

2022 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

IT'S HERNANDEZ

Student body treasurer wins SGA presidency in unopposed race; Rankin takes VP spot

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

Northwestern junior Erika Hernandez, who has served in the Northwestern Student Government Association since her freshman year, will be the organization's next president.

Hernandez was the only student who filed to run for the highest-ranking position in the Student Government Association, which plans campus activities and acts as a liaison between the student body and university administrators.

"I am honored to be able to hold that position next year," Hernandez said. "I'm so excited to be able to work for the students. I hope I can create a good environment for everyone."

Austin Rankin, a student body senator, will be the organization's next vice president. He was also unopposed.

Filing for the offices closed Friday. Students will vote via email April 4 and 5 to elect a student body secretary and treasurer.

Hernandez, an elementary education major from Laverne, said Monday that

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Photo by Jordan Green

Northwestern Student Government Association President-elect Erika Hernandez poses for a portrait in front of Ryerson Hall on Tuesday. Hernandez, the Student Government Association treasurer, was unopposed in her race for the organization's top job. Filing closed Friday.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: 'MUSIC MAN' COMES TO CAMPUS



Students, community members to star in 'Music Man' production

By **KAYLEA BROWN** | *Senior Reporter*

July 4, 1912, is coming to Northwestern April 7, 8 and 9.

The Northwestern theater program is preparing for its performance of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man."

Based in small-town Iowa in the early 1900s, the play is about a con artist who pretends to be a salesman. He offers people the opportunity to create a boys' band through selling instruments and uniforms, but he has no plans to follow through.

Professor Kimberly Weast, chair of the Fine Arts Department and director of the play, said the cast is made up of Northwestern

students, local community members, middle and high school students and children. Weast said community involvement is one of the reasons that fine arts faculty – including Northwestern Choir Director Dr. Karsten Longhurst and Director of Technical Theater Mickey Jordan – chose the musical.

"Dr. Longhurst, Mr. Jordan and I wanted to do something that would involve the community as well as many students," Weast said. "We wanted an opportunity to do music that people would

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INSIDE THIS EDITION:

• **PAGE 6 and 7:** See behind-the-scenes photos of rehearsals and set construction.

• **PAGE 6:** What audiences see is just a fraction of what goes into putting a show on stage.

• **PAGE 7:** Students won't be the only ones on stage.

ABOVE: Student actor Sam Grinder, center left, and choreographer Erin Davis, center right, talk during a rehearsal for 'The Music Man' in the Student Center Ballroom on March 22.

NEWS

OFFICERS: Rankin hopes to increase student involvement

Continued from Page 1
she is excited for the opportunity to lead students. She has served as a student body senator and was elected to the treasurer's position in 2021.

"I knew SGA was a big part of the university," she said. "I loved working with the people I was elected with. ... I was excited to run again."

Hernandez is a first-generation college student, and she has served as president of the university's Spanish Club for three years. She's also the lone student on the search committee tasked with replacing retiring Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham.

Hernandez said she hopes to create new campus events for students.

She also hopes she can help change some features of the university's Blackboard system, which tracks student grades and serves as a platform for turning in assignments. She'd also like to create a hammock park on campus, she said.

Hernandez encourages students to voice their concerns to her, she said. She wants to emulate Cunningham, whom she described as a supportive, outgoing leader.

"I want to be like that and follow her example to be an ap-

proachable person, where people can come and talk to me for any suggestions," she said.

Hernandez said she looks forward to meeting more of the university's students and faculty members.

"I hope that I can do a good job to represent, to be the voice of the students," Hernandez said.

Rankin, a sophomore political science major from Waynoka who has served in student government since his freshman year, said he is excited to serve Rangers as vice president.

"I really look forward to this term as vice president," he said. "I think it's going to be a fantastic opportunity. I encourage students to hold the officer team accountable. If they think that we are not fully working to our capacity, please let us know. Please talk to us. Please have a conversation and open to us the ideas that you would like to see happening."

Rankin, a resident assistant in Coronado Hall, started the university's Collegiate 4-H Club. He is also a member of the Northwestern Scholar Ambassadors program.

On March 24, he was named a 2022 Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, a non-profit organization in Boston that aims to guide students with political and civic interests.



Photo by Jordan Green

Northwestern Student Government Association Vice President-elect Austin Rankin poses for a portrait in front of Ryerson Hall on Tuesday. Rankin, a Student Government Association senator, was unopposed in the race.

Like Hernandez, Rankin said he hopes to create new campus events for students and increase student participation in them. He also wants to reevaluate and possibly change the Student Government Association's bylaws to

make the organization more efficient, he said.

He said he encourages students to get involved with student body leaders.

"I want students to know that, first and foremost, I'm here to

serve you," Rankin said. "No matter what you need, no matter what the desire that you have is – if it can make the campus better ... come to us. Bring the idea, and we will do our absolute best to make it a reality."

POLITICS

Diploma nursing bill dies in House vote

Nursing instructors among those with concerns over bill

By **BENJAMIN KIEWER**
Senior Reporter

An Oklahoma House bill that could have expanded the state's number of nursing programs was shot down on March 24.

House Bill 4330 would have allowed the creation of diploma nursing programs, which would likely be offered at technology centers and junior colleges. The bill failed on a 52-35 vote, but a motion to reconsider the bill passed. Another bill using similar language can be proposed within two years.

The bill would have required

1,300 clock hours in nursing education, including clinical exercises, and fewer than 300 hours in non-nursing coursework.

Proponents of the bill saw it as a way to combat a shortage of healthcare workers in the state, while opponents feared that non-university nursing programs would equate to lower levels of education.

Rep. Carl Newton, R-Cherokee, said he voted for the bill because, when he talked with people he knew in the health care industry, they did not think non-university programs would be detrimental to the quality of care. Newton is an optometrist and the owner of Newton Eye Clinic in Cherokee.

Dr. Leslie Collins, assistant chair of the Charles Morton Share Trust Division of Nursing at Northwestern, said she thinks

nursing education institutions need to collaborate more to help solve educational and work-force-related problems.

"I think that it is great to be looking to different ways to grow the nursing community," Collins said. "We need it. We know we are in a nursing shortage. The pandemic made that even more of an issue."

Collins said she was concerned about the level of education needed for a diploma program that would allow someone to become a registered nurse.

Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham echoed those sentiments.

"We [higher education officials] are certainly in favor of keeping nursing at the higher education level because they are accredited programs," she said.

Cherokee, will be in the Percefull Fieldhouse from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Students are asked to sign up to work one of the two time slots.

