

2021 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

LORA WINS RACE FOR VP

Hernandez and Marshall round out winners of top SGA elected positions

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

Senior psychology major Yosbelli Lora won the race for the vice president's seat in the Northwestern Student Government Association.

The results of the election were announced Wednesday. Vote tallies were released after the Northwestern News filed an open records request to obtain them.

Lora received 268 votes, or 88.16%, in her bid for the sec-

ond highest-ranking position in the organization. Her opponent, sophomore computer science major Grayson Pray, garnered 36 votes, or 11.84%.

Dawson Maxwell ran unopposed for the president's seat, though his name still appeared on the ballot during voting Monday and Tuesday. Northwestern students voted on the candidates via email.

Lora said Wednesday she is excited to serve Northwestern students.

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity," she said. "I am so blessed. ... Hopefully this year goes a lot better than last semester. ... I'm very grateful, happy to serve again. I'm just so grateful."

"Thank you so much for you guys' love and support," she said

to her voters. "I really appreciate it. We're going to make this next year really fun."

Pray congratulated Lora on her victory and thanked those who voted for him.

"When I heard Yosbelli was running, when at first I heard she's my competition, I had mixed feelings," Pray said. "On one hand, I was thinking, 'This is going to be a really tough race to win.' On the other hand, I was thinking, if she does win, there's probably nobody else better to be vice president than her."

Pray said he hopes to continue being involved on campus and serving as a voice for students.

In the race for treasurer, junior elementary education major Erika Hernandez bested opponent Collin Zink, a sophomore health

and sports science major. Hernandez earned 269 votes, or 88.20%, while Zink earned 36 votes, or 11.80%.

"I'm just very thankful for the opportunity, even if the outcomes would have been different," Hernandez said. "During the campaigning period, I got to reach out to a lot of students that I normally wouldn't reach out to, and I got to meet a lot of different faces on campus. Even the interview process, that was really nice, and getting to hear others' opinions on how they want to better Northwestern."

Calls to Zink were not returned as of press time.

In the race for secretary, sophomore English major Angel Marshall beat freshman political science major Austin Rankin.

Marshall earned 162 votes, or 53.47%, while Rankin earned 141 votes, or 46.53%.

"I'm really excited for this opportunity," Marshall said. "Congratulations to Austin as well. That was a really good race. Whichever way it went would have been really – we were both really good candidates. ... I'm just really excited to get started and see what we can accomplish this next year."

Rankin thanked voters and said he hopes to continue being a voice on campus.

"I just want to tell them 'thank you' for participating in the election process," he said. "I wish the best of luck to the SGA officer team. I still plan to be active on campus this year, and it's going to be a great year for Northwestern."

COVID-19

Nursing program adapts to pandemic

Students, teachers find ways to use tech in and out of the classroom

By **KAYLEA BROWN**
Student Reporter

Stethoscope.
Scrubs.
Compression socks.
Coffee.
Pens.
Planner
Badge.

These are some of the essentials for nurses and nursing students alike during a normal year. But 2020 was anything but a normal year for the healthcare industry, and two other essentials were added to their lives: masks and face shields.

Since March 2020, healthcare workers have faced new challenges – some of which resulted in positive changes to the nursing department at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

"They [students] are carrying a much larger load at home as well as with their jobs and at school," said Dr. Leslie Collins, Charles Morton Share Trust Division of Nursing assistant chair and assistant professor of nursing.

See **NURSING**, Page 2



News

NURSING: Virtual instruction poses benefits, challenges



Photo by Jordan Green

Northwestern nursing students give a check-up to a girl who participated in the nursing department's pediatric clinic in January. Students provide check-ups to some children each year.

Continued from Page 1

"Our students have always had to be flexible because that's just something that nursing requires, but it's gone to a full other extent."

Classes moved online, clinicals got canceled and lab exercises became a way for professors to demonstrate skills to students through videos when NWOSU went virtual last spring.

While these initial changes were difficult, the nursing department has had to make more changes this semester to allow its students to continue to learn.

Adria Lujan, a 20-year-old junior nursing major from Altus, said one of the hardest changes to deal with was in the summer of 2020 during her introduction to nursing care course. The course is typically in-person, but with the ongoing pandemic, it had to be moved online.

"I was not able to practice some of the most basic things that you learn because we couldn't use equipment or be in person," Lujan said. "I had to practice on stuffed animals for assessments to do specific vital signs when you can't say that's really doing it."

Students used the labs and the

mannequins to practice different scenarios that could be seen in the real world and during clinicals before the pandemic.

CHANGING CLINICALS

Collins said now that classes are in-person again, they have used the lab much more than they did before. Students use them on a weekly basis to practice their skills for clinicals.

In previous years, clinicals were spread out over a longer time period during the semester, and each clinical day lasted three to four hours.

"This semester, they [professors] are trying to get them done in the beginning in case our classes go online, or the hospitals don't allow nursing students to come in," said Carys Delaplaine, a 21-year-old junior nursing major from Enid.

While clinicals have changed a lot, there have been some positive reviews about the changes from students, faculty and facilities.

"In the fall, we decided to front-load, so they actually go for 10-12 hour shifts, so that puts them traveling less amounts of time, but it's giving them so much

great experience," Collins said. "They had a lot of really good experience before, the best experience they possibly could have, and now it's just even better."

"Our students have always had to be flexible because that's just something that nursing requires, but it's gone to a full other extent."

— Dr. Leslie Collins

Front-loading the clinicals also allows students to have time at the end of the semester to put all the information they learned from skills lab and clinicals together. It also provides an opportunity to study for the National Council Licensure Examination, which is for nurses.

NEW CARE PRACTICES

While nursing students are still able to take care of patients as they normally would, their

ability to go into every patient's room has changed. This varies throughout hospitals because of differing coronavirus policies.

"At the hospital that I'm currently at, we aren't allowed to take care of COVID-19 patients due to the hospitals policy, because they want to try to keep us safe," Delaplaine said.

In addition to changes being made to the skill labs and clinical, there has also been a change in regard to the way the nursing department uses technology.

Because of the pandemic, the use of telehealth platforms became more popular and widespread.

ADVENT OF TELEHEALTH

The nursing department received telehealth equipment because of a grant, Collins said. This new equipment has the potential to allow professors to show students that they have an opportunity to be a nurse through telehealth and telemedicine platforms.

Kylee Alexander, a 22-year-old senior nursing major from Enid, said the knowledge professors have about online systems is one way in which nursing stu-

dents have benefitted from the pandemic.

Now if students miss class because of illness or other reasons, they are able to watch the lecture online. In addition, the professors do not have to worry about rearranging the class schedule if campus is closed.

Even though professors no longer have to worry about rearranging class for missed days, they do have to worry about how to make sure their students are going to be able to complete certain assignments, such as pediatrics day and presentations at elementary schools and middle schools in Alva.

Although getting through the last year has been a challenge for the department some of the challenges have resulted in blessings for the students, faculty and facilities, said Collins.

"We really leaned into what can we do more with students and how can we help with facilities, and it worked out to be a great blessing," Collins said. "We've all seen that limits can be pushed, but we meet them and we exceed them. As hard as it has been there's been good from it and we found a lot of joy."

