

WINTER STORM

STUCK IN COLDER WEATHER



A university maintenance employee uses a backhoe to move snow in front of Percell Fieldhouse on Monday. Several inches of snow fell on Alva throughout the week.

Photo by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche

Historic cold snap will last through week

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Northwestern News

Sub-freezing temperatures are expected to subside Saturday, ending a two-week bout with historically cold and inclement weather across most of the Midwest that shut down roads and strained the region's power supply.

The National Weather Service in Norman on Tuesday predicted that temperatures in northwest Oklahoma will climb to a high of 40 degrees Saturday and increase through the beginning of next week, reaching a high of 57 degrees Feb. 23.

For the past two weeks, ice and snow have covered portions of the state. On Monday, temperatures in Alva dropped to -6 degrees, with a wind chill of -29 degrees.

As of 10:30 a.m. Monday, Oklahoma City had received the most snow, with 8.4 inches. Boise City got the least amount of snow, with 1.3 inches. Alva got 4 inches of snow. See WEATHER, Page 2



Students stand outside Coronado Hall on Monday morning after evacuating the building. Fire alarms malfunctioned in Coronado Hall and South Hall three times that morning.

Photo by Jordan Green

Students evacuate residence halls after fire alarms malfunction

By JORDAN GREEN
Editor-in-Chief

Northwestern students living in Coronado Hall and South Hall were forced to temporarily evacuate the buildings Monday after fire alarm systems malfunctioned.

South Hall residents were woken up twice in the early morning hours Monday – at approximately 3:45 a.m. and again around 5:45 a.m. – to the sound of blaring horns and panging bells. Students in Coronado Hall had a similar experience around 10:30 a.m.

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MORE COVERAGE INSIDE:

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See photos of the winter weather taken by News staff.

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Some sporting events have been canceled because of weather.

PAGE 12:
A driver crashed into one of the university's signs Wednesday morning.

News

FIRE ALARMS: Students express safety concerns after early-morning wake-ups

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Alva firefighters responded when the alarms sounded and, after searching the buildings, could not determine why the alarms went off. No fires were found in either building, said Matt Adair, the university's housing director.

"Everything seems to be fine," Adair said. "The fire department said they didn't see anything dangerous right now, so the system's back online. There'd been the same type of a thing in South Hall. The system had something trip it, and they (firefighters) came and checked and everything was fine, so we're back over there as well."

After evacuating Coronado Hall, students stood outside the building for approximately 15 minutes. Some weren't dressed for the colder weather, wearing pajamas, athletic clothing and short-sleeve shirts. Some wore flip-flops and sandals.

At the time, the temperature was below zero with a windchill of about -20 degrees.

Students said they dressed themselves quickly so they could leave the building sooner.

"I always think we do a good job of evacuating, but I always think we could do better," Adair said.

Katherine Blair, a South Hall resident, said she was concerned that the university's fire alarm systems may be faulty.

"If NWOSU's fire alarms are all having mechanical failure, how does that protect us?" she said. "This has never happened in the years I've been here."



Photo by Jordan Green

A fire engine is parked outside Coronado Hall on Monday morning after fire alarms malfunctioned.

Blair said she believes the university should test its fire alarms more frequently.

"I feel that it was something that could have been avoided if they check their systems regularly," she said. "We only have a fire drill once a semester at the beginning of the semesters. Sure, they couldn't have predicted this, but two in two hours – if this is malfunctioning, how are we to know it'll work when it's actually supposed to?"

Tyler Gregory, a Coronado

Hall resident, said he is "concerned about the fact that they had us stand outside for half an hour or so when it's -4 degrees for a fire alarm issue."

Some students also said they were concerned that the alarms were too quiet, and they questioned how effective the alarms would be during a real emergency. Others did not.

Braydon Gray, who also lives in Coronado Hall, said the alarms woke him up. He said he was not worried about the systems failing.

"I assumed it was the weather that caused it by a short power outage," he said.

Gregory said he hopes the university looks into the issue.

"I could barely hear it in my room, and if I was not awake, I probably would not have heard it at all," Gregory said. "I think they should fix that issue because, if a fire actually occurs during any time late at night or early in the morning, some residents might sleep through it until it's too late."

Savannah Francis, a South

Hall resident, said she also didn't hear the alarms when they sounded.

"I was actually the last person woken up," Francis said. "Everyone in my suite was gone. I'm kind of a heavy sleeper. Everyone else was already out there, and they were doing roll call. My friends realized I wasn't there, so they got me."

"I had this feeling that it was going to happen again, but I went ahead and went back to sleep when they sent us back," she said. "And then it happened again."

And again.

THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM

At the end of the day Monday, the alarms in South Hall went off for a third time. But this time, there was no false alarm.

As temperatures dropped Monday night, university employees tried to light up the fireplace in the lobby of the building. Smoke filled the room and set off the fire alarms. Once again, residents left their rooms, and firefighters responded to the campus.

When the alarms sounded for the third time Monday, students huddled inside the lobby, the same room the fireplace filled with smoke.

Francis said she hopes workers can develop safer evacuation plans.

"I hope they fix the systems and get a better way of organizing emergencies in the dorms," she said. "They seem pretty unorganized with all of this."

WEATHER: Temps will rise by weekend

Continued from Page 1

snow on Valentine's Day.

The past few snowstorms have been uncommon for the state. The Panhandle and northwest Oklahoma usually have an average of one or two snow events each year, and southwest Oklahoma usually has a heavy snowstorm once every three or four years. February's snowstorm broke numerous records for snowfall and temperatures.

ROLLING BLACKOUTS USED TO CONSERVE POWER SUPPLY IN MIDWEST AMID FRIGID TEMPERATURES

Electrical service providers across the Midwest asked residents to conserve energy usage during the week, as the region's available power supply was almost exhausted.

