

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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2020 IN PHOTOS

Check out some of the most exciting and captivating moments in NWOSU's 2020 history, as documented by the Northwestern News' photojournalists. PAGES 6 & 7

Evan Wahpekeche and Juan Dominguez fall off a sled on a road north of Alva during a snowstorm in October.

Photo by Jordan Green

STILL SEEKING HOPE

2021 could be the year we return to "normal." Read what students have to say about their outlook for the year. PAGES 4 & 5



Photo by Jordan Green

The sun shines down on a farm field and melts the fallen snow in this photo taken Dec. 31 near Blackwell in Kay County. Northern Oklahoma rang in 2021 with four inches of snow.

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News

Student Government Association planning events for semester

By **DYLAN WHITELEY**
Student Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Student Government Association plans to host a number of events this semester. SGA President Ethan Sacket sat down with the Northwestern News to talk about SGA members have planned for the semester.

Q: What activities does SGA plan to host this semester?

A: In the era that we currently living in, we're putting on different events, but we're still trying to engage our students. So, this semester specifically, we've got the **Wellness Challenge** that's going on at the wellness center. That started Jan. 11, and it goes through Feb. 28. Basically, if you go to the wellness center, work out for about 30 minutes, and then go to the desk and put your name on this little binder that they have – and if you go in, I believe 21 times, by the end of Feb. 28 – then your name will be put in a drawing for Apple AirPods. ...

Another event that we have got going on is **Singing and Sundaes**. That's Thursday, Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m., and that will be in the ballroom in the Student Center. It's kind of like an open mic night, but then we'll also have individually wrapped ice cream sandwiches and some food for the students there. It's just an opportunity to relax and meet some people as well.

And then we are also putting on some **watch parties** for the different sporting events that are going on. A big part of student life in the past has been the athletic events and students being able to go to those games for free. This year, because of Covid, fans aren't allowed into the games, at least starting off in the month of January. They're trying to work that all out. So, we will be doing some watch parties, some live streams in the Ranger Room in the Student Center.

That's just an opportunity for students to hang out, watch the game, and we'll also be doing maybe some dress up themes or something like that and do some giveaways at that watch party.

And then if it is a home game, and hopefully our Rangers come out with a win, then we can greet them as they leave the gym. So we'll leave the Student Center and greet them.

Feb. 14, we're going to do a **Valentines dinner**. Basically, the first 30 students that buy tickets will be able to attend that Valentines dinner. It's going to be a high-end event, and what I mean by that is we're going to try to add as much value to that event. So, people that pay for that ticket will get that in return. So, we're going to be doing that dinner Feb. 14, and you can



Students participated in a game called "speed friendshipping" after the start of the fall semester on Aug. 19. The event was one of several socially-distanced outdoor events the Student Government Association sponsored in 2020.

Photo by Jordan Green

start buying tickets for that starting next Wednesday. That's what we got going on right now.

We're teaming up with a few different student organizations. Writers' Roundtable, they are putting on a **poetry slam** in April. And we'll be teaming up with them to put that on. And then Spanish club – I know we usually work with them to put on some events, and then there are a few other student organizations that are putting on some events.

Q: Why do you believe these activities are important?

A: More than ever, I think it's so important for us to be connected as a people. I think that, as human beings, we benefit when we are connected with other people and interact with other people. I believe that, during this time, especially with Covid and everything going on and everyone being more in their dorms or quarantining, there's more isolation. So, I think that, if we can provide some opportunities for people to still connect in a safe way, that's a priority of mine. ... I think it's so important for our students to be connected. I think these four years is a unique time in these students' lives, and I think that we're all here for a similar purpose, and that's to better ourselves and to learn as much as possible.

Q: Are these activities good places to make new friends?

A: Absolutely. The events, our SGA

meetings as well. I encourage our students that, if they're interested in being involved or just looking to meet people, I encourage them to attend our SGA meetings. Those are at 6:30 p.m. every other Monday in the Student Center ballroom. ... We're really trying to form a community within that SGA group.

So, if you're looking to be involved, looking to get connected, then attend one of these events, attend an SGA meeting or just talk to the person you're sitting next to in class. Make that little bit of extra effort, and you'll see it pay off immediately.

Q: For students who are new to Northwestern, what should they know about SGA's activities?

A: I think that we are incredibly open in regards to anyone can attend them. If you're a student, you can attend it. We even have some faculty members that will attend events. We're incredibly open, and we just enjoy seeing you there and interacting. We're open to new ideas as well, so if you have ideas, we'd love to hear those and implement those as well. Our goal is just to try to add as much value to our students as possible, and we know the value you have with your ideas.

Q: How can students get involved in these activities?

A: Through Student Government Association, you can apply to be a senator. It's a pretty simple process. You attend one of our meetings. We'll get you an application. It's only like one page. You have to get a

few signatures from students, just any student on campus. Once you are a senator, you have voting privileges on different topics that we'll vote upon. So, if someone comes to SGA with a resolution, or something else, then you'll have the opportunity to vote upon that. And at our meetings, it's a pretty open environment.

So, if you have an idea, you can just attend one of the SGA meetings and bring that to the table. We do have a brainstorming session where we open the floor to ideas. A student is more than welcome to attend that.

We've also got social media as well, @nwosusga, on all of our social media platforms: Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Q: How can students suggest other activities for SGA?

