

## 'We allowed ourselves to DREAM'

With her retirement ahead, Cunningham reflects on tenure as NWOSU president

*Coverage begins on Page 6*

Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham poses for a portrait on the front porch of her home on campus on Jan. 13. Cunningham will retire in June after a nearly 50-year career in education.

*Photo by Jordan Green*

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# NEWS



## Oh, deer! Furry phenomenon occurring on campus as deer find way here

By **GAVIN MENDOZA**  
Senior Reporter

Deer have been spotted on the Northwestern campus, which some people say is a common occurrence while others say the animals are a rare sight.

Alva is home to many forms of wildlife, including deer, which travel into and around town throughout the year. The open plains and fields nearby give the deer places to roam freely until they make their way to Alva.

Northwestern Police Chief Cole Servis said seeing deer on campus is more common than one might think.

"I mostly see the deer crossing the road in between the Jiffy Trip and the elementary school," Servis said. Servis said he does not believe the deer cause harm to the campus, and he is not surprised the deer are everywhere.

"It is not unusual to see deer around town and campus, at least for me, because of where we live and the time of the year," Servis said.

Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham has seen the

deer walking around campus.

"We looked out that east door of the president's house right in front of Ryerson Hall, and there were a bunch gathered," Cunningham said.

She said the deer may have chosen that spot to walk around and rest because there were flowers planted, which the deer enjoyed eating.

"It looked kind of like a very idyllic setting," Cunningham said.

She pointed out the deer only came out at night. The first time she and her husband saw them was around 1 a.m. The next few times would be in the night, with the earliest sighting being around 9 p.m.

"I look at as more of a positive thing because it's just kind of neat to see nature on campus," Cunningham said.

Cunningham did say she hopes the deer are safe because of the large amount of traffic on the highway nearby.

"For students' safety, just be aware that there are some deer around campus, and if you're driving, to be sure that you're watching because they can cer-



*Photos provided*

**TOP AND ABOVE:** Deer are shown eating foliage and walking around campus in these two photos provided by Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham. Deer have been spotted on campus at night recently. The deer are believed to be mostly peaceful, though some of Cunningham's flowers have mysteriously vanished.

tainly wreak havoc on a vehicle," Cunningham said.

Jose Rubalcava, a junior business administration major from Tolleson, Arizona, said he has

seen deer during his time on campus, but hasn't seen them recently.

"My freshman year, I saw them a lot when I would drive up

to the baseball field and around the Ament dorm," Rubalcava said. "November through January is when I saw them the most, and I hope to see some this year."



# NEWS



Photo by Devyn Lansden

The Joe J. Struckle Education Center building at Northwestern is shown in this photo Tuesday. Oklahoma City University has suspended its early childhood and elementary education program for the upcoming semester because of a lack of enrollment, though the situation is different at Northwestern.

## NWOSU Education Department stable despite declines in enrollment elsewhere

By SHANNON NESSERALLA  
Senior Reporter

An Oklahoma college has shut its doors to its education program for the spring semester.

Oklahoma City University has suspended its early childhood and elementary education program for the upcoming semester because of a lack of enrollment, according to KOCO News 5.

School officials said low teacher pay and the pandemic were causes of the decline in enrollment. Some of its class sizes went from having 12 students to two. The school will focus on its graduating specialists and secondary educators.

The situation is different at Northwestern, which is known for its education program.

Associate Dean of Education Dr. Christee Jenlink said the teacher shortage has been happening for years, and the number of teachers retiring is higher than the number of new teachers pursuing a career.

Northwestern has a strong retention rate for their education program.

“We have a 93% retention rate meaning our students have graduated or are continuing on track to graduate,” says Jenlink.

The university offers several scholarships for education majors to continue their education, and the state has also implemented an incentive for student teachers.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education

will use \$12.75 million in federal relief funds to pay student teachers for their work, according to KFOR. The incentive is meant to help student teachers with bills if they aren’t able to work outside of their teaching.

Katelyn Schieber, a Northwestern education major from Newkirk, is a future teacher who said she is excited for a career in education.

“I actually didn’t start out in education,” she said. “My first major was psychology, but after three semesters, I realized it wasn’t for me. I switched into elementary education and have not had any second thoughts since.”

Schieber said she was inspired to be a teacher because of her family.

“My mom and sister are teachers, and my sister, brother and dad all coach in my hometown high school,” she said. “So, it was kind of inevitable that I would end up here. But I love kids and loved school growing up. I was always the person who was helping others with their homework or assignments, and I really enjoyed that.

“I thought, ‘Why not try out the teaching thing?’ I have loved it and not been bored at all with my choice.”

Schieber said she appreciates the education department’s professors, small class sizes and real-world learning opportunities.

“The staff in the education department is the best,” Schieber said. “They push you to do a lot of hard things but are always there to support you.”



Katelyn Schieber

*“I actually didn’t start out in education. My first major was psychology, but after three semesters, I realized it wasn’t for me. I switched into elementary education and have not had any second thoughts since.”*

— Katelyn Schieber, Northwestern elementary education major

### STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## SGA officers, clubs discuss events for spring semester

By BENJAMIN KLIEWER  
Senior Reporter

Northwestern Student Government Association officers brainstormed event ideas for the semester at the group’s first meeting of the semester Jan. 10.

Student clubs also discussed their plans for the semester.

The Spanish Club will meet every other Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in Vinson Hall Room 119. Club members are planning to start a Valentine card fundraiser during February.

The BSU announced its second event of the semester is planned for Feb 5. It will be a type of panel and debate event.

The College Republicans are planning to take a group of students to the Oklahoma Federation of College Republicans State Convention on Feb 5. They meet every Monday night at 7:15 p.m. in the Ranger Perk room. Shirts are being sold to

help support the club and its activities.

The Sanctus Catholic College Ministry, the 4H club and the Baptist Collegiate Ministries have all started their events for the semester. After the club reports, the floor was opened for discussing event ideas.

SGA members talked about hosting a spelling bee and serving nachos to students.

Leaders also talked about hosting a pet talent show and bringing puppies to the school to help students relieve stress, a popular activity at larger colleges during exam periods.

The organization also discussed hosting a spring formal dance and a going-away party for Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham.

Northwestern’s SGA is led by President Dawson Maxwell, Vice President Yosbelli Lora, Secretary Angel Marshall and Treasurer Erika Hernandez.

