

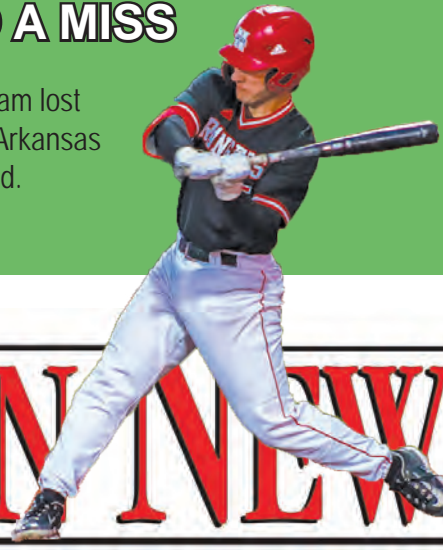
LEGAL EAGLE

Lawyer Stephen Jones, known for representing the Oklahoma City bomber, will speak at NWOSU on Friday. PAGE 3



SWING AND A MISS

The Ranger baseball team lost a three-game series to Arkansas Tech during the weekend. PAGE 10



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'Supportive and encouraging'

Pregnancy center will help parents prepare for new life

By **KRISTEN KIRTLEY**
Senior Reporter

A new pregnancy center that will provide free and confidential services to both women and men is opening this spring in Alva.

Hope Pregnancy Center provides information on parenting, adoption and abortion for parents of all ages who may be dealing with an unexpected pregnancy.

If a woman needs proof of pregnancy to qualify for services such as SoonerCare and WIC, or just needs to know if she is pregnant, the center will provide free testing along with several other services.

Charity Lyon, an adjunct communication professor at Northwestern, will be the director of the pregnancy center.

"We care for the parents who are making decisions about their unplanned pregnancy," Lyon said. "We want to be encouraging and supportive. We seek to offer them factual information that's unbiased and love and care



Baby clothes and other items are pictured at the soon-to-open Hope Pregnancy Center in Alva in this February photo. The pregnancy center aims to help parents navigate unexpected pregnancies.

Photo by Alli Schieber

for them no matter what decision they make. That's our goal."

The pregnancy center will be at 427 Barnes Ave., Suite 4, in the Downtown Mall and is opening around April. Hope Pregnancy

Centers are located in Edmond, Oklahoma City, Ardmore, Tulsa and Shawnee. The company also has a mobile unit.

"We have a lot of people in this part of the country who have

been active as donors, volunteers and supporters who really wanted to get some services offered out here," Lyon said.

The center's parent organization, Oklahoma Baptist Homes

for Children, started out as an orphanage more than 100 years ago when a baby was dropped off at someone's doorstep.

See PREGNANCY, Page 2

Critical race theory remains contentious topic

By **CADE KENNEDY**
Sports Editor

What is critical race theory?

To some people, it is as the name suggests: a theory. But to others, it represents the indoctrination of children.

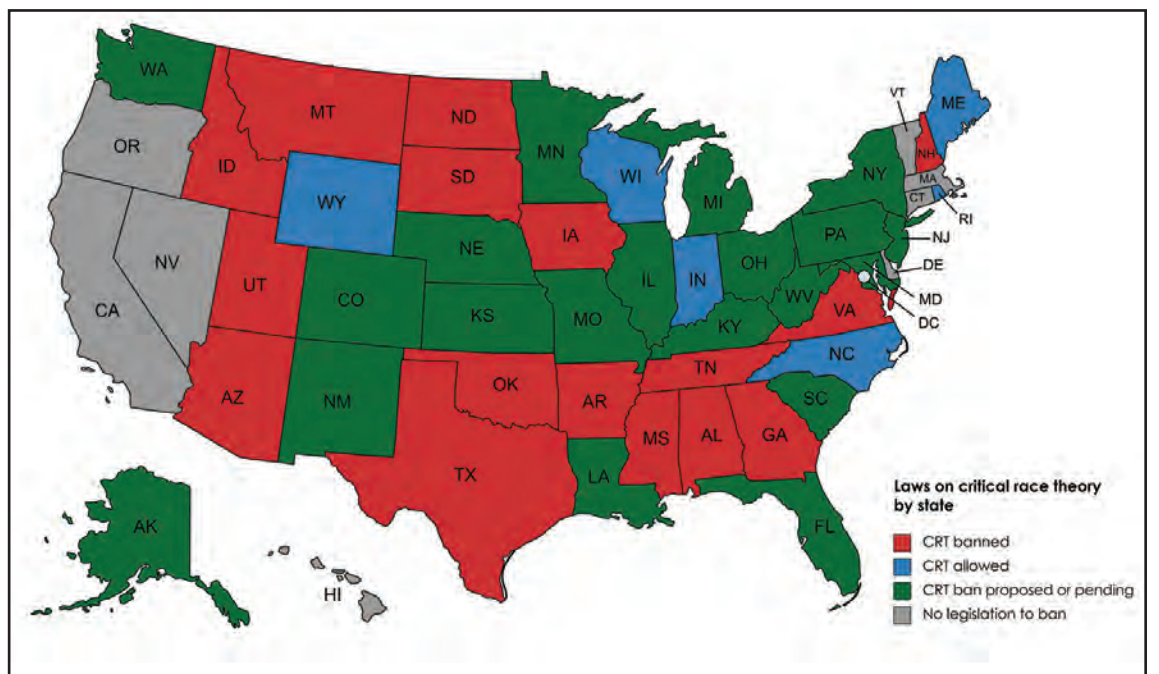
The debate around critical race theory reached the national stage in 2021 and has been a controversial topic of discussion since then. Debates about the theory quickly made their way to Oklahoma, as Gov. Kevin Stitt signed House Bill 1775 into law on May 7, 2021.

House Bill 1775 prohibits the teaching that one race is superior to another, that people are in-

herently racist or oppressive and that people bear responsibility for past actions committed by others of the same race or sex, among other stipulations. Opponents criticized the bill as being against critical race theory. However, the bill never mentions critical race theory by name.

Oklahoma was not the only state to create a law seemingly banning critical race theory, as Texas, Florida, Georgia, Utah and other state governors have signed similar laws. Over the past two years, 44 state legislatures crafted bills to stop critical race theory from being taught in public schools.

