

SPRING BREAK IS HERE!

Campus will be closed and classes will be canceled Monday through Friday for spring break. Campus will reopen and classes will resume March 20. The Northwestern News staff wishes y'all a safe, happy and relaxing spring break.

BISON STAMPEDE

The Ranger baseball team lost two of three games against the Oklahoma Baptist Bison. PAGE 10



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POLITICS

Up in smoke: Recreational marijuana question fails

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

Oklahoma voters rolled out to the polls and overwhelmingly torched a plan to legalize recreational marijuana in the Sooner State.

Oklahoma voters rejected State Question 820 by a wide margin. According to the Oklahoma State Election Board, 349,121 voters, or 61.68%, voted against the proposal, compared to 216,883 votes, or 38.32%, in favor of it.

A little more than 25% of the state's registered voters cast ballots. The state question was the only issue on the ballot.

State Question 820 would have legalized recreational marijuana for people ages 21 and older. The measure would have allowed people to possess and

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Welcome to the show



Photo by Colby Dalton

Northwestern students Jacob Setzer, left, and Juston Coppock, right, on Sunday look at artwork on display in the J.W. Martin Library during the university's 20th annual art show. The art show will be on display throughout the month. For more photos, see pages 6 and 7.

Awareness of concussions increasing at collegiate level

By **GAVIN MENDOZA**
Senior Reporter

Whenever a major athlete takes a hit to the head, sporting officials and media pundits begin talking about concussions – temporary spells of confusion or unconsciousness resulting from an injury.

Now, concussion awareness is growing among student athletes at the collegiate level because of how often they occur and how serious they can be.

"A concussion is an invisible injury," Dr. John Leddy, a concussion expert at the Concussion Management Clinic at the University of Buffalo, said in an article with The Spectrum newspaper. "Imagine if you had the flu for more than a month — that would interfere with your life."

Concussions often go unreported because some symptoms cannot be seen,

creating an epidemic that is plaguing student-athletes across the country.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University athletic trainer Brett Purnell has experience treating concussions. He said he is becoming more understanding of evolving concussion treatment protocol.

"In recent years, there has been increased public attention to concussion protocol and what it entails, mostly due to situations in the NFL," Purnell said. "The most recent example of Tua Tagovailoa has shown the public the dangers of head injuries when the brain is not given adequate time to heal before return to play."

Tagovailoa, a Miami Dolphins player, sustained repeated injuries during the 2022 season after continuing to play while having a concussion. He is one of many athletes who have had a concussion but continued to play. While athletes may try to show how strong they are by charging

forward, it is important for them to be educated and understand that it is OK to sit out after a head injury.

"I definitely believe that there is a certain point at which an athlete has suffered too many concussions."
— Brett Purnell, trainer

"The core concept is to ensure the mind and body are ready to return to activity in incremental steps," Purnell said. "Athletic trainers can more easily identify when an athlete may be 'feeling off' before anyone else can."

A recent study conducted by the University of New South Wales Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing found that three or more concussions can cause long-term cognitive problems, compounding health issues for athletes with multiple injuries.

"I definitely believe that there is a certain point at which an athlete has suffered too many concussions and should consider refraining from participation in contact sports," Purnell said. "At what point that decision is made should be discussed by the athlete and the sports medicine team serving that athlete."

An athlete who has experienced concussions several times and continued to play his favorite sport is on the Northwestern baseball team. The decision was not an easy one, but he did not want to give up the sport he loves, he said.

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NEWS

Wesley House director hopes to spread love

By **REBECCA WAGNER**
Senior Reporter

A few months into her job as director of the Wesley House, JoDe Bradt said she is excited to help college students grow in their faith.

The Wesley Foundation hired Bradt, a longtime Alva resident and owner of The Menagerie petting zoo, in October.

When Bradt was a student at Northwestern, the Wesley House was a big part of her life, she said. Located at 1027 Eighth St., it is known for providing free meals to students, and it offers Bible study meetings.

Bradt said she hopes to share the love of Jesus with college students, especially amid the chaos of the world.

"I don't have number goals or anything like that," she said. "I just want college kids to know how much Jesus loves them and that we can walk with him."

Bradt said she hopes college students who follow Jesus will be a light for others to see.

The Wesley House has several events during the week that allow Bradt to share her faith with college students.

Each Sunday, the Wesley House hosts "Sundaes on Sunday," where students can eat ice cream and then worship. The event begins at 7 p.m.

A Bible study takes place on Tuesdays at 7 p.m., and the free lunch for students takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursdays.

Josie Gibson, the intern at the Wesley House, said her favorite event during the week is the Tuesday Bible study.

"JoDe has been a really great addition to the Wesley House," Gibson said. "She knows a lot of people on and off campus, so it's really great to have her there and have her be able to invite and bring in people who might not have otherwise come."



