Junior high festivals start
Performers visit today and Thursday

More than 3,000 junior high instrumentalists and vocalists from Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and Missouri are expected to attend the annual Instrumental and Vocal Music Festivals, today and Thursday, according to Mary Susan Whaley, co-coordinator of the events.

"We have already had approximately 600 students and more than 2,200 students sign up to participate in solo, ensembles, concert bands and orchestras for today's festival," said Brian Smith, coordinator of the instrumental portion of the two-day event.

Approximately 700 entries are expected to compete in Thursdays vocal portion of the festival.

"I know we will have a great deal of interest in our students and faculty, but statistics indicate that bringing junior high students on a college campus and getting them familiar with the college setting will increase the probability that the student will attend classes here," Whaley said.

Juries for both contests are from the four-state area and Texas. Contestants in both festivals are rated on a scale from one to five.

"One being excellent and five meaning they need a lot of improvement," Whaley said.

They are graded on rhythm, intonation, accuracy of pitch, tone, interpretation, technique, appearance, and overall sound," said Smith.

We want to invite any of our schools and faculties to come to either the full session or to listen to either the festival or to listen to the music. It won't cost them anything but time," Smith said.

Journalists win several awards
By Katelyn Baker
Features Editor
Six Northeastern A&M journalism students won 12 awards during the 22nd annual Northeastern State University of Soil News. The student newspaper placed first overall in the newspaper competition.

The Norse Wind weekly student newspaper placed third overall in the Student Newspaper of the Year competition.

The newspaper staff received plaques for first place in both newspaper writing and newspaper photography categories.

Four Norse Wind editors placed in the individual news writing category. Sophomore managing editor Danielle Boyd of Comanche received honorable mention recognition in news writing.

Boyd won the individual newspaper photography category while placing third in both newspaper and yearbook sports photography.

Sophomore news editor Kristen Bradley of Miami won second in news writing and first place in yearbook editing.

Sophomore editorial writer Jerry Williams of Grove, finished third in news writing and second in yearbook editing.

Ag students gain valuable experience
By Kyla Hollister
Features Editor
Agricultural students got the chance to show off their talents in the show ring at the annual NOA Aggie Western held recently in the Multi-Purpose Arena located just north of the main campus.

The event, which is sponsored by the NOA Aggie Society, is a competition which allows students to compete for livestock coveted by the main campus.

Mike Deering, Aggie Western Chairman, was pleased with the overall event.

"I was happy with the efforts and enthusiasm of the students and faculty," Deering said.

"Everyone was helpful and did a good job."

Categories included sheep showmanship, beef showmanship, horse showmanship and swine showmanship.

A number of students competed and received cash awards for their achievements.

Winners of the sheep showmanship were Jake Dooley, Atokes, grand champion and Justin Massey, Lenapah, reserve champion. Grand champion and reserve champion winners of each category earned the right to compete in a round-robin competition.

In this event, each person showed each category of animals and could earn up to 40 points. Peterson finished first with a total of 370 points. Massey was second with 267, and Cochrane finished third with 156 total points.
Opinion
Toxic lead remains major epidemic in this vicinity
By Jerry Williams

Lead toxicity remains epidemic," said Dr. Bruce Lanphear of the University of Cincinnati.

His statement was made at a dinner recently for healthcare providers sponsored by the Ottawa County Health Department and other Miami area organizations.

To anyone familiar with the lead problems of northeastern Oklahoma, his remarks may be seen as preaching to the choir.

The pollution and contamination created by mining operations created what has become known as the most polluted site in the United States: Tar Creek.

As a result of this contamination, children in Ottawa County have been found to have higher exposure to lead particles than children anywhere else in America.

Apart from contamination from lead and zinc mining residue, lead poisoning from other sources," said Lanphear, "is still a major health problem in the nation.

Lead in paint was a major source of contamination prior to its being banned in Europe in 1921 and in the United States in 1970.

As the Picher residents know so well, lead contamination, whether from mining residue, paint or gasoline, can persist in the soil for decades.

Toxic exposures are long lasting," Lanphear said.

Lead levels, added, "may lead to other diseases and problems.

On the subject of crime, for example, Lanphear brought up a study which showed a nearly identical relationship between lead exposure and juvenile murder rates in the United States.

This may seem like a leap and further study in this area is certainly called for, but the fact remains that lead poisoning has not gone away and won't without constant vigilance.

That vigilance must begin at home. "Floors are the primary source of lead contamination for infants," said Lanphear, "because that is where the dust gathers.

"The top two ways to prevent lead poisoning among infants," he concluded, "are house cleaning and hand washing.

Suggestion process needs student input to become useful tool
By Danielle Boyd

Marketing Editor
NEO is in the process of implementing the Suggestion System for all employees and students.

