

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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Merry Christmas!



News

Call your friend Veronica

It's (almost) time to celebrate Hanukkah and other holidays around the globe

By **LOGAN MERIWETHER**
Student Reporter

As we enter into December, many people begin to get excited for Christmas time and Santa Claus.

For others, December holds in store different celebrations. Different countries and religions have different ideas for Christmas and holidays in December.

Starting with the most widely known holiday, Christmas is celebrated in America with Christmas trees, lights and dreams of snow.

Australia's Christmas falls during the summer months. Australians celebrate Christmas by going camping or having a party on a beach. Rather than having a tree, Australians decorate a Christmas bush, which has small, green leaves and flowers that turn red during the summer. In Iceland, the capital city, Reykjavik turns into a winter wonderland.

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish celebration that commemorates the Second Temple in Jerusalem following the Maccabean Revolt. Those who took part in the re-dedication witnessed

what they believed to be a miracle. Even though there was only enough untainted oil to keep the menorah's candles burning for a day, the candles continued to burn for eight nights. Hanukkah begins on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew Calendar. On each night, another candle is lit. Typically, blessings are recited, and Hanukkah foods such as potato pancakes and jam-filled donuts are consumed.

Kwanza was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966 after the Watts riots in Los Angeles. Families celebrate Kwanza in

their own ways, but most celebrations involve music and dancing, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large meal. On each of the seven nights, families gather, and a child lights a candle. An African feast called Karamu takes place Dec. 31.

Boxing Day starts on Dec. 26. It is celebrated in the United Kingdom and was started in the Middle Ages. On this day, alms boxes – collection boxes for the poor often kept in churches – were open and their contents were distributed. This tradition still happens in some areas. It was

also the day servants were given the day off to celebrate with their families.

Ōmisoka, New Years Eve, is considered the second most important Japanese holiday. Families gather one last time in the old year to have a bowl of toshikoshi-soba, a tradition based on eating the long noodles to cross over from one year to the next. At midnight, many visit shrines or temples. Shinto shrines prepare Amazake to pass out to crowds, and most Buddhist temples have large bells that are struck once for each of the 108 earthly desires.



Photo provided

Northwestern's December artist-in-residence, Chang Wu, uses a saw to cut a board in his studio in the Jesse Dunn building in this undated photo.

Using tech, artist-in-residence creates work with different meanings for different viewers

By **DEVYN LANSDEN**
Student Reporter

Chang Wu is the November artist in residence at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Chang was born in Wenzhou, China, in 1992 and attended college at the China Academy of Art. Chang said there's no difference between a designer and an artist because the fundamentals are the same. He said he was taught the same skills while learning design.

Chang found out about this residency because he met Kyle Larson, Northwestern's art professor, when Larson visited Boston University and Chang invited him to look at his work.

When Chang came to America, he had a hard time communicating and comprehending English, he said. He misunderstood a lot of things, and he realized the same shape of things in a different culture has different meanings and the same goes with language, he

said. He said it was hard to learn the different meanings and different contexts of words.

Chang said when he speaks English and when he speaks Chinese, he has a different way of thinking. This inspired him because this caused him to ask himself how tools can affect our bodies.

Chang decided to abandon his design career and put all of his effort on the art territory. He did one assignment from his design company, and as a designer, you have to listen to people's opinions and change your design to the way your client wants, he said.

He had to do his assignment 14 times because of all the feedback he got on each assignment. At the end, the company decided to use his first version. Chang said he couldn't be himself working for people.

Chang said the two most challenging parts of being an artist are making enough money to support himself and the mental stress that

comes with the work. He said it is easy to question yourself and be influenced by other people.

"You have to be very confident about what you're doing," Chang said.

Chang says his art work is open to how other people approach his work. He doesn't put any descriptions with his work on purpose so people can think what they want about it.

He said he can't manipulate how people see his work.

Chang said his favorite work looks simple but, he put a lot of effort into it. He spent almost two months making different versions of it. At the end, it was so simple but has a complex effect.

He used an HDMI cable that was connected to a camera and a projector that pointed to the camera. It created a time loop because the camera was catching the light from the projector and the projector was projecting a picture.

He said it was very powerful but simple.

Former NWOSU administrator to deliver commencement address

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Northwestern News

A former Northwestern administrator will deliver the fall commencement address Sunday, university officials said Monday.

Longtime educator Dr. Steve Lohmann, who served as the university's executive vice president and chief academic officer, will speak to more than 200 graduates and their families on Sunday during two graduation ceremonies in Percefull Fieldhouse.

"Having been at Northwestern for over 30 years, I will always remember the outstanding homecoming, concerts and graduation ceremonies," Lohmann said in a news release. "I can honestly say

that I cannot recall one single day that I did not look forward to going to work. Northwestern has fantastic faculty, staff and students whom I had the opportunity to work with over my professional career."

Students who graduated in the spring and summer of 2020 will be able to walk the stage during a ceremony at 1 p.m. Sunday, and fall graduates will do the same during a ceremony at 3:30 p.m.

Spring commencement was canceled because of the pandemic. Attendance at both ceremonies is limited.

Lohmann obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern and later earned his doctorate from Oklahoma State University, officials said in a news



Dr. Steve Lohmann

release on Monday. Lohmann coached high school football and later became the defensive end

coordinator for the university's football team.

He became the head football coach in 1993, leading the university's football team to its first No. 1 ranking, officials said in a news release.

"Lohmann again returned to the classroom in 1997 and eventually became director of Northwestern's J.R. Holder Wellness Center in 2000," officials said in the news release. "He joined the administrative ranks in 2001 as dean of student services and a year later was promoted to vice president for academic affairs.

"In 2006, Lohmann was named executive vice president. Lohmann retired from Northwestern in 2016.

"During his tenure, he served

as the chairman of the statewide Council of Instruction, which is comprised of chief academic officers of Oklahoma's 25 public colleges and universities, and was a graduate of the Harvard University Institute for Management and Leadership. He also is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma.

