>COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS DISTRICT 1 - OFFICE 2 Shall JANE P. WISEMAN of the OKLAHOMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS be retained in office?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>PRESIDENTIAL</p> <p>ELECTORS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP MICHAEL R. PENCE REPUBLICAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT JO JORGENSEN JEREMY SPIKE COHEN LIBERTARIAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN KAMALA D. HARRIS DEMOCRAT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT JADE SIMMONS CLAUDELIAH J. ROZE INDEPENDENT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT KANYE WEST MICHELLE TIDBALL INDEPENDENT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT BROCK PIERCE KARLA BALLARD INDEPENDENT</p>	<p>JUSTICES OF THE OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT</p> <p>SUPREME COURT DISTRICT 1 Shall MATTHEW JOHN KANE, IV of the OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT be retained in office?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>SUPREME COURT DISTRICT 6 Shall TOM COLBERT of the OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT be retained in office?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>SUPREME COURT DISTRICT 9 Shall RICHARD B. DARBY of the OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT be retained in office?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS DISTRICT 2 - OFFICE 1 Shall DEBORAH B. BARNES of the OKLAHOMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS be retained in office?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS DISTRICT 2 - OFFICE 2 Shall KEITH RAPP of the OKLAHOMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS be retained in office?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>STATE OFFICERS</p> <p>FOR CORPORATION COMMISSIONER (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TODD HIETT REPUBLICAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TODD HAGOPIAN LIBERTARIAN</p>	<p>JUDGES OF THE OKLAHOMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS</p> <p>COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS DISTRICT 2 Shall ROBERT L. HUDSON of the OKLAHOMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS be retained in office?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	

News

2020 ELECTION

LIFE-SAVING VOTE?

Woods County voters will decide whether to raise taxes, create EMS district

By SEAN DOHERTY
Student Reporter

Woods County voters will decide on Nov. 3 whether to supplement funds to all emergency medical service stations in the county.

A proposal to establish a 522 EMS district in Woods County is on the ballot this year. Since 1976, 522 EMS districts in Oklahoma can be formed from a school district, incorporated city or town or county.

These districts, named after Oklahoma State Question 522, which allowed for their formation, may then establish an annual recurring ad valorem tax levy of not more than three mills per dollar of assessed valuation of all taxable property in the district for EMS operations.

If the proposal passes, beginning during the 2021 tax year, Woods County property owners would supplement funds to all three EMS stations: Alva, Freedom and Waynoka.

This tax is an addition to the current property taxes in the county, and will recur every year until a proposition to repeal it appears on a future ballot.

Why should any NWOSU students care? Students or faculty that don't pay taxes in Woods County aren't affected. But for those who live here or plan to stay after graduation, this vote is important.

Julie Dennis, director of Alva EMS, is a member of a task force that came together to get this proposal on the ballot. She and the other members of the task force say this tax will provide a constant funding stream that will provide financial flexibility to all three EMS stations, while simultaneously creating a funding mechanism for capital improvements and updates.

The proposal would also offer improved control and better coordination and cooperation.

"It will ensure more effective coverage for our service," Dennis said. "With the current trend of the state regulations increasing



Photo by Michelle Willson

A sign encouraging Woods County voters to support a proposal creating a county EMS district is shown in the foreground, while a sign urging voters to vote against the proposal is shown in the background in this photo.

the needs and requirements to be met to maintain current license ... this would produce and provide a mechanism in which we could potentially purchase that equipment that we need."

Each EMS district in the county is different. Alva EMS is a full-time, paid ambulance service funded by a percentage of the city sales tax and EMS charges after ambulance runs. They average 1000 runs each year.

Waynoka EMS is a paid volunteer service, which means their EMTs get paid a small amount for covering shifts funded by city sales tax, EMS charges, and a mandatory subscription on Waynoka residents' utility bills. Waynoka EMS had approximately 200 runs last year.

Freedom EMS is a volunteer service. Paramedics don't get paid, patients are not charged for EMS runs and any funding the EMS service receives is from donations or fundraising. They had about 50 runs last year.

If the proposal passes, the tax

would generate approximately \$645,000 annually. The Woods County commissioners would nominate three individuals from each EMS station to serve on a board to oversee allocation of these funds to each EMS district.

"It'll have to be a joint venture between the cities and this board," said Randy McMurphy, chair of the Woods County Commissioners. McMurphy said the board will not have any administrative power over the EMS stations.

"I'm not this board," he said. "It's just an oversight to see that the funds are spent right where they need to be spent."

Dennis reiterated that each EMS station would still be operated independently.

"How (the proposal) is written, it would form an EMS district, not a county-wide EMS service," Dennis said. "That district is a special taxation district that will contract with the existing agencies that are providing coverage in that area."

However, the board would

provide an opportunity for all three stations to help each other.

"It will allow us to see exactly where there might be a shortfall in another service," Dennis said. "If there's a shortfall there, it might allow for us the opportunity to step up and help them in that area, or vice-versa. Having people come together on the board can never hurt because we're coming together to discuss the mutual issues. And I mean, the only thing that can come from that is increased coordination and cooperation."

