

ESPORTS FOR THE WIN

Virtual sports are a growing trend at universities across the U.S., including NWOSU. PAGE 7



CAN'T SKATE IN A BISON HERD

The Lady Rangers were swept by the Oklahoma Baptist Bison during a weekend series. PAGE 11



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Powwow to make NWOSU history

By **KAYLEA BROWN**
Senior Reporter

The Native American Student Association will host a powwow on Northwestern's Alva campus on April 23.

The powwow – a Native American gathering in which singing, dancing and celebrating history takes place – will be the first in school history.



Francis

Savannah Francis, a senior political science major from Tahlequah, said the powwow has been a goal of the club since she and her brother helped start it in 2019.

“We really just wanted to promote diversity and Native American culture on campus because there hasn't



Marshall

been an event like this in school history,” Francis said. “The Native American population [here] isn't as big, so we wanted to find a way to kind of promote it and show everyone here what it's like back home, where the Native American population is much more dense.”

The powwow will begin at 2 p.m. on the university's intramural field, which is between Percefull Fieldhouse, the J.R. Holder Wellness Center and Coronado Hall. It's slated to end at 10 p.m.

Francis, 20, said the intertribal powwow will have representation from multiple tribes.

Members of the head staff for the powwow will come from Cheyenne, Arapaho, See **POWWOW**, Page 3

STEPPING UP, STAMPING OUT



Northwestern students lined up to package food items as part of the Stamp Out Starvation organization's event in Percefull Fieldhouse on April 14. The organization, based in nearby Cherokee, provides meals to people in need around the world. Students volunteered to help make more than 30,000 meal packets. For a story and photos on the event, see Page 6.

Photo by Devyn Lansden

Program aims to curb shortage of teachers in state

By **DAX BENWAY**
Student Reporter

A new partnership between Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Northern Oklahoma College aims to combat a shortage of teachers in Oklahoma.

A fast-track course of study offered by the two institutions will allow students to obtain an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree in elementary education in three and a half years rather than the four years most programs take. The program will be offered at Northwestern and Northern's campuses in Enid.

“We are trying to shorten the time needed to get the required education to get teachers through the program and into the classroom,” said Dr. Christee Jenlink, associate dean of education and professor of See **PROGRAM**, Page 2

TRANSITION OF POWER: COVERING THE PRESIDENCY

Regents will not name presidential applicants

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

The Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents will not disclose the names of candidates applying for the Northwestern president's job, regents leading the presidential search process said.

The university also won't have a new

president named by the end of April, the original timeline regents gave for the process' completion, as interviews are slated to continue into May.

The news comes three months after longtime Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham announced her retirement and roughly three weeks before the end of the school year. The search to replace Northwestern's 19th president, and its first female president, began in February.

Regent Eric Fisher, who chairs the search, said confidentiality is essential to the process.

“It is our policy to keep applicants' information confidential during the interviewing process, as most of the candidates are currently employed at other institutions and need to maintain



Fisher

confidentiality of the interview process,” Fisher said in an email to the Northwestern News. “Our policy exists so that we are able to attract a broader and more qualified applicant pool. Without confidentiality of the process, we likely

See **SEARCH**, Page 2



McDermott

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NEWS

News wins 29 awards at conference

FROM STAFF REPORTS *Northwestern News*

The Northwestern News won 29 awards, including some top honors within the Diamond Division for small four-year universities, during the Oklahoma College Media Association conference in Stillwater on April 6.

The campus newspaper won Best Overall Newspaper and best in Front Page Design. Jordan Green, a Blackwell junior who serves the newspaper as its editor-in-chief, was named the Journalist of the Year. The contest period was the 2021 calendar year.

The award factored in Green's writing and reporting, a letter of recommendation from newspaper adviser Dr. Kaylene Armstrong and a personal essay addressing the mission of a college newspaper.

"I discussed how our job as a paper is to make our college more transparent and connected," Green said. "We're here to speak truth to power – and sometimes, to correct the misconceptions of the public. We serve the people, and we try to do that by providing them with the best, most accurate information possible."

Green said he was "honored and humbled" for the award but added that, as editor, he couldn't do what he does without his friends and fellow newspaper staff. For that, he said he's been blessed.

"As journalists, we don't write stories, shoot photos and build



Photo provided

Northwestern News staff members attended the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association conference in Stillwater on April 6 and won 29 awards. Shown from left to right are: Devyn Lansden, photo editor; Jordan Green, editor-in-chief; Caitlin Hofen, feature/entertainment editor; Cade Kennedy, sports editor; and J.D. Eddy, opinion editor.

newspaper pages to win awards, but we are thrilled when our hard work is recognized," Green said. "Being named the Best Overall Newspaper in our division is quite an honor, and it wouldn't be possible without the eager contributions of every single student journalist at the Northwestern News. This is a team effort, and we're excited each week that we get to serve our campus."

Other universities eligible to submit entries in the division include East Central University, Northeastern State University, Oklahoma Baptist University, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University and

the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma.

Nine students placed first, second, third and/or received an honorable mention in several categories.

Those students, their placings and categories follow:

FIRST PLACE:

- Enterprise/Investigative Reporting — Team: Laney Cook, Marshall senior; Kaylea Brown, Terlton senior; Devyn Lansden, Beaver senior

- Feature Writing and Reviews — Caitlin Hofen, Alva junior

- Reporting portfolio, Enterprise/Investigative Reporting — Individual, Column Writing and

General News Reporting — Jordan Green

- Sports Photography: Devyn Lansden

- Sports Reporting: Cade Kennedy, Alva sophomore

SECOND PLACE:

- Column Writing: Jordan Green

- Enterprise/Investigative Reporting — Team: Jordan Green, David Thornton, May 2021 graduate

- General News Reporting: Laney Cook

- Reporting Portfolio, Feature Writing and Reviews: Caitlin Hofen

- Sports Photography and Feature Photography: Devyn Lansden

- Sports Reporting: Connor Gray, Perkins senior

THIRD PLACE:

- Column Writing and Sports Photography: Devyn Lansden

- Enterprise/Investigative Reporting — Team: Laney Cook, Kaylea Brown, Devyn Lansden

- Feature Writing: Caitlin Hofen

- General News Writing: Jordan Green

HONORABLE MENTION:

- Feature Writing: Caitlin Hofen

- Reporting Portfolio: Cade Kennedy

- Sports Reporting: Gavin

Mendoza, Erie, Colorado, sophomore.

