

RANGER RUN

The Ranger baseball team won two of its three games against the Southern Arkansas Muleriders. PAGE 10



SUPER SENIORS

The 2023 Outstanding Seniors have been named. Learn more about this year's top graduates here. PAGE 6



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

PRSR.T. STD.
Permit # 5
Alva, OK 73717

Address Service Requested

Volume No. 84, Issue 27

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

April 27, 2023

Visit us online at northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com

Follow us on:

STANDING IN FAITH



Photo by Jordan Green

Northwestern Rangers and Alva community members attended the Fields of Faith event on Northwestern's campus Monday night. The long-dormant event returned as part of the Fire-OK movement, which seeks to cover Oklahoma in prayer. Students, faculty and staff prayed and worshiped during the event. For more photos, see Page 12.

Nightlife after Nite Lite not the same, but students find ways to socialize

By MALLORY PARUSZEWSKI, LIBERTY GOODNOW and JAKE ERVIN | Senior Reporters

Every Saturday, cars with Northwestern Oklahoma State University parking stickers fill the bar parking lots and Alva streets as students look for a portion of the college experience: nightlife.

So, what does nightlife include for Rangers?

A survey conducted of 40 students at Northwestern found that 37 of the participants drink alcohol at least once per week and visit bars at least every other week. Also, 36 students self-reported that they attend house parties on a regular basis.

However, participants also enjoyed doing various other activities for nightlife. More than half of the participants said they like to go bowling, watch movies or eat at restaurants on a weekly basis. Other

participants mentioned activities such as going to the gym, playing disc-golf and traveling to their hometowns.

NITE LITE BURNS OUT, CHANGES SOCIAL SCENE

While some may frown upon the use of alcohol and party culture in college communities, Jeff McAlpin, a professor of sociology and criminology at Northwestern, said these activities can actually have a positive effect on the student community.

McAlpin said bars geared toward college

See NIGHTLIFE, Page 7



Photo by Jordan Green

The sign at Cookie's Bowl and Cafe on Oklahoma Boulevard is pictured Tuesday. The nightlife scene for Northwestern students has not been the same since the closure of the famed Nite Lite in 2018, but students have found other ways to enjoy their collegiate experiences, they said.

NEWS

Pages 2 & 3

OPINION

Pages 4 & 5

NEWS

Pages 6 & 7

FEATURE

Page 8

SPORTS

Pages 10 & 11

NEWS

READ MORE ONLINE

Which major has the lowest enrollment?

Northwestern has many majors, and one has fewer students than any other. To find out which major is the smallest, visit our website, www.northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com, to read our exclusive online-only story and others. The News had more stories than room to print in this edition, which is the last one of the semester. Enjoy your summer!



Adding achievements

The Northwestern Mathematics and Computer Science Department has named its outstanding students in math and computer science for the year.

Daisy Chavez, left, is the Outstanding Math Student, and Alec Judd, right, is the Outstanding Computer Science Student.

Chavez is a math education major and will graduate in May. She plans to teach middle school math in Guymon in the fall. While at Northwest-

ern, Chavez has been a member of the Northwestern Concert Choir, Chorale and Singers as well as the math club.

Judd is a junior computer science major/minor and is active with the Northwestern Esports team, robotics team and Baptist Collegiate Ministries. After graduation in May 2024, he plans to continue to work for Groendyke, where he works as a program analyst.

What's up?

THURSDAY

- Northwestern's annual Bahama Breakaway party, sponsored by the Student Government Association, will take place on the intramural field from 5 to 8:30 p.m. The event includes food, games, prizes, music and more.

- The Northwestern Jazz Ensemble will host its spring concert on the downtown square at the band stage. The stage is on the west side of the county courthouse. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

- The Northwestern Foundation and Alumni Association will host its annual spring alumni reunion and awards ceremony for outstanding seniors that night. Only invited guests may attend.

- Draven Hidalgo will present his junior recital in Ryerson Hall Room 200 at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

MONDAY

In conjunction with May being Jewish Heritage Month in the United States, the J.W. Martin Library will feature a display throughout the month devoted to the works of the two Jewish-American authors of fiction who have won the Nobel Prize for literature: Saul Bellow and Isaac Bashevis Singer. The display can be viewed during the library's normal operating hours.

MAY 4

A reception for retiring Northwestern employees will take place in the Student Center Ranger Room at 3 p.m.

MAY 6

Northwestern's spring commencement will take place at Ranger Field beginning at 10:30 a.m. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in Percefull Fieldhouse. Graduates should refer to the information packets sent out by the university.

hope **Now hiring**
PREGNANCY CENTER

Part-time registered nurse

Hope Pregnancy Center of Northwest Oklahoma in Alva

Application available at
obhc.org/employment

Visit thinkimpregnant.org to learn more

For questions, contact Charity Lyon:
580-327-9091 or charity.lyon@obhc.org

HOLDER DRUG

hallmark

513 Barnes Alva, Ok 73717

®

580.327.3332

1.800.458.5349

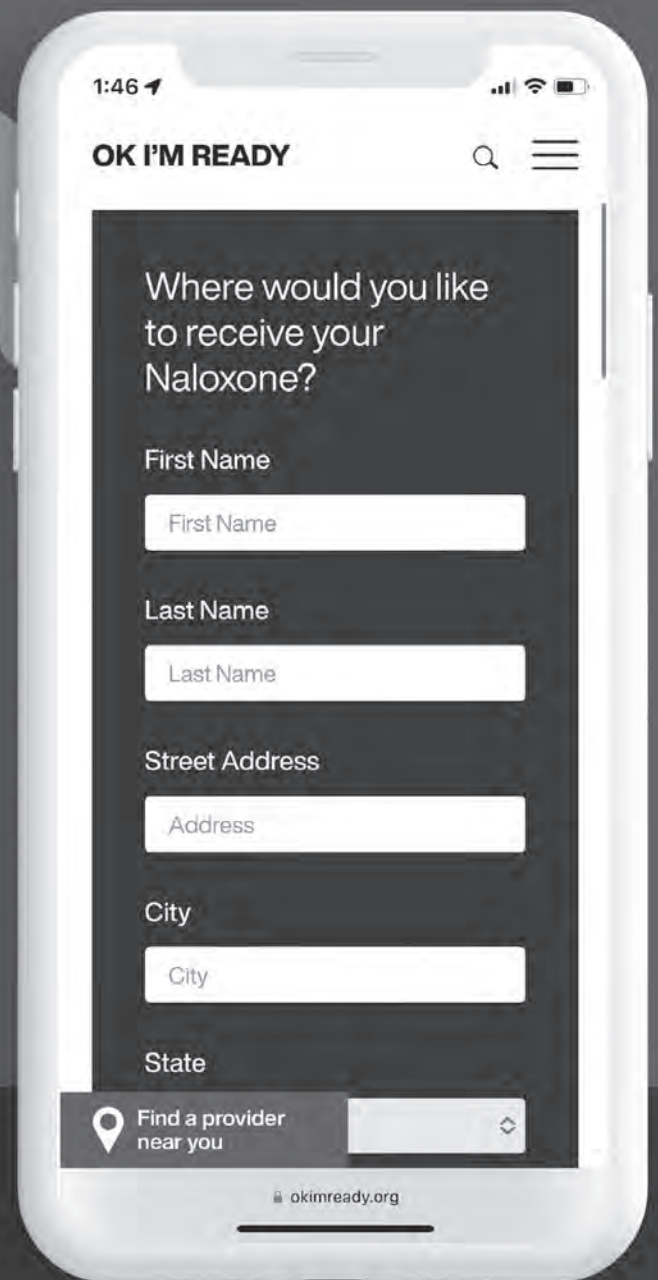
Fax: 327.1848

Make a note!



