

SHOWTIME

Check out behind-the-scenes photos of a rehearsal for the university's upcoming play. PAGES 6 & 7



LIGHTNING STRIKES

The Ranger baseball team lost three games to the Southeastern Storm during the weekend. PAGE 10



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2023 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ELECTION

Blankenship, Long, Mason win seats

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

Northwestern students elected three new Student Government Association officers during online voting Monday and Tuesday.

Tyler Blankenship will be the organization's next vice president, Madeline Long will be the next secretary and Aaron Mason will be the next treasurer, rounding out the top four offices. President-elect Austin Rankin was unopposed in his bid for the top job. All of the victors will take of-



Blankenship



Lehr



Long



Garcia



Mason



Hidalgo



Johnson



Frymire

ice for the upcoming school year. More than 400 students voted in the elections. Voting closed at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

The Student Government Association represents the student

body in dealings with university administrators, and it coordinates several events on campus each year.

Blankenship, the current SGA treasurer, bested opponent Chloe

Lehr in the race for the organization's second-in-command position. Blankenship had 258 votes, or 64.18%, while Lehr garnered 144 votes, or 35.82%, according to voting tabulations.

Blankenship thanked the voters, saying he hopes to keep sponsoring events that students can be a part of. He also said he wants to

See **ELECTION**, Page 6

Students, community prepare for Easter

Churches include special ceremonies for Easter Sunday

By **ALIYAH BIDWELL**
Senior Reporter

Alva churches are making plans for one of the most widely celebrated religious holidays in the world: Easter, which takes place Sunday.

The First Christian Church, 821 College Ave., is hosting a foot-washing event Thursday at 6:30 p.m. It replicates the Biblical story of when Jesus washed his disciples' feet. The church will host a sunrise service Sunday morning to represent Jesus' resurrection. After that service, church members will eat breakfast.

The College Hill Church of Christ, 1102 College Blvd., will have a Bible study at 9:30 a.m. After the normal Sunday service, church members will have a catered Sunday lunch.

The First Baptist Church, 714 College Ave., will have Sunday school from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., followed by Sunday services

See **EASTER**, Page 12



Photo by Jordan Green

The east wall of Alva's First Christian Church, which bears a large stone cross, is shown Tuesday. Area churches are preparing for Easter Sunday.

Students' holiday plans stem from family tradition

By **DAX BENWAY**
Senior Reporter

Easter is Sunday, so get your eggs, tennis shoes and church clothes ready.

Here is how some Northwestern Oklahoma State University students plan to spend Easter.

Keigen Crites, a student from Hennessey, said: "Easter has never really been a big holiday we celebrate in my family. Yes, we get together, but we don't decorate eggs or the normal activities families do over Easter. My family just sits around the house enjoying each other's company."

Chrissen Harland, a student from Stillwater, said: "I will be going back home to Stillwater to spend Easter with my family. It is one of the times we get to all be together, and it is a really good time."

Wacey Williams, a business major from Okemah, said: "Easter has never real-

ly been a big deal to me and my family. We did a little bit when I was a kid, but not a lot. So, for Easter, I will just be in Alva, getting ready for our spring practice that we have coming up on Monday."

Jocelyn Long, a social work major from Overland Park, Kansas, said: "Easter is one of my favorite times of the year. Me and my family get together at our house in Overland Park and do a lot of activities. We color eggs, have an egg scavenger hunt for all my little cousins and have a big lunch after church on Sunday together. It's a really good time for everyone that is involved, and I'm excited to go back home this coming weekend."

Wilson Cal, a health and sports science major from Fullerton, California, said: "I always have celebrated Easter with my family except whenever I moved here. Being from

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NEWS



Elda Jones, shown third from left in the front row, is pictured with her family during a Walk MS event in Mulhall. Jones, a former Northwestern professor who has multiple sclerosis, is helping organize an event to raise funds for medical research. The event will begin April 15 at the Homestead assisted living facility in Alva.

Photo provided

MS awareness walk open to all Rangers

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

She's raised more than \$50,000 for multiple sclerosis research in places across Oklahoma, and Alva is the next spot on her map.

Northwestern alumna and former assistant professor Elda Jones, who has multiple sclerosis, is coordinating this year's "Walk MS: Your Way" event for the Alva community to raise funds for research into the chronic disease.

The event will take place April 15. Jones encourages Northwestern students, faculty, staff and community members to join.

"I hope we can have a good time," Jones said in a previous interview.

The walk will begin at the Homestead assisted living facility, 901 Homestead Dr., at 10 a.m.

Participants can walk individually or as a group. There is no need to register for the event.

Participation in the race is free. Donations will be accepted afterward. Participants are encouraged to wear orange clothing, which represents MS awareness.

Walkers will start at the Homestead, though the rest of the route has yet to be determined, Jones said. The route may include walking around the parts of the Northwestern campus.

WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis is a disease of the central nervous system. It

destroys myelin, a substance that protects nerve fibers. Symptoms can vary from person to person, with patients experiencing partial remission for certain periods of time, followed by flare-ups.

More than two million people around the world have MS, which often causes vision problems, paralysis and other health issues, according to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. More than 350 projects to find a cure for the disease and help alleviate patients' symptoms are ongoing worldwide.

JONES' MS JOURNEY

Jones, who uses a wheelchair and does not have use of her legs, describes her life this way: "I have a disability, but I'm not disabled," she said in an interview in 2022.

A former assistant professor of health and physical education, Jones was diagnosed with MS in 1993. She obtained both her bachelor's and master's degrees at Northwestern, and she became the first female physical educator at Laverne Public Schools.

She retired from Northwestern in 1999 because of the disease, but she didn't stop teaching. She later served as the coordinator of a recreational program for elementary school students at Christian Church of the Covenant. Using verbal instructions and her arms, she taught students how to dance, even though she remained in a wheelchair.

"I can still teach even though I

WANT TO GO?

- **WHAT?** Walking event for MS awareness
- **WHEN?** April 15, 10 a.m.
- **WHERE?** Homestead assisted living in Alva

can't do," she said in a 2008 Enid News & Eagle story about her work with the program.

She's served as a coordinator with numerous Walk MS events across Oklahoma. Jones has raised money for MS research through walks and bike rides in Enid, Norman and other cities in Oklahoma. Using a bicycle she pedals with her hands, she has even participated in the events, riding 10 miles during an event in 2016.

"I'm really proud of that," Jones said of her fundraising efforts.

Several of Jones' classmates, family members and friends have supported her by participating in MS walks, bike-rides and other events. Jones said the events mean a lot to her.

"It has provided me and others the motivation to continue the research that they have," Jones said previously.

Jones says she's determined to enjoy her life — and she won't let MS stop her.

"I'm going to die with MS, but not because of MS," she said. "MS messed with the wrong lady."

What's up?

THURSDAY

The Northwestern Medical Sciences Club will meet Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Science Amphitheater. The club is meant to provide Northwestern students who are interested in the medical field an opportunity to become better informed, promote activities related to the medical field and secure intellectual stimulation in the field.

