

## STANDING IN THE HALL OF FAME

Check out photos of Northwestern's Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony Saturday. PAGE 9

## SNOW DAZE

How did Rangers enjoy their hazy, snowy days out of class? Get a glimpse of the action in this edition of the News. PAGES 6 & 7

2020 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

AWARD WINNER

presented by the OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSOCIATION

# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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

Volume No. 83, Issue 17

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

Address Service Requested

February 10, 2022

Visit us online at [northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com](http://northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com)

Follow us on: 

## COVID ON CAMPUS

# University to post COVID guide for students

## NWOSU officials surprised by SGA resolution on virus

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

Northwestern will post a step-by-step guide on its website this week outlining what students should do if they test positive for the coronavirus.

Officials announced the change Monday in response to a resolution the Student Government Association passed in January calling for more clarity around the university's coronavirus policies.

Student body leaders unanimously passed Resolution 22-01 during their Jan. 31 meeting, asking officials to create a comprehensive policy addressing whether quarantine-related absences are excused and outlining how long students should self-isolate if they contract the virus.

The resolution also asked officials to begin posting coronavirus case counts twice weekly.

President Dr. Janet Cunningham and Dean of Student Affairs Calleb Mosburg attended the Monday meeting of the Student Government Association because they said they were unaware students had concerns about the university's handling of the pandemic.

Cunningham and Mosburg said the university will post information about whom students should contact if they test positive. The university will not, however, begin providing case count updates more frequently.

They also said student body leaders should speak to them before passing future resolutions.

"Resolutions are great, but we pride ourselves here at Northwestern on communication," Cunningham said. "Any of you can walk into my office ... any time with a question or concern."

See **RESOLUTION**, Page 2



Photo by Jordan Green

Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham gestures as she speaks to Student Government Association Senator Austin Rankin, foreground, during the Monday Student Government Association meeting. Cunningham said university officials were surprised by Rankin's recent resolution regarding coronavirus information.

## Esports becoming competitive

By **AUSTIN MORTON**  
*Senior Reporter*

An arena for training, a scholarship for incoming players and divisional tournaments every season.

This isn't football. This is esports.

Esports, short for electronic sports, is the organized playing of competitive multiplayer video games by individuals or teams. Much like traditional sports, esports are also played at the collegiate level, and Northwestern's esports program is expanding in multiple ways.

Evan Vaverka, instructor of computer science, oversees the esports program at Northwestern. He has been working to expand it

See **ESPORTS**, Page 2



Photo by Devyn Lansden

Northwestern students Cy Walters and Darian Smith play games in the Northwestern E-sports room in Shockley Hall during a January gaming session. The Northwestern E-sports program is growing, and leaders and players say they intend to become even more competitive.

## TRANSITION OF POWER: COVERING THE PRESIDENCY

# Next president will be named in April

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

Northwestern will name its next president by the end of April following months of intensive interviews with applicants from across the nation, the regent leading the presidential search process said.

Jane McDermott, a member of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents, spoke to Northwestern faculty and staff during two meetings in the Education Center on Wednesday, outlining the process to replace President Dr.

Janet Cunningham, who is retiring from her 16-year presidency in June.

This is the first presidential search process at Northwestern in nearly 20 years, officials said, because Cunningham was appointed to the presidency without such a search in 2006.

"Choosing a university president is the most important job we have as a regent," McDermott said. "As we value that, however, there is no cookie-cutter approach to presidential searches."

The presidential search

See **SEARCH**, Page 3

NEWS

Pages 2 & 3

OPINION

Pages 4 & 5

PHOTOS

Pages 6 & 7

FEATURE

Page 8

SPORTS

Pages 10 & 11

# NEWS

## RESOLUTION: NWOSU will not change COVID case reporting

### Continued from Page 1

"I would just encourage you to try that first because you might be able to accomplish the same thing without a formal resolution."

Senator Austin Rankin wrote the resolution in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new guidance, reducing isolation periods to five days for most people who have the virus.

Rankin said he and other students were confused about how the new guidance would affect school absences. He also said students weren't sure whom they should notify if they contract the virus.

"I more or less wanted to specifically speak about that officially on Northwestern's homepage and website," Rankin said.

Students will be able to access the step-by-step guide on the university's COVID-19 page, which students can find by typing "COVID-19" into the university website's search bar. They can also access it by scrolling through the A-Z index and clicking on the COVID-19 link, Mosburg said.

Students who test positive for the virus should first notify the university's Student Services office, and they'll be required to submit their test results, Mosburg said. Students then need to communicate with their instructors about missing class and making up assignments, Mosburg said.

Mosburg said the university's standard attendance policies remain in effect, and that absences related to quarantine periods are treated like any other school absence.

Those policies are outlined in the student handbook and in course syllabuses.



Photo by Jordan Green

Student Government Association Senator Austin Rankin, left, listens to Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham, not shown, as she speaks during the Monday Student Government Association meeting. Cunningham said university officials were surprised by Rankin's recent resolution regarding coronavirus policies.

### 'NATURAL THING TO DO'

Rankin did not talk to university officials before the Student Government Association passed his resolution, which he said may have caught officials off guard.

"I just felt that, based on the conversations that I had [with students], as well as my own feelings of confusion, that this was the natural thing to do," Rankin said. "It's not that I felt I couldn't speak to the administration or anything like that. I feel like Northwestern attempts to be quite transparent in their actions."