A: As I mentioned, social media is probably the easiest one. If you have social media that's the easiest way, is to slide up on our story, or just send us a message directly on there. That's probably the simplest way that you can get your idea out and to us within 10 to 15 seconds. We also have a student concerns number as well. If a student has an idea, or just a question. If they have a question like "where on Earth is this class?" or a concern like "my class has 50 people in it and is a very small classroom with no social distancing" they can reach out and voice their concerns on that. Basically anything, if they send it to us then we'll help them out in any way possible.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: CASE NUMBERS ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE AREA

STUDENT CASES:

18

active as of Jan. 18.
This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

EMPLOYEE CASES:

4

active as of Jan. 18.
This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

IN ALVA:

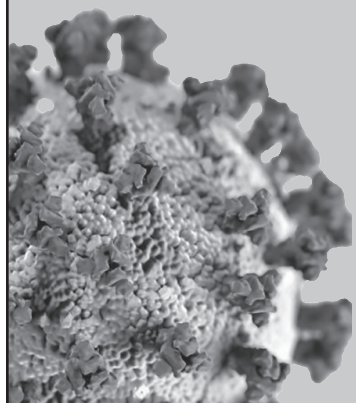
50

active as of Jan. 20.
Alva has had a total of 931 cases.

IN OKLAHOMA:

34,035

active as of Jan. 20.
Oklahoma has had total of 360,360 cases.



News

‘We could all do better’

Students say they’re glad to be on campus but hope their peers play it safe in 2021

By **ALIYAH BIDWELL**
Student Reporter

Northwestern students are two weeks into the spring semester. How are they feeling about the semester so far? The Northwestern News asked five students what they hope to see happen in 2021.

Collin Zink, a sophomore health and sports science major, said: “I feel great about this semester. I’m nervous about keeping up with my classes during quarantine. I think most students are being safe. Some of them are not following the rules.



Zink

“I think the university officials are doing the best to stay safe. I’ll continue to wear a mask.”

Victoria Caywood, a sophomore education major, said: “I am excited and also nervous about school this semester. I am nervous about doing well in my classes. I think we could all do better to remember to wear a mask.

“I think Covid has been tough for everyone. I feel that our staff is doing the best they can and doing very well. I plan to wear a mask and wash my hands regularly.”

Maleah Schmitz, a junior general studies major, said: “I feel as though too many students are worried about whether they get to play whatever sport they play or experiencing the so called ‘college experience.’

“I feel like a majority of students are not being cautious and still attending off-campus parties and get together where no precau-



Caywood

tions are being taken.

“With their carelessness comes the risk of further spreading the virus. ... I feel like they [school administrators] are truly trying their best, but with a large student body, the administration is simply outnumbered. When a whole team gets quarantined, how can one person track where 10 different people have been in the previous days leading up to their illness?”

“I feel administration is doing as much as they are capable of; however, there is only so much they can do. A lot of the responsibility really lies in the hands of the students.”

Caitlyn Pray, a senior agriculture communications major, said: “I am very excited and thankful to be returning to Northwestern this semester. I love the opportunity to engage with friends and people in person, and I personally learn a lot better in-person, so I am very



Schmitz

grateful we’re resuming in-person classes.

“I think I’m most nervous about the repercussions of having to quarantine if I would have to. I see students across campus following Covid safety rules and being precautionous [sic], and so I’d say students are doing a great job of preventing the spread.

“Of course, there are exceptions and just natural times that you can’t live your life in a mask, which limits safety some, but I don’t think to a lethal extent. I think the university officials are doing a fantastic job at balancing safety and practicality to give the campus its comfortable, at-home feel as much as possible while also responsibly providing safety and comfort in the midst of Covid.

“For me, I intend to wear masks in appropriate places and settings and adjust interactions



Pray

with those who are more concerned with the virus than I am to make sure they feel comfortable.”

Feliciti Wall, a freshman, said: “I love being here. As a kid, my only life goal was to go to college, and it makes me happy that I’m here and I get to experience college life, and I’m grateful that we’re back.

“I’m nervous about online school and having to move back home. Honestly, the students could do better with masks and going to friends, but I also know that we’re being more responsible than other colleges and their students. ... [O]nline would be a better option; however, students would be less motivated at home and not do most of their work.

“I wear my mask when I can. I stay in Alva as much as I can. When I go out, it’s for necessary things, and I hang out with my friends at a safe distance.”



Wall

DONOVAN REICHENBERGER, 1927 – 2020

Reichenberger, longtime professor who donated more than \$2 million to Northwestern, dies at 93

By **JORDAN GREEN**
Editor-in-Chief

Donovan Reichenberger, a longtime Northwestern professor who donated more than \$2 million to the university, died from complications of the coronavirus Dec. 14, 2020. He was 93.

Reichenberger taught in the university’s history department for 25 years and funded seven endowed chairs for various programs, allowing Northwestern to hire additional professors.

Reichenberger was born Aug. 5, 1927, in Mt. Hope, Kansas, according to his obituary. He graduated from high school in Sharon, Kansas.

In 1945, Reichenberger began an 18-year career with the U.S. Navy. He married Dorothy Teutschmann in 1958, and he graduated from Northwestern in 1965 with his bachelor’s degree in social science. He earned a master’s degree from Wichita State University in 1967. That year, he joined Northwestern’s history department as a professor, retiring in 1992.

Reichenberger established four endowed chairs for the university’s theater program, two for the university’s music program and one for the university’s history program.

His endowed chairs are com-



Donovan Reichenberger

memorated by plaques displayed in Herod Hall.

“His passion for fine arts is evident in his dedicated attendance at performances and his support of the music and theater programs at Northwestern,” one of the plaques reads. “His contributions have helped numerous students afford a quality fine arts education, and those students and their professors have in turn provided countless hours of entertainment to area patrons.

“Since his retirement, Reichenberger has become one of the university’s most generous benefactors and has worked to ensure the funds invested by the Northwestern Foundation earn their greatest potential in his role with the Northwestern Foundation Investment Committee.”



Photo by Jordan Green

Two plaques commemorating Donovan Reichenberger’s endowed chairs for the university’s theater program are displayed in Herod Hall.

Mickey Jordan, director of technical theater, said Reichenberger was a devoted attendee at the university’s musical performances. For nearly 15 years, Reichenberger didn’t miss a show, Jordan said.

“His endowment has paid for many positions here,” Jordan said. “He was always a great lover of the theater, and a lot of what we do and have comes from that.”

