

## CORNY FUN

Students played cornhole and other games on the Intramural Field on Tuesday night. PAGE 12



## BISON HERD RANGERS

The Rangers fell to the Oklahoma Baptist University Bison Saturday. PAGE 10



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# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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# UP IN SMOKE

## EVENTS

### Northwestern looks forward to Family Day

By GAVIN MENDOZA  
News Editor

Northwestern's family atmosphere will be on full display during the university's yearly Family Day events on Oct. 1.

Caleb Mosburg, dean of student affairs and enrollment management, will be one of the administrators at the event. He said the event will have some changes from last year, but some aspects will stay the same.

"We've kind of removed the formal program, so to speak, and instead of gathering everybody at one time at the Student Center, we've added some things with family ... like the Mural Fest that is done with the community," Mosburg said. "It was such a great hit last year."

See FAMILY DAY, Page 2



### Burnouts, cruises and more fill Alva streets during annual car show

Larry Crawford, shown above, stands on the roof of his hot-rod Model T Ford pickup after doing a burnout during the Big Cruise and Car Show burnout competition Saturday night in downtown Alva. Numerous drivers put the rubber to the road and smoked their tires during the annual car show, the largest free one in Oklahoma.

RIGHT: Children and adults alike look at cars lining the streets in the downtown square Friday during the Big Cruise and Car Show. Hundreds of cars were on display during the weekend event. For more photos, turn to Page 6 in this edition of the News.

Photos by Jordan Green



### German professor visits Alva for research

By JORDAN GREEN  
Editor-in-Chief

Millions of Americans have ancestors who moved from Germany to Russia before coming to the United States. Yet most know nothing about their German-Russian heritage.

That's something a researcher at the University of Oldenburg in Germany wants to educate more people about – and his efforts to unearth lost history led him to Northwestern on Monday.

Dr. Hans-Christian Petersen came to Northwestern at the end of a roughly two-week trip across

See PROFESSOR, Page 2

NEWS

Pages 2 & 3

OPINION

Pages 4 & 5

PHOTOS

Pages 6 & 7

FEATURE

Page 8

SPORTS

Pages 10 & 11



# NEWS

## PROFESSOR: Local hospitality makes trip enjoyable

the United States to find more information about the heritage and culture of German-Russian people in North America, specifically the Midwest.

“On the one hand, it is a big topic because it is a big group,” Petersen said. “On the other hand, there’s almost nothing known about the group.”

### FINDING LOCAL TIES

People from central Europe began immigrating to Russia in the 1760s as a result of the Seven Years War. Russian leaders promised refugees land, religious liberties and exemption from military service. Yet the conditions those immigrants found upon their Russian arrival weren’t what they expected, Petersen said.

In the 1860s, Russian leaders mandated that all men would be required to serve in the military, even those who came from central Europe. That didn’t bode well with some central Europeans, many of whom were pacifists for religious reasons. Soon, they began moving to North and South America, including the Great Plains region of the United States.

Some Northwest Oklahomans have German-Russian heritage, but that’s not the primary reason Petersen came here. He came to peruse a collection of documents maintained by Northwestern history professor Dr. Eric Schmalz.

Schmalz and Petersen met through their research and an international academic conference Schmalz spoke at in 2015. Schmalz has published articles in both the English and German languages about German-Russian history and figures, including Dr. Karl Stumpp, a German ethnographer and Nazi socialist dubbed the “patriarch” of German-Russian studies.

Schmalz and researcher Samuel Sinner gathered documents and information to write the book “The Nazi Ethnographic Research of Georg Leibbrandt and Karl Stumpp in Ukraine, and Its North Ameri-



Photo by Jordan Green

Northwestern history professor Dr. Eric Schmalz poses for a portrait with Dr. Hans-Christian Petersen in the Jesse Dunn building Tuesday. Petersen is researching the history of German-Russian heritage and came to Northwestern to review documents Schmalz oversees.

can Legacy” in 2000. Schmalz keeps the collection at Northwestern and gave Petersen unlimited access.

Northwestern is the last stop on Petersen’s American journey, which has included research in Pennsylvania, North Dakota and Nebraska. He began researching German-Russian ancestry about a year ago.

“I never thought it would take this long,” Petersen said. “I have more than 10,000 documents uploaded to my Dropbox.”

Petersen estimates that he is one of fewer than five academics studying Ger-

man-Russian heritage who doesn’t have German-Russian ancestry. By using a scientific approach to his studies, he said he hopes his efforts will open up new research perspectives – and help people learn more about the world around them.

“For the future, we should try to strengthen the cooperation between the Russian-Germans here and in Germany and in the United States,” Petersen said.

### LIKING NORTHWESTERN

Petersen said he’s enjoying his time in

Alva. He and Schmalz have toured the countryside, driving west along Highway 64 to get a view of the wide open spaces and canyons near Freedom.

They’ve also driven around the remains of Alva’s World War II prisoner-of-war camp and dined at El Maya, a local Mexican restaurant.

“What is really amazing, in general compared to Germany, is the people are really open and really friendly,” Petersen said. “There’s more conversation – ‘Can I help you?’ and so on. That’s really different from Germany.”

## FAMILY DAY: Shopping for tuition, scavenger hunt planned for event

### Continued from Page 1

Another activity for students and their families is the scavenger hunt.

“The scavenger hunt within the community allows for families to be with each other, hang out, and some students love to show their parents about places in the community and some neat things that they’ve been able to learn while being here,” Mosburg said.

Shopping for tuition will begin Tuesday. Students and their families can visit participating Alva merchants and register to win scholarships. The awards will be presented to the winners during the Saturday football game.

“We encourage students to go out in the community and go to the businesses and shop if you want, and also drop your names in the boxes that are at the businesses,” Mosburg said. “The businesses are listed on our website.”

Shopping for tuition will start Tuesday to give busy students and their families more time.

