

2021 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

IT'S MAXWELL



Photo by Jordan Green

Dawson Maxwell, vice president of Northwestern's Student Government Association in 2020, will be the organization's next president. He is shown posing for a portrait March 27.

SGA VP unopposed in student body president election

By JORDAN GREEN, *Editor-in-Chief*

Dawson Maxwell, a junior criminal justice major from Perry who was elected vice president of Northwestern's Student Government Association in 2020, will be the organization's next president.

Maxwell was the only student who filed to run for the highest-ranking position in the Student Government Association, which plans campus activities and acts as a liaison between the student body and university administrators.

"I can't wait to start the new year with everything and continue the traditions that have been in place, and continue the great

events and try out some new ones, and try and make all students' Northwestern experience the best," he said.

Maxwell learned Saturday that he was the only candidate for the job. Other student body leaders will be elected April 6 and 7.

"I want to thank God, of course," he said. "This is ... a big blessing, and I've reached a goal that I've wanted for a while."

Maxwell has served in student government since his freshman year, starting out as a student body senator, he said. He was the Student Government Association's secretary before being elected as its vice president.

The Oklahoma native has deep ties to the university, he said, and his family inspired him to be a Ranger.

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INSIDE THIS EDITION:

On pages 6 and 7, find out more about the Rangers running for student body vice president, secretary and treasurer. Don't forget to vote April 6 and 7.



News

MAXWELL: 'I want to make Northwestern better'

Continued from Page 1

His father, Northwestern alumnus Brady Maxwell, served as the Student Government Association's president in 1994, Dawson Maxwell said. Maxwell's brother also attends Northwestern, and Maxwell's mother is from Alva, he said.

Maxwell said he decided to run for the office because he wants to make Northwestern a better place for students to learn.

"This was honestly one of the goals I set when coming to college," he said. "I just want to make everyone's Northwestern experience as best as I can make it for them. I just enjoy hearing stories, being a part of and putting on event and making campus life as best as we can. I feel like I am best suited to do that with all of the knowledge, traditions, and love for Northwestern that I have.

"We're great for criminal justice, scholarships and small-town 'feel' and everything. That kind of brought me to Northwestern."

As student body president, Maxwell said he will encourage students to participate in university events and join new organizations.

"It's extremely vital to find a group with like-mindedness and interests you like to make your college experience better," he said.

Maxwell said he'll listen to students' concerns and have a positive attitude.

"I love hearing from others, their ideas and interest and input," he said. "What I may think everyone would like or put on is not necessarily the best. I have a big willingness to listen to others and hear from others. I want to make Northwestern better and continue the work of previous presidents that I've been under and watched and everything. I just want to serve others, and I en-



Photo by Jordan Green

Dawson Maxwell, vice president of Northwestern's Student Government Association, will be the group's president. He poses for a portrait March 27.

joy putting on events and hearing from all the different students and everything."

After graduating from Northwestern, Maxwell will pursue a career in law enforcement, where he hopes to help others – just as he hopes to do as student body president, he said.

"I'm a very competitive and driven person," he said. "I'm a very unselfish person. I'm a very positive-minded person. I like being around others, and I'm always willing to help."

Ethan Sacket, who was elected president of the Student Govern-

ment Association in 2020, will be graduating in May. He's worked with Maxwell since 2018 and said Maxwell's personality will make him an effective Ranger leader.

"We are in a fun time right now where we're slowly getting back to normal here on campus," Sacket said. "He's got a really cool opportunity ahead of himself to really serve our students and to make change."

Sacket said Maxwell is approachable and a good listener, skills he characterized as being essential to the job.

"Dawson is pretty personable person, and so it's very easy to have a conversation with Dawson," Sacket said. "He's a super friendly guy on campus, and hopefully that personality will draw people in to talk with him. I know he'll go out and have those conversations with students. I think the main thing is just really communicating.

"It's truly just what he makes of the opportunity."

Caleb Mosburg, dean of student affairs and co-adviser of the Student Government Administration, said he believes Maxwell

will be a good student leader.

"I think he'll do a great job," Mosburg said. "He's got some experience this year serving as an officer, so I'm excited. I'm excited for him and excited for the next year and to see what he's able to get accomplished as SGA president."

Maxwell said he is thankful to those who encouraged him to run for the office.

"I really love being a part of SGA and putting on the events, serving and seeing everyone," he said. "I feel I made the best decision ultimately."

New benches in commons area allow students to 'park it'

After stopping in winter and early spring, project to update Mall has picked up again

By CADE KENNEDY
Student Reporter

University workers continue to update the commons area, and students are starting to see some of the results.

Workers have installed park benches outside the Student Center. The benches give students an opportunity to sit outside while taking a break.

"The park benches were donated by the banks in Alva and

are not anchored, which allows them to be moved around," said Dr. David Pecha, the university's vice president of administration.

Pecha said the benches have been well received by students and staff.

Pecha said it is a little too early to discuss what new things students will see on campus, as budgetary work is ongoing. However, he said the roofs of campus buildings will be worked on.

The construction project in the commons area, also known as the Mall, started in the summer of 2020, when new concrete stairs were built by the Student Center. New windows and doors on the west entrance of the Student Center were installed.

New sidewalks are being built by Ryerson Hall as well.



At right: New park benches in the university commons area, better known as the Mall, are shown in this March photo. Photo by Jara Reeder

News

COVID ON CAMPUS

Northwestern administrators and local health officials say they're optimistic after university vaccine clinic

By LANEY COOK
Student Reporter

Dozens of Northwestern students and faculty were vaccinated during an on-campus clinic March 24.

The Woods County Health Department and Northwestern Oklahoma State University teamed up to allow students and university employees to get their first rounds of the COVID-19 vaccination. The clinic took place in Percefull Fieldhouse.

Students in Northwestern's nursing program helped administer vaccines.

Ashley Ferguson, a nurse at the Woods County Health Department, said 122 people got their first rounds of the vaccine that day.

She said a second vaccination clinic will be on campus April 22. Health officials will send out a code the week before to university administrators so that students and faculty can select a time slot for an appointment.

Oklahoma has moved into Phase 4 of its vaccine distribution plan, meaning all Oklahomans over the age of 16 can be immunized against the virus.

Ferguson said those who are under the age of 18 must have a parental guardian with them while taking the vaccine.

"For getting the vaccination pod here on campus at the time, we were able to get it done and do it the way we did," Calleb Mosburg, Northwestern's dean of student affairs, said. "I think, with the efficiency we had, it turned out really well."

Other Oklahoma colleges, including Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Rogers State University and Oklahoma Panhandle State University, have also hosted vaccination pods on their campuses, Mosburg said.

Ferguson said Southwestern Oklahoma State University's pharmacy program and the Custer County Health Department collaborate with local health departments to distribute vaccinations.

Mosburg said the vaccination clinic will hopefully kick-start the process of loosening coronavirus



Photo by Jordan Green

Dozens of university students, faculty and staff were vaccinated against the coronavirus during a clinic in Percefull Fieldhouse on March 24.

restrictions on campus.

"I think getting back to normal is a hope for everybody," Mosburg said. "I know it's a hope for us."

Ferguson said the state's number of active coronavirus cases has decreased since vaccination clinics started.

