

## WINTER IS HERE

Snow fell on Northwestern and Alva on Tuesday. Check out photos here.  
PAGES 6 & 7



## RANGER FAME

Learn more about the inductees into this year's Northwestern Sports Hall of Fame.  
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# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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# 'WE MADE IT BETTER'

## University renames South Hall to honor first female president

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

A dormitory for female students at Northwestern now bears the name of the university's first female president.

South Hall, opened in 1966, was renamed Cunningham Hall on Friday in honor of Dr. Janet Cunningham, who retired in June as Northwestern's 19th president.

Students, faculty, staff and community members were on hand for a rededication ceremony in the building at 11 a.m. Friday. Much of Cunningham's family was present as well.

"When you talk about Northwestern, you know we're going to talk about Dr. Cunningham," Dr. Bo Hannaford, the university's president, said in an emotional speech at the beginning of the ceremony. "She influenced the university in such a positive way. More importantly, if you

See **CUNNINGHAM**, Page 2



Photo by Colby Dalton

Northwestern faculty and community members participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to rededicate South Hall as Cunningham Hall on Friday. Former Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham, third from right, uses scissors to cut the ribbon as the crowd looks on.

# Something squirrely is going on



## Campus critters take center stage on mysterious social media pages

By **JAKE ERVIN**  
*Senior Reporter*

Northwestern students have seen the school's squirrels a lot, but not just on campus.

Students can find images of these furry little rodents on their social media feeds thanks to anonymously operated Twitter and Instagram accounts dedicated to sharing pictures of the squirrels captured on camera around the Alva campus.

The squirrel fan pages can be found at "squirrels\_of\_nwosu" on

*"Seeing the squirrels on my Instagram is always so fun."  
— Jenna Maier*

Instagram and "@NWOSUSquirrels" on Twitter. Not only can members of the Northwestern community view and share these posts, but they can also submit their own pictures to be posted.

The managers of the accounts did not immediately reply to re-

quests for comment from the Northwestern News. The managers have even posted jokes about their mysterious identities.

"Due to people asking who runs this page, here's a few selfies of me," one Instagram post read. Attached were photos that show squirrels taking pictures of themselves.

While most people don't know who runs the accounts, the accounts have caught the attention of students. The Instagram account has amassed 106 followers

See **SQUIRRELS**, Page 3

LEFT: This screenshot from the "squirrels\_of\_nwosu" Instagram page pokes fun at the anonymity surrounding the page's manager. The operators of two Northwestern squirrel-themed pages remain unknown.

Screengrab via Twitter

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# NEWS

## CUNNINGHAM: Former president 'humbled' by renaming

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know her, and I know all of you do, she had a passion and love for her students, the faculty and staff, administrative team and this community.”

Cunningham worked at Northwestern for roughly 40 years, starting as a professor and working her way up through the ranks. As president, she oversaw the creation of the university’s first doctoral program, the reconstruction of several campus buildings and the athletic program’s transition to the NCAA Division II, among other changes.

One of the last projects of her presidency was a nearly \$5 million remodeling project at South Hall. After Cunningham retired, Northwestern officials announced their intent to name the dormitory in her honor. The project began in the spring of 2022 and ended in the fall semester. Female students lived in Coronado Hall until the project was completed.

Connie Reilly, a regent with the Regional University System of Oklahoma, said Cunningham has become one of her closest friends in the field of higher education. Reilly also complimented the dormitory reconstruction project.

“I was brought to this dorm by President Cunningham,” Reilly said. “I saw the ‘before,’ and I saw what they were doing for the ‘after.’ I was very impressed. I always said that President Cunningham, throughout her 16 years, always made her decisions based upon the students.”

**“Cunningham Hall is certainly a home.”**

— **Matt Adair,**  
housing director

Jane McDermott, a regent from Alva and a Northwestern alumna, said the dormitory has a beautiful new look.

“We should have named it Cunningham Hall a little sooner,” McDermott joked. “If these walls could talk, they could tell a lot of wonderful stories about our lives right here at Northwestern.”

Matt Adair, the university’s housing director, said Cunningham inspired countless students during her time at the university.

“It’s long been said that a house is made of brick and stone, but a home is made of love,” Adair said. “Cunningham Hall is certainly a home. It’s designed and inspired to offer modern elegance, beauty and amenities in a welcoming, supporting, encouraging environment.”

Adair introduced Shayna Miller, a senior English education major and resident assistant in Cunningham Hall. Miller said students were excited to move



File photo

into the new dormitory once it was completed – almost too excited.

“New buildings come with fun surprises,” Miller said. “When we first moved over to Cunningham Hall, the fire alarms went off at least twice a week for at least two weeks. This means two things. One, our new fire safety system definitely works, and two, our students will definitely know what to do in case there should ever be an emergency.”

