

FAITH, FAMILY

For Northwestern employee Alica Hall, showing God's love to others is an everyday commitment. PAGE 6



PLAYOFF PUSH

The Northwestern men's basketball team won two games needed for the playoffs. PAGE 10



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HEAT OF THE NIGHT



Photo by Jordan Green

Fire escapes fireplace, forces dorm evacuation

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

Cunningham Hall students didn't have heat in the building for most of the weekend. Then they had too much.

Students in the dormitory were evacuated because of a fire early Monday morning, just two weeks after the university rededicated the newly renovated building in honor of the university's former president.

The Alva Fire Department, Alva EMS and Alva Police Department were dispatched to the dormitory at 12:18 a.m. Mon-

day, according to a social media post from the fire department.

The lobby and parts of the first floor were filled with smoke because a gas fireplace malfunctioned and started a small fire, officials said. University maintenance workers were in the building working on the heating system when the fire began, and they quickly called 911, said Kelsey Martin, director of University Relations.

Students were evacuated from the building while firefighters extinguished the fire and ventilated the building.

See **FIRE**, Page 3

ABOVE: Caution tape cordoned off the Cunningham Hall lobby Monday morning following a fire that started in the lobby fireplace. **BELOW:** Alva firefighters examine the lobby fireplace in the early morning hours on Monday after the fireplace malfunctioned.



Photo provided by Alva Fire Department

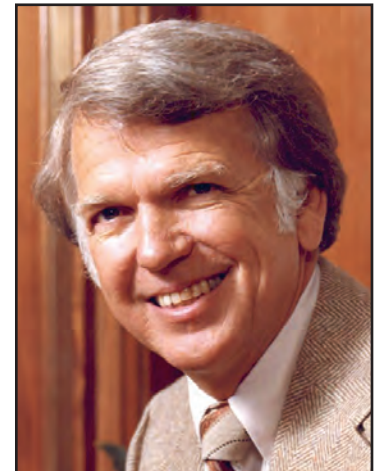


Photo by Oklahoma Historical Society
Former Gov. George Nigh

Former governor to speak on campus

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

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University Social Sciences Department and Institute for Citizenship Studies will host former Oklahoma Gov. George Nigh for a lecture on the Alva campus Feb. 20.

Nigh, who served more terms as governor than anyone in Oklahoma history, will give a speech to Northwestern students, staff and community members about the difference between being a politician and a public servant. He'll also take questions from the audience and give a special commencement speech to the university's political science majors.

The forum, which takes place on President's Day, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Ranger Room. The event is free and open to the public.

Nigh, 95, was dubbed "Oklahoma's road-building-est governor" in part because of his initiative to improve roughly 340 miles of State Highway 3 from Oklahoma City to the Colorado state line near Boise City.

The highway is one of the busiest in northwest Oklahoma,

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NEWS

Presidents have 'similar strengths'

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Features Editor

In January 2022, Dr. Janet Cunningham announced her plans to retire as Northwestern's 19th president after working for the university for nearly 40 years in various capacities. Dr. Bo Hannaford was named her successor and has been in the position for an academic semester.

With a change in leadership comes new growth and opportunities. Dr. James Bell, vice president for academic affairs, reflected on Cunningham's leadership.

"Dr. Cunningham was thoughtful and decisive as a leader," Bell said. "However, she was decisive after hearing as many voices as she could. I thought she always put the good of the university, and specifically the students, first. She was very mission-focused, and that mission was, 'How can we make Northwestern the best for students?'"

In his role as vice president for academic affairs, Bell works closely with Hannaford and has observed his leadership style since he took office in July.

"While Dr. Hannaford and Dr. Cunningham have different temperaments, they have many similar strengths," Bell said. "I think Dr. Hannaford also looks first at what will be best for the university and the students. At one point, I was having a conversation with Dr. Cunningham, and she said,



Retired Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham, shown at left, and President Dr. Bo Hannaford, right, pose for portraits in 2022. Northwestern students and faculty say the two Northwestern leaders have similar strengths and passion for the four-year university.



File photos

"You know, he's smart, hardworking, and he loves Northwestern.' When I look at parallels between the two of them, that is the most common similarity."

While Cunningham and Hannaford worked together for many years, they do have different ways of decision-making.

"Obviously, they are different people with different life experiences," Bell said. "Dr. Hannaford would say he's impatient, though I wouldn't say that. He has a strong sense that if there is a task to be done, get it done. Dr. Cunningham was a little more tolerant of the time and of it taking time to get things done. There are

strengths to both approaches."

BOTH PRESIDENTS CARE ABOUT NWOSU, STUDENTS SAY

Students also talked about the leadership they have witnessed from the two presidents. Senior business administration major Gracie Scarbrough said she is excited to see the direction in which Hannaford takes Northwestern.

"I think Dr. Hannaford is picking up right where Dr. Cunningham left off in that he desires the best for all students, faculty and staff, while achieving the strategic mission of the university," Scar-

brough said. "The whole campus is a family, and he is continuing the legacy of Northwestern being a great place to get an education. I am excited to see how he makes a difference during his presidency."

Junior political science major Austin Rankin said he thinks Hannaford was the natural choice to continue the work Cunningham started.

"I was a little sad when Dr. Cunningham announced her retirement," Rankin said. "But I think she definitely deserves to spend time with her family. I think it was a beneficial time for Northwestern to go into a new phase. After the pandemic, it

would be very easy for a university to get tired, and a change in leadership really promoted new energy to come into the school. I think in the future, this will be a beneficial change.

"Dr. Cunningham was professional and focused on student development and maintaining the specific structure of the university. With Dr. Hannaford, it seems like he is slowly establishing what he wants to present as president. I think he is accumulating quite a few different changes that he wants for the university, but for the first few semesters, it will be a lot of program-building that needs time to be implemented."

NIGH: Former governor hopes to inspire students



Photo provided by the Oklahoma Historical Society

Former Oklahoma Gov. George Nigh, right, and his wife Donna celebrate after Nigh won the 1978 Oklahoma gubernatorial race. Nigh served four terms as governor, more than anyone in state history. He will give a lecture on Northwestern's Alva campus Feb. 20. The event is open to the public.

Continued from Page 1

and at the time, it was the longest highway reconstruction project ever undertaken by a U.S. governor. Part of the highway in the Panhandle is named in his honor.

