

THREE AND FOUR

Northwestern's women's basketball team has won three of its seven games since Dec. 10. PAGE 11



FIXER-UPPER

University maintenance workers are repairing rooms in Carter Hall that were damaged by a December flood. PAGE 3



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TikTok banned on campus WiFi in response to security threat

By JARA REEDER
Senior Reporter

If you want to scroll through TikTok, you can't do it on the university's WiFi.

As part a December executive order by Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, university students in the Sooner State can no longer access TikTok on school-owned electronic devices or internet networks.

The popular social media platform has been banned on some or all government devices in 24 states because of its relationship with the Chinese government, officials said.

"Maintaining the cybersecurity of state government is necessary to continue to serve and protect Oklahoma citizens, and we will not participate in helping the Chinese Communist Party gain access to government information," Stitt said in a news release.

ByteDance, the company that owns TikTok, can access users' internet browsing data, keystrokes and location information, officials said. That may include government information on electronic devices.

As a result of Stitt's executive order, Northwestern has taken some steps to prevent students and faculty from accessing the app through the school's WiFi. The IT department has blocked the app from being accessed on university internet networks. The university also barred students from using the app on school-owned devices.

Northwestern senior Eryn Setzer said she has not been affected by the decision.

"I don't really get on TikTok, but I know many that do, and I know it's going to mess up with their time in between classes," Setzer said.

Other students care more about the app than Setzer does.

"It's a way for students to pass time between classes, and it's one of the most popular apps we use," senior Donovan Paden said. "I watch TikTok too much. I don't see a problem with it. I feel like it's more of a problem to start blocking it"

Kelsey Martin, director of marketing and university relations, said the university is still working on the matter.

The University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and other colleges have also blocked the app's access.

COLLEGIATE COWBOY



Photo provided

Northwestern alumnus Coleman Proctor, second from left, smiles as he shakes hands with Dr. David Pecha, the university's executive vice president, at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Dec. 7. Proctor, a nontraditional student at Northwestern, received his diploma in December while competing at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Student completes degree he began years earlier — and graduates at national rodeo in Las Vegas

By JORDAN GREEN | Editor-in-Chief

Coleman Proctor's journey to finishing his degree at Northwestern Oklahoma State University was a wild ride. So was his graduation.

While most of Northwestern's fall 2022 graduates were walking across a stage in Percefull Fieldhouse in Alva to receive their diplomas Dec. 4, Proctor was competing at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Unbeknownst to Proctor, Dr. David Pecha, the university's executive vice pres-

ident, was at the NFR along with Proctor's family, who had devised a plan with the help of Proctor's sponsor and friends.

Neither time nor distance would keep Proctor from receiving the degree he started more than a decade earlier. He didn't have to go to commencement in Alva. Instead, commencement came to him.

"It was a special moment," Proctor said. "It was a major accomplishment."

See PROCTOR, Page 2

NEWS

Pages 2 & 3

OPINION

Pages 4 & 5

CAMPUS

Pages 6 & 7

FEATURE

Page 8

SPORTS

Pages 10 & 11

NEWS

PROCTOR: Rodeo man balanced career, learning on the road

Continued from Page 1

NOT HIS FIRST RODEO

Born and raised in northeast Oklahoma, Proctor, 37, grew up around agriculture. Even as a child, his eyes were set on one thing: rodeo.

After attending Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College for two years, Proctor enrolled at Northwestern for the 2007 – 2008 school year and received a rodeo scholarship. He left in 2009, lacking 21 credit hours he needed to graduate with a degree in agricultural business.

“I was going to stay for ‘09, but just circumstances – I kind of needed to leave,” he said. “It’s always plagued me. I always wanted to get it, you know? ... It was a real regret that I didn’t have my bachelor’s.”

After leaving Northwestern, life moved on. Proctor started a family. He and his wife, Stephanie, have two daughters, ages 3 and 5, and run a ranching operation. Aside from raising his girls and caring for his herd of cattle, he’s still a full-time rodeo cowboy.

That’s what led the seven-time Wrangler NFR qualifier to Las Vegas in 2021 for the annual event, the most elite competition in the sport of rodeo. Proctor was about to make a TV appearance on the Cowboy Channel at the Thomas & Mack Center when Pecha, a rodeo fan who often attends the NFR, met him.

“I knew he was one of our former students,” Pecha said. “I went up and introduced myself, gave him a card, and he immediately said, ‘You need to help me figure out how I can finish my degree.’”

Pecha told Proctor to contact him after the rodeo. Shortly before Christmas break, Proctor called Pecha, who looked up his student record. Dr. James Bell, who was then the university’s dean of faculty, agreed to be Proctor’s adviser. After Pecha and Bell helped Proctor line up a schedule, Proctor was a student once again.

LEARNING ON THE ROAD

Online learning rose in popularity as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and students across the nation took advantage of newfound remote learning opportunities. Proctor was one.

“Going through those classes wasn’t easy. I know he had to make a sacrifice over those 12 months, whether it was sleep or something, in order to get this goal fulfilled that he set for himself.”
— Dr. David Pecha

Proctor, who lives in Pryor, took online classes during the spring, summer and fall of 2022. He carried 12 hours in the spring and spread the remaining credits out.

But in spite of his full-time student status, nothing else in Proctor’s life eased up. He still had a rodeo career, ranching operation and family obligations. He couldn’t come to campus regularly. So, with the help of his family and friends, he made the open road his classroom as he traveled around the country to attend rodeos.



Photo provided

Dr. David Pecha, Coleman Proctor and Stephanie Proctor pose for a photo at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Dec. 7. Standing in front of them are the Proctors’ daughters. Pecha delivered Coleman Proctor’s diploma to him at the NFR in Las Vegas.

“Fortunately, I’ve got a nice motor home,” Proctor said. “We’d be driving, and I’d be in the back in the booth. I might be trying to write a paper. I had a lot of journals and stuff to write for my psychology classes, and I had my printer with me all the time ... so I could print off notes, highlight and go over stuff.”

The onslaught of classwork continued all year whether he was on the road or at the ranch – and even in Las Vegas. He took some of his final exams while at the NFR.

“It was hectic, but I had a lot of great people help cover for me in other areas so I could focus on school when I needed to,” he said.

Pecha and others at the university were aware of his workload.

“It took an effort on his part,” Pecha said. “Going through those classes wasn’t easy. I know he had to make a sacrifice over those 12 months, whether it was sleep or something, in order to get this goal fulfilled that he set for himself.”

After the year’s worth of work, Proctor’s dream finally came true: He earned his degree. All he had to do was receive it.

SURPRISE VISIT

On Dec. 7, Proctor was cohosting the Purina Pre-Game Show on Facebook before the day’s events. A few minutes into

Proctor didn’t know his wife had worked with Pecha, Purina officials and others to coordinate his personalized graduation. Most of Proctor’s family was in attendance at the pre-game show. Pecha, a regular NFR attendee, was already planning to go to Las Vegas. All he had to do was bring along a special piece of cargo.

