

IN THE GAME

The Ranger soccer team is getting in the groove of things as the semester begins. PAGE 10



WELCOME, RANGERS!

Axe-throwing, cornhole playing and lots of food and fun marked the first week of the fall semester. See photos on pages 6 and 7.



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

PRSRT. STD.
Permit # 5
Alva, OK 73717

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Volume No. 84, Issue 1

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

August 25, 2022

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MR. PRESIDENT

As 20th Northwestern leader, Hannaford sets sights on academics, campus updates

By JORDAN GREEN | Editor-in-Chief

Rather than giving Northwestern students, staff and faculty a penny for their thoughts, Northwestern's new leader would rather give them a challenge coin for their dedication. • When Dr. Bo Hannaford became the university's 20th president on July 1, he wanted to find a way to

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Northwestern's 20th president, Dr. Bo Hannaford, poses for a portrait on the steps in front of Herod Hall on Aug. 18.

Photo by Jordan Green

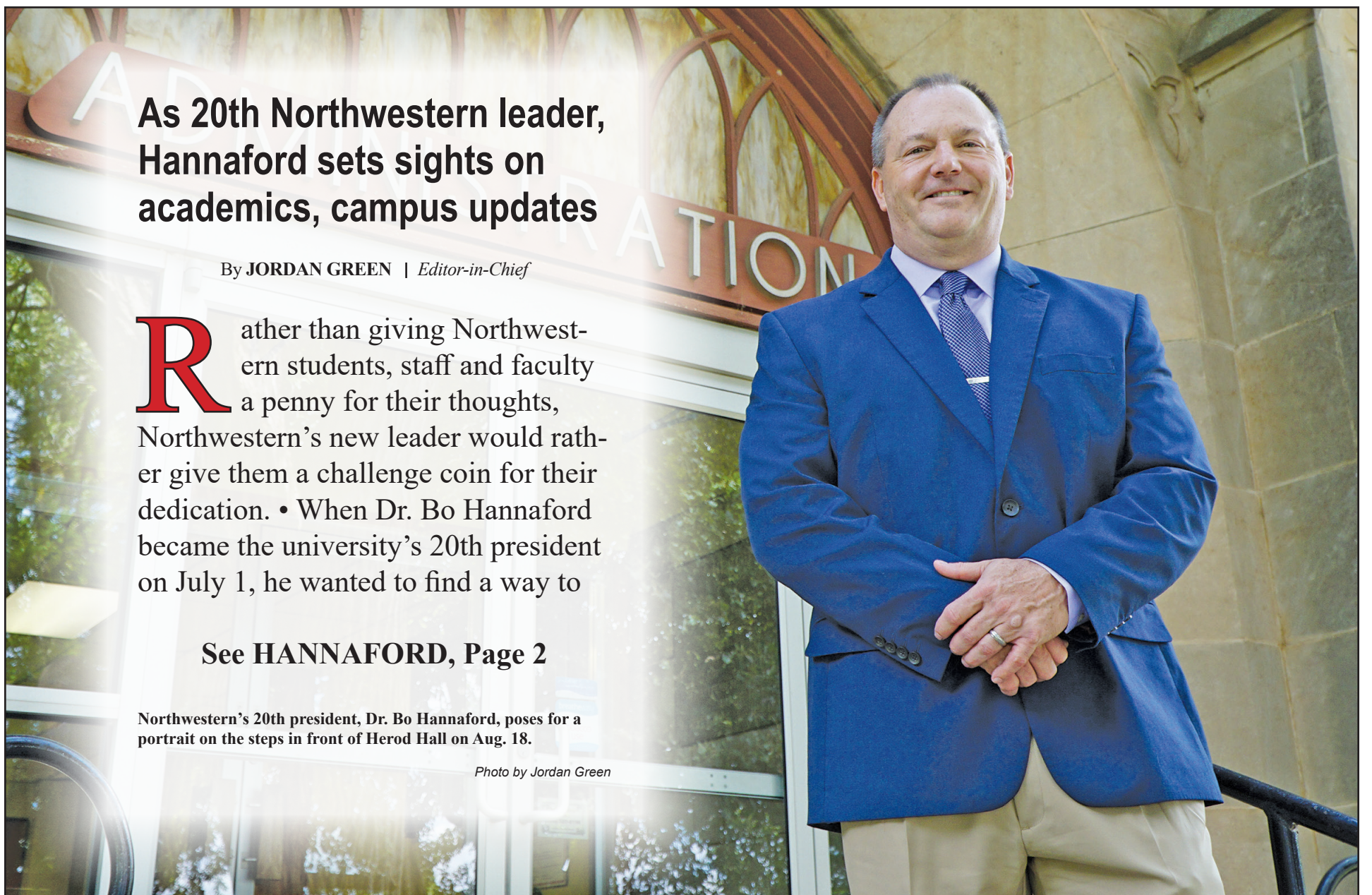


Photo by Jordan Green

A revamped group gathering room in South Hall is shown on Tuesday. Work is progressing on the \$5 million dormitory remodeling project.

Supply shortages delay work on dorm, but wait is 'worth it'

By DYLAN WHITELY
Senior Reporter

The South Hall renovation project is nearing completion, though no final date has been determined.

Crossland Construction began the project after the spring semester wrapped up. The Kansas company previously renovated Fryer and Coronado halls, two other dorms on campus.

The South Hall renovation is a roughly \$5 million project. Northwestern Executive Vice President Dr. David Pecha said the facility is getting a full interior facelift, including new paint, ceiling tiles, lights, carpet, heating and air units, blinds and bathroom fixtures.

"Pretty much every surface has been touched with a like replacement," Pecha said.

Female students who would have lived in South Hall were not

able to move in at the beginning of the fall semester because the project's completion was delayed. Pecha said he does not know exactly when the project will be completed. However, contractors are finishing up the interior of the building.

"Backlog from supplies has hit this project, which we kind of knew going into it," Pecha said. "We knew we were taking a

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NEWS

HANNAFORD: New president's leadership will mirror Cunningham's

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reward Rangers who uphold the university's mission statement – which is now blazoned on the backs of shiny, silver and red coins featuring the Ranger logo.

