

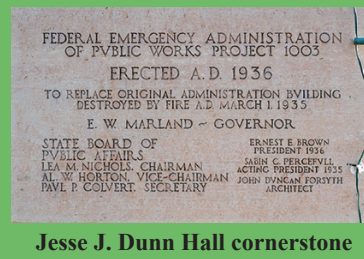
Communication

Talking becomes more about challenging than understanding. Read more on page 4.



Why so many stairs in JD?

Read Dr. Kaylene Armstrong's theories about the weird construction and all those stairs. Page 6-7



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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Storm chaser work is to protect

By MEGAN SPRAY
Senior Reporter

When severe weather moves across Oklahoma, many people take shelter, but storm chasers head straight toward it.

For professional storm chasers, their work isn't just about adrenaline or viral videos. It's about the responsibility of delivering real-time information that can give people time to make life-saving decisions.

Whether it's midnight storms, fast-developing tornadoes, or long days tracking weather in the state, Kyle Wilson, News 9 storm chaser, said the goal is simple: get there first and warn others before it's too late.

"If something's bad, possibly going to happen, storms moving through, and whatever else, I'm going to be the one up," Wilson said. "Even if I've been up that whole entire day chasing storms, I'm still going to be up."

Wilson said he has always wanted to help protect people, which he does every day as a full-time firefighter in Woodward, and a storm chaser.

"I feel like God put me on this earth to help people and warn them," Wilson said.

Storm chasing has long been part of Oklahoma's identity, but the practice has evolved—bringing new technology, wider audiences and new challenges. Marty Logan, a retired News 9 storm chaser, said when he first started in 1993, he used a bag phone to communicate with the meteorologists during severe weather while also directing the camera to get footage and drive.

In the beginning of storm chasing, Logan said radar was only through Oklahoma City, and a storm would have to be two and a half miles high to be recognized on radar, so having people on the ground telling the meteorologist what they're seeing was



Photo by Megan Spray

Kyle Wilson, a News 9 storm chaser, checks the equipment in his vehicle before heading out to follow a storm throughout Oklahoma.

critical. Logan said he detected buildup of severe weather one day while out doing chores.

It hadn't been detected on radar, so Logan called long-time KWTV chief meteorologist Gary England on his personal phone, telling him there was some weather moving and building quick. England was out working in his garden at the time, but once he got the call, he immediately went

to the station. The weather quickly turned severe and even turned tornadic.

"That's how fast these storms can do something," Logan said. "It probably wasn't even known that it was going to happen, but I happened to see it."

However, storm chasing isn't always filled with fast-paced, unexpected moments—those in the field say much of the job involves patience, preparation and long

hours on the road.

Wilson said a typical day can last 10-12 hours—sometimes longer—with much of that time spent driving between storms or waiting for conditions to develop.

"You might sit there for hours, and nothing happens," he said. "But then all of a sudden, everything changes in minutes."

See CHASER on Page 5

With Artemis II done, moon station next

By JOHN STOWERS
Student Reporter

The air outside in central Florida was thick on April 1, but not because of the humidity. It was thick with anticipation; Artemis II was about to launch and send four astronauts further into space than humanity had ever been.

The Integrity capsule of the Orion spacecraft from the Artemis II mission splashed down off the coast of San Diego at 7:07:27 p.m. CST on Friday, marking the end of a mission that lasted 9 days, 1 hour, 32 minutes, and 15 seconds, and took the astronauts 252,756 miles from Earth. Artemis II was one part of the larger Artemis program. That program

aims to put humanity back on the moon in a more permanent way.

"With Artemis II complete, focus now turns confidently toward assembling Artemis III and preparing to return to the lunar surface, build the base, and never give up the moon again," NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said as he welcomed the astronauts home.

To understand how this historic feat came to be, you have to understand the Artemis program as a whole, and to do that you have to start at the beginning with Artemis I.

According to the NASA website, the long-term goal of the Artemis program is to put a base on the moon to conduct equipment tests in micro gravity, or gravity

less than Earth's, as well as tests of lunar material for scientific discovery. No one is quite sure what exactly that base entails.

"I'm excited to see the experiments that they might set up," said Dr. Jenny Sattler, head of the Science department and an astronomy professor. "First, living

See ORION on Page 5

NEWS

Pages 2, 3, 5 & 10

OPINION

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JESSE DUNN

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FEATURE

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SPORTS

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NEWS

Revival coming to Alva

By **INGRID MALDONADO**
Senior Reporter

New Life Revival Ministry will host a revival event at Northwestern in the student ballroom April 20 to 23 from seven to 10 in the evening.

The ministry is based out of Hydro under the pastoral leadership of Pastor Mark Lumpkin Jr.

The four-night event will have a worship team for worship and a message from the pastor.

The ministry revival is reaching Western Oklahoma to spread the Gospel and has already been to Woodward and plans to go to Clinton, Lawton, Leedy, Altus and even a town in Michigan.

“The thing that I can guarantee for everybody that maybe isn’t a believer or they’re skeptical about God or skeptical of Jesus, the thing that is going to happen every night is people are going to have a genuine encounter with God,” Lumpkin said.

According to GotQuestions, a revival refers to a spiritual re-awakening from a state of dormancy in the life of a believer.

Revivals have been going on for years, since the 1700s, and

these were not only spiritual events but also social gatherings.

According to NCPedia, the revival began with singing, then a powerful message by a charismatic minister.

“Every night will be different, and we kind of have a way we progress through each night, but every night is subject to whatever the Lord wants to do that night,” Lumpkin said.

Rev. Drew Kirtley, who is the pastor at the First Christian Church in Alva and an adjunct instructor of English at Northwestern, said when he was younger, he used to go to revivals but as an adult hasn’t experienced one.

“It was always just kind of an elevated, more intense worship experience, is how I would describe it,” Kirtley said.

Kirtley said he knows other denominations have been doing revivals since the ‘60s and ‘70s.

He said he did think revivals are effective, but it depends on what a person is looking for. Some people, who are part of Christianity, search for emotion.

“In my experience, sometimes that emotion doesn’t last,” Kirtley said. “Sometimes you spend time trying to chase that feeling,

instead of growing in your faith. I’ve heard people say, ‘I wish I could feel the same as I did as a kid,’ and it can come across as if they’re looking for a repeat of that feeling rather than to know more or to grow.

People and ministries that are hosting revivals are usually well intended and have good intentions,” Kirtley said.

Lumpkin is excited to come to Alva and bring what happened at his home church revival where 1,000 people showed up.

The event is not open to just students but for everyone in the community, he said.

Revivals can’t happen every week, Kirtley said, and so it is important for people to challenge themselves in what they do and how they practice their faith.

“I would say to anybody trying to get something out of it [the revival], enter it in a prayerful way,” Kirtley said. “Follow up if you have a great worship experience, what’s the next thing? Take the next step, maybe look into helping with your community, or finding a church group to be involved with, or however you feel you’re led to follow up that experience.”

Oklahoma City Thunder



as of April 14

News headlines from KOCO Instagram

- Two teens and 1-year-old girl survive after car falls 15 ft from Tulsa bridge
- Man and woman found dead inside rural McClain county home
- Texas attorney general launches investigation into Lululemon
- FDA announces recall of multiple types of cough drops and throat lozenges
- Rory McIlroy defends his Masters title for the sixth major victory of his professional career

Reach for the mountains



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NEWS

WHAT'S UP

April 17

- Travis Linville concert @ Alva Beer Co. 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

April 20

- Nature Magnified Senior Art Show April 20 - 24
- Spring SGA Meeting 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- New Life Revival April 20 - 23 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

April 21

- Campus Beautification
- Share Medical Center Blood Drive

April 22

- OBI Blood Drive in the Student Center April 22 - 23 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 23

- Little Shop of Horrors Musical 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- Bahama Breakaway @ Intramural field 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Chi Alpha Night 7 p.m. - 9p.m

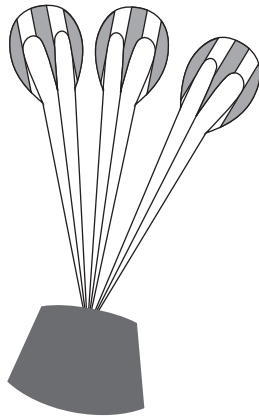


Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Students attend the job fair Tuesday afternoon, and visited with employers like the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation while the LASSO department helped prepare students for life after college.

