

SHOT IN THE ARM

A Northwestern student who has received her second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine talks about her experience with the shot. PAGE 8



TWO WORLDS, ONE UNIVERSITY

Two Northwestern students raised in different areas compare big city life with rural living. PAGE 4



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COVID'S IMPACT

Amid pandemic, pets find fur-ever homes



Northwestern student Sam Gentry poses for a photo with his black Labrador, Blake, in this February photo.

Photo by Nick Dill



Stryker, a Pit Bull Terrier, is available for adoption at the Amarillo SPCA in Amarillo, Texas.

Photo provided

People adopted pets in 2020 to ward off sense of loneliness, shelters say

By JORDAN GREEN
Editor-in-Chief

The month was July, and Sam Gentry was dog tired of living without a furry friend. The dog days of summer were finally upon him.

"I had always wanted a little buddy," Gentry said. "Especially now, it seemed like a good opportunity. Half the time, we weren't in school. And obviously, sporting events have been kind of closed off, shut off right now. It was just the perfect opportunity and perfect time."

He searched Facebook advertisements in search of the right K-9 companion. After taking a trip to a breeding facility in Jefferson, Missouri, he fell in love – puppy love, that is.

See PETS, Page 2



Photo by Emma Sportleder

Northwestern Ranger football players are shown at midfield during a game against the Oklahoma Baptist University Bison in November 2019.

Northwestern's spring football season canceled

By DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPEKECHE
Sports Editor

Northwestern's spring football season has been canceled.

The football team's season was set to start Saturday.

The university's athletic department announced in December 2020 that the team's season included four events in the spring. Now, the online schedule shows only one event, which is against

Fort Hays State University.

Matt Walter, Northwestern's head football coach, said there won't be a season.

"We're the only sport in the conference that isn't having a championship series," Walter said. "It may not be the right time because the season won't be counted towards a conference championship."

The Rangers were set to play the Missouri Southern State University Lions, the New Mexico University Lions, the New Mexico University Lions, the New Mexico University Lions. See FOOTBALL, Page 10

WINTER STORM

Student from Scotland just can't escape cold weather

By JACOB COMP
Student Reporter

February's snowfall and sub-freezing temperatures reminded Stephen McCluskey of home.

"It feels just like home some days in Oklahoma, as it's always windy and freezing," said McCluskey, a junior health and sports science major from Motherwell, Scotland.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University is home to students from around the globe, and for some, Alva's winter weather is



McCluskey

brutally cold.

February's snowfall and frigid temperatures set new records. But McCluskey said he is accustomed to the cold.

McCluskey said Scotland's weather has been just as bad as Oklahoma's has been this year. Oklahoma has had around 7 inches of snow so far.

The average temperature in the See WEATHER, Page 12

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PETS: Adoption numbers down across United States

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"I got ole Drake at the end of July, so kind of like dead-smack in the middle of everything," Gentry said. "He's a black Labrador. He's a great companion, especially with everything going on right now."

Gentry, a junior general studies major at Northwestern, is one of thousands of Americans who have adopted pets since the coronavirus pandemic began almost one year ago. With Americans being relegated to their homes, distanced from their coworkers, friends and family members, some have warded off feelings of loneliness by bringing pets into their houses, their lives and their hearts.

Across the region, animal shelter officials say they believe animal adoptions have increased during the pandemic.

'IT MADE PEOPLE MORE COMMITTED'

At the Northern Oklahoma Humane Society in Ponca City, 97 miles east of Alva, animal adoption numbers in 2020 more than doubled compared to 2019 figures. In 2020, the animal shelter adopted out 530 animals, compared to 224 the year before.

Ashley Villines, the shelter's executive director, started her job in February 2020, one month before lockdowns were imposed across the nation. Her first order of business was to revamp the shelter's adoption process, making it easier and simpler for people to adopt pets, she said.

"We were extremely hard to adopt from before," Villines said. "It was almost like adopting a child, a long, drawn-out process. And now, it's just not that way."

To adopt a pet at the facility, potential adoptees must fill out a questionnaire and speak with shelter workers about how they plan to care for their pet.

Villines said the new adoption process may have contributed to the shelter's higher adoption numbers.

In spite of the easier adoption process, though, finding the time to pick up a pooch or a feline became more difficult. From March to June 2020, the facility was open by appointment only to allow for social distancing.

"We were nervous that that was going to cut down on our adoptions, and it really didn't," she said. "If anything, I think it made people more committed because they chose an animal, scheduled an appointment to come meet that animal, and they're already kind of invested in that animal before they get here."

When the pandemic began, Americans started working from home in record numbers, and others who were used to seeing their friends and loved ones weren't able to visit them anymore. Villines said "at least a handful" of people came in to adopt ani-



Northwestern student Sam Gentry poses for a photo in front of the Ranger statue with his black Labrador, Blake, in this February photo.

Photo by Nick Dill



Photo provided

Blossom, a 3-year-old brown, gray and creme-colored Tabby cat, is available for adoption at the Amarillo SPCA in Amarillo, Texas.

mals for this reason.

"There have been several older people," Villines said. "We did have an older gentleman that came in that, you know, he wasn't getting visitors as frequently because of COVID, and adopted a cat."

One woman told Villines she adopted a cat to keep her company while on the job.

"She was like, 'I'm at home,'" Villines said. "'This is my little companion while I'm on my Zoom meetings.'"

As adoption numbers rose, so did volunteer numbers. One woman who was visiting from California when the pandemic

began was forced to stay in Ponca City for several months more than she expected to. She began working with some of the shelter's harder-to-train dogs, Villines said.

But even though more of the shelter's animals found homes in 2020, some owners had to surrender their animals to the shelter. The number of pets taken to the humane society in 2020 increased by more than 100 compared to 2019 numbers.

"There's a lot of people who have had to surrender their pets because they lost their job or because they had to move for their jobs and they couldn't take the

pet with them," Villines said. "I think that's a big driving factor for people, knowing that the pets are being affected by this as well, and they're losing their homes and what they're used to."

Financial constraints have hurt animal shelters as well, Villines said. Operating the shelter costs about \$8,000 per day. Keeping the shelter afloat was stressful at times because donations decreased, she said. The shelter relied heavily on funds collected during one fundraiser at the beginning of the year, which brought in about \$60,000.

"That's pretty much what saved us through 2020, because we really weren't able to do much of anything else besides that fundraiser," she said. "I always hate asking for money, but at the same time, if we don't have those donations, we don't have the shelter."

Donations did pick up toward the end of the year, she said, though she encourages people to donate if they're able – and to adopt a pet if they can.

"There really is not a good reason not to adopt," she said.

NATIONWIDE, ADOPTIONS DECREASE

While some animal shelters reported having slightly higher-than-normal adoption numbers in 2020, adoption numbers nationwide were lower than they were in 2019.

Data from Shelter Animals Count, a nationwide non-profit organization that tracks adoption data from thousands of animal shelters, showed that pet adoptions from January to November

2020 were down 18% compared to the same period in 2019.

The year started strong for pet adoptions, but the numbers drastically dropped. Pet adoptions in January and February 2020 were higher than in 2019. But from March to November 2020, the number of pets adopted was thousands lower than in 2019.