"It's not a prop," Hannaford said. "It's something I mean. I think we have outstanding people that really care about our students and how we do things."

Commitment and compassion are two characteristics the veteran educator says he wants to foster as the university's president – and recognize with the coins. Hannaford took the university's top job following the June retirement of longtime President Dr. Janet Cunningham, and he's set his goals on improving facilities, investing in academic programs for in-demand career fields and increasing enrollment.

"I've had great role models that have instilled in me that you just don't quit at anything," Hannaford said. "And hopefully, that's what I try to really talk to students about, and even my own children, and try to instill that value of, you can do anything you want. It's not always easy. Things in life are not always easy or quick."

FAMILY TIES

As he sat in his Herod Hall office Aug. 18, Hannaford pointed to a black-and-white photo on the wall. In the photo, a young Hannaford sits on the lap of his grandfather, the late Dr. John C. Sheffield, who was a social sciences department chair at Northwestern. The two were watching a basketball game.

Hannaford's grandfathers on both sides of his family worked at Northwestern when Hannaford was a boy, creating some of his first fond memories of the university he'd call his alma mater – and, later, his home. He and his family live on campus in the president's house.

Hannaford learned in college that he wanted to be an educator. An Alva native, he obtained his



Photo by Jordan Green

In this Aug. 18 photo, Northwestern President Dr. Bo Hannaford points to a photo of his grandfathers and himself. Hannaford's grandfathers on each side of his family worked at Northwestern.

bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern before leaving to work in the Ponca City Public Schools district as a coach and principal. He worked in Ponca City for roughly 18 years and obtained his doctoral degree online from Walden University.

Obtaining his doctorate while working full-time wasn't easy, he said, but his mentors at Northwestern encouraged him to persevere. Among them were Dr. Steve Lohmann, the university's former executive vice president, and Dr. Yvonne Carmichael, a physical educator.

"At times, like anybody else, it was very frustrating," Hannaford said. "I had encouragement from people like Dr. Lohmann and others that said, 'You need to do this, and it'll pay off.' And he told me it'll open more doors for you."

Obtaining his doctorate allowed Hannaford to return to Northwestern and work in administration. Now in his 12th year at the university, he said those same

role models have supported him in his promotion.

So has his family. His wife, Tara, is the university's financial aid director, and his daughter is a Northwestern graduate. He anticipates his son will be as well.

"I think for my family ... that was a pretty emotional and neat thing to think about, me being a Northwestern graduate, both my grandfathers working here, and now becoming president," Hannaford said. "It was pretty special for them."

MAKING PLANS

Without giving specific details, Hannaford said Northwestern officials will research degree programs that could help fill critical occupations across the state. In Oklahoma, job opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math are some of the state's most in-demand and ones that state education officials are prioritizing in curriculum.

"Are there some programs that will help northwest Oklahoma and the state that we need to be researching and taking a look at?" Hannaford said. "That's a process, and it's something that's not going to ever happen real fast in bringing programs through."

More specifically, however, Hannaford said the university is working to revitalize its visual arts program.

Among Hannaford's goals for campus infrastructure are the completion of an outdoor classroom and improving handicap accessibility to buildings.

The university demolished its abandoned power plant in December, making room between the science building and Student Center for an outdoor learning area. The classroom is slated for completion sometime this semester, Hannaford said.

The university continues to rebuild sidewalks to better accommodate wheelchairs and plans to install automatic door openers in

some buildings, Hannaford said. Updates to sidewalks follow an extensive sidewalk reconstruction project in the university's mall area between the library and the Student Center.

"I want the very best that we can do for our students in terms of facilities, as well as our faculty," Hannaford said. "Again, that's a process, and you've got to work with the budget that you have."

LEADERSHIP SIMILARITIES

While he hopes to make improvements around campus, Hannaford's leadership style will closely mirror Cunningham's, he said. After all, Hannaford said, he considers her a mentor.

"I've had a lot of people tell me, 'Why would you want to follow such a great president?'" Hannaford said. "I said, 'Why wouldn't I?' You learn from one of the best, and that's the great thing. There's not a lot of things we have to do differently at Northwestern than what we've been doing. Our personalities might be a little bit different, how we react to certain things might be different. She was all in for Northwestern, and I am, too."

Hannaford said he'll maintain an open-door policy and wants to engage with Rangers.

"I told some people before that this presidency is about our people here," Hannaford said. "It's about our culture. I think it's one that helps one another."

Hannaford has worked extensively with the university's administrators and praised their dedication and professionalism. Because of that, administrators and some faculty have already gotten challenge coins, Hannaford said. In time, so will others.

"I could give everybody right now one, because they deserve it," Hannaford said. "But that would kind of take the fun out of each year trying to hand-pick some people that have really stood out."

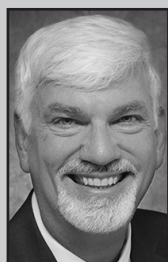
Doin' the admin shuffle: NWOSU employees get new positions

When Dr. Bo Hannaford became the university's president during the summer, the move set off a wave of promotions at Northwestern.

Four longtime university employees were given new titles. Here's a brief recap of the promotions some Northwestern faculty and staff received.

Dr. James Bell was named the new vice president for academic affairs. Bell replaced Hannaford. Bell joined the Northwestern faculty as an associate professor of English and the chair of the English, Foreign Language and Humanities department in the fall of 2010.

In 2015, he was named the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.



Bell

Dr. Steven Maier was named the new dean of faculty. He replaced Dr. James Bell. Maier joined the faculty as an instructor of physics in the fall of 1998. During his career, he transitioned through the ranks and became an assistant professor in 2003, associate professor in 2009 and was promoted to chair of the natural science department in 2010.



Maier

Dr. David Pecha was named the new executive vice president. Pecha joined the Northwestern staff in 1986 with the Small Business Development Center before taking over as director of financial aid/scholarships in 1992. He became the dean of student affairs and enrollment management in 2005. In 2006, he transitioned to the role of vice president for administration.