NATURE WALK AND ASTRONOMY NIGHT

COME ON A NATURE HIKE AND END BY LOOKING AT THE STARS

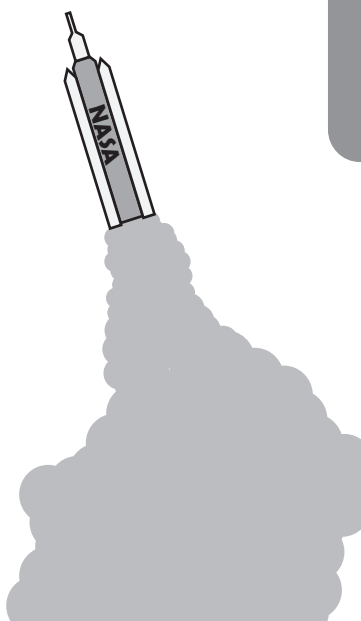
Saturday, April 18th at 8 PM-9:30 PM
Limited to 25 people

Bonham Pond on the Great Salt Plains Wildlife Refuge

Bug Sheets will be available to take pictures

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/kftsewfb> to register or scan the code to the right



“We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard.”

— President John F. Kennedy

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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. Let-
ters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they
follow the rules stated above and can be sent
to nwnews@nwosu.edu. Please limit submis-
sions 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.

OPINION

Is something missing inside?

By **ECE OZDEMIR**
Opinion Editor

Lately, I have found myself reflecting of-
ten on what has happened to me—and to
us. I ponder what we lost along the path we
walked and what we sacrificed in the name of
“growing up.” It is impossible not to dwell on
these thoughts, especially when I am forced
to confront certain realities as if looking into
a mirror. To be honest, there was no single
morning where I woke up and declared, “I am
no longer who I was.” My memory holds no
such definitive moment. Whatever happened
occurred slowly, imperceptibly and without
warning, until it finally settled into the center
of our lives.

When I pull back the curtain of the past,
I see dreams, people, friends and genuine
bonds—distorted as they may be by the mist.
In essence, they are still there; they continue
to exist, but they no longer resonate with the
strength or clarity they once possessed.

Then there is the present: the space I cur-
rently inhabit, which I can still shape, and
which serves as the yet-to-be-built past of my
future years. I am standing in the middle of
the very ages I once grew impatient to reach,
living the days I used to dream of day and
night. But no—something is missing. I hear,
I feel, but I am not moved. I see, but I find no
response within myself. When I first noticed
this, I panicked, as anyone would. It wasn't
hard to see that something was wrong. I want-
ed an explanation, a fair answer for myself. I
owed it to the child I once was, the one who
couldn't wait for these days to arrive. So, I
took my time to think.

Then one day, quite unexpectedly, the
words escaped my mouth: “Ece! This must be
what it means to grow up.”

At first, it seemed logical. But my discov-
ery was short-lived. I quickly found several
points to refute my own thesis. I remembered
the people who were my current age when I
was a child; they were the ones who encour-
aged me, gave me hope and made me excit-
ed to grow up. I visualized them in my mind.
They were happy. The passion and fervor of
being close to their dreams acted as wings.
They weren't just running toward what they
wanted; they were flying. I remember as if
it were yesterday how I looked at them with
envy and admiration. No, this was not sim-
ply “growing up.” If it were, feelings would
fade and disappear for everyone, for every
generation. But they were full of desire; my
peers and I are not. My thesis had crumbled.
It would have been easy to call this “growing
up” and simply endure the feeling.

Now, I am forced to cradle a sensation I
cannot even name. Could it be that, with time,
a person simply becomes calmer and meets
life with more balanced maturity? If you try to
believe the question, the answer seems plau-
sible—but the answer is still no. Becoming
numb is not the same as becoming calm. I soon
realized that losing excitement, hope, passion
and resolve has nothing to do with maturity.
The truth is, there is no easy answer. This is
a quagmire our modern age has fallen into. It
is tragic that dreaming, or standing closer to
those dreams, no longer carries meaning. It is
a situation so startling it defies logic.

Nostalgia becomes inevitable, especially in
moments when loneliness strikes like a blow. I
search for pieces of my soul in old TV shows,
movies, songs and places I once visited. I try
to find the values I was certain made me who
I am. Can a person really slip away from their
past treasures so quietly? While many feelings
have faded, the sense of longing remains, cut-
ting deeper than the rest. I wish that growing

up—if indeed this is just a result of aging—
did not erode every emotion except the pain of
missing what is gone. To search for your old
self within this numbness is to move further
away the closer you get. I understand this, but
I cannot accept it. I find no logic in nursing
a listlessness that contradicts the act of being
alive. If my childhood self could see me today
with her overflowing emotions, she would re-
proach me. Even the thought of it crushes me
under the weight of saying “it doesn't matter”
to the dreams I have lost the feeling for. To
hold the things I once grasped with fervor so
loosely was once an impossibility. I wish to be
back in that “distance,” but I realize I am not
even near its outskirts.

Now, a border exists between who I truly
am and my current self. No matter how close
I get, I cannot cross it. I stand still, perhaps
paused. I cannot go deep enough. I want to,
but I cannot. This creates a distance between
me and myself. Though my past feels close in
my memories, emotionally, it can only wave
to me like a distant star.

Given the circumstances, I am searching
with urgency and anxiety for whatever might
give me the courage to leap forward again. I
imagine a world where one day I can liberate
every lost emotion from its captivity. I move
forward by embracing every unanswered
question I have reflected upon here.

As Rainer Maria Rilke said:

“Be patient toward all that is unsolved in
your heart and try to love the questions them-
selves, like locked rooms and like books that
are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do
not now seek the answers, which cannot be
given you because you would not be able to
live them. And the point is, to live everything.
Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then
gradually, without noticing it, live along some
distant day into the answer.”

Communication becomes burden

By **ECE OZDEMIR**
Opinion Editor

Say something clever. A nimble response, a
timely observation or a witty story—whatever
you say, it must be smart. Pull a neglected de-
tail from an unexpected place. Tuck a clever
metaphor, a subtle allusion or a sharp witti-
cism between the lines. Ask the right ques-
tions; remember, questions are more important
than answers. Communication is like playing
ping-pong. Follow the ball. Catch the ball.
Plan your move. Send the ball back. Repeat
this dozens of times without dropping it. Like
losing your rhythm when you notice your own
breathing or losing your balance when you
realize you are walking, communication is
something that becomes nearly impossible to
do naturally once you recognize its algorithm.
Instead of hearing and understanding sentenc-
es, you begin to question word choices, dis-
cover recurring patterns and extract subtexts.
All that remains is to pull the smartest words
from your pocket based on the other person's
mood and approach.

Rather than accepting what is said at face
value, you assign yourself a difficult task:
you process information almost like an arti-
ficial intelligence. For what? What is there to
gain other than a string of relationships where
you cannot exist in your simplest form? You
might never miss the ball, but your social
battery drains. Communication is no longer
a connection; it is a burden. The feeling that

communication is artificial is partly a byprod-
uct of a changing world. Even speech—one
of the purest human acts used for centuries
to find common ground—has been sacrificed
to the competitive madness of the new age.
By creating a litany of concepts like “effec-
tive communication skills,” “body language”
and “persuasion techniques,” they have turned
conversation into a job where we feel the
pressure of performance. This pressure has
spread to every field. For instance, skill and
hard work are no longer enough to find a job;
we must also list “communication skills” on
our resumes. Friendship has been replaced by
“networking,” and personal curiosity has been
replaced by information hunting. It feels as if
no one feels a sincere curiosity about our lives
anymore. The way some people ask questions
makes it feel as if their only intention is to
learn what I have or haven't done and record
it in their database.

Everything has become digitized and ugly.
For a long time, I haven't given a sincere
answer. I feel that if I did, they would just hang
suspended in the air. As the world's atmo-
sphere grows heavier, words remain on the
surface. What did it feel like to be truly won-
dered about? I miss that feeling.

Recently, while all my gears and cogs were
working at full strength to maintain a con-
versation, I was suddenly asked, “How are
you?”—and my name was mentioned at the
end of the sentence. For a moment, I stepped
outside my constantly spinning system and
saw the world. It was like spotting a herd of

cows while staring out the window on a long
road trip when even the trees have turned into
green blurs. It caught my attention; it took me
off autopilot. If I told this person how I was, it
felt as if they would actually listen. Although
I wasn't sure of the gravity of the question, I
wanted to give a real answer this time. Yet,
“How are you?” is such an essential question
that answering it was as difficult as answering
philosophical inquiries like “What is good?”
or “What is truth?”

I realized I couldn't solve this direct ques-
tion through complicated paths or escape it
with wordplay. This time, I didn't have a cle-
ver answer; I settled for being grateful.

I have played with words so much through-
out my life that I sometimes forget what they
express. I constantly move things away from
their essence with convoluted talk. As I see
less sincerity around me, my tendency to do
this increases. I don't know when I last spoke
to tell the truth. It is equally unknown when I
last heard the truth. I am so tired of wordplay
and useless talk. I've begun to understand
three-line Japanese poems. I would prefer
three elegant sentences spoken with sincerity
over a thousand fancy words brought in from
a thousand different streams. The simplest,
plainest sentences seem much more beautiful
to me now.

And yet, I cannot easily simplify—not
even while explaining this. Not everyone can
do everything, I suppose.