See THEORY, Page 2



Source: ABC News. Northwestern News graphic created with www.mapchart.com

NEWS

Pages 2 & 3

OPINION

Pages 4 & 5

PHOTOS

Pages 6 & 7

FEATURE

Page 8

SPORTS

Pages 10 & 11

NEWS

PREGNANCY: Multiple services, supplies available for parents

Continued from Page 1

Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children now provides numerous services, such as family-style living for children in need of a place to live.

The organization has a program that gives single moms the opportunity to get back on their feet while living with their children. The mothers are provided a free place to live as long as they are either attending school or holding a job, and they can also receive counseling and attend life-skill classes. The life-skill classes teach women a number of things, such as budgeting, basic car maintenance and how to cook healthy meals.

When a woman goes in to one of the centers to take a pregnancy test, a volunteer sits with them while they wait for their results. If the test is positive, the patient is then asked what their circumstances and concerns are and receives help while looking at her options.

If the woman chooses to parent her future child, she has the

opportunity to enroll in Empowered Parenting classes. The woman can then meet with a mentor. Both moms and dads are eligible to take the classes that can help them throughout pregnancy, prepare them for childbirth and help them become positive parents.

When either parent completes a lesson, they can earn what the center calls “baby bucks.” Baby bucks can be used to purchase items at the center’s baby boutique. The baby boutique has items such as car seats, cribs and baby clothes that are either donated from people or purchased by the center.

If the parent or parents decide they want to explore adoption, the center has a number of adoption agencies that they can recommend. The center also offers abortion-recovery classes for both moms and dads.

“We explored having a pregnancy center out this way because we have a college, and the majority of women who come in for services are college-aged,” Lyon said.



Charity Lyon, director of Hope Pregnancy Center in Alva, poses for a photo with literature about unexpected pregnancies.

Photo by Alli Schieber

THEORY: State schools superintendent vows to eliminate CRT from classrooms

Continued from Page 1

LAW GOES INTO EFFECT

When the school year began in August 2022, 10th-grade students in Norman immediately saw the impact of House Bill 1775. As the students entered the classroom of English teacher Summer Boismier, they noticed a new addition to the classroom. A massive wall of red paper covered up the bookshelves, and a sign written in black read: “Books the state doesn’t want you to read.”

The sign also contained a QR code that, when scanned, gave students a link to the Brooklyn Public Library’s “Books Unbanned” program, which gave students access to books that may have stood in opposition to House Bill 1775.

On the first day of school, a parent complained about the sign, and four days later, Boismier resigned during what was her ninth year of teaching.

“I feel like I cannot do my job and follow that law at the same time,” Boismier said in an interview with The Oklahoman newspaper. “It puts teachers in an impossible position. It forces educators to commit educational malpractice in order to keep our jobs.”

Boismier had dozens of books that hid behind the red paper that students could read, but the new policy implemented by Norman Public Schools required teachers to verify that they read every book in their classroom or to provide two professional sources for each book to confirm it was appropriate for the classroom.

Boismier said the district’s



Freedom Public School is shown in September 2022. While legislation banning teaching of critical race theory is in effect in Oklahoma, some teachers say it has not affected what they are already teaching.

File photo

policy would cause doubts about books written by LGBTQ and minority authors, which she said are critical for representing students.

“As far as ideology goes, I do believe the classroom is an inherently political space,” Boismier said in the interview. “I do not mean partisan. Speaking is political, but silence is also political. If I had no choice but to be political, I’m going to err on the side of compassion and inclusivity. I couldn’t promise the district that I wouldn’t do it again.”

Boismier was one of the first teachers to face the consequences of House Bill 1775, but Norman was not the first school to deal with the repercussions.

On July 28, 2022, the Oklahoma State Board of Education voted 4-2 to issue accreditation warnings to both Tulsa and Mustang Public Schools for violating House Bill 1775.

Oklahoma has five stages of accreditation, and by giving each school a warning, both Tulsa and Mustang moved from stage one – accreditation with no deficiencies – to stage four, which is accreditation with a warning. Despite the incident occurring at Tulsa Memorial High School, all 11 schools in the Tulsa Public School district received the warning.

In northwest Oklahoma, the situation is the opposite of what happened in Norman. At Freedom Public School, one of the smallest schools in the state, everything still feels the same. From the standards to the material taught, not much has changed, according to Grace Contrerez, the history teacher at Freedom.

“I haven’t felt any effects of critical race theory,” Contrerez said. “I still teach the same historical content, and the content stan-

dards have not changed since I’ve been teaching.”

WHAT DOES THEORY STAND FOR?

According to Karlos Hill, the chair of the Clara Luper Department of African and African-American Studies at the University of Oklahoma, critical race theory is an academic theory that says race and racism are tied throughout American society. The theory started in law schools, and legal scholar Derrick Bell is often credited with creating the term in the 1970s.

“He made an argument about the enduring role that racism and racial discrimination has played in American institutional life, not just legal culture, but pervasive throughout American culture,” Hill said in an interview with The Black Wall Street Times newspa-

per.

Hill said the original theory is not being brought up in conversations, and the debate is being used by conservative lawmakers to rally their base and win elections.

“This critical race boogeyman, this manufactured polarization, is very effective in doing that, but it’s going to have long-term disastrous consequences,” Hill said in the interview.

Ryan Walters, the Oklahoma state superintendent of public instruction, has a different perspective about the theory.

According to Walters, critical race theory is a philosophy that only divides and characterizes entire groups of people solely based on the color of their skin. On Walters’ campaign website, he also says critical race theory is not only racist, but dangerous.

“When you’re telling students that because of the color of their skin they’re inferior or superior to another race, when you get into concepts that tell students they should be ashamed of their whiteness, all of that is ideology,” Walters said in an interview with The Oklahoman.

On Walters’ campaign website, he states that abolishing critical race theory is one of the main parts of his job as superintendent, as it is the first issue listed on the website.

“We will not allow the indoctrination of Oklahoma students here in the state of Oklahoma, and I as the state superintendent and the Department of Education will do everything within our power to not allow our kids to be indoctrinated by far-left radicals and to hold those accountable who have done so,” he said.

NEWS

Lawyer for OKC bomber to speak here on Friday

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

A high-profile Oklahoma lawyer who represented one of the most notorious terrorists in American history will speak at Northwestern on Friday.