"Our editors, reporters, photographer, online manager, advertising manager and circulation manager are all equally important, and all are dedicated to our mission of providing Northwestern with a high-quality, well-rounded paper every week," Green said. "They love our school with all their hearts, and we have fun serving our community well."

While at the conference, students attended sessions on photography and finding story ideas on campus. After the luncheon where the awards were handed out, the guest speaker was Jenni Carlson, a sports columnist for The Oklahoman, who gave the 33rd Annual Paul Miller Lecture.

"The students continue to amaze me with the quality of work they can turn out," said Armstrong, who has served as the campus newspaper's adviser for seven years. "Their hard work every week of the semester shows in the honors that OCMA awarded."

"The supportive campus also needs credit for making this kind of awarding-winning work possible," she added. "We do appreciate all those people who so willingly agree to interviews and photos or provide necessary data for the stories. As I regularly learn, not all campus newspapers are fortunate to operate in such a supportive atmosphere."

The newspaper's work can be found online by visiting <https://northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com/>.

SEARCH: Confidentiality is needed to get quality applicants, Fisher says

Continued from Page 1

would miss out on numerous well-qualified candidates."

Thirty-one people applied for the position, regents said in a news release April 7, and a search committee tasked with reviewing applicants' resumes and qualifications recommended eight applicants for further consideration. Virtual interviews with those candidates will begin April 18, and in-person interviews will begin in May, officials said.

Regents hired nationwide firm Higher Education Leadership Search to advertise the president's position, recruit candidates and collect application materials. The job listing was sent to roughly 80,000 higher education professionals in the firm's database and was advertised in higher education-related publications.

The Board of Regents will vote to hire the next president after interviews are completed. The new president will take office July 1.

Regent Jane McDermott, a Northwestern alumna who lives in Alva, said regents voted unanimously to keep the list of applicants confidential, in part, because they weren't required to make it public.

"If you were running for bank president, or any other job, it wouldn't be put in the paper who the three finalists were," McDermott told the Northwestern News in an interview. "We do what we are required to do. We weren't [required], so we unanimously voted to keep it the way it is."

"It's a procedure and policy that's been in place a lot longer than you and I. The applicants seem to really like it."

McDermott first spoke about the replacement process during an on-campus forum in February, saying regents would be both transparent and confidential during the search process. She also discussed the timeline of the search.

Other colleges and universities, however, have changed their processes by naming candidates. When nearby Northern Oklahoma College hired a new president in 2021, the college named its finalists for the job and had multiple public forums for students, faculty, staff and community members to meet them.

Among the finalists in the college's search was Dr. Wayne McMillan, the dean of Northwestern's Enid campus.

Fisher said search committee members have undertaken a "careful and detailed review of the massive volume of the candidates' application materials and for their dedication to NWOSU and its mission, culture and values."

"The regents are committed to finding the right candidate to succeed President Janet Cunningham, who has masterfully led NWOSU for the past 16 years," Fisher said.

"Hiring a university president is the Regents' most important responsibility, and we have put in place a thorough and deliberate search process."

PROGRAM: Enrollment will not be capped for courses

Continued from Page 1
education at Northwestern.

The news of the program comes as teachers in Oklahoma are retiring at increasing rates, and as younger educators are leaving the field for other careers.

"We are looking forward to getting this started and being able to open doors in Enid for teacher candidates to participate in a new program while also meeting all the education needs for northwest Oklahoma and the state," said Dr. Bo Hannaford, Northwestern's executive vice president.

The program will fulfill current guidelines for instructor readiness, officials said.

Enrollment in the program is not limited to a certain number of students.

"The more students we can introduced into the program, the better, as the need for teachers in the surrounding areas continues to rise," Tiffany Meacham, an academic advisor for elementary education at Northern

"The more students we can get introduced into the program, the better, as the need for teachers ... continues to rise."

— ***Tiffany Meacham***

Oklahoma College.

Enid Public Schools officials have been giving feedback on the program, as the district will likely benefit from it, officials said. The school district will hire graduates from the program.

Northwestern and Northern officials will conduct advisement sessions for the program at Northern's Enid campus in Montgomery Hall and in the lobby of the Zollars Building from 8 a.m. to noon on April 18 and 19. The campus is located at 100 S. University Ave.

NEWS

Northwestern custodians 'get the job done'

Custodians receive matching shirts; supervisor praises team's versatility

By **BENJAMIN KIEWER**
Senior Reporter

The full-time custodial staff of Northwestern received matching shirts on March 7 in appreciation for their work.

"I feel like I have a really good group of people," custodial supervisor Debbie Anderson said. "Any time we have a big project to get done, this group of custodians is all willing jump in and get the job done."

Each custodian is assigned to keep at least one building on campus clean, Anderson said. Each custodian is also responsible for at least part of another building, and some are assigned to take on two buildings.

All custodians can be moved to a different building if another custodian is out for the day or if a large project needs to be finished. This becomes a challenge, as the

custodians are on their feet for eight to 10 hours per day, Anderson said.

One of the frustrations the custodians face is when people put small sacks of trash inside large trash cans instead of taking their trash outside to a dumpster, Anderson said.