“Even with insects— some can sing, some
can't.” — Kobayashi Issa

NEWS

CHASER: Many skills go into chasing storms

Continued from Page 1

When storms do intensify, the environment can quickly become dangerous.

Wilson described a recent chase where storms rapidly strengthened, producing multiple tornadoes within close range of his vehicle.

"It was like a hurricane," he said. "It was coming down so fast. It was like the whole entire highway was just hydroplaning the entire time."

Wilson ended up in the middle of one of the tornadoes that night. His dad, who rides along with him while chasing, wanted to go south earlier that day to get closer to the severe weather at the time. Wilson said they were going to be patient and stay north of the storm to monitor it.

Later that day, they were within 200 yards of three tornadoes and even got hit by one.

"After we got done that day, I was like, 'you told me to get you right in the middle of it,' and he was like, 'yeah, I didn't mean right in the middle of the tornado!'" Wilson said.

Even after years of experience, those moments require constant awareness and quick decisions.

Shane Helton, KOCO 5 storm chaser, said storm chasing is as much about knowledge as it is about being in the field.

"It's a good idea to know what you're doing before you go out there, so you don't drive into a hailstorm or get in the path of a tornado or something like that," Helton said.

Helton began learning about weather in the 1990s, studying storm structure, radar interpretation and forecasting through classes, online programs and years of experience.

"You want to keep on top of the learning process," he said. "Just driving out in the field is one thing, and experience out in the field is great. But when you start knowing how things work as far as the weather, you can start kind of predicting it yourself a little better."

That dedication has led to national recognition. Helton earned an Emmy award for his storm coverage, reflecting his years of hard work and commitment to chasing.

The award came from a night of chasing during the 2022 Seminole County tornado. He was chasing severe weather where he had seen many tornadoes out of the storm already. While waiting in the parking lot, there were high winds and power flashes. After getting out of the parking lot, a few minutes later, they drove straight through a tornado. While stopped in the road, the first tornado dissipated pretty quickly,

but then a second one developed and hit the vehicle. This tornado went on to hit the town of Shawnee.

Helton and other members of the KOCO team were recognized for their work during the storm with an Emmy.

Still, even with experience and preparation, storm chasing carries emotional weight.

During the devastation of the April 2012 tornado in Woodward, Okla., Wilson responded immediately after the tornado went through town. He was in his personal pickup before emergency crews were able to get to the scenes. He drove through debris-covered roads, helping search homes and assisting victims.

Wilson said that night changed how he views storm chasing.

"I can tell you that, yes, I do love looking at tornadoes, but they're a lot better looking at them going through wheat fields or out in the country where they're not hitting anything" he said.

Marty Logan, who reported live as the tornado moved through Woodward, sat up on a hill southwest of town watching for the tornado, but because it was so dark he wasn't able to see anything. All he could see was a radio tower that had a blinking red light.

As he watched the light, he noticed it wasn't flashing anymore and communicated that to the meteorologist and those following the storm.

"As soon as I said that, there was a flash at the base of the tower, and there was the tornado," Logan said. "And from that moment, Gary England talked to me three times and I narrated for about 10 to 15 minutes."

According to the National Weather Service, the tornado was recorded as an EF3, where 29 were injured and 6 fatalities.

Logan said the emotional impact did not fully set in until hours later. In the days that followed, residents approached him with gratitude.

"You saved our lives," they said.

For Conner Tune, 4Warn storm chaser for KFOR, a similar realization came while witnessing the aftermath of the 2013 Moore tornado.

Tune said seeing entire neighborhoods destroyed and families searching through debris changed how he viewed the work of storm chasing.

It was no longer just about tracking storms – it was about understanding their impact.

It was the closest he'd ever been to a tornado and the strongest tornado he'd ever been next to. After the tornado passed, he walked a mile down the road from his work to the school that

had been hit. The same school his younger brother was in at the time of the devastation.

"It had just been hit by an EF5," Tune said. "Walking through that damage while not knowing if my family was alive or dead and then coming up to the school, seeing all of these kids pushing cinder blocks off of themselves and climbing up out of the devastation. That was the craziest thing I've ever seen."

According to the National Weather Service, the tornado was an EF5 that injured 212 and killed 24.

Moments like that, he said, stay with you.

Sometimes the biggest danger in storm chasing isn't always the tornado.

After surviving a rollover crash during a chase, Tune said the threat now often comes from something far less predictable – other drivers.

"I think, recently, the roads have become an even greater danger than the storm itself," Tune said.

While storms can be incredibly dangerous, experience and learning how to gauge the weather can help navigate how to stay safe, but Tune said you can't gauge the safety of other drivers.

Helton agreed, saying traffic has become one of the most unpredictable parts of storm chasing.

"That's almost what's gotten me killed," he said. "Yeah, a tornado hit my vehicle – it was a small one, and I got lucky, but it was nothing like when you top the hill and there's somebody in your lane coming straight at you."

Helton understands the interest in weather and the desire to pursue learning about storms; he just wants those who are inexperienced to do it safely and to know what to do before going out into a storm.

Beyond the risks on the road, storm chasing also comes with financial and physical demands. Vehicles accumulate thousands of miles each season and must be maintained to handle extreme conditions.

There was a six-day span where Wilson was out covering fires and severe weather. He put around 2,200 miles on his truck in that little time.

Frequent oil changes and maintenance of vehicles are an important part of chasing.

Even with the risks – from violent storms to crowded highways – storm chasers continue to head toward danger when others are told to seek shelter.

Because for them, it isn't about the storm – it's about the people in its path.

"That's the whole thing," Logan said. "You're saving lives."



NASA Photos

Artemis II blasts off April 1 for its journey around the moon.

ORION returns after 1 trip around moon

Continued from Page 1

in microgravity: are they going to bring cellular organisms to see how they respond to microgravity. I also want to see them bring samples back to Earth because they evidently can't drag all of the scientific equipment that we have available to us on Earth up there with them. ... I think [the moon base] is the first step in actually looking at humans traveling to other planets. I think it would be a place to stop, maybe restock, on their way to, for example, Mars."

Dr. Rasika Mohottige, a condensed-matter physicist and assistant professor of physics, said that setting up a solar farm on the moon would probably be the easiest part of establishing a moon base. Mohottige recently published a study on the materials used in solar panels that makes the solar cells more resistant to radiation while maintaining most of their effectiveness.

Most earthly solar panels absorb light using silicon-based cells, but these cells are not resistant to radiation. Space based solar panels absorb light with a layer of film known as CIGS, which stands for copper, indium, gallium and selenide. This CIGS layer also contains a buffer layer of cadmium, which is extremely toxic and hard to get rid of, making it more expensive for manufacturers to use.

So, what are the alternatives to cadmium that don't degrade the energy efficiency but maintain the cadmium's original purpose? Mohottige and his colleagues in the study asked that same question and found that if you replace the cadmium buffer layer with a transparent coating of zinc stannate, it will fulfill the cadmium's original role and not hinder the efficiency of the solar cell, making it a good candidate for potential use on the moon.

Whatever the moon base actually ends up being, it will act as a proof of concept, and a testing ground, for a manned trip to Mars, much like how Artemis I was a proof of concept and test for Artemis II.

Artemis I launched on Nov. 16, 2022, with a similarly record-breaking flight path as Ar-

temis II, just without the people.

The purpose of this mission was to test the new rocket, which NASA and Lockheed Martin had to design specifically for this mission, before any humans were involved. This new spacecraft is called Orion, and it is the only spacecraft capable of crewed deep-space flight and highspeed return to Earth from the vicinity of the moon, according to NASA. This new spacecraft can only be carried out of Earth's gravity by the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, which is NASA's super-heavy-lift rocket.

After the successful splashdown of Artemis I on Dec. 11, 2022, NASA began work on Artemis II, tweaking the design of the new spacecraft and flight trajectory, based on what they had learned from Artemis I.

"With Orion safely returned to Earth we can begin to see our next mission on the horizon which will fly crew to the moon for the first time as a part of the next era of exploration," said Jim Free, former NASA associate administrator for the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate, on the NASA website. "This begins our path to a regular cadence of missions and a sustained human presence at the moon for scientific discovery and to prepare for human missions to Mars."

After the changes to Artemis II were finalized, NASA launched the rocket on April 1, and began testing the rocket's and the spacecraft's capabilities in deep space with humans inside. Much like the previous mission, the information gathered from the space flight and splashdown will help NASA to tweak the design of Artemis III, giving it the best shot of delivering the first steps of a base on the moon.

With the possibility of a moon base being established coming closer to being a reality, many are saying that the technology and information gained from these missions might be more significant than the original Apollo landings.

See SPACE on Page 10

Why does Jesse Dunn have all those stairs?

By DR. KAYLENE ARMSTRONG
Adviser

When I came to Northwestern 11 years ago to teach journalism, I heard the same stories that have been told for decades about why Jesse J. Dunn Hall — yes, that is its official name — has so many stairs.

