

GIRL POWER

Take a look at the contributions women have made to NWOSU in this edition of the News. PAGE 8



RUN FOR IT

Northwestern cross country team members traveled to Southwestern Oklahoma State University to compete on Feb. 27. PAGE 11



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

PRSR.T. STD.
Permit # 5
Alva, OK 73717

Address Service Requested

Volume No. 82, Issue 21

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

March 4, 2021

Visit us online at northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com

Follow us on:

COVER GIRL



Photo provided by Brooke Fuller

Gracie Scarbrough poses for a portrait taken by Brooke Fuller, owner of Be Fuller Photography. Scarbrough, a Northwestern student, was featured in a French fashion magazine in February.

With French magazine foray, Northwestern student Scarbrough is Alva's claim to fame

By LANEY COOK
Student Reporter

A small-town photo shoot turned into an 18-page feature in a magazine from France.

Gracie Scarbrough, a junior business administration major at Northwestern, was featured in the Valentine's Day edition of Moevir, a magazine in Paris,

France, by modeling for a jewelry company in Alva.

In December, local photographer Brooke Fuller asked Scarbrough to model for Lady Daze Fine Jewelry, owned by Liz Anderson.

Anderson needed someone to show off her custom-made jewelry, and she found Scarbrough to fit the part, Fuller said.

Fuller said Anderson makes her
See MODEL, Page 7

POLITICS

At 18, Parsons hopes to win seat on City Council



Photo by Jordan Green

Joe Parsons poses for a portrait in front of Alva High School on Feb. 21. Parsons, a high school senior, is running for a seat on the City Council.

With support of peers and parents, Parsons plans to rise to top of pack

By JORDAN GREEN
Editor-in-Chief

Joe Parsons has taken a liking to small-town politics.

He's never run for a publicly elected office before, and he's learning that campaigning for one takes time.

Almost every day, he's passing out yard signs, planning meet-and-greet events and politicking his neighbors – after his classes at Alva High School are done for the day, that is.

Parsons, an 18-year-old high school senior, is running for a seat on the City Council in this rural northwest Oklahoma town. And even though he's young, the political newcomer said he believes he can make a positive difference in the community.

"People can say I'm too young to be on the City Council," he said. "I understand it might be concerning. There's a lot of 18-year-olds who would not be great on City Council. But I think anyone who sits down and has a conversation with me, their mind would probably be changed."

Parsons has spent his life in this small town, where his parents own a diner and a motel. He was raised up helping run the family businesses, and he's started his own, too.

When he was 14, he opened a snow cone stand, which he took to events in the area before the coronavirus pandemic began. He's a certified auctioneer and a licensed drone pilot, and he's taking training to become a real estate agent, he said.

*"I'm not the average high school senior."
— Joe Parsons*

He's a concurrent student at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, and he'll be attending Northwestern after graduating from high school to obtain a bachelor's degree in business, he said.

Someday, he plans to start a real estate business in Alva – a town he hopes to improve by listening to the concerns of the citizenry, he said.

"I think they [Council members] are all really good people,"
See PARSONS, Page 2

NEWS

Pages 2 & 3

EDITORIAL

Pages 4 & 5

PROFILES

Pages 6 & 7

FEATURE

Page 9

SPORTS

Page 10

News

PARSONS: Peers and teachers say they're inspired by youthful candidate

Continued from Page 1

Parsons said. "I do. And I think they all do their best. I just don't think it's as transparent as it could be. I like everyone on the Council, but I've had people come and talk to me and say, well, they're not comfortable going and talking to their councilman, because they have and they don't feel like they're being listened to. And they feel if they do approach them, nothing happens.

"That's really a big reason I'm running. As a City Council member, it's your job to represent your constituents. If someone comes to me, it'd be a priority to bring it to the Council."

If elected, Parsons said, he hopes the city can repave roads, improve municipal water lines and fix the town's swimming pool, which has been closed for more than two years because of safety concerns.

Parsons said he believes the city "needs a pool, but we need to find a way to have a pool without adding to our citizens' financial burden," he wrote in one of his campaign flyers.

"I care about how tax dollars are managed and am against tax increases without community support," he wrote.

A FUTURE IN ALVA

When Parsons' senior year began in the fall, he knew he had to make a choice.

"I've always known I love Alva, and I wanted to live here in the future," he said. "But there for a while ... I considered going somewhere to just see what was out there."

In September, Parsons created the Beautify Alva project, bringing locals together to pick up trash around town. On Sept. 18, Parsons and his crew were cleaning up debris scattered on the side of a roadway. A man driving a car pulled up next to Parsons and asked him why he was picking up garbage.



Photo by Jordan Green

Joe Parsons poses for a portrait in front of one of Alva's welcome signs along Oklahoma Boulevard on Feb. 21.

When Parsons told the man he was picking up trash because he wanted to, the man was surprised, Parsons said.

"He said, 'You know what? That's the best thing I've seen happen in Alva in over 10 years,'" Parsons said.

In that moment, Parsons said he knew what to do. He had to stay in Alva – and he wanted to, he said.

"I asked, 'What else can I do for my community?'" he said. "And that's another reason I decided to run for City Council."

Parsons announced his candidacy for the Ward 4, Seat 1 office on the Council on Jan. 26. He's running against two other Alva residents, Blake Jordan and Greg Bowman. The election is April 6.

Bowman, like Parsons, said he hopes the city can repair its pool and update its infrastructure.

He hasn't had a conversation with Parsons yet, but he hopes to soon, he said. He's intrigued by his candidacy.

"I think it's pretty cool," he said.

Bowman, 62, said his views on life have changed through the years. He said he hopes Parsons keeps his mind open if elected.

"I have thought about this: how did I look at life when I was 18 years old, how I look at life when I'm 62," he said. "I can tell you for sure I thought a whole lot different when I was 18 years old than I do today."

Blake Jordan declined to be interviewed for this story.

FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

The April 6 election won't just be Parson's first run for political

office. It'll be the first election he's ever been able to vote in.

And he's not alone.

Fellow Alva High student Emily Barton turned 18 on Wednesday, a little over one week before the March 12 voter registration deadline. She's excited to vote for Parsons, she said.

"He has always been so excited about politics and bettering our community – I mean, really, for a long time," she said. "Whenever he was like, 'I'm going to run for City Council,' we were all super happy for him, and we just know that that's in his personality."

Barton has known Parsons since the two were in the first grade, she said. Since then, she's seen him lead her school by serving on its student council.

