

A DOG'S LIFE

The ups and downs of pet ownership are plentiful. But so are the joys of having a fur-baby. PAGE 4



THE CHAMPION

Northwestern volleyball player Avery Osburg became the No. 1 setter in the GAC after a championship tournament. PAGE 11



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Filling campus with COLOR



Photo provided

Luis Mendoza, a graduate student at Northwestern, poses for a picture with a mural he painted at Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, Texas. Mendoza is painting two murals on campus.

Mendoza painting two murals on campus

By JACOB COMP
Student Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State University students will see two new murals on campus in the near future.

Luis Mendoza, a graduate stu-

dent from Phoenix, Arizona, said he hopes to bring new energy to campus through two murals he will start painting April 26. He plans to have them finished by May 2.

The first mural will depict the

INSIDE:
Read an in-depth profile of Mendoza. PAGE 6

THEATER



Photo by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche

Temberlenn Hall, acting as the character Didi Snavelly, and Erin Lehr, playing the part of Pearl, act out a scene in the Northwestern theater production "Greater Tuna." The show premieres Thursday in Herod Hall.

'Greater Tuna' theater production promises to be a Texas-sized show

It's not as fishy as you might think, cast and crew say

By DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPKECHE
Sports Editor

Northwestern's Fine Arts Department is hosting the theater program's only production of the semester, "Greater Tuna," on April 15, 16 and 17 in the Herod Hall auditorium.

Kimberly Weast, a professor of theater arts, said the play is a comedy.

"Greater Tuna is about a small town in the smallest county in Texas," Weast said. "You get to meet a lot of interesting characters. If you grew up in a small town – in western Texas, western Oklahoma, probably a small town anywhere – you know these people."

The play, written by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard, is set in the fictional town of Tuna, Texas. The play debuted in Austin, Texas, in 1981, Weast

said. She said it had its off-Broadway premiere in 1982.

The play is part of a four-play series.

The production of "Greater Tuna" has 14 cast members. Most of them are Northwestern students. They're joined by Dr. Dena Walker, an associate professor of mathematics; Mickey Jordan, director of technical theater; and Erin Lehr, a Northwestern alumna.

*"It'll give them (audience members) a little bit of a rest from the sadness and anything else going on in their lives."
— Anastasia Harper*

Adele Callaway, a freshman from Shattuck, said she hopes to bring joy to audience members.

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News

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alva arena groundbreaking set for summer

By CAMERON GORDON
Student Reporter

Ground is set to break on a new arena in Alva this summer.

Alva Arena Authority ad hoc committee member Todd Holder recently gave a group of Northwestern students an update on the project's progress. The arena will be built on 40 acres of land donated by the Mackey family. The land is east of town next to the Bill Johnson Correctional Facility.

The arena authority applied for tax increment financing status for approximately two sections of land around the project, called a TIF district. Making the area a TIF district means that, as the property values on the places in the TIF district increase, the taxes on those properties increase.

When this happens, the City of Alva still gets the same amount of money, and all the extra tax money goes toward the arena project for the set time period of 25 years. As new infrastructure is built in the TIF district, that increases property taxes, and the arena gets more funding.

The arena committee has chosen Tobin & Associates to design the buildings. The committee has also considered using solar energy for the arena.

"We could level off our utility usage and utility bills by entering into a contract with a local power company to buy back any excess energy we have," Holder said.

The project is projected to take anywhere from 18 months to two

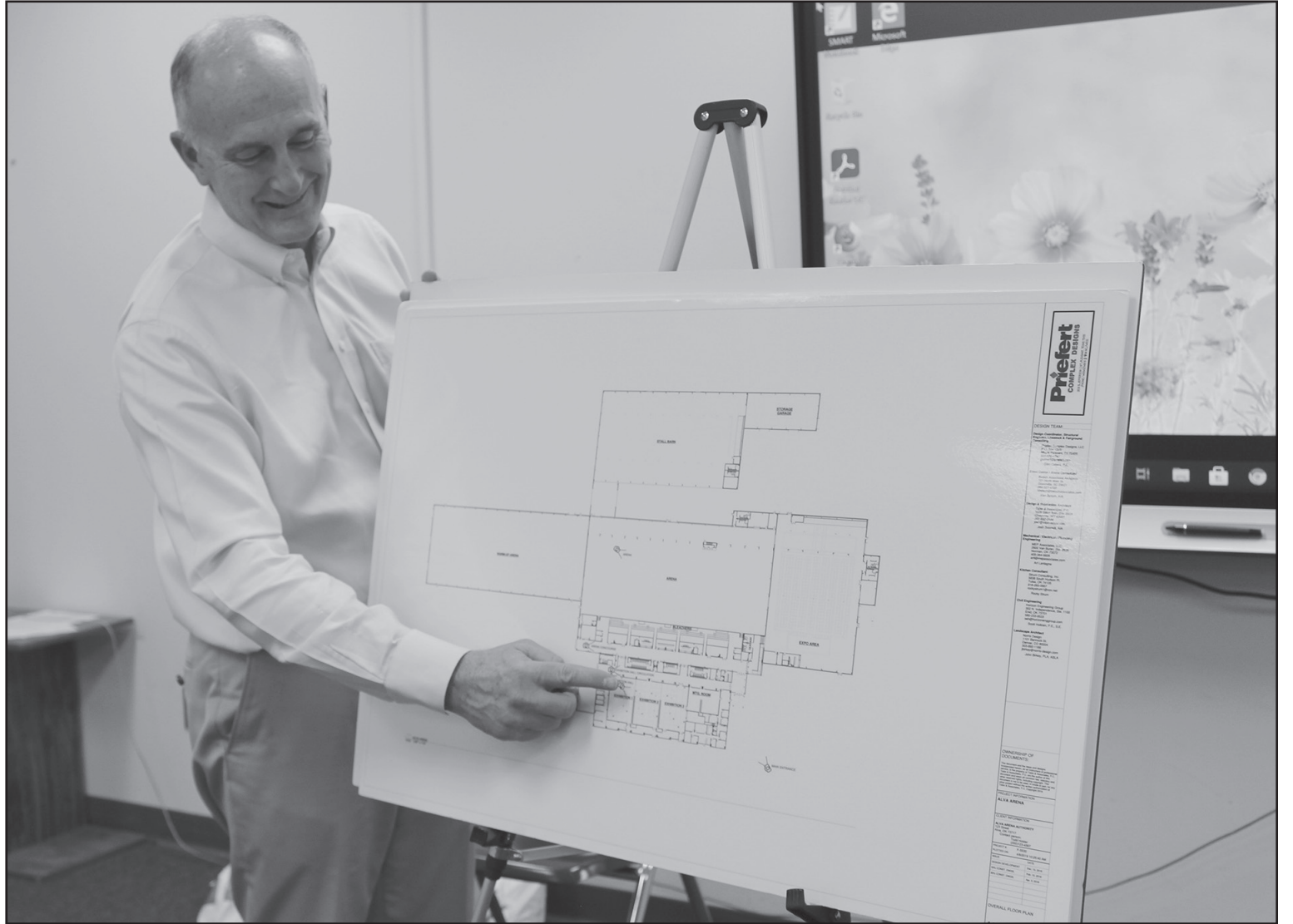


Photo by Dr. Kaylene Armstrong

Alva Arena Authority ad hoc committee member Todd Holder points out the features of the proposed Alva arena during a presentation to students.

