

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Volume No. 78, Issue 1

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, 709 Oklahoma Blvd, Alva, OK 73717

January 22, 2015

TODAY'S DATE IN HISTORY

In 2002, Kmart became the largest retailer in U.S. history to file for bankruptcy.



Surviving after Christmas has passed

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See this year's Oscar nominations

Page 5



Our review of "American Sniper"

Page 6



Progress on the turfing of football field

Page 7

New company, new chapter; recap on important bookstore changes

By NATALIE SACKET
Staff Reporter

As Northwestern students adjust to the changes of the new semester, so too is the Northwestern Bookstore adjusting to its change in ownership and management.

The change of Northwestern's bookstore contract from Follet to Neebo brought with it several changes which may have a direct effect on students.

Though Neebo's contract with the Northwestern Bookstore began Oct. 1, this semester is a turning point for the store as it is adjusting to new management. Neebo hired Alva resident Jennifer Redinger as the new bookstore manager.

"I'm truly thankful for the opportunity to work with this incredible company," said Redinger of her experiences so far at the Northwestern Bookstore. "I have a wonderful staff, and I am excited to learn more about meeting the needs of our guests as they visit the store."

Aside from changes in management, there has also been a change in rental options. Though the former supplier, Follet, had a rental system, Neebo allows more rental options.



Photo by Drew Slovak

In another effort to promote savings for students, Neebo provides numerous discount opportunities on both merchandise and books. The most significant of these opportunities is Neebo's best price promise. If a student finds a lower textbook price than is offered in the

bookstore, Neebo will sell it for 10 percent off the lower price. All one has to do is bring in a printout of the offer. The same match-price offer stands for buy-backs as well. If one is interested in this opportunity, he should look at the details of the offer, which are explained at www.neebo.com/

about/bestpricepromise.

For more information about what Neebo and the Northwestern Bookstore have to offer, look at www.neebo.com/nwosu. At this site one can also find more savings opportunities and a wide variety of Northwestern merchandise.

Northwestern, Pioneer Cellular reach long-term agreement

Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Kingfisher-based Pioneer Cellular have entered into a long-term partnership agreement that will provide numerous benefits to the university's students, employees and alumni.

"We are very pleased that Pioneer Cellular has agreed to dramatically increase its partnership with Northwestern," said Janet Cunningham, university president. "Pioneer has invested heavily in providing an exceptional telecommunications network throughout western Oklahoma and their reputation as a

company is exceptional."

"I want to thank Pioneer's board of directors and senior leadership for their continuing commitment to Northwestern and the success of our students. They understand that investing in Northwestern is a true investment in the future of rural Oklahoma."

The partnership will allow Pioneer to expand its presence at Northwestern's campuses in Alva, Enid and Woodward and market directly to the University's students, alumni and employees.

"Pioneer is very proud to partner with Northwestern Oklahoma State University in the endeavor", said

Richard Ruhl, general manager. "Pioneer values the importance of higher education and will continue to support the higher educational institutions in our service areas".

Some provisions of the partnership include support by Pioneer for Northwestern's project to install an artificial playing surface on Ranger Field, and title sponsorship of the Pioneer Cellular-Northwestern Prep Classic basketball tournament. The tournament features teams from eight area high schools.

Pioneer Cellular is a subsidiary of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, the

third largest independent telephone cooperative in the United States and a recognized leader in telecommunications throughout the state of Oklahoma.

Pioneer Telephone has more than 140,000 members and customers throughout western Oklahoma and southern Kansas. The company provides an array of telecommunications services including local telephone service, wireless broadband, digital television, cellular communications, high-speed internet, long distance, security systems, business solutions and Yellow Pages advertisement.



Official Newspaper

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

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This publication, printed by Northwestern Oklahoma State University, is issued by the University as authorized by the Regional University System of Oklahoma. 1,600 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma of \$368.00.

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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 Tuesday 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 nwnewsroom@hotmail.com. 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.

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Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$12.00.

MISSION STATEMENT

Northwestern Oklahoma State University provides quality educational and cultural opportunities to learners with diverse needs by cultivating ethical leadership, critical thinking, and fiscal responsibility.

