

PATCHED UP

Northwestern students helped set up the Alva Pumpkin Patch on Oct. 1. See photos of the event inside. PAGE 6



ARE YOU LISTENING?

Thanks to the university's band professor, recorded versions of Northwestern's fight song and alma mater play from the university's bell tower each day. PAGE 11



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Dispensary employee faces felony distribution charge

By JORDAN GREEN
News Editor

Employee didn't ask to see ID when selling marijuana, police officers say

Medical marijuana, Viagra, a gun, and a "fancy man on a motorcycle."

To some, that might sound like a recipe for fun. It's the same combination that led police to search a local medical marijuana dispensary in August and file a warrant for the arrest of one of its then-employees.

Jessica Smith-Dunn, a former employee of the Joint Pains dispensary, has been charged in Woods County District Court with one felony count of distribution of a controlled dangerous substance not in the course of legit business. If convicted, she faces up to 20 years in prison.

A warrant for Smith-Dunn's arrest was issued Oct. 1.

On Aug. 28, Smith-Dunn allegedly sold three THC-infused joints to a man who did not have an Oklahoma Medical Marijuana card, according to Alva police officer John Caviness. The man,



Photo by Jordan Green

Joint Pains dispensary at 5 Oklahoma Blvd. is shown on Aug. 28 after police officers searched the building.

whom Caviness identified as a "proven reliable confidential informant," purchased the joints as part of a "sting" operation conducted by the Alva Police Department.

The department conducted the operation after receiving reports that an employee of the store had sold marijuana to customers with-

out asking to see their medical marijuana cards, Caviness wrote in an affidavit.

The informant allegedly paid for the joints with a \$50 bill. Officers wrote down the serial number of the bill so that they could find it in the store later, Caviness said. He said the transaction was recorded on a digital device.

At 4:15 p.m. that afternoon, officers with the Alva Police Department, deputies with the Woods County Sheriff's Office, and an investigator with the District 26 District Attorney's Office searched the dispensary. They found the \$50 bill used to purchase the joints.

See MARIJUANA, Page 2

University's enrollment down by 7%

By LOGAN MERIWETHER
Student Reporter

With enrollment numbers down because of the coronavirus pandemic, Northwestern officials say they have big plans to get enrollment back on track.

Northwestern had a 7% overall decrease in enrollment this year, university officials said in a news release Oct. 1. Enrollment at the Alva campus is down 5.4% from the 2019-2020 school year. At the university's Enid campus, enrollment is down 13.8%. At the Woodward campus, enrollment is down 23.6%.

This is a financial burden for Northwestern and will continue to be one until enrollment numbers go back up, according to Calleb Mosburg, dean of student affairs.

Northwestern has 1,835 students on its campuses, with 1,188 of those on the Alva campus, officials said.

Mosburg and Matt Adair, the head assistant dean of student affairs, have been working to find new ways to bring in students, they said.

See ENROLLMENT, Page 2

COPING WITH COVID

Theater students prepare for first play of fall semester with precautions in place

By SHANNON NESSERALLA
Student Reporter

A nationwide pandemic is not going to prevent students in Northwestern's Fine Arts department from doing what they love to do: perform on stage.

Students in the Fine Arts department have been working to get their first play of the semester

ready for the stage. The first production is "45 Plays for 45 Presidents."

There are three different dates scheduled for the performance: Oct. 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 17 at 2 p.m.

The play has 45 short scenes for each of the United States' 45 presidents. Performers either tell something about a president or act out something a president did.

There will be one person on stage who is dressed as a president and is acting for each scene. Some of the scenes will include singing and dancing.

During the play, the cast will be engaging with the crowd. The cast will also try to include humor, making the play an enjoyable way to learn the history of the presidents, students said.

See PLAY, Page 7



Photo by Jara Reeder

Peyton Lucas plays a guitar as Anastasia Harper listens during rehearsal.

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News

Few students signing up for intramural sports

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Student Reporter

Intramural sports have always been a way for people to compete with other students and make new friends.

However, it's been difficult to get people to join this year.

Athletic Communications Assistant Andrew Santangelo is in charge of intramural activities on campus.

He said he's been struggling to get people to join.

He believes the reason people

are not keen on signing up is because of the coronavirus. Instead of having full-season activity, he plans to move it to single-day tournaments.

"We're still going to run with volleyball and corn hole," he said. "We now plan to make it single-day events due to everything that's going on."

Santangelo and the university made a program called "I Am Leagues" as a way to make the process of signing up easier.

However, only one full team out of three teams has signed up.

Santangelo believes that, by

switching to single-day tournaments, the university will get more people to play.

The university will also extend the deadline for more teams to sign up.

Olivia Yandel, who is in charge of student activities, has been sending emails encouraging students to participate.

Santangelo plans to hire people to officiate and keep score at the games. He said he will do what's best for the students.

He said his favorite part of intramural sports is that it's something else to do besides doing tra-

ditional things on one's schedule.

It's a way to keep playing sports for those who are not participating in college-level athletic competitions. It's also a way to meet new people and make new friends, he said.

In the past, activities like flag football, dodgeball, volleyball, basketball, and softball were major standouts.

For more information about joining intramural sports, contact Santangelo via email at ajsantangelo@nwsu.edu. Santangelo may also be reached via phone by calling 580-327-8653.



Santangelo

MARIJUANA: Police say improper sale of marijuana was 'common'

Continued from Page 1

Officers also found a loaded Glock 21 .45-caliber handgun attached to the store's counter. Officers informed the store's owner, Shannon Corbitt, that one of his employees is a convicted felon who is "not allowed to be in the immediate area of firearms," Caviness wrote. Corbitt said the employee no longer worked in the Alva store, and he said he would remove the firearm from the store, Caviness reported in the affidavit.

'COMMON PRACTICE'

In the affidavit, Caviness alleged that several people were able to purchase marijuana at Joint Pains without being asked to show their medical marijuana cards. Under Oklahoma law, only those who have such a card may legally purchase marijuana.

Caviness said he learned of this practice from a "confidential informant," a former employee of Joint Pains whom he identified in the affidavit with the date "01-02-2020."

"On June 7th, 2020, I met 01-02-2020 again who informed me they knew of instances where males traveled from Kansas to Joint Pains in Alva to purchase medical marijuana without a medical card," Caviness wrote. "I



Photo by Jordan Green

Joint Pains dispensary in Alva is shown after local police searched the building during a "sting" operation Aug. 28.

learned from this informant selling marijuana from the dispensary without a medical card to customers was often a common practice."

VIAGRA PILLS

Caviness alleged in a search

warrant that Corbitt illegally sold Viagra pills at the dispensary.