years to complete. The arena in total will cost between \$25 and \$30 million. When completed, the arena will have four different major buildings. The buildings will include a main event center, which will have a dirt floor for rodeo competitions. The complex

will also have a stall barn, a practice arena and a space for other events. The main dirt arena can be covered by canvas for events such as concerts. The stall barns can be rented out as well as other spaces without dirt floors.

"Expectations of mine are to

maintain and increase our popularity – bring additional income to Woods County, increase tax dollars and to let people know what a wonderful part of the state we live in," Holder said.

Arena authority officials say they believe this arena will help

the community economically by bringing new businesses to Alva.

The project is more than 20 years in the making.

"Rome wasn't built in a day," Holder said. "We have done an enormous amount of due diligence."

COVID ON CAMPUS

The question that must be masked: Will students continue to wear face coverings if university mask mandate is repealed?

By ALIYAH BIDWELL
Student Reporter

Northwestern's mask mandate remains in effect. But what will students do when it is repealed?

While students don't know when the mandate will end, the Northwestern News spoke to some students on campus to find out whether students will continue to wear a mask even if the rule is squashed.

Austin Rankin, a freshman political science major, said he would not continue to wear his mask because it is a burden.

"I want the return to normalcy and to be able to feel like I have regular interactions," Rankin said. "I believe they have a good effect, but if the university did decide to take away the mask man-



Austin Rankin



Jerika Coon



Addison Schwerdtfeger

date, it would be because they have assessed the situation, and they understand it's not going to be as big of a deal. I would trust the university decision."

"Wearing a mask is an annoy-

ance that I would rather be without, and I think that it has caused a barrier between me and my friends in terms of social interactions because it is hard to understand people. I understand it is

a necessity, but I really wish the mask mandate would be gone."

Jerika Coon, a junior elementary education major, said she would continue to wear a mask.

"There are pros and cons to

not having a mask on because, if someone is already sick, then a mask won't help them," Coon said. "I haven't been affected by any sickness, and I have been keeping my distance."

Addison Schwerdtfeger, a freshman biology major, said she would continue to wear a mask.

"It doesn't affect me negatively in any way, and if can help protect other people or myself from catching COVID, then that it is what I would do," she said. "Masks have helped from not only coronavirus, but also I have noticed that I don't get sick as often as I used to."

"It hasn't affected me in any way because I still get to do volleyball and stuff with [the Student Government Association]. I personally haven't been affected negatively."

News

PLAY: Cast members say performance is a much-needed respite from reality

Continued from Page 1

"I hope through seeing some funny characters they'll give themselves some slack whenever they need to be vulnerable," Callaway said. "They'll see that it is OK to be vulnerable and not be that funny person."

Anastasia Harper, a freshman from Alva, said her character is someone who cares a lot about animals.

"I will be Petey Fisk," Harper said. "He runs the humane society in Tuna. He has his own little radio segment where he does commercials."

The theater students work about 18 to 24 hours a week on their productions, Weast said. She said the theater students started rehearsing "Greater Tuna" two weeks before spring break.

Callaway said she enjoys the practices at the end of the day and hopes people enjoy her character within the production.

"My character is the manager of the station, O-K-K-K," Callaway said. "He has his own little segment. He gets to talk to some of the characters, and we get to see more into the characters through my character. ... My character is really a gateway to see into the other characters."

Weast said audience members have a lot to gain by attending shows.

"When they walk out, they will have an understanding that humanity is so similar," Weast said. "We all think we are so unique and different but the similarities between us are valid."

Harper said she and her fellow cast members hope to take



Photo by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche
Dr. Dena Walker, acting as Thurston Wheelis, and Erin Lehr, playing the part of Arles Struvie, are shown in rehearsal for the Northwestern theater production "Greater Tuna." The show premieres Thursday.

show-goers away from reality for a short time.

"I hope they just get a break because right now is a very stressful time in the world," Harper said. "It'll give them a little bit of a rest from the sadness and anything else going on in their lives. Just laugh, even if it is for a couple of hours."

Normally, the Fine Arts Department hosts four plays per year. This year, the department was only allowed to have two productions. The program's last production was "45 Plays for 45 Presidents" in October.

Tickets for the play are limited because of restrictions put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Weast said. General admission is \$10, but Northwestern employees get in for \$5, and

students get in for \$3 with a student ID.

She said the likelihood of people being able to walk-in to Herod Hall and buy a ticket before the show is small. As of press time, a number of tickets had already been sold.

To reserve tickets, call Weast at 580-327-8458.

Weast said she hopes Northwestern staff, faculty and students go to the play and enjoy the theater students' hard work.

"Students often say, 'There's nothing to do,'" Weast said. "I'm like, 'Come on to the theater, come to the play. Go to the soccer, volleyball, basketball, football.' There are things to do, but you have to leave your dorm room and come and experience other activities on campus."

NEWS IN BRIEF

SGA TO HOST TALENT SHOW

Northwestern's Student Government Association and the university's theater program will host a talent show Tuesday in the Herod Hall auditorium.

Rangers Got Talent will begin at 7 p.m., officials said.

Winners will be named in three categories: Best Overall Talent, Crowd Favorite and People's Choice. Each of the three will receive a cash prize.

Friday is the deadline to sign up for the event.

See the April 22 edition of the Northwestern News for coverage of the event.

RANGER ROCKETRY CLUB COMPETES AT ARGONIA CUP

Members of the Northwestern Ranger Rocketry team competed alongside 15 other teams from 13 universities during the fourth Argonia Cup Collegiate Rocketry competition March 27-28 near Argonia, Kansas.

Dr. Steve Maier, chair of the department of natural science, professor of physics and co-sponsor of the team, said he is proud of the students.

"The team made great strides this year, and it was a pleasure working with them," Maier said. "They gained experience testing ejection charges, using sets of sheering pins properly for separate ejection charges and successfully using multiple onboard GPS trackers. The 3D printed payload bay and weathervaning glider were robust and well designed. I am proud of the work done and the commitment of each member of the team."