OPINION

Columnist provides tips on how to survive in a post-Christmas world



NATALIE SACKET

Columnist

The three siblings endure a trialsome existence at Wal-Mart with their grandmother, pushing on four hours of consumeristic pain. Nathan’s phone is dead, Ethan’s and mine quickly following to the grave. Though we are bored, we are fierce, dancing to ‘80s supermarket music. We shall be legends, remembered for our endurance through the Tupperware aisle. Our advancement to baking utensils will be marveled. BUT, we shall not falter, as we remember the world outside of the walls of Wal-Mart and long for even the bitter cold that awaits us on the other side of

the sliding doors. But then... all weep as we are led to the discount post-Christmas section. Even the coldest of winters holds more hope than this purgatory of 50 percent-off Santas.

Since when can childhood dreams be cut in half? The effects of consumerism have blazed through the aisles, leaving little elves freshly amputated. Quaint little cottages once dusted with the white powder of fake snow are smeared with the dirty fingerprints of disgusting children. But here, in this barren wasteland of a ravaged North Pole, a post-Christmas miracle can be found. Here, bargains will be found....

Okay, so we’ve established two things so far. 1. I tend to be melodramatic. And 2. Christmas break is over, leaving me in a state of Christmas-is-over-and-classes-have-started-and-I-just-really-want-to-go-back-to-my-coma-of-Netflix-and-hot-chocolate blues. It’s a very real and very severe fake disease. That being said, I’m sure it’s a terrible existence many of us face in these first few weeks of the semester. So, what is the cure? How does one endure in a world where twinkly, lit-up streets have been replaced

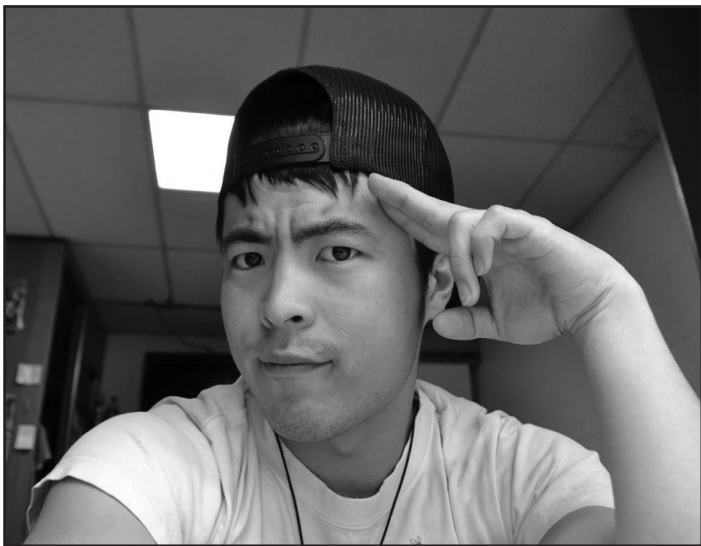
by dark alleys; where hundreds of jolly, fat, bearded men have somehow vanished into thin air; when all that is left of the holiday is the bitter weather and the 10 pounds gained in one month. The answer lies in the heart of this season.

For many, including myself, Christmas is a time of giving. This serves as a reminder of the gift that was given over two millennia ago. While this is my personal opinion, I realize this is not the viewpoint of all. Whether you choose to celebrate Christmas, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, Hanukkah, Diwali, the winter solstice, or simply the opportunity to drink a ridiculous amount of hot chocolate, this time of year tends to be one of the merriest of all. That being said, the Christmas spirit doesn’t have to fade away with the passing of December.

A giving spirit is one that can and should be practiced throughout the entirety of the year, not just to fill up the space under a tree. A joyful and positive attitude doesn’t simply have to be because of the Christmas dinner that awaits. An appreciation of family doesn’t have to be when all members of the family are cheerfully (or not so cheerfully) gathered together. For goodness sake, you can wear your onesie whenever you want!! (Though perhaps this should be limited when in public places.)

So since I’m delayed in speaking about the holidays, I will go ahead and make a post-New Year’s resolution as well... to be the happiest little elf of all, all year round.

