CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT

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Sports: KNIGHTS, DUTCH EXCEL AT STATE TRACK MEET

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Parker resigns as Northwestern's vice president for athletics

ORANGE CITY — Dr. Micah Parker has resigned as Northwestern College's vice president for athletics after three years in that role to return to his previous institution. He has been named vice president for athletics at NCAA Division I California Baptist University, where he served as athletic director from 2009 to 2020.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Northwestern,

working for President Greg Christy and the cabinet," says Parker, whose last day on campus will be May 26. "We have been blessed with a tremendous group of coaches and staff, who do so well because they are mission-minded. It was a difficult decision to make, and I'll always be a Red Raider fan."

During Parker's time at Northwestern, the football team won the 2022 NAIA national championship, the men's basketball team won the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) tournament, and the men's soccer and softball teams won regular season GPAC titles. Additionally, Northwestern's Overwatch and Rocket League esports teams won conference championships.

"What Dr. Parker has accomplished here in three years is very impressive," says Greg Christy, Northwestern's president. "Most importantly, Dr. Parker has continued to build on our mission of honoring Christ through excellence in athletics and made many strong hires in our athletic staff who will carry out this mission. He has also taken the athletic program to new levels of excellence in one of the biggest priorities I asked of him building on the passion of Raider alumni and friends with record levels of financial support."

Soon after arriving in 2020, Parker transitioned the Red Raider Club to the Raider Athletics Association. Since that change, individual donors to the Raider Athletics Association have more than doubled to nearly 500. The number of \$1,000 donors has grown from seven to over 150 each of the past two years, and total annual giving has tripled since 2020. Corporate sponsorships have grown from 11 sponsors and \$44,000 in revenue to 28 sponsors with \$130,000 and an additional \$65,000 in gift-in-kind support. In addition, over \$4.5 million in capital funds has been secured to date for the renovation and expansion of the Bultman Center.

"I am deeply grateful for the tireless work Micah has invested in growing support for athletics at Northwestern, along with Director of Athletic Advancement Steve Jacob," says Christy. "The Raider Athletics Association is poised to garner even greater levels of support for Raider athletics long into the future."

When previously at California Baptist, Parker oversaw the institution's transitions from the NAIA to NCAA Division II and then NCAA Division I and an invitation to the Western Athletic Conference. He created a corporate sponsorship program and athletic development board, increasing annual revenue of donations, ticket and corporate sales from less than \$180,000 to more than \$1.5 million annually. Under his leadership, California Baptist opened an \$80 million, 5,050-seat events center in 2017; won the NCAA Division II Learfield Cup in 2018; and won the PacWest Commissioner's Cup five years in a row.

Northwestern will begin a search to identify the next athletic director immediately.

Dominerds
Domino Master show
and cold treats kick off
SUMMER READING

By SARAH WEBER Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY — The Orange City Public Library offers a host of activities for summer fun for all ages. Starting June 5, library patrons can kick off summer reading by watching local talent of Sioux Center's Derek and Alex Koops. Along with their teammate Lyle Broughton, these twins were the season one winners of the Fox TV show 'Domino Masters.' Derek and Alex will explain how they got involved with domino competitions, demonstrate and explain a domino run, and then teach some "hands-on" basic domino toppling techniques. To learn more, check out the Koops twin's YouTube channel "DAKS Dominoes" to see some of their amazing creations. The team will host a presentation and demonstration at Northwestern College's Theatre for all to enjoy. The show starts at 6:30 p.m. and ice cream will be served to all after the show.

Events for the whole family will be featured at the library all summer long. In June, Jason Kollum comedy juggling and variety show will take place on June 13 at 6:30 p.m. at city hall. Lisa Laird will present a Stanley story hour at 10:30 a.m. on June 20 at the library. Grout Museum Science Show will feature mind shattering experiments with liquid nitrogen and more. The show will take place at city hall on Tuesday, June 27, at 10:30 a.m. A free pool swim day

hosted by the library will take place on July 6, from 6-8 p.m.

For babies and preschool aged children, moving and groovin' story time continues on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and preschool story time is on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Summer events for kids include: orchestra instrument exploration, stuffed giraffe making, lego club, makers space, rubik's cube club, world traveler escape room, cupcake decorating, poetry and more. There are even classes for adults, including pickle ball, cupcake decorating, mix and match game night and paper marbling. Many of the classes require registration and a small fee, which can be done at www.orangecitylibrary.org.

The library encourages summer reading with the summer reading program. Children through adults can record reading minutes all summer long and enter to win great prizes. The program encourages life-long learning, curiosity and creativity. All points earned should be redeemed for prizes and grand prize entries by 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 15.

Registration for all events opened on May 1. The library is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.





ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TULIP FESTIVAL

By SARAH WEBER Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY — The 82nd annual Orange City Tulip Festival benefited from favorable weather, and large crowds attended the three days of festivities.

Wednesday night's addition of the car show added to the fun, with record numbers of cars in attendance. Gerry Bomgaars, organizer, shared that the shift from Saturday afternoon to Wednesday night made a big difference. "We connected with Tri-State Cruizers and publicized the Wednesday night car show, and each year we are seeing more cars. I stopped counting after 200 this year, but others guess it was around 275 cars that showed up! God really blessed us with a beautiful night." One of the highlights of this years show was a wooden Ford truck, made by Al Schoffelman, of Tea, S.D. He shared, "It took nine winters to create this truck, and apart from the engine it is made entirely from wood." It is drivable, and he claims it can go up to 80 on the Interstate. While adults cruised the car show, kids lined up to enjoy ride night, purchasing a pass to ride unlimited carnival rides from 6-10 p.m.

The Tulip Festival opened at 9 a.m. every day, offering horse drawn carriage rides, pedi cab bike rides, tours of the museum



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In observance of MEMORIAL DAY

lowa State Bank offices will be closed,

Monday, May 29.



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