Another frustration is when people walk across floors while custodians are trying to strip and wax them. Then, the work has to be redone.

Summer break is about to start, but that doesn't mean the custodians can slow down, Anderson said.

The summer is the busiest time of the year for janitorial staff because they work on projects they can't complete during the school year, including dormitory clean-up and waxing floors throughout buildings.

TRY A LITTLE KINDNESS

Custodians sometimes feel like they are unappreciated, Anderson said. So, when custodians hear students say "Thank you" and "We appreciate what you are



Photo provided

Northwestern custodians pose for a portrait at Ryerson Hall after receiving their new matching shirts March 7. In the back row (left to right) are: Dean Kilgore, Jeffery Lee, Andrea Corr, Brandon Wallis and Eric Tutwiler. In the middle row are: Clayton Morris, Marc Walz, LesLee Bratt, Darcie Obermeier, Jonathan McAlpin and Debbie Anderson. In the front row are: Azucena Rivera, Miranda Gilliland and Victor Muniz-Mendoza.

doing," they're delighted, Anderson said.

Anderson said she was recent-

ly encouraged by the kindness of a student. Anderson was on her hands and knees scraping a floor

in the library while preparing to wax the floor. A student stopped and offered to help her.

Help available for assault survivors

By **AUSTIN MORTON**
Senior Reporter

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and with it comes a collective effort to bring attention to the matter.

Students at all Northwestern campuses have resources available to them if they have experienced sexual assault.

At the Alva campus, Taylor Wilson is the director of Counseling and Career Services.

Her role is to get sexual assault survivors connected with medical assistance, law enforcement or other resources.

"A lot of times, the victims can feel like it is their fault," Wilson said. "So, getting these connections for them can help give them back some of the power and choices they feel like they might have lost."

Wilson can connect students to the Young Women's Christian Association in Enid.

The YWCA is the oldest wom-

en's organization in America. Its goal is to assist people by providing crisis intervention, including shelter, medical and legal assistance and free counseling.

Courtney Strzinek, executive director of the YWCA, said she wants to offer any assistance possible to sexual assault victims.

"Even though we're in Enid, we service just about every surrounding county," Strzinek said. "It's not just sexual assault. We also assist with domestic violence and just anyone who needs help."

POWWOW: Club hopes to teach Northwestern about Native culture

Continued from Page 1

Kiowa, Cherokee, Mvskoke Creek and Aleut tribes. Other tribes will be represented at the powwow through various members of the club.

The event has several elements to it, Francis said. A meal will be provided for the head staff, numerous dances will take place, various groups will have booths and NASA members will sell items they've made.

"We're going to have a drum group come in made of Cheyenne and Arapaho members," Francis said. "They're going to be playing the drum the entire time, so it's going to be a drum surrounded by singers."

Angel Marshall, the club's vice president, said she and

Francis have spent a significant amount of time organizing the event. They're still finalizing some details.

"There's only one solidified job right now because we're all going to be putting our hands in everything," Marshall said. "Savannah and I are overseeing the entire thing and helping where we can because there's so much to do."

Marshall, a 20-year-old senior English major from Tahlequah, said she is excited to see how the event has come together and to see the support the club has received. She said she's also excited to bring some of the Native American culture she's familiar with to this side of the state.

"Oklahoma's full of Native

American culture," she said. "So many people are Native in Oklahoma, but it's crazy how a lot of people on this side of the state have never been to a powwow."

Francis said she believes everyone should come out to experience something they haven't done before. However, she wants them to remember that it is a sacred Native American tradition.

"There's some etiquette," Francis said. "To be respectful at the powwow, don't mock anything. Just because it's something new you see, don't mock the singers or the dancers. Don't touch their regalia. Don't point at the dancers, and if you're going to take pictures or recordings, a good rule of thumb would probably be to ask first."

IN BRIEF

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY

A blood drive will take place in the Ranger Room on Northwestern's Alva campus on Tuesday and Wednesday. The theme

of the event is "I came for the treats." Donors will receive a free T-shirt, a bandana for a pet and a free ticket to the OKC Zoo. The blood drive is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. To set up an appointment, visit www.obi.org.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

All letters represent the views of the author.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

OPINION



File Photos

ABOVE: The J.R. Holder Wellness Center, the author believes mental health is improved by exercising. BELOW: J.D. Eddy works out on Tuesday.

Mental health improves through exercise

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

Sports can serve as an outlet to help relieve people of depression, anxiety, stress and any sort of image problems.

When I say sports, I'm not just talking about school sports. It can be kickboxing, wrestling, Zumba, yoga, powerlifting, bodybuilding and basically anything that helps you express who you are.

When I was in high school, sports were always in my life. I played football and baseball, and I wrestled and ran track. Being that active meant I always had my mind on other things.

I focused on football my senior year. I used it as an outlet for things that were happening in my life, while also trying to secure an athletic scholarship for college. I'm sure most athletes dream of this when they are playing a sport in high school. It is an attainable goal if you work for it.

Now I am sure not everyone plays sports because they are angry or depressed, but these conditions can be a factor in how good you are at that activity.

Any activity where you hit something is cathartic, meaning it relieves stress and provides some sort of satisfaction. When I was in boxing or kickboxing, being able to hit something provided a sense of relief.

Sometimes, I hold in emotions and do not let them out until I do some form of exercise to release



them.

Any form of exercise can relieve stress, but according to researchers with Harvard Health Publishing, exercising can relieve some of the feelings of a guilty conscience. I partially agree with this, but exercise is not the only thing a person needs to alleviate a guilty conscience. For example: if I hit somebody else's car with my car, the first thing I am not going to do is exercise.

The thing that works for most men (I do not have a view on the female perspective) is being motivated by trauma in our lives. When a man gets his heart broken, you notice that he turns into a different person: cold-hearted,

more driven, smarter and more physically fit.