News

MONUMENTAL MEMORIES

STANDING TALL

For more than 100 years, Lincoln bust has been a fixture on NWOSU campus

By LANEY COOK
Student Reporter

For more than a century, the Lincoln statue has been sitting on the Alva campus, overlooking Oklahoma Boulevard from the grassy lawn near Herod Hall.

In 1915, Frank Ingels, a graduate of NWOSU's class of 1911, sculpted a bust of President Abraham Lincoln's head.

His younger brother, Roland Ingels, was a graduate of NWOSU's class of 1915. Frank Ingels gifted the Lincoln bust to his younger brother's class as a graduation present.

The class of 1915 then donated the bust to the university.

NWOSU President Grant Grumbine unveiled the bust on commencement day in May 1915.

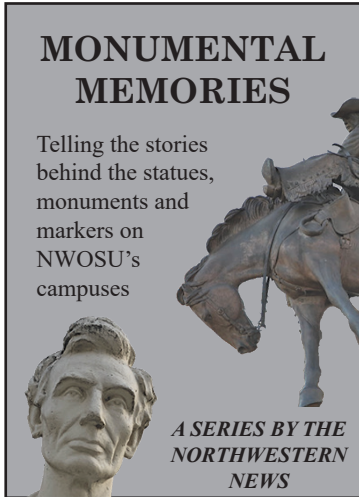
The names of all the graduates from the spring 1915 semester are engraved into the base of the statue.

According to "NWOSU: A Centennial History," the bust was first located between two buildings, but was moved over when Herod Hall was constructed.

Ingels was born on Jan. 2, 1886, and died on April 26, 1957. He originally was from Tamora,

MONUMENTAL MEMORIES

Telling the stories behind the statues, monuments and markers on NWOSU's campuses



A SERIES BY THE NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Nebraska, and then came to college as an art student at Northwestern.

According to an article from Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Ingels met Professor Lorado Taft from the art institute and impressed Taft with two busts he sculpted while in school.

Ingels moved to Chicago to work in Taft's studio to design and create sculptors. He stayed there for 10 years.

During his time in Chicago, Ingels created a statue for OPSU called "The Sower." He sculpted this as a gift to the Panhandle Agricultural to "show something of a nature that would inspire their young folks."

The Sower was unveiled on the OPSU campus on July 3, 1915, only a few months after the unveiling of the Lincoln bust at Northwestern.

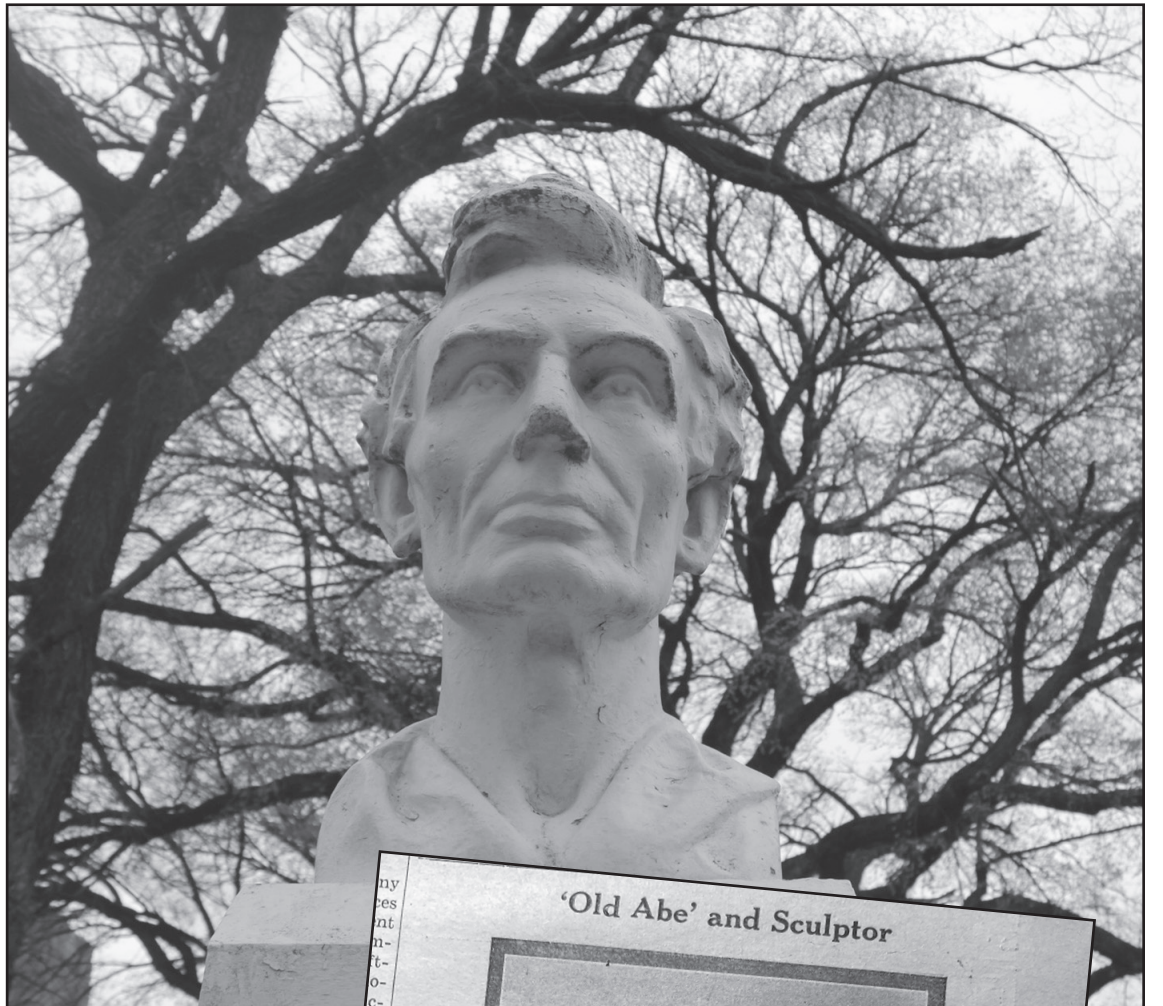


Photo by Jara Reeder

Above: The Lincoln bust near Herod Hall is shown in this photo in March. Right: The statue's sculptor, Frank Ingels, is shown in this old newspaper photo provided by the Alva Review-Courier.



This Bust of Abraham Lincoln was presented to Northwestern State Teachers college in 1915, by the sculptor, Frank Ingels. Ingels was a member of the graduating class of 1915.

Alva residents elect Council members

Alva residents elected City Council members in four wards during the municipal election Tuesday, according to unofficial election results from the Oklahoma State Election Board.

In the Ward 1, Seat 1 race, Daniel Winters won reelection with 50.76% of the vote, or 369 votes. He bested Tim Bradley — who earned 77 votes, or 10.59% — and Justin Scribner, who won 281 votes, or 38.65%.

In the Ward 2, Seat 1 race,

Taylor Dowling narrowly won the election over Mark Nichols. Dowling garnered 379 votes — 52.42% — while Nichols drew 344 votes, or 47.58%.