## GOT NEWS?

Let us know! Reach out to the Northwestern News via email at [nwnews@nwosu.edu](mailto:nwnews@nwosu.edu).

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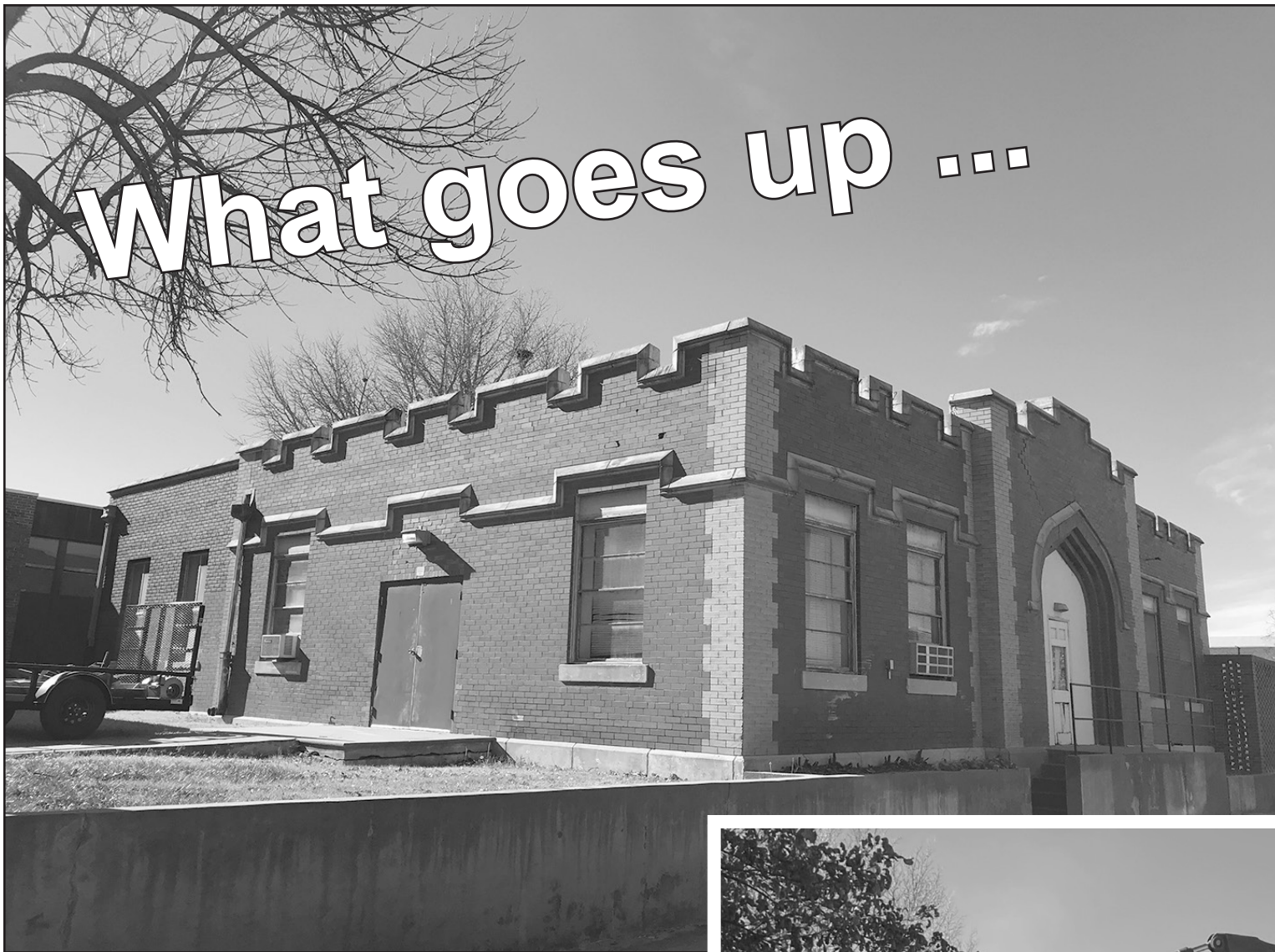
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CUDDLE UP!!!



# NEWS



**LEFT:** The former university boiler room is shown before its December demolition. The building had been used for storage since its boiler was decommissioned and removed years ago.

*Photo by University Relations*

## Former boiler room, oldest building on campus, torn down during December

A building that once supplied heat to Northwestern classrooms and dormitories was torn down on Dec. 28. The boiler room, the oldest building on campus, was demolished to make room for future outdoor development. The building was standing when the Castle on the Hill was still around.



*Photo by Dr. Kaylene Armstrong*

## ... must come down



*Photo by University Relations*

**ABOVE:** An excavator from Jackson's Wrecking Co. tears down the former boiler room on Dec. 28.

**LEFT:** With the boiler room gone and the foundation cleared, the area between the Student Center and the Science Building is open.



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

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# OPINION

## Rangers can ride pretty far

### Rowe, former News sports editor, had legendary career

Northwestern Rangers can ride pretty far in life. John Rowe proved that point.

### JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

Rowe, a legendary sports journalist at The Record newspaper in Bergen County, New Jersey, died Dec. 31 at the age of 76 after a decades-long career of covering high school sports, the Jets and the Giants.

His time in journalism started at the Northwestern News right here at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, Oklahoma. Ride, Rangers, Ride.

