

Follow us on:

@nwacc eagleview

Find us on Instagram

nwacceagleview

Find us on Facebook

NWACC Eagle View

*News Briefs*

## TRAILS AND TRADES TAKES OFF

**Kay King**  
Editor-In-Chief

The opening ceremony of the Trails and Trades division at Northwest Arkansas Community College was not what you would expect for a program that revolves around outdoor trails, bicycle repair, construction, skilled trades and integrated design. Where a dirty garage and dirt piles were anticipated to be stood a state-of-the-art facility full of futuristic tools waiting to be used by the future students of NWACC.

Dennis Rittle, president of NWACC, spoke at opening ceremony and said, "I have passion to bring something here that before was just an idea, and here today we sit and we enjoy an amazing facility that is state-of-the-art, it's cutting edge and it's one of a kind. That's something everyone here can be proud of."

Megan Bolinder, executive director of the Trails Trade School, talked about the development of the new division. "When we started this endeavor, we had no idea what it would look like," she said. "We started from scratch. We had no idea that this building would become a living representation of the beauty and commerce of our region. ... We couldn't have anticipated that we would develop the first ever International Trail Technician certification based on the Professional Trail Builders Association Trail



Photo by Chelsea Castillo  
Dr. Rittle cuts the ribbon alongside Megan Bolinder, faculty, staff and supporters at the Bike Trail program grand opening.

Competency Framework that now anyone in the world can take. ... We had no idea that we would become the primary training provider for the United States Forest Service, nor that we would have Forest Service members from every region."

Programs are taught by industry experts who provide

students with hands-on training and in-demand skills that prepare them for a fulfilling career. In a year's time, students can earn a Bicycle Industry Employers Association (BIEA) - accredited certification in bicycle assembly and repair and gain skills in bicycle mechanics, wheel repair and assembly, bearing and

See page 3

## Board adjusts activity fees at NWACC

**Braiden Burton**  
Senior Reporter

On Sept. 9, the NWACC Board of Trustees approved changes in student and athletic activity fees. There was an increase in one fee, an elimination of another, and an addition of an entirely new fee. Beginning in the fiscal year of 2026 and following through 2029, a "flat fee" of \$75 will be introduced and increased by \$5 each year. That fee will support the college's athletic program. The \$50 per semester fitness center fee will be eliminated. The Board voted with 5 in favor and 3 opposing that Monday evening. Todd Schwartz, Carolyn Reeves, Ron Branscum, Jonathan Woods, and Amber Latimer voted for the adjustments. Lori Frank, Rachel Harris, and Joe Spivey voted against the measure.

"The fees are flat fees and apply to every student regardless of how many credit hours they take," Brooke Brewer, the NWACC Athletic Director, said in her board presentation.

Fees are mandatory and will be covered by Pell Grants and financial aid, with college students in the most need of financial assistance receiving the benefits at no out-of-pocket cost, according to Brewer's presentation.

Spivey, a board member who voted against the adjustments,

*"We ultimately assented and approved of the fee because we believed it was the best course for the school."*

*Taryn Settle,*  
SGA President

stated that he was concerned about the higher activity fee and the new athletic fee coming in the wake of what he called a "massive tuition hike" approved by the board in March. Spivey said he supports sports but expressed concern after Brewer explained that students not interested in athletics still have to pay the fees. According to the presentation, the proposed athletic budget for 2026 is \$904,001. Even if a student takes only one class, they will still have to pay the fees. Carolyn Reeves, who voted in favor, expressed that she would like to see an exception or accommodation made for those only taking one class or are below a certain number of class hours.

See page 6

## Cyber event delays start of semester

**By Genesis Guerra**  
Reporter

NorthWest Arkansas Community College experienced a ransomware assault July 30 that prevented students and faculty from accessing the school's systems. In turn, the school's Board of Trustees decided to delay the 2024 fall semester.

Local news media reported that some printers at the college had dispersed ransom letters. After this discovery, the college's IT has been working on clearing the issue. According to an interview with Justin White, NWACC Vice President of Student Affairs, on KNWA Fox24 the team went to work as soon as they discovered the software attack. White said, "They were asking for money in exchange for access to our data." He confirmed in that interview that NWACC did not pay them anything. Students had full authority to contact staff with any concerns regarding the cyberattack.