For more information, contact Jady Budig at 580-938-1731 or jebudig90@rangers.nwosu.edu.

TUESDAY

Student Services and the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women will host an educational meeting to educate people about how to stop human trafficking. The event takes place in the Student Center Ballroom from 9:30 to 11 a.m., and the event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Calleb Mosburg, dean of student affairs, by calling 580-327-8415 or emailing cnmosburg@nwosu.edu.

FRIDAY

The public is invited to attend the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Art Society Art Show Winners' Show at the Runnymede in downtown Alva during the annual First Friday Artwalk events from 6 to 8 p.m. A painting by Connie Moore of Waynoka won the People's Choice ribbon at the on-campus show, so it will join all other award-winning pieces for the event.

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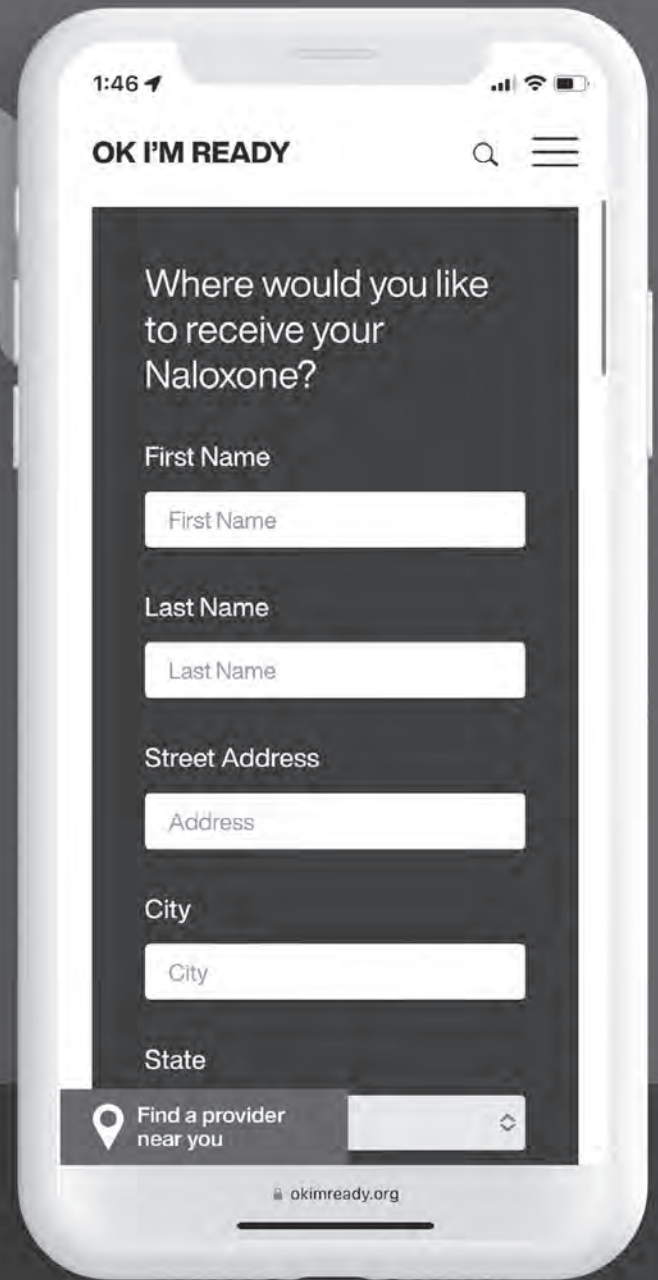
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Letters must be turned in by noon on Monday to the News office in JDA232. Letters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they follow the rules stated above and can be sent to nwnews@nwosu.edu. Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. The editors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

All letters represent the views of the author.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

OPINION

SOMETHING TO THINK ON

Doubt is not your friend. Don't let that voice come creeping in.

WILLIE SPEARS SERIES: 'NOW HIRING'

Let's get M.A.D. about doing good

By **WILLIE SPEARS**
Guest Columnist

March Madness is over. Did you fill out a bracket? Who did you pick to win the NCAA Championship?

Is your team still playing?

Let me ask you another question.

A father and his son are in a car accident. The father dies at the scene, and the son is rushed to the hospital. At the hospital, the surgeon looks at the boy and says, "I can't operate on this boy. He is my son." How can this be?

When I asked about basketball, did you assume I was talking about men's basketball? For my second question, did you consider the surgeon could be the boy's mother?

Unconscious bias is common in all of us. Are you mad?

For years, officials would not call the women's tournament March Madness because they thought it would hurt the brand. On the men's side, the madness can be seen in San Diego defeating Alabama or Florida Atlantic, making it to the Final Four. The madness can also be seen in Arkansas upsetting Kansas, Fairleigh Dickinson surprising Purdue or Furman beating Virginia. UConn Huskies. Texas Long-

horns. Gonzaga Bulldogs. San Diego State Aztecs. Miami Hurricanes. Creighton Bluejays. Kansas State Wildcats. Florida Atlantic Owls.

No one picked these eight teams to make it to the Elite Eight. I don't believe anyone picked four of the eight to make the Elite Eight.

Unlike college football, college basketball is not as predictable, and more teams have a legitimate shot at winning the championship. That said, I don't believe anyone picked Texas Christian University to be in the National Championship game this past season. Some fans don't believe TCU should have made it to the championship game.

Madness is overlooking women's basketball. Dawn Staley and her South Carolina Gamecocks are on fire. They are undefeated and look to repeat as National Champions. However, the storylines of the teams in the women's Elite Eight are incredible.

South Carolina Gamecocks. Virginia Tech Hokies. Iowa Hawkeyes. Maryland Terrapins. Louisiana State University Tigers. Ohio State University Buckeyes. Louisville Cardinals. Miami Hurricanes.

What a way to describe unpredictable games. I encourage you to be unpredictable and use MAD



Photo provided

Willie Spears is a motivational speaker and a Northwestern alumnus.

as an acronym for Making A Difference.

Let us make a difference in someone's life. We should all be M.A.D.: Making A Difference.

"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.

Motherhood changed me for the better

By **JARA REEDER**
Senior Reporter

One of the most rewarding and challenging things I have ever done has been becoming a mother. You don't realize how much a little human can change so much about your life. Parents have told me in the past, "They are the biggest blessing and hardest change to your life," and they are.

But we don't put that into perspective until we have one of our own. Those first moments meeting my daughter were surreal. You don't know how much you can love someone in just a few seconds after hearing the first cry.

I didn't realize how much my life would change. People can tell you that it will, but you're just in denial until the moment you see your child.

There are lost nights of sleep. I thought I was going insane when she cried for no reason.

But then there is this calm after she's asleep. I just look at her and the perfection of her little face and fingers that grasp onto my finger.

I look down at her and become overwhelmed with love. I just want to squeeze and kiss her. I



Photo provided

Sage and her mother, Jara, pose for a photo. Sage is now five months old.

call this "cuteness aggression."