Stephen Jones will discuss how press coverage can interfere with high-stakes criminal trials, university officials said in a news release. Jones represented Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, who was executed for the 1995 bombing that killed 168 people.

The talk will take place in the Student Center Ranger Room at 1 p.m. The event is open to the public, and there is no admission charge. The Northwestern mass communication program is sponsoring his visit as part of the media law class taught by Dr. Kaylene Armstrong, adviser to the Northwestern News.

Jones will speak to students

and take questions from those in attendance, university officials said in the news release.

Jones, whose law practice is based in Enid, has been in the legal field for more than 50 years.

“He has represented retired and former employees of the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and the National Security Council staff,” university officials said in a news release. “He was also involved in consulting work with various targets, defendants, or persons of interest to the Federal Government for alleged acts of terrorism in the Philippines, the Far East, and those connected with the attacks on September 11, 2001. Similarly, he has represented individuals accused of disloyalty to the United States and/or the unauthorized disclosure of confidential government information or classified government information.”

A biography on his law firm’s website reads: “Jones is an expert and experienced trial practi-

tioner in matters relating to civil and criminal jury trials, military court-martials, military Article 32 investigations, grand jury subpoenas, Internal Revenue Service administrative summons, and presenting cases orally and arguments before the United States Supreme Court.

“He has a developed reputation in the successful defense of income tax fraud criminal cases, allegations of healthcare of Medicaid fraud, ‘white-collar crime’ including allegations of mail fraud, wire fraud, stock fraud, violations of the Export Control Act, murder, sexual assault and allegations of government misconduct.”

Jones remains active in the legal field. He attempted to stop the 2022 special election to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe’s seat based on the grounds that such a process is barred by the U.S. Constitution. The challenge ultimately did not prevail, however, and the election took place.

BCM missions fundraiser open to public Thursday

By **DAX BENWAY**
Senior Reporter

The Baptist Collegiate Ministries at Northwestern will host its annual mission trip fundraiser Thursday in the Student Center Ballroom from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

The BCM has hosted the fundraiser for almost 10 years. At this year’s fundraiser, students will be served a warm, home-cooked meal like the BCM normally provides on Wednesdays to students. There will also be a homemade pie auction, and students will be able to purchase quilts that were donated to the BCM. Music, games and a disc-golf cage will be available for entertainment.

BCM Director Miles Harris is in his first year as director and said he is excited to be a part of

this year’s fundraiser.

“All funds that are made from the fundraiser will be going directly to the mission trip funds or used for emergencies on the building to make sure it keeps running, but this is a huge opportunity to get started on our funding for our big trip in 2024,” he said.

“We are going to Brazil, South America, in the summer of 2024, and the planning has already been in progress and will continue to be until about time we are about ready to go.”

Harris does not have any set goals on how much money he would like to make at this fundraiser. He said he hopes students have fun getting together at the BCM before the school year ends.

Northwestern students have a chance to join the BCM in Brazil.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the BCM for students wanting to go.

Harris and his student leadership group returned from the Grand Lake Baptist Assembly, a religious organization in Delaware County, a couple weeks ago.

The BCM tries to schedule two or three mission trips per year, whether in-state or out-of-state. Students went to Colorado in 2022 and continue to look for opportunities to help local churches and organizations.

Harris said student involvement continues to grow at the BCM. He said students are seeking good homemade food and seeking the word of the Lord.

For more information, contact Harris by calling 918-253-7784 or emailing mharris@oklahoma-baptists.org.

Search continues for escaped inmate

State law enforcement officials are still searching for a fugitive who walked away from the state prison in Alva on Saturday.

Joey Mena, who was housed at the Bill Johnson Correctional Center, remains unaccounted for.

“Inmate Mena, 45, is serving a 165-day sentence for two counts of larceny and one count of possession of stolen property out of Oklahoma County,” the Oklaho-

ma Department of Corrections said in a news release. “He is a Hispanic male with a bald head, brown eyes, standing 5 feet, 10 inches tall, and weighing 200 pounds. He is heavily tattooed on both arms, back, and chest, and has a dog bite scar on his left cheek, as well as a scar on his chin. He is suspected to be traveling in the company of a woman.”

The Alva Fire Department

posted on Facebook that the city’s storm sirens were activated to alert people that he was missing, and the department urged residents to take precautions. Northwestern officials sent a mass email to students to alert them about the situation.

People who are aware of Mena’s whereabouts should call 911 immediately.

— From staff reports

What’s up?

THURSDAY

Chris Littlecook, Title VII Director at Ponca City Public Schools, will speak about Native American high school students’ transition to college campuses and various issues as they pursue their degrees. The event is open to Northwestern students and employees. The event will take place in the Student Center Ballroom.

A second presentation open to the public at 7 p.m. will be about the Ponca City Tribe. For more information, contact Dr. Roger Brown by calling (580) 327-8509 or emailing rsbrown@nwosu.edu.

THURSDAY

Emilia Olsen, Northwestern’s Artist-in-residence, will be giving a free artist talk and drawing workshop open to students, employees and community members in Jesse Dunn Annex 324. The event begins at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Professor Lars Roeder by calling 580-327-8108 or emailing leroeder@nwosu.edu.

MONDAY

The Department of English, Foreign Language, and Humanities will host a poetry reading Monday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ranger Room.

The department’s visiting writer, Quraysh Ali Lansana, will read excerpts from “The BreakBeat Poets” and “The Skin of Dreams,” which he wrote in 2015 and 2019, respectively, according to assistant professor Dr. Matthew Lambert. The event is open to the public, and the writer will sign books.

“Lansana is an award-winning poet, educator, editor, historian, and journalist,” Lambert said in an email. “He is also the creator of Public Radio Tulsa’s ‘Focus: Black Oklahoma.’ Originally from Enid, Lansana moved to Chicago, where he studied under the renowned American poet Gwendolyn Brooks. He then moved back to Oklahoma to serve as ... an adjunct professor for Oklahoma State University – Tulsa.”

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor shall bear the author's handwritten signature, hometown, classification, title, etc., address and phone number for verification and shall be kept on file. Unsigned letters to the editor will not be published.

Letters must be turned in by noon on Monday to the News office in JDA232. Letters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they follow the rules stated above and can be sent to nwnews@nwosu.edu. Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. The editors reserve the right to condense or edit any letter for grammar, libel and space limitations. All letters submitted may not be used.