"Stamp Out Starvation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide nutritious meals to people all around the world, and even right here in

Oklahoma," according to the organization's website. "We are able to accomplish this by organizing community and youth volunteer packaging events."

For more information, contact Student Success Coordinator Ethan Sackett by calling 580-327-8606 or visiting his office in Ryerson Hall Room 125.

GOT NEWS?

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IN BRIEF

STUDENT HELP SOUGHT FOR "STAMP OUT STARVATION" EVENT

Northwestern students are being asked to help package food and meals on April 7 for people in need across the world.

The Stamp Out Starvation organization, a non-profit based in

NEWS

2022 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

Meet the candidates vying for secretary, treasurer

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

What are their strengths? What are their goals? What can they do for you?

That's what students at Northwestern need to know about the candidates running for seats on the Student Government Association — and that's exactly what the Northwestern News can tell you about.

Candidates for the offices of student body secretary and treasurer spoke with the News about their ambitions and why they're asking for your vote via email Monday and Tuesday.

Their responses to our questions have been edited for length and clarity.

ABOUT VOTING:

1: Voting for the offices of secretary and treasurer will take place Monday and Tuesday.

2: Students will vote using their school emails. Students will receive ballots at 8 a.m. Monday.

3: Voting will close by 5 p.m. Tuesday. Election results will be announced that evening on the Northwestern News website, <https://northwestern-news.ranger-pulse.com/>.

SECRETARY

HIDALGO

Draven Hidalgo, a sophomore from Hooker, is running for the office of secretary.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I was born and raised in Hooker, Oklahoma. I took a year off to try to save up money to go to Croatia. It didn't really work out. I went to OPSU. Then, I felt like Northwestern was probably the best school for me, so I transferred over here. I'm a music major, and I'm planning on performing whenever I graduate.

Q: What's your motivation for running for this office?

A: I'm running just to be out there more. Go out there, try to help out with some of the events. I see those as pretty exciting to do next year. Be out there for the rest of the school. I'm in a lot of events. So, in terms of students being in other events, they'll notice me as "Oh, that's Draven, the secretary." They can go and ask me questions about the school for next year's freshmen.

Q: What is a specific goal you hope to accomplish if elected?

A: Just be there to help. Just anyone who has any questions, anyone who needs just a little positivity out there on the campus, doesn't feel like they're getting out much. Come up, talk to someone like me. Get them going out into events. Just meeting new people. That's basically it.

Q: What is a strength you have that would make you a good leader?

A: I feel like I'm pretty friendly. I feel like I'm pretty easy to talk to. I don't feel like I'm too confrontational. That's one of my best strengths.

Q: What else should students know about you?

A: I'm pretty much just a huge music nerd. I'll probably be in Ryerson Hall for most of this. I just love everything about music and stuff.



Hidalgo

TAYLOR

Cora Beth Taylor, a sophomore from Kingfisher, is running for the office of secretary.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I am from Kingfisher, Oklahoma. I will be a junior in the fall here at Northwestern. Just in my short time of being here, I've tried to delve deep into the leadership side of things and the community service side of things. I thought this would be an amazing opportunity for me and my peers to have.

Q: What's your motivation for running for this office?

A: I think my biggest motivation would be just my opportunity to be an advocate for my peers.

Q: What is a specific goal you hope to accomplish if elected?

A: It's to bring everyone together. You have those students that are involved in SGA specifically and then other leadership groups that kind of participate. But then you have all of these other students and peers that might not see an opportunity to be involved. My biggest goal for this is to bring everyone together and make this more of a widespread group on campus.

Q: What is a strength you have that would make you a good leader?

A: I think one of my most important strengths as a leader is my ability to encourage and to be inclusive. I think that's a really important thing to bring to the table when it comes to being a leader because there are going to be people that look to you for certain things and for different ideas. ... If you are including them and encouraging them to succeed, they're going to be more willing to look to you for help.

Q: What else should students know about you?

A: I will always be a friendly face to them on campus, and if they ever need somebody to vouch for them in any way, I will always be a friend to them in that. I am excited for this opportunity.



Taylor

TREASURER

BLANKENSHIP

Tyler Blankenship, a freshman from Macomb, is running for the office of treasurer.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I'm originally from Macomb, Oklahoma, just about 18 students. That's south of Shawnee. I raised sheep down there, was a big part of FFA. I did livestock judging, pig showing, anything you can really pick out of the FFA. I got super blessed with some cool opportunities up here at Northwestern, and that's just kind of how I ended up here.

Q: What's your motivation for running for this office?

A: Kind of my first big memory up here was the Aloha week they did. It was such a cool thing they put on. I was really just kind of introverted at first, not really sure how to meet people. I just saw the really cool SGA officers doing their thing, going crazy handing out stuff in the really cool event they put on. It was really my gate into how I met so many cool people up here.

Q: What is a specific goal you hope to accomplish if elected?

A: Just really keep reaching out to kind of the person that doesn't get reached out to too often, just kind of like the more Type B personality.

Q: What is a strength you have that would make you a good leader?

A: I'm very comfortable in serving. By nature, I really feel like I can kind of get into any type of group or friend group and just kind of flourish there, no matter the type of leader that is already there. I really feel like I can have a place and use that to my advantage.

Q: What else should students know about you?

A: I'm just here to serve, and I'm really just like them. If they want to learn anything about sheep-raising, I'd love to teach them.



Blankenship

ZINK

Collin Zink, a junior from Blackwell, is running for the office of treasurer.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I am from Blackwell, Oklahoma. I am an Eagle Scout, and I have cerebral palsy. My major is health and sports science, and my minor is mass communication. My future plans are to either try to become a priest or be a football coach.

Q: What's your motivation for running for this office?

A: I'm running because I want to better promote the Rosary and help bring peace to the world. With this Rosary, the most powerful weapon in the world, it has the ability to change history and to bring peace and comfort to the world.

Q: What is a specific goal you hope to accomplish if elected?

A: The goal that I want to accomplish is to bring people closer to Jesus through Mary by means of the Rosary. Let me give you an analogy. Jesus is the doctor, and you could say that Mary is like a nurse. Normally, when you go to the doctor, you go to the nurse first. The nurse checks you out first, and she brings the doctor closer to the patient. Likewise, Mother Mary brings us closer to Jesus through her intercession.

Q: What is a strength you have that would make you a good leader?

A: One of my strengths is that I'm a people-person. I have leadership experience by being the president of the Sanctus Catholic Club. I'm a very social person.

Q: What else should students know about you?