The purpose of the system is to improve the quality of the college for those who live, work and study here.

A formal system has been designed to help foster assurance that every reasonable suggestion will be considered, and that a timely response to each suggestion will be made.

Faculty/staff may submit their suggestions to socialsci@neou.edu or by mail to P.O. Box 974 NEO Campus.

Students may submit their suggestions to a suggestion box located in the entry way of the Student Union or in the lobby of Hamilton-Dobson Hall.

A faculty/staff team of volunteers will review each suggestion. Their purpose is to determine what area the suggestion applies to and forwards it to that party.

Every valid suggestion will be considered and a response will be made.

Be considered valid, the suggestion will be signed, legible, designed to make improvements, and not be a personal attack.

Each suggestion will then be anonymously forwarded to the appropriate department.

Within two weeks, the person making the suggestion should receive a formal response from the Suggestion Committee, indicating if the suggestion can be used and when it would be implemented, or why it cannot be acted on.

A suggestion roster will be reviewed at every TQM meeting, to keep track of progress of their system.

At the end of the year, the system will be reviewed to highlight success stories and look ways to improve the system.

It is the hope of the College Administration that this system will create opportunities for each employee and student to be a part of the success of the college.

Committee members are Kathy Blundell, Caroline Baker, Kay Harris, Andrea Leonard, Jan Mathis and Jim Mattis.

Freedoms tied to media
By Jerry Williams

Editorial Editor

There are a lot of media types around who would have you believe that freedom of the press is more important than freedom of speech.

The truth of the matter is that freedoms of the press and freedom of speech are really the same thing.

Anyone who feels he has something to say has the right to do so as long as the consequences of his saying don't come harm to others.

All the owner of a newspaper is doing when he publishes is exercising his right to say what he wants to say.

The only difference between a newspaper owner and the guy quoting bible verses on the corner is that the one shouts his message out loud while the other puts his in black and white.

This tyranny of newspaper people to attempt to convince you that because something is written in a paper it somehow is a better lie than that common speech is something we need to be guard against.

Anyone can own a newspaper. Consequently, once a person owns a newspaper, he can print anything he likes.

As long as you are particular about what things appeal to enough people to make your paper profitable, you've made it clear whether you want to be part of the truth or not.

Take any five major newspapers and they will each have a different slant on the same story.

It stands to reason that if you just read one newspaper, you're going to get only one slant.

This is a problem for the broadcast media. One network news show's take on a particular issue will more than likely mirror the philosophical beliefs of the owner.

I don't care on just one source for your information regarding what's going on in the world around you.

Remember, that newspaper or television person is trying to make you believe his way of seeing things is better than anyone else's.
Work begins on barn to house several horses

By Kateryna Bukay
Features Editor

The horse barn, which is expected to cost $500,000 to build, will be a two-story building with stalls for 30 horses. The barn is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The barn will be located on the east side of the campus, near the baseball fields.

"It's a great day for the horses," said Jerritt Douglas, chair of the agriculture department. "They've been waiting for this for a long time."
LIFESTYLES teacher of the week

DR. GEORGE LARGENT

History and political science instructor Dr. George Largent was selected "Teacher of the Week" for April 1-5. Dr. Largent has been a member of the college faculty since 1975. He earned both a bachelor's and master's degree from East Texas State University. He has a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Tulsa.

Book reflects different tale

By Danielle Boyd Managing Editor

The French are lapsing up a Sept. 11 conspiracy theory that argues the plane that crashed into the Pentagon never existed and that the world has been duped by a murky U.S. government plot.

Thierry Meyssan's book, "The French Fugitive," is flying off shelves according to booksellers and has topped bestseller lists.

Meyssan, president of Renaissance, a respected left-wing think tank, claims the American Airlines Flight 77 that crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., Sept. 11 did not exist and that the whole thing was staged by the government.

I believe the American government is lying. No plane crashed into the Pentagon," he told France 2 television.

Meyssan did not provide an alternative theory for what may have damaged the Pentagon.

And although French media has scoffed at Meyssan's musings, comparing them to the Roswell alien cover-up theory discredited in "The X-Files," the public are intrigued.

"Copies have been flying off shelves," a saleswoman at FNAC bookshop in central Paris told Reuters.

The book is number two on the bestseller's list on Amazon.com France.

Daily newspaper Liberation slammed the book as "a tissue of wild allegations," marveling at its "quick rise to fame" from internet chatrooms, via television chat shows, to best-seller.

Conspiracy theories like the rumors that swirled around the 1963 assassinations of JFK, or the idea that man never actually set foot on the moon, are not uncommon in the United States, but are fairly rare in France.