Mosburg said the event is a

good way to highlight Northwestern and the community.

“It has been a really great tradition for Northwestern,” Mosburg said. “We talk a lot about how this campus and Northwestern in general ... is like a family. Providing some activities and providing things where the students and parents can enjoy together is really neat.”

Jackson Dillingham, a freshman from Frisco, Texas, said he is looking forward to bringing his family to Alva.

“I am looking forward to showing my family how the town is, the different events that can be done within the town and showing how cool of a place Northwestern can be,” Dillingham said. “I am looking forward to the weekend events like football and other ones like volleyball and soccer games. Those are some of the best experiences on campus and I hope they enjoy it as much as I do.”

For a full list of events, visit <https://www.nwosu.edu/family-day>.



File photo

Students and parents talk during the 2021 Family Day. This year’s event will feature a scavenger hunt and the annual shopping for tuition program beginning Tuesday. The event concludes with a Saturday football game.



# NEWS

## RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS



Photo by Colby Dalton

Mackayla Womack, left, and Mikayla Webb, right, work on homework assignments in LASSO room Monday. The LASSO program is one of two grant-funded programs on campus aiming to help students with academics.

## Northwestern students can get help from two grant-funded programs

By **ALLI SCHIEBER**  
Student Reporter

Whether Northwestern students need help building a resume, getting career advice or learning more about financial aid, two programs at Northwestern are there to help them.

The Title III LASSO Project and Trio Student Support Services program are grant-funded and aim to help students have better experiences at Northwestern, directors said.

### TITLE III LASSO PROJECT

The LASSO Project is funded with a Strengthening Institution Programs grant, Northwestern Title III Director Lisa Franz said.

LASSO stands for leadership, academic success and superior outcomes. Franz said the grant is geared toward enhancing student success, engagement and pur-

pose-driven education.

The project has two learning coaches who offer academic advisement and help students find their advisors. A certified career coach – Taylor Phillips – helps students find out what to major in and what to prepare for after college.

Phillips will host a resume-building workshop Thursday and a speed-interviewing workshop Oct. 4. All students are eligible to receive assistance from LASSO at no charge. No application is necessary. The program's office is in Ryerson Hall Room 142.

### TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Trio Student Support Services program offers help to first-generation, low-income students and students receiving ADA accommodations.

The program's goal is to in-

crease graduation rates and levels of good academic standing, program director Tosh Miller said. Unlike LASSO, Trio is allowed to help only a certain number of students, so there is a short application process.

Trio connects students with a project advisor and a student coach. They work on setting goals and whatever else the student may need.

Trio also conducts educational workshops, such as a mental health workshop that took place in August. On Sept. 29, Northwestern Financial Aid Director Tara Hannaford will host a workshop over FASFA preparation.

Study sessions and tutoring services are also available for participating students. Some upcoming sessions are Tuesday and Wednesday.

Trio is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Ryerson Hall Room 105. There is no deadline to apply.

## What's up?

### TUESDAYS

The Church of Christ Bible Chair, 1108 College Blvd., offers free meals every Tuesday at the College Hill Church of Christ Fellowship Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pastor Steve Hamm said: "We have a great menu every week, as several churches around the area take turns bringing in some wonderful home cooked meals. We serve all NWOSU students and faculty, so make plans to join us every Tuesday so we can get to know you better."

For more information about food ministries around campus, visit <https://northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com/where-to-grab-a-bite/>.

### TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

Student Support Services is having a study group from 5 to 10 p.m. in the Student Center commons area Tuesday and Wednesday. Coffee, printing and supplies will be provided, and anyone interested can attend.

### SEPT. 29

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. 27 — OCT. 1

Norwestern's annual Family Day events will start Sept. 27 with the shopping for tuition event, which lasts until Oct. 1. Students can shop around the community at local businesses and drop their name in the boxes provided. Events will continue on Oct. 1 with the Family Day breakfast occurring from 8 to 9 a.m. The shopping for tuition event will end at 11 a.m., and activities will continue leading up to the football game at 2:00 p.m.

## GOT NEWS?

Let us know! Reach out to the News via email at [nwnews@nwosu.edu](mailto:nwnews@nwosu.edu).



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Inquiries concerning the application of these programs should be made to Caleb Mosburg, Director of Student Affairs, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, 709 Oklahoma Boulevard, Alva, OK 73717, (580) 327-8415.

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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



Photos by J.D. Eddy

ABOVE: The Project Transformation team is pictured at the end of summer banquet in July. BELOW: The people who worked at Project Transformation's Muskogee branch in the summer of 2022 are shown. The author believes that volunteering is a good way to change your worldview.

## Volunteering is good for your soul

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

Volunteering, while quite stressful, had an impact on how I conduct myself recently. The main trait tested when I volunteered over the summer was my patience. Working with kids makes you question things about yourself, especially whether you want to have kids in the future.

Now, I still want to have kids, but I know how much of a challenge it will be when I eventually do.

I have only brought up this to get the only negative out of the way immediately. Volunteering at Project Transformation in Muskogee changed the way I view volunteer jobs.

When I was working in Muskogee, most of the kids that we had were impoverished. The main goal was to give them somewhere to go over the summer, but also to try to improve their reading levels instead of letting them sit at home doing nothing. While most children would rather do this, it amazed me how many kids were excited to read every day.

I was the recreation coordinator, so I was the students' favorite teacher because I gave them a break from reading. They enjoyed it, but at the same time, I tried to instill the positive things that I learned from my years of playing sports: qualities like hard work, leadership (there were a lot of stu-



dents that had this trait already), respect and basic sportsmanship.

There were other positions like the reading coordinator. The children had different reading levels from A to Z to show the difficulty of each book they read. There was a rewards system for the children that ranged from free food to getting a day at the waterpark in Muskogee.

The art coordinator's job is self-explanatory; she had the kids do art projects each day that improved their hand-eye coordination and their writing skills. She accomplished this. Every kid, even the kindergarteners, improved their handwriting during the summer.