“All jokes aside, the renovations and updates to Cunningham Hall make it feel like home. Though I don’t live too far away, I still get homesick, but thanks to the project, I’m able to feel like Northwestern – and more specifically Cunningham Hall – is my home.”

Adair next introduced Cunningham, saying the former president paved the way for thousands of Rangers to make friends and memories in the building.

Cunningham recognized her family and members of the audience, thanking them for their support.

“I am so humbled and honored to have this building named after me,” Cunningham said. “It’s so fitting that a lot of girls will have the opportunity to go to college and have this be their home.”

She thanked the project contractors and engineers for helping the university “get the most bang for their buck” on the project.

“It turned out lovely,” Cunningham said. “Think about how long this building has already served. Some places might have torn it down and started over, but we made it better.”



Photos by Colby Dalton



**TOP:** A remodeled bathroom in Cunningham Hall is shown in this file photo. All of the dormitory bathrooms and residents’ rooms were remodeled as part of the renovation project.

**ABOVE:** Retired Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham speaks during the Cunningham Hall dedication ceremony Friday morning.

**LEFT:** Lettering bearing the dormitory’s new name is shown Friday.



# NEWS



**Dr. Fred Jungman, left, is a new tutor in the university's Academic Success Center. The success center offers several resources for students.**

*Photo by Jordan Green*

## New tutors available to help at Academic Success Center

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

Whether students need tutoring or a place to study, Northwestern's Academic Success Center is available to help, leaders say.

New tutors are volunteering at the Academic Success Center and specialize in different subject matters, allowing students to get the help they need, said Danielle Budy, the success center's coordinator. The success center has 10 tutors, an increase from past years.

"We want to see students succeed," Budy said.

The success center offers tutoring from peers and other volunteers, including retired professors. Study areas for individuals and groups of students are offered.

Students can also use printers to complete classwork and take tests using the success center's

computers. Test proctoring is also available.

All services are provided free of charge to students.

Students seeking tutoring are encouraged to set up an appointment time with a tutor in the subject where they need help. The success center offers tutoring in math, economics, personal finance, chemistry, physics, microbiology, zoology, biology, English, computer science, health and sports science, history and government.

To set up a tutoring appointment, call 580-327-8138.

If students need tutoring in a subject that the success center doesn't offer, the success center can help students find tutoring resources online at [www.tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com).

Students can benefit from the services the success center offers, said Budy, a Northwestern alumna. More and more students are taking advantage of the success center, and she hopes to see more

students do so. Between 30 and 50 students use the success center each week.

"We're easily accessible," she said. "A lot of students don't know we're here."

Dr. Fred Jungman, a retired Northwestern professor, began tutoring students in the fall semester. He specializes in economics and personal finance.

Jungman said the university hopes to put a greater emphasis on tutoring, a goal he wanted to be a part of. He hopes to help supplement the instruction students receive in class, he said.

"We're getting off to a good start," Jungman said. "We just want to be helpful and fit in with students' needs. ... We're just here to help out."

The success center is in Room 113 of the Industrial Education Building. It is open Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## 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.

### SATURDAY

Northwestern's annual Sports Hall of Fame luncheon will take place in the Student Center Ballroom at 11 a.m. Tickets must be purchased to attend.

Past inductees into the Hall of Fame will be honored during the halftime of the women's basketball game, and new inductees will be honored during the halftime of the men's game. Games begin at 1 p.m. in Percefull Fieldhouse.

For more information on the new inductees, turn to Page 8 in this edition of the Northwestern News.

### SUNDAY

The Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series, postponed from Tuesday because of weather, will take place at the Alva United Methodist Church, 626 College Ave, at 4 p.m. The main act will be Celia's Muse. The Enid Symphony Orchestra will also perform.

Tickets for the event are available at the door.

### TUESDAY

Northwestern's Student Support Services will host a financial workshop for students, titled "Time is Money," in the Student Center Ranger Room at 5:30 p.m.. The workshop is only open to students enrolled in the Student Support Services program. For more information, contact the Student Support Services office by calling 580-327-8145.

### WEDNESDAY

The Student Government Association will host "Wingo!" in the Student Center Ballroom at 6 p.m. It is open to all students.

## SQUIRRELS: Students say posts bring joy

Continued from Page 1

since the first post was made in October.

"Seeing the squirrels on my Instagram is always so fun," social work major Jenna Maier said. "It definitely brightens my day."

Agriculture major Braylon Bradt said: "The page makes me smile. I enjoy seeing the campus' squirrels even when I'm not there."

College fan pages dedicated to squirrels seem to be a phenomenon elsewhere, too.

At college campuses across the country, students have started social media pages dedicated to their schools' squirrel population and have gained thousands of followers.

To the dismay of their followers, the Northwestern squirrel pages have not made new posts



*Screengrab via Twitter*

**This 2021 tweet from the Northwestern Squirrels page is one of several the page has made about furry critters on campus since 2020.**

since Dec. 24, which has left some students concerned that the operators of the accounts may have graduated or transferred

colleges. However, the semester is still young, and students say they're hopeful for future posts from the squirrel-centric pages.

