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Live music added to the menu

LOCAL COFFEEHOUSE TO HOST BANDS

LUCAS SANDER
WRITING & RHETORIC

If you are a college student, odds are you like coffee and music. If you’re a Northwestern student, odds are you like Town Square coffee, so get ready for Town Square music. With the school year up and running and students back in the area, the coffee shop has started planning semi-regular music events on Saturday nights, and NW students are encouraged to attend.

Students may remember a series of concerts called “LIVE at the Old Factory” at Town Square’s previous location, and having a venue for live music from local bands is an opportunity Town Square wants to continue to offer. Brad Smith, a longtime employee of Town Square, has been organizing bands to play at the coffeehouse.

“The criticism of Orange City is that it’s a small town, there’s nothing going on...we’re just trying to create something going on,” Smith said.

The first of many music-filled Saturday nights took place on Sept. 30 with three acts: Don Paschall and Abbey Mastery played together, as well as Jon Jansen and Company, both acts from NW. The band Astell, on tour from Argentina, finished out the night.

Smith is excited about seeing more music in the Orange City area.

“I think there are people in the area that are interested in growing a music scene in Northwest Iowa,” Smith said.

El Dahm is a part of Jon Jansen and Company, who followed the opening act last Saturday with some 80s funk covers. He has been to many concerts in the past and appreciates the atmosphere at Town Square.

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A day in the life of a: Spanish Major

STUDENT BALANCES MAJOR AND ACTIVITIES

LUZZY JOHNSON
PUBLIC RELATIONS

¡Bienvenido a un día en la vida de! Welcome to a day in the life of Emily Wikner! Emily Wikner is a sophomore Spanish major at Northwestern, which is no small feat. Her day consist of learning new things in both Spanish and English, lots of homework, participating in several extracurricular activities and jamming out to the “Beauty and the Beast” soundtrack in Spanish.

Wikner starts out her day with running. She is training for a half marathon and likes to knock out her long runs in the mornings.

“Training for a half marathon is a lot, but I can eat whatever I want because I’m burning it off,” Wikner said.

After her run, she tries to eat breakfast in the caf around three times a week: “I don’t use all my meals on the weekends so I can have breakfast sometimes during the week. I am a sucker for pancakes — I love them way too much.”

Using her pancakes as fuel, Wikner is ready to head to her classes. To fulfill her Spanish credits, she is in an Advanced Conversation class as well as Introduction to Spanish Literature (her personal favorite). On Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, she has Introduction to Christian Missions followed by a work-study shift at the DeWitt Learning Commons. The rest of her afternoon is packed — she goes from Introduction to Narrative and Verse to Christian Witness/ Community Development to A capella Choir.

As a discipleship group leader, Wikner has meetings Monday nights and then leads her D-Group on Tuesday nights. Tuesdays and Thursdays are a little less busy with only her Spanish literature class, followed by Spanish tutoring on Thursday nights.

Wikner greets almost everyone she encounters during the day with her favorite Spanish phrase, “La paz sea contigo,” which means “May the peace be with you.” When she’s not sitting in class, running, singing in choir or working, she is busy with homework. Being a Spanish major has been in the back of Emily’s mind since she was in high school.

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Despite her busy days, Wikner is passionate about her major and variety of activities.

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DARK HUMOR AND DEEP ISSUES

BRANT VERMEER
POLITICAL SCIENCE

"Bojack Horseman" is perhaps a lesser-known Netflix original series. While on the surface it looks like a simple Adult Swim cartoon, it discusses complex themes such as feeling purposeless and incapable of doing good.

The show holds a strong cast, with Will Arnett playing the starring role of Bojack, and supplemented nicely by Aaron Paul playing his trustworthy companion Todd. The show has the ability to make its audience laugh one moment, then shock them with twisted moments that highlight how dark human, or horse, nature can be in the next moment.

The show follows the titular character as he tries to navigate Hollywood, a town based on Hollywood, as a washed-up sitcom star. Bojack is a horse who starred on a 90s sitcom titled "Horsin’ Around" and has lately been out of work. Throughout the first three seasons, he struggles to find roles that seem fulfilling to him, and also struggles with the realization that his work on "Horsin’ Around" was unimportant in the grand scheme of things. Without giving too much away, Bojack goes through intense character transformations throughout the first three seasons and continues to do so in season four.