This year's competition challenge was to fly a rocket to an altitude of at least 8,000 feet using

a Level 2 motor then recover it at a predetermined location.

A team video is available to view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6431OuRaFtc>. The video was produced by Dr. Luis Antunes, an assistant professor of mass communication at Northwestern.

Team members working on the project included Sharon Boeckman, Hitchcock senior, payload construction and parachutes; Chris Chauncey, Cordell senior, team captain who worked on the rocket's design and construction and is Level 2 certified with Tripoli.org; and Noah Rodriguez, Tyrone sophomore, payload and rocket construction. Dr. Jason Wickham, professor of chemistry, is a team co-sponsor.

To learn more about Northwestern's Department of Natural Science or the Ranger Rocketry team, contact Maier at 580-327-8662 or sjmaier@nwsu.edu.

BEAUTIFICATION DAY EVENTS SLATED

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Staff Council members are looking for volunteers to help with Campus Beautification Day events in Alva, Enid and Woodward this month.

On Thursday, April 29, from 1 to 4 p.m. on the Alva campus, all students and university employees are welcome to volunteer their services to help give the campus a facelift.

Volunteers are required to wear face coverings because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Contact Sue Burks, Staff Council chair, at smburks@nwsu.edu or 580-327-8106 by April 23 with the names of students, faculty/staff members, administrators and club or organization members who would like to participate.

MENDOZA: Murals bring energy to campus

Continued from Page 1

Ranger mascot breaking through the wall near the health and sports science and industrial education buildings.

For his second mural, he plans to paint the stairs between the buildings to look like piano keys.

He got this idea from Pier 39 in San Francisco, California.

"I just noticed everyone gravitating to them," he said. "Kids were running up and down them, and pictures were being taken."

Mendoza said he gained his

passion for art by seeing the world around him. He wanted to replicate what he saw through his own eyes for others to see.

Mendoza's main goal is to bring color to campus, he said. He wants to inspire others to be creative as well.

"[I want] all the artists on campus to branch out and use their creative talent to do things for the city of Alva," Mendoza said.

Stephen McCluskey, a junior health and sports science education major, said he believes Men-

doza's art will have a positive impact on campus.

"I think it would bring a brighter atmosphere to campus," McCluskey said. "I think the students would love the murals and would be inspired by his work."

Mendoza said he hopes that, by painting the murals, people will know that he cares about Alva and NWSU.

"Kids are going to feel more loved when they're here, especially music majors and kids that love the arts," he said.

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: CASE NUMBERS ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE AREA

STUDENT CASES:

0

active as of April 9.
This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

EMPLOYEE CASES:

0

active as of April 9.
This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

IN ALVA:

11

active as of April 13.
Alva has had a total of 1,004 cases.

IN OKLAHOMA:

9,952

active as of April 13.
Oklahoma has had a total of 440,023 cases.

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

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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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

All letters represent the views of the author.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

Editorial

A dog's point of view

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Student Reporter

Mom's alarm goes off from the bedroom. The sun is shining through the window as I sit up from my bed and let out a huge yawn. Out comes Mom, still in her pajamas. I'm so happy to see her that I jump up on the side of my pen.

As soon as Mom opens the front door, I bolt outside and into the warm sunshine. The grass smells amazing while I play chase-the-birds. Eventually, Mom makes me go back inside, and I give Dad big, slobbery kisses to wake him up.

I'm convinced that my puppy is the happiest dog in the world, always smiling and ready to play. Coe is a 14-week-old Blue Heeler, and I can't describe how much joy he has brought to my life.

Growing up, I had a beautiful German Shepherd named PJ who was my best friend and protector. Today, I can see a little bit of PJ in Coe, like the way he cocks his head and gives the best kisses.

Every morning, I get wake up to his happy, smiling face. He loves people, car rides and being outside. Walks are his favorite

time of the day.

As a puppy, Coe finds a game in everything. Even if it's stealing Dad's sock from the laundry basket to zoom it around the house.

Don't get me wrong. There's been some trying moments, too. From accidents in the house to taking off down the street by himself, Coe keeps my boyfriend and I on our toes. I haven't had a dog in a long time, and I'm so thankful we have him together. I've learned so much in a few short months. One can watch hundreds of training videos, but every dog is special and stubborn.

What continues to blow my mind is how big Coe has grown in such a short about of time. The little puppy we had to carry everywhere is now a big boy with a natural curiosity and willpower to match.

If he wants something, he will find a way to get to it. Even if that means sneaking a potato chip or two while Dad isn't looking.

This semester has been pretty hard for me, like so many others. Classes are a struggle, and work is long.

With homework added in, it doesn't seem like there are enough hours in the day. When I'm fed up and need a break,



Photo provided

Hofen's dog, Coe, is shown here.

Coe's more than happy to give some kisses and take a walk. Time doesn't exist to him, so it's always time take a break to play.

He helps me take a step back and breathe. I'm not sure I would have made it through this semester without him.

Coe's day is full of games and new adventures, with a nap or two thrown in. I wish we could all see the world through a puppy's eyes. I think we'd look around in wonder and awe at the new experiences we'd get to have, and the joy found in life.

Movie time in Alva

Sit back and grab your popcorn

By **CADE KENNEDY**
Student Reporter

It is hard to believe that it was over a year ago when this pandemic started, but here we are.

That was one of the many thoughts I had in my head as I walked into the Rialto Theater on a Thursday night.

I sat down in my seat and looked around at the mostly empty theater, trying to see if there was anyone I could recognize.

After looking for a few moments, I turned around and watched the same ads over and over while continuously checking my phone to see how many minutes I had to wait until the previews started.

The theater went dark, and the familiar green screen signaling that a trailer was about to start came on. After a few trailers, the movie finally started.

Despite being April Fool's Day, this was no joke. "Godzilla vs. Kong" was finally in theaters.

This was a movie that I had been waiting for since it was announced back in 2015, when the MonsterVerse that Legendary Pictures had just created was simply ideas instead of the four films that are out now.

After seeing how Legendary made the other MonsterVerse movies, "Kong: Skull Island" and

"Godzilla: King of the Monsters," I was even more excited about how "Godzilla vs. Kong" would turn out.

The MonsterVerse films were not what hooked me into Godzilla films, however.

I had been a fan of the Godzilla movies since my dad introduced me to those movies when I was a little kid.

"The action scenes are great, with the monster battles being the highlight of the movie."

— **Cade Kennedy**

Over the next few years, I was able to find most of the films on DVD, with a few exceptions.

However, I was able to complete my collection last year with the 2016 film "Shin Godzilla," meaning that I had every Godzilla film — all 30 of them.

Going back to "Godzilla vs. Kong," it truly is a great monster movie. The film immediately starts off with monsters and continues to show them off throughout the movie.