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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

## Surround yourself with quality friends

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

Surround yourself with people who turn you into the best version of yourself. I am not implying that there is anything wrong with having individuals around you that make you happy. But surrounding yourself with individuals that motivate you to better physically, mentally and spiritually is necessary.

One quality I view as good would be honesty. We need to be around individuals who are not afraid to tell us how it is and who will be upfront with about everything.

These are the individuals we need in our lives to uplift us or show that they genuinely care about us. We may have other experiences with friends. But this is coming from my point of view.

I have had people in my life who acted like they cared about me. However, that was not the case. They lied, constantly did things without me and made plans behind my back so I wouldn't know.

When you surround yourself with those types of people, you begin to spiral; it does not happen overnight, but you begin chasing their attention. Don't do that. I have said before in these articles to know your worth. This is important for numerous reasons.



Members of the Northwestern football team, of which the author is a member, are shown in the spring of 2021. The author believes having a group of honest, devoted friends is essential to becoming a better person.

Photo provided

Chasing people's attention only leads to more letdowns. Instead of chasing, you need to find people who are there for you, not ones who leave you behind.

Being able to identify whether or not these will be lasting relationships is tough, but once you do, everything begins to clear up. Your mental state begins to improve.

You realize that it was not worth your time, energy or effort to have toxic individuals around. I am not saying to cut off everyone you consider to be toxic. Just know what you are worth and that you are important. Do not base your value off the people around

you.

The individuals around you are the ones who show you your worth. They help keep up the relationship and promote your mental health. One of the things that shows me which people are healthy for me are the random texts I get from friends who are just checking up on me.

They're not asking to hangout or go out on the weekends, but they are just making sure that I am alright. If you have friends like this now and have always had them, you are blessed. Someone or something has put these individuals in your life.

You may have had trials and

tribulations, but these friends will help you work through these things with you instead of letting you handle all of this alone.

I constantly harp on mental, physical and spiritual health. This is just one of the many aspects of it that will help you be the best you can be. I have written many articles about being yourself, and I will continue to do so.

Mental health in our day and age is more important than ever with the presence of social media, false portrayals of relationships on TV and the state of the world. These things all affect your health and how you view relationships or what they should be.

## Stimulant use more harmful than some think

By **CHLOE KUNNEMANN**  
Guest Columnist

This week's mental health column focuses on preventing substance abuse, specifically regarding stimulants and opioids.

### STIMULANTS

Stimulants are commonly misused and abused within the college community to adhere to the deadlines placed on students. Many will use stimulant drugs to cram study, allowing the individual to stay awake throughout the night. Stimulants are mistakenly believed to help students increase their GPA and make studying better.

Some students think they are harmless and can even be mixed with alcohol. Mixing stimulants with alcohol can cause alcohol poisoning and even death. Stimulants also cause the unprescribed user to experience anxiety, sleep deprivation, stroke, nervousness and addiction.

Stimulants can affect the student's performance while studying for and taking exams, and this has been found to lower the individual's GPA.

Prescription stimulants are prescribed to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), narcolepsy, and uncontrollable episodes of deep sleep. The medication allows the individual to experience heightened alertness, attention and energy.

The prescription increases the activity of two different brain chemicals. The first, do-

pamine, reinforces rewarding behavior for the individual chemically. Norepinephrine directly affects the blood vessels, blood pressure, heart rate, blood sugar and breathing within the body. However, the side effects of stimulants increase based on usage and dosage of the individual. Higher dosages of prescription stimulants can cause dangerously high body temperatures, an irregular heartbeat, heart failure and seizures.

Stimulants make an individual feel more awake, alert, confident or even energetic. Many times, stimulants are often thought of as just amphetamines. However, stimulants are much more common than believed.

Stimulants also include caffeine, nicotine, cocaine, crystal methamphetamine (ice), betel nut and synthetic cathinone. Synthetic cathinone typically is found in the form of white or brown powders, chunky crystals and even capsules or tablets.

Did you know that nicotine, one of the most common stimulants, can cause confusion, faintness, seizures, fast breathing and respiratory arrest? Long-term use of nicotine can even cause diabetes, reduced fertility, ectopic pregnancy and hip fractures.

### OPIOIDS

How do opioids work? Opioids are used to cover pain perception while boosting the feeling of pleasure within the individual.

This is done by attaching to the brain's opioid receptor cells. Individuals using the drug can feel sleepy, and at higher dosages, the drug will even slow the person's breathing

and heart rate.

What makes the drug addictive is the feeling of pleasure that is released on the opioid cells allows the individual to feel. Individuals may try and chase the continuous pleasure that they have found upon using opioid drugs. A few types of commonly known opioids are morphine, oxycodone, hydrocodone and fentanyl, all of which are addictive.