Photo by Dax Benway

Wesley House director JoDe Bradt speaks to students during the Wesley House's weekly lunch on March 2. Bradt said she hopes to spread the love of Jesus with students and help them walk deeper in faith.

Getting creative Creativity Festival highlights talented Rangers of all kinds



Northwestern English professor Dr. Matthew Lambert sings a country song during the Creativity Festival, which was hosted in the Ranger Room on March 2 by Sigma Tau Delta and the Writer's Roundtable.



ABOVE: Artwork was on display during the second annual Creativity Festival, which featured readings of poetry and short stories, a musical performance, artwork and photography.



LEFT: Northwestern student Darian Smith reads a poem to the audience.

Photos by Colby Dalton



Students smile as they listen to speakers read poetry and short stories during the Creativity Festival, which was hosted in the Ranger Room on March 2 by Sigma Tau Delta and the Writer's Roundtable.

NEWS



Photo by Rebecca Wagner

Northwestern Cheer assistant coach Michael Czapansky, shown in the center of the group lifting the cheerleader, is an athlete who has had a concussion in the past. Awareness of concussions is increasing nationwide.

CONCUSSIONS: Protocol for injuries changing with high nationwide attention

Continued from Page 1

Zach Vetal, a junior from Plano, Texas, has had six concussions while playing baseball.

"I had my first concussion in my junior year of high school in 2019," he said. "I have had five more since then."

The journey back to a sport after an injury is never an easy one, Vetal said. He suffered vision damage from his injuries.

"The only reason I am still able to play is because of vision therapy," Vetal said. "Vision therapy retrains the connection between your eyes and brain and can significantly improve a player's recovery and the academic issues as well."

Concussions have affected athletes' lives both on and off the

field. Student-athletes already face stress, and adding a concussion to the mix can create major problems that hinder their learning, he said.

"The importance of athletic trainers is being emphasized."
— Cade Phelps

"The concussions affected my classroom concentration and made it harder for me to stay focused," he said. "It also has made it harder to remember what I had learned previously."

Although Vetal experiences

those symptoms, he said he believes the university's concussion protocol is adequate.

"I personally don't think the protocol needs to change too much," Vetal said. "It is more important to explain to the athlete that they must be honest with the way they are feeling."

Cade Phelps, a senior from Wellington, Kansas, experienced concussions while playing football in high school. He sat out for seven days before easing back into action.

"I believe that concussion protocols have been changing throughout the years," Phelps said. "The importance of athletic trainers is being emphasized as well for the well-being of athletes."

MARIJUANA: Supporters vow to keep up effort

Continued from Page 1

use one ounce of marijuana, eight grams of concentrated marijuana or eight grams of marijuana-infused products. It would also have allowed people to have multiple marijuana plants.

Sales of recreational marijuana were to be taxed at 15%, with revenue funding healthcare and education programs in the state.

The measure came nearly five years after Oklahomans legalized the use of medical marijuana, which made Oklahoma one of the top states in the nation for the production of marijuana. The state's marijuana industry is problematic, however, and littered with organized crime, state officials said.

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, who did not support the measure, commended voters for rejecting the state question.

"I believe this is the best thing to keep our kids safe and for our state as a whole," Stitt said. "I remain committed to protecting Oklahomans and my administration will continue to hold bad actors accountable and crack down on illegal marijuana operations."

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond said in a news release: "I'm proud of Oklahomans for rejecting the expansion of organized crime by defeating State Question 820. Regardless of where one stands on the question of marijuana legalization, the stark reality is that organized crime from China and Mexico has infiltrated Oklahoma's medical marijuana industry. I will continue to focus on this serious threat to public safety by targeting the illegal grow operations throughout our state."

Supporters of the measure criticized the outcome of the election and said they'll keep pushing for full marijuana legalization.

Michelle Tilley, who led the Yes on 820 campaign, said in a statement Tuesday night: "We didn't get State Question 820 across the finish line tonight, but the fact remains that marijuana legalization is not a question of 'if.' It's a question of 'when.' ... We will continue to advocate for change and we are confident that, sooner rather than later, change will come, as it has in 21 other states."

Twenty-one other states, some of which are generally politically conservative, have legalized recreational marijuana in some fashion. However, other states have also rejected legalization legislation.

What's up?

FRIDAY

Seniors are encouraged to apply for the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association's Outstanding Senior award. Applications are due March 10. Seniors on the Alva, Woodward and Enid campuses are eligible to apply for this honor.

Students who will graduate spring or summer 2023 or who graduated December 2022 can apply, provided they have a minimum of 60 hours completed at Northwestern, a 3.5 GPA or higher and have not been subject to academic or disciplinary action.