The widest disparity between 2019 and 2020 adoption numbers was in April. That month, 83,695 animals had "live outcomes," meaning they were either adopted out or transferred to another shelter, compared to 146,174 in 2019.

Even though adoption numbers were lower, fewer pets were surrendered by their owners to animal shelters. From January to November 2020, the number of owners who surrendered pets decreased by 25% compared to 2019. In April 2020, shelters took in 96,213 animals, compared with 199,052 in April 2019.

SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT FOR PANDEMIC PETS

Scientific data shows that pets can help improve their owners' mental and emotional health during times of crisis, including the pandemic.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one of the nation's leading medical organizations, pets can help lower their owners' blood pressure levels and motivate them to stay physically active.

"There are many health benefits of owning a pet," CDC officials said in a 2019 website post. "They can increase opportunities

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News

PETS: Animals proven to boost owners' mental health

Continued from Page 1
to exercise, get outside, and socialize. Regular walking or playing with pets can decrease blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and triglyceride levels. Pets can help manage loneliness and depression by giving us companionship.”

In an April 2020 research paper, “People and Their Pets in the Times of the COVID-19 Pandemic,” professors from Case Western Reserve University, the University of Tennessee and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, found that pets may be an important form of emotional support.

“It stands to reason that pets will be a source of support during the pandemic and during the many societal and economic changes to follow,” the authors wrote. “Animals have been introduced to crisis work by way of crisis response teams. These human-animal teams provide additional resources to clergy, social workers, and other health care professionals reaching out to people affected by crisis.”

They also wrote that pets and people alike can benefit from spending time together.

“For the majority of animals, increased presence of people at homes is a major, positive environmental shift, particularly for those (especially dogs) who will normally stay in the house alone,

while their carers go to work,” they wrote.

‘PUT SOME THOUGHT INTO IT’

In Amarillo, Texas, some people who are working from home have picked up pets to be their companions.

And some people have adopted additional pets after going back to work at their offices.

Lynn May, a volunteer with the Amarillo Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said people have long thought of pets as sources of comfort and reassurance. The pandemic highlighted their importance, and when people started returning to work, they still wanted to care for their pets, she said.

“One lady was going back to work more now, so she wanted to have a friend for her cat because she had been home so much because of COVID,” May said. “She wanted her cat to now have a friend as she eases back into work. I thought that was lovely for her to do.”

May said the Amarillo SPCA, a non-profit that isn’t affiliated with the national SPCA, adopted out 260 pets in 2020.

The facility relies on donations from community members to operate the shelter. Like other shelters, the organization had to



Ebbie, a 6-year-old black and white Pit Bull mix, is available for adoption at the Amarillo Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Photo provided

cancel some of its 2020 fundraisers. May said she hopes the organization can host some of those fundraisers again in the coming months.

She said she hopes that, as the pandemic continues, people will remember that caring for pets is a permanent task, not a temporary one.

“The big thing is to remember that they are a forever pet,” she said. “That is so important us, to hopefully find them their permanent, forever home. ... So, really put some thought into everything that goes into caring for an animal and making sure that you’ve found the right one.”

A FOREVER FRIEND

Back in Alva, Gentry said he’s having fun with Drake. Drake sits in Gentry’s lap while watching TV, and Gentry is training him to hunt waterfowl. He recently took Drake out for a photoshoot.

“He’s a big goofball,” Gentry said. “He’s always full of energy. He loves to relax and chill, but he hasn’t grown into his body. He’s still learning all that.”

Like other new pet owners, Gentry has realized that raising a dog takes time. But he’s still happy that he brought a dog into his life, he said.

With Drake, Gentry’s got something to bark about.

“The first months are probably going to be the hardest,” Gentry said. “Just like having a kid, they cry, they tear things up, and they go to the bathroom everywhere. But once those couple of months get by and you train them – and you do it right – it’s a great opportunity. Everybody should have a dog, you know?”

COVID-19

500,000 Americans dead from COVID-19

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Northwestern News

More than 500,000 Americans have died from the coronavirus, which has now become one of the biggest causes of death in U.S. history.

The nation’s health officials reported the grim milestone Monday as the nation’s top elected officials participated in ceremonies mourning the dead.

“Today, we mark a truly grim, heartbreaking milestone: 500,071 dead,” President Joe Biden said in a Monday news release. “That’s more Ameri-

cans who have died in one year in this pandemic than in World War One, World War Two, and the Vietnam War combined. That’s more lives lost to this virus than any other nation on Earth.”

The United States has had more than 29 million COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began nearly one year ago.

“It’s not Democrats and Republicans who are dying from the virus. It’s our fellow Americans,” Biden said.

“It’s our neighbors and our friends — our mothers, our fathers, our sons, our daughters, husbands, wives.”

State officials shut down disposal wells after Friday quake rocks NW Oklahoma

By JORDAN GREEN
Editor-in-Chief

State officials ordered wastewater disposal wells in northern Oklahoma to cease operations or reduce the volume of wastewater they handle after a Friday earthquake rattled the region.

A 4.2-magnitude earthquake occurred at 7:56 a.m. Friday approximately 3.7 miles southwest of Manchester in Grant County, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

The region is home to the Arbuckle rock formation.

Later that day, the Induced Seismicity Department of the Oklahoma Corporation Commis-

sion ordered wastewater disposal wells within 3 miles of the earthquake’s epicenter to cease operations. The agency told disposal wells within 3 to 10 miles of the epicenter to reduce by 50% the amount of wastewater they inject into the ground.

Wastewater disposal wells pump water used in oilfield processes into the ground.

“It is estimated that these actions will reduce disposed volumes by about 7,000 barrels a day,” corporation commission officials said in a news release. “Researchers are in broad agreement that disposal into the Arbuckle formation in parts of Oklahoma can raise risk of induced seismicity. Commission ISD directives

since 2015 limiting or eliminating such disposal are among the actions credited with the sharp decrease in Oklahoma’s seismicity rate since 2015.”

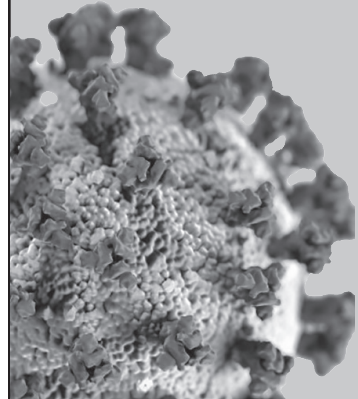
The U.S. Geological Survey said Friday that the earthquake was one of the most significant earthquakes from around the world in the last 30 days.

Manchester is 48 miles northeast of Alva in Woods County and 55 miles northwest of Blackwell in Kay County.

No damage stemming from the quake was immediately reported by the survey office.

The Friday quake was reported at a depth of 7 kilometers, and it came after a series of quakes weeks earlier.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: CASE NUMBERS ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE AREA



STUDENT CASES:

1

active as of Feb. 19. This number includes cases at Northwestern’s Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

EMPLOYEE CASES:

1

active as of Feb. 19. This number includes cases at Northwestern’s Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

IN ALVA:

16

active as of Feb. 23. Alva has had a total of 989 cases.

IN OKLAHOMA:

14,040

active as of Feb. 23. Oklahoma has had a total of 420,212 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

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.

