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Students hoping for changes at gym facility

Wellness Center staff to host forum Monday asking for input about dress code, equipment

By **GAVIN MENDOZA**
Senior Reporter

J.R. Holder Wellness Center staff will host a forum Monday to discuss how the university's gym can be improved.

The forum will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Wellness Center, and it is open to students, faculty, staff and community members.

Wellness Center Director Olivia Yandel said she is excited to hear about what people want to see improved.

"It is really just kind of open for the community to come in and voice their opinions or their concerns, their ideas and things they would like to see and do not like about the facility," Yandel said.

The forum comes in response to an opinion column written in January by Northwestern News Editorial Editor J.D. Eddy, who said the facility needs new equipment. The column caught the attention of Northwestern administrators.

"I commend J.D. for doing that because, you know, it really shed a light on the facility and actually grabbed our administrators' attention," Yandel said.

The Wellness Center is one of the most highly trafficked places on campus, and it is important to keep it up-to-date, Yandel said. Yandel said she expects to hear students talk not only about equipment, but also about the facility's dress code.

"I know one of the hot topics that we will probably see get brought up is the tank-top rule and the dress code in general," Yandel said. "That is probably the No. 1 complaint."

The dress code and other rules have been in place since the beginning of the Wellness Center, and they focus on

See **WELLNESS**, Page 3



HUNG OUT TO DRY

Student behavior, broken equipment make doing laundry difficult in dorms

By **KAYLEA BROWN** | Senior Reporter

The cycle of malfunctions and repairs of washing and drying machines in the residence halls on Northwestern's campus is never-ending.

Matt Adair, Northwestern's housing director, said this is one of the most common complaints the head residents of the dorms hear about.

"As far as things most often used that people would notice immediately if it's not working properly, it'd be washers and dryers, ice machines and lobby televisions," Adair said.

Some residents have complained about washers and dryers that are not working. Others say they are frustrated that some people who use the machines don't move their clothes after they're done, blocking other students from using the limited number of machines available.

"My biggest problem is actually kind of a tie," said Camille Soderstrom, a 21-year-old senior English education major from Bartlesville living in South Hall.

"People will just take your laundry out of the dryer, even if it's still drying, or they'll take it out of the washing machine and just leave it there to sour. ... It's a tie between that and how often either a washer breaks down or a dryer breaks down, and then it's just left there for a week before maintenance gets to it."

REPAIRS DELAYED

The process of fixing washers and dryers takes longer than some other repairs because of parts, Adair said. When a maintenance request comes in, the maintenance crew evaluates the problem, determines what needs to be replaced and then orders parts.

The current delay in the repairs of washers and dryers comes from the time it takes for the parts to be delivered, Adair said.

Not all residence halls have the same number of

See **LAUNDRY**, Page 3

A dryer in Coronado Hall that is missing its "start" button is shown on Tuesday. Northwestern students say doing laundry in the dorms can be difficult because of a lack of available, working laundry machines.

Photo by Jordan Green

NEWS

TRANSITION OF POWER: COVERING THE PRESIDENCY

Search committee members named

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

Several Northwestern alumni and community members have been appointed to a search committee involved in finding a new university president.

Northwestern officials announced Monday that 10 community members, three regents, two faculty members, one administrator and one student are among the people appointed to the committee.

The group is tasked with finding a replacement for Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham, who announced her retirement in January.

The search committee's first meeting was Feb. 18, officials said. The committee met with leaders of Higher Education Leadership Search, a nationwide firm the Regional University System of Oklahoma

has hired to recruit candidates for the job.

The student on the committee is Erika Hernandez, a senior education major from Laverne. Here's the rundown of people on the committee.

REGENTS, NWSU EMPLOYEES:

- **Regent Eric Fisher, the committee chair**
- **Regent Jane McDermott**
- **Regent Chris Van Denhende**
- **Dr. Roxie James, chair of the Department of English, Foreign Language and Humanities**
- **Dr. Dean Scarbrough, chair of the Department of Agriculture**
- **Dr. David Pecha, vice president for administration**
- **Kevin Fields, health and safety officer**

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

- **Jim Dunning, owner at ICT-CPA**
- **Tom Evans, corporate valuation at Encompass Financial Services**
- **Todd Holder, Alva State Bank and Holder Drug**
- **Dwight Hughes, superintendent and CEO at Autry Technology Center**
- **Alexa Humphries, financial adviser at Edward Jones**
- **Connor Martin, Alva City Council member and owner of Peak Environment**
- **Janice Melton, former warden at Bill Johnson Correctional Center**
- **L.D. Rapp, Northwestern Foundation chair**
- **Kyle Reynolds, superintendent of Woodward Public Schools**
- **John Ryerson, owner at Starr Lumber Company**

The search committee will review candidates' application materials, narrowing down the number of candidates and preparing a list of finalists. From that list, the three regents on the committee will 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.

This is the first presidential search process at Northwestern in nearly 20 years because Cunningham was appointed to the presidency without such a search in 2006. The new president will take office July 1.