Students should prepare a cover letter, resume, one to three letters of recommendation, a current profile photo and official transcript. Application materials should be submitted to the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association office in the Alva campus Student Center or mailed to 709 Oklahoma Blvd., Alva, OK, 73717. For more information, contact John Allen, director of alumni relations, at jwallen@nwsu.edu or 580-327-8594.

THIS MONTH

The 20th annual university art show in the J.W. Martin Library is on display throughout the month during the library's operating hours.

MARCH 15

The academic scholarship deadline for continuing students is March 15. In order to apply for scholarships, students must be enrolled full-time and must have completed 24 hours at Northwestern during the previous academic year. Also, they must have at least a 3.5 GPA. To fill out the form, visit the university's website and look under the "Forms" tab in the A-Z index.

MARCH 21

The Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series will host its fourth installment of the year, the Diamonds. The event is open to the public and takes place in Herod Hall at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

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OPINION

SOMETHING TO THINK ON

If today didn't go so well, you can try
again tomorrow.

Renewed love of reading yields benefits

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

Reading was one of the most important parts of my life when I was a kid. I barely touched a book after my ninth grade year, but recently, I have started delving into book series that pique my interest.

Reading like I have been during the past few weeks has had some positive effects. It seems as though my cognitive function has improved. It hasn't made me think more quickly or raised my intelligence to superhuman levels, but, I am no longer blanking out on small words that escape my grasp like a passing gust of wind.

Instead, my recollection is better. I seem to be sleeping better as well. I have been going to bed earlier and waking earlier.

When the brain is stimulated, it becomes more active, allowing you to focus on the subject you are dealing with at the moment. It improves literacy, helps you sleep, increases your general knowledge and reduces stress. Finally, reading can teach you empathy and how to relate more to others.

Like any muscle in the body, in order to grow, the brain needs to be exercised. This does not instill any physical growth in the brain. Rather, it increases the speed between firing neurons to allow for faster cognitive processes.

According to the Step Up For Mental Health website, "Studies have shown that reading as little as 6 minutes per day can improve your quality of sleep, reduce stress, and sharpen mental acuity." I had to find some facts to back up the point I want to make. I would not be a good writer if I didn't.



Photo by Jordan Green

Bookshelves in the J.W. Martin Library are shown Tuesday. The author believes that reading yields positive benefits for a person's mental health and overall wellbeing. Just a few minutes a day spent reading are positive.

Countless articles have been written on the subject, and all of

"Reading can have a positive impact on your life, even if it is only for six minutes per day. It has helped me a lot."

— **J.D. Eddy**

them say the same thing: reading helps you in many ways.

Also, reading a book that you are interested in is fun. It tends to show that you have certain things

you care about in people.

This is where being empathetic comes in: showing your care for others and allowing yourself to adopt some of these positive traits to better your mental health.

Most of these attributes relate heavily to your own mental health. Having a good sleep schedule will make your positive emotions come to the surface, can help alleviate the symptoms of seasonal depression, improves your physical well-being and can encourage healthier eating habits.

We all aspire to be like an individual from these stories, whether it be a superhero, archer from a time long forgotten, a swordsman, a character from a famous anime or even someone like Jordan Belfort, better known as "the Wolf of Wall Street."

We all want some of these qualities for ourselves, but the changes will not just happen overnight. You must have a strong sense of mental fortitude about yourself to change your personality or your life in general. These are all things that can be altered if you so please, but there is no need. You are perfect as-is.

Reading can have a positive impact on your life, even if it is only for six minutes per day. It has helped me a lot over the past week, but I am going to keep reading because I enjoy it. This activity I used to love has brought a certain sense of peace.

As always, if you want to voice your opinion in the newspaper, please write a letter to the Northwestern News. We would love to print what you want to say.

MENTAL HEALTH

Response time key in overdose situations

By **CHLOE KUNNEMANN**
Guest Columnist

This week's mental health column focuses on opioid abuse prevention and stimulant abuse prevention.

Specifically in Oklahoma, methamphetamine and illicit fentanyl have continuously caused overdoses throughout the state. To prevent such deaths, the state is focusing on the social, economic, demographic and environmental factors that can influence substance use. Despite methamphetamine and illicit fentanyl deaths increasing through the years, prescription opioids were

the most common source of overdose death in Oklahoma, according to the Oklahoma Health Department. The increase in illicitly manufactured fentanyl has been involved in half of the opioid-related deaths in Oklahoma.

Stimulant-involved overdose deaths seem to have risen in recent years because the drug has increased in popularity. The time it takes for the symptoms of an overdose to be seen or felt depends on the administration of the drug.

While it takes longer for the symptoms to appear if the drug is ingested orally when compared to smoking, snorting or injecting, the drug can cause an overdose

nevertheless.

It is important to know that, despite not all overdoses of stimulants being fatal, it is vital to seek medical attention when showing overdose symptoms.