All letters represent the views of the author.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

OPINION

MENTAL HEALTH

Programs could help curb addiction

By CHLOE KUNNEMANN
Guest Columnist

To combat the opioid crisis in America, the U.S. government is utilizing the Department of Education to help fight the opioid crisis. This is done by educating the public on opioid misuse and aiding state and local education in the prevention and education of opioid misuse.

It is vital that Americans know anyone who takes prescription medications like oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine and morphine can become addicted or develop a tolerance to the medication.

If students need recovery from opioids or their family members, visit <https://okimready.org/find-a-provider/> to find a treatment provider.

Rural communities across the nation have been the most affected by stimulant overdoses and use. In response to such a heightened difference, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funded nearly \$15 million for rural communities to fight against the misuse that ultimately can lead to overdose-related deaths. This is done through services in rural communities on prevention, treatment and recovery.

The programs aid in address-

ing the stimulant misuse found throughout such communities. The drugs targeted in such programs are methamphetamine, cocaine and ecstasy.

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 life-threatening situation, dial 911.

Northwestern student Chloe Kunнемann 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

Students should think twice before getting pets

By JARA REEDER
Senior Reporter

I'm tired of seeing social media posts saying: "Looking to rehome my dog," with sweet comments about how good the pet is. If it is so good, why get rid of it?

Many college students want a dog, but they don't realize all it entails when they buy one. Yes, puppies are cute, but many students don't realize they grow up

Do you know how many times I wanted to get rid of my dog? But like my parents always said, once you start something, you commit

"College students should reconsider when wanting a new puppy. Wait until you're financially ready for one."
— Jara Reeder

to it.

I have my own child. The dog my fiancé and I got in our third year of college somewhat pre-

pared us to become parents. Our dog had to be fed and groomed and let out to use the restroom. Like a newborn, you make sure they are fed, bathed and more.

I'm seeing so many posts about re-homing these dogs that college students got, more than likely because they were cute. But for some reason, in this generation, we don't think about the consequences and sacrifices of huge commitments.

One year later, the puppy is now a grown preteen. When you want to have a night out, you have to make sure your dog has food and water and is able to be let out-

side. No more last-minute trips.

There are bonds that are built between you and your animal, and if you give the dog away, it will be confused and forced to adapt to a new environment. It will think you abandoned it.

When you get a dog, you spend about \$50 \$70 on dog food and \$70 to \$100 on grooming. And depending on how much you care for the dog, you have to accommodate for treats and toys.

I believe that college students should reconsider when wanting a new puppy. Wait until you're financially ready for one and able to care for it when it's older.

Community service good for athletic teams

By J.D. EDDY
Editorial Editor

Community service is a way for sports teams to reach out and provide much-needed moral support, which in turn leads to the community donating money to sports programs.

If you play a sport in college or high school, you are required to do community service. While I do not know the exact amount of hours that are required each semester, this is an NCAA rule.

Not all community service work has to be a team event, however. There are individual opportunities for a few players to volunteer at local businesses. You don't get paid for doing this, but it cuts down the hours of required community service you have to do for that semester.

According to the NCAA official website, 50% of student athletes reported they have required community service projects, and three fourths of those athletes agree that it is a valuable learning experience for the team. This seems to track with other teams I have been on. Everyone has a good time doing it, even though some of us may not want to be there. The team finds a way to make it fun.

The NCAA's official website says there is a slight difference in the percentage of individuals that volunteer based on gender. Women in

collegiate athletics are 4% more likely to volunteer their time than their male counterparts.

This is not a large statistical difference, but perhaps women are more empathetic and willing to use their time to improve the lives of members in the community.

"It really can be something as simple as picking trash up off the side of the road, volunteering at a school for a day or doing basic outreach, like reading to people."
— J.D. Eddy

Another thing from the official website is that student-athletes feel like their volunteer work away from sports helps to prepare them for life after college. Helping with canned food drives, lawn cleanup, volunteering at local schools and even helping with events connected to the school and the community is good.

I did a decent amount of community service

when I was at Southern Nazarene University. My peers and I helped to build a house. We put up drywall, framework and some wiring. We also laid out flags for gas lines and things like that to be put in. I mean, who is going to trust college kids to put gas and plumbing lines in?

It is things like this that improve your mental and physical well-being. These opportunities can allow for larger spiritual growth, along with being able to maintain confidence and stature.

These all can, and will, lead to positive improvements on the field of play. With better mental health, your clarity or focus becomes more clear, and positive physical health leads to more athletic plays being made.

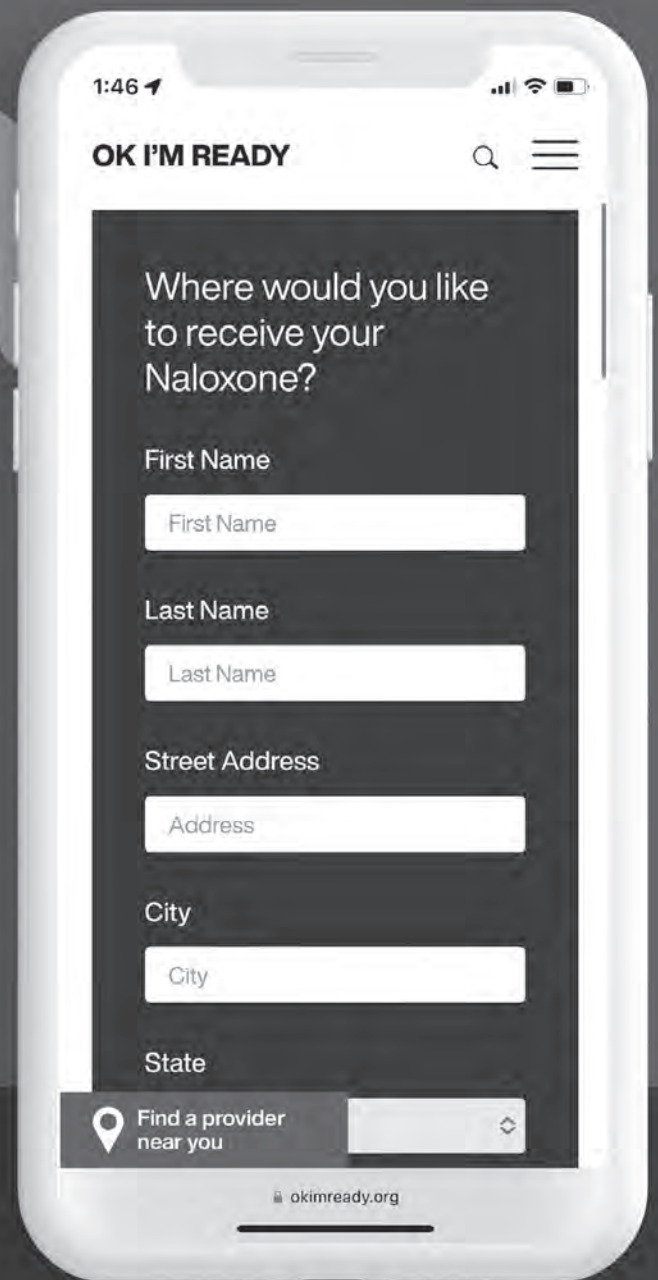
Maintaining confidence entails knowing that you can do it because of the first two aspects. It's all connected.

