

TAKING A LOOK

High school students from across Oklahoma came to tour Northwestern during the annual Ranger Preview. PAGE 6



LAST LOSS

The Ranger football team finished the season with a loss to the school's rival, Southwestern. PAGE 10



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SHOP SMALL: HIGHLIGHTING CHALLENGES OF SMALL BUSINESSES: PART 2

Small businesses play 'big role'

Ahead of Small Business Saturday, local shop owners say stores are vital

By CAITLIN HOFEN
Features Editor

The rising sun warms the brick storefronts as people anxiously wait around "The Square" in downtown Alva. In the distance, the Northwestern clock tower chimes seven times. Business owners unlock and open doors, welcoming customers to browse their great deals. Shoppers scamper from store to store, hoping to beat the July heat.

This is the scene during Alva's annual Crazy Days sale, a town-wide event promoting local shopping each summer. Money spent during events like Crazy Days cycles back into Alva's local economy. And as America is about a week away from Small Business Saturday, a nationwide holiday raising awareness for hometown businesses, business owners say the importance and impact of shopping locally affects almost every aspect of communities.

"People need to realize it's



the small businesses who sponsor things like sports teams and provide support for local events," said Kim Foster, co-owner of Schuhmacher's Copper Penny. "We get asked to give donations

to almost everything. We give as much back, if not more, to Alva."

Foster and her daughter Natasha own and operate the Copper Penny, a gift store and floral shop. Since opening in 2013, the Cop-

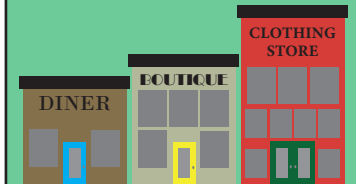
per Penny has expanded to the adjoining shop space and has grown its services.

"We play a pretty big role in the economy in Alva," Foster said. "We offer everything from

home décor to cooking utensils and more. When we saw a need in the community, we bought out a retiring florist."

See **BUSINESSES**, Page 2

Shop \$mall



A Northwestern News series about how small businesses stay alive and thrive in rural Oklahoma.

Photo by Caitlin Hofen

LEFT: Copper Penny co-owner Kim Foster is shown in this Sept. 27 photo. Owners of businesses like the Copper Penny say they are vital to the communities they serve, and they rely on the support of local residents.

University groups make Kindness Day plans



Northwestern student Nick Castillo gave doughnuts to David Cummings, an Alva police officer, during the 2021 Kindness Day Celebration.

By ALLI SCHIEBER
Student Reporter

More than 50 groups and clubs are participating in Northwest Oklahoma Kindness Day on Friday.

Students, faculty and staff at Northwestern will participate in the day's events, which aim to spread acts of gratitude and friendship toward others. The United Way partners with Northwestern for the event. The university began participating in the holiday in 2021.

"I think we just need to have more kindness in the world right now, whether it's one day out of the year or you just make a practice of being kind every day," said Valarie Case, assistant director of university relations.

Several organizations on Northwestern's Alva

campus have outlined their plans for the day.

Fryer Hall residents are hosting a food drive for the Campus Cabinet food pantry. Residents will be taking donations until the end of November. Donation boxes are in the Student Center, J.W. Martin Library and all four dormitories.

The university's social work program is also doing a food drive to benefit the Campus Cabinet, and J.W. Martin Library staffers will hand out popcorn.

Delta Zeta sorority is painting rocks with kind quotes on them and placing them around campus. Students who find a rock are encouraged to take a photo of it and post pictures with it using the hashtags #AlvaRocks, #DZRRocks and #BeKind-NWOK. Students are also encouraged to hide the rocks elsewhere on campus.

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NEWS

BUSINESSES: Small stores offer services large competitors don't

Continued from Page 1

The U.S. Small Business Administration reported in 2016 that 52.4% of Oklahoma's private workforce is employed by small, locally owned businesses. Despite the prevalence of small businesses, their owners say people don't always use the personal services they offer.

"I wish people would see we are a business that is active and vital," Foster said. "We can provide customers with the same quality merchandise found at big box stores — only we wrap it for you, deliver it for you, and we help you pick it out. You're not just wandering around in a big store by yourself. We help you with your shopping experience by offering suggestions and explaining our merchandise."

Like the Copper Penny, 174 businesses in Alva are members of the Alva Chamber of Commerce. Chamber Director Jodie Bradford-Stevison said local shopping leaves a lasting impact on buyers and sellers alike.

"I think the most important aspect of shopping local is the relationships made with the business owners," Bradford-Stevison said. "Customers can go in looking for something specific, and the small business owners are going to help find exactly what is needed while getting to you."

'WE FILL A NEED'

Owned by Jason and Melanie Gaisford, G & G Home Furnishings is another small business that relies on local shopping.

"With us being the only furniture store in this area, we fill a need that isn't provided for anywhere else in our community," Jason Gaisford said. "Without local shopping, we probably wouldn't exist. In a rural setting, it takes everybody to serve each business."

From a financial standpoint, small businesses have the biggest impact on local economies.