If you or someone you know needs to talk to someone, 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.

Oklahomans in need of mental health help can call the state mental health hotline, 988, in an immediate crisis situation or a non-emergency situation. In case of an emergency, dial 911

OPINION

A GOOD WORD

"I invite everyone to choose forgiveness rather than division, teamwork over personal ambition."
— Jean-Francois Cope

WILLIE SPEARS SERIES: 'NOW HIRING'

Let's celebrate history-making women

By **WILLIE SPEARS**
Guest Columnist

Timothy Youngblood, Sr., was a pastor in Union Springs, Alabama, many years ago. I gave the eulogy at his son's funeral. His son, Timothy Youngblood, Jr., was brother to my Aunt Jean, Rosland, Renee and Uncle Victor. He also spent thirty-plus years in a dating relationship with my mother's sister. All so confusing, I know. Timothy Youngblood, Sr. was a history maker.

There are history makers in art, athletics, politics, religion and society. My aunt is a history maker and an awesome aunt. Google "Jean Carolyn Youngblood vs. Board of Public Instruction of Bay County, Florida." On paper, she was the first official Black student in the Bay County Public School System.

The Bay County, Florida, branch of the NAACP, led by its president, the Rev. Timothy Youngblood, Sr., filed a class action lawsuit in U. S. District Court in Marianna, Florida. The suit was against the Board of Public Instruction of Bay County, Florida, now the Bay County District School Board. The law-

suit was filed on May 28, 1964, to desegregate the local school system. This was a decade after Brown V. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. The lawsuit became known as Jean Carolyn Youngblood vs. Board of Public Instruction of Bay County, Florida. Jean Carolyn Youngblood was the daughter of the Rev. Timothy Youngblood, Sr. The Bay County Branch NAACP was successful and prevailed in this case.

Schools in Bay County were officially integrated in 1968. The federal court had to monitor the school system from 1968 until 1971 to ensure that the school officials followed the court's order. The first three years of integration were turbulent. White students did not want Black students coming to their schools. They tried to intimidate, frighten and make a mockery of Black students. They often chanted, "Two, four, six, eight, we don't want to integrate!" There were riots at junior high and high schools from 1968 until the early 1970s.

Black History Month has passed, and we have entered Women's History Month. I encourage you to research stories of great women in history. Women's History Month is a dedicat-



Photo provided

Willie Spears is a motivational speaker and a Northwestern alumnus.

ed month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history. From Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Babe Didrikson,

Sojourner Truth and Rosa Parks, the timeline of women's history milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States.

The actual celebration of

Women's History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by a school district in California in 1978. Presentations were given at dozens of schools, hundreds of students participated in a "Real Woman" essay contest, and a parade was held in downtown Santa Rosa.

A few years later, the idea caught on within communities, school districts and organizations across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

"Now Hiring" is a weekly article written by author and public speaker Willie Spears, a Northwestern alumnus. He has written 13 books and travels around the country, adding value to the lives of others through his books and dynamic presentations. Learn more at www.williespears.com.

When life gets heavy, friends lighten the load

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

When the pandemic began three years ago, we often heard national leaders say: "We're all in this together." Although that message became cliché and synonymous with talk of the dreaded virus, it is a good message. Every day, whether we like it or not, all eight billion of us on planet earth are in this life together.

The question is: Do we always live like that?

Our world idolizes people who seem like they can do it all on their own. Our society worships the idea of being self-made – climbing to the top of the ladder on your own, receiving all the credit and taking little blame for mistakes made along the way. Taking all the blows and walking on without any help is what many view as being a success.

Where in the world did we come up with such an idea?

I'm a young buck with more to learn than I'll ever know, but so far, I've realized that we're not made to go through this life on our own. We are not made to bear all of life's burdens by ourselves,

and thinking so would be a fool's errand. Rather, we are made to help each other along life's road, and to seek help from a power higher than ourselves, believe it or not.

When I was a teenager, I came to think that achievement was anything we could do single-handedly. Although I wasn't necessarily an aficionado of Western films, I thought that going through life like John Wayne – rough, tough and never beset by the storms of life – was how we were supposed to live. That way of thinking didn't get me far before I found myself on my knees, begging for help from God.

There's nothing wrong with John Wayne. He was a good man on and off the screen, I believe. But he's been incorrectly characterized as a one-man band who never struggled or needed a helping hand. That couldn't be further from the truth. I've not watched him play Davy Crockett in "El Dorado," one of his greatest Western films, but I know the story of the Alamo. Crockett earned a place in Texas history as a heroic warrior, and rightfully so. But the Alamo wasn't won by Davy Crockett alone. He had a small but mighty force fighting beside him, and without their help, we'd never hear Texans say, "Remember the Alamo." John Wayne played the

part of a team leader, not a lone gunman.