In the Ward 3, Seat 1 race, Troy Brooks also won by narrow margins, beating opponent Dalton Beeler. Brooks won 381 votes, or 52.62%, while Beeler won 343 votes, or 47.38%.

In the Ward 4, Seat 1 race, candidates came close to a three-way tie. Greg Bowman took the

lead with a mere seven-vote lead over second-place candidate Blake Jordan. Bowman earned 256 votes, or 34.92%, while Jordan earned 249 votes, or 33.97%. Joe Parsons came in last with 228 votes, or 31.11%.

As of press time, it was unclear whether the Ward 4 race's results would be contested or whether the top two candidates would face off in another election.

— Results compiled by Jordan Green, editor-in-chief

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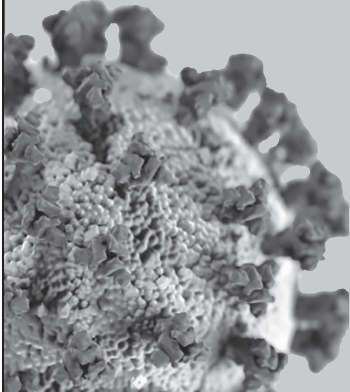
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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: CASE NUMBERS ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE AREA



STUDENT CASES:

1

active as of April 2. This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

EMPLOYEE CASES:

0

active as of April 2. This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

IN ALVA:

12

active as of April 6. Alva has had a total of 999 cases.

IN OKLAHOMA:

10,540

active as of April 6. Oklahoma has had a total of 437,853 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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Spring 2021 Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Jordan Green

Features Editor
Michelle Willson

Editorial Editor
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Dr. Kaylene Armstrong

News office: Jesse Dunn Annex 232
Telephone: 327-8479; Fax: 327-8127
E-mail: nwnews@nwosu.edu
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Letters to the editor shall bear the author's handwritten signature, hometown, classification, title, etc., address and phone number for verification and shall be kept on file. Unsigned letters to the editor will not be published.

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

All letters represent the views of the author.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

Editorial

Complete election results are public record. We shouldn't have to ask for them to be released.

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

Imagine living in a country where voters don't know the complete results of an election.

They're told who won an elected office, but they're not told how many votes were cast for the winning and losing candidates.

Does that sound like a legitimate form of governance to you?

Consider then the fact that we almost had that situation this week at Northwestern.

On Wednesday morning, the winners of Northwestern's Student Government Association elections were announced. Yosbelli Lora won the vice president's race. Erika Hernandez won the treasurer's race. And Angel Marshall won the secretary's race.

That's what we were told. But Northwestern SGA officials initially did not say the number of votes each candidate received – and they only changed course after they were advised that they have to provide such information.

On Wednesday morning, Olivia Yandel, the SGA adviser, said she did not want to announce specific vote tallies to avoid embarrassment for losing candidates. She only provided the total number of people who voted, which was 305.

Afterward, I spoke with Calleb Mosburg, Northwestern's dean of student affairs and the SGA co-adviser.

Mosburg said the election results had been released. However, only the names of winning students had been. Voting tallies hadn't been released.

He later said the university would release all the information "if we need to release that."

"There's been times in the past when we just release who won the election," he said. "If there was questions that came up to where they wanted to know how many votes they had, we did that. We want to provide that information. ... It's not hiding that information."

Do you agree? Is that hiding information?

At a time when millions of Americans distrust our nation's election system, it's wrong to even consider not readily releasing complete election information. The distrust of our election system caused a lot of problems in the last election, even to the point what we had an assault on the U.S. Capitol.

That isn't the same problem here,

luckily. But our electoral system must be completely transparent on all levels.

Here's our university's mission statement: "Northwestern Oklahoma State University provides quality educational and cultural opportunities to learners with diverse needs by cultivating ethical leadership and service, critical thinking and fiscal responsibility."

I think we can all agree from reading this statement that it's the job of higher learning institutions to help mold people into functioning, informed and responsible members of society. That comes in part by teaching students how to exercise their American rights – not from willingly releasing only partial information about the democratic processes by which they are governed.

After I spoke with Mosburg, Yandel said I could send her an email requesting the vote tallies. She sent them promptly.

But think about this for a moment. We had to request information that should have been made available without question. That's like asking for the right to free speech. We already have it. We don't have to ask to use it.

By releasing the full election results, our Northwestern leaders are proving that we can trust them. And that's something they must do. We must always verify what we are told, and that's what these numbers do.

In America, we have laws requiring public bodies – universities included – to release information to the public. These are called open records laws, and they have stood the test of time. Check out this 1979 opinion from the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office, which stated that the Student Government Association and residence hall associations at Oklahoma State University are subject to these laws.

"These two bodies have the authority to make decisions concerning the student population of the University from which no student may be exempted and also make decisions concerning the disbursement [sic] of funds collected," the Attorney General's Office said. "As such, the Student Government Association and the Residence Halls Association are subject to all the requirements of 25 O.S. 301 et seq. (1977), and are compelled to follow the provisions of the act in the manner in which they were enacted."

There may be some minor differences between Northwestern's SGA and OSU's. I'm honestly not sure. But

the fact remains that Northwestern's SGA is a part of our publicly-funded university, which is required to follow open records laws. As it should be.

Would anyone believe we have duly elected public officials without knowing how many people actually voted for them?

IN DEFENSE OF SGA

Now, in defense of our SGA officials.

In the past, few people have pushed for greater access to public records here at Northwestern – and that includes the Northwestern News. One of our former editors-in-chief was both the paper's top editor and the president of the SGA at the same time. Obviously, he didn't ask for more information on election returns. As a result, because he and other editors haven't asked in the past, some of our leaders haven't given much information out.

I can't speak for my predecessors, though. The rights guaranteed by the First Amendment and all related laws should be not only enforced, but also exercised vigorously. The Northwestern News staff intends to do just that. And even though officials may not have been asked to give out this kind of information before, they need to now.

Another point. I understand that some information is embarrassing, including election results. And I "get" that losing an election is tough. Actually, nobody understands it better than I do. My mother ran for mayor in Blackwell and lost by a huge margin on Tuesday. It's tough. But I work for the newspaper there, and the news of her loss will be on the front page of the newspaper, too.

Candidates run knowing they could lose, and they have to consent to that. We shouldn't lose sight of this.

Even if the truth is unpleasant, it must still be published. No election official in the country would simply announce a winner without releasing the number of people who voted for the candidates.

It is my sincere hope that our university will learn from this situation and make positive, transparent changes going forward. I have no personal qualms with anyone involved in this situation. As a matter of fact, I have respect for their positions.

But this situation has been a shortcoming regarding Northwestern's transparency as a public institution – and we can do better.

Editorial

Case sisters are the fabric of NWOSU

By WILLIE SPEARS

In a recent article published in the Enid News and Eagle, Wynoka, Oklahoma, native Valarie Case said, "We bleed red and black, we love Northwestern. We love its people. We are the Ranger family."

Valarie is referring to her alma mater and employer, Northwestern Oklahoma State University located in Alva, Oklahoma.