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Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

Editorial

Green gets in a fender-bender

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

There's a first time for everything. On Feb. 17, I had my first fender-bender. I was leaving my dorm hall at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva that morning to do two things. First, I had to go downtown to pick up an advertisement from a local grocery store for that week's edition of the campus newspaper.

And then I had to report on a car wreck. That morning, with snow and ice covering area roadways, someone crashed into one of the university's concrete signs. I needed to take a picture for that week's paper, of course.

My situation couldn't have been more ironic. As I was on my way to ultimately cover a car wreck, I had one myself. While leaving the university's campus, I was driving down a hill covered in snow. Another driver was stopped at the bottom of the hill at a stop sign. I hit my brakes near the top of the hill, but I just kept sliding. You know what happened next.

The other driver and I were fine. We were not injured. Both of our vehicles sustained only minor damage. I had a small dent in my front bumper, and the other driver's bumper was bent. We swapped information, and I filed an accident report with the police.

Then, I called my insurance provider in Blackwell, Farm Bureau. Doug Hodges and Lea Anne Stafford-Steelmon have taken

good care of me, and they got the claim handled quickly and painlessly. I appreciate them greatly.

I write about this not to get pity — I don't need any, and I wasn't hurt in my accident — but to show that I, as a journalist, cover stories without bias or favoritism.

I report on car accidents from time to time. These are unpleasant, sensitive issues for all people involved. I try to be respectful when covering them, knowing that most people don't intend to cause a wreck — and, subsequently, have their names in the newspaper.

I'd be a hypocrite if I only covered other people's accidents, and that is not the kind of person I want to be. In this business, my integrity is all I have. I must protect it by covering all stories and all people equally.

So, here I am, writing a story about my own car accident.

Though this was my first car accident, I've been in a similar situation before; instead of reporting on the news, I was the news. Actually, it was my dog.

Last year, my dog got out from the backyard of my house in Blackwell. Derringer is a handsome, fun-loving black Labrador, and he went across town to play with some other animals. If I recall correctly, he befriended a herd of goats on his escapade.

The owner of the goats called the police department, and the police dispatched the city's animal control officer.

Derringer wasn't causing any trouble, and he didn't hurt any animals. But the goats' owner was right to be worried that a dog could do harm. Derringer got to spend a little while in doggy jail

until my mom could pick him up.

Every week, we print the police call logs in the newspaper. That week, my boy made the list. I'm not sure if I was proud of him, but I was thankful that he didn't hurt anyone. If he had read the paper, I'm sure he would have been embarrassed.

So, Friends, here's to hoping you aren't involved in an accident any time soon.

Now that the winter weather has cleared up, it's time to celebrate with a nice, relaxing afternoon drive.

But if you do wind up in an accident, look around you. I might be there with my camera, and then we'll all be in the newspaper together.

SIDEBAR: Do you know what to do after a minor car accident? I didn't, but I "winged it" and, somehow, got most everything right. Here's some information from my insurance provider about what to do if you have a fender-bender of your own.

1. Stay calm. Keep your cool and be friendly to the other people involved.

2. Document the scene. Take photos of the damage to the vehicles involved.

3. Call the police. Even if you remove your vehicles from the road, report the accident to the police and make an accident report immediately.

4. Exchange information with the other driver(s). This includes their insurance information, the makes and models of vehicles involved and contact information.

5. Contact your insurance carrier.

Happy driving, friends.

Editor's rant of the week

By JORDAN GREEN
Editor-in-Chief

It all started Monday. Or maybe it was Sunday.

For journalists, the time between Feb. 10 and Feb. 17 was a blur. With ice and snow covering the Midwest and power outages affecting thousands, we had no shortage of news to cover.

Those of us on the Northwestern News started covering the storm as snow fell across our campus and our community on Valentine's Day. For starters, we took a lot of pictures.

We worked on a big story about the weather. On Monday morning, Feb. 15, students in two of our residence halls on campus were awakened when fire alarms malfunctioned. When the fire alarms sounded in my dorm, I grabbed my gear and ran outside. I immediately starting interviewing people. The fire alarms went off for a third time that night in the women's dorm. I had to update the story for a third time. It was now Monday at midnight.

Then came the revelation Tuesday morning that rolling blackouts were occurring, but not in Alva. But they might later. I did a total rewrite of that story.

I was in the newsroom all day Tuesday editing those stories and finishing up normal editing and other page design. Then, sporting events started being canceled. The sports editor and I updated one sports story.

I left at midnight again. Then, Wednesday morning, someone crashed into one of the university's concrete displays near a roadway. I went and covered it. More sporting events were canceled just as I was ready to send the paper to press. The sports editor and I hurriedly updated our schedule of events.

The internet went down, and I couldn't send the newspaper to the press like I normally do. I loaded the pages onto a flash drive and took them to the local paper. And finally — finally — everything was done.

Being a weekly newspaper is tough. What's written on Monday isn't always relevant by Thursday, especially with breaking news like this. It was a busy, stressful week. But the paper came out. It's no wonder we sometimes call it the weekly miracle.

The team that puts this paper out every week is incredible. They love their work and understand its importance. I'm fortunate to be one small part of this awesome group of people. And even though I'll never be rich or famous, I'll be happy knowing that this work makes a difference.

I smiled when our circulation manager carried the paper into the newsroom. Finally, one hellish week was over. And I was proud.

Rest in peace, Rush Limbaugh

By BRAEDEN COOK

I am going to be honest. I did not expect to even mention Rush Limbaugh in our first op-ed in the NWOSU newspaper. We are a new club to the students on campus, and starting off by writing about one of the most polarizing figures in the conservative movement could be advised against. However, with his death, I have recently looked into and heard about how important he was to conservatism throughout his radio career, and I can say this: I probably am not the conservative I am today without Rush Limbaugh, and my drive to bring the College Republicans to campus would not exist without him, either. I did not even listen to him, but most conservative media hosts I watch, read and listen to, did.

Before there was Fox News, or any number of conservative media outlets, there was Rush Limbaugh on AM radio. He started his career on AM when it was

a dead medium and brought it back to life with his daily three-hour conservative talk show. His audience quickly grew and eventually reached 26 million people. With his success, he showed there was a huge market for conservative media. Many popular conservative show and podcast hosts of today attribute Rush with inspiring them with bravery to go and speak up for what they believed in — not least among them Ben Shapiro, Glenn Beck and Steven Crowder. Each has influenced millions of people throughout the nation. They say themselves that, without Rush, their own shows would probably not exist.

Finally, Rush brought diversity of thought to the nation, when national media was overwhelmingly left-leaning. By doing so, he helped revive the conservative movement. His influence was so large he was made an honorary Congressman in 1994 when Republicans took the majority in the House of Representatives for the first time in 42 years. He continued his show up until last De-

cember, and remained loyal to his conservative principles through it all. In 2009, Rush spoke at the Conservative Political Action Conference and said this about conservatives: "Let me tell who we conservatives are - we love people. When we look out over the United States of America, when we are anywhere, when we see a group of people such as this or anywhere, we see Americans; we see human beings. We don't see groups; we don't see victims; we don't see people we want to exploit. ... (W)hat we see is potential."

Potential for people to strive to be the best they can be. He would go on to talk about how conservatives defend our founding documents, the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. We defend them and do not seek to overtly try and reinterpret them. These views are what we hope to promote both within the Republican Party and on campus as a College Republicans chapter.

— Cook is the chairman of the College Republicans club.