We've been together for a few months now. There were times it was hard. But I think I'm at a fun stage because she's starting to smile and talk back, which is more grunts and gurgles, but I'll take it.

She's finding her personality, and that makes it fun to watch her develop. Looking at her, it's beautiful to know how this little person was created.

Looking back, it was hard in

the beginning when I found out I was pregnant. I was scared of the unknown and had to continue going to school.

But when it came to my fall semester and now my last semester here at Northwestern, I could not have asked for a better place.

Faculty here at Northwestern have been so gracious in working with me to get me to my end goal: graduating.

My daughter became a part of my classes. I told my professors I

had given birth. I sent pictures of her, of course. And I told them I will be back for finals.

The day after she was born, Professor McAlpin, with my permission, posted the news of Sage's arrival on Blackboard in the class announcements.

That was the nicest thing. Sage was the topic for many of our class discussions. Other students in my class were invested.

Northwestern is a family, especially if you don't have yours close at a time when you are facing big changes.

So, I wanted to thank my professors for their support and guidance in helping me finish. If it wasn't for them, I would not be here finishing my last semester.

I was scared about a year ago, knowing that my last year of college was upon me. But now I have true meaning to my life, and I'm doing everything for her.

Motherhood has changed me for the better. I put someone else before myself. I finally know what my parents have gone through, and I respect them more for that.

Life for me has been altered, and it just seems to have more meaning now that my daughter is in it.

OPINION

A GOOD WORD

“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens the countenance of his friend.”

— King Solomon, Proverbs 27:17

Big-city people are people, too

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

When Lee Greenwood sang “God Bless the U.S.A.,” he was talking about all of this land and all of its people – even the people we don’t think we’d have anything in common with.

Growing up in rural Oklahoma, I sometimes heard about how terrible Chicago and other big cities are. High crime rates were some of the main drawbacks people talked about.

Even more than that, people said that people in larger cities are less friendly than they are here in the Midwest.

I feel sorry for all the people who’ve had negative experiences with people in large cities, because I cannot relate to that.

I returned from a short school-related trip Chicago a little more than a week ago, and I met quite a few friendly people along the way.

The people I met in Chicago, like all of us, are humans, too. They may think and act differently than we do, but we all breathe the same air.

I had the pleasure of visiting with people of varied backgrounds – politically, religiously, ethnically, economically and occupationally – and walked away with not a bad thing to say about any of them.

While I was exploring downtown Chicago, I had the honor of talking with four Chicago police officers. Those guys have to be some of the toughest there are. They have endured terrible abuse while striving to maintain law



Photo by Jordan Green

The downtown Chicago skyline, as shown from the terrace at Trump Tower, is pictured on March 23.

and order, and they have gotten little support from the city’s leaders. They are truly heroes, serving selflessly to protect the lives of others.

I also got to visit with a few Muslim taxi cab drivers. They talked about how grateful they are to live in America because it is the land of opportunity, where people can become successful if they work hard.

They said this country is a place where dreams really can come true. One female cab driver talked about how, back in Bangladesh, women are not able to drive or have nearly as many freedoms as they do here in the states.

Seeing their reverence for our nation should make us all appreci-

ate this great country – the greatest in the world – even more. We take it for granted all too much.

Even though I was far from home, I met folks with ties back to the great state of Oklahoma. One woman I met while visiting a skyscraper grew up in Alva and went to school with our university’s president. One of the bellhops at the hotel I was at has a brother in Elgin, Oklahoma. You can’t make this stuff up.

As I’ve said before, we live in such a small world, and meeting these people reminds us how blessed we are to have relationships with others.

In all of my encounters, people were friendly and helpful whether they lived in Chicago or

not. Strangers helped me find my way around the Windy City, and many people greeted others with a smile.

Even though I’m a country boy, and always will be, I enjoyed myself there, and the people I met were just as nice as they could be anywhere else.

I did meet some people who weren’t as outgoing as others, and some people working in fast-food establishments weren’t all smiles. But that’s really no different from how it is here in America’s Heartland. The stereotype that all people in the Midwest are happy-go-lucky, warm-at-heart individuals is not true, and neither is the idea that all people in big cities are miserable, hateful people.

“Many people greeted others with a smile.”

— Jordan Green

Likewise, what we think about big cities and places we don’t live in is all too often informed by media sensationalism.

While Chicago does have significant crime rates – truly heinous crimes, too – most of the city is not what you see on the evening news. The south side is definitely rough, but other parts of the city are beautiful, safe and worth visiting. I walked around downtown by myself a lot and didn’t face major safety issues.

Granted, I would never advise people to walk around Chicago by themselves at night, but the same is true for Oklahoma City.

This world is filled with nearly 8 billion people, and we’re all made in the image of God.

We’re all made to love and be loved, whether we live on a farm or in a high-rise apartment. Sometimes, we get too parochial and think that people who aren’t the same as us must not be good, but that’s just arrogance. Where we live on a map doesn’t have any effect on where our hearts are.

The next time you find yourself running down big-city people you don’t even know, remember that we’re all on this planet together.

If we’ll open up our hearts to people who aren’t exactly like us, we just might find our hearts being filled with true, pure love. Perhaps we can even give the same love to others.

Preventing, caring for injuries is important for student-athletes

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

Taking care of your body as a student athlete in collegiate sports is one of the most important things about competing. Being physically healthy means doing several things: stretching, icing and heating an injury; getting proper nutrition, doing regular workouts and maintaining cardiovascular health are some of the necessary steps.

Now, in season, you are going to be hurt. But being hurt is different from handling an injury. Being injured means you have an outstanding physical pain that is entirely impeding your athletic ability. Pulling a hamstring, tearing a muscle, tearing a ligament or having hip pointers, a torn rotator cuff or a broken bone are some examples of injuries that

will keep you off the field or court.

Being hurt entails soreness or tightness in muscles. The way to handle this is going to treatment, rehabbing these muscles and stretching or rolling out, which involves a foam roller going across muscles to alleviate this buildup of lactic acid.

These are just some of the main differences being between hurt and injured. But you should still go to treatment and stretch on your own time. Ibuprofen is something to help alleviate this inflammation buildup. Also, walking or being active keeps the muscles loose and ready for activity.

If you are injured, consult the trainer, and you should make sure to get some advice on things to do on your own time as well. Sometimes, these injuries can affect mental states because you get

injured and think that the season is over or that your career is over.

The thing is finding that same type of drive in injury rehab, the same kind of drive that you have to compete in the events you want to. Keeping yourself mentally healthy is just as important, showing yourself that this injury will not stop you from competing. You can set goals for yourself on where you want to be or have someone else set the expectations for your injury rehab.

Another thing is injury prevention, which means taking steps to prevent these sorts of obstacles towards your athletic goals. Stim, or electrodes attached to muscles, is something to stimulate blood flow and increase muscle growth to areas that are weakened. With electro static therapy increasing blood flow, it will increase the rate at which these weakened areas heal. Also, adding any sort of

heating element to this allows for even more blood flow. By adding heat, it opens the blood vessels more. It’s kind of like a dam opening wider to allow more water to pass through.