The STEM/science coordinator Cooper was responsible for teaching these kids the basics of anatomy, chemistry and any topics related to the scientific field. These were basic lessons such

as how lungs operate, shooting rockets, making ice cream and teaching them about chemical reactions like baking soda volcanos. These children all learned the basic lessons in science, and they thought science was fun.

Now, I know it seems like most of what we made these children do is schoolwork, but we had fun things for the kids each day, such as recess in the morning two days a week and then having recreational activities in the afternoon.

This job taught me a lot. Just being there for these kids is a big thing. Most of them did not have positive male role models in their lives. Having the STEM coordinator and me around was meaningful. The kids would latch on and give us notes that would say things like, "Thank you for being such a good person to me." One of the kids wrote Cooper and me

a note that said, "Can you adopt us?" She and her little brother had lost their dad at a young age, and their home life wasn't the greatest.

This experience showed me that, no matter who you are, you can make a difference in someone's life. No matter how small you think your contributions are, volunteering for an organization like Project Transformation can change the way you view certain

***"This job taught me a lot. Just being there for these kids is a big thing. Most of them did not have positive male role models in their lives.***

***Having the STEM coordinator and me around was meaningful."***

***— J.D. Eddy***

aspects of life: where other people come from and the reasons why they act the way they do.

Volunteering isn't for everyone, but if you have the heart for it, it can be a positive experience for you and everyone around you.



# OPINION



Photo by Jordan Green

Northwestern student Jacob Webster poses for a portrait with his restored 1935 Plymouth PJ sedan during the Big Cruise and Car Show on Saturday in downtown Alva.

## Sweat equity always pays off

### JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

As inflation soars, the value of American currency and our worldly possessions has dropped. Investing in sweat equity, on the other hand, yields high dividends no matter what shape the economy is in.

That's a lesson Deer Creek native Jacob Webster, a student at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, proves true. This weekend, he drove his 1935 Plymouth PJ sedan to the Big Cruise and Car show in Alva, and it was a sight to see.

The car's slick black paint job glistened in the hot afternoon sun, and the chrome was polished well enough that you could see your reflection clearly. I should have checked my teeth for lettuce while I was looking at the front bumper, but that's beside the point.

While this Plymouth is eye candy now, it was once an eyesore. After years of being kept in a dusty barn, the car was in rough shape when Jacob bought it in 2012. He estimates he's put hundreds of hours into repainting it, working on the engine, stabilizing the frame and otherwise restoring the car to its former glory.

Now, however, Jacob is pretty close to having the car where he

wants it. He's got a ride that not only looks and runs well, but that also bears significance to him. Restoring that car is a big chapter in his life — because he chose to make it one.

Have you ever set your heart to a project like that? You don't have to be mechanically inclined. Perhaps you've had an artistic venture that you wanted to make absolutely stunning, a musical project you wanted to be filled with soul or a garden you wanted to bear luscious, ripe fruit.

Maybe your project is more internal, if you will. Perhaps you've devoted significant amounts of time to cultivating a meaningful friendship, improving your marriage or finding a closer walk with God — all noble pursuits.

We can choose in this life to spend our energy on a lot of things, whether they're hobbies, careers or relationships. Everyone has different interests, and they make this world a beautiful, diverse place.

What really makes those things beautiful, though, is the effort we invest in setting our hands to the plow, metaphorically speaking. The level of care and passion we have for what we do — not necessarily the money we can throw around — is what makes something exceptional.

Jacob could have paid a professional to restore the Plymouth to showroom quality (and make the project cost more).

But if the car had just rolled into a mechanic's shop and rolled back out with a whole new look, what

---

***“The level of care and passion we have for what we do — not necessarily the money we can throw around — is what makes something exceptional.”***

---

— Jordan Green

would he have gotten from that?

He wouldn't have had his tool-gripping hands all over the car, getting to personally examine the wear that came from thousands of miles of travel in rugged terrain. He wouldn't have learned about the workmanship those assembly line workers put into building the car so durably nearly 90 years ago. And he wouldn't have refined his own mechanical skills with the experience he got turning wrenches.

Above all, he wouldn't have spent countless long days and late nights taking the car apart and putting it back together piece by piece. And that's what allows him to take pride in the project's completion: He can honestly and truthfully say

that he, with the help of some others, brought the car back to life.

Now that, my friends, is the greatest reward of them all. To the dedicated worker, a project is more than a task; it's a chapter in his life. And now that he's got the car on the road again, Jacob will be able to create some stories of his own.

In its younger days, the car's owners drove it all the way to California and back, Jacob said. He hopes to take it that far when he puts the finishing touches on it.

That trip will be a slow ride; the car tops out around 60 miles per hour. But it's going to be a sweet ride. After all, he's making it possible with lots of hard work and time.

When you set your heart on a goal and see it come to life, it's more valuable than it would be otherwise. Achieving goals take money and help from others, but the key is putting in plenty of sweat equity. Even in a changing world, the value of hard work never will diminish, in spite of what people say — and it'll always have a beautiful payoff.

That Plymouth sold for a few thousand dollars when it was brand new. Nowadays, it might sell for a few thousand more. I have a hunch, though, that it will never have another owner.

To the man who restored it, that old car is priceless. That's because he made the most valuable investment in it that he ever could: a whole lot of sweat equity.





Photo by Colby Dalton  
The setting sun lights up Flynn Street in downtown Alva on Friday evening during the 21st annual Big Cruise and Car Show.



Photo by Jordan Green  
Shattuck residents Nelda and Ron Cox sit on a sidewalk along Barnes Street, keeping watch over their modified 1960 Chevy Corvette Friday night during the car show.

