

FOOTLOOSE

With parking complicated by dormitory reconstruction, some students are walking to class more. PAGE 2



SOCC' HOP

The Lady Rangers are playing strong, winning another game Sunday. PAGE 11



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ESPORTS

ELECTRONIC ATHLETICS



Esports facility shown off Friday for open house

ABOVE AND AT RIGHT:

Students in Northwestern's esports program hosted an open house Friday from noon to 2 p.m. in the newly renovated esports arena in Shockley Hall. Northwestern's esports program is growing and offers participation scholarships. Esports is becoming a popular trend in public schools and colleges across the United States. To learn more about Northwestern's program, contact Evan Vaverka, director of esports and instructor of computer science, at 580-327-8587 or epvaverka@nwsu.edu.

Photos by J.D. Eddy



Student government welcomes 21 senators for new year

By JORDAN GREEN
Editor-in-Chief

Fifteen Rangers became new senators during the Student Government Association's meeting Monday, the first official session of the semester and one of the most highly attended meetings in recent history.

Forty students were at the meeting, which included discussion of upcoming events, a report from the student body treasurer and the election of senators.

"This is one of the biggest meetings that we've had in years," Vice President Austin Rankin said.

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

Students participated in an ice-breaking activity before officers were introduced, including President Erika Hernandez, Rankin, Secretary Cora Beth Taylor and Treasurer Tyler Blankenship.

*"This is one of the biggest meetings that we've had in years."
— Austin Rankin, student body vice president*

Students also had ice cream floats during the meeting.

In the treasurer's report, Blankenship said the organization has \$8,917.93 in its Title IX account, which is revenue collected from student fees, and \$2,569.30 in its Red Book account, which includes revenue from fundraisers.

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NEWS



Photos by Colby Dalton

ABOVE AND BELOW: A commuter parking lot on the west side of campus is shown Monday. Students say dormitory reconstruction at South Hall has complicated parking on campus.

Construction complicates campus parking

By **DAX BENWAY**
Senior Reporter

Northwestern students and faculty are facing parking problems as construction work continues on a university dormitory.

The remodeling of South Hall caused female students to move into Coronado Hall, crowding existing parking lots for the dorms and other campus buildings. Students have also parked in no-parking zones, including handicapped spots and fire zones.

Campus police officers have been writing tickets to students parked in such zones, but they're being flexible in other areas.

"The parking issues are mainly stemming because of the closing of South Hall," said Northwestern Police Chief Dennis Kilmer. "We know they are on the downhill slide on the whole operation. Hopefully they will get that finished up soon."

"What I've been telling my staff in a time like this is to be patient with people and work with them — just communicate that the student may not park there," Kilmer said. "The only exceptions right now are handicapped parking and fire parking. Other than that, we are trying to work with everyone the best we can."

Kilmer suggests that on-campus students should walk, not drive, to class. This will reduce

the number of times they have to search for a new parking spot.

"I have the same problem when I have to leave the school for certain reasons," Kilmer said. "I come back, and my parking spot is gone, and I have to go searching for a new one."

Some students say the parking situation has made getting around campus difficult. Senior criminal justice major Baxton Kearns said: "It is hard for students off campus to find parking when people on campus are driving over instead of taking a small walk from their dorm room to their class."

"I started walking to my classes after the first couple days because I would always struggle finding a parking spot."

— Ali Zeka

Some off-campus students say they have a harder time finding places to park on campus.

"The biggest problem I have with being a student-athlete is not being able to come to class early and get a good parking spot," said Isaiah Kellum, a senior business major from Lansing, Michigan.



"I live off campus, so it has been hard to find school parking because it is so small, and we have more students than parking spaces on campus."

For people off campus struggling to find parking spots when coming to class, campus police say the parking lot south of Shockley Hall on 8th Street is

usually open, and parking lots across Oklahoma Boulevard usually have openings as well.

Some new students say they quickly noticed the lack of parking spaces on campus, but they're figuring out how to manage the situation.

"I started walking to my classes after the first couple days be-

cause I would always struggle finding a parking spot close to my class," said Ali Zeka, a freshman from Wellington, Kansas. "I would lose my parking spot at the dorms, so I resolved both of my problems by just keeping my spot by the dorm and walking to class. It has been a lot easier for me and less stressful."

NEWS



Photo by Jordan Green

First-place awards the Northwestern News won during the Oklahoma Press Association's 2022 Better Newspaper Contest are shown. The News came in second in the contest's collegiate division for work done in 2021.

Northwestern News wins 15 awards during statewide press competition

FROM STAFF REPORTS *Northwestern News*

The Northwestern News picked up numerous awards during the summer, earning enough points to rank as the state's second best collegiate newspaper.