"One of my biggest, greatest memories of northwest Oklahoma is the expressway, the Northwest Passage," Nigh told the Northwestern News in a January phone interview. "Public service is for every area of the state, and that's why I said we need highway improvements in every area, every year, in the state. I want people to know who are elected to office as public servants that Oklahoma consists of 77 counties, and all of them deserve attention by the state.

"Politics was me promising to build the road. Public service was me actually building them."

Nigh served as Oklahoma's governor four times. He was elected lieutenant governor in 1958, and he served as governor for nine days in January 1963 after then-governor J. Howard Edmondson filled a vacant U.S. Senate seat, according to the Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History

and Culture.

Nigh was elected lieutenant governor again in 1966, and he won the governor's race in 1978. However, before his gubernatorial term began, then-Gov. David Boren left his office five days early to become a U.S. Senator, according to the encyclopedia. Nigh completed Boren's term, which was technically Nigh's second stint as governor.

When he was sworn in just days later because he won the previous year's gubernatorial election, he was governor for a third term. He was reelected as governor in 1982, his fourth term.

His political career began much earlier, however. Nigh was a student at East Central State College in Ada when he filed to run for a seat in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. At age 23 in 1950, he became youngest member of the state Legislature. He authored the bill that made "Oklahoma!" the state song.

Nigh also was the youngest lieutenant governor in the nation when he was first elected in 1958.

Nigh said he hopes young Oklahomans will get involved in

government.

"There's nothing wrong with wanting to be a public servant," Nigh told the News. "In 9th grade at McAlester High School, we had a class called vocations, and you wrote down what you wanted to be when you grew up. ... I wrote down 'governor.' And the teacher said, 'I don't know if we can study that or not. No one has ever written that down before.'"

The forum won't be Nigh's first time at Northwestern. He visited the university more than a decade ago and met with Dr. Eric Schmaltz, professor of history, and Dr. Aaron Mason, professor of political science, who are helping host the Feb. 20 forum.

"The Social Sciences Department and Institute for Citizenship Studies appreciate that Gov. Nigh remembers our first meeting at Northwestern back in the spring of 2011 at an awards event sponsored by the University Foundation," Schmaltz said. "We met on the occasion of Dr. Mason receiving the first Donovan Reichenberger Fundraising Award. We are so pleased to invite Gov. Nigh back to Northwestern."

NEWS

FIRE: Some thought alarm was false

Continued from Page 1

Students were allowed back in after a little more than two hours.

“All students were evacuated and accounted for and fed by NWOSU staff until they were allowed back in,” according to the fire department’s post. “[Because of] the quick activation of the alarm and evacuation, NWOSU staff kept this fire contained to the fire place.”

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, Martin said.

“We’re still looking into that part,” Martin said. “Being a new system, we’re not sure what could have gone wrong there.”

Cunningham Hall was recently renamed in honor of retired Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham. The university hosted a rededication ceremony Jan. 20 following the completion of the dormitory’s nearly \$5 million remodeling project. The building was renovated from top to bottom, and many fixtures were replaced – including the lobby fireplace.

A COLD AWAKENING

When the fire alarms began to sound, Cunningham Hall resident Ava Carr thought the sound might have been a false alarm.

“I was a little annoyed,” Carr said. “I thought, ‘Really? We’ve had no heat all weekend and now the fire alarm is going off?’”

Carr learned the alarms were sounding for the right reason once she saw girls standing outside.

“One problem, the heat, was solved, and then we immediately ran into another problem,” she said of the fire. “Everyone was shivering, and we tried to huddle together and block the wind. I



Photo provided by Alva Fire Department
Alva firefighters inspect their gear outside Cunningham Hall early Monday morning while responding to a fire inside the dormitory building.

wish I had brought a blanket like some other girls, but I had only grabbed my coat.”

Resident Rose Negelein was still asleep when the alarms began to sound.

“When I fully woke up, I realized that it was the fire alarm, so I basically jumped out of bed, and I tripped over my laundry basket,” Negelein said.

Negelein went to check on her sister, who also lives in her suite, and then they walked downstairs together.

“I thought it was another false alarm because there was no smoke on the second floor,” Negelein said. “When we got down to the first floor, it was completely full of smoke. And we’re like, ‘Oh, this isn’t another false alarm.’”

Resident M’Cheila Rader also said she thought the alarm was false. The fire alarm system malfunctioned twice in Cunningham Hall earlier this semester, and the university’s dormitories have had several false alarms in the past.

“I wasn’t scared, but myself and many of the other girls were annoyed and tired,” she said. “A lot of us were asleep and did not want to stand outside in below freezing temperatures in our pjs.”

After evacuating the building, students moved to the Coronado Cafeteria, where they ate food and played board games until they could return to the dorm.

“It was like an impromptu sleepover,” Carr said.

Residents were allowed back in the building around 3 a.m., students said, and they were excused from attending class Monday. But while they could stay away from class, they couldn’t escape the smell.

“When I finally made it back to my room today, I was annoyed that there is still a strong smell of smoke lingering in the whole dorm,” Rader said. “I would light a candle to get rid of the smoke smell, but that kind of defeats the whole purpose. ... There was smoke in the first place.”

Criminal justice internship program offers real-world work for students

By **REBECCA WAGNER**
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern Criminal Justice Department’s internship program offers students the chance to get a taste of real-life work in the field.

The internship allows students to get 48 hours of on-site supervised internship work, giving them professional learning opportunities and experiences in various settings.

Criminal justice major Kylee Harzman recently began the internship to help further her experience in forensic physiology.

“I would really like to become more of myself in a professional environment,” Harzman said. “I get very uncertain a lot, so I’d like to become more comfortable in that.”

Harzman is doing her internship under the supervision of



Schmaltz



Seigars



Rogers



Harzman

Judge Jason Seigars, a special district court judge in Garfield County. Seigars is also an adjunct professor in the criminal justice department on Northwestern’s Enid campus.

Seigars got involved with the internship program when a student approached him and asked him about how the court system works. Since then, Seigars has worked with three students. He said that he thinks the program has been successful.

Internships can take place at a county courthouse, a police department or a sheriff’s office.

Professor Kirk Rogers helps coordinate the program.

Dr. Eric Schmaltz, chair of the history department, said that, although the internship is a part of the major, a degree of trust in the student is needed. The student must maintain a positive reputation in and out of class.

“It’s kind of a privilege, really,” Schmaltz said. “It gives them a taste of maybe what they expect if they do go into the field. It’s also wonderful for the resume. It’s a career building step. It’s a way of getting more practical education in a workplace.”