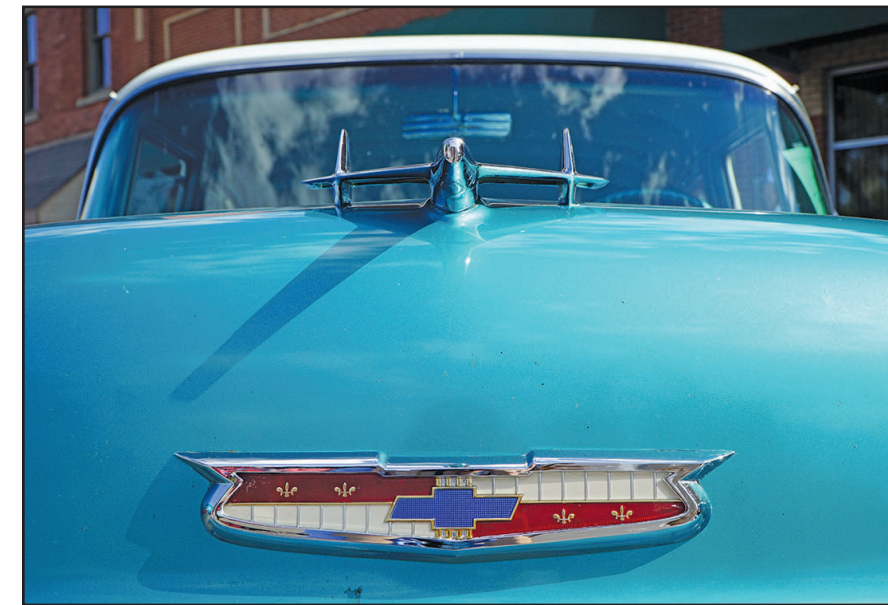


Photo by Jordan Green  
The chrome hood ornament and emblem of a 1956 Chevy Bel Air glisten in the afternoon sun Saturday during the Big Cruise and Car Show in downtown Alva.



Photo by Colby Dalton  
Chevy sports cars were among the fastest vehicles on display along Flynn Street during the Big Cruise and Car show Friday night in downtown Alva.



Photo by Colby Dalton  
A Chevy Impala lettered for the Goodies Speed Shop in San Jose, California, rolls down Barnes Street in Alva during the Big Cruise and Car Show Friday.



Photo by Jordan Green  
People walk past and snap photos of vintage cars on College Avenue during the Big Cruise and Car Show on Friday night in downtown Alva.



Photo by Jordan Green



Photo by Colby Dalton  
Show-goers were able to look under the hood of this Chevy Chevelle with a chrome-plated engine block Friday during the Big Cruise and Car Show.



Photo by Jordan Green  
Northwestern student Worthy Shepherd smiles as he takes a video of a vintage Chevy van during the Big Cruise and Car Show on Saturday in Alva.

# STILL CRUISIN'

## Classic cars descend on Alva for annual show

Without a doubt, vintage Chevy cars and trucks were the most widely represented during the 21st Big Cruise and Car Show, which took place in downtown Alva on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Hundreds of people attended, and countless cars were on display. Show-goers watched burnout competitions and several other events, including the nightly cruise around the downtown square. The annual event is the largest free car show in Oklahoma. Here's how it looked.

ABOVE: Classic cars line College Avenue on Friday during the annual Big Cruise and Car Show in downtown Alva.

RIGHT: The engine bay of a 1958 Chevy Cameo Apache is pictured Friday during the annual Big Cruise and Car show in downtown Alva.

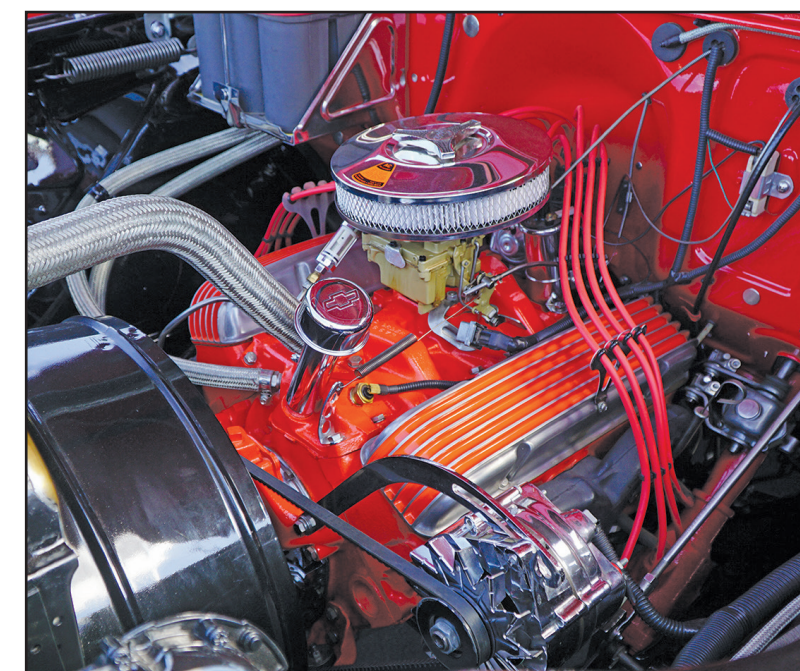


Photo by Jordan Green



Photo by Colby Dalton  
People walk around the Woods County Courthouse parking lot, where several food trucks were stationed, Friday during the Big Cruise and Car Show.



# FEATURE



Sarah Averill



Tyler Callaway



Tanner Clarkson



Paytan Hodgson



Allie Hufford



Erin Lewis



Jayden Dillon



Jean Dodds



Angela Egger



Juan Licea



Hannah Mosburg



Lacey Navarro

## Student teachers gaining experience in area schools

In their final semester at Northwestern, 17 student teachers have received their teaching assignments to gain hands-on experience in public school classrooms.

The students will return to campus for seminars in October and November, with their exit interviews for the education program in December. Graduation and the education pinning ceremony are scheduled for Dec. 4. The following are the students, their hometowns and assignments.