The same concepts apply for being hurt. You should still go in and get treatment to prevent injuries, stretch regularly, run more, ice muscle groups after practices

or workouts and use a massage gun to help your body relax more.

These are just basic facts about injuries, soreness and ways to prevent some major injuries. This will not always work to help prevent major things, but it is better to be safe than sorry. There are always going to be things that are uncontrollable, like injuries that happen on a whim.

GOT NEWS?

Let us know! Reach out to the Northwestern News via email at nwnews@nwosu.edu.

ELECTION: Candidates grateful for opponents

Continued from Page 1 help other students “feel the love and compassion I’ve been given.”

He added that he plans to “get to know the people here at Northwestern a little better and make more friends.” He credited his victory to the grace of God and said he appreciates Lehr.

“She gave me a reason to go out and meet more people, and that’s what it’s all about,” he said. “I’m glad I got to know her, too.”

Lehr thanked the voters as well. She said she was encouraged by the student participation, and she was glad that her prayers were answered.

Moments before Student Government Association adviser Olivia Yandel called Lehr on Tuesday evening to tell her she had lost the race, Lehr prayed that God would close any door that didn’t need to be open in her life. Then, the call came in.

“Truly, God is amazing,” Lehr said. “He did [close the door], and it eases the pain of maybe not getting it. Truly, in that, it opened my eyes that I think Tyler is a great option. He is an amazing leader, and I am so excited to see what he accomplishes this year.”

SECRETARY

Long beat challenger Edna Garcia in the race for secretary. Long had 270 votes, or 66.67%, while Garcia had 135 votes, or 33.33%.

Long thanked the voters for their support.

As an SGA officer, Long said she plans to accomplish several goals: boost the organization’s social media presence, make clubs more well-known and increase attendance at club and SGA meetings. She also said she hopes to create new activities for the student body.

“I think that Edna did a wonderful job campaigning,” Long said. “I want her to go again next year. ... She would do absolutely amazing in it, and I hope she continues



Northwestern students listen as Student Government Association Vice President Austin Rankin, now the group’s president-elect, speaks during an August meeting of the Student Government Association. Northwestern students elected three new officers to the organization during voting Monday and Tuesday.

to make appearances as a senator.”

Garcia thanked the voters, saying she appreciates them no matter the outcome.

“They picked who was right for it,” Garcia said. “It was an honor running against [Long]. Good luck to her this year. I know that she’s going to do a very good job representing Northwestern.”

TREASURER

In a four-person race, Mason surmounted challengers Co-

per Frymire, Draven Hidalgo and Willem “Willie” Johnson. Mason garnered 148 votes, or 37.09%; Frymire had 79 votes, or 19.8%; Hidalgo won 106 votes, or 26.57%; and Johnson had 66 votes, or 16.54%.

Mason thanked the voters. As an officer, he said he hopes to work with university officials to extend the operating hours at the J.R. Holder Wellness Center. He also wants to establish a committee to recognize student accomplishments around campus.

“I always wanted to be a voice for some people, and now I can do that,” Mason said.

He said he wishes his opponents the best.

“They fought a great race,” he said. “I’m glad I could go against them. There’s some great leaders out there.”

Johnson said he enjoyed the campaign. He said Mason “will do an exceptional job for treasurer.”

Frymire said he enjoyed running for the office, and he was grateful for the opportunity.

“They were all great candidates, and our SGA will be in great hands no matter who wins,” Frymire said.

Hidalgo said he appreciates all of the voters for lending their voices.

“I think Aaron will do a fine job as treasurer,” Hidalgo said. “I was proud to run.”

The Student Government Association meets every other Monday during the semester at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Meetings are open to all Northwestern students.



ABOVE: Northwestern artist-in-residence Emilia Olsen, shown at right, gave a talk and hosted a drawing workshop in the university art classroom on March 23. RIGHT: Olsen poses for a portrait with some of her work.



Drawing the line

For New York artist, Alva is breath of fresh air

By REBECCA WAGNER
Senior Reporter

From the moment Emilia Olsen was able to grab ahold of a crayon or a pencil, art became an important piece of her life.

Olsen uses her art as an outlet to promote the freedom to self-regulate and process life experiences that everyone goes through.

“For me, it’s ... an automatic thing that I do,” Olsen said. “It’s kind of like brushing your teeth.”

Olsen was the artist-in-residence at Northwestern in March. Olsen was born in Johannes-

burg, South Africa, while her parents were there working for the Peace Corps.

Olsen grew up in Madison, Wisconsin. In 2007, she moved to Washington, D.C., to attend college at Corcoran College of Art & Design. She earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in 2011. Olsen lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

After Olsen moved to Brooklyn, she worked as an artist assistant and has gradually grown her career.

Olsen’s work has been exhibited nationally and has been featured in many different publications, including Vogue, Maake Magazine

and Two Coats of Paint, along with a podcast called “Sound & Vision.”

“I had a really, really nice time in Alva. It was really fun to visit and get the chance to use the studio.”
— Emilia Olsen

Olsen has spent her whole life in art, and through it all, she has

had overwhelming support from those around her, she said.

Northwestern isn’t Olsen’s first residency. She was an artist-in-residence at the New York Residency Program in Brooklyn in 2009. She took part in the DNA Residency in Provincetown, Massachusetts, the Horse and Art Research Program in Hungary, Starry Nights in New Mexico and Hotel Belmar in Costa Rica.

“I had a really, really nice time in Alva,” Olsen said. “It was really fun to visit and get the chance to use the studio.”

Staying in Alva for her residency, Olsen said her favorite things to see were the Oklahoma sunsets and

stars in the sky.

“I tend to live in places where there is a lot of light pollution and things like that,” Olsen said. “But I also had a really fun time meeting people at the university and just kind of getting to walk around and see all the murals.”

From her different residencies, she has been able to experience different lives. Going through the residency has allowed Olsen to see a different lifestyle than what she is used to, which opens doors for her art, she said.