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.

TUESDAY

Northwestern will issue a ‘W’ or ‘F’ on dropped first eight-week classes. For more information, talk to the university registrar’s office in Herod Hall.

FEB. 9

The Northwestern Chemistry Club will meet in the Science Amphitheater from 5 to 9 p.m. The club aims to help students learn more about the field and make friends. For more information, contact Jadyn Budig by emailing jebudig90@rangers.nwosu.edu. There is a \$10 membership fee.

FEB. 13

The Rangers and Lady Rangers basketball teams will face the Southwestern Bulldogs in Percefull Fieldhouse starting at 5:30 p.m. The Student Government Association will pass out 600 t-shirts to all Ranger fans in attendance beginning 30 minutes before the first game.

FEB. 14

Northwestern’s summer enrollment opens. Students should contact their advisors for more information.

Don’t forget: Feb. 14 is Valentine’s Day.

FEB. 15

The deadline to apply for foundational and departmental scholarships is Feb. 15. Some deadlines may vary, however.

A two-day blood drive will take place on the Alva campus in the Student Center Feb. 15 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The blood drive is open to the public.

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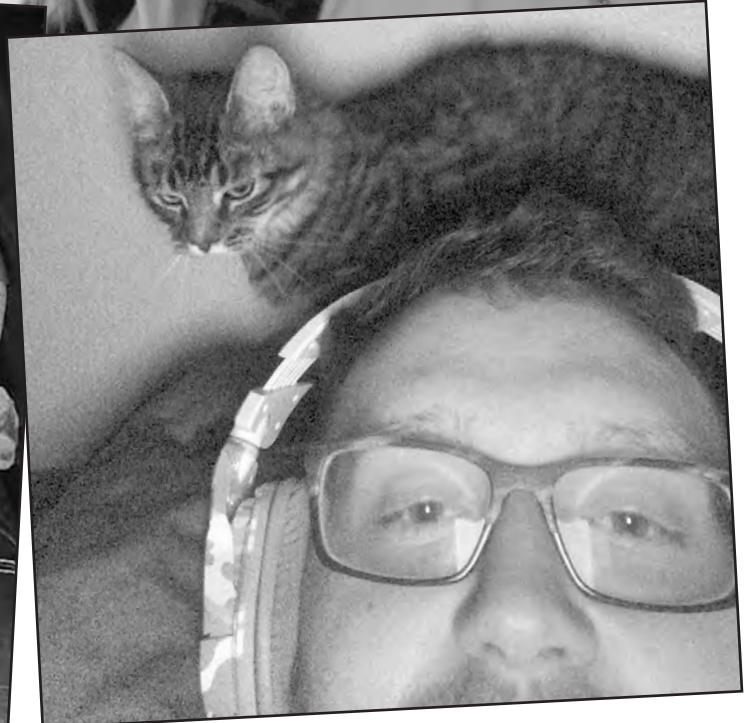
Letters must be turned in by noon on Monday to the News office in JDA232. Letters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they follow the rules stated above and can be sent to nwnews@nwosu.edu. Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. The editors reserve the right to condense or edit any letter 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

TOP LEFT: The author and his dog, Bobbie, pose for a selfie.
BOTTOM LEFT: The author and his dog take a nap.
TOP RIGHT: The author and his cat, Raven, pose for a selfie.
BOTTOM RIGHT: The author's cat crawls on his head.

Furry friends are good for mental health

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

Having an animal around is good for your mental health. I also feel like having an animal in the house makes me more responsible. Keeping up with my cats' food, water and cleaning her litterbox has kept me on top of my daily activities. I stay on top of my homework, keeping my house clean, doing laundry, taking out the trash – basically any activity that I do daily or weekly.

These are only some of the things that having an animal in my house has helped me improve upon. I know that some places do not allow animals, and some people don't want animals. But this is just something that can help you improve upon things that you do each day.

For certain, having a cat has helped me in many aspects. Before I rejoined the football team and got the cat, I would have days where I would not get up at all, not even to go workout. I would make food, do my homework and play video games. Sure, this sounds like fun, but my mental health began to deteriorate. I was sad, not liking the way that I looked

and not wanting to be myself at the time. When I got the cat, I always wanted to get up and play with her, keep her from tearing up things in the house or show her the rest of the house, considering that my roommate is allergic to cats.

If you do go get an animal, you would want to buy a puppy or a kitten. I work at a vet clinic outside of town, and there was a cat that was abandoned by its family because they were having a "dispute" in their household. The real thing is that they sent the cat up there to get a hernia fixed, to get spayed and get her shots. After that, the original owners said they would call after they moved to Oklahoma City. If you can believe it, the call never came.

So, after about a month of us failing to get her adopted, I decided to get my emotional support animal paperwork for my new cat, Raven. I want to say how great it has been, but she is only 10 months old, and my patience is not the greatest sometimes. But I'm trying to be better for her. I say that as she is chewing on my arm and walking across my laptop. She is a pain sometimes, but all in all, the cat has made me a better person than I would've been without her.

If you're looking for an animal to adopt and don't want to go somewhere that is too far away, there is a place around Alva called Creature Concerns. It is a fostering program for animals. The organizations is constantly looking for individuals who want to adopt the animals they have.

Most of the animals come out to the vet that I work at. So, if you're looking for an animal to adopt, look no further than somewhere here in Alva. It has helped my mental, physical, emotional and even spiritual well-being.

I talk a lot about mental health and certain things that can help to improve it. I am back in football, and I am in the master's program, so I want to maintain my mental health and share experiences that helped me improve my overall well-being. It is enough for me to know that my knowledge can help to better someone's life that is not my own.

As always, if you want to share an opinion on anything that is written, you can write a letter to the Northwestern News. We would love to hear your opinions on what we write. It can help us to improve, and we want to hear the voice of students or faculty.

OPINION

Yes, Alva does have things to do if you look for them

By ALIYAH BIDWELL
Senior Reporter

Many students at Northwestern come to a small-town college and somehow have big-city college expectations. In my opinion, the town of Alva has a lot to do if you look for it.

I come from a small town, so I am thankful just to see one restaurant in my town. When I came to Alva, I was super excited to eat at all the places Alva has to offer. The first place I went to was Gambino's. They had their buffet laid out, and it was yummy.