Remember to take a
look at the cutest
notepads!

SAVE SOME NALOXONE.



Accidental overdose from opiates and fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for adults ages 18 to 45. If you see someone in distress, you can help. **Call 911 and use naloxone right away.**

The nasal spray form of naloxone is easy to use and can quickly reverse an overdose by blocking the effects of opiates including fentanyl. But first, you have to have it.

Here's how you can get it for free.
Visit [OKIMREADY.ORG/OVERDOSE](https://okimready.org/overdose) today.



OKLAHOMA
Mental Health &
Substance Abuse



Scan to
get free
naloxone.

[OKIMREADY.ORG](https://okimready.org)

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper
Northwestern Oklahoma State
University

709 Oklahoma Blvd.
Alva, OK 73717

Published weekly throughout the school year except during examination periods and holidays and distributed to students and staff.

Spring 2023 Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Jordan Green

Editorial Editor
J.D. Eddy

Sports Editor
Cade Kennedy

Features Editor
Caitlin Hofen

Assistant Editor

Photo Editor

Advertising Manager
Derrick Galindo

Circulation Manager
Collin Zink

Online Manager
Connor Gray

Adviser
Dr. Kaylene Armstrong

News office: Jesse Dunn Annex 232
Telephone: 580-327-8481
E-mail: nwnews@nwosu.edu
The News is printed by the Alva Review-Courier

The opinions and comments contained in the Northwestern News are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the policies or beliefs of the university administration, Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges or the editorial staff. The News gladly accepts submissions but does not promise they will be used.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

This institution, in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, and other applicable federal laws and regulations, and to the extent required by law, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, genetic information, physical or mental disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Inquiries concerning the application of these programs should be made to Caleb Mosburg, Director of Student Affairs, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, 709 Oklahoma Boulevard, Alva, OK 73717, (580) 327-8415.

This publication, printed by Northwestern Oklahoma State University, is issued by the University as authorized by the Regional University System of Oklahoma. Four hundred copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma of \$368.00.

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

SOMETHING TO THINK ON

As you move into your next chapter, know that your future can be bright.

Northwestern people have been the best

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Online Manager

They say it's not the destination, but the journey along the way. I would have to say they are right. My chapter here Northwestern is coming to a close, and I wish that wasn't the case.

Northwestern has meant a lot to me during my five years here. I got to meet amazing people here on campus and in the community.

If you would have told me as a freshman in high school that I would come here and I would be a part of our campus newspaper, I would have brushed it off as a joke. I'm glad that it did become a reality, and I wouldn't change a thing about coming here.

I had no desire to write for the school paper, but I had to do it for my news reporting class. But as

I wrote more stories, the more I enjoyed the opportunities to do so. When the opportunity to be a part of the team for the newspaper came, I took it. As a result, I ended up creating friendships I will treasure for the rest of my life.

When I first met Jordan Green, I didn't know what to think of him. But now, I think of him as someone I would call a great friend, and there's never a dull moment with him around.

Cade Kennedy is someone I knew before he came to college. During my sophomore year, I was introduced to him. We bonded over our love of sports, internet culture and memes. A highlight with him is working on the sports section of the newspaper and working on our podcast "The Guys Who Stare at Stats" with Andrew Santangelo.

Another major highlight of

college is being a part of the band program. I got the opportunity to play with many different people whom I had never met before, and we put together fantastic music. Dr. Michael Seth Cudd steered the program for three years and did a fantastic job.

The sad reality was that the pandemic really set us back after we came back for the fall of 2021. We lost many people as they dropped band, transferred or graduated. Dr. Cudd left for health reasons, so I had no idea what was going to happen.

Dr. Michael Black came in and reinvigorated the program. Dr. Black is an incredible person who really cares about his students, and all it did was make me a better musician. I'll always cherish him and Dr. Cudd.

I got to meet wonderful teachers and staff. My mass commu-

nication teachers through the years have always pushed me to be better. I would like to thank Dr. Kaylene Armstrong, Dr. Tamara Brown and other previous teachers for helping me to be a better student and a better person. I would like to mention getting opportunities to meet Dr. James Bell in his intro to film class, where afterwards we would talk about films and life. To Dr. Eric Schmaltz: I enjoyed every class I got to be in, especially in-person, as I enjoyed talking about history with you on the many subjects we discussed.

I will miss the news meetings, hanging out with fantastic people and playing brilliant music. Once a Ranger, always a Ranger. Ride, Rangers, Ride!

Connor Gray has been a News staff member since August 2021. He is graduating in May.

Make the most of your time here

By **ALIYAH BIDWELL**
Senior Reporter

With my time here at Northwestern coming to an end, I have so much to say and so little time to say it.

I have learned so much from my time on the Northwestern News. When I started writing for the paper, the editors had to do so much magic to fix my grammar. I had the potential to be a good writer even with my learning disabilities. I just needed someone to take the time to help me find the way.

Even today, I am shocked by how far my writing has come. I am thankful for all the encouragement because now I have the courage to write my own short-chapter book, and I am going to.

I know that I had times when learning these skills that were taught to me made me want to quit. I definitely wanted to quit when I spent eight hours in the lab trying to figure out how

to edit a video.

However, once I learned it, I haven't been able to stop myself from using it. I love that I have the ability to change a poor-quality video and turn it into a professional video. If I never learned this skill, I couldn't ever go into film in the field that I want to be in.

I may have wanted to be a princess at one point, and I may not have always dreamed of going into mass communication, but I wouldn't trade my time here in this department for anything in the college career world. I think that everything happens for a reason. I may not like the reason, and I am not great at change, but I don't see myself going into any other field.

I struggle with goodbyes, so I won't say goodbye. I will just leave younger students with some advice.

If you need help on an assignment, don't be afraid to ask. You may be a college student, but that doesn't mean you aren't human, and humans need help once in a while.

With that being said, if you need help, go to the professor in advance. Don't wait because if you do, they likely won't help. Once you receive an assignment, try your best to start on it or at least keep it in mind. I struggle with procrastination, and when you keep yourself in check, it can help.

Don't forget to enjoy your time here because, before you realize it, it will be your senior year, too. Sometimes, you just have to enjoy the little things.

If you have time to spend with friends, do it, because this is an experience that you should want to remember. I don't mean you should avoid homework; I mean you should save some time for fun because stressing out over an assignment that is due later on is not doing yourself any favors.

I am so thankful I was able to have one of the greatest experiences of my life, and I am so thankful you got to be a part of it.

Aliyah Bidwell is a senior reporter for the News. She is graduating in May.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Changes needed after McCurtain County controversy

In a stunning turn of events, recent recordings have exposed a series of racist comments, death threats and insensitive remarks about the death of a resident by officials in McCurtain County. The leaked audio has sent shockwaves through the community, igniting a firestorm of public outrage and demanding swift action to address the deep-rooted issue of racism in local governance.

The recordings from undisclosed sources reveal high-ranking officials making derogatory remarks about the Black community. The offensive language in these conversations highlights the blatant disregard for the community members they serve. It raises serious questions about the integrity and ethical standards of those entrusted with power in McCur-

tain County.

The conversation was deeply unsettling, as the blatant insensitivity displayed towards the deceased individual from the house fire was appalling. The fact that such casual banter seemed commonplace among these officials is alarming, especially considering that they found humor in the tragic death of a woman.

As the community confronts the harsh reality of prejudice hidden behind closed doors, it is crucial to consider the broader consequences of these shocking revelations. How many decisions have been tainted by such discriminatory attitudes? What does this say about our local government's culture? And most importantly, how can we ensure that this never happens again?