Caviness and Alva police officer Kaleb Keplinger interviewed the former employee identified as "01-02-2020," who described the pills as "oh d--- hard pills," Caviness reported.

The informant alleged that a medical marijuana distributor in Oklahoma City named Mike Emo traded \$1,000 worth of Viagra pills to Corbitt "as an alternative to receiving currency." The informant alleged that Emo owed Corbitt

\$5,000.

The informant alleged that Corbitt sells the pills for \$7 each. Corbitt cannot legally dispense the pills because he is not a licensed pharmacist, Caviness reported in the affidavit.

'FANCY MAN'

In the search warrant, informants alleged that Joint Pains employee Jackie Bogart would sell marijuana to attractive men who flirted with her, even if they didn't have medical marijuana cards.

One confidential informant, identified as "01-03-2020," told Caviness: "If a fancy man on a motorcycle walked into Joint Pains and says the right smooth words to her, that's all it would take to purchase marijuana without a medical marijuana card."

In 2014, Bogart was convicted of a felony count of uttering a forged instrument, Caviness said.

Bogart was not arrested in connection with the Aug. 28 sting operation.

Smith-Dunn is scheduled to make an initial appearance in Woods County District Court on Nov. 10 at 1:30 p.m., online court records show.

ENROLLMENT: Officials hope virtual events will bring numbers up

Continued from Page 1

Mosburg said the university's recruitment staff has been working hard since COVID-19 hit in March.

The coronavirus pandemic kept Northwestern from being able to have the Freshman Connection day in April, which is a way for Northwestern to bring in high school seniors. Seniors get a chance to visit the campus and enroll at the university.

"Our recruitment staff worked really hard making phone calls and reaching out to all high school seniors," Mosburg said.

Northwestern enrolled 325 freshmen this year. Last year, the

university had 350 freshmen.

Mosburg and Adair say they are focusing on increasing enrollment.

"We are taking a two-pronged approach," Adair said. "Our first priority is to have something to market, and our second priority is to have someone to market to."

Adair said he had to figure out how he is going to reach out to students without seeing them face-to-face.

After talking with his recruitment staff, they decided to do several more mailings each month and have recruiters, heads of departments and student advisors call students to help bring them to Northwestern.

"We are taking a two-pronged approach. Our first priority is to have something to market, and our second priority is to have someone to market to."

— **Matt Adair**

One of the biggest events Northwestern has for incoming freshman is Ranger Preview.

More than 300 high school se-

niors attend the event each year and receive a \$600 scholarship.

Because it is not safe to have that many people in one area at a time, Adair and others came up with the idea of having a virtual Ranger Preview through YouTube. Students can sign up and attend Ranger Preview virtually, and they will still get the scholarship for attending.

Adair said he is optimistic and hopes to have greater attendance numbers than ever before.

He said this would allow students from farther away to attend without having to take a long drive.

Collin Stork, one of the head

recruiters, said he has had a difficult time being able to go inside high schools.

He works in the southwest part of Oklahoma, where most schools are in the orange sector for their numbers of COVID-19 cases.

Stork said he has to leave recruitment items like enrollment forms, posters and other items to get students information outside the schools he visits.

He then has to come back to pick the items up after the students have filled them out.

Stork said he is excited for the virtual Ranger Preview. He thinks it will bring more freshmen than ever before to Ranger Preview.

News

RULING THE DORMS

Resident assistants enforce new rules, but not all say they enjoy doing so

By **NICK DILL**
Student Reporter

Living in the dorms during a pandemic is different. Having to wear masks anytime residents are in the dorms is the new reality.

Matt Adair, director of housing at Northwestern, said resident assistants are responsible for helping enforce all of the rules from the housing handbook. He said this includes things such as visitation and proper etiquette in the dorms. This year, they also have to help enforce mask wearing, he said.

Adair said these policies are put in place “to keep the students safe and healthy and in a clean environment and then to help coordinate communal living.”

He added that RAs are “making sure that we’re respectful of others, and we’re in the right frame of mind to be able to function in a tight space in group living.”

‘IT’S A LITTLE AWKWARD’

Peyton McDonald, a junior

RA in Ament Hall, feels that students’ college experiences are being limited because of the new rules.

“Students and their freedom are limited due to rules such as no off-campus guests and no more than two people in a room,” McDonald said. “I’m not a fan of enforcing the rules, but I understand the reasoning behind it.”

Dawson Maxwell, a junior RA in Coronado Hall, said it’s part of his job. He said he has more work to do because of the new rules, but he said he doesn’t mind doing the extra work.

“It’s a little awkward having to enforce the rules with my friends,” Maxwell said. “We enforce the rules so everyone is safe and happy in the dorms.”

Carys Delaplaine, a junior RA in South Hall, said she doesn’t really mind enforcing the new rules, either.

“As RAs, we already enforce all of the other rules, but it gets kind of annoying having to enforce the same mask rule over and over again, especially this far into the school year,” Delaplaine said. “The new rules just add a couple of more things for us to look for.”

She said the biggest challenge is that residents still do not follow the rules, specifically the university’s mask mandate.

“It’s annoying because we’re seven weeks into the semester,

and they should know better by now,” Delaplaine said. “It’s also challenging to enforce the new rules because not every resident respects them and understands that we have them in place to keep the residents safe, so some residents like to have an attitude about it.”

Delaplaine said it’s important for RAs to enforce these rules because, without them, the dorms would not be as safe as they are now.

“When the RAs enforce the rules in the dorms, we are doing it to keep our residents safe by keeping the COVID numbers down so that we can remain on campus,” she said.

Kenlee Netherton, a senior RA in Fryer Hall, believes that enforcing these rules helps slow the spread of the virus in the dorms.

“It is important to enforce these rules for funding purposes,” Netherton said. “This is something that a lot of students do not understand, but our funding comes from students who are on campus and taking classes.”

Adair said there are some main rules to follow to keep everyone healthy in the dorms.

“Be respectful of others, and keep your space clean,” Adair said. “Those two things help keep the dorms running smooth and efficient.”

Professor hopes to increase student interest in university news programs

By **LOGAN MERIWETHER**
Student Reporter

Northwestern’s new mass communication professor says he is planning big things for his students and the student body as a whole.

Dr. Luis Rocha Antunes said he is trying to get students at Northwestern to keep up with university news.

Antunes wants to start a news show to put on RangerPulse.com covering different stories on campus. He also hopes to launch podcast shows covering a vast range of items.

He said he wants to bring real-life situations into his classes to help students for when they have an actual job. In his broadcast practicum class, he is not only giving assignments that students will be doing at a job, but he is also giving students an opportunity to explore what they enjoy in broadcast, he said.

Antunes wants to create different broadcast sets, allowing students to bring in students that aren’t in the mass communication program. Those students will be interviewed about sports, student life or other events going on.