Since the 1980s, Valarie and her slightly older sister, Angelia, have called Northwestern home.

In every home, there are chores to complete so the home can run effectively.

Those who complete these chores are often overlooked and under-appreciated.

The Case sisters, who are often mistaken for twins, have completed chore after chore for years at their alma mater without much fanfare.

I believe their love for the university and natural affinity for helping people is appreciation enough for them, but their impact is often unnoticed and undocumented.

When I read an article about them in the Enid News and Eagle, I smiled, because I believe it is important to give people their flowers while they can smell them.

There is no need to show people how much you appreciate their efforts if they are not around to hear your words or appreciate your gratitude.

What is most rewarding for me is knowing both sisters were embarrassed by the recognition and attention, especially Angelia. As an ornery friend,

I feel the need to cause more embarrassment by shining more light on the many ways the Case sisters win at home.



Angelia, Lorraine and Valarie Case are shown above. Angelia and Valarie are sisters, Ranger graduates and longtime Northwestern employees.

Unlike their favorite NFL teams, the Case sisters continue to win.

Angelia is a die-hard fan of the Washington football team, and Valarie loves the Dallas Cowboys.

Both teams have won in the past but have struggled lately.

The Case sisters have won in the past and continue winning. Here are some of their big wins:

They were members of the band.

They have worked on campus since 1989.

They earned their bachelor's and master's degrees from North-

western.

Valarie was the first mass communication graduate at NWOSU and later instructor.

Their family established the Case Family Scholarship.

Angelia serves as art society sponsor and most recently Campus Cabinet Food Pantry coordinator (her favorite).

In 2011, they were both recognized as outstanding graduates.

Organically became Ranger Parents by "adopting" student athletes.

This list does not include the years of building sets for plays on campus, setting up for campus

events, working with the band, assisting sports teams and working overtime so much it has become their normal hours.

The name badge on my 1999 National Championship duffel bag was made by Case. The homecoming buttons we cherish were made by Case.

The pictures you see all over the internet that represent the University was taken by Case.

The social media, art, literature, newsletter, catalog, website, campus signage and so much more ... Case, Case, Case.

Made by Case is a lifestyle Rangers have come to know and hopefully appreciate.

When the Case sisters see a problem, they are quick to try and find a solution.

Many of us say those children are hungry, or those students need a way to express themselves, or someone should help the athletes.

Angelia and Valarie are quiet, they do not say much; they do much.

Many of us talk the talk, the Case sisters walk the walk.

Meeting the need is the Case family way. The sisters learned this principle from their late father, Jim, and their mother, Lorraine.

This philosophy most recently manifested itself during the pandemic.

Momma Case, whom I call Case Cube as in the third power or exponent, had the idea to make face mask.

Made by Case.

The Case family set up shop in Lorraine's house and made masks after work every day from March 2020 until August 2020.

These long hours of dedication are normal for the Case family.

They made over 2,000 masks in six months. Now that is what I call winning.

According to the story in the Enid News and Eagle, Lorraine

drew out the pattern on the material and interfacing and did most of the cutting out.

Valarie assembled the three layers of material before sending them over to Angelia for sewing.

These homemade masks were given out free of charge to family, friends, co-workers and strangers.

There was tremendous diversity in the adjustable mask.

Different colors, patterns and designs were given away.

People noticed their efforts and started donating money to buy material for the mask.

For the past 30 years, Angelia and Valarie have cut, assembled and sewn the fabric that is Northwestern.

The thread of their work is woven into the fabric of the university as they have documented the history of Northwestern through several resources including pictures, art, video and literature.

The Ranger mascot is a man on a horse known as the horse and rider. Imagine him without a hat, boots or saddle.

It would not be the same. I cannot imagine Northwestern without the Case sisters. It would not be the same.

Three ways to Win At Home:

1. Don't just look out for yourself, but for the interest of others.
2. Empathy is defined by feeling the brunt of someone else pain.
3. Turn your home into a house of hope.

I don't know about you, but I want to Win At Home.

I am praying for you and your family.

I love my Ranger Family. Ride Rangers Ride!

- EDITOR'S NOTE: Willie Spears is a Northwestern alumnus. Now a motivational speaker, Spears maintains ties to his alma mater. To learn more about the author, visit <https://williespears.com>.

I am 'rooting' for you all to keep growing

By DEVYNS LANSDEN
Editorial Editor

I have always loved flowers.

My mom and I would plant flowers every spring for as long as I can remember. We would plant them for fun and for my other sibling's graduation parties and mine. Once I came to college, I kind of forgot about flowers, but I always have an appreciation for them.

I love when people love plants. I love smelling flowers. I love the way they look, and any flower with bright colors is my favorite.

Dr. Armstrong has started my collection this year. She gave me some babies from a Mother of Thousands plant. The Walmart in Alva has a lot of succulents and flowers. I have never had a succulent before, so I am excited to get a few. They had an Aloe Vera plant, a Venus Fly Trap plant and a lot more.

I know this summer I am going to be obsessed with my flowers and succulents. I think it is good to have something new and fun going on. When I got the plant to start my collection, I was already thinking of where I am going to put all my flowers.

I will probably keep smaller ones inside, but I want to actually plant some in the ground.

I have always thought it would be unique to plant vegetables or cilantro and basil. However, I do not cook with cilantro or basil. I am basic when it comes to seasonings. Maybe I will plant some stuff like that, too, and keep it in front of my sink in my house to add some decoration.

That is another great thing about plants. They are nature's decor. I have seen posts that joke about people with plants and their whole house is filled with them. I feel like that is going to be me.

My favorite flowers have to be tulips and hydrangeas. I also really like to pair

a bright red flower with a vine plant that grows over the pot.

At my house in Beaver, we used to have a huge vine that covered the south side of our house and went around the windows. It could not hold up with the Oklahoma wind and eventually fell, but it was so beautiful. Green is such a pretty color and goes with any plant.

I have always liked the way the vine looks and how it grows. Having the excuse to go outside and water plants is so nice. Spring and summer are such happy months because the grass is so green, and there are flowers.

It is especially beautiful in the mall area on campus.

That is my favorite. Because the flowers are so bright and the green grass and green vines accent the purple bush so well.

It is my favorite place on campus during the summer time. Especially when the sky is clear blue.



Devyn took this shot to show off campus in 2020.



Students play with a ball during the Ranger Games March 31.

GETTING THEIR GAME ON

Northwestern SGA, football team host Ranger Games

By CONNOR GRAY
Student Reporter

The Northwestern Student Government Association and the university's football team got together March 31 to create an event for students to play games and meet new people.

The event Wednesday at Ranger Field, dubbed the "Ranger Games," involved a plethora of different types of games that students could participate in. Classic games like cornhole, kickball, ultimate frisbee, spike ball and tier golf were among those offered. Individuals got together to create teams to compete for t-shirts and cash prizes. Music was played through the public ad-

dress system at the field, and pizza was also provided for anyone who got hungry.

The idea for this event came from Coach Matt Walter and his coaching staff during a recruiting meeting, he said.

"We were thinking as a staff of how we can bring our students together and have something to do with campus life," Walter said.