“Once she threw the idea out there, I said, ‘We need to figure out a way to make this happen,’” Pecha said. “The timing of it was just too perfect not to do some kind of unique presentation. The fact that he had the connection and the sponsorship with Purina made it even more doable on somewhat of a national platform.

“It was a complete surprise to him.”

That wasn’t all that was in store for Proctor or Pecha. The next night, Proctor won a round in team-roping. He went to the South Point Hotel Casino for the winner’s belt buckle presentation, which is broadcast on the Cowboy Channel. Proctor invited Pecha on stage and recognized him and the university for helping him.

“I had some great teachers that were very patient with me,” Proctor told the News in an interview. “That’s what I was very thankful for was the great faculty there at Northwestern. They want you to succeed.”

‘IF YOU SET YOUR MIND TO IT, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE’

With his college career behind him, Proctor said he plans to keep up his rodeo and ranching careers. He doesn’t have any immediate plans to put his degree to use, but he’s aware that, like all good things, a rodeo career will one day come to an end because of time, age and health. Maybe then, he said, will his degree come in handy.

“Now I can look my girls in the eye and say, ‘You need to get your degree. Daddy had to work hard to get his and had to come back later. Take care of business when you’re young and you don’t have as much going on,’” Proctor said.

Pecha said he hopes other people who are close to finishing their degrees will do what Proctor did, Pecha said. A large number of Oklahomans have college credit but have yet to complete their degrees.

“As an administrator, what I can reflect from that is, if there are other students out there that want to finish their degree that are close, it’s possible to do it,” Pecha said. “He’s a walking testimony that it can be done. That’s the inspiring piece of what Coleman was able to do, and do successfully.”

Proctor said he, too, hopes his story will inspire others to pursue or finish their degrees. It can be done, he said, by remembering one bit of wisdom: “If you set your mind to it, anything is possible.”

“Never be afraid to go back and try to finish,” he said. “Anything that bothers you, that doesn’t allow you to sleep peacefully at times, go back and see what you can do to make that right.

“If rodeo ended tomorrow, I’m very happy with what I’ve accomplished, and now I’m even more proud that I have a bachelor’s degree to go with it.”

So, just what will his rodeo future hold?

“I’m just kind of leaving that up in the air,” Proctor said. “Right now, my goal is to make the finals, win a world title and be another world champion Northwestern alumnus.”

WANT TO WATCH?

To watch Proctor receive his diploma, visit the Purina Performance Horse Facebook page and watch the Dec. 7 NFR Pre-game show.

For more about Proctor’s rodeo records, visit his PRCA biography at <https://www.prorodeo.com/bio/contestant/coleman-proctor/20112>.

the show, cohost Luke Branquinho made an announcement.

“We have something here for you,” Branquinho said to Proctor.

Pecha stepped onto the stage and stood next to Proctor, who flashed a wide smile. Pecha told the story of meeting Proctor a year prior and his journey to finish his degree. Then, he handed Proctor his diploma cover. The crowd clapped and cheered as Proctor and Pecha posed for a photo on the front of the stage.

“When they called him up there, I thought, ‘Oh, no. Are you kidding me?’” Proctor said with a laugh. “It kind of just blew my mind.”

NEWS



Photos by Josh Hinton

Northwestern maintenance workers Eddie Diefenbach, left, and David Hawkins, right, repaint Carter Hall Room 202 on Jan. 11. University workers are repairing Carter Hall offices following a December flood.

Getting a new look Carter Hall rooms revamped after December flood

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

University maintenance crews are remodeling offices in Carter Hall that were damaged during a December flood stemming from a plumbing repair.

Custodians walked into Carter Hall on Dec. 12 and found water in the main hallways on the first and second floors. Carpet and pieces of furniture in the adjoining offices of some Northwestern instructors were damaged.

The flood occurred after university maintenance workers replaced a toilet in the building on Dec. 9, said Dr. David Pecha, the university's executive vice president.

Workers turned the building's water supply off while making the repair, but at some point, someone turned on a faucet in one of the building's bathrooms on the second floor.

No water came out of the faucet, and the person left the faucet on, Pecha said. Maintenance workers weren't aware that the faucet had been turned on, and after they turned the building's water back on, water started running through the faucet.

The faucet remained on all weekend. Eventually, the amount of water exceeded the sink drain's capacity and the capacity of a floor drain in the bathroom, Pecha said. The water ran all weekend long, flooding the first floor.

"It wasn't caught until Monday morning," Pecha said. "So, we went in then and cleaned out the offices. We had to pull up some carpet in some conference rooms. So, we're in the process of repairing the damage, repainting, getting new carpet down. It was just a bad series of events."

The hallway flooring, which is made of terrazzo, was undamaged, Pecha said. No classroom technology was affected, and new

furniture has been ordered. Repairs should be completed within a week or two.

The cost of the repairs should be "fairly minimal," he said.

"We lucked out," he said. "It could have been much worse."

Dr. Jennifer Mahieu was one of the professors whose first-floor office was affected by flooding.

"My office happened to suffer the greatest with wall damage, furniture and years of work lost," she said.

Mahieu said 24 years' worth of books and paperwork were destroyed. However, her computer was not damaged. Her office is temporarily located on the second floor in Room 210.

"The university has been very supportive with what has been going on," Mahieu said. "They have been making sure that everything is being done thoroughly."

— Northwestern News Senior Reporter Connor Gray contributed to this report.



Northwestern maintenance workers Eddie Diefenbach, left, and David Hawkins, right, cut a new piece of wood to make flooring for Conference Room C in Carter Hall on Jan. 11.

What's up?

THURSDAY

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.

FRIDAY

Northwestern will host a ceremony to rename South Hall as Cunningham Hall in honor of retired Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham. The ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. in the lobby.

South Hall was remodeled last year, and it was one of the last projects to begin under Cunningham's tenure. Cunningham was the university's first female president.

The event is open to the public.

MONDAY

Monday is the last day to receive a complete refund on 100% withdrawals. It is also the last day to drop 16-week classes without receiving a grade.

To make these changes, visit the university registrar's office in Herod Hall.

TUESDAY

A 'W' will be required for dropped 16-week courses.

The third installment of the Northwest Concert Series will take place in Herod Hall at 7 p.m.

The second annual Extreme Spelling Bee for faculty, staff and students will take place at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. The event is designed as a way to showcase their smarts and talents. Each round gets progressively harder.

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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 provided

ABOVE: The Northwestern Rangers tightend/fullback core for the spring of 2021. The author believes that trying new things will increase your perception of life. BELOW: J.D. Eddy graduated in the spring of 2022, being the second person in his family to graduate from college.