Guides giving tours on campus will tell the same story: men building the hall in 1935-36 during the Great Depression, got paid more money for stairs, so the architect added more stairs to the plan.

That explanation never ran true for me, and eventually in 2018 I started researching about the building in hopes of finding out the truth.

Now that I am retiring and leaving the area, I need to share what I found so far. First, I didn't discover why the building has so many stairs, but I came up with some plausible theories about why the more-stairs-for-more-money explanation probably isn't true and why the building has some weird architecture.

Before we get into the theories, we need to start with a quick history of Jesse J. Dunn Hall and its smaller sibling, the Joe J. Struckle Education Center. The two were built at the same time.

Though I have enough information for a much longer story, here's the highlights.

It started with a fire in the middle of the night, about 2 a.m. The date was Friday, March 1, 1935. The fire was in the oldest building on the Northwestern State Teachers College campus: Castle



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Jesse J. Dunn Hall sits on top of where the Castle on the Hill stood until it burned in 1935. Jesse Dunn of JD, as it is known today, was finished in late 1936. As the larger brother to the education center, it took longer to build.

on the Hill, Old Main or the administration building—take your pick. It was called all three names at times.

The Alva Daily Record, the town's newspaper in 1935, usually called it the administration building or Old Main.

The Northwestern Territorial Normal School building, completed in 1899, was the second normal school building in the state, according to the newspaper. The castle-like structure of the normal school made it a show piece that

travelers went out of their way to see in those days.

("Normal school" is what people called teacher colleges in the 1800s. Dozens of colleges and universities to this day call the administration building "Old Main.")

Many people in Alva hoped to rebuild the Castle just as it was, but that didn't work out. Instead, John Duncan Forsyth, a Scottish architect who settled in Tulsa, was hired to design the new building. Various estimates to rebuild ranged from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

Getting state funds to rebuild happened quickly. Within two weeks after the fire, the Legislature passed an emergency funding bill for \$300,000—\$250,000 for building a classroom and library facility, and \$50,000 for equipping it.

In a move that seems unusual today, the Legislature followed up on April 8, 1935, with a concurrent resolution that named the new building Jesse J. Dunn Hall. In the last few years, NWO-SU officials, with the approval of the Regional University System of

Oklahoma that governs six Oklahoma universities, including Northwestern, have renamed buildings on campus. Fine Arts, which started as Science Hall in 1907 and then Vinson Hall 1938, then Fine Arts in 1939, became Ryerson Hall in 2019. South Hall, a dorm, became Cunningham Hall in 2023.

The college had been trying to get state funding for a training school building in 1935. In those days, the students came to the student teachers who taught classes on campus. Many teachers colleges

built what amounted to a public school for elementary through 12th grade on their campuses. On April 5, 1935, the Alva newspaper reported the Legislature killed a bill to spend \$73 million on college campus buildings, including a training school at Northwestern.

On May 31, 1935, the college received permission from the State Board of Affairs to pursue additional federal funding for two building projects (Jesse Dunn and the education building), which it did. The application went to Wash-

ington, D.C., in July, along with five other state projects. (Interesting side note: It was stipulated that when the education building was completed, the old Science Hall, now Ryerson, was supposed to be torn down. It didn't happen.)

On Sept. 10, Harry Hopkins, who ran the newly formed Works Progress Administration, rejected the Northwest application along with a stack of other projects. Under pressure, Hopkins changed his mind and a few days later said he would review the projects.

On Sept. 28, in a telegram to acting President Sabin Percell, Alva learned the \$244,995 federal grant had been approved, so both Jesse Dunn and the education building could be built. The Alva Daily Record reported bands played and bells rang, celebrating the news.

Construction began in late November. The contractor went through the Woodward re-employment office to request for workers certified to work on WPA projects to come that first week; only one showed up, the newspaper reported.

Excavation started first on the education building. The construction engineer worried about the digging that would take place for Jesse Dunn. It would require moving dirt from the hill behind the building to the front to level out the area for the first floor. Rather than reuse any of the foundation from the old building, all the concrete had to be dug out, the newspaper reported. It rests 15 feet north of the old building site and 40 feet to the west, completely covering the old foundation.

The Horace Mann Hall, which is what the new training school was called, was finished first in late 1936. Jesse Dunn, with the science annex (now Carter Hall), was finished last. It was delayed when the plans for the library (now the museum) had to be redrawn to accommodate more books.

The library's air-conditioning was the first for a college building in the state.

The dedication for both buildings took place on March 12, 1937. The highlight was former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt speaking. The podium and chair she used are now safely stored on the third floor of Jesse Dunn.

Some surprising facts:

When Hopkins denied the application, some people worried that construction would be further delayed because the building would have to be redesigned so that only the state money would be necessary to cover the cost.

However, architect John Duncan Forsyth said he had included two annexes to the Jesse Dunn building, and these could easily be removed without major redesign work if only one building could be built. When the funding came through and the redesign wasn't required, only one annex was built. Without the original plans, no one knows where the second annex would have been built, what its intended purpose was or why only the one was built. Cost is the likely reason, though.

Tunnels run under Jesse Dunn, Carter Hall and the current Jesse Dunn Annex (added in 1968). These tunnels were used for heating pipes when the campus had a central heating system and for other utilities.

Maintenance workers still occasionally go into the tunnels, which are found between and under most of the old buildings on campus. One worker said some stairs that seem to lead nowhere are located down in the tunnels under Jesse Dunn, and he thinks they could be from the old Castle.

When James Ament, the first president of the Northwestern Territorial Normal School, learned about the fire, he contacted then-president O.E. Hatcher and said he would be sending his photo to be hung in the new building. It arrived three days later.

Whether it ever hung in the building is not known. It does not

now. You can, however, find Jesse Dunn's photo in the hallway off the front stairs on the second floor.

When Gov. E.W. Marland signed the emergency legislation that provided \$300,000 for the Jesse Dunn building, he used four pens, according to the Alva Daily Record. Three men who helped get the legislation passed were to each receive one, and the fourth was to be displayed in the new building. I haven't found anyone who knows what happened to the pen—if it actually made it here, that is.

Architect John Duncan Forsyth designed two other Northwest buildings, both former dorms on campus that were built in 1939: Shockley Hall and Vinson Hall. Like human siblings, these buildings look so much alike that it is clear they were designed by the same person. Forsyth is also listed as the architect on a 1930s renovation of what was then Science Hall.

Almost everything written about Forsyth, who died in 1963, leaves out his work at Northwestern. A published history of Forsyth, written by one of his colleagues in 2007, mentions many of his most famous creations, such as the Marland Mansion and the State Capitol Office Building. However, his work at Northwestern doesn't even merit a footnote.

A biography written (but not published) by his stepdaughter, Jean Ache Ladner, featured individual pages for each of Forsyth's works by location. The Alva page lists Northwestern Oklahoma Teachers College but no specific buildings.

When the Jesse Dunn building was designed, the history department was assigned to the third floor. It still resides there today.

Southwest corner of building has unusual design



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

The south entrance leads to the weirdest part of the building.

The weirdest part of Jesse Dunn is the southwest corner with the entrance most people use to enter the building when coming from the rest of campus.

In fact, the southwest part of the building is about half a floor higher than the corresponding floors in the rest of the building. The first floor of this section is where the printshop and its workrooms are located today; some art rooms, an office

and the business conference room are on the second floor

I think this entrance was actually supposed to be lower, so when you entered the building and went up the stairs, you were on the second floor of the building, like the entrances from the west and north.

Instead, when you enter the building on the south and go up those stairs, you are on a landing ABOVE the second floor of the

main building. A few steps across the landing and you have to go DOWN some stairs to the second floor. Extra stairs.

Also, when you enter the building from the south and go down the stairs, you have to cross a small landing just like on the floor above,

and then descend another set of stairs to get to the first floor of the building. Basically, you go down a floor and a half to reach the first floor.

Also, all the door numbers on the first floor of this northwest section are numbered as if they are on

the same level as the agriculture department a half a floor below; door numbers on the second floor of this section correspond with the numbers on the second floor of the main building.

Why lift up that part of the building half a floor? I propose the answer is shale.

A geologic map of the area completed by Galen W. Miller and Thomas M. Stanley in 2003 shows flowerpot shale underneath a large part of campus. You can find the map at <https://ogs.ou.edu/docs/OGQ/OGQ-42-color.pdf>. You have to zoom in to the corner of Oklahoma Boulevard and College Avenue to orient yourself.

In a short interview, Stanley said hitting shale while excavating for a building would create a tough digging situation. Though he couldn't say what happened in the case of Jesse Dunn, it is not unreasonable to propose that part of a building would be built on top of the shale rather than trying to go through it.

So maybe all the stairs in Jesse Dunn are just what had to happen to make the architect's vision become a reality in the location it needed to be built.

Maybe it is that simple.