The film also remembers one of the most important parts of any monster movie in that the film is

about the monsters, not the people.

Speaking of the people, most of cast does a good job in the movie and keeps the movie entertaining while the monsters are off the screen.

Brian Tyree Henry does a great job in playing a conspiracy theorist named Bernie and brings a lot of energy to the movie.

The action scenes are great, with the monster battles being the highlight of the movie.

The film shows Godzilla and Kong fighting in the daylight, which is the first time in the MonsterVerse that we see monsters fighting in the daylight.

It was nice to be able to see the monsters fighting with no cuts to a different scene or not being able to clearly see them.

The final battle between Godzilla and Kong is fantastic, with both monsters beating each other throughout the city of Hong Kong.

The real final battle of the movie is great as well, with Godzilla and Kong teaming up to fight another monster that I will not reveal.

I had a great time watching the movie, and I would recommend that you watch it as well.

The film is in theaters right now, but is also available on HBO Max at no extra charge until the end of April.

Editor's rant of the week

By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Features Editor

I got my first COVID vaccine the second I knew that I was eligible to get it, and I didn't have any second thoughts. In my opinion, everyone who can get it, should. I haven't yet heard a logical reason to avoid getting the vaccine. I honestly think that, once a majority of the population has gotten it and everyone's eligible to get it, that if you haven't gotten it, you shouldn't be able to do the things that people who are vaccinated get to do.

I had a conversation with someone who said it's inappropriate to ask people if they're planning on getting the vaccine. The way I see it, the only reason that you'd get offended if someone asked you is if you weren't going to get it. In that case, I'd want to know so I can stay away from you.

Even if they cancel the mask mandate, I will probably continue to wear my mask even when I'm fully vaccinated. Just to be safe. But I do think anyone who chooses not to get vaccinated should have to continue to wear their masks. I feel like every store that wants to show them your vaccination card to get in. It's the only way that I can see how stores would be able to monitor and keep their customers safe.

Now this doesn't mean people who absolutely cannot get their vaccine shouldn't be able to go about their daily lives.

But if you can't get the vaccine, you should probably be taking more care of yourself anyways, and you should continue to want to wear your mask to keep yourself safe.

The main comment I hear from people who don't want the vaccine is that they don't know what's in it and they feel like it was rushed.

Do you know what's in the other vaccines? How long does it have to take for you to feel like the vaccine wasn't rushed?

And yes, it was rushed. But honestly, so many scientists stopped what they were doing, and they all turned their attention on the same project. So, it did get done faster, but it also had a lot more eyes on it than a normal vaccine.

I encourage everyone to get the vaccine to keep those who can't, safe.

Editorial

Starting a Catholic ministry

By COLLIN ZINK

A couple of summers ago, I was at a Catholic Youth Conference at Missouri State called Steubenville. It was a Saturday night, and thousands of Catholic teens and youth leaders were gathered in the basketball stadium adoring and worshiping Jesus present in the Eucharist (Blessed Sacrament). As I looked around the stadium, I saw a girl, Kasey Kaiman, who was literally on the ground, crying with joy, with her hand reaching out to Jesus as the priest walked by. I walked over to her, gave her a hug and dried her tears, and that's when she gave me a piece of paper with her Ministry "God Nod" on it.

Years later, her ministry has gotten bigger. So, I thought I would help her expand her ministry. This past week, I interviewed her to ask her more about it.

Q: Tell me a little about yourself:

A: I'm a small-town girl who fell radically in love with Jesus when I was 18 years old. I majored in marketing and theology as an undergrad, and now I'm getting my master's at Ave Maria University."

Q: What was the "light bulb" moment that you decided



Photo provided

Kasey Kaiman started a YouTube channel to lead people to live the abundant life of Christ, she told Zink.

to start God Nod?

A: I actually never had the idea to start God Nod. I was a marketing and theology major in college and got a marketing internship at a Catholic parish in town. One of my tasks was to create a YouTube channel for them.

Well, I had no idea how to do that, so I started playing around on my own account. I uploaded a video of my testimony because I didn't know what else to make a

video on, and all of a sudden, it started gaining a lot of views.

I uploaded another video, and it grew from there. I got 25 letters from 5th graders telling me how much of an impact I had on their life. At that moment, I knew I couldn't stop, even if it's just for one of those kids.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish with this ministry?

A: I hope to inspire people to

seek a relationship with Jesus. I want people to know that life with Christ is so much more than just going to church on Sunday.

Life with Christ is a life of abundance and Joy. Ultimately, I just want to do God's will and let him take this ministry where he wants me to take it.

Q: How did you choose the name "God Nod"?

A: I first heard the name "God Nod" from a friend I met on a re-

treat. We were talking about God answering our prayers, and she kept calling them "God nods," and I thought that was so cool, so I also started calling mine that. I ended up devoting a whole journal to writing down all my God Nods and would often look to it when I felt doubt. So, that's where the name came about.

Q: What is it about your faith that makes it so awesome? (This question is so that those who are non-Catholic can understand more about Catholicism.)

A: My purpose for my channel is to lead people to live the abundant life Christ is calling them too.

I believe the best way to do this is to live this out by receiving as many graces as possible, and the way we do that is by receiving the sacraments frequently. Christ founded a church, and it is through his church that he wants to bestow his graces upon us. I hope that by watching my videos, people can see the amazing graces and blessings Christ gives us through his fantastic church.

Kasey not only has a YouTube channel, but she also has a Facebook page called "God Nod," which she posts updates on.

Collin Zink, a student at Northwestern, helped start the university's Catholic Club.

Private choices have public consequences

By WILLIE SPEARS

When negative parts of our private life become public, it affects our home in a significant way.

One way to lose at home is to embarrass your loved ones.

When you see allegations on the news, do you think about how the news affects the accused's family?

The family members have nothing to do with the accusation, but one family member's action impacts them just like a team.

When one part suffers, all parts suffer. When one part rejoices, all parts rejoice.

Kirk Franklin, the 16-time Grammy-winning gospel music legend, apologized recently after his son, Kerrion Franklin, leaked a profane recording of an argument between the two that included physical threats against his son.

This was a private conversation that went public and caused Franklin to lose at home.

Rush Propst is one of the top high school football coaches in the country, winning a High School National Championship in 2015, five state championships

in Alabama and two state championships in Georgia.

Recently, a profane recording was leaked of him asking for money to recruit high school players and alleging he has witnessed major colleges use this same strategy.

This was a private conversation that went public and caused Propst to lose at home.

Kevin Durant has won two NBA World Championships and Most Valuable Player awards and is considered one of the greatest basketball players of all time.

Recently Durant was fined \$50,000 for "offensive and derogatory" language in a text correspondence.