She said Parsons is making her classmates more interested in learning about – and getting in-

involved in – local government.

"I think that he is going to do a really good job," she said. "I'll be registering, and I'll be voting for him because I know how much work he's put into it, and I know how much he cares. And I think it would be really great to have that young insight on our City Council."

Alva High School English teacher Dr. Halah Simon said she shares that sentiment.

"I feel like Joe has put a lot of time into really thinking about his platform and the things in the community that are important to him," Simon said. "I also think that he will listen to his constituents and really try to take their opinions and their feelings into account while making decisions."

Simon has known Parsons since he was a high school freshman four years ago. She said she thinks Parson is a "very studious, very determined, very task-oriented, multi-tasker – just an all-around great young man."

"I think that, once there's an issue isolated that maybe needs to be worked on, Joe doesn't stop until he finds a resolution," she said. "He works very hard to try to bring things to a close and then solve things in a very positive manner."

PROVING THE POINT

Parsons said he knows that some folks might be apprehensive about young people taking office. He thinks he can persuade them, he said.

"If they sit down and want to have a conversation, I'd love to have a conversation with them," he said. "If they look at my resume without knowing my age, they're going to think, 'Wow, this guy would be amazing on City Council. I ask them to just look past my age. Look at my experience and what my qualifications are."

"I'm not the average high school senior."

NEWS IN BRIEF

OUTSTANDING SENIOR APPLICATIONS DUE

The Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association is preparing to recognize the 2021 outstanding seniors.

Seniors who graduated in December 2020 or are set to graduate in spring/summer 2021 are encouraged to apply. Applicants must have the following:

- Have completed a minimum of 60 hours at Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
- Have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average or higher at time of graduation;
- Were not subject to academic or disciplinary action.

Complete application packets must be received in the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association office by 5:00 p.m.,

March 23, end of business day. The office is in the northwest corner of the Student Center building, Alva campus. Packets should be addressed to Jodie Randels, 709 Oklahoma Blvd., Alva, OK 73717. Application materials include the following items:

- Résumé
- Current photo
- Official transcript
- One to three letters of recommendation.

"Letters of recommendation are important in the selection process, officials said in a news release. "They provide an outside perspective into what students are like as a students and as individuals. Suggestions for those students may ask are administrators, faculty, community members and supervisors."

At minimum, one letter of rec-

ommendation must be provided to be considered for the Outstanding Senior award.

After review and selection by the Outstanding Seniors Selection Committee – composed of Northwestern Alumni Board members – applicants will be contacted. Outstanding Seniors will be recognized at a special Awards Ceremony being planned. More details will be announced.

If you have questions, please call Jodie Randels at (580) 327-8593 or jrandels@nwosu.edu.

LIBRARY SETS UP PHOTO BOOTH

The J.W. Martin Library, in conjunction with the university's theater program, has set up a Dr. Seuss-themed photo booth in the library. This is to celebrate "Hats

off to Reading" week. "Why not mask up and bring in a small group for a fun photo session?" officials said. "Feel free to bring your own Dr. Seuss inspired headgear as well. Share to your department's social media and don't forget to tag #NWOSUTHEATRE."

The booth will be in the library until Friday afternoon.

PRIMP FOR PROM BEGINS

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work and Woodward High School Key Club are co-sponsoring the "Primp for Prom" event on Thursday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at Woodward High School inside the high school practice gym, 13th Street and Downs Avenue in Woodward.

Primp for Prom is an annual spring event held in Woodward for area high school students to pick out a formal dress and accessories at no charge. More than 300 formal dresses in all sizes, styles and colors will be waiting for high school students.

Sponsors are still actively seeking formal dresses, shoes and jewelry donations.

To donate in the Woodward area, please contact Rehder at kdrehder@nwosu.edu or Stefanie Alexander at (580) 256-2858. Formal attire also may be dropped off at Woodward High School. To donate in Alva, please contact Leah Maple, social work department secretary, at lfmaple@nwosu.edu. To donate in Enid, please contact Jennifer Pribble, assistant professor of social work, at jlpribble@nwosu.edu.

News

Virtual band concert streaming on Friday

By ALIYAH BIDWELL
Student Reporter

The Northwestern band will host a virtual concert Friday at 4 p.m. The concert, titled "A Virtual Concert," will be streamed on the university's Facebook page.

Dr. Michael Seth Cudd, the university's band director, said approximately 30 students will perform during the concert.

The jazz band will play "Now's the Time" by Charlie Parker and "Sesame Street Theme" by Joe Raposo. The symphonic band will play "Salvation is Created" by Pavel Tchesnokov and "Suspended Animation" by Patrick J. Burns.

"I don't think there is just one good piece," Cudd said. "All the pieces are worth watching, and I hope that the people who watch will watch the whole thing."

Band members said they are excited for the performance.

"I play the tuba, and I am ex-

"I don't think there is just one good piece. All the pieces are worth watching, and I hope that the people who watch will watch the whole thing."

— Dr. Michael Seth Cudd

cited to show that music is still alive regardless of the pandemic," Jeff Cher-aime said.

"I play the euphonium, and I am just excited to be able to play in a concert season again even with the limitations we have," Cam Gibbs said.

There is no admission charge to attend the concert. To view it, visit the university's Facebook page, Northwestern Oklahoma State University.



Photo by Devyn Lansden

Members of the Northwestern jazz band perform during a concert in Herod Hall in this March 5, 2020 photo.

Art show will begin on Sunday

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Northwestern News

Northwestern's 18th annual art show will take place March 7-26 in the J.W. Martin Library on the Alva campus and will be open during the library's regular business hours, officials said in a Tuesday news release.

Artwork entered includes photographs, paintings, drawings, quilts and more from Northwestern students, current and retired Northwestern employees and Northwestern alumni. Viewing is free and open to the public.

The Northwestern Art Society is sponsoring the show.

"Even with not as much notice on getting entries in this year, we still have nearly 250 total pieces for the show," said Angelia Case, the art society's sponsor. "And, for the first time, we have more entries from our non-students than we do from our students."