Editorial



Photo captured from Google Earth

Maricopa Public Schools in Arizona is pictured above. Erick Livingston attended school there during his junior year of high school. He said he was involved in many extracurriculars.

Growing up living a big city life

By **ERICK LIVINGSTON**
Student Reporter

People have debated for years: Should they move to a big city or small town after college?

Throughout my life, I've lived in small towns, suburbs, ghettos and big cities.

They all had advantages and disadvantages. The first big city that I lived in was in Maricopa, Arizona, which was roughly 20 to 30 miles from Phoenix.

I lived there for my junior year of high school, and it was easily the best year of high school for me. Maricopa High School had

many clubs and extracurricular activities to do. There was an auto shop club, a ping-pong team, an E-sports team and a multitude of sports offered as well.

Those are just a few things to do. The teachers were also very approachable and nice to talk to. To this day, I keep in contact with my drama teacher.

The schools also had relatively few restrictions with clothing and hair, etc. Imagine my shock when I went to Laverne, Oklahoma, for my senior year and had to cut my hair to join extracurriculars.

Diversity is also a major thing in big cities. You will meet people from anywhere in a big city.

I became friends with a foreign exchange student from Germany. He once brought homemade blood sausage. I admit I did not eat it.

With so many cultures and personalities around, it can be confusing, but it's worth becoming friends and learning from the people you will meet.

There is so much variety with food in big cities as well and grocery stores that sell all kinds of ingredients.

My favorite restaurant to eat at was a hibachi/sushi restaurant that my friends and I would go to after school.

Not everything is sunshine and

rainbows, however. It's very easy for fights to happen. When I got off the bus in the morning and got my breakfast, I would see a fight at least twice a week. The school also had a full staff of security officers.

Maricopa High School also had an intimidating campus that had 2000 to 2500 students each year, with a teaching staff of more than 70 teachers.

Because of the amount of students, it's difficult to get more help with academics from your own teachers. Deadlines were also set in stone.

The best thing about big cities, in my opinion, is definitely

the school events: homecoming, basketball and football games and the pep rallies. But the crown jewel of the year was prom.

For my junior prom, the school rented the Phoenix Art Museum.

There, they had a full buffet, a professional DJ, a ballroom dance floor and an outdoor silent prom, where you would wear headphones to listen to music.

You could also walk around the museum and look at the art.

Big city life is not for everyone. But if you like having options for a day off or meeting new and exciting people, then I recommend moving to one.

Just a small town girl

By **DEVYN LANSDEN**
Editorial Editor

I graduated with 27 kids in my class.

That usually shocks many people. But what is funny is that there were a lot of kids in my class. The schools around were smaller.

Growing up in a small town is something I am grateful for. Not having to worry about anything. Leaving the car unlocked when running in the store. Talking to everyone you run into because everyone was your friend.

The closest Walmart to Beaver is in Liberal, Kansas. That was where everyone would go to eat or watch movies.

The best part of a small town is the close community. Everyone knows you, which means everyone supports you.

The stands were filled with fans at every home game, and when a team would go to the playoffs, all the businesses would stand outside and cheer us on as

we left town.

Going to school in a small town was always so fun because whoever I went to Pre-K with was who I graduated with. Not many people get to say that, and I always felt so lucky being around my classmates for 13 years.

I am still friends with the majority of my class. A lot of them came to Northwestern, too.

Growing up, I played all sports: basketball, fast pitch, slow pitch and cheer. I got to be in the choir and the band.

I participated in everything I could in school, and I feel like it has helped me balance being a mass communication major and working at the newspaper and recruitment office.

I meet so many people touring the college from bigger cities, and I love talking to them about their big schools and sharing my experience of living in a small town.

It always is a shock when I tell people I'm from the Panhandle.

Since Beaver is so small, coming to Alva was an upgrade.

I mean, come on; there was a Walmart in the same town I slept in.

However, college was so much different and a big change even though Alva isn't as big as some college towns.

It was weird to me walking around and people had no idea who I was. I loved it, though, because growing up in Beaver, everyone knows everyone.

I think it was good for me to grow up in a small town because I know I want to branch out and live in a bigger city.

The best part of upgrading from your hometown is coming back and people know that you are doing so well.

I like going back to Beaver and seeing all my old teachers and other old friends.

I'm so grateful for all my friends because the majority of them came to Northwestern.

I made even more great friends at college, and I will always have my hometown friends.



Photo captured from Google Earth

Beaver Public Schools, which Devyn Lansden attended, is shown above.

Schwerdtfeger fosters children for nearly four decades

By LANEY COOK
Student Reporter

business office, she started fostering teenagers.

She said it was hard to have teenagers because she worried about what kind of trouble they could get into – and if they would get into the wrong crowd at school.

“Girls are fun to have because you can always get them cute new clothes and all the cute little stuff that comes with having little girls. But having boys is just as fun, and they don’t come with all the drama.”

— Annette Schwerdtfeger

“The younger kids might take more work, but the worry and stress level are less than it is with teenagers,” Schwerdtfeger said.

As she started taking classes for a degree in social work with a minor in psychology, Schwerdtfeger started working full-time at the business office on June 18, 1984, where she still works now after a short retirement break.

Schwerdtfeger made many friends while working and living in Alva. During her time at Northwestern, she made many long-lasting friendships. She met



Annette Schwerdtfeger

Paige Fischer, the current bursar of NWOSU and her current boss, in 2009 as she started as a student worker in the business office.

She and Fischer went to a KC and the Sunshine Band concert in Enid at the Event Center in 2019.

“When we showed up, everyone else was wearing costumes from the 1970s,” Fischer said. “We were both upset that we didn’t show up in our own costumes.”

Fischer said she hopes that, when COVID-19 slows down and everything starts to open back up, she’d like to go to more concerts with Schwerdtfeger.

Schwerdtfeger said she is a George Strait fan, and all of her friends know that. For her birthday one year at the business office, Fischer organized a little surprise party with a cake with a George Strait picture on it.

Fawn Kingcade, Schwerdtfeger’s former boss, hosted her surprise retirement party. Kingcade got into contact with a former NWOSU football coach that Schwerdtfeger had a slight “crush” on.

“I got him to call the office during the party so they could talk,” Kingcade said. “She acted so giddy on the phone. It was priceless.”

RETIREMENT

On Dec. 19, 2019, Schwerdtfeger said her goodbyes and retired – for the time being. She started working part-time at the business office again last spring to get back in the groove of seeing all the students again.

“Retiring for Annette was very difficult,” said Kayla Eaton, a former coworker. “She really missed seeing all the people every day.”

Eaton and Schwerdtfeger met in 2015 when Eaton started working as a student worker in the business office.

Eaton said they immediately clicked because Schwerdtfeger’s fun and outgoing personality drew her in instantly.

Eaton and Schwerdtfeger often drove a van together when delivering the university’s mail to the post office and depositing money in the bank. These are some of Eaton’s favorite memories with Schwerdtfeger.

“We always had so much fun together,” Eaton said. “She is a very special person who can make just about anyone’s day better.”

One year, Eaton stayed in



Above: Annette Schwerdtfeger, right, is pictured with Myra Davison and President Janet Cunningham at the Nov. 2019 Employee Recognition Ceremony.

town over Thanksgiving break, so Schwerdtfeger invited her to spend the day at her house. Eaton then did not have to spend Thanksgiving by herself.