Arnett does a fantastic job voicing Bojack. He nails comedic lines but also handles emotional scenes sensitively. While Arnett nails his role, the rest of the cast fills out the show nicely as well. Other standout characters come from Paul, who plays Todd, a person that crashes on Bojack's couch and is often incapable of simple tasks. Todd is used mostly for comedic relief, but grows as a character throughout the series and hits his stride in season four.

The show's comedy may not be for everyone, as the jokes are often very dry and at times dark. The writers also do not shy away from putting political issues in the spotlight, including episodes that touch on abortion, gun control and political campaigns.

The show also has very dark scenes and even entire episodes during the fourth season. As previously mentioned, the show does not shy away from tackling issues like depression, feeling purposeless and washed up and struggling to find worth. Bojack's backstory is emotional, and the show does not shy away from emotional scenes minutes after comedic ones. The true strength of "Bojack" is its ability to remain comical throughout, while also offering hard-hitting emotional scenes and character development.

The show's fourth season is undoubtedly the strongest yet. While previous seasons worked out finding the balance between comedy and emotion, the fourth season finds that balance from the start and continues to surprise the audience with the topics it decides to tackle. "Bojack Horseman" may not be the show for everyone and is rated mature. Those who cannot stand cartoons, want a simple comedy or do not appreciate the show's sense of humor may feel out of place watching. But if the humor and plot line are your style, then it is definitely worth watching.

Swift’s single soars in the charts

NEW SINGLE MAKES A MARK

BREE HODNIEFIELD
WRITING & RHETORIC

American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has been on an extended break for more than a year, preparing for the release of her sixth album, Reputation. Swift used social media to reveal that her newest album will be released on Nov. 10.

To give her fans a taste of the new album, the dark, vengeful new song, "Look What You Made Me Do," released Aug. 25, offers three-and-a-half minutes of new lyrics to analyze, from the angry first line "I don't like your little games" to a bridge proclaiming the pop star's truth.

Swift never mentions the "you" addressed throughout the song by name; however, she started working on this new release because of her long-running feud with Kanye West, and he did use a tilted stage during his Saint Pablo tour, as alluded to in the first lines of her song. Within the first minute Swift begins referring to a list of names, last used in a previous song "Blank Space," where the singer was implying a string of "ex-lovers," but this time she's not playing nice. While never being specific, Swift is after someone who is underinformed in red on her "list of names."

Throughout the song, she makes allusions to her previous works "Blank Space" and "Wildest Dreams." From the album 1989 to the upcoming new release Reputation, Swift speaks of dreams, yet going from being a "nightmare dressed like a daydream" to "the actress starring in your bad dreams," threatening again the mysterious "you" the track brings back time and time again. As the bridge of Swift's song is approached, listeners hear her sing "I'm sorry, the old Taylor can't come to the phone right now. Why? Oh 'cause she's dead!" which alludes to the infamous phone call recording Kim Kardashian spread last year in which Swift appears to be talking to West of his "Famous" lyrics.

The reference to the "old Taylor" being "dead" explains her strange drop of social media in the week leading up to the single release. Swift deleted all social media accounts, later showing up "new" and dropping hints involving snakes, suggesting that the singer was shielding her old skin and starting over. The title of Swift's newest song, "Look What You Made Me Do," definitely points to karma and the idea that those who have wronged her have one messy storm coming their way. All the vengeful energy in her new release comes back to this repeating line implying that her enemies "made" her release this song with her new album Reputation. In other words, her angry track can simply be interpreted as justice being served.

Swift's comeback song is crushing records left and right and her music video is currently booming with 53 million views, as well as her Spotify and radio ratings. If the rest of her album sounds like this, her fans are in for a treat. This may just be Swift's best album yet. What will the rest of her album sound like, and is this her new "reputation" or just another one of her phases?

"Warren Duncan is as mystical as a unicorn. Sometimes I see pictures or hear about him, but I'm not sure he's real."
-Ryan Almighty

"The butt is a must! BEACON QUOTE!!!"
-Prof. Jeff Barker

"Sorry I was late, I got stuck in traffic."
-Brian Follett on his way to Beacon layout in North's basement.

"I was late, I got stuck in traffic."
-Brian Follett
ARTS & CULTURE
Town Square features tunes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
"Just being able to interact with people and
have them hear your music — usually people that play... are people that enjoy their
music and invest in it, so
be able to share that gift
with people around you is
fun," Dahl said. "I've played
a lot of gigs where there have been five people or just
my parents, and so to play
at a Town Square venue... and have people show up is
always great.
Unfortunately, NW may not be the best at
growing this community
yet; our neighbors across
the field have been active.
Dahl, respectfully
admitted, "Dorot is so good
at giving their students
opportunities to perform...
We still have a lot of talent
here, we just don't really
give as many opportunities."

