

DORM WORK PLANNED

South Hall will be renovated this summer, university officials say. PAGE 2



ON THE BALL

The Lady Rangers softball team rose in the rankings after a win against Henderson State. PAGE 11



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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Volume No. 83, Issue 22

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

March 24, 2022

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HITTING HOME



Professor with Ukraine ties says war has major impact

By KAYLEA BROWN | *Senior Reporter*

The war in Ukraine has already affected numerous worldwide industries and displaced millions of people, said a Northwestern political science professor who has studied the region. See WAR, Page 6

ABOVE: Dr. Eric Schmaltz, not shown, took this photo in 2011 while traveling in a car going to Odessa from former Bessarabia in western Ukraine. The photo shows a checkpoint at the Moldovan border. Schmaltz, a Northwestern professor who traces his ancestry to Ukraine, said the war will likely have significant impacts.

Photo provided

NEWS

Pages 2 & 3

OPINION

Pages 4 & 5

PHOTOS

Pages 6 & 7

FEATURE

Page 8

SPORTS

Pages 10 & 11

NEWS



File photo

South Hall is shown in this file photo. The women's residence hall will be renovated this summer. University officials expect the extensive project to cost roughly \$4 million.

South Hall to be renovated

By **BENJAMIN KLEWER**
Senior Reporter

South Hall will have a new look by the time students arrive on campus for the 2022 – 2023 school year.

On March 7, the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents approved a renovation project for the res-

idence hall.

University officials plan to tear out the built-in furniture and replace it with portable furniture, said Vice President for Administration Dr. David Pecha. The heating and air conditioning units, lights and ceiling tiles will be replaced.

The showers, sinks and toilets will be torn out and replaced, too. Most are still the original fixtures from the 1960s, Pecha

said. Also, the walls will be refinished, re-textured and painted so they don't look like cinderblock walls.

The renovation is set to start May 9 and will be completed by the first week of August, Pecha said.

Students who would have stayed in South Hall over the summer will be moved to one of the other three dorms on campus.

The university will solicit bids from

contractors starting in April, Pecha said. The project is estimated to cost roughly \$4 million, Pecha said, though the final cost may differ.

The money for the project will be borrowed and paid back over time through a master lease program.

Pecha said the company that did the renovations of Fryer and Coronado halls is interested in doing this project as well.

POLITICS AND HISTORY

Presidents Taylor, Fillmore subjects of lecture series

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

The Northwestern Institute for Citizenship Studies hosted a discussion of former presidents Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore on Tuesday in the Vinson Hall Alabaster Room.

Dr. Michael Cohen, a research professor in the Department of Government and a faculty fellow in the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University in Washington, D.C., came to Northwestern to talk about the legacies of the two presidents.

Cohen spoke at Northwestern in 2016 for the university's presidential lecture series on former President James K. Polk. He has been an editor of projects publishing presidential letters.

A crowd of roughly two dozen students and university employees gathered for the discussion, the first since the coronavirus pandemic began.

Political science professors



Photo by Jordan Green

Dr. Aaron Mason, a Northwestern political science professor, speaks to American University professor Dr. Michael Cohen in the Vinson Hall Alabaster Room during the Presidential Lecture Series on Tuesday.

Drs. Aaron Mason and Eric Schmaltz organized the series, which aimed to highlight how the two presidents were "not as inconsequential as we might think," Mason said.

Taylor, the 12th U.S. president,

served from March 4, 1849, until he died in office on July 9, 1850. Fillmore, then the vice president, became president and served until 1853.

Taylor and Fillmore followed the Monroe Doctrine regarding

foreign affairs, and they largely kept the United States out of revolutions in Europe, Cohen said.

The Tuesday discussion of the two presidents' handling of European affairs came amid a heightened national debate over whether the United States should get involved in the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Cohen said that, although the political landscape is different today than it was in the 1800s, some similarities can be drawn between historical conflicts and present-day ones.

"They lived in, of course, a very different time in American foreign policy history," Cohen said of the two presidents. "Back then, the U.S. was very isolationist in that sense with regard to Europe and did not like to get involved in European affairs."

"During and after World War II, the U.S. became much more a world power, one of the leading powers that wants to, and is expected to, have a role beyond its shores."