This was a private conversation that went public and caused Durant to lose at home.

Winning takes a team effort, and so does losing. When we make decisions in public or private, it affects those we love.

Kirk Franklin, Rush Propst, and Kevin Durant had no clue their private communications would become public.

This negative publicity is not what they wanted or what they needed.

When we focus on winning at home, it governs our decisions

and helps us navigate through life.

Our moms, dads, spouses and children want to be proud of us, not embarrassed by us.

Although we all have weak moments and make mistakes, the real version of us comes out when we get squeezed.

When we leave the house, our natural body odor is covered up by fragrances from soap, shampoo, toothpaste, hair products, lotions and laundry detergent found in our clothes.

The same is true in the way we communicate with others.

When having a disagreement with a co-worker, I was asked if I wanted him to keep it real.

I responded by saying definitely not; I wanted him to keep it professional.

Keeping it real is too dangerous, in my opinion.

Especially if the realness has the potential to hurt those not involved.

Smartphones have ensured there are no more private moments.

Speak up; you are being recorded.

Smile; you are on camera.

Be on your best behavior because trust is hard to find.



Photo provided

Willie Spears is a motivational speaker and an NWSU alumnus.

Three ways to Win At Home:
1. Always act as if you are being recorded.

2. Be careful of what you say and how you say it.

3. Think about your loved ones when you feel like giving someone a piece of your mind.

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

I am praying for you and your family.

1 Peter 5:7 reads: "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

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>.

‘My end goal is to always make someone’s life better’

Mendoza’s love for making art leads him to create scholarship for Northwestern students

By DEVYNN LANSDEN
Editorial Editor

A baseball player at Northwestern Oklahoma State University had a big decision to make in the fall of 2019. He had to choose between two different lifestyles.

Luis Mendoza, now a recruiter at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, talked about a certain time in his life when he could have been in an entirely different position than he is in now.

He tried out for a professional baseball team near Mexico City called Los Pericos de Puebla and was about to sign on with the team. Mendoza graduated from Northwestern in December 2019 and waited for the scouts of the baseball team to contact him about their decision.

While becoming demoralized more and more every day, he received a call from Calleb Mosburg, dean of students at Northwestern. Mosburg reached out to Mendoza and offered him a job as a recruiter at Northwestern.

He told him that he could get his master’s degree simultaneously.

WORKING AT NORTHWESTERN

When Mendoza started working in January 2020, he thought he would work at Northwestern for a couple of months and then get back into playing baseball.

He said he knew how many days he went without playing baseball, but knew it would not matter in the long run.

When the coronavirus pandemic began in March and caused the school to close, Mendoza went back home to Arizona.

There, he got a direct message from a professional baseball player in Arizona. The player asked if Mendoza could use another one of his talents and cut his hair.

The whole time Mendoza was cutting his hair, the two were talking.

The baseball player told Mendoza that he got drafted out of high school to play professionally, so he never got a chance to go to college.

Since this was in March during the pandemic, the player said he was not getting paid for the next four months and did not have a job or degree to fall back on. The player asked Mendoza what he does for a living and whether he was thinking about playing professionally.

A CHANGE OF PLANS

Mendoza told him he tried out for a team in Mexico. He then told him that he has a bachelor’s degree and is working on a master’s degree while having a job.

Mendoza said he then realized what all he had. He said he no longer desired to be a professional baseball player.

Mendoza works in the recruitment office with Trey Johnson, who is also from Arizona and attended Northwestern to play basketball for the Rangers. Johnson’s dad died in the summer of 2020. Johnson said Mendoza always called to check up on him and make sure he was OK.

“You know he’ll always have your back and is willing to do anything for you,” Johnson said.

Johnson said his favorite memory with Mendoza was when he took Mendoza to the baseball field because he noticed Mendoza was sad. Johnson and Mendoza hit some baseballs and played catch. Then, Mendoza was back to being himself.

“He (Luis Mendoza) finds the good in every situation, no matter how bad the situation may be. He finds the positive.”

— Rachael Richardson

Johnson said he loves to cook with Mendoza because they show each other their favorite foods and get to learn new things.

Stephen McCluskey is one of Mendoza’s friends and a student at Northwestern. He remembers the first time he met Mendoza. He said Mendoza inspired him to do more with his life and to stop wasting time.

They first met while Mendoza was cutting McCluskey’s hair. Mendoza inspired him to work harder in his classes. Now, McCluskey is going to get his master’s degree. He said Mendoza made him realize that it is the perfect time to do it, and that not a lot of people get the chance to do what he’s about to do.

Mendoza and McCluskey have a lot of fun together, McCluskey said. His favorite memory with Mendoza was when they went to Beaver for the annual Cow Chip festival. He said they rode in the back of a truck, singing at the top of their lungs the song “Sweet Caroline.”

INSPIRING OTHERS

McCluskey wasn’t the only person Mendoza inspired. He also inspires his sister, Nicel Mendoza, who says she pushes herself every day not to give up.

“If he can do it, I can do it,” she said.

Nicel Mendoza’s favorite memory is watching her brother play baseball. She said other people do not see how sensitive her brother really is. She said he seems tough but has a sweet spot.

Another coworker, Rachael



Luis Mendoza poses for a photo with his completed painting of the state of Arizona. He made this painting in September during an SGA event. Photo provided



Luis Mendoza poses for a photo with a butterfly he painted on a car at the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, Texas. People can paint cars that are buried there. Photo provided

BY THE NUMBERS: RAISING SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

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✓ \$1,000

What's next?
• 500 shirts
• \$2,000

Graphic by Emma Sporleder

Richardson, said that, as soon she met Luis Mendoza, they were best friends.

Her favorite memory with Mendoza is when she was inviting him to her daughter Ember’s birthday party. He instantly offered to cook, even though Richardson didn’t ask him to, she said. She said she felt special when Mendoza offered to cook.

“He finds the good in every situation, no matter how bad the situation may be,” Richardson said. “He finds the positive.”

STARTING A NON-PROFIT

Mendoza has a non-profit organization for high school students and has a goal of giving away two \$1,000 scholarships. He now has enough for one scholarship. He said starting the non-profit was difficult.

Mendoza makes art, and he sells it on his website. He also sells shirts with his logo on them. The money he makes from the sale of these goods goes toward the scholarships. Mendoza said he puts others before himself because he wants people to know that there is someone who cares. He said he wants to change someone’s day.

“I do so much for other people so I could be the reason someone kept going that day,” he said.

Mendoza said he would not change anything in his life. He said he has no end goal.

He said he realized when he achieved something that there was still more he could do. So, he stopped wanting to get to the end of anything. If he feels like he’s improving people around him, then he is meeting his goal, he said.