Pecha

Valarie Case was named the new assistant director of university relations. Case received the promotion after 31 years in the university relations department and two years on the faculty side. Case earned her bachelor's degree in mass communication from Northwestern in 1985. In 2002, Case she became an instructor of mass communication.



Case

NEWS



Photo by Jordan Green

Northwestern Police Chief Dennis Kilmer, who started work on Aug. 1, poses for a portrait in his office Aug. 18.

New police chief says communication is key

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

Northwestern’s new police chief would like to keep students from going where he used to work: a prison.

As a former corrections officer and public-school resource officer, Dennis Kilmer said he hopes to create valuable dialogue and be a positive force in the lives of Rangers.

“That’s kind of what our job is, to help people that need help,” Kilmer said. “Obviously, I do have laws that I’ve got to follow, so that takes on another role – enforcing laws. But if somebody can come and talk to me before they get that far, maybe I can head them in the right direction.”

Kilmer became Northwestern’s latest police chief on Aug. 1. He replaced former Chief John Caviness, who was arrested the day prior on child abuse and battery charges in Kansas, according to Topeka, Kansas, television station WIBW.

An Alva native, Kilmer has worked in law enforcement for more than two decades. After he graduated from high school and served in the National Guard, some of his friends encouraged

him to join them as a corrections officer at the Bill Johnson Correctional Center in Alva, a drug offender work camp.

As an officer at the camp, Kilmer wanted to help inmates change their lives for the better, he said.

“The biggest thing that we saw out there was the kids that came through were not educated,” Kilmer said. “They had a grade-school education when they came into the prison system. So, being a part of that and seeing what you can do with helping them get an education, helping them understand, giving them a different perspective to change their habits – it works if they’re willing to let it work.”

He said former Warden Janice Mountain became a mentor to him.

“She was somebody that I looked up to that I really enjoyed working with,” Kilmer said. “She was good at her job, and I enjoyed working with her. She taught a lot of patience because, a lot of times in that setting being in corrections, it was tough. ... She was a leader.”

That same kind of mentorship is what Kilmer hopes to pass on to young people. He’s sponsoring a teenager who has entered

the Thunderbird Challenge Program, an organization helping struggling Oklahoma students. Once the teenager completes the months-long program, Kilmer will meet with him and take on the role of a father-like figure, he said.

Kilmer worked at Bill Johnson for 20 years before becoming a school resource officer in nearby Waynoka Public Schools, where he worked for two years.

Now at Northwestern, Kilmer said he wants to maintain a visible presence on campus and walk through university buildings frequently.

Kilmer and one other officer – Condry Carnott, a Northwestern student – are the department’s two full-time employees. A handful of student workers are also on staff. The agency is looking to fill additional positions, Kilmer said.

Communicating with students, faculty and staff is the key to keeping Northwestern safe, Kilmer said.

“Being out in the community, you get to talk to everybody,” Kilmer said. “You get to see everybody. There again, it’s just talking to people, communication, being accessible and being there to help if they need something.”

What’s up?

THURSDAY

The Northwestern Chemistry Club meets for the first time of the semester on Thursday from 5 - 9 p.m. There is a \$10 membership fee per student per year. The club is meant to help students gain knowledge, friendships and have fun, all while making a positive impact in the Alva community.

The event will take place in the science amphitheater.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

An esports open house will occur on Friday in Shockley Hall 125 from noon to 2 p.m. The open house is meant to showcase the new esports arena.

CEOE teacher testing will take place for the first time on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Teacher candidates should register through: <https://www.ceoe.nesinc.com>.

MONDAY AND TUESDAY

An information night for women who are enrolled at Northwestern and interested in competing for the title of Miss Northwestern will occur Monday from 6 to 7 p.m. This title is preliminary and the meeting will take place in the Wellness Center in Room 101.

Meet the Rangers night is on Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. NWOSU employees and student can come out to Ranger Field to receive a free t-shirt, play some games and meet the NWOSU Athletic teams.

IMPORTANT DATES

The last day for students to drop a class and receive a full refund is Friday. This is also the last day to drop a class without a grade being required for a 16-week class.

Taylor Wilson will speak on key factors in mental health as a college student Wednesday from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Ranger Room. All interested students can attend.

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SASSY and FUN!

GOT NEWS?

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NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper
Northwestern Oklahoma State
University

709 Oklahoma Blvd.
Alva, OK 73717

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

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The News is printed by the Alva Review-Courier

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

All letters represent the views of the author.

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Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

OPINION



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Above: The commuter parking lot on the east side of campus the author thinks that this is only for people who live off campus during the school day. Below: The temporary parking assignments for the year that result from the renovation of the South Hall.

Parking on campus ... again

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

Parking on campus is an issue that students and faculty have differing views on.

Is there enough parking for everyone? That all depends on how far you want to walk. With the construction at South Hall, it has transitioned Coronado to be a coed dorm. That means less parking close to campus for students who live in the dorms, but that doesn't mean that there isn't any parking.

Walking in this heat is not something that most students want to do, but I understand the reasoning behind the decision. One thing that does not work for me is that most students will park in the lots meant for commuters.

This has created a very compact parking environment, with the campus being one square mile. There is enough parking, but not for students who live off campus.

I live off campus now; walking a mile to school every day is not something viable. Some things are out of our control.

For example, the South Hall renovation is taking longer than expected, so students have to park in lots meant for only one dorm, not two.

Some things have been done

to try to open up the parking lots. Something I have noticed is that campus police seem to be giving out more warnings and tickets. That is enough to make anyone not park in these spaces anymore.

Most of the time, these tickets are given to students parked in the Wellness Center parking lot. The ones that are not from the Wellness Center come from students parking in a fire lane or a handicapped spot. (If you see red curbs or blue signs, don't park there.)