A: I'm a devout Catholic, and I'm trying to do the best that I can to help make the world a better place. I'm just trying to build an army of prayer.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Collin Zink is a senior reporter for the Northwestern News. He did not review or edit this story in any way prior to publication.



Zink

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OPINION

Speak up about mental health

By **J.D. EDDY**
Editorial Editor

Most students in college suffer from some sort of anxiety or low-level depression symptoms. Being able to face these problems up front is not something a lot of students will discuss openly.

Identifying these disorders in individuals, especially depression, is complicated because most people try to hide that they are struggling with something. This is prevalent among men more than others. It is the standard that men are masculine and tough.

According to the website for Elon College, "In addition to experiencing higher suicide rates, chronic depression in males, especially at colleges, often goes untreated." This is from a published paper that states some of the same thoughts I had about the problem.

There have been times in my life when I have been down. I thought that there was no end to the things that were thrown my way.

The only thing that helps is having a support group, but as I stated earlier, most men do not want to open up about sensitive things.

No man wants to admit that he is struggling. It goes against everything that we have been taught to be: strong, able to withstand everything and be there for others in our life. Even if those others are not there for us.

Being able to speak up about what is going on with you mentally is not something that makes you weak or less of a man. Actu-

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suicidepreventionlifeline.org

ally, it shows just how strong you are.

The Elon University research paper takes an in-depth look at the rates among men, including depression, anxiety, suicide rates and support systems.

Going off that, I want to switch it and talk about the female perspective, not that I know much about because I am a male. I want to use the stats that I have looked up.

According to the website for the National Library of Medicine, "Anxiety turned out to be the most prevalent and serious issue for college students, especially for female students." This shows that men aren't the only ones who have problems that relate to the

mental side of things.

This whole study was done to compare gender differences over four academic years, which is a decent amount of research done to discuss this topic. Being that males won't talk about their problems as much, what I can see is that women are more comfortable discussing this openly.

This sounds like I am being a little bit one-sided, saying that women don't have the same problems with depression and anxiety that men have. That's not it. I have more personal experience dealing with these issues. Women have it the same, with the exception being that they will talk to someone almost immediately.

It could be because of a soci-

etal norm, environmental factors, biological factors or just because men are more stubborn. That is why the rate for men against women with depression is so much lower, but the suicide rate is much higher with men than women.

According to the website for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 69.68% of suicides were white males, while females made up 20.2% of all suicide attempts. The site also states that females were more open to treatment than males – almost 40% more than males.

This shows that females are more open to talking about their problems. However, this does not account for the self-harm rate that's shown.

All of these statistics and percentages show that it is better to speak up about depression or anxiety rather than the alternative, which is to slowly decline. If you are struggling, get some help, and speak to someone about it.

Many students in college struggle with depression or anxiety from a variety of sources: being away from home for the first time, tougher coursework compared to high school, friend troubles, family troubles or falling grades.

Tell someone if something is going on. If you don't want to speak to someone in-person, here are some numbers you can call. They're anonymous and won't be published: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 800-273-8255; National Grad Crisis Line 877-472-3457; and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Hotline, 800-662-4357.

Demonizing others not helpful to society

By **TYLER GREGORY**
Guest Columnist

Today's political climate is a result of decades of demonizing the other side.

Everyday Americans on both sides of the aisle are now constantly embroiled in the muck of politics, and it has had catastrophic effects on relations between neighbors.

Politics and news used to be something people saw on the evening news, thought about for an hour or so and then went to bed. Today, however, people are in the stream of information almost every waking minute.

This stream is hyper-sensationalized by news media and begins to bog down the average citizen.

Most people that I know have gotten to the point where they no longer watch the news, as it only serves as a tool to divide Americans who otherwise may be

friends.

The use of words like "Stalinist" or "Nazi" have become commonplace. Sure, they work well in a political argument to gain the upper hand temporarily. But when you take a deeper look, these names we call each other do not stick.

I personally do not think people who advocate for healthcare reform are equivalent to the Soviet leader responsible for the gulags and the Holodomor. I also do not think people who advocate for curriculum transparency from schools equate to Nazi book burners.

Another issue that I see arising from our political climate is the need to "win" arguments or discussions. Not every single belief or view one holds has to be held to the fire in the crucible of debate.

For centuries, we've used religion to defer to when we are unsure on what we should think. Catholics may defer to writings

*"Today's political climate is a result of decades of demonizing the other side."
— Tyler Gregory*

of prior church leaders; Protestants may defer to writers like Calvin.

For every other religion, the general tool when somebody is unsure of how to justify their stance is to defer to their religious teachings.

This brings me to the final issue, which is the fact that government and politics have become a surrogate religion for some. The nature of the ever-shifting Overton Window makes this a problem.

When discussing issues with people who have picked this secular religion, there is no defer-

ment to a prior writer; there is no looking back to historical precedent.

This is because of the fact that some of these things people advocate for today were almost universally blackballed five years ago.

The most common tool these few choose to utilize is either name-calling, similar to what was mentioned above, or any of the newly recognized "phobes."