Alva State Bank & Trust Company
Older than Oklahoma

Alva Main Office
518 College Ave.
Alva, Ok 73717
580-327-3300

Burlington Branch
PO Box 80
Burlington, Ok 73722
580-431-3300

Enid-Chisholm Branch
801 W. Broadway
Enid, Ok 73701
580-234-4201

Bank of Freedom Branch
1085 Main St.
Freedom, Ok 73842
580-621-3276

First State Bank of Kiowa Branch
546 Main St.
Kiowa, Ka 67070
620-825-4147

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 1-800-259-2582

Thinking of Moving??
Think Hi-Lo Apartments, LLC

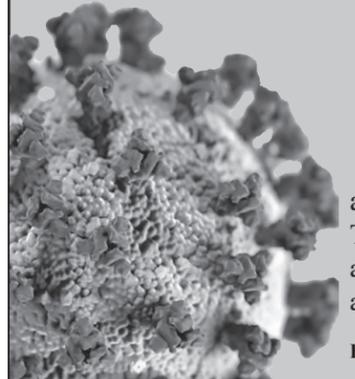
1 & 2 bedrooms
Within walking distance of campus
School semester leases
Laundromat on site

Sorry, no pets and no smoking in apartments.

HOLDER DRUG
Hallmark 513 Barnes Alva, Ok 73717
580.327.3332 1.800.458.5349 Fax: 327.1848

Anybody up for a CHOCOLATE SODA? Visit the fountain at Holder Drug today!

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: CASE NUMBERS ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE AREA



STUDENT CASES:	EMPLOYEE CASES:	IN ALVA:	IN OKLAHOMA:
1	0	14	12,531
active as of Feb. 26. This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.	active as of Feb. 26. This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.	active as of March 2. Alva has had a total of 990 cases.	active as of March 2. Oklahoma has had a total of 424,999 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>.

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper
Northwestern Oklahoma State University
 709 Oklahoma Blvd.
 Alva, OK 73717
 Published weekly throughout the school year except during examination periods and holidays and distributed to students and staff.

Spring 2021 Staff

Editor-in-Chief
 Jordan Green

Features Editor
 Michelle Willson

Editorial Editor
 Devyn Lansden

Sports Editor
 Dacoda McDowell-
 Wahpekeche

Photo Editor
 Jara Reeder

Photographer
 David Thornton

Advertising Manager
 Jayden Dillon

Circulation Manager
 Dayra Verdusco Serrano

Online Manager
 Bailey Judd

Adviser
 Dr. Kaylene Armstrong

News office: Jesse Dunn Annex 232
 Telephone: 327-8479; Fax: 327-8127
 E-mail: nwnews@nwosu.edu
 The News is printed by the Alva Review-Courier

The opinions and comments contained in the Northwestern News are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the policies or beliefs of the university administration, Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges or the editorial staff. The News gladly accepts submissions but does not promise they will be used.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

This institution, in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, and other applicable federal laws and regulations, and to the extent required by law, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, genetic information, physical or mental disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Inquiries concerning the application of these programs should be made to Caleb Mosburg, Director of Student Affairs, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, 709 Oklahoma Boulevard, Alva, OK 73717, (580) 327-8415.

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

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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

Editorial



Photo by Jordan Green

Snow covers the ground in this February photo, taken days before NWOSU closed because of bad weather.

Is this the end of snow days?

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

Is this it? Is the end of the snow day?

When blizzards, subfreezing temperatures and heavy snowfall inundated the Sooner State last month, schools and colleges statewide didn't cancel classes – a time-honored tradition from which students have long reaped the benefits.

Instead, they conducted classes in virtual formats – a practice we've become all too familiar with during the coronavirus pandemic.

I was sitting in my dormitory room on Valentine's Day when I got the email announcing Northwestern Oklahoma State University's switch to virtual instruction. The day suddenly became anything but lovely.

Snow days are one of the aspects of school that students look forward to the most. Waking up on a Monday morning and finding out that school is canceled for the day is, for many children, an exhilarating and liberating feeling.

Snow days are filled with fun, friendship and quality time with families. When I was in elementary school, my dad, my sister and I would take our sleds to a nearby playground and build a ramp out of snow at the bottom of a hill. We'd climb to the top of the hill and race to the bottom, launching off the ramp and landing – often face-first in a fit of laughter – into the fresh snow on the ground.

As we grew up, we found other ways – faster ways – to sled. We'd drive four-wheelers in the snow and hook our sleds behind them, zipping around pastures and up and down roads. Oh, the

joy was endless.

I know I'm not the only guy who has fond memories of snow days. Now that I'm in college, my friends and I still love to go sledding. Truth be told, most college students do. And I think we always will.

Snow days give us the chance to embrace the beauty of nature, both environmentally and interpersonally. Playing outside in the snow is healthy; the physical activity is good for the mind and the body. And being around our friends supports our mental health. We all need companionship.

Snow days are blessings. To take them away is a curse.

Since the pandemic began nearly one year ago, students and educators have used virtual learning methods to carry out instruction. By keeping students at home and out of the classroom, school officials hoped to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

The weather, however, is not a rapidly spreading virus that may endlessly grip the world. It goes away. By the time you read this column, the inclement weather will be long gone. You might even be wearing a short-sleeve shirt outdoors.

A few snow days here and there will not hurt our educational outcomes. We've had snow days ever since people started attending school. Snow days are some of the most memorable parts of childhood – and we shouldn't quickly abandon them.

But here's something that can hurt our educational outcomes: an over-reliance on virtual instruction.

Virtual learning has its pitfalls. Not all students have equal access to the technology needed for virtual learning – especially minority students, many of whom come from poorer socioeconomic back-

grounds, statistically speaking.

In rural areas, internet access – or lack thereof – is also problematic for many students. Getting an internet signal in and around Alva, Oklahoma, can be a challenge. And as we learned during this horrible winter storm, technology can all too often fail. The power supply in this part of the country was nearly exhausted. Without electricity, there can be no online school.

Building a system of education that relies entirely on technology – which, as we've learned, can be rendered useless during times of inclement weather – seems like a recipe for failure. We found this out the hard way.

The solution to these problems is to keep doing something we've done for hundreds of years. When the weather is inclement, call for a snow day.

We won't have to worry about unreliable internet access and fragile technological infrastructure.

Instead, we'll just be outside, having good, clean fun that can improve our health outcomes, foster our creativity and strengthen our interpersonal skills.

We will always have plenty of time to learn. But we won't always have time to enjoy special moments with friends and families, sledding down hills and making precious snow-angels that will forever be ingrained in our minds.

For every day that we're sitting in front of a computer screen when the ground is covered in snow, we lose the chance to make lasting memories, spend time with loved ones and relish in the spontaneous joy we're given when class is canceled.

The pandemic has already robbed us of much of what makes life fun. Let's not let it cancel the snow day.