Zadie Latimef, a student at NWACC, first heard about the cyber-attack while trying to access their account through Workday when an error did not allow them to log in. Latimef was concerned and decided to contact tech support about their accounts with NWACC. Latimef said NWACC did reach out to students through text — informing them about the software issue including what steps to take to access

their accounts on a new website.

During this time Latimef had been enrolled in a summer course and some of the class assignments were never finished. The day of the cyberattack, Latimef's finals were neither posted nor taken. The course term ended without taking any end-of-the-semester exams for the second summer 2024 term.

The attack also impacted students, like Thomas Hamilton, also a student at NWACC. He explained that by taking a week away from his education that has been paid for caused a slightly rushed feeling this semester. Students feel the fall semester's delay has affected their classes' course schedule. "Many students spend a lot of money at NWACC and for them (the Board of Trustees) to just cut out a whole week with no real explanation why, other than 'we were hacked' makes me have a lot of questions," Hamilton said. "How serious was this?"

While Latimef faced a more challenging aftermath from the cyber-attack, both students' experiences share valuable insight into the importance of preparedness and effective response, when handling cybersecurity. Latimef shared how the software attackers' ransom demands have stirred her curiosity about the safety of their information. It has students like herself also wondering what

precautions they should take to ensure nothing gets breached again. Learning about these events, both students and the college, can enhance their resilience against future threats and create a more secure virtual environment, experts have said.

On Oct. 2, an email was sent from the college's Public Relations account to NWACC students informing them about a new Microsoft Authenticator application. "The College will be deploying Microsoft Authenticator to log in to Microsoft Office 365 (NWACC email, Word, etc.), Workday, Canvas, and all other college applications connected through a single sign-on solution (SSO)," the email stated.

Experts note this isn't the first cyber-attack on higher education. Inside Higher Ed reported that last August the University of Michigan had "halted its internet during the first week of classes." This was to prevent any potential cyber-attacks. Effective cyber-attack prevention and response depend on an understanding of their methods. Students can check the official NWACC website <https://nwacc.info> or social media channels for updates and guidance for anyone affected.

### NEWS



**Study Abroad grabs attention of students**

The Study Abroad table drew in various students during the Involvement Fair.

### FEATURES



**Student prevails through food industry**

NWACC student balances studies and responsibilities as a business owner.

### OPINION



**Chappell Roan makes her way to Rogers**

Rising star makes her way onto NWA stage after selling out multiple venues during her tour.

# Telling Our Story: Hispanic Journalists

## Panel Discussion Informs, Raises Awareness

**Merle Tullos**  
Contributor

Four local journalists were on campus recently as part of a panel discussion about Hispanic roles in the media, both as journalists and as the ones being reported about. The panel was also here commemorating National Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 this year. Not only did they tell their personal stories, but they also were able to speak up for their fellow members of the Hispanic community, voices that are often underheard in society.

The panel was made up of a group of local Hispanic journalists and public relations professional who have had many years of continued success and growth in their careers. The journalists and communicator say they are not satisfied with their personal successes alone, and they want to see more people like them in the media. They share how they would like to see better reporting on the issues that are important to the Hispanic community, and for the people in charge to have a better sense of how to be diplomatic and respectful on how they communicate with people who are Hispanic.

In a follow-up interview with Elena Ramirez, a digital content producer for KNWA/FOX 24, Ramirez identified several ways the media could be more involved within the Hispanic community. Ramirez says one major thing that could help is, “by having a diverse newsroom.” Minority groups are usually underrepresented across the industry, but Hispanics come in at the lowest percentage of employees at about 12% of the workforce according to the Government Accountability Office. A study published in 2022 shows how that number might be misinterpreted with 19% of Hispanic employees at media outlets being in service roles such as janitors and maintenance.

Ramirez says, “knowing the community members that are leaders within the minority group, people who are making a difference,” and “going into different areas they wouldn’t go to before like highly populated Hispanic areas,” would have a huge impact.

This discussion was not only informative about social issues and concerns. It was quite beneficial for those interested in a profession that involves journalism. Antoinette Grajeda, deputy editor of Arkansas Advocate, a nonprofit online news organization, discussed in a later interview why she agreed to be a panel participant. Grajeda says “I decided to participate in the panel because I always enjoy talking with student journalists and answering their questions. Our jobs revolve around asking people questions, so I appreciate being on the other side of things where I have the opportunity to share my experiences and hopefully provide an informative and unique perspective on journalism.”