"If we want Alva to be the best it can be, we need to support our local retailers and businesses," Gaisford said. "Without the sales taxes generated from those businesses, our city doesn't function."

The money spent at a local business doesn't stop there.

"Let's say you buy from a mom and pop [shop], and that mom and pop go somewhere in the community and spend money," Gaisford said. "That money goes back into our local economy. Plus, they are paying their employees who live and work here to also go spend money in the community."

Keep It Local OK, an organization promoting small businesses across the Sooner State, reports that 68% of money spent at local businesses stays in the local economy, according to an article on the organization's website. In contrast, only 43% stays local when shopping at a corpo-

rate chain.

"If you buy goods online, that money doesn't come back into our community and maybe not even the sales tax," Gaisford said. "It's the same concept when shopping out of town because the money doesn't come back here. Therefore, the community isn't being made better. People need to realize if they want their community to be better, they have to support their community."

Shopping events throughout the year help encourage consumers to buy locally.

"Crazy Days is a big day for many of our businesses," Bradford-Stevison said. "It gives the business owners the chance to mark down their summer inventory and make room for new merchandise. Small Business Saturday is another important event. I think more people are apt to go out and support small businesses because they want to see them grow and be successful during the holiday season."

Many stores see the most traffic around the holidays as shoppers look to deck the halls and shop 'til they drop.

"For our business, the best time of year is the third quarter," Foster said. "This is the end of the calendar year, from October to December. It's our best time because people like to decorate their home for the holidays, so we provide a unique opportunity for them to see decor [that is] not mass-produced."

Besides exclusive merchandise, the pricing of products sold in small businesses is comparable to that of large corporations.

"We pride ourselves on being competitive," Gaisford said. "We watch what bigger stores are doing on a regular basis and look online to see what the online prices are. I believe everyone will find our prices are competitive with those. If someone finds a better deal somewhere else, we'd be willing to look at it and maybe even beat it."

LOCAL SHOPPING GROWS

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, shopping locally has expanded, with many businesses creating an online presence to reach new customers and fulfill the needs of existing ones.

"Many stores around town were offering curbside pickup and relied on customers to look online to browse their merchandise," Bradford-Stevison said. "You could shop in your pajamas and pick it up the same day. You can call many stores, and they will help you find what you're looking for over the phone. I think COVID-19 opened a lot of avenues for local shopping without actually stepping foot in a store."

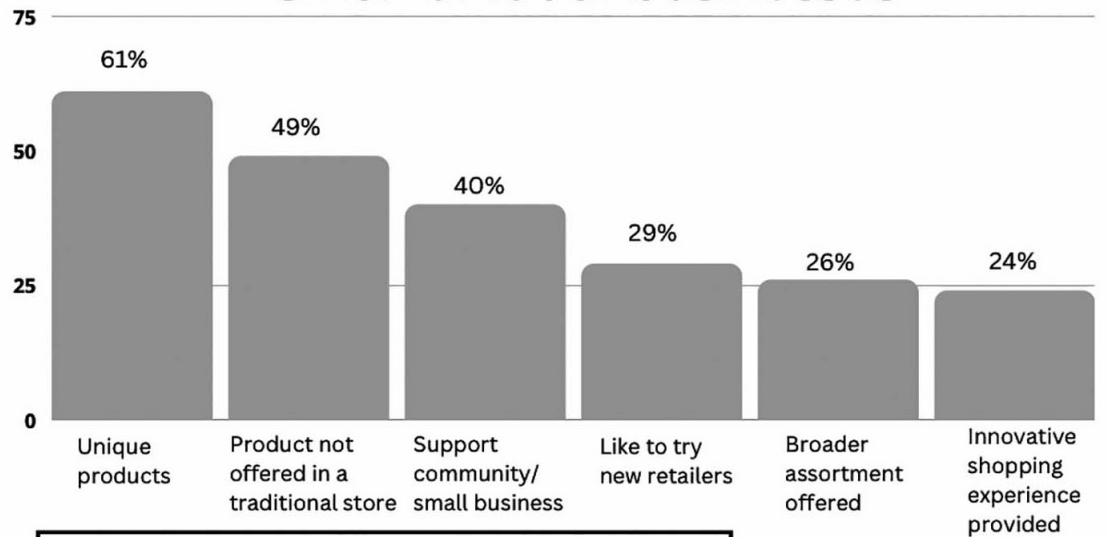
According to a survey by Intuit MintLife, 70% of consumers have supported local businesses



Furniture at G&G Home Furnishings is shown Sept. 30. Local business owners say the pandemic forced them to change some of their business practices to better serve customers.

Photo by Caitlin Hofen

Reasons shoppers prefer small or local businesses



In a survey conducted by Nerdwallet, selected shoppers were given a poll to determine their reasoning for shopping locally. Respondents were given the option to select multiple answers, so the data totals over 100%.

Source: Fundera by Nerdwallet

Graphic: Caitlin Hofen

by shopping online only or by using a mix of online and in-store shopping since the start of the pandemic.