Males throughout the years have had higher rates of deaths caused by opioids than females. What has been found to be the leading cause of opioid deaths over the years? Synthetic opioids, also known as fake and/or illicit fentanyl, have led to a spike in synthetic opioid death in America.

Despite the rise in synthetic opioids, other substances such as psychostimulants, heroin, benzodiazepines and antidepressants have also increased throughout the years.

However, many deaths through the years have been caused by a combination of psychostimulants with synthetic opioids other than methadone. Psychostimulants are also known as stimulants. Having the combination of two drugs creates a contradicting reaction within the human body.

If you or someone you know needs to talk to someone about drug addiction or substance abuse, dial 988, a helpline for immediate crisis and non-emergency assistance for mental health and substance use issues. For serious medical problems or any imminent, life-threatening situation, dial 911.

Northwestern student Chloe Kunnemann wrote this column on behalf of the Northwestern Counseling & Career Services Office.



# OPINION



The author and some of his friends are shown in this photo collage. The author believes that Northwestern's people are among the greatest a person can meet anywhere.

Photos by Jordan Green

## The best part of Northwestern: the people

**JORDAN GREEN SAYS**



JORDAN GREEN

A couple weeks ago, two high school seniors from my hometown made a trip out west to Alva, Oklahoma. They came to tour my soon-to-be alma mater, Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

For high school seniors across the nation, reality is sinking in. In a matter of months, some will be making one of the most important decisions of their lives: where to attend college.

Four years have passed since I was in that situation, but I still know the pressure they face. I spent much of the fall 2018 semester applying to universities in and out of the state, naively thinking that the price wouldn't be too high. It was about this time of the year when window-shopping turned into looking at the price tags. Ouch!

After that, I researched Northwestern. I'd only heard about it a few times, even though I lived only an hour and a half east of Alva. At the suggestion of one of my favorite teachers, I applied here, thinking I might give it a try for a couple of years and then transfer to another school.

Little did I know that coming to Northwestern would be one of the

best decisions I'd ever make – and not just because it was affordable.

I was one of those people who overlooked smaller regional universities like Northwestern. Some people think small universities lack educational opportunity. Others think there's nothing to do in a town the size of Alva, population 5,000. To their credit, there aren't many big parties around here (that's a good thing), and you'd better like Mexican restaurants.

But what a town like Alva – and a university like Northwestern – have to offer is something the big universities don't. You may think it's cliché, but it's absolutely true: The people here are among the best you'll find anywhere.

Within the first two weeks of my freshman year in fall 2019, I found my friends. Through participating in choir, working on the campus newspaper and living in the dorms, I got to know some awesome, fun-loving and good-natured guys and gals who made my freshman year joyful and meaningful. We've gone on plenty of road-trips and late-night adventures that we'll never forget. As a guy who didn't have many close friends in high school, I can't begin to tell you how much better they've made my life.

The kind of students you'll find at Northwestern, and probably any other small-town university, are the humble, helpful, loving kind that

good Midwest towns are known for. The same applies to the professors, faculty and staff here.

As a mass communication major, most of my courses have about 10 students, give or take. We all get to know each other well, and the professors are that much more willing and able to help us whenever we struggle. One professor even cooks for us sometimes. I don't think you'd find that at an Ivy League.

Something else I learned quickly about Northwestern is that, contrary to popular belief, you can find plenty of ways to get a taste of the career path you're pursuing. In my major, students can work on the newspaper, broadcast media station or strategic communication agency.

Other majors, like those in the arts, offer many performances and productions. The list goes on and on.

As far as clubs are concerned, Northwestern has myriad opportunities to get involved in everything from student government to board games.

One can't visit Alva without noticing its small-town charm, either. Its neatly kempt downtown square harkens one back to an earlier time in American history, when mom-and-pop shops were the bedrocks of their communities and people supported local businesses. That still happens here, and in turn, those local businesses fervently support

students at Northwestern through fundraisers and scholarships. Alva and Northwestern are about as close to a time machine as you can find. And in a world where everything seems to change constantly, coming to a place where small-town values have remained the same is a thing of wonder.

My time at Northwestern is coming to a close, and I still don't know where nearly four years have gone. Graduation will be bittersweet.

Yes, I'm excited to see where God will lead me, but I'll miss walking across this quarter-mile-wide campus and waving to folks I know and love. But even though time and distance may separate my friends and me before too long, the people I met at Northwestern will always be in my heart and on my mind.

But do you know what excites me the most? The hope and the knowing that other people can find faithful friends and a bright future in this place. The same kind of friendly people who made Northwestern so great for me will be here to do it for anyone. Northwestern offers a quality education for a good price, and the value it'll bring to your life is priceless.

In about seven months, the two seniors from my hometown will be Northwestern Rangers themselves, and I'm more excited for them than they know. Soon enough, they'll find out why.