These are just some of the reasons as to why team community service or activities done by a collegiate sports team are beneficial not only the team, but the college and the community as a whole.

These activities instill faith in the program and the college, leading to others viewing the teams as empathetic.

It really can be something as simple as picking trash up off the side of the road, volunteering at a school for a day or doing basic outreach, like reading to people.

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SPRINGING INTO SPRINGTIME

Looking for outdoor spring fun? You can find it in the Sooner State this season.



Oklahoma has a number of public parks within a short driving distance of Alva, and it has countless other tourist destinations within a little bit longer drive. During spring break, our photographers set out to capture the sights and scenes of places you can visit.

1. The observation deck at Little Sahara State Park near Waynoka is shown. Waynoka is about a half-hour drive south of Alva. (Photo by Joshua Hinton)
2. The Walking Trail at the Great Salt Plains is shown. The Great Salt Plains is about a half-hour east of Alva. (Photo by Joshua Hinton)
3. The old entrance to the Alabaster Caverns near Freedom is shown. This park is about a half-hour drive west of Alva. (Photo by Joshua Hinton)
4. Bison graze at the Pawnee Bill Ranch near Pawnee. Pawnee is about a three-hour drive from Alva. (Photo by Rebecca Wagner)
5. Bison are shown in the pasture at Pawnee Bill Ranch. (Photo by Rebecca Wagner)
6. Rebecca Wagner poses for a photo near the Pawnee Bill Ranch sign. (Photo provided)

FEATURE

Trio director puts family first

By **ALLISON SCHIEBER**
Senior Reporter

Tosh Miller is the Director of Trio Student Services at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, but before that he was quite adventurous.

In Middle school, Miller traveled to Wales, England, Ireland, and Scotland through a program for students named People to People International. People to People International had a student ambassador program that they quit in 2015. With this program Miller traveled to 13 countries.

On this trip, Miller went rappelling off a castle in Wales. He recalls hanging off the side of the castle with all his gear, talking to the people at the top of the castle.

Miller was able to do several other unique things on this trip, including meeting a member of parliament, Put-Putting at Saint Andrews, doing homestays where he lived with families who had kids his age for a few days and staying in Saint Andrews University dorm rooms.

Miller also took some Scottish dance lessons on this trip which led to him ripping his pants.

Luckily there was a sewing kit in their dorm room and Miller was able to teach himself how to sew since he packed light and only had a few pairs of pants.

Tosh went to the University of Central Oklahoma where he got his undergraduate degree in mass communication, public relations. He later went to get his master's degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri and he is now working on his doctorate here at Northwestern.

Miller met his wife Allissa at seminary, while they were both getting their masters degrees. The seminary had a bonfire for students, and Allissa unfortunately had to work. However, her roommate told Allissa that she met a normal guy there, which was Tosh.

Allissa asked Tosh and some other people to come over, and cooked them a meal. After that Tosh and Allissa continued to hang out, eventually becoming friends.

"We met at an odd time," Allissa said. "Neither one of us wanted to date because we wanted to get our degrees and move on and ended up getting married while he was still in school."

Tosh and Allissa now have two kids, TJ who is 3 years old and Ty who is 2 years old.

"The craziest thing I've ever done is moving from Kansas City to rural Oklahoma, neither of us being country people," Miller said when talking about himself and his wife moving to Waynoka.

Miller pastored in Waynoka, which is how he met his friend, Chris Ruwaldt, Alva First Baptist Church head pastor. Because they had the technology to live stream, Ruwaldt asked the church in Waynoka if they wanted to use the church during COVID-19.

Allissa teaches at Northwestern Oklahoma State University as a psychology instructor, which is why after Miller quit being the pastor at Waynoka they moved to Alva, and he also got a job on campus on campus as the Director of Trio-SSS.

Miller was born in Oklahoma City and lived there until he was five. They lived close to a baseball card store and a baseball field so, he went to several baseball



Photos provided

Tosh Miller, director of Trio at Northwestern, poses for a photo with his wife Allissa and sons TJ and Ty.

later inherited his grandpa's card collection which was large.

Miller also collects fountain pens and Bibles. He got into collecting fountain pens after he had a professor that had a few and then received one as a gift.

Miller got into collecting Bibles after he got his first pastoring job and his dad asked if he wanted a nice fancy Bible. He had to Google some and went down a rabbit hole and has been collecting them ever since.

Miller has several Bibles including goat and calf skin and some are rare or hard to come by.

"I find that for me I am typically influenced by different people at different times," Miller said. "If there is one overarching person, I might have to say my grandmother."

Miller's grandmother passed away a few years ago right after Allissa and him got married. Miller's grandmother has always been someone that was in his corner and he can talk through things with.

Miller's friends and family say he is incredibly intelligent and patient with his boys although he would never admit to it himself.

"That's the thing about people who are humble, they don't see themselves the way we see them," Chris Ruwaldt said. "Tosh would probably not really agree that he is super smart, he would probably not see himself as being patient enough with his boys."

His wife who has seen how Miller reacts in multiple settings and at different times in his life said that Miller does not put up a different façade depending where he is.

Terry Smith, who hired Miller

as an intern at Lone Jack Baptist right after he graduated from Seminary said that Miller is very open and what you see is what you get. Smith also said Tosh is a people person and very proficient with computers.