"First and foremost, COVID-19 caused us to make some changes," Gaisford said. "One of the things we did almost immediately was buy more product. With so many shutdowns, our fear was not being able to get products. This move paid huge dividends for us. People weren't traveling as much, so they stayed at home to do their shopping, which we benefited from."

Finding new ways to serve customers allowed many local businesses to survive during the pandemic. Their impact on local economies and the support they give affects communities in more ways than one.

"I know the businesses we attend chamber meetings with and consider our friends support Alva wholeheartedly," Foster said. "Without that support, I don't know who would be donating to sponsor yearbook pages or supporting the sports teams. When you shop local, you aren't just supporting a small business. You're supporting your community."

Sales tax impact on Alva's economy

4 1/4 ¢

How much of every dollar serves the municipal government, hospital, NWOSU and parks and recreation.

\$4 million

How much Alva received in sales tax from July 2021 to June 2022.

Source: City of Alva

Graphic: Caitlin Hofen

NEWS



Photos by Colby Dalton

Members of Northwestern's Native American Student Association meet in the Student Center. November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to learn more about Native American heritage and culture.

Northwestern club celebrates Native American Heritage Month

By DYLAN WHITELEY
Senior Reporter

November is Native American Heritage Month, and many things in Oklahoma come from Native American roots, even the state name itself.

The word "Oklahoma" comes from two Choctaw words: "Okla," which means "people," and "Humma," which translates as "red."

The U.S. Department of the Interior says Native American Heritage Month "is a time to celebrate the rich histories, diverse cultures and important contributions of our nation's first people."

Oklahoma has one of the largest Native American populations in the United States, with almost 40 tribes native to Oklahoma.

The Native American spirit is also represented at Northwestern, particularly through the Native American Student Association club on campus.

The goal of NASA is to es-

tablish a community for Native American students and educate others more about their heritage and culture, club members said.

The club conducts regular meetings throughout the school year, where students discuss different parts of their culture. They also plan activities such as beading, a popular form of Native American artwork that involves stringing beads through a thin wire.

The group is planning to host a powwow at the end of the school year. The powwow consists of singing, dancing and other festivities. The club hosted its first powwow last semester.

KD McCleary, a senior biology major from Blackwell, is involved with NASA and serves as the Student Government Association representative for NASA. McCleary is affiliated with the Cherokee Tribe, she said.

McCleary said she joined NASA because she saw the club as a great opportunity to spend time with and learn more about

people affiliated with other tribes.

One of the things McCleary said she enjoys about NASA is that the group serves as a way to keep a dying culture alive.

McCleary said she still has many ways that she keeps the Native American culture alive in different aspects of her life.

"Personally, I use beading as a stress relief," McCleary said. "And my family uses our language to designate names for our elders. ... My nephews call my mother 'elisi,' for 'grandma.'"

McCleary said her Native American roots have played a large role in who she is today.

"Your heritage is what makes you, you" McCleary said. "It creates the dialect in your life that you don't realize is different until you meet someone new who doesn't share the same culture. It is cool to be able to share different childhood experiences with my peers."

NASA meetings take place on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Student Center.



Members of Northwestern's Native American Student Association pose for a photo in the Student Center. November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to learn more about Native American heritage and culture.

What's up?

THURSDAY

Northwestern is hosting a First Generation College Student Day Celebration. This annual November event supports students who are the first ones in their families to attend college. Hear stories that involve happy moments as well as struggles that sometimes come with being a first-generation student. The event will occur in the mall area near the J.W. Martin Library from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

THURSDAY — SATURDAY

The annual children's musical production will begin Thursday. The production will start at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Thursday and Friday for school children. It will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday and will be open to the general public.

FRIDAY

Friday is the last day to drop second eight-week classes and 16-week classes, add arranged classes and completely withdrawal.

FRIDAY CONT.

Northwestern is hosting Ranger Research Day Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. The event is for students and professors who are conducting research and want to share it with their peers, colleagues and community members.

Friday is Kindness Day on all Northwestern Campuses. Multiple Northwestern club/organization members, academic departments and employees at all three campuses will be engaged in random acts of kindness or projects that day to celebrate kindness. Northwestern will join businesses in Alva and the area to provide kindness projects that day.

Dr. Eduardo Moreira, an experienced soloist who has performed all over the world and serves Northwestern as an assistant professor of music, will perform a one-hour solo piano recital at the Baptist Church in Alva. It is open to all, especially to those interested in classical piano music. The performance will start at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

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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 provided

ABOVE: Some of my family including: my brother, my sister-in-law, my grandpa and I. The author believes that you can be thankful for everything you have in life. BELOW: My grandpa, my dad and I this was a week before we lost him. Be thankful for everyone in your life before they're gone.

Be thankful for what you have

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

This time of year, people have a lot to be thankful for. Make sure that you are thankful for the people around you, for the life you have and that you are alive now.

Today, most of us like to have separate time away from our parents or other family. I am the same way. I enjoy not being around my parents sometimes, but I understand that one day, they won't be around.

So, the point is to enjoy the time you have with them now. Go see your grandpa anytime you can. Visit your parents. If you can, call them to talk about your day, visit old friends whenever you have time and just be thankful for what you have now. Do this before you miss all these memories.