## 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](mailto:nwnews@nwosu.edu). Letters cannot be anonymous. See our letters to the editor policy on Page 4.



# NOT SNOW FAST

## Winter storm leaves Alva covered in white on Tuesday, but snow melts within hours

Fields along Thunderbird Road on the south side of Alva were covered in snow Tuesday morning after a winter storm dropped several inches of snow across western Oklahoma. Alva received about 2 inches of snow, according to The Weather Channel. Temperatures remained in the 30s.

Photo by Jordan Green



BNSF Railway locomotive No. 5078 pushes tank cars back onto the main railroad line after finishing switching work in the Alva rail yard as snow falls Tuesday morning.

Photo by Jordan Green



Photo by Colby Dalton



ABOVE: Northwestern students Mallory Paruszewski and Liberty Goodnow smile as they walk across campus as snow falls Tuesday morning.

LEFT: The front lawn of the Northwestern president's home is covered in white as snow falls Tuesday morning.

BOTTOM LEFT: Ranger Field looked bleak Tuesday morning as driving snow covered western Oklahoma.

BELOW: Snow-covered cattle pose for a photo in a field on Thunderbird Road on the south side of Alva on Tuesday.

Photo by Colby Dalton



Photo by Jordan Green



Photo by Jordan Green



# FEATURE

## Four to be inducted into Sports Hall of Fame

### Richard "Rikki" DelVecchio, Baseball

Northwestern Oklahoma State University baseball alum Richard "Rikki" DelVecchio attended Northwestern from 1990 to 1993 after transferring from the University of Connecticut, where he was a two-sport athlete playing baseball and hockey.

In his three years with Northwestern, DelVecchio was a catcher for the Rangers.

The Braintree, Massachusetts, native finished his first season with the Rangers hitting .356 with 62 hits, 16 doubles and 31 RBI.

He played in 55 of the 56 games that season before being selected to the 1st Team All-Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference and All-District 9 team as the only sophomore on the team.

The following season began his two consecutive years to be named to the 1st Team All-OIC team and 1st Team All-District 9 with a .448 batting average with 77 hits, 17 doubles, 52 RBI and a walk-to-strikeout ratio of 34-7 in 212 at-bats.

In his final season, DelVecchio was named to his third straight 1st Team All-OIC team after hitting .402 during the season. He was also named to the 2nd Team All-District 9.

Upon graduating from Northwestern, DelVecchio continued his success in the sport of baseball as the head coach of the South Shore Seadogs in Hingham, Massachusetts, for eight



Richard "Rikki" DelVecchio

seasons.

Later, he coached the East Cobb Astros in Georgia, where his team won multiple tournaments and 12 national titles.

His final occupation was a collegiate umpire.

DelVecchio was inducted into the Braintree Hall of Fame for both baseball and hockey in 1999, as well as the Cranberry Baseball League Hall of Fame in 2009.

He was named Umpire of the Year for the Cape Cod League in 2015.

DelVecchio died on May 1, 2020.

### John Mazzocca, Baseball

John Mazzocca graduated from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in 1992, following a two-year baseball career as the team's first baseman.

In two seasons, Mazzocca set numerous school records and left his mark on the program.

He is second in batting average with a .420 over the course of the two seasons.

He set school records at the time for most RBI in a single season with 76 in 1991 and total career RBI with 137.

In the 1991 season, Mazzocca was named OIC Player of the Year with a .435 batting average; 76 RBI, which was a school record at the time; 77 hits and 14 home runs.

He also hit 15 doubles and struck out only 12 times in 196 at-bats.

He was named to the OIC First Team for the second straight season in 1992 after adding 61 RBI from 60 hits and 14 home runs.

The Ranger first baseman finished his career hitting .420 with



John Mazzocca

137 RBI, which was a school record for career RBIs at the time.

Mazzocca remains in the top five in his career for batting average, home runs and RBI for the Ranger baseball program.

The Boston, Massachusetts, native is currently self-employed and owns Kelly's Inc.

### Garin Higgins, Football

Garin Higgins joined Northwestern Oklahoma State University's football coaching staff in 1994 as the running backs/quarterbacks coach before being promoted to the offensive coordinator coach.

Higgins then worked his way up to be head coach from 2000 to 2004.

Higgins helped the Rangers improve by four wins from his first season in 1994 and then another three wins in 1996 for an 8-3 season, making the NAIA playoff for the first time.

In his third year as the offensive coordinator, the Rangers won the 1999 NAIA Football Championship with a perfect 13-0 season and the program's first national title.

The following season in 2000, Higgins was promoted to be head coach of the football program.

Higgins continued the program's success with a 13-1 sea-

son and led the Rangers to be NAIA championship runners-up.

In five seasons as the head coach, he accumulated a final overall record of 51-9 and finished with a 25-0 conference record, winning five straight CSFL Conference titles.