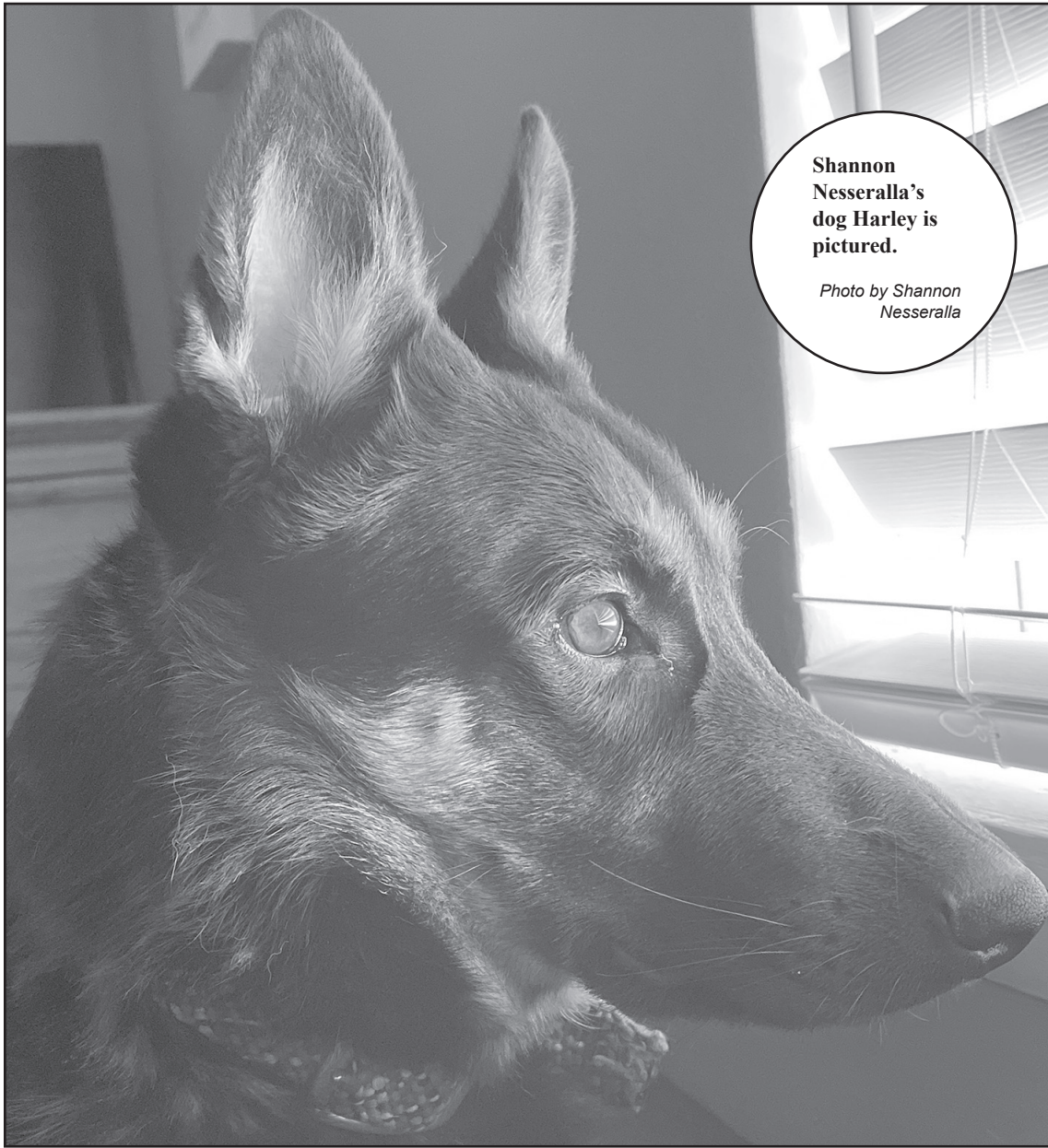
While Americans are always being submerged in the muck of everything we deal with today, I encourage people to look what our prior presidents have done. Presidents like Washington or J.Q. Adams were above the fray of politics and the arguing tied with it.

They were not ignorant to issues, but they had enough grace not to be engulfed in these debates non-stop.

Tyler Gregory is the vice-chairman of the Northwestern College Republican Club.

OPINION

Puppy love is everlasting



Shannon Nesseralla's dog Harley is pictured.

Photo by Shannon Nesseralla

By SHANNON NESSERALLA
Senior Reporter

Dogs may just be a part of your life, but you are their whole life.

For the last 12 months, I have been taking care of an extremely energetic, stubborn and clingy German shepherd that I thought I needed to have, and, well I did.

My Harley girl is my best friend. A life with a companion like a dog is one I always want to have. I think it's the best.

Now, I can see where some people may not want to be responsible for a fur baby, but I absolutely love it. All my dog wants is love and attention. Anywhere I go, she goes.

German shepherds are one of the most loyal dog breeds, and they strive to make their owners happy.

My dog is extremely loyal and protective. She is always on guard when I am outside and when she sees people. It gives me a sense of protection when I have her with me.

With owning an extremely clingy dog, you are accepting the fact that they will want to be with you. My bed is almost 75% her bed now. She thinks my legs make a great pillow. Anytime I eat, she is constantly begging to have what I'm having.

They are also a very smart breed. Harley will lay still each morning until I wake up, and as soon as she sees me awake, she immediately jumps off and makes me get up with her.

Recently, she has started sitting randomly in her crate. Every time I put her in there, I give her a treat, so she now thinks sitting in it will result in treats. Training them to do something is fast because they strive to please their owner.

German shepherds require a lot of exercise. Leaving them inside all day is not a good fit for the breed. My dog absolutely loves to go outside to run around and play. The squeakier the toy, the better. Sometimes, I feel like she's taking me on walks instead of the other way around.

My dog has required me to change a few lifestyle habits for the better. I can no longer lay in bed all day watching Netflix. I have to get up and tend to her needs. I also can't leave stuff lying all over the place because she gets curious and wants to make everything her own. She has made a couple pieces of clothes her chew toy.

My dog isn't perfect for everyone, but she is perfect for me. I will always love the German shepherd breed as a pet and companion.

Appreciate, not envy, other people's gifts, talents

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

Wouldn't life be boring if we could do everything we wanted to?

Think for just a minute. If everything we'd ever wanted to do, every job we ever applied for and every talent we ever desired came to fruition, wouldn't life be pretty mundane? Maybe even unrewarding?

The beauty of not getting everything we want in life makes us appreciate what we have. From this, we should learn to admire – not envy – others because of their talents and gifts.

This thought crossed my mind a few weeks ago when a friend of mine started taking piano lessons. I'm proud of him for learning something new, and I'm thrilled that he's already off to a great start.

Before he began his lessons, my friend said he wished he were a good singer, too. But frankly, I'm glad he's not meant to be a singer – just like I'm glad I'm not meant to be an accompanist.

I tried taking piano lessons several years ago, and they just weren't for me. I had the best piano teacher anywhere in the country. She wasn't the

reason I didn't succeed at piano.

Lord knows she's taught countless students to play their hearts out while tickling the ivories. It simply wasn't for me. And that's not only OK – it's fantastic.

I can't play piano, but I've been known to sing a couple songs from time to time. Vocal music was, and is, for me. I've had some success singing, and I'm sure my friend will have countless accolades as an accompanist.

I took a while to learn that instrumental music wasn't where my gift was, just as I'm sure my friend will find with vocal music.

Don't ask me to play the piano, but I might take you up on the chance to sing. Just like some people who can hammer out notes on the piano wouldn't dare try to sing along. But when people with these different gifts come together, they can make something gorgeous.

If we were all able to do everything – play instruments and sing, write songs and paint pictures, build houses and work on cars – why would we need to surround ourselves with other talented people? If we could do everything by ourselves, we'd have no need to interact with other people.

And worst of all, we'd have little to no gratitude for the people around us. If everyone had all the same gifts, nobody would stand out for anything.

"We'd find more satisfaction ... complimenting others because of what they can do."
— Jordan Green

What a sad world that would be.