Writer explains why to make the most of the new year



OSAMU SAKAMOTO

Columnist

lowing His birthday was New Year’s Day. Meanwhile, users of social media services were blowing up their timelines, wishing a new year or mentioning their ambitions in 2015. Some TV channels also celebrated this year to come. I especially like to watch New Year’s Eve Countdown, sipping whiskey... (cough) hot chocolate. It is great to be enthusiastic throughout Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Well, let me get to the point. Right here is the main theme that I would love to address: What is your 2015 going to be like? Is your 2015 going to be that year that is full of fun, glory and memories for you? (Surely, nobody wants a year that is full of grief, misery and homework/tests). Yet, in my opinion, it does not need to be such a year, but it is certainly okay to be a year that we can totally live up in the way we love. Sticking with Netflix all day long can be a perfect hobby to have some fun although, without judging, it does sound unhealthy. If you like partying, that can

be it. Justly and as an adult, you have to make sure not to ignore laws/rules and morals; otherwise it causes huge troubles to others and gives you an expensive ticket or an opportunity to chill out for some time in a cold jail cell.

Moreover, specifically in this season, I sometimes see people using a phrase like “New year, new me.” I like how it sounds from my personal standpoint just because it has a sense of refreshment. At the same time, I am not really happy with the words “new me.” It can imply a meaning of “resetting you and your precious assets,” which is very sad. Why do we have to be afraid of being the same? Please do not get me wrong. I believe that good things do not need to be changed while the bad, such as criminal behaviors or disrespect, should be corrected for the greater good. In fact, improving the good and excluding the bad are ultimately what keep us growing.

So how about we make this year more beneficial to us by finding ourselves, helping others, and/or improving something we love?

By doing so, I believe that we may discover something that strengthens us sooner or later. So let’s find out what we will get from this year.

We can make this year in which we can sharpen ourselves!

WHAT'S UP?

'Goody giveaways' to raise money for Art Society

By **JORDAN MCLEMORE**
Staff Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Art Society is beginning a series of "goody giveaways" starting tonight during the Northwestern and Southwestern basketball games.

It will be the first of six giveaways sponsored by the Art Society.

The main idea of the giveaway is simple. Art Society members will bring different sweets, mainly home-baked goods, and set them up at the

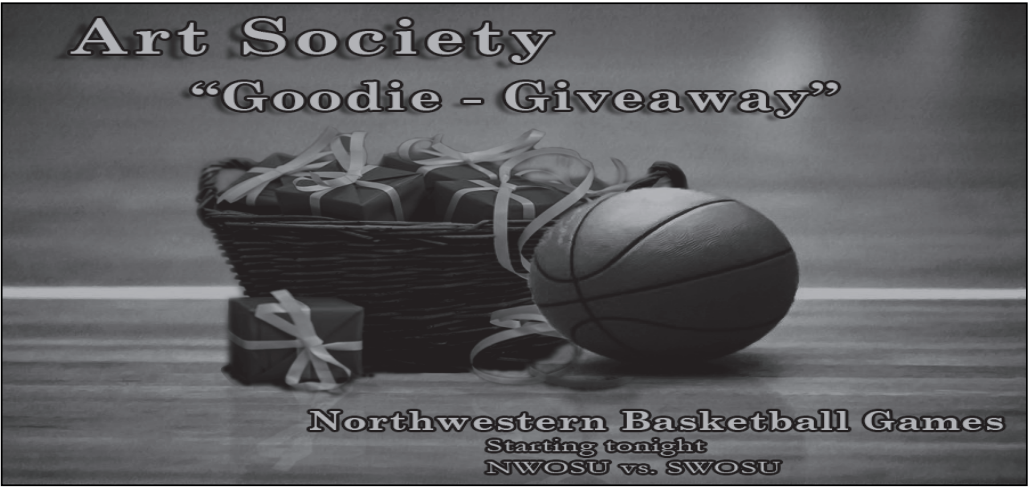
halftimes of each game and once between the two games. There will be a drawing, with prizes going to those holding winning tickets. Tickets will cost \$1 for three chances.

This is a fundraiser to help promote some of Northwestern's art-related events, including the annual art show. Proceeds will go to purchase prizes for the winners of the art show.

Megan Garnett, second year member and social media representative said, "The Art Society will set up at all of the home games in hopes of having

a rewarding art show this year."

The Art Society has been on Northwesterns campus since 2004 and its goal is to "encourage, stimulate and maintain an excellence in the field of art at Northwestern Oklahoma State University."