Meyssan says key evidence his theory shows witness accounts that are contradictory, that there are few photographs of the crash and that those that do exist show no debris from the plane.

He also asks why the facade of the Pentagon did not immediately collapse from the shock of the impact and questions the fate of the passengers on the flight.

"What became of the passengers of American Airlines Flight 77? Are they dead?" he asks.

Daily newspapers Le Monde and Libération both probed Meyssan's theory, tracking down relatives of the victims, and querying officials over the crash.

News weekly Le Nouvel Observateur denounced the book as revisionist. "This theory suits everyone: there are no Islamic extremists -- everyone is happy. It eliminates reality.

But while Le Monde dismissed Meyssan's theory as flimsy, it admitted that information available did not quite add up.

"There is no official account of the crash," the paper says. "The lack of information is feeding the rumors."

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"There is no official account of the crash," the paper says. "The lack of information is feeding the rumors."

In short, material you can be pretty sure has some reliability and validity, some authority.

Here's how it works:

2. Click on "Advanced Search."
3. Scroll down to "Location/Domain."
4. Click on the drop-down menu next to the word "anywhere," then click on the phrase "North America, " and click again.
5. Another useful limit is the gov. domain, sites maintained by agencies of the federal government.
6. Type the subject you're looking for in the search box at the top of the screen. If it's more than one word, type the phrase in quotation marks, i.e., "African American History" or "Charles Dickens."
7. One last refinement that I have found to be very helpful is to add the word "links" to your search. Every website worth its salt includes a page of links to other related websites.
8. Sometimes adding this word almost always helps me get right to the skinny and find the information I'm looking for.
Football team starts drills

With only 20 days to get a year's worth of teaching in, the Golden Norse football team kicked off spring drills last week.

Veteran head coach Dan Patterson and his staff are working with approximately 60 prospective members of next year's team.

Sprin practices will continue until the tradition Blue-Gold scrimmage, May 6, on Robertson Field.

Practice sessions in shorts and shoulder pads were at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday being the first day in full pads.

The team fills weights in the NEO Power Plant located underneath Robertson Field on Tuesday and Thursday.

"We need to take advantage of the time we have and get the most out of every practice," said Patterson.

Last year the Norsemen finished with a 6-5 overall record which included a 38-0 loss to Kilgore Texas, in the semifinals of the Southwest Junior College Football Conference.

Much like last year the Norsemen open the 2002 season on Aug. 31 against arch rival Coffeyville (Kans.) Community College.

Because of conference rules the Golden Norse only have 10 days of pre-season before facing Coffeyville.

"We've asked the conference to give us three more days of preparation, but we won't have an answer until May," Patterson said.

Last year the Norsemen received a waiver from the conference and were allowed to start earlier because Coffeyville opened the season in their new multi-million dollar stadium.

"If we could have a week of three-a-days practices it would be no big deal. But school will be on, so we can't have any many-a-days as we need.

Graduation took a heavy toll on both sides of the football for the Norsemen. Seven starters are gone on offense while nine starters are missing on the defensive side.

"We've got to figure out who the leaders will be starting from the kids we already have on campus. We won't have much time in the fall," said Patterson.

Quarterback and running back are the main areas to be evaluated on offense.

Mike Hole, Rico Watkins and Jason Byers are in the hunt for the starting quarterback spot.

"We graduated three tailbacks that are now playing at the Division I level, so we need some people to step up.

At that position," Patterson said.

While inexperience abounds at quarterback and running back, the Golden Norse return 10 offensive linemen and six or seven of them saw considerable playing time.

"We've also got seven really good players returning at linebacker, even though we graduated all three of our starters,"

"It's just a matter of seeing who comes to the top."

Norse gain split with Seminole

After gaining a 12-2 victory in five innings of the first game, the Golden Norsemen dropped a 7-4 decision to Seminole State College, last weekend at Homa Thomas Field.

With the split coach Roger Ward's Norsemen are 3-5 in the 10-State Athletic Conference and 22-12 on the season. First-year head coach Eric Myers has guided the Trojans to a 24-1 record in the conference.

Sending nine batters to the plate, the bottom of the first inning of the first game, the Norse tallied five runs against Seminole. A single by Josh Gibson and a walk to Roy Coggin started the outburst.

Nate Thrasher singled scoring Gibson. Mike Cox reached on an error at Coggin's score.

Joe Amorisco followed with a single scoring Thrasher. Jeremy Beach had a double to left center scoring both Cox and Amorisco.

Consecutive singles by Jonathan Tacket, Scott Gammo and Eddie Gonzalez gave Seminole a run in the top of the second inning of NEO's Coggin.