I'm thankful not only for what I can do, but for what I can't do. The stuff I can't do gives me reason to ask others for help or pay them for their services. Watching people use their gifts is a beautiful process. Try it sometime.

Another good friend of mine often talks about his appreciation for people who are excellent at their crafts, whether they're mechanics, teachers, musicians or artists. He has a knack for knowing when people know what they're doing. His life is richer because of it.

Now that's something everyone can do with a little practice: Seeing the great qualities in others and appreciating them.

Instead of wishing we could do what others can, perhaps we'd find more satisfaction enjoying what we can do and complimenting others because of what they can do.

None of this is to say that learning

and trying new things is bad. By no means. Those people who can play instruments, write books, sing songs, build houses and paint pictures?

Kudos to them; that takes hard work, too, and they deserve our compliments. So does anyone with any gift that he or she puts to good use.

Those of who can't do all of the aforementioned stuff – and I'd wager that's most of us – have a lesson to learn. We shouldn't envy gifts and talents we don't have. Instead, we should be happy for those who have them – and call them when we need them.

No matter what your gifts and talents are – no matter how many or how few – embrace them, and try to grow in them. Focus on improving what you can already do well rather than trying to do what other people do. Quality over quantity.

I'm glad I can't do everything; my weaknesses allow others to show their strengths. Contrary to what you believe, that's not necessarily a bad thing. Where we have voids, others are there to help us fill them.

I'll never play the piano, and my friend may never sing. But when we make music together, we'll be thankful for the gifts we have – and the ones we don't.

The talents we don't have bring us together and allow us to create something we couldn't do on our own.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: 'MUSIC MAN' COMES TO CAMPUS

Though local cast grows, stage shrinks for musical

By AUSTIN MORTON
Senior Reporter

Northwestern students, Alva community members and local school children are among the cast of one of the largest musical productions in recent Northwestern history.

The Northwestern theater program's upcoming performance of "The Music Man" will be the first musical on campus since the 2019 performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Coat." The performance will also be one of the largest ever put together by Director Kimberly Weast, with an ensemble of more than 60 performers.

This cast is different from most that Weast puts together, as more than 30 cast members are residents of the Alva community, Weast said.

"I personally reached out to some people to be involved, and then those people that I personally reached out to, reached out to people they know," Weast said.

Mickey Jordan, the university's director of technical theater, has worked with the community members. He oversees the show's publicity, assists in scenic design, serves as the lead on costuming, assists in choreography and has a part in the musical.

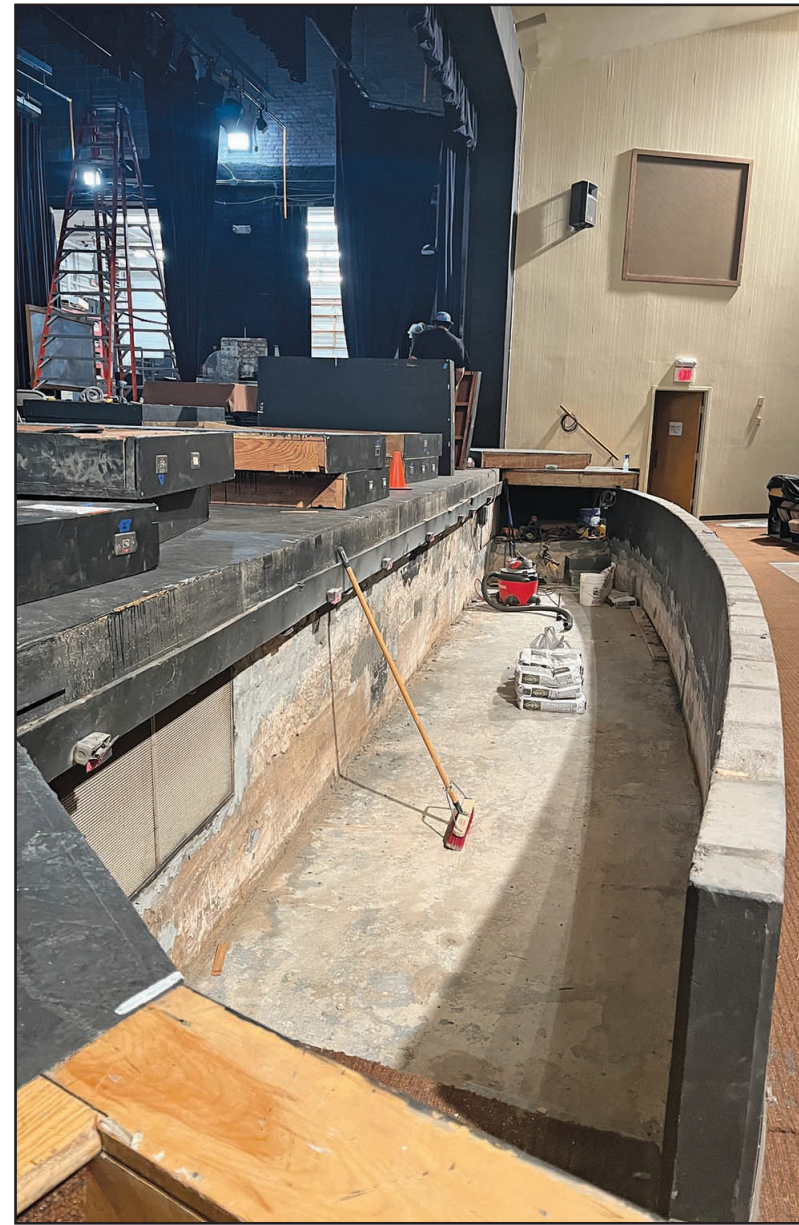
Jordan said he enjoys working with such a large cast, even though it poses challenges.

People of all ages are taking part in the performance, with the youngest cast member being 6 years old.

Jordan said he's impressed by the cast's talent.

"I worry a lot, especially with the choreography, that the middle schoolers aren't going to be able to pick it up," he said. "But they are on it and have been great to work with."

The sizable cast is working in a smaller-than-normal space. The stage in Herod Hall has been made smaller to accommodate the band, which will also be performing



during the musical.

The first full-cast, on-stage rehearsal took place Sunday. Cast members were surprised by how little room they had, Jordan said.

"The world is going to get real small, real fast," Jordan said.

Before Sunday, the cast was rehearsing in the Student Center Ballroom.

Though the cast has a large number of community members, its student actors still play a large role.

Northwestern senior Angie Aguilera plays the part of Marian Paroo, one of the lead characters.