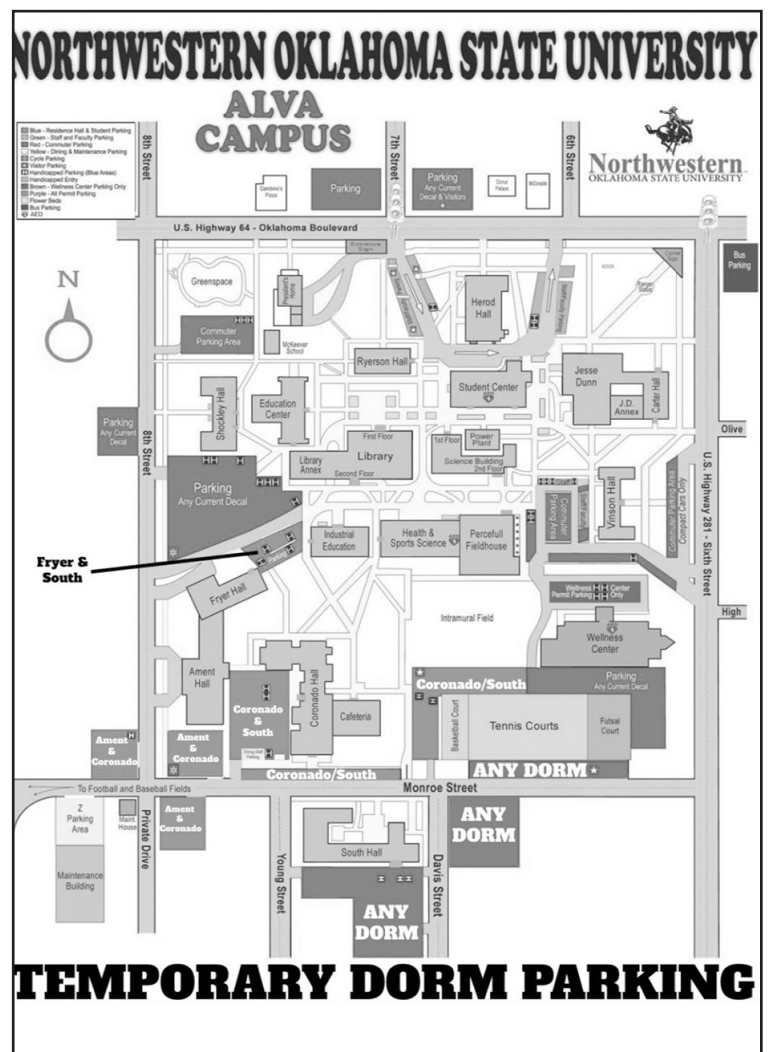
The cost of these tickets would keep anyone from parking in these spaces more than once. If you don't have a ticket yet, then you are lucky or smart.

As I have stated before, there are places to park, and the lots for South Hall are open to every dorm. I understand that you will have to walk, but it is not that far.

The campus is not that big. It takes no longer than five minutes to get from the parking lot to where you are going, I have walked it a few times to get my steps in for the day.

There are plenty of spaces on this small campus, and if you do not want to walk the distance, I understand that. But it must be done, for the time being, at least until the end of the renovation and Coronado is no longer coed.

There is parking on campus if you are willing to walk a farther distance. It is not that big of a



change in distance, but it does inconvenience you a little bit more.

If you can get to a parking spot closer beforehand that is good, but do not take the parking of

students that commute every day. The renovations will be completed soon, and then you will have ample parking for every dorm, until that time just be patient.

OPINION

This year, remember to be nice

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

If I may be so brutally honest, the only things I remember from math classes are basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division – and the torture of learning about calculus.

Other classes are much the same. I don't remember the most poetic words of Shakespeare, the name of the leading generals in the War of 1812 or the components of the bovine digestive system.

But I'll never forget the words retired Blackwell High School history teacher John Cherry always had written in thick, white letters on the chalkboard in his classroom: "Be Nice."

The last two years have been tough on everyone, and if there ever was a time to show kindness to others, it is now. A new school year is a time for people to make new friends, reconnect with old ones and learn more about the people around us, whether they're peers, teachers, custodians, you name it.

It's especially important that we treat others kindly if we've never met them. In the small towns we live in, new folks don't know us like we know each other, and we have a duty to extend to them the same hospitality we show our longtime friends. After all, isn't that what Midwesterners are known for?

I was never the "new kid" at school. I spent my entire life in Blackwell Public Schools, but I've seen a lot of new faces come and go through the years. Some became my best friends; others faded into the crowd. We never know who might make a great friend, so it's important for us to talk to the people we don't know. We'll probably walk away from the conversation more fulfilled.



Photo by Caitlin Hofen

Students greet one another during Aloha Northwestern on Aug. 15. This year, students should work on being kinder and nicer to one another.

Perhaps the most important reason we should always treat folks nicely is because we have no idea what they're going through. It's a sad fact that suicide has become a major problem in this nation, even among children and teenagers. So has depression and other serious mental health issues that leave people feeling sad, lonely and unloved.

My grandfather, a longtime pastor, put it bluntly to me one day: Be kind to everyone you meet, because you never know when someone is thinking about ending his or her life. It's tough, but it is reality. However, by simply by smiling and taking the time to say "Hello" to someone, we can show them that we care.

That's the least we can do.

These bits of advice apply not only to returning school children. I'd challenge any adult to do the same. Maybe you've got a new coworker or neighbor. Be the first to extend the olive branch and create a meaningful friendship. All too often, we assume people already have good "networks" of friends and family members when they really don't. A good friendship can change a person's life for the better; be that force as you're able. (And we're always able.)

I'd also like to caution my fellow small-town dwellers against a common, albeit scornful, habit: Getting into cliques. One's middle and high school years are

the worst for creating selective groups and refusing to socialize with anyone else. This not only prevents people from making potentially wonderful friendships, but it also excludes people from our lives who may truly need a helping hand and a warm hug. What a blessing these things are to offer – and what a shame they would be to turn away, especially when we can give them freely.

In a lot of small towns, those cliques seem never to go away because many small-town, small-minded people never quit acting like they're still in high school. So, as Barney Fife said in "The Andy Griffith Show," let's "nip it in the bud" and prevent those cliques from forming.