The constant funding stream the 522 district tax levy would provide gives the three EMS stations some breathing room financially.

"It gives us more flexibility," Dennis said. "We have the ability to put more money into equipment and more money into a person. We have the ability to put more money into training, those types of things. It allows the coordination and cooperation that we already have among three

services to function better and more efficiently because we're not struggling financially."

Supporters of the 522 proposal say the constant revenue from the mill levy will help stabilize unpredictable sales tax funds.

"We may have \$300,000 in sales tax one month, but we may only have \$150,000 the next month," Dennis said. "It's not a constant, steady stream. What this tax is going to do is to help us plan for the future. We will have a good estimate from now going forward."

"It's a really small amount to pay for a service," McMurphy said.

COST TO TAXPAYERS

According to Woods County Assessor Renetta Benson, there is a simple equation to calculate the additional taxes a property owner will pay. The current assessed value of the property, multiplied by .003 (\$3.00 of every \$1,000 of assessed property value is taxed) equals the yearly increase in taxes for the property owner.

The assessed value of real estate property like land and structures attached to that land is calculated by multiplying the market value of the property by the assessment rate of 11.5% (.115). Personal property is assessed at a rate of 12% (.12).

For example, if the assessed value of a real estate property is \$50,000, the additional tax the property owner would pay is \$17.25. If the assessed value of their personal property is also \$50,000, the additional tax would be \$18.00, for a grand total of \$35.25.

The position of the opposition to the 522 EMS district tax is simple: No more taxes. But McMurphy counters.

"I don't like more taxes either, but I do like to know when I am paying taxes where it's going," McMurphy said. "The best way I can put it...who would want to send their kids to college at Northwestern if there wasn't an ambulance service available?"

HAY MAZE: Bradt's Menagerie event made possible by volunteers

Continued from Page 1

Jerad Bradt said one question he gets all the time is whether the maze is appropriate for young children, especially children around the age of 6. He said the answer depends on the child.

"There are some people that say, 'Oh, that wasn't even scary,' and that's OK because maybe you're watching some really freaky movies, and so you're not

scared by these things," JoDe Bradt said.

Jerad Bradt said he likes that his family has the maze to offer. He said Alva has had haunted houses in the past, but they have all fizzled out.

JoDe Bradt agreed. She said it's fun to see the costumes come through the hay maze.

"We are blessed that people want to come out," she said.



At left, the hay maze at Bradt's Menagerie is shown in this aerial photo taken from a drone in fall 2019.

File photo

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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

Neurodivergent, continued

Part Two of last week's article, titled "Explaining neurodivergent experiences"

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

My explaining neurodivergent experiences articles received a lot of positive feedback last week so I thought it might be a reoccurring thing that I do. So here is part two of explaining my own neurodivergent experiences.

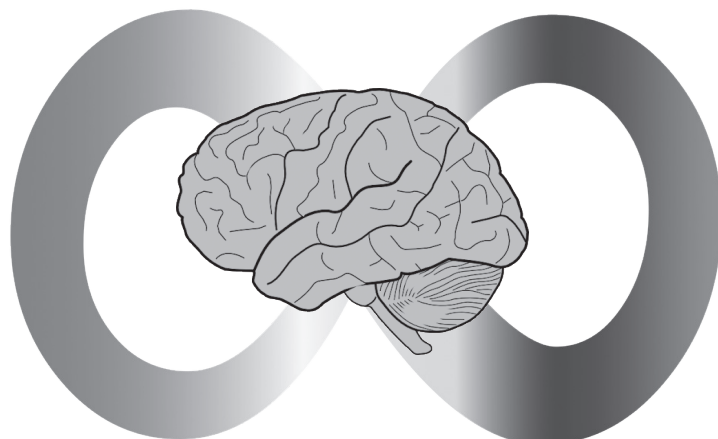
When I was younger I would never understand it but I would get randomly angry. As I grew up I could directly see a correlation between getting overwhelmed and then angry. It happened all the time. I thought I was crazy. It took until my senior year of high school before I realized that that problem could probably be fixed. Getting my anxiety under control completely got rid of that problem. But I didn't even know that that was a symptom of anxiety.

This one's a little less of mental health but I struggled with spelling my entire life, finally in fourth grade my speech teacher told me that I had dyslexia. Just recently I figured out she was not medically trained to diagnose me but her giving what I had a name and giving me some coping mechanisms really helped me throughout the rest of my schooling. To this day I still have to make finger signs for B's and D's while I write. And I still sometimes struggle with right and left. I really have to think about it before like my brain clicks it to be right. But I would have struggled a lot harder if she hadn't taken the time to kind of explain to me what my brain was going through. Just recently I found out that my lack of direction, and the fact that I don't have a map in my head when I'm driving could also be related to dyslexia... You are something new all the time... I really don't know why I told you

all that I don't know if it would help anyone but keep an eye out don't let your student or yourself struggle if you think there's a problem.