The university has created a web page with information about the search process. People can find the page by typing "Presidential Search" into the A-Z index on Northwestern's website, and by following the link <https://www.nwsu.edu/presidential-search>.

Spring Showcase set for Saturday

By **MALLORY PARUSZEWSKI**
Student Reporter

Northwestern's annual Spring Showcase recruitment event will take place on campus Saturday.

High school juniors and seniors, as well as college students interested in transferring to Northwestern, will have the opportunity to learn more about the campus, tour the school's departments and see what it's like to be a Ranger, officials say.

The event begins at 10 a.m. Once arriving in Alva, attendees will check in at the Student Center.

They'll also visit Percefull Fieldhouse and tour campus.

Current students at Northwestern will set up booths and activities to show what it's like to be a Ranger, event organizers said. The booths showcase different clubs and degree programs at

"We are hoping to have a good turnout and are ready to talk with new students about the tremendous opportunities Northwestern has to offer."
— *Matt Adair*

Northwestern.

They also help students look at the different career paths they can take.

"We are hoping to have a good turnout and are ready to talk with new students about the tremendous opportunities Northwestern has to offer," said Matt Adair, assistant dean of student affairs and recruitment. "We are so excited to have the opportunity to welcome



File photo

High school students and college transfer students sign up for admission to Northwestern during the 2020 Spring Showcase. This year's event is set for Saturday, allowing students to learn more about Northwestern.

prospective freshmen and transfer students to campus."

Students who attend Spring Showcase will receive a free Northwestern application, lunch,

a T-shirt and admission to the Ranger baseball game. Students who attend will also get a \$500 scholarship to attend Northwestern.

This is Northwestern's first in-person Spring Showcase since 2020. The event was virtual in 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.



Photo by Jordan Green

The Chamber of Commerce building is shown in this January photo.

Chamber of Commerce Gala to honor community members

By **SHANNON NESSERALLA**
Senior Reporter

The Alva Chamber of Commerce's annual Citizens Choice Awards Gala will honor several Alva community members and businesses, Chamber officials said.

The banquet begins Thursday at 6 p.m. at 4 Generations Organic, 2878 College Blvd.

Award categories include:

Citizen of the Year, Educator of the Year, Small and Large Business of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

"Area businesses and civil leaders will gather at 4 Generations Organic for a networking and social hour with appetizers and drinks," said Alva Chamber of Commerce Director Jodie Bradford. "The evening's program includes highlights from throughout the year as well as recognition of the incoming board of

directors."

Other awards will be given as well, and some people with Northwestern ties have been nominated.

Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham has been nominated for the Educator of the Year award, and Northwestern Fine Arts professor Kimberly Weast has been nominated for the Arts, Music & Theatre Award.

Tickets to the event will be sold at the door for \$25 each.

NEWS



Laundry sits in a washing machine in Coronado Hall after it was washed on Tuesday. Students say those who leave their laundry in machines long after it's done are hogging up machines other students need to use.

Photo by Jordan Green

LAUNDRY: Equipment availability lacking

Continued from Page 1

washers and dryers. Adair said the number of washers and dryers in each dorm was determined by the maintenance crew and the director of maintenance based on the availability of electricity and drain lines.

Adair said the maintenance crew replaces between eight and 10 washers and dryers every year.

COMMON COMPLAINTS

Tanner Hamilton, a 20-year-old sophomore from Tulsa majoring in health and sports science, said he has had to go to a different floor in his dorm, Ament Hall, to find working laundry machines.

During Hamilton's first year at Northwestern, one washer was out of commission for a month. In the fall 2021 semester, a washer on the third floor was also broken.

Hamilton said he thinks having more washers and dryers in the dorms would be helpful, but he has not had much trouble finding a washer or dryer available.

Fryer Hall resident assistant Brianna Berryman, a 23-year-old senior biology health science major from Guthrie, said machine availability is one of the issues she faces when doing laundry in the dorms. She said it's also one of the complaints she hears the most from residents.

Berryman said she sets a timer to remind herself when her laundry will be done. Then, she gets her clothes out of the washer or dryer so other students can use the equipment.

"For some odd reason, there's always someone who doesn't put their [room] tag out, and they'll leave their clothes in there forever," Berryman said.

Coronado Hall resident Rosco Setzer, a 20-year-old junior agriculture education major from Chelsea, said he has also had issues with laundry machine availability. Setzer said drying his clothes can take hours because the dryers cannot handle large loads of laundry.

Coronado has two separate

rooms on the third floor for laundry. One room has five washers, and the other has seven dryers. Right now, one dryer is not working because it has a broken "start" button. Another spins, but it does not heat up.

WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO

Laney Neal, a South Hall resident assistant and a 20-year-old sophomore nursing student from Fort Worth, Texas, said this is one of the complaints she hears the most from other residents in South Hall.

Neal said the dryers on the second floor of South Hall take a long time to dry clothes regardless of how many clothes she has in at one time.

Neal said students should notify resident assistants about broken machines.

"If one of them is broken, you need to come tell the RAs," Neal said. "We can't know if every washer and dryer is broken without being told."

also had problems, but Yandel said it should be working again by the end of the week.