Try new things and expand your horizons

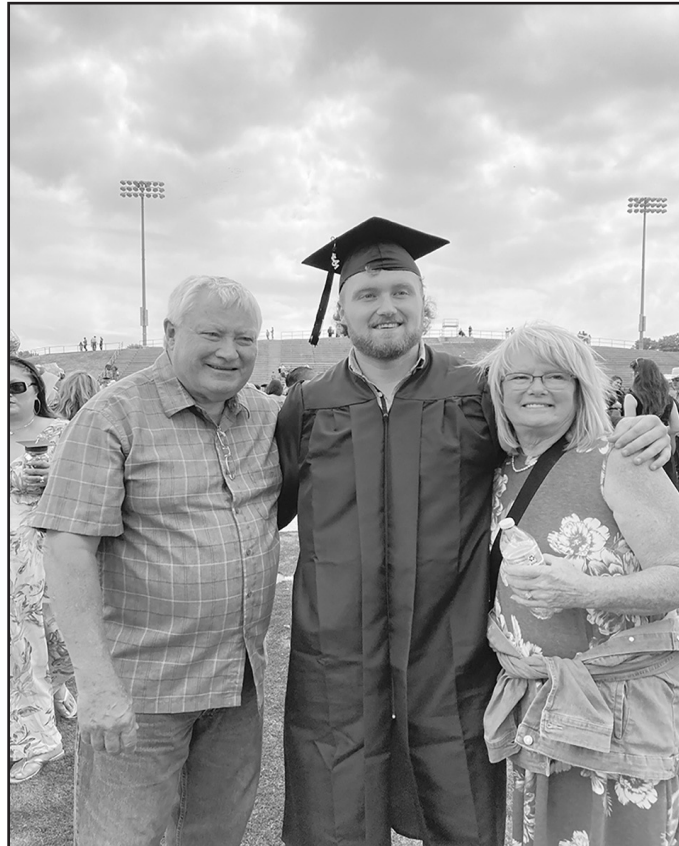
By J.D. EDDY
Editorial Editor

To do what makes you happy is to risk it all. The objective is to allow yourself to experience different opportunities.

I recently rejoined the football team. I've been thinking about this for a while. With the football team hiring a new head coach, it seemed like the perfect time to come back. Now, I have some ground to make up. Not being on a football field for years competitively is going to set me back. I am behind in terms of: knowing the plays, having chemistry with the team and having trust built with the coaching staff. But, even with those factors, I still want to finish out my last year and try to create a foundation for future Rangers.

If there is something you want to do, whether it be playing a sport, starting a business or getting a job, go for it. You miss out on the most fun times of your life if you don't.

You won't get these real-world experiences that you need to thrive in this day and age. Being multifaceted, a jack of all trades, is important. It allows you to have a more diverse range of skills. You can experience more. There will be more incentive to hire you, keep you on, be around



you and maintain relationships you make while doing these things.

The negatives need to be mentioned, however. The thing is, not all of these will work out for the best.

Things can go wrong. You can lose money, scholarships, friends or your love for this activity. This is not to discourage you from trying new things. Instead, I mean to tell you there are things that can go wrong.

This should be more motivation to succeed at whatever it is you are doing. The best thing for that is to set attainable goals for yourself. Set out to do something you can strive for that is within reach and reason, but if that is not something that can be reached, then you can still try and make it work. Even if you don't succeed try, try, try again.

If you have something that you've been wanting to do, but never thought you could,

now is the time.

I started my own photography business and never expected to get anything from it. I didn't expect it to take off. The lesson I learned is that we can sometimes do better than we expect. It's all about trying new things, setting goals for yourself and applying yourself to the dream you have. It's how you learn. It is how we evolve as humans and how we can expand our views of the world, people and ourselves.

I enjoy trying new things. Being open to change is one of the better qualities I think that I have and intend to keep it. This is a quality that keeps me going. I do not like to be stuck in the same pattern day to day; instead, I want new things to show up. Whether it be work, school or even sports, I want something to be different.

I want to see what is best for the organization and how its members conduct themselves.

This is something that sticks with me all the time. Trying new things, exploring options, doing what you want to do and just being ambitious enough to make it happen – these are commendable.

If you want to voice your opinion, write a letter to the editor, whether it be controversial or just a thought you have. The Northwestern News and I would love to hear it.

OPINION

Dancing a mile in their shoes

Square-dancing is fun for all ages, including students

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

There's a difference between being a square and being a blockhead, as odd as that may seem. Maybe Huey Lewis and the News did the best job of explaining why: "It's hip to be

square."

When I first learned that a group of Alva-area residents were teaching square-dancing lessons, I was excited. For some reason, a lot of people my age think square-dancing is for squares and blockheads. But after three months of learning how to do-si-do and Ferris the wheel, I'm having fun boot-scootin' with my new friends.

I met them all on the dance floor.

I began taking square-dancing lessons in October, and on Saturday night, I graduated from the lessons alongside two of my peers at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. I speak for the three of us when I say that we've just about knocked our socks off having fun, and we hope you will, too.

Square-dancing is far from being an old person's game. Although most of its members are older, they're still young at heart because the activity keeps them young and healthy.

The same benefits are available to anyone willing to spend a few weeks learning how to make the moves.

Square-dancing got its start in Europe in the mid-1600s, and immigrants eventually brought it with them to America. It was highly popular from the early 1900s up through the 1980s.

Although participation has waned somewhat, clubs are still around and eager to share with others the joy of this highly engaging activity. Thirteen clubs still exist in the Oklahoma City metro area alone, and several groups remain active in other cities and regions of the Sooner State.

The Alva Twisters group is one of several clubs in rural Oklahoma, and the group is looking for new students this spring. Lessons will be offered one night



Photos provided

ABOVE: Members of the Alva Twisters square-dancing club twirl around the dance floor at the Lutheran Hall on Saturday. The author believes square-dancing is a healthy, enjoyable activity for people of all ages, including college students. **BELOW:** Northwestern students Gracie Scarbrough, Jonas Decker and Jordan Green smile after completing square-dancing lessons. Club president Melvin Evans, right, laughs along with them.

each week and take about 12 weeks, give or take, to complete. The time and day of this spring's lessons are to be determined. Lessons are free, and good food is served, too.

Square-dancing is something I'd wanted to do for a long time. My friend and fellow square-dancer Lovella Tolle, who used to work in the Northwestern cafeteria, told me about the lessons a few years ago. When lessons were revived after the pandemic, she helped me sign up.

I was nervous when I first stepped onto the dance floor. The movements and motions seemed dizzying and fast-paced, and they all had funny names. Ever heard of an allemande left or clover leaf? I wasn't sure how well I'd do, but the club members were patient, helpful and understanding. They'd all been in my shoes before.

The more I practiced and got help, however, the easier it all became. Before too long, it started to get fun. Really fun. With caring instruction and repetition, my memory and movements got better. I found new levels of joy as we kept learning new patterns.