**Agriculture Education** – Mackena Tennyson of Yukon, Hydro-Eakly High School;

**Early Childhood Education** – Angela Egger of Williamsville, Illinois, Longfellow Elementary School (Alva); Erin Lewis of Tonkawa, Ponca City Early Childhood Center;

**Elementary Education** – Sarah Averill of Norman, Fairview Elementary School; Paytan Hodgson of Ponca City, Newkirk

Elementary School; Allie Hufford of Arvada, Colorado, Longfellow Elementary School (Alva); Hannah Mosburg of Beaver, Forgan Elementary School; Beret Watters of Marysville, Washington, Newkirk Elementary School; Susannah Welty of Modesto, California, Lincoln Elementary School (Alva);

**English Education** – Tyler Callaway of Enid, Waukomis High School; Jayden Dillon of Helena, Woodward High School; Lacey Navarro of Perry, Chisholm High School; Camille Soderstrom of Dewey, Alva Middle School;

**Health and Sports Science Education** – Tanner Clarkson of Platte City, Missouri, Washington Early Childhood Center (Alva); Jean Dodds of Enid, Drummond Schools; Simeon Shepherd of Tonkawa, Newkirk Elementary School;

**Mathematics Education** – Juan Licea of Gonzales, Texas, Alva High School.



Simeon Shepherd



Camille Soderstrom



Mackena Tennyson



Beret Watters



Susannah Welty

Photos provided

## Psychology professor returns

By **TARA OWEN**  
Student Reporter

Leigh Kirby is a returning psychology professor at Northwestern. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Steven F. Austin State and a master's degree from Texas A&M.

After receiving her master's degree, she became a licensed counselor.

She returned to Texas A&M to obtain a Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision. She taught at Northwestern from 2012 to 2019, and she moved back to Texas to be with family in a time of need.

Kirby returned to Northwestern and is now a remote professor.

**Q: What brought you to Northwestern?**

A: Northwestern was definitely a positive environment for me. It was something that I was very

familiar with.

Coming back to Northwestern was a breath of fresh air for me. It was a blessing for them to allow me to teach remotely. Being able to come back as a professor was something that I was very excited to do.

**Q: What are you looking forward to accomplishing this year with your students?**

A: When I became an instructor, my entire goal was to be an advocate for students. I remember being in school, and some of the professors made my education goal difficult. Now, being an instructor, I want to be an advocate for my students.

My other goal is to help develop efficient, effective and ethical counselors.

**Q: Who was a hero of yours growing up?**

A: My parents. They were pri-

mary people in my life that provided the support and motivation for me. They always supported me with all my decisions that I made through the years. Another hero of mine would have to be my grandmother.

She was such a strong and independent woman, and she helped me become who I am today.

**Q: What are some of your hobbies?**

A: I have been married for 19 years, and I have an 11-year-old son. Very regularly we go camping as a family. It is something that we all enjoy.

**Q: If you could have a superpower what would it be?**

A: To be able to fly and go places would be the best superpower. If I wanted to be more logical about it, I would like to have the power to help others be more respectful of each other.

## On This Day in History:

- 1792: The French Republic was proclaimed.
- 1862: President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves in the United States in 1863.
- 1961: President John F. Kennedy signs an order creating the Peace Corps.
- 1969: Willy Mays hit his 600th home run.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Red Dead Redemption' still viable

By **CONNOR GRAY**  
Senior Reporter

The Old West: the age of cowboys and outlaws. An era that others and I romanticized growing up as kids.

Some of fiction's iconic films are westerns like "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly," "Django Unchained" and "Tombstone."

Video games on the other hand haven't necessarily had as much success with the genre before 2010. This changed with Rockstar's "Red Dead Redemption."

"Red Dead Redemption" is a story of redemption. The year is 1911, and the Old West is becoming more civilized, and is on its last legs of lawlessness. You play as former outlaw John Marston, who was part of the infamous Van Der Linde gang. He is sent by the federal government to hunt down the few members that are still running amok across New Austin and eventually into northern Mexico. Initially you are supposed to only hunt down Bill Williamson, but eventually you also go after Javier Escuella and Dutch Van Der Linde because the government keeps altering the deal.

### SADDLING UP

John's sole motivation is to reunite with his wife and son who are being held hostage by the government in order to force him to hunt down the men he used to call family. Though John no longer views them that way after they left him for dead during a train heist after he was shot.

John has been trying to move on from the past, so he took up ranching with his wife and son. But sometimes you can't escape your past.

After taking a train to Armadillo, Texas, you try to bring in Bill Williamson peacefully. But it ends up being futile as he has his own gang now and you are shot in the side and left for dead. Through an act of kindness you're found by Bonnie McFaland and taken back to her ranch to be healed and get payback for the bullet wound.