Theater students would meet with Reichenberger yearly to eat lunch with him and thank him for his generosity, Jordan said. During those luncheons, he talk-

ed with students and professors about his military service. He told Jordan that he was stationed on the island of Bikini Atoll when the U.S. military began testing nuclear weapons.

“He lived quite a life,” Jordan said. “He was the nicest guy. He’s blessed so many people on this campus and so many alumni and graduates. ... His gifts were unending. We wouldn’t have what we have if it hadn’t been for Donovan.”

Skeeter Bird, the CEO of the Northwestern Foundation and Alumni Association, was one of

“He’s blessed so many people on this campus. ... His gifts were unending. We wouldn’t have what we have if it hadn’t been for Donovan.”
— Mickey Jordan, director of technical theater

Reichenberger’s history students. Always dressed in sharp-looking suits, Reichenberger had a dry sense of humor that made his students enjoy learning from him, Bird said.

Reichenberger was frugal, Bird said, but was generous to the university. He served as the alumni foundation’s investment trustee for several years, and he often talked with students about their financial investments.

His investment knowledge, Bird said, has paid off for the university.

“He spent his whole life after the military investing in young people,” he said. “He created a lot of joy and great relationships. He loved students.”

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper

Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Published weekly throughout the school year except during examination periods and holidays and distributed to students and staff.

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The News is printed by the Alva Review-Courier

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This publication, printed by Northwestern Oklahoma State University, is issued by the University as authorized by the Regional University System of Oklahoma. 1,600 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma of \$368.00.

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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

Bring on the New Year



Graphic by Devyn Lansden

Here's to a new decade

By **JORDAN GREEN**
Editor-in-Chief

The pandemic has changed almost every aspect of our daily lives. Concerts and ceremonies have been canceled, jobs have been lost and loved ones have died. These hardships have taught us to reconsider how we spend our time – and how we measure it.

Nothing gives people hope like the start of a new year – a symbol that we have a chance to renew ourselves and perhaps have a new “start” in life.

What about a new decade?

Lost in last year's craziness was a debate that sprung up in January 2020 over whether 2020 was the start of a new decade or not. A decade is, of course, a 10-year period. But when does a new decade begin? Does it start with a year ending in a 0 and end in a year with a 9? Or does it begin with a year ending in a 1 and end in a 0?

There are logical and legitimate arguments on both sides of this decennary debate. In a Dec. 27, 2019 article, NPR reported 64% of Americans believe the new decade started in 2020. However, the Farmer's Almanac – widely considered the authoritative source on time measurement – maintains that the new decade started this year.

“As you think about New Year's resolutions, here's one we should all make together: resolve to insist that decades begin with the year ending in the numeral 1 and finish with a 0,” Joe Rao wrote in a Dec. 6, 2019 Almanac article. “For a decade to begin, we must start with the year ending with 1 (2021) and finish with 10, or so far as chronology is concerned, a year ending in 0

(2030).”

Rao, an astronomer, uses what he calls the “elevator analogy” to bolster his argument. If you are in a building that calls its lobby the first floor, the floor above is technically the first floor. If you take an elevator up 10 flights, you'd be on the ninth floor, Rao writes. But if you count the lobby as the first floor as go up 10 flights, you'd be – you guessed it – on the 10th floor.

“In essence, on our calendars, 2021 is the equivalent of a ‘first-floor lobby,’ and after going up ten flights (or years), we'll arrive at the tenth floor,” Rao wrote. “Or in this case, the year 2030 — when that decade ends.”

I'll side with the Almanac on this issue, though I won't dismiss those who say the decade began last year. Both have merit on a scientific basis.

But ponder this, those of you who believe the decade began last year: What harm would calling 2021 the start of a new decade pose?

In a pre-pandemic world, the celebration of the New Year would have been marked by loud, large public parties. Times Square in New York would have been filled with spectators listening to the nation's most famous musicians, rocking their way into the night. Across the country, people of all ages would stay up well into the night to text or call their friends and wish them well.

The arrival of 2021, out of necessity, was less boisterous. Instead of exuberance and excitement, the celebration was characterized by cautiousness and circumspection. But it remained a time-honored tradition. Many people spent the night in their homes by themselves or huddled together with small groups of family and friends. After removing their masks, they may have

toasted the New Year with a glass of wine and whispered “Finally” under their breaths.

This goes to show just how meaningful the dawning of a New Year is. Not even the gloom and doom of the worst year in recent history could stop people from ushering in this holiday. This is because the New Year is more than just a calendrical occurrence; it is a metaphorical rebirth for humankind. We all make mistakes, and we all believe in the need for second chances – for the chance to begin anew. The New Year provides this.

And the decade does an even better job. In a 10-year span, a new generation is born. Every aspect of our culture can change. A person can grow and develop more over the course of 10 years than over the course of 365 days. This is, of course, worth celebrating.

Why not say we started the decade in 2021, the year we might just end the pandemic? With coronavirus vaccines arriving, the end of the pandemic may be in sight, and it may be this year. That would solve many of our problems. At least, in the way of event cancellations and economic shutdowns.

Sure, 2021 has gotten off to a rocky start. But we're just one month in, and we have plenty of signs pointing toward the possibility that this year could be better. Saying we ended the pandemic at the start of the new decade seems like the best way to celebrate a return to normalcy. I'd hate to think we started the decade with the onset of the pandemic – the disaster of 2020.

I still have hope for 2021. I think this year could be the start of a great decade.

Will you join me in the new decade?

Editor's rant of the week

By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Features Editor

Wow, 2020 was awful And I'm afraid that 2021 was following its footsteps. That being said I think it could be better if people started taking the pandemic seriously. Wear your mask, wash your hands and disinfecting surfaces is not hard and can potentially save someone's life.

At this point we're all tired of hearing about the pandemic, the election and all other 2020 catastrophes in the news. But it's not going to get better if we don't change something.

