

FOR THE WIN

Rangers cage the Southwestern Bulldogs in final football game of the season.
PAGE 10



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The Northwestern News staff wishes you a happy holiday. Thanksgiving is Nov. 25.



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TRY A LITTLE KINDNESS



Ranger students, clubs celebrate Kindness Day

By KAYLEE JO NEELEY
Student Reporter

Several students and university clubs participated in Northwestern's Kindness Day celebration on Friday.

The Northwestern Student Government Association gave doughnuts to

See KINDNESS, Page 2



Photos by Jordan Green

ABOVE: Northwestern students Cy Walters, center right, and Nick Castillo, far right, give a box of doughnuts to Alva EMTs Katy Bullock, center left, and Jeff Cayot, far left, on Friday as part of Northwestern's Kindness Day festivities.

LEFT: Northwestern Spanish Club member Erika Hernandez, left, pins a wooden clip bearing a kind message on student Juliet Chaloupek's jacket on Friday.

NEWS

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NEWS



Northwestern student Nick Castillo, left, smiles at Alva police officer David Cummings, right, after giving Cummings a box of doughnuts on Friday as part of Northwestern's Kindness Day celebration. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Forge gave doughnuts to local first responders.

Photos by Jordan Green

KINDNESS: Students say day is meaningful

Continued from Page 1
 university maintenance workers and custodians as part of the celebration. World Kindness Day was Saturday.

Erika Hernandez, an SGA officer, said she hopes the maintenance workers and custodians know that students are thankful for them.

"I hope it helps more people recognize how much [maintenance workers and custodians] really do for us and makes them feel appreciated," Hernandez said.

Hernandez is also part of the Spanish Club, which wrote uplifting messages on clothes pins and handed them out to students, staff and faculty.

"I think it was meaningful because it was something new and random, but a small compliment like that can change a student's mood," Hernandez said.

Some students wrote friendly messages in chalk on campus sidewalks. Shayna Miller, a sophomore English education major, walked around campus and chose some of the more high-traffic ar-

reas so she could reach more people.

"I thought that it was meaningful because I truly believe that everyone needs a little encouragement," Miller said. "That little bit of uplifting can change someone's day."

The Campus Cabinet also took part in the celebration by giving away noodles, water and soap at the volleyball game Friday night.

Students who participate in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Forge delivered doughnuts to healthcare workers and first responders.

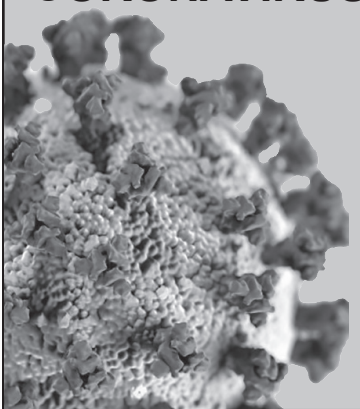
Northwestern student Jadyn Budig led a project called Operation Gratitude, which took place in the Student Center. Students who participated wrote letters to active-duty military troops, veterans, wounded heroes and caregivers, among others.

Northwestern Ranger Connection classes helped fill Operation Christmas Child boxes, which are shoe boxes containing hygiene products, toys and other items that are sent overseas to children in need during Christmas.



INSET: Northwestern News Editorial Editor Devyn Lansden, right, hands a card of appreciation to Andrea Lauderdale, a secretary in the university's social work department, on Friday. ABOVE: Lauderdale laughs with Lansden and other students who were giving out the cards in her office.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: CASE NUMBERS ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE AREA



STUDENT CASES:

2

active as of Nov. 12.
 This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

EMPLOYEE CASES:

1

active as of Nov. 12.
 This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

IN OKLAHOMA:

8,216

active as of Nov. 17.
 Oklahoma has had a total of 656,574 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>.

NEWS

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE

Native American club aims to educate others

By **BENJAMIN KIEWER**
Student Reporter

Members of the Native American Student Association at Northwestern say they hope November, which is Native American Heritage Month, will help people learn more about culture.

Savannah Francis, the club president and a senior political science major, said the club has different cultural activities planned for the future.



Francis

A member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Francis said club members will host a powwow April 23, 2022. The club will start selling T-shirts to raise funds for the event soon.

Francis said she believes many people don't know much about Native American culture because a lot of Native American history is taught incorrectly in schools. She also said she believes a lot of perceptions of Native Americans are based off stereotypes.

Jerika Coon, a senior elementary education major who serves as the club's secretary, said Native American Heritage Month is a time to show people how unique Native American culture is.