Callie Haneborg, a sophomore pre-med major from North Platte, Nebraska, said she uses the Wellness Center a lot and would like to see some improvements.

"To improve the Wellness Center, I think it would be nice to have more squat racks and room around the dumbbell area since that is what most people use when lifting," Haneborg said.

Haneborg said she does not use the machines too much. But when she does, she said they work well. She said she has no complaints about the rules in the Wellness Center.

"I think the rules are fine how

they are," she said. "There are not very many, so it makes it pretty easy to follow them."

Connor Gibson, a junior biology major from Emmett, Idaho, said he also would like to see more squat racks.

"I would like to see the Wellness Center add ... at least one more bench rack, but other than that, I would not change anything for the equipment," Gibson said.

Gibson said he uses the machines every time he works out, but he is not particularly fond of the dress code.

"I do not like the rules about not being able to wear cut offs in the Wellness Center," he said. "But I do like the fact that they allow hats now."

What's up?

MARCH 2

All artwork for the 19th annual Northwestern Oklahoma State University Art Society Art Show must be turned in at the library March 2 by 5 p.m.

The show will be open March 6 through March 25 in the J.W. Martin Library and is open to the public during regular library hours. The show has a new category this year, "coloring."

The art show is open to all Northwestern students, alumni and current and retired employees.

The deadline to submit entry forms for the show was Feb. 23.

Anyone with questions or needing more information should contact Angelia Case at arcase@nwosu.edu.

MARCH 3 AND 4

WOODWARD

Northwestern's Department of Social Work and Woodward High School Key Club are co-sponsoring the "Primp for Prom" event March 3 from 1 to 7 p.m. and March 4 from 9 a.m. to noon at Woodward High

School.

Primp for Prom is an annual spring event in Woodward for area high school students to pick out a formal dress and accessories at no charge. More than 300 formal dresses in all sizes, styles and colors will be waiting for high school students from the northwest tristate area.

Sponsors are still actively seeking formal dresses, shoes and jewelry donations. To donate in the Woodward area, contact Dr. Kylene Rehder at kdrehder@nwosu.edu or Stefanie Alexander at 580-256-2858. Formal attire also may be dropped off at Woodward High School at 13th and Downs Avenue in Woodward.

To donate in Alva, contact Andrea Lauderdale, social work department secretary, at amlauderdale@nwosu.edu. To donate in Enid, contact Codi Harding, assistant professor of social work, at clharding@nwosu.edu.

GOT NEWS? Email the Northwestern News
nwnews@nwosu.edu

WELLNESS: Students want to have more exercise equipment, less strict dress code

Continued from Page 1

individuals' safety, she said.

"I see both sides and how that wearing a tank top is nice in the gym, but then I also see the administration side of, you know, we don't want this place to be a greasy, sweaty, nasty gym," Yandel said.

Yandel said she also expects that people will say they want newer, and more, equipment.

"I do not think our equipment is bad by any means because it all works well for how old it is, and I commend the previous staff for keeping that equipment running," Yandel said. "But I can definitely see how students think it is out of date."

The hot tub in the facility has

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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.

All letters represent the views of the author.

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Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

OPINION

A PLACE TO PARK IT



Photos by Jordan Green

ABOVE: Trucks are parked in the Ament Hall parking lot on Northwestern's campus shown on Tuesday. BELOW: Empty parking spaces south of campus are shown on Tuesday. The author believes that Northwestern has plenty of parking space, unlike other universities across Oklahoma.

Northwestern has ample parking space

By J.D. EDDY
Editorial Editor

Northwestern is a small campus with an undergraduate population of 1,642, but our parking situation does not reflect that.

The university website doesn't say how much parking is available on campus, but there never seems to be a shortage of places to park.

I live in Ament Hall, which is on the west side of the campus. Most of the students who live there are athletes.

The dorm has three parking lots that for the total occupancy of Ament, which is 184.

Other campuses around Oklahoma do not have as much parking availability. At places like OU and UCO, students are not within walking distance of everything campus-related.

OU has an enrollment of 31,255 students, according to the university website. The university has seven residence halls on campus. Oklahoma's campus is 4.7 square miles.

Northwestern is only one square mile, enabling the school to have all of the dormitories within a five-minute walk of every building on campus.

Northwestern students are fortunate because they have plenty of parking and short walks to classes.

Finding information about parking at other colleges is diffi-



cult, but students complain about it frequently on Reddit.

It is safe to say that a large university would not want to talk about any issues it has. But students on Reddit hold nothing back.

Some of the things said aren't meant for a school paper, but assume it is something along the lines of "This sucks," with a few extra expletives.

These are some of the reasons I think Northwestern has the parking situation under control.

Around campus, a few places like Vinson Hall have parking lots on either side.

Parking lots are connected to

the Wellness Center, but the only downside is that, during the day from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., students who do not have a commuter parking permit aren't allowed to park there.

This is one of the things I wish the university would change regarding student parking. But to make up for this detriment, the school has parking by the tennis courts directly behind the Welly.