I've said it before: Exercise does more for you after a traumatic event than almost everything.

According to the website for the Anxiety and Depression Association of America: "The physical benefits of exercise, improving physical condition and fighting disease have long been established. Physicians always encourage staying physically active."

This is true. The NFL use to air a commercial that promoted exercising for 60 minutes a day. It did not matter what form of exercise you did. What mattered was that you were getting out for that amount of time.

According to researchers with the University of Vermont, "Overall, schools that implemented the programs had better health and fitness profiles than schools that chose not to implement them or only did so partially."

The university's website shows that schools that did not participate in this did not see improvement in students' mental health, and saw little to no improvement in physical health.

That is kind of off topic. This was to show that exercise can improve your levels of happiness, self-image, self-confidence and can change the path of your life for the better.

I am not saying exercise will completely get rid of all negative feelings. Northwestern offers counseling services on campus. More information about these was included in an email sent out by the school last Thursday.

If you are feeling distressed and think exercise is the way to go,

I say go for it. But keep in mind that you have to develop exercise into a habit for it to be effective. At least that's how it was for me.

I have talked about exercise being an important part of physical health before, but the mental side is really what you need to focus on.

We all have ways to deal with trauma in our life; this is mine. It is only a suggestion. Whatever you feel is best for you and helps you deal with it, that's what matters the most.

OPINION



File photos

ABOVE: Northwestern maintenance worker Chuck Korff mows a pile of leaves in November. BELOW: Custodian Dean Kilgore sweeps a sidewalk on campus in August 2020.

Let's appreciate our support staff workers

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

When I walk into the Jesse Dunn Building at Northwestern Oklahoma State on a weekday, I can count on Dean Kilgore to smile, wave and have something kind to say.

Dean isn't a professor, but he's someone my university – and pretty much any school or business – couldn't do without: support staff members, like custodians and maintenance workers, who work behind the scenes to keep our campus moving.

Day in and day out, Kilgore and countless other custodians all around us work to make sure the places we live and work are spick and span. Their importance was highlighted during the pandemic, when they wiped down surfaces and kept our air purified so we're safe.

I think we often don't give custodians enough credit. Quite frankly, keeping our places of work and play clean is a dirty job.

According to Zippia, an employment data tracker, the U.S. has more than 1.4 million custodians. In a country with millions of businesses, school, hospitals, you name it, that figure seems a

little low.

Chances are, the custodians you know are overworked and probably underpaid. Worst of all, they're grossly underappreciated.

When I was a kid, the school janitors were some of the nicest people a kid would come across at school. Sometimes, the janitors were the first people kids would talk to if they were having a bad day. I think that's still true today.

I can't even begin to name all the custodians I met through my years in school, but I remember them even better than I do many of my teachers. They were kind, sincere folks. Real people.

Custodians do more than just mop floors. In most places, they're the ones who turn on the lights to get our days started, and they sanitize the surfaces we're so good at making messy.

They set up tables and chairs so students can have clean classrooms, and they make sure our meeting rooms are spotless so we can impress business partners. Hospitals come to mind as another place where custodians are absolutely vital.

At universities, this is true: Guys like Dean are just as important as the dean.

Maintenance workers fit into that same category. As summer rolls around, think about how miserable we'd be if people

weren't keeping our air conditioners working. We can thank maintenance workers at our places of employment for preventing that from happening.

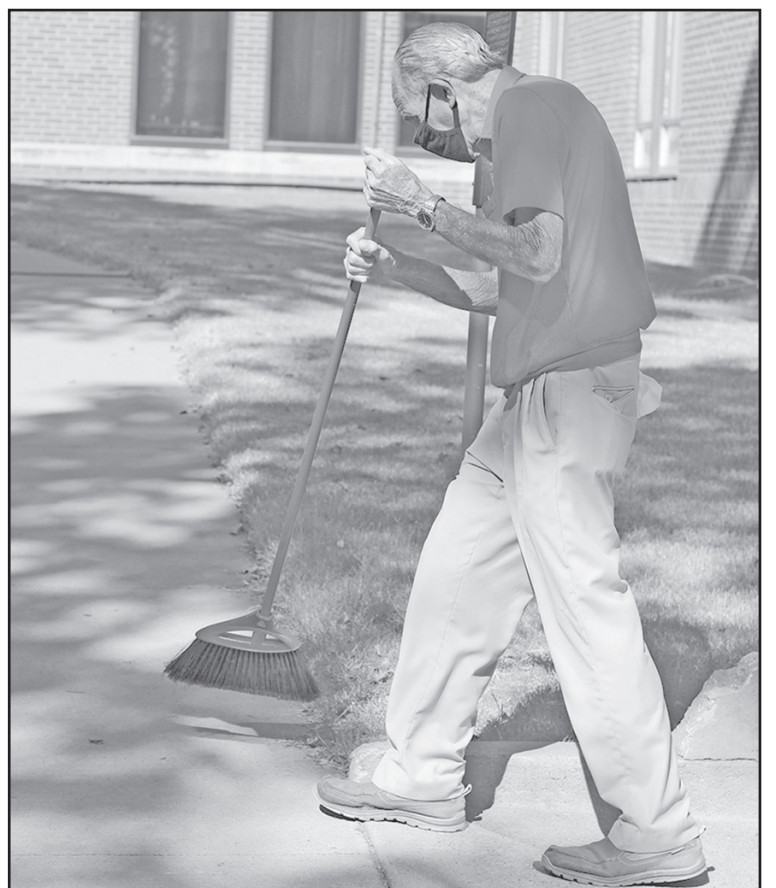
More than that, they're the ones who plug holes in our roofs, fix backed-up toilets when they

“Chances are the custodians you know are overworked.”
— Jordan Green

overflow and keep our sidewalks smooth, to name just a few tasks. They also make sure our businesses' flower gardens and yards are looking sharp.