Antunes is also trying to start

a podcast show with props and lighting in the university’s radio station – “something that makes students feel comfortable and invites people want to talk,” Antunes said.

Antunes wants to make the podcast into a talk show by bringing on different guests, including athletes, students and faculty. He believes this will make students learn and study what is going on around campus so they can keep a conversation going during the talk show.

“This will make for a smoother interview, and students will learn more about other subjects other than just mass comm,” Antunes said.

Antunes wants to have either a weekly or a monthly newscast highlighting a feature story in the Northwestern News.

“The Northwestern News does a good job going after stories on campus and showing them, and I think we can collaborate and have a news cast on their stories,” Antunes said.

Antunes hopes to put together a video package of the stories his students do and post them to RangerPulse.com so students can watch the stories. Antunes hopes this will make his students excited about their video packages,

knowing students and faculty are going to get to watch them.

Draven Smith, a mass communication major, said he has learned how to build video packages that enhance his abilities in Audition and Premier, two software programs used in audio and video production.

“Dr. Antunes uttered the phrase ‘start with the end in mind,’ which has stuck with me throughout the course,” Smith said.

Smith said Antunes has given students the creative freedom to work toward their own personal interests when they complete their assignments.

Sean Doherty said he is looking forward to starting a podcast.

“It’s something I’ve wanted to do for a while now, and I’m finally getting a chance to do so,” Doherty said.

Doherty hopes it will be a success. If it is, he will keep it going even after he graduates college.

Antunes hopes for future classes that he will have students that are already interested in audio and visual broadcasting, and that they will want to pursue a job in broadcasting.

“This is a great opportunity to build up your portfolios and gear it towards the job you want,” Antunes said.

What’s up?

ENROLLMENT OPENS OCT. 13

Enrollment for spring courses will open Oct. 13.

New and returning students are encouraged to make appointments with an adviser to develop a spring schedule. They are also encouraged to enroll as soon as possible to ensure course availability.

The spring semester schedule of courses is available online at www.nwosu.edu/course-schedules.

The last day to enroll is Jan. 20.

Northwestern’s 16-week spring semester classes will begin on Jan. 11.

To see degree program breakdowns visit the online graduate catalog at www.nwosu.edu/graduate-catalog.

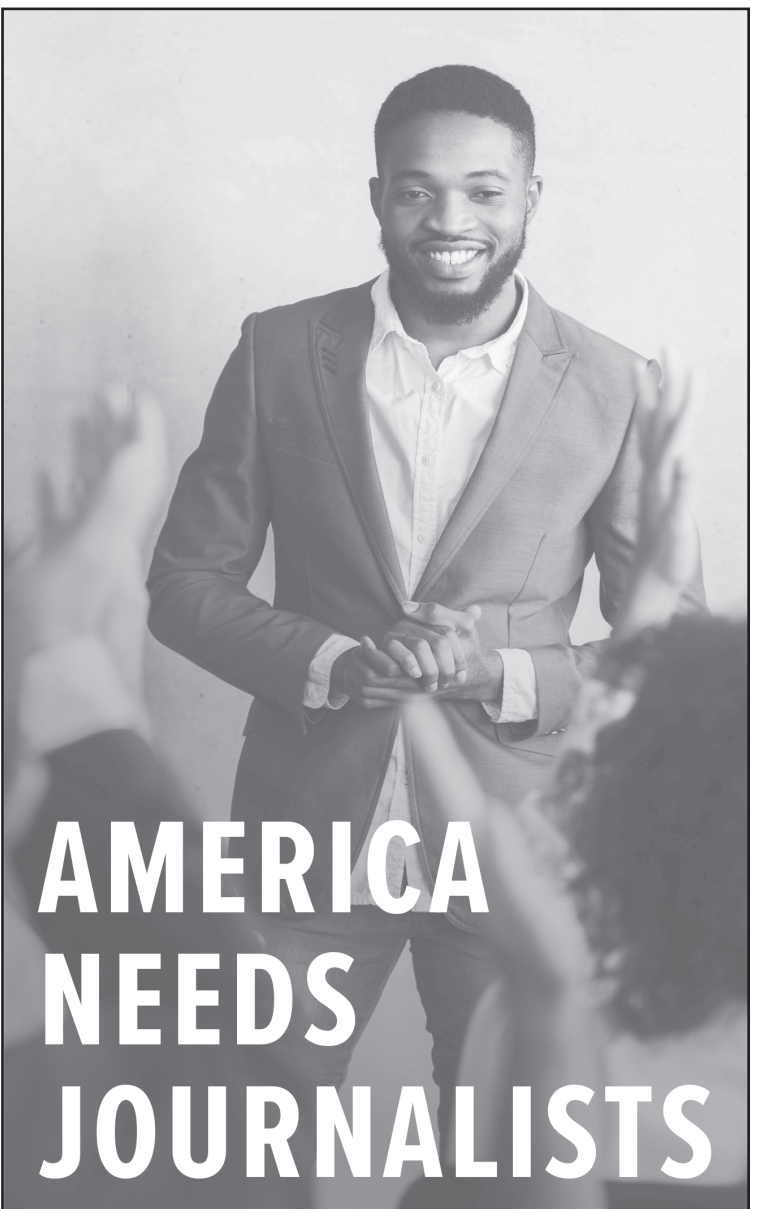
EDUCATION CAREER FAIR SET FOR OCT. 13

Northwestern’s education department will host a career fair Oct. 13 for all students and community members who are interested in pursuing careers in education.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. and ends at 12 p.m.

For more information, contact Taylor Wilson via phone by calling 580-327-8547 or via email at tawilson@nwosu.edu.

**Got news?
Send your
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Preserving the right of a free press.

When leaders threaten journalists, they threaten everyone’s First Amendment rights. Journalists are often the first-responders on the public’s right to know. They act as trusted watchdogs of government transparency.

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

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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@nwosu.edu. Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. The editors reserve the right to condense or edit any letter for grammar, libel and space limitations. All letters submitted may not be used.

All letters represent the views of the author.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

Editorial

Support local journalism

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

Journalists get few holidays. We work through Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July, Christmas, and just about every other special day. 'Round the clock, year-round, we bring you the information you need to live a happy, healthy, informed life.

This week, we're celebrating a holiday that means the world to us. It's a holiday that recognizes our passion for reporting the truth and telling the stories that matter to you.

It's National Newspaper Week – a week dedicated to the perseverance of a free and open press, one that advocates for transparency in government and holds to account public officials who choose to cloak themselves and their actions in darkness.