"One similarity is that belief

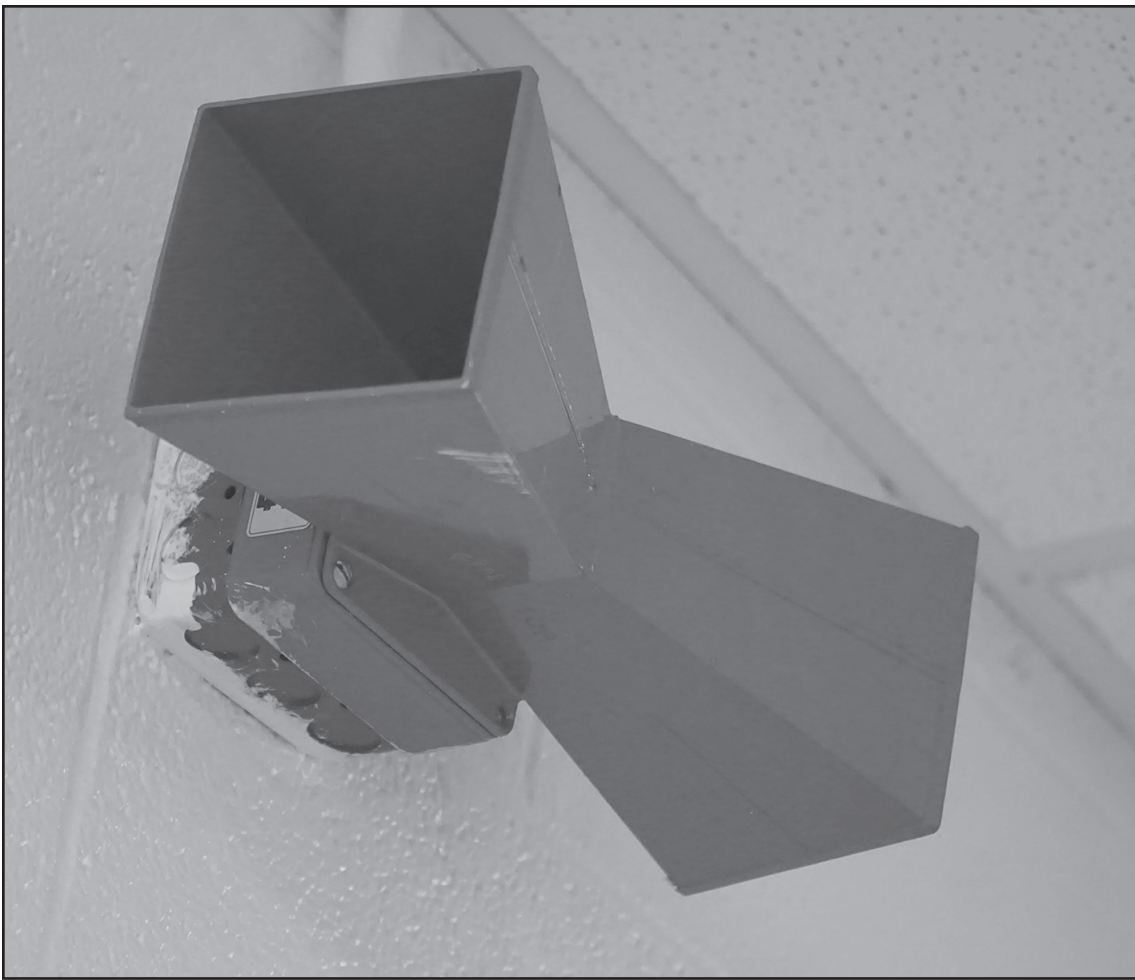
in a moral connection, that people fighting against oppression in Europe or anywhere are fighting same battle the United States fought in 18th Century, and that some anti-slavery people saw them as fighting in the 19th Century – this fight for freedom."

The presidents' time in office was also marked by the passage of the Compromise of 1850, a series of legislative acts regarding the issue of slavery, Cohen said. Among them was the highly controversial Fugitive Slave Act, which required the government to return escaped slaves to their owners.

"Depending on how you look at it, the Compromise of 1850 that they both helped to bring about either caused the Civil War in the long term or postponed it for another decade," Cohen said. "That really was their major legacy for the country."

A video of the lecture will be posted on the university's YouTube channel in the near future, Schmaltz said. Past lecture series videos are also available.

NEWS



Photos by Jordan Green

A fire alarm in Coronado Hall is shown Tuesday. Students have voiced concerns about fire alarm malfunctions.

SOUNDING THE ALARM

Concerns arise about fire alarm malfunctions in Coronado Hall

By GAVIN MENDOZA
Senior Reporter

Coronado Hall's fire alarms have malfunctioned a few times in the last year, disturbing students and creating a possibly dangerous situation, students say.

Since February 2021, fire alarms have sounded on occasion in the residence hall early in the morning even though there haven't been any fires. Students say that, if they get too many false alarms, people could sleep through the alarms if they sound during a real emergency.

Matt Adair, the university's housing director, said the university is working to fix the situation.

"We do not really know why they are going off, and because Northwestern's systems are purchased through a third-party vendor, we are working with them," Adair said.

D.A.L. Security Systems in Enid monitors the fire alarm systems. When alarms go off, the company notifies the Alva Fire Department. The company has been on campus to try to fix the issues, Adair said.

"Safety is our No. 1 priority,



A fire alarm in Coronado Hall is shown Tuesday. Students have voiced concerns about fire alarm malfunctions throughout the school year.

and more than anything on campus, I want everybody to be safe," Adair said, adding that the potential danger of students avoiding alarms worries should not be taken lightly.

"It is something I am concerned about, and I think the best way to deter that from happening is to tell everybody that there are no false alarms, and when an alarm goes off, you exit the building," Adair said. "You would better be safe than sorry in situations like these."

Chase Orrock, a senior from Concord, North Carolina, majoring in health and sports science, is a resident assistant in Coronado. He said the fire alarms have been problematic.

"This semester, the fire alarms

have gone off probably four times and about twice last semester," Orrock said. "Every time they have gone off has been early in the morning, around 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. ... It has, at times, taken sleep away from me, and talking to other students, it has for them as well."

Tate Schuermann, a freshman from Medford majoring in criminal justice, said he believes the false alarms can result in danger.

"Most people do not take them too seriously, I think, because it has been happening so late at night or early in the morning," Schuermann said.

"It normally does not ruin sleep for me because we are not outside for too long, but it is not nice waking up."

What's up?

FRIDAY

Filing for offices in the Student Government Association will end Friday. For more information, contact Olivia Yandel, SGA adviser, by emailing oayandel@nwosu.edu or by calling 580-327-8109.

WEDNESDAY

The Student Government Association will host a forum for Northwestern students, faculty and staff to meet the candidates running for offices in the Student Government Association. Attendees will be able to ask candidates questions about their goals and plans if elected.

The forum will take place in the Student Center Ranger Room from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

The Northwestern Visiting Writer Series will present author and Northwestern alum Sheldon Russell, who will read selections from his recent novels, "A Particular

Madness" and "Time and Again."

This event is free and open to the public.

The series brings writers with a tie to Oklahoma to the region every spring to discuss writing, talk about the publishing industry and share their work with interested parties.

The event will take place in Education Center Room 109.

A former Oklahoma public school English teacher, Russell retired as a professor emeritus from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2000.

He has published numerous novels in the suspense, historical, western and mystery genres. He has won multiple awards for his fiction pieces.

He won the 2007 Oklahoma Book Award in Fiction and the 2006 Langum Prize for Historical Literature for his novel "Dreams to Dust: A Tale of the Oklahoma Land Rush."

For more information, contact Dr. Matthew Lambert by calling 580-327-8428 or emailing mmlambert@nwosu.edu.

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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.

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The News is printed by the Alva Review-Courier

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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.

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

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

All letters represent the views of the author.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

OPINION



Photos provided

ABOVE: Jaizac Garcia lifts weights in the J.R. Holder Wellness Center on Tuesday. BELOW: J.D. Eddy lifts in the Wellness Center on Tuesday.