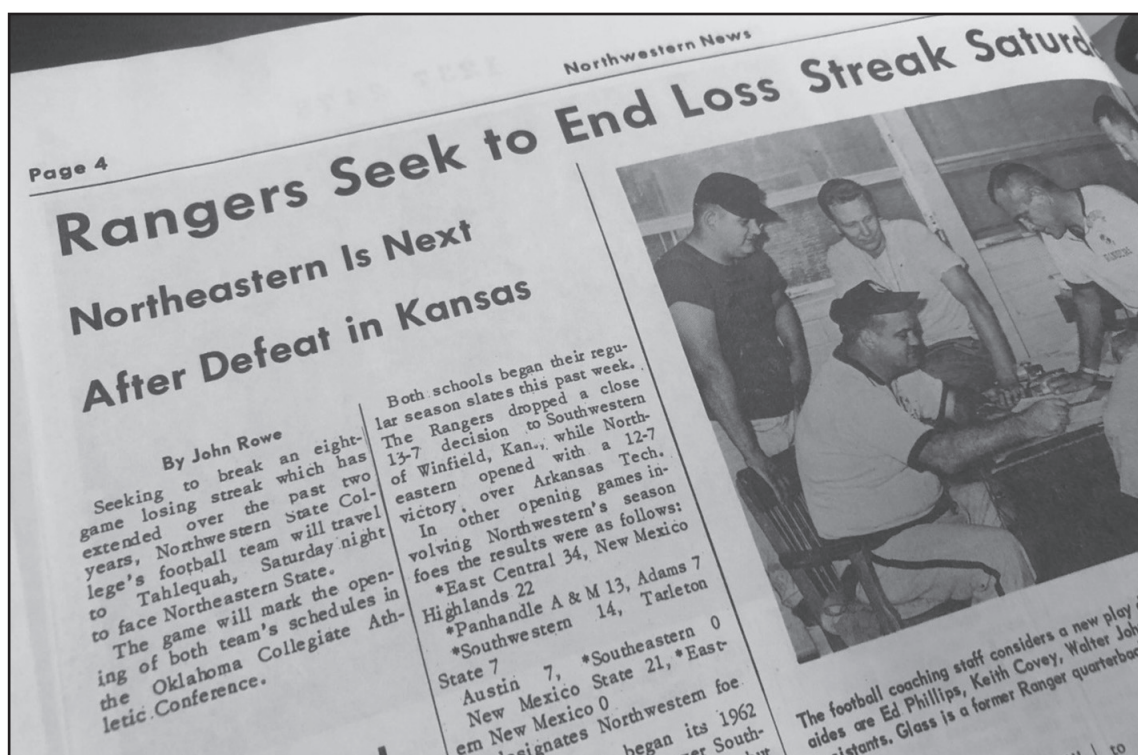
In 1963, Rowe came all the way from Lyndhurst, New Jersey, to Northwestern, according to his obituary in The Record.

"The tiny town and the small college in its midst would never be the same," The Record's Greg Mattura and Paul Schwartz wrote in Rowe's obituary. "And neither would John."

Rowe, a 6-foot-4 basketball player with impressive talent, never planned to come to Northwestern, according to his obituary. Folks said he was going to play for the University of South Carolina. But a new coach at the university took away his scholarship in the eleventh hour.

"So he ended up with two of his Lyndhurst classmates at the small NAIA school about 200 miles west of Tulsa and 150 miles north of Oklahoma City," Mattura and Schwartz wrote.

"He graduated four years later, having never played varsity basketball, but having served as sports editor and editor of the school newspaper and the sports information director for the college. Soon after he graduated, he came home to Lyndhurst and joined the Sports Department at



Page 4 in the Sept. 19, 1963, edition of the Northwestern News features a story by John Rowe, then the sports editor of the Northwestern News. Rowe died Dec. 31 after a long career in sports journalism in New Jersey.

Photo by Jordan Green/via News Archives

the Herald-News a month later. He spent two years in the Army, writing for Stars and Stripes, before returning to the Herald-News in 1969."

A study of the Northwestern News' archives showed that Rowe wrote multiple pieces in each edition of the paper, which was then published every other week. Rowe's pieces were topped with his byline, which was a privilege that not every News staffer had. For decades, writers and editors had to "earn" their bylines at our paper and most others. That's different now, but then, it was an honor.

One of the first stories he wrote for the Northwestern News was in the Sept. 19, 1963, edition. The headline: "Rangers Seek to End Loss Streak Saturday."

His story started this way: "Seeking to break an eight-game losing streak which has extended over the past two years, Northwestern State College's football team will travel to Tahlequah, Saturday night to face Northeastern State."

Eight-game losing streaks are nothing new to Northwestern, and despite the university's best

attempts to break them, the losses have often persisted. Look no further than this year's overall record of 2-9. (Of course, we had that big win in 1999. Can't forget that.)

Rowe likely covered lots of losses during his time here, some of which he chronicled in his "Ranger Sports" column. But in his career, he covered countless wins, too.

Rowe started at The Record in 1973 and retired in 2016.

"John covered such iconic events as the NBA Championships, the World Series, the Super Bowl, the Pro Bowl, the Kentucky Derby and the NCAA Final Four," Mattura and Schwartz wrote. "He was a member of the Heisman Memorial Trophy Committee and a lifetime honorary member of the Baseball Writers' Association of America."

He wrote some during retirement, with his last stories printing in April 2020.

"Fittingly, his final stories published in The Record, on April 24 and 25 in 2020, covered the Jets' draft, a commentary on how the NBA's G League would not harm college basketball and a

commentary on Alex Rodriguez's day-to-day impact if his group was successful in purchasing the New York Mets," according to his obituary.

Fittingly indeed. Because even in retirement, Rowe was still plugging away with lots of stories – just like he did in every edition of the News.

The Northwestern News has another tie to The Record. News adviser Dr. Kaylene Armstrong worked there during the summer of 2006 as part of a program to put journalism professors back in the newsroom, helping them better understand the modern skills young journalists would need.

Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham once remarked that, no matter where she goes in the United States, she meets people who have some tie to Northwestern. They look back on their time here fondly.

I'd wager Mr. Rowe did, too. And I'm sure that, thanks to this News alumnus, lots of folks on the East Coast heard about Northwestern.

Now there's a Ranger who had a long, beautiful ride. Ride, Rangers, Ride indeed.

## More than a pastime: Cheerleading is a legitimate sport

By **REBECCA WAGNER**  
Student Reporter

Cheerleading is a sport.

For an activity to be considered a sport, it must involve physical exertion and skills for the individual and/or team to compete against another for others entertainment.

Cheerleaders partake in many forms of physical exertion. They stunt, tumble and dance all for the entertainment for others. Cheerleaders tend to get injured more often than athletes in other sports because they are putting their bodies to the test.

Cheerleaders are required to put them-

selves through the same mental and physical strength that every other athlete must go through. There are teams that practice all year long to compete one time a year. Competing is what would be considered a sporting event.

Until 2020, many people did not consider cheer a sport. When the Netflix series "Cheer" came out, people got a bigger picture as to what cheer really was like on the inside. Usually, people only see what cheerleaders do at games, and they only take into consideration the uniforms and the dancing. They do not take into consideration the different stunts and accidents that occur during practicing.