In 2020, being a journalist isn't easy. We're barraged by accusations of "fake news" from politicians across the political spectrum. We're covering a pandemic that has impacted people in our communities and neighborhoods. We're reporting on social unrest that hasn't been seen in decades. And financially, we're feeling the same tightening of the metaphorical purse strings that all other businesses are.

Yes, we're a little tired. But we won't accept failure in search

of the truth, and we won't falter in our mission to protect you and your rights.

Even in the digital age, few forms of media have the capacity to do the kind of journalism that newspaper reporters do. Though newsrooms aren't as heavily staffed as they were in the good old days, journalists at papers across the country are still waking up every day and uncovering the day's top stories.

I'm fortunate enough to work for two newspapers: The Blackwell Journal-Tribune, my hometown newspaper, and the Northwestern News, my university's student newspaper.

While these two newspapers cover different communities, they share the same mission and purpose. They exist to keep readers abreast of events happening around them, providing them with a link to the outside world. As the world grapples with social distancing and the shuttering of businesses and social venues, nothing is more important than connectivity – something these newspapers provide.

More than just social outlets, newspapers wield the power to expose public corruption. In my time at The Journal-Tribune, we've reported on crime, examined audits of government agencies, and scrutinized public officials who choose to dodge the metaphorical light cast upon them

by the law.

It takes time to attend public meetings. To dig through hundreds of pages of government documents. To call public officials and press them for answers to questions. To file requests for records with public officials who would rather burn the very records you seek to read.

But we newspaper people carry out these tasks – these sacred duties – with passion in our hearts and fire in our souls. True journalists will stop at nothing to get every side of every story, and to analyze an issue from every possible angle.

As our world grows and changes, a few things remain the same. First, we all need to be connected with one another. Second, we all need to learn about one another. And third, we must always keep a watchful eye on the people whom we select to represent us in all levels of government.

These are the functions of a newspaper – no matter where it is located, and no matter who reads it. Journalists love their work, and they do it with the best of intentions. No, we're not perfect. Yes, we make mistakes. But we do our best to present you with information that enriches your life and informs you as you make decisions about your future.

No media outlet works to inform you like your local newspaper. Support local journalism.

EDITOR'S RANT OF THE WEEK

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

Many of you might already know this... But in the last couple of weeks I've made some huge changes to my appearance. One of them being that I dyed my hair green for the first month of school and now I have dyed it purple. One thing I wasn't expecting was how people treat you differently when you have an abnormal hair color.

At first I got comments like "wow, your hair is different." But there were also people who would say "I've never liked colored hair, but you pull it off." Honestly, the way I take those kind of comments are that you don't respect people with colored hair because they have colored hair. I'm still the same person that I was with my brunette hair, I just wanted to change.

Another thing that is big when you change your hair color is that people will stare at you. Some of them I understand. It's like, "do I know this person?" but some of it is just rudely staring.

I've also realized that all the rude stares and comments that I've gotten on my hair have been from the older generation. Young millennials and Gen. Z are excited. They talk about how they want to dye their hair, but the older generation seems to see it as juvenile.

Honestly, I just want to say, "I'm sorry Karen, but I know that your hair is no longer bleach blonde. I can see it in your roots, you dye your hair too so leave me alone!"

Personally, growing up I heard that when you start in the workforce your hair needs to be natural colors and you can't have piercings, but my hair and my piercings don't define me. Nothing in your mind about my work ethic should change just because I have purple hair and two nose piercings.

What's wrong with expressing myself through my appearance? Why do you automatically have a negative impression when you see someone with a bright hair color?

If you are one of those people who hate on other people because they have colored hair or facial piercings, maybe you need to reflect on why you're having those feelings. Because I can honestly tell you that it's not their fault and I don't care if it makes you uncomfortable. Just mind your own business and stay in your lane.

I have never understood why growing up we are told to express ourselves through our clothes and our art that we would be hung up on the fridge, but as we get older we're told that we need to look, act and dress a certain way. You raised us like this... And you don't like the outcome.

STUDENT JOURNALISM MATTERS

80th National Newspaper Week



by Jeff Koterba, Omaha World-Herald.

Editorial cartoon depicting the need for local journalists. The cartoon was created in celebration of National Newspaper Week. It is the 80th annual celebration of the week.

Editorial

A vote for newspapers is a vote for democracy

By **TOM SILVESTRI**
Johnson City Press

Newspapers face another big election. It's about them.

While the United States is riveted by a most unusual presidential election, the newspaper industry is running to win the hearts, minds and souls of "voters."

These voters are readers, residents, subscribers, students, advertisers, marketers, sponsors and newspaper employees.

This National Newspaper Week (Oct. 4-11), vote for newspapers.

Vote by subscribing to support your local newspaper. (If you already do, a big thanks.)

Vote by advertising — cheers to current ad buyers. Patronize those who do.

Vote by engaging your newspaper. Write a letter to the editor, tweet appreciation to an enterprising reporter, send a suggestion to the publisher with a request to speak to him or her for a personal exchange.

Vote by learning more about your newspaper, its history, its mission, its staff and its ownership.

Vote by frequently checking the newspaper's web site or news alerts.

Vote by signing up for its newsletters. And if it doesn't have one, tell the newspaper you're interested — especially the day's headlines or a weekly entertainment summary of what's happening.

Vote by adding to newspaper "likes" on social media.

Heck, put up a sign in your front yard or window boasting you're a newspaper reader.

Fear not.

This campaign to elect newspapers is winnable, but much is at stake.

Consider this passage from longtime journalist Margaret Sullivan's 2020 book, "Ghosting the News — Local Journalism and

the Crisis of American Democracy: "Some of the most trusted sources of news — local sources, particularly local newspapers — are slipping away, never to return. The cost to democracy is great."

For good measure, Sullivan, who is the media columnist for the Washington Post, quoted the conclusion of a major PEN American study in 2019:

"As local journalism declines," stated the organization that champions free expression, "government officials conduct themselves with less integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness, and corporate malfeasance goes unchecked. With the loss of local news, citizens are: less likely to vote, less politically informed, and less likely to run for office."

Democracy loses its foundation, Sullivan stated.

Vote for newspapers.

In his Aug. 16 column, H. Dean Ridings of America's Newspapers cited the study from the University of North Carolina to note that 1,800 communities have lost their local newspaper over the last 15 years.