The Rangers were national runners-up again in 2003.

In five years, Higgins coached 18 All-Americans, including eight first-team and 10 second-team members. In his Northwestern coaching tenure, he had 39 All-Americans.

Higgins is the all-time winningest coach by winning percentage for Northwestern football.

Following his time with the Rangers, Higgins became the offensive coordinator at Minnesota State University and Northeastern State University before taking the head coach position in 2007 at his alma mater, Emporia State University, where he has



Garin Higgins

been since.

Higgins' overall head coach record is 148-86 for a winning percentage of .632 at the collegiate level in 20 total seasons.

He currently resides in Emporia, Kansas, with his wife, Heather, and their three children: Halen, Harlee and Gracy.

### Brandon Brown, Men's Basketball

Known for his scoring ability on the court, Brandon Brown was a student-athlete on the Northwestern Oklahoma State University men's basketball team from 2006 to 2010.

During his career, Brown stamped his name in the all-time record book for Ranger basketball in many categories.

As a point guard, Brown helped lead the Rangers to a 22-12 season and to the Sooner Athletic Conference tournament runner-up in 2007.

He was named to the 2006-07 SAC 1st Team All-Tournament team, along with being named the 2006-2007 SAC Freshman of the Year.

As a four-year basketball letterman, Brown started in three of his seasons. Over the course of his time at Northwestern, Brown earned all-conference honors in each of his four seasons with the basketball program, including second Team All-SAC twice and third team All-SAC. Brown is still the Rangers' all-time steals leader with 187 steals, and he is the sixth all-time leading scorer with 1,448 career points. He is one of 23 players to reach 1,000 points at Northwestern.

Brown graduated with a health and sports science degree from Northwestern in 2010 and became a teacher and coach with the Houston Independent School District.

He is currently the junior



Brandon Brown

high athletic coordinator and a coach at Hogg Middle School in Houston, Texas.

He resides in Houston with his wife, D'Shanna, and their three children: Ky'Lee, Kaden and Bella.

**Editor's Note:**  
*The stories on this page were written by Features Editor Caitlin Hofen. Past inductees will be recognized Saturday during the halftime of the women's basketball game, and the newest class of inductees will be introduced during the men's basketball game. The games start at 1 p.m. in Percefull Fieldhouse.*

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# CAMPUS



Photos by Ely Noble

Falynn Thomas, right, gets her pulse checked by Kaylee Milligan and Daresa Moser during the pediatric clinic, which is hosted annually by the junior nursing students at Northwestern.

## Nursing students practice caring for kids

**Junior nursing students hosted a pediatric clinic Jan. 18 to gain experience working with children**



**ABOVE:** Junior nursing students Sierra Marsh and Viviana Resendiz teach Toby Brown about his heartbeat.

**TOP LEFT:** Corbyn Austin and Faith Nino check Brooklyn Zimmerman for lice as part of the pediatric clinic.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Mindy Cosby and Felicia Bueno check the height of Zane Zimmerman.

The annual event takes place in Carter Hall, home of the university nursing program.



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# SPORTS

## MEN'S BASKETBALL



Photos by J.D. Eddy

Malik Parsons attempts a layup during Northwestern's game against Oklahoma Baptist on Saturday at Percefull Fieldhouse. The Rangers defeated the Bison, 96-88. The Rangers currently have a record of 7-8 and a conference record of 3-8. The next Ranger home game is on Thursday, when Northwestern takes on the Bisons of Harding at 7:30 p.m.

## Rangers struggle on the road



Chance Love prepares to dunk the ball during Northwestern's game against Oklahoma Baptist on Saturday at Percefull Fieldhouse. The Rangers defeated the Bison, 96-88. The Rangers currently have a record of 7-8.

By **CONNOR GRAY**  
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern men's basketball team lost two of the last three games to move the team's record to 7-8.

The Rangers overall have had an up and down season. They had a loss to the East Central Tigers but got a bounce back win against Oklahoma Baptist to finish up the week.

The Rangers traveled to Ada to face East Central on Thursday. The last time they met was Dec. 1. The Rangers lost, 75-71, in Alva.

From the opening tip, the Rangers struggled to keep up with East Central. The Tigers shot 55% throughout the game and made 13 three pointers to Northwestern's seven.

The final score was 97-63, making it the Rangers' worst loss of the season.

Brian Free had the most points for the Rangers, finishing the game with 12 on 50% shooting. Larry White led the team with eight rebounds.

The Rangers came back home to face Oklahoma Baptist. The last time they played, the Bison won 70-60 in Shawnee.

The first half continued to go back and forth, but the Rangers

ended the half with a 44-42 lead.

The second half was similar to the first, but the Rangers kept the lead throughout the half. The Rangers extended the lead, but the Bison kept fighting back. The final score of the game was 96-88, with the Rangers coming out on top.