There are ways that one could argue that cheer is not a sport. Cheerleading was created

to promote school spirit and motivate sports teams.

Over the years, cheerleading evolved and became a completely different element. On July 20, 2021, the International Olympic Committee voted to grant recognition to the International Cheer Union. That recognition allows for more doors to open for cheerleading – and for more people to come to the realization that cheerleading is, in fact, a sport.

Many cheerleaders will tell you they form the best relationships through their teams, and they would stand by the fact that cheer is a sport. When you think of cheer, do you consider it a sport or just a pastime for sporting events?



# 'I never tried to be anyone but myself.'

Twice she applied, and twice she was denied.

In 2001, Dr. Janet Cunningham was vying for the university president's job for the second time. Already a vice president at Northwestern, she thought she was a strong candidate – and she knew she was a passionate graduate, she said.

When the job went to someone else, she called the victor, congratulated him and gave him a message.

"I know you know I was finalist," Cunningham said to Dr. Paul Beran. "I just want to tell you that you should have no concern with me. What I care about is this institution doing well, and I'm going to do everything to help you make that possible."

The third time proved to be the charm. Because more than 20 years after that phone call, Cunningham says her care for Northwestern is even stronger as she wraps up her 16-year presidency. In June, Cunningham – the second-longest serving president in Northwestern history and its first female president – will retire from her nearly 50-year career in education.

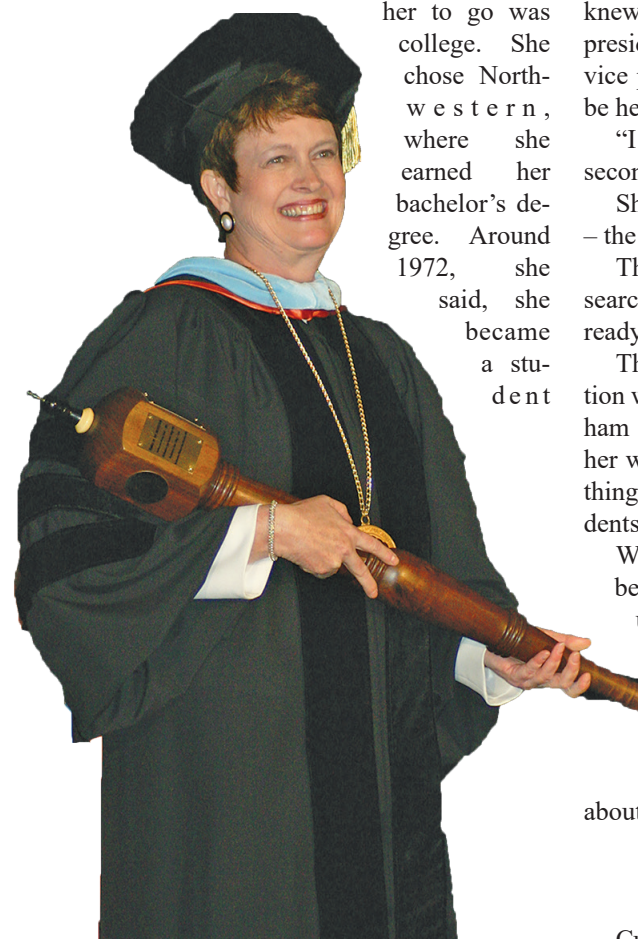
"It's time to let some new ideas be out there," Cunningham said. "Not that I think I'm out of ideas. I have given a lot, Northwestern has given a lot back to me, and it's just that circle of life."

### LOVE FOR LEARNING

Thanks to her Kindergarten teacher, Cunningham found her life's calling in an Alva school classroom at the age of 4.

"I knew, like the first or second day of school, 'I am going to be a Kindergarten teacher,'" Cunningham said. "There was nothing I liked better than school. I loved to read. You could go anywhere and do anything if you could read."

One of the first places Cunningham's family expected her to go was college. She chose Northwestern, where she earned her bachelor's degree. Around 1972, she said, she became a student



Dr. Janet Cunningham is shown with the presidential mace during her investiture ceremony in 2007. (Photo provided)

worker at the university. Cunningham continued her education and eventually was hired to teach in the university business department. She was in the classroom for 11 years before becoming an administrator.

*"I knew, like the first or second day of school, 'I am going to be a Kindergarten teacher.' There was nothing I liked better than school."*

— Dr. Janet Cunningham

She was the school's executive vice president before ascending to the presidency, working in various administrative capacities for three presidents.

Two of them were people she competed with for the job.

### PRESIDENTIAL PROGRESS

Cunningham first applied for the president's job after Dr. Joe Struckle, the longest-serving Northwestern president, retired in 2000. She didn't get the job when he left, nor did she get it after Struckle's successor.

"At the point I wasn't selected, I said, 'OK, that's fine,'" Cunningham said. "I knew I wanted to be here, whether I was president or was vice president or executive vice president. It didn't matter. I wanted to be here."

"I thought, 'I can contribute from the second chair.'"

She did just that until 2006, when Beran – the second president after Struckle – left.

This time, the university didn't begin a search process. Its next president was already in its midst.

Though many positions in higher education were long dominated by men, Cunningham said she never faced discrimination in her work. She also said she learned "something valuable" from all three of the presidents she worked for.

When people ask her how she feels about being the first female president of the university, she replies: "I don't know."

"It's just never been an issue," she said. "I think competence was rewarded. ... I think people may be in this part of the world don't think about it, don't make a big deal about it."

### PLANS POSTPONED

Cunningham had started kicking the idea around in 2019 of retiring in 2020. But her daughter, former Northwestern mass communication instructor Allison Zimmerman,



## As first female president of Northwestern, Cunningham leaves legacy of leadership

By JORDAN GREEN  
Editor-in-Chief



Photos by Jordan Green

ABOVE: Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham poses for a portrait in front of her home on campus on Jan. 13.

LEFT: Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham (left), husband Rick Cunningham (right), and their grandchildren — Zane Zimmerman (seated, left) Brooklyn Zimmerman (seated, center) and Cloey Cunningham (seated, right) — wave to crowds during the 2019 Homecoming parade in downtown Alva.

had a request: stay on as president for one more year.