The News and its staffers won 15 awards during the Oklahoma Press Association's 2022 Better Newspaper Contest. The awards were handed out June 11 in Oklahoma City.

The News won first place overall in photography and had six individual first-place awards. The winners are:

- Former Photo Editor Devyn Lansden, a 2022 mass communication graduate from Beaver, who won the award for Best News Photograph;
- Editor-in-Chief Jordan Green, a mass communication senior from Blackwell, and Lansden, who won the award for Best Photo Essay/Picture Page;
- Kaylea Brown, a 2022 mass communication graduate from Terlton; Laney Cook, a 2022 mass communication graduate from Marshall; and Lansden won

the award for Best In-Depth Reporting and Best Business Story;

- David Thornton, a May 2021 graduate, and Green won the award for Best Education Story;
- Green won first place for Best Column Writing.

The News placed second overall in sports coverage and editorial writing, and the paper placed third overall in news content and layout/design.

Second place individual awards went to:

- Sports Editor Cade Kennedy, a mass communication sophomore from Alva, who won the award for Best Sports Story;
- Green won the award for Best Feature Photograph;
- Lansden won the awards for Best Sports Photograph and Photo Essay/Picture Page.

The award-winning pieces were published in 2021, per contest guidelines, and competed against other collegiate newspapers from across the state.

The News scored 360 points overall, just 20 points shy of winning the Sequoyah Award, one of the highest honors in Oklahoma journalism. It went to the Collegian at Cameron University. The O'Colly at Oklahoma State Uni-

versity came in third with 240 points.

The OPA wins came just weeks after the campus newspaper was named the Best Overall Newspaper in its division during the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association's annual awards competition, where the News took home more than 20 awards.

"I am incredibly proud of the outstanding work this team does," Green said. "Time and time again, we've shown the Ranger community just how important this newspaper is, and we continue to serve our university with the highest caliber of responsible, powerful, meaningful journalism. We don't put out a newspaper to win awards, but having our hard work recognized means a lot."

Dr. Kaylene Armstrong, the Northwestern News adviser, said the students have continued to produce high-quality journalism, as reflected by this year's winnings.

"It's great that the Oklahoma Press Association recognized the incredible work of the Northwestern News staff this year," Armstrong said. "I have been most fortunate to work with these fine students."

What's up?

MONDAY

Monday is Labor Day. All Northwestern offices will be closed, and classes will be canceled.

TUESDAY

Speed Friendshipping will occur Tuesday night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Students will be given two minutes to get to know their partner before moving on to another student.

SEPT. 8

The Northwestern Medical Sciences Club will meet Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Science Amphitheater. The club is meant to provide Northwestern students who are interested in the medical field an opportunity to become better informed, promote activities related to the medical field and secure intellectual stimulation in the field.

There is a \$10 membership fee per student per year.

SEPT. 8, 9 AND 10

On Thursday and Friday from 3 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon, Northwestern will be represented at the Woods County Fair.

Northwestern will have a booth in the Merchant Building, where community members can stop by and sign up to win a prize basket and learn more about Northwestern.

The fair is located at 43258 Harper Rd. in Alva.

SEPT. 9

Northwestern will host their own Kaitlyn Kilian and her band on Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. on the Northwestern-Alva Intramural field. There will be lawn games and food trucks, and those attending are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets.

CORRECTION

Former Bill Johnson Correctional Center Warden Janice Melton's name was misspelled in the Aug. 25 edition of the News.

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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: High school students gather in Percefull Fieldhouse during the November 2021 Ranger Preview event. The author believes that high schools do not do enough to prepare students for college life. BELOW: The view of Northwestern's campus from the third story of South Hall in August.

Prepare yourself for a bumpy ride

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

In high school, were you ever told, "It won't be this easy in college?" When you eventually get to your dorm freshman year, it seems like the easiest thing in the world. But then you hit that three-week mark in the semester and realize you forgot to turn in a paper that was due at eleven the night before. At this point, you're stressing, thinking: "Oh no, what am I going to do?" You think back to your teacher saying those words in high school, those nightmarish words.

You think the teacher is right when in reality, the teacher never did explain to you what college courses are like; you don't get a daily reminder to turn in your assignments. You are adults who have to be responsible for waking yourself up, keeping track of your assignments, studying during the free time you have and also making sure you do your laundry.

That doesn't sound like a lot to the average college student, but the average college student is directly out of high school in today's age. With little to no experience in these aspects yet, it feels like a ton.