All those weeks and hours of practice came together Satur-



day night, when my friends and I danced the night away and, for the most part, kept the mistakes to a minimum.

We circled, twirled and swirled across the hardwood floor at the Lutheran Church Hall in Alva to the tune of foot-stomping, hand-clapping classics that played over the speakers.

Everyone was smiling, laughing and having a good time. For a little while, the worries of the world outside the dance hall seemed to melt away. We were in our own world, one filled with the thrill of dancing.

If you've never seen

square-dancing, I'd encourage you to watch some YouTube videos of it and see how much fun it is. If I can learn it and enjoy it, so can you.

Don't just take it from me. Gracie Scarbrough, one of the Northwestern students who learned square-dancing with me this fall, said she was surprised by how much fun she had – and how many friendships she made through the activity.

"Square dancing is something they are passionate about, and the members of the club are excited to welcome in anyone they can share their passion with," she

said. "It's super sweet, and I have a blast getting to learn and be active with them while meeting people and building new relationships.

"I would absolutely encourage anyone who is even slightly interested to come and try it out. The community the club has created is super friendly and welcoming. It's a really encouraging environment to learn in, too."

Those sentiments are echoed by Rod Ford, our teacher and dance caller, who was inducted into the Oklahoma Square Dancing Federation's Hall of Fame in November.

"It's just great exercise and fellowship set to music," he said. "It's just good, clean fun. The whole thing's about having fun."

People who are interested in learning how to square-dance should call Twisters club president Melvin Evans at 580-829-3226.

"Come out and have fun," Evans said. "We have lots of good fun and exercise."

If you're looking for a way to meet new friends and learn how to square-dance, two-step or waltz, this is your opportunity. Come and find out that, yes, it is hip to be square.

What's on your mind?

The Northwestern News wants to hear from YOU! Faculty, staff and students can write letters to the editor about topics they're concerned or pleased about whether on or off campus. If

you're interested in speaking your mind, email your letters to nwnews@nwosu.edu. Letters cannot be anonymous. See our letters to the editor policy on Page 4.

THROUGH THE YEARS: A LOOK AT NORTHWESTERN HISTORY

Time changes everything

How Northwestern's buildings, degree programs have evolved

By DYLAN WHITELEY | Senior Reporter

Once upon a time, there stood a castle upon the hill. This may sound like the beginning to a fairytale, but this was not in some magical place far, far away. It was right here in Alva, and the castle was a building at Northwestern.

The university has a storied history and has seen many changes since it started in the late 1800s. Educational programs have been added and cut, and buildings have been built up and torn down. It all started with the Castle on the Hill.

FIRST BUILDING

Northwestern's Castle on the Hill was the school's first building. Completed in 1899, a tall brick structure resembling the appearance of a castle stood in the spot where the Jesse Dunn building stands. It is named after Jesse Dunn, a man who settled around Alva in the land run and started a law practice here.

On March 1, 1935, around 2 a.m., the castle caught fire and was destroyed. It is an incident that is described in Wayne Lane's book, "A Centennial History," as "Northwestern's greatest tragedy and its saddest hour."

Flames had already spread rapidly out of control before they were discovered. Fire alarms awoke the town, which led many residents to campus to try to extinguish the raging blaze. The oiled wooden floors combined with the south wind made putting the fire out nearly impossible and caused a nearby house to also burn.

Three male students, who were staying in living quarters adjacent to the band room, were stuck on the roof with no way to get down. While fire trucks were still arriving at the scene, a student athlete took one of the ladders off the truck to try to get the trapped men down safely.

But with the ladder being a little bit too short to reach, one of the students on the roof was lowered down by the other two so he could reach the ladder.

Once he made it down, the two men on the ground got a rope from Herod Hall's stage and threw it to the two still on the roof, so they could tie it to a part of the wall and slide down to the ladder. All the students escaped with only minor cuts and bruises.

The fire destroyed most of the materials inside the building, including library shelves and books, art, historical documents, pianos and other instruments.

The cause of the fire is unknown. Some speculate that it was faulty wiring, while others believe it could have been a carelessly tossed lit cigarette butt.

MOVING FORWARD

Classes took one day off and then the following Monday were right back in session. Some classes that took place in the castle had to meet in other buildings around Alva.

Former Northwestern professor Dr. John Barton, who taught from 1966 to 1995 in the speech department, said the

replacement building had to be made quickly and feasibly.

"I would have loved if they replaced the Castle on the Hill with another castle," Barton said, "because if that Castle on the Hill was still here, there would be people coming from everywhere to see it."

When he taught here, Barton worked in the Fine Arts Building, which is now Ryerson Hall. It was in need of an update during that time. Barton said fans were the only source of air conditioning in the building, which also had electrical problems. A problem he ran into was that he could not run a coffee maker and have the lights on at the same time.

In 1975, that building got a \$437,400 update. Barton worked in the library annex that year while the work was being done. All the lighting and air conditioning were replaced as well as the walls and flooring. The first elevator on campus was installed in Fine Arts.

CHANGING PROGRAMS

Dr. Roger Hardaway, who has been a history professor at Northwestern for 33 years, said he has seen many changes throughout his teaching career.

Many programs have evolved or dissolved through time. Some of the earlier programs have gone away, such as the banjo and mandolin club in the early 1900s and the college wrestling team. Home economics courses no longer exist.

The Industrial Education building has many regular classrooms, but it used to be the home of industrial education courses that are no longer offered.

"That whole field is gone," Hardaway said. "They used to have welding classes and carpentry classes in there, and that's gone the way of the dinosaur."

A few factors caused the programs to dissolve. The programs had low enrollment, and vocational technology centers began offering the courses.

The Science Building and the library were both built in 1963. Before then, the library was located where the natural history museum is now on the second floor of Jesse Dunn. Science classes used to take place in Carter Hall until the Science Building was approved and built. Barton remembers helping move the books from the old library in Jesse Dunn over to the one that had just been built.

DORMITORIES

The dormitory arrangements have changed from what they once were. In 1937, the university asked the state legislature to issue bonds for the construction of two dormitories. Northwestern was the only college in the state at the time that did not have any dorms for its students.

Vinson Hall and Shockley Hall were completed in 1939, with the women living in Shockley and the men living in Vinson. At the time, the room rate was \$6 a month.

Shockley was named after Minnie Shockley, a long-time dean of women.



ABOVE: Northwestern's Castle on the Hill is shown in this undated photo.

LEFT: Ryerson Hall is shown Nov. 28.

RIGHT: The east side of Shockley Hall is shown Nov. 28.