Editor's rant of the week

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Features Editor

I don't know if this is a universal experience, but I have recently been doing okay with my mental health.

But now I am on edge, I know I will have a depressive episode soon — like in the next week.

In preparation, I am trying to get my homework and work done hours beforehand, but I am also worried that it will make me spiral faster if I try to shove all of that in the beginning weeks.

I feel like a ticking time bomb. I know it's coming, and I swear that someone asking the wrong question could quite literally kick-start the spiral.

How am I supposed to explain this experience to those around me?

I have struggled with mental health for a long time. I have the experience now that helps me be more prepared, but I still struggle with it. It feels weirdly like a never-ending uphill climb.

I say all this not for pity. Just to show that everyone has their own battles. I would consider myself to be very "high functioning" with my mental health, but most of it is just a facade that I put on for other people. It just feels like it's getting harder and harder to keep up with.

On one hand, I feel like schools are not set up efficiently to help students with mental health issues. But on the other hand, I don't know how to make it a better atmosphere for mental health.

I know that the teachers here at Northwestern are really easy to work with when it comes to these topics, but the students have to be able to reach out to them individually, and that can be hard to do in a spot where you are struggling.

How am I supposed to email about how I didn't or won't get the homework done when I can't get the energy to do my homework?

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

I honestly don't know if this makes sense to anyone else.

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

I don't understand why everyone puts this glamorous filter over the college experience.

Editorial

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Photos provided

Left: Devyn Lansden is pictured with her sister Averi and cousins on Thanksgiving Day 2019. Right: Lansden is pictured with her sister Averi and her grandma Carolyn in May 2019.

Taking time to be thankful for the women in our lives

By **DEVYN LANSDEN**
Editorial Editor

March is Women's History Month.

I wanted to use that as an excuse to write about the wonderful ladies in my life. Of course, I have to begin with my mom, Christi.

She is someone who I want to be like when I grow up. She's perfect. She is the toughest, smartest and sweetest person I know.

Let me also add hardworking to that list as well. She works at the courthouse in Beaver, Oklahoma, in the election board office. She helps my dad with pictures for my family's newspaper. By "help," I mean she edits and designs all the pictures.

With all of that, the last thing she does is help put the newspaper together every week with my

dad and grandpa. She does it all without complaining, just as long she gets to go home early-ish and sit on the couch with her pajamas — and drink chocolate milk.

Wow. What a life she has. Do you see now why I want to be just like her?

I am thankful to have a mom with her support and love on a daily basis.

Another marvelous woman is my sister, Averi. I was so lucky to have a built-in best friend who is only 18 months older than me. Ever since we were little, we have been really close.

She was the reason all my teachers liked me in school. She has always been a role model for me, and I know I can always go to her with any problem I have.

Having a sister is something that is so incredible. It is even better that we go to the same college

and are close in age.

My sister-in-law is a new addition to the family, and I am so glad to have her. She's quiet compared to the rest of the family, but she is a sweet and kind person.

I am so glad my brother found her because she was exactly what he needed. They are the best and strongest people I know.

Next are my aunts on both sides of my family. Both of them fill the "aunt" role perfectly — like a mom, but cooler. My aunt Lisa has always been so fun. She was a basketball coach and a physical education teacher.

The PE teachers are always the best teachers in the school. She always is wearing the best athletic clothes and could probably still beat me in one-on-one basketball.

My mom's sister Chanda has always been there for me to rant to when I need her. She is so easy

to talk to, and when I'm with her, I feel like I'm with one of my friends.

She is way younger than my mom, so she has always felt like a friend when she's around. I am so lucky to have the best aunts in my life.

Next are my grandmas. These ladies mean the world to me. One of them lives farther away, and the other one lives in Beaver. It is important to me to see my grandmothers as much as possible.

My grandma Darlene lives in Beaver and is my "egg hook up." She and my grandpa have chickens, so when they have too many eggs, I get them.

One of my favorite parts about going home is dropping by their house.

My grandma Carolyn lives in Gould, so I don't see her as much. She is so kind and wants

the best for me. She is everything a grandma stands for. We as humans don't deserve grandparents because they are so pure and perfect.

The next ladies in my life are three little girls: my cousins Malachi, Kamdon and Lorelei.

Those kiddos together make the holidays and family gatherings a lot more fun.

Each one is so different from the other, and they make me so happy.

If you made it all the way to the end of this story, I hope you think about the women in your life and feel as lucky and blessed as I do.

I want to mention my friends, too. They push me to be a better person like my family does.

I have found my real friends, and I am lucky to say they have been in my life for over 10 years.



Left: Devyn Lansden is pictured with her sister, sister-in-law, brother, grandmother and grandfather in September 2020.

Right: Lansden is pictured with her mom, Christi (center), her sister, sister-in-law and brother in August 2020.





BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN

Photo by Cade Madsen

A member of the Northwestern rodeo team loops around a barrel Tuesday night during the university's rodeo at the Alva Dome. The two-day event was originally set to begin Feb. 18, but it was postponed because of inclement weather. Northwestern team members competed in the hopes of qualifying for the College National Finals Rodeo in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This year's rodeo offered fewer events than it did in years past because of coronavirus safety restrictions. Fans were not allowed to attend the event because of social distancing requirements. Rodeo action began Tuesday and was expected to continue through Wednesday.

Girl Scout cookies for sale through March 21

Local Girl Scouts are shown at the Alva Walmart selling Girl Scout cookies on Feb. 21. Girl Scouts will be at Walmart on Oklahoma Boulevard selling cookies each weekend through March 21, troop leaders said. Pictured from left to right are: Nevaeh Steffen, Zoe Hall, Brylie Whitely, Brielle Dupree and Jensen Thiesing.

Photo by Jordan Green



MODEL: Despite cold, photo shoot goes on

Continued from Page 1



jewelry and tries to find people to model it. Anderson found Fuller on Facebook, and after reaching out to her, the two asked Scarbrough to be the model.

"I had never met Liz before the photo shoot," Scarbrough said. "That was a really fun experience, getting to meet her the day I modeled for her."

The photo shoot took place in January after snow had fallen across northwest Oklahoma. For the photo shoot, Fuller and Scarbrough went to an old church in Alva owned by Mark Wallace, who allowed them to take photos on the church grounds.

Fuller said Wallace had a lot of stuff lying around that they were able to use as props.

They finished up the photo shoot in the lobby of a salon in downtown Alva.

"We thought with the snow and the yellow dress, the pictures would turn out really well," Fuller said. "So, we got her out there in the freezing weather and made it happen."