Movies about colleges always depict it as this non-stop four-year party. The main characters can avoid doing all their homework and be perfectly fine, but that is not the case in real life. You must keep up with



classwork; this costs money! The point is that you are not prepared for the course load that you will be taking on.

High school does not do enough to prepare you; people from high levels of public school leadership just tell you it's a lot of work without giving examples. Most people need a basis of what things will be like to prepare. You can't be sent off on your own and just wing it. Well, I can't anyway. I can't speak for everyone else. Concurrent enrollment is great, but students should also take a class to prepare them for college life and work.

This could be a seminar to explain what the average class schedule will be like, not from an administrator, but from a student who goes to a college. This can give you insight into

what college life is about and the changes you can expect. Having this little bit of knowledge beforehand will make a major difference. I wish that I had this growing up. I got lazy during my freshman year and didn't keep up with my coursework.

Up until my senior year, I was still feeling the ill effects of this decision. It is hard to keep yourself motivated without someone consistently saying, "Don't forget your paper is due Friday." The stress levels are lower at a smaller college like Northwestern. You can ask your professors questions after class without scheduling an appointment. This is because of the decreased class size, but the workload is not less.

No matter what college you attend now or will attend in the future, it can all seem different

depending on where you are. I was at SNU before this (boooo!) and the class load was too much.

The professors just kind of let you flop around. They will help but only if you pester them enough. That was off-topic, but you should be prepared more by the high schools that you attend.

Sure, posting this in a college newspaper might not change anything, but it's better to get the word out there instead of leaving it bottled up. Just trying to get a few things to prepare high school kids better can bring legitimacy to high schools, while also making participating colleges seem more caring.

Everyone would benefit from this type of cooperation.

OPINION



Photos by Jordan Green

ABOVE: Northwest Oklahoma's own Lane Haas Band plays for a crowd of attendees during the 106th annual South Haven Community Fair in South Haven, Kansas, on Saturday. BELOW: Northwestern seniors Braylon Bradt, Jaylyn Graybill and the author take a selfie at the Kum & Go truck stop on the Cimarron Turnpike on Sunday evening.

It's a small world, and size matters

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

My father has often given me bits of wisdom: Treat others kindly, work hard and be honest. He's also given me other useful life tips like this: Never go anywhere in a Speedo and a shark-tooth necklace, because you're bound to see someone you know.

Some days, that advice seems more practical and prophetic than others. Not that I've donned such an outfit (or complete lack thereof), and not that I've actually seen anyone else do it in real life (thank goodness). I should also add that my dad does not know this lesson from experience; he heard it and choose to believe it. I'm pretty sure, anyway.

The point I'm making is that, yes, the world is much, much smaller than we realize – and we're always seemingly under the watchful eye of an acquaintance. My adventures over the weekend put this lesson back in focus.

I go to college in Alva, and one of my best college buddies, Braylon Bradt, operates a mobile sound business. He DJs live events and bands under the Boss Music brand. A few weeks ago, he told me he would be setting up equipment for a performance in some little town in Kansas called South Haven.

Of course, that name hit home with me. Being from Blackwell, I've spent a lot of time in the tiny Sumner County town just a half-hour north of my hometown. The band was set to play during the 106th annual South Haven Community Fair. Braylon also needed a place to stay overnight so we could make a trip to Tulsa the next day. I offered up my family's place for the night and agreed to help with the event, partly because I could also take pictures for The Blackwell Journal-Tribune while I was at the fair. Killing two birds with one stone, to use the old cliché.

For a town that can't be much more than a square mile in size, South Haven's fair is tremendous. It had plenty of rides and lots of tasty, home-cooked food sold by high school students as part of a fundraising project. South Haven has a population of 324, yet it easily puts on one of the best parades in this part of the country, filled with nearly 40 minutes' worth of cars, trucks, tractors, floats, motorcycles and horses.

The fair and parade were also filled with lots of people – lots of people I knew and hadn't seen in a long, long time. I'd better not start naming anyone because I'd leave some out inadvertently, but believe me when I say I ran across several old friends, local business owners and other Blackwell-area community members. I had forgotten most of their names, but at least we recognized each other. Mostly. A bunch of them know



me from the newspaper, where my mugshot is printed each week with this column – not the police blotter. I suppose I'd rather know people thanks to fame rather than infamy.

On Sunday, Braylon and I trekked to Tulsa, talking most of the way about cars and trucks and listening to podcasts ... about cars and trucks. We're pretty exciting, obviously. We had to drop off sound equipment at a tent revival his folks are helping with. The job took most of the day, but by evening, we were back on the turnpike – Highway 412 – heading back to Highway 177, which

would lead us to Blackwell.