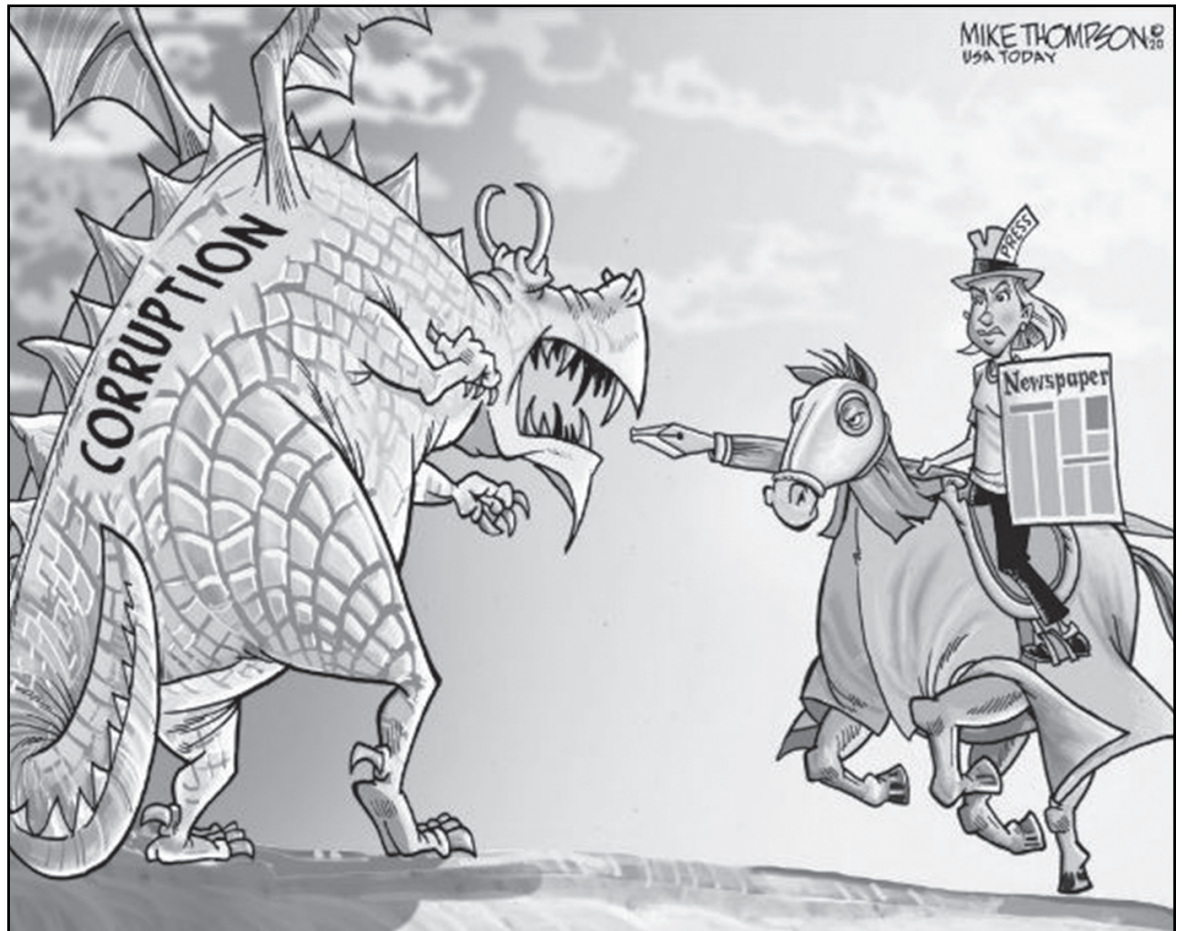
"What would my town be without a newspaper?" the national association's CEO wrote. "If you haven't asked yourself that question, perhaps it is time to consider just what the newspaper means to this community."

Among the answers Ridings provided:

"The most obvious is the community's access to news about itself: the workings of its town hall; information about taxes and property values; the operation of schools for its children; the achievements, or the criminal activities, of local residents; the scores of local ball teams; schedules and reviews of movies, concerts, restaurants and books; and the offerings of local small businesses."

This year's National Newspaper Week should be anything but routine. It's a time to be bold — even daring.

Newspapers throughout the United States and Canada should



by Jeff Koterba, Omaha World-Herald

Newspapers are important because they play the role of a watchdog. Newspapers help bring light to dark happenings and help to bring corruption to the surface and destroy. This is another a reason to celebrate newspapers during National Newspaper Week.

use National Newspaper Week to conduct town halls or a series of conversations that gather answers to this simple but provocative question:

How can the newspaper become THE Community Forum?

Dig deeper on this role. Or as Sullivan put it: "After all, a newspaper's purpose isn't only to keep public officials accountable; it is also to be the village square for an entire metropolitan area, to help provide a common reality and touchstone, a sense of community and of place."

It's an important commitment.

At issue is replacing the tiresome, negative perception of newspapers' demise with an updated mission to become THE reliable Community Forum — sharpening knowledge of what's on the minds of citizens; delivering trusted journalism and accurate information; gathering

updated market data; attracting diverse audiences to join loyal readers; contributing to an equitable, healthy economy; fostering vibrant communities where we live, work and play; and nurturing a dynamic democracy.

In its 2020 sweeping assessment of "Trust, Media and Democracy," the Knight Foundation and Gallup noted that although Americans have lost confidence in expecting an objective media, "strong majorities uphold the ideal that the news media is fundamental to a healthy democracy."

And those majorities think the media could do "a great more" to heal political divisions in country, Knight/Gallup added.

By becoming a true Community Forum, newspapers shift from thinking like a limited product to becoming a vital community service in big demand. It perfects inviting, listening, researching,

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To repeat:

How does the newspaper become THE Community Forum?

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Democracy wins, too.

Tom Silvestri is executive director of The Relevance Project, which advocates for community newspapers. He retired Dec. 31 after 15 years as the president and publisher of the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch and 42 years in newspapering.

Interested in writing? Share your opinions!

Contact McKayla Holson

mrholson30@rangers.nwosu.edu

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PATCHING IT UP



Photos by Jordan Green

Olivia Yandel, assistant director of the J.R. Holder Wellness Center, passes a pumpkin to Joslyn Clem, a freshman speech communication major from Cherokee. Northwestern students and athletes helped unload pumpkins from a semi truck on Oct.

1 at the Alva Pumpkin Patch. The pumpkin patch, 2101 College Blvd., offers a variety of pumpkins for locals to buy. The pumpkins are grown in Farmington, New Mexico, on the Navajo Native American reservation. Paul and Deb Corr have operated the

pumpkin patch for 17 years. They donate the proceeds from the pumpkin patch to the university and local schools. Members of the Alva High School women's basketball team and members of the high school football team were also on hand to help.



Above: Students pass pumpkins down a line to unload the semi truck carrying the pumpkins on Oct. 1. Below: A group of volunteers, including members of the Corr family, sort a box of white pumpkins at the local pumpkin patch.



Above: Pumpkins sit on pallets at the Alva Pumpkin Patch after students unloaded a semi truck on Oct. 1. Left: A boy carries a pumpkin on his head while unloading a semi truck at the Alva Pumpkin Patch.