Physical fitness is important to well-being

By J.D. EDDY
Editorial Editor

Exercising for physical well-being also plays into your mental health. It is an important part of taking care of yourself, and eating right is a major key in that as well.

Working out is something that I have done since I was around 14 years old.

It is something that has been a part of my life for 8 years; I couldn't imagine not being physically fit.

When I was a freshman in college, I did not play football, and I got extremely lazy. This led to me being a bit overweight, and I developed depression. I barely left my room during this time in my life. My grades suffered, and I had little to no social life.

When I began working out again in the spring of my freshman year, I noticed that my energy increased. My social life began to come back, compared to how it had been. I got out of my rut, which had put me in a depressed state. And I lost all of the weight I had gained over a three-month span.

Not eating right, not having physical activity and being generally unhealthy lead to constant fatigue and adverse health.

If that is not the case for you,



then more power to you. But to me, being active is one of the most important things for one's health.

I'm not saying that you have to become a bodybuilder or anything like that. All I'm saying is that any physical activity is better than none.

Walking for 30 minutes at a five-degree incline can burn almost 300 calories; no running or weightlifting is involved. This is for anyone who thinks exercise is incredibly difficult. I don't like to run at all, so instead of that, I walk for cardio.

Now weight training is a little bit different compared to cardio

or yoga. Anything along that line is something that does not require as much physical strength.

Weight training is misconstrued as something for meatheads, or people who just lift all the time. For me, it is a way to make myself look as good as possible.

The motivation behind what you are doing really pushes you forward. The thing that pushed me to start lifting on my own was a bad relationship I had. I was cheated on a few years ago. This sense that I needed to be in better shape so that didn't happen again is what inspired me to go on.

Some people I know have

had a girl break their heart or had something negative happen in their family. Using that anger and pain while channeling it into something productive was healthy for them.

Using intrinsic motivation allows you to get the best kind of gains, knowing that you did it yourself with your own will.

As I said before, working out will help you get the gains you want to see. But eating right is also a major part of seeing some improvements in the weight room.

Exercise is a topic that I know a lot about. When I go home, I train people to try to share some of my knowledge about the subject.

I'm not going to go into a full nutrition plan because it's different for everyone. Something that works for me might not work for you.

These are just a few of the things I want to point out about fitness. Sure, it is not for everyone. The hardest part is breaking through that mental barrier and making it a habit.

I think physical fitness is one of the most important things for mental and physical health, but being positive in yourself is something that also raises confidence. If you don't feel as if you need to, that's perfectly fine. It is all about what works best for you.

OPINION

What's in a name? Puppy love is

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

Every dog will have his day. And for one special puppy in my life, that day was Wednesday.

Wednesday was National Puppy Day, but I've got something to bark for

more than a day: puppy love and the circle of life.

When folks think of life, many picture a newborn baby or a blooming tree in springtime. In my family's house, the most recent example of life beginning – and seemingly beginning anew – came in the form of a little Great Pyrenees puppy.

His name is Jack.

Jack is a quiet, friendly fur ball who loves crawling on laps, kissing faces and, believe it or not, playing with cats.

My mom got him about a week ago, and her world hasn't been the same since. It's been astronomically better. Puppies have that effect.

But while Jack the dog is a new member of our family, his name has been in our hearts for years.

My mom named Jack the canine after a close family friend, Jack Day, who died in early February.

Jack Day was one of those grandfather types. He and his wife, Linda – who died just four days before him – became a part of our family. They supported my sister and me in all of our school musical events, and they enjoyed cooking tasty meals for us. They were truly precious people.

Their passing was untimely. But then that puppy dog came along unexpectedly a few weeks later. His arrival was quite timely; he showed up right when we needed him.



The author's mother, Julie Green, kisses her new puppy, Jack, on Sunday at the family's farm in Kay County. Jack, a Great Pyrenees, was named after a longtime family friend who died in February.

Photo by Jordan Green

A friend's living situation was changing, and she needed to rehome this then-unnamed puppy. My mom was quick to offer up our place, and she didn't take long to find a fitting name for the pup – a moniker that pays tribute to someone so dear to us.

So, just how fitting is Jack's name?

The similarities between human Jack and puppy Jack, henceforth referred to accordingly, are striking.

Human Jack could be a little gruff around the edges, and he wasn't afraid to "bark" at people when he wasn't happy. Puppy Jack doesn't like getting put in his room at night; he'd prefer to roam

all over the house, and he barks to voice his displeasure. But in spite of his frankness, human Jack never barked anyone up the wrong tree. Puppy Jack surely won't, either. His bark, and his bite, aren't that bad at all.

With all due respect, human Jack could be a little bit grumpy sometimes. But he was always willing to help out those he cared about. Similarly, puppy Jack isn't too fussy, but all puppies whine a bit.

Still, he wants to follow my mom, dad and me wherever we go around the house. He's right there with us all the time, and he makes it clear that he wants to be there. Just like human Jack did.

Human Jack enjoyed being outside, and so does puppy Jack. An outdoorsman extraordinaire, human Jack enjoyed spending time with my family at our farm. He also relished in good car rides. Puppy Jack does, too, and he got a big thrill out of his first trip to the farm on Sunday.

Human Jack knew a thing or two about making folks laugh. He had a dry sense of humor, and some of his witty comebacks could leave his audience members gasping for breath as they laugh. Puppy Jack's adorable smile and curious behavior make us laugh, and we're sure he knows what he's doing.

The biggest similarity, though,

is that human Jack had a big heart full of love – and so does puppy Jack. Love is not an emotion or a feeling, but a sense of belonging and peace that comes from quality time spent together. We had that with human Jack, and now we have it again.

Despite what folks say, puppy love isn't such a bad thing at all. In fact, it's probably one of the greatest forms of love out there. The puppy love we have today is a continuation of the love my family and I had – and still have – for our human Jack.

We've got a doggone lot of love for both of our Jacks. And we won't stop howling about them anytime soon.