Fuller said there was a point when she thought that Scarbrough couldn't feel her body anymore because it was so cold. She was posing for a picture on her back with her legs kind of kicked up, shaking.

"But when I asked her about it, she just kind of laughed and said, 'Oh, my abs are just starting to hurt,' so I kept on taking pictures," Fuller said with a chuckle.

Anderson submitted the pictures to the magazine, and staff members there picked them up soon, Fuller said.

Scarbrough said she loved being able to perform ballet dances during the photo shoot, even though the air was cold.

"It's really rare anymore for people to be in ballet," Scarbrough said. "Being able to still do it and have fun made the experience that much better."

In these photos, Gracie Scarbrough poses for portraits taken by Brooke Fuller, owner of Be Fuller Photography. Scarbrough, a Northwestern student, was featured in a French fashion magazine in February.

Photos provided by Brooke Fuller



Feature

Women have made difference at Northwestern since its earliest days but aren't always credited, historian says

By **JACOB COMP**
Student Reporter

What would Northwestern Oklahoma State University be without women?

The history of Northwestern is filled with influential women who have made an impact on campus.

Northwestern's doors opened in the fall of 1897 after seven men helped establish the school.

John Barton, an Alva resident and former Dean of Humanities, Fine Arts and Language at Northwestern from 1966 to 1995, said women have made a lasting impact on Northwestern's campus.

"You know the women were even involved in getting it," Barton said. "Even though their names aren't mentioned, we've got to give them credit."

EARLY-DAY EDUCATORS

Since the founding of Northwestern, women have played a huge role on campus.

A former Northwestern journalism instructor, Wayne Lane, talked about this point in his book, "Northwestern Oklahoma State University: A Centennial History" in 1997.

"Two women employed at the same time to work as instructors with [President James] Ament were Sarah Bosworth, who had been superintendent of Logan County schools, and Mary DeLisle, formerly principal of Alva public schools," Lane wrote. "The women were paid \$900 for the school term, while the president received \$2,400."

The following year, J. Everett Smith was hired to teach mathematics and natural science. His pay was set \$300 higher than DeLisle and Bosworth at \$1,200.

One of Northwestern's biggest downfalls in regards to women is not giving them enough recognition, Barton said.

"Sarah Bosworth and Mary DeLisle haven't been recognized," Barton said.

Barton said Ament, the university's first president, deserves the recognition he has gotten, but Bosworth and DeLisle deserve to be credited, too.

Bosworth and DeLisle set the stage for what would go on to be a tremendous group of women at Northwestern, Barton said.

Northwestern had no shortage of women in its early years.

Along with the professors, most graduating classes from Northwestern were somewhat evenly matched in the ratio of male to female students.

The first graduating class in Northwestern's history came at the turn of the century in 1900. The class of six was comprised of four women and two men.

Women's History Month

Honoring the women who make a difference at Northwestern



Photo provided

Minnie Shockley was a former dean of women and instructor of English at Northwestern.

"The women were Edith Rudolph, Maude Green, Fannie Morris and Barbara Karr," Lane wrote. "The men are Augustus Vinson and Jesse Langley."

Since that time, women have continued to play a role in how Northwestern Oklahoma State University has progressed throughout the years, Lane wrote.

HONORING THEIR IMPACT

In 1910, a woman stepped on campus that would leave such a reputation that she would have a building named in her honor. Minnie Shockley, a former dean of women and an instructor of English, taught at Northwestern from 1910 to 1947. She was extremely well thought of by her students, Lane wrote. She is the only woman after whom a building on campus has been named.

In September of 1939, Shockley's name was engraved in Northwestern's history when the women's dorm at the time was named Minnie Shockley Hall.

The swimming pool in the J.R. Holder Wellness Center recognizes another woman in Northwestern's history.

The pool is named after Dr. Yvonne Carmichael, who taught health and physical education for more than 40 years. She formed the Aquarina Swim Club and was the sports coordinator for synchronized swimming during



Photo provided

Northwestern Oklahoma State University President Janet Cunningham dances with the cheer squad and Rowdy, the Ranger mascot, during the halftime show of the men's basketball game on Feb. 19, 2018.

the 1989 U.S. Olympics

FROM PROFESSOR TO PRESIDENT

Dr. Janet Cunningham began her career as a business instructor. Eventually, she moved to the position of business administrator.

Barton said he was not particularly happy with the move.

Referring to the president's job, Barton said: "Most anybody can do that job. It takes a hell of a person to be a good teacher. And you're a good teacher, and I hate to lose you."

Barton said Cunningham is just one example of the long line of great female teachers at Northwestern.

Perhaps the single biggest impact women have made on Northwestern's campus is an excellence in teaching, he said.

"Northwestern's teachers were well thought of," Barton said. "There were schools that paid Northwestern graduates more than they paid other graduates in education, teachers, because they thought that Northwestern teachers were better, and they thought that through experience."

Northwestern's reputation for great teachers continues today, he said. Some of this success is because of Dr. Martie Young, the director of student teaching.

"I happen to know that Martie Young is a very good teacher," Barton said.

Two Northwestern women have gone on to become university presidents.

One is Cunningham, who made her way through the ranks



Photo provided

Northwestern's first graduating class, the Class of 1900, is shown in this photo. Front: Edith Rudolph, Maude Green, Fannie Morris and Barbra Karr. Back: Augustus Vinson and Jesse Langley.

and became the president of Northwestern. Another is Dr. Cheryl Evans, the president of Northern Oklahoma College.

Both women are Northwestern graduates and even spent time teaching at NWOSU.

"There is no question in my mind that the females over the years have made significant

contributions in teaching," Barton said, adding that the contributions go beyond teaching.

"There's no doubt that, without the women, Northwestern wouldn't be where it is today and would not have the reputation that they have today," Barton said. "I don't know if I would want to be there."

Entertainment

'On the road again'

Willie Nelson salutes Sinatra with latest album

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

Willie Nelson is on the road again – with a new album, at least.

The country singer and picker released his latest album, "That's Life," on Feb. 26. It's a tribute to Frank Sinatra, one of the best-selling artists of all time with hits like "Luck be a Lady" and, of course, "That's Life." The album is available online, in stores and on music streaming services.

Nelson has said before that Sinatra was one of his greatest musical inspirations. That's one of the reasons he covered some of Sinatra's most iconic pieces in this 11-song compilation, his second album to salute the stoic singer.