Another one is over analyzing situations that would never happen but theoretically if they did happen I'd have a plan. Like I'm in a room and I know my exits are because what if there's an active shooter or I'm driving down the road I'm looking for ways out in case someone's coming down my side of the road and it's going to hit me. I imagine in-depth multiple different scenarios that might happen at this exact moment and how I would get out of it. A reoccurring situation that I had growing up was that a train had derailed was coming down my street it wasn't going to hit my house but how would I react to that situation... The nearest train track was across town. In no way could this train ever make it to go down my street and just keep going but I was prepared.

I think my over-analyzing situations also is one of the reasons I get anxious in Walmart. Because when you're with a group you have more eyes out but if you're by yourself in the clothes area there could be surprise "attacks" from any angle and that just freaks me out. I like to sit with my face towards the door... I started this after my Europe trip when a guy on the trip explained to me that he did that cuz he was a military person and he just like to be able to see who was coming in so there was no surprises and I've really adopted that. It's just nice to know that they're not going to surprise you. It kind of makes me feel like I'm on edge 24/7... But it also makes me a little more relieved cuz I know I'm prepared for almost any situation to happen.



EDITOR'S RANT OF THE WEEK

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

So as most of you know, this year has been really bad on mental health. I've seen it in myself, my friends and my classmates. Sometimes as I'm walking through campus I laugh because as mental health goes down the colors of students hair go all over the place. Personally, I've had my hair green and now it's purple... I might go purple again but I'm not sure yet. And I know that I get the urge should dye my hair when my mental health starts to get bad and I think you can receive that reflected in others.

It's one thing I look at when I'm feeling... Not the best. Because it's something that gives me some serotonin. Knowing that other people might also be struggling like I am and at the same time adding color to the campus. I know this isn't much of a rant but it's something to look out for because you'll start to notice the correlation everywhere. New hairstyles, homemade freshly cut bangs, piercings and much more start to show up as mental health goes down.

If your mental health does get to the point where you need to talk to someone, Taylor Wilson is a great option on campus and the behavioral health center in Alva also has counselors you can talk to. I know this semester has been rough, but you never have to struggle through it alone. Find a group of friends that can help you get to where you need to be

while not taking up your energy. Know when to say no and when to push things to another day. If you haven't looked it up the spoon theory is an amazing way to explain any sort of illness. May that be mental or physical. That's how me and my friends have explained it to each other for 3 years now. Someone might ask if you want to go to Walmart and you just go "Sorry I'm out of spoons for the day" and they don't push because they know that you physically and mentally aren't able to give of yourself anymore for that day.

I can't stress finding the right friend group enough. The people around you directly affect your mental and your physical health. Cut toxic people, don't want anyone standing your way of your dreams. It's not worth it to fight to have these toxic people in your life you'll feel a lot better when they're gone.

One thing that I think it's important to remember is that everyone deals with their mental health differently. So I start to seclude myself when I start to get depressed and I haven't really found a way around that but other people latch on or get "clingy" when they're sad or depressed. So I advise you to know what your friends do so you know how to help them best. My friends can normally tell when my mental health starts to get bad because I do start to break seclude myself and they know that's a warning sign sometimes before I realize what's happening. And it's nice to have people looking out for you like that.

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

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

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

Editorial

'Had to be that chicken'

A short story on losing an appendix and becoming 99.9% the man he used to be

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

At first, I blamed it on the chicken. It had to be that chicken. I knew it hadn't been cooked right. Or was it the macaroni and cheese?

When I started feeling sick to my stomach on Oct. 16, I thought I had a bad case of indigestion. The thought never crossed my mind that my appendix could be going south.

Luckily, it took a detour.

On Oct. 17, I had my appendix removed during a surgery at the Ponca City hospital after being diagnosed with acute appendicitis. My appendix hadn't burst by the time the talented surgical crew removed it, though the surgeon told me after the operation that this small body part was "angry" by the time he got to it.

I'd be angry, too, if I was about to be evicted from my home.

The surgery lasted all of 28 minutes and went smoothly. The recovery? Not so fast.

My parents brought me home from the hospital, and for the next several days, I did nothing but sleep. Being a college student, I normally don't mind sleeping in all day, getting out of bed only to eat more Ramen Noodles. In the days following my surgery, however, I felt like I was about to win a medal in a 5K sleeping marathon.

Let me tell you: An operation to remove part of your body can really take it out of you.

I was pretty sore, and no amount of medicine could completely wipe away the inflammation from the surgery. It eventually subsided, and I started feeling like a human being again.

My wonderful family made my recovery as peaceful and painless as possible. My mom is a loving, caring lady, and she made sure I was comfortable and well-fed. My dad is a smart, compassionate physician's assistant, so I'm lucky to have a medical provider who still makes house calls.

While I was recovering, I realized how blessed I am to have a long list of friends and family to cheer me up. So many people reached out to me to offer their well-wishes after my surgery, and some stopped by to see me. They really helped boost my spirits.

When I was diagnosed with appendicitis, a rush of emotions came over me. I was, admittedly, a little scared. This would be my first surgery. I was also worried about what would happen at the Northwest-

ern News, the campus newspaper.