None of this is to run down our town or any other place. Rather, it's a challenge to rise above the negative stereotypes that surround small communities and make them better places to live.

We can make our towns and schools better without raising taxes, paving roads or knocking down abandoned houses. We can choose to welcome new people into our lives and treat them as Jesus wants us to.

Long after we've forgotten everything we learned in class, we'll still have the friendships we formed in high school, college and beyond if we'll treat people right.

Mr. Cherry summarized those teachings well: "Be Nice."



Photo by Jordan Green

Northwestern President Dr. Bo Hannaford speaks during the junior nursing students' white coat ceremony in the Student Center on Aug. 17.

Welcoming the Rangers

By **DR. BO HANNAFORD**
Guest Columnist

Welcome to Northwestern Oklahoma State University. We are glad to have you here. It is exciting to see a buzz around our campus and within our communities with the start of school.

I want to encourage all of you to be engaged in the classroom, on our campus and in our communities as you enjoy this fall semester.

I hope you find your connections that make this place so special to be a part of. I ask that you get to know your administration, your faculty and your staff here at

Northwestern. We have great people here who are invested in you, your success and your future.

You might be faced with some adversity at some time this year. It might be in the classroom, something at home or life in general, but we want to help you get through anything. However, you have to ask for help.

Please reach out to someone if you need anything, as this is why we do what we do. It is you, our students, our family. Have pride in everything you do, as this is the Ranger way.

Ride, Rangers, Ride!

Dr. Bo Hannaford was named Northwestern's 20th president in July.

"Please reach out to someone if you need anything, as this is why we do what we do. It is you, our students, our family. Have pride in everything you do, as this is the Ranger way."

— Dr. Bo Hannaford, NWOSU President

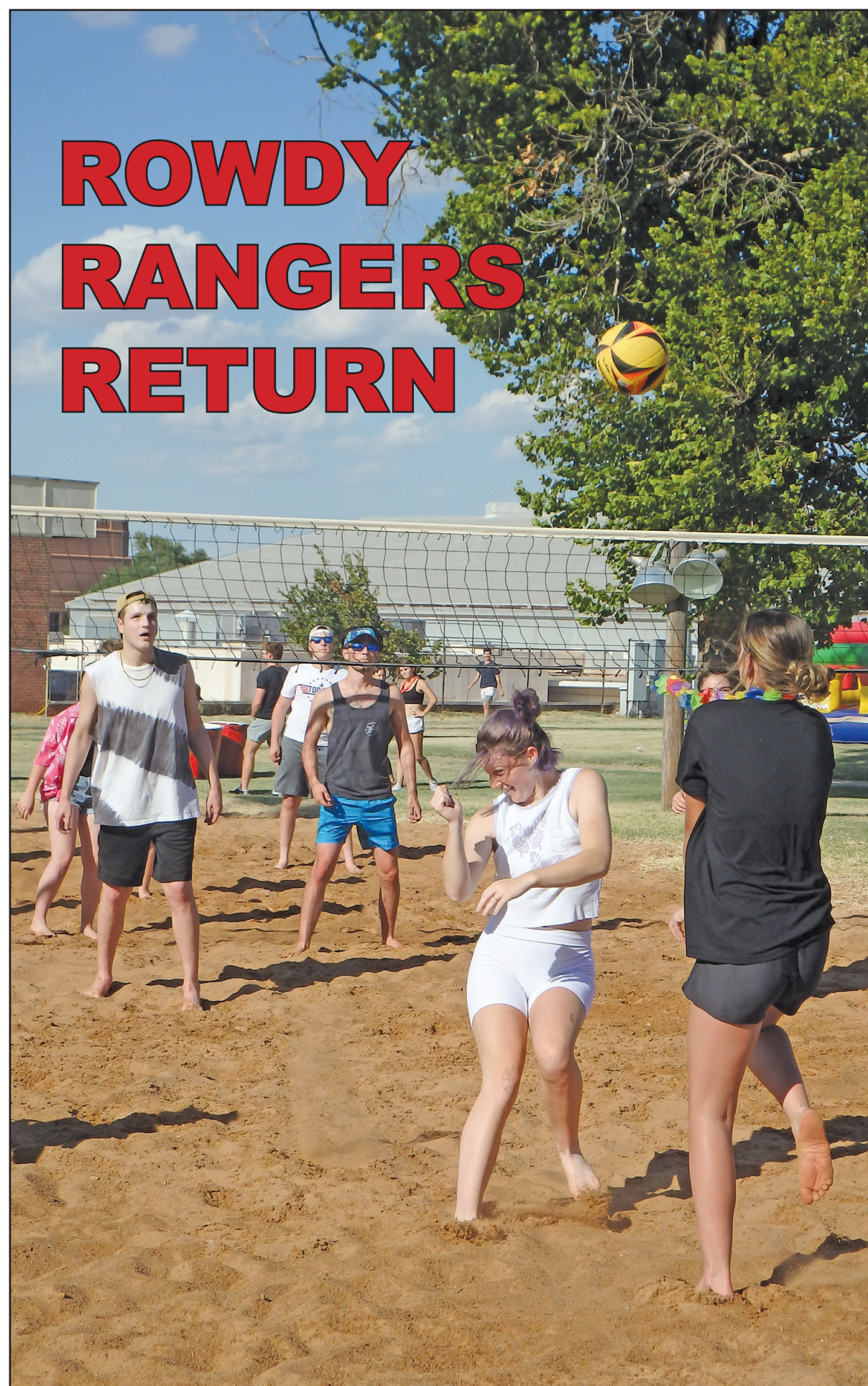


Photo by Jordan Green



ABOVE: Freshman education major Mary Kate Foster, right, plays cornhole during Aloha Northwestern on Aug. 15.

RIGHT: Students play cornhole on the intramural field during Aloha Northwestern on Aug. 15.

BELOW: Students play bubble soccer using inflatable bubbles on the intramural field on Aug. 17.