Her wish would turn out to be prophetic. Zimmerman died February 14, 2020, after a long battle with health issues. One month later, Northwestern joined schools across the nation in shutting down in-person learning as the coronavirus pandemic swept across the globe.

At that point, Cunningham couldn't quit. "Then, I just didn't feel like that was an appropriate time," Cunningham said. "Not that I could fix COVID or do anything, but I just thought my experience might be helpful."

A firm believer in the value of in-person learning, Cunningham said higher education leaders across the nation and at Northwestern developed a nimble, effective approach to online learning.

Northwestern has modernized its infrastructure and added new educational opportunities during Cunningham's tenure. Cunningham says she's proud of the growth the university's Foundation and

Alumni Association has had during the last several years. She's also quick to note the creation of Northwestern's first doctoral program and the university sports teams' move to the NCAA Division II. The university has also remodeled dormitories, upgraded technological infrastructure and rebuilt its football field and press box.

Members of the Regional University System of Oklahoma, which oversees smaller state schools like Northwestern, said Cunningham's leadership is praise-worthy. "RUSO extends our sincere thanks to President Cunningham for her leadership of Northwestern over the past 16 years," Regent Connie Reilly, chair of the RUSO board, said in a news release. "Her vision and dedication have driven the last two decades of the university's growth. Not only has President Cunningham led Northwest-

### LASTING LEGACY

ern with integrity, but she has been an asset to higher education at the state level as well."

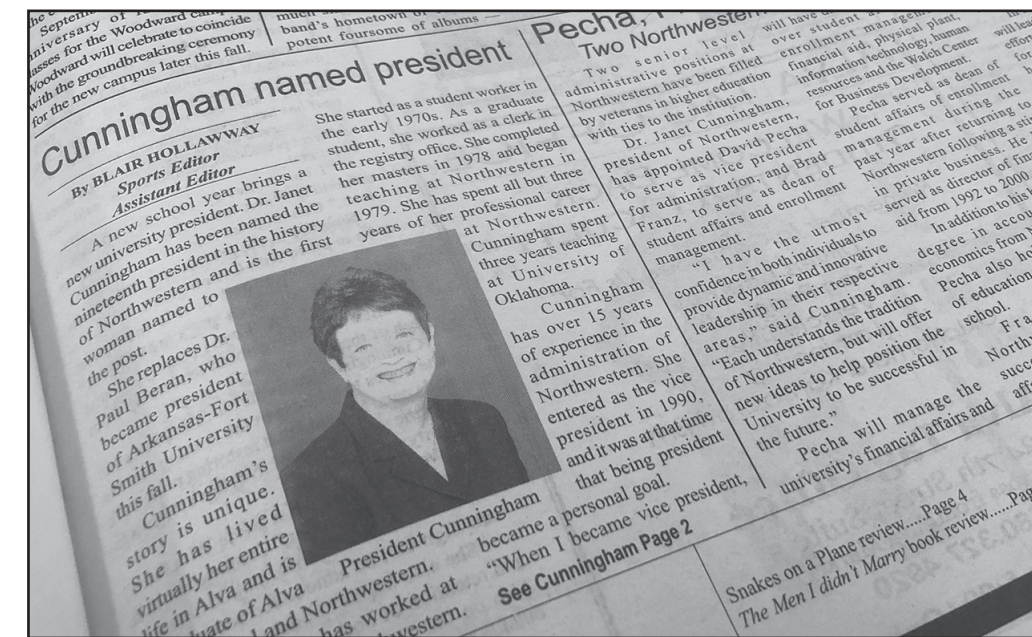
Jane McDermott, a regent who lives in Alva, said Cunningham has had an "indelible impact" on Northwestern. "Her commitment to providing our community with access to high-quality, affordable higher education is commendable and evident in the accreditations, partnerships and endowed chairs she has facilitated during her tenure," McDermott said. "She will be greatly missed."

Getting those projects done wasn't easy. But Northwestern leaders were determined to make them happen, Cunningham said. "I don't think anyone would have ever believed we would have a doctoral program," Cunningham said. "I think there were a lot that didn't think we could go Division II. ...



Photo by Jordan Green

ABOVE: Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham speaks during the fall 2020 commencement in Percell Fieldhouse. BELOW: The first edition of the Northwestern News from the 2006 fall semester has the news that Cunningham was named president.



From my own place and my own perspective, I think we allowed ourselves to dream a little bit, and that's helped."

She's quick to ascribe those successes to others.

"Something that I've always thought about, and tried to live, is: Share the credit, take the blame," Cunningham said. "If things are going right, share that with anybody and everybody – your team. If things are going wrong, you take it."

Making those projects come to life requires significant fundraising and community involvement, Cunningham said. Her approach to these tasks is less financial and more personal.

"I don't think of myself as a 'fundraiser,'" Cunningham said. "I just think of myself as someone who believes in the story of Northwestern. If I've been lucky enough to tell that story and have someone else believe in it, too, then that's where the fun comes from."

### FAMILY VALUES

Cunningham said she sees Northwestern as part of her family. And she's retiring, in part, to spend more time with another part of her family: her husband, children and grandchildren.

Cunningham and her husband, Rick, plan to remain in Alva, where they have their own home. After her tenure ends, they'll move out of the president's home on the campus grounds. They plan to travel and spend time with their five grandchildren, and they'll keep supporting the university.

She says she'll be a "quiet cheerleader" for the Rangers.

"I will continue to be very supportive of Northwestern, but in a very quiet way," Cunningham said. "The new person – they

## TRANSITION OF POWER: COVERING THE PRESIDENCY

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

• PAGE 8:  
Northwestern Rangers salute Cunningham as humble, endearing leader.

NEXT WEEK:

Telling the history of the NWOSU president's office from the start.

don't need to have me looking over their shoulder or doing anything like that. It's somewhat unusual that you stay in the same place, but this is our home."

Cunningham said she will not be involved in the search process for a new president, which the Regional University System of Oklahoma is expected to begin in late January.

Cunningham said she hopes the next president will care about moving Northwestern forward.

"I think there are good people out there," Cunningham said. "I don't think I'm one of a kind. I think there are people out there that won't be me, won't try to be me, should not try to be me. They should come in and do things their own way and cultivate their own style."

"I've never tried to be anybody but myself, so I would encourage somebody to do the same thing."