Allissa said that Tosh tends to take to much on at a time. He is a sponsor for two or three different programs at Northwestern works his fulltime job and trying to get information out about the Trio program out and bringing more students in on top of remaining the grant and on top of that being a husband and a dad of two young kids.

"I try not to regret or be disappointed in anything I've done because looking back it got me to where I am now," Miller said.

However, he gets disappointed when he puts too much trust in people and they do not follow through.

One of Miller says one of his greatest fears is not being able to

provide for his family, having to spend more money the expected on something or working too much and not having time for his wife and boys.

Miller prevents this by being intentional with his time. On Halloween he took off work a couple hours early in order to take his kids to Spooktacular and go trick or treating. Miller also makes sure they take care of their finances and makes the best decisions they can.

Miller dropped out of college after his third semester when he got a 1.7 GPA and took around 10 months off.

"There are some decisions I probably wouldn't make the same if I got the chance," Miller said "I wouldn't change anything."

Miller said he believes that if he did not take some time off, he would have a very different life including possibly not meeting his wife and kids. He would not put that in jeopardy for anything.



Miller repping his favorite major league baseball team with his family.

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ENTERTAINMENT

‘Creed III’ tells story of overcoming past

By **REBECCA WAGNER**
Senior Reporter

To face the challenges of the future you must fight those you left behind.

In “Creed III,” Adonis Creed, played by Michael B. Jordan, is forced to face the challenges he thought he left behind.

In the beginning of “Creed III,” we see Creed at the height of his career.

When a childhood friend comes back into his life after 20 years, Creed realizes that he has many different ghosts in the closet of his past that have not been let go.

The biggest challenge in the movie is the moment in which a friend becomes a foe.

We later see this foe advance to the realm of not quite friend, but definitely not a foe.

The storyline of “Creed III” is enhanced by the visuals and soundtrack that the producers put together.

Usually in trilogy movies I feel that they get boring and keep repeating.

The difference that I think separates this movie trilogy and makes it good compared to others

is these movies each have its own storyline.

The first Creed movie was about how Adonis was trying to find himself and to gain a name for himself.

The second Creed movie was about how the characters in the movies realize that family means more than success.

“Each of these storylines creates a different vibe within the movies and grabs a hold of the viewer’s attention.”

— *Rebecca Wagner*

The third movie shows how when Creed faced his past he was able to move past his childhood trauma and forgive himself.

Each of these storylines creates a different vibe within the movies and grabs a hold of the viewer’s attention.

The soundtrack in this film is by far my favorite soundtrack that I have heard in a film this year.

The songs the producers

picked out matched the different characters perfectly and played along with the different background songs in the movie.

They all followed the themes that were recurring in the film.

The main theme of “Creed III” is about the tension between a person’s past and present and the power that the past has to dominate the present.

There are many other underlining themes that are present within the film, like emotional abandonment and abuse.

The movie takes on darker themes, but there are also happier themes within the film like forgiveness and family.

Another difference this movie has in comparison to the first two of the series is that Rocky Balboa, played by Sylvester Stallone, a former opponent of Creeds’ father and a mentor for Creed is not in the film.

The first two movies are based off the intertwined past of Creed and Balboa but in the third movie, Creed is forced to face his own demons.

This movie was a ten out of ten for me. I recommend it to anyone that has an interest in movies with the narrative about friends to foes to go and watch.

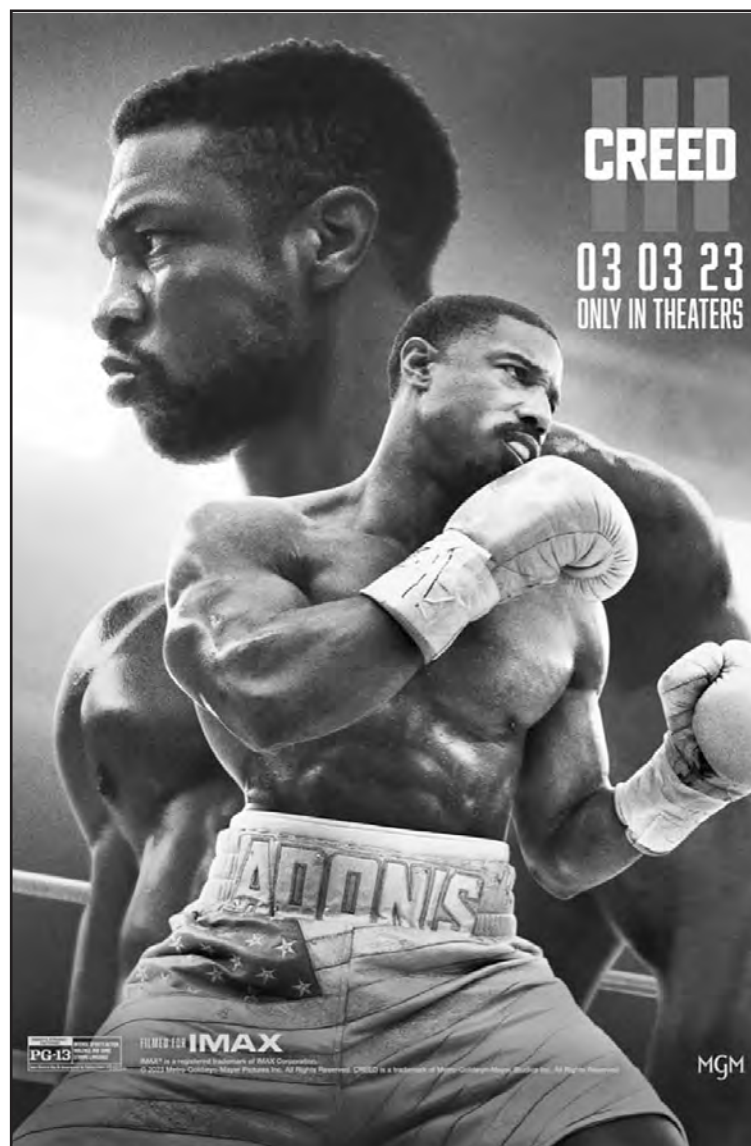


Photo by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Hogwarts Legacy creates world of adventure, magic

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

Hogwarts Legacy is a single player RPG or role playing game. There have not been a lot of these games made, but to have one set in the universe of such critically acclaimed books is a breath of fresh air.