PLAY: Theater students say they are thankful for the opportunity to perform

Continued from Page 1

Freshman Kaylin Blatchford said she is excited to be able to perform in the play.

"COVID might've messed up a lot of things, but I'm glad that the play gets to go on," she said. "It's such an exciting and amazing experience."

During the nights of the performances, only a certain number of people will be allowed into the auditorium. Those wishing to view the play must reserve their seats by calling 580-327-8462.

Ticket prices are \$3 for students, \$5 for employees and \$10 for general admission.

Social distancing will also be practiced during the play.

If the six-foot rule is broken during the performance, it will only be for a short time.

Freshman Kylee Harzman said: "COVID has made this play very different than the rest of the plays I've performed in. It's definitely been challenging for everyone involved with all the precautions implemented, but I'm so excited to be able to get on stage and perform in my first college performance."

To limit the number of people present in the auditorium during rehearsals, the cast is rehearsing scene-to-scene.

This limits the number of encounters for everyone.



Photos by Jara Reeder

Ryan Jenkins acts in the Herod Hall auditorium during a rehearsal for the Fine Arts Department's upcoming performance of "45 Plays for 45 Presidents."



Above: Austin Morton, center, acts in the Herod Hall auditorium during a rehearsal for the Fine Arts Department's upcoming performance of "45 Plays for 45 Presidents." Left: Destiny Engleken, a stage manager, follows the script during a rehearsal.



Peyton Lucas hides behind a door labeled "Congress" as Ryan Jenkins knocks on it during a rehearsal for the performance of "45 Plays for 45 Presidents."

Feature



Aggie club is open for students in all majors

By **LANEY COOK**
Student Reporter

The Aggie Club at Northwestern is a small, tight-knit group made up of mainly agriculture majors, or people who are interested in agriculture.

The members of the Aggie Club primarily help with livestock shows around northwest Oklahoma, such as the district show in Enid, the district show in Woodward, and the county show here in Alva. They help take gate, they help with cards, and anything else the council needs help with at the event.

President, Iridian Herrera, joined the Aggie Club her freshman year in the fall semester of 2018. "Growing up in Freedom, I have always known about Aggie Club because they always helped with the county stock show here, and I always showed here," she said.

This club is what helped Herrera decide to come to Northwestern. At her last county stock show she was asked what she was going to do after high school. She said, "I don't know, I have several options, but I'm just not sure yet."

Herrera realized if she were to attend NWOSU, she could

"still be apart of something close to her heart" and watch it impact others lives like it did hers. This opportunity proved true as she has met countless new connections and is now the president of the organization.

To sophomore, agriculture ed major, Kaleb Townsend, the Aggie Club is new and exciting. Townsend joined the organization back in August when school started up after hearing about it from being in the show industry while growing up.

"I grew up in the agriculture field and was apart of 4-H," he said, "and this club keeps me in touch with the organization that I grew up with."

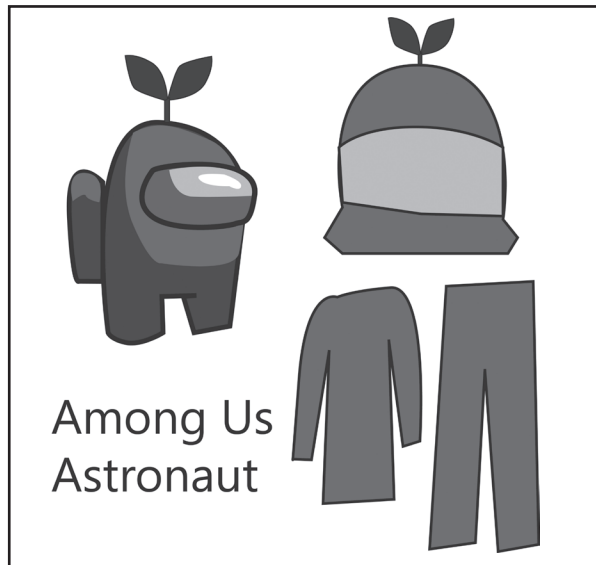
The Aggie Club conjoined with Youth Famers and Ranchers (YFNR) of Farm Bureau to help the younger kids with showing their livestock. Townsend considers working with the kids "an enjoyable time with some good fellowship."

The Aggie Club is not just for students majoring in any type of agriculture class, it is open to everyone who is interested. They have a meeting each month with elections coming up. If there are any questions about further information, get into contact with either the advisor, Steve Sneary, or the president, Iridian Herrera.

Easy pandemic-safe costumes that you can add masks to

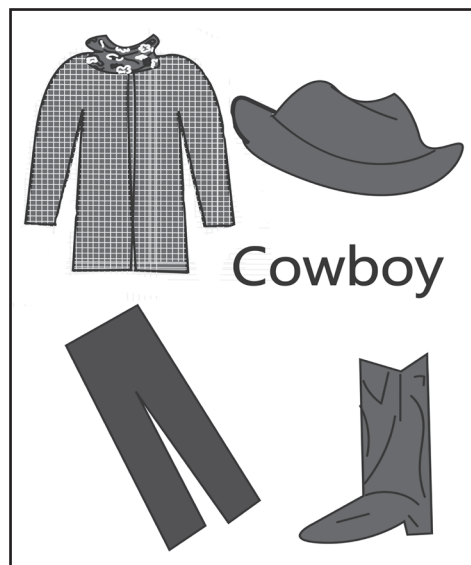
By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Editor-in-Chief

During the pandemic its better to be safe then have a matching mask with your costume. Any CDC approved mask will work but if you are looking for some ways to incorporate a mask into your costume we have some DIY costume/mask duos you can try.



A popular costume this year is "Among Us" Astronauts for these and any other costumes with masks you can easily add a CDC approved mask underneath

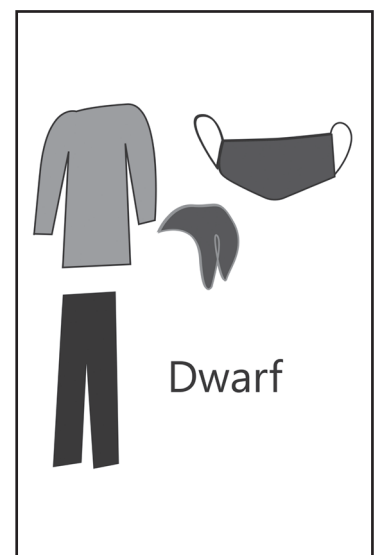
To add a mask to an animal costume like "Alvin and the Chipmunks" I suggest buying a chipmunk (or animal) mask or making one by painting a white mask to match



Some costumes can incorporate other forms of coverings. If you are a cowboy wear a bandana over your nose and mouth, If you are Princess use a scarf and if your a mummy use a white mask and then wrap yourself in bandages. (You should wear an approved mask under your altenitive covering)



In most cases just adding a mask of a color in you costume will work just fine. Like in these Burglar and Dwarf costumes.