The McCurtain County Sheriff's Office failed to apologize in its Facebook statement, opting instead to use intimidation and bullying to defend their officials' conduct. They threatened felony charges against anyone involved in recording or releasing the tapes. They attempted to discredit the recordings by claiming they were unverified and tampered with. However, the audio clearly reveals that these officials engaged in a candid conversation that seemed all too natural – perhaps the most terrifying aspect of the entire situation.

The voices of the marginalized and oppressed must be heard and their concerns addressed. We call upon community leaders, activists and residents to join forces and push for meaningful change.

This is not a time for complacency or empty promises, but a time for action.

In the wake of this scandal, we must stand united in our pursuit of justice and equality and feel safe again in McCurtain County.

The events that have transpired in our county serve as a stark reminder that racism still festers within the fabric of our society. We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to these issues any longer. The time for change is now, and it starts with holding our leaders accountable for their words and actions. Only then can we have equality and build a brighter future for all residents of McCurtain County.

— **Crystal Hooten**

Hooten is a student who lives in McCurtain County.

OPINION

A GOOD WORD

“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.”

— Henry Ford

This is where the newsboy rides away

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

Kenny Rogers said it best: “It’s not easy to say goodbye.”

It’s Wednesday afternoon, and I’m penning my final column as editor-in-chief of the Northwestern News. I intended to crank out a column that summarizes how Northwestern has changed my life for the better, how the best people in the world have become my friends and how much I have loved every minute of publishing this newspaper.

The more I think about it, however, I know that one column and a few hours could never be enough to fully explain any of those things.

I was a freshman when the Northwestern News staff and adviser Dr. Kaylene Armstrong took a chance on me and hired me as an editor. I can still remember how thrilled I was to design and edit my first two pages.

Since then, my friends and I have designed hundreds of pages for this newspaper, all with the goal of keeping our campus community informed and connected. We’ve sought to tell stories of students, faculty and staff with outstanding character and life experiences. We’ve aimed to address issues that face our student body, such as the university’s scholarship cap.

We’ve tried to talk about events and groups that help students make friends and enjoy their collegiate experiences. And through all of that, we’ve grown to be a family. The News staff has changed through the years; editors and reporters have reached the pinnacle, graduating and getting out into the real world. We’ve spent long hours together in the newsroom, talking about stories, stressing out over deadlines, planning upcoming editions and laughing about life. The long, late nights and fast-paced, hectic days we’ve spent together have been among the most precious moments in my life. We’ve had deep, meaningful conversations about our pasts and values, and we’ve eaten a lot of good meals together thanks to Dr. Armstrong, whom I love more than she’ll ever know. Being the editor of this newspaper has never really felt like work. Even when I’ve been close to pulling my hair out and losing sleep over this job, I’ve looked forward to each day with my fellow student journalists – some of my best friends. I’d better not try to name everyone on this staff, past and present, who’ve made this experience so incredible. But let it suffice to say they’ve all made my life immensely better. Of course, that holds true for everyone at Northwestern. I had no idea when I became a Ranger that I was truly joining a family. People welcomed me from the first moment I set foot on campus, and I had a

loyal group of friends in my first semester. We’ve stayed together, and I have a peace in knowing that we will, even though time and distance will come between us. The professors, faculty and staff here – especially in the mass communication program – have given me knowledge and wisdom that I couldn’t put a price on. They’ve supported me in my endeavors as a newsman, and they’ve tolerated my outbursts of singing and telling corny jokes. That right there should earn them some kind of award. Looking back, I know that coming to Northwestern was one of the best decisions I ever made, ranking not far below following Jesus. The people I’ve met have given me joy unspeakable. I may not ever fully realize in this life how grateful and blessed I am to have been able to come here and make the relationships I have. Every family has a history, and that’s what the News has chronicled. It’s a picture of the lives of the people who make this university what it is. I love this paper – its mission, purpose, staffers and readers – with all my heart. On several occasions, I’ve gotten to hit the “start” button on the press that prints this newspaper. I’m not an OBGYN, but I’ve always equated printing this paper to delivering a baby. As I write this, I’m a few hours away from hitting that button for the last time of my career at the News. And as the press

winds down after printing a few hundred copies, I’ll think back on just how meaningful these last four years of my life have been. I always wanted to look back on my time in college and say that I made time for what mattered most. And by the grace of God alone, I did. Working on this paper took a lot of time, and it was worth it. All of my friends and I made the most of every minute we had together – and that’s especially true for those of us on the News team. Our work and personal lives meshed in a special way because we did what we loved together. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you, Ranger family. You professors, faculty, staff, readers, classmates and friends have poured love and purpose into my life these last few years. I can’t fully express what you’ve done for me, but I won’t forget it. As I go out into the world, I’ll always remember that part of my heart was made new and filled with love at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Saying goodbye is not easy, but it’s much easier when you know that you’re riding away with a heart filled with love for, and from, the best folks in the world. Ride, Rangers, Ride!

Jordan Green has worked at the Northwestern News since August 2019, serving as editor-in-chief since January 2021. He is graduating in May.

Memories of News will always be fond

Memories of News will always be fond

CADE’S CALLS



CADE KENNEDY

I still remember the day I decided to become the sports editor for the Northwestern News well, but I also remember thinking about what it would mean to be an editor. After two years of working here, I can easily say that accepting the job was one of the best decisions I ever made. I got to see the inside of athletic teams, not just what everyone else saw. I covered monumental wins and multiple coaching changes as well as all sorts of ups and downs. Along the way, I got to meet several great people, but more importantly, those people became my friends. To those of you reading this, thank you. I sincerely could not have done this without you. It has always been a belief of mine that if I can make one person smile or laugh just for a while, then I have done my job for the day. For the last two years, I have had that opportunity, and I hope that I succeeded. I am truly thankful for the opportunity I have been given

here, and I am just as glad that I got to write about what I love. I also made many fun memories along the way that I will always cherish, from seeing wins over Southwestern to road trips to simply spending long nights in the newsroom. To the staff, I am glad I had the privilege to work with all of you, and even better, I get to call you my friends. Thank you for always being there for me no matter the situation, and certainly no matter the time. To our readers, I want to thank you for always giving me a reason to keep on going. It may not seem like much to read a newspaper, but it always puts a smile on my face to see people reading what our great staff puts out every week. This is not the end of the road for me, but it is simply one chapter ending and another one beginning. I will still be around on campus, but I know I will always look back on my time here at the Northwestern News with fond memories. *Cade Kennedy has been the News’ sports editor since August 2021.* He is a junior mass communication student and is leaving this job to pursue other opportunities in student media.

News staff members are dearest friends

News staff members are dearest friends

CAITLIN’S CRITIQUES



CAITLIN HOFEN

The past two years have been filled with lessons, friendship and memories. I never thought I could make writing a career, but I have found what I love. I started working on the Northwestern News during my junior year, and I truly wish I would have sooner. I’ve been able to hone my writing skills, cover important topics and events and provide my opinion on some of my favorite books. Even at times when it seemed like so many people were against me, I was able to report the truth and shine a light on issues that needed to be addressed. I never would have had the confidence to do so without the support of my staff and those who believed in me. I hope that, in my short time here, I’ve made an impact on this university that will benefit all students who decide to be a Ranger. To my staff, you all have become some of my greatest friends, and I will always cherish the memories we’ve made together, from road trips to weekly meetings and everything in between. Thank you for sup-

porting me through these years, and I wish everyone blessings as we start on new journeys. To Dr. Armstrong, thank you for being such a strong role model for women in journalism. You’ve always been there to answer questions, provide feedback and to listen to our stories. I’ve grown so much as a writer under your direction, and I’m so thankful to have been one of your students and editors. To our readers, thank you for supporting this paper and giving us a reason to meet our deadlines every week. We don’t do this for praise or fame, but we appreciate your encouragement to put out our best work and take pride in what we do. I couldn’t ask for a better group of friends to work alongside every week. I hate saying goodbye to something we’ve poured our hearts into, but I can’t wait to see where the good Lord takes each of us in our journeys through life. I’m so excited to start the next part of my story. I know I will always look back on my time at Northwestern with fond memories and feel the love and support I was given in so many ways. *Caitlin Hofen has been the News’ feature and entertainment editor since August 2021. She is graduating in May.*

A new journey awaits

A new journey awaits

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

Well, it’s been one heck of a journey here at Northwestern News. I’ve learned so much about writing, photography and made many new friends along the way. These are some of the memories that I will not forget. Working at this newspaper has opened many avenues I never thought were possible. If I can put it into a few words without sounding too sappy, I will miss this job a lot, especially the individuals that I work with. I would consider them some of my better friends in life. Leaving this job really was a tough decision to make, but it is that time. Football is coming up in the fall, and my photography business is starting to take off. I really hope some more students will apply for the jobs that are becoming vacant. You don’t have to be a mass communications major. Other perspectives work just as well. Ride, Rangers, Ride!