I can't believe the amount of people who choose not to wear masks when in public. You're choosing your comfort over someone else's life. Your mask is to protect other people and their mask is to protect you. I watched how this pandemic has affected the ones that I love. at this point we probably all know someone who has died from the pandemic. So why are we still not taking the seriously. Why are we still meeting in big groups.

I grew up in the Catholic Church... The church doesn't prove your worth as a Christian or any other denomination. Most churches are having online services and yet there are still so many people going into these churches not wearing masks not social distancing putting everyone else at risk. You can still pray, you can still read your Bible and you can find sources or other churches that post homilies and other religious activities that you could do in the safety of your own home instead of where you can infect other people.

I know a lot of people were mad when the government forced us to quarantine and then it allow us to go to church. But looking around you could tell that if it was just a suggestion no one would have followed it It had to be enforced for people to care about other people and I think that's pathetic.

Some countries forced quarantine and now have little to no new cases. Look at New Zealand, Hong Kong and Thailand. They were able to pull this off because everyone took it seriously, everyone quarantined and they all took precautions. Why are our numbers so high? How can we claim to be the greatest country in the world when no one cares that members of their family, community and other Americans are dying.

A new year is not going to magically change anything, a new year is just another day but it's another day where you can start on clean slate, where you can change how history will look at the year... But on the tracks that we're on now it'll be just another 2020.

Editorial

By **CARSON POLK**
Student Reporter

When speaking to anyone in this day and age, it seems to be a unanimous decision that 2020 was a year of complete destruction and horror.

From a virus traveling to every country in the world, taking millions of lives with it to an election that rocked America to its core, 2020 was not nice to anyone. Through all of this, it would be nice to have some payoff this coming year. There has to be, we are already at rock bottom.

From rock bottom, there is only one way and it is up. Grab your climbing gear because up is the way we will be traveling from here on out.

This improvement is going to come from the new vaccine and hopefully an end to this pandemic in the upcoming months. While that is less personal and has nothing to do with any personal effort on my part, I still have hope something within this pandemic can change for the better.

Even if no goals of mine are completed, the personal wellbeing of those around me will be improved in 2021.

Continuing the hope wagon, which hopefully has nothing to do with a pipe dream, I would like to see personal improvement from everyone I know. Looking at people's actions last year, it can be seen how the population's small actions affect each other.

I am not excluded from that,



Graphic by Devyn Lansden

as I spent little effort last year reaching out to others or trying to make the people around me feel more comfortable. From strangers to acquaintances I refused to get to know better, the little things like reaching out with a small text and asking how they are doing needs to be seen more this year.

On the opposite side of that, I also wish for others to worry about themselves more. You can see it in classrooms, in the hallways, dorms, gas stations, and every other public place or

even private. People seem to be more comfortable putting their ears and eyes on someone else than letting their mind worry about themselves and how they are treating others.

All of these hopes are nothing more than speech bubbles without the goals to fulfill them. Personally, my goals go with the hopes. The year 2021 is going to be the year of personal improvement, such as personally minding my own business.

I have a habit in the past years of worrying about what other

people are thinking and if it is about me and this year my goal is to change that. My life is mine and as everyone as seen in 2020, life can run at you quick.

No one has a clock set to the time you will no longer be here therefore we need to use it wisely. When someone has told me that in the past years, I always rolled by eyes. I always thought that was a ridiculous thought, but 2020 brought me a new outlook on living as if you will die at any moment.

This is not just about me

though. Or you, or your neighbor, your students, your friends. This year and how people are living in it is a group effort.

Although I would like to mind my business more as a 2021 goal, everyone will have to put effort in that as well. It should be noted that minding your own does not mean not caring. You can care about others without going into someone else's bubble. That would be what I would say people could do better: care.

There are small acts of caring such as wearing your mask correctly or parking within the lines. Bigger acts such as donations to a cause you support or reaching out to someone in need are appreciated as well.

It might seem like I keep calling out other people, but I know I am included in this year as well. My plans on what I can do to make 2021 better compared to 2020 is to live my life as I want. While I have done that in the past, this year I will be focusing on looking and acting how I want.

For example, I have a shaved head that I have always wanted to dye crazy colors even if my family has reservations about it. I did just that the other day and now I can be seen walking across campus with bright green hair. In a couple of weeks, my hair will be dyed a different color.

Later on, I expect to get tattoos even if the people I know say I shouldn't because that is what I am changing. I am changing how I act and look as a person to make 2021 the year of me.

Students share their goals for the New Year

2021 can be a year for personal development and making a difference

By **TRINITY ST. ANDREWS**
Student Reporter

I think 2021 will be a year for building. I tend to think in the 'New Year new me' phrase but I sincerely believe that this year will be a year for building.

Building relationships that last a lifetime, building skills that will be useful, like cooking, sewing, or even starting a business.

Maybe you want to start working out, that is a skill. Build on it.

Personally, I have always wanted to learn how to do portrait photography. Staring to learn through YouTube and other professional photographers help, I am building my skill.

Think of each day like a brick that you are adding to the structure.

You can add more bricks day by day and you might not see the progress at first. But eventually you are.

You need to use momentum to finish building that skill.

Use this year to build or start to build a skill you have always wanted. Set goals. I have a few goals set,

First, I'm going to spend more time with my friends while still following the COVID-19 procedures, taking a road trip to a national park or maybe a drive-in

movie. Second is to be as helpful and kind to everyone that I can be.

Since COVID began, I find that it is important to help those in need and to be a friendly face to talk to. It's important to see people working together this year.

Supporting each other. I want to see fans back in the stadiums and back in the field.

I want parents to be able to see their child graduate. Here is a question to ask this year, how can I make 2021 a better year?

The answer might be what makes you happy and what makes you feel like a good person.

You might want to help keep campus clean and pick up trash and throw it away. Maybe you want to make someone smile or laugh.

The small choices that are made today changes what your year will look like in the outcome.

Will you look back in December and see you've done more harm than good to will you look back and see the smiles and good memories with friends or see yourself building?