# FEATURE

## TRANSITION OF POWER: COVERING THE PRESIDENCY

# Students admire Cunningham's leadership

By **KAYLEA BROWN**  
Senior Reporter

Personable.  
Exceptional.  
Driven.

These are some of the words students at Northwestern Oklahoma State University use to describe the current university president.

Dr. Janet Cunningham recently announced her plans to retire, and Northwestern students have varied reactions.

Katy Brashears, a 19-year-old freshman biology major from Beaver, is one of those students.

"It kind of makes me sad that she's retiring," Brashears said. "I only knew her this



**Brashears**

past semester. I'm also super excited and happy. I just hope she finds joy in retirement with her

family."

Brashears met Cunningham through the President's Leadership Class in the fall semester.

Brashears said she sees Cunningham as a leader by action because of her stories, advice and passion for people.

Brashears is not the only Northwestern student who has noticed Cunningham's passion for people.

Dawson Maxwell, a 21-year-old senior criminal justice major from Perry, said Cunningham's personality is part of what made Northwestern feel like home.



**Maxwell**

"She would come to events, come to basketball games, come to these other things and not be invisible," Maxwell said.

"You could put a face to the name, and it made it feel like she really cares about me and the students."

Maxwell said Cunningham embodies the idea of serving others, and he is honored to know that he will be in the final graduating class during her time at Northwestern.

Senior Kailani Kealoha, a 21-year-old biology major from Paia, Hawaii, said even though she is sad about the retirement, she is glad for Cunningham.



**Kealoha**

"In a way, I'm kind of happy that it's when I'm a senior," Kealoha said. "It's kind of like we're both leaving at the same time."

Kealoha said Cunningham made her experience at Northwestern better because of the time Cunningham takes to get to know her students. Kealoha's favorite memory of Cunningham is because of this.

When the soccer team ranked in the Top 10, Cunningham con-

gratulated and wished good luck to team members for the rest of the season, Kealoha said.

"That will forever stick with me, that she just recognized us," Kealoha said. "We didn't have any soccer gear on or anything like that, but she was just able to recognize us."

The time Cunningham took to acknowledge some of the soccer team is one way that Cunningham shows how much she cares for the university and its students, Kealoha said.

Mattie Pitts, a 19-year-old freshman from Waynoka studying elementary education, also said she sees the love Cunningham has for students.



**Pitts**

"She was always there when any of us in PLC or Northwestern needed her," Pitts said.

Pitts met Cunningham before she started attending Northwestern and got to know her better

while being in PLC.

Pitts said she is sad about Cunningham retiring because she has only had a semester with her, but she is happy that Cunningham with have more time to spend with her grandchildren.

Sophomore mentor of the 2021 PLC class, Austin Rankin, said time with family is something Cunningham has earned after being president.



**Rankin**

Rankin, a 20-year-old political science major from Waynoka, was a member of the 2020 President's Leadership Class.

Rankin said being in PLC helped him become successful as a student.

The class motivated him to get involved and to try to create new opportunities for other students.

"She just kind of inspires you to attempt to do more things," Rankin said.

## Miss Northwestern promotes social initiative 'Up in Smoke'

By **AUSTIN MORTON**  
Senior Reporter

Miss Northwestern wants to spread the truth about vaping.

Carli Seabolt, who won the title in 2021, is partnering with the Truth Initiative to bring facts and information about smoking and vaping to Alva.

The Truth Initiative is America's largest nonprofit public health organization focused on ending smoking and vaping.

A large portion of its efforts are set on ending youth smoking with the "Truth Campaign."

Seabolt began partnering with the Truth Initiative while competing in the Miss Northwestern pageant.

One of the requirements to run for Miss Northwestern is being part of a social initiative and having a year of service within that initiative.

"I knew immediately I wanted to advocate against smoking and vaping," Seabolt said. "My grandpa passed away when I was about 4 years old from lung cancer after smoking for 50-plus years. He eventually quit, but he had already done the damage."

The first event Seabolt hosted for her cause was a masquerade fundraiser in October.

The event raised \$1,000 for the Truth Initiative.

Seabolt has also used Facebook to play her part of the initiative, called "Up in Smoke." She doesn't want to see people's dreams or goals end up in smoke,

Seabolt said.

"Up in Smoke" is where Seabolt posts her "Factual Friday" segment, and where she uses information from the Truth Initiative to help educate her followers about the harm that can come from smoking.

She is also planning to host a clean-up day around Alva to remove discarded cigarette butts and wasted e-cigarette cartridges. The Truth Initiative will send kits to ensure that proper cleaning takes place.

No date for the event has been determined yet.

Another aspect of the Truth Initiative is its advertising aimed at younger audiences.

These commercials are focused on the negative effects that can come from vaping. Those includes mental, physical and environmental effects. The ads call vapes "depression sticks."

"Might as well call it what it is," Seabolt said. "It [vaping] actually enhances those feelings of anxiety and depression."

These ads are played in between TV shows, on social media platforms and also on YouTube.

The effects that they have on smokers are still being studied, but students already have opinions on them.

"I vape pretty often, but when I see those ads, I just don't pay them any attention," said Erick Livingston, a former NWOSU student.

"I guess they are a good thing," said Donavon Paden, an elementary education major. "I don't



Miss Northwestern 2019 Liberty Bird crowns Carli Seabolt as Miss Northwestern 2021 on Oct. 31 in Herod Hall. Seabolt has partnered with the Truth Initiative to advocate against smoking and vaping.

File photo

see a problem with showing the effects of smoking. It's like seeing the sad animal commercials. Like, I feel bad, but I don't want to buy the dog that's crying."

Seabolt said she plans to help as many people as possible quit smoking while working with her initiative.

She said it is hard for her to understand how it feels because she has never smoked, but she still has a method thanks to the Truth Initiative.

"It's called the START plan," Seabolt said. "Set a date, tell your friends and family, anticipate challenges, remove tobacco substances from your lifestyle and talk to a doctor."

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## MOVIE REVIEW

# 'No Way Home' packs in nostalgia

By **DAX BENWAY**  
Student Reporter

Marvel's "Spider-Man: No Way Home," which hit area theaters Dec. 17, was one of the greatest films in Marvel cinematic history.

This movie was a thriller, to say the least. It had everything from action-packed scenes to heartbreaking moments that made the audience feel for the main character.

The way Marvel was able to come up with this movie idea was so spectacular. The way the movie creators brought back Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield's Spiderman will open the door for more possibilities throughout the MCU.