"I feel like it is a jump in growth from the last musical," Aguilera said. "The last musical, I sang in the chorus and only had one small little role. So, it has been really rewarding to work hard for this role, because I didn't think I could ever do something like this."

Weast said she is expecting that the high level of community involvement will help draw a large turnout for the musical.

"We are hoping that, with having a large number of people on stage, we will have a large number of people in the audience," Weast said.



Cast and crew members sing during a rehearsal for "The Music Man" in the Student Center Ballroom on March 22.

Photos by Devyn Lansden

MUSICAL: For some cast members, production is foray into music theater

Continued from Page 1

recognize with the title and to pull the community back together after not doing a musical for two years."

The large size of the cast meant the set would have to be somewhat abstract, Jordan said. The apron of the stage has been taken off, and a large number of people will be singing and dancing on stage. So, the background won't be easily seen.

Jordan said that, although the set is simple, set designers did thorough research to make it period-correct. Costume designers also took care to develop costumes that represent people from different economic classes and occupations.

Emily Smith, a sophomore vocal music education major from Holdenville, plays the part of a character with a higher economic status. She is Ethel Toffelmier in the Pick-A-Little-Lady group, as well as the understudy for Marian Paroo, the female lead.

"We're kind of like the rich ladies of the small town that's based in Iowa," Smith said. "We're the gossipers of the town."

When first casted as a Pick-A-Little-Lady, Smith said she was against the part because she did not think she would enjoy it. But to her surprise, she has.

"The Music Man" is the first musical Smith has been in, but she said she has always treasured the production and songs. She said she enjoys the storyline of the production and likes how it has brought the community together.

Tickets are on sale now and can be bought online by visiting www.nwosufinearts.com. Tickets will also be available at the door. General admission costs \$12. Admission for faculty and senior citizens costs \$10, and student admission costs \$5.

The show will be in Herod Hall. It will begin at 7 p.m. April 7 and 8 and at 2 p.m. on April 9.



Choreographer Erin Davis, Director of Technical Theater Mickey Jordan and actor Sam Grinder read notes during a rehearsal for "The Music Man" in the Student Center Ballroom on March 22.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

1: The musical will be in the Herod Hall Auditorium at 7 p.m. April 7 and 8 and at 2 p.m. on April 9.

2: General admission is \$12. Faculty and senior citizen admission is \$10. Student admission is \$5.

3: Tickets are available online at www.nwosufinearts.com and at the door of the musical.

4: The cast has more than 60 members and is one of the largest in recent history at Northwestern.

5: "The Music Man" will be the first musical at Northwestern since 2019.



Photos by Devyn Lansden

Northwestern theater alumna Sara Acosta cuts a board in Herod Hall on March 24. Acosta is among a number of students and community members who have come together to build the set for "The Music Man."

Behind the scenes Crew explains what goes into set building

By DEVYNS LANSDEN
Senior Reporter

When the auditorium curtains open for "The Music Man" on April 7, the audience won't know about the weeks of work that community members, students and Fine Arts Department faculty put into the show.

Kimberly Weast, chair of the Fine Arts Department and director of the play, said the process of bringing a musical together is more arduous than most show-goers realize.

Before crew members start building a set for a production, they research sets and lighting design as well as costumes based on the time period in which the show is set.

Mickey Jordan, director of technical theater, draws different

sketches of what the stage could look like.

Once the stage sketching is finalized, Jordan then goes into what each piece will look like. He said he takes into account doors and windows.

Once work crews have done all of the research and figured out what each piece will look like, they start building.

The university has enlisted the help of four seamstresses to make costumes for the production.

Because the auditorium is used for other events and programs on campus, the cast and crew only get a short window of time to prepare for a production. Weast said they have about two or three weeks to build a set, get it on stage and do the show.

Lilith Ferrero, a speech and theater major from Cordell, helps with set building. She said build-

ers start with finding the right pieces throughout the stock they have accumulated over the years.

"After we have got everything pulled out and started to work on it, it's just putting things together and putting them in the right place on stage, painting what needs to be painted and making one cohesive piece out of a lot of different parts," she said.

Ferrero said her favorite part of the process is scenic painting because she likes giving the audience something fun to see.

Ferrero said communication is important throughout the whole process.

"Every single part of theater is [communication], making sure everybody knows what needs to happen so you can work together," Ferrero said. "Without communication, the entire thing would fall apart."



A table to be used as part of the set in the upcoming musical "The Music Man" is shown on stage in Herod Hall on March 24.



ABOVE AND LEFT: These March 24 photos show that the apron of the stage in Herod Hall has been removed to make room for band members to play during the upcoming production of "The Music Man" on April 7, 8 and 9.

Above: Photo provided

Left: Photo by Devyn Lansden

FEATURE

Cutting the cord

Streaming services replacing cable, satellite television

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Features Editor

The satellite dish swung along the side of the house, a single cord suspending it in the air.

Inside, the television program cut in and out as the wind blew the satellite faster. With a loud snap, the satellite fell to the ground and the TV went to static.

Problems like these are a downside to using services like cable and satellite television.

However, a popular alternative has been growing since the early 2000s: streaming services. Popular movies, TV shows, sporting events and news are offered on-demand without a cable or satellite service requirement, thus replacing the need for cable and satellite television.

All that is necessary to use streaming services is a good internet connection and a smart TV with the streaming apps built in, or an inexpensive streamer like an Amazon Fire TV Stick or Roku, according to David Katzmaier, editorial director of TVs and streaming at www.cnet.com.

“The apps have free trials, which you use and get a taste of what they offer.”
— **Jeffery Cher-Aime**

Some popular streaming services are Netflix, Hulu, Disney Plus and Amazon Prime Video.

SAVING MONEY

Many of these services offer different package levels based on cost and number of users.

“Overall, streaming is cheaper than cable,” said Jeffery Cher-Aime, a senior at Northwestern. “You aren’t paying for a bunch of channels you’ll never watch. My family in America doesn’t have cable anymore because the streaming apps are built into the TV. The apps have free trials, which you use and get a taste of what shows they offer. You can also pick and choose what to watch when you want it, instead of watching whatever happens to be on at that time.”

A native of the Bahamas, Cher-Aime said hardly anyone on the islands has cable anymore because of the measures it takes to distribute such services.

“We have to run long power cords along the ocean floor to get electricity to every island,” Cher-Aime said. “Therefore, it’s easier



Some residents of South Hall watch a movie together in the South Hall lobby on one of the university’s TVs.

Photo and graphic by Devyn Lansden

to get satellite internet and stream TV and movies than trying to run cable lines from island to island.”