Photos by Caitlin Hofen



Week of activities marks start of semester

ABOVE: Students play volleyball in the intramural field sand pit during Aloha Northwestern Aug. 15.

TOP LEFT: Northwestern student Archer Bolen throws an ax in a mobile ax-throwing trailer on the intramural field on Friday.

MIDDLE LEFT: In this photo, taken through an opening in the steel safety cage surrounding the ax-throwing area, Northwestern freshman Garrett Ledford pulls an axe out of a board.

BOTTOM LEFT: Students play volleyball in the intramural field sand pit on Aug. 17.

They're back! Northwestern students returned to class Aug. 15, and they were greeted to a week chock full of events. The Student Government Association hosted Aloha Northwestern, an annual event featuring outdoor cooking, music and games. Later in the week, students threw axes on the intramural field. Here's a photographic recap of the week's welcoming events.



FEATURE

New professor emphasizes art visibility

By TARA OWEN
Student Reporter

Lars Roeder was hired as the new visual arts professor and hopes to make an impact on Northwestern.

Q: What brought you to Alva?

A: The opportunity here really fits my skill set because I have been teaching every art process: painting, drawing, printing, photography and digital. It fits well for me having that broad skill set being the only art professor.

Q: What are you looking to accomplish in the classroom this school year?

A: Grow the art program, as well as grow art visibility around campus. As much as it is in the classroom, how much art can we get out of the classroom? Get it in the hallways, show it downtown and in the middle of the sidewalk on campus. That's always one of my goals. How can we get out in front of people, which is the whole point of art? That's also a great lesson for students to get their art out for display. It is a whole other aspect of art.

Personally, I am still adapting to a new environment, facility, equipment and core structure. In an art studio, everything is so dependent on everything else.

Q: What are some plans to

incorporate the Alva community within the art program?

A: When you are in a close community, everyone is looking for an interesting event or activity. Art is an opportunity to do that, not only displaying the art or painting a mural, but an engaged practice.

We can also make projects that the community can contribute to or even interact with. We could also have equipment, supplies and projects set up where you can come and be a part of it or even take something away with you.

Q: Who was your hero growing up?

A: I came to art a little later; both of my parents are artists. Imagine how frustrating it must be to watch your dad draw something perfect, and then you try to do it, and it is not perfect. It can be a little frustrating because it was not effortless, and it was not perfect. I did not really approach art until I was in college. It helped me explore art, understand what you can do with it and different ways to approach it. It also gives me a different appreciation, and it helps me connect with students who might also be at that same place.

Q: What is the scariest thing you have done?

A: I was more scared moving from Nashville, Tennessee, to South Texas. That was my first time going out there not knowing



Photo provided

New Northwestern visual arts professor Lars Roeder looks at vintage printing materials in a workshop.

anyone. It is more of an existential fear rather than jumping out of an airplane.

Q: What would be your superpower if you could have one?

A: Has to be super smell, because it is very unassuming. You

might think, "Oh, you can smell too much. That would be awful." However, since it's super smell, you can control how you are smelling and what you are smelling.

It is not like everything is stinky all the time. You could say, "Oh, I guess they are having

chocolate cake in the cafe today" from a far distance, and no one would know how you know.

Additional information: I am originally from Madison, Wisconsin. I received my MFA in printmaking from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in 2017.

Education professor wants to establish connections with students



Photo provided

New education professor Yesenia Buckhaults is shown with her children.

By ALLISON SCHIEBER
Student Reporter

Yesenia Buckhaults is a new professor in the education department. She received a bachelor's degree in math education, a master's degree in adult education and administration within business and math from Northwestern.

Originally from Mexico, Buckhaults moved to Buffalo when she was nine.

Q: What brought you to Alva?

A: When I first graduated high school, I went with education. After doing research, I found that Alva had the best program in the state for that.

Q: What are you looking to accomplish in the classroom this school year?

A: Lots of things since it is my first year, but most of all I want to get a connection with my students and share my experience and knowledge with them as I prepare them to be teachers in their near future.

Q: Who was your hero?

A: My parents. That might be a common answer, but my parents didn't get the opportunity to pursue higher education or a lot of education at all. I always admired how hard they worked. I want to do the same - working as hard as I can to accomplish my next goal.

Q: What is the scariest thing you have done?

A: The scariest thing I have

done would probably be moving countries. I was old enough to realize what was happening, but not fully. I came to the U.S. not knowing any English, so that itself was really scary.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: I am bilingual, and I can teach others. Teaching is not for everyone. There's a difference between knowing it and teaching it.

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CAMPUS



Photos by Jordan Green

Junior nursing students in the Charles Morton Share Trust Division of Nursing pose for a photo Aug. 17 following the white coat ceremony in the Student Center Ballroom.

Big smiles and white coats

Junior students entering NWOSU nursing program receive white coats to wear during clinical rotations



Junior nursing students wait for their turn to receive their white coat to wear during clinical rotations.



McKayla Monday, right, helps Iver Brunson, left, put on her white coat.

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SPORTS

SOCCER



Photos by J.D. Eddy

Members of the Northwestern soccer team celebrate during their exhibition game against Northeastern Aug. 20 at the Alva Recreation Complex. The Lady Rangers won the game, 3-2.

Lady Rangers ready to strike



Goalkeeper Angel Chase prepares to kick the ball during Northwestern's game versus Northeastern on Aug. 20.

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Senior Reporter

The Lady Rangers soccer team has finished its exhibition season as the team prepares for the regular season.

The Lady Rangers had exhibition matchups against Southwestern College, Northeastern State University and Oral Roberts University.

The Lady Rangers will move on Saturday for their first regular season game against Oklahoma Panhandle State.

Coach Alex Piekarski is in his third season as the head coach of the Lady Rangers and looks to build off last season.

Northwestern finished third in the Great American Conference last season with a record of 11-6-2.

"We had a really good season last year," forward Abby Nunez said. "We wanted to build on the success from that season."

When asked what it is like being a fifth-year leader, midfielder Kailani Kealoha said she enjoyed the role.