With Thanksgiving around the corner, be sure to take some time to appreciate the holiday and what this holiday means at its core. Thanksgiving has the word "thank" in the name; it is self-explanatory. That sounds condescending, but the point of the holiday is to appreciate what you have.

We tend to think that the things we have will be around all the time, when in reality, everything on this planet is finite.

Time is the biggest enemy of humankind, so make sure you use yours fully. Extend it by doing what you think is right, going out, starting that business, finishing school or whatever you want to do.

It took me quite a bit of time to



figure this out. Not to sound depressing, but I lost my Grandpa in October 2019 because of cancer. I was not the best grandson, always having something better to do, but I tried to spend more time with him during my first year of college.

He moved to Tuttle in 2016 to be closer to his family after his wife passed away. I never appreciated what this man did before he passed, but after I understood, he moved down to watch my last years of high school. He was able

to watch me graduate, attend college and play collegiate sports. I miss him every day and regret not spending more time with him after he passed.

This is not to bring down what I said or to put a dark cloud over the otherwise positive aspect of Thanksgiving. This is just to give reasoning as to why you should be thankful for what you have. As I said, we only have a limited time on this planet, and being able to appreciate these things will help you make it through the day.

It's not just about being thankful for the large things in life; there are small things to be appreciated as well.

Some things for me are being appreciative of having a car, being in good health and being able to go to school. There are always things to appreciate in life, no matter how small they are or how insignificant they seem.

"So, the point is to enjoy the time you have with them now. Go see your grandpa anytime you can. Visit your parents. If you can, call them."

— J.D. Eddy

I understand that everyone comes from different backgrounds, cultures and different situations. If you feel like there is nothing to be thankful for, that's fine. It's up to you to find something to be thankful for, and not because I am telling you to. It's your life, not mine, and you choose how to live it.

If you have any thoughts about this and you want to voice your opinion about it, write a letter to Northwestern News. I would be more than happy to put it on the opinion page. If you don't want to I understand, but it would be appreciated by me and the News team.

Happy Thanksgiving!

OPINION



Photo by Jordan Green

The skyline near Waynoka is shown Nov. 10. The author believes that people should take a walk through nature and refocus on what really matters on their busiest days.

Let's quit saying we're too busy

**JORDAN
GREEN
SAYS**



JORDAN
GREEN

Being busy is not hard. So, when did it become a virtue?

These days, if you ask someone how they are, the reply you're most likely to get is: "Busy." Before they ever even think about saying, "Doing well" or "Not too shabby," people are likely to tell you how much

they have to do – and how little time they have to do it.

I'm as guilty as anyone of telling folks how busy I am. But lately, I've gotten sick of using that word and hearing other people use it. It seems like, after a while, people begin to use the word "busy" as an excuse to perform duties poorly and neglect spending time doing the things they actually need to do, like serving others or spending time with friends and family. The things that should keep us busy are the things we avoid ... by saying we're "busy" with other things.

Adding to the frustration is that people try to debate who is busiest. If someone fails to finish a job, they're likely to tell their boss they were too busy. The boss then responds by saying that he's

even busier than his employees. That's where busy-ness seems to be promoted to art form. Everyone is busy, and if you're not, you'd better jump aboard the busy-ness train, right?

Forgive me if I sound a little Ecclesiastical here, but there is a time for everything. I think it's high time we all quit talking about how busy we are. We must all face the fact that everyone is busy, even if we don't think they are, and that we're all actually less busy than we say we are. We all need to straighten our priorities so that we can quit being "busy" and start being productive – and start having purpose.

A lot of people believe that the human race is busier today than it ever has been. But truth be told, we're really no busier than anyone in the past has been. Even if we were, we certainly wouldn't have to remain that way.

We all have choices to make daily. From the moment we get up, we can choose what we're going to think about, talk about and work on. We can choose whether to fill our day with constant, non-stop labor (and wonder why we're so exhausted and empty-feeling) or we can choose to take a little time out of our 9-5 to call a friend, take a little walk or make a point to help someone carry groceries to their car.

Like everybody, I've had a lot to do in the last three years. Some days seem like a blur because I raced through them, practically chained to my checklist and wristwatch.

"The days I remember best, and most fondly, are the days when I took a few moments to eat lunch with a friend, call up Momma or take a brief stroll."

— Jordan Green

The days I remember best, and most fondly, are the days when I took a few moments to eat lunch with a friend, call up Momma or take a brief stroll. Most shockingly, even when I set aside just a few minutes for non-work-related activities, I still got all my work done – and I felt less stressed doing it.

Perhaps the busiest among us are just those who fail to manage their time well and prioritize tasks effectively. Admittedly, if I had been a better time manager, I probably could have had a lot less

stress during those tough, long days. This may seem cynical, but I'm going to start taking people's incessant complaints about being "busy" with a dose of skepticism.

The next time we're tempted to use that word, let us stop and think about why we'd use it. Are we truly busy or is there something unnecessary that we're doing?

Have we managed our time well or spent hours scrolling through social media? Have we gotten plenty of rest so that we can be productive or did we stay up all night playing video games and watching TV?