"It's still important to wear a mask and practice social distancing since not everyone has gotten vaccinated," Ferguson said. "But this will really help to slow it down even more."

Mosburg said he was happy with the turnout at the clinic but wishes more people had been vaccinated.

"Overall, I thought it went really well," Mosburg said. "I was very thankful for the health department, the nursing program, the students and NSA kids, and folks that stopped by and helped us out."

Student talks about immunization experience

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Northwestern News

Reagan Allen was one of several Northwestern students who took the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in a university immunization clinic March 24. The Northwestern News asked her about her experience.

Q: What do you think about getting vaccinated?

A: I think that it is great that we finally have a vaccine for COVID, and it's important for people to get it in order to help get things back to normal.

Q: Which vaccine did you take?

A: Moderna. It's a two-shot.

Q: Is there any part of the process that you were nervous about?

A: No, not really. I trust the doctors and everyone developing the vaccine.

Q: How do you think your life will change after being immunized against COVID-19?

A: I don't think that by just me getting the vaccine it will change my life. It's only going

to change if everyone does their part.

Q: Did you have any side effects from the vaccine?

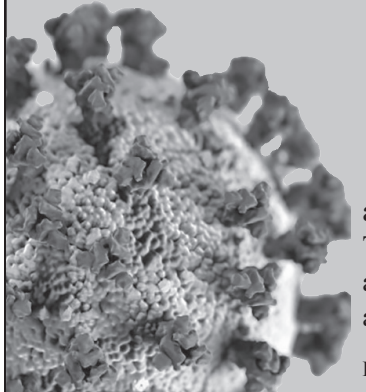
A: I had a headache and felt tired the day after I got it.

Q: How was your overall experience?

A: It was really good. The process was super easy, and all the nurses giving the shots were very nice and explained the process.

They made sure we understood everything before they did anything.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: CASE NUMBERS ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE AREA



STUDENT CASES:

0

active as of March 26. This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

EMPLOYEE CASES:

0

active as of March 26. This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

IN ALVA:

11

active as of March 29. Alva has had a total of 998 cases.

IN OKLAHOMA:

10,906

active as of March 29. Oklahoma has had a total of 435,449 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 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

April Fool's tricks

By **ALIYAH BIDWELL**
Student Reporter

My best April Fool's prank was in my 6th grade year of school. I got my inspiration from my band teacher from the 3rd grade.

He acted like he lost his memory for a whole day. I put my own twist on it, though. I decided that, for April Fool's Day, I was going to lose my voice.

I knew no one would believe that I suddenly lost my voice. So, I decided to build up to April 1.

Little by little, I lost my voice. On April Fool's Day, I showed up to school and stayed quiet.

I am a talkative person, and the ones who didn't believe that I lost my voice tried to tempt me to talk all day. But I didn't.

I wanted to tell my friends, but I knew I would get caught, so I

didn't. I carried a pen and paper all day, and anytime I wanted to say something, I just wrote it down, which slowed my conversations down.

Everyone believed me until the end of the day when the class was lining up to go home. A friend of mine told a joke. I was laughing really loudly, and another girl said, "I thought you lost your voice, Aliyah. You can't laugh when you lose your voice."

The know-it-all inside of me replied, "Yes you can." Up until that point, I had gotten away with the prank.

I asked a friend of mine from back home what the craziest April Fool's prank she ever pulled was, and he said he decided to prank the principal.

He wanted to plastic-wrap the principal's door, and he wanted to wrap everything in his office with

aluminum foil.

He wanted to pull this prank on the principal because they were close friends who work together because my friend is the janitor.

He also decided to do it because the principal pulled a prank on him the previous April Fool's.

It was easy access because he had the key to every office. He told me that he had to use duct tape to get the aluminum foil and plastic wrap to stay in place.

He did the room first because the plastic wrap was going on the door frame. Then he did about 100 layers over the door. They both thought it was funny. No one got upset.

However, the principal did say that he would get him back next year, and he did.

The next year, all of the janitor's stuff was on the theater stage in a pyramid.

Editor's rant of the week

By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Features Editor

I have been focusing a lot on the negatives of the pandemic in my rants, so I thought I would switch it up a bit. The pandemic has been rough, but there have been some good things.

Personally, since events were closed, I have had more time to get to know myself. (I know that sounds weird.) What I mean is I finally had time to find things that I like doing by myself.

I struggled with Zoom and getting my point across virtually at the beginning of all of this, and I realized it's because I rely a lot on my actions and body language.

I have been forced to grow in a way that allows me to get my point across and express my opinions with my words. I realize that this is not going to be a universal experience, but it's something that the pandemic has really helped me with.

Throughout high school, I was in every club and sport, and I went to every event. I was constantly busy, and I never got time to myself.

I grew up with six siblings alongside all my mom's day-care kids. I never had to play by myself, but I also never had my own room. I cannot fathom what it's like to grow up as an only child.

The first time I got quarantined for a possible exposure, I loved it. I slept in and watched TV. I was stuck in my dorm for over a week, and I didn't care. I loved having the freedom to do what I wanted on my own time.

I had a couple more COVID scares where I was quarantined, and the isolation slowly got to me. I had never had to spend that much time keeping myself busy. The pandemic has also taught me that life is short, and we shouldn't take it for granted. I know it's a little morbid, but you never know what's going to happen, and you should make every day count.

Another upside to COVID are the memes. They are not only funny, but they show how humor helps in stressful situations. I think it has really helped bring us together when we physically could not be by each other.

Yes, the pandemic is awful. It ruined a lot of events and killed a lot of people, but with every situation there is a bright side. You just have to look hard enough.

So close yet so far

By **DEVYN LANSDEN**
Editorial Editor

April might be one of my favorite months.

I do not know why. Maybe because spring is here finally and all the flowers, green grass and leaves will be here soon.

It is also because there is only about a month left of school.

It is crazy to think that this time next year, I will be packing up my things and hopefully getting ready to start my real, grown-up job.

But for now, I am still focused on my work and not thinking about that just yet.

My sister will be graduating next month, and it is crazy to me. She has always been there with me through everything.

The last time she graduated, I was devastated because she was leaving me just a few months later to go to college.

Now, she is just going to be an adult. She will be right here in Alva with her boyfriend, and they will begin their grown-up lives together.

When is the right time to start thinking about the future?

When do I start looking for jobs?

These are questions I have, but I keep pushing them to the side. I do not want to look too far ahead and miss what is going on right in front of me.

I will hopefully intern here in Alva this summer so I can get that done. I am super excited about interning because it will give me a chance to see what I really want to do and what I will be good at.

For some reason, the weather makes me want to be productive.

I want to get all my work done so I can go outside and soak up

the sun. This past weekend, I got a lot of homework done and rewarded myself with going to the track and running.

That sounds like someone else's punishment. But being in the sun and exercising are my top two favorite things.

It is always nice to have your phone out of your hands and not have to worry about homework for a little bit.

This semester has flown by. I still feel like I have so many assignments left, but I am still taking everything day-by-day, trying to get as much done as I can one day at a time.

I cannot believe that this summer will be my last before I graduate. The next school year will be full of "lasts" for me.

The last first day of school, the last Thanksgiving and Christmas break. My workload will not be as intense as it is this semester, thank goodness.

Every time I get flustered with all the work I have, I remind myself that I did this to myself.