Top: File photo
Left and right: Photos
by Jordan Green

When was it built? Northwestern campus construction projects, listed by year

- 1899: Castle on the Hill
- 1907: Ryerson Hall
- 1919: President's Home
- 1925: Herod Hall
- 1936: Education Center, Jesse Dunn, Carter Hall
- 1937: Shockley, Vinson Halls
- 1953: Percell Fieldhouse
- 1955: Industrial Education, Student Center (made from Wyatt Gym)
- 1963: Science Building, J.W. Martin Library
- 1963: Science Building, J.W. Martin Library
- 1997: J.R. Holder Wellness Center

Graphic by Jordan Green

Vinson was named after Augustus Grant Vinson, who was one of the six students in Northwestern's first graduating class in 1900.

The Student Center was added in 1955. At the time, the building was the Wyatt Gymnasium, named after Frank Wyatt, who was the university's first physical education director from 1906 to 1924. During its time, Wyatt Gym hosted many events.

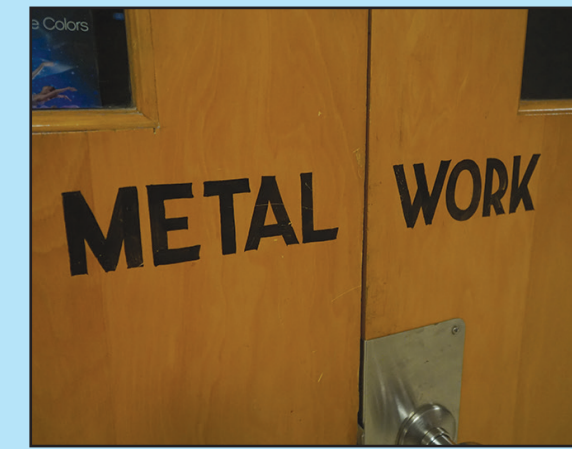
One of those was in March 1937, when First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt traveled to Alva to give a speech about problems facing the nation's youth. Converting the gym to the Student Center involved building a kitchen and a dining hall, game rooms, a bookstore, chapel and the addition of a second story, which became the ballroom.

Where the Wellness Center is today

used to be the home of Northwestern football. Newby Field was named after Coach Winstar Newby, who was hired as the head coach of the football team in 1927. After the 1929 season, plans to sod the field, build new stands and get lighting for the field went into action and cost around \$4,000, with Newby leading the push and even helping with some of the labor.

Plans to build a Wellness Center started in 1997 where Newby Field once was. It was completed in 2000 and had a swimming pool for students and the public to use. Before that, the swimming pool on campus was located where the commons area is located now in the Health and Sports Science building.

"It [Northwestern] has changed," Hardaway said. "But like with everything else, you see it every day, so the changes just kind of slowly take place."



Photos by Jordan Green

TOP LEFT: A vacant room in the Jesse Dunn building is now a student lounge. TOP RIGHT: The basement in Vinson Hall is used for storage. BOTTOM LEFT: The metal work room in the Industrial Education building is a theater storage room. BOTTOM RIGHT: Jesse Dunn's former home economics kitchen is unused.

Empty inside: Changing technology, courses mean more open classrooms

By JARA REEDER | Senior Reporter

Did you know the Jesse Dunn building has the most unused rooms on campus? And what might be lurking in the basement of Vinson Hall?

Northwestern students might be surprised to know how many empty, unused rooms are in campus buildings. Each room once had a purpose, but over time, those purposes have changed or gone away.

"When I first started here, which was about 30 something years ago, my department was using nine rooms, and now we are down to using four," said Dr. Roger Hardaway, a professor of history in the Jesse Dunn building.

Online learning is one of the reasons the number of classrooms needed had shrunk. Three out of Hardaway's five classes are online, he said.

However, at least some of those rooms have found new purposes. In the Jesse Dunn building, the social work program took two, and one is a storage room for summer camps. On each floor of Jesse Dunn are one or more rooms that might look like classrooms or offices from the outside. But chances are, no one is using them.

"Many students transfer here after going to a junior college and have their basics done, so there isn't much need for some classes as much as they would have in the past," Hardaway said.

Changing technology is another reason why some rooms are abandoned. Rooms 219 and 225 in Jesse Dunn used to be typing labs, which housed electric typewriters for students. Strips of electrical outlets still line the walls.

FINDING NEW PURPOSE

Some of the remaining empty rooms in Jesse Dunn have become lounge areas. Last year, the business department made one of the larger empty rooms into a lounge area for the business students.

On the bottom floor, rooms 107 and 102 are used by the sororities. Sometimes, the recruiting office uses them they are in need of a larger space.

Shockley Hall also had empty spaces, but they've been repurposed. An unused classroom was transformed into the school's esports arena, mathematics instructor Keenan Meeker said.

Vinson Hall, which used to be a dormitory, also has unused rooms. The building's basement has several rooms of varying sizes, most of which are used

for storage. An abandoned darkroom for developing photos is still mostly intact, and forlorn bathrooms lined with vintage tiling haven't seen water in years.

The basement was used as a haunted house for several years, said Dr. Garret Lahr, chair of the university's Division of Business. Fake blood splatters dot the walls, and some creepy decorations are still hanging around. The basement was also used as a shooting range at one time.

Another odd room is the home economics room

"Many students transfer here after going to a junior college and have their basics done, so there isn't as much need for some classes."

— Dr. Roger Hardaway

on the second floor of Jesse Dunn. It's across from the business department's conference room. The last time the room was updated was likely in the late 1960s or 1970s.

Jesse Dunn and Vinson Hall have space to spare. Other buildings, like the science building and Shockley Hall, are renting out unused space that also benefits the university.

Dr. David Pecha, the executive vice president, said the state's vocational rehabilitation office leases space in Shockley Hall on a yearly basis. In the science building, the Iofina chemical manufacturing company has a laboratory as part of a partnership with the university. The company provides internships for science majors. The Red Cross stores cots in the Vinson Hall basement that can be used in the event of an emergency, Pecha said.

Other buildings on campus may not have space to rent out or organizations to partner with, but faculty have used the space in creative ways.

Dr. Jennifer Oswald, chair of the Division of Education, turned unused storage closets on the second floor of the education building into closets where education majors can obtain professional clothing.

The campus cabinet in Shockley Hall occupies an unused room and hallway. The organization provides food and other necessities to students and staff in need.

FEATURE

Professor to restart student PR agency

By **REBECCA WAGNER**
Senior Reporter

4990 miles. ThiAT is how far Dr. Adriana Jacob Carneiro traveled to join the Northwestern communication department as the new assistant mass communication professor. Carneiro started her education at the Federal University of Bahia in Bahia, Brazil. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism along with a master's in media, gender and culture. In addition to these two degrees at the Federal University of Bahia, Carneiro received a doctorate in culture and society. While working on her doctorate, Carneiro completed part of her studies in Oklahoma.