In 2018, Nelson told Rolling Stone magazine: "I learned a lot about phrasing listening to Frank. He didn't worry about behind the beat or in front of the beat, or whatever – he could sing it either way, and that's the feel you have to have."

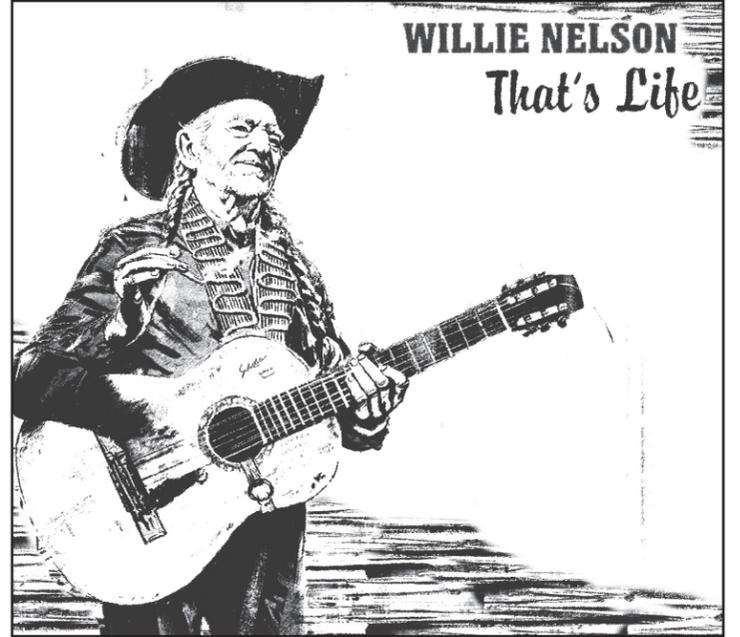
This album proves the point. Those who know Nelson's music knows that his rhythms are fluid, flowing and always fantastic. Not all quarter notes last quite as long as they're technically supposed to. And sometimes, what would normally be a fleeting leading note turns into a ballad-like moment.

In the album, Nelson keeps most of the orchestral elements Sinatra was known for. What's unique is the pairing of Nelson's raspy, nasally voice with a refined musical ensemble.

Not to say Nelson isn't a refined musician. But you won't ever find him wearing a suit and tie while picking Trigger.

To some, putting his voice with a big band would be like mixing oil and water. This is not the case. Even though his voice stands out from the jazz piano, trumpets and drum sets, they complement each other.

Just like the combination of Nelson and Diana Krall,



who joined Nelson for a cutesy performance of "I Won't Dance." The song is sweet, smooth and sexy, just like you'd expect a Sinatra tune to be. It's vibrant, and it has some stand-out jazz singing.

The music video is the best part of the tune. Available for viewing on YouTube, it's an animated clip showing the likenesses of Nelson and Krall in a 1950s-style cartoon. They jump around, drive fancy-looking cars and soar through the skies like characters from an MGM or Hanna-Barbera production. The producers of the video said they based it off of slapstick comedy routines of the time.

In that endeavor, they succeeded. It'll bring a smile to your face whether you're watching it alone or with that special someone.

Perhaps the most captivating video on the album is the lyric video for "That's Life." As the words come across the screen, the viewer watches an artist paint a portrait of Nelson holding Trigger while standing by a street light at night. That picture became the album cover.

If you don't look at the album cover before you watch the lyric video, you might be confused about what you're seeing. But at the very end, when the artist puts

the finishing touches on Nelson's cowboy hat, one is able to see the bigger picture – a beautiful piece of art.

That effect is a representation of the album as a whole. Sinatra's songs are stellar as stand-alone pieces, but when put together on the album, they seem a little out-of-order in an emotional sense. "That's Life," which is perhaps Sinatra's most inspirational tune, is tucked between "I Won't Dance" and "Luck Be a Lady," two of his most lustful. Doesn't seem fitting.

Nelson closes the album with a jazzy, peppy performance of "Lonesome Road," which has an oddly prophetic, cautionary message about the end of one's life.

Lately, Nelson has been open about his health and his age. In recent interviews, he's reflected poignantly and sincerely on what he's done in his life. One can get the sense that the cowboy thinks he's getting ready to ride away.

When you listen to "Lonesome Road," however, you won't feel sad. Nelson keeps it lively, just as he'll be until the day he lays Trigger down for the last time.

Hopefully that's a long time away. But it might not be. That's life. Luckily, we've still got Nelson – a musical treasure – in ours.

New on Netflix in March 2021:

- | | |
|--|---|
| March 1:
Biggie: I Got a Story to Tell
Blanche Gardin: Bonne Nuit
Blanche (2021) | March 8:
Bombay Begums
Bombay Rose |
| March 2:
Word Party: Season 5 | March 9:
The Houseboat
StarBeam: Season 3 |
| March 3:
Moxie
Murder Among the Mormons | March 10:
Dealer
Last Chance U: Basketball
Marriage or Mortgage |
| March 4:
Pacific Rim: The Black | March 11:
The Block Island Sound
Coven of Sisters |
| March 5:
City of Ghosts
Dogwashers
Nevenka: Breaking the Silence
Sentinelle | |

Spotify's most listened to songs in February

Drivers License - Olivia Rodrigo

Shape of you - Ed Sheeran

Perfect - Ed Sheeran

Positions - Ariana Grande

Dance Monkey - Tones and I

Dark Horse - Katy Perry

Somebody That I Use To Know - Gotye

Counting Stars - One Republic

Barcelona - Andra

Uptown Funk - Mark Ronson

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

Email Michelle Willson
mdwillson99@rangers.nwsu.edu

Alva's Market

Save MONEY and TIME!
Shop downtown Alva, Shop Local!
Savings and quality every day at ALVA's Market!