Rankin spoke with Mosburg

after the resolution passed. On Monday, Cunningham and Mosburg said they had been surprised by the legislation.

Rankin said his conversations with administrators have been productive.

"They've been very cooperative," he said. "I think, for the future, it's going to be pretty beneficial. ... I'm looking forward to seeing this change go through."

"I'm very happy to be dealing with the administration."

Dawson Maxwell, president of the Student Government Association, said he believes the administrators were "kind of blindsided"

***"I'm very happy to be dealing with the administration."***  
— Austin Rankin

by the resolution.

Maxwell doesn't regret passing the resolution, but he said Rankin should have spoken with administrators before bringing it forward.

"Northwestern prides itself on communication between students and administration," Maxwell

said. "I've seen that firsthand. If we would have talked to them, it could have been resolved without the resolution."

### NO CHANGE IN CASE REPORTING

Mosburg and Cunningham rejected the part of the resolution asking the university to report active coronavirus cases on Tuesdays and Fridays each week.

The university will continue posting coronavirus case counts weekly on Fridays, which it has done since 2020. Cunningham said posting case counts weekly is more accurate.

"Sometimes, we were getting notified by students, and their isolation period was up the next day," Cunningham said. "It was hard to get a close handle on the numbers because they were changing. What we might have reported on a Tuesday, and what we found out on a Wednesday, would not have been correct because we were notified late by another student. It seemed to all kind of shake out better once a week."

Northwestern had one active coronavirus case as of Friday, according to the university's website. Officials report the total number of cases among students and employees but does not say which of the university's three campuses those cases come from.

Other regional universities across the state also report their case numbers weekly, Cunningham said.

"I really think Friday is the best indication of what we've got," Cunningham said. "Our whole goal is to be transparent. I mean, we don't gain anything by not reporting."

## ESPORTS: 'Having fun and making friends' is main goal

### Continued from Page 1

since 2015.

Originally a student interested in competitive games like "League of Legends," Vaverka has been working to make the esports group on campus feel like an actual organization.

Beginning with a place to train and compete in, the esports arena is nearing completion in Shockley Hall.

Here, players have access to high-end computers that allow them to compete without any technical worries.

Some of the games the esports teams play include "Overwatch," "Super Smash Brothers" and "Call of Duty."

The players train in this arena and prepare for tournaments for whatever game is in season. This is also where local tournaments take place.

The players will be able to compete in a variety of tournaments, both at the state and regional levels. Tournaments are

conducted by game companies and the Oklahoma Association of Collegiate Esports.

Whichever game is in-season hosts a collegiate tournament, where the Northwestern team will compete against other schools in the region. These can include much larger schools like Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

Starting this fall, esports players can also obtain scholarships for playing, similar to those for football and basketball players. This scholarship will be applicable for 25 to 30 students.

"I really think it's going to help the program grow over time," Vaverka said.

One of the recent tournaments was for "Super Smash Brothers." It was put together by one of the members of the esports group, John Cloud, a sophomore computer science major.

"I see it more as a club," Cloud said of the esports program. "If you play a game and want others to play it, come to esports."



Northwestern esports team members play games in the Northwestern E-sports room in Shockley Hall during a January gaming session. The Northwestern E-sports program is growing, and leaders and players say they intend to become even more competitive.

Photo by Devyn Lansden

The esports group plans to have a tournament every other week and add an entry fee to make the tournaments more professional.

"The tournaments usually have around 10 to 20 people, some of

whom have never even played competitively," Cloud said.

Some students have not even heard of the term "esports." Megan Valdez, a general studies major, is one of these students.

"Is it like WiiSports?" Valdez

asked.

Vaverka does not want this lack of knowledge to act as a barrier to entry.

"We want wins," Vaverka said. "But having fun and making friends is more important."

# NEWS

## Does Valentine's Day strengthen or stress relationships? Students decide

By **DAX BENWAY**  
Student Reporter

Valentine's Day is romantic for some people, but others say it puts a lot of pressure on a relationship. Here is what some Rangers had to say about it.

Jaden Brunner, a sophomore agriculture major from Stillwater, said: "I think Valentine's Day puts added pressure on a relationship because of the societal expectations that you have to give or receive the perfect gift from your loved one. A tip for making it less stressful is to pay attention to things your loved one likes or needs."



**Brunner**

Kingston Leota, a freshman business and accounting major from Euless, Texas, said: "If the love is really real, the expectations shouldn't put any pressure on the relationship because you should want to ... exceed those expectations for your significant other. I think the main tip for not making it pressured is to just understand you and your loved one's relationship and how you both feel about the holiday and to just communicate. Like in all relationships, communication is one of the biggest factors. As long as y'all are on the same page, the expectations become easier to meet."



**Leota**

Wilson Cal, a sophomore health and sports science major from Fullerton, California, said:

"I think it just depends on how you look at it. If you just started talking, it might be awkward and end up one-sided. But if you guys have spent time together, it should be genuine, and there shouldn't be any pressure at all."



**Cal**

Reagan Brown, a psychology major from Midwest City, said: "Girls have expectations on how they want their Valentine's Day to be. Also, social media has made a big impact on how Valentine's Day should be a huge deal in a relationship. Don't compare your relationship to other people's and what you see on social media. Don't make that the only day you



**Brown**

express your love for your significant other."