Let's agree: Disagreeing with others can be good

By **AUSTIN MORTON**
Senior Reporter

Does pineapple belong on pizza? That sentence alone was enough to get you heated, wasn't it? Why is that?

In the grand scheme of things, having an opinion on such a small topic like this isn't going to affect your day-to-day life in a meaningful way. So, why do we feel so strongly about it?

We see these types of questions get asked daily on social media, and a lot of the time, they are also followed with angry comments.

To name a few, there's the classic dress debate, laurel or yanny, Apple or Android. And if ketchup or mustard goes on a hot-dog, it's mustard.

Why is it that we fight over these types of topics? I understand having opinions and feeling like you have a personality, but in the end, it all feels pointless.

I can't tell you how many times I've seen someone get a text from an Android, and the person almost immediately scoffs at having to see that green bubble. Even I have to admit that this one gets to me. Both of my parents have an Android, and trying to do any group chat with them just ends in a disaster.

For those unaware, trying to make a group chat with Android and Apple users is a mess. You get different message groupings depending on who replies, and it never stays in the one group. When this happens, all I can think of is: "Just get an iPhone."

So, to a degree, I get where many of the arguments stem from. It's just easier for

everyone to agree on one thing. But just how much better would that really be?

"When was the last time you had a conversation where everyone agreed on everything? It's boring."
— **Austin Morton**

As much as I hate all the discourse, I think it's necessary. Because what may be a small issue for some might hold a lot of meaning to others.

And when was the last time you had a meaningful conversation where everyone

agreed on everything? It's boring.

Sure, agreement would be nice for a group project or a family vacation. But for everyday conversation, having discourse only makes talking more fun.

Having these differences can work as conversation starters and get people engaged in whatever is discussed.

I met my best friend when I overheard him talking about how the Eagles were the best team in the NFL at the time.

They weren't, but just hearing that was enough for me to want to see why he had that opinion. So, maybe a little discourse over tiny topics that don't matter, actually does matter.

The next time you see a Twitter thread about how ranch doesn't belong on spaghetti, go ahead and voice your opinion on it. (Even though ranch does go on it.)



This 2011 photo taken on a trip to Ukraine by Dr. Eric Schmaltz shows a former Lutheran Church that later became a Soviet-era community center in Berezina, in the former Bessarabia, in nearby Belarus. A statue of Vladimir Lenin, a premier of the Soviet Union who was in power from 1917 to 1924, is shown at left. Some of Schmaltz' maternal ancestors lived in Berezina. Belarus neighbors both Ukraine and Russia.

Photo provided

WAR: Massive refugee crises emerges as economic effects ripple across globe

Continued from Page 1

Dr. Eric Schmaltz, chair of the university's Social Sciences Department, said the war in Ukraine has triggered one of the largest refugee crises in Europe since World War II.

More than 3 million people have fled the nation, the Associated Press reports. People are left searching for safety from Russian military attacks on schools, military hospitals and other vital pieces of infrastructure.

Schmaltz' academic focuses are on Germany and Russia, as well as the Holocaust and the Soviet era. He is also connected to Ukraine because of his ancestors.

"My immediate ancestors departed from parts of Ukraine between 1893 and 1902, ending up in the Dakotas [in the United States]," Schmaltz said. "However, I still had extended family living in the region until as late as March 1944, when the retreating German armed forces during World War II evacuated them west from the advancing Soviet Red Army."

In 2011, Schmaltz visited Ukraine as part of the 17th Journey to the Homeland Tour. The North Dakota State University Library's German from Russia Heritage Collection in Fargo conducted it.

IMPACT ON GLOBAL TRADE COULD GROW

The Russia-Ukraine war has had an impact on several industries so far, and it will continue to have impacts on the worldwide economy, Schmaltz said. Wheat, natural gas and petroleum are three industries that have been affected so far. Russia is a major natural gas and petroleum producer.

"Russia, like the United States, is a northern hemispheric power blessed with natural resources," Schmaltz said. "They've been a major supplier to many parts of Europe over the years, including Ukraine."

With trade relations strained by the crisis, gas prices around the world have risen. The price of bread may also increase because of the amount of wheat harvested from Russia and Ukraine.

"Russia is also the largest exporter of wheat," Schmaltz said. "If you combine Ukraine with Russia,

that's one-third of the wheat that's produced at a given time. If there's any major disruptions, the bread prices may go up."

REFUGEE CRISIS AFFECTS MILLIONS

The crisis' impact on people has also been significant. In addition to the more than 3 million people who have left the country, millions who remain have been forced to seek safety outside their communities.

One of Schmaltz' academic colleagues, Peter Hilkes, is helping to coordinate humanitarian efforts for Ukrainians and working with the media.

Hilkes is a lecturer at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich and is the coordinator for House of Resources Munich.

Hilkes said the Ukrainian Free University is a hotspot for information and communication about Ukrainian issues.

"Munich is a big center for Ukrainians," Hilkes said. "Many Ukrainians have already been to Munich, so they could pick up people and try to offer accommodations at their house."

Hilkes, who is considered an expert on Ukrainian issues because of his studies and lectures, said the tenacity and resilience of the Ukrainian people has touched him.

"I've known Ukrainian women for a long time," Hilkes said. "I'm always very impressed by how tough they are. It is incredible. ... There were moments when they cried."

"It's normal if you have a trauma, but they were looking forward, thinking about their kids."

Hilkes said he tries to explain to others the reality of what is going on with the Russia-Ukraine crisis. He said he greatly respects reporting on the issue.

"People in Ukraine, I have so much respect for them," Hilkes said. "It's incredible what they do, how they report about the situation, how they make filming possible under conditions we cannot imagine."

"What we see in all those films, that's real life. Everything is real."



Schmaltz



Hilkes

Ukraine and Russia



Graphic by Devyn Lansden



Photo provided

This 2011 photo taken on a trip to Ukraine by Dr. Eric Schmaltz shows a group of students in a Ukrainian school. The school is in present-day Maloyaroslavets, Russia. Schmaltz said the school was formerly an ethnic German school. The group of students sang to him while he was visiting the school, Schmaltz said. Schmaltz can trace his ancestry back to Ukraine.