We stopped at the Kum & Go, the oasis-style truck-stop, for drinks and snacks. And lo and behold, as we walked out of the truck stop, we ran into a fellow Alva resident: our good friend Jaylyn Graybill. The encounter shocked us all, so I guess it's good we weren't driving electric cars.

To top it all off, as we were standing outside the truck stop yackin' like the hillbillies we is (did you catch that?), someone grabbed my shoulder.

It was a Blackwell farmer I've known for years. He was heading

back to Blackwell from a trip to Arkansas.

After a weekend of fun encounters and trips down Memory Lane, all I can think about is the Disney song "It's A Small World." It surely is. It's not big enough that I can wear a Speedo and a shark-tooth necklace in public. Because doggone it, for better or worse, I run into people I know just about everywhere.

Of course, maybe that's a good thing for all of us. I don't plan to test Dad's wisdom out anytime soon. I'll just rest in the belief that it's always better to be well-known than well-seen.



No. 1: Students play spike ball.

No. 2: Rowdy Ranger poses for a photo.

No. 3: Students fill out sign-up sheets after receiving t-shirts.



Annual Meet the Rangers event brings students together, showcases athletes

Northwestern's annual Meet the Rangers event saw countless students on Ranger Field Tuesday at 7 p.m. to play games and meet university athletes. Members of the football, cheer, baseball, men's and women's basketball, soccer, vol-

leyball, golf, rodeo, softball, cross country and track teams were present. Students played cornhole, spike ball, cup pong and impromptu football games. Athletes were introduced, and team captains talked about their hopes for their upcoming seasons.

No. 4: Students play games and socialize.

Nos. 5 and 6: Students play cornhole.

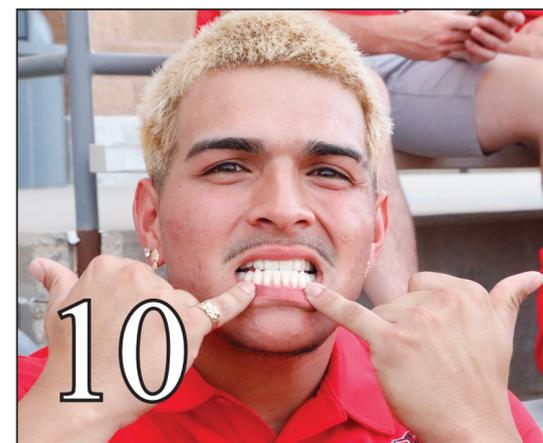
No. 7: A game of spike-ball is underway.

No. 8: Students pick up t-shirts.

No. 9: Students listen to team captains talk.

No. 10: Jose Rubalcava makes a funny face.

Photos by Colby Dalton



FEATURE

Biology professor found ‘reason for being’

By **JACOB ERVIN**
Student Reporter

Dr. Rebecca MacKay is a new assistant professor of biology for Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Q: What brought you to Alva?

A: Well, I came here, obviously, for a job. I graduated with my Ph.D. in May and knew I wanted to teach.

As a scientist, there is a lot of research involved in that as well, and I did a lot of research in my Ph.D. But I really wanted to focus on teaching and do research when I want.

One of the great things about Northwestern for a scientist is we can do research, but it’s not required. We don’t have to do it as part of our job.

It’s an extra fun bonus, which I really like because I love research, but I really feel like teaching is how I can make the most difference in the world.

And here, we focus mainly on teaching and making sure students really understand what we are talking about.

We get to interact with students a lot, and that’s what really

“I found my raison d’être to be teaching, and I figured that out while I was in my Ph.D.”

— **Dr. Rebecca MacKay**

drew me to this university.

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

A: I teach a lot of general biology. That’s a big chunk of my course load, which is for non-majors, and I really want my non-major students to understand why biology is important and how it affects their everyday life.

For my upper-level science, I’m teaching ecology and a seminar. I want to help them figure out how science is meaningful to them.

A lot of them obviously want to pursue scientific careers. But there’s so many different ways to do that, and how are they going to do that and what makes them happiest in the long run?

There’s this philosophy called “raison d’être,” which is your

reason for being, and I found my raison d’être to be teaching, and I figured that out while I was in my Ph.D.

So, if I could help people figure out their raison d’être, I think that would be incredible.

Q: Who was your hero growing up?

A: I have never really thought about that, to be honest. I loved Steve Irwin a lot. I always grew up watching Animal Planet when it was still about animals. I feel like now it’s not.

I thought Steve Irwin was the coolest person in the whole world, and he got to understand more about animals in the world.

Q: What is the scariest thing you have done?