I know I will thank myself in a year because I will be in 13 hours, and I am so ready for that.

This summer, I want to do as much as possible since I will intern. I hope I learn a lot and find what I am good at as well as enjoy doing. I am going to try to be as prepared as possible, so by the time it is time to apply for jobs, I will have a good idea where I want to work.

I have so many friends graduating this semester, and they tell me they have all these options and people reaching out to them.

I am so proud of them and hope they find a great place to work. I learned from one of my teachers when you apply for a job you also need to interview them.

If you are not happy, then how

can you enjoy what you do?

I think that is something I will always keep in mind when it is time for me to apply and interview for jobs.

I work in the recruitment office, and the recruiters that have been there since I have are leaving in May when they finish their master's degrees. We all became a close group of friends, from doing mailings together and calling so many high school students in the summer time. It is something that I will always remember because I always looked forward to going to work and hanging out with my friends.

It will change so much in there because they are all so different with different personalities. They make work fun.

But change is always good, and they need to blossom, which they will do.

Just today, I filled out a degree audit, so in a few weeks, I will receive it in the mail with all the classes I have taken to officially make sure I will graduate in 2022.

I just cannot believe that it is so close. I have thought a lot about what I want to do, but a part of me is scared that I will not be able to reach it.

I love my major because I do have so many options, and I personally think I am good at a lot of these options. I have no reason to be scared or nervous, but I overthink way too much.

I have great teachers who make me greater in my skills and support me. That is why I know I will be OK, and I will reach my goals.

I hope everyone is enjoying this warm weather as much as I am. School is coming to an end soon.

Just a few more assignments, and we will be done!

Editorial



Photos provided

Members of the Kim, Colorado, agricultural community discuss the challenges facing the meat industry during a recent meeting. Ag producers are facing a series of legislative challenges.

Beef is what's for dinner

By **SEAN DOHERTY**
Student Reporter

KIM, Colo. — There is evidence of large-scale animal production as early as Ancient Egypt.

Several millennia later, Colorado Governor Jared Polis, a pharaoh in his own mind, issued a proclamation to his people: Don't eat meat on March 20.

Fortunately, this is America, not Ancient Egypt, and Colorado Ag producers, joined by thousands of supporters around the country, hosted "Meat In Day" instead. Several organizations around the state organized dinners and raised money for charity. My hometown of Kim, Colorado, hosted an event with over 200 people that raised \$4,600 for local charities, in a town of 77 people.

It filled my heart with pride to see the Ag community come together and stand with my home state, and I pray this united front stands. Because this is only the beginning, and "Meat Out Day" is an omen of much more dire things to come. I saw Meat Out Day for the gimmicky PR stunt it was as soon as I heard about it, and my suspicions were confirmed through Twitter the day afterward. A Twitter user facetiously thanked Gov. Polis for more free advertising for the beef industry than there had been in years.

Another user pointed out, "Don't you get it? He created a

market share for both veggie-lovers and meat-lovers. That's marketing."

Polis then replied, on his verified government account, "Thank you for acknowledging my genius."

Unfortunately, he is right. In one swift move, Polis appeased his far-left activist base and big Democratic donors, got thousands of people to go out and spend their stimulus checks, and distracted everyone from legislation that would put Colorado on the fast-track to be Bill Gates's artificial protein utopia.

By itself, Meat Out Day was a political-savvy move by a master politician. But it is a symptom of an extremely dangerous line of thinking perpetuated by Polis and other prominent activists like Gates.

The idea that the first-world has progressed past the need for natural animal proteins and that all of us, in our benevolence, should therefore transition to a vegan or artificial protein diet is peak elitist arrogance. But it leads to real proposed legislation such as Initiative 16, formerly known as the Protect Animals From Unnecessary Suffering Exploitation, or PAUSE, Act. Strange name, considering it virtually outlaws common veterinary procedures and animal husbandry practices.

According to The Fence Post magazine, Initiative 16, authored by activists Alexander Sage and Brent Johannes, is an expansion

of prohibitions against cruelty to animals. It is currently awaiting approval from the Colorado title board. After that, the proposition can start to gather the 125,000 signatures needed to appear on the next Colorado ballot.

One part of Initiative 16 seeks to expand the definition of "sexual act with an animal" to include intrusion or penetration into an animal's anus or genitals with an object or part of a person's body. The only exception to this statute is "for care to improve the animal's health." If the people whose livelihood depends on their livestock are not allowed to decide what is best for their animal's health, who is? When it comes to livestock care, producers must be able to act quickly; it is literally a matter of life and death. An obvious example of an exception (I would hope) is when a cow needs assistance birthing her calf. On many farms and ranches, like my family's, the nearest large animal vet is an hour away. A producer cannot wait that long to act if they are going to save the calf's, and sometimes the mother's, life. So, cattle producers must reach into the reproductive tract of that cow, and pull the calf out. I know firsthand.

But what about checking for pregnancy? For those who don't know, the common way to check if a cow is pregnant is to insert a hand and feel for the fetus. Even with massive strides in ultrasound technology and availability, a

wand still must be inserted into large animal to receive a reading. Veterinarians agree pregnancy testing is vital to a pregnant cow's health. But under this initiative, who decides?

Even then, Initiative 16 removes exceptions in animal cruelty statutes for animal husbandry practices, and would ensure that animal cruelty statutes supersede animal care statutes. Meaning, as Colorado Farm Bureau's Shawn Martini said in an interview with the Fence Post magazine, "Anything you do, even if it is a generally accepted practice endorsed by the American Veterinary Medicine Association, would still make you a criminal animal abuser."

Initiative 16 also defines "natural lifespans" for certain species of livestock, and seeks to prohibit harvest of these animals until they have reached 25% of their lifespan. For example, according to the authors of the bill, the natural lifespan of cattle is 20 years, making the minimum harvest age five years. First of all, a cow living to 20 years old would be a miracle in the best production setting. Second, by the time cattle reach age 5, their economic value is slim to none. Third, with slaughter outlawed, feedlots and packing houses will move to neighboring states, and as a result food costs go up and food availability goes down.

And little towns, like my hometown, will dry up and blow

away.

Polis publicly opposes the initiative, but he is indirectly connected.

First Gentleman Marlon Reis sits as a board member of Luvvin Arms Animal Sanctuary, a non-profit animal sanctuary for abused or neglected farmed animals, where Sage, co-author of the PAUSE Act, volunteers.

So maybe we should ask the first gentleman if he supports legislation that would not only wipe out jobs, but eradicate communities? Legislation that would erase generational legacies and destroy families?

The divide between agriculture producers and the average consumer was already vast.

But propaganda attacking the agriculture industry spouted by regressive activists furthers the divide exponentially, and legislation like Initiative 16 could make it too expensive to cross.

The only way to stretch across this divide is to recognize how fortunate we are to have the option of a vegan diet or to choose artificial protein.

Let's support a shrinking number of farmers and ranchers that continue to feed a growing population with less land, fewer animals and higher costs.

So chow down on that quinoa, order that Impossible Whopper, or grill up some juicy rib-eyes.

And if you want to know more about what you're eating, don't ask an activist; ask a farmer.