According to data from Career Explorer, the U.S. has about the same number of maintenance workers as it does custodians. Once again, it seems like these folks are probably overworked.

Without maintenance workers and custodians, I can promise you that I wouldn't want to set foot in a lot of places. You wouldn't, either. Sometimes, we don't notice how valuable people are until they're not around. But that's because of our own short-sightedness.



People sometimes pass by support staff members at work without so much as saying “Hello.” I think it's time to change that.

This week, I'd like to challenge you to thank a custodian or a maintenance worker for what they do. I'll all but guarantee that person will be highly appreciative. They deserve our commendations – and a whole lot more, too.

We don't have to go out of our way to do this simple task. It won't take long, either, and it won't cost a dime. This act of

kindness, however, could really bless someone else's day. If it's so easy, why not try it?

Custodians and maintenance workers are real people performing real jobs – and finishing them really well. I think it's time we acknowledged and thanked them.

In case you were wondering, we do have a holiday to celebrate support staff like custodians and maintenance workers: Nov. 22. But you don't have to wait that long. Every day ought to be a day to thank these folks for what they do and who they are.

NEWS



Rangers prep meals for people in need

By DEVYN LANSDEN
Senior Reporter

Dozens of Northwestern students volunteered on April 14 to help package meals for people in need around the world.

Students spent part of their day in Percefull Fieldhouse to assemble packages of food items for Stamp Out Starvation, a non-profit organization based in near-by Cherokee, with the mission of providing nutritious meals to people across the globe.

The organization's meals contain rice and soy casserole, 21 essential vitamins and minerals, six dehydrated vegetables and chicken flavor.

Students helped make more than 30,000 packages of food. Some of the food will be sent to Mexico, and the majority gets shipped to Haiti, organizers said.

Monte Stewart, president of Stamp Out Starvation, said he goes to numerous schools to get help from students. He goes to Stillwater several times a year and often travels across Missouri, Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma.

To help the organization, people can contact Stewart to set up a time and gather a group of people to work. He said the organization also accept monetary donations to cover costs.

The organization is also starting a new program in Haiti using fruit that is grown there. Workers will use the fruit to make flour.

The organization started in 2007, Stewart said. Workers have fed more 23 million people since then.

The Northwestern Student Government Association and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee both co-sponsored the April 14 event along with the Northwestern Scholar Ambassadors.

Ethan Sacket, adviser for the Northwestern Scholar Ambassadors, said the idea to invite Stamp Out Starvation to Northwestern came from sophomore NSA member Tabor Budy.

Sacket said anytime the students can serve the community is a good thing, especially when they can help people outside the country.

To contact Stamp Out Starvation, 114 Loop Drive in Cherokee, call 580-748-1785 or visit www.stampoutstarvation.com/.



TOP: students lined up to package food items as part of the Stamp Out Starvation organization's event in Percefull Fieldhouse on April 14. ABOVE: Students put the organization's mixture of rice and soy casserole, vitamins ad minerals and dehydrated vegetables into a bag.

'Fed up': Students say bookstore service too slow

By AUSTIN MORTON
Senior Reporter



The entryway to the Northwestern Bookstore in the Student Center is shown in this 2020 file photo. Students say the bookstore's service is sometimes slow.

High prices and late shipping are just a few areas of concern for students buying textbooks from the university bookstore.

Book prices have gradually risen year-over-year, with 2022 being no exception.

A study by the Education Data Initiative shows that the average cost of a textbook has increased by about \$20 within the last 10 years.

Northwestern students like business major Justin Meyer say they've noticed the price hikes.

"Book prices are always something I hate thinking about when the semester starts," Meyer said.

"I sometimes had to spend a few hundred dollars, but other times not nearly as much. It just really depended on the class."

High book prices are just one aspect of the bookstore that students say they've struggled with. Books for some classes seem to take longer to arrive than others, they say. Some students have waited weeks to receive their books, even if they ordered them at the proper time.

Rachel Beaver, a senior social work major, said she has experienced inconveniences with her textbook purchases.

"I ordered a book for my class when the semester started," Beaver said. "But I did not get it until a few weeks later. This made

it hard for me to get some of my class work done."

Students who do not rely on the campus bookstore for their books still face issues. Though they can order books from online retailers like Amazon for a cheaper price, the books are often used and worn.

Meyer said he switched to buying books mostly online during his last few semesters.

"The lower prices are nice," Meyer said. "But I once got a book that was missing a whole chapter and had to take pictures of my friend's book to get the pages."

Whether they buy supplies online or at the book store, students say they're tired of the difficulties. "I'm just fed up," Meyer said.

NEWS

By BENJAMIN KLEWER
Senior Reporter

Students sit down at their computers and fire up their favorite video games. But they're not just average players — they're athletes-in-training.

Virtual sports tournaments, called esports tournaments, have grown in popularity around the nation, and Northwestern's own program is growing.

Evan Vaverka, an instructor of computer science Northwestern, said the popularity of esports is growing, in part, because of its accessibility.

"From an outside viewer's perspective, if you're just a person who likes watching people compete, you can pick up an esports game pretty quickly because the games are pretty self-explanatory," he said.

Computer science major John Cloud said video game manufacturers are becoming focused on making games with competitive tournaments in mind, driving up their popularity.

The livestreaming of video games on social media platforms has driven up viewership numbers, he added. Twitch, a popular site for podcasting, focused on video game streaming in its infancy.

EVOLUTION OF ESPORTS

Despite the concept's relatively recent popularity on college campuses, the road to getting esports into the educational mainstream has been long. Researchers with the University of New Haven wrote that in 1972 five Stanford University students competed in the first video game competition. The tournament, in which students played the game "Spacewar," was called the Intergalactic Spacewar Olympics. The winner received a year's subscription to Rolling Stone magazine.