A: In my masters, I did what we called “trawling.” We have a giant net, and it drags the bottom of the ocean and we see what’s in it. That’s how we figure out what all animals live in certain areas of the ocean. There was one trawl I was on and the net got stuck on the bottom of the ocean.

It got stuck on some mooring, and the boat almost capsized. So, it was stuck, and we were trying to pull it up.



Photo provided
Dr. Rebecca MacKay poses for a photo with her dogs after graduating with her Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University in May.

This net weighs hundreds of pounds, so we have this mechanical rigging – it’s called an “A-frame” – to pull that up, but it literally wouldn’t come up.

We were pulling, but the boat was sinking and sinking, and we

just had to wait until it snapped.

Q: What is your super power?

A: My super power is to see the potential in people even when they don’t see it in themselves.

Fine Arts professor looks to create new major

By **KRISTEN KIRTLEY**
Student Reporter

Dr. Eduardo Moreira is the newest addition to the Fine Arts Department faculty. He teaches piano and accompanies the university choirs.

A native of Porto Alegre, Brazil, Moreira has a bachelor’s degree in piano performance from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, a master’s degree in piano performance from the University of Strasbourg of France and a doctorate degree in piano performance from the University of Oregon.

Q: What brought you to Alva?

A: It was the opportunity, the job that I was offered here. It’s what I always wanted to do professionally. I always wanted to teach piano at a university.

I really like that, here, not only do I teach but I play piano with my students, I’m also the choir accompanist, and I’m also accompanying other students individually.

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

A: When I got here, the piano department was a little bit of

a mess. We have several students who finished Piano Class Four.

By the end of Piano Class Four, they need to take a piano proficiency exam. Last year, there were several students who passed the class but failed the exam. So I have students that successfully completed the class but need to retake the exam.

One of the main goals now is to fix this problem and do better from here on. The other goal is that we’re trying to create a new piano performance program that we currently don’t have. The performance major doesn’t exist yet, so we’re working to do that.

Q: Who was your hero growing up?

A: It’s completely unrelated to music actually, because I think my music heroes started coming later. I was a really big fan of Michael Jordan. When I was little, Michael Jordan was in his prime time playing for the Chicago Bulls.

I’m a huge basketball fan, and I grew up watching Michael Jordan play.

Q: What is the scariest thing you have done?

A: It used to be scary going on stage to play piano, but nowadays I feel more comfortable. The more I do it, the more comfort-

“The performance major doesn’t exist yet, so we’re working to do that.”

— **Dr. Eduardo Moreira**

able I get.

I once climbed a mountain in Oregon called Mount Hood. That was one of the scariest things I’ve done. I climbed this mountain by myself, and it’s a famous mountain.

People die on the mountain every year. I did it by myself, starting at 2 a.m., and I reached the top about 8 a.m., climbing through the night.

There’s a reason why we do that: to avoid the sun melting the snow and creating hazardous situations. But that was very scary by myself, and I was very proud when I finished the climb.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: As a teacher, I think it’s really passion for teaching. I really love teaching and watching students get better, watching the students become a better version of themselves.



Dr. Eduardo Moreira is shown in this August photo.

Photo provided

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ENTERTAINMENT

‘The Sandman’ heavily influenced by mythology

CAITLIN'S CRITIQUES



CAITLIN HOFEN

Currently sitting at No. 4 in most popular shows on Netflix, “The Sandman” is an American fantasy drama based on 75 comic book issues written by Neil Gaiman and published by DC Comics from 1989-1996.

Airing on the popular streaming service in early August, “The Sandman” follows a man who goes by many names: Dream, Lord Morpheus and of course Sandman. Dream is the personification of the Sandman, a spirit that controls humanity’s dreams, both nightmares and fantasies.

As one of the seven “Endless,” Dream is captured in a magical ritual in 1916.

After 106 years, Dream escapes from captivity and sets out to restore his realm, The Dreaming.

Viewers are then taken on many missions with Dream in his attempt to restore his realm to the grandeur it once was.

Initially, I was captivated by the show because it has so many different supernatural and fantasy elements.

Throughout the entire series, there are subtle hints at different types of mythology and history. The personification of forces such as death and desire sparked

my interest.

The story itself was very compelling and drew me in as a viewer. A little over halfway through, a new main character was introduced and I thought the story went off on a tangent.

However, with it being so successful in such a short period of time, Gaiman was able to release an additional episode that had heavy influences in Greek mythology. That episode alone made me wish there was already another season out.

“Many details were left out of this first season. ... I hope the show gets renewed for a second season because there were so many cliffhangers”

— Caitlin Hofen

Many details were left out of this first season and many characters were not fully explained.

I hope the show gets renewed for a second season because there were so many cliffhangers left in the plot when the first season ended.