My good friends on the paper told me I had nothing to fret about, and they took up the slack for the week. Knowing that the paper I love so dearly was in capable hands eased my mind. I'm fortunate to be surrounded by such incredible journalists and, more importantly, friends.

"Let me tell you: An operation to remove part of your body can really take it out of you."

I'm back to "normal" now – whatever that is in 2020. Still, I'll never be quite the same. I weigh about 135 pounds, which equates to 2,160 ounces. An appendix weighs about 2 ounces. Now that I no longer have an appendix, I'm 2 ounces short. So, mathematically speaking, I'm only 99.9% of the man I used to be.

When I woke up from surgery, I wanted peace and quiet for a while. After a few hours had passed, though, I had to have some music.

The first song that came to mind was one of my favorite 1950s hits, "Mack the Knife." My mind somehow drew an inference between having gone under the knife — a term we journalists love to use when saying a person had surgery — and listening to a song that mentions a knife.

It's an upbeat tune. It makes me want to get up and dance. However, as a public service, I'll refrain from doing so. You're welcome.

After one long week of recovery, Folks, watch out. As the song goes, I'm back.

"You know when that shark bites with his teeth, Babe. Scarlet billows start to spread. Fancy gloves, oh, wears old Mack Heath, Babe. So there's never, never a trace of red.

"Now on the sidewalk, there lies a body just ooze-in' life. And someone's sneakin' 'round the corner. Could that someone be Mack the Knife?

"Yes, that line forms on the right, Babe, now that Macky's back in town. Look out, old Macky's BACK!"

Get inspired!

"I am proud of the man I was yesterday, and very happy with the man I am today. However, I am gladly looking forward to the man I will become tomorrow. Just like a red wine, I dare to get better with age."

— Edmond Mbiaka

"Be around people that make you want to be a better person, who make you feel good, make you laugh, and remind you what's important in life."

— Germany Kent

"I never dream to become someone important for myself. The truth is that I-I really don't have a personal ambition. My ambition, my dream, it's about the people. It's all about the people. It's for the people. It's all for the people. That is my ultimate goal."

— Nurudeen Ushawu

"The goal of a life purpose is not what you will create, but what it will make you into for creating it."

— Shannon L. Alder

"Just always be the better person. And make your intentions pure. What and who you are is what you'll attract, what you'll maintain. Pain is inevitable and it will always exist, but if you focus on understanding what you are feeling and why you are feeling it, you will overcome it."

— The Minds Journal

**Interested in writing?
Share your opinions!
Contact McKayla Holson**

mrholson30@rangers.nwosu.edu

Merry Halloween?

Campus glistens and students play in late October snow



Photo by Jordan Green

A truck drives on snow-covered Oklahoma Boulevard on Monday after street crews sanded and salted Alva roads.



Photo by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche

Plants and flowers around campus were still green when snow fell late Sunday night and early Monday morning.



Photo by Jordan Green

Rangers Noah Rodriguez and Steven Shin ride a sled towed by a pickup truck Monday afternoon on a country road north of Alva.



Photo by Jordan Green

The Ranger statue was covered with a light dusting of snow on Monday.



Photo by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche

Plants and flowers around campus were still green when snow fell late Sunday night and early Monday morning.



Photo by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche

A university maintenance worker uses a skid-steer to clear snow on sidewalks near Ryerson Hall on Tuesday.

Military service offers benefits to college students

By SHANNON NESSERALLA
Student Reporter

It's 4:30 a.m. Lights turn on, and yells from drill sergeants fill the bay. This is what trainees experience on the first morning of basic training.

Deciding to be a part of the 1% who sacrifice to serve their country can be a huge step for anyone. Raising your right hand and officially becoming an enlisted soldier in the Oklahoma Army National Guard isn't an easy commitment, but deciding to do so can be extremely beneficial.

The ARNG is different than the active-duty Army. While both organizations serve the same branch of the military, members of the ARNG serve part-time for the state they are enlisted in.

The part-time requirements consist of going to the unit of assignment once a month during the drill weekends. Also, a two-week yearly training will be required during the year.

If the state has any statewide emergencies, then the National Guard may be called in to assist with them.

The National Guard's contract length is also longer than the active-duty contract length. While enlisted, an eight-year contract is the most common. Six of those years are active, and two years are inactive. The inactive years are years when a person may be called in on an as-needed basis.

The National Guard is a great option for college students who have the desire to serve their country and receive many different benefits. One of the biggest benefits that people can take advantage of is the college tuition assistance, which can be taken advantage of as soon as you've enlisted.

If you enlist and then do not ship out to basic training for a few months, then you can still take college classes that the Army will pay for.

According to Zach B. Zachary, the tuition waiver can only be used at colleges in Oklahoma and will cover a minimum of three credit hours and a maximum of 18 credit hours. Students must also maintain good standings in school and with the Army.

Soldiers who fail to report to their units without notifying their command team will receive an absent without leave, commonly called an AWOL, against them. If a soldier has received more than nine AWOLs in 12 months, he or she will not qualify for tuition assistance.