VICE PRESIDENT

LORA

Yosbelli Lora, a senior psychology major from Ringwood, is running for the office of vice president.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: One of my favorite things to do is to walk into people's office and pick people's brains. I came to Northwestern because I was in an Upward Bound program in high school, so I've been around Northwestern since 2015. When I was in high school, I told myself, "I'm never coming to Northwestern." I came back in 2016 and really liked it. Then I got accepted, and I've really liked it ever since.

Q: Why are you running for this office?

A: I'm running for vice president because, thus far, I've really enjoyed being a part of the organization. It's been a great way to grow in leadership. I love talking to our students. I'm a social butterfly. Last semester, I caught COVID, and I was in isolation for a really long time. Once I was out, I wasn't at 100%. I feel, because of that, I wasn't able to give as much to the students, but now I'll be sticking around a little longer. Everything worked out with school. I want to assist the student body and make it a more enjoyable place and have a positive impact.

Q: What is one specific goal you hope to accomplish if elected?

A: I think ultimate goal is to get

as many people involved as possible, making them feel welcomed. We officers are there to help them with anything they need. We're here to make them feel comfortable to reach out to our SGA with any concern or idea. We're the voice of the students.

Q: What is one of your strengths?

A: One of my biggest strengths would be that I'm really energetic and enthusiastic. I love talking to our students and everybody in general – faculty, staff and students. I enjoy listening to them, finding out what's going on in their lives. I'm open-minded, and I want to see their ideas.

Q: What else should students know about you?

A: I'm ready to serve. I'm really excited. We've got some really good folks out here, and I look forward to what they have to bring to student government.



YOSBELLI LORA
CANDIDATE FOR
VICE PRESIDENT

PRAY

Grayson Pray, a sophomore computer science major from Bluff City, Kansas, is running for the office of vice president.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I was originally in Wichita State University for my freshman and part of my sophomore year. I came to Northwestern because my oldest sister and younger are both here at Northwestern as well. So, that's kind of how I wound up here. I've really enjoyed being here so far. I've met a lot of really nice people and made some good friends.

Q: Why are you running for this office?

A: I feel like, if I could be in the position of vice president, it would give me a great opportunity to help people because I could be a liaison

between the staff and faculty at the college and the students and help facilitate a clear communication between the two. I feel like I could just be in a position where I could help make the change any students would want.

Q: What is one specific goal you hope to accomplish if elected?

A: I was just kind of thinking that, if I could become vice president, I would like to do just small, little, nice events or surprises for students. It might not be huge, campus-wide, big things, but it would just be small, nice things like free, complimentary snacks for people on a certain day. Maybe we could partner with some group or order some special food for a certain date in the cafeteria.

Q: What is one of your strengths?

A: I feel like I'm a good listener. I really hope I can be the type of vice president that, when students come to me saying things they would like or they would need, they can feel heard and understood. I can be someone they trust that, if they tell me something, I'll actually do my best to do it.

Q: What else should students know about you?

A: My main motivation is that I really want to make Northwestern a more comfortable, happy and better place. I really hope, if I become vice president, I can do that.



COLLIN ZINK
CANDIDATE FOR
TREASURER

ERIKA HERNANDEZ
CANDIDATE FOR
TREASURER

ANGEL MARSHALL
CANDIDATE FOR
SECRETARY

AUSTIN RANKIN
CANDIDATE FOR
SECRETARY

HERNANDEZ

Erika Hernandez, a junior elementary education major from Laverne, is running for the office of treasurer.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I'm from a small town in Oklahoma. I'm pretty involved on the campus. I didn't have a great first semester experience. Just coming from a small town, it was really hard, that transition. But through that, I got to learn a lot and meet a lot of new people. So, that's my biggest thing, trying to help incoming freshmen.

Q: Why are you running for this office?

A: Northwestern has just really impacted my life. I was pretty shy, and I wasn't really involved in the community or school activities. Northwestern really pushed me to step out of my comfort zone.

The people – the staff and the students – they made it possible because they're there to help you out. I just want more people to get involved, to push students to step out of their comfort zone and do

things that they don't think they can.

Q: What is one specific goal you hope to accomplish if elected?

A: I have been a part of SGA since freshman year. I've attended most every meeting, and I don't really see a lot of athletes involved, you know. SGA hosts a lot of events, and sometimes we don't know, like, the athletes have busy schedules and stuff like that. So, I would really want to target student athletes and do activities that they would enjoy and they could participate in.

Q: What is one of your strengths?



A: I would definitely say communication skills. I'm a pretty talkative person. I think I'm pretty approachable. I like to reach out to people so they can feel comfortable reaching back to me.

Q: What else should students know about you?

A: I like to enjoy life. Obviously, we're all going to school to get an education, to get a degree. I've made a lot of great memories, just late-night talks, going to an SGA event. After college, you're going into the real world, and you're going to have real responsibilities and stuff. So, enjoy your college years. I definitely try to. We all have homework, and we're all busy, but do not lose sight of what's around us, and make friendships that will last us a lifetime.



Stories, photos and design by JORDAN GREEN, Editor-in-Chief

TREASURER

ZINK

Collin Zink, a sophomore health and sports science major from Blackwell, is running for the office of treasurer.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I am a Catholic Christian, and I am an Eagle Scout. I'm an equipment manager for Northwestern football team. After I graduate, I want to be a manager in the NFL and hopefully one day coach football. I have started a club. It's called Sanctus. It's a Catholic club, but you don't have to be Catholic to join. Every week, we pray the rosary and celebrate the holy mass.

Q: Why are you running for this office?

A: I kind of thought it would give me something positive to



and to go to college. I'm thinking that maybe we can try to promote safe sex.

Q: What is one of your strengths?

A: I'm an Eagle Scout. To obtain that rank, I had to lead my Eagle Scout project for it to be completed. I had to lead people to tell them what to do and how to get this done.

Q: What else should students know about you?

A: I have cerebral palsy, which is a weakness in my left side. That has caused me to not be able to do a lot of things in life. For example, I play video games with one hand.

It makes me want to tell people that, "Hey, people with disabilities can be in office and that they can do things that people with non-disabilities can do." If I could prove something to them, I could prove to them that they shouldn't count people with disabilities out quickly. Give them a chance to see what they can do.



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What are their strengths? What are their goals?

That's what you, a student at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, need to know about the candidates running for seats on the Student Government Association — and that's exactly what the Northwestern News

can tell you about.

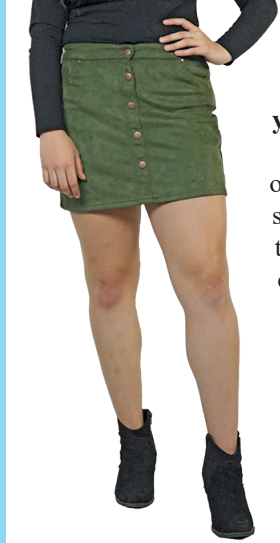
Candidates for the offices of student body vice president, secretary and treasurer spoke with the News about their ambitions and why they're asking for your vote April 6 and 7.

Their responses to our questions have been edited for length and clarity.

SECRETARY

MARSHALL

Angel Marshall, a sophomore English major from Tahlequah, is running for the office of secretary.



Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I got offered a scholarship to run here in cross-country, but I only do track now. I'm Cherokee and Choctaw. After I graduate, I want to get my master's in psychology and then get my LPC license to be a counselor and then maybe, after that, law school. I can speak a little bit of Cherokee. I'm not fluent, but I understand quite a bit.

lots of areas, but public speaking is a big one I need to work on.

Q: What is one specific goal you hope to accomplish if elected?

A: Education is really important to me, and I know a lot of people who have been struggling the past two years with tutoring services and education and stuff. A lot of times, the athletic teams use study hall and forms of studying as a punishment, which should not be. I would form a committee focused on education. There could be groups of people that would meet once a week and just try to navigate through people's academic questions. There just needs to be more help. Because if the school's unable financially to get tutors or specific help, there are ways you can improvise and help out in different ways.

Q: What is one of your strengths?

A: I do think I'm a very good communicator. I think that I'm very neutral, seeing both sides of situations. I'm intuitive. I just think I'm really good at problem-solving. I would say for sure.

Q: What else should students know about you?

A: I'm someone they can talk to. I'll help anybody with anything. If anyone needs any help, I'm really caring. I just want people to feel comfortable and safe with me, like, to bring problems, concerns, issues, anything. I just want people to feel comfortable with me, for sure.

Q: Why are you running for this office?

A: I'm running for office because I really just want to get out there a little more, get more involved. I think that, if I were to be elected as an SGA officer, it would help me work on a lot of my weaknesses. I can definitely improve in

RANKIN

Austin Rankin, a freshman political science major from Waynoka, is running for the office of secretary.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I'm very interested in going into law after college. I plan on being a criminal law attorney. I'm active in the Ranger Band. I'm the founder and president of the Collegiate 4H Club on campus. I'm very active in BCM [Baptist Collegiate Ministries], and I take my faith very seriously.

Q: Why are you running for this office?

A: I'm the kind of person that, if I'm not actively participating in something, it's kind of hard for me to stay interested in it. That's been a little bit of a challenge with COVID. I just kind of want to assure that the student body is going to be able to have the same opportunities going in, and I want to take a really active role in assuring that there's a lot of campus life on campus.

Q: What is one specific goal you hope to accomplish if elected?

A: If I was elected, what I would actually do is start a club activity retention committee. What this committee would essentially do would be to have the presidents of each club kind of meet – or officers of specific clubs on campus – and discuss activities that are possible to be held and kind of discuss ways in which they could maintain ac-

tivity within their clubs. I want to make sure that we stay really active throughout the year.

Q: What is one of your strengths?

A: Communication. I love talking to people, and I love speaking, public speaking. The more I'm able to communicate with people, the better. So, on our officer's team, I find it that communication is absolutely essential to good teamwork, and have a really positive outlook on leadership.

Q: What else should students know about you?

A: First and foremost, I'm a Christian. Second, I'm a servant leader. And third, I really, really look forward to running for SGA secretary. I really put leadership as a priority in my life, and I absolutely love serving in leadership positions.



News

City Council seats up for grabs

Find out where, when and how to vote in the April 6 municipal election

Alva residents will head to the polls April 6 to elect new City Council members. Here's some basic information about when to vote, where to vote and what you need to know when you head to the polls.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting is open Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Early voting is conducted at the Woods County Election Board office in the county courthouse, 410 Fourth St., Suite C in Alva.

ELECTION DAY

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday. Lines are possible at peak voting times.

Wait times will likely be shortest mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Anyone in line to vote at 7 p.m. will be allowed to cast a ballot.

CHECKING REGISTRATION

Those who need to look up their polling place or verify their registration can access the information on the Oklahoma State Election Board's website: <http://www.elections.ok.gov>.

Those who vote by mail can also check the status of their ballots using the online voter tool.

Sample ballots are available at the



Photo by Jordan Green

An American flag waves at the Alva Municipal Cemetery in this November 2019 file photo.

county election board office and on the state website under the "voter tools" tab.

ID REQUIREMENTS

Oklahoma law requires every voter who votes in-person at the precinct polling place or during early voting at the county election board to show proof of identity before receiving a ballot.

There are three ways for voters to prove their identity under the law (only one form is required): a valid photo ID issued by a federal, state, or tribal gov-

ernment; the free voter identification card issued to every voter by the county election board; or a signed affidavit. (If the information on the affidavit matches official voter registration records, the ballot will be counted after Election Day.)

To obtain a new voter ID card, call 580-327-1452.

INFORMATION FOR DISABLED VOTERS

Polling places have accommodations for: physically disabled voters who can-

not enter the polling place; those who need help marking their ballots; blind or visually disabled voters; and illiterate voters.

They may be assisted by a person the voter chooses.

In all cases, a person providing such assistance may not be the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union.

A person providing assistance also must swear or affirm that the voter's ballots will be marked in accordance with the voter's wishes.

Alternatively, all blind, visually impaired and physically disabled voters in Woods County may use the audio-tactile interface.

This is a feature offered on all Oklahoma voting devices during early voting and during Election Day.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE MOVED

Voters who have moved since the last election, but who have not transferred their voter registration to their new address, may do so on Election Day by going to vote at the polling place where their registration has been in the past.

While voting, they may fill out a form instructing the county election board to transfer their registration to the new address before the next election.

Candidates discuss goals for city

Council hopefuls talk with local newspaper about ambitions if elected

By DYLAN WHITELEY
Student Reporter

Several City Council seats are up for a vote in the April 6 election.

Some of the candidates answered questions from the Alva Review-Courier to talk about themselves and their plans if elected. Not all candidates have had interviews published as of press time.

WARD 1, SEAT 1

Justin Scribner and Daniel Winters are running for the Ward 1, Seat 1 office on the Council.

Scribner says he is pro-business and supports new businesses coming to Alva.

Scribner said the biggest issue he plans to take on is the way the finances of the city are being handled.

"The city offices should be held to a higher standard when it comes to managing the money of the citizens," Scribner said. "I believe people are justified in their distrust with the way city finances are being managed."

Winters said he is pushing for

economic development and funding for the city pool.

He also said he wants to fix issues such as broken water pipes and poor road conditions in Alva.

"A lot of these troubles aren't new," Winters told the Review-Courier. "But they are big and take time to repair."

Candidate Tim Bradley's interview had not been published as of press time.

WARD 2, SEAT 1

Taylor Dowling and Mark Nichols are running for the Ward 2, Seat 1 office on the Council.

Dowling said he is focusing on issues such as financial struggles and giving the citizens of Alva a say in what goes on.

Dowling said his previous work experience has given him the necessary qualifications to be on the Council.

"I believe I have the heart and background to make sure Alva will be a flourishing and prosperous town," Dowling said.

Nichols wants to improve the city's infrastructure and better utilize technology to provide a safer city, he said.

Nichols told the Review-Courier he wants to prevent previous issues from arising again.

"We need to focus on making sure we pay our debts we owe from previous choices," he said.

WARD 3, SEAT 1

Dalton Beeler is running for the Ward 3, Seat 1 office on the Council.

Beeler said he wants to clear up confusion about the budget.

Beeler also said he wants to get back on track after the disturbance COVID-19 has caused the city of Alva.

"I think the biggest problem Alva faces right now is the economic crisis brought on by Covid-19," Beeler said. "People are struggling daily."

Candidate Troy Brooks' interview had not been published as of press time.