I'm stepping on lots of toes – my own included.

We are only as busy as we choose to be. This week, let's all stop being busy for a few moments each day and focus on something more meaningful than busy work. Chances are, we'll have a productive day, which is much better than a busy day, and we'll have something to remember long after we clock out.

Being busy isn't as much of a problem as it is a reflection of a bigger, underlying issue: the fact that we're humans with short-range vision. For the long run, let's try to focus more on the stuff that matters. Now, get busy!

NEWS



Campus covered in snow Monday



Snow covers the branches of a bush on the north side of campus Monday.



Trees, cars and grass near the Jesse Dunn Building were covered in snow.



Woods County received between one and two inches of snow Monday as part of a large winter storm system that moved across Oklahoma. Most of the snow in Alva melted by Tuesday afternoon.

TOP: A sidewalk on campus was sheltered by snow-blanketed trees Monday.

ABOVE: The Ranger statue was frosty Monday.

RIGHT: Maintenance workers use snow plows on campus Monday.



Photos by Jordan Green

NEWS



Taking a look at Northwestern



Photos by Jordan Green

Students from across the region visited Northwestern on Saturday for the annual Ranger Preview event, which gives prospective Northwestern students a chance to look at university buildings, clubs and programs. Students who attended the event and enroll at Northwestern will receive a \$600 scholarship.

TOP: Students walk from Percefull Fieldhouse after a welcoming ceremony Saturday.



ABOVE: A family looks at a map of Northwestern's campus.

ABOVE RIGHT: Dean of Student Affairs Calleb Mosburg speaks to students and their families.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Students visited booths from various Northwestern clubs.



FEATURE



Photos by Colby Dalton

Northwestern's faculty and staff on the Alva campus were celebrated at the Employee Service Recognition Ceremony Nov. 9. Ceremonies for the other two campuses were Nov. 8 and 9.

Employees honored in recognition ceremony



Food for the event was provided by Chartwells as attendees mingled with people from departments and offices.



Fifteen-year service award recipients are Matt Adair, (left) director of housing and assistant dean of student affairs and recruitment, and Deborah Anderson, (right) custodial supervisor.

Medical Sciences Club meets bi-weekly

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Senior Reporter

Ever wanted to hang out with friends and other students while keeping up with medical terminology? That would be the Medical Sciences Club.

The club is made up mostly of students in the Science Department, usually pre-med, biology and chemistry students.

The club meets bi-weekly in the Science Amphitheater in Science Building Room 214

The club features different ac-

tivities consisting of medical science-related skills.

The president of the club is senior Jady Budig, who majors in biology and chemistry.

Budig said the total number of members is good, but attendance has been affected by scheduling conflicts, which has kept some students from showing up.

"We have a total of 27 members in the club," Budig said. "Attendance varies because of sports and other stuff like that."

Club members have had opportunities to meet people who work in the medical field, includ-

ing a veterinarian and a couple other professionals.

When it comes to medical discussions in the club, Budig said, "We mainly discuss upcoming events and what is happening on campus."

The topic of discussion depends on the theme of the meeting. The club also has game and movie nights.

The membership fee for the club is \$10 for both the fall and spring semesters.

The next meeting for the Medical Sciences Club is Dec. 1, after Thanksgiving break.

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ENTERTAINMENT

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Madden NFL 23 adds element of nostalgia

By **ELY NOBLE**
Student Reporter

Madden NFL 23 was an attempt to bring the series back in time by putting John Madden back on the cover for the first time in more than 20 years.

The game opens with an NFL Legacy Game that comes as a history lesson. It has many past legends and goes back in time by being played at the Oakland Coliseum from the 1970s.

Madden NFL 23 focuses on the less-flashy simulation football, which is the style of football John Madden valued so much.

After having two disappointing years in a row, Madden 23 focuses on giving the best experience focusing, the bulk of resources on refining the action on the field. Madden 23 does not give a huge visual change from last year other than new touch-down graphics and a couple of other changes to the game.

Face of the Franchise is a game mode that is meant to give a single-player experience.

Last year, the same game mode gave the player the ability to go through the draft process. The experience after the draft was disappointing and felt like a slightly different franchise mode.

This year, players get to act as free agents in the NFL after being in the league for a few years.

A past NFL player, Chad Ochocinco, helps players along as the mode focuses more about on-field progression with fewer cutscenes and more menu-managed and interesting side activities like working out and doing things for charity.

Madden Ultimate Team (MUT) is an online competitive game mode that allows people to play against others that play the mode.

You start with a low overall team and try to build the best team that you can. This mode has been in Madden since 2018.

The biggest change to this year's MUT was the raising of each player's overall rating in the starting base sets in beginning MUT.