The Southwest Power Pool,

which oversees much of the electrical grid serving the Midwest, told utility providers to use a series of rolling power blackouts to conserve power across the region.

"The grid operator declared an Energy Emergency Alert Level 3 at 10:08 a.m. Central time on Feb. 15, when it was forced to begin relying on required reserve energy," power pool officials said in a news release.

This is the first time in history the grid operator has had to institute power outages, officials said.

"In our history as a grid operator, this is an unprecedented event and marks the first time SPP has ever had to call for controlled interruptions of service," Lanny Nickell, the organization's executive vice president, said. "It's a last resort that we understand puts a burden on our member utilities and the customers they serve, but it's a step we're consciously taking to prevent circumstances



Photo by Oklahoma Highway Patrol/via Facebook

This photo, taken by an Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper, shows a wreck on the Turner Turnpike on Sunday.

from getting worse, which could result in uncontrolled outages of an even greater magnitude."

Dozens of wrecks were reported across the state on Valentine's Day, with one fiery wreck on the Turner Turnpike shutting the

highway for hours.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol reported that several semis and passenger vehicles were involved in a wreck Sunday afternoon around Mile Marker 141. Traffic was diverted off the turn-

pike, officials said.

Before that wreck, the highway patrol reported working 14 injury collisions, 19 non-injury collisions and 46 motorist assists.

— *Ovell Patterson and Jordan Green contributed to this report.*

News

Movie theaters reeling from impact of pandemic and streaming services

By **JACOB COMP**
Student Reporter

The movie industry has taken a massive financial hit in the past year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Even in the small town of Alva, where the pandemic does not seem to be as big of a concern, the coronavirus has taken its toll on the industry.

“COVID has simply been devastating,” said Jesse Jones, owner of the Rialto Cinema in downtown Alva. “Our revenue is down nearly 75% to prior years. Hollywood is pushing back big movies into later in the year and some into 2022. Along with movies going to streaming services instead of being released first in theaters, (this) has really hurt us.”

Jones said this is not supposed to happen.

Theaters across the nation have closed since the pandemic began nearly one year ago. In October 2020, the Regal theater chain shut down 536 locations nationwide. Regal is the second-largest movie chain in the nation, according to an October 2020 NPR article.

Before the pandemic, the industry was already seeing a slow decline around the country. The Rialto did not see much of a change, though.

“Prior to 2020, numbers were around the same year to year,” Jones said. “It really does depend on the quality of movies. The last few years, the big ‘blockbusters’ just haven’t been there.”

As the premiere dates of more noteworthy movies keep getting pushed further and further back, movie theaters continue to lose revenue.

Online movie streaming services began to cut into theaters’ profits long before the coronavirus did. Platforms such as Netflix, Hulu and HBO have made it much easier for the public to watch movies from home. These services have also given exposure to directors and actors that may not have gotten exposure otherwise.

Dr. James Bell, associate vice president for academics and dean of faculty at Northwestern, has taught film classes at the universi-



File photo

The Rialto Cinema in Alva is shown in this August photo.

ty and presented at film festivals. He said streaming services have improved movie theaters in a way because they have made people fans of certain directors and actors they may have never heard of before.

“This will be one more bobble, but it always reminds people how much they like going to the movies,” Bell said. “So, I don’t even think theaters are in jeopardy.”

As for the Rialto Cinema, Feb. 26 is its next showing with “Tom & Jerry.” A new Disney movie will be screened in early March. Until then, the snack bar will remain open, with drinks and popcorn available throughout the week.

“We’ve been in Alva since the late 1920s,” Jones said. “Hopefully we can stick around a little longer.”

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University’s Wellness Challenge to end soon

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Student Reporter

The J.R. Holder Wellness Center staff recently created the Wellness Challenge to encourage students to get moving and become more comfortable in the wellness center. Assistant Director Olivia Yandel sat down with the Northwestern News to discuss the progress of the Wellness Challenge and the response it has received.

Running from Jan. 11 to Feb. 28, the Wellness Challenge requires participants to sign in and exercise for at least 30 minutes. Each check-in enters the participant into a drawing for prize giveaways.

“I think that the challenge has brought a lot of students that wouldn’t normally come to the Wellness Center to actually use our facilities,” Yandel said. “That was essentially our goal. We really wanted the students to use the facilities more since they pay an activity fee to help with their membership here. It’s been great to see a new wave of students come in.”

To support fitness goals set by many students in the New Year, wellness center staff wanted the challenge to motivate students to keep exercising after the standard two weeks.

“One of the No. 1 New Year’s resolutions is going to the gym more or losing weight,” Yandel said. “So many kids come into the wellness center for the first two weeks, then it just kind of dies off. We were hoping this

would help build healthy habits by giving incentive to come in.

“Hopefully, people are building healthy habits and aren’t coming in just for the giveaways. We hope people are realizing that it’s a nice place to come in and relieve stress by hopping on a bike or even walking on the track. We wanted to get people in here and realize that exercise isn’t scary, and it’s very beneficial.”

The prizes for the giveaway drawings are gift cards to Walmart, the bookstore, Subway and Northwest Nutrition. Anyone who checks in at least once is eligible for these prizes. The top prize is a pair of Apple AirPods. Participants must check in a minimum of 21 times to be eligible for this giveaway.

“We see a lot of kids in here two times a day, which is the maximum they can check in. I think it’s been really great,” Yandel said. “The Tuesday that classes were canceled, we only opened for three hours, and we had 78 people come in. That’s a huge number, especially for a three-hour time span, and most of those were students. We had a lot of students who had never been in the wellness center before.

“I think it’s been a really positive thing for people who don’t normally use the facilities to come in and realize that the wellness center isn’t a scary place. It’s a friendly, judgment-free zone, and we try to make it like that as much as possible. It’s a great place to just relax for a minute.”