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'Ghost Whisperer' still a great series

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

I have recently rediscovered my love for "Ghost Whisperer" This series premiered on May 21st 2010. It follows Melinda Gordon a median as she helps ghosts finish their tasks here on Earth so they can cross over to the light.

In the first episode, you get a look into her past. You find out that her grandmother also had the same gift and she showed Melinda how to help the ghost.

Your first thought must might be how cool would that be to be able to talk to ghosts but you get an inside look on how it affects not just her but the people around her. You see her struggle to tell people about her gift and how it puts a lot of strain on her relationships.

Each ghost finds Melinda a different way. Most of them outside of her own home but some go straight into her home to ask for help. It's interesting to see her talk to the families and tell them what the ghost wants her to say. But it also brings up a lot of negative emotions for the family who thinks that she's playing a trick on them.

I give this series overall a



score of four out of five on the scary aspect though I give it one out of five. Though it does talk about ghosts it's not really a spooky series. It doesn't bring the ghosts out in a scary light It really is more about the story than this spooky.

I really love the series. I began watching it knowing that it wasn't going to be scary. Only every once in awhile do they kind of have a jumpscare but nothing too over the top.

I would recommend this series to anyone who likes the topics of ghosts but doesn't like the scary aspect that comes with the topic, or anyone who's interested in the paranormal.

'Black Mirror' holds up a mirror to the reality of our future

Series raises questions about the direction society is taking

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

If you haven't watched "Black mirror" you should. It's a sci-fi TV show that showcases many things that are wrong with our society. It tackles conversations like technology and how it could go bad, human error as well as our love for social media.

Each of the episodes come with an underlying message that you're supposed to decipher kind of. Like in the end you're supposed to see how the characters got themselves into the situation that they did and how to avoid that yourself almost.

But if you are queasy or don't like animal abuse / bestiality I would definitely skip the first episode. If you're questioning whether or not you should skip the first episode skip it.

I feel like a lot of people are turned off because they can't get through the first episode It's bad, it personally makes me want to vomit.

I go on little spurts where I watch a couple episodes and



Photo from the Netflix Media Center

then stop (That's just because I'm really bad at watching TV series) I really like the series. I started watching it with my sister who graduated with her psychology degree my first year and then we would sit and discuss the topics of the movie and it was a really cool bonding moment.

This is my kind of TV series because it makes you think. I'm not really into the scary gore and stuff, I've never liked haunted houses or jump scares but this shows that make you question your own reality is

what I like.

I honestly give this series a 5 out of 5 stars overall and a 4 and 1/2 out of 5 on the scary scale.

I recommend this series to anyone who likes psychological thrillers, psychology, sociology or anyone who just likes to see inside other people's heads.

Like I said being a psychological thriller it really makes you question not just the world we live in but where this world is headed, our relationship with technology and our views of each other.

Spooky student reviews

We Happy Few



Rating: 5/5

By SYDNEY ENSLEY
NWOSU Student

"We Happy Few" is not necessarily a scary, gore horror but more of a psychological horror. It is set in the 1960s in Wellington Wells, England. The plot is somewhat disturbing if you look at it. In the 1940s war broke out between the Germans and the Brits. So they decided to send off all the children under 13 to Germany. The adults remained and made this new pill called joy. Joy is a pill that when taken it causes you to be happy all the time. But sadly it also makes you forget the past. If you take too much of it you could forget everything. If you don't take your joy you are called a downer.

And people don't like downers. The story starts off with a newspaper editor and he finds a paper that has his brother in it. He decides he wants to remember where he went so he stops taking joy. Everyone notices this and you go on a wild goose hunt. Throughout the game you realize that everyone is starving because the food is running out but everyone is so doped up on joy that they don't realize they are eating rotting food and dead animals. It is your job to wake everyone up on the way but most importantly it is your job to survive and escape Wellington Wells alive and in one piece.

Oh, I give it a 5 out of 5. Not only for amazing gameplay, but for the story, the graphics and the wow of the whole game. It's a semi open world. You can go around and survive for many days. Stealing what you need and hiding out in safe houses. It's perfect! 10 out of 10 would recommend.

Want to be featured in Spooky Student Reviews?

Send a two-paragraph review to:
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Sports

Basketball team continues to play with safety precautions in place

By **GEORGE SMITH**
Student Reporter

The women's basketball team at Northwestern is using this time as a good all-around warm-up for the preseason, according to their head coach.

Tasha Diesselhorst, head coach for the Lady Rangers basketball team, said that her players wouldn't have been able to start full practices until October 15 in a normal season, regardless, but that they are also handling some COVID-19 protocol to be sure that everyone is safely getting their practice in.

"We have eight hours a week to practice," she said, "four hours with and four hours without a ball, and we use them all — safely."

The hours are not distributable according to Diesselhorst.

"The girls would love to spend all eight hours on the floor handling a ball, rather than splitting the time between the gym and the weight room."

The Great American Conference canceled fall sports for all of the schools in the conference. Northwestern, however, is holding in-class lectures and allowing students to have the on-campus experience they are paying for, which means that the athletes for our sports teams are congregated and able to practice.

Although, there are restrictions to practice that include CDC guidelines for distancing and the bothersome donning of masks according to some of the players.

The players place tape on the floor of the gym to ensure that they maintain proper distance when huddled, and each player is responsible for taking her piece off of the floor when practice is over.

"The girls have done a really good job of doing their part for social distancing and have kept a good attitude through all of the restrictions as well," Diesselhorst said.



Photo by George Smith

Women's basketball ends practice with sprints.



Photo by George Smith

Women's basketball practicing social distancing by standing apart.

October 15 is the day that normal practice schedules for the preseason are supposed to begin for the team, according to Diesselhorst. But the GAC has control over whether or not that will actually happen.

Senior political science major, Scout Frame, said that at this point she's just ready to play.

"I don't care when we play at this point," she said, "I could play in the summer, or anytime, but if the games happen in the spring I'm fine with it."

Transitioning from playing basketball and starting every sea-

son in the fall, Frame said that it is strange and different.

However, for her teammate, Kinsey Neiderer, a junior majoring in business, this is the best way to transfer schools as an athlete.

"I transferred from a school in the same conference, but I got lucky," Neiderer said. "If I was going to redshirt any year this is the perfect year to do it."

When transferring from schools in the same conference, it is mandatory for that player to redshirt their eligibility for that season, Neiderer explained.