Soldiers must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 to remain eligible for assistance.

While enrolled in a college program, you will also be eligible to receive the Montgomery GI Bill. This is a monthly allowance that can be as much as \$300 extra per month.

This can be used toward school expenses such as books or other supplies, and can be used for personal expenses. Unlike the tuition assistance program, this allowance



U.S. Army photo by Tori Evans

A soldier crawls through a mud pit during a training exercise in this photo.

is automatically deposited into a personal bank account.

These benefits won't come easily. Enlisted soldiers are still required to graduate from basic combat training at one of four training sites: Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Benning, Georgia; or Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Another requirement is graduation from advanced individual training, which is the training for the military occupational specialty that was chosen on the day of enlistment.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Army offers a wide range of jobs, and the MOS is the chosen job that the soldier wishes to perform during his or her time enlisted. This training can range anywhere from a few weeks to more than a year depending on the complexity of the job.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University student Dylan Siler is serving in the Oklahoma ARNG and is taking advantage of the benefits it offers. He said he decided to join because it was a family tradition, and so that he could receive free college tuition.

"If you want to join, just know that it's something you got to commit to and can't just quit, because that's not how the military works," Siler said.

Since enlisting, Siler has matured and become more responsible in his daily life, he said. When asked if he's gotten to experience anything he may not have experienced without the National Guard, he said: "I've gotten to shoot grenade launchers and smoke screens. I've also got picked up in a helicopter for a medevac, which was sick."

Joining the National Guard can help a person financially, and it can help grow a person's character.

Hunter Priest is a Northwestern student who is serving part-time in the Army.

He said he believes that, since joining, he has become more disciplined and has gained a better work ethic. He also said he views certain things differently, and he can react

to his surroundings faster.

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, his monthly drills have all been online, which prevents hands-on training. He offered this advice about joining: "Basic training is the easiest and hardest thing you'll ever do. Stay fully committed, and keep your mind right, and you'll do great. Always strive for excellence."

NETWORKING

The National Guard also provides networking opportunities. Everyone in your unit will have a civilian life and civilian job. Making connections within the chain of command can open up windows of opportunity.

You never know whose civilian job may be looking to hire entry-level workers. Also, making good connections and showing strong work ethics can help with promotions. Promotions are what will help with getting the most out of your military career.

Before joining, possible recruits should know some requirements. There is an age requirement of being 17 to 35 years old. Being able to attain a passing score of 31 on the ASVAB is required. The ASVAB determines what MOS you can choose. The higher your score, the more options you have.

Also, you must pass numerous medical and physical screenings before enlisting. The medical portion consists of a hearing test, vision test, urinalysis and blood test. The physical portion will consist of a short physical test with a deadlift, seated ball-throw and shuttle sprints.

Staying in shape and maintaining your physical ability are also important parts of being in any military branch.

A required physical test is given each year, and if the soldier receives a failing score twice in the same year, he or she may be removed from the branch for failure to meet requirements.

Another requirement is the height and weight standards. You must maintain a certain weight or body fat percentage depending on your age and height.

Why Join?



100% 100% FREE TUITION

MONTHLY PAYCHECK

MULTIPLE JOB CHOICES

EARN COLLEGE CREDIT WHILE TRAINING

\$20,000 ENLISTMENT BONUS

SERVE YOUR STATE PART TIME

Graphic by Shannon Nesseralla Source: nationalguard.com

These graphics explain various aspects of serving in the military. The above graphic shows some of the benefits of serving in the military, which include having multiple job opportunities and earning money to pay for college tuition. The graphic below shows the number of people serving in the military.

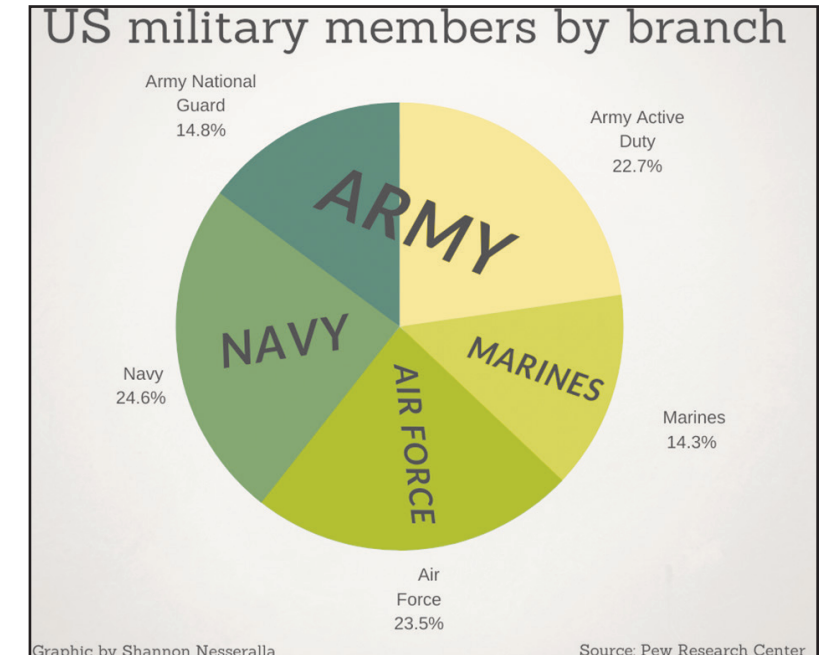




Photo provided

Kaylea Brown, Kaylin Blatchford, Whitney Blanchard and Lizzy Webster organized a donation drive benefiting the university's Campus Cabinet food pantry as a class assignment.