I am going to make 2021 a better year. I've decided that I am going to focus on my goals and see them through, to see my friends accomplish their goals that they set and to support them.

I am going to see people succeed at something that they set their mind to.

It's been a rough start to the year, but we have a long way to go.

Why not use it to see our goals through?

By **DEVYN LANSDEN**
Editorial Editor

The new year.

That should make you excited.

A fresh start. Forget about 2020 because it is in the past. Last year taught me so many things that I'm going to use in 2021.

If you have a goal or if you don't, everyday should be a new lesson. Do more things, learn more things.

You will never regret doing more for yourself.

I major in Mass Communication so I have to learn a lot about social media, making and editing videos and way more.

I want to learn more about editing videos and do more things with my major so one day when it's time to get a job and graduate I will have so much experience.

Everyday I'm so excited to go to class and learn. I know I am so lucky to enjoy my classes because a lot of people don't. I actually like doing homework... crazy right?

It is crazy but it's true. It's because I finally found something I love to do.

Getting to learn more and expand my knowledge on the things I love is so exciting.

Everyday is a fresh start not just a new year. If the year didn't start off great then it's okay. It's in the past.

That is how I am going to look at everyday.

Being able to go to college is something

You will never regret doing more for yourself.
— **Devyn Lansden**

to be grateful for. Being able to complain about homework, you are so lucky.

Many people didn't have a choice to go to college.

Use everyday to find something you like to do and use that as motivation.

I am a big believer in "if it makes you happy then who cares?"

Find what makes you happy and do it. Anything can happen, nothing is promised.

Take one day at a time, fill it with things that make you happy, live in the moment, and learn something new.

If setting goals is something you did this year then remind yourself everyday of that goal.

Do not stop until you achieve it. It feels good when you reach your goal.

2021 should be about you, don't feel guilty for working on yourself.

We have all seen how crazy this world is, that should be motivation to take advantage of the time you have right now.

Learn something new, take advantage of everyday, you are lucky to be here.

I hope you have a great year.



It's safe to say that most folks are glad 2020 is over. But we'll never forget some of the defining moments that made the year one of the most shocking years in our history as a nation — and as a university.

From the coronavirus pandemic to the presidential election and civil unrest, the year gave us new challenges. Yet it also gave us the opportunity to learn more about ourselves and those around us. We learned how to grow close with one another — while staying six feet apart, of course.

We'll never forget 2020. And these are the pictures we will always remember.

— Jordan Green, editor-in-chief

Above: Yosbelli Lora poses for a portrait on Sept. 17. Lora overcame a weekslong battle with the coronavirus. She was one of dozens of students at Northwestern who contracted the virus.

Right: The hallway to the university bookstore was dark and quiet on March 20 after the university shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic. Students switched to virtual learning formats and completed the spring semester online.

Photos by Jordan Green



Photo by McKayla Holson

Above: Justin Meyer and Madison Wilson share a kiss during a performance of "Almost, Maine" in February. The Northwestern theater program hosted the performance, which was the last show before the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.



Photo by Jara Reeder

Top right: Members of the Northwestern women's cross country team wear masks while running around the university football field during a Sept. 15 practice. University athletes were required to wear masks and practice social distancing after returning to campus.

Right: The Northwestern Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Karsten Longhurst, rehearses outdoors by the library on Sept. 23. To allow for social distancing, various classes were moved to larger spaces.

Bottom right: A voting booth is shown at the Woods County Fairgrounds on Nov. 3. Voters across the nation took to the polls to elect a new president. Democrat Joe Biden beat Donald Trump, who was elected in 2016.

Below: Dr. James Bell's introduction to films class met in a socially-distanced room in Carter Hall in October.



Photo by Jordan Green



Photos by Jordan Green

Feature

Ranger Wellness Challenge

J.R. Holder Wellness Center hosts challenge for students

By CONNOR GRAY
Student Reporter

Q: What is the Wellness Challenge?

A: The Wellness Challenge is a challenge for Northwestern students to work out for at least 30 minutes or more to have their names put in a drawing for prizes which will be held on Feb. 28.

Q: How will this challenge help students?

A: This challenge is meant to help encourage students to build healthy habits, especially since we're living through a pandemic.

Q: How can students enter the challenge?

A: Students will need their current student I.D. to get in, and it's open to any students.

Q: How did you come up with the idea for this?

A: Our vice president of SGA, Dawson Maxwell, and student worker Bailey Gooch came up with the idea. ... One day, they talked about the idea of doing a challenge for students since the wellness center does a challenge for its staff throughout the year.

Q: Is there a cost to enter?

A: There is no cost to enter as long as you have your student I.D.

Q: What is the prize for completing it?

A: The big prize for working out — 21 check ins or more — will be in a drawing for Apple AirPods. For just coming in once, drawings to possibly get gift cards from Northwest Nutrition, Subway, Walmart, and others toward being healthy. Everyone is eligible for the small drawing even if you are in the drawing for the big prize

Q: How will students find out if they win?

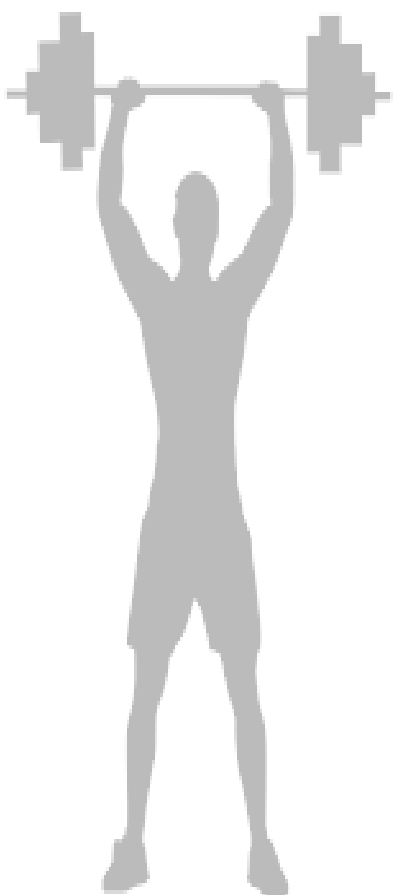
A: We will call you or say something through social media. Just put your number on the piece of paper.