706 Flynn

Incredible Deals!
3-3 thru 3-9

Tendercrust wheat sandwich bread \$1.09	Yoplait 6 oz. yogurt 2 for \$1
Leals tortilla chips or salsa \$2.50	Bar S regular hot dogs (excluding beef) \$.99
Lemons or limes 4 for \$1	Hungry Man frozen dinners \$2.50

ALVA VISION CLINIC

Large selection of Oakley, Ray Ban, Wylie X Silhouette ... Contacts
New shipment polarized Pre- and post-OP Lasix

VISION SOURCE

Mastercard, Visa, Discover, American Express and Care Credit accepted

MON. & THURS. 8A.M.-5:30P.M.
TUES. & WED: 7:30A.M.-5:30P.M.
CLOSED FROM 12P.M.-1P.M.
CLOSED FRIDAYS
5:15PM APPT TIMES DAILY!
FOR AN APPOINTMENT CALL
(580)-327-2393

AFTER HOURS CALL
(580)-829-2026

ACCEPTED INSURANCE:

VSP, P.VCS, MEDICARE, VISION CARE DIRECT, SOONERCARE, BCBS, EYE MED AND HEALTHCHOICE

"Complex contacts RX are our specialty"

Dr. Troy L. Smith
504 College Ave

Sports

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

By overcoming their obstacles, female athletes inspire people

RANGER REPORT



DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPKECHE

In the early history of sports, women were called unathletic and disrespected, daily. To this day, women are still disrespected and do not get as much credit as they deserve.

I am a huge fan of basketball so I know more about the athletes in women's basketball than any other sports.

Women in sports do not deserve the disrespect they receive from people who do not believe in their athletic abilities.

Brittney Griner is the starting center for the Phoenix Mercury, a team within the Women's National Basketball Association. She stands at 6-foot-9-inches, making her one of the tallest women in the league.

Many people mock Griner and her physical appearance. I think she is amazing on the court and does not deserve the hate she receives.

Griner has been a leader off the court in the LGBTQ+ community since she revealed herself as a lesbian during her time playing for the basketball team at Baylor University.

Another woman who is a leader in the LGBTQ+ community is Megan Rapinoe, a player within

Women's History Month

Honoring the women who make a difference at Northwestern

the Women's National Soccer League and the United States National Team. She not only performs well in soccer but also is an activist for many issues outside of soccer.

Rapinoe stands for issues like women requesting equal pay for their athletic abilities. She also endorses organizations that support the LGBTQ+ communities.

Politics aside, we cannot disrespect her will and strength to be able to stand for what she believes.

Jill Lancaster is another female athlete who has helped pushed the barrier holding women back in sports. She is Northwestern's head track and field coach.

Before the NCAA included women in sports, women competed in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.

The Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women served as the association for women to



Photo provided

Jill Lancaster at the United States Olympic Trials, participating in the heptathlon events. She took fourth place at the end of all seven events. She is now head track and field coach for Northwestern.

compete at a high level athletically. Lancaster competed in it and was a part of the making of history for women.

Without the AIAW proving that women could compete at a high level then women would have never competed in the NCAA.

Today, we move in a positive direction for women in sports. The Oklahoma Secondary Schools Athletic Association hosted its first state tournament for women's wrestling.

Women in sports are some of the most kind-hearted and hard-working people on this planet.

They fight for what they believe in and work hard in what they athletically participate in.

During the month of March, celebrate the female athletes and coaches.

Just celebrate women and their dedication to ensuring a better future.

Northwestern cross-country finishes season

By DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPKECHE
Sports Editor

WEATHERFORD — Northwestern's cross-country teams ran their final races of the year at the Great American Conference Championship race in Weatherford, Oklahoma on Feb. 27.

The men's team, led by sophomore Timothy Jacobson, placed fifth out of six teams with a team score of 154 points.

On the women's side, the team took last place with a team score of 311 points.

The men's and women's cross-country teams ran the same course on Jan. 29 when Southwestern Oklahoma State University hosted the Great American Conference Preview.

Jacobson ran a personal best time at 29 minutes, 33 seconds. Prior to Saturday's race, his best time was 30 minutes, six seconds, which was completed at Fort Hays State University's cross-country

meet on Oct. 12, 2019.

"I was pretty pleased with myself," Jacobson said. "I set a new personal best. I've never ran an 8K faster than 30 minutes. I felt a little different from the get-go of the race. I felt myself pushing a little harder and it paid off when I crossed the finish line and saw my time."

Finishing after Jacobson was Noble Buckhaults at 29 minutes, 48 seconds and Chris Kincaid at 29 minutes, 52 seconds. Nathan Ashe and Caleb Pierce rounded out the team's score Saturday morning.

Victor Cruz, Nick Nakvinda, David Clemente and Nick Castillo ran the race for the Rangers on Saturday but did not score points for the team.

The men's team finished behind Southern Arkansas University, Harding University and Oklahoma Baptist University. The East Central University Tigers won the race with a team score of 37 points.



Photo by Jessalyn Rivot-Tissot

Members of Northwestern men's team start the race at the Great American Conference Championship on Feb. 27. They placed fifth out of six.

Freshman Emily Smith led the team finishing 47th place with a time of 21 minutes, seven seconds. Following her in the race was Mariah Malloy, finishing

with a time of 22 minutes.

Jerika Coon finished after Malloy with a time of 23 minutes, 24 seconds.

Ladasheray Bell and Briley

Yunker rounded off the team's scoring on Saturday.

Northwestern runners Melissa Perez, Mallory Paruszewski and Savannah Francis ran at the Great American Conference Championship race but did not score for the team.

The Lady Rangers ran against ten other universities during the meet.

This season, Great American Conference foes Oklahoma Baptist University, East Central University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University competed against the Lady Rangers before the Great American Conference Championship race. The women of Oklahoma Baptist University won the Great American Conference Championship race.

Oklahoma Baptist's women's cross-country team has won four straight conference championship after this year's win.

The men's and women's cross-country teams have concluded their seasons.

Sports

Men's and women's basketball finish their seasons in first round of GAC tournament

By CAMERON GORDON
Student Reporter

Northwestern's basketball teams finished their seasons on March 1 after losing in the first round of the Great American Conference Championship tournament.

The men and women both fell to East Central University in the first round of the tournament. The Lady Rangers lost to the Tigers, 62 - 58. The Rangers lost 81 - 56.

All member institutions of the conference were going to be playing in the conference tournament, Great American Conference officials said in a release on the conference website on Jan. 6.

For Coach Vinay Patel, this was his first time playing in the conference tournament.

The Rangers were losing by two points going into halftime, with a score of 27 - 29. But the team allowed the Tigers to score 52 points in the second half.

"In the second half, we came out a little stagnant," starting center Bubba Furlong said. "It was partly because the team went to a zone and it threw us off a bit."

The Ranger's field goal percentage was 40.4% on the game. They made three out of 16 three-pointers.

The men finished the season with a record of 3-12 on the year, winning only one game in the conference against Southeastern Oklahoma State University on Feb. 25.

"A lot of adversity this season, I feel like we handled it great," Furlong said. "We didn't win a lot of games, but we were in a lot of



Photo by Emma Sporleder

Scout Frame, senior guard, holds the ball away from an East Central University defender in the team's only game of the GAC tournament.

games we could have won."