The visual effects of the show were captivating. The CGI was

impressive and the fine line between our world and this made-up fantasy world was blurred with how realistic these events were shown.

I thought the characters were played quite well by the actors chosen to portray them.

Tom Sturridge played the brooding Dream scarily good. The character development and growth shown through this first season was noticeable and showed the more human side to this personified entity.

The gender swap of Lucifer by Gwendoline Christie was a pleasant surprise and I thought she played the character with the power needed for such a role.

Many made-up stories were brought to life in the series and the actors who played them made that possible “The Sandman” cast was diverse and LGBTQIA friendly with multiple references and a visibility not typically seen in pop-culture until now.

In researching for this review, I found that it is very possible “The Sandman” will not be renewed for a second season because of budgeting.

Gaiman took to Twitter earlier this month to inform viewers that the renewal of a second season depends entirely on how well the first season performs for Netflix to agree to pay for another season.

Because it is so technical in nature and requires so much CGI, the production of such a show means a hefty price tag. Some-

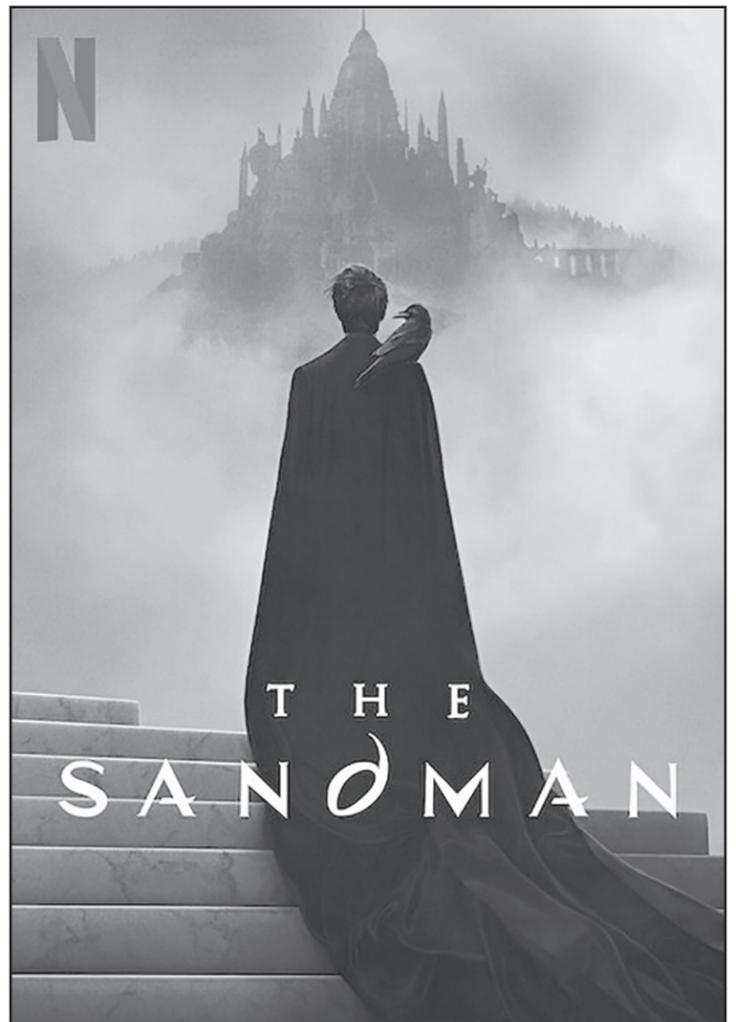


Photo by Netflix Media Center

thing only a streaming service as big as Netflix would be able to afford.

He is encouraging fans on Twitter to watch the show all the way through because that is one of the statistics Netflix takes into

account.

There are some trigger warnings to go along with the show as it does deal with mature content. For any other fantasy or supernatural fans out there, I highly recommend this show.

Top Dogs on Campus!

The Northwestern News is hosting the first Top Dogs on Campus photo contest. Send in the best photo of your Fido and enter for a chance to win a \$25 gift card. The best submitted photos will be published in the Sept. 29 edition of the Northwestern News. Send photos to nwnews@nwosu.edu with the subject line “Dog pic.” Include your name and your dog’s name. Submission deadline is Sept. 19.

Dad Joke of the Week:

I heard Sony came out with a new console during the pandemic...

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL



Photos by J.D. Eddy

The Ranger offensive and defensive lines face each other during a scrimmage on Ranger Field Aug. 19. The season kicks off Thursday, when the Rangers travel to Magnolia, Arkansas, to play the Southern Arkansas Muleriders at 6 p.m. The home opener for the Rangers is Sept. 10, when they take on the Reddies of Henderson State at 6 p.m.