Jerika Coon, an elementary education major from Sapulpa, said: "Valentine's Day expectations might impose an excessive amount of stress on some people's relationships, especially newly formed ones. It all depends on how you and your partner connect, as well as how you both commemorate special occasions and holidays together."



**Coon**

Jake Freeny, a health and sports science major from Stillwater, said: "I think that Valentine's Day doesn't really put a lot of pressure on relationships. Obviously, you get each other something on Valentine's Day, but it is more than just a day that you give each other. It's a celebration of loving each other every day, and sometimes it's well deserved. You can look at it as a reward for working so hard on a relationship that sometimes can be hard."



**Freeny**

Genesis Rodriguez, a junior business administration major from San Antonio, Texas, said:

"I think Valentine's Day expectations do, in fact, put a lot of pressure on relationships. Taking someone out to eat would not be ideal because what if the food is not good or bad service? Then it kind of rains on the day. Gift giving is the best gesture, in my opinion, but you also have to know what your partner likes and doesn't. ... If your partner is upset about the gift you got them because it was 'too small,' 'too big' or even the restaurant wasn't good enough, then you might need to rethink your relationship. In order to make this day special ... communicate with your partner and ask them what they'd like to do."



**Rodriguez**

Kes Reeves, a senior health and sports science major from Kingston, said: "Valentine's Day expectations put too much pressure on relationships. Social media is the main reason for seeing public relationships and what they do for their significant other. Tips for not making it pressured are understanding that not everything you see on social media is true and having realistic expectations for the holiday."



**Reeves**

## SEARCH: McDermott leads process

**Continued from Page 1**  
process began Tuesday when the president's job listing was posted online, and it'll end in April with a final vote by the Board of Regents to hire a candidate.

In the meantime, regents, Northwestern faculty and staff and other university stakeholders have countless interviews to conduct and application packets to read through.

The Board of Regents has hired nationwide firm Higher Education Leadership Search to advertise the president's position, recruit candidates and collect application materials, McDermott said. The job listing was sent to roughly 80,000 higher education professionals in the firm's database on Tuesday, and it will be

advertised in higher education-related publications.

After the search firm has recruited candidates, a screening committee comprised of 15 to 20 Northwestern students, faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders will begin reviewing candidates' application materials, narrowing down the number of candidates and preparing a list of finalists. The list of committee members will be publicized, McDermott said.

The committee's list of finalists will be given to three regents, including McDermott, who will then recommend a candidate to the full Board of Regents. The full board, McDermott said, will vote to hire the next president after a series of interviews, background

checks and other assessments.

McDermott said the search process is "highly confidential" and that no applicants' names will be released – unless regents and other searchers change their minds. Many universities have started announcing the names of finalists during their presidential search processes, and regents are reviewing whether to do that here, she said.

"We are going to do everything in our power to find the president who will serve you well and will lead you, the university, into its next chapter," McDermott said. "It's a wonderful opportunity for someone to come to a place as great as this."

The new president will take office July 1.

## What's up?

### SUNDAY

Coronado Hall will host a Superbowl watch party at 5 p.m. Sunday. Pizza, wings, chili dogs and other food and drinks will be served. Food is offered on a first-come, first-served basis until it's out.

### FEB. 16 and 17

A blood drive will take place in the Student Center Ranger Room from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days.

Those wishing to donate are encouraged to go online and make an appointment. Visit [www.yourbloodinstitute.org](http://www.yourbloodinstitute.org) to make an appointment.

All blood donors will receive a free limited edition "Turn It Up" t-shirt, free health screenings and donor rewards points. All donors will also receive one free adult admission to the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Free pizza will be available, and all donors will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a \$25 Northwestern bookstore gift card.

### ALL MONTH

The Coronado Cafeteria and Ranger Market will have different events throughout the month of February in honor of National Kindness Day on Feb. 17.

Those events will lead up to the cafeteria's "Delightful Event" on Feb. 17 during lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. The cafeteria will have a surprise lunch menu.

Here are the other events for the month:

— **Feb. 14:** Ranger Market employees will give away Valentine's Day cookies from 7:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. outside the Ranger Market in the Student Center. Students can also choose to bag up a cookie and write a note with it so they may pass it on to someone else.

— **Feb. 16:** The cafeteria will have a "surprise" set up during lunch.

**GOT NEWS? Email the Northwestern News at [nwnews@nwosu.edu](mailto:nwnews@nwosu.edu)**

## HOLDER DRUG

513 Barnes Alva, Ok 73717

580.327.3332 1.800.458.5349 Fax: 327.1848

*Don't forget to treat your sweetheart!*

## NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper  
Northwestern Oklahoma State  
University

709 Oklahoma Blvd.  
Alva, OK 73717

Published weekly throughout the school year except during examination periods and holidays and distributed to students and staff.

### Spring 2022 Staff

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Jordan Green

**Editorial Editor**  
J.D. Eddy

**Sports Editor**  
Cade Kennedy

**Features Editor**  
Caitlin Hofen

**Assistant Editor**  
Connor Gray

**Photo Editor**  
Devyn Lansden

**Advertising Manager**  
Jayden Dillon

**Circulation Manager**  
Jack Shepherd

**Online Manager**  
Bailey Judd

**Adviser**  
Dr. Kaylene Armstrong

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

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

### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

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

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

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

All letters represent the views of the author.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

# OPINION



File photos

ABOVE: Ranger fans watch the football game between Northwestern and Southern Arkansas at Ranger Field on Sept. 2. BELOW: A sparse but excited crowd supports the football team during the Sept. 2 game. The author believes the university can work to increase sporting attendance.