"Just celebrating this month,

we get to show what powwows are, what our traditions are, our legends – we get to speak and tell everybody," Coon said. "It's just for everybody



Coon

to know who we are as different tribes, how we all come into one."

Coon, a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, said language is an important part of Native American heritage because some languages are dying out, even though some elders are trying to teach it.

She said she hopes to do her part one day to keep the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's native language alive.

"That's what I kind of want to do when I am an Indian education teacher, is trying to pass it along," Coon said.

Coon said she speaks some of the language and wants to become certified in it after graduating from Northwestern.

Francis said club members view the month of November as a time to educate people.

"It [Native American Heritage Month] is a celebration of culture," Francis said. "It spreads awareness to others on issues in Native American country. It is helping show other people what our culture is about."

Taking a look at Northwestern



Photos by Jordan Green

ABOVE: High school juniors and seniors gathered in Percefull Fieldhouse and toured Northwestern on Saturday during Ranger Preview, an annual fall recruitment event. Prospective Rangers spoke with professors and representatives from university clubs.



LEFT: Medford student Brooklyn Cink and Pond Creek student Lindy Theophilus smile as they fill out enrollment applications during Ranger Preview.

THANKSGIVING

With holiday season starting soon, students thankful for family, friends

By **GAVIN MENDOZA**
Student Reporter

The holiday season is approaching, and Northwestern students say they are thankful for a number of different things.

Zac McEachern, a freshman business major from Enid, said: "I am thankful for family, baseball, friends and freedom."

McEachern said he plans to go home for Thanksgiving and have a good meal with his family.

"I just keep telling myself there is only one more week, and I can relieve some stress for a couple days," McEachern said.

Lily Anderson, a sophomore education major from Little Elm, Texas, said her family and friends are keeping her spirits up going into Thanksgiving break.

"I Facetime my family and friends a lot because I miss them and cannot wait to see and hang out with them again," Anderson said. "My parents and brother

have been, and are, my biggest supporters."

Anderson said her friends not only make her laugh and smile, but also build her up.

"I plan on going home to Little Elm for Thanksgiving," Anderson said. "My family and I are bowling and having dinner with my aunt and uncle after the Lions game."

Ethan Montgomery, a junior biology major from Bristow, said he enjoys Thanksgiving because it helps him remember the importance of having a grateful heart.

"I am very thankful for my wonderful wife and my church family," Montgomery said. "These people are what encourages me and helps with my walk with Christ."

This year, Montgomery said he plans to enjoy Thanksgiving with his wife and their two families. To keep his spirits up before Thanksgiving break, Montgomery said he invests in his relationship with God.

Kyle Moran, a junior business major from Colorado Springs, Colorado, said: "I am thankful for these people because my teammates are my family away from home, and back home my whole family are my biggest supporters."

Moran plans to go home for Thanksgiving and spend time with his friends and family while watching football. He also plans to eat some cherry pie, his favorite desert.

Madeline Long, a freshman education major from Laverne, said: "My family and friends are always there for me whenever I need them. I'm thankful for a normal college year because many people last year did not get to have the events and social interactions we have today."

Long said she plans to enjoy a big meal with her family for Thanksgiving.

"My family told me to stop telling Thanksgiving jokes, but I can't quit cold turkey," Long said.

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Christmas is popping!

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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.

OPINION



Photos provided

From left: Devyn is pictured with Juliet Chaloupek and Gracie Scarbrough hiding in balloons Nov. 13 after Ranger Preview in Percefull Fieldhouse.

Work hard to play hard

By **DEVYN LANSDEN**
Editorial Editor

We only have a few more weeks until Christmas break. But next week is Thanksgiving break; I cannot believe it.

This past week and weekend was a busy one because Ranger Preview was Saturday.

All week, I was posting about it on the recruitment social media. I had to make a video a day. It was fun to get to be active and post about it.

I love Ranger Preview. It is such a fun event that Northwestern hosts for students.

The Vanilla Bean opened a week ago, and my boyfriend and I went to eat Friday afternoon.

The Vanilla Bean is my favorite place to eat in Alva.

I was so happy when they finally opened after they changed locations. They have been busy, and that is a good thing. If you have not tried their food, you should.

They have a seating area, and they serve bakery items, coffee, breakfast and anything you can think of. It will be a nice, new addition to Alva since there are limited options here.

The day before Ranger Preview, some friends of mine and I chalked the sidewalks of campus, and then we had to set everything up at 9 p.m. We had to be there at 7 a.m. the next day.