Those in attendance were also treated to each member recalling their personal history and the route that led them there. Each story, while having certain similarities, was unique in its own right. Also speaking at the panel were Wendy Echeverria, associate director of



Photos by Nadia Moutria



Antoinette Grajeda and Wendy Echeverria share a laugh during the Hispanic journalism panel discussion on Sept. 26.

Elena Ramirez, Rachell Sanchez-Smith, Antoinette Grajeda, and Wendy Echeverria speak to the audience as moderators Fernanda Sanchez and Chelsea Castillo look on. communications at NWACC, and Rachell Sanchez-Smith, a University of Arkansas senior and a news producer at KUAF 91.3 NPR.

When asked to impart wisdom for those considering a career in journalism, Ramirez emphatically says, “be passionate.” The news comes in many forms and fashions leading to many options for someone interested in reporting the news. The quality of a successful

journalist is having the desire to do the work with all that you are. “If you are passionate about what you are doing, you’ll find yourself always having that energy to continue what you’re doing,” Ramirez said.

# Voter Registration Efforts Increase as Deadline Approaches

**Fernanda Sanchez**  
Reporter

Arkansas has the lowest voter registration and turnout rates in the country, according to the Arkansas Civic Health Index, released last year. Out of the 50 states and Washington, DC, Arkansas ranks 51st in voter participation. Efforts are being made in the state to increase voter participation ahead of the Nov. 5 general election. At NWACC, the Student Government Association (SGA) held a voter registration drive in Bogle Plaza for four days during the month of September, where 50+ people were assisted in registering to vote, updating their registration information, and getting their questions answered regarding the voting and registration process. Kristina Whitaker was one of the people who registered for the first time at SGA’s table.

“It’s a huge important thing to be able to do,” Whitaker said. “I think that this election is one of the most important that I’ve ever seen in my lifetime ... I’m 41 and this will be my first time registering to vote ... I felt like it’s an important decision to make, and I want my kids to make that decision when it’s their time.”

In the US, just over half of the population aged 18-24 are registered to vote (55.8%), and fewer than half actually voted in the 2020 general election (48%), according to Statista. In Arkansas, that number was even lower, at 35%, according



Courtesy of Adobe Stock

to CIRCLE. College students around NWACC Bentonville campus shared their views on a poll that was conducted regarding registration. The majority of students asked said they were registered to vote, or planning to register, with the most cited reason for doing so being to participate in the upcoming presidential election in November. One college student who was not planning to register to vote said that compared to the many things on his mind right now, voting was not a priority for him at

*“I think that this election is one of the most important that I’ve ever seen in my lifetime”*

-Kristina Whitaker

the moment, though the general consensus among the students polled was that registering to vote “enables you to have a voice somehow, even if it’s electoral.”

Ralph Burns, Outreach Coordinator for the Arkansas Secretary of State Elections Division who assisted SGA during the voter registration drive on NWACC’s campus, says the Secretary of State is “really pushing to get more people registered.” Their efforts include going out to business expos, county fairs, and college campuses—most recently in Northwest Arkansas the U of A, John Brown, and NWACC—to get people registered.

See page 6



**Editor-In-Chief**  
**Kay King**

(aking31@nwacc.edu)

**Managing Editor**

**Chelsea Castillo**

(c3castillo@nwacc.edu)

**News Editor**

**Ixchel Perez**

(lperez5@nwacc.edu)

**Reporters**

Fernanda Sanchez

Donnie Bunch

Dayanti Arechiga

Genesis Guerra

Ryen Hale

Jaden Burgett

**Senior Reporter**

Jackson Floyd

Braiden Burton

**Senior Photographer**

Otis Leimbach

Nadia Moutria

**Copy Editor**

Angelina Smith

**Opinion Editor**

Jackson Floyd

**Newspaper Adviser**

Debbie Miller

dmiller13@nwacc.edu

**Design Adviser**

Duane Coleman

**Contributors**

Merle Tullos

Georgia Almaguer

Brandon Dolanski

Kaleb Lightfoot

Jessica Solorza

Brandon Dolanski

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The NorthWest Arkansas Community College Eagle View student newspaper shall provide students with a public forum for responsible news reporting and commentary and shall reflect commitment to integrity, truth and excellence.