TRADITIONAL TV SEES SHARP DECLINES

According to an article written in the New York Times, “Cutting the Cord: Alternatives to Cable and Satellite TV,” Americans are using streaming in records numbers.

“As recently as 2010, more than 88 percent of households were paying for TV from a cable, satellite, or other provider,” according to the story. “But by the middle of 2015 that number had fallen to 80 percent. And by the second quarter of 2016, it was reported that more people quit paying for TV service in the those three months than in any previous quarter.”

Because of the gradual migration from cable to streaming services, many popular networks and media companies have developed their own streaming services to reach a larger audience, both online and through satellite and cable.

According to its website, Discovery Plus offers almost all television shows shown on HGTV, Food Network and the Travel Channel.

NBC created Peacock, a streaming service with its network shows, in July 2020.

These networks heavily advertise their streaming services to attract cable and satellite viewers to watch episodes sooner online.

Other major networks are following suit and developing their own streaming services for consumers to watch television shows through.

CONVENIENCE OFFERED BY STREAMING

An appealing aspect of cable and satellite television is watching live events and shows.

Comparing streaming services and traditional cable TV

 <p>Over 75 channels for \$69.99 a month</p>	 <p>Over 85 channels for \$64.99 a month</p>	<p>Traditional cable and satellite services</p> <p>An average of \$109.30 a month</p>
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However, many streaming services offer live TV add-ons to basic packages for consumers.

Aside from live TV, streaming services allow consumers to choose when and what they want to watch. With no traditional scheduled programming, streaming service consumers have no limit to the time they have to watch a show or movie. Shows can pause or play at any time and pick up where the viewer left off.

Braylon Bradt, a junior at Northwestern, said he likes the portability offered with streaming services.

“A lot of streaming services have downloaded apps, and since I work outside most of the time, I’m able to choose a show I want to watch or listen to,” Bradt said. “It allows me freedom to enjoy my shows wherever I want, not just inside my house.”

Consumers have a choice in what shows they watch.

An article posted by bbntimes.com said this allows viewers to binge-watch their favorite shows, re-watch old episodes or movies and try out new shows. Some streaming services produce their own original productions to watch, including Hulu and Netflix.

“With all the different streaming options available, I can pretty much watch anything,” Bradt said. “When working long hours during harvest, a good show helps pass time.”

As with many apps, streaming service apps allow consumers to watch shows from anywhere with a network connection, including smartphones, tablets and computers.

An article posted by cnet.com said cable and satellite television services require multiple connec-

“When working long hours during harvest, a good show helps pass the time.”

— **Braylon Bradt**

tions to physical televisions via cables and receiving boxes. This limits the mobility and access consumers have to watch TV.

Streaming apps are available in device app stores. Most are free to download and have optional in-app purchases.

The downside to replacing cable or satellite television with streaming services is the number of services available.

By having popular shows and movies limited to one platform, consumers are forced to pay for multiple services to watch all their favorite content.

While consumers must carefully consider which platforms to pay for, no long-term contracts are required for streaming services.

Most offer free trials with no fee to opt-out of the service once the trial is up.

According to an article on bbntimes.com, many cable and satellite services require a contract of one year or more to pay the lower advertised price.

If customers want to break the contract or change their package option, they must first pay heavy fees and sometimes continue paying for the service after the contract is broken.

Rented equipment, like cables, receiving boxes and satellites must be removed and returned to the company, or the consumer faces more fines.

As more and more people choose to stream their favorite TV shows and movies, the need for cable and satellite television declines.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Country music acts will perform in Freedom

By **BENJAMIN KLIEWER**
Senior Reporter

Three red dirt country music acts will perform at the Stables Arena in Freedom on April 23.

Stoney Larue, Cody Canada & The Departed and Micky and the Motorcars will be the stars of the Red Dirt Roadshow.

Dan Baus, senior producer of JNP Productions, said the show is attracting national attention because the three headlining bands haven't been touring together.

Larue has sold more than 1 million albums and singles in his nearly 20-year career.

"Stoney Larue has a very wide and diverse audience, and so it's going to appeal to college kids, and it's going to appeal to people who have graduated," Baus said. "It's kind of crossover country music. So, there's a lot of rock vibe. There's a lot of country-western vibe. There's a lot of blues vibe."

"It's kind of crossover country music."

— **Dan Baus,**
JNP Productions

The Departed, led by Canada, focuses on his country-rock roots. Canada's previous band, Cross Canadian Ragweed, sold more than a million albums from 1998 to its dissolution in 2010.

Micky and Gary Braun founded Micky and the Motorcars, focusing on low-key rock-and-roll rapture built on grooves and the Brauns' signature harmonies.

The show will open at 6 p.m. on April 23 at the Frontier Rodeo Company Stables Arena, 216872 State Highway 50A in Freedom. Tickets are on sale at www.red-dirtroadshow.com.



Photos provided

ABOVE: Stoney Larue, a red dirt country artist will perform at the Red Dirt Roadshow at 6 p.m. on April 23 in the Stables Arena in Freedom.

RIGHT: Cody Canada & The Departed, a red dirt country band will also be perform in at the Red Dirt Roadshow in Stables Arena in Freedom.

BELOW: Micky and the Motorcars, a red dirt country band will perform at the Red Dirt Roadshow with a start time of 6 p.m.



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SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL



Photos by Emma Sporleder

Head volleyball coach Fred Aubuchon talks to Northwestern volleyball players during a game. Aubuchon is retiring from coaching after a 26-year career, with three years at Northwestern.

One game ends, another begins



Head volleyball coach Fred Aubuchon looks on during a Northwestern volleyball game. Aubuchon finished his three seasons at Northwestern with a 42-37 record, giving him the most wins in Northwestern history.

Volleyball coach Aubuchon retires after 26-year career

By CADE KENNEDY
Sports Editor

During volleyball practices inside Percefull Fieldhouse, there was one piece of advice that lingered through the arena: be where your feet are.

After a 26-year career of coaching, volleyball coach Fred Aubuchon will be where his feet are, as he steps onto the green grass of retirement.

Aubuchon's career has taken him to several places, but his first coaching job landed him in Perrysburg, Ohio, at Owens Community College in 1996. When the season started, it was just like a normal season for Aubuchon.

"Retirement wasn't a thought of mine during the season last year, not even during the holidays," Aubuchon said. "But just after Christmas, my wife heard of an opportunity for a promotion within her job setting.

"She looked into it, and as this semester progressed, she ended up getting that promotion. But that promotion required her to move to Topeka, Kansas.