Graphic by Avishek Thapa Magar

RANGER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY				22 NAS Goodie Giveaway 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Women's and Men's Basketball Doubleheader vs. SWOSU	23 Secular Student Alliance Chill Night	24 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. Women's and Men's Basketball at East Central in Ada
				29 NAS Goodie Giveaway 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Women's and Men's Basketball Doubleheader vs. Southern Okla. State	30	31 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. Women's and Men's Basketball at Southern Nazarene in Bethany
25	26 Last day for 100% refund on complete withdrawals Last day to DROP- No grade required- 16 week classes	27 W required for dropped courses-16 week classes	28			

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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STUDENT LIFE

University English department receives Mark Twain sculpture

By TRENTON JUDD
Staff Writer

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University English Department has received a donation of a two-piece sculpture from Sheldon and Nancy Russell.

The sculpture is of the American literary icon Mark Twain, author of such novels as “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” and “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.” The sculpture was donated as a fundraiser for the English Department’s Visiting Writers Series.

Sheldon Russell is a Northwestern alumnus who graduated in 1968 with a degree in English. He is an author who wrote several novels that were inspired by northwest Oklahoma and according to English Department Chair Kathryn Lane, “He is one of the most distinguished graduates of the English program.”

The sculpture was created by Sheldon’s wife, Nancy Russell, who is known for her artistic talents. She is best known for her bronze sculpture of Dale Brown, which is on display at the

Runnymede. Lane says, “The sculpture is a beautiful piece that encapsulates the love, knowledge, and true nature of Mark Twain.”

English Instructor Kathy Earnest says, “Nancy is a very talented artist and this was a wonderful way of them giving back to the university.”

The sculpture, valued at \$800, will be sold at auction. Proceeds will help fund the English Department’s Visiting Writers Series which benefits the students, faculty and community members who are interested in creativity and the literary arts.



Photo by Drew Slovak

Oklahoma Policy Institute provides diversity training to Northwestern

Representatives from the Oklahoma Policy Institute in Tulsa will be on the Northwestern Oklahoma State University campus Tuesday for a diversity training workshop presentation.

All university employees and students are encouraged to attend the discussion on “Poverty Impact on Educational Achievement and Success” from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ranger Room.

Northwestern’s Diversity Committee offers training and workshops for its employees and students in an area of diversity every year.

According to a release issued in September by the

Oklahoma Policy Institute, a non-partisan independent policy think tank launched in early 2008, new data shows that poverty remained high in Oklahoma last year, highlighting that many people have not yet recovered from the recession and underscoring the need for Oklahoma to do more to help people struggling to afford basics like decent housing, affordable health care, nutritious food, reliable child care and transportation.

Also, information from an article titled “Closing the Opportunity Gap: Building equity in Oklahoma” from the OK Policy website states: “Oklahoma is transforming from a state

with a predominately white population, to one that is increasingly diverse. Children of color now comprise a majority of the population of children in 11 of the state’s 77 counties, and 44 percent of all children in Oklahoma are racial and ethnic minorities.”

A little more than 625,000 Oklahomans lived in poverty in 2013, or about one in six residents, according to Census Bureau data. That’s less than \$24,000 a year for a family of four. Oklahoma’s poverty level declined slightly to 16.8 percent in 2013 from 17.2 percent in 2012, but has increased 0.9 percentage points since 2007. The child poverty rate in 2013 was 23.5,

a decrease of 0.3 percentage points since 2012. The rate of families in poverty grew 0.6 percentage points from 2012, to 12.5 percent in 2013.

Oklahomans’ median income grew slightly to \$45,690 in 2013 from \$44,956 in 2012, an increase of 1.6 percent, the Census Bureau found. However, it still remains more than \$1,000 per year below 2007 levels. Income and poverty data showed that the state’s ethnic and racial groups have fared differently in recent years. While white Oklahomans, Latinos and Native Americans all saw incomes rise this year, black Oklahomans saw incomes drop. Concurrently,

the percentage of African Americans in poverty in Oklahoma has grown by 2.3 percentage points since 2007 (29.7 percent in 2013, from 27.4 percent in 2007), while poverty levels have dropped for almost every other group. However, median incomes in Latino households have risen more than \$3,000 since 2007 (\$39,003 in 2013, from \$35,740 in 2007).

For more information on Northwestern’s Diversity Committee or the Department of Social Sciences, please contact Kay Decker, chair of the Department of Social Sciences and professor of sociology, at 580-327-8521 or kldecker@nwsu.edu.