The Eagle View  
One College Drive  
Burns Hall, Room 1021  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
479-986-4016

nwacc.eagleview1@gmail.com

Visit us online:

www.nwacc.edu/academicdivisions/commart/studentnewspaper/default.aspx

www.facebook.com/NWACCEagleView

Editorial content in the Eagle View is prepared by the students of NorthWest Arkansas Community College and does not necessarily reflect the views of NWACC.

### Corrections

Corrections shall be made in print and online in the event of an error of fact. No content should be amended without the knowledge of the editor-in-chief after it has been published. Eagle View does not remove content from www.nwacc.edu/academicdivisions/commart/studentnewspaper/default.aspx at the behest of a source under any circumstances.

In the case of factual error in a print story, a correction will be run in the next issue after the error is discovered. Any corrections to facts in an online story will be made immediately, with an editor’s note marking the date and the nature of the correction. Small grammatical errors may be updated without an editor’s note.

# Study Abroad display captures interest

**Otis Leimbach**  
Reporter/Photographer

The club fair is an important part of any school's student society. It allows individuals to find groups of people with similar interests to their own as well as to just see what the school has to offer outside of classes. On Sept. 18 (a Wednesday), Bogle Plaza was dotted with tents of the various student-and-faculty-led clubs. Despite the heat beating down from above, club leaders were determined to interact with as many students as possible.

Organizations represented included the Art Club, the Student Nurses Association, NWACC Athletics, the Honors Association, and several others.

Amid the general foot traffic of students and faculty perusing the plaza, one particular tent was the source of much fascination. The Study Abroad program's dual-table setup had many students flocking to the table, eager to engage with the individuals behind the program, Sevin Gallo and Codie Ryan.

When asked about the turnout, Dr. Gallo expressed enthusiasm, saying, "We had 32 people mark that they were interested in study abroad..." Among those responses, she said, "Most of the students marked 'anywhere' for countries they are interested in studying. However, about an even number selected Italy, Greece, and Japan as a specific place of interest. Along with England, Ireland, China, and South Korea, Greece, Italy, and Japan remain the countries that students have been most interested in for the last several years of surveying."

Currently, the program is developing several different faculty-led study abroad programs for the 2025-26 school year. These programs range from Global Studies and Bike Technology in the

Netherlands to World Cuisines, World Civilization Since 1500, and Global Studies in Japan, Spanish and Global Studies in Mexico, as well as Healthcare professions and Global Studies in Hawaii and the Marshall Islands.

Students may also study abroad with partners schools around the world. Next summer they are planning a culinary program in Alba, Italy, as well as World Cuisines and World Civilization to 1500 in Greece. There are a lot of offerings available to NWACC students who choose to participate in study abroad. Take for example last summer, when 19 students departed for Siena, Italy to study photography, Global Studies, and culinary arts. The program also ran its inaugural Global Studies: The Latin American Immigrant Experience service-learning course in Mexico, in which students participated in a supply drive for donations on campus before leaving and distributing the supplies and volunteering at three different migrant aid organizations: Casa Tochan in Mexico City, a women's cooperative in a small village outside of Puebla, and Colin A.C. and PAM, Paretas Apoyando Migrantes in Oaxaca.

The study abroad program started in the 2014-15 school year with programs sending students to Italy and Turkey. Since that start, Italy and Greece have been the most frequented destinations due to faculty knowledge and engagement in those countries and student interest. Currently, more than 100 students have studied abroad in Italy over the years. For more information, students who are interested in the Study Abroad program are encouraged to visit the website as well as to contact their email, [studyabroad@nwacc.edu](mailto:studyabroad@nwacc.edu).