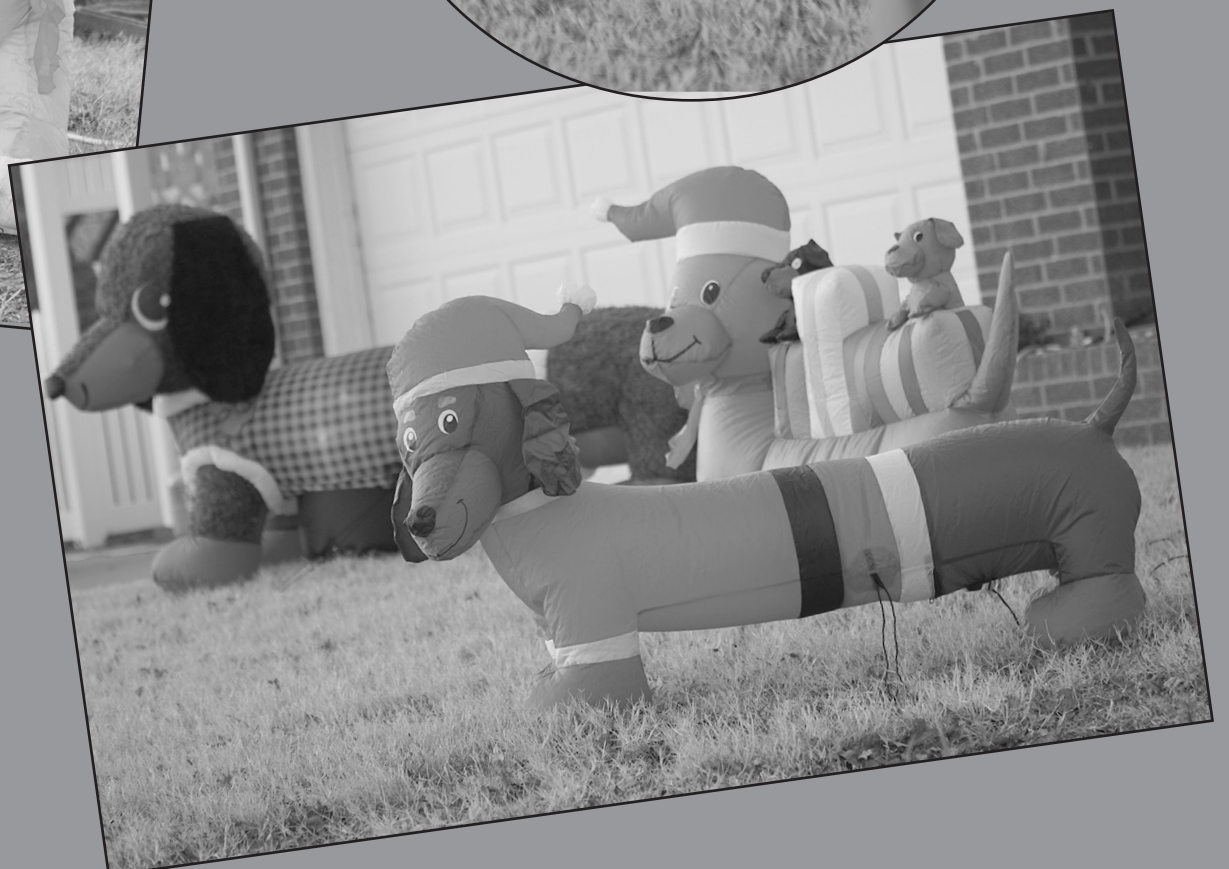
"Since retirement, Lohmann enjoys farming with his son, Derek, and brother, Terry. He and his wife, Lisa, love cheering on the Oklahoma City Thunder, watching grandkids and traveling. When he's home, Lohmann looks forward to morning jogs and golfing."

To watch the commencement ceremonies via livestream, visit <https://www.youtube.com/NWOSURangers>.

News



Christmas *in Alva*



When Christmas comes to town, Alva residents know how to get into the season. These photos were taken on High Street and Second Street in Alva on Monday.

ON THE FRONT COVER:

A Nativity scene illuminates the front yard of the home at the intersection of High Street and Fifth Street on Monday evening.

Photos by Jordan Green

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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.

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Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

Editorial

Lessons from a ladder

By SEAN DOHERTY
Student Reporter

I fell off a ladder about a week ago.

I'm ok, at least at the time I'm writing this article. It was my own fault really. The ladder was a little wobbly to begin with, and I was in a hurry for Thanksgiving dinner at my girlfriend's mother's house. So, I tried to rush down the ladder and paid a price. Thankfully my back took the brunt of the fall, and the damp grass cushioned my backside.

As soon as the cuckoo birds cleared my ears and I realized I was alright, I stood up and thanked God for — once again — watching out for me.

We fall in life. Sometimes it feels like the universe yanks the ladder out from underneath us. If we were more honest with ourselves, the ladder falling is usually our own fault. Either way, suddenly seeing blue sky really makes you contemplate, "How did we get here?"

I felt a similar feeling this time last year when I found out I was going to be a father for the first time. In an instant, my whole perspective changed. To be frank, it felt like karma. It felt like I'd just fallen two stories. But at the same time, it gave me something I felt I'd lost—purpose. I had something to drive me forward. New Year's Eve I was actually excited to start a new chapter.

What to expect when you're expecting

I didn't have any idea what to expect when we were expecting, but I didn't expect this. Returning for the spring semester started out normal, except I was driving back and forth to class from Cherokee Sales Company almost every day.

Most weeks I worked the night shift, loading cattle trucks Wednesday night well into early Thursday morning. One day I showed up at 11 a.m. and didn't get off my feet until I crawled into my bed at 8 a.m. the next morning. It was hard work, but I'm not asking for sympathy. Like I said, I had something to help push me.

Then came the longest spring break in history. I traveled back to Colorado for spring break, unsure, as I'm sure most college students were, about what was about to happen next.

It was during this period where the ladder threatened to topple over again. I personally didn't have

a problem transitioning to online, but the internet at my parent's home did. Although my circumstances weren't great, I actually see that period as a blessing as well.

I got to spend more time with my parents and brother than I had in a long time. I was able to work on school and walk right outside and go to work helping my parents. I know it was hard on my girlfriend, and it was hard on me too, but being isolated gave me time to reflect and think about the future.

I believe I'm better for it.

I came back to Alva full-time in June. For once I felt grateful for my June birthday, because it meant I actually got to go out and celebrate my 21st birthday as things slowly opened up again. But the ladder wobbled again.

My girlfriend started getting agonizing pains in her side. Google and doctors at Share Medical Center here in Alva called them Braxton-Hicks contractions, but something about that diagnosis bothered me. The due date was a month away.