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: CASE NUMBERS ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE AREA

STUDENT CASES:	EMPLOYEE CASES:	IN ALVA:	IN OKLAHOMA:
2	0	22	19,563

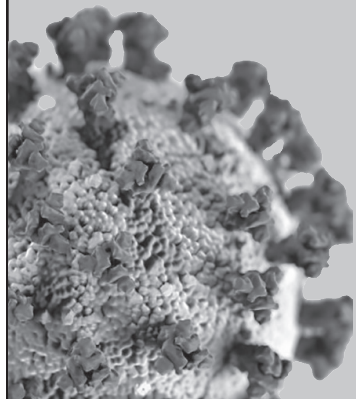
active as of Feb. 12. This number includes cases at Northwestern’s Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

active as of Feb. 12. This number includes cases at Northwestern’s Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

active as of Feb. 16. Alva has had a total of 978 cases.

active as of Feb. 16. Oklahoma has had a total of 414,780 cases.

EDITOR’S NOTE: NWOSU reports new active student and employee cases weekly on Fridays at <https://www.nwosu.edu/coronavirus/active-covid-19-cases-nwosu>.



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

Letters must be turned in by noon on Monday to the News office in JDA232. Letters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they follow the rules stated above and can be sent to nwnews@nwosu.edu. Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. The editors reserve the right to condense or edit any letter for grammar, libel and space limitations. All letters submitted may not be used.

All letters represent the views of the author.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

Editorial

It's a snowpocalypse

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

Of course, this is Friday. And it's Oklahoma. By the time this paper is in your hands, the situation could have changed entirely. Here's to hoping for warmer weather, sooner.

In the meantime, I'm bracing for a snowpocalypse. I don't think weatherman David Payne has used this descriptor yet, but he's come close to it.

This situation seems unfathomable. Just two weekends ago, some of my friends and I were hanging out outside, and we were able to take our coats off for the first time in months. Spring seemed like it wasn't too far away.

Then that groundhog screwed everything up. We're hardly living in a winter wonderland, but we're all wondering when winter will be over. Thanks, Pux.

I don't think many of us were ready for the sudden drop in temperatures or the sheet of ice that covered the state. I know my rear end wasn't ready for a sudden landing on the sidewalk on Monday. It hurt. After the fall, I found a crack back there.

It's Friday afternoon. I'm writing this column early because, like everyone else, I'm preparing for what we're told will be the worst winter storm we've experienced in years.

But whether we were ready for the weather to change is irrelevant. Because we live in Oklahoma, where the rule is: Liking the weather here? Don't worry. It'll change.

One positive aspect of this winter storm is that talking about the weather with friends and loved ones is finally interesting. Not that I have any romantic prospects to test this tactic out on, but I bet this will be an acceptable discussion point for some time. I'll keep telling myself this.

Before I sat down to pen this column, I called Wheeler Cobb, a close friend of mine who always has something ornery and insightful to say. We complained about the weather, of course, but I was intrigued to hear Wheeler say he was accustomed to it. And no, he doesn't live in Minnesota.

Back in the '40s, '50s and '60s, Wheeler said, frigid temperatures and blizzards that dumped feet of snow across Oklahoma were common. He said the weather would stay that way for close to two weeks at a time. That's about how long this storm is expected to last.

Back then, he said, folks got creative and found ways to enjoy the weather. Wheeler would find an old car hood and hook it behind a vehicle to tow his friends and children around farm fields. As someone who has also done this, I can say this is an incredibly fun way to sled.

I would recommend, however, that you pick a field free of cattle. When you're lying down on a

car hood with your face near the ground, nothing compares to the sensation of flying over a frozen cow patty. Or sledding face-first into a fresh one.

Not that I have any experience with either of those.

I suppose this kind of behavior, however, is why Wheeler and folks his age (even though I tell him and his wife they don't act a day over 30) are called the Greatest Generation. They adapted to cold weather – mostly because they had to – and found ways to enjoy it.

Me? Nah. I'm thinking I'll sit this one out. Being outside in the snow when the air is 30 degrees is OK. But when the wind chill is -30 degrees, I'm thinking I'll just enjoy my time indoors.

On the plus side, I still have plenty to do. I can clean my room. You know, one of the tasks I tell myself I'm going to do for days and weeks and continually put off.

I do this for good reason. The dirt on my floor and the dust on my shelves isn't going anywhere. In my 20 years of life, I cannot recall a single instance in which either substance magically disappeared.

So, when the weather is nice outside – like it was two weeks ago, the last time I threatened to clean my room – why would I want to stay inside and tidy up the place?

After all, I can always put all of that stuff off until the weather changes again. We do live in Oklahoma.

Editor's rant of the week

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Features Editor

Senior-itis. We've all heard of it, but I don't think we realize how much of an impact it makes. I'm a senior, but I still have one credit hour missing, so I will have to do one credit hour during the summer. I'm so close to finishing my college degree, yet I struggle so hard to do my classes.

My classes aren't even hard. But most of the time, I can't find the motivation or even the attention span to finish them. Now I do get them turned in, but I know it's not my best work, and that's all I can do.

To someone looking at my situation, I would look really lazy. I struggle with mental health, but this is almost more than that. Even on my good days, I don't have the attention span that I need to complete my assignments to the best of my abilities.

I honestly don't know if this makes sense to anyone else. But especially lately, I've been so tired. Like I barely have the energy to get out of bed, kind of tired.

Sometimes it's hard to even Zoom in to one of my classes. It's a class that I don't even have to participate in; I just have to be there, and sometimes, it just takes so much energy.

I know the pandemic hasn't helped my situation. But other factors also have made it worse. The weather keeps us inside, and that by itself makes me feel claustrophobic and tired. Not to mention other factors like my health, my family's health and other family issues.