As a kid, I grew up watching the very first Spider-Man in theaters, and I fell in love with the franchise. Seeing this movie happen was a moment many people will never forget.

Seeing Maguire and Garfield back in Spider-Man suits was something many people would have thought would never happen again. Getting to see them paired up with Tom Holland's Spider-Man was amazing.

This movie was filled with phenomenal actors such as Tom Holland and Zendaya. It was also marked by the return of William Defoe's Green Goblin, Alfred Molina's Dr. Otto Octavius and Thomas Hayden-Church as Sandman from Maguire's Spider-Man.

You also see the return of Dr. Curtis Connors as the lizard and



Photo by Devyn Lansden

The marquee at the Rialto Cinema in Alva advertises "Spider-Man: No Way Home," Marvel's newest release. The movie is no longer showing at the Rialto, but it is still showing at the Lakeside Cinema in Woodward.

Jamie Foxx as Electro from Garfield's Spider-Man.

Bringing these villains from past Spider-Man movies – and having all three Spider-Men working together to fight off

these villains – is really what set this movie apart. It's also a huge reason behind the success of this film.

"Spider-Man: No Way Home" was given a 93% by Rotten To-

matoes, a commonly known movie rating website. It is in the eighth place in all-time in box office revenue worldwide. This movie will go down as one of the best superhero movies of all time.



Photo provided

## Singers to perform in Tulsa

Northwestern Oklahoma State University Singers pose for a portrait outside Ryerson Hall. The choir will perform as an honor choir for the Oklahoma Music Educators Association Winter Conference on Thursday at the First Baptist Church of Tulsa. The Singers will perform a variety of songs, including three commissioned pieces. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., with the Singers performing second.

## VIDEO GAME REVIEW

# Vintage 'Harry Potter' adventure still gives thrills

By **COLLIN ZINK**  
Student Reporter

There are quite a few sports video games in the gaming world, including football, basketball, hockey and more.

However, none of them compares to the PlayStation 2 video game "Harry Potter Quidditch World Cup." This game has many fun attributes and multiple teams to choose from.

This infinity-star rating game, in my opinion, is the Holy Grail of sports video games. Sure, it has minor glitches, but it is fun nonetheless.

Gamers get to start off by choosing which Hogwarts House team to play as: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin.

After a team is chosen, players get taken through some mini-games on how to pass the quaffle, score, hit the opposing team with bludgers and defend against them.

Players also learn how to catch the golden snitch, perform special moves, perform solo scoring moves, perform combo passes and score combo goals.

Each team also has its own unique team special move. Some are more unique than others because some teams can score multiple goals when their special move is activated.

When playing in a match, there is a passing meter by the scoreboard. The more the player's team passes the ball and scores using combo passes, the more boost the team's seeker has to catch the snitch.

The snitch will not be activated until both passing meters are connected. However, when a team special move is activated and/or a team attacks and hits one of the opposing team's chasers with a bludger, the meter will be shortened. However, players can re-gain their boost.

Just like any other game, there are cool things to unlock. In this game, Quidditch cards can be unlocked.

Some Quidditch cards need to be unlocked before gamers can do certain things.

For example, a team's special move cannot be activated unless certain tasks are performed.

However, the computer can activate a team's special move on the opposing team even without it being available.

Once gamers win the Quidditch Cup at Hogwarts, they get to play for the World Cup with nine teams to choose from: Australia, Bulgaria, England, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, the Nordic Team and the United States.

All off these teams can be used.

However, if 75 Quidditch cards have not been collected, then players cannot use Bulgaria.

Each team also has its unique Quidditch Stadium. In this case, no two stadiums look alike.

When playing as any other team except Bulgaria, gamers will always play the last match of the World Cup Tournament against Bulgaria.

However, if gamers are playing as Bulgaria, then the last match will be against the Nordic Team.

**Dad Joke of the Week:**

*I don't know why 'Marvel' hasn't tried to put advertisements on the Hulk. He's essentially a giant banner.*

**On This Day in History**

Date: January 20

- 1929: 1st talking motion picture taken outdoors, "In Old Arizona."
- 1930: 1st radio broadcast of "Lone Ranger." (WXYZ-Detroit)
- 1982: Heavy metal musician Ozzy Osbourne bites the head off a bat on stage.
- 1968: Houston Cougars defeat the UCLA Bruins 71-69 to win basketball's Game of the Century and end UCLA's 47 game winning streak.
- 1981: Ronald Reagan inaugurated as the 40th President.
- 2006: "High School Musical" released starring Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens, became Disney Channel's most successful TV movie.

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# SPORTS

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Photos by Devyn Lansden

Members of the Northwestern women's basketball team celebrate after defeating Southwestern, 79-68, on Jan. 13 at Per-

cefull Fieldhouse. The win broke an 11-game losing streak to Southwestern that dated back to 2017. The victory over the

Lady Bulldogs also marked the first time that the Lady Rangers have beaten a ranked opponent since joining the NCAA.

## Lady Rangers record biggest win in program history



Scout Frame begins to shoot a three during the game against Southwestern on January 13 at Percefull Fieldhouse. The Lady Rangers defeated the Lady Bulldogs, 79-68, to end an 11-game losing streak to Southwestern. On Saturday, Oklahoma Baptist defeated Northwestern, 68-52, in Shawnee.

By DEVYN LANSDEN  
Photo Editor

Northwestern's seven-game winning streak came to an end Saturday as the Lady Rangers fell to Oklahoma Baptist University, 68-52, in Shawnee.

During their streak, the Lady Rangers defeated Southwestern, 79-68. It had been almost five years since the Lady Rangers had beaten the Lady Bulldogs, but the win did more than end a losing streak. For the first time since joining the NCAA, the Lady Rangers defeated a ranked opponent.

Over the past four weeks, the Lady Rangers had three honored players of the week by the Great American Conference: Kinsey Neiderer from Okarche, Scout Frame from Kinsley, Kansas, and Bailey Brown from Enid.

"It's fun to get honored individually, but it doesn't feel like an individual award," Frame said. "My team is the whole reason I won that."

Frame was the second of her team named Player of the Week after Neiderer. The third Lady Ranger in a row to earn the title was Brown. She said being the third shows how the team has been playing better.