Students who live on campus can park behind the Wellness Center and have a shorter walk to their classes. It's minimal, but the walk is shorter.

My dad told me that, when he went to school here, there was

more than enough parking for students. He graduated from Northwestern in 1978. Around that time, even with the oil embargo, there was always somewhere for students and others to park.

Northwestern has more than enough parking to accommodate all of its students, which hopefully means students have less to complain about.

Over the past few weeks, I have written about things the school could be doing better. But parking is one area where Northwestern is already doing well.

While some issues on campus could use improvement, parking is not one of them.

OPINION



UNMUTE YOURSELF

STUDENT PRESS FREEDOM DAY

FEB. 24, 2022

Graphic provided

Pushing for transparency is what we do

**JORDAN
GREEN
SAYS**



JORDAN
GREEN

On holidays like Student Press Freedom Day (that's today), journalists love to quote important American thought leaders who valiantly defended the First Amendment. (Despite the fact, of course, that some of those same leaders are slandered in the public dialogue the rest of the year).

One of the press's favorite free speech quotes is from former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson, who wrote in a 1787 letter: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Journalists often end the quote there. Ran out of space, I suppose. But a thinking reader (and journalist) would research and read on a little further. Jefferson's next line in that letter read: "[B]ut I should mean that every man should receive those papers

& be capable of reading them."

There we go. Because a society in which information is plentiful, but none is useful, will not prosper.

So, what does all of this have to do with student newspapers – and press freedom, for that matter? More than you might think.

Student newspapers like the Northwestern News aim to provide students with information they need to have successful, meaningful educational careers. A big part of that is done by ensuring that the people in charge of our education – an institution's bureaucratic leadership, its faculty and staff – are being honest and transparent.

College isn't cheap, and our investment is supposed to pay dividends, educators say. But just like with the products we buy at the store, we as consumers expect quality control protocols to be in place. That's what the newspaper does.

Student newspapers have a duty to show students what their money is being spent on and what university leaders are doing, if anything, to improve learning outcomes. We've been trying to do just that at the Northwestern News this year by talking

about construction projects on campus, and by showing how our university leaders are responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

Student newspapers also have a duty to explore the inner workings of higher education.

That topic is on our minds right now as Northwestern searches for a new president. The university president is the most influential person here, at least when discussing the university's finances. Students and taxpayers have a right to know how the people who spend their money are selected, and they also have a right to help choose them. Don't we get what we pay for?

The Northwestern News, without stating a preferred successor to Dr. Cunningham, aims to highlight what students, faculty and staff want in a new leader. We're doing that by talking with students about their hopes for the future of Northwestern, by highlighting the challenges our university faces and by shining a light on the search process.

We'll unabashedly push for Northwestern to reveal to us who is applying for the job. As Americans, we choose people to

represent us in countless public bodies, and universities should be treated no differently as taxpayer-funded and student-funded entities.

We have the right to do all of this and more thanks to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It was the first for a reason. But while exposing truth is a great mission, the greatest task we student journalists have is to make that information accessible and useful for all people.

We do that by distributing our newspaper for free around campus, as we always have. We also do it by publishing our work online at www.northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com, and on our Facebook page, Northwestern News (NWOSU).

The First Amendment grants us the right to report that which is truthful and accurate, and it tasks us to, as this year's slogan says, "umute ourselves."

Our job as student journalists is not to exact any particular kind of change, but to push officials to release all of the information students need to make their own decisions.

That's what student newspapers do.

Public schools should teach about the Bible

By **BRAEDEN COOK**
Guest Columnist

It is time to teach about the Bible in public schools. The true impact of the Bible is immeasurable. It is a huge part of the foundation of Western Culture. Countless conflicts throughout history have been fought because of it.

Its teachings have given hope and purpose to billions. The public education most of our students receive does them a disservice. It excludes study of this monumental text of our society. The

Bible should be a part of the United States educational curriculum because: it is a predominant part of Western Culture, it is a key piece of American history that should be understood by the general public, and students should be encouraged in understanding the ideology that so many people believe to be true.

The influence of the Bible on a global scale has been quite profound.

There have been many people throughout history that have fought, lived and died for the ideas found in the Bible. Chris-

tians today are the most persecuted religious group in the world. There have been times when the Bible has been construed to justify great evil in the persecution of people by other groups, such as the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition and the Ku Klux Klan.

The Bible has also inspired great acts of good and selfless service: feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and fighting for the justice of those persecuted in the past and today.

If any other book had made such an impact and had touched so many people, it would be a

vital topic to be taught already. The very notion of Natural Law found in the Declaration of Independence shows how, even in the founding of this nation, the Bible had its influence.

Why is such a significant piece of history and culture excluded from the average curriculum? Many would say it is unconstitutional because of the separation of church and state.

It is a religious text to Jews and Christians; however, that does not lessen the impact it has made in the world. Students have the right to learn about something

so impactful. Why do they learn about the Civil War? It is because of its impact and the changes it has brought.

In the same way, the Bible has impacted and changed the world, and yet it is maybe mentioned in a high school history class twice.