Malik Parsons led the Rangers in scoring as he finished the game with 36 points, shooting 11-18 from the field and making 11 free throws.

The Rangers traveled to Weatherford on Monday, as they looked to keep building momentum against Southwestern.

The first half was a physical battle between both teams, as neither team established a run to swing the game in their favor. At the end of the first half, the Rangers were clinging to a three-point lead.

The second half had a different result, as the Bulldogs established a 68-62 lead with only five minutes left in the game. The Rangers rallied with back-to-back baskets from Parsons but did not complete the comeback, as they lost to Southwestern, 74-71.

The next two games this week will be at home, with the first game being a blackout on Thursday against the Harding Bisons at 7:30 p.m. and the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys at 3 p.m. Saturday.



# SPORTS

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Losing skid continues for Lady Rangers



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Camille Thomas prepares to shoot a free throw during Northwestern's game against Oklahoma Baptist on Saturday at Percefull Fieldhouse. The Lady Rangers lost to the Lady Bison, 68-66.

By **REBECCA WAGNER**  
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern women's basketball team suffered back-to-back losses on Saturday and Monday.

The Lady Rangers fell short of the win, ending the Saturday game with a 68-66 loss to the Oklahoma Baptist Lady Bisons.

"It hurts," sophomore basketball player Carly Craig said after the Saturday game. "I think this is the best game that we have played as a group. So, it hurts to come up short, but I also think we need to use it as momentum going into Monday."

Craig was one of the leading players with 16 points. Other leading players of the game were Faith Simpson with 20 points, Camille Thomas with 14 points and Talayah Thomas with 13 points.

Craig started the scoring with a jump shot, followed by Christen Harland with a three pointer two minutes into the game.

Thomas and Simpson kept pressure on the Lady Bison with back-to-back layups.

In addition, Simpson scored four straight points to finish up the first quarter. Thomas opened the second quarter with a jump shot.

Craig said her best play of the game was her buzzer-beater three that took place in the third quarter. This left the Lady Rangers

trailing 51-50 heading into the final quarter.

The Lady Rangers were tied for most of the fourth quarter until the Lady Bisons were able to score two foul shots, winning the game with the score 68-66.

"Something we have been struggling with is turnovers," said head coach Tasha Diesselhorst. "We had some kind of timely turnovers. We gave up a lot of offensive rebounds, which turned into second chance points."

The second chance points Diesselhorst was referring to gave the Lady Bisons 25 points.

The Lady Rangers are currently tied with East Central for 10th place in the Great American Conference.

Diesselhorst said that, before the game, the Lady Rangers were in a three-way tie between eighth, ninth and 10th, and this game was the deciding factor.

On Monday, the Lady Rangers traveled to Weatherford to take on the Lady Bulldogs of Southwestern. After a slow start in the first few minutes of the game, the Lady Rangers rallied to end the first quarter tied at 18.

The Lady Bulldogs took over in the second quarter and eventually won the game, 77-60.

The Lady Rangers' next game is at home on Thursday against the Lady Bisons of Harding at 5:30 p.m. for a blackout game, and the first 300 fans will receive a free pom-pom.

## Seeing how the other half lives ... and cheers

### CADE'S CALLS



CADE KENNEDY

When the Northwestern basketball schedule came out back in 2022, I knew there was one trip that I wanted to make. Southwestern, which is considered by most, if not all, to be our biggest rival, is under two hours away.

The Bulldogs have one of the newer arenas in the Great American Conference, as the Pioneer Cellular Event Center is not even a decade old. Several of Southwestern's highest attended games since the opening of the arena are against us, so I decided to venture down and see how a game in Weatherford feels and sounds.

In my mission to see how rowdy their crowd can be, I found a surprising answer. The Southwestern faithful did not really seem to care about the significance of rivalry, or even just being excited that they were winning a basketball game.

When I made my way to sit

down about 20 minutes before the women's basketball game got underway, I could count maybe 20 people in the stands. I figured that students were still in classes and that the work day had just ended, so I thought I should wait to get a better estimate.

As the game went on, people slowly trickled their way into the arena to watch the Bulldogs play. For an arena nearly double the size of Percefull Fieldhouse, I expected more people to be there. For once, I was happy to be proven wrong.

Only 500 Southwestern fans showed up for both games, with the official attendance being 501 for the women's game and 502 for the men's game. Despite the poor attendance compared to other games, I still expected the crowd to be as animated as our fans can be during a big game. Once again, I was way off.

Despite the best efforts of the public address announcer to rile up the crowd, no one really seemed to care about the game. The only real cheer of the night came when the announcer told the crowd that Southwestern would not be having classes the

next day. The cheering only lasted for a few moments, and then a sizable chunk of the crowd vanished out the doors, never to be seen again.

I can understand leaving the game at halftime if the game is a blowout, but to leave during the halftime of a game where you are only trailing by three points goes against every law of common sense for a sports fan.