Students host food drive for Campus Cabinet

By **KAYLEA BROWN**
Student Reporter

What started out as a joke led four girls to collect more donated items than they thought they would.

The Ranger Connection competition for a donation drive organized by four girls is the reason they were able to collect 183.5 pounds worth of donated items for the Campus Cabinet.

The drive came out of a community service assignment in Kaylyn Hansen's habitudes class, but Hansen said the results the girls had – and the amount of effort they put into the project – blew her away.

"I think all four girls worked very hard together," Hansen said. "I think their effort in making sure that they did the project to 100% of their capabilities was what made the project so successful. The girls took their leadership styles and leaderships skills and put those to work."

Hansen said the extra steps the girls took, such as visiting businesses, is what made the difference in this project. Rather than just setting out boxes, the girls encouraged students to donate food by making it into a competition to see which Ranger Connection class would donate the most food.

Kaylin Blatchford, a freshman

business major from Cleveland, Oklahoma, was one of the girls that came up with the idea to create an incentive between Ranger Connection classes to encourage people to donate.

The idea came out of a joke between her and Kaylea Brown, another member of the group, because it is what their high school used to do. At the end of the project, that idea is what helped the group collect 183.5 pounds of food, hygiene products, bedding, and \$50 for the Campus Cabinet food pantry. Blatchford said she was surprised to see the amount that the group was able to raise.

"I knew we were going to make some impact," Blatchford

said. "I just didn't know we were going to make as big of an impact as we did, but I'm proud that we did."

When it was time to bring the items to the Campus Cabinet, Angelia Case, who runs the food pantry, said the pride in the girls' eyes was evident. Case said she encourages the girls and other students to keep up with service-learning.

It is a challenge to be able to do this kind of work amid the coronavirus, but many groups on campus are still finding ways to do it, and it fits with what they tell clients of the Campus Cabinet, Case said.

"We just want to help," Case

said. "There's no judgment. There's nothing like that. We just want to help."

Case said she encourages people who are in need of something to reach out to the organization for assistance. She also encourages students to "pay it forward" when they're able to.

"When you're set up and life is going well ... give back," Case said. "Whether it's to us at the Campus Cabinet or someone else, give your time, give resources, whatever you can do to be helpful, is appreciated very much."

Editor's Note: Reporter Kaylea Brown helped organize the donation drive for the Campus Cabinet.

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Photo provided

Food collected as part of the donation drive for the university's Campus Cabinet is shown in this photo.



Entertainment





Movie does not live up to its Halloween hype

'Hubie Halloween' was unimpressive

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

Hubie Halloween is a new halloween movie on Netflix that has received a lot of unwarranted hype. I was not impressed at all. The movie follows Hubie played by Adam Sandler...the town scaredy cat as he tries to save the town of salem.

The movie is exactly what I would picture if Hallmark tried to make a Halloween movie starring adam sandler and tried to market it as a thriller. I realize that this was suppose to be a comedy but It's turned out more as a sub-par comedy with a cheap love story that you can see from the beginning. The main character ended up with the pretty girl who has known him since kindergarten.

This is definitely not on my list for best Adam Sandler movies. It only kept my attention because I knew I had to write this



Photo from the Netflix Media Center

review over it.

The acting was okay and their was a lot of popular actors in the movie but the movie was hyped up so much that it didn't touch the standards set for it.

If I wanted to watch a story about bullying...it definitely wouldn't be a Adam Sandler movie...that might just be me.

I give this movie a 1 out of 5 on both scales. I recommend this to anyone who likes Adam Sandler or the other big names in the movie or those who like "dumb comedy." The comedy that is drawn out and most funny drunk.

A new storyline and a new look, but the same old family values

'Addams Family' shows the power of doing things your own way

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

The Addams family is a Halloween classic, the last year they had a new addition a animated movie by the same name. The animated movie was released Oct. 11, 2019. It follows the atoms as they prepare for a party to celebrate Pugsley officially becoming Addams.

The family runs into some problems when they realize a realtor has turned the swamp into a planned community. Morticia struggles with Wednesday wanting to experience the outside world while Gomez tries to get Pugsley ready for the party where he must perform a tradition that has been passed down that he's not ready for.

Wednesday gets the opportunity to go to a public school, where she quickly makes friends by standing up to a bully. After an argument with Morticia, Wednesday runs away to live with one of her friends in the community.

Pugsley does not perform the tradition to the expectation



of his relatives but he proves he's an Addams in other ways.

I didn't think I would like the cartoon style but I did. It brought a new storyline and some new traits to these characters that I grew up with.