How long will this continue? We all need to stand up and work to give our students a well-rounded education that helps them better understand the world around them.

Braeden Cook is the chairman of the Northwestern College Republicans Club.

Franz changes career to make time for her children

By KAYLEE JO NEELEY
For the Northwestern News

After making a hurried phone call to her husband and going on a 56-mile trip, Northwestern alumna Kylie Franz arrived at the hospital. Despite spending 17 hours under the close watch of doctors, she finally experienced one of the most memorable moments in her life.

At 4:31 p.m. Dec. 6, 2018, Franz birthed her first child, Emma.

Franz, a former Northwestern basketball coach, had always dreamed of becoming a mother. It's one of her greatest accomplishments, she said.

Now, she's changed her career path to embrace the journey of motherhood.

"Becoming a mom is the most rewarding but challenging thing I have done," Franz said. "It is not at all like I pictured it would be, but I wouldn't change it for the world."

LOOKIN' FOR LOVE AND PLAYING BASKETBALL

Kylie and her husband, Jordan Franz, met at the beginning of her freshman year of college. She said he was shooting hoops in the gym and walked over to her and introduced himself. Two years after that encounter, he proposed.

They got married in September of her junior year, and they spent the first six months apart. Jordan was coaching at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, and Kylie was in Weatherford, playing her junior year of basketball at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Although Kylie said she loved playing college basketball, she decided not to play during her senior year. She was graduating in May and didn't want to spend another year living apart from her husband, so she decided it was time to give up the game.

She graduated with her bachelor's degree in 2016. In 2018, she graduated with a master's degree from Northwestern.

Franz and her husband, Jordan Franz, have two children. Emma turned 3 in December. Their second child, Jimmer, was born in November.

LESSONS LEARNED AND FRIENDSHIPS MADE

Franz said one of the most important things to remember as a mother is to just show up for your children.

"I don't ever want to miss out on anything my children do," Franz said.

Franz said she believes her greatest purpose in life is to make sure that her children know they are taken care of and loved deeply. She said she learned how important this is when she formed a bond with her Grandpa Jim, who always made sure his family was taken care of.

James Boggess, Franz's father, said Franz is too humble to admit she is an amazing mother to both of her children.

He said it is apparent she enjoys being a mother.

"There is no greater gift than to be loved by this amazing woman," Boggess said.

Jordan said one of Kylie's greatest qualities is that she is a loving mother.

"Seeing how much she loves being a mom and how she enjoys taking care of our kids — it really has been amazing to watch," he said.

Even before pursuing her collegiate career, Kylie used basketball as a way to show friendship and dedication.

She met her lifelong friend, Ashley Almond, through high school basketball. However, Almond didn't see her as a friend until their years at Piedmont High School.

Before they were friends, Almond said that she was intimidated by Franz but eventually came to think of her as a big sister. Franz took Almond under her wing and



The Franz family of four poses for a Thanksgiving Day picture before their dinner. Photos provided

would drive her to practice every day, which is where their friendship started, she said.

Almond tore her ACL and had to sit out for part of her senior year of high school. When Franz found out, she wrote on her basketball shoes to honor her injured teammate.

"She wanted to do this to remind herself to give it her all while playing," Almond said. "This is just another example to show how big of a heart she has for others."

Almond has been friends with Franz for more than 10 years and said she has seen her press through many obstacles.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES AND INJURIES

For more than three years in college basketball, Franz played with torn ligaments in her shoulder. Boggess said there were some days when she wouldn't even be able to lift her shooting arm.

"No matter how bad she hurt, she was always there for her teammates on game day," Boggess said.

After Franz got to compete in the NCAA national tournament her sophomore year of college, she had to undergo surgery.

"I think I have always admired her toughness," Jordan Franz said. "She never complained, wanted to sit out or quit."

Even though her injury was one of the greatest difficulties in her life, Franz said, she still got to play the sport she loved.

Boggess said the most amazing thing to see was Franz's determination to be on the basketball court.

"She has always been driven to be the best at what she attempts," Boggess said.

FORGING A NEW CAREER PATH

After she received her bachelor's degree, she worked as the assistant athletic director

at Southwestern for three years. Franz then worked at Northwestern for five years as a graduate assistant and assistant coach for the women's basketball team.

Then, she realized she wanted to change course.

In June, she started a job as a parent educator at Northwest Family Services. A parent educator help parents gain the knowledge and skills they need to raise physically, mentally and emotionally healthy children, she said.

Boggess said Franz has a big heart for the people around her.

"She will work harder than anyone," Boggess said. "She pushes herself hard, but at the same time, she will always help those who are struggling."

Franz said she realized that, with her baby coming, she wasn't going to have enough time because of her old job to spend time with her children.

"This job allows me to be home more with my children," Franz said.

Franz's boss, Kathy Gordon, said she has seen some of Franz's best attributes on the job.

"Kylie's best quality is the ability to treat each and every person equally and not judging them based on their current situation," Gordon said.

Franz said her parents are some of her greatest influences, as they taught her to be dedicated and to support others.

"They always showed up, whether it was a sporting event or an event for school," she said. "They never missed anything."