My favorite place to eat in Alva, not counting fast food, would have to be 818 Diner. The first time I went there, the people were friendly and welcoming. The waitress was super on top of her job. She checked on our drinks and table multiple times, and it was a delicious meal.

In some places you go to eat, even in the city, you get seated to order drinks and food. Then once you get your meal, you don't see your waiter or waitress again without hunting them down.

Many say the only way to do something fun is to drive out of town. But, if you can enjoy the little things in life, there can be

"I think you should be able to see all the joy you can have here. If you know how to look, you can find plenty of things to do in Alva."
— Aliyah Bidwell

many things to do on and off campus.

FUN ON CAMPUS

I enjoy going to the Wellness Center because it has many things to offer. My favorite thing to do there is to swim in the indoor pool and relax in the hot tub.

The Baptist Collegiate Ministries and other churches host fun events and offer food. I enjoy free food because I am in college and have no funds most of the time.

I am not a huge sports attendee, but when I want to watch sports, the teams have home games, and those count as things to do.

The Student Government Association hosts fun events for students. The group also hosts club meetings. If you have questions regarding events or if you just want to know what is going on



File photo

The J.R. Holder Wellness Center pool is one of several places the author enjoys going on the Alva campus.

around campus, you should drop by.

FUN OFF CAMPUS

Another thing I really enjoy while off campus is going to the downtown square and checking

out all the little shops. However, I think my favorite thing on the square is the Rialto Theater. It has up-to-date movies and good snacks. Students get in for \$5 with a student ID.

Coming to Alva from a large city would be hard. But with the

right outlook, you can still enjoy yourself while you are here if you put in the effort.

With all this being said, I think you should be able to see all the joy you can have here. If you know how to look, you can find plenty of things to do in Alva.

Youth programs key to making towns safe

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

If you've been reading any news lately, you're probably well aware that there's plenty of chaos around the world. Yet even here in Small Town U.S.A., we have some chaos of our own.

The leaders of my hometown of Blackwell recently amended the curfew ordinance to give police more discretion in handling troublesome youth. As those leaders have said, youth crime rates have skyrocketed in the last two years. It's truly a shame some youth are so lost.

For a long time, people have thought that small towns were safe havens where evil wasn't present, all the people were kind and everyone had a good family to go home to. I don't believe that's ever been entirely the case, and it certainly isn't the case today. That kind of naivety has not fared well for our town or any other.

The problems that cause young people to turn to waywardness are myriad, but one of the biggest ones is a lack of order in their lives. Anything in nature without order is in chaos, and that

is especially true for humans.

Order comes from a number of sources, one of which is family. We know that, today, fewer and fewer people have a family of any kind, much less a functional one. Yet there's another kind of order that we have let slip away, much to our detriment and especially to the detriment of our youth: civic involvement.

Since the beginning of our nation, civic organization and institutions such as churches, clubs and youth programs united people around common causes and brought people together to share common values: generosity, kindness, friendship and loyalty, to name a few. Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and church youth groups taught young men and women the value of working together, pursuing meaning and truth in life and serving something beyond themselves.

Those groups – and the virtues they taught youth to uphold – have waned and disappeared, especially in the last 20 years or so. Blackwell was once flooded with Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and church youth programs had high attendance. When I became a Boy Scout in 2007, Blackwell had two troops with about 60 boys each. By 2017, I was one of the last few active Boy Scouts in

"The decline in youth programs has been quite dramatic in the last 20 years. And in tandem, the small-town values of friendliness, charity, faith and love that people associate with the Midwest are not nearly as strong as they once were."
— Jordan Green

town, and now we have none.

The decline in youth programs has been quite dramatic in the last 20 years. And in tandem, the small-town values of friendliness, charity, faith and love that people stereotypically associate with the Midwest are not nearly as strong as they once were. The people who grew up without moral guidance are now adults in our communities, raising their own children with even less knowledge of what it means to serve others and treat others with respect.

Many youth are now at least a generation or two removed

from any kind of involvement in church, leadership or civic programs. And yet we wonder why they're wandering the streets, committing crimes and hurting other people for selfish gain or sick pleasure.

Part of the problem is that they haven't been taught the consequences for doing what's wrong. Yet the bigger problem is that they haven't been shown the value of doing what's right, and they have no one to hold them accountable for their actions. Churches, clubs and youth programs supplemented what parents once taught at home and provided the order and structure youth needed to grow and mature into good, loving, caring citizens. Now, both family and fellowship have largely fallen apart, leading us to where we are today.

You can disagree. You can try to blame the rise in youth crime rates on whatever you wish. And I'd also be remiss if I didn't note that many of the organizations I've discussed here – including Boy Scout and church leaders – have lots of terrible chapters in their history. Some have done horrible things to youth that scarred them for life, and these grievous offenses must not be overlooked.

However, most youth program leaders didn't do the kinds

of ghastly things that made headlines. Much like the adage about one bad apple spoiling the whole batch, most of the people who have ever helped youth got involved for the right reasons and had the right impact on young people. But in the last 20 years, in spite of all the good those organizations once did, parents decided that they and their children were too busy doing other things to participate in efforts that would make their children – and the world – better. Now, we see the effects of that.

I don't believe all hope is lost. Across the nation, people are starting new kinds of youth programs, and many of the programs I've mentioned are still around, though fewer in number. It's time for communities like ours to reinvest in them and, in time, watch crime rates drop. A little education and investment in the lives of youth today won't quickly correct 20 years' worth of familial and societal failures, but we can sure believe they'll make a big difference in just as many years from now.

Parents and community leaders: It's time we showed youth once again just how much they need order in their lives. Order, despite what our rebellious and lazy natural minds tell us, is a good and perfect thing.

Hall wants to be remembered for giving love

By Liberty Goodnow
Student Reporter

Alica Hall always wanted to be a mom, but she didn't know that her children wouldn't be her from her bloodline.

It was Friday before the termination trial when Hall received a call from her case worker. The biological father of the young girl she had been fostering relinquished his rights. This immediately brought her to tears. She knew that the little girl who had always been family in her heart would legally become her daughter. She fostered Madison for five and a half years, and finally, at age 16, she was adopted.

Almost five years later, Hall added another little girl to her family, Seraphina. Although the process was long, Sera's contagious laugh and ornery grin make every day better than the last, Hall said.

Being a foster parent is not a job that just anyone can take on. Hall has been a foster mom since August 2006 and has taken care of about 50 girls and seven boys, but it hasn't been easy, she said.