J.D. Eddy has been the News’ editorial editor since January 2022. He is a graduate student on campus and is leaving the News to pursue other opportunities.

2023 Outstanding Seniors selected

By JANA LINDLEY
Special to the News

Eleven Northwestern Oklahoma State University graduates have been selected as the 2023 Outstanding Seniors.

This year's Outstanding Seniors are: **Liberty Bird, Emilie Brown, Landry Gaddy, Jordan Green, Kylee Harzman, Caitlin Hofen, Camryn Howard, Allison Huffmaster, Josey Myers, Paige Robinette and Gracie Scarbrough.**

This award is sponsored by the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association and the Student Government Association to honor outstanding graduating seniors. Recipients must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, have completed at least 60 credit hours at Northwestern, never been subject to academic or disciplinary action, be involved in campus and/or community activities and show promise of future achievement.

Liberty Bird, a native of Alva, will graduate summa cum laude in May with a bachelor's in business administration. Serving as Miss Northwestern for two years, she was also a Miss Oklahoma candidate and scholarship recipient.

Bird was on the President's Honor Roll all four years and in Red and Black Scroll Honor Society. She was the vice-president of Ranger Business Club and a member of the Student Government Association. Bird is the business manager for 4 Generations Organic Farms and a donor/volunteer for the Oklahoma Blood Institute. She judged numerous speech competitions and entertained at and emceed area pageants.

Emilie Brown, a native of Jetmore, Kan., will graduate magna cum laude in May with a bachelor's degree in health and sports science.

Brown ran track for the Rangers and was named a Great American Conference Distinguished Scholar Athlete, gained D2ADA Academic Achievement Honors and was an All-Team Academic. Additionally, she has been on the President's Honor Roll and was inducted into the Chi Sigma Alpha honor society. A Northwestern Scholar Ambassador, Brown is vice president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She tutors at Northwestern's Academic Success Center.

Landry Gaddy, a native of Alva, will graduate summa cum laude from Northwestern in May with a bachelor's degree in political science/pre-law.

Gaddy was recognized on the President's Honor Roll and was a member of Red and Black Scroll Honor Society, Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society and Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society. She received the Delta Zeta Northwestern Chapter Leadership Award, was a Newman Civic Fellow and was an Oklahoma State Capitol Intern for Representative Newman. Gaddy is a Northwestern Scholar Ambassador and a member of the President's Leadership Class and Leadership



Liberty Bird



Emilie Brown



Landry Gaddy



Jordan Green



Kylee Harzman



Caitlin Hofen



Camryn Howard



Allison Huffmaster



Josey Myers



Paige Robinette



Gracie Scarbrough



2023
Outstanding
Seniors

Northwestern.

Jordan Green, a native of Blackwell, will graduate summa cum laude in May with a bachelor's degree in mass communications. An Eagle Scout, Green was a President's Leadership Class member.

He has been editor-in-chief of Northwestern News since his sophomore year. Green has garnered multiple awards from the Oklahoma Press Association Better Newspaper Contest and Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association, including the 2021 and 2022 Journalist of the Year. He has balanced school and work at Northwestern, serving as a staff writer for The Blackwell Journal-Tribune and an intern writer for The Saturday Evening Post and The Oklahoman.

Kylee Harzman, a native of Alva, will graduate summa cum laude in May with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

A member of the President's Leadership Class, Harzman has been on the President's and Vice-President's Honor Rolls. She serves as the Lady Rangers' volleyball manager. She is a member of the Castle Players Theatre Troupe, Student Government Association, Gay-Straight Alliance and is president of the Writers' Roundtable. Harzman recently completed a student internship at the Garfield County Courthouse.

Caitlin Hofen, a native of Alva, will graduate summa cum laude in May with a bachelor's degree in mass communications.

Hofen was a member of the University Singers, Leadership Northwestern, Red and Black Scroll Honor Society and Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society. The Fea-

Graduation set for May 6

Northwestern's spring 2023 commencement will take place at Ranger Field on May 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Seniors have been mailed informational packets about the proceedings. In the event of inclement weather, commencement will take place inside Percell Fieldhouse.

This year's commencement

speaker will be Northwestern alumnus Rex Trent, who serves as superintendent of Binger-Oney Public Schools.

University officials announced his selection as speaker Tuesday.

To watch the graduation ceremony online during the event, visit the university's YouTube channel, NWOSURangers.

ture and Entertainment Editor of Northwestern News since 2021, Hofen has garnered numerous awards from the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association. She is the director of the Ranger Agency and has been an intern for the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association since 2019, serving as a writer and photographer.

Camryn Howard, a native of Woodward, will graduate summa cum laude in May with a bachelor's degree in social work. She is completing 420 hours of social work practicum experience at Western Plains Youth and Family Services.

Howard was on the President's Honor Roll and was a Red and Black Scroll Honor Society member. She is a Highland Park Elementary School mentor. Howard is a Woodward Leadership Advisory board member, a Woodward Area Coalition member, a National Association of Social Workers member and an Oklahoma Association of Infant Mental Health member.

Allison Huffmaster, a native of Enid, will graduate summa cum laude in May with a bachelor's de-

man's Congress and the Tulsa State Fair.

Paige Robinette, a native of Waukomis, will graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in chemistry.

A member of the President's Honor Roll, she is in Red and Black Scroll Honor Society. She is a Northwestern Leadership Class member and a Northwestern Scholar Ambassador. A Northwestern admissions tour guide, Robinette was a Freshman Connection peer leader, serves as Northwestern Cheer Team captain and is a student worker for NWOSU Transfer Recruitment. She is an officer for the Medical Sciences Club and the Chemistry Club. Robinette has completed more than 200 volunteer service projects.

Gracie Scarbrough, a native of Alva, will graduate summa cum laude in May with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Recognized on the President's Honor Roll every semester, Scarbrough was named a Nigh Academy Scholar. A President's Leadership Class member, she is a Northwestern Scholar Ambassador, is on the Division of Business Student Advisory Council and is a Student Government Association senator. Scarbrough was active in the Baptist Collegiate Ministries and Ranger Business Club and worked for Studio Pro Dance and Fitness and Northwestern Oklahoma State University Student Services.

Jana Lindley is the communications manager for the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association, which selects the university's Outstanding Seniors. Lindley previously wrote for the News.

Carnival convergence



LEFT AND ABOVE: Northwestern students and community members attended the university's Club Carnival on Friday. The event was sponsored by the Student Government Association and various campus clubs. Several events and activities were offered, including games, cake-walks, kiss-a-cow and more, according to the university's website. This was the first club carnival to take place on campus in recent history.

Photos by Ely Noble

NIGHTLIFE: Students find fun locally

Continued from Page 1

students, like the former Nite Lite, provide localized spots for increased socialization among students in an organic way. He also said that, while private parties can do this to a degree, they promote more isolation between different social groups across campus.