"Several times in my career, in advancements in coaching, I've had to move and change locations, and my wife without hesitation supported that decision,

packed up the house and moved. I just feel that, after 30 years of doing what I've been doing, it's her turn."

Throughout Aubuchon's coaching career, he had 19 seasons where he won at least 20 games.

Aubuchon also led eight of his teams to national tournaments in their respective leagues.

Aubuchon spent three years coaching at Northwestern and finished with a record of 42-37, making him the winning-est coach in Northwestern volleyball history. Wins are not all Aubuchon got at Northwestern, as he made memories that will last forever.

"On my first ever trip to Arkansas, when we took the team, we stopped off to have dinner in Arkansas, and it was near an outdoor shopping mall," Aubuchon said. "The girls seemed like they wanted to go shopping, so we cut them loose for 90 minutes, and they ran all over God's green Earth shopping at all these different stores. Our bus came back with a ton more packages than it left with."

In his time here, Aubuchon said he has learned as much from his players as they have learned from him.

"I've learned to be where your feet are," Aubuchon said. "Be in the moment, and focus on what matters most at that moment."

What matters the most right now to Aubuchon is his family, and he'll be there with them.

SPORTS

BASEBALL

Rangers start new winning streak



Photo by Devyn Lansden

Emilio Lovato pitches the ball during Northwestern's game against Ouachita Baptist on Saturday at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium at Northwestern. The Rangers defeated the Tigers, 16-5, to win the series 2-1.

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Assistant Editor

The Northwestern baseball team played a home series against Ouachita Baptist and came out of it with a series win.

The Rangers won two of three games against the Tigers after losing the first game of a double header on Friday.

The Rangers started having trouble pitching in the second inning, as Brady Bowles and Ethan Swanson gave up a combined six runs after the first inning.

"Brady had a good first inning, and then he lost control," head coach Ryan Bowen said. "It's hard to get the tide in the other direction when you get down like that."

Swanson pitched most of the game afterwards, as the Rangers only gave up two more runs.

The Rangers got only one run out of it, as Shaughn Kelly got an RBI on a ground out to third in the fifth, as the final was 8-1.

The second game was a roller coaster, as the Rangers got behind 4-0 going into the bottom of the fourth.

The Rangers put together three runs, with a sac fly ball from Brayden Koenig that drove in a run. Chase Orrock got a double to drive in another run. Bryan Guerrero got on base on a throwing error to first, which allowed Orrock to score.

In the fifth, Blake Hoffman singled to tie the game at four.

From there, Northwestern took over the game with a two-run

double by Brandon Holdren in the sixth, which was followed up by a two-run home run by Hoffman for an 8-4 victory.

"It was a huge come-from-behind win that got momentum going into Saturday's game for us," Bowen said.

The final game was dominated by the Rangers, as they scored nine runs in the first inning, with five runs off home runs by Holdren, Orrock and Hayden Priest. Priest and Holdren each had two RBIs off those hits.

The Rangers scored seven more runs, with two more solo home runs by Gavin Mendoza and Yugo Hamakawa in the fifth and sixth, respectively, with a 16-5 victory.

"Our offense really went on Saturday, scoring nine runs in the first inning," Bowen said. "It was a big boost. It allowed our pitchers to go out and pitch well."

Following the series, the Rangers travelled to Goodwell on Tuesday to take on the Oklahoma Panhandle State Aggies.

Despite the 40 mph wind, the Rangers started off strong, as they scored six runs over the course of the second, third and fourth innings.

The Aggies could not climb back into the game, as the Rangers secured an 8-3 win.

With this win, the Rangers have a three-game winning streak, which gives them another winning streak in March.

The Rangers have a home series against Southern Nazarene Friday at 6 p.m., with a double header Saturday at 1 and 4 p.m.

Lady Rangers lose to two packs of Tigers

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Assistant Editor

The Northwestern softball team finished its series with Ouachita with a result they did not want.

The team played a double-header Friday and had the final game on Saturday. The Rangers came out of the series losing two out of three against the Tigers.

The first game of the double-header was close, as it became a pitching duel through four innings.

The Lady Rangers answered in the fifth, with three runs to put them up 3-0. Alison Zanca knocked in a run, getting a double out of it. Two batters later, Abby DeTar got a two-RBI single.

The Lady Rangers held the Tigers to one run going into the seventh, but the team did not close the game out. Ouachita Baptist got a three-RBI double to walk it off, 4-3.

"We were a strike away from winning," head coach Ryan Wondrasek said. "We just couldn't put it away and let them back in it."

The next game was not so fortunate for the team. The Lady Rangers, after getting two runs to start the game, gave up 10 runs over the next three innings.

The Lady Rangers made an effort to get back in the game as they chipped away at the lead.

In the fourth, DeTar got two RBIs, and Zanca followed that up by bringing her into score, making it 10-5.

In the sixth, Morgan La Ne knocked in a run, making it 10-6. In the seventh, Jill Bouse batted in a run to make it 10-7.

The Lady Rangers did not complete the comeback and lost.

"Even though we dropped the second game, it was good to see that we came back on Saturday to salvage a win," Wondrasek said.

The Lady Rangers did exactly that and dominated the Tigers with La Ne, Hannah Howell and

Mackenzie Adams getting home runs. The Lady Rangers went on to win, 9-4, to finish the series.

The Lady Rangers faced off against a different set of tigers on Tuesday, when they played the Tigers of Fort Hays State.

The Lady Rangers dropped the first game of the double header by a score of 6-1, as the Lady Rangers struggled on both offense and defense.

TIE GAME

The second game was different, as the Lady Rangers achieved a result that has not occurred since joining Division II.

The Lady Rangers got off to another slow start, with the Tigers scoring four runs in the top of the second inning to take the lead.

The Lady Rangers responded in the bottom of the second, as Zanca homered to left field to get Northwestern on the scoreboard.

The rally continued for the Lady Rangers with a home run

by DeTar that cut the lead to two. The Tigers extended the lead back to four in the fourth inning, but the rally did not stop.

After the fourth inning, the game entered a weather delay, as a lightning strike was within seven miles of the field. After the 30-minute stoppage, the game resumed.

The fifth inning involved a barrage of runs that brought the

score to a 6-6 tie. With a storm moving into Alva, the game ended in a tie after six innings.

This is the first tie that the Lady Rangers have had since joining Division II. This gives the Lady Rangers a 12-17-1 record.

The Lady Rangers will be back in action Friday at 3 p.m. They will have a double header at noon and 2 p.m. against Southern Nazarene.

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