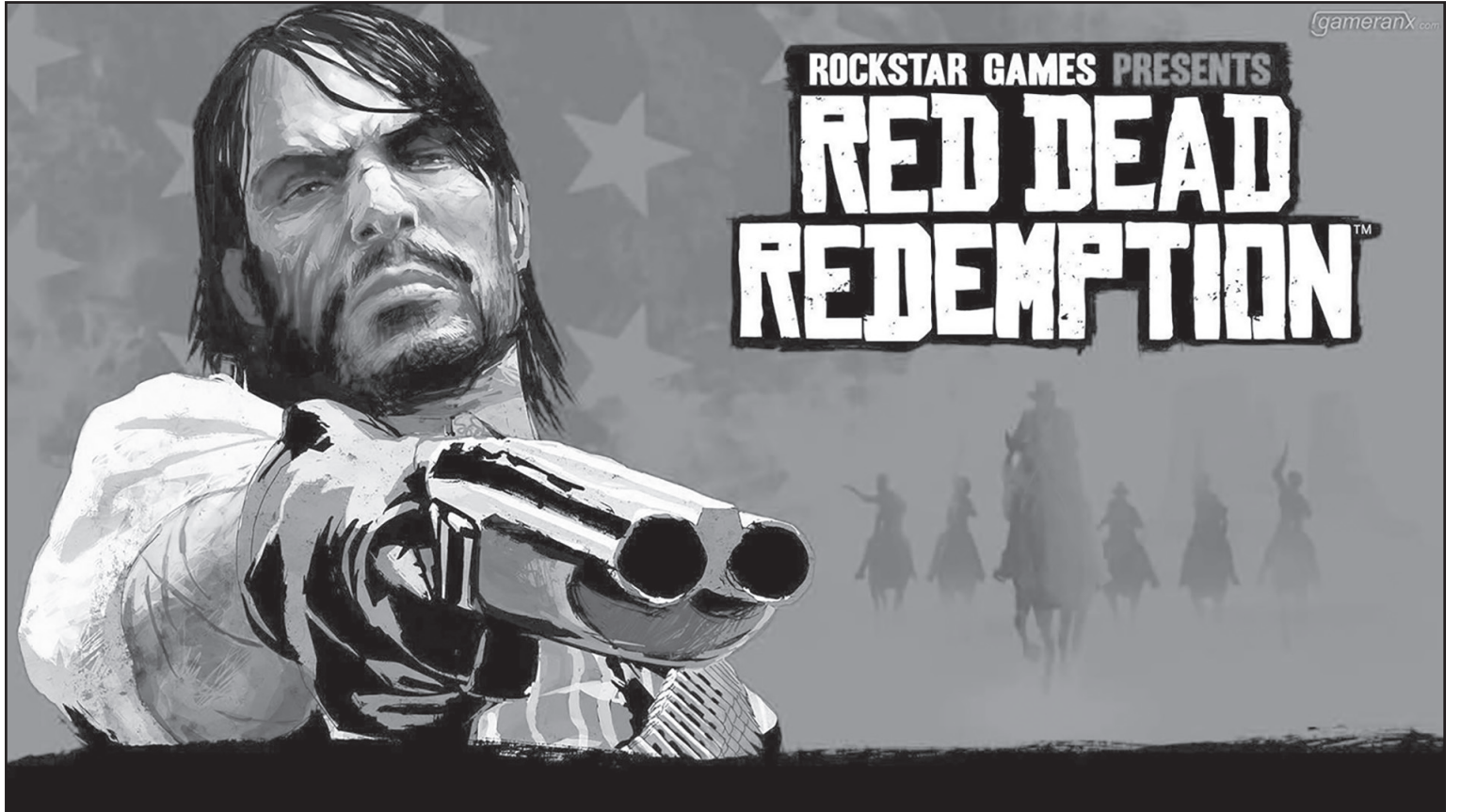


Photo provided

Over the course of the game, you gain allies that will help you take down Williamson in the first act of the game. You meet quirky characters like a con man, a grave digger and an Irish drunk, just to name some of them.

You also can meet strangers along the journey that will give you special requests to do and you can make choices to decide their fate.

I played this on my Xbox Series S, which has backwards compatibility. This meant I could buy the game without having to stream it. (Thank you, Xbox, for that, because I lost my PlayStation 3 copy for the game.)

There is an honor system that will determine how characters outside of the main story will react to you, depending on your actions.

You have a wheel system of different guns you get over the course of the story or you can buy them at a local gunsmith. You get better types of guns as you unlock different regions of the game. The game has a shooting mechanic called "dead eye," which you can slow down time for. You can select different targets and shoot in

***"The game's story is one of the best out there and John Marston being one of most brilliantly written and acted characters in any video game."***

— Connor Gray

quick succession, which comes in handy when you are dealing with multiple enemies. Depending on the level of your dead eye, this will determine how much time you will have to use it.

Riding horses is satisfying, but after replaying the game for this review, I'm reminded that some of the controls at times are stiff, and sometimes my horse went in a direction I didn't want him to.

The game also has subtle and not-so-subtle commentary about government overreach and how it handles its people, capitalism and the gray nature of right and wrong.

The landscape of the game is

breath-taking, even 12 years later, because of how different each region is. Some might look similar, but all are different. The weather is also unpredictable when you play the story, as no one's playthrough is exactly the same.

New Austin and Mexico are parts of the desert with a different variety of rocky terrain. Introduction into Mexico is the best part of the game. As you start riding into the beautiful wilderness, José González's "Far Away" plays in the background to give the player an understanding that John is a long way from returning home.

The second act will put you in between finding the men you're looking for and dealing with the Mexican Civil War, which John doesn't want apart of, but he will have to use both sides of the conflict to get the men he's after.

In the third act of the game, John will travel to the Great Plains, which has more diverse animal life and is more civilized versus the rest of the game. This is where his farm is.

Though the game has been out for 12 years, I will not spoil the game's ending in case some have yet to play this roller coaster of an

experience. It's a gut-punching moments that left me in tears.

The game is actually the second game of the series after Red Dead Revolver, but the only thing similar about them is the Old West and the dead eye mechanic. Otherwise, they are not remotely related.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Red Dead Redemption has sold more than 20 million copies during its lifespan, and this is well deserved.

One warning, however: Because of the era it is in, some language used by some characters might offend some people, as the game doesn't hold back with how some people acted back in 1911.

My overall score for Red Dead Redemption is a 9.5/10. There were few shortcomings in the game. The game's story is one of the best out there, and John Marston is one of most brilliantly written and portrayed characters in any video game.

The game got a sequel eight years later, Red Dead Redemption 2, but it takes place 12 years before the first game.

## Dad Joke of the Week:

*My wife accused me of hating her family and relatives.*

*I replied, "No, I don't hate your relatives. In fact, I like your mother-in-law a lot better than I like mine."*

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# SPORTS

## FOOTBALL



Photos by J.D. Eddy

The Northwestern defensive line lines up for a play against the Bison of Oklahoma Baptist Saturday night at Ranger Field. The Rangers lost to the Bison, 31-23, which puts the Rangers at a 0-3 record on the season. The Rangers take on the East Central Tigers this Saturday at 6 p.m. at Koi Ishto Stadium in Ada. The Tigers currently have a record of 1-2.