We've all heard people say there's no "I" in "team," and we all recognize the fact that we live on a densely populated planet (except for the Panhandle). But are we really considering the fact that we were created to have friends and families not just for fun trips and get-togethers, but to help us grow as people and help each other out?

Too many of us, I believe, have tried to fix everything in our lives instead of asking for help. I was reminded of this Sunday when some friends and I watched the movie "Jesus Revolution," which I highly recommend, by the way. In the movie, Pastor Chuck Smith is worn down from the weight of involvement in a nationwide revival. His daughter reminds him that he's not responsible for carrying the load all on his own. It's not just OK, but vital, to ask for help.

If you feel like you're struggling with problems in life, whether big or small, call on a friend or loved one for help. And if you happen to be the friend or loved one who is called upon, it's your job to give the kind of time, support and love you'd want to receive if you were in a similar situation. I was raised in a family that modeled this exceptionally

well, but sadly, many weren't. However, it's never too late to start making a change.

Today can be the day you choose to pursue friendship and establish new relationships with people who'll love you and point you along the right path in life. And whether you've tried church

in the past or not, today can be the day you choose to be around a group of people who'll embrace you and help you lighten your load.

There are eight billion people on planet for a reason. Yes, we're all in this life together, and that is a beautiful thing.

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Ranger artwork roundup

University art show highlights student, faculty creations



The 20th annual Northwestern Art Society art show is on display in the J.W. Martin Library during normal business hours through the month of March. Works from the show are shown on these pages.

Photos by Colby Dalton



FEATURE



LEFT: Brad Franz is pictured with his granddaughter, Emma, in his office. Brad Franz, left, accepts his award for being a member of faculty and staff at Northwestern for 10 years alongside fellow Northwestern employees. *Photos provided*

Franz found purpose in teaching, coaching

By **CHANCE LOVE**
Student Reporter

Being forced to quit a sport you love because of a freak injury is devastating for an athlete who puts a lot of time into it.

However, still being able to be around sports as a coach or by working in another athletic position is a consolation prize for Northwestern Oklahoma State University Athletic Director Brad Franz.

Franz hurt his back in the early 1980s playing basketball, which completely altered his life and career path.

The back injury became a recurring problem for Franz, as he has had three different back surgeries since he initially endured the injury.

“Back then, they didn’t have the knowledge that they have today about backs,” Franz said. “I never recovered from those surgeries. I had to sit out a year from school. I couldn’t finish my senior year of high school playing basketball.”

While growing up in Willmar, Minnesota, Franz initially wanted to be a farmer. Franz was forced to pivot to something different after his back issues began.

“I grew up on a farm,” Franz said. “I liked farming. I liked agriculture. I realized I couldn’t do that because I wasn’t going to have a normal back again.”

He decided to put his effort

into teaching and coaching.

Franz graduated from Sheridan College in Wyoming with an associates degree. He later obtained a bachelor’s degree in health and sports science education and a master’s degree in education at Northwestern. He spent years as an assistant and head men’s basketball coach, athletic director and vice president for student affairs.

While at Otero Junior College, Franz was offered the position of vice president of student affairs.

“The president walked into my office one day and said, ‘I want you do for the whole college what you do for your teams,’” Franz said.

Franz was initially skeptical about taking the job because he had no prior experience in student affairs, but the president witnessed his work with student athletes and knew he would be a perfect fit.

“There was a challenge of helping every student every day,” he said. “It became an easy transition for me to move into student affairs because it was the same thing, and I enjoyed it.

“Student affairs is very similar to athletics. You are constantly helping people achieve their goals.”

Helping people achieve their goals is what Franz is doing at Northwestern, as he has become an outlet for student athletes, he said.

Franz has been the athletic di-

rector at Northwestern since the summer of 2016.

Before coming to Alva, though, Franz had another option: to go to Montana State University — Northern.

He said he knew nothing about either school, but his father knew both head coaches at Northwestern and Montana.

Ultimately, he chose to go further south across the U.S.

“Northwestern has been the greatest decision of my life,” Franz said. “It has done everything I could ever imagine. It has been good to me and my family. Best decision I ever made.”

FAMILY MAN

Besides coming to Northwestern, seeing his children Jordan, Cecely and Aleysa become who they are today is one of his greatest joys, he said.

“Watching my kids be successful in life and go into professions where they are working with people has been exciting for me,” Franz said.

His son, Jordan Franz, spent years as the assistant men’s basketball coach at Northwestern. Over the years, he saw firsthand how hard his father worked.

“He’s always in the office,” Jordan Franz said. “Most people go home at five o’clock. He’s up at the office until eight o’clock, working to make the college better.”

When Franz is not in his office,

he is having a good time with his family.

“He loves to come hang out and take the grandkids around,” Jordan Franz said.