Q: What are all of the requirements?

A: Have an active student I.D. and workout for 30 minutes to enter the first drawing. Check in 21 times to be eligible for the big prize. The more times you check in, the greater your chances of getting in.

Q: Is there anything else students should know?

A: Just make sure your are wearing your mask when working out. You don't need it in the pool or sauna.



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Entertainment



Photo by Netflix Media Center

Netflix shows that anyone can be a hero

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Features Editor

The show "We Can Be Heroes" follows the children of a superhero team called The Heroics as they try to save their hero parents who have fallen to an alien army.

The journey starts with their parents being abducted by aliens. The kids are to be cast in a secure location but that goes south quickly as the aliens attack their safe room next.

The kids escape and you watch as they learn how to work together and use their powers. They also learn how to help the others on their team during their attempt to save the day.

I had high hopes for this movie because it was advertised as sort of a sequel to sharkboy and lavagirl.

In no way shape or form do I think it's the second sharkboy and lavagirl that we all wanted but it didn't disappoint. You do get to meet sharkboy and lavagirl's daughter who they call guppy who was a part of the team of Children.

Missy Mireno is the daughter of The Heroics captain. So many people have high expectations for her but she doesn't have powers. When the heroes get abducted she is taken to the safe room with the other children.

As chaos breaks loose she is the one who creates a plan for them to sneak out to save their parents. The movie really follows her as she deals with the thought that she's not as good as the other kids as she leads this new band of heroes. This movie

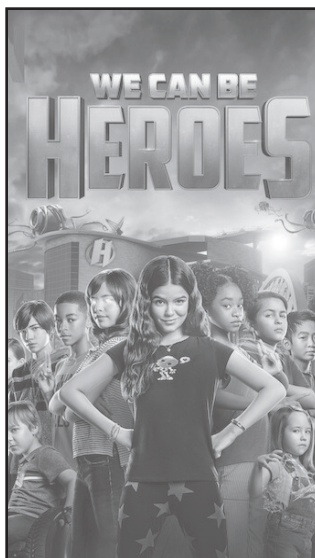


Photo by Netflix Media Center

is a Netflix original that was released on December 25th 2020. It's a great movie for kids of all ages.

Personally, I watched it when I was watching my moms daycare kids one day and we all had a blast. I brought me back to when I was watching Sharkboy and Lava Girl, skyhigh and Spykids.

I think the movie shows a new perspective of the life of heroes and it also showcases a lot of unique powers in the original heroes and the new generation.

Netflix has announced that they already have a sequel in development which is amazing news.

I give this show a 4 out of 5 only because I was expecting it more to be a sequel of sharkboy and lavagirl as it was advertised but I was not disappointed with the end result.

I feel like this is the new sky high. If you like the sky high movie you would like this one. The date the sequel will premiere has not been announced but I am anxiously waiting apart two.



Photo by Netflix Media Center

The perfect way to highlight an awful year

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Features Editor

When I first saw "death to 20/20" on Netflix I was intrigued. And upon further inspection I realized it was a British mockumentary by the creators of Black mirror. So I immediately knew I had to watch it. It stars mini well-known celebrities including Samuel L Jackson, Hugh Grant, Lisa Kudrow, Leslie Jones and many more.

It's a great storytelling of the atrocious year we had. There are many inside jokes that future generations won't really understand but we get to a t right now.

They have actors playing "real jobs" that tell their side of what happened during the pandemic including a fake psychologist, the average person, a non-official conservative spokesperson, a fake historian who just says movie storylines, a gig economy millennial and a fake famous millionaire.

Let me stress that this movie is only for people who can take a joke. Without it scratching you the wrong way. There's jokes about all subjects including conservatives, liberals and

millennials.

Did we use almost no topics left untouched. It covers false information, the vaccine, the election lawsuits, the split from the royal family and much more.

The movie is in Netflix original that was released December 27th 2020. It's only 70 minutes long and it's definitely worth the watch.

The movie has gotten some negative reviews because of the comedy level it's at. I guess people were wanting a more serious version but I honestly don't think you can have a serious movie about the catastrophe we call the year 2020. I think that that's just 20/20 really encompasses the humor of this generation laughing at serious topics which I really enjoy. I give this movie a 5 out of 5. I don't think that you could say this movie laughs at a certain demographic of people more than others. I was surprised by how well the jokes spread to make fun of all types of people. I think it helps out it was a British production so it really didn't have one side or the other on the election.

I recommend this movie to anyone who can take a joke and believes that 2020 was a dumpster fire.

Some people love cursing history

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Features Editor

Take history and swear words is an American documentary about the history of our favorite swear words. Even better the show is hosted by Nicolas Cage. Netflix released the documentary series on January 5th 2021. The series is unscripted and explores swear words through interviews with experts as well as entertainers.

The entertainers talk more about the swear words parts in movies and music where the experts explain the real history of it, why is the slur and how its definition has changed over time.

I think it's interesting to see how we are taking back slurs and to see how much of these words histories started or were made famous by music.

having both professional and non-professional views shown in the documentary gives us extra insight. Not just how the words change through history but who changed it, who made it famous and how it's impacted different cultures.

I think its a fun way to learn history. It definitely gives me drug history vibes.

I give the show a 5 out of 5 because it's not only entertaining but informational. I've always loved history but never loved history class... Because I have the attention span of an excited Chihuahua. This series is able to keep my attention and I'm even able to retain some of the information... History class was never able to do that.

I recommend this series to you anyone who likes history, anyone who likes swearing And anyone who likes the drunk histories series.

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Sports

NEW YEAR, NEW TEAM



Photo by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche

Mya Johnson, a redshirt junior, jumps for the opening tipoff during the women's basketball game against Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Percefull Fieldhouse on Jan. 14.