“My end goal is to always try to be better and always try to make someone else’s life better,” Mendoza said.

When asked what his biggest regret is, Mendoza said it is not getting to know everyone around him.

As a business person, Mendoza does a lot of work in private. Mendoza listens to a podcast by a businessman named Grant Cardone. Mendoza said he listens to every word and replays the podcasts. He said he believes everything Cardone says.

Mendoza said he rewrites everything he hears in the podcasts. To be successful, you have to listen to people, Mendoza said.

Mendoza said the main reason he is doing this scholarship giveaway is because he wants to prove to everyone – and to himself – that anything is possible. He said it’s something so rare, and that is why he wants to do it. He wants to expand his view of possibility.

“I decided to do something that no one I know has ever done,” Mendoza said. “I like doing things no one has done, and a lot of people love doing things that everyone else has done.”



Luis Mendoza poses for a photo during Freshman Orientation in August. Photo provided



Luis Mendoza waits to bat a pitch for the Ranger baseball team. Photo provided

Feature

For seniors, only a few weeks until graduation: What you need to know



File photo

Northwestern graduates are pictured at a spring commencement ceremony at Ranger Field in this photo.

By **JACOB COMP**
Student Reporter

Three weeks. That is all that is between seniors and graduation. On May 8, Northwestern Oklahoma State University will host spring commencement after having to cancel it last year because of COVID-19.

Four years in the making and the time has almost come for hundreds of Northwestern Oklahoma State University students. The event will take place at Ranger Field.

Spring commencement is fast approaching, and will be here before you know it.

The finish line is in sight, but that doesn't mean the race is over.

There are still things that seniors need to get finished before they can walk across that stage.

All potential spring and summer 2021 graduates should have submitted an application for a bachelor's degree by Feb. 27 to the Registrar's office.

The registrar's office will send out a letter to all those who applied to give further instructions as graduation gets closer. Students who are looking to walk at graduation will need to get a cap and gown.

Michelle Kingcade, who works in the bookstore, will help students purchase their cap and gown.

"We already bulk ordered our caps and gowns, we will send out an email and they can order their cap and gown," Kingcade said.

After graduation is over and graduates have received their



Photo provided

A Northwestern graduate takes a photo in front of the Ranger statue.

diplomas, they can go to the bookstore to purchase the case to hold their diploma.

Students who choose to send out a graduation announcement can have their announcement printed in the NWSU print shop.

With three weeks left in the semester, it becomes easy for seniors to begin to slack off. However, now is the time to buckle down and finish strong, faculty say.

In order to do this, there are a couple things to keep in mind. A lot can change in three weeks. A single failed class now may

push back graduation and force some students to have to return to NWSU for another semester. Four years of hard work, dedication and perseverance can quickly disappear.

Finishing strong has the ability to propel graduates into their potential careers, faculty say.

As of now, there is not much for seniors to do other than buckle down and make these last weeks the best weeks of your college experience.

Stay on top of work and make sure to knock some things off the checklist for graduation, faculty say.



'Cue' Tidaback loves billiards

By **DAVID THORNTON**
Photographer

Let one finger stay and the other will point the way. This is the motto pool players follow

Dawson Tidaback holds his pool cue, letting it rest between the fatty part of the index finger and thumb. For him, this concept gives the best control for pocketing shots.

Since Tidaback was "tall enough to see over a billiards table," he's loved playing pool. His father, Russ Tidaback, introduced him to the basics: how to hold a pool cue and how to hit a ball. At any chance he could, Tidaback would play pool.

When this junior health and sports science major arrived on campus, he met resident assistant Mason Monsees.

"My freshman year, Mason invited me to play," he said. "I told him I wasn't good, so Mason helped. We played all the time, and I got better over time."

After attending class

and coaching the women's basketball team, Tidaback spent most of his time in Coronado Hall. He said he'd play between two and five games of pool each week.

When Tidaback isn't near a pool table, he sometimes will play pool on his phone, playing iMessage 8ball.

"I used to play almost 10 people a day," Tidaback said. "The games got competitive, so I played a lot."

Tidaback has close to 1,000 wins since the game was created.

With new players, Tidaback likes establishing common ground on the rules. All players play by different rules. The way Tidaback likes playing pool is by using traditional rules when the cue ball is the game ball. To legally win, that player must call which pocket he'll shoot the ball into.

"Pool is a game people of all ages can play," Tidaback said.

In the future, he said he "definitely will have a pool table in his house."

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Entertainment



Series lands itself on Disney+, and fans can't get enough of it

You're missing out if you haven't yet watched this new Disney show, our columnist says

By **DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPKECHE**
Sports Editor

If you have not seen Sebastian Stan and Anthony Mackie, then you are missing out.

The two stars play in Disney+'s "The Falcon and The Winter Soldier," an exclusive television show to Disney's streaming service.

The show expands more into what the Marvel Cinematic Universe has to bring to viewers. Not only does it expand on the Marvel Universe, but it also tackles real-life political issues like racial inequality and police brutality.

The show follows the events that occurred in "Avengers: Endgame."

Sebastian Stan's character Bucky Barnes, the Winter Soldier,

"This series shines a light on the problems of the world in an entertaining and emotional way. ... You will be sure to enjoy this."
— **Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche**

is experiencing guilt because of his past as an assassin with no control over his actions because

of experiments that foreign entities performed on him.

Anthony Mackie's character Sam Wilson, the Falcon, is going through a back-and-forth battle about how he does not deserve the shield and helm as Captain America because he believes no one will ever be Steve Rogers, the previous Captain America.

Give it a watch because this series shines a light on the problems of the world in an entertaining and emotional way. If you have watched any of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, you will be sure to enjoy this series.

Top new release on Netflix:

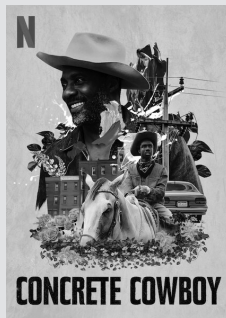
"Concrete Cowboy"

Director: Ricky Staub

Year Released: 2021

Genre: Drama

A 15-year-old boy from Detroit is sent to live with his estranged father in Philadelphia and learns about the local urban cowboys.



Procreate really updates the illustration game

By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Features Editor

I have heard a lot of good things about an illustration app called Procreate that is only available on Apple products.

This app is supposed to be a cheaper option to Photoshop but do the same things, so I finally did it. I got an iPad.

I've been wanting to work on my illustrations, and I found it increasingly difficult to use Photoshop and Illustrator on the computer.

So, I thought I'd give it a try. I absolutely love it. Procreate is a cheaper version of Photoshop, and I haven't yet defined anything that I cannot do on it that I can do on the Adobe products.