Some of the other common sense laws of sports fandom seemed not to apply to the Southwestern fans as well. In a tight game down the stretch, Southwestern took the lead over the Rangers, and Coach Robbie Harman called a timeout.

Instead of celebrating that they had a good shot to win, the sound of silence echoed throughout the building. It might have been one of the most dumbfounding scenes I have ever seen. One scene apparently deserved another, as the Southwestern fight song began to play to counter the silence. One person clapped along to the song.

Compare that to the atmosphere we have when the Bulldogs come to town. People are shouting, cheering and scream-

ing, which is what you are supposed to do. This is a college basketball game, so you are allowed to have fun.

I will give Southwestern credit when it comes to promotions, as they had several games and entertainment during their halftime shows. I feel that we can improve when it comes to giveaways, as even something as simple as a \$20 gift card could work in getting people to stay engaged during a 20-minute break.

For such a nice arena, the Bulldogs do not use it to their full advantage. The entire upper deck is

blocked off for some mysterious reason, and I do not understand the purpose of having a video board that does nothing but show advertisements. If Northwestern had the same facility, I think we could do a better job of creating a fun place to watch a game.

If you have made it this far, I will leave with a challenge. When Southwestern comes to town in February, I want people to show up and show out. Bring as many people as you can, and be as loud as you can be. I guess we need to show Southwestern what a real environment should be.

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## Feb. 22 is deadline for annual art show

The deadline to register artwork for the 20th annual Northwestern Art Society Art Show is Feb. 22.

Artwork must be delivered to the J.W. Martin Library, the site of the show, on March 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The show consists of artwork on display in the library from March 5 to March 31. The work can be viewed during normal library hours, organizers said in a news release.

Current Northwestern students and employees, retired university employees and alumni may enter two items in each of the 30 categories available for this year's show.

Prize ribbons will be awarded to all students and non-students winning first through third place in all categories, along with Best of Show and People's Choice. A \$50 cash prize will be awarded to the student winning Best of Show, and the students placing first in a category will earn \$10. Everyone entered in the show is eligible to receive the People's Choice cash prize of \$25. The coloring category will pit students and non-students against each other for prize ribbons only.

Artwork entered that does not fit any of the listed categories will be placed into a 31st category called Miscellaneous Artwork and will be judged to-

gether, regardless of the medium.

All art or concepts, including cartoon/comic characters, must be original to the artist. No kits, prints, photocopies, or previously submitted artwork will be allowed. No obscene language or references will be allowed. Any work deemed inappropriate by NAS and university standards will not be displayed.

Photography and coloring entries must be at minimum 5x7 in size that are matted or mounted. Those entries cannot be framed. All fine art entries must include frames or be matted or mounted and ready to hang.

All artwork must have the title of the work, the category entered and the artist's name affixed in the upper right-hand corner on the back side of the piece. Three-dimensional work must also have this information attached to the piece.

Entry forms, category descriptions and rules are available online at [www.nwsu.edu/art/nas-art-show](http://www.nwsu.edu/art/nas-art-show). Artists should read through the descriptions and rules provided on the web page. For more information about the art show, please contact Angelia Case at (580) 327-8577 or [arcase@nwsu.edu](mailto:arcase@nwsu.edu).

A Winner's Show is scheduled for April 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Runnymede in downtown Alva.

## Professional clothing program helps students dress for success

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

*Northwestern News*

Northwestern students who need to get professional clothing can do so for free by visiting the university Teacher's Closet.

The teacher's closet, operated by the Division of Education, offers blazers, suits, pants and other clothing items to students regardless of major or grade classification. It is open by appointment.

Several university education majors who are beginning their student teaching assignments in public schools recently visited the Teacher's Closet and picked up new wardrobe items, university officials said in a news release.

"This opportunity is amazing for students in the student teaching semester," said senior Candace Brown, an early childhood education major from Blackwell, said in a news release. "We are all about to enter a professional career, and most importantly, we need to dress the part. Professional clothing is more on the expensive side. As college students having access to the closet full of professional dress items is a wonderful resource. Having this experience takes some of the financial stress off the student."


"I really enjoyed the opportunity to speak with other educators during the luncheon," senior Jordan Villalva, an elementary

education major from Enid, said in a news release. "Also, I really like the fact that our community has come together to supply some of their old clothes so others may repurpose them. It truly shows the familial relationships that are formed in the education department that I love."

The Teacher's Closet accepts

clothes donations. To donate or make an appointment, contact Dr. Jennifer Oswald, chair of the education division, by calling 580-327-8451 or emailing [jdoswald@nwsu.edu](mailto:jdoswald@nwsu.edu). Students can also contact Amy Melton, education division secretary, by calling 580-327-8436 or emailing [admelt@nwsu.edu](mailto:admelt@nwsu.edu).

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