Throughout the years of working as a cashier at the business office, Schwerdtfeger continued to foster more children.

“It’s so rewarding to be able to let them (the children) see what all life has to offer.”
— Annette Schwerdtfeger

“I wish I would’ve kept records of how many kids I’ve taken in, but at first I didn’t think I would do it for very long,” Schwerdtfeger said. “But I fell in love with it, and now I don’t know how many kids in total I’ve fostered.”

Keeping in touch with foster children all depends on how the adoptive families or the biological families feel about the relationship.

Once the children leave, there’s a chance she may not see or hear

from them again.

She said the hardest part of being a foster mother was when children left to go back to their parents or to their adoptive parents.

“It’s so rewarding to be able to let them see what all life has to offer,” Schwerdtfeger said.

She stays in touch with at least 10 of her previous foster children. She said she likes seeing what they’ve gone out and done after they left.

One of her children who still keeps in touch with her goes by his nickname of “Baby Bear.” When he calls, she answers to “Mama Bear.” When he was little, he had never heard “Goldilocks and the Three Little Bears.” So, she read it to him nightly.

When she read to him, they would pretend to play the roles of Baby Bear and Mama Bear. The nicknames stuck.

ABOUT THE KIDS

Foster parents can choose if they want only boys or girls staying with them, but Schwerdtfeger took them all in.

“Girls are fun to have because you can always get them cute new clothes and all the cute little stuff that comes with having little girls,” Schwerdtfeger said. “But having

boys is just as fun, and they don’t come with all the drama.”

Girls do typically bring along more drawn-out drama, whereas boys just have their fights and make up within a few hours, she said.

But the end result is all the same: “teaching them right from wrong.”

Along with being a foster mother, Schwerdtfeger has two children of her own: one adopted son and one biological daughter.

She has three granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

“She was very excited about the arrival of her great-granddaughter, with whom she shares a middle name,” said Tracie Burns, her oldest granddaughter. “Her [the baby’s] arrival also made the family five generations of girls.”

Schwerdtfeger says she enjoys everything she does from fostering kids to working at the university, where she helps the students.

“I love being around people, and do what I can to help anyone,” Schwerdtfeger said. “I wouldn’t change anything about it.”

Right: Annette Schwerdtfeger, right, is shown helping a former Northwestern student in the business office in this undated photo.



It was Mother’s Day. Nothing out of the ordinary was expected to happen. But that particular year, as Annette Schwerdtfeger was sitting in her recliner, watching TV, she heard a knock on the door. To her surprise, it was one of her former foster children, whom she fostered for six years.

There he stood on her front doorstep with a bouquet of flowers in his hands to surprise her for Mother’s Day – to show her how much she meant to him. His adoptive family drove him up from Oklahoma City to surprise her and then took her out to eat lunch to catch up with everyone.

“It was a nice surprise for him to show up with his family to celebrate Mother’s Day with me too,” Schwerdtfeger said.

Schwerdtfeger is known not only in the Northwestern community, but also in the Alva community. Being born and raised only 27 miles away in Waynoka, she grew up knowing those who grew up in Alva.

HER START IN BABYSITTING

When Schwerdtfeger was in high school, she would babysit for people in Waynoka and Alva, and after she graduated, she worked as a nanny for a couple in Oklahoma City.

She said this is what got her thinking about fostering children. In 1983, a year before she started working for the university’s



Annette Schwerdtfeger, left, is shown with Kayla Eaton at a Christmas party.



Annette Schwerdtfeger, left, is pictured with her biological daughter and her adopted son.

Photo provided

Photo provided

Photo provided

Feature

Local police officer hopes to help people

By LANEY COOK
Student Reporter

The middle of March in southern Texas is an extreme difference in weather compared to the middle of March in northwest Oklahoma.

Police officer Ronald Vasquez, a Texas native, moved to Alva roughly 13 years ago on a cold, windy day in March wearing only a T-shirt, a pair of jeans and some boots for the big move from Texas to Alva.

"It was 110 degrees when I left Texas that morning," Vasquez said recently. "When I got here, it was just like it is outside now, icy and cold."

Vasquez started his career with the police department in 1984 in southern Texas. He then took a break from the force until 2007, when he and his family made the decision to move to Alva.

He went into the field with the mindset of helping people, to help educate them and to help them achieve what they want out of life, he said.



Ronald Vasquez

Vasquez said his main priority as an officer is for people to acknowledge their choices.

"To me, it's weird, people don't remember the good others do," Vasquez said. "They only remember the 'bad' mistakes."

He said everyone has the power to make their own choices, but sometimes it doesn't work out in the best favor. But when mistakes are made, instead of fretting on it, learn from it and move on, Vasquez said.

Northwestern student receives her second dose of COVID-19 vaccine

By OVELL PATTERSON
Student Reporter

As the coronavirus continues to spread across the globe, citizens around the world are being immunized against it.

Some students at Northwestern Oklahoma State University have already gotten their first doses of the coronavirus vaccine. And at least one has had her second dose, meaning she is fully immunized against COVID-19.

Madison Meyer, a member of the university's cross country team, has received both doses of the coronavirus vaccine. She works at Beadles Nursing Home in Alva. She got her first dose of the vaccine on Jan. 17 and her second dose on Feb. 7.

"I decided to get the shot because I am a healthcare worker and an athlete, so the vaccine gives me a smaller chance of getting the coronavirus, as well as spreading it to my residence and teammates," Meyer said.



Madison Meyer

Meyer said she previously had COVID-19. It hurt her lungs, which affected her ability to run, she said. She said this was one of the reasons she got the vaccine.

"My family also feels relieved now that I have the vaccine," Meyer said. She is exposed to the coronavirus somewhat because she is around a lot of people every day, she said. Now, they don't have to worry about her coming home and spreading

the virus to them, she said.

Because she has already had COVID-19, Meyer experienced more side effects from getting the shot, she said. She said she experienced a number of side effects, including arm pain, extreme fatigue and fever.

"After the first shot, I experienced extreme fatigue and arm pain," she said. "After the second shot, I had a lot more side effects, including nausea, increased blood pressure and fatigue."

"After about 10 hours after the shot, I started to experience flu like symptoms and was unable to get out of bed."

Because the shot thins your blood, she had four nose bleeds two days after getting the second shot, she said. But one week after getting her shots, she said she felt normal again.

"I hope more and more people continue to get the corona vaccine, so things can go back to how they were prior to this virus," Meyer said.

New mass communication professor hired

By ALIYAH BIDWELL
Student Reporter

Dr. John Ellerbach is a new professor of mass communication at Northwestern.

Q: What brought you to northwestern?

A: This last summer and fall, I was working at Kutztown University. It's part of the Pennsylvania State system, and I was teaching public relations and other classes, and then they were going face-to-face and part online.

My daughter and her family, they live near Pittsburgh. They said, "Hey, why don't you take some time off and come live with us?" At the time, COVID-19 wasn't really bad up there. Anyways, so I lived there seven months, and I decided to do some writing, and I did that. Then along came this December. I was with my granddaughter and doing a lot of things there, but I looked at job openings, and suddenly, there's this one, which is unusual to find something in January that's tenure-track. So, I inquired and did some online interviews and really liked the people I talked to, and I thought, "I do miss the teaching. Maybe I will go back." And I did.