This might be because
students are too shy or
think they need to get
equipment and a sound
system organized, but Dahl
has some great news.

"You'll need an
instrument and know how
to use it," Dahl said. "They
have their own [sound]
system. If you know how
to play five or six songs and
you have a couple buddies
that can join you, all you
really need to do is ask Brad
if they're interested."

And Brad would love
to have you ask. "If there
are musicians at NW that
want to play, we want them
to play, and they should not
feel shy about asking me
about it," Brad said.

You can contact
Town Square Coffee
on Facebook or email
townsquarecoffeehouse@gmail.com to get in touch
with Brad about it, or just
swing by the shop.

Campus clubs: Yada kicks off

SCIENCE & FAITH
CLUB BEGINS

BRANT VERMEER
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Yada is the Northwestern
College faith and science club.
The group had its first meeting
on human evolution Thursday,
Sept. 28 and will be meeting
again on Thursday, Nov. 5.
The club aims to hold consistent
meetings on Thursdays and
courage students of all
backgrounds to engage in
discussion about how faith
and science play in shaping
worldviews.

The club is spearheaded
by NW's science and religion
professors and usually
includes a presentation or
discussion point brought from
a professor. The meetings
encourage professors and
students to engage in dialogue
about the way faith influences
how we approach science.

The club highlights how
students can study sciences
without losing their faith
and shows that students
should not fear scientific
discovery disproving their
faith but should encourage
integrating their faith with
what they learn. A key point
in developing a worldview is
learning about subjects from
different viewpoints, which
is something NW encourages
through its liberal arts degrees.

The importance of
understanding more than one
area of study is showcased
through the general education
program at NW. Yada strives
toward this goal even further
as it encourages students to
engage in topics they may not
discuss during normal class
schedules, especially students
not studying sciences or
biology.

Jason Lief discussed
the importance of Yada and
encouraged students to come
to the next meeting.

"It's a safe place to ask
questions and to see professors
spar with each other," Lief said.

Lief emphasized that the
club doesn't force students
to come to conclusions but
encourages asking questions
and facilitating meaningful
discussion. Lief also said he
enjoys seeing what professors
have to say about certain
issues and watching professors
engage in scholarly debate in
a respectful way. Additionally,
he urged students of all majors
to get involved in the club
and stress the importance
of having a faith that is well
informed about the world.

If you want more
information about Yada, how
to get involved or have any
questions related to faith and
science, do not hesitate to talk
to any of the science or religion
professors on campus. Yada
will continue to meet on
Thursday and offer students
the opportunity to engage in
thoughtful discussion about
how faith and science are
linked.

PHOTO: CHELSEA HENRY
Professor Lief is one of the presenting speakers for Yada.

PHOTO BY: SHELBY MAZIO
Ben Patkoff and Abbey Slattery recently performed at Town Square.
FEATURES 14

A student by any other name

FUN NICKNAMES ON CAMPUS
ALEXIS KARJSJEN
LITERATURE

Over the years, nicknames have played an important role in strengthening community among Northwestern's student traditions. Nicknames are often shortened versions of first or last names to physical objects or pop culture references.

"Humans are always searching for a way to connect with one another, and nicknames are an easy avenue to do that," senior theater major Jessica "Tetta" Askeland said.

Askeland was given her nickname (Tetta) by her older sister Alyssa because she could not fully pronounce the name "Jessica" when Askeland was born. The name stuck all the way to college, and she continues to use this nickname. According to Askeland, going by a nickname does not cause confusion.

"On the first day of class with new professors, I usually prepare myself for an awkward moment when I ask to be called by my nickname," Askeland said.

Not all nicknames at NW come from family backgrounds, however. Alex Currier's nickname was coined on a trip to Colorado during his freshman year. The junior criminal justice major found himself in a rap battle with five friends while driving through Nebraska. With the word "pizza" as the focus of his rap, Currier began calling himself "Pizzaz" over and over again for lack of any other words. By the time he returned to campus, Currier's new nickname had been solidified.

"At first when they told me on the trip this was going to be my nickname, I was like 'No! That sounds stupid.'" Currier said. "But now half the people I know call me 'Pizzaz. They call me 'Alex' it's weird.'"