To start off by giving the basics of the story, players are a fifth year coming in to Hogwarts. Your character had little to no idea they were a wizard or witch before the story begins, but it does not stop them from becoming one of the most powerful magical beings.

The story wastes no time with getting you right into the action within five minutes of the story. You are introduced to Professor Fig, another protagonist of the story with a very intricate backstory, and also one of, if not the most, powerful wizards in the game.

You board a carriage pulled by Thestrals, animals that can only be seen by one who has witnessed death. A dragon attacks the carriage and the ministry official you are with is eaten, allowing your character to see these fantastic beasts.

This is on the way to Hog-

warts. You have not seen the castle yet and already been through more than almost any student that attends the school.

Your character is a descendant of a long line of wizards who can sense this ancient magic that is all around.

It is a powerful, chaotic form of magic that is only wielded by a select few throughout the ages. Your character is able to sense and use this magic in and out of combat.

The combat is the most impressive thing with a maximum of 16 slots of magic you can use, and there are 26 total spells that can be equipped to the hot bar. Most of these spells have an in-game application to solves puzzles, move objects out of the way or to solve some of the Merlin trials which increase how much gear your character can hold.

Two things important to the story are your main base and means of transportation around the map.

The Room of Requirement holds a place called the vivarium, meant to hold the fantastic beasts you rescue all over the map, potions tables, garden plots, looms to upgrade your gear and the room is fully customizable, so you can make it to your liking.

There are three main kinds of transportation: the broomstick you have seen in the Harry Potter movies, a hippogriff which is a kind of winged horse with the face of a falcon and the last one is griffon. The griffon is only available as a mount later in the game with a certain choice during the main story.

This story is about increasing the knowledge of your character, not out of vengeance or rage but for a sense of adventure and stopping a threat that is larger than anything that has been seen in the wizarding world.

The adventure and all-around fun gameplay makes this one of the better single player games that has released in the past few years. It really shows the game needed to be made.

I give the game 9 out of 10. The only thing lacking is the absence of more side quests for certain houses. Gryffindor, Hufflepuff and Slytherin have the most with Ravenclaw coming in last. They need a few more allowing for more relationships.

I hope you buy the game. If not, you are missing out. If you are on last gen consoles, I know the release is delayed to make it better, but just wait a while and it will be worth it.

A Decade of Music: Top Songs from 10 Years Ago Today

Date: March 23, 2023

1. “Thrift Shop” by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis feat. Wanz
2. “When I Was Your Man” by Bruno Mars
3. “Just Give Me a Reason” by P!nk feat. Nate Ruess

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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,

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SPORTS

UPCOMING HOME GAME

The baseball team will play Harding at Myers Stadium Friday at 6 p.m.

BASEBALL



Photos by J.D. Eddy

Brayden Koenig swings his bat during Northwestern's game against Oklahoma Baptist on March 3 at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium. The Rangers played Arkansas Tech on Friday and Saturday and lost all three games of the series. The Rangers currently have a record of 13-14 and a Great American Conference record of 6-9.

Rangers lose in Russellville

By CADE KENNEDY
Sports Editor

After four straight wins, the Northwestern baseball team lost all three games of their series against Arkansas Tech.

When game one of the series started on Friday afternoon, both teams struggled to score. The Rangers eventually got on the scoreboard in the top of the third inning when Brandon Hold smashed a ball over the right field wall to give Northwestern a 1-0 lead. The Wonder Boys answered in the bottom of the third with two runs of their own to switch the lead in favor of Arkansas Tech, 2-1.

The Northwestern offense continued to heat up in the fourth inning, as the Rangers capitalized off of two Arkansas Tech to take a 4-2 lead. The Rangers did not hold on to the lead for long, as the Wonder Boys scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game up at 4-4.

The Rangers responded again in the seventh with a sacrifice fly by Jon Shaffer giving Northwestern a 5-4 lead. The Ranger lead was once again short-lived, as the Wonder Boys struck back with a run of their own to tie the game at 5-5.

Neither team scored in the

final two innings of the game, meaning the Rangers and the Wonder Boys were going into extra innings to determine a winner. With two outs and runners on first base and third base in the 11th inning, Brady Prince hit a fly ball towards Colby Jarnigan. Jarnigan dropped the ball, and the Wonder Boys won, 6-5.

In the first of two games on Saturday, the Rangers tried to regroup against Arkansas Tech, but met a similar fate as the night before. The Rangers jumped out to an early 3-0 lead through the first three innings, but the Wonder Boys rallied to tie the game at 3-3 at the end of the fourth. Trevor Saire gave the Rangers the lead with a two-run double in the top of the fifth, but the Wonder Boys responded to put the game at 5-4 in favor of Northwestern. Arkansas Tech eventually pulled away in the ninth with a walk-off single to beat the Rangers, 7-6.

When game two of the doubleheader started, the Rangers immediately found themselves in trouble. The Wonder Boys unleashed a barrage of runs that Northwestern could not stop. By the end of the first, The Rangers found themselves trailing 11-0. Both teams traded runs in the following innings, but the damage was already done as the Wonder Boys won, 13-3, in seven innings.



Hagen Barcello prepares to catch the ball during Northwestern's game against Oklahoma Baptist March 4 at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium. The Rangers currently have a record of 13-14.

SPORTS

UPCOMING HOME GAME

The softball team will play East Central at the Alva Rec Complex April 6 at 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Lady Rangers continue to struggle

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern softball team had a rough spring break as the Lady Rangers went 2-6 during the eight-game stretch.

The Lady Rangers started spring break with a home series against Southern Nazarene on March 10.

The first game of the series started off on the wrong foot for the Lady Rangers, as Southern Nazarene knocked in five runs within the first two innings.

The Lady Rangers were able to get three of those runs back in the bottom of the third to make it 5-3, with a two-run home run from Hannah Howell and a solo home run from Laney Anderson.

Neither team scored again until the sixth when Southern Nazarene put up three more runs to make it 8-3.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Lady Rangers put up two more runs making it 8-5. The Lady Rangers was unable to put up more runs and lost.

The next two games did not

fare much better for the Lady Rangers.

In the doubleheader on March 11, the Lady Rangers were outscored by the Crimson Storm, 11-2, which completed the sweep.

The next set of games took place on March 14 in Weatherford against Southwestern.

The first game was a contested match up as both teams gave it their all.