WARD 4, SEAT 1

Greg Bowman, Blake Jordan and Joe Parsons are running for the Ward 4, Seat 1 office on the Council.

Bowman said he wants to help make Alva a better community and provide for the needs of the citizens.

Bowman said he hopes to address Alva's aging infrastructure.

"This is going to require everyone being on the same page to obtain positive resolutions," Bowman told the newspaper.

Jordan said he hopes to rebuild trust between the citizens of Alva and the city leadership.

Jordan told the Review-Courier

er he will be transparent and honest in happenings with the city.

"I will listen to city employees and make changes that work not just on paper ... but create something meaningful that can be of use to everyone," he said.

Parsons, an 18-year-old high school senior, was previously featured in the Northwestern News. His interview with the Review-Courier had not been published as of press time.

Parsons said he wants to help young people get involved in city government. He also said he will listen to the concerns of citizens.

"That's a really big reason I'm running," he told the Northwestern News in March. "As a City Council member, it's your job to represent your constituents."

LOCAL POLLING PLACES:

Here is the rundown of Alva polling places open on April 6:

760001: Northwest Technology Center

760003: Woods County Fairgrounds - East Half Merchants Building

760005: Woods County Fairgrounds - West Half Merchants Building

Check the bottom left-hand corner of your voter ID card to find your polling place location.

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Entertainment



Photo provided by Netflix Media Center

'Yes Day' is a perfect movie for family night

By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Features Editor

Imagine a whole day where you and your siblings get to call the shots and your parents have to say yes. That's the entire premise of the new Netflix movie "Yes Day."

"Yes day" premiered March 5 on Netflix. It follows a family as they struggle to agree. The kids see the mom as a dictator, and the mom sees it as parenting. The whole premise of the show is that, for 24-hour period, the parents have to say yes.

Now if you are a parent or if you have been around kids, you can automatically see all the things that are going to go wrong. The show sets out some criteria for a yes day, like distance they can travel, amount of money they can spend and so on.

This is a family-friendly

movie. It would be perfect to watch on family movie nights.

I feel like the movie started out a little slow to begin with, but I was pleasantly surprised with the character arcs, especially of the eldest daughter and the mom.

The daughter is just at the age where she wants some more independence, but she's not really ready for it, and she doesn't realize that. It will get her into some issues throughout the movie.

The movie does show an accurate depiction of sibling dynamics and family issues. That was really easy to relate to considering I have my own siblings. It also shows the struggle between being the nice parent and being the mean parent and how everyone needs to find a "middle ground."

The movie does follow a predictable plot line, which I wasn't a big fan of, but they

did add some twists in there that caught me by surprise in a couple spots that actually had me laughing.

I'd honestly give this a 3 out of 5 stars. I know I'm not the main audience for this movie, and I know someone would really like it, but it was really just not my thing. I do recommend it to anyone who's into "family time" movies — just good old family values, very age appropriate, very predictable.

This movie kind of has the same feel as Adam Sandler's "Bedtime Stories." So, if you enjoyed that, I believe you would probably enjoy this one, too. And for families who have anyone around the age of the children in the movie.

All that being said, it did end on a really good note. I mean, it's the classic coming together at the end family-time, but I think it wrapped up well.

Spotify music's Top 10 songs of the week

- "Save Your Tears" - The Weeknd
- "Best Friend" - Saweetie
- "Driver's License" - Olivia Rodrigo
- "Don't Play" - Anne-Marie
- "Vibez" - Zayn
- "Treat People With Kindness" - Harry Styles
- "Girls Like Me" - Black Eyed Peas
- "Positions" - Ariana Grande
- "Barcelona" - Andra
- "Levitating" - Dua Lipa

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Sports

Women's golf plays season

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Student Reporter

The Northwestern women's golf team's spring season is in full swing and packed with traveling.

The team opened its season at the Women's Natural State Classic on March 1 and 2. The season opener was hosted by Harding University at the Cypress Creek Golf Club in Cabot, Arkansas.

The Lady Rangers finished last in the competition with 698 points.

Samantha Friday led the Lady Rangers with 170 points after two rounds of 18-holes. Ashley Watts followed Friday with 171 points.

Madison Masch finished the event with 177 points. Angela Egger and Savannah Monahan rounded out the team points.

The Lady Rangers competed at the Diffe Ford Lincoln Invitational on March 8 and 9. The golf tournament was hosted by Southern Nazarene University at Kickingbird Golf Course in Edmond.

The Lady Rangers finished in 12th place after scoring 677 points at the golf tournament. Northwestern tied with Great American Conference foe Southern Arkansas University and ahead of Oklahoma Baptist University by 24 shots.



Photo by Cade Madsen

Angela Egger swings her driver during a golf tournament in Edmond.

Watts led Northwestern after she finished the tournament, tied for 38th place with a score of 165 points. Mackenna Tennyson scored 167 points, which helped her tie for 46th place. Campbell Payne finished the tournament with 168 points, finishing in 52nd

place.

Masch followed Payne in the tournament with 169 points. After Masch, Egger recorded 171 points. Friday gave the Lady Rangers 173 points while Monahan gave the team 176 points.

The Lady Rangers competed

in the Midwestern State Invitational on March 15 and 16. The team played at the Wichita Falls Country Club in Wichita Falls, Texas.

The team finished in 10th place after scoring 1063 points in three rounds over two days.

Masch led the Lady Rangers after she finished with 256 points in three rounds. Monahan finished the tournament with 268 points. Friday recorded 274 points for the Lady Rangers.

Tennyson posted 275 after three rounds. Egger rounded out the scoring for Northwestern with 276 points.

The Lady Rangers traveled to the HSU Spring Invite golf tournament on March 22 and 23. The golf tournament was hosted by Henderson State University at the Hot Springs Country Club in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

They finished in last place with 1020 points over three rounds. Masch led the Lady rangers with 247 points. She finished in a tie for 27th place.

Watts followed Masch with 257 points. She finished the tournament, tying a Southern Arkansas University golfer for 35th place.

Friday came next with 262 points, finishing in 39th place. Payne followed with 264 points,

finishing in 40th place. Tennyson came next with 272 points, finishing in 41st place.

The Lady Rangers will compete in one more regular season tournament before the Great American Championship golf tournament. The team has traveled to all their tournaments this year.

"The biggest obstacle would be the traveling," said head coach Nikkole Donk. "A lot of people don't understand how much we travel and how often it is. It takes a lot of dedication to be a student-athlete. The tournaments we have already had have been rainy or super windy. We are struggling a little right now to get back in the swing of things but hopefully with these last few tournaments we can turn it around."

Payne, a freshman from Broken Arrow, said the year has brought challenges to the team.

"As a team, we have grown together through trials and errors," Campbell said. "We all want to play good, and we all strive to do our best, but we lift each other up at the same time."

The women's golf team will compete in one more regular season golf tournament before the Great American Conference championship tournament on April 19 and 20.

Men's golf swings through season before GAC tournament

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Student Reporter

Northwestern's men's golf team has played most of its five-tournament regular season schedule before post-season play.

The team opened its season at the Natural State Classic on March 2. The golf tournament was hosted by Harding University at the Greystone Country Club in Cabot, Arkansas.

The Rangers finished the tournament with 666 points. They finished in front of Lincoln University and Newman University.