Just until this fall, a Colorador Hall tradition helped campus nicknames to flourish. Based on a tradition of the now demolished Hearnstrma Hall, the men of Colby used to give new freshmen a nickname every year. Over the summer, upperclassmen would start a group message among themselves and create nicknames based on objects, people or pop culture references. Roommates might even share partner nicknames such as "Tick and Tack."

Then the upperclassmen would vote on what nicknames they liked best. Many of them were inspired by upperclassmen's likes and dislikes as well as inside jokes from previous years. When the freshmen arrived on campus, they were immediately known by their nicknames rather than their given names.

Peter Smith, a senior business administration and international business major, remembered his confusion when he was first called by his nickname.

"I showed up and got my key, then went to my room in Hearnstrma my first day," Smith said. "They asked my name and I said, 'Peter Smith.' They said, 'You’re Pickle! I thought, 'What is this place?'"

Askeland believes that using nicknames can be a good way to build relationships with other people.

"I think nicknames can bring a sense of community, which is huge at NW," Askeland said. "Nicknames are also a sign of affection and a general attitude towards a person."

Spanish major

FROM PAGE 1

"In high school I was thinking of going for a Spanish minor, but then I realized I couldn’t imagine life without seriously studying another language," Wikner said. "I also realized that God had been placing interests for community development, missions and working with diverse people since I was about 12, and Spanish fits in perfectly with those interests."

Wikner loves the Spanish program at NW, especially her fellow Spanish majors.

"We will tip each other off on Spanish resources, like Spanish hands on Spotify and movie soundtracks in Spanish. I love watching Disney movies in Spanish—some of the literal translations are so beautiful. Anything we can get our hands on in Spanish we will share with each other to help us learn the language." Wikner said.

Looking ahead to the future, Wikner is glad she chose to study Spanish.

"I think the ability to speak another language is powerful. Knowing another language is important with the growing diversity in America," Wikner said.
Game night taken to next level on campus

DORMS EMBRACE POPULAR PASTIME
BLAKE MULDER THEATRE

On campus there are numerous ways to unwind after finishing homework, and one common way is by playing a game. A game that has recently risen in popularity is called "Body Body". Lucas Heiberger is one of the people to start it on campus.

"My junior year during RA training, I got a few RAs who had the evening free together in the theater building and explained how to play," Heiberger said. "The rest is history."

The game has really gained traction this year. Usually, an average of 12 people play at once. However, according to Heiberger, the highest number of people who have ever played at NW was around 50 players, with an even split between guys and girls.

Games occur spontaneously on Friday and Saturday nights in the theater building. For those interested, Heiberger suggests letting himself, Levi Van Peuren, Ben Pierie or Emily Weber know, as they’re the people who usually organize games.

Heiberger also organizes another major event when it comes to games on campus, and that is the Hospers Video Game Tournament. It started when he wanted to do a small tournament of "Sega Soccer Slam," but realizing how many people wanted to play, he made it into a full 32-player bracket.

"Letting guys try out a new game, getting to know other guys in the dorm and running a fun event that guys could have fun talking about and cheering for was really the goal behind it all," Heiberger said.

The tournament is mainly for residents of Hospers, but Heiberger has worked to make it viewable for everyone.

"The video game tournament matches always happen in the Hospers lobby, usually in the afternoons or evenings if you want to catch it live," Heiberger said. "Otherwise the Hospers Video Game Tournament Facebook page, at least last year, live-streamed every match so people could watch on their phones, laptops and TVs."

A third popular game on campus is "Age of Empires II," and it is a long-standing tradition at NW.

"Age of Empires has been played for approximately 15 years," sophomore Aaron Rinehart said. "Coach Swer of the soccer team has been playing since he was in college."

The game also has numerous players on campus. There were enough players for a 64-player tournament to be held last year.

"Age of Empires is often a big hit or a big miss," Rinehart said. "People either love the game and they will last classes because of it or they will hate it and everything about it. Or you hate it for the first half of the year and then love it the second half."

For those interested in the game, Rinehart suggests talking to himself, Darin Rinehart, Jimmy Tidmore or Jordan Baier. Along with these games, there are always many more being played around campus. People take part in frisbee, ultimate frisbee, spikeball and more.

Everyone has their own favorite, and it is not hard to find someone willing to play a game.
Your silence is a luxury

When a string of controversial events occurs in our nation—whether that be a violation of human rights, a questionable expression of the First Amendment or a disputed decision made by our legislators—it becomes very easy for us to get stuck in a state of complacency. Either we turn a blind eye because we believe it does not directly affect us or we feel like there is very little we can do to better the situation.