As a visiting scholar, she studied in the political science department at Oklahoma State University. Carneiro said the research she worked on while studying at OSU was for a multidisciplinary research project about media and women in politics. Multidisciplinary research combines many approaches, fields and/or academic methods to learn more about a topic or problem. Although Carneiro's degree is in journalism, she has experience relating to the strategic communication field. This is the specific field she will be teaching at Northwestern. Carneiro created her own public relations agency in Brazil. She created this agency with two other friends from her univer-

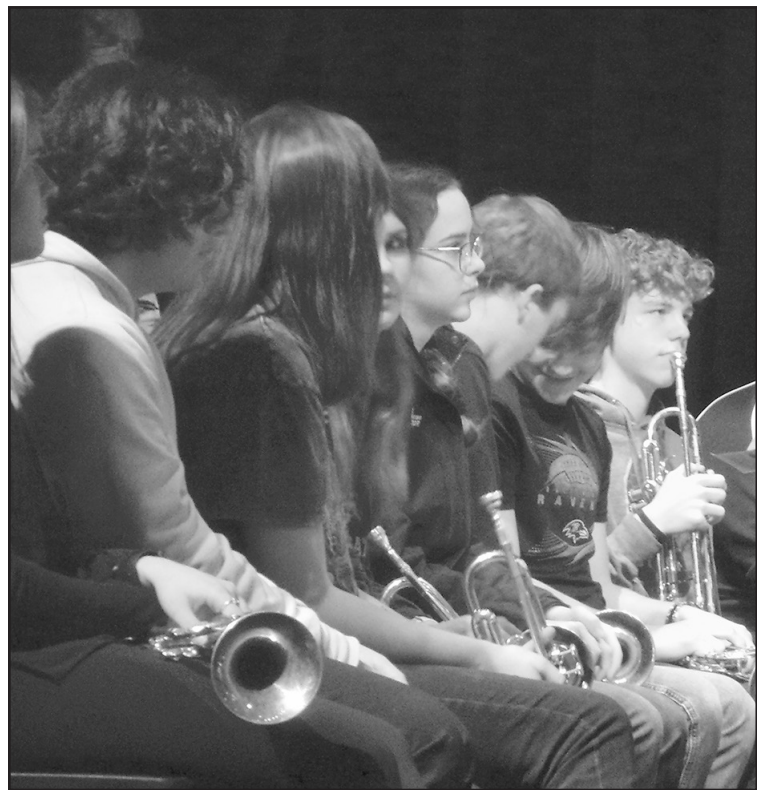
sity. This company is still running today. Carneiro plans to restart the Ranger Agency. The Ranger Agency is a student-operated nonprofit public relations agency. A team of students will be running the agency as if they were working in the field post-graduation. "They will have real clients and create projects for the clients," Carneiro said. "Depending on the needs of the clients, we will suggest an offer of the services." When Carneiro found out about the opening assistant communication professor position, she said she saw it as an excellent opportunity to keep learning and creating. "I think it's my motivation to keep learning," Carneiro said.



Photo by Tara Owen
Dr. Adriana Jacob Carneiro poses for a photo in front of a Ranger sign.

Northwest Oklahoma honor band performs

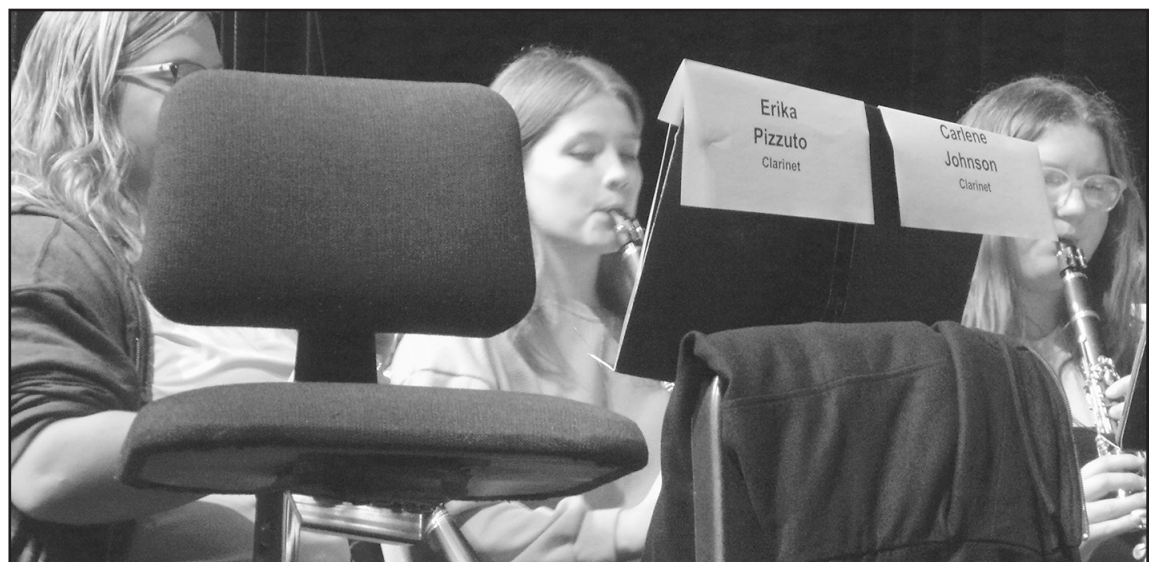
Red Carpet Honor Band members practiced and performed on Friday and Saturday on the Alva campus



ABOVE: Trumpet players for the Red Carpet Honor Band await instruction during rehearsal. RIGHT: The group rehearsed all day Friday and performed in Herod Hall on Saturday.



Photos by Rebecca Wagner
ABOVE: The high school Red Carpet Honor Band rehearses in Herod Hall Friday morning. Students were from high school bands in the northwest Oklahoma area. BELOW: Three clarinet players rehearse together.



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ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE REVIEW

'Avatar' sequel illustrates family values

CAITLIN'S CRITIQUES



CAITLIN HOFEN

After 13 years of waiting, "Avatar: The Way of Water" premiered in December 2022. Fans of the franchise stormed the box office, with many viewers going back to see the movie

multiple times.

The story begins 12 years after the events of the first movie.

The Na'vi are living peacefully after driving out the humans working for the Resources Development Administration (RDA).

Jake Sully is the leader of the Omatikaya clan and has four children: Neteyam, Lo'ak, Kiri and Tuk.

Much to the Na'vi's dismay, the RDA returns to Pandora to prep it for colonization as Earth is dying.

Among the new arrivals are Na'vi avatars implanted with the memories of deceased human soldiers from the first mission to Pandora with Colonel Miles Quaritch's avatar serving as their leader.

It is their mission to eliminate Jake and his clan.

One year later, Jake and his mate Neytiri decide to leave their forest home after their children have a kidnapping experience with Quaritch and seek refuge

with the Metkayina reef people clan on Pandora's eastern seaboard. Here, the Sullys learn a new way of life and start to adapt to surviving in water.