The Rangers led the Great American Conference in blocked shots per game.

Furlong led the conference in blocked shots per game with 2.1 through 15 games.

On the women's side, Coach Tasha Diesselhorst led the team to its second Great American Conference Championship tournament. Their last conference tournament appearance was in March 2019.

The women finished the first half of the game winning 31 - 20. The Tigers came out and 24 points in the 3rd quarter alone, helping them win the game.

The Lady Rangers shot 36.0% in the field and knocked down

nine 3-pointers. It was not enough though because the Tigers offense shot 53.8% in the second half of the game.

Bailey Brown recorded a double-double by scoring 18 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Scout Frame followed her in the scoring statistic, giving the Lady Rangers 14 points.

"We played a really tough three quarters," Frame said. "We were playing aggressive basketball, even if shots weren't falling. We were getting all the things that you can just work hard for."

The Lady Rangers finished the season with a record of 6 - 14. The team won four conference games this season.

As of press time, Brown and



Photo by Emma Sporleder

Parrish Hewitt closes out the East Central ball handler during their GAC Tournament game on March 1 in Ada. The men lost the game, 81 - 56.

Frame finished 12th and 13th place in the points per game, both averaged 13.6 points per game.

Maya Johnson finished the year with the best field goal percentage in the conference, making 59.7% of her shots for the Lady Rangers.

Great American Conference officials awarded Brown and Frame All-GAC Second Team honors on March 2.

"It is an absolute blast to be

named to that honor," Frame said about being named to the All-GAC Second Team. "Bailey is the ultimate assistor and scorer. So it was really awesome to play with someone who can assist me really well."

The men's and women's basketball teams have concluded their seasons.

— Sports Editor Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche contributed to this story.

Student athletes excited to play in front of fans once again

By DYLAN WHITELEY
Student Reporter

Northwestern's volleyball and basketball teams played a few games this semester with fans in attendance, and student athletes said they were excited to have fans in the stands.

Effective Feb. 1, fans were allowed to attend indoor sporting events because of the Great American Conference's council of presidents' unanimous agreement on the issue.

While the university's basketball teams' seasons are over, players on the university's indoor teams told the News their opinion on fans attending games.

Abby Davis, a sophomore on Northwestern's volleyball team, said having fans in attendance makes a difference for the team.

"It feels really awesome to have people actually cheering," Davis said. "It's not just quiet in



Davis

the gym other than the yelling while we're playing. So, it's really nice."

She said that having fans can be nerve-racking because she wants to perform well for

them.

"I'd say in big games it makes me kind of nervous to have people there because I want to play really well for them," Davis said. "But, like, if my parents come, I'm not super nervous because they've watched me play since I was like 12."

Davis said that there is a noticeable difference between fans being there, and them watching on a live stream.

"In person, you really get to feel that support that they're there and cheering for you," Davis said. "Whereas on a live stream,

you don't really know that they're there."

Kaylee Jo Neeley, a freshman on Northwestern's women's basketball team, said fans make a positive impact on the game.

"It's a reminder of how basketball games should feel," Neeley said. "When they cheer it picks up the energy in the game, like after you make a shot. It also helps you not take it for granted. Having the fans back has helped a lot with not only how I play, but how the team plays together and how much fun it is with the fans there."

Neeley said playing collegiate basketball is a great opportunity.

"You're playing for your community and for the college," Nee-



Neeley

ley said. "It's nice having fans there supporting you and knowing that's why you're trying to win, to represent your community. So, them being there has a big impact on the game."

"I definitely noticed the difference about having fans. I get nervous before games anyway. But with fans there it makes me more excited to play, like that's the atmosphere you want to be playing in"

Neeley said that fans inside Percefull Fieldhouse change the mindset of the players on the court.

"I think it's better having fans in-person," Neeley said. "The atmosphere in the gym completely changes whenever there are fans there to support you. You're there to make those people proud and your community proud. So, I think that it definitely helps boost your energy to play the game."

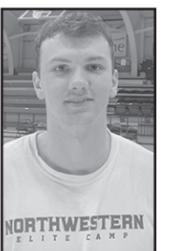
Connor Norman, a redshirt freshman on Northwestern's

men's basketball team, said that the fans bring the energy to the games.

"It feels a lot better," Norman said. "There's more energy. Without fans the gym is kind of dead, it almost feels like a scrimmage."

Norman said that he has a mix of anxiety and excitement when fans are attending the games.

"Whenever you do something good obviously it helps motivate you," Norman said. "But at the same time, in big moments, having fans can be a little scary because you want to perform well for them. ... It's still nice knowing that they're watching on the livestream, but whenever you can see their reaction is great. And I'm sure it's more fun for them to actually watch in person."



Norman

Graybill has passion for painting

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

When clouds fill the sky over Alva, Calvin Graybill doesn't stay inside his house. He runs outside to take pictures.

"I really like to paint clouds," the 70-year-old artist said. "I do a little bit of everything."

Graybill is one of several people who has painted murals around Alva, which has become known as the state's mural capital. In 2006, with the help of fellow artist Jim Richey, Graybill painted a mural of a man and his dogs hunting birds in a field one fall afternoon.

In the mural, puffy clouds hover above the man, dressed in orange and carrying his rifle, as his dogs watch quail flying in the air. The mural is on the west wall of the Ashley Property Services building at 432 Oklahoma Blvd.

"I took lessons from a man several years ago, and he painted clouds," Graybill said. "Boy, it kind of gave me the bug. ... The sky is a canvas, and the clouds are the actors on this stage."

Graybill has only painted one mural, but he's painted numerous landscape- and wildlife-themed works through the years.

His wife, Verna, is from nearby Carmen. The two moved to Alva in 1995, where Calvin Graybill has since set up his own art studio. Verna Graybill worked as a librarian at Northwestern for



Photo by Jordan Green

Calvin Graybill, 70, poses for a portrait with a mural he painted in Alva in 2006. The mural is on the west side of the building at 423 Oklahoma Blvd.

several years.

Calvin Graybill isn't a Ranger, however. In fact, he's a Southwestern Oklahoma State Bulldog.

That's where he got his degree in education.

He doesn't hold any grudges against the Rangers, though. He

just likes the color blue.

It's his favorite color to paint with – especially when he's painting clouds.

"The Lord has really blessed me," he said. "He's given me a passion to paint. I just love to paint."