I don't understand why everyone puts this glamorous filter over the college experience. They always talk about the good experiences and the fun times you have but, no one talks about the bad days.

If you're in the situation that I'm in, the only thing that I have found is to take a day. Pick a day where you won't miss many classes and just focus on you. Sleep in and eat a good breakfast. No matter what time of the day it is, you finally get up, shower and do things that make you happy. Have a total refresh. Then you're good to go for another week or so. In a perfect world, you could do this on the weekends but everyone knows that weekends aren't always like that.

In any case, I hope that this helps those struggling with the same things that I am. I hope it gives you an insight on to what other people might be facing. By no means am I looking for sympathy. I just want to share my experience so other people have another point of view.

Stay warm, keep your attitude positive and your COVID test results negative.

Enjoy the little moments

By LANEY COOK
Student Reporter

College is hard, life is hard and even friendships are hard, but as long as you enjoy the little moments, it'll all be worth it in the end.

This past year has had so much change, good and bad.

COVID making its breakout obviously caused a change in how everyone lives globally, but as that took place, other changes followed suit.

I changed my major from business administration with an accounting minor to mass communications with a general business minor last year.

It was a huge change, and I didn't really even know what I was signing up for at the time.

I was just enrolled in basically the gen eds of mass comm, taking media history, intro to mass comm and media photography.

I loved it. And then we went virtual, making it hard to actually learn the material we were required to know.

It was difficult, but everyone

made it through with the help of the professors and faculty.

Coming into the fall 2020 semester, I was nervous. The classes I enrolled in were some of the harder ones.

I knew I was going to have to start really kicking it into gear, especially with it still being hard to do everything with COVID still lingering.

I started writing for the college newspaper, and I was terrified.

I've never written anything other than the typical research papers.

I learned how to create videos and edit them with a program that was completely foreign to me.

I created a strategically-based plan on how to recruit people to a college or school, learning more in-depth information about what public relations and marketing has to do with it.

And now, I'm in the upper-level mass comm classes: the practicum classes.

I've been busier than ever, but not to the point where I just want to drop out and quit school altogether.

No, just busy enough to keep

"Make sure to also enjoy the little moments, too."

— Laney Cook

me up and around, making sure I've always got something to do.

I don't mind the business, but make sure to also enjoy the little moments, too.

It's hard to go out and about during this time, but even just little drives with people you care about can make all the difference.

Go grab some lunch with friends and call up your parents or grandparents.

Make sure there's a time during each day to kind of just chill out for a little bit, take some time off and don't worry about school or work or anything.

It doesn't have to be huge, just something to take your mind off of everything else.

These little moments are what have kept me going through all this craziness the past year.

Editorial

Life is about taking risks

By **JACOB COMP**
Student Reporter

All throughout our generation are robot students.

Students like myself.

It has been pounded into the generation that you have to graduate high school and immediately go to college so you can get a good paying job and support your family. What about living your life?

Families around the country have followed this pattern, living the so-called "American dream." Husband and wife, two kids, a dog and a minivan.

Life from the outside looks great, but what people don't see

is the bills piling up and credit card companies calling to get their money.

The sad truth is that, even with a degree, you are not guaranteed a job after college.

Students coast through college while saying "Ds get degrees."

While Ds have never been on my transcript, this mentality has stuck with me throughout college. I've never gone above and beyond in class.

Graduation for the spring 2021 semester at NWOSU is May 8.

To be quite honest, I don't know what I want to do post-graduation.

There are more options now than there ever have been. While graduate school is a great way to

advance yourself and stand out from the crowd, some students use graduate school just to delay the fact that adulthood is here.

As strange as it may sound, graduate school is the safe route.

After two years of Pre-K and Kindergarten followed by 12 years of primary and secondary school to then enter straight into four years of college, the thought of not having to go to school and actually pay bills is scary.

Are students really ready for that transition?

Did 18 years of school really and truly teach us anything about how to survive or did we just learn how to turn in assignments on time?

Did the thousands of assign-

ments actually teach us anything or did we memorize for tests?

The comparison is like learning how to swim. While some children were slowly introduced to the thought of swimming, others were thrown straight into the water and asked to fend for themselves and figure it out.

Some students are given the opportunity to go home and take their time to figure out life.

Entry-level jobs offer entry level pay.

A college degree simply opens the door. It is up to each and every person to take the opportunity that they are given by the horns.

I guess the point I'm trying to make is, why did you come to college?

If it's to live the college life and have four years that you will remember forever, make it happen. If it's to truly set yourself up for the future, make it happen.

95 days.

That is all the time left for seniors to figure out what is next for them.

For the students with more time, take advantage of it. Take that risk you're worried about. Take that internship.

Go on that trip you've always wanted to.

Figure out your why. Why are you here?

When your "why" becomes clear, everything else seems to fall into place.

Super Bowl showdown takes interesting turn

By **SHANNON NESSERALLA**
Student Reporter

On Super Bowl Sunday, Abel Tesfaye, more commonly known by his stage name "The Weeknd," headlined the Super Bowl LV Pepsi Halftime show.

The show was interesting to say the least. Tesfaye performed some of his most notable songs like "Starboy," "The Hills," "I Can't Feel My Face," "Earned It," and "House of Balloons" from his mixtape, which debuted in 2011. He also sang the '80s synth pop-inspired "Blinding Lights."

Behind him, there was a stage designed to look like a version of the Las Vegas Strip with a dancing choir.

The stage was actually built in the stands of the arena to help speed up transitions during the performance.

In fact, it is reported that The Weeknd spent an additional \$7 million of his own money to make these adjustments.

Now, was the visual performance odd? A little bit.

Dancers lined the field with gauze wrapped entirely around their faces. Some viewers commented on social media asking why they had jock straps on their heads.