Luke Cooley led the Rangers with 160 points after two rounds of 18-holes. Tyler Berryhill and Cade Seymour finished behind Cooley with 163 and 170 points.

Tanner Griffith finished the

tournament with 176 points. Ben Baker rounded out the team's scoring with 179 points.

For the next tournament, the Rangers traveled to Hot Springs, Arkansas, to compete in the Battle for the Belt on March 8 and 9. The golf tournament was hosted by Henderson State University at the Hot Springs Country Club.

The team finished in 9th place after scoring 963 points over three rounds.

Cooley led Northwestern after he finished the tournament tied for 28th place. He finished with 232 points. Baker followed Cooley with 240 points. He finished tied for 41st place with two other golfers.

Keenan Hofstad recorded 246 points over three rounds. He tied with an Oklahoma Baptist golfer at 49th place. Tyler Berryhill

tallied an overall score of 249 points. He finished in a tie for 53rd place.

Cade Seymour rounded out the scoring for the Red-and-Black after finishing in a tie for 56th place with 253 points.

The Rangers finished in eighth place at the Hillcat Classic on March 15 and 16. The tournament was hosted by Rogers State University and played at the Bailey Ranch Golf Club in Owasso.

The team finished with a 959 team score, which put them in 8th place above two other teams.

Hofstad led Northwestern after he finished the tournament tied for seventh place. He finished with 224 after three rounds of 18-holes.

Cooley recorded 241 points for the Rangers. He finished in a three-way tie for 29th place. Baker followed Cooley with 246 points.

Juan Gui Angarita finished his first golf tournament of the year with 253 points. Griffith finished with 258 points for Northwestern. Zac Caldwell rounded out the team scoring for the Rangers after he finished the tournament with 259 points.

The team's next tournament was in Topeka, Kansas, at the Washburn Invitational on March 22 and 23. The tournament was hosted by Washburn University at the Topeka Country Club.

Cooley led the team with 234



Photo by Cade Madsen

Juan Gui Angarita tries to figure out how to line up his putter during the Golf Qualifier on Jan. 24 in Woodward. CORRECTION: In the March 25 edition of the News, a photo with a story about the university's soccer team by this photographer was not properly attributed.

points, which helped him finish in 42nd place as an individual. Seymour followed Cooley with 237 points. Seymour finished in a tie for 49th place.

Hofstad finished in a tie for 57th place after recording 239 points. Baker and Berryhill both recorded 247 points and tied for 70th place.

The team finished with 947 points after three rounds of golf. The Rangers finished 11th place.

Head coach Nikkole Donk said the team has goals for the season.

"I really want our team to have top ten finishes and a top five finish at conference," Donk said.

"Some team goals are to shoot in the 200s as a team. They really just want to beat their score the next day and see how low they can go."

Seymour, a freshman from Buckeye, Arizona, said the team needs consistency to play better.

"I think we all have goals for ourselves, but as a team, I think one of our big goals is to be able to break a team score of 300 consistently," Seymour said.

The team has one more regular season tournament before the Great American Conference championship tournament on April 19 and 20.

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Sports

Hamakawa uses his background to inspire NWOSU baseball players

By **OVELL PATTERSON**
Student Reporter

Yugo Hamakawa, a junior shortstop for Northwestern's baseball team, played his high school baseball career at Sayamagaoka High School in Tokyo.

He was given the opportunity to continue his baseball career at Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, Washington.

While at Edmonds Community College, he earned the NWAC North Region First-Team and NWAC's Gold Glove.

"Attending Edmonds Community College before coming to Northwestern helped me tremendously," Hamakawa said. "I did not know any English before coming to the United States, so starting at a community college let me get all the help I needed to be successful with my academics. For baseball, starting at a community college helped me strengthen my weakness and made me the player I am at Northwestern."

Before the coronavirus pandemic stopped sports across the world, Hamakawa was playing and starting every game for the Rangers. He had 28 hits, 14 runs and 12 RBIs through 78 at-bats. His batting average was at .359 during the 2020 season.

In the 2021 season, Hamakawa has the second highest batting average on the team with .353. He also leads the team with the most amount of hits on the season with 24 hits.

Hamakawa said being away from Tokyo is an experience with things changing in his everyday life.

"The biggest difference between Alva and my hometown of Tokyo is the noise," Hamakawa said. "Alva is very quiet, while Tokyo is loud all-day long no matter the time."

Hamakawa said he only goes home once a year. He said the prices of tickets are too expensive because he is hundreds of miles away from home.

Hamakawa said baseball in Tokyo is different from baseball in the United States.

"When it comes to baseball, I believe that it is easier to play baseball in Tokyo than in the United States," Hamakawa said. "I think it is easier in Tokyo because the field is not as hard as United States fields."

Hamakawa said he takes extra reps everyday just so he can be the best player he can be every single practice and game.

"I imagine how upcoming games will go, then I practice what I just imagined," Hamakawa said. "I also always tend to focus on small things everyday which tend to make it easier to improve my skills."

Jose Rubalcava, second baseman for the Northwestern baseball team, said the culture of Northwestern has changed in a positive way whenever Hamakawa arrived on campus and that the baseball team is heading in the right direction.

"Yugo brings so much energy, not so much in words because he is so quiet, but with his actions," Rubalcava said. "He is always there to pick up an individual or the team as a whole. He sets up in every at-bat or play, which does not mean he is perfect, but if he does make an error on the field, he will make it up with his at bat."

Rubalcava said playing with Hamakawa has been rewarding because they come from two different cultural backgrounds.

"Playing with Yugo has been a new experience since I have never played with someone from Japan before," Rubalcava said. "Coming from a Hispanic background, playing with an international player is something I am used to, but someone from Japan was new to me. After I got to know Yugo, I really enjoyed him as a person. He is a really funny person and a baller on the field. The way he plays is so exotic coming from Japan. He has taught me a lot about the game as well as his culture."

Rubalcava said the two have faith in each other to get things done in the middle of the field.

"Yugo and I have a very strong chemistry up the middle so we trust each other to get the plays made," Rubalcava said. "I know I can always count on him to make a big play and to help the team to victory."

Ryan Bowen, head baseball coach for Northwestern, said Hamakawa makes a huge impact for the program.

"Yugo brings it all to the field



Photo by Emma Sporleder

Yugo Hamakawa starts the motion of his swing in a game against Southeastern Oklahoma State University on March 15 at Myers Stadium.

every single day," Bowen said. "He is very talented and such a great fit for our baseball team. He offers so much to this team. His hitting and fielding are both very strong. I never have any doubt when he gets up to the plate or when a ball is hit to him at short stop. Yugo has definitely made a huge impact on our program.

I love learning about his background and culture since he is from Tokyo, Japan."

Bowen said he and the team are excited to have Hamakawa for another year and are excited to continue seeing him succeed.

Hamakawa said he plans to finish his education and athletic eligibility at Northwestern.

Volleyball plays season leading into GAC tournament

By **CAMERON GORDON**
Student Reporter

Northwestern's volleyball team has played most of its games leading into postseason play.

Two of the last nine games for the volleyball team have been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

As of press time, the team has an 8 - 4 on the year. The Lady Rangers are currently on a four-game winning streak.