The morning of Ranger Preview was all running around and getting the last details set up. I was working at the registration table, so for about an hour and a half straight, I was busy.

It made the event go by a lot faster.

Once registration was over, I had to take a group of students on a tour.

I was glad I only had to do one tour with about seven people. The other groups had to do groups of 50 or more because the students brought their parents.

When I got done with my tour, I got back to help clean everything up. My friends and I gathered all of the balloons we aired up before the event started, and we almost floated away.

The clean-up part after Ranger Preview ends is the best part because everyone is a lot more loosened up because the hard part is over with.

Once the event was over, I got to go home and relax a little bit before the football game started. It was the last football game, and I took pictures at it.

I can't believe I will not be taking pictures at another Ranger football game. But now I get to go and take pictures at the basketball games, so I



From left: Devyn is pictured with Juliet Chaloupek and Gracie Scarbrough on November 13 after Ranger Preview in Percefull Fieldhouse.

am excited for that.

I am glad the Rangers beat Southwestern for their last game.

Sunday I did not do much. I cooked and went to the gym, and that was about it.

This week I am going to get all my homework done and be caught up so I will not have to do anything over Thanksgiving break.

I hope you all do that too and do not procrastinate. I always like myself a lot better when I get all my homework done for the week early because something always comes up, and that way I am able to get everything done without stressing.

When I come back from Thanksgiving, expect some pictures of Otis and my two dauchshunds and both of my cats because we all know I will be taking pictures of all of them.

I am so ready to see all of my family and be with them.

Eating good food is what I am the most ready for, of course.

I am going to enjoy those days off and not think about projects or tests I will have over the break. I hope you all do, too.

Have a fun and safe break.

OPINION



Photo by Jordan Green

A group of railroad enthusiasts rides down a Farmrail line in southwest Oklahoma on Nov. 7. Speeders were used during the 20th Century to move railway maintenance workers.

On a fast track for fun

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

At 10:30 p.m. Nov. 6, I had no plans to ride a railroad speeder 120 miles through southwest Oklahoma the next day with a group of folks I'd never met.

By 11:30 p.m., my plans changed. And the result was marvelous.

On Nov. 7, I had the pleasure of riding a railroad speeder with some incredibly kind fellow railroad enthusiasts down a rail line connecting the southwest Oklahoma towns of Clinton and Roosevelt.

The line, now operated by Farmrail, was once a Frisco route.

It was an all-day trip, and it was worth every minute. Not only because of the gorgeous scenery and the awesome speeders, but because of the camaraderie we shared – and because of the powerful connections I learned I have to the line we rode.

Let's take it from the top. That Saturday night, I'd just gotten done taking pictures of trains about an hour south of Alva when I saw a Facebook post from a gentleman named Rhys Martin talking about a speeder excursion he'd been on through my hometown of Sayre.

I had no idea the excursion was taking place, and I commented on his post, saying how I wished I could've been there.

That's when the man Rhys rode with – a gentleman from Kentucky named Bill Johnson – chimed in and offered me a seat in his speeder for the next day's

excursion. I'd have to be in Clinton by 7:30 a.m., and it was already near midnight. I'd have a two-hour drive down there.

I wondered: Should I do it? Would this be too hasty?

I phoned another railroad friend of mine, Kelly Martin, to ask for some advice.

Even though I had a mountain of homework to do Sunday, he told me this trip would be worth far more than any 'A' on an assignment.

He was convincing, as always. I can't "school" or work my life away, and I won't. So, in no time flat, I'd set my alarm for 4 a.m. to make the drive from Alva to the Hub City of western Oklahoma.

I arrived a little before 7 a.m. Before long, Bill and his crew, including retired railroader Jim McCall, arrived.

We took a safety briefing, and then we were off on an adventure through a handful of tiny towns. Bill's speeder ran like a top.

The engine hummed smoothly, and the clickety-clack of the tracks below as we rolled along made for an outdoor musical masterpiece.

As we rolled out of Clinton, it dawned on me that we'd be passing through Cordell, where my good friend Addison Kliever hails from. I hadn't seen her since July, so I told her I'd be passing through town on the rails that day.

She came out down to the tracks say hello, and we even managed to take a photo with the speeder I was riding. Now that's fun.

Cordell holds a special place in my railroading heart for another reason. My

first boss, Jim Corbin, was a railroad depot agent there when he was about my age. When I worked for him, he told me some hilarious – and sometimes scary – stories about his time working for the railroad.