While these things may be true to some extent, does that mean we shouldn’t care? These events may not directly affect you, but there are people whose lives are consumed by the atrocities that are occurring in this nation. They are forced into action because it may mean the loss of their basic human rights—their healthcare, their ability to work, their access to social programs, their dignity, their self-worth or even their life.

In the meantime, we choose to remain in the comfort of our ignorance and pretend there are not people suffering among us. Being complacent when we see injustice is a privilege in and of itself. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "The time comes when silence is betrayal." What has to happen in order for us to say something?

If your decision to take action is determined by whether or not an issue is political or social, perhaps the real questions you should be asking yourself are: Is this something Jesus cares about? Is this a person Jesus loves?

If the answer to those questions is yes, what are you willing to risk in order to bring about change in our society? Are you willing to give up your privilege, your complacency or your silence?

Surrendering your indifference is painful, but there has to be an uncomfortable element in the discourse for anything to change. We shouldn’t shy away from having these difficult conversations simply because we are afraid of them being labeled as “too political.”

The goal is not to create more division, but rather to understand the struggles people are facing and create reconciliation. The call to love your neighbor gets politicized too often. But sometimes political action is necessary in order to love your neighbor well.

We have the ability to create change. In order to do this, it is essential to listen humbly and educate ourselves on all sides of the issue. Read an article. Start a dialogue. Engage in civil and respectful discourse with people who may have different views. Think critically about what is happening in the world and what your role is in all of it. Then take action.

It is time for us to simply acknowledge the issues that are plaguing our nation and remain a silent bystander. You have a voice, whether or not you believe you do. Don’t do nothing just because you can’t do everything.

The life we miss

I wake up, check my phone, walk to the bathroom and turn on music while I shower. After getting changed, I sit down with my phone for a while, then walk to the Caf with earbuds in. I get my food, sit down and stare at my phone. Someone might sit down next to me and even then, I continue to scroll through Twitter. This probably isn’t the case for everyone, but I know I’m not alone in this.

I might be the best example of someone who is consumed with their phone. Twitter, Instagram, fantasy football and Snapchat are all forms of my phone consumption, and it’s not even worth guessing how much time I’ve spent on my phone doing these activities. All that matters is that it’s evident that myself and many others are much too consumed with our phones and social media.

Social media is not an evil in and of itself. Many organizations and people use social media for wonderful causes: bridging the distance gap between friends, fundraising for disaster relief, shedding light on horrific tragedies in our world, etc. Plenty of people further the Kingdom and attempt to use social media for God’s glory. However, it is our overconsumption and the non-reality of social media that is the problem.

One of the worst parts about social media is that most people do not post reality. For the most part, people post the highlights of their lives, the good times, their perceived profound thoughts (this is me) and neglect the rest: the struggles, the bad times and the wrestling with sin.

People do not see the whole picture of who someone is, just who we want to be. We cannot truly get to know people and who they are by scrolling through their Twitter feed.

Christ has called us into life in Him. How much of life have we missed out on—hanging out with our friends, intentionally approaching the person down the hall you know is going through a difficult time, God speaking to us through a message at chapel or digging into a Scripture passage and prayer, because we were consumed with what the latest trend or funniest meme was. For me, I can’t begin to comprehend the possibilities.

This life cannot be lived through 140 characters, crafted snapshots, Facebook posts or even the notorious game "Second Life." We are called to live a life of loving God and neighbors.

It’s difficult to live this life by creating an identity that isn’t ourselves, by constantly comparing our “followers” to others and by our self-worth being driven by how many favorites we got on our last tweet. This leads to massive self-centeredness and only turns ourselves inward.

This week, challenge yourself to put the phone down—when you’re going to class, when you’re eating with friends, when you’re at chapel, when you’re doing homework or even in your dorm room. It’s hard to miss out on life when you’re fully present in the moment and focused on the present moment.
SPORTS

Raiders top Hastings

VOLLEYBALL ROLLS IN GPAC PLAY

KENDRA MCGINNIS
PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Red Raiders roll into yet another week full of Ws and GPAC honors as the volleyball team's season record improves to 20-1 overall and 7-0 in GPAC play. The biggest win so far this season came Saturday, Sept. 30, on the road against No. 1 Hastings. The match would take all five sets and ended with the Raiders leaving Hastings, Neb., the only team to still be undefeated in GPAC play.

The first set was a thriller with Western having 14 kills compared to Hastings' 12. The set was a test of wills with the game tied at 15-15 before the Red Raiders pulled away to take the set 23-21.