But if you're a fan of The Weeknd, you would recognize the reoccurring theme he has presented at award shows.

His music videos since the release of his latest album *After Hours*. The singer showed up to an award show with a bloody nose.

Followed by another appearance with his face wrapped in gauze.

Finally wearing prosthetics, imitating extreme plastic surgery in his most recent music video

"Save Your Tears."

These appearances took place throughout 2020 and part of 2021 to create a sort of character you could follow while listening to Tesfaye's album. Not only did he create a caricature of himself, but he also used these stunts for social commentary as well.

"The significance of the entire head bandages is reflecting on the absurd culture of Hollywood celebrity and people manipulating themselves for superficial reasons to please and be validated," he explained to *Variety*.

"It's all a progression, and we watch the character's storyline hit heightened levels of danger and absurdity as his tale goes on."

Of course, casual fans of the artist, and those who didn't know him at all, were extremely confused as to what was going on Sunday night. The reactions to the performance were mixed.

Some enjoyed it, some had criticisms for the sound mixing, some found it boring and some even claimed that The Weeknd included satanic symbols in his background set.

Sure, art is subjective, and people can interpret it however they want. But all in all, it wasn't a terrible performance.

The halftime show was a little slow, but it wasn't bad. Admittedly there was a certain something that was missing, perhaps a lack of energy due to the limited attendance because of COVID-19.

But in the end, it was enjoyable to see The Weeknd having fun on stage. He was happy performing his usually melancholy music.

So, despite the odd performance, and even if you don't like the artist and his music, you can still try to appreciate his artistry and the message he tried to convey.



Photo illustration by Jordan Green

Shoes speak louder than words

By **KEVIN KIRKPATRICK**
Student Reporter

Growing up, I always had a thing for shoes. Shoes are the one object on our bodies that always stand out.

I feel like I can tell a lot about someone just by looking at their shoes. A lot of people have different shoe choices.

According to Backyard Studies, the type of shoes people wear is most likely the background you're stemming from.

Your shoes reflect the environment in which you were raised.

Fox example, my mom has never been never a sneakers person. Rarely on a daily occasion you would catch my mom wearing some sneakers.

My mom has explained to me that, growing up, she never could wear any glamorous or fancy shoes to school.

There was always a dress

code and certain rules she had to follow.

The majority of her life she always had to wear regular shoes, and it's stuck with her until this day.

When it's time for her to go out, she will dress up nicely.

Whether it's high heels open-toed, sandals, flip-flops or slippers, it's either one out of those three she is wearing.

I really think your environment and your peers have a lot to do with what you wear. Growing up in an urban area as a young child, even watching TV, I would always see a sneakers headline.

Sneakers were so colorful and so epic that I would always have to get one.

There are some different brands like Nike, Jordan, Under Armor, Adidas, New Balance and more.

I would usually go out and look for some sneakers especially Air Jordan's.

Just looking and having a pair

of Air Jordan's, she was like the world to me.

Some people may think otherwise, but a pair of Air Jordan's comes with a lot of background.

Some of these shoes are stemming from basketball players. They have played in in a real NBA game on a special day or occasion.

I would always see other pairs of mine wearing sneakers and would be even more encouraged to get them.

At this point in time in my life, I've owned a lot of sneakers.

I've always been a fan of having sneakers just because of the glamour they bring out.

There are different styles, colors and different use.

Some sneakers are for basketball running and just flat out dressing up.

Sneakers can go with actually anything.

Sneakers always bring the swag out.

COLD-HEARTED VALENTINE'S DAY IN 2021



Evan Wahpekeche sleds down a hill in front of the J.R. Holder Wellness Center on Sunday after several inches of snow fell over Northwestern.

Photo by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche



A speeding red car zips past the Alva water tower on Oklahoma Boulevard, racing westward up the hill as the moon shone down Monday evening.

Photo by Jordan Green



Snow-covered leaves on an evergreen tree in Alva glisten in this Monday photo.

Photo by Jara Reeder



The branches and yellow leaves of a tree in Alva are illuminated by the evening sun in this Monday photo.

Photo by Jara Reeder



A basketball is partially covered by a blanket of snow in this Monday photo.

Photo by Jara Reeder

Feature

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

For Black students at Northwestern, February is a time to honor sacrifices

By CAMERON GORDON
Student Reporter

February is here once again, and so is Black History Month. According to History.com, Black History Month actually began as National Negro History Week in 1926.

Eventually, the week became a month known as Black History Month to many college campuses

Black History Month
Rangers talk about why Black History Month matters to them

following the Civil Rights Movement. In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month.

This is the time when people focus on the often overlooked achievements and advancements of African American men and women, two Northwestern students said.

So, what does Black History Month mean to Northwestern's African American community?

Alejandro Aaron said that, to him, Black History Month is about "how far we've come from our history, and making sure everyone gets treated equally."

Black History Month is important to Brian Holiday because of how it "shows recognition to what we fought for."

He said he wishes it was longer than just a month, but added that the Black community is "still fighting for a lot of stuff right now."

When asked if they felt welcomed as African Americans on Northwestern's campus, they both said they felt welcomed, especially being athletes on



Brian Holiday



Alejandro Aaron

campus.

Holiday said: "I see and talk to non-athletes that say they enjoy it. They get their degree here and finish out."

Neither of them has felt personally prejudiced by anyone on campus, they said.

However, Aaron said he knows people who have "encountered racial conflicts with somebody."

"I believe racism is taught," he said. "I feel like the people who are racist were taught that."

Aaron said he would like to

shout out to all the people who are fighting for equality.

"Black Lives Matter," Holiday said. "It's for the culture."

Black History Month is a time to recognize African American people throughout the years who have had major impacts on society, the two said.

It is a month where credit is given to the men and women of the Black community for all of their achievements, and to move forward toward equality, the two said.