Q: How long have you been in education?

A: I actually started out as an English and Spanish teacher and a baseball coach in Wisconsin in the late '70s.



Dr. John Ellerbach

Then I wanted something a little more intellectual, so I got into journalism and became a news reporter, and I wrote for magazines for a few years.

Then my wife and I moved to Lima, Peru, and I did some teaching there, and I really enjoyed it. So, when I came back, I got a master's degree at Drake University. Then I ended up in public relations for three years. Then I went to Oklahoma State and got to be a part of the faculty, but also worked on my doctorate.

Then, after that, I went to Illinois, and I have been teaching ever since. Although I did take some time off, and we got a place in the mountains, and I did some gardening and some writing for about three years. So, rounded up, I have been teaching for more than 30 years.

Q: Why are you passionate about mass communication?

A: Well, the big reason

is because I have had the professional experience. I wrote for broadcast material and scripts. I have written books and magazine articles. I just enjoy writing, but I also enjoy being with students. So, it was the right field for me. ... I have been fortunate to correspond with a lot of my former students. Many of them have been successful, and they keep in touch. It's not one specific highlight, but it's a lot of fun to hear from successful people.

Q: Where did you attend college?

A: I started out at the University of Iowa, and I found it to be way too big for me, but I did well academically. Then, I got an academic scholarship at a small liberal arts school in Iowa. I took it and graduated from there. I got my master's at Drake University and my doctorate at Stillwater. I do suggest people go to a place like Northwestern because you get more personal attention.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: My superpower would be that I have no superpower. The reason that's important is because, if you don't have that, it's so much easier to live without the burden of having a superpower.

Q: What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

A: I work out every day, and I realized I am stronger than I was 30 years ago.

GOT NEWS?

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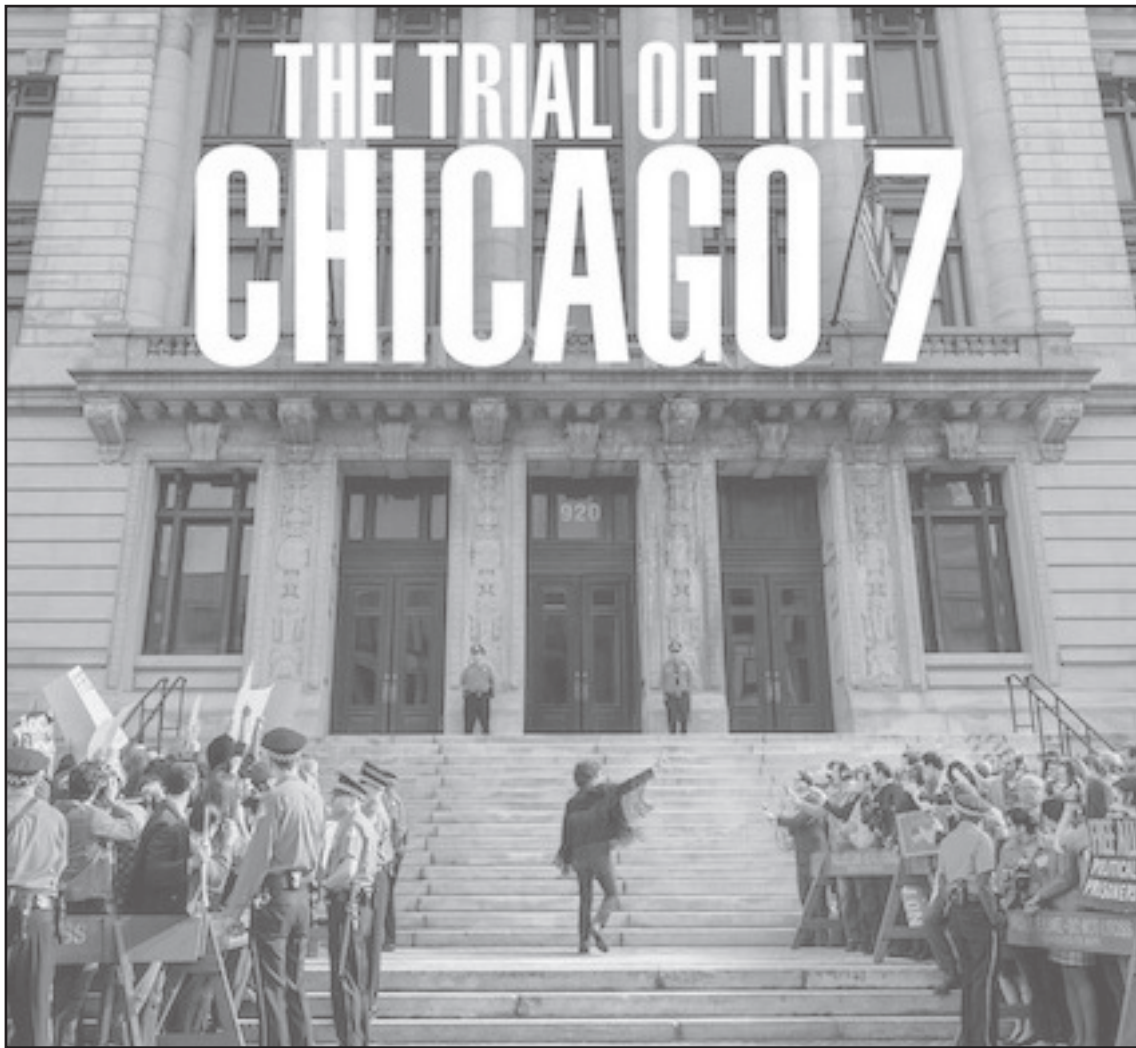


Photo provided by Netflix Media Center

Netflix movie 'The Trial of the Chicago 7' shows 1968 riots and the trial that followed

By CAMERON GORDON
Student Reporter

"The Trial of the Chicago 7" depicts the riots of the 1968 Democratic National Convention and the trial that came after.

Despite the name of the movie, eight men were put on trial for conspiracy to cross state lines in order to incite violence, also known as the Rat Brown law.

The men were Abbie Hoffman, Tom Hayden, Jerry Reuben, David Dellinger, Rennie Davis, Lee Weiner, John Froines and Bobby Seale.

The questions was: Who started the riots? The demonstrators or the police?

This quickly turned into one of the biggest trials of the past century. People gathered outside the courthouse chanting, "The whole world is watching."

As the movie goes on, it becomes clear that the entire trial was an attempt to silence the leaders of activist groups.

The judge in the case, Judge Julius Hoffman, is clearly biased against the defendants.

Numerous counts of contempt of court were given out, and Bobby Seale was forced

to stand trial without his attorney present. His attorney was in the hospital.

The defendants decided to use this national trial as a platform to get their message out. Their message was that there is a problem with the establishment.

Not only with the Vietnam War, but with the government as a whole. It becomes evident they have a point.

The film also touches on the issues of racism in the country at the time. All of these issues with the country were on full display during this trial.

The director, Aaron Sorkin, chose to lay out the film as a story being told in and out of court months after the riots with flashbacks to the events of the Democratic National Convention.

The story transitions between the present day and the riots. The flashbacks were done extremely well. They moved seamlessly between the characters and their back stories.