University hosts Red Carpet Honor Band Saturday afternoon

About 300 area high school and middle school band students attended the Northwestern Oklahoma State University campus last Friday and Saturday for the annual Oklahoma Red Carpet Country Band Director’s Association Honor Band Clinic and Concert.

The 2015 Honor Band Concert was held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Herod Hall Auditorium with free admission to the public.

The honor band members, selected by audition, were from the following Oklahoma counties: Alfalfa, Beaver, Blaine, Cimarron, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grant, Harper, Kay, Kingfisher, Major, Noble, Roger Mills, Texas, Woods and Woodward.

There was one high

school band and two junior high bands that rehearsed under the baton of guest conductors on Friday and Saturday morning before each band performed at Saturday afternoon’s concert.

This year’s conductors included Alex Claussen of Bartlesville; Belinda Watson, Mustang; and Tim DeWitt, Elk City.

More information about this event, as well as Northwestern’s band program can be obtained from Kenneth Drobnak, assistant professor of fine arts, at 580-327-8191 or kpdrobnak@nwsu.edu.

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ENTERTAINMENT



We are still a month away from the Oscars ceremony, Feb. 22, but this year’s current nominations have generated enough buzz to keep us occupied until then. From groundbreaking films such as “Boyhood” to the truly inspiring stories like that of “American Sniper”, the Oscars are sure to be filled to the brim with quality work.

We have included below seven of the main categories for nominations.

Best Picture

“Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)”
“Boyhood”
“The Grand Budapest Hotel”
“The Imitation Game”
“Selma”
“The Theory of Everything”
“Whiplash”
“American Sniper”

Directing

Alejandro G. Iñárritu, “Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)”
Richard Linklater, “Boyhood”
Bennett Miller, “Foxcatcher”
Wes Anderson, “The Grand Budapest Hotel”

Morten Tyldum, “The Imitation Game”
Actress in a Leading Role
Marion Cotillard, “Two Days, One Night”
Felicity Jones, “The Theory of Everything”
Julianne Moore, “Still Alice”
Rosamund Pike, “Gone Girl”
Reese Witherspoon, “Wild”

Actor in a Leading Role
Steve Carell, “Foxcatcher”
Bradley Cooper, “American Sniper”
Benedict Cumberbatch, “The Imitation Game”
Michael Keaton, “Birdman

or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)”
Eddie Redmayne, “The Theory of Everything”
J.K. Simmons,”Whiplash”

Actor in a Supporting Role
Robert Duvall, “The Judge”
Ethan Hawke, “Boyhood”
Edward Norton, “Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)”
Mark Ruffalo, “Foxcatcher”

Actress in a Supporting Role
Patricia Arquette,”Boyhood”
Laura Dern, “Wild”
Keira Knightley,”The

Imitation Game”
Emma Stone, “Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)”
Meryl Streep, “Into the Woods”

Music (Original Song)
“Everything Is Awesome” from “The Lego Movie”
“Glory” from “Selma”
“Grateful” from “Beyond the Lights”
“I’m Not Gonna Miss You” from “Glen Campbell...I’ll Be Me”
“Lost Stars” from “Begin Again”



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ENTERTAINMENT



By **CHRIS PUNTO & NATALIE SACKET**
Columnists

This week we decided to take our daily dose of vitamin USA. We watched, along with what seemed like the rest of Alva, one of the most talked-about movies of the year.

“American Sniper” (2015)

Chris’ Review-



Before I get too far into this movie review, I would like to stress the point that I am not simply a fan of this movie because it is star-spangled awesome. I like it for what this film is supposed to represent. Now, let’s get to it.

First and foremost, this

movie is an adapted screenplay from an autobiography co-written by Chris Kyle before he died. It is not meant to raise support for our war efforts in the Middle East. Whatever you want to believe about what’s going on over there is completely up to you. The main idea behind this movie goes far beyond that. This film captures the psyche behind a man who was deemed a legend among his peers. The movie basically starts with a question: Was Chris Kyle perfect? Throughout the movie they give you the answer. No, he was not. He was flawed. He kept secrets. He held in emotional damage. But the film goes on to show you that just because Superman has a weakness does not make him a bad guy. Yes, the film was dramatized for the viewer’s entertainment, but that shouldn’t take away from what