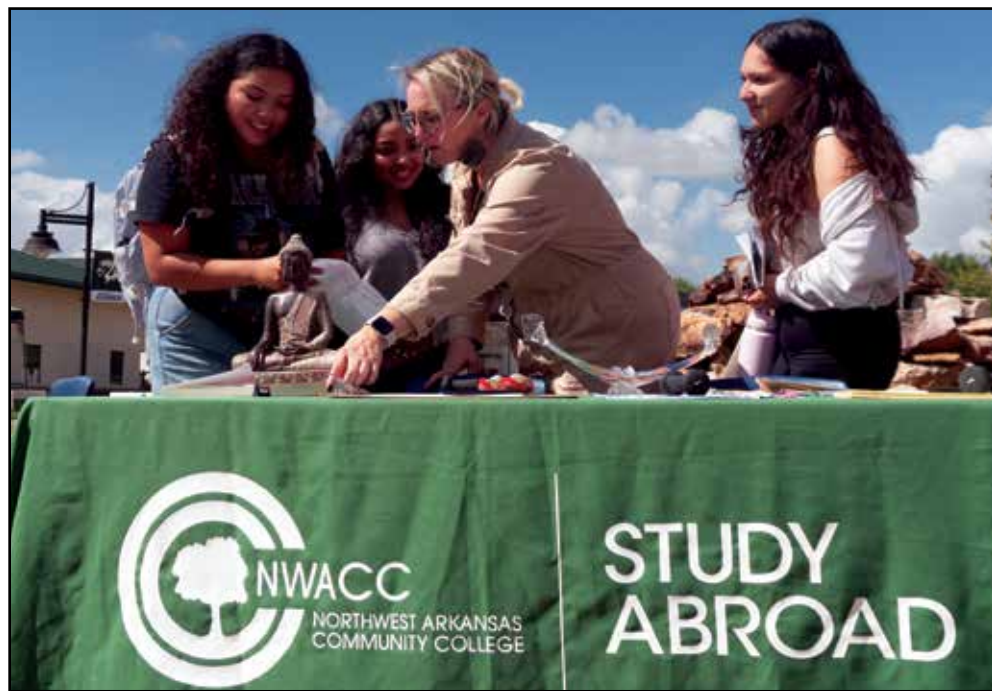


Photo by Otis Leimbach

Sevin Gallo, who directs activities for Study Abroad, talks with students at the Involvement Fair.



Photo by Otis Leimbach

A student gets involved at the club fair on Bogle Plaza.

## CONTINUED from Trails 1

suspension systems, service department operations, electric bikes and more. The Trail Technician program teaches the essential skills and techniques required to create and maintain well-designed, safe and sustainable mountain bike trails. The Expert instructors explain intricacies of trail construction, maintenance and the principles of conservation. Students can quickly earn a certificate of proficiency or technical certificate in the field of trails and be prepared for various trail careers such as a crew member, manager, project manager or designer.

The program took four years to fine-tune and perfect to become what it is now. It was a huge team effort to accomplish. Speakers at the opening ceremony on Sept. 5 were very grateful to all those who participated. The passion shown for the project will surely transfer over to the students taking the courses and beyond. Bolinder said, "So as we launched, we remain committed to



Photo by Chelsea Castillo

New equipment unveiled along with the Bike Trail program.

providing accessible, affordable quality education specifically in the trade as well as preserving and enhancing the natural spaces that we hold here, ensuring that they are available and safe for generations to come. And with this event and this program and this building and this affirmation with the importance of community and community colleges and workforce training, we are planting seeds of hope. Hope for our students who will gain skills needed to build their features. Hope for a community which will benefit ... And spaces our graduates will help shape and hope for the environment as we train individuals who will work to preserve and protect it."

# Flying forward to the future

## New academic and athletic logos take flight

**Kay King**  
Editor-In-Chief

NWACC is sporting a new look within academics and the athletics program after unveiling a new logo this past summer. The event drew in Faculty, Staff, and Students which brought heightened anticipation within the community. "This project was two years in the making," Dennis Rittle, college president, told the press attending the event. "We needed to update the brand for the community and the students agreed... we need a brand to be proud of and represent who we are as a team."

The main virtues of the college had to remain true for the rebranding. "North West Arkansas Community College offers a welcoming environment



Courtesy Photo  
Banners showcasing NWACC's new logos were unveiled inside the Student Center.

for people with diverse backgrounds-from high school graduates to adult learners- with the shared goal of advancing their future by transferring to a 4-year institution or stepping directly

into a fulfilling career. Our exceptional faculty and supportive staff equip students with the essential knowledge and skills needed to excel in their field without incurring significant debt. Committed

to serving our community, we develop and enhance programs to meet regional workforce needs."

Research and feedback were used to make the transition into a new image perfect. There were eight months of reaching out all over the community and getting the public's opinions of how they thought the NWACC Eagles should be depicted. Much to the pleasure of Dewey Price - the Senior Director of Public Relations and Marketing at Twenty Fifth Hour Communications - more than 60% of all responses were from the students themselves. Price described the process of trying to figure out a logo that would stand out from the crowd while also keeping the core values of NWACC intact. What

makes a logo great?: Simplicity, Memorability, Versatility and Relevance.