Eventually, foster parents become attached to the children they care for.

"You want the parents to have a chance to get it together," Hall said. "But the longer it goes, the harder it is to give [the children] up or even think about giving them up."

FAMILY ROOTS RUN DEEP

Hall was born and raised in Alva and said that family is what keeps her here.

"Family is not just biological family," she said. "It's bio family, legal family, friend family, church family, theater family – all the families."

It is also helpful being close to her parents and family in case she ever needs help with the little ones.

Hall said she often realizes that she does not stand up for herself as much as she should.

However, according to her family and friends, she will stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. They say it's a great quality she inherited from her parents, and Hall said she hopes to pass it on to her children.

That's not the only quality she inherited. Hall was always creative, even at a young age.

"I decorated my room with diapers on their side," Hall said. "When my mom walked in and said, 'Alica, what did you do?' I said, 'Butterflies, mommy, butterflies.'"

In second grade, she received a dollhouse from her parents for Christmas. They built it themselves with wood, and every detail was elaborate.

"It has carpet and handmade upholstered furniture," Hall said. "Mom sewed curtains and hand-painted borders around the



ABOVE: Abbi Hall, Alica Hall, Snow White, Carolyn Hall and Madison Hall pose for a photo at Disney World in June 2016. Alica Hall and her family visited Disney World to celebrate adoption. BELOW: Alica and Madison Hall pose for a selfie together. Hall, a Northwestern print shop employee, is a foster mother who has cared for dozens of children through the years.

tops of the walls."

Creativity comes naturally for Hall. One can often find her turning trash into treasure. Anytime that she can help with altering a prom dress or hemming some jeans, Hall said she is always available. She enjoys revamping clothes and costumes, especially for the Northwestern theater program.

"Family is not just biological family, it's bio family, legal family, friend family, church family, theater family, all the families."

— Alica Hall

When she was 7, Hall was featured in her first play at Northwestern. She had the role of Snow White, which remains her favorite Disney character. She called the acting role a dream come true because she always wanted to be a princess growing up. Little did she know that was only the beginning of her acting career.

Hall has been in close to 20 productions, eight of which occurred



at Northwestern. She walked away from the program with many lifelong friendships, she said.

Acting is not her only hobby. "Gone with the Wind" is her favorite book because she loves the idea of getting into someone's head and trying to see things from another person's perspective. And like any princess would, she said she still believes in a happy ending.

She has been invited to speak on "Gone with the Wind" panels

at conferences for fans who love the book as much as she does. She also hosted a 20-episode podcast series about it, "Oh fiddle dee dee. The Podcast for the 'Gone with the Wind' Obsessed."

WALK ON FAITH

Eccentric, unique and incandescent are just a few words used to describe Hall. Her faith also plays a huge role in her life.

in the university print shop, where she designs projects for community members, students and faculty.

LENDING A HELPING HAND

When the printers break down during a big project, Hall said she will do whatever it takes to get the job done. She is determined not only in the workplace, but in life.

She is proud of all of her accomplishments, but she is the most proud of her children. They are proud to call her mom as well.

Hall jokes that she hopes to be remembered by glitter.

"I want people to randomly find glitter in the theater and assume that I have haunted them," she said.

But before they find the glitter, she wants to be remembered for love: giving love to those who have experienced neglect, those who can't love themselves and those who loved her first.

Matthew 22:39, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," is an important verse to live by, Hall said. She was once able to recite the whole book of Romans along with John, Matthew, first and second Peter and James.

She may not remember them word for word anymore, but she still applies the messages to her everyday life.



ABOVE: Alica Hall and her two daughters, Sera and Madison Hall, pose for a photo.

Alica's Passions

- Faith
- Family
- Expressing her creativity
- Acting
- Her favorite book, *Gone with the Wind*
- Loving others
- Giving



Alica Hall and Sera Hall smile for a photo.



Alica Hall, Sera Hall and Madison Hall smile for selfie.

FEATURE

First snowfall brings mixed emotions

By **GAVIN MENDOZA**
Senior Reporter

Snow fell last week for the first time since students have been back in Alva. Some acted like it was just another Tuesday, while others were excited and surprised.

After what has been a relatively warm winter compared to past years, students were greeted by small snowflakes Jan. 24.

For some, seeing snow is nothing out of the ordinary, but for others, this may have been the first time they have ever seen it.

"I don't see snow all the time, so for me, I always like to watch it fall for a little and try to enjoy it when it does happen," said Rachel Brown, a sophomore biology major from Pomona, California.

Students like Brown do not see snow at all at home, so it is always fun to watch the flakes fall for the first time, she said.

"The one thing I do not like is how cold it gets," Brown said.

With snow comes the cold

weather, and as the snow came down throughout the day, students continued to layer up.

"I don't see snow all the time, so for me, I always like to watch it fall for a little and try to enjoy it when it does happen."

— **Rachel Brown**

"Living in Texas, we never see snow, so while it was cool to see it, I had to make sure to throw some extra clothes on and a beanie because I was cold," said Jackson Dillingham, a freshman from Frisco, Texas.

As Dillingham described his experience, more students walked around with sweatshirts, jackets and beanies.

The snow began to get heavy,



Photo by Jordan Green

Ranger Field was covered in snow after snow fell Jan. 24. Most of the snow melted within hours.

but nothing was sticking to the ground around campus.

Students who wanted a snow day did not get lucky, but Max McClain didn't mind. He is used

to colder weather.

"Where I come from in Colorado, it takes a lot more than this to get school off and have a snow day," McClain said.

McClain is a junior from Arvada, Colorado, who is used to the snow.

"It was just another Tuesday for me," McClain said.

Scarbrough teaches confidence in dance

By **JACOB ERVIN**
Senior Reporter

Every Monday and Tuesday afternoon, business administration major Gracie Scarbrough drives to Kiowa, Kansas, to teach girls how to gain their confidence.

Scarbrough is a dancing instructor at Studio Pro Dance and Fitness and has been for the last four years, though dancing has been a part of her life for much longer.

Scarbrough began dancing when she was 7 with CH Productions when it was in Alva.

Scarbrough credits dance with helping her grow not only as an artist, but as a person.

"Not only is it a form of expression, but I learned discipline and confidence through dance because I could express myself without having to speak or form the right words," she said.

When CH Productions moved to Kiowa in 2012 and became Studio Pro Dance and Fitness, Scarbrough continued to dance with the studio rather than changing to one closer by.