Some theories to consider

I would like to proffer some theories about the stairs in Jesse Dunn

First, why so many stairs? A large three-story building without an elevator needed a lot of stairs to get people around the building, so the stairs were a necessity. Many reports of the building at the time said it was one of the largest buildings on a college campus (outside of the universities) anywhere in the state.

Were extra stairs added so workmen got more money? Likely not. On June 29, 1935, acting President Sabin Percell and an engineer marked off the Jesse Dunn building "after a check of the blueprints," according to the Alva Daily Record. So the blueprints for the building were completed by June, long before the WPA funding came at the end of September. It makes no sense to add unnecessary stairs to a building plan when the funding was not assured.

The three main entrances to the building (north, southwest and west) all require visitors to climb steps to the door and then once inside ascend more steps to the second floor (or descend to the first floor from the south).

Why this design? Perhaps only the architect knows the sure answer to that question. It may just be about the elevation of the hill and lay of the land. Or maybe he was going for a majestic entrance at all three doors, leading

you up to the crown jewel at the front of the building on the second floor, which was the library with its beautiful painted ceiling. It is now the Museum of Natural History — and the fancy ceiling is still there. If anyone knows otherwise about the design, you should pass it along.

I should note that the entrance to Carter Hall (once the science annex) on the northeast end of the front of the building opens directly into the first floor.

Its south entrance, probably added when the annex was built in 1968, opens up ramps; one goes up to the media and communication area and the other down to nursing in Carter Hall. The first floor of Jesse Dunn has always been accessible from the Carter Hall front entrance.

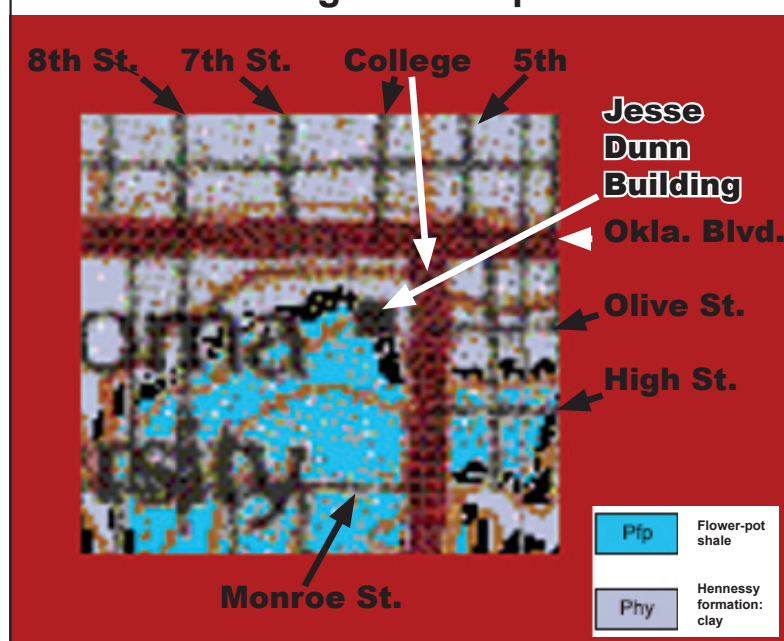
The entrance on the west that leads to the rodeo and agriculture areas on the first floor is a later addition. Still, you have to go down stairs almost half a floor to reach it.



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Students entering the south door must descend a floor and half to the first floor.

Geologic map of NWSU Campus showing shale deposits



Source: <https://ogs.ou.edu/docs/OGQ/OGQ-42-color.pdf>



Jesse Dunn's portrait hangs on the second floor of the building named after him. He was an Alva lawyer and one of the first justices on the Oklahoma Supreme Court. He died in 1926.

FEATURE

Stars vs Wild in round one of playoffs

By **JESSICA SCHIEBER**
Editor-in-Chief

As the hockey season is entering playoffs for the Stanley Cup on April 18, I thought it would be a good time to talk about my second favorite hockey team, the Dallas Stars.

The Dallas Stars have won 49 games, lost 20 and have 12 overtime losses.

They are number 2 in the Central Division, and they are set to play against Minnesota Wild in round one of the playoffs.

This game series has the potential to be a good one, if their last in-season game against each other on April 9 is anything to go from.

The game ended with the Stars winning 5-4.

In the first period of the game Wyatt Johnston, a Stars player, got the first goal of the game. His goal was assisted by Justin Hryckowian and Mikko Rantanen.

With six minutes and 58 seconds left in the first Wild player, Quinn Hughes got the first goal for the Wild. His goal was assisted by Mats Zuccarello.

Stars Top Players

Jason Robertson, left wing: 45 goals

Wyatt Johnson, center: 45 goals

Mikko Rantanen, right wing: 22 goals

Miro Heiskanen, defenseman: 54 assists

Jake Ottinger, goalie : 34 wins

With 30 seconds left Johnston was sent to the penalty box for tripping against Matt Boldy.

16 seconds left in the first and Kirill Kapizov, a Wild player, scores for the team. The goal was assisted by Boldy and Zuccarello.

The second period starts with two penalties.

One against Wild player Nick Foligno for roughing against Lian Bichsel, and the other against Bichsel for roughing against Foligno.

With 13 minutes and 37 sec-

onds remaining in the second Stars player Esa Lindell gets a penalty for roughing against Ryan Hartman.

With 13 minutes and 21 seconds left Kapizov gets goal number three for the Wild. His goal was assisted by Boldy and Zuccarello.

At 11 minutes and 57 seconds left the Stars answer with a goal by Colin Blackwell. His goal was assisted by Esa Lindell.

Right after that goal Foligno gets a penalty for roughing

against Tyler Myers and Myers gets one for roughing against Foligno.

At 11 minutes and three seconds in the second Johnston gets a penalty for interference against Jared Spurgeon.

At three minutes and 44 seconds left Cameron Hughes, a Stars player gets a goal making the score 3-3. His goal was assisted by Blackwell and Oskar Back.

At 1 minute and 55 seconds the Stars get another penalty; the call was on Myers for holding

against Hartman.

At 11 seconds left in the second Hartman gets a goal. His goal was assisted by Spurgeon and Quinn Hughes.

The next goal happens in the third. The goal was scored by Rantanen and assisted by Thomas Harley and Johnston.

With nine minutes and 25 seconds Robertson scored a goal bringing the game to 5-4. His goal was assisted by Lindell.

With seven minutes and 52 seconds left, Hartman gets a penalty for roughing against Adam Erne. Erne also got a penalty for roughing against Hartman.

With two minutes and 30 seconds left Rantanen gets a penalty for slashing against Jonas Brodin.

With 15 seconds left four penalties were given. Quinn Hughes got a penalty for roughing against Harley, Rantanen got one for roughing against Boldy, Harley got one for roughing against Quinn Hughes and Boldy received one for roughing against Rantanen.

With that excitement on all the fans minds the round one series of the playoffs is going to be a fun one for both sides of fans.

Sidenote:

We all live in cycles

By **JESSICA SCHIEBER**
Editor-in-Chief

Sometimes all someone can do is walk away.

This isn't anything against you as a person, it is just something that happens in life. People come and people go. It's the way of life.

All life is a cycle. Nature follows a cycle, human life follows a cycle, all our beings are made from cycles.

There is a destination at the end of life, but the cycle of life will continue. You will be born; you will grow and eventually you will die.

After your death the cycle of being born, growing, and dying does not end. There will be another person born who will leave another life and die, and after them there will be another.

Natures cycle is a cycle of seasons. Fall will always come, winter will follow, then spring and summer.

Cycles in a person's life will look vastly different from this, but we all still go through it.

There will be a time when you make friends and a time you will lose them.

There will be a time when you are happy and a time when you don't know if it's worth pushing forward.

Struggling through these

cycles is what makes our lives. We push through this confusing mess of cycles to try and make sense of why we are in this world. We push past some struggles, and we let others consume us.

Why should we be concerned if someone walks away? Why do we let that fact consume us?

We are so much more than someone could assume about us, yet we don't ever let that truth come to our minds.

We let so many people control our lives without realizing it.

So many outside opinions shape us and we just accept it. Social media tells us how to communicate, how to look, how to dress, essentially how to live.

People who know us will attempt to tell us what is best in our lives and not let us make our own decisions.

People around us judge when we take a misstep, watch as we fall and say they would have never done that.

The truth is they could have done it. Anyone could have. Our faults are a part of our life cycle, and we shouldn't be ashamed when they come.

If someone doesn't like the way you do something they tend to walk away instead of fixing this issue, let them walk.

If they can't handle that you are your own person and have your own way of handling things then that is on them and not you.

They have their cycle and you have yours. Maybe they cross paths for a season, maybe they aren't meant to stay with you forever, that's okay.

I have spent so much time worrying over something that I have no control over and that can ruin a person.

Someone's decision to walk away is not on you. They made their choice and life will move on without them in yours.