The first esports tournaments were based on high scores. The most notable tournaments were Atari's 1980 "Space Invaders" Championship, which attracted more than 10,000 competitors. In 1991, "Street Fighter II" changed tournaments by relying on face-to-face competition instead of high scores.

The next step that increased public awareness was in 1997 when Quake hosted its Red Annihilation tournament. The winner of the tournament received game developer John Carmack's 1987 Ferrari 328 GTS. Over 2,000 gamers competed in the one-on-one death matches with the final 16 competitors facing off in Atlanta, Georgia.

Representatives with tech dealer CDW wrote on the company's website that The Quake's "Red Annihilation" competition is commonly regarded as the first true esports event.

Both the Cyberathlete Professional League and the Professional Gamers League were formed in 1997. Five years later, the Major

LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Esports rising in popularity at Northwestern



TOP: Northwestern esports team members play games in the Northwestern esports room in Shockley Hall during a January gaming session. ABOVE: Northwestern students Cy Walters and Darian Smith play games in the esports room in Shockley Hall during the session. The esports program at Northwestern is growing in popularity.

League Gaming came onto the scene.

Fast forward to 2021, and the League of Legends World Tournament peaked at 73,860,742 viewers, according to the LOL Esports Media Center.

Werner Geysler, a writer for the Influencer Marketing Hub, said the esports industry has seen a tremendous rise in popularity since 2015. Then, slightly more than 800,000 people had heard about it. But these numbers soon changed, and by the following year, more than a billion people had learned about esports.

"One of the main reasons there has been growth in eSports viewership is that more people are learning about it," he wrote in an article for the company.

GETTING PAID TO PLAY

Financial support for esports professionals come from a few different sources. The biggest sources of support used to be viewers who donated or bought merchandise from their favorite teams. Now, a professional esports player who has earned popularity can find financial backing from sponsorships

and contracts from esports teams. Prize pools offer another way to earn money for professionals, though they're not as consistent as sponsorships. Some prize pools are worth millions, according to USA Today. In 2021, the prize pool for the online game Dota 2 was around \$47.2 million.

For tournaments, host support comes from people purchasing the games or from the sale of in-game items such as battle passes. Also, some businesses find esports to be large enough venues to advertise in.

Northwestern's esports players

have a practice room in Shockley Hall, where they gather to train. Here, players have access to high-end computers that allow them to compete without any technical worries.

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

Northwestern's esports players can also obtain scholarships for playing, similar to those for football and basketball players. This scholarship is available for 25 to 30 students, Vaverka told the Northwestern News in February.

PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES?

Tournaments are not restricted to the professional world level, and esports is developing level of play much like football. High school tournaments are springing up across the country, and some institutions are recognizing them as official sports.

College-level esports can lead into the professional level if esports teams like what they see in a player, Vaverka said.

Northwestern is in a group called the Oklahoma Association of College Esports, which practices with and competes against other colleges from Oklahoma, Colorado and Arkansas.

Many esports gamers hope to ascend to the professional level, Cloud said, because the culture of gaming has changed. In the past, people considered video games to be a fun pastime. Now, he said, people want to be competitive — and be the best.

Northwestern News Senior Reporter Austin Morton contributed to this story.

FEATURE

DORM LIFE

Students find advantages, disadvantages to dorms

By ALIYAH BIDWELL
Senior Reporter

Why should students live in the dorms on campus?

Northwestern students say they have many reasons. Some students who stay in the dorms say they like the social atmosphere and decide to stay. Other students, however, say the dorms have their downsides.

AMENT HALL

Ament Hall has small lobbies, which makes hosting events hard to do, said Ament Hall head resident Brandon Wilson.

"Ament's lobby TVs don't work at all," Wilson said.

"Ament Hall has a ping-pong table, and it is a hot commodity," Wilson added. "Since Ament Hall is mostly men in sports, the dorm doesn't need to hold events because they all get together and hang out as sports friends. When we do have events, because of the lobby size, we usually team up with Coronado Hall so that we have the space. The dorm has non-sports members as well, and they have chances to hang out with us as a group as well."

FRYER HALL

Fryer Hall's disadvantages aren't anything major, but they might be the deciding factor of living there, students say.

"In Fryer Hall, the lobbies are a decent size," said Kailani Kealoha, Fryer Hall head resident. "The TV size makes it hard to watch things because the couches are so far away. We are just waiting on the company to come to install the new ones."

In spite of those issues, Fryer Hall still has events for students.

"With the struggle of COVID-19, we face students attending things less, but we still have girls attend our dorm events," Kealoha said. "The events bring a bunch of students down to the lobby, and because we are a smaller dorm, we can hold almost everyone from our dorm in our lobby. This year, we got arcade games put into our lobby, and many students love playing them."

SOUTH HALL

South Hall offers more privacy than Fryer Hall, students say.

"The way the Fryer rooms are set up, if you are gone during the day, you aren't able to lock your suitemate out of your room because they are set up like a twin-shared bedroom attachment," said Camille Soderstrom, a resident in South Hall said. "It would be nice if they offered a travel lock so that, during the day, you can lock



File photos

ABOVE: South Hall is one of four dormitories on Northwestern's campus. BELOW: The Fryer Hall lobby is shown before an event in 2017.



them out of your room while you are gone. That way, there would be no fear of stuff getting stolen."

South Hall has a mix of newer and older showers. Some have been replaced, and more are on the way, according to Matt Adair, the university's housing director.

"The older showers are harder to clean than the newer showers," said resident Carys Delaplaine.

South Hall has two movie rooms: one on the first floor and one on the second. The second floor has an ice machine, and the third floor has a study room.