The second set was a win for the Red Raiders as they scored 18 points to the 11 of Hastings. The third set was another game of patience as the Raiders led 24-20 before Hastings posted three straight points to make it 24-23. In the end, the Red Raiders pulled away to win 26-24.

The fourth set was a battle of nerves as the Red Raiders held a match point at 25-24 and would go on to win the set 27-25.

The fifth set was the most exciting of the match as Hastings led 24-22; however, the Red Raiders scored four straight points to make it 24-26, and would go on to win the set 27-25.

Sophomore Anna Kiel, the Raiders would go on to win (10 of the next 13 points) and force a deciding fifth set.

In a gym full of energy, NW managed to beat the odds and take the fifth set 15-11. The momentum from the fourth set victory carried over into the final set as NW started with an incredible 5-1 lead. The set would become tied at 7-7, but that didn't last long as NW would go on to have a 7-1 run to end the match.

On Tuesday night at home the Raider volleyball team completed a three sweep of the Mustangs with a 3-0 win.

NW volleyball now has a 17-game win-streak.

"Our success this whole season has come from working as a team," Hilger said. "We are all doing our jobs and having fun playing together. Each game in the GPAC is just as important as another."

Beating Hastings at No. 1 was just the icing on the cake at this point in the season. We are excited for the upcoming games and cannot wait to see where this season goes."

The NW campus is also excited to see what the rest of the season has in store for the volleyball team. NW will play 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11, at Dordt College. NW returns home, during fall break at 3 p.m. Oct. 14 against Concordia University.

NW scores well in GPAC qualifier

SITTING IN SECOND AFTER TWO ROUNDS OF GOLF

CONNER UBBEN
ADVERTISING EDITOR

Northwestern College is sitting in second place after 36 holes of the GPAC Men's Golf Championship. Two 18-hole rounds were played this past Monday and Tuesday at Willow Run Golf Course in Sioux Falls, S.D.

After day one, NW was tied for second place with Morningside. Both teams posted a 296 on Monday. NW came back on day two with a 291, which was good enough for second overall for a second day in a row. Morningside had the lowest round on Tuesday, which put them in first place overall (589). NW has a two-day total of 577 (19). This puts them eight strokes back from the lead. Coming in third was Doane. The Tigers are 10 strokes behind first with a team score of 579. Concordia (593) and Doedt (595) complete the top five.

The Red Raiders placed three golfers in the top 15 through two rounds of GPAC Conference play. Senior Justin Kraft leads this trio after posting scores of 68 & 72 respectively, good enough to stand alone in second place individually, just one stroke out of first place. Senior Evan Schuler is currently looking at fourth place overall after shooting an even-par 72 on both days. Junior Austin Reit is currently tied for 15th after shooting 147 through 36 holes (72/75). Rounding out the top for the Raiders were freshmen Isaac Knoke in 19th (148) and Jake Olsen T-41st (158).

The final 36 holes will be played this spring as NW will attempt to win their fourth straight GPAC Title at Woodland Hills.

The next tournament for the Raiders is Oct. 16-17 at the NAIA National Preview Meet at IPC Deer Run in Silvis, Ill.

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Rugby Club Home Game
Saturday Oct. 7 at 11:00
Vs. Southwest Minnesota State Univ.
Barker to present one-woman show

As a recipient of the NW Scholarship Grants program, Barker has spent the previous two summers gathering equipment, recording music and, as she puts it, getting "a couple of trial performances under my belt." These early shows have taken Barker from Seattle, Oak Harbor and Lynden, Wash; to Kaneo, Ill; and Grand Marais, Minn. Speaking fondly of her traveling performances, Barker recolled the different venues she has performed in: "[My] tiny home church in Illinois. The cafeteria of a women's shelter. A church meeting in a small theatre space that had never had a woman take the sermon time before. The responses were always kind and gracious."

Reflecting on her favorite aspect of the show, the performer shared: "The music itself is so beautiful. Pieces like this, which are both artistically challenging and accessible to faith communities, are so very rare. I am grateful to be able to present it.

As for the opportunity to perform here at NW. Barker offered a bit of theatrical insight. "Performing anything at home is much more terrifying than performing to strangers," Barker said. However, Barker is hopeful those "who see the performance [will be] inspired by the story."

Barker has been a part of NW's faculty since 1988 and has been the recipient of multiple honors and awards. Most recently, Barker received NW's 2016 Faculty Recognition Award.