However, the conflict only begins as they grow accustomed to their new home.

I've seen mixed reviews about "Avatar: The Way of Water" with the biggest complaints being about the lengthy run time and unnecessary details in the plot.

"I am a longtime lover of the first film, and I think the second one continued the story beautifully. ... The storyline is the perfect bridge."

— Caitlin Hofen

Personally, the length of the film was perfect to me because it established the current time frame, solidified the Sullys in their new home and ended the story with enough loose ends to point toward another film.

For the plot, I agree there were some details that weren't essential to the storyline, but those details make the story seem more real and as believable as a science fiction movie can be.

I enjoyed getting to see the different way of life the Metkayina live versus what was shown in the forest.

I'm a sucker for mythology and culture, so learning more about the Na'vi way of life was my favorite part.

What captured my attention the most were the stunning details they were able to produce using performance capture technology.

The cast was trained in free diving and actually acted underwater.

The use of such technology makes me excited to see the future films of the series and other movies that will move to use this technology.

I would like to watch the entire movie before all of the added effects.

I think it would be so interesting to watch the actors play these characters without having the environment of Pandora around them, relying entirely on their imaginations.

Overall, I really enjoyed this film. I am a longtime lover of the first film, and I think the second one continued the story beautifully.

I enjoyed getting to watch Jake and Neytiri as parents and related to the decisions they had to make for their family. The theme running through the film was "Sullys stick together," as Jake leads his family into new territory and a new life.

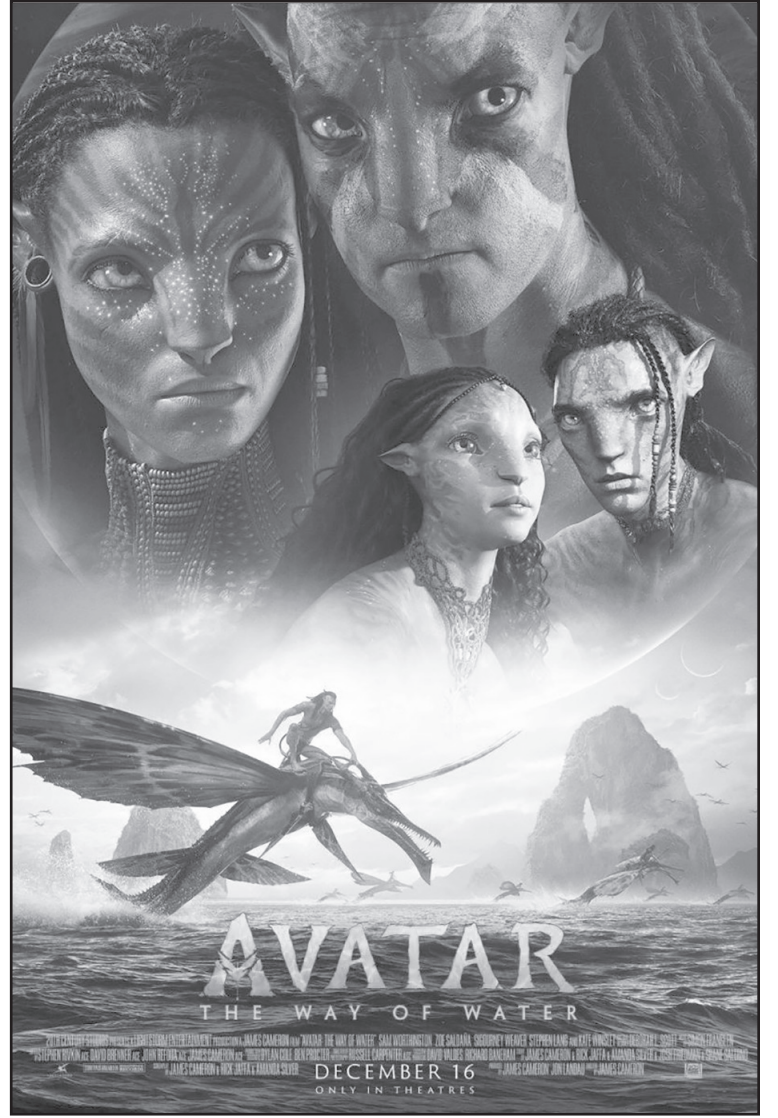


Photo by 20th Century Studios

I can't say that I think this story was better than the first, but I do think the visual elements were.

I think the storyline for the second film is the perfect bridge

between the original and the continuing story. I would recommend any sci-fi or fantasy lovers to watch this movie and learn a little bit more about the Na'vi.

'Purple Hearts' rated highly for romantic quality, entertainment

By KRISTEN KIRTLEY
Senior Reporter

"Purple Hearts" is a Netflix film that came out in July 2022.

The film is the fictional story of an aspiring musician with diabetes and a Marine who get married for financial benefits.

"Purple Hearts" is based on the novel by the same name written by Tess Wakefield.

The film is rated PG-13.

Personally, I would give the film four stars.

The only thing preventing me from rating the film five stars is the predictable ending.

There are a few things that caught me off guard during the film, but without revealing too much, parts of it reminded me of a typical romance film that has been shown before.

The film didn't have a slow start, which helped me stay interested and not get bored.

I liked that the movie started out with showing separate clips of both the main characters' lives

in an effort to introduce them rather than having a narrator.

In some films, the story immediately begins, and viewers must assume things about the characters, rather than being told.

It added a sense of individuality to each character instead of introducing them together, following the idea of the marriage being for financial benefit and not for love.

I like the fact that this film took the extra time to properly introduce the characters and allowed viewers to make the distinctions.

In my opinion, the quality of acting throughout the film helped tell the story and make it feel more real.

Although the ending was a bit predictable, the rest of the film had some surprising events.

I never got bored watching the film and found it to be heartfelt, sentimental, happy, sad and relatable. Parts of the film were sometimes funny, and it was entertaining all around.

I also liked the music and

"In my opinion, the quality of acting throughout the film helped tell the story and make it feel more real. ... I also liked the music."
— Kristen Kirtley

sound effects that were included throughout the film.

I think that it added quality and an emotional effect.

Overall, the film "Purple Hearts" is now one of my favorite romance movies.

Although it is somewhat predictable and reminded me of other romance movies I've watched in the past, it is unique in its own way and tells a good story.

If one is a fan of romance movies, I recommend taking the time to watch "Purple Hearts."

Dad Joke of the Week:

My girlfriend says it's either her or my career as a news reporter.

I have some breaking news for her.

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SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL



Photos by J.D. Eddy

Jason Douglas-Stanley attempts a layup during Northwestern's game against Arkansas-Monticello on Jan. 7 at Percefull Fieldhouse. The Rangers defeated the Boll Weevils, 82-74. The Rangers currently have a record of 6-6 and a conference record of 2-6, putting Northwestern at 10th place in the Great American Conference.