"[The Nite Lite] was always a place to go to socialize with a lot of other people," McAlpin said. "It was just a kind of a central gathering place for young people in town."

Since the closing of the Nite Lite in 2018, socialization among students has noticeably decreased, especially when looking at involvement with school activities, McAlpin said. He said remnants of the COVID-19 pandemic may also be contributing to this.

While places like Cookie's Bowl and Cafe and The Bull Smokehouse and Saloon have provided different locations for students to socialize, they have not captured the popularity of the Nite Lite, McAlpin said.

This sentiment was echoed by students who said they wish Alva had a club-like bar for college students. Some explicitly said they wanted the Nite Lite to reopen.

Rosco Setzer, a senior majoring in agricultural education, said he would like a place in Alva with a more club-like atmosphere, similar to the Nite Lite, that offers a more social experience.

"The Nite Lite was fun," Setzer said. "I wish that was open still because not everyone can drink, but no one wants to go to the Bull and just chill and dance. It's somewhere for everyone to just have fun and not only drink, I guess."

BOWLING HAS DECLINED

Drinking alcohol, partying and attending bars is not a new phenomenon among college students. However, it has decreased in recent years. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the number of college students who binge-drink alcohol has decreased by 24% between 1991 and 2017.

A common argument for alcohol consumption at Northwestern is that there are few other activities for young people to do in Alva. However, alternative options may not be as much interest to students.

John Cook, owner of Cookie's Bowl and

Cafe, said that even during good weeks, the highest number of college students who come to bowl would be between 30 and 50. Cook, who has owned the bowling alley for 20 years, said he believes the decrease in students attending has likely been caused at least in part because of changes in social behaviors following the pandemic. He said he hopes its popularity among students will bounce back over time.

Cook said having places for students such as the bowling alley and the Rialto movie theater are important.

"I would say it gives them a safe environment," he said. "[Students are] less likely to see alcohol and drug abuse, maybe, as opposed to darker bars and stuff like that. ... That would just be my opinion. It's more a youth-friendly type of atmosphere."

When the Nite Lite was still in operation, more college students went to the bowling alley before going to the club, Cook said.

BULL STAMPEDES ONTO SCENE

In the absence of the Nite Lite, the Bull Smokehouse and Saloon, commonly called "the Bull," has become the most popular nightlife business for Northwestern students.

Owner Pete Nesseralla said he wants to make the Bull a place for everyone to enjoy a drink and relax.

During busy seasons like rodeo, the Bull is packed, he said. Rodeo is different from other sports because the cowboys and cowgirls have to drive themselves and bring their trailers, and when they travel alone, they can explore the area. When the rodeo is in Alva, the Bull has more people than usual because of the visiting rodeo participants in town, Nesseralla said.

Football season is a little less busy because of the win or lose rule. If the football team wins, the players are allowed to go out to the Bull. But if it's a loss, they can't.

Nesseralla said he has many college students working as bartenders at the Bull, so a simple question makes it easy for him to understand how the night will go according to whose friends are coming or not.

Taylor Songster, a bartender and student-athlete, said she enjoys working there because of the atmosphere and friendly cus-

tomers. When she isn't playing soccer, she is hanging out with her friends at the Bull or working behind the bar, she said.

Songster has been on the Northwestern soccer team for three years and likes that her team can plan a night at the Bull to bond for the evening. The environment allows other people to mingle and make new friends with each other, she said.

"We go celebrate our teammates' birthdays with dinner, and then we typically bring a cake to share," Songster said.

Koby Hudson, a senior baseball player, said he often visited the Bull during his first two years of college. However, he does not venture out much anymore and said he would rather stay home and play video games with his friends.

"After going so many times, it gets kind of repetitive to do the same thing over and over again," Hudson said.

Hudson recently learned that beer and food prices were raised at the restaurant, and like other college students, he said he doesn't want to spend a lot of money.

"I am about to graduate, so I want to save money before I leave," Hudson said.

Most of the regular customers keep coming to the Bull despite the raised prices because of the atmosphere, Nesseralla said.

ON CAMPUS AT NIGHT

While places like the Bull, house parties and restaurants make up the primary places for nightlife off campus, students on campus have other experiences.

Nightlife in the dorms is different from day to day. Andrea Becerra, a freshman at Northwestern and a resident assistant for Cunningham Hall, said the resident assistants try to host at least one event per month for residents. What the event is and how well it is advertised determine the outcome.

Two of the most successful events have been the serial vs. cereal event, where residents had a game night and watched serial killer documentaries while eating cereal, and a scoop and spoons night, where they ate ice cream and played the game of spoons.

"On the weekends, the dorms at night are usually busy because if they go out to a party or hangout with friends, they get back

pretty late," Becerra said. "But during the week, it's usually quiet by 10 p.m. because of school the next day."

Cunningham Hall, a women's dormitory, rarely has problems regarding drugs and alcohol with the residents; the dormitory has more problems with people following the quiet hours rule and having guests stay past visiting hours, Becerra said.

Harlie Whisenant, a senior education major from Hollis, said going out in Alva with her friends reminds her of her hometown, and that's what she loves about it.

"We usually meet at someone's house and hang out for a while and then go to the Bull all together," she said.

Whisenant said she likes to go out and spend time with others, but she also enjoys hanging out at home and listening to records.

GETTING OUT OF TOWN

Whisenant is one of the many college students who likes to get out of town on the weekends, and Stillwater is usually her first pick, she said. Whisenant said she goes to see a lot of her hometown friends that attend Oklahoma State University.

Whisenant is not the only Northwestern student who likes to travel out of Alva. According to the student survey, which allowed students to select various places they travel to, 51% of students like to go home on the weekends, 38% of them go to Stillwater and 30% of them go to Oklahoma City. The cities have more options for bars and clubs, and most students have friends who attend those colleges. Some other respondents said they only go home for breaks.

Grant McCook, a Northwestern junior majoring in health and sports science who is one of the residents at the "quarterback house," is used to having a full house on the weekends. Many people gather there before and after going to the bar to play games and visit with each other, he said.

Some students say there's nothing to do in Alva, but the quarterbacks always find something, whether it's bowling, golfing or playing the Wii as a group, McCook said.

"It's usually pretty messy when we wake up the next morning, but it's worth it because everyone has so much fun," McCook said.

FEATURE

Moreira found passion in piano, teaching

By **KRISTEN KIRTLEY**
Senior Reporter

Playing piano is not only Eduardo Moreira's life passion and career, but it is also what led him to meeting the love of his life.

One day, a young woman who was trying to finish her master's degree in flute performance at the University of Oregon was frantically searching for a pianist to accompany her during her flute recital.

Because of the difficulty of the piece she was playing, she was having trouble finding a willing pianist.

Then, she was introduced by a friend to a pianist who was not only willing to play the piece, but who had also written his dissertation over the composer of the piece while getting his doctor of musical arts degree.

After the recital, the two musicians not only continued playing together, but began dating. The couple in this story is Eduardo and Victoria Moreira.

The couple soon discovered that not only do they share a passion for music, but a passion for mountain climbing as well.

DIAMOND DAY

On the day that Eduardo decided he was ready to propose to Victoria, he took her to climb a mountain named Diamond Peak in Oregon.

He planned to propose at the top of the mountain, but the couple was not prepared for the mosquitos they encountered during the climb. Although they decided to climb down before reaching

the top, Moreira was still determined to propose that day.

With the ring in his pocket, he anxiously awaited for the perfect time to pop the question.

The couple began to hike a trail called Diamond Trail.

"It's our diamond day," Eduardo Moreira said.