## Northwestern can increase sporting attendance with better marketing, social media presence for teams

By J.D. EDDY  
Editorial Editor

Northwestern is a small school in northwest Oklahoma, and our sports attendance reflects that.

Compare Northwestern to other D2 schools like Fort Valley University or Tuskegee University in Alabama, which average 9,000 to 10,000 fans per football game.

We do not have the student enrollment to have the same number of people other universities are able to pull in during sporting events. But Northwestern can make changes to increase turnout at sporting events.

The average attendance for a Northwestern football game in 2021 was 2,912, filling up half of the stadium on the home side. That is more than we have at the school.

That number does not include people who watch the games online through a livestream. Northwestern averages around 3,000 online fans.

Northwestern officials reported that the football game against East Central had an attendance of 6,500, but they did not break down the number of in-person and online attendees.

The catalyst for this large attendance is because it was the annual Family Day event, a widely attended recruitment event.

I'm from a small town, and I know that football is a "must-have" in a small town.

Having a college in a small community makes the college the



pride and joy of that town. This is especially true for Alva because we are 60 to 100 miles from any major sports team in Kansas and Oklahoma.

As a result, Northwestern is a prime source of sports entertainment for people in Alva. We offer baseball, football, basketball, soccer, cross-country, track and even esports.

If you were at the basketball game Saturday, you would think there is no problem with attendance.

The average attendance at the boys and girls games is 500, but the Hall of Fame game Saturday had 800 attendees.

Percefull Fieldhouse has a maximum capacity of 2,100 people. That means less than half of the gym is filled during an average game.

Our baseball team has an aver-

age attendance of 100 to 150 people per game. The players were legitimate playoff contenders, moving into the first round with a .615 win percentage, according to the university's Athletic Communications website.

Yet it has the lowest attendance of most sports on campus, including soccer. Neither of these sports receive as much exposure as football or basketball.

The Hall of Fame game tends to draw a large crowd no matter where you are.

My dad graduated from Northwestern, and he has had the same friend group since the day that he graduated.

I bring this up to point out that, when we have events like this with teams that win, attendance goes up. So does the money that we bring in.

When we have greater atten-

dance, we can also have more promotions to increase attendance.

I believe the school can boost attendance at sporting events by advertising them more.

By giving teams more of a social media presence, and even putting up posters around town, will help bring money and patrons into our programs.

Towards the end of the baseball season, attendance spiked to 400 people, though there's no differentiation between in-person and online viewers.

My hometown had similar attendance problems and limited funding for marketing. The school board voted to increase marketing funds and raise ticket prices by \$5, and as a result, attendance went up.

When attendance went up, so did revenue. This allowed our baseball and softball teams to build better facilities. Players also got new equipment.

I think the school should increase ticket prices for at least one sport to increase revenue that can be used for marketing. While some would say raising ticket prices is a bad idea for attendance, people will pay when we can start winning.

If these sports allotted more money for advertisement, it would bring about donations for the program and the school.

I personally think these are some of the ways to increase attendance and increase the quality of games. With higher attendance, the crowd factor always goes up.

# OPINION

## We learn lessons on snow days

**JORDAN GREEN SAYS**



JORDAN GREEN

Even in our virtual world, praise be to God that one longtime tradition remains mostly sacrosanct: snow days.

As winter weather swept across the Great Plains last week, children of all ages jumped and cheered for joy as school officials sent out notifications that school was closed because of in-

clement weather.

Closing school for snow is not only a valuable and enjoyable tradition, but a marvelous testament to some important human lessons: that we should appreciate the little things in life, that some things are beyond our control and that we can't work our lives away.

I think we can't highlight those lessons enough.

My friends and I, even though we're in college, still find a lot of fun in the snow. On Thursday, we went sledding in a friend's pasture near Alva. Using plastic feed troughs for cattle, we rolled down steep slopes and across the rugged prairie. Some curious cattle wandered our direction, perplexed as to what we were doing — and probably wondering why we were playing with their dinnerware.

And we took part in a true Okie snow day tradition: hooking a feed trough behind a pickup and being pulled across the pasture. Junk car hoods are also a popular substitute. The feeling of rip-roaring travel through a pasture, with brush and snow and some occasional recycled grass being kicked up in one's face, is incomparable and irreplaceable.

Of course, we take our sledding and snow-time celebrations to the extreme. City folks have the right to have fun too, though they don't have nearly the creative license we country folks do. Bless their hearts. But they can still make snow-angels, coast down hills at public parks and have snowball fights in the street.

Many students across the state partook of this same fun in one way or another. And the memories they made will not soon be forgotten. We all love bundling up to run outside with our pals to play during one of nature's most marvelous weather events.

Sadly, some students were denied this opportunity, and have been since the pandemic began. Without naming names,



Photo provided

A Highland cow looks down a hill that the author and some of his friends were sledding down west of Alva on Feb. 3. Classes were canceled for three days at Northwestern, a reminder that snow days are an important tradition that should be preserved, the author believes.

some school administrators opted to switch to virtual instruction rather than letting students and teachers have the freedom of snow days.