Scarbrough continued to dance there all the way through high school and became an instructor with the studio after graduating because she was still close while attending Northwestern.

Scarbrough has spent her time in college balancing being



Gracie Scarbrough

a full-time college student and commuting 18 miles to the studio, where she teaches girls between the ages of three and 13.

She said she really enjoys the opportunity to help instill confidence in her students the same way her dance instructors did for her.

Scarbrough teaches a variety of recreational classes, including tap, ballet and tumbling.

For every class, Scarbrough takes her students through a variety of exercises, warm-ups and routines.

She said she likes to start all of her classes with ice-breakers to make everyone feel more comfortable working and training with one another.

Scarbrough said while she is unsure what the future holds for her after graduating this spring semester, she would love to continue teaching dance if the opportunity is there.

English major finds place to belong

By **MALLORY PARUZEWSKI**
Senior Reporter

Imagine combining your partner's name and yours to create a new one.

That is just how English major M'Cheila Rader got her name, and how she continues to introduce herself to others.

Rader's parents, Michael and Sheila, are both alumni of Northwestern.

This made deciding to leave home and attend Northwestern to continue her education one of the most difficult things Rader had ever done, she said.

She feared people would misjudge or misunderstand her.

"The worst that could happen was I would disappoint my parents, who desperately wanted me to discover myself at the same university they attended," Rader said. "I've found my niche."

Rader said her dad is the reason she values and appreciates her education.

She always questions things, thinks critically and knows that confidence is fostered through knowledge, she said.

This allows her to have a more open-minded view of the world and outlook on life in general.

Flagstaff, Arizona, is where Rader was born.

Flagstaff is an hour away from the Grand Canyon and is made up of the Coconino National Forest

Growing up in a place like Flagstaff helped Rader appreciate nature, as well as be accepting of such a diverse population of people found in the area.

When she was 11, Rader and



M'Cheila Rader

her family moved to the small town of Eudora, Kansas, about 30 minutes outside of Kansas City.

This was quite the culture shock to her coming from such a large city in a different area of the country.

Moving to Alva for college

"My parents ... desperately wanted me to discover myself at the same university they attended."

— **M'Cheila Rader**

was hard for Rader because she was away from her built-in best friend: her sister, Brenika.

"She's a better version of who I wish I could be," Rader said.

Rader said her sister has been her biggest supporter and really understands her at a level that no one else can.

When Rader isn't reading or writing essays for school, she's either working as a student worker in the English department or at the Daisy Village boutique, a store in downtown Alva.

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ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE REVIEW

'M3GAN' filled with comedy, jump scares

By **ALIYAH BIDWELL**
Senior Reporter

"M3GAN" is about a toy doll. It is your basic doll horror movie.

The main character in this horror, science fiction movie suffers the loss of her sister and brother-in-law in a car accident.

She must take on the new responsibility of being a parent by default to her 8-year-old niece.

She is a toy developer in Seattle. She is also under a lot of stress at work to come up with a new toy for children to beg their parents to buy.

She makes a prototype for a doll she thinks could be big but needs testing. She decides to take the doll home and test it out with her niece.

Everything she built on the doll was exceptional, and the doll is smart and helpful — until she isn't.

I think Megan is like an over-protective sister.

She is the kind of sister that, if you mess with her sister, she will mess with you.

The movie has a strange start. If the lights in the movie theater didn't dim, I wouldn't have known the movie was starting.

"I will give the directors props, though. After you realize it is part of the movie, they do well on the transition from commercial to real life."

— **Aliyah Bidwell**

The movie begins with a commercial inside the movie, and it is oddly placed.

However, it provided context that was needed to start the storyline out right.

I will give the directors props though. After you realize it is part of the movie, they do well on the transition from commercial to real life.

"M3GAN" is more of a jump

scare comedy because if you watch horror movies often, you will be able to see that it is more funny than scary.

Even in the creepy parts, you can find bits of comedy in the mix.

You should also be able to see the similarities to the movies in the "Child's Play" franchise, which began in 1988 and ran throughout the '90s starring Chucky. In some ways, they have a similar plot, in my opinion.

Some even say it should have been marketed as a comedy instead of a horror movie.

Overall, I did enjoy watching the movie.

I would rate it 8/10. The production value was good.

The filming had nice transitions, and the visuals were eye-catching.

I don't think the movie is scary. It has wonderful jump scares though. It may frighten younger audience members or those who scare easily.

I think they made Megan's transition from helpful to overbearing quite well. I would watch it again.

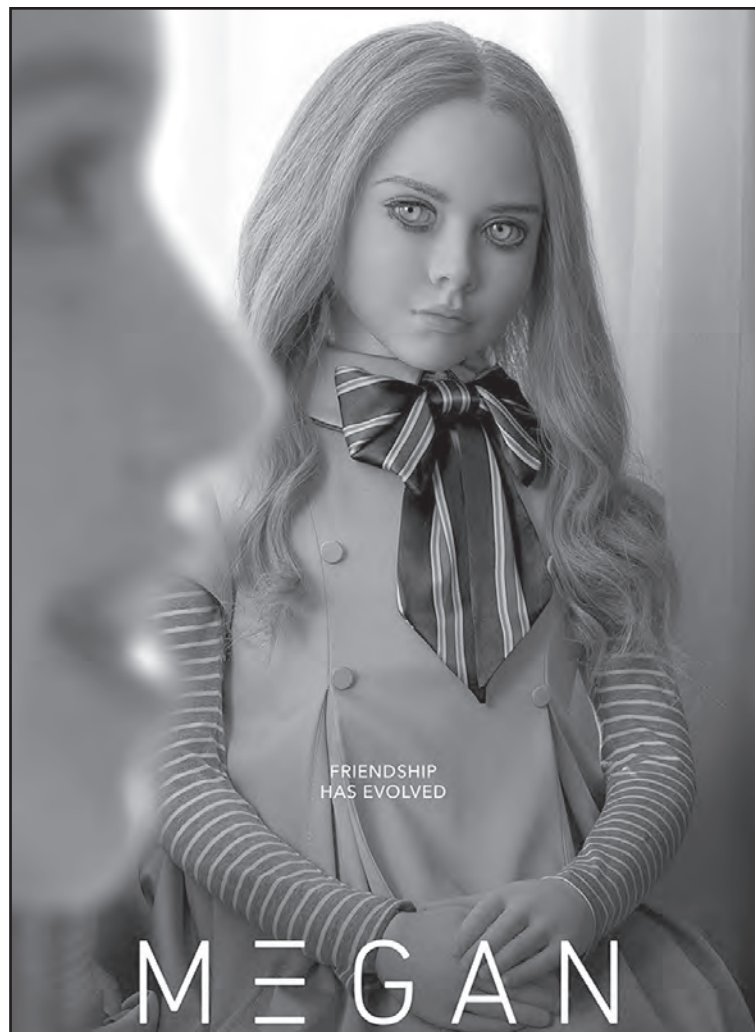


Photo by Universal Pictures

'Groundhog Day' movie inspired by holiday events

By **KRISTEN KIRTLEY**
Senior Reporter

Groundhog Day is a holiday celebrated every year on Feb. 2 by the United States and Canada.