"South Hall has many advantages, but the big one is the love that is shared here," said Victoria Caywood, a resident in South Hall.

CORONADO HALL

"Although the lobby is a decent size, it is split up into two

rooms, which can be annoying," said Dawson Maxwell, the Coronado Hall head resident. "Some may say that the dorm is plain. It's a guy's dorm."

"We don't have to make it look good because we use the office for practical things like tools and such. Our RAs mostly just chill in the lobby."

Coronado Hall has a large lobby even though it is split into two rooms: a game room and a TV room, residents say. They have Superbowl watch parties.

"We just got new TVs in our lobby," Maxwell said. "We have arcade games, and we have vending machines in each part of our lobby."

Some parts of Coronado have been renovated.

"Being on the fourth floor may seem crazy to some people, but there is no one above you to make noise, and they are nicer

up there," said Josiah Marshall, a Coronado resident. "They renovated the fourth floor first, I think, because the ones on the fourth

floor have ... the most stairs."

COST OF DORM LIFE

Northwestern has some of the cheapest room and board costs of any university in Oklahoma.

Northwestern charges \$1,880 a semester for a semi-private room. The university offers different meal plans as well.

With room and board costs added in, students spend \$5,200 for the highest meal plan and \$4,880 for the lowest meal plan per semester.

"We are planning renovations this summer, and I will know more about what is getting done as the semester progresses," Adair said. "Many students see the dorms as an advantage because you can meet people easier and make friends faster than you might living off-campus. The dorms have been renovated before, but it was before my time here at Northwestern."

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ENTERTAINMENT

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

‘MLB The Show 22’ rated fan favorite

By **GAVIN MENDOZA**
Senior Reporter

San Diego Studios recently released the 2022 version of one of its more popular games, “MLB The Show.”

“MLB The Show 22” is my favorite game to play, mostly because I am such a fan of baseball, but also because it gives me an opportunity to manage my favorite professional players in the Diamond Dynasty mode.

Diamond Dynasty is just one of the modes you can play, and it is the most popular in the gaming community.

Other modes include Road to the Show and Franchise mode.

Diamond Dynasty is the mode I play the most.

It is similar to “Madden’s MUT,” also known as “Madden Ultimate Team.”

It contains all players from each MLB team’s current roster and also many other players who are considered legends of the game or prospects who have not gotten their chance in the big

leagues yet.

My favorite feature in Diamond Dynasty is all the content that is put out and all the players who are put into the game.

“Being able to play with Mookie Betts and Corey Seager, two of my favorite players on different teams, makes the game great. I also really enjoy playing against other people online.”

— **Gavin Mendoza**

Being able to play with Mookie Betts and Corey Seager, two of my favorite players on different teams, makes the game great.

I also really enjoy playing against other people online with my Diamond Dynasty team.

It is a very competitive game

and makes it fun for people who enjoy competing against others.

Some would say the game is hard when a certain call may not go your way, or like in real baseball, you may hit a ball hard and it gets caught.

But what makes the game so fun is how realistic it is.

The game’s graphics and the overall feel are phenomenal.

The game was added to Xbox for the first time last year for “MLB The Show 21,” and it has improved even since last year.

Previously, it was only playable on PlayStation, but now it can be played on both the Xbox, which is what I play it on, and the Nintendo Switch as well.

The addition of these consoles has grown the game immensely.

The Road to the Show feature of the game is fun and appeals to many people’s dreams of becoming a professional baseball player.

In the mode, you start out as a draft prospect and work your way up through the minor leagues. Then, you try your best to make it to the majors. I’d recommend this game to others.

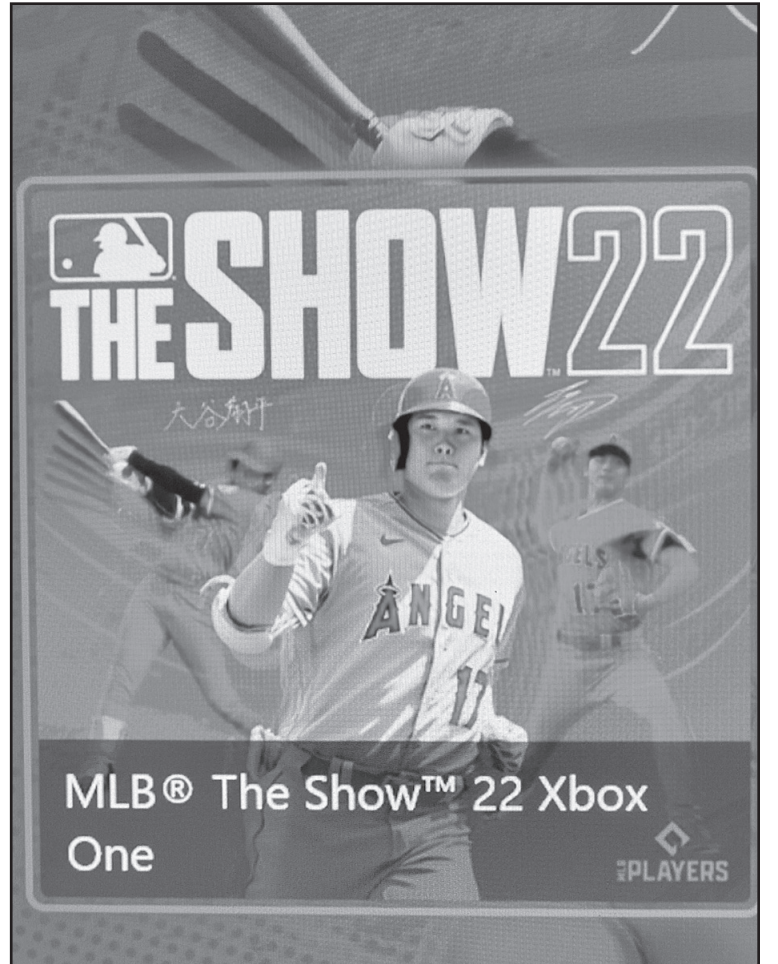


Photo provided

“MLB The Show 22” is based off real-life teams and players in the MLB.