These three Lady Rangers are

the category leaders in the cumulative statistics in the 2021-2022 season.

Neiderer said the five seniors who lead the team are the big differences from last year's team to this year's team. She said they are successful because the team is more committed to each other than it was last year.

Jakeria Otey, an assistant coach, said having the leadership of the five seniors plays a part in the Lady Rangers' success. Otey says the only adjustment the team had to deal with was Christmas break.

"I think everybody needed that break to come back, and now we are ready to go and get after it," Otey said.

Frame said the team still puts in the same amount of work as it has all season, but the players have more chemistry.

"We were trying to figure each other out, and once we did, we started to 'gel,' and things are going a lot smoother," Frame said.

Neiderer said the team has more confidence in each other. She said their work is showing in the games by avoiding bad situations and getting the ball to the right people.

The Lady Rangers play their next home game on Jan. 27 when they take on Arkansas Monticello at 5:30 p.m.



# SPORTS

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Rangers look to rebound from rivalry loss

By **COLLIN ZINK**  
Senior Reporter

After a rocky second half of December, the Northwestern men's basketball team has a record of 9-6.

The Rangers started strong on Christmas break, defeating the Oklahoma Panhandle State Aggies, 89-78.

Larry White led the way in scoring, with 34 points coming by way of 14 field goals and six free-throws.

The Rangers then lost to Southeastern Oklahoma State 72-58, and to Southern Arkansas, 69-49.

White once again led the Rangers in points against Southeastern, with 12 points via four field goals and four free throws.

White also had a team high: 15 points against Southern Arkansas on seven field goals and one free throw.

The Rangers bounced back with back-to-back wins over Henderson State, 76-66, and Ouachita Baptist, 83-67.

Against Henderson State, Bubba Furlong led the team in scoring, with 22 points off of two 3-pointers, six field goals and eight free throws.

Against Ouachita Baptist, Brian Free had 22 points, with six 3-pointers and eight field goals.

The Rangers then lost to Southwestern, 83-73. White was

the leader in points for the Rangers, with 20 points by making one 3-pointer, seven field goals and five free throws.

The Rangers have lost four games straight to the Bulldogs, with their last win being in 2019 in Weatherford with a double overtime victory of 98-96.

Despite the loss, White said he feels as though the season is going well.

"It's going good," White said. "We just got a few key mistakes."

White said he is not bothered by the loss to Southwestern. He said the team needs to trust the process and continue to improve.

Red-shirt sophomore guard Jalen Smith said he likes how the season is going and how the new players added to the roster are performing.

"The season is going good," Smith said. "We got 14 new players to the roster, but we've been coming together pretty well."

Smith also said he thinks Christmas break was a learning experience.

"We did learn a lot about ourselves with the time we had together," Smith said.

Although Smith did not play against Southwestern, he says he is comfortable about the season so far.

"We need to come together and continue to do what we do, one game at a time," Smith said.

The Ranger's next home game is Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m.



Photo by Devyn Lansden

Brian Free shoots a 3-pointer during the game against Southwestern on Jan. 13 in Percefull Fieldhouse.

## RODEO

# Rangers ready for season to restart

By **CONNOR GRAY**  
Assistant Editor

The Northwestern rodeo team will start the second half of the season Feb. 18 at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

As of now, the Rangers are in ninth place out of 13 teams, and the Lady Rangers are seventh out of 11 teams.

Despite the placement of the teams, both teams have individuals in the Top 10.

For the men, Kerry Duvall is in sixth place overall in tie-down roping out of 16 other competitors who have placed. Duvall has 150 points, but is only five points away from being in the Top 5.

Kaden Greenfield, Emmett Edler and Tyler Scheevel are second, eleventh, and fifteenth, respectively, in steer wrestling. Greenfield has 260 points.

In team roping, Northwestern has four in the Top 10, with

Stran Morris, Shane Hoelting, Jaden Trimble and Reed Murray in third, fourth, eighth and ninth, respectively, out of 16 competitors.

For team-roping, heeler Austin Lompe, Jaydon Laubhan and Rhett Murray are in fifth, seventh and ninth out of 16.

All three Rangers have at least 100 points, with Lompe leading the Rangers with 155 points.

For the Lady Rangers, only two have placed, each in a different category.

Samantha Chambers in barrel racing and Hannah Zimmers in breakaway roping are both in seventh place.

After the rodeo at Kansas State, the Rangers will have five more rodeos to compete in throughout March and April.

The Rangers have one rodeo in March and four in April.

The final rodeo of the season will be from April 28 to 30 in Guymon.

## How to fix college football's broken system

### CADE'S CALLS



CADE KENNEDY

College football season has come to an end, but the debate about the future of the sport still rages on.

Over the past few months, I kept seeing article after article about how the College Football Playoff might expand to 12 teams. The idea sounds great, until I saw that all 10 conference commissioners must agree on the plan.

If the previous offseason filled with conference realignment and scheduling alliances taught me anything, it was that a unanimous decision currently is unlikely.

The Atlantic Coast Conference has said the playoff needs to be kept at four teams for now, which makes sense as the conference is usually represented in the playoff.

The Pacific-12 Conference is fine with any of the solutions, and has stated that they will vote on anything. I think that the Pacific-12 needs to start fighting for a 12-team playoff.

The Big 12 and several smaller conferences are fighting for a 12-team playoff, which makes complete sense. With Oklahoma and Texas leaving the Big 12 in a few years, the conference is going to need stability.

However, there are two conferences that have more influence than every other one combined: the Big Ten and the Southeastern Conference.

These two conferences have completely different ideas for where the sport should go.

The main difference is that the Southeastern Conference wants

either 4 or 12 teams, while the Big Ten wants either eight or 12. When it comes to 12 teams, both sides still disagree on which conference champions should be in.

I think that the Southeastern Conference model is the best model for the future. With a 12-team playoff, there is more emphasis on winning your conference, as every conference champion would have an opportunity to reach the playoffs. The regular season would be exciting as well, as teams would still be fighting to make the playoffs instead of being locked out.

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# RANGERS LOVIN' LOVINI'S MUSIC



Renowned violin player Gary Lovini performed in Herod Hall on Tuesday night at part of the Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series at Northwestern. Lovini rose to prominence after winning a British talent show on TV. He has also performed in Buckingham Palace and other prestigious locations.

*Photos by Devyn Lansden*