Coach Anthony Weeden then reached out to Ethan Sacket, the SGA president, to see if SGA would be a partner in the event.

"We are always looking for team ups with other groups on campus and just a unique opportunity of different games and that students of all types can participate," Sacket said.

He said he hopes this will become an annual event.

Sam Gentry and Brian Holiday, who play offensive and defensive line, respectively, talked about the event in high spirits.

"I think it's a good time," Holi-

day said. "We've been in quarantine and stuff, so being able to see everybody's faces and getting to know new students that's pretty cool."

Many students were there as soon as the event started, with some socializing and others playing games before tournaments got started. Kailani Kealoha was one of the students playing cornhole with her friends.

"I'm excited about tonight's event, as it will be a great experience to meet new people," she said. "Especially with COVID, it's been hard to meet new people with the mask and all this stuff."

Caitlyn Bidhart said she thought the event was important as it showed a form of normalcy that has been difficult to find this school year.

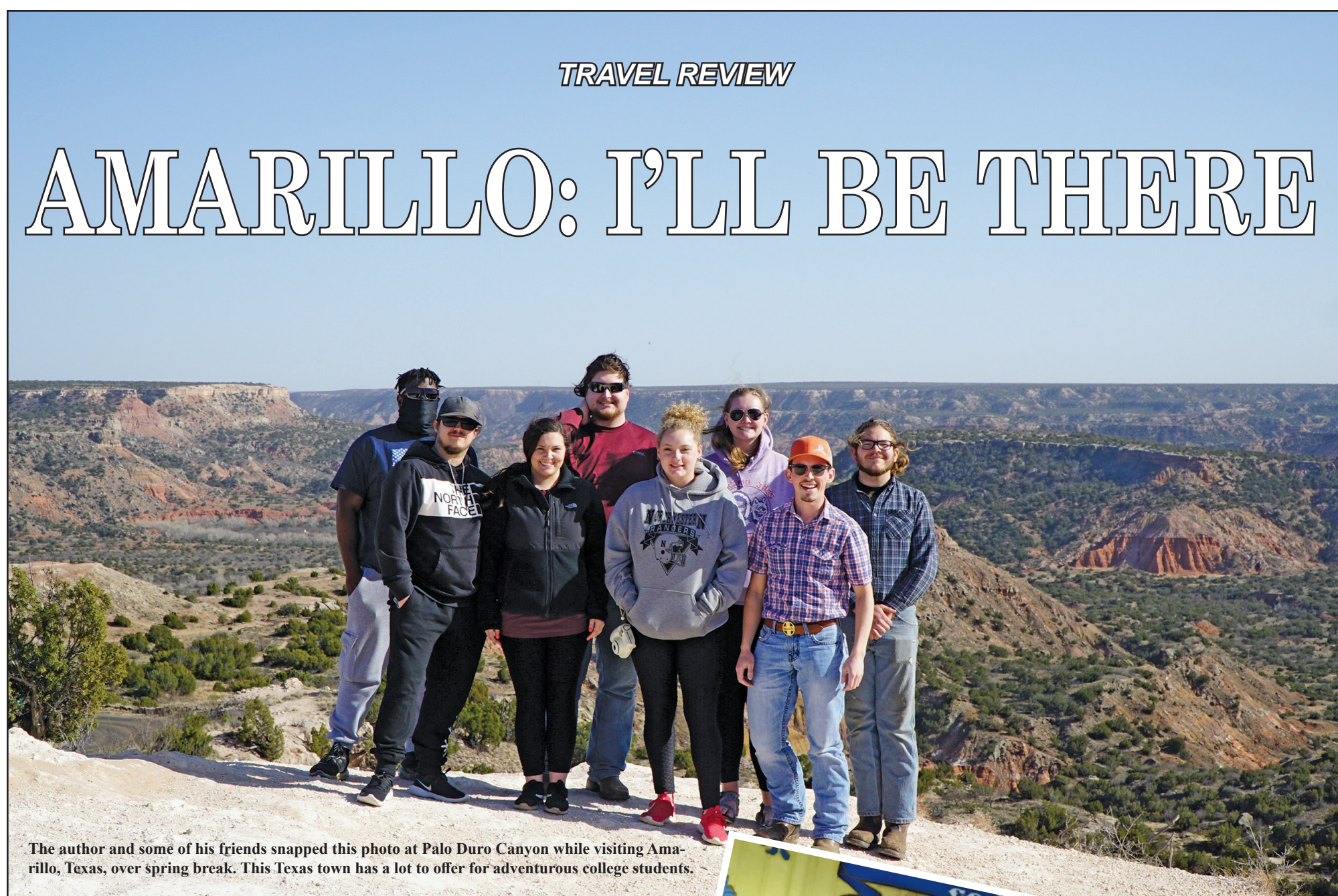
To those who didn't attend, Bidhart said this: "They are missing out on this as this give us a chance to be a community again."



A student watches other students participating in the Ranger Games.

Photos by Jara Reeder

Students play with a ball during the Ranger Games March 31. For an additional photo, see Page 12.



The author and some of his friends snapped this photo at Palo Duro Canyon while visiting Amarillo, Texas, over spring break. This Texas town has a lot to offer for adventurous college students.

TRAVEL REVIEW

AMARILLO: I'LL BE THERE

5 things to do in this West Texas town

1. PALO DURO CANYON
Palo Duro Canyon is the second largest land formation of its size in the United States – and it's certainly one of the most beautiful. Its hills, rocks and valleys illuminated by the setting sun, it's a perfect spot for taking "selfies" and group shots. Just remember not to walk too far if you're walking backwards. Jokes aside, it's a remarkable piece of nature. Reservations are required, so make them soon. It's worth it.

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

2. CADILLAC RANCH

You don't have to be an artist to have fun with spray paint. Cadillac Ranch proves the point. Started several decades ago when an Amarillo man stuck Cadillacs nose-first into the ground, this public art installation provides a palette – albeit well-covered – for anyone wanting to make a mark on Amarillo. Take pictures with your work when you're done. It'll be covered over with more paint before long.

3. AMARILLO MURALS

All over downtown Amarillo, one can find bright, colorful, eye-catching murals on the sides of local businesses. They were put there for folks like you and me to take pictures by. So, get after it. These are easily some of the best "selfie" backgrounds around.

4. AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

Feel like taking flight? You might not be able to fly into or out of Amarillo at



Above: There aren't many places in America that can make a better steak than the Big Texan Steak Ranch.