Victoria didn't know he was referring to the diamond ring in his pocket, rather than the Diamond Mountain and Diamond Trail.

While walking the trail, Eduardo got down on one knee and asked Victoria to marry him.

She said yes. Proposing to his wife is what Moreira considers to be his greatest accomplishment in life.

PASSION IN PIANO

Moreira is now an assistant professor of music at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

"It's what I always wanted to do professionally," Moreira said. "I always wanted to teach piano at a university."

Moreira was born and raised in Porto Alegre, Brazil. He lived in Porto Alegre with his parents and brother until he moved to France for school when he was 21 years old. At the age of six, he began playing piano as a hobby, but didn't consider it for a profession until he was in college.

Moreira said he wished that he would have begun taking piano seriously at an earlier age.

If he could live his life over, he would have taken more risks in his adult life and done more piano competitions even when he didn't feel fully prepared, he said.

"Sometimes I have this fear of

failing, and that prevents me from taking risks," Moreira said.

Along with his musical talent, Moreira's college friend, Grant Mack, said he is known for his work ethic, being a loyal friend and going the extra mile.

"He's never lost sight of what's important or the goal. I really admire his passion for things he really cares about."

— **Victoria Moreira**

Moreira once drove Mack to his cataract surgery. Not only did Moreira drive Mack, but he stayed in the waiting room during the surgery and then took Mack home.

Mack considers Moreira to be a professional musician.

"I've seen him at his best when he performs music," Mack said.

Victoria Moreira, Eduardo's wife and an adjunct instructor of music at Northwestern, said Eduardo is a wonderful husband.

When he graduated from the University of Oregon, he struggled with finding a professor job because of the competitive field.

"Even in times of adversity, he never gives up," Victoria Moreira said. "He's never lost sight of what's important or the goal. I really admire his passion for things he really cares about."

RACE CAR DRIVING

Moreira's passions don't end at playing the piano and mountain climbing.

He said most people would be surprised to learn that he used to be a racecar driver during his teenage years. He even won a race once.

Moreira said being a fan of a famous Brazilian driver who won the world championship in racecar driving was the reason he asked his parents if he could go to driving school.

He said that, at a certain point, he had to decide whether he was going to take racecar driving seriously, but the expense of the car itself was why he decided to quit.

He can also speak fluent French and enjoys playing basketball.

He said Michael Jordan was his hero growing up.

Moreira also tries to run outside a least four times a week.

"It's not only good for your body, but it's good for your mind," Moreira said. "I really feel better after I run. It's a stress reliever."

Moreira said one of the craziest thing he's ever done was climb a mountain called Mount



Photos provided

Dr. Eduardo Moreira poses for a photo with a piano in Ryerson Hall.

Hood with no experience.

He said that Mount Hood, the tallest mountain in Oregon, is famous, and people die every year trying to climb it.

"Every time you go to a mountain, I think you learn something," Moreira said. "I didn't know that I had that in me."

Although he has raced cars, climbed mountains, taught classes and performed in front of crowds, Moreira said public speaking is one of his biggest fears.

He said the more he speaks in front of crowds, the more comfortable he feels.

ACADEMIC JOURNEY

Moreira has earned four different degrees throughout his educational career. He has received his doctor of musical arts in piano performance at the University of Oregon, his master of music in piano performance at the Univer-

sity of Strasbourg in France, his bachelor of music in piano performance at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil and his artist diploma in piano performance at the Strasbourg Conservatory in France.

Karsten Longhurst, assistant professor of music and director of choral studies at Northwestern, said he admires Moreira's dedication to his craft, authenticity, flexibility and discipline.

"He's passionate," Longhurst said. "He's a great teacher. He cares about the students, and he knows how to teach."

Moreira said a couple things he hopes to accomplish are growing the piano department at Northwestern and becoming more active as a concert pianist.

"We are very fortunate to have such a strong faculty member in the piano area," Longhurst said. "He gives it all. It's inspiring, and it's fun."



Dr. Eduardo Moreira and his wife, Victoria, pose for a photo on their wedding day.

Thinking of moving?

Think Hi-Lo Apartments, LLC
636 Linden St.

- 1- and 2-bedroom apartments available
- Within walking distance of campus
- School semester leases
- Laundromat on site
- No smoking and no pets allowed

Call 580-748-0157

ENTERTAINMENT

Let there be music

Northwestern choir, band concerts showcase variety of musical talents



Photo by Dax Benway
Sam Grinder accompanied the choir on the electric guitar for a song.



Photo by Dax Benway
The Northwestern Chorale performs in the Alva bus barn for the "Soundscapes VII" concert on Saturday.



Photo by Ely Noble
The Northwestern Concert Band performed in Herod Hall on Sunday for its concert "Mountains to Climb."

'The VelociPastor' is a movie to watch with friends

By CADE KENNEDY
Sports Editor

While trying to find a ridiculous movie to enjoy one evening, I accidentally discovered one of the funniest films ever made.

"The VelociPastor" is a 2019 film that pushes the boundary of how much ridiculousness a movie can have, but if you have a higher tolerance for it like I do, it can easily become a fun late-night movie.

If you're looking for a movie with a great plot, this is not the movie for you, and the same goes for people who try to find some sort of message or meaning in films.

From one of the first jokes told, you know exactly what kind of movie you are getting into.

This film has no seriousness to it whatsoever, and that makes sense.

Would you want a movie about a priest that turns into a velociraptor when he gets angry to be taken 100% seriously?

The plot of the movie revolves around Doug Jones, a Catholic priest who finds an artifact while

on a trip to China.

The artifact turns him into a velociraptor when he gets angry, and he uses his power to fight crime and people he believes are beyond saving.

"This film has no seriousness to it whatsoever, and that makes sense."

— Cade Kennedy

However, a clan of Christian, drug-dealing ninjas track Jones down and plan on killing him.

This all leads to a final battle between Jones and the ninjas that is easily one of the best scenes of the movie.

The main charm comes from how goofy this film is and all the corners that the crew cut to make this movie.

For example, one shot of a forest becomes four different locations representing China, a park,

wartime Vietnam and even a ninja hideout.

The crew behind "The VelociPastor" has a reason to cut corners, as the film only had a budget of \$36,000.

Despite this small amount of money, the film uses it as a strength instead of a weakness by using the lack of special effects as a joke, as well as the same background for different locations.

The silliness also comes from the script, as the dialogue said and the interactions between characters are hilarious.

However, the script can only go so far, as the actor that plays Jones, Gregory James Cohan, does a great job of being over the top and delivering the lines in such a way that almost every word he says is humorous.

I have no idea if that was the intention with his dialogue, but I hope it was, as it makes the movie even more enjoyable.

Cohan is not the only actor that brings this brand of excessiveness to their performance, as Yang Jiechang, Jesse Turits and Fernando Pacheco de Castro all bring the same energy as the villains of the movie.

With all four of these characters chewing through as much of the scenery as they can, it takes a watchful eye to find a dull moment in the movie.

The lack of dull moments also comes from the runtime and pace of the film, as it only lasts for 75 minutes.

The filmmakers do not waste a second of the runtime, as the characters quickly move from place to place, and the plot is up and running within the first five minutes.

While this pace usually hurts movies and gives little time for the characters or audience to breathe, this film benefits from it, as it keeps throwing jokes and crazy moments at the audience to the point where, if a joke does not land, another joke will.

Overall, I highly recommend watching "The VelociPastor," but the best way to watch is with a group of friends.

If you can gather people to watch a fun movie, you will have a great 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.