Students visit Northwestern during the November Ranger Preview event in Peverell Fieldhouse. Ranger Preview is one of the university's main recruitment events.

File photo

NWOSU fights enrollment drops

Nationwide declines force universities to do more outreach

By JOSHUA HINTON
Student Reporter

Northwestern administrators say they're implementing new recruitment tactics to drive up student enrollment amid nationwide declines partly triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Enrollment rates across the nation have dropped since 2020, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, which monitors enrollment data at United States universities. Nationwide, enrollment dropped by 2.7% in fall 2021 on top of a 2.5% drop in fall 2020. Since fall 2019, enrollment has dropped by roughly 938,000 students.

Northwestern's enrollment has dropped by more than 400 students since the fall of 2015, according to data from the university's Factbooks, which are available online. The number of students enrolled by headcount in fall of 2015 was 2,136, compared to 1,709 students in the spring 2022 semester.

FOCUS ON RETENTION

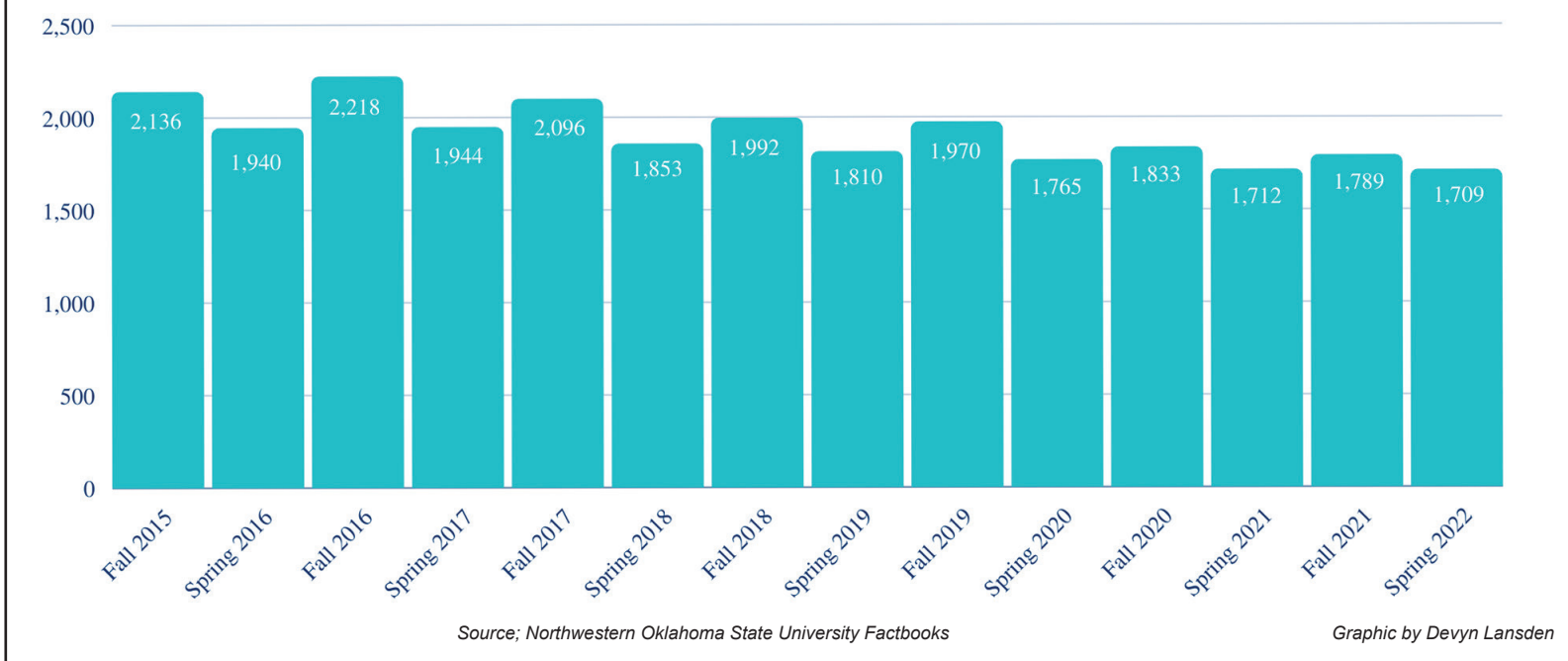
Northwestern is working on a five-year plan to counteract the downward trend in enrollment rates, said Dr. James Bell, the university's dean of faculty. Administrators created the Retention and Enrollment Forum and Enrollment Task Force, headed by Bell, in fall of 2020 as part of the initiative.

"We meet three or four times a semester and talk about ways we can both enroll more initial students and retain the students we have," he said.

The committee has at least one representative from each division and department at the university.

Bell said retention is a key topic, and one of the forum's goals is to look at what each department is

Number of Northwestern students enrolled by headcount since 2015



Source: Northwestern Oklahoma State University Factbooks

Graphic by Devyn Lansden

doing to retain its majors. The goal is not only to bring in new students, but also to keep existing students in their degree programs, he said.

"When we are in the enrollment forum, we're talking about initial enrollment, so we are looking at recruitment efforts and what different departments are doing to try and draw in students," Bell said. "How are they following up with students who come to Ranger Preview? How are they reaching out into schools to recruit or making contact with counterparts at community colleges to try to find ways to make ourselves known to potential students out there, whether they are first-time students or transfer students, to get our name out there in front of them?"

Another part of the forum's mission to increase retention is to assess what barriers – whether financial, emotional or academic – cause students to drop out. Bell said the forum aims to build a community to support students in each department.

Bell calls the forum's 16 members "enrollment champions." "The old-fashioned use of 'champion' – I am championing a cause, so they are the enrollment champions," Bell said.

COULD ADMISSIONS STANDARDS BE CHANGED?

Northwestern has a pilot program for changes in admission standards based off a national trend showing that ACT and SAT scores do not necessarily show the success rate of students, Bell said.

Education researchers have found that a student's high GPA in high school can equate to the same success as having a high score on either one of the widely used tests. A 2020 study by the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research shows students' GPAs in high school can be five times stronger at predicting college success than their test scores.