“I feel like I just have to draw and ruminate, and then we will kind of see what happens next,” Olsen said.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Time to play

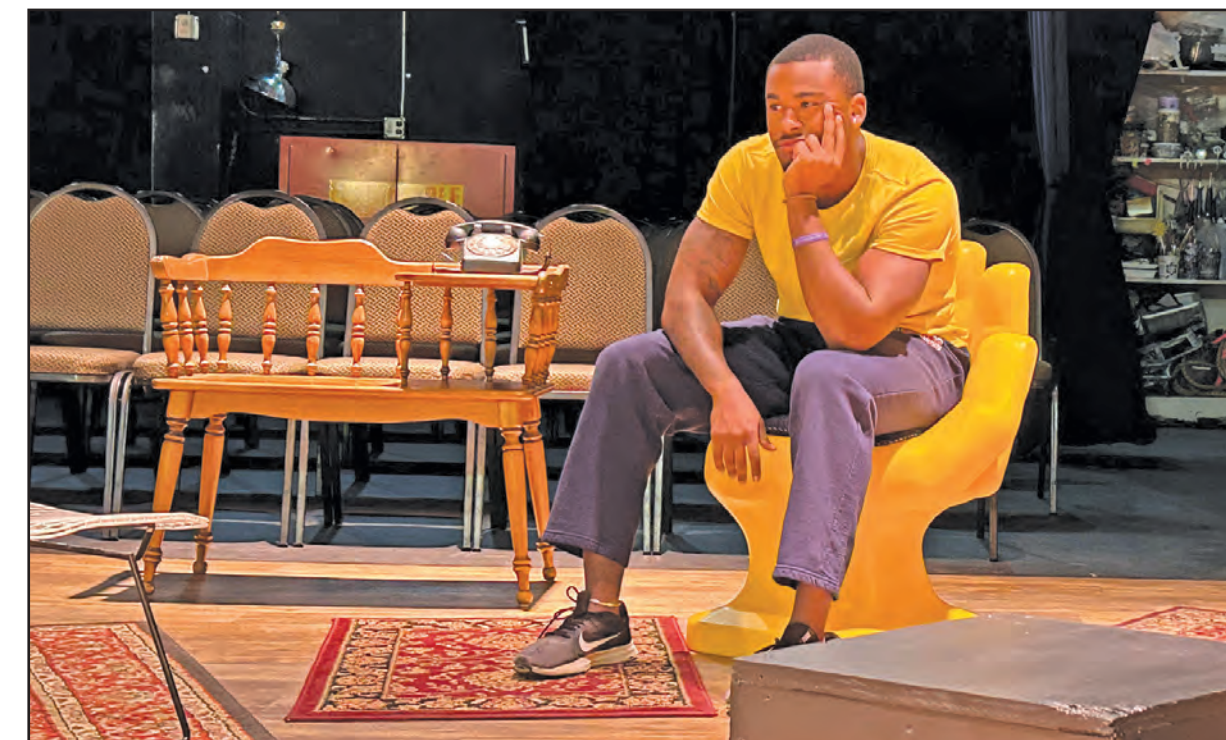
Upcoming theater production, ‘The Monologue Show,’ isn’t as singular as you might think

The Northwestern Fine Arts Department will present its next play, “The Monologue Show,” April 13, 14 and 15 in the Herod Hall auditorium. The show will give audience members a chance to be a little more up-close to the production than usual. A maximum of 90 seats are available for each performance. Tickets cost \$10 each for the general public, \$5 for university employees and \$3 for students and seniors. Check out the next edition of the Northwestern News for a full preview of the performance. In the meantime, check out these photos of Tuesday night’s rehearsal in Herod Hall.

NWOSU Reichenberger Department of Fine Arts
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by Don Zolidis
Produced by special arrangement
with Playscripts, Inc.
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General Admission: \$10.00
NWOSU Employee: \$5.00
Students & Seniors: \$3.00

Limited seating available
90 seats per performance



LEFT AND ABOVE: Cast members for the upcoming play “The Monologue Show” act out various scenes during a Tuesday rehearsal. The performance will be a break from past traditional plays and will give the audience a more interactive experience. For more information, check out next week’s edition of the Northwestern News.

FEATURE

Alumna found passion in teaching

By **KRISTEN KIRTLEY**
Senior Reporter

If you had to choose between becoming a nurse, a secretary, a beautician or a teacher, which choice would you make?

Karen Koehn chose to become a teacher, and she said she wouldn't change a thing.

Koehn explained that while she was attending college in the 1980s, nurse, secretary, beautician and teacher were the four main career paths women had to choose from if they were going to make a living outside of the home.

"They told us we could be anything we wanted to be, but women really couldn't in the '80s," Koehn said.

Koehn said she ruled out three of the four career choices almost immediately.

She said she didn't like typing class, so she didn't want to be a

secretary. She couldn't prick her lab partner's finger in science class, so she ruled out nursing, and she was a tomboy who liked sports, so becoming a beautician wasn't an option, either.

Koehn, who has been the Career Guidance Counselor at Northwestern Technology Center in Alva for 30 years, grew up in a family of five children, and neither of her parents attended college.

Koehn said that, although she had the ability to make A's and B's, she was a B and C student throughout her high school career and only did what was needed to graduate.

She joked that she finds her career as a guidance counselor a bit ironic because she was never a big fan of school.

She said her school counselors never paid much attention to her, even after she scored a 20 on the ACT on her first try with no preparation.

"As long as the police and principal weren't calling the house, life was pretty good," Koehn said when describing her home-life growing up.

Although her parents valued education, she said they were focused on keeping a roof over their family's head and raising five children.

Koehn never planned on attending Northwestern but said that it ended up being the best place for her.

Koehn has a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in education.

She taught as a school teacher for two years before becoming a school counselor. She is also active in multiple aspects within the Alva community.

What is Koehn's favorite part of her job?

"The kids. That's who I do it for," Koehn said. "Kids are wonderful. Kids are really pretty cool."



Photo provided

Karen Koehn poses for a photo after accepting the Positive Community Impact Award at the 2022 Citizen's Choice Gala.

Cheer coach found calling after shoulder injury

By **MALLORY PARUSZEWSKI**
Senior Reporter

Michael Czapansky has always been ready to try new things when it comes to cheerleading. In his third year at Northern Oklahoma College he convinced two other male cheerleaders to try a Tarzan stunt. It is a two-person stunt, and in this case, it puts male cheerleaders in the air as flyers, with Czapansky as the base.

After a few tries, they realized it should probably just be for fun and that male cheerleaders should stay on the ground.

Czapansky started his first year as Northwestern's assistant cheer coach in 2021 after graduating in 2020 from Northwestern with a major in agriculture and a minor in animal science.

He plans to stay here for as long as Northwestern will have him and continue to better the team with his experience.

Throughout high school, Czapansky played football until he had his first shoulder injury during his senior year at Pond Creek-Hunter High School in Pond Creek, making him unable to finish the season.

"I sprained my AC joint. I didn't have to have surgery, but I had to do three months of physical therapy," Czapansky said.

After Czapansky's shoulder injury, he was planning to take a break and build his strength to walk-on to the Northwestern cheer team or the team at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa.

He ended up going to Northern



Photo provided

Northwestern assistant cheer coach Michael "Spanky" Czapansky.

Oklahoma College his first year because it was close to home and he wanted to get gen-eds finished.

During Czapansky's second year at Northern Oklahoma College, he was still strengthening his shoulder and starting to work on his classes.

His roommate at NOC was on the cheer team and mentioned Czapansky's plan to walk on somewhere to his coach.

While he was working out, the cheer coach at NOC offered him a scholarship to cheer.

After much consideration, Czapansky decided to attend an open gym, where the coach offered him a spot on the team.

Czapansky transferred to Northwestern for his junior year and continued to cheer as a Ranger.