***“Virtual learning’s public health purposes should not be confused with the need to give children a pass to skip school to enjoy a remarkable wonder of nature.”***

— Jordan Green

This is just another outgrowth of the pandemic which, to some degree early on, did necessitate the use of computer com-

munication to keep learning alive.

But virtual learning's public health purposes should not be confused with the need to give children a pass to skip school to enjoy a remarkable wonder of nature. Snow days are beautiful, in part, because they're serendipitous. They come as a welcome surprise, an unexpected relief, and they remind us that good things can — and still do — happen at any moment.

In a world that seems so low on hope, I think that's a great lesson to learn.

Snow days also remind us that we can't control the weather, and as much as we can try to adapt to it or change it, some things are better left alone. I'll be the first to admit that I have, in the past, gotten too worked up over situations I can't control. None of us can control the weather. The only way to break such a bad habit is by reason of use. When we begin to accept that we can't change everything, we learn to be positive no matter the situation. Inclement weather

is a great teacher of this lesson.

Above all, snow days remind us to slow down and take a break. Having a strong work ethic is a powerful trait, and we need more people in the world who are zealous for good works.

But even God tells us to take a sabbath, and it doesn't always have to be on a Sunday. I know I've certainly caught up on rest and relaxation during these snow days, and I've used the time to reflect on my blessings.

Some of my friends say snow days usually come at just the right time for them — right when they most need some down time. If you start to think of your snow days this way, you'll have a better life outlook all together.

Snow days are fun, and when safely enjoyed, they are incredibly rewarding.

The lessons we learn on snow days may be just as important as the ones we learn in class. Let's keep snow days.

## NFL overtime rule shouldn't be changed

By GAVIN MENDOZA  
Senior Reporter

The NFL playoffs are coming to a close as the Bengals are taking on the Los Angeles Rams in the Super Bowl on Feb. 14.

The playoffs produced some exciting and fun games, but nobody would argue that the Kansas City Chiefs and Buffalo Bills game was the best.

Many people were not happy about the ending of the game, however, because they think the overtime rules for the NFL should be changed.

The rules now state that, if the team wins the coin toss and they elect to receive

***“But professional football and college football are far different games.”***

— Gavin Mendoza

the ball, they can score a touchdown and end the game. This results in only one team getting a chance to score, which is what people were upset about. The Kansas City Chiefs got the ball and scored a touchdown right away, leaving the Bills to walk away without a chance to answer back.

Many thought this rule needed to

change, but I believe it is perfectly fine where it is at. The rule went into effect in 2010 and has heavily favored the team that got the ball first. However, defense is just as important as offense, especially in the playoffs.

It can be argued that leaving the fate of a team up to a coin toss is wrong. The Bills were on the wrong end of the coin toss and had to put their defense out there, which had let up 21 points in the last three minutes of gametime. But the Chiefs were once again in an overtime game the next weekend against the Bengals and won the coin toss again. This time, they were not so fortunate.

The Bengals stopped the Chiefs by

getting an interception and then marching down the field to kick a field goal and win the game. This is exactly why the rule should not be changed. In back-to-back weeks, we saw the same thing happen with the same team, but one opposing team was able to do its job and get a stop on the defensive side of the ball.

Many argue that implementing the college football overtime rules of each team getting a chance to score would be the best solution.

But professional football and college football are far different games, and the aspect of needing to get the job done on both sides of the ball is something that makes the National Football League unique.

**S**now fell across the Great Plains on Feb. 2, 3 and 4, and at Northwestern, Rangers didn't miss a single chance to enjoy the wintry weather. Students hit the slopes at Ranger Field, made snow angels and had snowball fights. Elsewhere in Alva, cars drove down streets of white, and ponds looked like winter wonderlands. Here's how the Rangers went dashing — and riding — through the snow.

*Photos by Jordan Green*

# Where there's a **HILL,** there's a **WAY**

Northwestern students celebrate three-day 'snowcation' from class



From left: Northwestern students Taylor Graham, Summer Verrill, Delia Jackson, Hannah Scoggin, Allie Hufford and Jocelyn Long smile and cheer as they slide down the hills near Ranger Field on Feb. 2.



ABOVE: Northwestern students Kylie Morgan and Kelsey Hackney make snow angels on a hill near Ranger Field on Feb. 2.

RIGHT: Kelsey Hackney smiles and laughs in the snow.



TOP: A car drives through the snow down Flynn Street on Feb. 2.

ABOVE: Northwestern students Connor O'Neal and Justin Littlebear throw snowballs at each other near the Ranger Field on Feb. 2.

LEFT: Snowfall graces the banks of a pond along Skyline Drive on Feb. 2.

ON THE FRONT PAGE: Allie Hufford stands up after sledding down the hill near Ranger Field on Feb. 2.

# FEATURE

## Servis has passion for public service

By **GAVIN MENDOZA**  
Senior Reporter

Security and safety are top priorities for campus police all around the country.

For Northwestern Campus Police Chief Jack Servis, who goes by his middle name Cole, keeping students and faculty safe while maintaining a good relationship with everyone is a main goal.

Servis has been working in law enforcement for 17 years and said he enjoys helping people.

“I kind of got into it just needing a job, but public service is one of the things that is important to me because I like helping people,” Servis said.

Servis started to like law enforcement when he found a desire to help people like his family, who were primarily teachers.