According to legend, if the groundhog sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of cold winter in the area.

If the animal does not see his shadow, spring will come early with warm air and clear skies.

Although the holiday can be celebrated anywhere, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, hosts annual Groundhog festivities and has a groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, predict the weather. There have been many groundhogs to have the title of weather predictor, and all have been named Punxsutawney Phil.

In the 1993 film "Groundhog Day" starring Bill Murray, who played Phil Connors, his character and a team of reporters travelled to Punxsutawney to report the Groundhog Day festivities to the public.

The main character's name plays off the idea of the groundhog.

Because of inclement weather, their stay in Punxsutawney became extended for another evening.

Unbeknownst to the members of

community and Phil's crew, Phil began to relive the same day over and over again.

When he first realized his situation, and also realized he could predict the day's events, he was frustrated and made decisions that only benefited him and not those around him like his crew or the locals.

These decisions only made him more miserable and bitter with his dilemma. He slowly accepts he is trapped forever in the town of Punxsutawney.

"When he realized he could change the order of events in a positive way for others, he began making the most out of each day, not only for him, but for everyone he came in contact."

— **Kristen Kirtley**

After reliving the same day multiple times, he slowly developed feelings for the townspeople and his coworker, Rita.

When he realized he could

change the order of events in a positive way for others, he began making the most out of each day, not only for him, but for everyone he came in contact.

On the final day when the alarm clock buzzed, Phil opened his eyes with dread, in anticipation of reliving the same day once more.

To his surprise, he was not alone, and tomorrow had finally arrived, bringing him sweet relief to be able to get on with his life as normal.

Since the release of "Groundhog Day," several movies have been filmed and released along that same story line.

For example, in "50 First Dates" starring Drew Barrymore, she had an affliction which caused her to relive the same day.

Another movie in which a character relives the same day was "Edge of Tomorrow."

In this movie, Tom Cruise's character relived the day of his death.

"Groundhog Day" went on to inspire several movies containing the same plot line of days or events reoccurring over and over again for a character.

Whether it be a dull, mundane day lived over and over or a day of horror and excitement, the plot line has been tweaked and twisted for viewers' entertainment.

Dad Joke of the Week:

On Groundhog Day, what does it mean if Punxsutawney Phil comes out and sees the village idiot?

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SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL



Photos by J.D. Eddy

Larry White attempts a layup during Northwestern's game against Harding on Jan. 26 inside Percefull Fieldhouse. The Rangers defeated the Bisons, 80-64. The Rangers currently have a record of 9-8 and a conference record of 5-8. The Rangers are tied with both East Central and Henderson State for eighth place in the Great American Conference standings.

Rangers roll over Harding, ATU



Brian Free guards a Harding player during Northwestern's game against the Bisons on Jan. 26 inside Percefull Fieldhouse. The Rangers defeated the Bisons, 80-64. The Rangers currently have a record of 9-8.

By **JARA REEDER**
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern men's basketball team had strong performances in victories over Harding and Arkansas Tech.

On Jan. 26, the Rangers welcomed the Bisons of Harding to Percefull Fieldhouse with a blackout, as Ranger fans waved black pom-poms and wore anything black they could find to support Northwestern.

After the first 12 minutes of the game went back and forth, the Bisons held the largest lead of the half at 24-18 with eight minutes until halftime.

The Rangers and Bisons fought back and forth, with the score at halftime being 32-30 in favor of Northwestern.

Brian Free started off the second half with a three-pointer, making the score 35-30.

The Rangers hit shot after shot to go on a 19-3 run midway through the second half to take a 58-42 lead with nine minutes remaining in the game. The Rangers used the momentum from the run to cruise to an 80-64 win.

Larry White led the Rangers in scoring by shooting 8-15 from the field for a total of 18 points.

On Saturday, the Rangers hosted the Wonder Boys of Arkansas

Tech for the Hall of Fame game.

The Rangers got off to a quick start by capitalizing off of back-to-back Arkansas Tech turnovers with a dunk by White followed by a layup by Malik Parsons. Meanwhile, it took the Wonder Boys more than a minute into the game to score any points.

The Rangers continued to run up the score with big buckets from White and Jason Douglas-Stanley to give Northwestern a 10-point lead about five minutes into the game. The Rangers ended the first half with a 41-33 lead over the Wonder Boys.

The Wonder Boys responded with four quick points to start the second half, making it 41-37.

Arkansas Tech continued to fight back the entire second half and eventually cut the deficit down to two in a 69-67 game with three minutes remaining. After a three by Free, Parsons scored 13 straight points to give the Rangers an 85-70 win.

The victories give the Rangers a record of 9-8 overall with a 5-8 record in Great American Conference play.

The next game for Northwestern is Thursday, when the Rangers travel to Monticello, Arkansas, to play at Arkansas-Monticello before finishing in Magnolia, Arkansas, against Southern Arkansas.

SPORTS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lady Rangers win one, fall in another

By **JACOB ERVIN**
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern women's basketball team split its two games last week with a win on Jan. 26 to the Harding Lady Bisons and a loss on Saturday to the Arkansas Tech Golden Suns.

The Lady Rangers were on a five-game losing streak heading into their matchup with Harding, which was the No. 1 team in the Great American Conference at the time.

The Lady Rangers pulled off the upset win, 69-66, thanks to a strong first half performance that gave them a 13-point lead going into halftime.

Josena Frame, shooting guard for the Lady Rangers, credits their win to the team's successful execution of its defensive plan.

"I felt like we really locked down on the defensive end," Frame said. "They have the best player in the GAC right now, so it was big to shut her down, and that is exactly what we did."