Rangers ready to ride again



Quarterback Jake Woodring and running back Keigen Crites wait for the ball to be snapped during a practice on Ranger Field Aug. 19. The home opener for the Rangers is Sept. 10, when they take on Henderson State.

By CADE KENNEDY
Sports Editor

After a rocky season last year, the Northwestern Rangers are ready to compete on the gridiron.

Matt Walter returns as the head coach of the Rangers for his eighth year and seventh season, as the Rangers try to build off a 2-9 record from last season.

A familiar face leads the Ranger offense, as Tanner Clarkson remains the starter at quarterback for the Rangers. Last season, Clarkson threw for 2,602 yards and 20 touchdowns.

Clarkson is one of several returning starters for the Rangers, as junior wide receiver Torrence Stevens also returns for the Rangers. Stevens caught 41 passes for 419 yards and four touchdowns last season.

The starting receiver corps contains multiple newcomers for Northwestern, as sophomores Kobe Washington and Travis Romar will make their debuts this season. Sophomore tight end Alex Baxter will also make his first start for this Rangers this season.

For the running backs, sophomore Darian Gill is the only returning tailback from last year, as he put up 184 rushing yards and a touchdown on 42 carries.

The offensive line features more of the experienced players, with four of the five starters being juniors. The only sophomore is Zane Potter, who will be making the first start of his collegiate career.

On the defensive side of the ball, there will be a mix of both veterans and newcomers, as seven underclassmen and four seniors make up the defense.

Three of those four seniors reside on the defensive line, with Brian Holiday and Juan Licea starting at defensive tackle, and Nehemiah Lewis at right end.

At the linebacker spot, the Rangers will have a young core, with two freshmen taking the field and one sophomore. All three players will not only be making their first start, but it will also be the first time any of them have played in a collegiate game.

Alex Aaron leads a young group of safeties and corners, as he recorded 68 tackles, three tackles for loss and an interception last year. Isaiah Wallace also provides experience at corner, as he had 21 total tackles and an interception last season.

The season begins for the Rangers on Thursday, when Northwestern travels to Magnolia, Arkansas to take on Southern Arkansas at Wilkins Stadium at 6 p.m.

SPORTS

Lady Rangers roll over Aggies, Jets

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Senior Reporter

The Lady Rangers' soccer season is on the right track, with wins in the first two games against Oklahoma Panhandle State and Newman University.

The Lady Rangers started the year by dominating both of their opponents in their current home stretch of games.

The Lady Rangers came off an exhibition game versus Oral Roberts on Aug. 24 that did not go well for Northwestern. The Lady Rangers had to be ready for the Aggies that upcoming Friday.

"Our last exhibition didn't end well," head coach Alex Piekarski said. "But we continued to improve, and Friday, it really showed."

The Lady Rangers and Aggies played a competitive first half with it being 2-1 going into the half.

The Lady Rangers got two goals from forward Abby Nunez with an assist from Tiara Campbell, and the team gave up one near the end of the half.

The game got more physical in the second half because the refs let them play it out, but eventually the Rangers got a penalty kick goal from Campbell to put them up 3-1. To put the game out of reach, Victoria Ruvalcaba scored her first goal of the season to put the Rangers up 4-1 and get the first win of the year.

Sunday was a matchup versus

the Jets of Newman, and a transfer from St. Kitts was the star of the game for Northwestern.

Chrisi-Anne Mills got her first goal of the season and set up goals with an assist to Ruvalcaba to make it 2-0 going into halftime.

The Lady Rangers continued putting all kinds of pressure on the Jets and kept possession of the ball the majority of the whole game, but eventually gave up a goal with less than nine minutes to play.

A minute later, Sydne Edmiston received a red card, which immediately disqualified her and left the Lady Rangers with only 10 players on the field.

The Lady Rangers did not let that stop them from being aggressive, as they shut down Newman the rest of the game to win, 3-1.

Piekarski said he is proud of his players. He said his bench has been playing lights out, and the Lady Rangers played their best game so far Sunday.

Piekarski also mentioned the improvements of his team up to now.

"Our team's defense has been better, despite going down a man," he said. "We still kept playing great defense, and it give us opportunities to counter attack."

The Lady Rangers will play again Thursday at home against Wayne State College at 6 p.m. and will then be on the road for the next five games, with three non-conference and two conference games with one of those being against Southwestern.



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Northwestern midfielder Callie Haneborg, left, kicks the ball during the Northwestern soccer game against Newman on Aug. 29 at the Alva Recreation Complex. The Lady Rangers defeated the Jets, 3-1.