A grand slam home run by Thrasher highlighted a four-run second for the Norse. Singles by Robert Cooke, Nate Griffin and Coggin preceded Thrasher's first home of the season.

Beach singled and scored on Cooke's third home run of the year to end the game in the bottom of the fifth inning because of the eight-run rule.

Cooke and Thrasher collected three hits each while Beach added two in the 12-1 Norse offense.

NEO tied the score at 4-4 in the bottom of the fifth inning of the second game after Griffin singled and Gibson walked. Nate Griffin tied a 2-1 pitch over the left field fence for his second home of the year.

Cox led NEO with two singles along with his by Griffin, Gibson, and Gammo.

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JOHN A. MCFERRON, O.D.
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Ladies face busy schedule
Play 10 games in 5 days

Entering the final three weeks of the regular season, the Lady Norse will play 10 games in the next five days.
Coach Eric Trenion's Lady Norse are 21-3 on the season and 12-2 in the Bi-State Athletic Conference entering today's double-header with Neosho County in Chanute, Kan.
The Lady Norse host Murray State College in a 2 p.m. conference twinniel on Thursday before hosting Seminole at 3 p.m. on Friday.
NESCAC is scheduled to play four conference games on Saturday and Sunday in Athens against Western Oklahoma.
Lady Norse 9-8, Eastern 1-2
Sophomore designated hitter Tiffany Boddie hit three home runs and collected seven runs batted in to lead the 10th ranked Lady Norse to a 9-1 and 8-2 double-header sweep over Eastern Oklahoma College, last week on the NEO diamond.
"This double-header was about retribution for us as a team," said Lady Norse head coach Eric Trenion. "After all, we lost two one-run games at Comets State because we committed 12 errors. We needed a couple of games like this to get our feet back under us and prove to ourselves just how good we can become.
Against the Lady Mountaineers in the first game, NEO built a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning.
After Sara Campbell reached on a walk to start the inning, Boddie, a left fielder from Mansfield, drilled a 1-2 pitch over the right-center field fence for her second homer of the season.
With one out in the bottom of the second inning Rachel Wallchristen reached on an error.
Michelle Mandle followed with a sacrifice before Campbell singled to left scoring Wallchristen for a 3-0 Lady Norse lead.
Eastern's only run of the game came in the top of the third inning after Cassie Darnall singled with one out.
Pitcher Kelly McIlrath sacrificed Darnall to second before Lynn McKenzie singled to left-center scoring Darnall.
Boddie picked up another 1-2 pitch to start the third inning and led off the right-center field fence to give NEO a 4-1 cushion.
A walk to Mandle started a three-run fourth inning for the Lady Norse.
After Campbell singled, Amanda Boddie hit an RBI single scoring Mandle. Both Campbell and Boddie scored on a double to left-center by Stacy Windler.
Pinch-hitter Nicole Rader singled to start a two-run fifth inning for NEO. Following a sacrifice by Wallchristen, Mandle scoring Rader.
Campbell singled scoring Mandle to end the game because of the eight-run rule.
Boddie and Campbell collected two hits each to pace the nine-hit Lady Norse attack.
Following consecutive singles by Campbell and Boddie in the bottom of the first inning of the second game, Boddie continued her torrid hitting with an RBI double to left-center. Amanda Brown lined a RBI single to center and a sacrifice bunt by Miranda McCarthy scored Boddie. Both ran in to give NEO a 4-0 cushion.
Campbell, Boddie and Rader each had two of the 11 total Lady Norse hits.
Comets 6-3, Lady Norse 5-2
Committed 12 errors in two games the 10th-ranked Lady Norse lost a Bi-State Athletic Conference double-header 6-5 and 3-2 last week to arch-rival Comets State College in Warner.
Boddie paced the 10-hit Lady Norse attack with three singles.
Against the Cowgirls in the second game, Campbell, Boddie, Brown and McCarthy collected the Lady Norse hits.
Lady Norse 4-0, Tonkawa 1-1
Wallchristen hit a three-run home run and a two-run triple to lead the eighth-ranked Lady Norse to a 4-1 and 9-1 double-header sweep over Northern Oklahoma College of Tonkawa last week on the NEO diamond.
NEO A&M College Archive Collection

The Norsewind – the NEO A&M College Newspaper

Digital copies of The Norsewind, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College's student newspaper, are available in .pdf format on the NEO website for non-commercial purposes only. Scans were created using the best available editions through the assistance of the Oklahoma Higher Education Historical Society from microfilmed images. Where stains, color-fading, contributed marks or ripped pages were visible on the original, they also appear in the digital copy. NEO newspaper editions that do not appear on the website are not part of the collection at present. If you would like to donate a missing, damaged or incomplete copy of The Norsewind, please contact the NEO Library.

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