The Lady Rangers did not ride the success of their upset win into their Saturday home game against Arkansas Tech. The Lady Rangers lost, 63-56.

The Lady Rangers were trailing by one point going into the fourth quarter, but Arkansas Tech was able to pull away with 21 points in the final frame.

With the loss at home, Northwestern fell to 8-9 for the season and 4-9 in conference play, which currently makes the Lady Rangers the 8th seed in the GAC.

The top eight teams in the conference will advance to the GAC tournament at the end of the regular season, and the Lady Rangers have nine games remaining.

The Lady Rangers' next chance to add a win to their record will be in an away game Thursday against Arkansas-Monticello, and Frame said she is confident that they will do exactly that.

"We played them here once, and we won it here," Frame said. "I don't think we even played our best, and we still managed to pull it out, so I really think that we've got a great shot."

After traveling to Monticello, Arkansas, on Thursday, the Lady Rangers will have another road game at Magnolia, Arkansas, to take on the Muleriders of Southern Arkansas on Saturday.

The team will finally have its next home game Feb. 9 against Ouachita Baptist.



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Carly Craig dribbles the ball up the court during Northwestern's game against Arkansas Tech Saturday inside Percefull Fieldhouse. The Lady Rangers lost to the Golden Suns, 63-56.

Rangers hire Medrano as offensive coordinator

By **CADE KENNEDY**
Sports Editor

After nearly 20 years of coaching in eastern Oklahoma, Jason Medrano has made his way to the west side of the state.

That is not the only change, as he jumped from the high school level back to the collegiate ranks.

Medrano got his coaching start at West Texas A&M under head coach Ronnie Jones. Medrano was a student assistant for one season before becoming the offensive line coach.

In 2004, Medrano made the move to Muskogee to become an assistant coach at Muskogee High School. Medrano stayed with the Roughers for 14 years before making the move to Catoosa to take his first head coaching job. Two years later, Medrano took an assistant coaching position at Sand Springs.

During his time at these high schools, Medrano worked with coaches that have influence across Oklahoma, from Ron Lancaster in Muskogee to Matt Hennessey in Pawhuska. By working with these coaches, Medrano learned what he needed to do to succeed, he said.

"At the high school level, as a coach, you learn patience and you learn relationship building, so it's going to make the transition for me easy," Medrano said.

Jones, now the head coach at Northwestern, brought Medrano on his staff to be the offensive coordinator in addition to being the offensive line coach.

Within a few days, Medrano hit the recruiting trail to bring students to Northwestern.

"Being on the high school level, I've seen so many kids get passed over in eastern Oklahoma," Medrano said. "I've seen a lot of kids leave the state of Oklahoma, so my goal was to have eastern Oklahoma."

"I wanted to reach out to all the schools, not only in the Tulsa metro area, but the smaller schools out in the rural areas because there are some good, quality football players in Oklahoma that get completely overlooked."

Medrano's work paid off, as several athletes from across the eastern part of Oklahoma committed to Northwestern on National Signing Day. Whether it be a running back from Gore or a wide receiver from Sand Springs, Medrano is finishing what he started.

BASEBALL

Baseball season one day away for Northwestern Ranger squad

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern baseball team will start its 2023 campaign Friday in Denver against Metropolitan State.

Last season, the Rangers finished 22-28 overall and had a conference record of 15-18.

"We struggled early on in the season, which hurt us," head coach Ryan Bowen said. "As the season progressed, we played better, especially towards the end of the season."

While he and the team were disappointed about last season, he said they are optimistic about this year.

Bowen said the team's current roster is probably the fastest team he has coached in what will be his sixth season as the Rangers' head coach. Notable standouts who have stepped up for the team are Trevor Saire and Colby Jarnigan.

Saire will be batting leadoff and will be in center field this season. Bowen described him as the best center fielder the team has, as he played well during the fall and winter scrimmages.

Saire had 22 hits and 16 RBIs

last season with a batting average of .237.

Jarnigan is a redshirt freshman who transferred last season from Cowley College.

He will be playing first base this season, and Bowen said he will be a key contributor.

Jarnigan racked up 68 hits and 59 RBIs last season to finish with a batting average of .352.

A returning pitcher from last season who was a standout for Northwestern is Dylan Collins.

"Dylan is a true freshman last year, which you don't really see nowadays," Bowen said.

"You mostly see older guys now, so seeing Dylan pitch was really special."

Collins went 5-2 for the Rangers last season in 14 appearances with 38 strikeouts and an ERA of 7.59. Bowen named Collins as the starter for Friday.

The Rangers will be playing a three-game series over three days instead of the typical two days, with one day having a doubleheader. All the games will start at noon.

The Rangers' next opponent will be in a midweek game against Newman on Feb. 7.

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Campus Cabinet food pantry receives \$3,000 grant

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Northwestern News

Northwestern's Campus Cabinet food pantry received a \$3,000 grant to help provide food and other supplies for Rangers in need.

The Swipe Out Hunger nationwide nonprofit gave the grant.

"I'm so excited to know that we have organizations like Swipe Out Hunger, who are there to help our students and employees with food insecurity," Angelia Case, who helps oversee the pantry and applied for the grant, said in

a Jan. 27 news release. "The increase in demand for our services at the campus pantry rose quite a bit during the fall semester, and it continues to increase this spring semester. This week, we had 17 clients submit a food request, which is the most we've had in one week since we opened in 2019. It doesn't take long to deplete the food on the shelves with that many clients in one week, so every food or monetary dona-

tion we receive continues to help us purchase items for those who need them.

"Our mission at the campus pantry is to 'provide supplemental food and other basic necessities to alleviate food insecurity and barriers to student and employee success.' So, we are trying to do what we can to help our students and employees who need it.

"Asking for help can be hard, so we try to tell our clients to let

us help them now so that when they are able, they can pay it forward to someone else."

Students, faculty and staff who need to visit the food pantry can schedule an appointment by visiting <https://www.nwosu.edu/campus-cabinet>.

Nearly half of all Northwestern students are low-income or first-generation students, Case said. Clients have received about

13,000 pounds of food since the cabinet opened in 2019.

"When you come from a place where something such as this pantry would have been a great benefit to you, you tend to believe in the goals and mission just a little bit more," Case said in the news release. "We just want to help."

For more information, contact Case by emailing arcase@nwosu.edu or calling 580-327-8577.

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