The path of the story was easy to understand and powerful. The directing style and wardrobe made it easy to believe it was the 1960s.

The story truly immerses you into the

conflict between the government and the people at the time.

The movie also stars a fantastic cast, including: Sacha Baron Cohen (Abbie Hoffman), John Carroll Lynch (David Dellinger), Joseph Gordon-Levitt (prosecuting attorney Richard Schultz) and Eddie Redmayne (Tom Hayden), among others.

Cohen, whom most may know as Borat in the film "Borat," does an outstanding job in a role that is more serious than most of his others.

He still has witty humor, but also gives a moving performance that depicts a man whose whole purpose is the cause he is fighting for.

Another enchanting performance came from Mark Rylance, who played William Kuntzler, the attorney for the Chicago seven. His handling of the judge's egregiously one-sided handling of the case was chilling.

This movie not only serves as a way to learn about and immerse yourself in history, but also as entertainment.

Whoever said learning about history isn't interesting, hasn't seen "The Trial of the Chicago 7."

HappyHappy releases emotional new album

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Student Reporter

The band HappyHappy released a new album on Feb. 12 called "Psychward Chess Champion." The album has 12 songs.

I will preface this by saying that their songs do include curse words and are very selective to the audience. But I happen to be in that audience. I absolutely love this band and this new album. All HappyHappy songs illustrate personal experiences, and you can feel the emotion in the lyrics.

Their songs really speak to the struggles of mental health and substance abuse. I feel like it's a perspective that we don't get all the time. We always see how these things affect the people around them, but not how it affects the person themselves, if that makes sense.

The album includes: "Psych Ward Chess Champion," "Drug Test?? And Then Pink Limb Shreds," "Maybe You're Doing Worse Than Me" and "Criminal Minds: Season Finale."

I was introduced to the band by my girlfriend, who happens to have the same music taste as me. Now, we both listen to it on repeat through our Google Home devices in our dorms.

If you're into Midwestern emo, pop punk or punk rock, I suggest you give this album a listen. I'm not responsible for the childhood trauma that resurfaces because of the album. If these genres are not up your alley, you probably will not like the album.

I give this album a 5 out of 5. I really have been listening to it on repeat, and so does my girlfriend. This band, I cannot stress enough, is for a selective audience. HappyHappy happens to be one of the artists that I've liked all of the albums equally. I don't feel like one stands above the other, and I think that all the albums are timeless — meaning I don't think I'll ever be tired of them.

Want to write a review for the entertainment page of the newspaper?

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Sports

FOOTBALL: Northwestern will participate in joint practice March 6, but university will not play any games against GAC member teams

Continued from Page 1

Highlands University Cowboys and the Fort Hays State University Tigers.

Northwestern is a member of the Great American Conference, and all the opposing teams are members of other conferences. Northwestern wouldn't normally play these teams.

As of press time, none of the athletic departments at those universities had news articles on their websites about playing games against Northwestern.

The Rangers were set to start their season in Alva on Feb. 27 against Missouri Southern. The Rangers would have gone to Joplin, Missouri, on March 11 to play the Lions again.

Missouri Southern, a member of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, was without a head coach at the time Northwestern announced its season.

"There are several factors that were involved in that with not playing that game that I really don't want to get into," Walter said. "It's not going to be feasible on either side to play that game."

Northwestern is set to play the Tigers of Fort Hays State, another member of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, on March 6.

Walter said the contest will not be a game, but instead will be a joint practice.

"We are going to do what's called a joint practice with Fort Hays on March 6," Walter said. "Hopefully, maybe, we can get something else in if we can. We had a game scheduled against Fort Hays, so we are going to do that. Now, with that being said, its structure will be changed. ... We'll do things that will make us better as a program against an opponent that we won't play."

Northwestern would have gone to Las Vegas, New Mexico, to play the New Mexico Highlands University Cowboys on March 27.

The university is a member of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

"We were going to play New Mexico, had that set up, but un-



Photo by Emma Sporleder
Kenny Miller runs the ball during a game against Oklahoma Baptist in November 2020 at Ranger

fortunately due to some of the restrictions that they have, they are just not going to be able to play that game," Walter said. "There are so many factors, not just COVID, but that's definitely one of them."

New Mexico Department of Health officials said in an article discussing coronavirus safety protocols that student athletes at New Mexico colleges have to test for the coronavirus with a PCR test at least three times each week.

Officials said visiting athletes must provide negative coronavirus PCR test results. They did not say how to turn in completed PCR tests.

Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference officials, in an August 2020 news article, said their member institutions can play conference and non-conference games in the spring semester.

As of press time, The Great American Conference – the athletic conference Northwestern is a member of – did not have a news article discussing spring football posted on its website.

But Great American Conference member institutions Southern Nazarene University and East Central University have games

2021 NORTHWESTERN FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

 SEPT 4	 SEPT 11	 SEPT 18	 SEPT 25
 OCT 2	 OCT 9	 OCT 16	 OCT 23
 OCT 30	 NOV 6	 NOV 13	

Graphic by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche

Northwestern football's fall 2021 schedule was released by the Great American Conference in November 2020.

scheduled for the spring.

"These other schools might be playing other teams, but we were never, ever considering playing a conference opponent," Walter said. "That was never going to be something I wanted to do. I already play those guys enough. I already know them."

TEAM MEMBERS DISAPPOINTED AT LOSS OF SEASON

Northwestern football won't compete until fall 2021. Freshman linebacker Riley Myers said he is disheartened that he won't be able to play this spring.

"It's kind of disappointing because we've been practicing for a while," Myers said. "In the fall, we started practicing and now in the spring, too. We're just getting better for the fall. Those games definitely would have helped us get better."

Although Northwestern is not

"I'm positive there are other people in the same position as me."
— Jacob Comp

playing this spring, Myers said the additional practice time the team will have is beneficial.

"It would have been weird since it was in the spring," Myers said. "None of us have ever played football in the spring."

Jacob Comp, a senior mass communication student, ended his playing career because of the season's cancellation.

"I knew coming into the spring semester that I was going to be done at some point with football," Comp said. "When they announced that we were going to have those four games early on, I knew that I wanted to play in those four games."

"As the semester progressed and we got closer and closer to playing these games, it became clearer that we weren't going to be playing. So, I just decided to be done with football because of the fact that I'm graduating."

Comp said he doesn't see a reason to finish the semester with the team because he will graduate soon.

"I'm positive there are other people in the same position as me," Comp said. "There are other people who aren't necessarily seniors around the country dealing with this. ... As an athlete, you're just in there thinking, 'When is this going to end? When am I going to be able to play again?'"

Several of the Great American Conference's member institutions have not announced plans to play during the spring.

"No one has ever dealt with this before," Walter said. "Who knows what the best thing to do is? I know the best thing for me is to make sure no one gets hurt. ... It is unfortunate that we didn't get to play games, but at the same time, we're not looking at it that way. We're looking at the positives of it and continue to battle."

Northwestern's football team will play its first game of the 2021 season on Sept. 4 against Southern Arkansas University at Ranger Field.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jacob Comp is a student reporter for the Northwestern News. He did not contribute to or review this story in any way prior to publication.

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Sports

FOOTBALL

Northwestern students give their opinions on the cancellation of the football team's season

By **CARSON POLK**
Student Reporter

Northwestern's football team scheduled multiple events for this semester, but most have been canceled. Only one game, scheduled for March 6 at Hays, Kansas, is on the online schedule.