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday & Thursday: 8am-5:30pm
Tuesday & Wednesday: 7:30am-5:30pm
Closed From 12pm-1pm

For an Appointment, Call: (580)-327-2393 After Hours, Call: (580)-829-2026

SPORTS

UPCOMING HOME GAME

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

BASEBALL

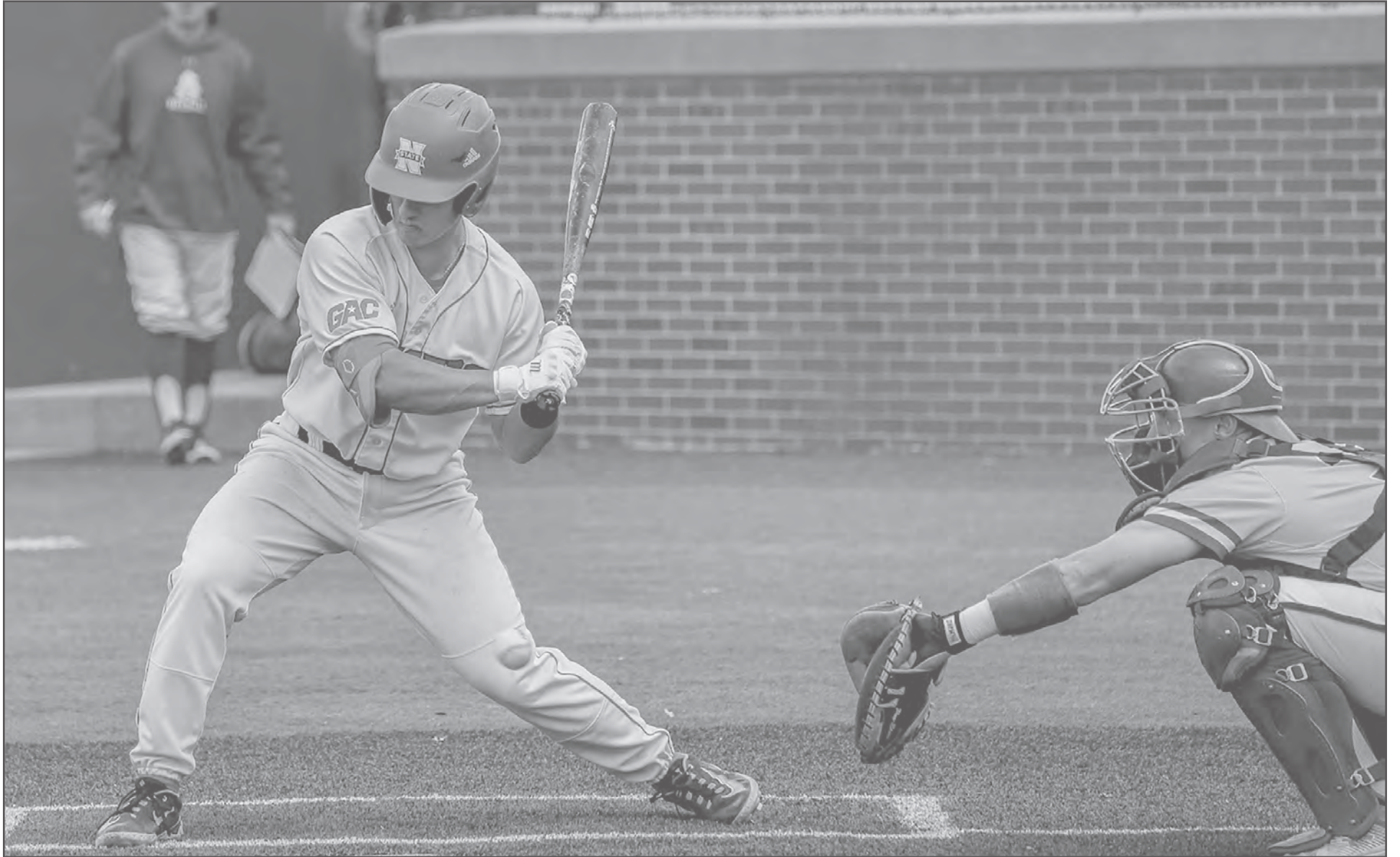


Photo by J.D. Eddy

A member of the Northwestern baseball team watches the ball go by during a game against Southern Arkansas Friday at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium. The Rangers won two games in the three-game series against the Muleriders. The Rangers currently have a record of 20-26 and a conference record of 10-20.

Rangers upset No. 9 SAU

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**
Features Editor

The Northwestern baseball team won two games against No. 9 Southern Arkansas on Friday to win the series.

In game one, the Rangers jumped out early in their half of the inning after a leadoff double by Bradey Bejarano and Paul Sachen, who hit an RBI single to right center field for the 1-0 Ranger lead.

In the second inning, the Rangers continued to take advantage of the Mulerider pitching after a leadoff walk by Trevor Saire.

Colby Grace later hit a two-run home run extending the Rangers' lead to 3-0 after two innings.

The Rangers extended their lead even further in the fourth inning on a leadoff home run by Saire to left field.

The Mulerider offense struck in the fifth inning with a back-to-back double to start the top half of the inning, cutting the deficit to 4-1.

The second run later scored on a fielder's choice hit to second base, as the Ranger lead was cut in half, 4-2.

In the ninth inning, Southern Arkansas tied the ball game in the top of the ninth inning.

Back-to-back singles and a

walk loaded the bases with one out. A hit batter tied the game at 4-4.

The Rangers wasted no time answering in the inning.

After the first two outs to start the inning, Grace started the rally by drawing a two-out walk before Harley Shaffer legged out an infield single to set up first and second.

Bejarano followed with an RBI single to left field, scoring Grace for the walk-off victory.

In the second game, Southern Arkansas opened with a run in the top of the first inning.

After a fielder's choice and a single runner in scoring position, a wild pitch allowed the game's first run to score, as Southern Arkansas led 1-0.

The Ranger offense answered by taking the lead in the bottom of the second inning.

Brandon Holdren led the inning off with a walk. Saire followed with a double. Gavin Mendoza followed with an RBI single back up the middle, scoring Holdren and Saire for a 2-1 lead through two innings.

Southern Arkansas quickly got the run back on a solo home run to left center for a 2-2 game.

In the fourth inning with the game still tied 2-2, Shaffer broke the tie with a solo home run to center field, regaining the lead

3-2. Southern Arkansas came back in the fifth inning with a lead-off single, a stolen base set-up and an RBI single to left field, tying the game at 3-3 through the fifth inning.

Jacob Shaw came in to throw the sixth inning, getting the first two batters out before a walk and a double to put runners on second and third.

A strikeout ended the inning, holding the game at 3-3.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, a one-out single by H. Shaffer with one followed by a wild pitch put him in scoring position.

Sachen then delivered an RBI double to left field, pushing the Rangers in front 4-3.

Northwestern ended the three-game series with a loss against the Muleriders on Saturday. Southern Arkansas took control late in the game after a 1-1 tie through seven innings before opening a 7-1 lead to win the game.

The Rangers had a scoring opportunity in the third inning when Stiles led off with a double followed by a walk to Shaffer, setting up first and second with nobody out.

However, the Rangers were unable to score, keeping the game scoreless 0-0 through three innings.

The Muleriders scored first in the fourth inning. Finally, in the

sixth inning, the Rangers were able to tie the score.

Saturday afternoon's game remained tied into the eighth inning when the Muleriders jumped out in front once again.

Orr singled to start the inning before McGee walked. Richardson stepped up with an RBI single to right field, taking a 2-1 lead. With a runner on third, Lyles hit a sacrifice fly for a 3-1 lead.

Northwestern had a base runner in the half after a single by Barcello but he was left on first as the game remained 3-1 heading into the ninth and final inning.

The Muleriders extended their lead in the inning as a double, and two walks loaded the bases for McGee.

He delivered in a big way with a grand slam to right-center field, taking a 7-1 lead.