The Lady Rangers got their first two runs on bases loaded walks. In the bottom of the inning, Southwestern struck back and got three runs, making it 3-2.

In the third, Southwestern got a two-run homerun to take a 5-2 lead.

Howell hit a solo homerun in the top of fifth to put it within two, but Southwestern got the run back in the bottom of the inning to make it 6-3.

The Lady Rangers fired back in the sixth inning with RBI's from Abby DeTar and Howell, making the score 6-5.

In the seventh, the Lady Rangers knocked in three runs from Jaci Oakley and Macy Spearman to win, 8-6.

After a shootout in game one, the second game was a lower scoring affair.

The Lady Rangers held Southwestern to one run, while putting up three of them. RBI's came in the third, fourth and fifth innings from DeTar, Avery Clark and Howell to give Northwestern a 3-1 victory.

The next series was against Arkansas Tech and like with Southern Nazarene it didn't go as well.

The first game of the Friday doubleheader ended with a 5-1 loss for Northwestern, with the Lady Rangers only run coming in the first inning with an RBI from Anderson.

In the second game, the Lady Rangers got behind early and by the time runs started getting strung together it was too late as they lost, 9-5.

Arkansas Tech finished the sweep on Saturday with a 5-0 victory.

The next series for the Lady Rangers will be in Searcy, Arkansas against Harding with a doubleheader on Friday with the first game starting at 4 p.m. and Saturday's game at noon.



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Kameron Ryer pitches the ball during Northwestern's game against Southern Nazarene March 10 at the Alva Recreational Complex.

TRACK AND FIELD

Outdoor season underway for Northwestern

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Features Editor

Northwestern's women's track and field team kicked off its outdoor season Saturday at Pratt Community College in Pratt, Kansas.

After an eventful indoor season earlier this semester, head coach Jill Lancaster said her team was ready and excited to compete outdoors.

"Indoor season was enlightening for most of our athletes," Lancaster said. "It was a bigger schedule than we've ever had before. We treat indoor season as a way to prepare for outdoor season. Not everyone got to compete, so some athletes were chomping at the bit to start outdoors."

Lancaster started the program with a handful of athletes and now has a team of over 60.

"As we've grown, we've added more depth," Lancaster said. "Our coaching staff has been able to make a move to a higher level of training. It's been tough on some of them, but we've been able to upgrade the training cycles we've had in the past."

"I'm excited to see the progress in outdoor season," Lancaster said. "They weathered a big storm with such an intense schedule earlier this year, and they were tired of it at the end. But we

always say failure is a part of success. Push the envelope then take a step back and evaluate where you're at. It's the only way of collecting the information you need to move forward."

Lancaster stresses to her athletes the importance of patience in the training process.

"The most important meet is the championship," Lancaster said. "It doesn't what you've done if you can't do it the day of. That is why we are patient people in training. We don't have to prove to ourselves or anybody else that we're going to be ready because we know we will be when the time comes."

"With no indoor championship this year, we were able to train right through to spring break and transition to outdoor," Lancaster

said. "It's been mentally hard on some athletes because they like seeing progress, but they are finally starting to see some. Our lifting program is much more aggressive this year for the ability of our athletes. It's shown some positive results based on previous years."

The Lady Rangers kicked off the first outdoor meet with a No. 1 finish overall and 30 personal bests.

The throwers were led by Kelsey Swindle, who set a school record, two personal bests and gave the Lady Rangers 20 points in team scoring. Hannah Appleton also set a personal best in discus and came in second in the event.

Hunter McMillin, Swindle and Jordyn Tucker all place sec-

ond, third and fourth respectively in javelin. Emmalee Osborn finished in third for shot put and threw a personal best.

Takia Zachary placed first in high jump. In long jump, Anaya Green, Reagan Thurmond, Diamond Choate and Kate Foster placed second through fifth respectively. Thurmond also placed

second in triple jump.

On the track, the Lady Rangers had five event winners – Machala Henegan in the 100-meter hurdles, Diamond Hilton in the 400 meter, Jasmin Garcia in the 1500 meter and Addie Hoeme in the 5000 meters.

Several other Lady Rangers also placed in these events.

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NEWS

Northwestern will offer art major once again

By **JAKE ERVIN**
Senior Reporter

Northwestern will begin offering a bachelor's degree in visual art beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year.

The university has not had the major since the previous instructor of the program, Don Bellah, retired in 1987. But after 36 years, the program is returning because of the work of faculty and the large financial contributions of the Wisdom Foundation.

The Wisdom Foundation helped bring back a minor in visual arts 12 years ago.

The program's instructor will be Assistant Professor of Visual Arts Larson Roeder, who is in the process in conjunction with Northwestern to hire another faculty member to help teach the degree. Roeder, who began teaching at Northwestern in the summer of 2022, was tasked with completing the proposal for the new major to receive approval from the board of regents as well as developing the curriculum for the degree.

Roeder is from Madison, Wisconsin, and performed his graduate work at Texas A&M University, where he taught for five years before being hired at Northwestern. He said that, so far, he has enjoyed his time in Alva and is optimistic about his new department going forward.

"It's an exciting place, in terms of the work I'm doing and kind of having this small department and being able to grow it and explore different things," he said.

Roeder said the major will offer a variety of visual arts for students to learn, such as painting, digital art, sculpting, photography and printmaking. He said the goal of the program is to offer a wide array of options and then have students select a specific focus for their major.

Roeder said he expects the program to have at least five visual art majors in the fall of 2023 and expects the program to grow quickly.

"That was a big reason for starting the program," he said. "There's demand within the regions. Schools need art teachers.

There's opportunities that our students could have with a little bit more of an expanded kind of experience in art."

Because the Wisdom Foundation will be providing financial contributions to cover the cost of hiring the new faculty member, the increased cost for the university to have the new major will be minimal. Officials are still in the process of acquiring the equipment necessary to expand the program.

Roeder said that, contrary to some misconceptions about art degrees, a major in visual art can open many opportunities for students as well as teach them practical skills.

"You're learning kind of creative problem-solving and decision-making skills right here," he said. "Everybody needs photography and all these things that are also related to art and visual kind of media. ... That's infinitely valuable in kind of any field."

Students who are interested in learning more about the major can contact Roeder at 580-327-8108 or leroeder@nwosu.edu.

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