Franz said she has learned to believe that life isn't all about work. She believes people should enjoy life in spite of the trials they face.

"Through it all, Kylie has not let it change who she is," Almond said. "She still loves people deeply and finds ways to keep moving forward."



ABOVE: Kylie and Jordan Franz married during on Sept. 5, 2015. RIGHT: Kylie Franz holds a 2014 GAC Conference Champions women's basketball trophy. She was playing at Southwestern at the time.

"I do what I do because I love helping people. I love being able to help families focus on their child's growth and development."

— Kylie Franz



Emma Franz, 3, holds her little brother, Jimmer, who was born in November.



Kylie Franz, second from left, is shown during a Northwestern basketball game. She was the Northwestern women's basketball team's assistant coach and graduate assistant from 2016 to 2021.

FEATURE

Professor writes character-driven stories

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Features Editor

Lean muscles cling to his tall, stout frame.

His dark, tan skin is a sign of his heritage and homeland, Samoa.

The trauma of being a black-ops agent runs his everyday life, down to living off the barter system to pay for necessities.

A private detective in Kansas City, he refuses to investigate any type of personal cases — until a 12-year-old girl is brought to him, beaten and bloody.

He learns his target is trafficking children, thrusting him into a deeply personal case.

This man is Rami, the protagonist of English assistant professor Dawn Allen's latest manuscript.

A lifelong writer and educa-

tor, Allen teaches classes such as composition, advanced writing theory and creative writing.

She is a published author of numerous novels and short stories, with her specialty being crime fiction.

"I always start my stories with a character."
— Dawn Allen

"I always start my stories with a character," Allen said. "Some people start with the plot of the story and then add characters. I want to know my character first, then figure out what I want to do to them."

As a writer, Allen said she prioritizes research and journaling to develop her characters into the complex individuals who live within her stories.

"I'll spend months researching information about my characters," she said.

"With Rami, I had to learn all about the Samoan culture and beliefs. Then I journaled for weeks to figure out the things that I couldn't research.

"I wanted to figure out what made him who he was and why."

Allen said she finds her inspiration in the people she sees every day.

"People are so fascinating," Allen said. "All my characters come from real people I've met in real life, even if it was 20 years ago — in particular, my students, because they're who I've spent the most of my adult time with."



Photo provided

English professor Dawn Allen's specialty is writing crime fiction.

Students discuss future plans, importance of education choice

By **REBECCA WAGNER**
Student Reporter

Northwestern students have a variety of options to choose from when selecting a major.

The Northwestern News asked some students what their future plans are and why they think their major is important.

Health and sports science education major Jean Dodds said she is looking forward to student teaching.

"I like observing classrooms because it gives me an idea as to how it will be like when I am a teacher," Dodds said.

Dodds said she thinks her major is important because she's influencing the lives of children and impacting their education.

Cornie Dennis, an agriculture education major, said she is passionate about her field.

"People need to know the importance of agriculture," Dennis said. "I definitely know the [FFA] chapter I was a part of changed my life, so the idea of it being more than agriculture is important. Agriculture teaches people skills and lets them reach out to new people."

Dennis said she also is looking forward to teaching children.

"I want to make an impact on

"Agriculture teaches people skills and lets them reach out to new people."
— Cornie Dennis

students," Dennis said. "I feel joy in letting a student know how much they are worth, along with getting to advocate for agriculture at the same time is super cool."

English literature major Angel Marshall said her major is important because it teaches both oral and written communication skills.

"I look forward to furthering my knowledge in graduate school," Marshall said.

Savannah Francis, a political science major, said her major affects many people.

"It gives a greater understanding on how the government operates and how it benefits us as a society," Francis said. "I am looking forward to going to the University of Oklahoma Law School after graduating this year."

Psychology major Anderson

Ramirez said he wants to help others.

"I'm looking forward to my degree, to help people with many of their problems," Ramirez said.

"Psychology is the study of the mind, so I would help with disorders. I want to help the world."

Shamon "Shay" Martin, a special education major, said he wants to help children who struggle with reading comprehension.

"I want to be a role model for kids who are struggling or just be their support," Martin said. "I want to be the best teacher for students who struggle with reading."

Health and sports science education major Tramon Jackson said he wants to influence the lives of children as a coach.

"I want to be a coach so I can get kids off the streets in Oklahoma City," Jackson said. "I want to help the kids have a successful life."

"To show kids what to do and what not to do so they don't mess up. I want the kids I influence to be successful."



Ramirez



Martin



Jackson



Dodds



Dennis



Marshall



Francis

Outstanding Senior Award applications due in March

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Northwestern News

The Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association is preparing to recognize the 2022 Outstanding Seniors.

Seniors who graduated in December 2021 or are set to graduate in spring/summer 2022 are encouraged to apply for the 2022 Outstanding Senior honor.

Applicants must have: **Completed a minimum of 60 hours at Northwestern Oklahoma State University; have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average or higher at time of graduation; and were not subject to academic or disciplinary action.**

Complete application packets must be received in the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association office March 8 by 5 p.m.