We didn't have to wait that long. My girlfriend woke me at 2:30 a.m. on July 19 and told me to drive her to Enid. At about 9:45 the next morning, the ob/gyn on call informed us that my girlfriend had appendicitis and would need an emergency C-section and appendectomy, and needed to be prepped in the next 10 minutes.

I scrambled to inform the family, then scrubbed up and followed the nurses to surgery. The whole I felt like I was falling, just waiting for the inevitable splat. I sat outside the OR for probably 20 minutes. I lost track. All the anxiety and fear I battled over the past eight months had me pinned down. Then the nurse called me in.

Within five minutes of me stepping in the OR, Jameson Asher Doherty was born. All the anxiety and fear fell away. I never hit the ground. I found my balance, and my son would be the one to keep me steady.

The ladder would continue to wobble as the fall semester started, and my balance would get tested. I was offered the opportunity to be the marketing intern for NWOSU Dining Services, I wrote articles for this publication and started my own rodeo podcast.

When I have time off from that, I mow lawns and hang up Christmas lights, and try to be a Dad.

This semester is less like a ladder and more of a bike on a high-wire. Thankfully, the Alva community and NWOSU family provide a safety net.

This time last year I thought I was headed for the worst time of my life. But as I'm writing this, my girlfriend is playing with my son and his laughs fill the whole house. I'm happier now than I've ever been.

Sometimes it still feels like I end up on my back. We will still fall in life. But find balance, and keep climbing.



EDITOR'S RANT OF THE WEEK

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

I'm a big advocate for not giving your opinion unless specifically asked for it. Do not comment on things that the person can't automatically fix. For example weight or acne. Absolutely tell them if it is something they can fix, like if they have something in their teeth.

You don't know how much your comment will affect them. Especially if you know it's a touchy subject to begin with.

Opinions are absolutely to be kept to yourself unless you are asked of them. If I do not ask you if this shirt would look good on me I don't want your opinion but if I say "what do you think about the shirt" then you can tell me what you think. There's nothing worse than holding up a shirt to yourself and being like oh this is cute and then have someone walk by and go "that shirt is ugly"

You wouldn't think that this is such a hard concept yet people can't seem to keep their opinions or advice to themselves.

If you're watching little kids play and you keep giving them ways that they could play better they get upset. They don't care they want to play the way they want to play. And that's just like adults. I don't care what your opinion is if I didn't ask for it.

Now if it's positive it's probably okay. If you're trying to boost someone with your words it's probably okay. The ones I'm specifically talking about are the unneeded negative comments that others make. Like you're purposely trying to bring the person down.

I've had enough of the reverse psychology "well if you make it think like it's their idea then it's not bad" no stop putting your opinions in your thoughts into other people's heads. You don't like someone avoid them Don't convince everyone else to not like them let them come to that decision on their own.

I know this isn't a great rant to end the semester on but especially when you're around family comments get brought up old situations and fights get brought up leave those alone Don't try to fuel to a fire that's already put out. The holidays are stressful You don't need to add any extra stress to them.

I hope you have a happy holidays and the stress-free new year.



Editorial

Saying goodbye and reminiscing

By **MCKAYLA HOLSON**
Editorial Editor

I swear I only blinked.

How is it time to be saying goodbye to Northwestern? I often joke that it feels like I've been here for 37 years, but it also feels like I was a baby freshman just yesterday.

You know, I've been trying to write something for a month now. I keep writing things, deleting them, writing them again and then deleting them again. I type them out on my phone, my computer and I write them out in my notebook, on sticky notes, and just random pieces of paper I find sitting around.

I just can't sum up my time at Northwestern. I can't explain in words the meaning of all the experiences and memories I have obtained while here. I can't talk about all the friendships Northwestern has given me in this little goodbye letter. I could honestly probably write an entire book about my short three and a half years here. That's just seven semesters. Seven short semesters.

I remember moving in early for band camp my freshman year like it was yesterday. I was fortunate enough to have my mom and dad with me and help me move everything in. My mom laughed because she saw my Flash action figure poking out of one of my boxes. She made sure he had a special place on my shelf. He sits on my windowsill at my house now. My mom also made my bed for me. For anyone reading this, just let your mom make your bed. Let her place things on your shelf, let her take pictures, let



Baby me and Flash ready to take on college. He's still with me. This was taken before Mom put him on the shelf for me.

her help put your clothes away, just let her help. Same with your dad, or whoever might be helping you.

Something I think everyone should know, something I had to find out for myself, is that it is okay to fail. You just have to brush it off and do better next time. My very first "bad grade" here at Northwestern was my freshman year

in comp I. I received a C on my first paper and I'm not ashamed to say that I cried a little bit. But it was 100% my fault and I felt awful about. I wrote it the morning of the day it was due, something I did in high school all the time, and expected to receive an A, like I did in high school all the time.

But I took that C, brushed it off and did better and tried harder the next time. You're going to have bad grades. It's not the end of the world. One bad grade doesn't define you and your whole college experience. Also, know that it is better to receive a bad grade than to receive a zero. Just turn something in. It's always worth it.

I learned that Northwestern is a pleasant environment filled with kind people. Staff, faculty, upperclassmen and even fellow freshmen were always prepared to help me when I needed it. I always tried to be that helpful person for others as well. Northwestern is nice because you're more than just a number. Everyone around here actually cares. There are professors I had for one class and they still remember my name. And I can't tell you how many times I've sat in a professor's office talking about life, just working through everything.

I'll miss Dr. Armstrong's cooking (especially the lava cake that I wrote an entire essay over once), I'll miss Ms. Miller's kind words and guidance, I'll miss Mrs. Brown's ability to keep everything under control and her assurance that everything will work out (thank you for helping me and talking through everything when I was panicking about being able to afford college and finish all my classes in time) and, I've only had one class, but I'll miss Dr. Antunes' infectious passion for broadcast and his insane amount of knowledge.

I'll also miss the other professors around campus. Every time I walked through the ag department and the sociology department, professors I don't even know would take time out of their day to stop and talk. I also found a home within the theater department, and I had absolutely nothing to do with theater.

Even with that fact, the professors within that department always helped me and were always kind to me. I ended up helping out this semester, but even before that, they were always kind. I have yet to meet a professor I didn't enjoy speaking with at this university.