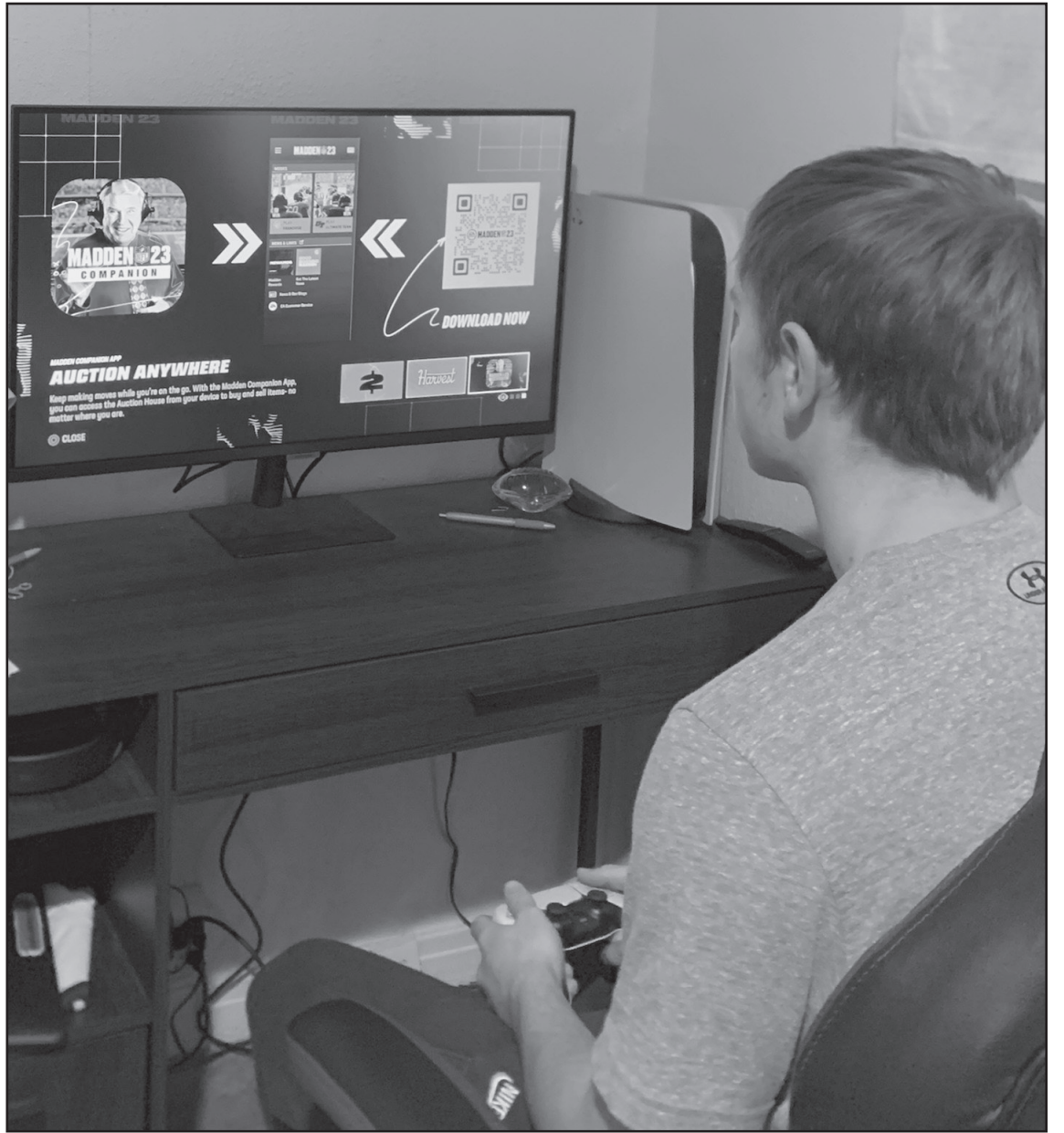
There are more single-player challenges to help raise your overall rating faster.

It is not much, but not having to fight through having that 60 overall team forever can lead to more people playing and being more competitive, more quickly.

Madden offers other changes in the game outside of the major modes, like the fun Madden Legacy Game.

A new arcade game is called The Yard, a flashy mode that was focused on but is already on the menu of Madden.

New passing mechanics and more realistic hitting on the field has been added.



The author is shown playing Madden NFL 23. He said the game added new elements from previous versions. *Photo provided*

Students enjoy food, Thanksgiving traditions

By **TARA OWEN**
Student Reporter

As Thanksgiving approaches, students on campus are ready to enjoy their favorite dishes and Thanksgiving traditions.

Freshman Braelynn Cunningham said she can't wait to go home and make her favorite creamed corn with her mom.



Cunningham

"We have been making creamed corn together for as long as I can remember," Cunningham said.

However, some families get right to work after the Thanksgiving meal.

Sophomore agriculture education major Austin Bradt and his family does just that.

Bradt's favorite tradition on Thanksgiving is to work cattle.

"Pumpkin pie is my favorite Thanksgiving food because dessert is the best part," Bradt said.

Some students say they enjoy gathering with everyone for Thanksgiving. Nursing major Jaydon Mills can agree that gathering is her favorite part of Thanksgiving.



Bradt

"My family cooks ham so good, with lots of honey and sugar making it delicious," Mills said.

Along with Mills, freshman business major Sofia McElroy said her favorite food is also ham. However, McElroy's family gets a head start on the Christmas season.