## Rangers fumble game away

By CADE KENNEDY  
Sports Editor

The Northwestern football team lost to the Oklahoma Baptist Bison, 31-23, on a windy Saturday night at Ranger Field.

The Ranger offense struggled to hold on to the ball, as the Rangers committed four turnovers throughout the game, with three of them being fumbles.

The Rangers got off to a strong start, as quarterback Tanner Clarkson threw a 36-yard pass to Torrence Stevens for the first touchdown of the game.

The Bison had a response, as they drove 78 yards in 10 plays to tie the game at 7-7.

The Rangers and Bison traded scores again, with Ranger Connor O'Neal making a 50-yard field goal to give the Rangers a 10-7 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Bison answered with a lengthy drive that put Oklahoma Baptist up 14-10 at the half.

The second half started as a defensive battle, as both teams failed to establish any form of offense.

The Rangers needed only one play to end their drive, as running back Darian Gill fumbled the ball at the Northwestern 44-yard line.

The Bison returned the favor by marching the ball 18 yards be-

fore the Ranger defense stopped the Bison on fourth down.

After trading punts, the Rangers ran the ball right at the Bison defense. Six minutes later, Clarkson surged into the endzone to give the Rangers a 17-14 lead late in the third quarter.

The Bison had a chance to take the lead, but the Ranger defense suffocated the Bison run game, causing Oklahoma Baptist to punt the ball with under a minute to go in the quarter.

When the fourth quarter began, there was a sense of excitement around the stadium. The fans were on their feet, the players were cautiously celebrating and the band kept playing away.

But when the Bison defense stepped onto the field, they had other plans.

In only 30 seconds, the air had been sucked out of the stadium, with Clarkson getting stopped on a critical fourth down.

One play later, Bison running back E.J. Moore took off on a 56-yard sprint that completed the shift in momentum. Moore's run gave the Bison a 21-17 lead.

The Bison continued to run up the score, as the four-point margin soon became a 31-17 lead with only four minutes left in the game.

The Rangers tried to rally back, but lost to the Bison, 31-23.



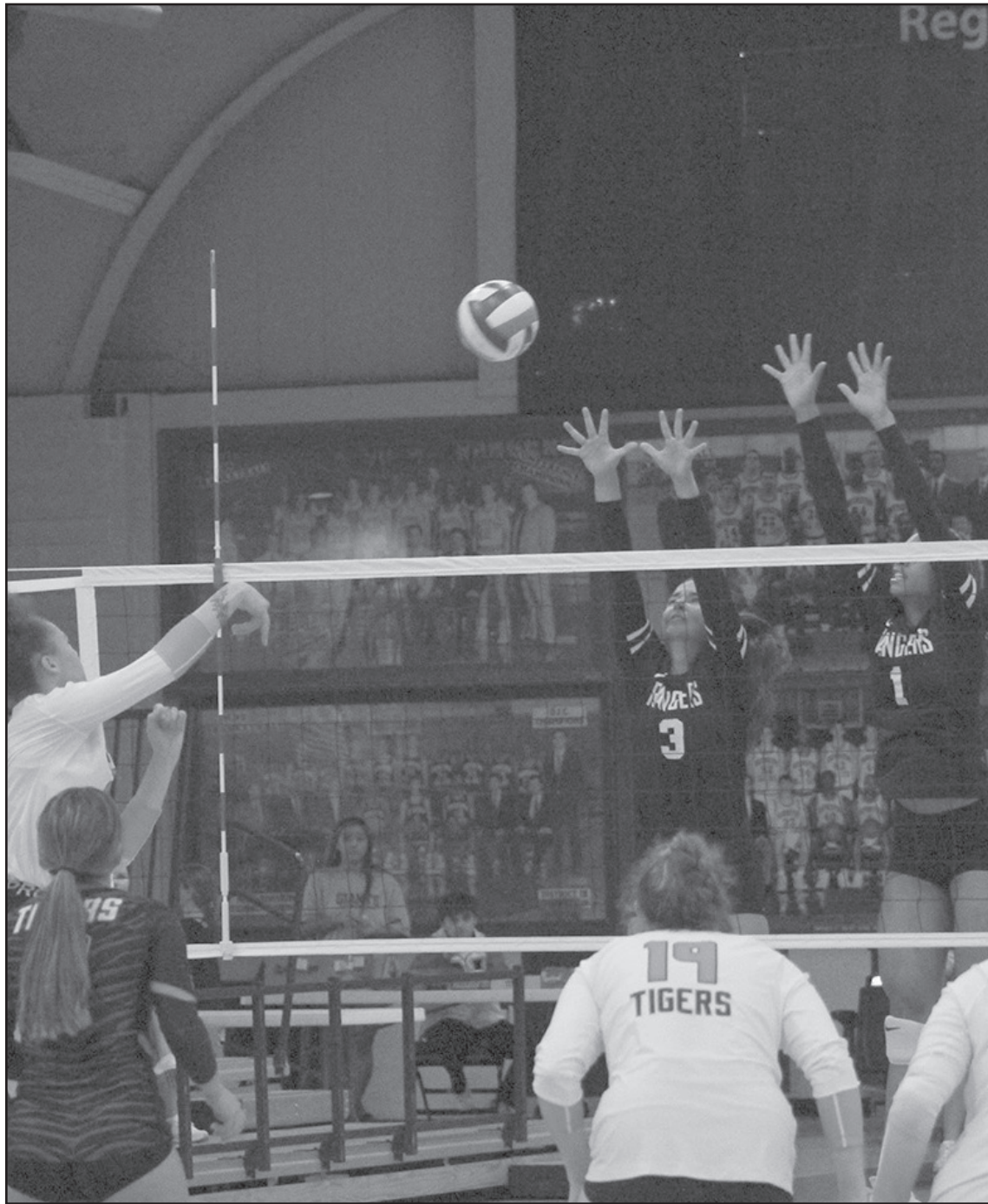
Ranger Brian Holiday, center, tackles a Bison running back during the game against Oklahoma Baptist.