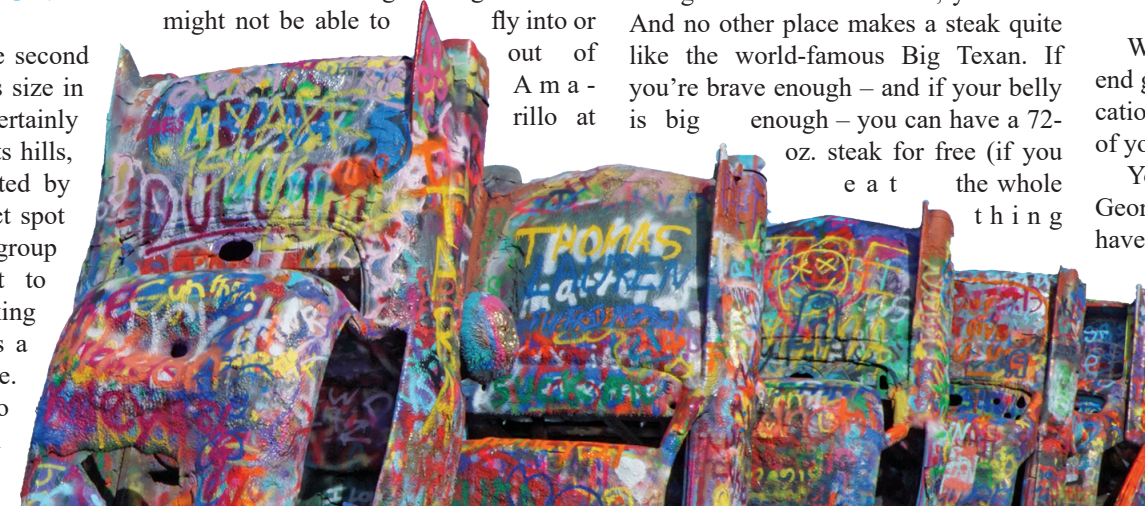
5. THE BIG TEXAN

How can you go to Amarillo without eating steak? The answer is, you can't. And no other place makes a steak quite like the world-famous Big Texan. If you're brave enough – and if your belly is big enough – you can have a 72-oz. steak for free (if you eat the whole thing).

and all of the trimmings, that is). I've had many a prime rib in my day, but the Big Texan easily has the best. Be prepared to wait a little while for a table. Everyone wants to eat here. Once you sit down, you'll be well taken care of by the friendly wait staff. It's one of Amarillo's finest family-owned establishments – and one of the best steakhouses in this part of the country, I'd say.

Whether you're looking for a weekend getaway or an adventure-packed vacation stay, Amarillo should be at the top of your list.

You'll just want to be there, as George Strait sang, by morning. You'll have a lot to do.



Left: At Cadillac Ranch, you can spray paint your name on a car without getting arrested. You're actually supposed to paint them.

Feature



Nearly 250 pieces of artwork were on display until March 26 in the J.W. Martin Library at Northwestern-Alva for the 18th annual NWOSU Art Society Art Show. A Winners' Only Show will take place April 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Runnymede during the First Friday Art Walk.

Woodward student wins top prize in art contest

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Northwestern News

A Northwestern student from Woodward and an alumnus from Alva won top prizes in the university's annual art show, officials said.

Whitney Buxton, a junior biology major, won the Best of Show Award in the contest's student division. Warren Little took home the same award in the non-student division, which includes employees and alumni.

"I truly believe this is one of our best shows, both with talent and variety," Angelia Case, sponsor of the Northwestern Art Society, said in a news release in March.

Buxton's winning work was an oil painting titled "A Gathering," which depicts a group of lizards. Little's colored pencil drawing, titled "Sid Penner," shows a person.

Both Buxton and Little earned ribbons for their works. Buxton also won \$50.

"I'm so happy that we were able to have a show this year and that so many people participated," Case said. "I know it's been a tough year for all of us, so taking the time to be creative was important."

Winners in each category of the show were also announced.

Case, the art society sponsor, won the People's Choice award for her painting titled "Rose."

The award was announced

Friday and voted on by those who attended the art show's display for winning works at the Runnymede venue.

"A list of all winning artwork is available at www.nwsu.edu/art/nas-art-show, as well as photos of more than 250 pieces of art that were on display during the campus show," officials said.

For more information about the art show or the art society, contact Case via phone at 580-327-8577 or via email at arcase@nwsu.edu.

Those interested in learning more about Northwestern's visual arts program may contact Kyle Larson, assistant professor of art, at 580-327-8108 or krlarson@nwsu.edu.



Photos provided

An oil painting named "A Gathering" by Whitney Buxton is the Best of Show winner in the student division of the university's art show.



A colored pencil drawing named "Sid Penner" by Warren Little is the Best of Show winner in the non-student division of the 2021 NWOSU Art Society Art Show.

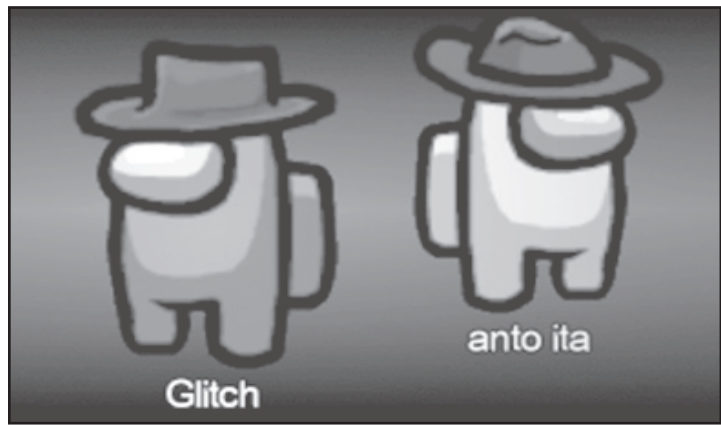
South Hall residents celebrate April Fool's Day with 'mocktails'



South Hall resident assistants served residents non-alcoholic drinks on April 1. The event allowed residents to get out of their dorm and socialize while staying masked up and socially distant.

Residents had several drink choices on the menu, including a "False Alarm" shot that was cinnamon drink served in plastic shot glasses in reference to the fire alarm malfunction earlier in the year; a fake lime margarita; root beer and cram soda as a stand in for beer; and sparkling juice for wine.

Entertainment



New update brings fans more game features

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Features Editor

“Among Us” has released a new update that includes a new map, new tasks and a new chat system. At first, I was concerned because I was worried that developers were just trying to amplify the hype that the game got, but I like the new map.

The new map is called the airship. It is the biggest of all four maps. I do like that it included more tasks. And after emergency meetings, you can pick one of three rooms to go in so it spreads people out a little more. I think this helps both the imposters and the crewmates. It keeps everyone a little bit more spread out.

There are some things that I dislike about the new update. I understand the chat feature is to keep kids safe, but I do wish there was a way to turn it off.

I don’t understand how to do the trash task yet. I have

struggled through many games. I understand you’re supposed to get the bag out of the bin, but I don’t know how. But that means I just have to play it more.

I also dislike that you can’t change names anymore. I’m lucky enough to have ended my last game before the update on a name that I like, but the only way to change your name from the one you chose is to randomly generate it, and I’m not a big fan of that. But I do understand that, again, it was supposed to help protect kids’ safety.

I do realize that the company saw how many little kids were playing their game and adapted it to make it a safe environment for them, and so my dislikes aren’t going to make me stop playing it. I’m actually really glad that the game updated to fit its target audience.

I give this new update 4 out of 5. The chat and name features changed for safety and this update did give us a lot of new content to play with.

Netflix’s new series is too real to be funny

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Features Editor

“Prank Encounters” is a new Netflix series that is hosted by “Stranger Things” actor Gayton Mazarzo. The series gets two people who think they’re doing everyday jobs.