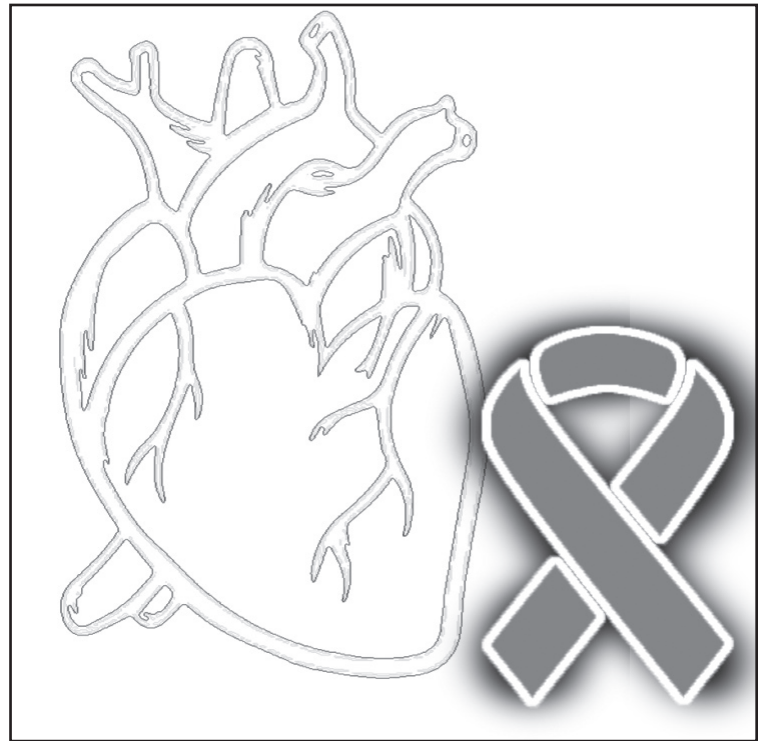


Photo illustration by Michelle Willson

National Wear Red Day spreading awareness for heart disease

By ERICK LIVINGSTON
Student Reporter

February 5 was National Wear Red Day, which is meant to spread awareness for heart disease.

National Wear Red Day is celebrated the first Friday in the month of February.

Heart disease affects millions of Americans and is the leading cause of death in America. In 2019, the National Vital Statistics System reported that 659,041 Americans had died from heart disease.

The term "heart disease" refers to multiple heart conditions, but the most common form is coronary artery disease, which affects the blood flow for your heart.

There are three risk factors that 47% of Americans have at least one of. High blood pressure, high cholesterol and smoking are the main three health risk factors.

Others are diabetes, obesity, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and excessive drinking, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But heart disease can be a

preventable disease. By living a healthy lifestyle, you can help keep your blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels normal and lower your risk for heart disease and heart attacks.

Choose healthy food and drink options. Try to avoid eating food with saturated and trans fat. Instead, eat something higher in fiber and low fats. If you drink alcohol, it is recommended that men should not have more than two drinks a day, and women should not have more than one.

Maintain a healthy weight. Obesity has a much higher risk for heart disease. To find out if you are at a healthy weight, you can calculate your body mass index. If you are not in an acceptable range, physical activity can help.

The American Surgeon General recommends that adults should have moderately intense exercise for two hours and 30 minutes every week. Children and adolescents need one hour every day.

Do not smoke. Smoking greatly increases the risk of heart disease. If you're looking to quit, ask your doctor for ways to help.

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Entertainment



Photo provided

Taylor Swift announces re-recordings of fan favorites

By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Features Editor

Taylor Swift made a big announcement on Good morning America this past week. She's going to be re-recording her old songs and even released "Love Story" (Taylor's version) already.

If the rest of her re-recordings are like this new release of "Love Story," it takes the genre of music that it was originally sung in and just tweaks it to sound a little bit more like modern Taylor does. And you could say I'm in love.

It's going to be nice to be able to listen to the songs with the experience I have now. As a kid, I liked the songs, but I feel like now, as an "adult," I will appreciate the message more.

Taylor announced on GMA that she has already recorded her version of her album "Fearless." She said it will be out "soon," and it will have 26 songs on it — all the original songs from the album plus some from the vault that almost made the first album but didn't.

Swift surprised us with two albums last year and now with this. I speculate that she will re-record all of her past albums throughout the next couple years.

The surprise has gotten a lot of fans excited to relive the messages in the songs 13 years later.

Taylor didn't announce the release date on GMA, but in a statement released by Taylor Nation about the re-recordings, fans noticed that it was all in lower case but had random capital letters throughout. And if you take those and put them in order, it spells out April 9.

Fans speculate that is when the whole album will be released, but that hasn't been confirmed yet.

What gets me most excited for this album is that I've always liked Taylor Swift, but I especially like her new sound.

And with this new release of "Love Story," she adds a bit of her new sound with the country sound, and it's just magnificent. I can't wait to see what else she comes up with.

Check out the new Netflix releases:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Available Feb. 17:
Behind Her Eyes
Hello, Me! | Available Feb. 24:
Canine Intervention
Ginny & Georgia
Two Sentence Horror Stories: Season 2 |
| Available Feb. 18:
Thus Spoke Kishibe Rohan | Available Feb. 25:
Geez & Ann - Netflix Film
High-Rise Invasion |
| Available Feb. 19:
I Care A Lot
Tribes of Europa | Available Feb. 26:
Bigfoot Family
Captain Fantastic
Caught by a Wave Crazy |
| Available Feb. 20:
Classmates Minus | About Her
No Escape
Our Idiot Brother |
| Available Feb. 23:
Brian Regan: On The Rocks
Pele | |



Photo Illustration by Michelle Willson

This reboot may be missing key characters

By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Features Editor

There's another reboot on the way, this time it's Nickelodeon's "iCarly."