Women's basketball opens season with several new players and two returners



Photo by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche

Lizzie Shephard, a freshman guard, dribbles the ball during the women's basketball game against Southeastern Oklahoma State Jan. 14.

By **DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPEKECHE**
Sports Editor

Northwestern's Lady Ranger basketball team started its season on New Year's Day after sitting out for almost a year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Lady Rangers won the first three games of their season, making it the first time they've had a 3-0 record start since the 2004-2005 season. They lost their next three games, making them 3-3 on the year.

This is head coach Tasha Diesselhorst's fifth season with the team. She said her team's players try to improve day-by-day.

The Lady Rangers have several new members on the team this year. Only two players – Bailey Brown, a senior forward, and Mya Johnson, a redshirt junior center – have returned for the season.

"We are really young and inexperienced," Diesselhorst said. "If any year you are going to have that, this is a good year to have that."

Brown has been a Lady Ranger since she arrived as a freshman. Last season, she was named to the All-Great American Conference Second-Team.

Brown sat out two games be-

cause she tested positive for the coronavirus during winter break. She has played four games this year and leads the Lady Rangers with 15.25 points per game and 10 rebounds per game – the highest averages for both statistics on the team.

Brown took over the fifth spot on the all-time rebounding list for the Lady Rangers.

"To have a kid come into a program, buy into it, and stay for four years nowadays with the portal shows that really good things can happen," Diesselhorst said.

Johnson returns to the court after sitting out for more than two years, Diesselhorst said. After recovering from injuries, she got to practice with the team last season.

"She's using this year to get back into the swing of things," Diesselhorst said. "She is one that you will see get better through the year because she will be getting back into basketball and realize what she can do. We are excited to see her growth."

Players such as Lizzie Shephard, Kaylee Jo Neeley and Josena Frame have done well for the Lady Rangers, Diesselhorst said.

"Lizzie is one we have high expectations for," Diesselhorst said. "She was one that was kind of off to a slow start. She played a little timid in those first couple of games, but last night (Jan. 14) she

played with much more aggressiveness."

Shepherd went into the fifth game of the year with 17 points on the year. She earned 12 points in the fifth game, which was against the Savage Storm of Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Neeley had to wait for her season-opening game. She has produced 31 points in three games.

"Kaylee is one that will really develop and give us some more depth in the post," Diesselhorst said.

Through this season, Frame, a freshman, has started every game and brings energy to the young team, Diesselhorst said.

"Jo is kind of a constant," Diesselhorst said. "No matter what it is, she plays hard. She is going to do whatever you ask her to do."

After waiting almost a year to play an actual game of basketball, the Lady Rangers are excited to get back on the court and play, Diesselhorst said.

The Lady Rangers play three games in a span of a week. They will travel to Shawnee on Thursday to play Oklahoma Baptist University and will head to Bethany on Saturday to play Southern Nazarene University. They will host Southwestern Oklahoma State University on Monday at Percefull Fieldhouse.

Sports

Men's basketball starts season 2 – 1

By **JACOB COMP**
Student Reporter

The Northwestern men's basketball team on Jan. 1 took the court against Oklahoma Panhandle State University for their first game in 307 days.

Before players were forced to quarantine because of COVID-19, the Rangers started 2-1 for the first time since 2017.

"I feel like this team has more talent at each positions," senior guard Parrish Hewitt said.

The Rangers began their season with a convincing 100 – 62 win over Oklahoma Panhandle State University. In the home opener against OPSU, Hewitt and Jack Peck, a senior guard, led the Rangers in scoring, finishing with 16 points. Three other Rangers scored in the double digits. Bubba Furlong brought in 14 rebounds for NWOSU.

In their last non-conference game, the NWOSU men's basketball team came away with yet another win by a score of 94 – 77 against Randall University. Northwestern had a new leading scorer in the second game of the year. RJ Mason, a junior guard, scored 25 points, going 9 – 13 from the field and 5 – 6 from be-

hind the arc. Deon Barrett scored 23 points on 7 – 17 shooting along with 5 assists. Bubba Furlong recorded his second double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds for the game.

The Rangers finished the game with 18 total assists along with four blocks and five steals. The Rangers dominated the paint with 44 points in the paint and 31 fast break points.

In their third game of the season, the Rangers had their conference opener against Southern Nazarene University. Northwestern lost 67 – 46.

The Rangers struggled to control the ball as they turned the ball over 17 times in the game. Northwestern also struggled shooting the ball, shooting just under 19% on 32 shots in the first half. The shooting struggles continued in the second half as NWOSU shot 39% in the second half and 27% for the game.

One bright spot for the Rangers was Furlong, who pulled down 11 rebounds. This was his third straight game of double-digit rebounds.

Three games into the best start on a season since 2017, the Rangers hit a speedbump. The coronavirus found its way onto the roster



Photo by Emma Sporleder

Bubba Furlong, a senior center, holds the ball while a Southern Nazarene defender tries to poke the ball away.

of the men's basketball team.

This forced the team to quarantine and to postpone four conference games.

Hewitt said that this is the biggest effect COVID-19 could have on their season. Northwestern was set to return to action against

Southern Nazarene University on Jan. 23 in Bethany, but the GAC postponed the game late Tuesday in an email.

Football prepares for spring season

By **OVELL PATTERSON**
Student Reporter

After their fall season was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Northwestern football team will play four games this spring.

The team's first game of the semester is set to take place Feb. 27 against Missouri Southern State University at Ranger Field. The second game will be March 6 against Fort Hays State University at Lewis Field Stadium in Hays, Kansas.

The third game will be March 11 against Missouri Southern State University at Fred G. Hughes Stadium in Joplin, Missouri. The final game of the year will take place against New Mexico Highlands University at Ranger Field.

Head coach Matt Walter said adapting to schedules is one of the biggest challenges the program is facing.

"We always have a set schedule, but due to the pandemic, things are always changing," Walter said.