The Northwestern Foundation office is located inside the

northwest corner of the Student Center building on the Alva campus.

Packets should be addressed to Wendi Stonehocker, 709 Oklahoma Blvd., Alva, OK 73717.

Application materials include: a cover letter, a resume, one to three letters of recommendation (from administrators, faculty, community members and supervisors), a current photo and an official transcript. Note that omission of any one application requirement will disqualify an applicant from consideration of selection.

After review and selection by the Outstanding Seniors Selection Committee, applicants will be contacted. Outstanding Seniors will be recognized at the Spring Alumni Reunion on April 30.

For more information, contact Stonehocker at 580-327-8593 or westonehocker@nwo-su.edu

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ENTERTAINMENT

Singers perform at Red Tie Jazz celebration



Photos by Emma Sporleder

The Northwestern Singers performed a variety of music at the Red Tie Jazz celebration on Woodward campus Feb 15. The event celebrated the 25 years since the campus opened.

A night of music, celebration for Woodward campus's 25th year



Max Ridgway, an adjunct music instructor, performed at the event. He played various instrumental songs.

My Mother

Poem by Collin Zink

*I have a mother who is royalty
I have a mother who is kind
I have a mother who is loyal
She is peace in my mind
She is beautiful beyond compare
The demons tremble in their lair
Queen of Heaven, Queen of Earth
To her children she gives care
She saves from the serpent's snare
When we call for her care
My mother is beautiful, my mother is kind
Her name is Mary, who is divine.*

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SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL



Photos by Devyn Lansden

Northwestern Ranger forward guard No. 23 Ravel Moody attempts to defend Harding University player Stetson Smithson during the men's game Saturday in Percefull Fieldhouse.

Rangers stay hot at home



Northwestern Rangers guard forward Anthony Jones blocks a Harding University player during the men's basketball game Saturday in Percefull Fieldhouse. The Rangers swept Harding, 100-94, during the game.

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Assistant Editor

After clinching a spot in the Great American Conference tournament, the Northwestern men's basketball team answered with season sweeps on Arkansas Tech and Harding.

The celebration was short, though, as the Rangers needed to be ready to play the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys and the Harding Bisons with one day of rest.

The Rangers' first opponent was the Wonder Boys, whom the team defeated, 83-67, in January after jumping out to a hot start in the second half. And the Rangers didn't look back.

The game was similar to last time, but the Wonder Boys were never truly out of the game. The first half was close, with the Rangers only up by six.

The Rangers cruised through most of the half, being up by 14 around the 5-minute mark of the second half.

The Wonder Boys clawed back into it to get within five, but the Ranger defense held off to win, 84-75.

Malik Parsons got 21 points, adding another game where he has been the heart of the team's scoring.

The Rangers' next opponent

was the Harding Bison, who gave the Rangers a fight in the previous meeting, 83-80.

The first half was a back-and-forth affair, with the Rangers managing to tie it going into half-time.

The second half was a poor start, as the Rangers got behind.

Harding went on a 9-1 run as the Rangers struggled to make a stop.

The Rangers took a timeout to recollect themselves. But according to Vinay Patel, the head coach of the Rangers, he didn't have to say anything.

"They were saying most of the things in the timeout," Patel said. "They knew we weren't playing to the best of their ability, and they pulled it out of each other."

After that timeout, the Rangers came out firing and tied the game up by going on a run of their own.

The Rangers took the lead and attempted to extend the lead several times, but Harding kept the game close into the final minutes.

The Rangers won, 100-94, their highest point total against a conference opponent this season.

Malik Parsons had 25 points, which is the most he has scored all season.

With two final games, the team will need a win over Southern Nazarene to keep the third seed in the GAC.

SPORTS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lady Rangers clinch GAC tourney



Photo by Devyn Lansden

Northwestern Lady Ranger point guard Kes Reeves looks to pass the ball during the Feb. 15 game. The Rangers won their last two games.

By CONNOR GRAY
Assistant Editor

After losing two of their last three games, the Lady Rangers got much-needed wins against Arkansas Tech on Feb. 17 and Harding on Saturday to clinch the conference tournament.

After playing Southwestern on Feb. 15, the Lady Rangers needed to rebound quickly against the Arkansas Tech Golden Suns and the Harding Lady Bisons.

The last time the Lady Rangers played these teams, they lost, so they were looking to even the series.

The Lady Rangers' first opponent was Arkansas Tech. The last time the Lady Rangers played the Golden Suns, Arkansas Tech won, 65-58, as the Rangers struggled in the first and third quarter.

Arkansas Tech did its best to stop anything in the paint on defense and got up close and personal to force turnovers.

The biggest challenge for the Lady Rangers was dealing with Arkansas Tech's starting center, as she blocked multiple shots throughout the game.

The Lady Rangers relied mostly on inside scoring in the first half, as mid-range and outside shots struggled to go in.

This meant Scout Frame and Bailey Brown did most of the shooting.

The second half was different, as the Lady Rangers hit more shots in the mid-range, and Brown and Frame got Arkansas Tech's starting center to foul out.