My favorite part of the movie was Pugsley showing his relatives that he is an Addams in his own way. Because it shows that just because someone those things are different way doesn't mean they're not family. It was really interesting to see how they incorporated that. I like seeing the similarities between the perfect community called assimilation to the Addams family on the outside they look a lot different but on the inside they are all the same and it showed that that's not how it has to be. It shows that you can be your own person and hang out with people who aren't like you.

The creator of the perfect town's daughter is one of Wednesday's friends. Throughout the movie she explores a more emo style because her mom has forced her into a princess style like she wears.

At one point her daughter comes out and all black and spiky black hair and it really was just a way to show that she didn't want to be like her mom and I think the characters finally got that towards the end.

I give this movie a 4 out of 5 overall and a 1 out of 5 on the scary scale.

I recommend this movie to anyone who watched the Addams family movies growing up... Though you don't need to have seen the old movies to see this one. It's a great show about family and originality that I think anyone could enjoy.

Must see shows for a non-scary Halloween

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

If you are like me, you like Halloween but have a lot of friends that do not like scary movies.

Here are some Halloween shows that will get you in the spirit without scaring you socks off!

These shows are nostalgic but not scary. A sure fire way to have a tame Halloween this year. So grab you popcorn and cuddle up for some of these movies.

- Halloweentown series
- Twitches and Twitches Too
- Little Shop of Horrors
- Rocky Horror Picture Show
- The Haunted Mansion
- The Addams Family
- The Nightmare Before Christmas
- Hocus Pocus
- Coraline
- BeetleJuice
- Girl vs. Monster
- Monster House
- The Corpse Bride



Sports

Golf competes in Ranger Cup

By ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

The 2020 Fall golf season was postponed due to the current pandemic from the coronavirus. After continued hard work and dedication in practice throughout the semester, starting Wednesday, October 21st, the Women's and Men's golf teams will be hosting their own Ranger Cup Challenge for competition within the team.

The Ranger Cup will be a Northwestern golf tournament that is played amongst the team in a friendly competition.

Northwestern Golf has split their team into two separate groups and will compete against each other. The teams will be led by head coach Nikkole Donk and assistant coach Parker Rehorn.

"I am super excited to see the competition." Head coach Donk stated before the competition began.

Each day of the Cup will provide a different event which will look like this: the opening event on Wednesday will be stroke play, Thursday Match Play, Friday 2-man scramble, Monday 2-man best ball, then to close the Ranger Cup out next Wednesday will be 2-man alternate shot.

"This semester has been a little



Photo by riderangerside.com

The golf team is competing against each other in the Ranger cup.

different than we have been used to but our student-athletes have really been working hard in the classroom, in the weight room, as well as on the course. Coach Donk and Rehorn have had them participating in multiple qualifiers throughout the semester and the Ranger Cup brings closure to the fall season while getting them ready for our championship season in the spring." Director of Golf Tim Lauderdale on the Ranger Cup.

This will be a week long in-

tra-squad competition running from Wednesday the 21st through Wednesday the 28th.

Coach Donk's team includes Luke Cooley, Samantha Friday, Savannah Monahan, Jaun Gi Angarita, Mackena Tennyson, Joey Nix, Matt Voth, Campbell Payne, Zach Robinson and Hillary Hurst. Coach Rehorn's team includes Tyler Berryhill, Ashley Watts, Brenden Kates, Madison Masch, Allison Riddle, Cade Seymour, Tanner Griffith, Keenan Hofstad, Angela Egger and Zac Caldwell.

Davis goes 3-1

#theGAC MADDEN '21		VIRTUAL SEASON STANDINGS	
	W L		W L
DEKENDRICK BENDER	4 0	WILLIE NASH	1 3
ANTHONY DRUMGOOLE	4 0	CHRISTIAN MCGEE	1 3
TOMMY CRUMPTON	4 0	DREW WADE	1 3
DENZEL DAVIS	3 1	EASTON SEIDL	1 3
LOGAN ENGLE	2 2	KOLE POINDEXTER	1 3
JAMES LOVE	2 2	LUCKY LISANBI	0 4

Photo by riderangerside.com

After weeks of playing virtual football through Madden, Denzel Davis lost two games to bring his record to 3-2. Davis played undefeated Dekendrick Bender from Southern Arkansas University in week five of the virtual football season. Davis held on until the end, but ended up losing to Bender. In week four, Davis lost to undefeated Tommy Crumpton from Ouachita Baptist University. Davis is currently sitting in fourth place throughout the Great American Conference virtual football season.



Photo by David Thornton

The Northwestern football team continues practicing while not having a fall 2020 season.



Photo by David Thornton

Players line up to practice a play while at practice.



Photo by David Thornton

Due to COVID-19 guidelines the football team gets to continue practice but has to social distance.

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News

Spanish Club, SGA to host SpookFest Thursday night

By **DESTINY GARDNER**
Student Reporter

Members of the Northwestern Spanish Club and Student Government Association will host a “SpookFest” event Thursday to celebrate the Day of the Dead.