"For a long time, I think people were reluctant to do that because,

does that equate with lowering the bar?" Bell said of changing admissions standards. "Really, what they found with study after study is that the predictor of success is about the same with both. And you are excluding some students who are really sharp students, and they proved that by performing well in high school. Maybe they don't test as well as others. Whatever the reason is, they just didn't perform as well on the ACT or SAT."

NEW PROGRAM PROPOSED

Northwestern is also looking to add pilot programs to help students transfer from community colleges to Northwestern without losing credit hours, Bell said. In some cases, scholarships could be available.

Such programs would mirror the Bridge Program, which allows students to be dually enrolled at Northern Oklahoma College and Northwestern.

But the program wouldn't be

exactly the same, Bell said. "We are already reaching out to other community colleges in our state and even beyond our state ... and we've had a lot of community colleges with that interest," Bell said.

Different departments are trying new ideas to keep current students and recruit new students, and department leaders are sharing what is working and what is not working, Bell said.

The task force and the forum are working in the right direction by looking at the larger picture and the smaller picture, Bell said.

"You want to ideally increase the number of students you are enrolling and increase the percentage of students you are retaining," Bell said. "We tend to say 'fill-in-the-blank' is all of our jobs, but truly, retention and enrollment really is all of our job. If you [students] aren't having a satisfying experience and you don't feel like you have faculty that are watching out for you, that is a hard sell."

FEATURE

Davidson manages Foundation finances

By **REBECCA WAGNER**
Student Reporter

Laci Davidson first left a mark at Northwestern by being part of the 2006 President's Leadership Class under President Janet Cunningham.

She now works as the financial manager for the Northwestern Foundation and Alumni Association.

"I do all the financial parts," Davidson said. "I actually do the HR portion, so I make sure everyone gets paid here and I also cut checks.

"I manage all of our invest accounts and log all the investment accounts."

Davidson also takes part in keeping track of scholarship and custodial funds, as well as reimbursements.

Before beginning to work with money, Davidson looked into many areas before finding her passion.

After one semester at Northwestern, Davidson transferred to massage therapy school for two years.

Davidson then transferred to Oklahoma State University and graduated with a bachelor's in strategic communications.

After her graduation, she

moved to Kansas City to venture into another potential career path.

Davidson worked for the Kansas City Chiefs for brief period while also working for a non-profit called Shadow Buddies.

Shadow Buddies is a foundation that helps with emotional support through education regarding illness, disabilities and medical treatments.

A job working as a legislative assistant in Oklahoma City brought Davidson back to the state.

After her time in the capitol, Davidson started to work in banking, a field she stayed in for 10 years.

Seeking change, she moved back to northwest Oklahoma and started working for the Foundation.

"When I went to school here [Northwestern], I loved it," Davidson said. "It's a good balance of family and work. To me, it's small enough I don't feel like I'm a number, and I don't feel like I'm just an employee. I feel like I can have a personal impact."

Davidson's role for the Foundation is essential for the company to operate.

The Northwestern Foundation and Alumni Association exists to help manage the donations that are given to the university.



Photo provided

Laci Davidson holds the position of financial manager for the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association.

Assistant coach encourages athletes to succeed



Photo provided

Sterlin Broomfield is the assistant coach for cross country and track.

By **LIBERTY GOODNOW**
Student Reporter

As a student athlete and now a coach, Sterlin Broomfield found a home at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Broomfield was born in Dodge City, Kansas, and moved to Wichita, Kansas, in 5th grade.

He grew up playing basketball, but because of his height, he said he realized he would be more successful as a runner.

Going into high school, Broomfield joined the track team and made the varsity team as a freshman.

At 17 years old, Broomfield lost his mother.

"It just made me grow up faster and look at life from a whole new viewpoint," Broomfield said.

He began his collegiate athletic career at Cowley College in Arkansas City, Kansas.

There, he was a two-time junior college national qualifier in cross country.

Broomfield transferred to Northwestern in 2014, where he was named the Northwest Junior Student-Athlete of the Year, and September Athlete of the Month. He held a school record in the 8k and 10k.

Upon graduating from Northwestern in 2017 with a degree in business administration, Broom-

field pursued a master's degree in education and sports administration, also from Northwestern.

He graduated in 2019.

During this time, Broomfield was a graduate assistant for the women's track and cross country teams. He also worked in Student Support Services.

He is now a full-time assistant coach for cross country and track, specializing in distance running.

Broomfield also teaches classes in the health and sports science department.

Having the opportunity to work under Coach Jill Lancaster is what encouraged Broomfield to

stay at Northwestern and coach, he said.

"She is a legendary coach with numerous years of D1 experience that could benefit me in the future," Broomfield said.

Seeing athletes get personal records at meets is just one of the highlights of coaching, Broomfield said.

He said he enjoys coaching because he is given the chance to push athletes in the classroom and at practice.

It's not about the top athletes getting better, he said. At the end of the day, he wants everyone on his team to get better.

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ENTERTAINMENT

‘Lady Midnight’ engages readers in storyline, lore

**CAITLIN'S
CRITIQUES**



CAITLIN
HOFEN

Set in modern-day Los Angeles, “Lady Midnight” by Cassandra Clare is the first book in “The Dark Artifices” trilogy.

It is also the start of the fourth installment of “The Shadowhunter Chronicles.”

“Lady Midnight” is based on the poem “Anabelle Lee” by Edgar Allan Poe, with each chapter named after a part of the poem and the poem itself playing a major role in the plot of the novel.

To begin, Cassandra Clare is one of my favorite authors, with “Lady Midnight” as one of her top-rated novels.

While there are numerous novels attached to “The Shadowhunter Chronicles,” Clare has said in interviews she is proud that anyone can pick up any of the Shadowhunter books and not feel lost in the lore she’s created within the connected storylines.

For a little context, Shadowhunters, or Nephilim, are a race of humans who possess angel blood.

They are tasked with patrolling the Shadow World and prevent demons as well as Downworlders, including warlocks, fa-

eries, werewolves and vampires, from attacking the mundanes, or normal people.