"It's humbling and it's a good feeling," Kealoha said. "It's like us passing down knowledge to the freshmen and we also learn from them."

Piekarski also talked about

how important it is to schedule teams on different levels to prepare for the season.

"It was part of the thinking when putting our exhibition schedule together," Piekarski said. "It was to make sure that we got good quality opponents."

Southwestern College is an NAIA school, Northeastern is Division II and Oral Roberts is Division I, as the differences in talent of each team are preparing the Lady Rangers.

When asked about Nunez and Kealoha coming back, Piekarski was positive.

"It's really special to be honest, knowing how much investment Kealoha and Nunez have put into Ranger soccer and the progress they have made," Piekarski said.

Northwestern played the Northeastern State Riverhawks Saturday, with the Lady Rangers winning, 3-2.

Despite the win, the Lady Rangers struggled with possession time and faltered late in man-to-man defense, which Piekarski said they needed to improve before the season starts.

Northwestern's regular season begins with three straight home games against Oklahoma Panhandle State Aug. 26 at 7 p.m., Newman University Aug. 28 at noon and Wayne State College Sept. 1 at 6 p.m.

SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

Lady Rangers ready to bounce back

By CADE KENNEDY
Sports Editor

After going through an off-season full of changes, the season is almost here for the Northwestern volleyball team.

The main change for the Lady Rangers comes from the sideline, as Jon Bingesser took the position of head coach in April.

Bingesser was previously the head coach at Highland Community College in Highland, Kansas. In his seven years there, Bingesser composed a record of 165-59, as well as a conference record of 41-16.

While the regular season is just around the corner, the Lady Rangers have already made their return to the court in the form of a scrimmage played in Weatherford on Aug. 16.

The Lady Rangers played West Texas A&M, Amarillo College, Southern Nazarene and Southwestern. After coaching those four games, coach Bingesser said that he liked what he saw.

"I thought that the way we utilized the scrimmage was exactly what a scrimmage is intended to be," Bingesser said. "We were able to run a couple of different lineups, play around with rotations, also play around with people in certain positions, and it gave me a chance to see the diversity of our athletes and a chance to see who can perform in what spot."

The Lady Rangers had several players that played well in the scrimmages, as Bingesser was positive about the performance of several players.

"I really do like Tarra Parks and what she's done so far," Bingesser said. "Addison Wimmer looked great, and we were able to get her going. I loved how Courtney Russell played. I thought that she did a really good job. Another girl that really stood out to me at the scrimmage was Carmac Jones. She was probably the leading kill scorer that day."

While the Lady Rangers had success in the scrimmage, that did not translate to a higher result in

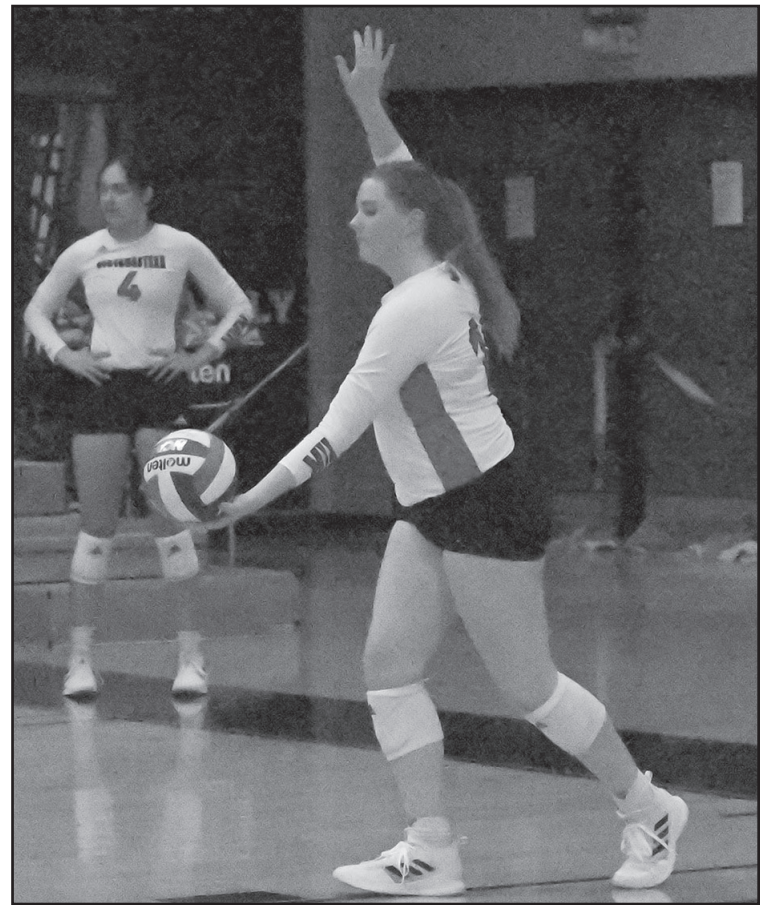
the Great American Conference preseason poll.

The Lady Rangers placed ninth out of 12 teams, mirroring their placement at the end of last season. Despite the low placement, they believe that they can finish better than ninth.

"We all looked at it, and we know that with rankings, sometimes they mean nothing, but they do mean something mentally," Bingesser said. "I told the girls that they just put us there because that's what we got last year and they don't know us from anybody, so this is what we need to look at, as they don't know what we're going to do or who we are yet, and we need to use that to push us forward. I definitely think that we are a better team than ninth, and I think the girls feel that as well."

The regular season begins on Aug. 26 in Joplin, Missouri, for a tournament with the first game against William Jewell starting at 1 p.m.

The Lady Rangers make their home debut Sept. 13, when they play Southern Nazarene at 7 p.m.



A Northwestern volleyball player prepares to serve the ball during the game versus East Central on Nov. 5, 2021. Northwestern won, 3-1. *File photo*

THE RANGER INITIATIVE: ENCOURAGING ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE

Why we need to end Northwestern's worst tradition

CADE'S CALLS



CADE KENNEDY

Over the past 40 years, there has been a tradition that has carried on throughout the sports section of this paper.