When I was in the speeder, I was rolling over the same track he once managed, where he hooped train orders up to locomotive engineers and conductors as they flew past the depot at lightning speed. The depot no longer stands, but the stories remain.

And if you like stories, here's a story that's almost unbelievable. The line I was riding on once ran all the way up to Arkansas City, Kansas – through Blackwell, where I live. Most of the line was torn up through the years, but some segments, like the one I was on today, still remain.

And get this: the Blackwell Northern Gateway Railroad, where I'm a seasonal maintenance-of-way worker, still operates on portions of this line.

I have worked on track that once connected to the line I rode in the speeder that Sunday. And better yet, that same line once cut through my family farm near Newkirk.

So, I was riding a line that carried freight and passenger trains that once ran across my family farm some 200 miles away, and I have worked on some portions of that line. And my former boss once worked on it, too. Oh, Irony!

Even though I had connections to the line, I met someone who has an even more meaningful story about it to the line.

A fellow speeder enthusiast from Oklahoma, Rick Syzmore, rode the

rails that day. His father was in the maintenance-of-way crew that worked the entire line at one point or another. He not only worked on the section of line we rode, but he likely also worked on the sections of the line in Blackwell that I've worked on, and the section of line that shot across my family farm. Rick himself worked for the Frisco in Lamont, not far from Blackwell.

Hearing his passion for this line, and hearing how much pride he had in riding the rails his father helped work on, was incredible. He and his family took great pride in their work, and rightfully so.

I can tell you all about the trip. But I still haven't found the words to describe how perfect that day was. From my point of view, nothing went wrong. The weather was gorgeous, the sky was clear and blue, I was in the company of new friends, and I got to learn valuable history to which I have a personal connection.

And that southwest Oklahoma scenery – from the rolling plains and pastures to the planted fields with green wheat to the picturesque Wichita Mountain range – was like a painting. The kind that you can never forget once you've seen it.

I can't fully express my gratitude to the folks who made this day so exceptional. Their hospitality was remarkable, and the fact that they showed this kindness to a stranger ... I just don't have the words.

This day will go down in the books as one of the best. Any day with railroading is a good day, but this one ranks even higher.

Nothing could derail the joy of riding a speeder.

NWOSU nursing secretary known for generosity, kindness

By CAMERON GORDON
Student Reporter

A man and a woman fall in love and get married. The man is in the Army and gets stationed in Germany. The woman gets a job for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and moves to Germany with him. Immediately after marrying, the couple has to pack up and move thousands of miles away from all of their friends and family. It was difficult for a 19-year-old woman to deal with.

Born in Pratt, Kansas, and raised in Kiowa, Pam Hess has led a full life. From living in Germany to counseling middle school students and doing secretarial work, Hess has had a wide array of life experience.

Hess attended South Barber High School in Kiowa. She was involved in show choir, school plays, forensics and the yearbook team.

She was also a basketball and tennis player. After graduating from South Barber in 1982, she attended Dodge City Community College, obtaining her associate's degree in 1984.

At Dodge City, Hess was a part of the yearbook staff, the newspaper staff and the student senate.

A CHANGE OF SCENERY

Pam and her husband, Tony, decided to get married after Tony had gotten his orders to go to West Germany. The idea of being apart for a long period of time was not something the two wanted to think about.

One of Pam Hess's greatest struggles in life was walking onto the airplane to meet her husband in Germany. Hess hugged her family goodbye.

"I literally had to force one foot in front of the other to overcome my fear," she said.

Hess said she knew her future was with Tony on the other side of the ocean. While this was scary, she said, she also found the opportunity to live overseas with the man she



FAR LEFT: Dalton, Tony, Pam and Lane Hess pose for a family Christmas portrait.



ABOVE: Pam Hess poses for a portrait during Ranger Preview on Saturday with Northwestern nursing instructors Denise Floyd and Amanda Clepper.



LEFT: Pam Hess poses for a photo with her son Dalton.

loved exciting.

When she arrived in Germany, she was overcome by the fear her husband wouldn't be able to pick her up at the airport. When she didn't see him, she walked around for hours until she finally spotted the only person in the airport wearing a red ball cap. She immediately

knew it was Tony.

The couple lived in Germany for three and a half years. When Pam Hess returned to the states, she worked in a nursing home and operated a restaurant with her parents. After that, she worked at Tucker's Farm Store for a short time until finding a job as a paraprofessional

in the South Barber school district. She worked there for 11 years.

She said she found her work to be meaningful. She said she had a student who came to her as an eighth grader who had a fifth-grade math level. By the end of the year, Hess had helped the student catch up to the eighth-grade level.