The first episode was collecting for charity and babysitting. The series then scares the two everyday people by putting them in extreme scenarios with a bunch of actors whom they don’t know are acting.

I was skeptical when I saw the series. Because I couldn’t tell if it was going to be like “Impractical Jokers” or if it was going to be more like the “Carbonaro Effect.”

I love the “Carbonaro Effect” because it’s close-up magic, it doesn’t hurt anyone and it doesn’t put anyone in awkward positions like “Impractical Jokers” does.

Boy was I wrong. This series is like a worse version of “Impractical Jokers.” They get unsuspecting people who think they’re doing normal jobs and scare them.

In context, it’s funny, but within the first episode, the two unsuspecting people think they witnessed two murders. I still feel like that was a little far for a prank.

I would honestly give this show a 2 out of 5. Because I don’t like the deep scenarios they put these people in. If you are in a situation where you think you’ve witnessed a murder ...

Especially one that you wouldn’t be able to explain

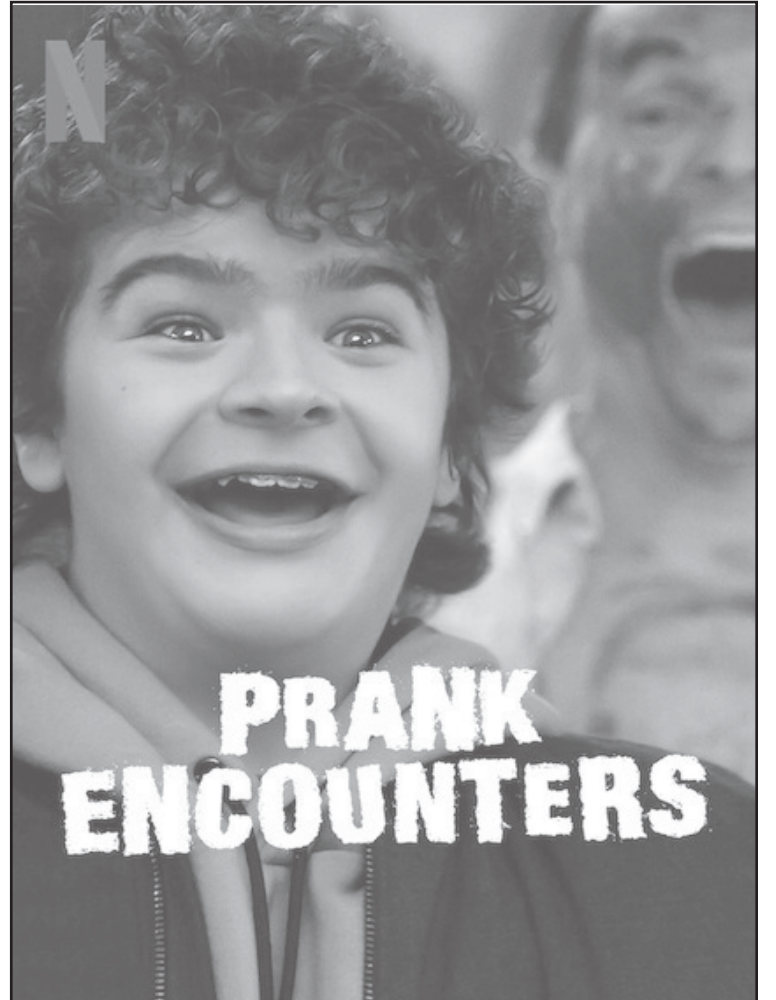


Photo provided by Netflix Media Center

that could really mess you up. I know the people probably get compensated, but that’s a lot of emotional distress that I’m not here for.

The way I see it, it’s one thing if you pay or if you’re aware that

you’re going into a haunted house to get scared. But when you’re pulled into an everyday scenario and you watch all of this play through without knowing that it’s fake, it just doesn’t sit right with me.

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Sports

Soccer plays in 2021 GAC tournament



Photo by Emma Sporleder

Rachel Bailey kicks the ball in a game after Northwestern's Senior Day Celebration against Southern Nazarene University on March 27 in Alva.

By **DYLAN WHITELY**
Student Reporter

Northwestern's Lady Rangers soccer team has played its regular season in preparation for the Great American Conference post-season tournament.

The Lady Rangers finished last place in the Great American Conference after finishing its season with a record of 0 – 5 – 1.

Northwestern's soccer season is normally in the fall semester, but it was played this semester after Great American Conference officials announced, in August 2020, the suspension of all sports until the spring semester.

The team will kick off the first round of the Great American Conference tournament on April 10. Great American Conference officials have not announced where the women's soccer tournament will be played at, nor have they announced the final standings, as of press time.

The Lady Rangers will play the Tigers of Ouachita Baptist University, head coach Alex Piekarski said. This is his first post-season tournament with Northwestern.

Ouachita Baptist is ranked

second in the Great American Conference after winning four games and losing two games in conference play.

Rachel Bailey, a sophomore on the soccer team, said she feels positive about playing Ouachita Baptist in the first round.

"I'm feeling very positive moving forward into this weekend," Bailey said. "We've played this team before and in my opinion, it was one of the best games of the season."

Bailey said the team has been able to boost each other up throughout the season.

"The team has been very good about lifting ourselves back up when we stumble this season," Bailey said. "I feel like the positive attitudes from the coaches and girls will help us to keep pushing and working towards our goal of a GAC championship."

Alissa Carlson, a junior on the team, was sidelined with an illness during the season. She said she is nervous about the upcoming game.

"I'm nervous because it's my first game back in two months," Carlson said. "It is also our team's first tournament appearance."

Carlson is optimistic about the upcoming tournament game.

"We have not won a game all season," Carlson said. "But we came very close to beating this team and I think our mentality is going to be better going into this game."

Carlson didn't know what to expect for this uncertain season.

"I didn't have very many expectations going in because we weren't even sure if we were going to get to have a season or not," Carlson said.

Bailey said she has high expectations for next season even with the team's record in the 2020 – 2021 season.

"I think that if the team does what they need to do to prepare for the upcoming fall season, then we shouldn't have any issues competing against our opponents," Bailey said. "Though we have not had the season we hoped for, all of our games have been close. With some more outside work and time together, we will be able to be an even stronger program."

The Great American Conference's soccer championship tournament includes three rounds of play starting on April 10 and ending on April 17.

Track and field competes in half of its season

By **DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPEKECHE**
Sports Editor

Northwestern's track and field team have competed in half their season after not competing last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Last year, the Lady Rangers scheduled four outdoor track and field meets but the meets were all canceled.

Northwestern athletic officials announced the Lady Rangers' 2021 schedule on March 10.

The track and field team has competed in three out of the five schedule meets in the season.

The Lady Rangers travelled to Emporia, Kansas to compete in the Emporia Invitation on March 19.

Northwestern athletes broke two track and field school records. Deja Lacy, a freshman from Norman, broke Northwestern's track and field record in the 200-meter race. She ran the race in 26.38 seconds. She said her goal is to complete the 200-meter race in 24 seconds.