When he started his classes in agriculture, he would always go to his academic advisor, Dr. Dean Scarbrough, to talk about classes and future plans.

"He was the type of student that never quit, no matter what kind of obstacle he might've come up against. He kept going, kept trying," Scarbrough said.

Czapansky knew how to balance his studies and cheer so well that neither one caused conflict that impacted his college years. Scarbrough didn't know he was a cheerleader until Czapansky mentioned it to him at a football game.

"He is very rare, one of a handful that cheers on the agriculture side," Scarbrough said.

During Czapansky's junior year at Northwestern, he had his first shoulder surgery. He had to have his rotator cuff repaired on his left shoulder.

By the time his senior year came, Czapansky's shoulder was well enough to cheer for a fourth time. He had already left a big impact in the cheer world.

Kailie Martin, a former cheerleader, cheered with Czapansky

for his last year and said she admires his dedication to the team.

"He is like a big brother, always puts his best efforts forward and is a good leader," Martin said.

Czapansky originally planned to take the agricultural route for his career or become an athletic trainer because of his experience.

He had the thought that he would be a coach for football, but never a cheer coach.

While he was the assistant coach for the 2021-2022 year, he had the opportunity to coach a former teammate, Miguel Sanchez-Medina.

"To be honest, I didn't expect him to be a coach now because I thought after cheer, he was done," Sanchez-Medina said.

The friendships Czapansky made through cheer made it hard for teammates to take him seriously at times when it came to coaching. Yet the relationships he has built have made it easier

to help the team overcome struggles. He knows the ability and knows how hard to coach.

Toward the end of last year, Czapansky had his third shoulder injury, and he had to have surgery.

The doctors had to cut and reattach his bicep tendon and pulled a bone spur out of his rotator cuff.

His nickname more than anything shows his diversity because it's how everyone sees him. Czapansky said he has always been called "Spanky" in college because his last name is hard to say. He embraced it, he said.

Students and professors all know him by his nickname.

He got his nickname during his freshman year of college when he checked into the dorms. The resident assistant looked at his last name and said, "You're going to be called 'Spanky' now."

"I love my nickname," Czapansky said.

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ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE REVIEW

'John Wick: Chapter 4' adds new characters

By **JARA REEDER**
Senior Reporter

It's been four years since Keanu Reeves in "John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum" hit theaters, but he's finally back in "John Wick: Chapter 4" that was supposed to release two years ago.

But it was no disappointment. The movie opens with Wick on the run from the High Table that has been controlling his life since the first movie.

This movie villain is Marquis de Gramont, a leader of the High Table who keeps raising the bounty on Wick's head

Everywhere he goes and in everything he touches, he faces death. But Wick is determined to be free from the Table.

FINDING LOOPHOLES

Whenever there are rules, there are loopholes, as with every other high-power democracy.

Like all the other John Wick movies, there is much in the way of Wick's freedom or his goal to

achieve what he wants.

There are not as many twists or familiar faces as in the other John Wicks, but a sense of freshness with new characters makes you want to know their history or past involvement with Wick.

"It is filled with Wick's unbeatable and un-killable self with more action scenes as the price for his head continues to rise."

— **Jara Reeder**

I don't want to give too many details and spoilers to the storyline of the movie, but it is filled with Wick's unbeatable and un-killable self with more action scenes as the price for his head continues to rise. It was nice to see Wick back in action after waiting for the next movie for so

long. You may want to rewatch the previous three movies to refresh the storylines in your head.

LONG ACTION SCENES

A minor flaw would be that some of the action scenes went a little too long, but that is what John Wick movies are known and popular for. Just beware that, once they start, it takes a minute or two to finish.

In the end, the movie leaves us with a big question or wonder about really what happened to Wick or what is assumed to have happened to him.

Pay attention to what Bowery King and Winston discuss in the last scene, and look at the dog.

Is Wick really where he is or is he somewhere else?

There was mention about John Wick 5, but for now Reeves and director Chad Stahelski recently told The Hollywood Reporter that he and Reeves "are done for the moment."

But several spin-offs connected to John Wick's world will be developing next year.

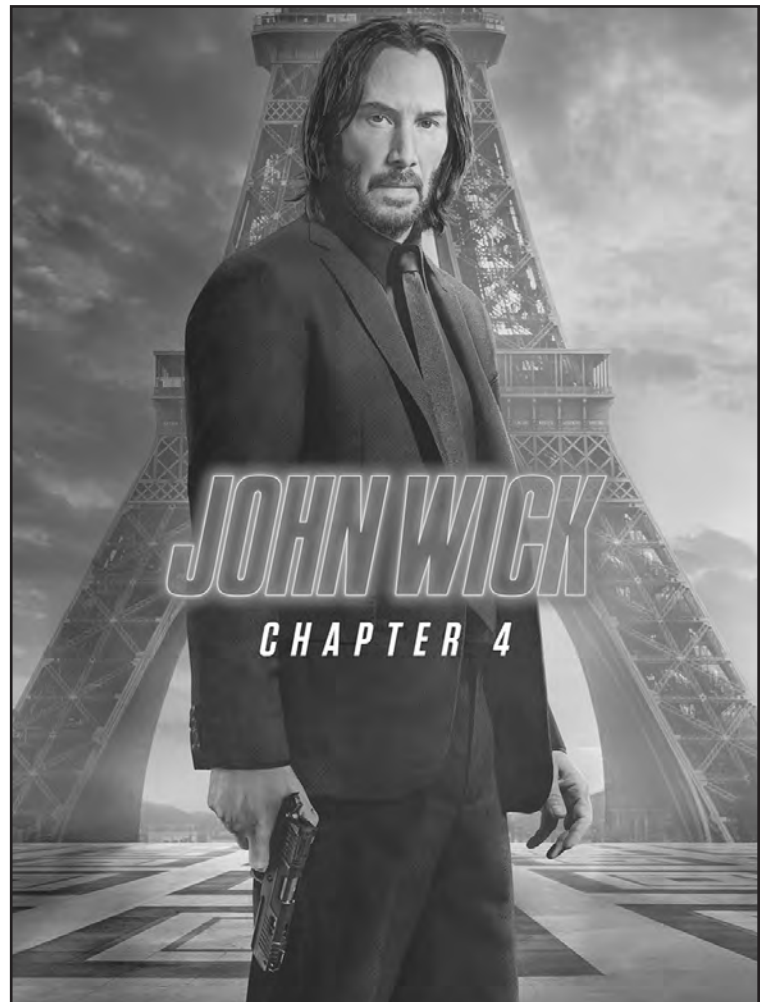


Photo by Lionsgate Film

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

'Red Dead Redemption 2' described as 'technical marvel'

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Senior Reporter

In 1899, after years of success, the Van Der Linde gang encountered a major blunder in Blackwater, Texas.

The aftermath of a robbery gone wrong is where the story begins. It is the beginning of the end for the Van Der Linde gang.

Despite being labeled as a sequel in the title, it's actually a prequel because it takes place 12 years before the events of the first game.