STARTING A FAMILY

Hess had her first son, Lane, in 1995. Her second son, Dalton, was born in 2001. Hess says they are her pride and joy.

Dalton Hess said his favorite thing about his mom is how caring she is and how she'll do anything for people.

"People come up to me and tell me, 'Your mom helped me out,' and I never even knew about it," Dalton Hess said.

He describes her as a good Christian and a good cook.

Eventually, Hess moved to Alva and got her current job working as a clerical administrative assistant for the Charles Morton Share Trust Division of Nursing at Northwestern. She said she enjoys this job because she likes interacting with people. She loves educating youth as well, so she gets the best of both worlds, she said.

When Dalton Hess was in high

school, his mother became friends with some of the other parents in his class and on his athletic teams. One of them was Teri Warren.

Warren and Hess met when Warren's daughter went to a dance with Dalton. They hit it off and have been friends ever since.

"She would do anything for anybody," Warren said of Hess. "She does things for other people and expects nothing in return."

Dylan Whitely, a teammate of Dalton Hess's in high school, also says Hess is a positive person.

"She's genuine and really cares about you," Whitely said.

Hess makes goodie bags for her friends and coworkers around holidays and special events, Whitely said. He added that he admires her work ethic and thoughtfulness.

"When I was in high school, there was an away game a few hours away for football I wanted to attend," Whitely said. "Since most of my friends weren't going or were on the football team, I couldn't car-pool. At the last minute, Hess heard about it and picked me up. She and Tony drove me to the game, and it was a great time."

One of Hess's friends for years, Ginger Smith, also praised Hess's generosity. The two met through working at Northwest Family Services. Hess was a receptionist, and



LEFT: Pam Hess cheers during an Alva football game.

RIGHT: Pam Hess poses for a photo with her husband, Tony.

Photos provided



Pam Hess smiles as she hands out food to people as part of a church hayride event in this undated photo.

FEATURE

AGRICULTURE

Staats honored with National VIP Citation

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Features Editor

The National FFA Convention in Indianapolis saw one of Northwestern's own cross its stage.

Jack Staats, instructor of agriculture at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, was awarded a VIP Citation during the convention on Oct. 29.

The VIP Citation honors individuals who have committed 20 years of service to FFA and agricultural education on a national level.

They are dedicated to student success through cooperation and hard work.

"I was very shocked to hear I was receiving the award, but humbled," Staats said. "I know the state of Oklahoma FFA board applied for me to receive that award. I thank the support staff who have given me the opportunity to accomplish more than I ever could have by myself."

A Laverne native, Staats grew up in northwest Oklahoma. He attended both Panhandle State University and Oklahoma State University, majoring in agricultural education.

Staats began his teaching career in Freedom, where he taught from 1973 to 1976.

Following a year of teaching in Buffalo, he began his long career in Alva Public Schools, where he

was the agricultural education instructor from 1977 to 2007.

While teaching in Alva, Staats pursued a master's degree in education, making him a Northwestern alumnus as well.

In 2007, Staats made another career change and became the program manager and Oklahoma

"I thank the support staff who have given me the opportunity to accomplish more than I ever could have by myself."

— Jack Staats

FFA adviser for the Oklahoma Department of CareerTech.

During this time, Staats served as the president of the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education in 2013-2014.

He was named Outstanding NASAE National State Supervisor in 2016.

In 2020, Staats made yet another career change, this time leading him back home.

"I was retiring and planning to move back to Alva," Staats said.

"I felt drawn to come back to the classroom. I was offered a teaching position at Northwestern, which I hadn't really considered doing before. I'm so glad I accepted because it has been great.

"I tell people I probably enjoy it more than the students do. I had been out of the classroom for 13 years, and I really missed it. I missed the opportunity to have daily interaction with students."

As a recipient of the VIP Citation, Staats was recognized for his work in the FFA organization and the dedication he has had.

"I was very happy to know the award comes from the National FFA," Staats said. "But it makes me happier to know the nomination comes from the state leadership. It means more to me to know my state association and the people I had daily interactions with, have thought enough of me to offer me up for the nomination."

As long as Staats teaches at Northwestern, he said he wants to continue impacting students' lives and being a positive force for education.

"I don't know how much longer I'll teach," Staats said. "I want to make sure I do not teach longer than I'm effective. If I stay motivated, and I still bring the energy I want to bring to the classroom, then I may do it for a while longer. But the students deserve the best I can give."