It is weird that characters Carly, Freddy and Spencer will be back. But we're still waiting on confirmation for Sam and Gibby's characters.

With that, the company released a statement that the reboot would be for adult audiences and would not "feature Carly becoming a tick-tock [sic] star" like some fans had feared.

The reboot is still in its early stages and is expected to come out late 2021 or early 2022.

It was also announced that Dan Schneider would not be directing the reboot after allegations came out against him with the Amanda show.

Nickelodeon has cut all ties

with Schneider and instead will have Jay Kogen and Ali Schouten in charge.

Krogen tweeted: "People were asking what I was doing. Now I can tell you. We get to make iCarly for ADULTS!" The tweet has fans riled up over the project.

Fans have spoken out on social media asking Jennette McCurdy if she would be reprising her role. She announced that she quit acting in 2016, so fans speculate that Sam will not be a part of the new project.

Either way, I'm excited to relive my childhood. I watched "iCarly" all the time growing up, and it's going to be fun to see them now.

I'm hoping it will be like "Big Bang Theory," where you can see them older. When I first heard of the reboot, I pictured the characters in the stages of life that fans who watch the original series are in now.

'The show must go on'

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Sports

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black athletes inspire people across the nation



Photo provided
Alejandro Aaron shows Black role models that he has tattooed on the inside and outside of his right arm.

RANGER REPORT



DACODA
MCDOWELL-
WAHPEKECHE

As America celebrates Black History Month, I can't help but think of Black athletes who are an inspiration to thousands of student-athletes across the country.

Inspirational athletes of all ethnicities have helped shaped modern culture. Honoring the legacies of Black athletes who have overcome adversity in their lives or have done charity work for their communities is important. Americans can learn from these people.

Jackie Robinson, a second basemen for the Brooklyn Dodgers, broke the color barrier in baseball.

After playing in the Negro Leagues for several years, the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball club and Robinson worked together to push the limits to get Robinson into the MLB.

Robinson paved the way for all other ethnicities to have a chance to play in the MLB.

Each year, on April 15, all MLB players honor his baseball number, 42, by wearing it on Jackie Robinson Day.

Serena Williams is another inspirational athlete. She was raised in Compton, California, but that did not slow her down from her dreams of becoming the greatest

Black History Month

Rangers talk about why Black History Month matters to them

tennis player ever.

In an interview with Lonnie Rashid Lynn, better known as Common, Williams said children were racist toward her while she and her sister practiced tennis. That did not stop her from realizing that she is striving to inspire Black people and other women in sports.

Williams is so inspirational to me because she takes criticism and shrugs it off; after all, it's not worth listening to. She was hated for the color of her skin, her body type, and her gender, but she kept working to accomplish her dreams.

Another one that just keeps working is Colin Kaepernick. Although he is not playing right now, he is still worthy to be mentioned.

Kaepernick was a great quarterback in the NFL. He set the record for the most rushing yards by a quarterback in an NFL game. He still holds the record today.

He sacrificed it all to stand for what he thought was right. He lost

his job because he started kneeling for racial injustice during the national anthem prior to the NFL games in the 2016 season.

Kaepernick is an inspiration because he sacrificed what made him millions of dollars to stand up – actually, to kneel down – for what he believed was right.

LeBron James, an NBA player from Akron, Ohio, has helped brighten the futures of many children in the Akron area.

James was drafted first overall to the Cleveland Cavaliers in the 2002 NBA draft, keeping him close to home. He is my favorite NBA player of all time.

James won an NBA championship for his team in 2016, but I think his greatest accomplishment in his life was creating the "I Promise School."

Minors who are "at-risk" in the Akron area may be able to attend this public elementary school. James and his LeBron James Family Foundation fund the school, providing resources and hope to its students.

Students who graduate from the "I Promise School" are guaranteed free tuition at the University of Akron if they meet the certain educational requirements.

I believe James, Kaepernick, Williams and Robinson exemplify characteristics that Americans can learn from. These athletes have defied the odds and used their positions to help those who do not have a voice. They give us hope for a better tomorrow.



Photo provided
Alejandro Aaron shows Black role models that he has tattooed on the inside and outside of his left arm.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR RANGER SPORTS:

BASKETBALL

Feb. 18

— MBB, NWOSU (2 - 7) vs. SNU (7 - 6) in Bethany
— WBB, NWOSU (5 - 9) vs. SNU (6 - 5) in Bethany

Feb. 20

— MBB, NWOSU (2 - 7) vs. OBU (8 - 4) in Shawnee
— WBB, NWOSU (5 - 9) vs. OBU (3 - 13) in Shawnee

Feb. 22

— MBB, NWOSU (2 - 7) vs. SWOSU (6 - 7) in Alva
— WBB, NWOSU (5 - 9) vs. SWOSU (12 - 2) in Alva

VOLLEYBALL

Feb. 18

— VB, NWOSU (3 - 1) vs. SNU (2 - 1) in Alva

Feb. 20

— VB, NWOSU (2 - 7) vs. FU (9 - 12) in Wichita, KS

Feb. 24

— VB, NWOSU (3 - 1) vs. SWOSU (1 - 2) in Weatherford

Livestreams of NWOSU home games are available on the Northwestern Athletic Department's YouTube channel, NWOSURangers, <https://www.youtube.com/user/NWOSURangers>.

RODEO

Feb. 18-20

— RODEO, Northwestern's annual home rodeo is postponed until March 2. The rodeo was originally set to begin Feb. 18, but it was postponed because of inclement weather.

SOCCER

Feb. 20

— SOC, NWOSU's soccer game on Feb. 20 has been postponed to March 30. The team's first game will be on Feb. 28 in Weatherford.