# SPORTS

## VOLLEYBALL

# Rangers roll to 3-0 conference start



Courtney Russell, No. 3, and Carmae Jones, No. 1, prepare to hit the ball during Northwestern's game against the Tigers of East Central Saturday at Percefull Fieldhouse. The Lady Rangers defeated East Central, 3-1.

Photo by J.D. Eddy

By CADE KENNEDY  
Sports Editor

After a win in Durant, the Lady Rangers volleyball team secured a 3-0 conference record, the greatest start to conference play in the history of the program.

During this three-game stretch, the Lady Rangers recorded wins over Southern Nazarene, East Central and Southeastern. These wins have given Northwestern an overall record of 10-4.

The first opponent the Lady Rangers faced in conference play was Southern Nazarene on Sept. 13. In addition to being the conference opener, this was also the first home game of the season.

The Lady Rangers found themselves in a back-and-forth affair for two straight sets, as they started strong, only for the Crimson Storm to catch up. Despite these tight sets, the Lady Rangers won three straight times, resulting in a 3-0 Northwestern victory.

Addison Wimmer led the way in kills for the Lady Rangers with 20, followed by Tarra Parks, who had seven kills and 18 digs. Andrea Coady contributed 24 digs and three assists, while Cameron Lobb racked up 29 assists.

Lobb's performance against both the Crimson Storm and East Central gave her the title of Setter of the Week in the Great American Conference.

On Saturday, the Lady Rangers walloped East Central, 3-1, inside Percefull Fieldhouse. The Lady Rangers started slow, as East Central had an 11-5 lead

early in the first set. After a few Northwestern substitutions, the Lady Rangers rallied to tie the set at 15-15.

The battle continued between both teams, as neither side could pull away from the other. The Tigers eventually took the first set, 28-26. That was the only set East Central won, as the Lady Rangers grabbed three straight sets to get the win.

"I told the girls to just keep strong with what our plan is, and if they're not able to stop us, then they're not going to have anything left, and that's exactly what happened," head coach Jon Binger said.

Lobb finished the game with 53 assists, the most she had since an Aug. 26 game against Missouri Southern. Both Courtney Russell and Carmae Jones had three blocks, while Wimmer had 25 kills. Coady recorded 34 digs and was named Defensive Player of the Week in the Great American Conference for her performance.

Wimmer received national recognition for both the East Central and Southern Nazarene games, as she won the American Volleyball Coaches Association's National Player of the Week award.

The final game of the 3-0 start was Tuesday, when the Lady Rangers traveled to Durant to take on Southeastern. After a difficult first set, the Lady Rangers cruised past the Savage Storm for a 3-0 sweep.

The Lady Rangers continue the season Friday when they travel to Weatherford to take on Southwestern at 6 p.m.

## CROSS COUNTRY

# Rangers, Lady Rangers compete in Missouri

By DYLAN WHITELY  
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern cross country teams went stampeding into Missouri during the weekend.

The Rangers traveled Joplin to compete in the Missouri Southern Stampede for their third race of the season on Saturday.

The men's and women's teams competed. The men had nine runners competing, while the women's team had seven Rangers racing.

The women's team finished in 26th place. Coach Sterlin Broomfield said he is excited for the direction the women's team is heading, but he is hoping to make some improvements.

"The women competed very hard," Broomfield said. "They are starting to become more hungry and are wanting to be successful. There is still a lot of work to be

done on that side of the team."

The men had three runners finish in the Top 200, which helped land the team a 21st-place finish at the meet.

One of those runners was junior Davin Soto. This is his first year at Northwestern after spending two years running for Central Arizona College. Soto placed 162nd, but he said he is confident he can improve on that.

"To be honest I could have run a little better," Soto said. "Right now, I'm dealing with some injuries, so hopefully I can get in shape soon and run way faster than I'm running now."

Soto also said he hopes to improve on his personal record from his junior college career, which was 25 minutes and 50 seconds. He said he is hoping to be in the low twenty-fives this season.

Broomfield said the men's team did an OK job, but they did not execute the way he would like

them to. He said he hopes they will buy into the process and continue to get better.

Going forward, Broomfield said he is focused on having the runners race smarter and packing up together better during races.

Running in packs can help the team get fewer points. When runners are together, they are less spread out, reducing the likelihood they will get many points if they fall farther behind.

"Our women are doing really well at packing up together," Broomfield said. "But they need to be packed up and a little bit faster. The men are pretty spread out and need to get more tight during races."

Broomfield said he looks forward to seeing runners get faster. With the women's team being so young, the runners have a lot of opportunities to improve.

With the men's team being older, Broomfield said he hopes

to get them to "click" on the same level and be more competitive.

"The women can be competitive, too," Broomfield said. "But the men just have a little bit more edge just because of them being older. They understand the running more than compared to when you're younger and still trying to figure out the program."

Soto has his goals for this season set on the postseason races, both conference and nationals.

"I know we can compete pretty hard," Soto said. "Together we will get in shape, and we will be ready."

The next race for the Rangers will be at Bethel College Saturday in North Newton, Kansas.

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# IT'S CORN(HOLE)



Photos by Colby Dalton

**ABOVE:** Shay Martin (left), Tyler Blankenship (center) and Tobie Moore (right) play cornhole Tuesday evening on the Intramural field as part of a Student Government Association event.

**LEFT:** Aaron Mason (left) and Reagan Brakhage (right) play cornhole Tuesday night on the Intramural Field.