I've only had it for a week, so I've been testing it out, playing with the different colors and brush textures, and I am absolutely amazed.

I bought an iPad pen with it, so it felt more like drawing on paper, and I am absolutely in love with my decision.

The iPad is a perfect size — just under the size of a piece of notebook paper. I got a heavy-

duty case because I'm clumsy, and it even has a strap on the back to hold, which I really like.

I could not be happier with my Procreate purchase. The app itself is \$5, and in my opinion, it is worth it for anyone serious about graphics, graphic design or photo manipulation.

Honestly, I give my purchase of the iPad and Procreate a 5 out of 5 stars. It's working just like I expected it to.

I haven't had any problems. The only downside is that it runs mostly on Wi-Fi, and South Hall's Wi-Fi has been out this weekend. But I was able to do it in the lobby, so it turned out fine, and they have already gotten the Wi-Fi back on, so it was only a problem this past weekend.

Now, I am not saying that it will automatically make your illustrations better. It will take work and time, but it makes it a lot easier to keep steady and straight lines, and I love how the pen will change the outcome depending on what angle you hold it and how much pressure you use, like a real pen.

I am still experimenting, but I can't wait to see where this new purchase will take me.

Spotify summer playlists:

“Summer Nights + Bonfires”

“Summer Country Kinda Love”

“Hot Girl Summer” playlist

“Spring Summer Folk”

“Summer Emo Vibes”

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

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BY
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Sports

Volleyball finishes season

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Student Reporter

Northwestern's volleyball team competed in the Great American Conference postseason tournament after finishing regular season.

Head coach Fred Aubuchon's Lady Rangers finished with a 9 – 6 record on the year. The team finished third in the western division of the Great American Conference with a record of 5 – 5 in conference play. Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University finished ahead of them in the final regular season standings in the western division.

Northwestern battled throughout the season and the tournament, leading to a back-and-forth win for Northwestern over Southeastern Oklahoma State University in the first round of the Great American Conference volleyball tournament on April 6.

Prior to the postseason tournament, the Lady Rangers played Southeastern twice during the regular season. The two teams first played on March 16 and played each other again on March 27. In both of those matchups, Northwestern swept the Savage Storm, winning both games in three sets.

In the opening round of the 2021 Great American Conference volleyball tournament, the win almost slipped away from the Lady Rangers.

In the fifth set, Southeastern scored 14 points to Northwestern's 10 points. The Savage Storm needed one more point to win the game. Northwestern then went on a six-point scoring streak, giving them the win and advancing to the next round of the tournament.

Kate Deterding led Northwestern with 20 kills in the game. Avery Osburg assisted 42 of the 54 kills in the game.

Sydnee Miller, a senior libero for the Lady Rangers, said she was happy the team came together during the April 6 win.

"We worked together as a team at the end," Miller said. "We realized that if we didn't come together, we would lose in the first round."

The Lady Rangers traveled to Weatherford to play against Southwestern in the second round of the tournament on April 8. Northwestern was swept by the Bulldogs; the loss ended the Lady Rangers' season.

"This is not how we wanted to end our season, but in the players, you have to bring your best, and unfortunately, we didn't tonight," Aubuchon said about the game in an article released by Northwestern's Athletic Communications on April 8.

The Lady Ranger players were ranked individually in the Great American Conference for statistics on the year. Kaydee Honeycutt, a middle hitter/outside hitter for the Lady Rangers, ranked second in kills per set with 3.65. Deterding finished fifth with 3.16

kills per set.

Honeycutt finished in third place for points scored per set with 4.21. Deterding was not far behind Honeycutt in the rankings, finishing in sixth place with 3.58. Ravyn Burns, a middle hitter for the Lady Rangers, finished in second place for blocks per set with 1.21.

When it came to assists, Northwestern's Osburg led the Great American Conference in the total assists statistic with 506 assists on the year. Honeycutt led the conference in total kills during the season with 213 kills. Miller finished top three in total digs on the year with 287 digs.

Aubuchon said he is proud of the team because of what the players have had to deal with — especially his seniors, whom he spoke highly of.

"I'm excited with what they do next in their lives and what they are going to do, but we would've loved to have them back for another year," Aubuchon said.

Kortney Cunningham, an assistant coach for the volleyball team, and Aubuchon will be improving the team for next season, Aubuchon said.

"We'll be needing to rebuild our back row with losing Sydnee Miller and Kate Deterding as our primary players," Aubuchon said. "[I am] also excited to revamp our offense that revolved around two fantastic hitters, but I think we will be looking at a balanced attack for next year."