It hurts when someone walks away, I know, but them stepping away could be the best thing that has ever happened to them, or even to you. People leave and when they do you grow.

If you try to cling onto every person who has come into your life, you don't get any sunlight for yourself. You can only grow when you allow yourself to get over the fact that someone has left you.

When you do grow maybe some of those people will try to come back into your life, maybe you let them back in even after all the hurt you've gone through in their absence. That is your choice, you have control on how you want something to end.

Jessica's sad girl music suggestions

- "Older" by Alec Benjamin
- "Eight" by Sleeping At Last
- "A Symptom Of Being Human" by Shinedown
- "Anchor" by Novo Amor
- "Sparks" by Coldplay
- "Heartbreak Time Machine" by &TEAM
- "The Truth Untold" by BTS feat. Steve Aoki
- "Yellow" by Coldplay

Expect Fentanyl & Test First

What is fentanyl?

- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.
- It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the U.S.

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ENTERTAINMENT

A Short Story

'A Picnic For Two on Tavern Hill'

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

"How far did you say it was again?" the shorter boy whined.

"We're like five minutes away. Stop being a baby." Samuel said, lugging the camping bag behind his back.

"But we've been walking for hours!"

"We've been outside for thirty minutes. Calm your tits."

"You can't say that!"

"Whatever."

They would reach the top of the hill by midday. Samuel sat the camping bag down and began unpacking. "You wanna help me set the blanket?" he asked his brother.

"Okay."

It would be a lunch for just the two of them. Mom had to work another 12-hour shift at the pizza place, and Samuel didn't even bother asking Rachel if she wanted to come.

It's not that he didn't want to spend time with her. He knew how much Buddy loved hanging out with his older sister. He just knew that, at some point, the day would be ruined by her.

Samuel was never close with Rachel the same way he was with Buddy, and the feeling was mutual. Nothing he ever did could escape her scrutiny.

Him, toxic? Like she had any room to talk. She was rarely ever asked by Mom or

Dad to watch Buddy. She wasn't the one who helped him get dressed and ready for school every day. She wasn't the one who went to his room late at night when he was having one of his episodes. She wouldn't know the first thing about-

"Samuel?" A soft, weak voice called out to him.

The older teen looked down to see Buddy sitting across from him, his knees to his chest.

"Yeah?" Samuel asked.

"A-are you okay? You look really mad."

Samuel leaned forward, clapping the boy's head. "Hey, hey, look at me. You're alright. I'm not mad at you. I'm just..." He sighed. "Hand me my water jug."

"Is there vodka in it?"

"Just give it to me."

"You shouldn't be drinking vodka. Uncle Brian says it's the drink of the communists."

"Buddy. I'm serious."

The boy flinched slightly. He reached into the picnic basket and handed him the water jug. Samuel snatched it, took a swig, then wiped his mouth. "You need to stop doing that." He said casually.

"Doing what?"

"Being a teacher's pet. No one is going to be your friend if you keep tattling on them or telling them what they can't say or do."

"But it's true! You shouldn't drink so much. Mom says it's bad for you."

Samuel rolled his eyes, taking another drink from his jug. "That's not the point. You think anyone in your class is ever going to invite you to hang out if they can't trust you not to have a stick up your ass the entire time?"

Buddy frowned. Wiping his eyes and turning his head.

Samuel sighed, wrapping his arms around the boy. "Come on, you know I don't say it to hurt you. I worry about you, and I want you to be able to make friends your own age."

Buddy didn't pull away from the hug; he just sat there, rigid and stiff. Slowly, he nodded his head. "Okay."

Samuel placed a kiss on his forehead. "That's a dear."

Buddy looked up at Samuel, his expression resigned. Ever since the older teen started reading "those queer English books" as Uncle Brian calls them, Samuel has been changing as much of himself as possible.

He started wearing ties and button-ups to school every day. He started talking strangely, like those scholars from those old movies Grandma used to watch. He has gotten to the point where Buddy barley recognized him anymore.

They reached into the picnic basket and began eating. By sunset, Samuel had drunk the entire jug. Buddy watched as he laid down on his back and fell asleep. The boy groaned in annoyance. He knew that, if

they didn't get home before Mom got back from work, Samuel would get grounded again.

Buddy put everything back in the camping bag, dragging it back to the garage behind the house. He then walked back to the hill to see that Samuel was still sleeping.

Knowing that he was too small to drag him all the way back home, he picked up the jug and filled it up in a nearby stream. He then went back to Samuel and poured the water down his face.

Samuel sprang up from his slumber, spitting and cussing. "What are you doing?!" he yelled.

"You fell asleep. I had to put everything up before Mom comes home."

"Oh." He looked at his watch. He winced, rubbing his head "Sorry Buddy. I didn't mean to..."

"I know."

They managed to get back to the house. By the time Mom's car had pulled into the parking lot, Samuel was under the covers of his bed in a deep sleep.

Barbra went upstairs and hugged Buddy. "Where's your brother?"

"In bed."

She raised an eyebrow. "This early? Is he okay?"

"He didn't get a lot of sleep last night."

"Ah." She went to her room and put her bag down. "You want to order pizza for supper?"

"Okay."

We have forgotten importance of Poetry Month

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

Tell me, fellow reader, do you know what Poetry Month is? Go on, take a guess. That's right love, it is the month where we talk

about poetry. In all seriousness though, do not feel bad if you have never heard of this before.

Afterall, I myself never knew about this until this year. I suppose this can be blamed on the Education System rather than our own intelligence.

That being said, I hope I can at least trust that you know what a poem is. This is especially true if, like me, you are an English major. I do not have an exact number, but I would say that roughly 50% of the writers we cover are poets.

While everyone has their own type (sonnet, free verse, elegy, haiku, etc.), it can be agreed upon that all poets should be talked about in their respective genre.

For example, my all-time favorite poem is, as some people already know, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T.S. Elliot. Like most famous American writers in his time period, Elliot was a modernist. This meant he was a writer who challenged his readers to question what they consider "literature".

See, despite the poem's title calling it a love song, the story told in it is quite the depressing one. It is told from the eyes of an aging man whose insecurities stop him from approaching women.

It makes one wonder, then, just why any poet in their right mind would give this story a ro-

mantic title just as that? Simple: Elliot wrote this poem to make us ask ourselves what can and cannot be consider a poem. Who has the right to say what a poem is or is not?

Even if you are someone who finds Elliot to be an overrated example of what makes poetry good, you cannot say he was afraid to challenge the norms of writing.

In fact, this is why Poetry Month is so important in the first place: It teaches us young students to question our reality, to challenge our beliefs on what makes something worth reading.

I am not saying all this to get people into the trend of reading, not because you want to, but because someone told you to, however.

Instead, I am saying this because I want people to learn how to draw their own conclusions. If you do not like whatever it is you are reading, find something that you will.

We have too many people in our society nowadays who just follow along with what everyone else is doing because they themselves are too afraid to think.

Poetry, and all of literature as a whole for that matter, does not exist for the sole purpose of creativity, and I feel as though a lot of people tend to forget that.

Literature is also about focusing on the shelf; What do you

want to do in life? What inspires you to get out of bed every morning? What is your reason for living?

Many of us forgot to stop and ask ourselves this. In our modern society, people's thoughts are so drowned out by advertisement, hustle culture and everything else going on in the world that they do not have much free time to look into themselves.

Everyone is so content with waking up, going to work and turning off their brain all day because they are tired of the mindless slog that is working at a job that you hate and going to bed to do it all over again, that some of us may ask what the point of it all is.


Some of us are probably sitting at home right now, asking themselves: "Why do I bother? No one cares about me. It has been so long since I have been happy, why keep going?" among other things.

But here's the thing: No one's life is perfect. Even if you have someone in your life who you think is flowing through with no problems, I promise you: They do.


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I know it may not always be easy to do that. But everyone should try at least once.

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NEWS

Challenge of being student and parent

By **EMILY WRIGHT**
Student Reporter

Sleepless nights, unending responsibilities and a schedule that never seems to slow down. Parenthood can be a challenging time for most, especially if they are a college student.

Student parenthood is a varying experience and is never the same for one person.

"I went to school, and I was pregnant," said Tracy Prats-Hester, project advisor for Student Support Services. "That was difficult; it didn't feel good and I was exhausted. You have to be motivated to do that."

Prats-Hester works for the SSS office as a project advisor for students at Northwestern. Prats-Hester was also a non-traditional first-generation student with a young child.

She attended college full time as well as worked full time. She said her challenge as a student parent was time management.

She would have to work, take care of her child, get assignments done and try to find time to sleep during her days as a student.

"Those four things were really, really difficult to do in one day," she said.

In order to work through this challenge, she relied on schedules and planned ahead in order to have time to spend with her daughter.

On certain days, Prats-Hester would take her daughter to parks, and other days spending time with her was a 30-minute nap as she put her daughter to sleep.

She said she would then get up after those 30 minutes with her daughter to work on homework until 2 a.m.