The Lady Rangers got the win, 70-66, and became one win away from clinching the tournament.

Frame and Brown had 23 and 22 points, respectively, combining for 55 points.

The game got more physical as it went on, and head coach Tasha Diesselhorst commented on how her post players adjusted to it.

"I thought they did a great job defending our post players," Diesselhorst said. "Bailey and Scout were relentless inside and doing a good job of continuing to go at them."

Harding was up next, and the last time they met, the Lady Rangers lost, 61-39. The Lady Rangers needed to win this to advance a spot in the postseason.

Harding was a challenge, as the Lady Rangers had to work against their centers.

Through the first half, the Lady Rangers had to play catch-up as they struggled to make shots early, which has plagued them for a good portion of the season.

Down 35-25, the third quarter is where the Lady Rangers turned it around, as they outscored Harding, 24-12, to give themselves a 49-47 lead.

The Lady Rangers kept the lead throughout the fourth quarter

as Harding players tried everything they could to tie it.

The game came down to the final possession, as three different reviews occurred in the final four seconds. After a rebound, Harding tried to call a timeout with 0.3 seconds left to set up a play. However, a review determined that time expired before the timeout.

The Lady Rangers escaped with a 65-63 win.

Frame talked about how the Lady Rangers beat their centers, as it was difficult.

"We knew that, if we were able to 'out-rebound' them, it would give us a shot to win," Frame said.

Frame also said that hitting the free throw helped the team out a lot.

Frame and Brown had 22 and 19 points, respectively, as their play down the stretch was critical.

In addition to the 19 points, Brown racked up seven rebounds and eight assists. Brown now has 993 rebounds, the most by a player in Lady Ranger history.

Diesselhorst also talked about what adjustments the team made in the second half versus the first.

"We settled in and made stops on defense, which led to more confidence for our offense to do what they can," Diesselhorst said.

The Lady Rangers will look to finish strong with their last two games coming against Southern Nazarene and Southeastern.

BASEBALL

Rangers ready to bounce back from losing streak

By COLLIN ZINK
Senior Reporter

Despite its 3-7 record, the Northwestern Rangers baseball team is continuing to improve.

The Rangers finished the Northwestern Festival by winning two of three games before being swept by the Muleriders of Southern Arkansas.

The Rangers came back to beat the Cowboys of New Mexico Highlands in exciting fashion.

The Cowboys had a 6-5 lead when Northwestern came up to bat in the bottom of the ninth. Junior Shaughn Kelly saved the day by hitting a walk-off grand slam, giving the Rangers a 10-6 win.

Kelly had five at-bats with three runs, two hits and four RBIs.

Head baseball coach Ryan Bowen said, "The NWOSU Festival went well."

Along with Kelly, Bowen said he believes that sophomore designated hitter Hayden Priest and junior pitcher Emilio Lovato have been had positive impacts for the team so far in the season.

Bowen said the team has a lot to improve on, however.

"On the pitching side, we need to improve on limiting free bases, walks and HBPs (hit-by-pitches)," Bowen said. "Defensively, we need to continue to be more aggressive and play loose. Offensively, we need to cash in on opportunities with runners in scoring position."

"On the pitching side, we need to improve on limiting free bases."
— Ryan Bowen

Although the team members were looking forward to the games ahead, the Rangers had a rough series against Southern Arkansas.

In the first game, they lost 13-3. In the second game, they lost 8-0, and in the third game, they were defeated 13-2.

In the first game, Southern Ar-

kansas got off to a 9-0 lead. The Rangers got on the board in the fourth inning with a home-run by Kelly.

In the second game, Ranger pitcher Ethan Swanson threw 15 balls in a row in the second inning to get the Muleriders up to a 4-0 lead.

Southern Arkansas got off to a 13-0 lead in the third game, but Ranger senior infielder Brett Erickson got the Rangers on the board in the 7th inning on an RBI. Also in the 7th inning, sophomore outfielder Joseph Frisby got runs on the board by way of an RBI from Chase Orrock.

The Rangers will be back at home on Saturday for a three-game series against the Boll Weevils of Arkansas-Monticello.

The first game of the series will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium.

The doubleheader will start Sunday at noon, with the next game scheduled for 3 p.m.

The Rangers have maintained a 9-12 record against the Boll Weevils since 2015. The Boll Weevils have a 3-5 overall record.

Upcoming Games:

2/26: Baseball vs. UAM (home)

2/27: Baseball vs. UAM (home)

3/1: Baseball vs. RSU (away)

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LIKE 'CLOCKWORK'

Rangers entertain, perform for peers in latest theater production at NWOSU



Madison Wilson, left, and Jameson Hale, right, act out a scene in "Clockwork," the Northwestern Fine Arts Department's latest theater production, during a dress rehearsal. The show was on stage Feb. 17, 18 and 19.



Photos by Devyn Lansden

ABOVE: Caleb Kaiser, Sadrie Overall, Michael Day and Lisa Turner sit around a table during a scene in the production.



LEFT: Kylee Harzman, Lilith Ferrero, Christopher Chauncey and Madison Wilson sit on a couch during a scene in the production.