was an amazing movie. With an Oscar nomination for best actor is a lead role, Bradley Cooper delivers. Diving into the mentality of a battle-hardened Navy SEAL is no easy task. I have said this many times and I stick with it: Anyone who acts out a character with mental damages or disorders properly is a strong actor and person. Not everyone can take that kind of darkness. That kind of pain is what contributed to the death of Heath Ledger. I can’t imagine that acting out this pain is even close to the real deal, but I think some props are in order. Some critics might argue that the film was so narrow-sighted that no one else in the film could shine through, but I disagree. Sienna Miller, who portrays Taya Kyle, does a great job of expressing the sadness and worry that many

military wives are all too familiar with. And again, the film was an autobiography. If you expected to see the emotions of an entire SEAL team, go watch “Act of Valor.”

Bottom line: “American Sniper” was not perfect. It might have had some propaganda-style scenes in it, but what film have you seen in the last decade that does not have any kind of agenda behind it? Clint Eastwood, director of this film, is a proud patriot and maybe he just wanted to spread the love. What I cannot do is criticize a movie that dives so deep into the mind of someone who had so much agony penned up inside. I won’t be one of those fakers who suddenly feels an emotional connection to this man. I never knew him. But after watching this movie and doing some of my own research, I believe that Chris Kyle loved the USA and truly wanted nothing more than to protect us and help others. May he rest in peace.

Natalie Sacket



3 propaganda puppets out of 5

“American Sniper” is aimed, fired, and prepared to knock the Oscars dead. Boasting an impressive six nominations for this year’s academy awards, it appears as though this film will sweep the awards ceremony. But after watching “American Sniper,” I don’t understand why.

Perhaps it was the hype the film received prior to my watching it that caused me to be slightly let down. Maybe it is because I was more captivated and intrigued last month when

watching “Unbroken,” also the tale of a man surviving the struggles of war. Or maybe there simply wasn’t enough of a character build for me to grow attached to Bradley Cooper’s character. Regardless of the reason, I was let down by this film, as I was expecting one of the greatest war films I’d yet to see.

Don’t get me wrong, I thing it truly is a good movie. Good, but not GREAT. Best war film I’ve ever seen? No. Worthy of six academy award nominations? No. Worthy of watching despite my harsh critique? Yes.

I will say that the acting was phenomenal. Bradley Cooper buffed up not only his physique but also his acting abilities. I forgot that I was watching Cooper, as he completely transformed into the character. Gone is our favorite pretty boy from “The Hangover.” The main character, played by Cooper, had only one flaw, found in its lack of development throughout the film. Cooper’s performance was outstanding, yet the script left me wanting more.

I do appreciate a film that gives a glimpse into the struggles of soldiers not only when they are overseas, but also when they return home. The effects of PTSD on soldiers is an issue not often in the limelight, but one that is definitely deserving of attention. I appreciate this film for delving into that topic.

Bottom Line: Though I’ve been largely critical of this film, I do think it is one worth seeing. Just be prepared for it to perhaps not live up to the hype. For me, “American Sniper” missed the target.

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Spirit Contest

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What: Spirit Contest between Clubs or Sports Teams

Where: Lady Ranger & Ranger Basketball Games (Percefull Fieldhouse)

Time: Contestants must show up to the Lady Ranger game at 5:00pm & sign in at the booth. Judging will be held during halftime of the Men's Ranger game.

February 5, 2015

CASH PRIZES:

1st = \$200.00
2nd = \$100.00
3rd = \$50.00

Criteria:

- Dress up to show Ranger Spirit preferably in RED!
- Signs that show Ranger Spirit and what Club or Sports team you represent
- Loudness and Spirit throughout both games
- No Air Horns allowed! (No artificial noisemakers)

SPORTS

Preparations for new football field underway

By TRAVIS HARMON-SMITH
Staff Reporter

Landscaping becomes a high expenditure when it comes to mowing, watering, and essentially having a set time schedule for lawn care.

The mowing and watering days will come to closure at Ranger Field as Northwestern Oklahoma State University will install new artificial turf this spring.

The decision has been under consideration for quite some time and was finalized when the Northwestern administration entered a contract with Field Turf USA, Inc., to install the playing surface. By replacing the current Bermuda grass at Ranger field, this will lower costs for lawn maintenance and also use less water.

The Bermuda grass has been a part of Ranger Field since 1969.