‘Music of Mancini’ concert coming to campus Tuesday

By **BENJAMIN KLIEWER**
Senior Reporter

A professional concert is coming to Northwestern Oklahoma State University next week.

The Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series is hosting the band Jukebox Saturday Night, which will present its show “The Music of Mancini” on campus.

The show doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Herod Hall.

The concert costs \$5 to attend. It will start at 7 p.m. and end at 9 p.m.

“I think university students would enjoy this concert,” said Kimberly Weast, the chair of Fine Arts Department and executive director of the Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series.

“University students don’t usually have an opportunity to hear professional musicians, especially professional musicians of this caliber.”

The professional musicians are the band called Jukebox Saturday Night.

The band’s website says the band has two shows it presents: the “Big Band Review” and “Music of Mancini.” “The Music of Mancini” focuses on Henry Mancini’s popular compositions. This includes music from the TV shows “The Pink Panther,” “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” and “Peter Gunn.”

“Maybe they [students] don’t know if they would even like this type of music,” Weast said. “I would encourage them that, for \$5, it would be worth trying out.”

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

Date: April 14, 2012

1. “Somebody That I Used To Know”
by Gotye,
featuring Kimbra
2. “We Are Young”
by Fun,
featuring Janelle Monae
3. “Boyfriend”
by Justin Bieber

Dad Joke of the Week:

I wonder what my parents did to fight boredom before the internet.

I asked my 18 brothers and sisters, and they don’t know, either.

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SPORTS

BASEBALL



ABOVE: Ranger catcher No. 16 Hayden Priest swings the bat during the weekend series on April 1 against Southern Nazarene. BELOW: Ranger infielder Shaughn Kelly catches the

ball during the weekend series on April 1 against Southern Nazarene. The Rangers lost two out of their three games during the weekend series in Shawnee to Oklahoma Baptist.

Rangers drop two to Bison



By **CONNOR GRAY**
Assistant Editor

The Northwestern baseball team played a series against Oklahoma Baptist and did not have a favorable outcome.

The Rangers lost two of three games to Oklahoma Baptist during the series in Shawnee.

“We pitched it and played defensively well,” Rangers head coach Ryan Bowen said. “We just didn’t hit well.”

That sums up the first game of the series on Friday, in which the Rangers lost 5-2.

Northwestern’s pitching staff put together a solid effort despite giving up five runs. The offense struggled, as they only managed two runs. Blake Hoffman got all the RBIs in the third and fifth.

The next game was the first of a doubleheader, and the Rangers did not get their act together.

The Rangers struggled with pitching early, giving up five runs including a grand slam.

In the fourth, the Rangers tried to make a comeback after getting down 8-0.

The Rangers got four runs, two of them unearned with RBIs from Hayden Priest and Joseph Frisby, to make it 8-4.

This was the closest the game got, as the Rangers got outscored

for the rest of the game 8-2, making the final 16-6.

The Rangers needed to avoid a sweep to keep their playoff chances alive, so they proceeded to bounce back from this.

The Rangers put together an explosive offensive effort against the Bison and scored every inning except for the last two, with freshman Dylan Collins getting his fourth win by pitching four innings to keep the Bison at bay.

The Rangers dominated the entire game despite the final being 14-9, as they were not in danger.

“We really played well the whole game,” Bowen said. “We scored in almost every inning, and we had one very big inning.”

Blake Hoffman had three including a home run. Shaughn Kelly had three, including a home run of his own. Yugo Hamakawa, Brett Erickson and Fred Buckson each had one RBI. Brandon Holdren and Brayden Koenig each had two.

The biggest blunder the Rangers had was allowing a grand slam late in the game to make it 14-9, but it was too late for the Bison.

The next series for Northwestern will be in Searcy, Arkansas, against Harding University with the first game Friday at 2 p.m. and a double header Saturday at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

SPORTS

SOFTBALL



Lady Rangers pitcher Hannah Howell, center, prepares to throw the ball during the home game on Friday.

Lady Rangers trampled by Lady Bison

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Assistant Editor

The Northwestern softball team finished its weekend series with Oklahoma Baptist, and it did not go how the Rangers wanted.

Oklahoma Baptist swept the Lady Rangers. The Lady Rangers struggled offensively through most of the series, which put pressure on their pitching.

“Definitely a tough weekend playing a quality opponent,” head coach Ryan Wondrasek said. “Especially dealing with one of the top arms in the county.”

In the first game of the series on Friday, the Lady Rangers got behind out the gate 6-0. Pitching kept the Bison in check afterwards, but the bats continued to struggle to come through for Northwestern, as they were only able to get two runs in the fourth.

The Lady Bison went on to win 7-2 after getting one more run in the fifth.

Hannah Howell and Mackenzie Adams each got an RBI.

The Lady Rangers’ struggles continued offensively as they did not score, leaving the pitching staff out to dry.

The Lady Rangers’ pitching gave up five runs, which resulted in a 5-0 loss in the second game.

“We just couldn’t get the pressure off our arms,” Wondrasek said. “That’s kind of tough when your bats are having trouble scoring runs.”

The final game was similar, as the Lady Rangers struggled again, 7-1, with Adams getting a home run in the fourth.

The Rangers’ next opponent will be at home against Harding, with a doubleheader on Friday at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and the last one at noon on Saturday.



Lady Rangers pitcher Hannah Howell, center, prepares to pitch the ball during the home game on Friday.

Photos by Devyn Lansden

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