Band camp was the first place I made friends, but I quickly found a family within the mass comm department. I'll always cherish the friendships I made within this department. When I say we're a family, I mean it. We always help each other with anything we need. I'm sure I would've made it through, but college would have been miserable without the Three Musketeers.

Ashley Watts and Megan Brown, thank you for dealing with my insanity. I'll always remember the late nights in department, hurrying to get projects done. Times like when I fixed the radio studio around midnight and just laid on the floor and screamed, all the times getting breakfast at 818 (or the bowling alley on Tuesdays), all the coffee from the Vanilla Bean, trips to McDonald's just to have a break from work and just everything else.



The Three Musketeers. From the left, Ashley Watts, McKayla Holson and Megan Brown. This is when we went to go see Frozen 2 at the Rialto. I (McKayla) finally got a free day and we were all able to meet up and hang out.

Of course I have regrets, but that's just how life goes. I wish I had tried a little harder on some of my assignments, branched out and got outside of my comfort zone a little more, maybe minored in psychology and just soaked up more of my time here. It really does go by fast; people weren't lying when they told me that. But I don't regret coming to Northwestern and I don't regret being a mass comm major. With the Sunday graduation quickly approaching, I am trying not to think about my regrets, but rather to reminisce in the experiences I have had while here. Fortunately for me, it's a pretty easy thing to do.

I think I've drawn this out long enough. I eventually have to end it; I can't type forever. I just want to end this by saying that it has been a privilege to write for you guys during my time at Northwestern. I will miss it, but I know this paper is in great hands and I look forward to seeing the paper, and its writers, continue to grow and progress. I might be biased, but the mass comm department is a true gem, and I will always be grateful that I chose to come here. This department, and Northwestern, of course, has taught me a lot about life and has provided me with experiences and friendships that I will look back on and cherish for the rest of my life.

I don't want to say goodbye, but all good things must come to an end.



One of the many group pictures taken of some of the mass comm department. I believe we took this last year.

COVID-19 wasn't as bad as I thought it would be

A short explanation of my COVID-19 experience. It ended up not being as scary as I thought it'd be.

By **JARA REEDER**
Photo Editor

I was never worried about the coronavirus until the day I heard those three little words on the other side of the phone.

It all started Oct. 30 when I got a call from a coworker saying she tested positive for the virus. That night before we all hung out after work, she seemed to be looking normal showed no sign of symptoms.

I found out that Friday afternoon after I went to all my classes.

After I found out of my expo-

sure I called the hospital to figure out my next step. I had to quarantine for five days than go in and get the test. Called into work and told them the situation and that was that.

The five days were nothing, catch up of schoolwork, cleaned my apartment. I had no symptoms, I really thought I was going to be fine.

Then early in the morning Nov 3 I went to the hospital to get tested. And I was terrified of the test more than anything.

Everyone I talked to told me about this one nurse who has blonde hair and was short. Ac-

ording to them, she is not who you want she will shove it up your nose and it hurts.

That was fear of pain was circling over and over in my head till my name was called and immediately I saw a short woman with long brown hair and thought that was the greatest moment in my day. She was gentle, the test was over in five seconds, just made my nose tickle.

I got my results within 45 minutes, my heart raced and just skipped a beat when I heard him on the other end say, "you tested positive for Covid-19." I think I was in shock or something and

said, "I am?" I didn't want to believe it I felt like normal.

But after that he read off my quarantine guidelines and said after my 14 days were up, I was considered cured unless I was still having any symptoms.

Quarantine was long for sure there were a few days I felt very weak and I had some congestion but no running nose just clogged feeling,

I did lose my taste and smell for about four days and I got it back but weaken.

During quarantine my friends made sure I didn't go insane. They got me groceries, food sometimes

and would sit outside my window and have conversations.

And the last few days of my quarantine they found a way to get me involved in a game while social distancing: Car Tag, a game where one person in a car goes and hides while the rest of us in our own cars goes and tries to find them around town the only communication between the person hiding and the rest looking is emojis.

Overall, the coronavirus was not like they say it is on social media and quarantine didn't drive me to insanity thanks to great people.

High school and collegiate athletes endure loss of seasons

College seniors debate staying and playing

'Put in the extra work': Alva senior misses last season, but looks forward to playing basketball again in college



Photo by David Thornton

A Northwestern Oklahoma State University football player practices earlier in the fall semester. The cancellation of college sports affected players, coaches and personnel of all different ages.

By JACOB COMP
Student Reporter

Romello Bentley came to Northwestern Oklahoma State University in the spring of 2020 with the dream of playing his final collegiate football season months later. His dream was put on the back burner as the sports world decided how to operate in a COVID-19-led world.

"I fell into a down-in-the-dumps state," he said.

The football team at NWOSU has been working hard since coronavirus first changed the sports world, he said.

"We ran our own player-led workouts, attended involuntary meetings and workouts, held player-led team bonding meetings and functions," Bentley said. "We did everything we possibly could and then some because that's all we had, and it was stripped from us."

The coronavirus took the sports world by storm in early March, beginning with the cancellation of the highly coveted collegiate men's basketball tournament "March Madness." Basketball would not be the only sport affected.

The cancellation of college sports affected players, coaches and personnel of all different ages in numerous ways. These changes forced sports to be conducted in ways they have never been done before.