Erika Hernandez, a junior business administration major at Northwestern, is a member of the Spanish Club.

Hernandez said the idea for

the event was brought up to her by one of her club members after a meeting.

The SpookFest is an event for college students to get together and relax on a Thursday night and have some fun, she said.

People can dress up and enjoy some Halloween festivities.

“My favorite thing about the event is that all Northwestern students get to dress up and enjoy some Halloween fun,” Hernandez said. “This is also one of the

many chances to get out and meet new people on and off campus.”

The SpookFest will offer snacks, food, and drinks.

It will also have music and karaoke for anyone who wants to sing.

There will be an individual and group costume contest, yard games, sugar skull decorating, a pinata, and a photo booth.

The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

University plans to keep spring break

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

April showers bring May flowers, and October surveys bring March breaks.

After polling the university’s students and staff, Northwestern officials have decided to keep spring break in place next semester amid the pandemic.

Universities across the United States have canceled their spring breaks in the hopes that

keeping students from leaving campus will reduce their exposure to the coronavirus.

In an email to students on Friday, Northwestern President Janet Cunningham said more than 80% of the university’s faculty, staff, and students voted to keep spring break, which will take place March 15 to 19.

Cunningham added, however, that the university could change the schedule for next semester if needed.

QUESTIONS: Voters could decide whether to end sentence enhancements

Continued from Page 1

Historically, state questions initiated by citizens have had a hard time being passed into law. However, the most notable state question to become law, State Question 788, was a citizen-initiated question. This question was passed in 2018 to legalize the use of medical marijuana in Oklahoma.

STATE QUESTION 805

People convicted of nonviolent crimes who later find themselves in the state’s court system for committing another crime sometimes face harsher jail or prison sentences.

Actions in which the law is broken, but in which no other person is involved, are typically considered nonviolent crimes. Nonviolent crimes include: speeding, stealing, larceny and embezzle-

ment, and various alcohol- and drug-related crimes, such as driving under the influence, distributing to minors or using a fake ID. As long as no other persons are injured during these transgressions, then these crimes are classified as nonviolent.

Currently, all forms of domestic abuse are classified as nonviolent crimes in Oklahoma. Other crimes considered nonviolent under state law include: drug trafficking, leaving the scene of a collision resulting in injury or death, theft of an automobile, aircraft, or farm equipment; cruelty to animals, child pornography, and rape in the second degree.

Governor Kevin Stitt has signed into law House Bill 3251, which adds four forms of domestic abuse currently classified as nonviolent crimes to the list of violent crimes. These are: domestic abuse by strangulation, domestic

assault with a dangerous weapon, domestic assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and domestic assault and battery with a deadly weapon. This law will go into effect Nov. 1.

However, if State Question 805 is passed, it is just the people’s vote as to what the State Legislature should write into law. State questions are not enacted into law after an election; rather, they are presented to the Legislature to be voted into law. If State Question 805 becomes law, it will “freeze” the definition of nonviolent crimes from Jan. 1—before some forms of domestic abuse were reclassified as violent crimes. As a result, those crimes would continue to be considered nonviolent.

STATE QUESTION 814

State Question 814 is a pro-

posed solution to provide the additional funds the state needs to support its Medicaid program.

Each year, Oklahoma and 45 other states receive tens of millions of dollars from large tobacco companies that sell their products nationally. These payments are made as the result of a lawsuit. States are incentivized to handle the funds appropriately, with most states using the funds to pay for addiction treatment programs and education about tobacco usage.

Of the payments Oklahoma receives, 75% are invested into the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust, while the other 25% goes to State Legislature and the Attorney General’s Office to be used as state revenue. If State Question 814 becomes law, those percentages would be swapped. The State Legislature and attorney general’s office would receive

more funding than the endowment trust fund.

Oklahoma legislators are constitutionally mandated to fund the expansion of Medicaid, which is projected to cost the state between \$123 and \$164 million annually, according to the Oklahoma Policy Institute.

TSET funds health initiatives and research for the state. Proponents of State Question 814 say that, with the money already invested in TSET, the 25% payment will be a sufficient amount of revenue to continue the program. The State Legislature, overseeing 75% of the payments, would then have funding to help cover the rising cost of Medicaid.

However, State Question 814 does not specify that all of the funds must be appropriated to Medicaid, meaning the Legislature could use some of those funds elsewhere in the budget.

Northwestern has nine active COVID-19 cases

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

Northwestern Oklahoma State University has nine active cases of the coronavirus, university officials said Oct. 23.

Six students have the virus, and three university employees have the virus, officials said.

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

Officials 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 report the number of COVID-19 cases each Friday on NWOSU’s website.

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

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Bash catches on in a flash



Photos by Jara Reeder

Members of the Student Government Association hosted a car bash and pumpkin smashing event Oct. 22. Using a sledgehammer, students were able to smash a junk car. They could also smash pumpkins with hammer, and they could paint pumpkins they hadn't smashed. Above: Jerome Parker was the first person to hit the car with a hammer. At left: Collin Zink rears back to give his best swing at the car, which was parked on the intramural field.