This time around, instead of playing as John Marston from start to finish, for the large portion of the game, you play as Arthur Morgan, the right hand of Dutch Van Der Linde.

Morgan is the enforcer of the gang and will do anything to protect them.

The gang is being hunted by a federal group known as the Pinkertons, who are hired to take down the Van Der Linde gang and other outlaws.

Players will encounter them throughout the story and play a major role as antagonists.

OLD AND NEW FACES

Some familiar faces from the previous title return, but many new ones were added to round out the gang.

Everyone brings their own charm as they are all well-written characters.

Morgan as a character will be remembered by other members of the gang depending on the player's actions and decisions.

The first game had a morale system, but it never affected the story or how characters treated each other. Now it does.

Through some moments of the game, whether Morgan will be remembered as a good or bad person is up to you.

The gameplay is technical marvel. It pushes Rockstar's game engine to the max in regards to how it approaches the game: beauty of the world, interactive environments and character interaction.

The game is more grounded in realism than any Rockstar title before.

NEW GAMEPLAY

Morgan needs food to keep his energy and health up.

You have to bond with your horse to get the best out of it, and you can only carry so much equipment with you at a time.

Instead of a wheel of all your weapons, you have to pick and choose what to carry while the rest of your stuff stays with the horse or back in camp.

What makes it different is it forces players to account for

health and what weapons they should use when exploring the world and during missions.

I enjoyed the new challenges added throughout the game and the different options players are given for missions.

"The game is a masterpiece in storytelling with amazing performances by the cast, more realistic gameplay in how it approaches the world, beautiful environments and amazing music."

— **Connor Gray**

Throughout the course of the game, it's all about the fall of the gang. Van Der Linde, Morgan and Hosea try everything they can to keep things going.

A new character, Micah Bell, constantly throughout the game antagonizes everyone but Dutch. Bell is the most despicable character in the best way possible.

He's the devil that whispers in Dutch's ear instead of listening to people he's known for years.

Dutch puts his faith in Bell,

which irritates Morgan, Hosea and the rest of the gang.

The game allows players plenty of side content outside of the main story: helping strangers in need, simple work to help earn money to buy better weapons and upgrades and more clothing options for Morgan.

NEW STORYLINE

Because it's a prequel, the game has to cut any loose ends to fit in with the first game's narrative.

The story overall does a good job of explaining why characters are not around and why they are not brought up again because they didn't exist before.

After players finish Morgan's

portion of the story, we are treated to an epilogue and play Marston.

The epilogue puts things into motion of how Marston became a rancher in his attempt to provide for his family, left the outlaw life behind and eventually was forced into being a bounty hunter for the FBI in 1911.

The game is a masterpiece in storytelling with amazing performances by the cast, more realistic gameplay in how it approaches the world, beautiful environments and amazing music.

The game also receives the same score as the previous title of a 9.5/10.

The game recently hit the 50 million copies sold milestone, making it one of the most successful games of all time.

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 GAME IN ENID

The baseball team will play East Central at David Allen Memorial Ballpark Tuesday at 7 p.m.

BASEBALL



Photos by J.D. Eddy

Shaughn Kelly hits the ball during Northwestern's game against Southeastern on Friday at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium. The Rangers lost all three games in the series against the Savage Storm. The Rangers currently have a record of 14-21 and a record of 6-15 in conference play. The Rangers are in 10th place in the Great American Conference standings.

Rangers struck by Savage Storm



Cade Phelps pitches the ball during Northwestern's game against Southeastern on Friday at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium. The Rangers lost all three games in the series against the Savage Storm.

By **JACOB ERVIN**
Senior Reporter

The Southeastern baseball team swept Northwestern this weekend in a three-game series.

The first game was a high-scoring affair that ended with the Rangers losing 12-9 to the Savage Storm on Friday.

Gavin Mendoza and Paul Sanchen both had strong performances hitting at the plate, with each player recording 3 RBIs and two hits.

The Savage Storm came out swinging, as Southeastern had a 3-0 advantage in the first inning. Although the Rangers rallied to bring the game back to a tied ball game at 5-5, Southeastern quickly regained the lead with four unanswered runs in the fourth inning to bring the score to 9-5.

Despite the Rangers scoring four more runs, Southeastern managed to hold onto the lead for the remainder of the game to get a 12-9 win.

In game two of the series, the Savage Storm took the lead early and maintained the lead throughout the game despite a comeback effort by the Rangers in the ninth inning.

The Rangers were down 6-1 in the bottom of the ninth inning when Bryan Guerro hit a double that allowed Thomas Beiswanger

and John Shaffer to run home.

This made the game 6-3 with no outs for the Rangers, but the comeback was prevented when Southeastern brought in a relief pitcher who recorded three straight outs to end the game.

While the Rangers only had one less hit in the game, two costly errors played a large part in the Rangers losing 6-3 in the first game on Saturday.

In the final game on Saturday, the Savage Storm took the lead early, with five runs in the first inning.

Once again, the Rangers managed to bring the game back into striking range.

After Matthew Potts threw two runless innings and gave up two runs in the fourth inning, the Rangers managed to score four runs in the fifth inning, which made the game 6-4 in favor of Southeastern heading into the sixth inning.

The Rangers only allowed Southeastern one more run but did not make it home in the final two innings.

The next series for the Rangers will be against East Central in Ada and will begin on Friday.

After a three-game series with the Tigers, the Rangers will play East Central again on Tuesday in a non-conference game at David Allen Memorial Ballpark in Enid at 7 p.m.

SPORTS

UPCOMING HOME GAME

The softball team will play Southwestern at the Alva Recreational Complex Tuesday at 3 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Lady Rangers lose two in Durant

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Senior Reporter

After losing two straight games to Southeastern, Northwestern softball won 3-2 in the final game to end the weekend series.

The Lady Rangers faced the No. 1-ranked team in the Great American Conference in Durant and secured their first win over the Savage Storm since 2018.

Center fielder Macy Spearman secured Northwestern's win as her home run at the top of the seventh inning broke Southeastern's lead and resulted in two RBIs.

Pitcher Hannah Howell earned her third win of the season Sunday with no runs scored, only two hits and three strikeouts.

Howell and Mackenzie Adams led the team with two hits each. Spearman had two RBIs, and Adams had one. The runs were scored by Spearman, Howell and Avery Tittle.

Laney Anderson had the first hit of the game for either team, going to the left side and advancing to second off a sacrifice bunt hit by shortstop Megan Kennedy. Adams received the second hit of the game with one up the middle.

With Anderson on third, Northwestern fell short to score during the second inning with two strikeouts. An RBI single put Southeastern on the board first.

The first run of the game for the Lady Rangers was hit by Adams, with two outs in the fourth inning.

She hit a double into right center that sent Howell home after one of her singles.

This tied the score 1-1. Southeastern answered with an unearned run off an error.