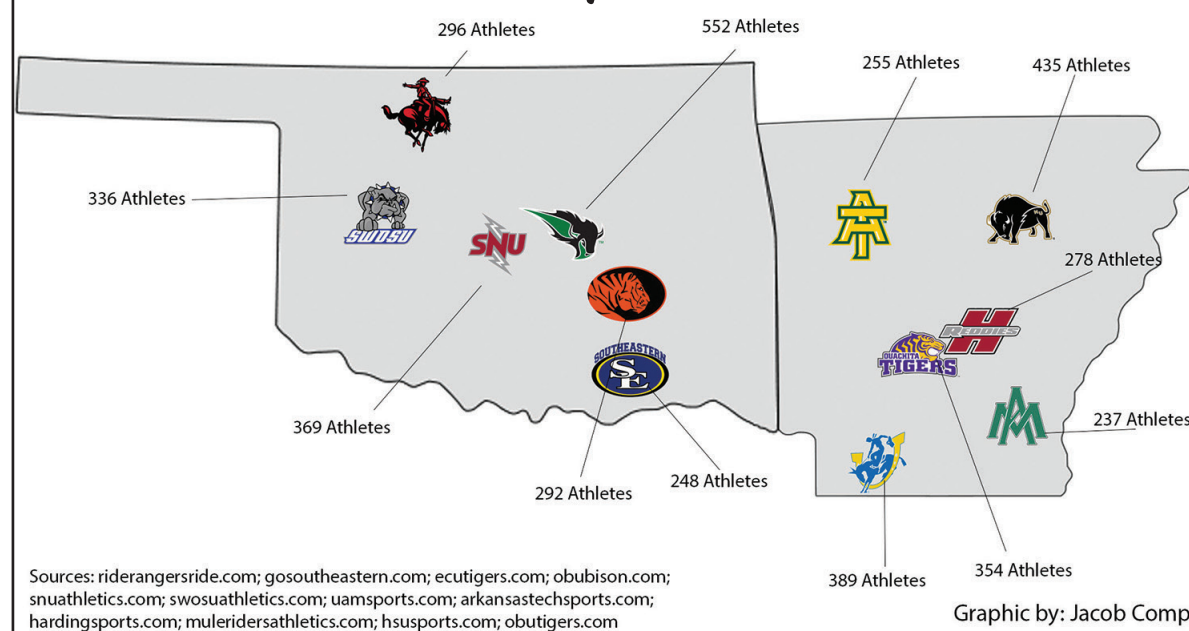
March 12 is a day that will carry weight for years to come. After the National Collegiate Athletic Association made the decision to cancel all the championship games for the remainder of the 2019-2020 season, the Great American Conference decided to indefinitely suspend all conference sports activities. This included competitions and even practices for several universities, including NWOSU.

Will Prewitt, GAC commissioner, said the decision to cancel sports was made by the conference's council of presidents. The decision was unanimous.

"Student-athlete safety was the primary consideration when the decision occurred to cancel spring sports back in March," Prewitt said. "There was so little knowledge about the impacts of COVID-19 across society that it was the prudent decision for college athletes at all levels to shut down."

For players around the coun-

Number of GAC Athletes Affected by COVID-19



ty, this decision to cancel spring sports because of COVID-19 was devastating. For Kailin Lian, an NWOSU softball player, the decision was shocking.

"Truthfully, I don't think anyone saw it coming until the day it

actually happened," she said.

While the cancellation of spring sports was a difficult time for athletes, the cancellation carried an extra decision for seniors. The NCAA made the decision to give players affected by the cancellation

another year of eligibility to compete for the following year.

"I was shocked, heartbroken, frustrated and mad," said Daschal Johnson, a redshirt senior on the university's baseball team.

See COLLEGE, Page 11

By EMMA SPORLEDER
Student Reporter

On March 12, Payton Jones was sitting with her basketball team at a Chick-fil-A in Oklahoma City when she realized she would never play for her hometown again.

For the first time in 86 years, the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association announced that the state tournament games were being canceled because of concerns about the coronavirus. Major events across the nation were also canceled.

Earlier that day, the Alva Ladybugs were celebrated and sent off in small-town fashion to travel 149 miles to play at the Big House in Oklahoma City. The Ladybugs were set to face Adair High School that night at 8:30 for the first round of the 3A State Basketball Tournament. The news that Oklahoma wouldn't crown a champion was brought to the Ladybugs only a few hours before tip-off.

"When I found out the season was over, I think I was more in shock than anything," Jones said. "Nobody thinks something like this could happen."

'DEVASTATING'

Jones, the leading scorer for the Ladybugs, punched the ticket to the state tournament after defeating Chandler High School 52-32 on March 7. Jones was a force to be reckoned with during the post-season. She racked up 106 points after playing five playoff games.

"My role as a senior was to be our leader," Jones said. "I knew we had a special team, but my job was to get the job done. Playing in the state tournament has always been a dream of mine, and getting that taken away from me was devastating."

Five Ladybug seniors were unable to finish their impressive 26-2 season before the unexpected final buzzer.

After the Oklahoma State Department of Education ruled that all extracurricular activities were at a standstill in response to COVID-19, the OSSAA had no choice but to cancel the remainder of spring 2020 competition. Dr. Mike Simpson, OSSAA board of directors president and superintendent of Guthrie Public Schools, estimates that approximately \$1.1 million in revenue to the OSSAA was lost because of the cancellation of the state basketball tournament and all spring sports. Simpson represents the large schools in the northwest region of Oklahoma and presides over the board meetings while working with the executive director to formulate agenda items for meetings.

"While we have reserve funds



Photo provided

The Alva High School women's basketball team is shown in this photo. The team was about to play in the state tournament when the pandemic began.

for situations where we have a shortfall, this is a very challenging time for the association from a financial perspective," Simpson said. "Nothing has been made easier with the loss from the spring of 2020 events."

"I really felt bad for the seniors who didn't get to compete for their school, especially the winter basketball teams who had qualified for the state tournament."
— Dr. Mike Simpson

ALVA HIGH SCHOOL
LADYBUG BASKETBALL
SENIORS
2019-2020

ALVA 26-2

Team members shown: Lexie #10, Aspen #14, Acacia #25, Jazmia #3, Payton #11.

BY EMMA SPORLEDER SOURCE: PAYTON JONES - ALVA, OK

The final day of Payton Jones' Ladybug basketball season
By Emma Sporleder Source: Payton Jones

March 12, 2020
Alva vs. Adair 8:30 p.m.
State Fair Arena
Oklahoma City

- 7 a.m.**
 - Woke up
 - Got ready
 - Ate game day breakfast (French toast)
 - Went to school
- 9 a.m.**
 - Pep rally at school
 - Loaded the game bus
 - Celebration send off to OKC
 - Escorted out of Alva by Police
- 10 a.m.**
 - On our way to OKC
 - Trying to focus up for the game
- 12:30 p.m.**
 - Arrived in OKC
 - Stopped at Chick-fil-A to eat pre game lunch
- 1:30 p.m.**
 - OSSAA cancels state tournament
 - The 2019-2020 season ends
 - Loads the bus
 - Leaves Chick-fil-A
 - Heads back home to Alva

Feature

Saving a canine A 'doggone' good return

By **LANEY COOK**
Student Reporter

What seemed to be another ordinary Saturday became a happy surprise when a lost dog made its way back to its home.

Jenna Brooks, originally from Taloga, was driving to her home in Taloga on a Saturday afternoon after leaving Alva when she found a dog wandering lost along the side of the road.