According to University president Janet Cunningham, the installation of artificial

turf will give Ranger Field a new look and appeal for spectators. “The new artificial turf field will be the final piece to the transformation of Ranger Field through the Vision for Victory Campaign for athletics,” Cunningham said in a recent press release. “The turf, in conjunction with the new locker room and press box, will make Ranger Field one of the showcase facilities in Oklahoma.”

Artificial turf is not the only element being renovated at Ranger Field. Other areas of Ranger Field, such as the locker room, and press box, have also seen changes. The Ranger football program has installed a new state-of-the-art fitness facility for strength and conditioning and offseason training located in the field house where players and coaching staff meet for team activity and game preparation.

Along with a new fitness facility will be a press box. The construction of the press box is

ongoing, but it will provide fans and spectators new comfort and relaxation for games and other sporting events. It will serve as a better facility for the press and other news media personnel to report in a more spacious environment.

Cunningham also explained in a recent press release that private funding was used for purchase and installment of the field turf alongside support from Pioneer Cellular, whose logo will be included on the turf once complete.

Even with private funding, other financial efforts were initiated locally for the project as Banc Central National Association and Alva State Bank and Trust purchased rights for business advertisements on the sidelines during games next fall.

Having artificial field turf will be beneficial for facility maintenance and student-athlete recruitment in the future.



Photo courtesy of riderangersride.com

According to Cunningham, it will also attract recruits. which will be a major advantage for competition. “Many of the student-athletes we are recruiting, especially from larger schools, already play on artificial surfaces, so this will become an advantage for us in that respect,” Cunningham said.

Another bright spot to having turf will be the opportunity to host several events such as high school

playoff and post-season all-star games.

Official construction for the artificial field turf has begun immediately as ordered by University administration. The Vision for Victory campaign has a designed a blueprint of how the turf will look once completed; that can be seen on the University webpage at www.nwsu.edu.

The project is scheduled to be completed in March.

Baseball preps for season opener with new head coach

By NICK VILLALOBOS
Sports Editor

Northwestern baseball looks to improve under a new head coach.

The Rangers baseball program finished with a 25-25 overall record and an 8-22 Great American Conference record last season. The subpar performance led to the search for a new high-energy head. In August, Director of Athletics Andy Carter found what he thinks is a great fit for the open coaching position and hired new head coach Sam Carel.

Carel previously held the head coaching job at Jefferson College. While at Jefferson College, Carel managed to win eight straight conference titles.

Along with Carel joining the coaching staff, former Northwestern baseball and basketball player Jonathan Freemyer will also take the reins as the Rangers assistant coach. Freemyer had a very successful



Photo courtesy of riderangersride.com

college career here at Northwestern, becoming the first player in GAC history to earn all-conference in both basketball and baseball. Carel said in response to Freemyer taking the coaching position, “Jonathan will have an impact on our development. He will be a tremendous asset to our program.”

The Rangers have also added hitting coach Jason Wood and pitching coach Taylor Henry to assist in building the program.

The Rangers also announced the captains who will lead the team

this year just this last month. The captains include Ranger senior Jeff Martain, pitcher Chase Randall, infielder Joshua Caruso and catcher Logan Porter.

“We are excited with the players’ selection of these individuals as their captains and are looking forward to getting the season underway,” said Carel.

The Rangers season will open on the road Feb. 1 against Panhandle State in Goodwell, Okla.

Softball set to due battle this season with new head

By NICK VILLALOBOS
Sports Editor

Northwestern softball looks to build on its success from last season with a new head coach.

The Ranger’s softball program finished with an astounding 41-15 overall record and a 27-11 GAC record last season.

This season they look for even more success as they start the season with new head coach Ricki Rothbauer.

Rothbauer became the head coach in August. Before accepting the offer at Northwestern, Rothbauer held the head coaching job at Texas A&M-Kingsville. While there, she won an impressive 68 games.

Along with Rothbauer, the Rangers also have hired

Ashley Wade as the new assistant coach.

The Rangers will have five returning seniors including outfielder Lindsay Thorstenson and pitcher Shelby Anderson. Both Thorstenson and Anderson were on the first team all-conference squad last season.

The Rangers will open their season with a double header against UT Permian Basin in Odessa, Texas. Then they continue road play until March 6 when they take on conference opponent Southern Nazarene at home.



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