Northwestern came up big in the seventh inning as Tittle had a pinch hit single with one out. This helped setup the two RBI's hit in by Spearman with her homerun to left center field to give the Lady Rangers the 3-2 lead.

In the two previous games of the series on Saturday, Northwestern struggled to hit and lost twice, 5-0 and 6-1.

The second inning of the first game marked the first time either team got on the board, as Southeastern scored two runs to take a 2-0 lead.

Southeastern scored three runs off three hits in the fifth to make the score 5-0.

Southeastern added another run to the scoreboard with another RBI double into left center. Howell pitched her second strikeout of the game after the fifth run was scored, and the third out was secured by Spearman.

The first hit of the game made for Northwestern was by Adams, singling to the left side. Abby DeTar answered back with a base hit into right field.

The second out was made at the plate with the bases loaded, and Anderson's hit was caught in center field, sending them into the final inning scoreless.

The second game proved to be just as difficult for the Lady Rangers.

The first run was made off a walk while bases were full, but a double play was made following the RBI.

A line drive went to Kennedy, who quickly got the ball to second base to secure two outs. The final out was made by Abby Johnson ending the first inning.

In the third inning, Spearman reached first base on a walk, but a double play resulted in both her



File photo

Abby Johnson throws the ball during Northwestern's game against Southern Nazarene on March 10 at the Alva Recreational Complex. The Lady Rangers lost two out of three games in their series against Southeastern.

and DeTar being sent back to the dugout for fielding.

Three hits were made by Southeastern consecutively, hitting an RBI at the third at-bat. The fourth batter hit a sacrifice fly to seal a third run, and the next run scored was made from a wild pitch.

The Savage Storm secured a fifth run to have a 5-0 lead head-

ing into the fourth inning.

Northwestern had two hits in the fifth inning, with a single by Kennedy that put both her and Johnson on base. Spearman hit an RBI, earning the first run of the game.

Two hits were made by Lindsey McElroy and Avery Clark in the sixth inning, and Southeastern earned yet another RBI off two

hits.

The final ground out of the game resulted into a 2-0 series lead for Southeastern, ending five up on the Lady Rangers, 6-1.

The results of the series puts the Lady Rangers with a record of 8-29.

The Lady Rangers will return home and host East Central Thursday at 5 p.m.

Rangers round out coaching staff for football season

By **CADE KENNEDY**
Sports Editor

While spring may signify baseball and softball for some, football season is just around the corner.

The Northwestern football team has already started its practice schedule, as practices began in March.

While the players continued to improve for the next season, the coaching staff did as well. In his first season as the head coach at Northwestern, Ronnie Jones has already added several coaches to his staff.

Of the 10 coaches on Northwestern's staff, only three remained from the regime of former Ranger head coach Matt Walter. Josh Koppelman, Brandon Wil-

son and Damon Kepley give the coaching staff some familiar faces. While Wilson and Kepley kept their positions as the defensive line coach and assistant offensive line coach, Koppelman made the switch from the running backs coach to the offensive line coach.

After the hiring of Jones and offensive coordinator Jason Medrano, the Rangers hired Gregg Hollins for the quarterbacks coach position in February. Hollins previously coached at Butler Community College in Butler, Kansas, for two years as the wide receivers coach. During his time there, Hollins helped develop four all-conference players and one NJCAA All-American. Hollins also coached at North Kansas City High School for five years as the offensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator.

The Rangers made one of their first hires for the defensive side of the ball later that month. Jon Clark joined Northwestern as the defensive backs coach. Clark came to Northwestern after one season at Texas-Permian Basin in Odessa, Texas, where he was the secondary coach as well as the pass game coordinator.

Prior to his time in Odessa, Clark coached at Missouri Southern State and Independence Community College as both a cornerbacks coach and a running backs coach. Clark has experience coaching in the Sooner state, as he was the linebackers coach at the University of Central Oklahoma in 2021. During his time in Edmond, Clark took on the job of being an NFL liaison. He helped NFL scouts get a better look at his team.

The Rangers made other hires as well during the spring season. Eric Kurtz and Mike Harrison joined the Northwestern staff. Kurtz will be the running backs coach for the Rangers, while Har-

risson is the assistant defensive backs coach.

The spring season ends for the Rangers on April 22, when Northwestern has its spring game at 2:30 p.m. at Ranger Field.

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STUDENTS: Celebration is fun



Photo by Jordan Green

Pictured Tuesday, the Alva First United Methodist Church sign advertises its upcoming Easter Sunday service for that day at 10:30 a.m.

EASTER: Church services pay tribute to Resurrection

Continued from Page 1
from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The First United Methodist Church, 626 College Ave., will have a Maundy Thursday service on Thursday at 7 p.m. The event pays respect to and represents the last supper and the washing of the disciples' feet. Church members will have normal services on Easter Sunday, though they will include extended praise and worship.

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 627 12th St., started its celebration of Easter on April 2. Catholics around the globe begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday, which is when they

commemorate Jesus entering Jerusalem. Church members will celebrate Holy Thursday, a mass where the congregation receives the body and blood of Christ.

On Good Friday at 3 p.m., church members will have Stations of the Cross, which is where they pray about Jesus' road to crucifixion. At 6:30 p.m., church members will have the Passion of the Lord service, and at 8:30 p.m., they will have the Easter Vigil to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The Sunday Service will begin at 9 a.m., followed by an Easter egg hunt for children.

Continued from Page 1

California, it is hard to set up a time to go home when it's not a long break. So, holidays that occur on normal weeks, I can't spend time with my family, and it is pretty tough sometimes. I would love to be able to spend time with my family over Easter, but I can't this year and will hopefully get to next Easter."

Cassie Drew, a health and sports science major from Buffalo, said: "I will be spending my Easter back in Buffalo with my family like we do every year. It is a really fun time, and being able to see family members that I don't get to see a lot always makes me happy. We do our normal Easter activities together and even have a family game night every time we get together. Whenever I think of Easter, I think of family."

Skylar Thompson, a nursing major from Maize, Kansas, said: "I love Easter so much. Getting to go back home and see family is always very special to me. I love the colors, bunnies, eggs, church – just everything about Easter I have a good time with, and it's all because of my family. We have made great memories throughout my life on Easter, and hopefully we will continue to make more."

Xavier Ford, a health and sports science major from Forney, Texas, said: "Easter is not really a big deal to me and my family. We have done some stuff in the past, but since I've been in college, we haven't really done much because I can't always make it back home

to do stuff with them. My niece is 6 years old, and when I was that age, my parents always had some fun activities for me and my siblings, so I know she will have a good time spending Easter with my parents. I know that, though, and that's all that matters to me is her having a good Easter experience."

Darien Gill, a computer science major from San Antonio, Texas, said: "Living nine hours

away is not the scenario I would like to be in for Easter, but sadly, it was the cards I was dealt. Easter has always been a fun time for me and my siblings. We laugh and play around in the backyard, throwing the football around, just having good family time. But hopefully I will get to go down next year or something because I miss my family a lot and want to be able to spend this weekend with them."

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