Every other year, the sports editor writes a column about how students and fans need to show up and support our teams. Earlier this year, I kept this tradition going without even knowing. Despite it being said time after time, it still stands true: We need students, staff and even northwestern Oklahoma to rally around our teams.

This is part one of a multi-part series that focuses on the problem of attendance at Northwestern athletic events.

In this series, I will look at the history of this problem, what can be done to fix it and what has been done.

I decided to track down our attendance numbers for the past season, and the results were unfortunate, but expected.

For three of our seven sports that take attendance, we finished last or second to last in attendance in our conference. For other sports, we finished slightly above average, coming in at either fourth or fifth.

Some people might see this as good enough, or mention that because we are one of the smaller

Division II schools in the NCAA, we should be happy to be around average.

I strongly disagree with that, as there is no reason that we should settle for good or average. No matter what we do, we should always strive for greatness.

This problem usually starts with the athletic department, as many schools with attendance problems simply do not have a good team, which leads to this question: Why show up if we are going to lose?

However, we don't seem to have that problem, as soccer, baseball, volleyball and men's and women's basketball have had good seasons, but average to bad attendance.

This means that we are dealing with an entirely different problem on our hands: a lack of advertising and marketing for our teams.

I can't tell you how many times I have walked around campus on gamedays only to find that few people seem to care about the games.

I would expect this in a state on one of the coasts, but not in Oklahoma, where sports are such a major part of our culture.

If we could make more of an effort to tell students when the games are, besides putting up one sign or sending an email that may not be read, we should go out of our way to let people know when Northwestern plays.

I understand that not everyone cares about sports, and that

is completely understandable. However, I don't "get" people whosay there is nothing to do in Alva and then never go a single game. Sports are a great way to make new friends and have fun. You only have four years here, so why not make the most of it and go have some fun?

If we can get enough people to show up at our games, then we have a legitimate shot to have the highest attendance number for a Division II school in the state of Oklahoma.

Last year, we led the Great American Conference schools in Oklahoma with an average football attendance of 2,917 people.

The highest school was UCO with an average attendance of 3,297. That's a difference of only 380 people, so it is entirely possible that we could have the highest attendance in Oklahoma.

One of the ways that we can get people to show up is by creating an official student section that could help promote games, coordinate promotions and provide an electric atmosphere that is desperately needed at our games.

By creating this student section, we could give students a reason to come to games that they may not have previously cared about. Most importantly, we would be finally moving into the 21st century by having a student section.

Creating a student section isn't the only way to help our programs, as we need a full buy-

in from the administration to the students and even the alumni. If we can get everybody on the same page, there is no reason we can't go from good to great. That is where we want to be, right?

One of the most prominent facts about athletic programs is that they are the best advertising campaigns your university has. If you support the teams at your university, there's a possibility for teams to thrive.

This can set off a chain reaction that can transform a university into a known brand instead of just being a regional school.

Don't believe me; just look at what is happening around our conference.

Southwestern has received several donations to continue building its football program despite going 0-11 last season. Southern Nazarene, on the other

hand, has provided no support to its football team, and it shows, as it usually finishes in the bottom of the conference.

I'm not asking you to throw every dollar you have towards athletics; I'm just asking you to show up to games and support our teams. Even just that little support can go a long way.

So, do we want Northwestern to be a school that just settles for average, or do we want to be at a school that strives for excellence? If you want to strive, I encourage you to join me in the Ranger Initiative.

What is the Ranger Initiative you might ask? It's the goal of getting as many people as we can to come to Northwestern games. If you want to help create a great environment, reach out to me at cmkennedy18@rangers.nwsu.edu.

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SOUTH HALL: Students adapt to life with roommates

Continued from Page 1

chance with some of the supplies coming in.”

This has caused South Hall residents to move into Coronado, one of the dorms for male students. Female students are living on the third and fourth floors of Coronado, with the male students moving into the first two floors.

Accommodating the higher number of students in Coronado has resulted in other changes as well. Every student now has a roommate, so there are no private rooms for residents who may have requested one previously. Some male students from Coronado Hall were moved to Ament Hall.

Once the renovation project is complete, students will move into the dorms they normally would have had.

STUDENTS: HAVING A ROOMMATE IS NOT SO BAD

Some students say they're not bothered by the temporary living arrangements.

Nate Hunt, a sophomore from Alva, is adjusting to having a roommate this semester after having a private room during his freshman year.

“I actually like having a roommate,” Hunt said. “He wakes up early, and so it forces me to get up



Photo by Jordan Green

A remodeled bathroom in South Hall is shown on Tuesday. The \$5 million project is nearing completion.

and get ready for class.”

Hunt said having female students in Coronado hasn't been an inconvenience. He said the biggest change he has noticed is that the parking lot is crowded, and finding a spot has become difficult.

Violet McGuire, a senior from Owasso majoring in agriculture

education, said the living situations haven't bothered her much.

“It's a little bit of an inconvenience, but honestly, it hasn't been too bad,” McGuire said. “I haven't heard a ton of talk from other girls on how they feel about it, other than the fact that we're on the fourth floor.”

McGuire also said she enjoys

her roommate.

Pecha said that, despite the time the project has taken, the end result will be valuable.

“It will virtually be, for the ladies who move back in to that dorm, a brand new dorm,” Pecha said. “And we hope that the inconvenience is well worth it for those residents.”

Could dorm be named after former president?

When Northwestern completes its remodeling project on South Hall, the dormitory for female students will be rededicated – and it may or may not have a new name.

In an Aug. 18 interview with the Northwestern News, Northwestern President Dr. Bo Hannaford declined to say whether South Hall would be named after Dr. Janet Cunningham, the university's 19th president, who retired in June. However, Hannaford said the university will host a public re-dedication ceremony.

“I'll say this: We will have a dedication to that building when it's complete, and I would encourage everyone to be there for that,” Hannaford said with a smile. “I'll just say, it might have a new name. That's all I'm going to say.”

— Jordan Green,
editor-in-chief