Through her novels, Clare introduces readers to the world she created based of fairy tales and mythologies, both pagan and Judeo-Christian.

“Lady Midnight” starts five years after the events that occurred in a previous novel, “City of Heavenly Fire.”

The main character, Emma Carstairs, is a young woman determined to investigate and avenge the deaths of her parents.

As a series of demonic deaths stretch across the beaches of Los Angeles, Emma, with her parabatai Julian Blackthorn, starts investigating the apparent murders.

To make matters more complicated, Julian’s brother Mark returns as a bargaining chip from the faeries, who captured him five years ago.

The faeries are desperate to find out who is murdering their kind and want the Shadowhunters’ help.

As an urban fantasy novel, “Lady Midnight” combines modern landmarks and cities with the magic and lore of the fantasy world Clare created.

The characters deal with loss, love, fear and obstacles any human can face – they just so hap-

pen to be protecting the world from demons.

I particularly enjoyed the forbidden love aspect interwoven with the novel’s plot.

The characters are extremely believable, with each one playing key roles in solving the main conflict of the story.

I think almost anyone can find a character they can relate to within the world of Shadowhunters.

The storyline of “Lady Midnight” is complex, with rarely a dull moment.

There are many subplots weaving underneath the main problem of the mystery murders.

As the characters start trying to place pieces of the puzzle together, they run into obstacle after obstacle.

The story itself is written from a first-person perspective with the narrator switching every chapter.

This is how the subplots of the novel play out, as each character focuses on their own struggles and the demonic murders as the main conflict of the story.

In conclusion, “Lady Midnight” thrusts readers into the world of Shadowhunters.

The story engages readers and introduces a world of magic, mystery and danger wrapped in lore and fantasy readers can get lost in.

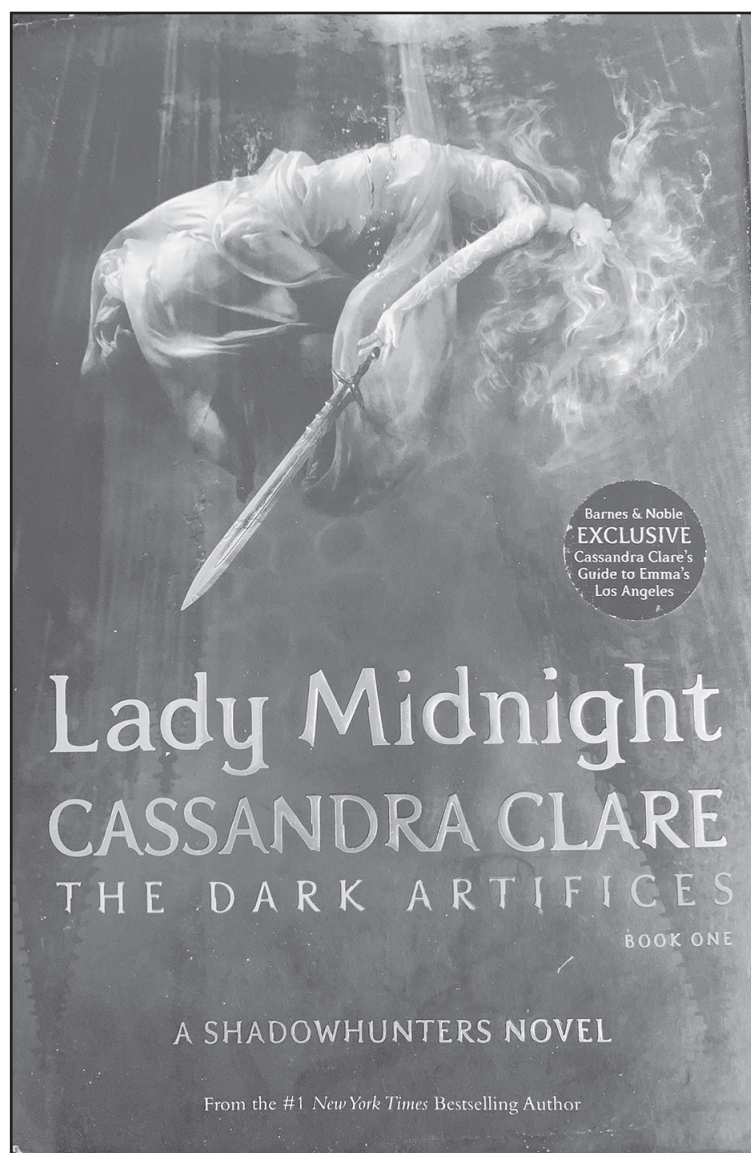


Photo by Caitlin Hofen

“Lady Midnight” is the first story in “The Dark Artifices” trilogy.

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

Date: March 24, 2012

1. “Somebody That I Used To Know”
by Gotye
featuring Kimbra
2. “We Are Young”
by Fun
featuring Janelle Monae
3. “Wild Ones”
by Flo Rida
featuring Sia

Did You Know?

“Arachibutyrophobia” is the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth.

Dad Joke of the Week:

I want to go on record that I support farming.

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SPORTS

BASEBALL



File photos

Head coach Ryan Bowen talks to members of the Northwestern baseball team during their game against Arkansas-Monticello on Feb. 27 at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium. The Rangers won all three games in the series against the Boll Weevils. The Rangers have a current record of 11-14 and sit in eighth place in the Great American Conference standings.

Rangers struggle over break



Cade Phelps pitches the ball during Northwestern's game against Arkansas-Monticello on Feb. 27 at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium. The Rangers won all three games in the series against the Boll Weevils.

By CONNOR GRAY
Assistant Editor

The Northwestern baseball team had a busy week, going 2-7 playing against two opponents from the Great American Conference and in non-conference games.

The Rangers kept working while most students left campus for spring break. They finished off their series with Southeastern, which resulted in the team being swept because the Rangers struggled on defense.

"They played really, really well," head coach Ryan Bowen said. "We felt we were in all the games, we just didn't play well."

The team went on to play Panhandle State for one game and got into an offensive battle. The Rangers won, 13-10, as the bats came through for the Rangers.

The Rangers then played Henderson State, which is ranked 11th in the country, and provided a tough test for them.