Some Northwestern students said they were disheartened to hear they would not be able to support the Rangers this spring.

Gracie Scarbrough, a junior business major, said she understood why the season was canceled, but was disappointed.

"I understand this decision was made with careful intent," Scarbrough said. "It's just disappointing for the players and the student body because we all really enjoy watching football and supporting the Rangers."

Erika Hernandez, a junior education major and a manager on the team, said she is more disap-



Gracie Scarbrough

pointed than others.

"It definitely makes me sad that there's only one game now," Hernandez said. "I am part of the equipment team, so I watched the boys practice hard, preparing for the spring semester."

Mallory Paruszewski, a freshman business major and a member of the cheer team, said she was looking forward to cheering in her first collegiate game.

"It honestly makes me feel sad



Erika Hernandez

because a lot of freshman were looking forward to first time college football games, and for me to cheer for college football as well," Paruszewski said.

Prior to the season's cancellation, Northwestern students said they were excited for the season.

"This season, I was most excited about being able to finally attend some football games, and just get to experience the environment and school spirit again, after



Mallory Paruszewski

not getting to watch football for over a year," Scarbrough said.

"I was really excited to watch my friends play," Hernandez said. "I also just miss watching our university sporting events live. I was super excited fans were going to be able to watch in-person."

"I was most excited to be able to cheer for my friends Grant McCook and Jake Freeny on the sidelines," Paruszewski said.

Scarbrough and Hernandez,

Northwestern upperclassmen, attended games in the 2019 season. Although the students weren't playing the games, they were still making memories, they said.

"One of my favorite memories watching Ranger football was watching the game with friends after Ranger Preview last year when we beat SWOSU," Scarbrough said.

"I have a lot of great memories down in the valley," Hernandez said. "I loved watching my friends make field goals, tackle people, score touchdowns and even win Ranger King. But my favorite was celebrating on the field after a win."

"I don't think it will affect us bad because it will make us all anxious to get back to it next year and be more excited," Paruszewski said about the possible effects on campus morale. "We will have more school spirit to start up all the things we have missed."

OPINION

NHL's outdoor game was a bust, but watching hockey is fun

By **CADE KENNEDY**
Student Reporter

For most people on campus, watching a hockey game is not how you would occupy your Saturday afternoon.

However, I am a massive sports fan, so spending 10 hours on a Saturday watching sports is normal to me. One of the major sporting events of the week that I was excited to see was a hockey game played in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

The game started at 2 p.m., and

all seemed to be going well for the two teams: the Vegas Golden Knights and the Colorado Avalanche. Despite the lack of stands, many spectators passed by the rink and showed their support for the Avalanche, Golden Knights or an entirely different team.

The first period went by without a problem, and the lake provided a perfect backdrop for what was shaping to be a good game.

While everything looked fine watching on TV, the temperature at Lake Tahoe was above average for this time of year and was causing the ice to melt. This led to

the remainder of the game restarting at 9 p.m. local time, meaning that the game would resume at 11 p.m. in Alva.

This also changed the broadcast of the game from being on NBC to being on NBC Sports, a network that not as many people get. This also impacted Sunday's game at Lake Tahoe as well, as it was also moved from to NBC Sports and given a 6 p.m. start time instead of 2 p.m.

This was a disaster for the NHL, as they had a perfect opportunity to show off some of the best teams in the league at a ven-

ue that would be recognizable to people who do not watch sports. And they ruined it. All they had to do was check the forecast for Saturday and Sunday and rework the schedule with NBC, or they could have prepared a makeshift arena to host the games.

This was frustrating to see unfold, as the NHL is usually ready for situations like this. The NHL has had a history of playing games outdoors and had a prime opportunity to attract more fans than usual, but completely ruined any chance of that happening.

Instead, Colorado won the

game 3 - 2 with the game ending at 12:50 a.m. Sunday with a smaller amount of people watching the game than expected.

The NHL has taken steps to make hockey more popular in the United States, but they took another step backwards over the weekend.

Despite the setbacks, both games were entertaining to watch and showed why hockey is a fun sport.

If you ever get the chance to watch hockey, whether it be in person or on television, I would encourage you to watch it.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR RANGER SPORTS:

GOLF

March 1 & 2

— GOLF. NWOSU will compete in the Natural State Classic golf tournament in Cabot, AR

BASEBALL

Feb. 26

— BB, NWOSU (1 - 2) vs. UAM (0 - 0) in Alva

Feb. 27

— BB, NWOSU (1 - 2) vs. UAM (0 - 0) in Alva (Doubleheader)

BASKETBALL

Feb. 25

— MBB, NWOSU (2 - 10) vs. SOSU (7 - 8) in Durant

— WBB, NWOSU (6 - 11) vs. SOSU (9 - 7) in Durant

Feb. 27

— MBB, NWOSU (2 - 10) vs. ECU (8 - 7) in Alva

— WBB, NWOSU (6 - 11) vs. ECU (8 - 7) in Alva

March 2

— MBB, NWOSU (2 - 10) vs. #3 in the GAC Western Division

— WBB, NWOSU (6 - 11) vs. #4 in the GAC Western Division

CROSS-COUNTRY

Feb. 27

— XC, The Rangers and Lady Rangers will compete in the last race of the year at the Great American Conference Championships in Weatherford.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All scores accurate as of press time.

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

RODEO

March 2 & 3

— RODEO, Northwestern's annual home rodeo will be in full swing in the Woods County Fairgrounds.

SOCCER

Feb. 28

— SOC, NWOSU (0 - 0) vs. SWOSU (0 - 0) in Weatherford

VOLLEYBALL

Feb. 26

— VB, NWOSU (4 - 1) vs. SOSU (0 - 2) in Alva

March 2

— VB, NWOSU (4 - 1) vs. ECU (1 - 3) in Ada

SOFTBALL

Feb. 26

— SB, NWOSU (3 - 1) vs. UAM (0 - 0) in Alva (Doubleheader)

Feb. 27

— SB, NWOSU (3 - 1) vs. UAM (0 - 0) in Alva

WEATHER: 'The only way to get used to cold weather is by being in it so much,' Motherwell native tells News

Continued from Page 1

winter is 32 degrees in Scotland, McCluskey said.

While McCluskey said he feels right at home in the subfreezing temperatures, wind and snow, other Northwestern students said they have never before experienced a winter like this one.

"I have been here for three years, and I still haven't learned to deal with the cold yet," said Morgan La Neve, a junior health and sports science major from Las Vegas, Nevada.

La Neve isn't alone. Students from states such as California, Texas and Florida likely have never seen temperatures that remained below freezing for extended periods of time.

"The weather differs from here because I do not get snow back home, and it's never this windy," La Neve said. "The lowest it has ever been in Las Vegas was probably 30 degrees."

Whether you're used to the cold weather like McCluskey or can't seem to adjust to it like La Neve, wearing the right winter clothing is essential in Alva, both said.

"It's always better to wear more clothes than not to wear enough," McCluskey said. "The only way to get used to cold weather is by being in it so much."



Photo provided

Stephen McCluskey's family poses for a photo in this snow-covered field in Scotland. McCluskey said Oklahoma's weather has been like Scotland's.