Mills

"My whole family will watch Christmas movies together after the meal," McElroy said.

As some families stay inside after the meal, others might enjoy a family game of football.

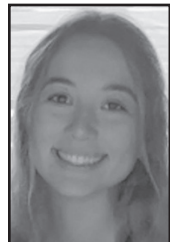
Kylie Morgan, a nursing major, said her family's tradition is just that; she enjoys playing football on Thanksgiving day.



McElroy

Some students on campus may not have the opportunity to travel back home for the holidays.

For those students who are unable to go home during the Thanksgiving break, the Northwestern Scholar Ambassadors will be hosting a free Thanksgiving meal for all students.



Morgan

On Nov. 23 in the Ranger Room from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., students can enjoy gathering with fellow Rangers to enjoy some Thanksgiving foods.

To attend, students can RSVP by emailing Ethan Sacket at eg-sacket@nwosu.edu by Nov. 22.

Dad Joke of the Week:

What's the best song to play while cooking a turkey?

"All About that Baste."

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL



Photos by J.D. Eddy

Kaden Taylor runs with the ball during Northwestern's game against Southwestern Saturday at Milam Stadium in Weatherford. The Rangers lost to the Bulldogs, 41-28, to move Northwestern's record to 1-10. The 1-10 record makes it the worst season for the Rangers since 1975, when the Rangers also went 1-10.

Bulldogs blast Rangers, 41-28



Darian Gill runs with the ball during Northwestern's game against Southwestern Saturday at Milam Stadium in Weatherford. The Rangers lost to the Bulldogs, 41-28, to move Northwestern's record to 1-10.

By CADE KENNEDY
Sports Editor

The Northwestern football team lost to the Southwestern Bulldogs Saturday, 41-28, at Milam Stadium in Weatherford.

The loss puts Northwestern's record at 1-10 for this season, making it the worst season for the Rangers since 1975.

Southwestern got off to a quick start, as Deshon Moreaux ran the opening kickoff back 42 yards to give the Bulldogs a short field near the 50-yard line. The 53-yard drive ended when Dexter Brown ran into the endzone to give Southwestern a 6-0 lead early in the first quarter.

On Northwestern's first drive, the Rangers marched down the field as quarterback Ethan Everson threw four straight completions to bring the Rangers into the redzone. After a five-yard run, Everson threw an interception that ended the drive.

The Bulldogs punted the ball on their second drive of the game, and the Rangers responded with a punt of their own.

Before Zach Stone could punt the ball away, Logan Engle blocked the punt, and Elijah Reed scooped the ball and ran for 30 yards and a Bulldog touchdown.

The Rangers had a special

teams touchdown 15 seconds later, as Kaden Taylor ran the ensuing kickoff back 90 yards for Northwestern's first touchdown of the day.

Southwestern struck again before the quarter ended, as Tylan Morton connected with Isreal Watson on a 61-yard touchdown pass to give the Bulldogs a 20-7 lead heading into the second quarter.

The Rangers put together a lengthy drive to cut into the deficit, as Northwestern went on a 14-play, seven-minute drive, with Everson throwing a touchdown pass to Alex Baxter to make the score 20-14.

The Bulldogs took control of the game after the score, with Southwestern extending the lead to 34-14 late in the first half. The Rangers scored with seconds left in the half. Isaiah Wallace had an 88-yard kickoff return to cut the lead to 34-21 at halftime.

Neither team scored in the third quarter, and the game switched from a shootout to a rock fight. Southwestern broke the drought with 13 minutes left in the game, with Brown scoring his third touchdown of the game.

The Rangers scored the final touchdown of the game, as Isaiah Kellum recovered a Bulldog fumble on the goal line for the final touchdown of the season.

SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

Lady Rangers fall in GAC title game



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Andrea Coady hits the ball in the air during Northwestern's game against Southwestern on Nov. 1 inside Percefull Fieldhouse. The Lady Rangers finished the season with a record of 18-15 and lost in the GAC title game.

By **JACOB ERVIN**
Student Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State volleyball shocked the Great American Conference last weekend when the team finished second in the conference championship tournament.

The Lady Rangers entered the tournament ranked seventh in the conference with a record of 7-9 in conference play and record of 16-14 overall.

They were underdogs against Oklahoma Baptist in the quarterfinals on Thursday but defeated the Bison 3-1.

Northwestern volleyball is the first seventh-seed team to upset a second-seed team in GAC championships history.

The Lady Rangers had help from Addison Wimmer, who set the record for most kills in a four-set match in the GAC championship tournament with 26.

Wimmer also set the record for most kills in a season for Northwestern volleyball and became a member of the All-GAC Tournament team alongside Cameron Lobb.

After defeating Oklahoma Baptist, Northwestern advanced

to the semifinals against Southwestern, the third seed in the conference.

In a five-set match, the Lady Rangers once again prevailed as the underdogs.

The Lady Rangers had strong performances from Wimmer, with 20 kills, and Lobb, with 42 assists, as well as seven blocks from Carmae Jones.

Other major contributors included the team's middle, Ravyn Burns and Tarra Parks, who had two aces and 17 kills combined.