In the home half of the ninth, the Rangers were able to load the bases, trying to fight their way back in the game, but Southern Arkansas escaped any damage, keeping the game and the win by a final score of 7-1 over the Rangers.

The Rangers play Southwestern in their final games of the regular season on Friday at 6 p.m. and during a doubleheader Saturday, with the first game at 1 p.m. at Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium.

SPORTS

UPCOMING HOME GAME

The softball team will play Ouachita Baptist Friday at 2 p.m. at the Alva Recreation Complex.

SOFTBALL

Lady Rangers swept by Muleriders



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Hannah Howell pitches the ball during Northwestern's game against Arkansas-Monticello April 15 at the Alva Recreation Complex.

By **JACOB ERVIN**
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern softball team lost out in a three-game series against Southern Arkansas last weekend.

The three games were away at Southern Arkansas in Magnolia, Arkansas.

In the first game Saturday, both teams started off with strong pitching and the game remained tied at zero runs until the fourth inning when the Lady Rangers scored thanks to a sacrifice pop fly by Hannah Howell to center field that allowed Lindsey McElroy to score.

The Muleriders responded in the bottom of the fifth inning with a single home run by Mariah Hamilton to tie the game at 1-1 and then scored two more runs in the bottom of sixth.

The Lady Rangers attempted to bring the game back in the seventh inning with a single by Laney Anderson, but after back to back strikeouts Northwestern lost 3-1.

In the second game of Saturday's doubleheader, Southern Arkansas continued their momen-

tum from game one and took a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

After the Muleriders struck out the Lady Rangers in order at the top of the second inning, the Muleriders prevented a run in the third. The Muleriders scored their third run in the third inning off a stolen base and sacrifice pop fly. The Lady Rangers only managed two more hits in the game and failed to score, making the final score 3-0.

The final game of the series occurred Sunday and ended in a 16-0 win for the Southern Arkansas softball team.

The Muleriders came out swinging and scored five runs in the first two innings of the final game.

Starting pitcher Howell hit a single in the first, which was followed by a walk for Anderson. However, the Lady Rangers failed to get another hit in the inning. The third inning did not get any better for the Lady Rangers as the Muleriders built on their early success with a nine-run inning that made the score 14-0 going in the fourth.

After another scoreless inning for the Rangers in the fourth and two more runs tacked on by the

Muleriders, Northwestern attempted to make a comeback in the fifth with a single by McElroy. The Rangers were unable to get another player on base, which ended the game, 16-0.

The Muleriders' strong performance in the third game was led by third baseman Gracie King, who had three hits from her three at-bats as well as four runs batted in. With the three losses to Southern Arkansas, the Northwestern softball team's record moves to 11-36 on the year and 8-22 in the Great American Conference.

This makes the Lady Rangers ranked 10th in the GAC and on the outside looking in for the upcoming GAC softball championship tournament. The top six teams have already clinched their playoff berths.

The final games of the Lady Rangers' season will end with a three-game series against Ouachita Baptist that begins with a double-header at 2 p.m. Friday at the Alva Recreation Complex.

If the Lady Rangers win all three games of the series while both Henderson State and East Central lose all three games, the Lady Rangers would make the conference tournament.

Rangers battle Rangers in spring football game

By **DAX BENWAY**
Senior Reporter

With the Northwestern football spring season reaching its peak, the Rangers battled each other in the Red vs. Black spring game Saturday.

The Rangers are under first-year head coach Ronnie Jones, who is looking to bring glory back to the Northwestern football program.

Jones, along with a lot of new faces within the staff, said he is excited about this upcoming season and where the team started versus where it is now.

"It's always nice to come out of the spring with minimal to no injuries, and I think we've done a really good job of that," Jones said. "We took a big jump this spring, and I think we are a much better team than what we started with in January."

Not only are the coaches all starting to buy in, but the players are as well.

"It was kind of difficult at first, trying to figure out the new offense and make the changes that the new staff was making, but we are all starting to come together as a team, and we are really excited about this upcoming season," said Northwestern wide receiver Torrence Stevens.

ing season," said Northwestern wide receiver Torrence Stevens.

The red team came out of the blocks on fire, as the offense was making things look easy and they coasted to a 14-0 lead in the first half with touchdowns by wide receiver RJ Kyle. Running back Josh Dimanche found the endzone on a 35-yard touchdown run.

With a 14-0 deficit going into halftime, the black team was determined to make it a close game.

The black team did exactly that coming out of the locker room. Defensive back Braden Waters intercepted quarterback Ethan Everson, and took it 80 yards back for a touchdown for the first score of the game for the black team.

The momentum stayed in black's favor as quarterback Jake Woodring hooked up with wide receiver Kaden Taylor on a 40-yard completion with two minutes left in the game. This would lead to a touchdown, making the game 17-14 with fewer than two minutes left.

After forcing a fumble on the ensuing kickoff, the black team hit a game-tying field goal as time expired to end the game 17-17.

Golf teams compete for GAC title

By **KRISTEN KIRTLEY**
Senior Reporter

Northwestern's men's and women's golf teams left Friday and headed to Hot Springs, Arkansas for the Great American Conference championship.

The men who competed at the conference championship are: Cade Seymour, Keenan Hofstad, Ryder Heuston, Logan Johnson and Max Garza. The women who competed are: Jaden Castle, Madison Masch, Samantha Friday, Madison Kerr and Angela Egger.

Both teams competed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The Hot Springs Country Club has 36 holes on the course, which allows the men to golf on one side and the women to golf on the other.

"Hot Springs is an awesome place, and they do a really good job hosting for us," said Daniel Campbell, head coach of the men's and women's Northwestern golf teams.

Campbell said this year will be the last year the conference championship will take place at Hot Springs.

"As a program, we've been playing some really solid golf," Campbell said. "As a coach here, I'm extremely proud of the work my kids have been putting in to prepare themselves."

Campbell said many of the

golfers on both the men's and women's teams put in more hours of golf each week than he asks of them.

"It's been a team effort across the board," Campbell said. "My assistant coach, Zack Quinn, has been really awesome. He's done so much for this program in his one year here."

The women's golf team set a school record at the last tournament the team played in. The team has also set the one-day scoring record, the two-day scoring record and the one-day-individual scoring record during this season. Three of the members on the women's team, who are seniors this year, have shot their career-best-tournament this year as well.

"When the hard work starts to

pay off, it just makes you want to work even harder," Campbell said.

Campbell said the men's team beat a few teams in the tournament last week that the team had been losing to previously this season.

"We have some guys that are really committed," Campbell said. "The results are starting to come in."

Campbell also wanted to recognize the red-shirt freshman on the men's team for his work ethic this season, as well as seniors Joey Nixon and Zack Caldwell for their contributions this season.

"We've taken this program to a new level, which has been really exciting," Campbell said. "We're excited to keep building on what we've been doing here."

Alva State Bank & Trust Company

Older than Oklahoma

Alva Main Office
518 College Ave.
Alva, OK 73717
580-327-3300

Burlington Branch
PO Box 80
Burlington, OK 73722
580-431-3300

Enid-Chisholm Branch
801 W. Broadway
Enid, OK 73701
580-234-4201

Bank of Freedom Branch
1085 Main St.
Freedom, OK 73842
580-621-3276

First State Bank of Kiowa Branch
546 Main St.
Kiowa, KS 67070
620-825-4147

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 1-800-259-2582



FIELD OF GLORY



For the first time in years, Northwestern students, faculty, staff and community members gathered on the Ranger Field on Monday night to worship and praise God during the Fields of Faith event. The Northwestern FORGE Bible study group and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes hosted the event as part of the Fire-OK worship movement, which seeks to cover the state in prayer. Praise and worship was led by the Faith Center Fellowship, which has a church in Alva at 324 College Ave.

Photos by Jordan Green