Fun days out with her daughter were usually planned for once a week because of all the responsibilities Prats-Hester needed to balance.



Photo provided

Student Jasmine Miranda spends time with her daughter Alaina Smith.

While these sacrifices were difficult, Prats-Hester said showing her daughter that she was bettering herself was a positive aspect.

"I think that one of the things for me was that being able to go to school and showing my child that I'm trying to better myself, and that you can do this even though it's difficult," she said, "and there's a lot of challenges, that the sacrifice that me and my daughter were making was worth it."

She said because of that sacrifice she is able to work at the college and make a little more money because of her bachelor's degree.

Jasmine Miranda, a junior psychology major from Woodward, found that being on campus while she was pregnant was difficult because of the buildings.

Miranda said at the beginning of her pregnancy, navigating campus wasn't as hard, but as she got into her later trimesters, get-

ting to classes in Vinson Hall and Jesse Dunn became challenging.

Navigating campus was not the only issue. Miranda said her morning sickness lasted until the end of her second trimester. She also had difficulty with employers being understanding of her condition.

Miranda has since moved her education online so she can be with her 2-month-old daughter.

"With online, I mean, I can get stuff done but it just takes some time," Miranda said, "but to me, it was easier in person because I was able to get assignments done on time."

She plans to go back to in-person classes next semester and will have childcare assistance from her partner's family. Miranda said her professors have been understanding of her situation and have worked with her through her newfound parenthood.

A former student experienced a surprise pregnancy in her final semester at Northwestern. Ang-

ie Harzman, an alum from New York City, New York, was an active member and major in the music department.

At the end of January in 2022, Harzman auditioned for the spring musical, "The Music Man." To Harzman's delight, she landed the lead role of Marian Paroo.

Harzman said that night, however, she decided to take a pregnancy test after feeling strange for several days. To her and her partner's surprise they discovered Harzman was pregnant the same day she landed the lead role.

Harzman said she was in a panic, as her time at Northwestern was already challenging as she navigated through mental and physical health struggles.

While she said each day she got better, she was still concerned about where she stood with her role in the musical.

"When I found out I was pregnant, I was just like 'oh, my gosh, they're immediately going to replace me,'" Harzman said, "like they're gonna want to take it away from me out of concern because they know when I tend to get stressed, I get sick."

While the department did consider going with Harzman's understudy, she went on to fulfill her role as Marian Paroo while nearing 20 weeks pregnant.

Being the lead in the play was not Harzman's only responsibility, as she was a part of Northwestern's three choirs, was a student leader in the choir and went on tour with the choir after her graduation.

Harzman said at the time she was frequently exhausted.

"I think that pregnancy is something that's just not easy to do, I mean for some people they say it's great, but it was just one of the most challenging times," Harzman said.

She said she took one day at a time in order to get through her senior year.

"It's definitely OK to take things one day at a time too, sometimes. I think society puts on the pressure to be so put together and constantly thinking about the future" Harzman said.

Harzman now lives with her husband and son in Pawhuska.

While student parents face a number of hardships, they usually earn similar or higher grades than those of their childless peers. However, they tend to be twice as likely to leave college before obtaining their diploma.

One in 5 undergrad college students are parents, according to a National Postsecondary Student Aid Study. From those students, 70% are mothers while 30% are fathers. Out of all student parents, 2 in 5 are single mothers.

While being a parent in college has its list of challenges, Alva is host to numerous resources.

Hope Pregnancy Center offers confidential pregnancy testing and can help expecting parents find prenatal medical care.

Northwest Family Services offers parenting programs such as, Parents for Teachers, Within My Reach and On My Shoulders, as well as programs for children. Northwest Family Services also offers help with unexpected pregnancies, and can help households figure out the next steps for them.

"This is a safe environment, anyone can come," said Jimi Lindell, a Parent Educator at NFS.

For children ages 3 to 4, Head Start is available. This program is for low-income families and is a free resource. Head Start allows children to start learning kindergarten curriculum, life and social skills. Head Start also offers resources for parents of enrolled children.

The Alva Public Library also offers programs, which include story times for children 5 and under, Lego Club for 1st-5th grade twice a month, a Discovery Day for 1st grade and younger twice a month as well as a list of other programs.

On campus, Student Support Services are offered to students that are low income, disabled, or first-generation students. SSS can help student parents who meet these requirements receive accommodations that can make going to school and being a student parent easier to manage.

SPACE: US needs to be best

Continued from Page 5

In the years after man's last visit to the moon, huge scientific and technological improvements began to materialize in the private sector. The material used in Tempur-Pedic mattresses was developed by NASA engineers in 1966 for sleeping in zero gravity, and to disperse impact forces on landing.

The information and experience that was gained from the Space Race led to the technology now used in Earth's satellite network for things like GPS and communication.

So why has it taken almost 55 years to go back? Many say it's because America lost interest. In the '70s, after the Apollo mis-

sions, the Vietnam war was hitting its lowest points, Watergate was about to happen, the 1973 OPEC oil embargos were being put in place, launching a global oil crisis and many other world-shaking events were about to occur. All of this diverted America's attention away from the moon and away from space.

Now it's 2026, America has \$39 trillion in debt, we're embroiled in a dispute with Iran, the war in Ukraine is ongoing, and some Americans are wondering why the government is even worried about going to the moon at a time like this.

Dr. Aaron Mason, a political science professor, said the answer is this: America is and should be at the forefront of innovation.

"To me that seems like what America was really praised for because we were the only ones doing these things," Mason said. "First to go to the moon, first to invent and innovate, and I think that when a country commits to that kind of thing, it's a sequitur — it flows — it makes sense that that's the default country where the best scientists go."

"Success begets success. I think that's the answer. ... People always ask, 'is it worth the money?' Yes! It is! Because the secondary things we learn from it that are applicable on Earth. There are so many technologies we've developed that now have all sorts of applications in the civilian world were developed by virtue of [the Space Race]."

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SPORTS

Softball takes win over Reddies

By SHEALYNN PRATT
Student Reporter

The Ranger softball team split Friday's doubleheader and lost Saturday, finishing 1-2 against the Reddies while maintaining confidence and strong chemistry during a challenging season.

The Ranger softball team played three games against the Reddies on Friday and Saturday.

The Rangers won the first game 7-6 on Friday, followed by a 2-1 loss. Saturday's game ended in a 5-3 loss.

Despite challenges this season, the team has maintained a positive outlook and strong team dynamic moving forward.

Katy Jones, from Cushing, has been playing softball since she was nine years old.

She said the team's chemistry, both on and off the field, sets it apart from others she has played on.

"We come to practice every single day, just having fun and having love for the game," Jones said.

Despite the losses, Jones said the team has been putting in consistent effort.

"We have been working non-stop at practice and in the weight room, getting better everyday," Jones said.

The Alva Recreation Complex had high energy Friday morning when the Rangers secured a 7-6 win. Jones said the team's mindset going into the first game



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Lady Ranger No. 20 Kaitlyn Corn steps off second base against the Henderson State Reddies. Corn had two hits and three RBIs over the weekend.

played a key role in the victory.

"The mindset going into it was just to simply win," Jones said. "We have been struggling recently, just trying to find some sort of spark and I felt the team as a whole just wanted that win."

She added that despite the losses following the early morning win, their mindset remained strong.

"Our performance in that win Friday transferred to the next games to follow but we did not leave the weekend with the results we wanted," Jones said. "But we never gave up that fight to win and I believe that will help us move forward with Conference play."

Gabby Sanchez, from Seal Beach, California, has been play-

ing softball for 18 years of her life and said that the team has been remaining positive despite their rough season.

"We still try to find ways to overcome adversity every single game," Sanchez said.

She said that there are no amount of losses that could break the team dynamic.

"The win on Friday kind of lit

a fire under our butts and showed us that no matter what, we can pull out a win for the team," Sanchez said. "We can be as good as any team we play, if we put our pieces together and play as a team."

Ranger softball will travel to play the Ouachita Baptist University Tigers in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, on Friday and Saturday.

Men's rodeo takes home victory in Southwestern

By BRAXTYN TURNER
Student Reporter

The Northwestern Oklahoma State men's rodeo team finished third in the standings and captured the men's all-around title at the 53rd Southwestern Oklahoma State University Rodeo.

Led by their dominant showing in steer wrestling, the Rangers

totaled 435 points over the three-day event, with consistent efforts across multiple events.

Leading the way was Hazen Sparks, who earned the men's all-around title for the Rangers. He left with a second place finish in steer wrestling and sixth place finish in tie-down roping.

Sparks totaled 140 points in steer wrestling and added 40 points with his tie-down performance to secure the title.

"We're obviously really excited about it," said Cali Griffin, coach of both the men's and women's rodeo teams. "He's kind of been figuring things out this year, changing horses and stuff, and it went really great for him. He's winning a lot. We are really happy for him and excited it's paying off."