Rangers get first GAC win



Jason Douglas-Stanley and Marquise Milton catch their breath during Northwestern's game against Arkansas-Monticello on Jan. 7 at Percefull Fieldhouse. The Rangers defeated the Boll Weevils, 82-74.

By **DAX BENWAY**
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern men's basketball team has had a rough stretch during the past few weeks.

The team has had four conference matchups in the month of January.

The Rangers opened up the month Jan. 5 with a 79-78 loss at the buzzer in a home game against Southern Arkansas.

Malik Parsons led the Rangers with 23 points while scoring eight from the free throw line.

After the loss, the Rangers were anxious for a win, and that's exactly what they got.

The Rangers won their first conference game of the season at home against Arkansas-Monticello, 82-74, ending the game on a 12-4 run to close out the Boll Weevils. Parsons led the way again with a 29-point performance.

"This one was huge," Parsons said. "After a tough loss the other night, our team really wanted to get back out on the court again. We didn't want to feel the same way down the stretch in this game, so we focused on really finishing the game strong and not letting them back in it."

The Rangers took their momentum with them as they began

a three-game road trip.

The road trip began in Arkadelphia to play both Henderson State and Ouachita Baptist in two conference road games.

The Rangers started their road trip with a win over the Henderson State Reddies, 66-65. Larry White led the way with 14 points and five rebounds, but Chance Love hit the game-winning shot with three seconds left to give the Rangers a win.

After back-to-back conference wins, the Rangers were riding high heading into their matchup with Ouachita Baptist.

The Rangers fell to the Tigers, 83-75, ending their two-game streak.

Parsons led the way again with 29 points, but it wasn't enough to knock off the Tigers.

With five games left in the month of January, the Rangers are looking to get back to winning.

On Thursday, the Rangers end their road trip with a game at East Central before coming back to Alva for one home game Saturday against Oklahoma Baptist.

Starting Monday, the Rangers are back on the road, traveling to Weatherford to take on Southwestern.

After that, the Rangers will end the month with two games at home against Harding and Arkansas Tech.

SPORTS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lady Rangers battle through slump

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Senior Reporter

The Lady Rangers basketball team had an up and down from the winter break and first week of the spring semester.

During the break, the Lady Rangers went 3-4 and currently are 7-5.

In the past couple of weeks, the Lady Rangers played two home and two away games against Southern Arkansas, Arkansas-Monticello, Henderson State and Ouachita Baptist.

The Rangers initially started ahead 6-3 at the halfway point in the first quarter.

But the Lady Muleriders hit three combined threes to finish the half with a 12-9 lead.

The second quarter from beginning to halfway through was controlled by the Lady Rangers, taking a lead of 22-17.

The Muleriders found ways to make shots and cut the lead to 26-23 and end the half on a 7-0 run to end the half at 30-26.

Into the third quarter, the game remained a back-and-forth affair as teams exchanged runs, ending in a 44-43 lead for Southern Arkansas.

The teams started the last quarter exchanging leads, but Southern Arkansas got on a major run halfway through. The Muleriders got their lead up to 61-52 and did not look back. The Lady Muleriders went on to win, 68-62.

In the next game against Arkansas-Monticello, the Lady Rangers started the game up 5-0, but the Boll Weevils matched it

shortly. The Lady Rangers then went on a run to finish the quarter up 14-8.

In the next quarter, the Lady Rangers went up 20-14, but Arkansas-Monticello closed the half on an 11-2 run to lead 25-22.

In the third quarter, the Lady Ranger had an offensive explosion, scoring 22 points to take the lead, 44-34.

The Lady Rangers for the rest of the game held onto the lead to end the game with a final of 59-52.

The next two games were in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, against Henderson State and Ouachita Baptist.

The game against Henderson didn't start well for the Lady Rangers, as they got down 20-8 to end the first quarter.

The second quarter was better play, but the Lady Rangers were still lagging behind the Reddies, 34-19, to end the half.

The third quarter fared much better for the Lady Rangers. They out-scored the Reddies 21-12, but were still down 46-36.

The Reddies kept the Lady Rangers at bay and went on to win, 72-64.

The last game in Arkadelphia was against Ouachita Baptist.

The game was a tight one from start to finish as both teams traded leads throughout the game.

In the final quarter, both teams matched each other, but Ouachita Baptist eventually pulled ahead and won, 57-53.

The next games for the Lady Rangers will be in Ada Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday in Alva at 1 p.m.



Photo by J.D Eddy

Camille Thomas looks to pass the ball during Northwestern's game against Arkansas-Monticello on Jan. 7 at Percefull Fieldhouse. The Lady Rangers defeated the Cotton Blossoms, 59-52.

Northwestern hires Jones as new head coach for Ranger football

By **CADE KENNEDY**
Sports Editor

After playing at Northwestern more than 40 years ago, Ronnie Jones has returned to Alva as the next head coach for the Northwestern football team.

Jones started playing at Northwestern in 1974 as a wide receiver and eventually earned All-American and All-OIC honors in football.

Despite his coaching career taking him away from Alva, Jones said that some things have stayed the same.

"Alva has changed, but the best part is that the people haven't," Jones said.

Jones began his coaching journey in 1978 at Northeastern State as both the defensive line and linebackers coach. After five seasons, he got his first NCAA job as the offensive line coach at Tulsa.

Two seasons later, Jones made a move to the highest level of

football.

In 1987, Jones became the strength and conditioning coach for the Philadelphia Eagles. Jones coached for the Eagles for four seasons, and eventually coached for four other NFL teams.

Jones returned to the NCAA in 1996, when he became the defensive coordinator for Texas-El Paso. He coached the Miners for four seasons, but left in 2000 to

return to the NFL.

Jones' second stint in the NFL lasted one season, and he returned to the NAIA by taking a head coaching job at Ottawa, Kansas.

For the next three years, Jones coached the Buffaloes of West Texas A&M, but only won five games in three seasons. Jones made his way down to the high school level, where he coached for the next 16 seasons.

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Cool beans

818 Diner serves stew, beans to benefit Campus Cabinet



Alva Change Makers volunteers Northwest professor Dr. Mary Riegel and Taylor Dowling smile for a photo next to the stew and bean pots at 818 Diner Tuesday night. Riegel and Dowling were two of the volunteers who helped serve dinner as part of the Alva Change Makers' monthly community dinner, which raised funds for the Campus Cabinet food pantry.



LEFT: Alva community members filled the 818 Diner Tuesday night for the fundraiser. The Campus Cabinet provides food and other necessities to students, faculty and staff in need.

ABOVE: Taylor Dowling serves a bowl of beans to Freddy Brown on Tuesday night as Tom Roberts waits for his turn in line.

RIGHT: Campus Cabinet and Alva Change Makers volunteer Angelia Case, right, tops off patrons' drinks Tuesday night.

Photos by Jordan Green