Photo provided
National FFA 2020-2021 Secretary Anna Mathis, right, is pictured with Jack Staats, Northwestern Oklahoma State University instructor of agriculture, who received the VIP Citation award at the national convention.

ENID CAMPUS

Table tennis tournament winner named in Enid



The Northwestern Enid campus Table Tennis Tournament Finals were Friday. The month-long round robin tournament was open to students, faculty and staff. Only students were eligible for the championship finals, which included prizes. Pictured from left to right are: Landon Monsees (third place winner), Colson Buckminster (first place winner), Dr. Jerry Gustafson (tournament director) and Joshua Foos (second place winner). As a senior at the University of Northern Iowa, Gustafson was the 1972 Five-State Regional Table Tennis Champion of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa, he said. He went on to the collegiate finals and finished 11th in the nation.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Children's play begins Thursday

By **JASMINE BOWEN**
Student Reporter

Northwestern's Fine Arts Department will host its annual fall children's play starting Thursday in the Herod Hall auditorium.

The theater program will present "Gretchen and the Grudge," written by Edith Weiss.

Starting Thursday and Friday, the cast and crew will present four productions for children from grade schools located within the Alva area.

Approximately 1,620 children will attend, making all of the performances sold out.

Director Kimberly Weast said the play involves silly characters wearing bright colors.

The play will also be open to the public Saturday at 2 p.m. General admission costs \$2.

The production of "Gretchen and the Grudge" involves 25 Northwestern students, who



Lisa Turner

make up the cast and crew.

Lisa Turner, a sophomore speech and theater major from Alva, will play the character Janelle.

Turner said she wanted to be a part of the production because she loves every aspect of theater, and she enjoys being involved with setting up productions. She also



Jack Mahoney

said the audience will be full of humor.

"I think students should definitely come out," Tuner said. "It's going to be a blast. It is short, but I feel like it's full of laughter and full of very fun entertainment that people are going to like."

The production runtime is about 45-50 minutes. Weast said

she always has to choose a show that allows students to come to a play and be back at their schools so they can catch the bus home.

"Gretchen and the Grudge" is a part of the final for the theater program's Acting 1 class. Weast said part of the reason why this children's production is good for students is because it gives them an opportunity to perform in front of a large crowd, and it allows acting students to gain valuable experience.

"Having the energy and feedback acquires students to grow and get out of their comfort zone," Weast said.

Freshman Jack Mahoney, a vocal music education major from Enid, plays the lead role Gretchen, which is the gender-swap role of Gretchen.

The publisher gave permission for the production to switch genders of the main character. Mahoney said his character is a violinist, yet also holds a grudge. He

said his character involves things that all people have a little bit of within themselves.

Mahoney said he feels more attuned with his character because he plays the violin himself.

"I've been playing the violin for eight years, and it's been very fun," Mahoney said. "This is one of the first times that I've ever gotten to show my skills on the violin solo-wise."

"I've been able to play with choirs and big orchestras, but never anything by myself. I think that's the most fun part about it for me, but honestly, I've never really done a play before. It's a new experience for me, and I like new experiences."

Mahoney said "Gretchen and the Grudge" talks about mental health and teaches children not to hold a grudge.

Performances for school children will be Thursday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Friday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Madden NFL 22 rates 4/5 stars

By **COLLIN ZINK**
Student Reporter

Video games are fun to play because of the graphics and content. I enjoy playing the EA Sports video game Madden NFL 22.

Some pros about the game are players can create their own avatar by designing every aspect of their character.

They can customize the avatar's helmet and facemask design. Players can also choose what number they want on their avatar's jersey.

Other positive aspects include different game modes to play in, such as franchise, face of the franchise, the yard, ultimate team and many more.

The franchise mode benefits include the option of choosing a team and getting to play as a coach, player or owner.

Players can choose what kind

of style of offense they want to run and what players they want on their team. They can even turn off the cap space in settings so that they will not be limited on their team's budget.

In face of the franchise mode, players control their own avatar and build their legacy. Players can also choose what kind of jersey they wear and what kind of equipment their avatar wears.

The yard mode is where the players can draft a team of seven and take on the computer to win not only experience, but also cool gear for their avatar.

The yard is a cool version of backyard football. Players can make one-handed catches, multiple passes can happen behind the line of scrimmage, and the defense can earn points by intercepting the ball.

The yard also has cool uniforms and equipment players can buy with experience points for

their avatar.

In ultimate team mode, players can assemble a full 11-man team and win experience points and cool gear by completing solo challenges or play in online tournaments to see who is the best.

Not every video game is perfect, and Madden NFL 22 has plenty of cons.