Photo by David Thornton

The NWOSU football team is excited to finally get to practice.



Photo by David Thornton

Even with the fall 2020 season the football team gets to continue practice.



Photo by David Thornton

NWOSU football starts practice but has to follow the mask mandate.



The Great American Conference has started a Greatest Record in GAC history bracket. This bracket has 64 entries and people will vote on the GAC Twitter to see who moves on to the next round. NWOSU three entries in the first round. These are soccer, football and Lindsay Thorstenson, a former softball player.

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News

I CAN HEAR THE BELLS

Herod Hall bell tower now plays university fight song, alma mater

By DEVYN LANSDEN
Student Reporter

You're walking to your next class as the Herod Hall bell starts chiming the university's alma mater.

The recently reconstructed bell system added two new songs that are connected to speakers in the Herod Hall bell tower, giving the impression of a bell. The director of NWOSU's band, Dr. Michael Cudd, recorded the university's fight song and alma mater. The two songs now play through the bell system's speakers.

"I just enjoyed the whole process," Cudd said.

The idea to record and upload these songs came from President Janet Cunningham about a year ago.

The whole process to make these recordings took Cudd about 20 hours. He did not work alone. He had help from his student, Jeffrey Cher-aime, who worked on the music for about 15 hours.

Cudd took the band recording of the fight song and condensed it into one instrument.

He did this with a "midi recording" known as Music Instrument Digital Interface. It is a computer language for music. With the alma mater, he took the band and choir recording and condensed them into a "midi file."

The fight song, alma mater, national anthem, the Oklahoma



state song and the bells chiming now all play on a daily basis.

"What you're hearing is coming from a computer that is going up to the speakers," Dr. David Pecha said when he explained the process of the bell system and speakers.

When the older system stopped working it wasn't replaced for a few years. A private donor replaced the speakers and the system.



Above: The Herod Hall bell tower is shown in this photo taken Tuesday. Left: A plaque commemorating the history of Herod Hall is shown in this photo taken Tuesday.

Photos by Jordan Green

Northwestern reports 18 active COVID-19 cases

By JORDAN GREEN
News Editor

Northwestern Oklahoma State University has 18 active cases of the coronavirus, university officials said Oct. 2.

Eighteen students have tested positive for the virus, an increase of one case since Sept. 25. An employee who had the virus has recovered from it, 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.nwosu.edu/coronavirus/active-covid-19-cases-nwosu>.

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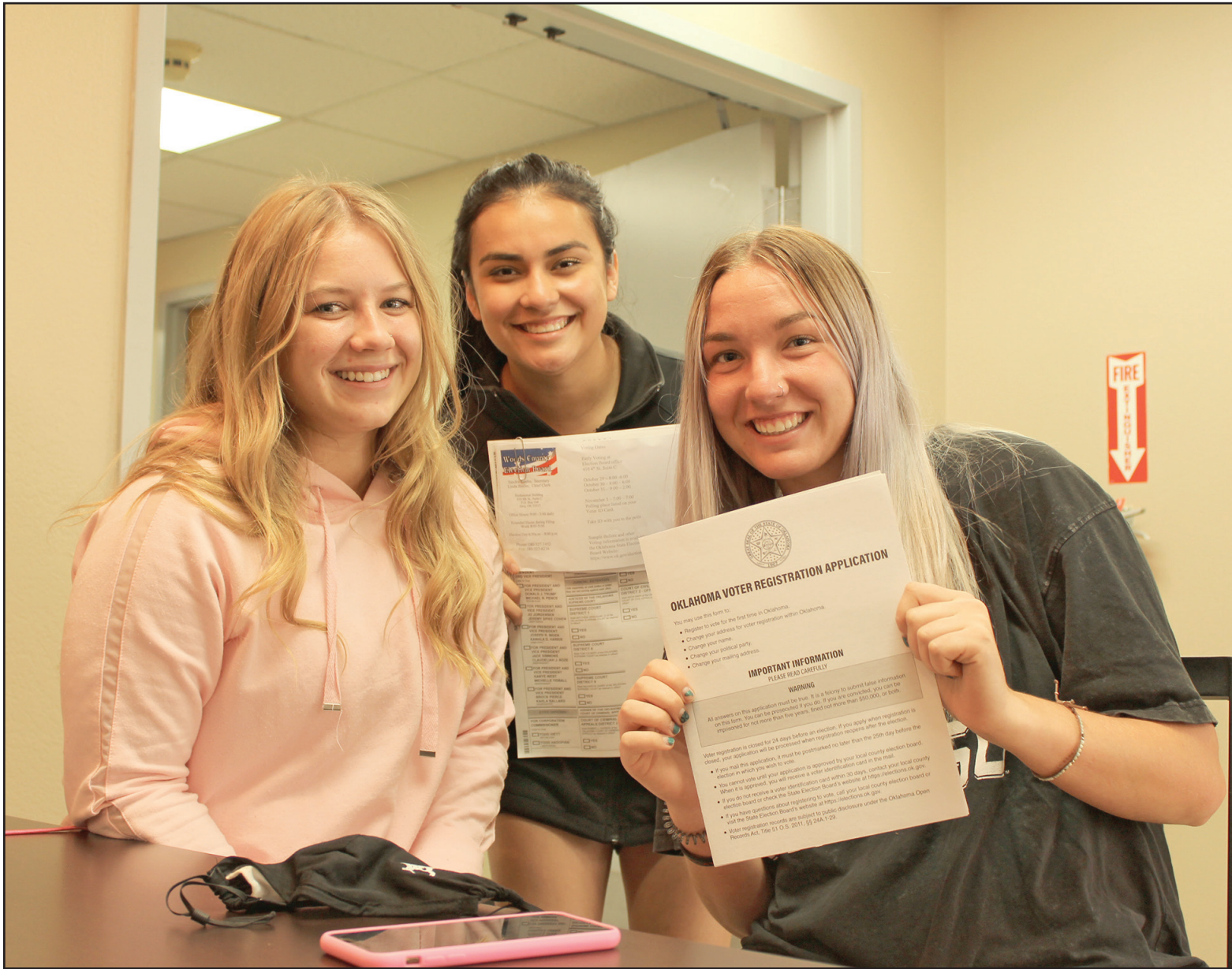
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GET OUT THE VOTE



Kailin Lian, Victoria Vasquez, and Jayden Solberg — members of Northwestern's softball team — pose for a photo Wednesday in the Student Center after they began their shift registering new voters on campus.

Wednesday's event was one of two voter registration events conducted on campus this week to encourage students to register to vote in the 2020 presidential election.

In Woods County, early voting begins Oct. 29.

For more information on registering to vote, visit <https://www.ok.gov/elections>.

Photo by Jordan Green