Shane Hansen, an instructor of health and sports science, recalled a road trip he and Franz took to Wyoming that really kickstarted their friendship, he said.

“He and I hopped in the car and took about a three-day road trip,” Hansen said. “From that point on, I’ve viewed him as someone like a mentor.”

What Hansen admires the most about Franz is his work ethic, loyalty and integrity, he said.

“He’s as hard a worker as you’ll ever meet in your life,” Hansen said. “He’s as loyal as any person I’ve ever been around.”

In Franz’s current role, the academic side of things is incredibly important him, Hansen said.

“He personally looks at every single grade check and initiates conversations with coaches based off those reports,” Hansen said. “That tells you where his priorities are from an integrity standpoint. He doesn’t just say it’s im-

portant. He lives it.”

‘DOING ALL HE COULD’ FOR NORTHWESTERN

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Matt Adair said he believes Franz is the hardest working person he has ever met.

“I remember one time he hurt his back and couldn’t hardly move or walk,” Adair said. “He had a small cot brought into his office, and he laid on that cot so he could reach his phone. He worked full days while driving back and forth to Oklahoma City for spinal treatments.

“Most people would have been convalescing in bed, but Coach Franz was doing all he could from the floor of his office.”

Adair said he thinks one of the biggest reasons Franz is so successful is because he is driven by hard work and being a great leader.

“People in sports talk about the work ethic of guys like Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan,” Adair said. “Brad Franz was cast in that same mold.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE REVIEW

Strong acting saves new 'Ant-Man' movie

By **JACOB ERVIN**
Senior Reporter

Marvel Studios is back again with a new movie for fans, and this time the story is smaller than ever.

"Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" premiered across the United States on Feb. 17 and has become a polarizing film among critics and fans alike.

This is the third entry into the Ant-Man franchise within the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Actor Paul Rudd reprises his role as Scott Lang and the character's hero persona Ant-Man alongside actress Evangeline Lilly, who plays Janet van Dyne, who is also The Wasp.

The two stars are joined by a newcomer to the franchise, Kathryn Newton, who takes over the recasted role of Scott's daughter, Cassandra Lang.

The film begins around the year 2025, and the audience is shown Scott spending his time selling a book he authored that describes his experience helping save the world in the fictional precursor movie of the MCU, "Avengers: Endgame."

Cassandra expresses her desire to become a superhero despite her father's reservations as well as her intrigue with the beyond mi-

croscopic universe known as the Quantum Realm.

Cassandra's research into the Quantum Realm leads to the film's main characters being abruptly transported into the realm against their will.

The movie's heroes are forced to find a way home while also facing a new threat: Kang the Conqueror.

"The mixed feedback to the film is likely the result of the movie having a mixed bag of strong acting, generic storytelling and poor visual presentation."

— **Jacob Ervin**

The mixed feedback to the film is likely the result of the movie having a mixed bag of strong acting, generic storytelling and poor visual presentation.

It is apparent from the opening scenes that the film's computer-generated imagery is underwhelming at best.

While Marvel Studios has long been considered the gold standard in CGI heavy films, it is

clear that the studio has struggled to produce the quality product it once did.

As a film attempting to tell a story through a brand-new world called the Quantum Realm, it is important that the world is visually brilliant in order to tell a compelling story.

This is how Marvel movies and other franchises such as "Avatar" have been able to produce critically acclaimed films, but the newest "Ant-Man" film fails to hit this mark.

While the film is lacking visually, strong acting serves as the saving grace for the movie. Rudd manages to bring incredible depth to Scott, who is a character known for mostly serving as comedic relief within the MCU.

The most notable performance was that of Jonathan Majors as Kang the Conqueror.

Majors had played a variation of the role for a different MCU series; however, the stark contrast Majors was able to create between the previous iteration and the new character has impressed audiences and critics alike.

While the film was filled with humor and no major plot holes, this in itself is a complaint that many fans have with the movie.

Although the movie does not make any major mistakes, the film also fails to take any risks



Photo by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

and seems more like a carbon copy of previous Marvel films than the start of a new direction for the MCU.

The movie may not be a cinematic masterpiece, but strong performances by Rudd and Majors make this a film worth watching.

Dad Joke of the Week:

On March 10, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first telephone call.

Moments later, he learned his car's extended warranty had expired.

'The Diamonds' to perform in Herod Hall

By **KRISTEN KIRTLEY**
Senior Reporter

The Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series will host The Diamonds in the Herod Hall Auditorium on March 21 at 7 p.m.

For general admission, the cost will be \$20.

If students bring their ID, they will be able to get in for \$5.

"You don't go anywhere and watch a professional concert for \$5," said Kimberly Weast, executive producer of the concert series.