She saw that the dog had its collars on so she could figure out who the owner was.

"I hurried and pulled over as soon as I saw that the dog had a collar on," Brooks said. "He looked so sad as he was walking, so I felt like I had to pull over for him."

After looking at the collar,

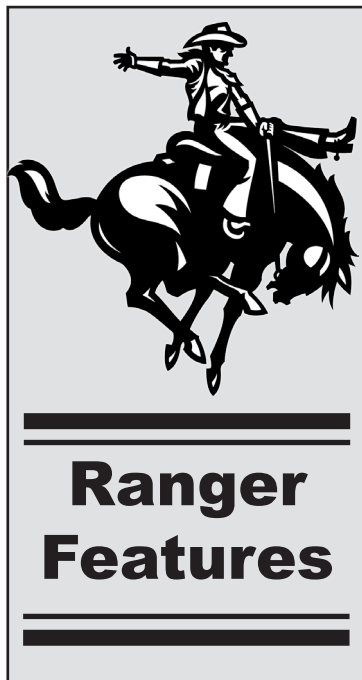
she called the owner, whom she knew from when she lived there previously. She set up a time to return the dog to its owner.

"When we were pulling up to their house, [the dog] started getting really excited, and you could tell he missed his family," she said.

The missing dog belonged to a family of four. Brooks said they had been worried about him for about five days and were very thankful that she found their dog, named Rusty.

Brooks said she was just happy that the small family got their dog back safe and sound.

"I'm glad that I was able to find it with being originally from there," she said. "It was nice being able to reunite Rusty to his family. Small town dogs are the best."



A runaway rescue Ramos 'sprints' into action

By **DESTINY GARDNER**
Student Reporter

A night of football turned into a courageous rescue after a high school student found two girls in a bar ditch around 1 a.m.

Kaden Ramos, a high school student from Waynoka, said he was driving home from a football game in Maysville on Nov. 20.

He said he was almost to Chester and something sparkling caught his eye.

After spotting the sparkly object, Ramos turned around to check it out. The sparkles, he said, were on a backpack. He then saw two young girls hiding in the ditch.

The two girls were ages five and seven. They claimed to be running away from their foster home near the area, Ramos said.

Ramos then called 911 and waited with the girls until a police officer arrived and returned the girls to their parents.

From homeschool to college football Barnett transitions from being Jaguar to Ranger

By **ETHAN EVERSON**
Student Reporter

Going from being homeschooled in Tulsa to getting recruited to play college football in Alva, Northwestern sophomore Jarrod Barnett didn't have an easy time finding what college he would go to.

Barnett was homeschooled for three out of his four years of high school.

Barnett wanted to play college football, but getting recruited from being homeschooled is no walk in the park, he said. He had trouble finding ways to go to college.

Luckily, he said, Tulsa had a high school football team for homeschool students called Tulsa

Noah Jaguars. Barnett was the starting quarterback for the team.

Barnett had trouble finding ways to get recruited like a normal high kid, he said.

"It was rough," he said. "I had to send a lot of emails of my highlights and go to as many camps as I possibly could."

Barnett had to still focus on school while he took online high school courses at Epic Charter School.

Barnett, while taking high school classes, managed to keep a 4.0 GPA, making it pretty easy to get accepted in any school, he said.

After his senior football season, he reached out to several different schools, and Northwestern Oklahoma State University offered him a football

scholarship. Even though he didn't go to an actual high school, he still managed to find a college.

Barnett is now in his second year of college and adapting not only to a school, but also to the changes he went through to make sure he would do good while he is attending NWOSU.

"It's way different than it was when I was homeschooled, but after my first few weeks, it didn't take me long to adjust to the college life," he said.

Barnett plans to major in health and sports science, and he plans to continue playing for the Ranger football team, he said.

Being homeschooled doesn't mean you can't live your dreams of going to college and getting a degree, he said.

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Northwestern has 29 active COVID-19 cases

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

Northwestern Oklahoma State University has 29 active cases of the coronavirus, university officials said Nov. 20.

Twenty-eight students have the virus, and one university employee has the virus, officials said.

The number of cases has not been updated since Nov. 20 because of Thanksgiving break.

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.

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

Entertainment



Photo from the Netflix Media Center

This magical Christmas journey is something new to believe in

“Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey” shows viewers the power of believing in yourself.

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

Jingle Jangle: a Christmas Journey is a 2020 Christmas fantasy film.

The movie follows the story of a toy inventor named Jeronicus Jingle who lost all of his inventions to his apprentice who stole his book. Throughout the years he had to watch as his apprentice became the number one toy maker of the year with The inventions from his book.

As he tried to make up for all of his lost inventions his wife sadly dies and he loses all belief in himself and what he creates. He loses touch with his only daughter and turns his invention factory into a pawnbroker shop. He swore off inventing and had giving up with life.

His daughter Jessica receives a letter that appears to be from

Jeronicus asking Journey to come to his invention shop. Jessica agrees and sends Journey off.

When Journey arrives Jeronicus acts surprised that she’s there. You come to find out that Journey wrote the letter to herself. She wants to be an inventor like her grandfather. Her grandfather is now a senile old man to is no longer inventing anything. But Journey hopes to change that.

He finds one of his old inventions in his shop that works but as soon as she tries to show him it doesn’t. Is apprentice Gustafson runs out of inventions from jingles old book so he returns to the shop to see if he can steal something else.

He ends up stealing a invention dubb buddy 3000 But when he goes to showcase it doesn’t work. Journey and jingles new apprentice Edison sneak into gustafson’s factory and steal buddy back. They now must work to fix what is left of buddy.

This is a new take on a Christmas movie that I think is much needed. As much as I love Hallmark movies they get kind of redundant adding a fantasy element like Jingle Jangle: a Christmas journey has completely

changed up the storyline.

The outfits worn in the movie and the musical numbers make it feel as if it’s in the same universe as the greatest show. The musical numbers do not take away from the storyline. It’s a creative way to show the characters thoughts and feelings without giving away too much in the dialogue.

I love that the story has a strong young female protagonist and shows how much you can accomplish if you just believe.

I rate this movie 5 out of 5. It’s magnificent, I recommend it to anyone who liked the greatest showman, anyone who likes fantasy and really anyone who likes Christmas movies in general.

It’s a great family-friendly show you can find it on Netflix. This was a great movie to come out this year, especially during the pandemic, because it just gives that little extra Christmas feeling that I was missing.