Walter said the team has implemented safety measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus among team members.

Players are practicing in smaller groups and are required to wear facial coverings. Athletic department staff conduct daily temperature and wellness checks for players.



Photo by David Thornton

Northwestern football players are shown during practice in this photo.

Walter said he misses the normal daily interactions with his players.

"Not being to be able around the guys more is the difficult part of being a coach during this pandemic," Walter said.

Players are not allowed to share equipment and must sanitize their gear.

Football players are getting ready for the season by lifting weights, running and attending team meetings.

"This is our job and what we live for," Walter said. "Of course, we are excited to be back on the field."

Great American Conference officials have not announced

whether fans will be allowed to attend games.

Because of the ongoing pandemic, game schedules are subject to change. To stay up to date on game information, visit ridrangerside.com, the Northwestern athletic department's official website.

Ja'vion Combs is a red-shirt-freshman lineman. He said he is excited to get back on the field.

"I am just excited to be able to play the game I love again because I haven't actually played in a game in two years," Combs said. "I hope we see tons of wins with how much work we have put in this off season."

RANGER REPORT

Limited audiences should be allowed at indoor events



By **DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPEKECHE**
Sports Editor

I was greeted with silence.

When I attended the women's basketball game in Percell Fieldhouse on Jan. 14, I wasn't welcomed by parents and friends cheering for the basketball team. Instead, I saw empty bleachers.

Those empty bleachers made the difference for the home team. No one to cheer them on.

The Great American Conference has restricted fans and spectators from watching sporting events in-person. This restriction is in place because of the ongoing pandemic.

Restrictions are enforced on the sidelines of the games, too. Players wear masks while on the bench and sit six feet apart because of social distancing requirements. Members of the media work from the stands in Percell Fieldhouse to reduce

Empty bleachers made the difference for the home team.

the spread of the coronavirus.

I think the Great American Conference and its member institutions should reconsider their stance and allow two fans per student-athlete playing at the time.

Student-athletes may be playing their first game this season without their parents in attendance because of the coronavirus. They may be feeling a little down because their family members may have promised them that they would always be there.

Many of the stadiums and facilities within the Great American Conference have the room to allow two fans per player. Instead, the conference makes parents and fans watch from a distance through live broadcasts, making the events impersonal.

I'm sure the players are grateful to be playing the game they love through the pandemic, but actions could be taken to better the atmosphere within the gymnasiums and mental health of our players.

GLEND A ARNDT, 1957 – 2021**Arndt, longtime accounting worker and Northwestern employee, dies at 63**

By **LANEY COOK**
Student Reporter

Glenda Arndt, a Northwestern employee who worked for NWO-SU for five years, died from the coronavirus Jan. 5. She was 63.

Arndt had worked as the administrative assistant to Dr. David Pecha, the vice president of administration, since August 2017. Before moving to the full-time position for Pecha, she worked part-time in human resources, starting in 2015.

She kept everyone in line while at work, Pecha said.

“You could tell by the tone of her voice if someone were missing something,” Pecha said. “But then, as soon as you saw her big smile, any fear or anxiety would go away as she worked with them through it.”

Arndt was born in Chanute, Kansas, and moved to Alva to attend school. She attended Northwestern after graduating from Alva High School in 1975. She married Leroy Arndt on May 22, 1976, at the Methodist Church in Alva. Arndt worked at Walmart for more than 40 years in accounting and management before coming to work at the university.

Dr. Janet Cunningham, president of Northwestern, and Arndt both attended Alva High and NWOSU.



Photo provided by University Relations

Glenda Arndt plants flowers during the university’s Campus Beautification Day in April 2020. Arndt, 63, died Jan. 5 from the coronavirus.

“She was a great employee with a hard job having to shuffle around all of the paperwork,” Cunningham said. “But she was very spunky and always figured out how to get everything done.”

Her family wrote in her obituary, published by Marshall’s Funeral Home, that she enjoyed planting and taking care of her flowers in the summer. She also enjoyed going to concerts with friends, shopping and traveling.

Arndt is survived by her chil-

dren, Lori Caviness and husband, John, of Alva; Erica Miller and husband, Corey, of Enid; Dallas Arndt of Alva; her mother, JoAnn Roberts and husband, Walter, of Edmond; her mother-in-law, Katharina Arndt of Alva; seven grandchildren, Kaden and Kylie of Alva, MaKenzie, Huston, Avery, Nixon, and Channing of Enid. She is also survived by two brothers, one sister and numerous other relatives and friends, according to her obituary.

BEN BROWN, 2001 – 2020**Brown, concurrent student at Northwestern, dies at 19**

By **SHANNON NESSERALLA**
Student Reporter

Ben Brown, a Mooreland High School senior and concurrent student at Northwestern, died Dec. 4, 2020. He was 19.

Brown was involved in a car crash Nov. 29 and later died at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center.

“Ben was a concurrent student and a great athlete in the track and field/cross country area,” university officials said in a statement Dec. 17. “Please keep the family and the community of Mooreland in your thoughts during this difficult time.”

Brown planned to graduate from Mooreland High School in the spring of 2021 and then attend Northwestern, where he was going to continue with his passion for cross country and track and field, according to his obituary.

During his high school career, Brown held two back-to-back state championship titles during his last two years on the team.

Brown also made an impact on the small community of Mooreland, according to his obituary. He was a strong Christian who showed his faith. He



Photo provided

Ben Brown, a Mooreland High School senior and concurrent student at Northwestern, died Dec. 4, 2020. He was 19. Brown was a concurrent student at Northwestern and was planning to attend the university after graduating from high school in May.

also worked as a diesel engine technician, a farm hand and was a Mooreland firefighter. He was top in his class academically.

Brown is preceded in death by his older brother, Billy. He is survived by his parents, Joe and Catherine, and his five siblings: Scott, Sandy, Danny, Jesse and Angel.

Donations may be made in Brown’s memory to the Mooreland High School cross country team.