Weast said the ticket prices are affordable because of annual ticket sales, contributions from the community, grant money from the Oklahoma Arts Council and a large grant bi-annually from the Share Morton Trust.

The Diamonds are a musical group that performs worldwide and have been awarded three gold records for the songs "Silhouettes," "The Stroll" and "Little Darlin'."

They have had 33 appearances on American Bandstand and are in the Vocal Group Hall of Fame and Doo-Wop Hall of Fame.

Gary Owens, Dan Vissers, Julian McCleary and Jeff Dolan are

the four vocalists of the group, but there is a live band that travels and performs with them as well.

"We try to bring in professional productions that are going to not only entertain the community, but also encourage, inform and educate our university students."

— **Kimberly Weast**

Weast said she tries to rotate styles and genres of music bi-annually or around every three years.

She said she thought it was time to bring in a swing-type group that would perform tight four-part harmonies.

"We try to bring in a huge variety of styles and types of music," Weast said.

The Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series books the performers that it will host a year in

advance.

As the executive producer of the concert series, Weast has already booked all the groups for 2023 and 2024 and given them their first deposits.

"We bring four professional concerts in with the Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series every year," Weast said.

The concert series is not a part of Northwestern.

However, Northwestern donates time and resources with the usage of the building, the lights, and the students and faculty that set up for the concerts.

The concert series is a non-profit organization.

"We try to bring in professional productions that are going to not only entertain the community, but also encourage, inform and educate our university students," Weast said. "We want to offer professional opportunities and acts that students can see at a reasonable price."

The Diamonds will be highlighting Broadway musicals in their performance by singing songs from several musicals such as "Grease" and "Jersey Boys."

The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Anyone in the community is welcome to attend.

ALVA VISION CLINIC

Since 1972, there has been something special about Alva. Here I am, 40-plus years later, with a plethora of memories flooding my mind that include Troy and his love for you, the Alva and Northwest Oklahoma Community. The past three weeks have been devastating to say the least, but I cannot express my gratitude of the incredible outpouring of love, kindness, and support. A simple "thank you" seems to not give my gratitude justice. My family is deeply grateful and completely humbled. From our family to you; our friends, patients, our staff Jennifer and Kristi, the OAOP, volunteer doctors, and the entire community of Alva,

THANK YOU!

We continue to host volunteer doctors to provide care to Dr. Smith's patients at this time. At the same time, we are currently seeking an Optometrist who would be an amazing fit for this community and above all you, the patients, to provide the ultimate care that you deserve.

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SPORTS

UPCOMING HOME GAME

The baseball team will play Panhandle State at Myers Stadium Tuesday at 2 p.m.

BASEBALL



Photos by J.D. Eddy

Cade Phelps pitches the ball during Northwestern's game against Oklahoma Baptist Saturday at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium. The Rangers won the first game of the three-game series against the Bison, 14-8, but lost both games on Saturday to lose the series against Oklahoma Baptist. The Rangers currently have a record of 9-10.

Rangers lose series to OBU



Shaughn Kelly throws the ball during Northwestern's game against Oklahoma Baptist Saturday at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium. The Rangers lost the three-game series to Oklahoma Baptist, two games to one.

By **DAX BENWAY**
Senior Reporter

Northwestern dropped two games Saturday to lose the series against Oklahoma Baptist. Despite a 14-8 victory on Friday, the Rangers did not get it done on Saturday.

Sitting at nine wins and 10 losses on the season and a conference record of 3-6, the Rangers are in 10th place in the Great American Conference.

Game one was high-scoring and action-packed for the Rangers, scoring five runs in the bottom of the first inning to set the tone for the game.

Ranger first baseman Hagan Barcello scored with a solo shot in the second inning. The Rangers already had a 6-1 advantage to keep their feet on the gas pedal after the Bison answered with two runs in the fourth to make the game closer at 6-3.

The Ranger offense continued to score by adding four runs in the fourth inning extending the lead to 10-4 going into the fifth inning.

The Rangers' offensive outing continued as they scored three more runs, extending their lead to 13-4. After the Bison tried to mount a comeback by scoring two runs in the seventh inning,

Barcello stepped up to the plate and hit his second home run of the game, giving the Rangers the victory with a score of 14-8.

Barcello finished with a statline of batting 4-5 with two home runs, a triple, four runs and three RBIs in game one. Max McClain got the win on the mound for the Rangers, with Cade Phelps coming in for the save.

Games two and three on Saturday were not as good for the Rangers. Coming off a 14-run, 17-hit performance on Friday, the Rangers stayed hot with the hits and did not get runners across the plate.

Down 6-4 going into the sixth inning, the Rangers were in striking distance after falling behind 5-0 after the top of the first.

The Rangers ended up giving the Bison three runs in the sixth and then another three runs in the eighth inning, bringing the lead to 12-5 going into the ninth inning. The lead was too much for the Rangers, as Northwestern lost game two, 13-7.