Kelsey Swindle, a sophomore from Woodward, broke Northwestern's track and field record in the hammer throw event. She threw the hammer for 35.96 meters.

Northwestern finished ahead of Allen Community College and Ottawa University. The team scored 15 points in its first meet.

Northwestern went back to Emporia State University to compete in the Emporia State Relays on March 26 and 27.

Swindle and Lacy passed their recently broken records to establish a better record for the program. Freshmen Emily Smith and Harlie Whisenant set records for the



Photo by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche

Harlie Whisenant sets the school record in the 400-meter hurdles at the Emporia State Relays on March 27. She and other track athletes have set school records during the 2021

outdoor track and field team in their first season.

Swindle threw the hammer for 37.99 meters, beating the March 19 hammer throw by 2.03 meters.

Lacy ran the 200-meter race in 26.24 seconds, beating her previous record by .14 seconds.

Smith finished the 100-meter hurdles in 16.09 seconds. Whisenant set the school record when she crossed the finish line in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of one

minute and 12.78 seconds.

Senior Cayla Smither finished third in the triple jump event with a distance of 10.88 meters.

Northwestern's 1600-meter sprint medley team set the school's track and field record in the event.

The 1600-meter sprint medley team consisted of Babette Brown, Briley Yunker, Ladasheray Bell and Lacy finished in fifth place with a time of 4 minutes and 28.91 seconds.

The Lady Rangers finished the Emporia State Relays in last place with 12 points.

Northwestern's Gina Wilson competed in the heptathlon at the Cowley Tiger Multi beginning on March 31.

Wilson competed in the 100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put and 100-meter race on March 31. The next day, she competed in the long jump, the javelin throw and the 800-meter race.

Wilson won the heptathlon with 3117 points.

The Lady Rangers next team competition came after Wilson's heptathlon win. The team travelled to West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas on April 2 and 3.

Smith and Whisenant broke their previous meet's records. Lacy set another record for the program.

During day two of the Jo Meaker Classic & Multi, Smith finished 0.53 seconds ahead of her time from the previous meet.

Whisenant beat her previous meet's record in the 400-meter hurdle with a time of one minute and 11.41 seconds. She was faster by a little over a second.

Lacy set the record in the 100-meter dash. She finished the race with a time of 12.53 seconds.

The Lady Rangers' 400-meter relay team of Alexa Leyva, Shakira Lane, Smith and Lacy finished in fifth place with a time of 51.13 seconds.

The Lady Rangers finished in 15th place at the Joe Meaker Classic & Multi. They finished ahead of two other competitors.

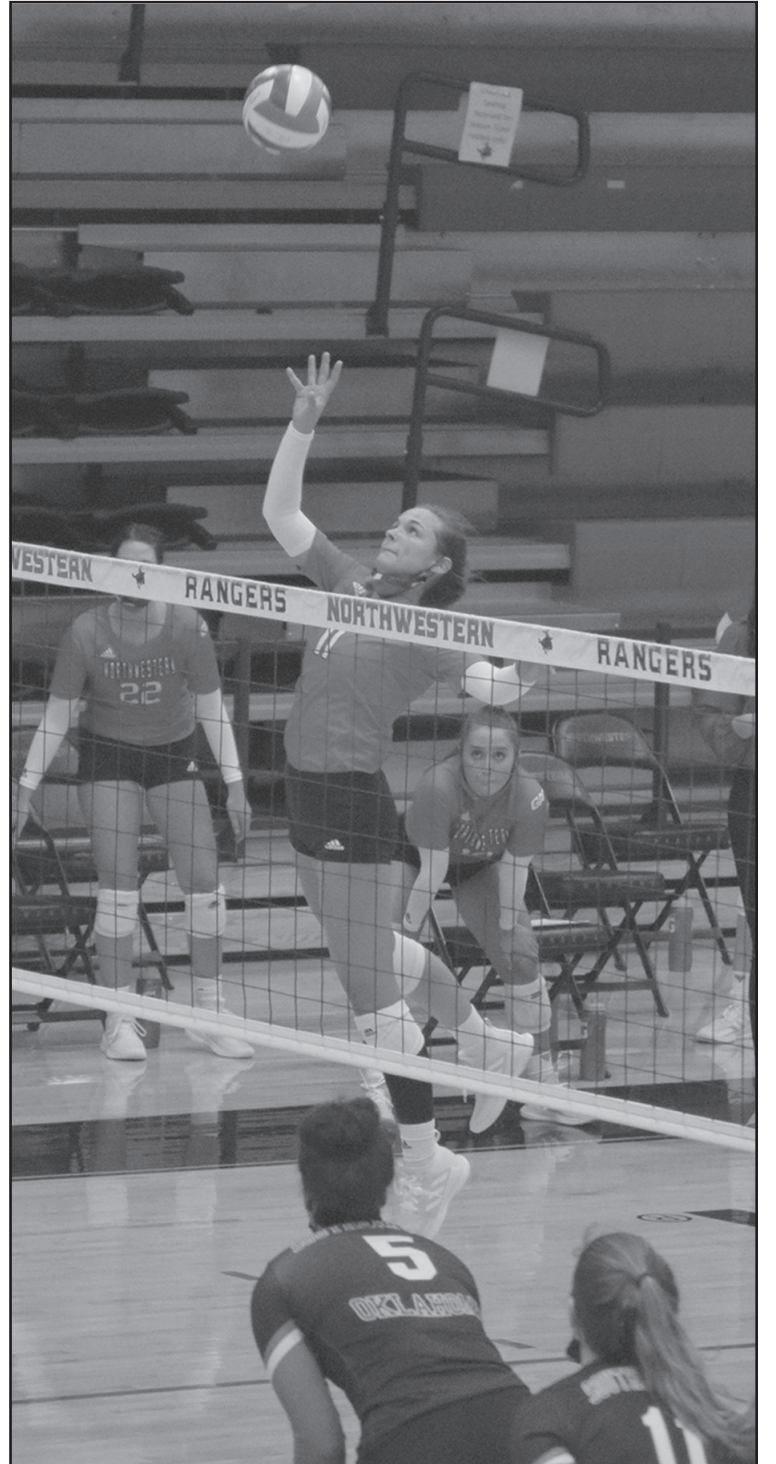
Northwestern's track and field team will compete in one more regular season track meet before the Great American Conference championship track meet beginning on April 15.

Sports

Survive and advance



LEFT: Ravyn Burns (LEFT) and Tarra Parks (RIGHT) jump in the air to block a shot from a Southeastern Oklahoma State University player in the first game of the Great American Conference post-season tournament.



RIGHT: Kate Deterding jumps high to hit the ball into Southeastern's defense in the first game of the Great American Conference tournament. She led Northwestern in the kill statistic with 20 kills through five sets.

Photos by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche

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Volleyball wins first round and goes on the road for second

Northwestern hosted Southeastern Oklahoma State University for the first round of the Great American Conference tournament.

Northwestern won the first round tournament beating Southeastern in five sets.

Their next game in the Great American Conference tournament will be in Weatherford against Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

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HIGH-FLYING FUN



Students play with a frisbee during the Ranger Games March 31.

Photos by Jara Reeder