Following another upset, Northwestern volleyball made it to the GAC championship game for the first time since joining the conference.

The team played against the one-seeded Harding, and despite another strong opening, the Lady Rangers lost in a four-set match.

After a disappointing performance in 2021 that saw the Rangers not make it to the GAC championships, finishing second in the conference is a major turnaround for the program.

The team is expected to lose several players in the offseason who are either graduating or transferring, but expectations for the team will be high going forward, players say.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Regular season underway for Lady Rangers

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Senior Reporter

The women's basketball team has started the season by playing its first game against Oklahoma

Panhandle State.

The Lady Rangers will have new faces in the lineup. Bailey Brown, who was with the program for five seasons, Scout Frame and Kinsey Neiderer graduated last season along with two

others.

Returning starters are sophomore point guard Carly Craig, who played 28 games last year and started 25, and junior Josena Frame, who played all 29 games and started 21.

Northwestern has no seniors this season. The Lady Rangers have five freshmen, five sophomores and seven juniors.

Head coach Tasha Dieselhorst will have a young team with a total of 10 underclassmen.

This will also be Kinsey Neiderer's first year as an assistant coach under Dieselhorst.

She is replacing former assistant coach Jakeria Otey, who has been with the program for the past two seasons.

Last year, the Lady Rangers went 15-14, with their season ending against Harding in the first round of the GAC postseason tournament.

Because of cancellations, the Lady Rangers' first opponent was Oklahoma Panhandle State. The Lady Rangers are on a multi-game winning streak against the Aggies.

The Lady Rangers defeated the Aggies, 60-46, Tuesday night at Percefull Fieldhouse.

Camile Thomas led the Lady Rangers with 17 points.



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Carly Craig dribbles the ball during Northwestern's game against Oklahoma Panhandle State Tuesday inside Percefull Fieldhouse.

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Yard signs with encouraging messages were placed around campus during the 2021 Kindness Day Celebration.

File photo

KINDNESS DAY: Student involvement encouraged

Continued from Page 1

“Being kind means being nice to other, no matter what we are going through, and sometimes going out of our way to help someone,” Delta Zeta member Mikayla Webb said.

The Medical Sciences Club is hosting a project called “Heroes in Scrubs.” Students will host an educational doctor/nurse playtime for children ages 3 to 6. The event will take place in the Science Amphitheater.

From 9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. in the Student Center, Operation Gratitude will give students the chance to write letters to the military and first responders.

Off campus, as part of Kayla’s Kindness Project, Kayla Leeper will read two books on kindness, pass out bookmarks with information about kind-

ness and provide cookies and drinks for students and adults after school.

Students don’t have to be affiliated with any group or project to be kind, Case said. They can do something as easy as complimenting someone or holding open a door.

“It doesn’t cost a dime to be kind,” Case said.

Those participating are encouraged to post about it on social media using the hashtag #BeKindNWOK. They are also encouraged to take pictures and send them to Case at vcase@nwsu.edu so she can send them to United Way.

Case said she would like for people to let her know how many people are involved in each Kindness Day project so that she can get a head count.

Northwestern students prove there’s a first time for everything

First Generation College Student Day is Thursday

By KRISTEN KIRTLEY
Student Reporter

Northwestern is celebrating those who are doing something for the first time in their family: going to college.

Northwestern students said they plan to attend the annual First Generation College Student Day Celebration on Thursday. The event takes place every November and is put on to support first-generation students by allowing them to share positive experiences and relate to one another.

The event is being sponsored by Student Services. The celebration will take place in the mall area near the J.W. Martin Library from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Food trucks will be set up at the west end of the horseshoe parking lot.

Yarely Aguilar is a sophomore accounting major and the administrative assistant for Student Support Services. She is the founder and president of the First Gen Club, and said she created

the club for others.

“I created First Gen Club as another outlet for first-generation students to have,” Aguilar said. “I think as a first-generation student, it’s very important to have a sup-

“I think as a first-generation student, it’s very important to have a support system that you can go to and depend on.”
— Yarely Aguilar, club founder

port system that you can go to and depend on.”

Aguilar, who is interested in becoming a finance professor, said understanding college applications and filling them out properly was one of the challenges of being a first-generation student.

Mikayla Webb is a freshman early childhood education major and the social media manager of the First Gen Club. She said she decided to attend college so that she could become a teacher and

have an impact on students’ lives in a way that helps them love learning.

Webb said trying to find a way to pay for college, getting involved on campus and finding people to go to for resources were some of the struggles she had because none of her family members went to college.

“I’ve made so many friendships that will last a lifetime,” Webb said.

The First Gen Club’s Instagram page is titled “nwsu_first_gen”, and the mission statement of the page is “Uniting first generation college students and empowering them to achieve their educational goals.”

McKenzie Mashak, a freshman early childhood education major, said she wanted to get a quality education, achieve her goal of becoming a teacher and help students understand the importance of college.

Another outlet for first-generation students is the Northwestern Student Support Services, which helps first-generation college students during their college career by providing support with the goal of seeing students graduate and succeed in college and life according to program leaders.