Game three was the opposite of the first two games, as the Rangers only had two hits with zero runs.

The Bison went on to win the last game in the series after defeating the Rangers in game three, 3-0.

SPORTS

UPCOMING HOME GAME

The softball team will play Southern Nazarene at the Alva Rec Complex Friday at 4 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Lady Rangers swept on the road

By ALIYAH BIDWELL
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern softball team lost all three games of a three-game series against Oklahoma Baptist on Friday and Saturday in Shawnee.

In game one Friday against Oklahoma Baptist, the final score was 6-4. The Lady Rangers scored two runs in the second inning, but the Lady Bison got also scored two runs on their turn in the second inning.

The Lady Bison scored four in the third inning, putting them in the lead, 6-2.

In the fourth inning, the Lady Rangers had a good defensive outing and kept the Lady Bison from scoring. The Lady Rangers hit two home runs in the top of the fourth, but the Lady Rangers still trailed, 6-4.

The Lady Rangers fought hard for the remainder of the game, and the Bison were unable to score again, but the Lady Rangers lost the game, 6-4.

For game two on Saturday against the Lady Bison, the Lady Rangers kept the game close, but the final score was 7-4 in favor of Oklahoma Baptist.

The score was 0-0 until after the second inning. The third inning was good for both teams, as the Lady Rangers scored one run to take a 1-0 lead before the Lady Bison scored six runs to make the score 6-1.

In the fourth inning, the Lady Bison scored, which made the score 7-1. In the fifth inning, the Rangers scored one, making the score 7-2 in favor of Oklahoma Baptist.

In the sixth inning, the Lady Rangers continued to cut into the deficit but only scored two runs.

Neither team scored in the seventh, and Oklahoma Baptist clinched the series with a 7-4 win.

Game three against Oklahoma Baptist was not close for the Lady Rangers, as the Lady Bison won, 12-4.

The Lady Rangers scored first in the first inning and didn't let the Bison score. The Rangers allowed the other team to hit two but did not allow any runs, which kept the score 2-0 for the Lady Rangers.

In the second inning, the Lady Rangers didn't score, but Oklahoma Baptist did, bringing the score to 5-2.

The Lady Rangers then scored two points, bringing the score to 5-4. But it was short-lived, as the Lady Bison scored a home run, which brought the score to 8-4.

The fifth inning only extended the Lady Bison lead, as Oklahoma Baptist scored two more runs to put the score at 10-4. In the sixth inning, the Rangers did not score, and the Lady Bison scored two more runs, which brought the score to 12-4.

The game was cut short in the sixth inning, as the Lady Bison won in a run rule, 12-4.



Hannah Howell prepares to pitch the ball during Northwestern's game against Southern Arkansas on April 29, 2022. The Lady Rangers lost all three games of their series against Oklahoma Baptist on Friday and Saturday.

Parsons breaks Northwestern record

By JACOB ERVIN
Senior Reporter

With less than two minutes left in the final game, the score was tied 89-89. With more than 500 people watching in excitement, Malik Parsons drove to the basket on Feb. 25.

Although he did not realize it in the moment, Parsons had just etched his name in Northwestern history.

With the made layup, Parsons had scored 43 points and officially broken the school record for most points scored in a game by a Ranger basketball player. The record was previously 41 points and had stood since 1993.

Parsons, who is a health and sports science major in his senior year, was suiting up for his final game as Ranger and was determined to make it count. While the team lost on a last-second shot, he scored 45 points and made his fi-

nal game a historic one.

Although the occasion was momentous, it was just another chapter in Parsons' long and continuing journey with the game of basketball.

The 6-foot-3-inch guard grew up on the southeast side of San Diego, where he first started playing basketball. Parsons was raised by his mother along with his older sister and began playing basketball at the age of 5 at the Crescent Park Recreation Center.

Parsons continued to play basketball all the way to high school, where he realized the hardwood was his future.

"I played a lot of sports growing up, but once I got to high school I just stuck to playing basketball," he said. "That's where I really fell in love with [basketball], like I really knew this is what I really want to do with my life."

Although his college career has come to an end, Parsons plans to continue playing basketball professionally overseas after graduating this May.



Malik Parsons dunks the basketball during Northwestern's game against Southwestern on Feb. 13 inside Percefull Fieldhouse.

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Students attend Presidential Lecture Series



Photos by Colby Dalton

TOP: Northwestern students attended the Northwestern Institute for Citizenship Studies' Presidential Lecture Series in the Ranger Room on Monday night.

LEFT: Dr. Brook Poston of Stephen F. Austin University, left, speaks with Northwestern political science professor Dr. Aaron Mason during the event. Former President James Monroe was the subject of discussion during the event.