Northwestern's biggest success came in steer wrestling, where four athletes finished in

the top six. Tydon Tsosie won the event with 150 points and \$480 in earnings. Sparks followed with his runner-up finish, and freshman Riley Smith placed fourth with Nathan Duvall following up in sixth.

In tie-down roping, Carter Anderson tied for fourth place with 70 points, while Sparks added to his all-around total with a sixth place finish.

The Lady Rangers also found

success with Y'leigh Yarborough's fourth place finish in breakaway roping. She earned 80 points for the Rangers and \$839.52.

Despite the individual success, the Lady Rangers did not record a team score for the Rodeo and did not place high on the leaderboard.

The men's rodeo team finished in third behind Garden City Community College and Fort Scott Community College in the team standings.

The men continue to gather points as the Central Plains Region season nears its end.

The Rangers look to build and continue this momentum as they head into the final stretch of the regular season.

"There's small things we're tweaking," Griffin said. "There's just a few things to tune up, some people changing horses. Other than that, we are just keeping our heads down and practicing as hard as we can, trying to get everything done before we have to leave."

Northwestern's rodeo teams will return to action April 16-18 at Fort Hays State University.

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SPORTS

Rangers win two, lose two

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The Rangers split the week as they lost two and won two as they faced Henderson State on enemy territory and Southern Nazarene at a neutral site.

The Rangers defeated the Reddies twice in the doubleheader on Saturday, and lost once to Henderson and to Southern Nazarene in Enid at David Allen Memorial Ballpark. After the two wins and losses, the Rangers sit eighth in the Great America Conference standings.

Logan Sandoval was announced as the GAC Pitcher of the Week. Sandoval now has a record of 7-4 after winning in his third straight win. In game two against Henderson, Sandoval threw eight strikeouts and pitched the whole game, throwing 122 pitches.

NWOSU 4-5 HEN

In game one against Henderson, the Rangers were the team to strike first. The Rangers did not score until the top of the fourth, where Blake Mattern hit a homerun to give the Rangers one. The fifth went scoreless, then the Reddies scored once to tie it heading into the seventh.

In the seventh, Northwestern scored twice as Alex Dabrowski hit a single to center field. Dabrowski's hit sent Matthew Bailey and Jason McCarty home to give the Rangers the lead by two. In the following inning, Henderson State scored twice to tie it again. In the final inning, nobody scored sending the game into extra innings.

In the first extra inning, Chase Gordon hit a bunt. While the Red-

dies got Gordon out, Dabrowski ran home to give the Rangers a chance to win it in just the first extra inning. Then, the Reddies snuffed Northwestern's candle by hitting a walk off double homerun giving them the win by just one run.

Mattern and Dabrowski had two hits, with Dabrowski having two RBIs. Will Kates had six strikeouts while Ryan McClaskey had four in the closing innings.

NWOSU 7-2 HEN

After the loss in game one to the Reddies, the Rangers stepped it up and took the final two games.

Henderson struck first in game two. A homerun in the second inning put the Reddies up front by one. The Rangers responded in the fourth. Gordon hit a single to right field to send Mattern home and tie it. Then, Jailon Goodfellow hit a double to left center to send Gordon home, taking the lead.

In the sixth, Henderson State tied it at two. Just two innings later, Joel Lindahl hit a single sending both Gordon and Mattern home, giving them a two-run lead.

In the ninth, Goodfellow put the win in concrete after he hit a double to right field to send Dabrowski, Mattern and Gordon home, securing the win for Northwestern.

Mattern, Gordon and Goodfellow each had two hits. In Goodfellow's two hits, he had four RBIs. Lindahl had two RBIs with one hit. Sandoval had the game that gave him the pitcher of the week title with eight strikeouts and the whole game pitched.

NWOSU 6-1 HEN

The Rangers secured the series win after a dominant win over

the Reddies in game three. Trey Barkman and Kyle Holzer tag-teamed game three as they split the game in half in their pitching duties.

The game was scoreless until the fourth inning, where Lindahl hit a double to left center, and with an error from one of the Reddies, Goodfellow ran home to score. After a wild pitch, Lindahl ran home to score the second run of the inning. After a hit from Bailey, McCarty ran home with Cole Barton behind who also scored, giving Northwestern a four-run lead.

The Reddies scored once in the bottom of the fourth.

In the fifth, Gordon hit a double down the right field line, sending Mattern home all the way from first base. Then in the following inning, Mattern hit a sacrifice out to send Barton home. The Reddies were unable to find anything left in their tank, and the Rangers took the game 6-1 and the series 2-1.

Dabrowski had the most hits with two. Mattern, Gordon, Lindahl and Bailey had one RBI each. Barkman was the starting pitcher. Barkman had three strikeouts. After Holzer took over the mound in the fourth, he threw two strikeouts.

SNU 6-1 NWOSU

The Crimson Storm and Rangers met in Enid at David Allen Memorial Ballpark in Enid on Tuesday, where SNU won after a rain delay stopped play in the fourth inning.

The Crimson Storm scored thrice in the first inning and once in the third inning, giving them a large early lead. Tyler Hogan hit a groundout to shortstop, allowing Barton to run home and score the



Ranger No. 3 Chase Gordon prepares to bat against SNU on March 28. *NWOSU Athletics Photo*

Rangers' only run of the game. The only runs scored after the Rangers scored was in the seventh, where SNU scored twice.

Dabrowski and Lindahl each had two hits. Gordon was the next best hitter with one hit. Both teams went through five pitchers. NWOSU had Nathan Nunez, Kaden Spray, Alex Figueroa, Austin Maddox and Brady Welker on the mound throughout the

game. Nunez, Spray and Figueroa each had one strikeout. Spray was the only pitcher to not have any hits against him.

With a threat of inclement weather, the next games for Northwestern against Ouachita Baptist were moved back one day. The teams will play a doubleheader on Saturday and once on Sunday in an attempt to avoid dangerous weather.

GAC Baseball Standings

1st	Monticello (20-7)*
2nd	Arkansas Tech (19-8)*
3rd	Harding (17-10)
4th	Southeastern Oklahoma (15-12)
5th	Southern Arkansas (15-12)
6th	East Central (15-12)
7th	Henderson State (13-14)
8th	Northwestern Oklahoma (13-14)
9th	Southwestern Oklahoma (12-15)
10th	Ouachita Baptist (11-16)
11th	Oklahoma Baptist (11-16)
12th	Southern Nazarene (1-26)

* - Clinched spot in GAC Championships

Top eight teams make the GAC Championships

Track and field keeps winning momentum

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Jamaria Ross set a new school record in the 3000m steeplechase as Northwestern's track and field teams competed in the Grizzly Gold Invite in El Dorado, Kansas.

Ross broke her own record in the 3000m steeplechase with a time of 11:09.97 giving her a 3rd place finish. Coy Bullard finished 16th in the men's 3000m steeplechase with a time of 10:14.13.

Adriam Olmos finished 42nd for Northwestern in the 400m. Olmos had a time of 54.73. In the women's 400m, Peyton Read finished 14th with a time of 1:05.27.

Merric Judd led the Rangers to a 7th place finish in the 400m hurdles with a time of 57.37.

Julian Vess just edged out Riley Herndon for the 23rd spot in the 800m. Vess had a time of 1:57.58. Read was the highest

Lady Ranger in the women's 800m. Read had a time of 2:32.6.

Titus Ellis was the top Ranger in the 1500m. Ellis had a time of 4:10.82, putting him in 21st. Cadence Long-Torres led the Lady Rangers with an 18th place finish after a time of 5:11.43.

Zachary Cox finished 17th in the 5000m with a time of 15:30.32. Ivy Washington led the women in the 5000m as she finished 11th with a time of 18:23.78.

Malakhi Straker finished 1st in the men's high jump. Straker jumped a height of 1.93m.

Byron Brown was the top Ranger in the men's long jump. Brown jumped for a mark of 6.82m putting him in 7th. Taylor Weber just beat Hannah Betts in the women's long jump. Weber jumped 5.09m, just .04m longer than Betts. Weber finished 6th.

Brown was the top Ranger in the triple jump as well. He

finished 2nd with a distance of 14.16m.

Zachary Thomas finished 18th in the javelin with a mark of 27.88m. Kaylan Swindle finished 8th for the Lady Rangers. Swindle threw for a distance of 31.14m.

Brianna Behrendt finished on the podium in the women's discus throw. Behrendt finished 3rd with a distance of 44.23m.

Daniel Becerra finished 31st in the men's hammer throw. Becerra threw for a mark of 33.23m. Mercedes Glover left with a top-5 in the women's hammer throw as she finished 5th after a throw of 50.13m.

Becerra finished 28th in the men's shot put with a throw for 12.37m. Behrendt finished 11th with a distance of 11.16m.

The next for the Rangers is the Pitt State Tune-Up on Sunday. This is their final competition until the GAC Championships.