Although some people of the community might think that change isn't always wanted or needed, rebranding allows the opportunity for colleges to get a refresh. New branding can result in: Attracting and Retaining Students, the ability to differentiate for the competition, improve digital presence, and acknowledge innovation and forward thinking.

Rittle explained the meaning behind the academic emblem. "The circle is for unity. The arrows are referencing the tree from the old logo, and also points from bottom left to top right to symbolize always moving forward." With the athletic logo,

the eagle was carefully thought about. The design team knew they wanted something that looked "edgier" and intimidating. Finally, it was decided that instead of having the Eagle only shown by its side profile like some other mascot emblems, the Eagle had to face forward to look at its prey. The simplistic design and striking gaze make the NWACC Eagle easily identifiable as well as something every fan would be proud to support.



# NWACC assists in diaper drive

**Braiden Burton**  
Senior Reporter

From Sept 23 through Oct 21, NWACC's Service-Learning team will provide aid in a "Diaper Drive" project. Hosted by the Career Pathways Initiative at NWACC, the drive's donation goals are 20,000 diapers and 50 packs of wet wipes. Career Pathways at NWACC provides 25 children with diapers monthly and has distributed 7,000 diapers this year. To meet such a basic yet essential need for babies, the Career Pathways Initiative has partnered with the Diaper Collective of Northwest Arkansas. According to the Diaper Collective, through non-profit partnerships, the organization maintains "special purchasing power to buy diapers at a deeply discounted rate."

"In Arkansas, 26% of families earn less than 100% of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, that is less than \$31,200 per year," says Christie Brinsfield, the director of the Career Pathways Initiative at NWACC, "Nationally, 25% of parents with diaper needs reported that they have missed an average of five days of work or school in the past month due to not having enough diapers to drop children off at childcare." The majority of child-care facilities require parents to provide



Photo by Otis Leimbach

Nadia Mourtria demonstrates placing a diaper bag in one of the collection bins at NWACC. This bin is located in the Student Center.

diapers for their children, yet 1 in 2 families struggle to afford clean diapers.

Dedicated to alleviating such hardships, the Diaper Collective has distributed

327, 893 diapers and 3, 509 wipes with 1, 000 children served monthly. The effort reached out to 28 zip codes in 2023 alone. The projected goal of 2024 is a distribution of 1 million diapers.

NWACC's Service-Learning Program, led by Chris Huggard and Matthew Evans, has joined the cause and is providing support to reach this goal. The campuses of

Bentonville, Washington County, and Brightwater have drop-off locations located at the front entrances of all NWACC buildings.

"Service-Learning projects bring together the abstract knowledge of the classroom, an assignment grade, self-reflection, and service in the community into a coherent whole to help the community but also develop the student," explained Evans after being asked about the purpose of Service-Learning. The Career Pathways Initiative, with an office located on NWACC's Bentonville campus, has spear-headed the project while directly

providing educational resources to parents who are NWACC students.

"The Career Pathways Office on the NWACC campus provides supportive services to eligible low-income parenting students," said Brinsfield "Office staff realized the diaper need for these parenting students and partnered with the Family Network's Diaper Collective of Northwest Arkansas in 2023. Each year, partnering organizations hold a diaper drive. We are having our first drive to coincide with National Diaper Need Awareness Week."

Money donations can be given directly through the Diaper Collective of Northwest Arkansas through their website. A donation of \$30 provides diapers for 3 babies a month, \$60 for 6 babies a month, \$120 for 12, and so on. An individual may provide a one-time donation or a recurring donation. A donor may also choose to cover the processing cost or opt to have it covered for them. Diapers and wipes can also be donated in person at the drop-off locations on campus.

"The motivation for this drive is directed at how expensive raising young children can be, especially for our students at the college. Charitable interventions, like this drive, offer a band-aid to the larger systematic problem of basic access issues to items like diapers that families experience," said Evans, stoically, in concluding the interview.

## Viewing the American West Through Art Colored Glasses

**Jaden Burgett**  
Reporter

Located in Bentonville Arkansas lies Crystal Bridges, an established tourist destination and for locals it is a museum well furnished with a variety of rotating art history exhibitions. The current focus being the Knowing the West exhibit, a temporary showcase that aims to challenge stereotypical ideals of the American West using tools such as diversity and inclusivity. This exhibition serves as an invaluable educational guide for visitors to provide cultural insights using artistic expression.