GOLF

Feb. 22

— WGOLF, NWOSU will compete in the Spring NSU Women's Classic that begins on Feb. 22 in Broken Arrow.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Feb. 19

— XC, Northwestern's third race of the year in Ada has been canceled. The team's next race will be at the Great American Conference Championship in Weatherford.

SOFTBALL

Feb. 18

— SB, NWOSU (0 - 0) vs. FU (0 - 0) in Alva
(Doubleheader)

Feb. 20

— SB, NWOSU (0 - 0) vs. SC (0 - 0) in Sterling, KS
(Doubleheader)

BASEBALL

Feb. 19

— BB, NWOSU (0 - 0) vs. SAU (0 - 0) in Alva
(Doubleheader)

Feb. 20

— BB, NWOSU (0 - 0) vs. SAU (0 - 0) in Alva

EDITOR'S NOTE: ALL GAMES COULD BE POSTPONED OR CANCELED. CHECK WITH THE NORTHWESTERN ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE, [HTTPS://WWW.RIDERANGERSRIDE.COM](https://www.riderangersride.com).

Sports

A par is born

Northwestern women's golf team begins season Monday; men's team to follow

By **DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPEKECHE**
Sports Editor

Northwestern's golf teams start with the women's season opener on Feb. 22 and the men's opener on March 1.

In 2020, the season ended after the Diffie Ford Lincoln Invite golf tournament hosted by Southern Nazarene University. Future golf tournaments were canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The golf teams usually compete in the fall and spring semesters, but this year, the season was delayed until the end of February.

For the women's team, sophomore Angela Egger said the fact that the season was cut short is disappointing.

"I was so excited to play in some of the tournaments last year," Egger said. "We were finally doing well. Everybody was having a good time."

Although the team's fall 2020 season was canceled, Egger said team members were able to focus on practicing and their education.

Ashley Watts and Allison Riddle joined Egger on the Northwestern's honor roll lists. The university announced its honor roll lists on Jan. 26.

"It was nice to just focus on practicing rather than going to tournaments and missing all kinds of classes," Egger said.

This season, the women's team consists of three freshman, four sophomores and Watts, the only senior on the team.

On the men's side, half of the team consists of upperclassmen.

Juan Gui Angarita, a junior business administration major from Colombia, a nation in South America, said his goal is to improve his game in each tournament he plays.

"As a team, we have been growing," Angarita said. "We have a pretty good team to fight for something. Golf is a team sport. I mean, yeah, I want someone to win the tournament indi-



Photo by Ashley Watts

Joey Nix practices his swing during golf practice on Friday.



Photo provided

Ashley lines up her shot during the women's practice on Friday.

vidually, but we play for the team and Northwestern."

Tyler Berryhill, Ben Baker and Brendan Kates will hit the courses this year as seniors for the Rangers.

Nikole Donk leads the Rangers in her first season as the head coach of the golf program.

The golf teams will compete in six tournaments for their spring 2021 season.

The women's golf team will start at the Spring NSU Women's Classic in Broken Arrow. The men's team will start its season at the Natural State Classic in Cabot, Arkansas.

The men's and women's golf teams will compete in the Great American Conference Championship in Hot Springs, Arkansas, at the Hot Springs Country Club on April 20.



Members of the Northwestern men's golf team practice inside Dunning Performance Center on Friday.

Photo by Ashley Watts

Rodeo team begins season in Alva on March 2

By **LANEY COOK**
Student Reporter

The Northwestern rodeo team will host the first college rodeo this year on March 2 here in Alva to kick off the season.

After the rodeo season was put on hold last spring because of COVID-19, team members are now able to travel for college rodeo. At the beginning of the season, there were 10 scheduled college rodeos.

Stockton Graves, Northwestern's head rodeo coach, said one college has already canceled its rodeo for the season, leaving only

nine on the schedule.

"Everyone else seems to be on board about the season," Graves said. "Hopefully everything gets better and we'll be able to continue."

Stetson Thompson, the university's assistant rodeo coach, said officials will determine whether the season can continue after the first rodeo.

"If there's a spike (in coronavirus case numbers), then that could be the end of it right there, and we'll just have to shut it down," Thompson said, "But hopefully that doesn't happen, and we can power through it."

"Hopefully everything gets better and we'll be able to continue."
— Stockton Graves

Graves said fans are not permitted to watch the rodeo in-person this year because of coronavirus safety protocols, but there will be a livestream for fans to watch online.

Thompson said his main concern is to keep everyone in the right mind at the university and at the practice grounds.

He said the season will be a lot harder on student athletes with multiple rodeos scheduled for back-to-back weekends.

"There's not much time for kids to slack off," Thompson said. "They can't be missing classes. They've got to get in there and hump up in the practice pen, the arena or the classroom all together."

Krissie May, a junior from Garden Plains, Kansas, joined the rodeo team her freshman year in the fall of 2018 as a barrel racer. She said this season will be focused on improving her abilities, but she still expects a good season

out of her.

"We usually start out the season in Manhattan at Kansas State University," May said. "But with them cancelling, I'm excited to start off the season here at the Alva Dome."

The rodeo was originally set to begin Feb. 18, but it was postponed because of inclement weather. It is now set to begin March 2.

Northwestern team members will compete in the hopes of qualifying for the College National Finals Rodeo in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Driver hits university sign in early-morning accident



Photo by Jordan Green

One of Northwestern's concrete signs was damaged in an early-morning car accident Wednesday, according to campus police. Around 1 a.m., a driver on 8th Street in

Alva was approaching the stop light at Oklahoma Boulevard, where this sign is. The person, whose identity was not released, was driving too fast for the conditions of the

roadway, which was covered in snow, police said. The driver applied his brakes at the stop light but was unable to stop, hitting the sign and crushing portions of it. An accident

report was filed, police said. As of press time, the grille from the vehicle was still at the scene of the crash, and tire tracks were still visible in the snow.