Cross country teams ready for season opener

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Senior Reporter

Cross country season is quickly approaching for Northwestern, with the first meet coming up Thursday at Hutchinson Community College in Kansas.

Cross country teams have been hard at work to prepare for the new season. The team has a new coach, Derrick Young. The pandemic caused issues in finding assistants, but head coach Jill Lancaster and assistant Sterlin Broomfield brought him on in February.

Lancaster said she has positive expectations for how the season will go.

"I'm excited because coach Broomfield has worked very hard in bringing in a very experienced class," Lancaster said.

"They have seen bigger races, bigger meets and they bring that knowledge that's hard to get."

Broomfield mentioned how this brings leadership and helps those who have not competed

in this type of environment, as their practices have been full of support by upperclassmen to push each other.

"The upperclassmen have done a great job bringing the freshman on," Broomfield said. "They all get along with each other. Everyone enjoys coming to practice and working hard."

Lancaster said the atmosphere around their runners has created enthusiasm for upcoming meets.

For the upcoming meet in Hutchinson, Kansas, some of the teams the Lady Rangers and Rangers will compete against will be Cloud Community College, Dodge City Community College, Hutchinson Community College, Bethany University, Bethel University and others that have yet to be officially added.

After the meet in Hutchinson, both Ranger teams compete at meets in Lawton; Joplin, Missouri; North Newton, Kansas; and Fayetteville, Arkansas, before ending the season with two meets in Shawnee.

Volleyball goes 3-1 in MSSU tourney

By **CADE KENNEDY**
Sports Editor

It took 14 games for the Lady Rangers to win three games last season, but this year it only took four.

After the first tournament of the season, the Northwestern volleyball team is off to a 3-1 start, which can be credited to one point: a winning mentality.

"One of the things I told the girls was that, when we are ahead of a team, we put our foot down and we finish it out," said head coach Jon Bingesser. "That is something that we need to get used to."

The first opponent the Lady Rangers faced Friday was William Jewell, another team looking for a bounce-back season.

The Lady Rangers found themselves in a back-and-forth affair for three straight sets, as both teams continually snatched the lead from each other. Despite the struggle for momentum, the Lady Rangers won all three sets for a clean 3-0 sweep.

The Lady Rangers still had one more game to play that day:

the host of the tournament, the Missouri Southern Lions. Missouri Southern had already won two games in the tournament, and won by outlasting their opponent.

Missouri Southern took the first set of the game, but the Lady Rangers rallied to take a 2-1 lead.

The Lions rebounded to tie the game at 2-2 and did what they had already done to two other teams. The Lions handed the Lady Rangers a 3-2 loss, their first of the season.

The next day, the Lady Rangers cruised to a victory over Truman State with a 3-0 sweep,

making it the second sweep of the tournament for Northwestern.

The dominance started in the first set, when the Lady Rangers went on a 9-0 run that gave the Lady Rangers a comfy lead. The Lady Rangers used that lead to win the first set, 25-14, and never looked back.

The final game of the tournament for the Lady Rangers involved a showdown with the Jets of Newman, who stunned Northwestern by taking the first set of the match. From the second set on, the Lady Rangers took control and beat the Jets, 3-1.

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SGA: New applicants bring number of senators to 21

Continued from Page 1

Under new business, senators approved all senatorial applications by unanimous votes. Senatorial applicants spoke about their ambitions and reasons for applying before votes were cast. New senators for the school year are: Hannah Appleton, Kannin Koehn, Edna Garcia, Kyra Hussey, Sam Sharkey, Chloe Lehr, Mikayla Webb, Addie Hoeme, Mackenzie Mashak, Aaron Mason, Madeline Long, Brenner Clark, Harlie Altland, K.D. McCleary and Jady Budig.

Past senators who returned to the organization are: Aliyah Bidwell, Archer Bohlen, Josie Gibson, Draven Hidalgo, Delaney Lambert and Merin McDaniel, bringing the total number of senators to 21 for the new school year.

The organization also discussed a number of upcoming events. These include:

- **Speed-Friendshipping, Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.**
- **Freshmen Frenzy, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. on Ranger Field.**
- **A Sept. 9 concert on the intramural field. Northwest Oklahoma native Kaitlyn Killian and her band will perform for 90 minutes.**

Rankin also encouraged students to attend the Wednesday soccer game and Saturday's first home football game of the year.

The next student body meeting will be Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Senate chambers, which adjoin the ballroom.



Photo by Jordan Green

Northwestern students listen as Student Government Association Vice President Austin Rankin speaks during the Monday meeting of the Student Government Association. Fifteen students were elected as new senators during the organization's first official meeting of the semester.