“I felt like I was good at it because I am someone who has a lot of empathy,” Servis said.

Servis came to Northwestern for the opportunity to finish getting his degree so he could one day become a teacher like his family members.

Like helping people, finishing his degree is something he is passionate about, he said.

“I was passionate about finally getting finished and working towards my teaching degree,” Servis said.

Servis has been around things he said were not easy to see. Earlier in his law enforcement career, he worked in special weapons and tactics units, better known as SWAT units.

He said that, since getting to Alva, his mental and overall health has greatly improved.



Northwestern Campus Police Chief Cole Servis poses for a photo in front of the NWOSU Police sign.

Photo by Devyn Landsen

“I think there is still a stigma attached to law enforcement and admitting that they need help with

mental health issues,” Servis said.

Edwin Colon, a senior health and sports science major from Lawrence, Massachusetts, works for Servis as a student worker.

Colon said he wants to pursue a career in law enforcement and he has enjoyed working for Servis.

He said he feels like it has helped him with wanting to become a police officer.

“Cole is a great teacher and has taught me tactics when it comes to certain situations,” Colon said.

Before Servis, Colon did not have anyone to teach him all the “ins” and “outs” of being law enforcement officer.

“He is also a very kind person,” Colon said. “He takes time out of his day to help me with my homework.”

Colon came from the Dominican Republic before going to Massachusetts. He said Servis helps him with his English.

Servis said he wants to be able to have good relationships with students as he does with Colon.

He wants people to know he is there for them.

He spoke about this when he mentioned trying to hire people to work for the campus police.

“You can still have a good relationship with the humanity, and I feel like somebody that, that is a little more laid-back, is better,” Servis said.

Not going into it for the money is something he really takes pride in.

“I’m more interested in stopping bad behavior than getting financial return, which is what I fear most people want,” Servis said.

## Northwestern custodian greets everyone with a smile

By **BENJAMIN KIEWER**  
Senior Reporter

At 5 a.m., the Kilgore family rolled out of bed. Around 5:30 a.m., the cows were milked on the little farm in the Oklahoma Panhandle. After morning chores, the three boys headed off to school.

This was the routine of Dean Kilgore and his two brothers as they were raised on the family farm.

When not working on the farm, Kilgore played football, baseball and basketball at Tyrone High School as a young man.

In fact, all four years he played basketball, he made it into the Texas County All-Tournament team.

Kilgore has never stopped working — even at the age of 84.

“I think it’s good for me,” Kilgore said. “I think a person should stay active.”

Kilgore has been working on

**“I think a person should stay active.”**  
— **Dean Kilgore, custodian**

the Northwestern Alva campus since 1995, and he still greets everyone with a smile.

Not interested in the lifestyle of a farmer, Kilgore worked at Starr Lumber Company.

He changed jobs in 1961 and worked for the Panhandle Eastern Natural Gas Pipeline.

After ending up in the Alva office, Kilgore retired in 1995.

Kilgore said one of the moments that makes him proud and grateful in his life is that, in 34 years of work at Panhandle Eastern, he only used six sick days.

Kilgore married Evonne in 1958, and they had two children together.

Kilgore has helped care for his family and his wife, who is battling health issues.

“When all the responsibility comes back to you and you have to take care of everything, boy, it gets to be a job,” Kilgore said.

Soon after retiring in 1995, Kilgore told his wife he needed to be active.

When he saw the job opening at Northwestern, he applied and was immediately hired.

In 2010, he earned the Campus Kudos award, which is given to employees who are recognized for their kindness and friendliness toward others. And in 2016, he received the Thelma Crouch Staff Employee of the Year award. The award is named after a longtime Northwestern employee.

Kilgore said he enjoys working as a custodian in Carter Hall, home of the nursing program.

He said he likes the university’s professors and his supervisor. He still smiles at everyone.

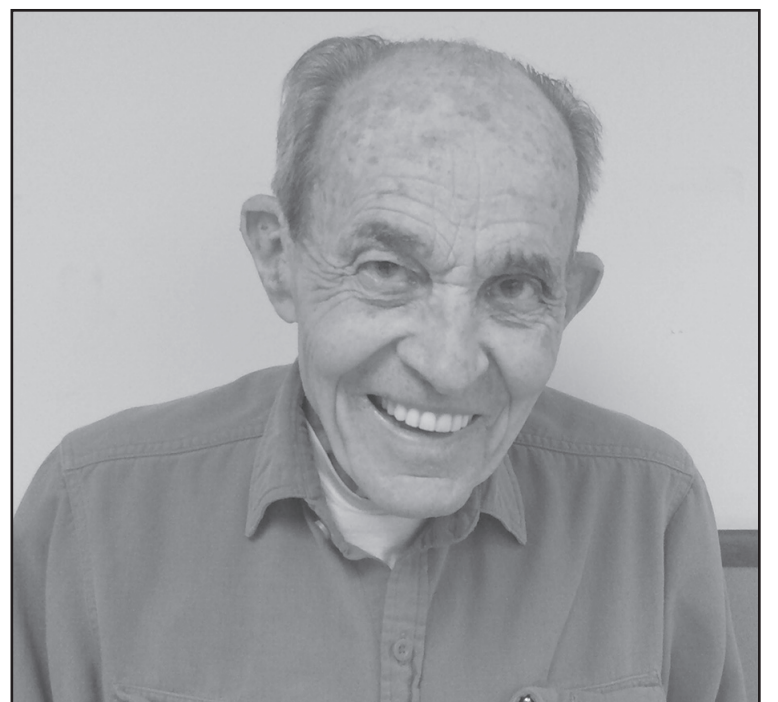


Photo by Benjamin Kiewer

Dean Kilgore poses for a photo in Carter Hall, where he is a custodian. At 84 years old, Kilgore works for Northwestern to stay active. He can be seen around campus, greeting everyone with a head nod and a smile.