The team is in second place in the Great American Conference for the blocks per set statistic with 2.61 blocks per set.

They also have the top two individuals in the conference for blocks. Carmae Jones leads the Great American Conference with 1.35 blocks per set, and Raven Burns follows Jones with 1.27 blocks per set.

The Lady Rangers played Southwestern Oklahoma State University on Feb. 24. They lost

the game in five sets with a final score of 3 - 2.

The Lady Rangers opened strong winning the first set. They would drop the next two sets and win the fourth set. They ultimately lost the fifth set 15 - 9 against Southwestern.

The team lost its next match-up to East Central University on March 2. Northwestern finished the game with 18 errors, while East Central finished with 16 errors.

The volleyball team's March 9 match-up against Oklahoma Baptist University was a 3 - 2 loss.

Northwestern won its match-up against Southeastern Oklahoma State University on March 16. The Lady Rangers swept the Savage Storm, 3 - 0.

Avery Osburg finished with 40 assists. Tarra Parks finished with 10 kills and 15 digs. The Lady Rangers with 10 errors finished with half as many as Southeastern's 20 errors.

The team picked up another



Photo by Athletic Communications

Kate Deterding (left), Sydnee Miller (center) and Avery Osburg (right) pose during the Senior Day celebration before Saturday's game.

win over Oklahoma Christian University on March 18. The final score of the match was 3 - 1.

Kaydee Honeycutt and Osburg won GAC players of the week honors for their performances during the week. Honeycutt

posted 21 points and 20 kills to go along with a .457 attack percentage. Osburg finished with 41 assists and seven digs.

The Rangers put another tally in the win column against Southern Nazarene University on

March 24. Northwestern won in 4 sets against the Crimson Storm. Senior Sydnee Miller reached 1,000 career digs in this game.

Saturday's match against Southeastern Oklahoma State University was Senior Day. Osburg, Deterding and Miller recognized for their time with Northwestern. The Lady Rangers won the game in three sets.

Deterding led the Rangers with 13 digs and nine kills. Osburg finished with 27 assists and two blocks. Miller ended with seven digs and two assists.

This year's tournament will be played at the facilities of the member institutions within the conference.

Madison Dehlinger, a junior middle hitter, said she will have to give her all because the conference is strong this year.

"No team is to be overlooked," Dehlinger said, "We've got a super strong conference."

The Great American Conference tournament begins April 6.

Easter egg hunt set for Saturday

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Student Reporter

The Alva Fire Department is hosting an Easter egg hunt Saturday.

The event was canceled last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Fire Chief Bryan Miller said he will personally place 10,000 eggs on the Woods County Courthouse lawn the evening before.

“We typically ask a local organization to help set out the eggs,” Miller said. “With COVID this year, I will be the only one setting the eggs out. I will be wearing the proper gloves and sanitizing every egg as it’s placed.”

In the past, large prizes such as

bikes and Easter baskets were given away. This year, all of the prizes will be found inside the eggs themselves, Miller said. Prizes include candy, \$1 gold coins, ounces of silver and gift certificates to local businesses.

“This year, we didn’t ask local businesses to sponsor this event because COVID has hit so many very hard,” Miller said. “However, many businesses still donated in some capacity, and we just want to thank them.”

In 2020, the Alva Fire Department went house-to-house and put eggs in individual yards, bringing the egg hunt directly to Alva children, Miller said. He said he is excited to have the event in a normal way this year.

“Woods County is doing pretty

good with its COVID cases, but we still want to exercise caution,” Miller said. “Masks are not required since it’s an outside event, but they are recommended.”

Miller said a fire truck siren will sound to signal the start of the hunt. Then, it’s every man for himself.

“I’ve went to the Easter egg hunt for a long time, and my favorite part is getting to hunt the eggs with my friends,” said Dominique Garcia, a 5th grader at Lincoln Elementary School. “The eggs are so colorful, and the prizes are nice, too.”

The age groups for the hunt are as follows: ages 0-2 years old, ages 3-4 years old, and ages 5-6 years old. The groups will then be split up by grade: 1st, 2nd and 3rd

grades in one group and 4th, 5th and 6th grades in another.

“I’m sad that this will be my last year to be a part of the Easter egg hunt, but I’m happy we get to have it downtown this year,” said Kayla Maier, a 6th grader at Alva Middle School. “Easter is better than the other holidays.”

Miller said he has gotten primarily positive feedback since the Alva Fire Department announced the event. Miller also said the Alva Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Egg Drop. This is when individuals try to catch an egg from a fire truck ladder without the egg breaking.

“We hope that this event brings a sense of normalcy back to people’s lives after last year,” Miller said.

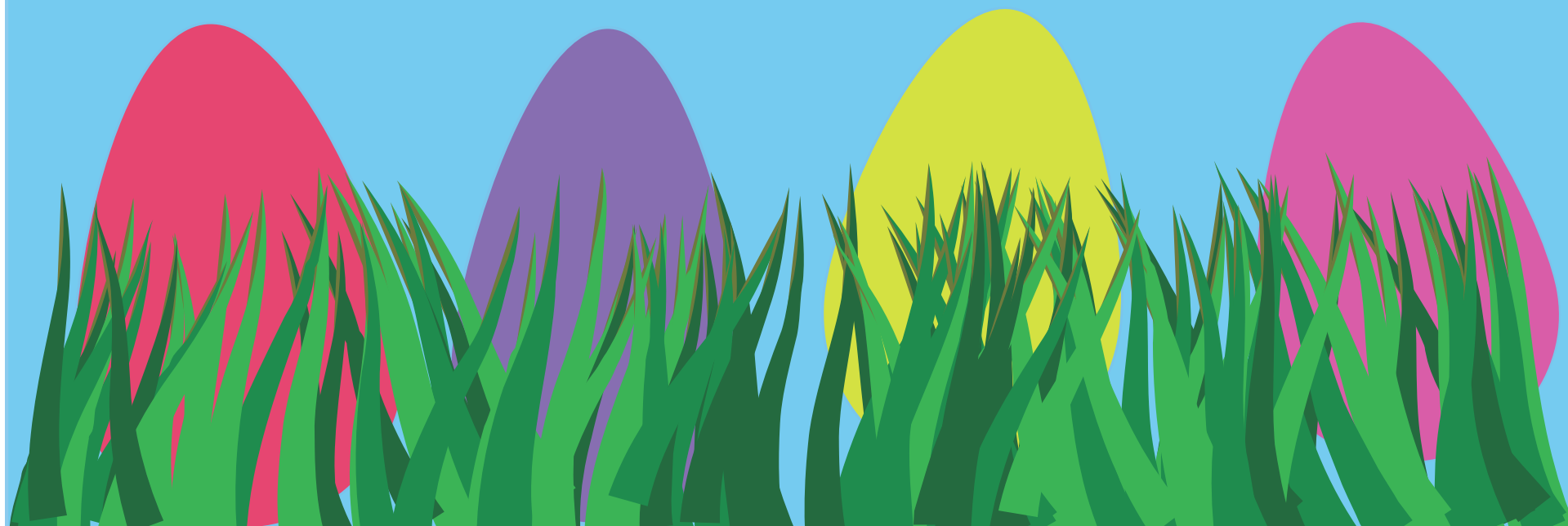


Illustration by Jordan Green