10 out of 10 I would watch it again. It’s one of those movies that I don’t see becoming boring anytime soon. The ending perfectly ties up this movie and a little bow it leaves no questions left unanswered It gives a much needed connection.

Underrated Christmas movies you should watch:

Unaccompanied Minors



Beauty and the Beast: An Enchanted Christmas

‘Twas the Night Before Christmas



Jack Frost (1998)

Rudolph and the Island of Misfit Toys



Add some new spice to the season with these new Christmas movies:

- The Christmas Chronicles 2
- Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Story
- Holidate

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Sports



Northwestern athletes say they are looking forward to spring

By **DAVID THORNTON**
Student Reporter

The fall semester has changed so much for Northwestern's athletes, but these athletes still have high expectations for the spring semester.

"I'm looking forward to starting my season and continuing school regularly," said Parrish Hewitt, senior basketball player.

"I am really just looking forward to playing ball and getting back to normal," said Alejandro Aaron, junior linebacker.

With COVID-19 still running rampant, student athletes at Northwestern say they are unsure how Northwestern and other schools are going to react with this year's spring break. Will it be a repeat of last year where

students leave and are unable to return?

"I'm kind of just hoping we can get some sense of normalcy back," Aaron said. He also said being able to play football, go to school and "kick it with your people," is the normalcy he is wishing everyone can return to.

Student athletes say they are getting tired of the rules and regulations this pandemic has brought about. The student athletes say they just want to return to the way life was before the pandemic. This is a common feeling among others who are not athletes as well.

"I'm ready to just attack this next semester and overcome whatever obstacles are thrown at us," Aaron said.

"Well for one, I'm looking forward to getting my credit

hours done for my major," said Alexa Leyva, sophomore track athlete. "I'm looking forward to also starting intense training for track."

This spring semester, track will have some meets that will be considered the start of the indoor season.

Leyva said she is excited about competing, but is unsure about what will happen after spring break.

"I'm actually on the fence for spring break," Leyva said. "As much as I want to get that next semester done, I know we all are going to need the break before going out strong."

Students athletes said this semester has been stressful because of COVID-19, but remaining cautious has almost become natural and routine.

OPINION

I hate saying goodbye

This is not goodbye, merely peace out. I hate goodbyes.

By **ASHLEY WATTS**
Sports Editor

Why is it when you start to settle down and find your place it's time to leave? I have been asking myself this question a lot lately. This is supposed to be my goodbye to NWOSU, but I am not ready to say goodbye so I'm going to reminisce in one of the best times of my life.

I started here at Northwestern as a scared little freshman. I didn't know anybody and I had no idea what I wanted to accomplish while being here.

I think being a mass comm major has helped me tremendously in finding my way here at Northwestern. One thing I tell incoming freshman is to get involved early because getting involved will help you lot. I know it helped me.

Working on the newspaper has helped me a lot when it comes to getting involved.

When I started I had no idea what I was doing, but with the help of some great friends I finally figured it out.

I started the newspaper as a photographer, which allowed me to go to many events that I know I wouldn't have gone to if I didn't have to. Going to these events made me get out of the house, and I personally think that helped me get out of my shell.

I then became the photo editor and with the help of people on the staff I soon figured out what I was doing. The next year I became sports editor and I have stayed at this position for a year and a half. I love this position and enjoy making the sports page for the Northwestern News. I have learned so much from being in this position and I don't want to leave it behind, but it is time for me to graduate and move on.

I have made some of my best friends in the mass comm program, and I don't know what I would have done without them. If I have ever needed help all I had to do was ask someone and they would help whenever they could. Not only has being a mass comm major a highlight of my college career, but it has led to me figuring out myself. Coming into college I had no idea what I wanted to do, but now as it is time to leave I have figured out what I want to do with my future because of the help of many amazing teachers.

Northwestern has made a big impact on my life. If I could go back and do it all again I would. I would still choose to come to Northwestern because I have made my way here. So this is a goodbye editorial, but I don't want to say goodbye yet because I will come back to visit. Instead of goodbye I'm going to say "Peace out, Northwestern! We will see each other again soon!"

2021 spring sports schedules for NWOSU:

2021 NORTHWESTERN BASKETBALL

MON 1/11	SAT 1/16	THUR 1/21	SAT 1/23
SAT 1/30	MON 2/8	SAT 2/13	THUR 2/18
AWAY SCHEDULE	SAT 2/20	THUR 2/25	

2021 NORTHWESTERN BASKETBALL

THUR 1/7	SAT 1/9	SAT 1/14	MON 1/25
THUR 1/28	THUR 2/4	SAT 2/6	THUR 2/11
HOME SCHEDULE	MON 2/22	SAT 2/27	

2021 NORTHWESTERN VOLLEYBALL

WED 1/27	TUES 2/2	TUES 2/9	TUES 2/16
WED 2/24	WED 3/3	TUES 3/9	TUES 3/16
HOME AWAY	WED 3/24	WED 3/31	

2021 NORTHWESTERN SOCCER

SAT 2/20	SAT 2/27	SAT 3/6
SAT 3/13	SAT 3/20	SAT 3/27
HOME AWAY	4/10-17	

Ashley and McKayla, we'll miss you! Thanks for being great friends and journalists. Until next time,

News

SENIOR: Loss of sporting events affects mental health for athletes

Continued from Page 7
especially tough for high school seniors who were hoping to finish their seasons strong and show colleges they have what it takes to play at the next level. High school senior athletes didn't gain another year of eligibility like collegiate athletes did.

"I really felt bad for the seniors who didn't get to compete for their school, especially the winter basketball teams who had qualified for the state tournament," Simpson said. "They lost their opportunity to seek their gold ball. The timing was surreal as we were literally getting ready to begin the tournaments."

'EVERYONE JUST TRIED TO GET THROUGH IT'

Team sports help teach adolescents accountability, dedication, leadership and teamwork, said Rusty Puffinbarger, OSSAA board of directors vice president and superintendent of Leedy Public Schools. High school athletes have displayed higher grade point averages and fewer school absences than non-athletes. Puffinbarger said student participation changed during the cancellation.

"Everyone just tried to get through it," Puffinbarger said. "The student participation levels were high in the beginning but tapered off towards the end of the school year. The entire ordeal was

a challenge for everyone's mental health, but kids need to be in school and participating in activities."