# FEATURE



Photos provided

The new Northwestern Sports Hall of Fame inductees pose for a photo after receiving their awards during the halftime of the men's basketball game in Percefull Fieldhouse Feb. 5. Pictured above from left to right are: Bob Battisti (former

basketball coach and athletic director), Brittany (McBride) Johnson (women's basketball player from 2005 to 2007), Brandon Christenson (football player from 1995 to 2001), Bill Julson (baseball player from 1999 to 2001) and Dean

Farrow (baseball player from 1977 to 1981). The inductees attended and gave acceptance speeches at the Sports Hall of Fame banquet before the induction ceremony. Athletic Director Brad Franz presented the awards.

## Sports Hall of Fame gains 5 members

Northwestern welcomed Sports Hall of Fame members back to campus to induct five new members on Feb. 5



ABOVE: Hall of Fame members congratulate Bob Battisti, right, on his induction into the Hall of Fame. All members in attendance lined up across the gym floor to shake the new inductee's hands after receiving their award. RIGHT: Bill Julson waves to the crowd as his name is called to accept his award.





# SPORTS

## MEN'S BASKETBALL



Photos by Emma Sporleder

Eric Hancik looks to dribble past a defender during Northwestern's game against East Central on Saturday at Percefull Fieldhouse. The Rangers defeated the Tigers, 74-53.

## Rangers ride to sixth straight win



Brian Free dribbles the ball during Northwestern's game versus East Central Saturday at Percefull Fieldhouse.

By **CONNOR GRAY**  
Assistant Editor

The Northwestern men's basketball team got a victory over East Central after a week of rest because of snow and ice.

The Rangers were supposed to have two games last week. However, bad weather forced the game against Southwestern to be postponed.

Despite weather conditions, the team still practiced and focused on the game against East Central.

Though they were unable to play Thursday, changing gears was not difficult for the Rangers.

***"We want to be the best defense in the league."***

— **Vinay Patel,**  
head coach

"Our biggest focus was winning that practice," head coach Vinay Patel said. "So, we could mentally prepare for our next opponent."

Going into Saturday's matchup, Northwestern won the first game of the series, 73-71, in Ada back on Dec. 4, but this North-

western team has shown how good it is since then.

The first half of the game was mainly a back-and-forth affair, as each team traded blows until around the midway point of the first half. From that point on, Northwestern dominated the rest of the game.

Malik Parsons had another big game, with 20 points and shooting 4-5 three pointers. Bubba Furlong scored 14, with most of his points coming from dunks.

The team also dominated defensively, forcing turnovers and refusing to let East Central get a bucket in the paint and forcing the Tigers to shoot shots they did not want to take.

"That's where we start everything," Patel said. "We want to be the best defense in the league. As a coach, I pride myself on that end of the floor, and our guys have bought into that."

Parsons also said the team loves to pressure opponents, force turnovers and keep opponents on their heels.

The Rangers have moved their attention to Ouachita Baptist and Henderson State for Thursday and Saturday matchups.

When asked about what they will be preparing for upcoming games, Parsons had this to say:

"Just continue to do what we do to get stops and run in transition and keep playing together."

# SPORTS

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Lady Rangers rally to defeat Tigers

By **CONNOR GRAY**  
Assistant Editor

After the Northwestern Lady Rangers split two games last week, weather postponed the Southwestern game. But the team was able to play Saturday.

The Lady Rangers defeated the East Central Tigers, 79-74, with the game being close throughout the contest, even though neither team played for a week.

Last week, a snowstorm affected Oklahoma, which forced most schools to close down from Wednesday to the end of the week.

This turn of events postponed the rematch between the Lady Rangers and the Bulldogs to Tuesday, head coach Tasha Diesselhorst said.

However, the weather did not prevent the team from practicing. The Rangers were able to practice all three days and had to turn their attention to East Central immediately after finding out about the postponement.

"We were preparing for Southwestern when that game got canceled," Diesselhorst said. "I thought we did a great job for-

getting about Southwestern and moving onto ECU."

With their attention now on the Tigers, who beat the Lady Rangers 82-59 Dec. 4, the team was looking for payback.

The game was a back-and-forth affair until the Lady Rangers put together a solid effort in the fourth quarter to put themselves ahead.

The Tigers had to keep fouling in the final two minutes just to give themselves a chance, but it was to no avail as the Lady Rangers got a much-needed victory. Bailey Brown and Scout Frame were major factors in the game.

The team as a whole shot 52% from the field, with Brown and Frame having 27 and 25 points each.

The team will now put its attention on the road, as it will be in Arkansas to play Ouachita Baptist and Henderson State for Thursday and Saturday matchups.

The last time these teams played Northwestern, the Lady Rangers won.

"Ouachita had an amazing freshman guard in Aspen Thornton," Diesselhorst said. "At home, they'll probably play a little bit better."