Featuring over 120 artworks by both Native and Non-Native Americans, there are a multitude of highlights in this exhibit. Juxtapositions of artworks create a conversation between the pieces though the layout and are organized into thematic sections. The diverse mediums are presented with textiles, baskets, paintings, pottery, beadwork, saddles, and prints. Diversity is at play beyond just mediums, exploring migration into the West with examples of Black cowboy culture such as Ja'Dayia Kursh the first Black rodeo queen in Arkansas. The Lakota winter counts highlight Native American diversity in the exhibit as they are considered a historical record kept by Lakota people. Curators of the exhibition have found inventive ways to boost the visitor experience for all ages based on the Lakota winter counts.

The visitor experience can only be described as immersive as guests first see a winter count, which is a pictographic calendar typically kept on buffalo or deer hide. Then they are asked to help create one. A large table has been set into the middle of the display asking guests to help create a community winter count with pictographic drawings displaying how individuals have experienced this year. The exhibit not only asks visitors to

*"New questions can encourage a reexamination of the persistent myths of the West and offer possibility for more complex perspectives."*

Mindy N. Besaw

put colored pencil to paper but also to ponder questions such as: how does one know the West, what does the West mean, how have images shaped ones view of the West, whose stories about the West are known, how does art show persistence, and what role does art play in building a nation.

Through a diverse array of artworks, the exhibit highlights the often-overlooked experiences of Indigenous peoples, people of color, and women, thereby questioning the dominant myths of the West. As co-curator Mindy N. Besaw notes, "New questions can encourage a reexamination of the persistent myths of the West and offer possibility for more complex perspectives." Art plays a crucial role in this reinterpretation, serving as a powerful medium to preserve and convey complex historical truths. By engaging with these artworks, visitors are encouraged to reflect on the broader implications for understanding American identity and culture, recognizing that the story of the West is integral to the nation's memory and ongoing dialogue about its past, present, and future.

The "Knowing the West" exhibit at Crystal Bridges offers an immersive and thought-provoking experience that challenges traditional narratives of the American West. The exhibit fosters a deeper understanding of



Photo by Jaden Burgett

Caitie Holt, a featured contributor in the Crystal Bridges exhibit, stands in front of a screen playing a recording of her speaking.

the diverse and complex histories that have shaped this region. The interactive elements, such as the community winter count, invite visitors to engage personally with the themes presented.

Caitie Holt, a featured contributor in the exhibit, poignantly states, "Sure, there are some parts of the west that are harmful and unfortunate truths such as colorism and racism and removal of Indigenous people groups. It is something I think of often when I share my story, I would not

be alive if my ancestors did not survive the Trail of Tears. Sharing my story is sharing theirs." This sentiment, along with the insights from the co-curator of the exhibit, Mindy N. Besaw, underscores all the different artists' missions to reexamine persistent myths and offer more complex perspectives, making this gallery a must-see feature.

If heading towards Crystal Bridges in the next couple of months, you'll past the main lobby off a corridor and to the

left is where this featured exhibit is located. Admission fees are waived for members of the museum and general admission is \$12. This temporary exhibition at Crystal Bridges is scheduled to be up until January 27, 2025. Time is of the essence for visitors to experience the purposes and goals of this display. Promoting cultural understanding through Native American artists and other underrepresented groups teaches viewers about the cultural heritage of the West and encourages

appreciation of its diverse history. The inclusivity of this gallery promotes how art can be used to transform, adapt, and challenge dominant structures and stereotypes. This sentiment, along with the insights from the co-curator of the exhibit, Mindy N. Besaw, underscores all the different artists' missions to reexamine persistent myths and offer more complex perspectives, making this gallery a must-see feature.

# NWACC students running a local food truck in Benton County



Photo by Chelsea Castillo  
Dieric Lai, Dave McWhorter, and Karter Brown stand in front of the Chicken Lai Lai food truck. Dieric Lai is the owner of Chicken Lai Lai, and Dave McWhorter and Karter Brown are employees of Chicken Lai Lai.