SCHOOLS IMPLEMENT SAFETY MEASURES

On Aug. 12, coaches and players across Oklahoma were able to breathe a collective sigh of relief after the OSSAA ruled that fall competition was back in action. Every school district in Oklahoma made changes to their school days and activities. The primary goal is to socially distance students when possible and monitor all students for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure in order to stop the spread of the virus.

Although some sports or activities make it impossible to follow social distancing guidelines at times, competing schools are equipped with safety measures and precautions to practice and compete safely.

In the event of a positive case or exposure to someone who has tested positive, county health departments are involved in contact tracing, making decisions about quarantines and cancelling activities.

"We know more about the virus now than we did last spring," Puffinbarger said. "I think everyone wants to make sure we don't have a statewide shutdown again, so we are all trying our best to do it as safely as possible. This is a

very challenging situation. It's unlike anything I've previously dealt with as a school administrator."

The OSSAA offers guidelines to ensure that all students, school officials and fans stay safe on game day. Institutions may choose to implement any or all of these guidelines at the local school district's discretion.

In a statement on the organization's website, OSSAA officials say the situation surrounding COVID-19 is fluid, and adjustments may be necessary. Coaches, participants and spectators should adhere to all guidelines, including social distancing, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, local health authorities and school officials.

In addition to these guidelines, there are conditions for the modifications of game rules specific to each activity.

A copy of those conditions can be found on each activity's webpage at <https://www.ossaa.com>.

Jones will never put on an Alva jersey or play for her hometown again, but in spite of her career as a Ladybug being put to a screeching halt, she earned the opportunity to compete at the next level.

Soon, Jones will suit up and step on the court for the Crimson Storm of Southern Nazarene University to continue where she left off.

"Put in the extra work," Jones said. "It'll pay off in the end."



Photo provided

Payton Jones, an Alva High School senior athlete, is shown in this photo.

COLLEGE: Some seniors take advantage of extended eligibility

Continued from Page 6
"I was super negative. I never thought there was any way the NCAA would give us our eligibility back."

With two academic degrees already completed, Johnson questioned coming back to complete his senior season. With the season ending abruptly, Johnson did not have any job opportunities lined up yet for the completion of the semester. He decided it was best to come back and play the sport that he loves for one last season.

Not all seniors came to the same conclusion.

Brock Randels, senior baseball player, decided that it was best for him to move on from baseball.

"For me, it was not hard at all," Randels said. "I was ready for my post-playing career to start. The toughest part of the decision was leaving the team."

Randels received an offer to become a graduate assistant at the University of Arkansas the day that spring sports were canceled. He quickly made the decision to move on from his playing career, but he doesn't forget the memories he made, he said.

"I think this has hit me more so now than ever," Randels said. "It is the first fall in five years that I have not been having the hard workouts or the long practice days. It's sad, to be honest with

you. I do not regret not going back as it was a great time for me to step away, but there are certain things that I will always miss."

The weeks passed and players moved on from the game – some forever, while others waited patiently to see what the future would hold in store for their athletic careers.

SAFETY MEASURES

Players returned to campus over the summer for involuntary workouts. This summer reminded players that, while they were allowed to return to their sports, things were not the same, and summer workouts had to be conducted in a way they had never been before.

"We have to check in for COVID screenings, get your temperature taken, take your weight, and the trainer would ask if we had any symptoms," said Alejandro Aaron, a football linebacker at NWOSU.

After a series of questions, players were required to wash their hands and could then enter training facilities.

Check-in was not the only part of summer workouts that was different. Usually, players can be seen at the facilities talking to coaches, working out and hanging out with their teammates.

However, in order to comply with social distancing regulations, only 18 athletes, a strength coach and an athletic trainer were allowed in the facilities.

Players were required to wear masks during workouts, both inside and outside. They were also asked to provide their own water and refrain from touching other players. After weeks of training, players returned home for a short break before scheduled practices were set to begin.

However, on Aug. 14, the GAC postponed all athletic competition until after Dec. 31. The GAC was the last Division 2 conference to make this decision.

"Our leadership was focused on opening all 12 campuses safely for fall in-person instruction," Prewitt said. "We certainly thought that, if that happened, there would be legitimate chances for fall sports once campuses opened without many outbreaks."

The decision to cancel fall sports was expected after the postponement of athletics by other conferences around the country.

Athletes, coaches and organizations around the country are now figuring out how to get better and prepare for a season, whenever that may be.

For NWOSU athletes, the fall looks different. The football team

began practice on Sept. 22, but these are not normal fall practices. With no opponent to game-plan for and COVID-19 regulations still standing, athletes have had to adapt.

ALL TEAMS LEARN TO ADAPT

The football team is not the only athletic team on campus that has had to change its practices.

"Practices are so different now," Lian said of the university's softball team practices. "It's so weird not being able to high-five my teammate if they've done a good job."

The loss of sports has affected the business aspect of the sporting world.

Financially, the loss of sports hasn't directly affected the GAC yet, Prewitt said. However, because of the loss of major sporting events like the College World Series and March Madness, the funding of smaller conferences could feel a ripple effect in the coming years.

For some people involved in college sports, perspective is key, they say.

"Something positive that will come from this COVID nonsense is that we will be hungrier than any team that has ever played at Northwestern," Bentley said.

Anniversary of Mayflower celebrated in November

By **GEORGE SMITH**
Student Reporter

Nov. 11, 1620 was the 400th anniversary of the day that the Mayflower landed at Cape Cod in the then-unfounded northern United States after more than two months at sea.

A few weeks after landing, and with a New England winter in the forecast, the passengers and crewmembers of the Mayflower – about 150 – sailed farther up the coast to get to work building their community at Plymouth Rock.

A few wintry months had gone by while passengers were building houses, but they were still living on the ship. About half of them died trying to survive the winter.

In March of 1621, there were enough houses for the remaining passengers to live in, and the Mayflower sailed back to England in April.

Clint Eastwood, Marilyn Monroe and President Roosevelt are descendants.

SMASHING AWAY STRESS



Photos by Jara Reeder

Students in the teaching community activities II class recently hosted an event called Smash Your Problems Away. Class members put plates, computers and other junk items on a tarp on the intramural field by Coronado Hall for students to smash with a hammer. Above at left: Mya Johnson takes a swing at an old computer. Above at right: Sam Gentry bashes a computer tower.