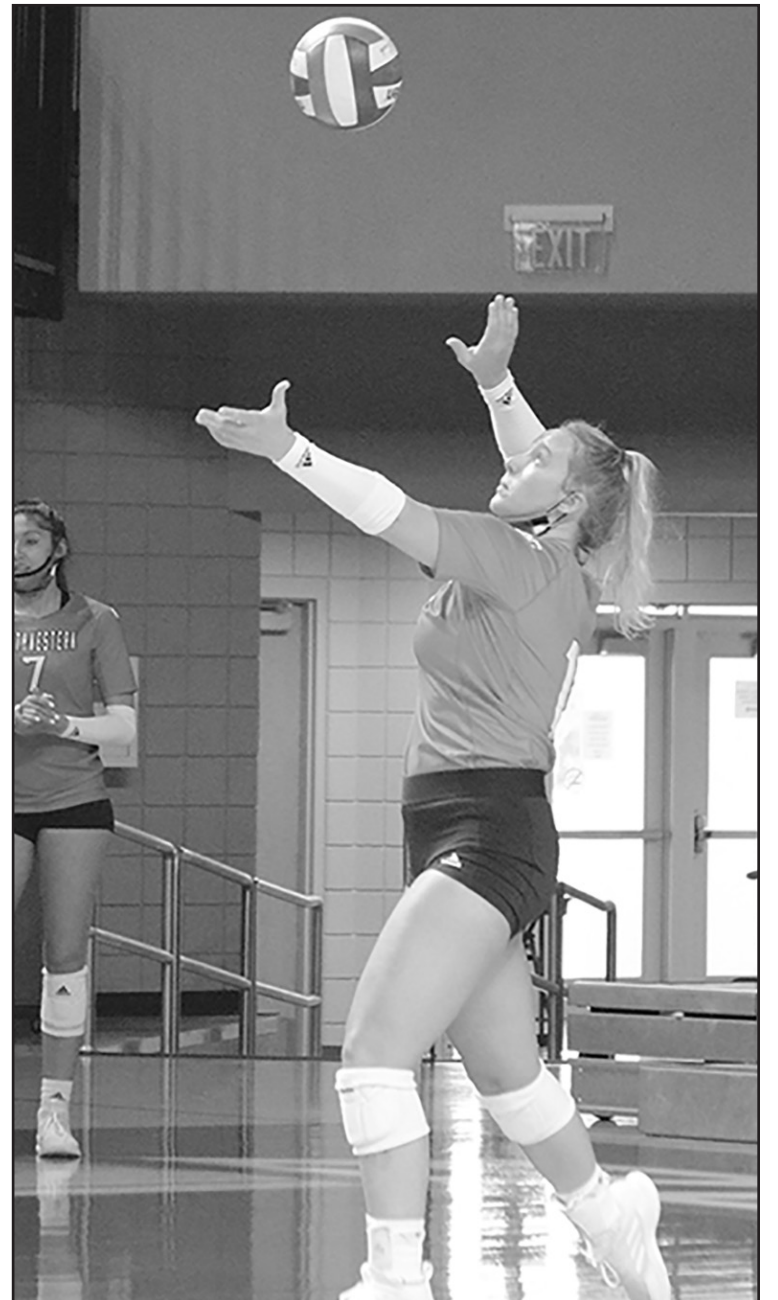


Photo by Cade Madsen

Tarra Parks serves the ball inside Pioneer Cellular Event Center during the second round of the Great American Conference on April 8.

Soccer falls in first round of tournament

By **DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPKECHE**
Sports Editor

Northwestern's soccer team played in the first round of the Great American Conference on Saturday.

The team finished with an 0 – 5 – 2 record on the year after losing because of penalty kicks in the first round of the Great American Conference soccer championship tournament against Ouachita Baptist University on April 10 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

"Playing a spring season presented some unique challenges for us, but we were grateful for the opportunity," head coach Alex Piekarski said. "We would have liked to have had a better record, but we were happy our growth throughout the season."

Going into the postseason, Northwestern finished in last place after not winning a single game, losing five games and tying in one. In the Lady Rangers' first round match-up, Ouachita finished in second place following Oklahoma Baptist University.

The Lady Rangers finished in a draw in the conference tourna-



Photo by Emma Sporleder

Clare Merrigan, a sophomore midfielder, accidentally kicks a ball towards Melissa Ventura, a Harding University soccer player, during a Northwestern home game played at D. Bruce Selby Stadium in Enid on March 23.

ment game against the Tigers.

In the first 45 minutes of the game, Northwestern got one shot off.

Ouachita kicked the ball toward the goal 12 times, but Northwestern's Reyna Gonzalez blocked four of the shots, mean-

ing the other eight were off the mark.

Northwestern kicked the ball towards Ouachita's goalie more

in the second half. The Lady Rangers took five shots in the second half, but three of them were blocked by the Ouachita goalie.

The two teams would compete in two overtime periods after no goals went in for the Lady Rangers or the Tigers.

It was a stalemate during the two overtime periods, with no goals being scored in the overtime periods. The teams went into penalty kicks to determine who would compete in the second round of the tournament.

Kailani Kealoha and Rachel Bailey scored two goals during the penalty kick period.

Ouachita made four penalty kicks, giving them the win and letting them advance to the next round.

Bailey said she was staying optimistic and was excited to be a part of the team this year.

"My favorite part of the season was getting to watch the team grow in such a short period of time," Bailey said. "With our season getting moved to the spring and the addition of new coaches and players, it was interesting and exciting to be a part of the creation of the team we are today."

Sports

Osburg becomes No. 1 setter in the GAC after championship tournament



Photo by Athletic Communications
Osburg sets the ball to a teammate inside Percefull Fieldhouse.

By JACOB COMP
Student Reporter

Northwestern volleyball's Avery Osburg finished up her senior season campaign after transferring to Alva in 2019.

Osburg is a senior accounting major from Longview, Texas. She is set to graduate in December 2021.

Prior to coming to Northwestern, Osburg attended Seminole State College in Seminole. She served as the setter for the Trojans.

"I honestly had the best time of my life," Osburg said. "I'd recommend going ju-co to anyone. But I think sports-wise, it helped me grow. I got to play my first two years, which you really don't get the opportunity to do that at a four-year (university)."

At Seminole State, she played in 156 sets. She acquired 476 assists averaging 3.05 assists per set.

Osburg said her passion for volleyball began back in 6th grade, and she fell in love as soon as she started playing.

"I wanted to play in college," Osburg said. "I just truly wasn't ready to give it up. I was blessed to be able to continue my career."

She said she did not start her career as a setter.

"I actually did not start setting until halfway through my senior year of high school," Osburg said.



Photo by Emma Sporleder
Head volleyball coach Fred Aubuchon points to the court while talking to Avery Osburg inside Percefull Fieldhouse. Osburg was named the Great American Conference setter of the week in the eighth week of competition.

"I was kind of thrown into it because we did not have one. I was a middle and outside hitter for most of my career."

Osburg's junior college competed against Northwestern in a summer scrimmage hosted by Oklahoma Baptist University, Osburg said.

She said Northwestern's head volleyball coach, Fred Aubuchon, walked up to her and offered her on the spot after that match.

Osburg has played the role as the team's No. 1 setter during the 2021 spring season. She has recorded 506 assists on the year. She averaged 9.04 assists per set and acquired 16 kills this season.

She had three kills and 51 assists through 16 sets in her 2019 season after being behind Kaitlyn Robinson, a member of the 2019 Lady Rangers' roster.

"I just took this (past) spring and I stayed here over the summer and worked with coach," Osburg said. "Obviously, the fall helps that we didn't have a season. We just got to practice all



Photo by Athletic Communications
Family, coaches and friends pose with Osburg on Senior Day, March 27.

so that was nice."

SETTER OF THE WEEK

In the eighth week of the volleyball season, Osburg was named the Great American Conference setter of the week.

"I think that was kind of cool, just because with the season that

we were having like only playing one game a week," Osburg said. "It was kind of an honor getting that. I reached 500 assists this season, so it was kind of a big goal of mine."

Osburg said she learned leadership through volleyball.

"One of the biggest things that I learned through volleyball is how to become a leader, especially this past year with the crazy season we had," Osburg said.

Tarra Parks, a redshirt sophomore for the volleyball team and a roommate with Osburg, said Osburg brings the team together.

"Avery has charisma and a fun personality that helped us win and brought the team closer together," Parks said.

Osburg said Northwestern has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience. She said that she would do it all over again if she could.

"I feel great about my decision of coming here," Osburg said. "Not only because of volleyball, but because of the people I have met along the way. I have met people that will be in my life forever."

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Photo by Jordan Green

A tree blossoms near the J.W. Martin Library on campus in this April photo. Trees and other plants are in full bloom as warmer temperatures make their way into the Midwest.