One of the big cons is having no internet. Without it, players cannot gain experience points, edit their avatar, play face of the franchise or the yard. Their avatar does not even show up on the main menu without internet.

The game tends to freeze in the middle of a play. It also has a scheduling glitch.

For example, the commentators called the Patriots vs. Panthers game the "Halloween Special." However, the Patriots actually played against the Chargers. This video game gets a 4/5 star rating overall from me.

A Decade of Music: Top Songs from 10 Years Ago Today

Date: Nov. 18, 2011

1. "We Found Love" by Rihanna feat. Calvin Harris

2. "Sexy & I Know It" by LMFAO

3. "Someone Like You" by Adele

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL



Photos by Devyn Lansden

Gavin Garner races towards the endzone during Northwestern's game against Southwestern on Saturday at Ranger Field. The Rangers defeated the Bulldogs by a score of 31-28. The Rangers finished the season with a 2-9 record and finished in 10th place in the Great American Conference. Southwestern finished the season with a 0-11 record.

Rangers bash Bulldogs



A Northwestern wide receiver celebrates after scoring a touchdown on Saturday against Southwestern at Ranger Field. The Rangers finished the season with a 2-9 record and finished in 10th place in the Great American Conference. Southwestern finished the season with a 0-11 record and finished last in the Great American Conference. The Rangers extended their winning streak against the Bulldogs to four, with the last loss in 2016.

By CADE KENNEDY
Sports Editor

The clock hit zero, the band played and the Ranger fans waved goodbye to their rivals as Northwestern defeated Southwestern, 31-28, Saturday at Ranger Field.

The Rangers got out to a fast start, as Tanner Clarkson threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Gavin Garner to give the Rangers an early 7-0 lead.

The Rangers scored again on their next drive, with Calion Baker ending the drive with a 7-yard touchdown run to give the Rangers a 14-0 lead with under five minutes to go in the first quarter.

This start would not last for the Rangers, as the Bulldogs rallied during the second and third quarters. After Lafayette Wright threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Torin Justice, Southwestern tied the game at 21-21.

After multiple punts by each team, the Rangers had the ball at their own 8-yard line with 6:31 left in the third quarter. The Rangers scored when Clarkson connected with Garner on a 51-yard touchdown pass that gave the Rangers a 28-21 lead, with three minutes to go in the third quarter.

Garner finished the season with 12 touchdowns, giving him 25 touchdowns for his career and tying a Northwestern record.

Both offenses stalled until Nick Dill made a 24-yard field goal to put the Rangers up 31-21, with 3:13 remaining in the game.

On the next drive, Southwestern scored with a 16-yard touchdown pass from Wright to Justice to cut the Ranger lead to three.

The Rangers recovered the on-side kick from Southwestern, but the Bulldogs used three timeouts to stop the clock. Northwestern got down to the Bulldog 11-yard line on fourth down.

Dill went out on the field to kick a 28-yard field goal to give the Rangers a six-point lead. The kick sailed through the uprights, but a flag was on the field.

The Bulldogs committed a roughing, the kicker penalty that gave the Rangers a first down and the victory, 31-28.

The Rangers finished the season with a 2-9 record, but three players received All-GAC honors. Romello Bentley, Brian Holiday and Garner were members of this year's All-GAC team. Bentley and Holiday are members of the first team, while Garner is on the second team.

SPORTS

Soccer season ends at GAC tournament

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Assistant Editor

The soccer season is over for the Rangers after an 11-6-2 finish to the season.

Northwestern beat Southern Nazarene but lost its next two games against Oklahoma Baptist in the final regular season game and the semifinal of the GAC tournament.

On Nov. 4, the Rangers defeated the Crimson Storm, 3-0, behind a strong performance from the offense.

Tiara Campbell led the Rangers with eight shots, four being on target and one on goal. Abby Nunez had five shots, two being on target with one goal.

Cynthia Armas scored her first collegiate goal on top of having three shots. Jazlyn Norwood had four shots throughout the game, with two being on target.

Isabella Mcmillan had three shots and one assist. Beth Wortham had three shots throughout the game, with one shot being on target.

The team played Oklahoma Baptist two days later in Shawnee, with the first half ending in

a 1-1 tie, but the Bison outshot the Rangers 27-10 throughout the whole game, which led to a 4-1 Bison victory.

Kailani Kealoha and Campbell led the Rangers with two shots each, with Campbell getting the only goal for the Rangers.

Armas, Reilly Marks and Isabella Mcmillan had one shot each.