The team struggled in Game One against the Reddies, losing 10-3, as pitching struggles early on continued for most of the game.

The Rangers fixed most of their issues in Game Two, in which they lost a close one, 7-6.

Players still struggled early, on

but clamped down on their pitching issues after the second inning. The Rangers chipped away the lead, but they did not overcome it.

"They played really, really well. We felt we were in all the games, we just didn't play well."

— Ryan Bowen

The Rangers found their groove in the last game of the series, beating the Reddies, 9-3, with solid innings in the back half of the game.

Yugo Hamakawa had four RBIs in the third game, with a three-run double in the eighth putting the team up by six.

"For our tough opponents as the standings sit in our rear-view mirror, we'll be dealing with the middle of the pack and the bottom," Bowen said. "They're all in front of us for the last six weeks."

The Rangers' next home game will be against Ouachita Baptist. The first two games will be on a double header Friday at 3 and 6 p.m. The final game will take place Saturday at 1 p.m.

SPORTS

SOFTBALL

Lady Rangers win series over Reddies



Photo by Devyn Lansden

Hannah Howell pitches the ball during Northwestern's game against Southwestern on March 9 in Alva.

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Assistant Editor

The Northwestern softball team is putting together an eventful season, as it has the most wins since 2018.

The team is 11-14 on the season, with more than half of the season left to be played.

While most people went elsewhere to relax for spring break, the Lady Rangers were hard at work, playing several games with a mix of non-conference and conference play.

The Lady Rangers started spring break by finishing off a series with Southeastern by getting swept, with two of three games having a run differential of five runs combined with the other being 14-0. In those two games, Mackenzie Adams went 2-4 with a grand slam that put the team within one in the first game, and 3-4 with four RBIs in the second game.

The Lady Rangers then travelled to Bolivar, Missouri, to play a double header against Southwest Baptist University.

The Lady Rangers lost both games, 8-7 and 3-1, as both were competitive games.

The Lady Rangers ended spring break by playing Henderson State for a home series. The team needed to win the series to help in the conference standings.

The Lady Rangers did exactly that. They won two of three games against Henderson State, taking the first and third games. The first game resulted in a 5-4 victory on a walk-off single by Allison Zanca. In the third game, the Lady Rangers held Henderson State off with a 4-2 victory.

Head coach Ryan Wondrasek said it was busy for the girls having to play five games in four days.

"We were fortunate enough to get a big conference series win to help with conference standing moving forward," Wondrasek said.

The Lady Rangers will be back in action on Friday when they visit Ouachita Baptist. The first two games are part of a double header, with the games starting at 2 and 4 p.m. The final game is on Saturday at 11 a.m.

GOLF

Rangers ready to take on second half of season

By **GAVIN MENDOZA**
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern golf team started its season in February with a new coach and big expectations for the season.

Coach David Rogers is the first-year head coach of the men's and women's golf teams. He said he is happy with the season so far and what the future looks like.

"I'm very proud of the way they all fought through the tough conditions in Owasso because we had some pretty chilly temperatures and lots of wind," Rogers said.

The teams were able to fight through these conditions, and Rogers said this speaks to how each player can have a good day.

"The great thing about our teams is that we have players who can at anytime go post a great round," Rogers said.

Each team has seen players take their games to new levels and grow into leaders, Rogers said.

"Leadership roles for a team are not just given out, they are earned, and I feel as if there are a few members on each team that are close to moving into that role," Rogers said.

Both teams have experienced practice troubles because of weather, but they have been able

to get practices in lately with the nicer weather days.

"These teams can go as far as they want to," Rogers said. "I am excited to be here at Northwestern, and I look forward to seeing these golfers take their games to the highest level it can."

Team member Cade Seymour, a sophomore criminal justice major, said he thinks the season has gotten off to a good start, and everyone is working to get better.

"All the guys continue to grind it out each and every tournament and fight for each other," Seymour said.

Players continue to work on the course and do their best to improve their scores.

"I think we all have some work to do out on the course, but we all know what we need to fix," Seymour said.

The sophomore said that, with some consistency, he thinks the team is near a breakout season.

"All we need is some consistency, and I think we will see a big decrease in score coming soon," Seymour said.

Seymour said Rogers has been a great leader.

"Every day, he is always pumped at practice or before tournament rounds, and he is always by your side when you need him at tournaments or helping you get better at practice," Seymour said.

Team member Samantha Fri-

day, a junior computer science major, said she is happy with the team's play.

"This season has gone very well for the women's golf team," she said. "We have been able to improve our team score at every tournament this semester."

Friday said she is happy with how the team as dealt with weather-related issues.

"Having the ability to fight the first day weather and put up some decent scores was something that stuck out this last tournament," Friday said.

Like Seymour, Friday said Rogers is the best leader on the team and someone who lifts the team up.

"He is a coach that knows we have the potential, and he understands that golf is also more than just the scores," Friday said. "He has been a huge help to our team's motivation and keeping in a positive space before and after a round."

Friday also added that Tim Lauderdale, who helps with the team, has been a big help.

Friday explained how she thinks the team is improving and can go into the last two tournaments strong.

"We already have showed what we are capable of individually, and I think it is time to show everyone what we can do as a team," Friday said.



File photo

A Northwestern men's golf player hits the ball during the Great American Conference championship in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 2020.

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BREAKING NEWS

Volleyball coach planning to retire

Northwestern head volleyball coach Fred Aubuchon, who led the Rangers to two GAC tournament appearances, announced Wednesday that he is retiring from coaching, Northwestern athletic officials said.

Aubuchon completed his third season with the Rangers in No-

vember. It was his 26th season as a coach. He and his wife, Sabrina, plan to move to Topeka, Kansas.

"Sabrina and I have truly enjoyed being a part of the Alva community and a part of NWO-SU," Aubuchon said in a news release. "For me, I have considered it my greatest honor to have been

a coach both with the Rangers but also for my career."

Aubuchon totaled 629 wins over his career for an average of 25 wins per season, officials said. He had 19 years with at least 20 wins in a season, helping lead his teams to 19 of the 26 seasons.

This is a developing story.

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