Kes Reeves gets set during Northwestern's game against East Central on Saturday at Percefull Fieldhouse. Photo by Emma Sporeleder

## Softball team ready for season to begin

By **COLLIN ZINK**  
Student Reporter

The Northwestern Rangers softball team is looking forward to a new season after going 8-31 last season and finishing on a 12-game losing streak.

There is also a new coach in town, as the Rangers' new head coach is Ryan Wondrasek.

Although the previous softball season was not the outcome the Rangers were looking for, Wondrasek said he has high expectations for the team.

"For us, our goal is to compete and make the conference tournament," Wondrasek said.

Pitcher Hannah Howell, along with Abby DeTar, have conference tournament hopes as well.

In the 2021 season, the Rangers' opponents had a better batting average at .331, while the Rangers averaged .255. Wondrasek said the fans can expect a better outcome from the offense.

DeTar said fans can expect the team to give everything it has on the field.

"The fans should expect lots of fight and energy coming from this team," DeTar said. "Being able to work together on the field and at the plate will give us the most improvement."

Howell said she hopes fans will come to watch and see the

team succeed.

"I hope people can come to our games and enjoy the atmosphere and the energy that everyone on this team brings to the field," Howell said. "I also hope they can witness us winning some games and celebrating our successes with us."

Wondrasek said the team needs to improve on offense and defense.

"We are working to be better defensively by giving our pitchers a chance and improving offensively," Wondrasek said.

Howell said the team can make improvements on offense and defense as well.

**"The fans should expect lots of fight from this team."  
— Abby DeTar**

"I believe we can improve all around, and we are continuing to do so every day," Howell said. "We are seeing a more aggressive offense and strong defense, and these are both contributors that will make us successful this season."

DeTar said that how the team treats each other and helps each

other out will be an improvement.

"The main thing we can improve on is team comradery," DeTar said.

The team also has some strengths to go on with its conference tournament hopes.

Wondrasek said the team's depth in its roster is a strength.

Howell said another strength is the team's energy.

"I believe we have many strengths," Howell said. "A couple that stick out to me would be the energy everyone brings, whether it's practice or games. Another strength is our want to win. Every member of this team is ready to come out and win some games."

DeTar said the team stands behind each other and has an improved defense.

"The biggest strength we have is being able to work together and rally behind each other," DeTar said. "We also have stepped up our defense tremendously, which I think will be a considerable strength this year."

The softball season starts Feb. 11 in Lubbock, Texas, with the Rangers playing Colorado Christian University at the Lubbock Christian Festival.

The Rangers will make their home debut Feb. 15 when they take on Newman University in a doubleheader with games at 2 and 4 p.m.



A member of the Northwestern softball team gets ready to catch the ball. Photo provided

## Alva State Bank & Trust Company

Older than Oklahoma

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

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

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

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



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

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

# FEATURE

## A lifelong painter, art professor Larson's work continues to evolve through time

By AUSTIN MORTON  
Senior Reporter

Slim roads going nowhere for miles, vast empty plains stretching even further and the inability to see one's family.

These were the inspirations for Kyle Larson's latest painting, titled "The Road Home," which can be seen on his website, [www.kyle-larson.com](http://www.kyle-larson.com).

Larson has been an associate professor of art at Northwestern since 2015. He lived in Boston, Massachusetts, and moved to Alva after working with the campus artist-in-residence program.

Larson's time with art started when he was young and needed quiet time away from his siblings.

It allowed him to be immersed in himself, his imagination and his surroundings, he said.

He uses painting as a way to express his self-image, creating works that reflect his thoughts on his world and how the world affects him.

"To me, drawing and painting is thinking," Larson said.

Larson said he takes his passion for art and uses it when teaching his students.



Photo provided

NWOSU art professor Kyle Larson's latest work, "The Road Home."

He said he believes everyone has artistic talent, no matter their background with art.

He wants to show students that art has deeper meaning, and that it's an exploratory medium.

Larson said art is a way for people to find themselves with their own media – a way to slow down and sharpen one's eyes.

He still thinks this way and attempts to put this focus on his

own works.

All of his pieces hold value to him, but he has trouble picking a favorite – other than whatever work was done most recently.

His works evolve and change just like any person does through the years, and he can see these changes in his art.

"I feel like a snake shedding its skin, and I can see my old work in my new work," Larson said.

### ALVA VISION CLINIC

Large selection of Oakley,  
Ray Ban, Wylie X  
Silhouette ... Contacts  
w/multifocal and  
astigmatism



Pre- and post-OP Lasix

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

MON. & THURS. 8A.M. - 5:30P.M.  
TUES. & WED: 7:30A.M. - 5:30P.M.  
CLOSED FROM 12P.M. - 1P.M.  
CLOSED FRIDAYS

5:15PM APPT TIMES DAILY!

FOR AN APPOINTMENT CALL  
(580)-327-2393

AFTER HOURS CALL  
(580)-829-2026

ACCEPTED  
INSURANCE:

VSP, PVCS, MEDICARE,  
VISION CARE DIRECT,  
SOONERCARE, BCBS,  
EYE MED AND  
HEALTHCHOICE

"Complex contacts RX are our specialty"

Dr. Troy L. Smith  
504 College Ave

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

1-bedroom apartments available!

Within walking distance of campus  
School semester leases  
Laundromat on site

Sorry, no pets and no smoking in  
apartments.