Both teams would have to play again the following week on Thursday with similar results. The teams traded goals in the first half, making it 2-2 at halftime, but the Bison scored three goals in the second half to win, 5-2.

Armas led the Rangers with two shots throughout the game, with both being on target. Campbell had two shots throughout the game, resulting in one goal.

Mcmillan had two shots throughout the game, with one being on target. Nunez had one shot on target which resulted in a goal.

In other news, head coach Alex Piekarski won the GAC Coach of the Year Award. This is Piekarski's second season at Northwestern. He has led the Rangers to their highest win total since 2004.

Campbell was named GAC Newcomer of the Year.



Photo provided

A Northwestern soccer player kicks the ball during the Great American Conference playoff game against Oklahoma Baptist on Thursday in Weatherford. The Rangers lost to the Bison, 5-2. The Rangers finish the year with a record of 11-6-2, which placed the Rangers at third in the Great American Conference. Eleven wins are the most the Rangers have had since 2004, when the Rangers had a record of 16-3-2.

Rangers off to hot start, Lady Rangers drop two

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Assistant Editor

The Northwestern Rangers and Lady Rangers are back on the hardwood as basketball season is underway.

Both teams opened the season with the GAC/MIAA challenge in Edmond, with each team playing two schools from the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, including the University of Central Oklahoma and Northeastern State University.

In the first game of the season, the Rangers had a 37-36 lead at the half. The Rangers fell short, 78-68, with the Bronchos getting the victory.

Jason Douglas-Stanley led Northwestern with 12 points, followed by Ravel Moody and Anthony Jones with 11 points each.

Bubba Furlong led the team with five rebounds, followed by four players tied with three each. Malik Parsons led the team with five assists, followed by Douglas-Stanley with four. Furlong led the Rangers with three blocks.

The Rangers rebounded the next day with a 66-58 win over the Riverhawks.

Matej Drgon led the Rangers with 13 points in the game and was one of four double-digit scorers for the Rangers.

Jason Stanley-Douglas, Brian Free and Anthony Jones all finished with 11 points in the game.

Furlong would finish the game by leading the Rangers in

rebounding and blocks, with 11 boards along with three blocks.

He was followed by Larry White's 10 rebounds. Parsons led the Rangers with three assists.

"It was good getting to play two good MIAA opponents," head coach Vinay Patel said. "I thought that the classic was very good for our team getting to play tough teams out the gate."

Patel also said this helps gauge where the team members are at and where they need to improve themselves.

"It was great to see the student body come out the way they did. It was tremendous."
— ***Vinay Patel***

The Rangers played their first home game of the season and defeated the Kansas Christian College Falcons, 99-72.

"I'm just happy to play in front of fans again," Patel said. "It was great to see the student body come out the way they did. It was tremendous."

Douglas-Stanley led the Rangers' offense, finishing with a team-high 15 points as one of seven players in double figures.

Furlong finished with 14 points on seven of nine shooting, followed by Jones with 13 points,

White with 12, Parsons with 11 and Free and Ravel Moody with 10 each in Monday's win.

White and Furlong had game-highs of 13 rebounds each, followed by Free and Smith with four each to lead the rebounding for Northwestern.

Furlong led the Rangers in assists with five, followed by Free with three.

The Lady Rangers started the season by losing both games in the challenge.

The Bronchos defeated the Lady Rangers, 79-48, while the Riverhawks won 73-56.

Bailey Brown led all scorers in both games with 17 points against the Bronchos and 18 points versus the Riverhawks.

"Both teams were good, quality opponents," head coach Tasha Diesselhorst said. "I felt we learned a lot about ourselves in what we need to get better at."

Diesselhorst said it was an eye-opening weekend for the team and team members are looking toward their next game.

"Kansas Christian runs a 2-3 zone, which we have not seen so far this year, so we're looking forward to seeing something new," Diesselhorst said.

The Lady Rangers defeated Kansas Christian, 115-38, to get their first win of the season.

Both the Rangers and Lady Rangers will play Manhattan Christian College Nov. 20. The Lady Rangers will start at 2 p.m., and the Rangers will play at 4 p.m.



Photo by Emma Sporleder

Bubba Furlong gets ready for tip-off against Kansas Christian on Monday at Percefull Fieldhouse. The Rangers defeated the Falcons, 99-72.

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Autumn leaves



Photo by Jordan Green

University maintenance worker Chuck Korff mows a pile of leaves near Coronado Hall on Friday. Workers were preparing the area for Ranger Preview on Saturday.