## Chelsea Castillo Managing Editor

Many students at NWACC work jobs along with balancing student life. Jobs range from part-time to full-time and retail to corporate. Some students at NWACC are also business owners. Dieric Lai is a student at NWACC and owns his Taiwanese food truck in the Pinnacle Heights area. Balancing student life while running a business can have its share of hardships, but along with the community and resources nearby, it makes it possible to run a business regardless of other life matters such as continuing school.

Dieric Lai started the food truck, “Chicken Lai Lai,” back in 2018 with his father. The idea came from working at a previous food truck and wanting to branch out and pursue his own different creative ideas. Along with dealing with mental and physical disabilities, Dieric felt that owning a food truck could help him find a job that is different from regular jobs. “It led us to start our own food truck, and it has worked out very well,” Lai said. “I also have a sister who is disabled and can’t work most regular jobs, so it is also a way for her to make money.”

Chicken Lai Lai serves mostly Taiwanese cuisines such as their well-renowned fried Taiwanese chicken cutlets. They strive to

be authentic when it comes to making food for their customers and also try to foster appreciation for their culture and more awareness of other types of foods from many different parts of the world.

“We bring as much authenticity and culture as we can to the truck,” Lai said, “and one way we do that is that all of our ingredients are imported from Taiwan, or we bring them.

over ourselves when we visit.” They also take into account how important the quality of the food is by making all their food fresh and serve nothing that is pre-cooked.

Lai is a music major at NWACC, and he has taken a “taxes for small businesses” course along with starting his business. He has received a lot of inspiration from his professors and students over the years since he started his food truck. “I’ve gotten a lot of motivation from my professors. I am a music major, and the music department is very close, and I am close with the theatre department as well.” Although he hasn’t taken many courses related to his area of business, he has received immense support from NWACC, which motivates him to continue with his food truck and school life.

“Something that they’ve helped me with is the motivation to keep trying and keep doing it even if things get hard,”

Lai said. Dave McWhorter is an employee at Chicken Lai Lai and is also a student at NWACC who is majoring in liberal arts and sciences and STEM. McWhorter and Lai are close friends and Lai offered McWhorter a job at the truck whenever McWhorter was searching for a new job. Since then, he has worked there alongside his fiancée and others at Chicken Lai Lai and has enjoyed it. “It feels less of like a job I have to go to, and more like something I enjoy coming here to do.”

NWACC offers a variety of courses that help students who want to enter a business career along with much encouragement from professors and students around campus. Support for small businesses also comes from the community as well. “It takes a lot, but the thing is you don’t have to do it by yourself,” Lai said. “Get the help from the people around you, and there’s a ton of resources in Northwest Arkansas and Arkansas in general for small business.” They are currently looking into how to bring Chicken Lai Lai to NWACC’s campus and expand to more of the community.

# A Pie in the Face Isn’t a Bad Thing

## Foundation campaign supports NWACC students, faculty, staff

### Genesis Guerra Reporter

This year an internal giving campaign, iGive, invites employees at the NorthWest Arkansas Community College to have an opportunity to donate, to laugh and be silly—all for a great cause!

Sharon Fox, NWACC Dean of Communication and Arts, was nominated to be part of the iGive Pie Event. At the Sept. 27 pie event, nominees had pie thrown into their face by the highest paying donors.

Fox said, “I love that we are able to give so many scholarships to students and support so many NWACC students, so this seems like a small thing to do to be a part of it.”

This fun initiative not only brings joy but also

supports the college in many meaningful ways. Faculty and staff are able to enroll through a payroll deduction that helps support any scholarship, program, or club at NWACC.

“The financial support offered during iGive all goes back to our community here at NWACC,” Fox said, “and allows us to do so many things that are not possible without people giving up a dollar or two from their paychecks or a one-time gift of a little more.”

Those interested in donating to NWACC programs, scholarships and more may visit [nwaccfoundation.org/donate](http://nwaccfoundation.org/donate). The NWACC Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization affiliated with NorthWest Arkansas Community College.



Courtesy Photos

Employee Catharin Doner smashes a pie in the face of NWACC President Dennis Rittle.



Sharon Fox, Dean of the Communication and Arts Division at NWACC recovers after being “pied” at the iGive event on September 27.

# Goldie’s Continues Iconic Shop’s Legacy



Photos by Nadia Moutria  
Jeana Linn-Miller and Corey Shoptaw stand in the ice cream shop of Goldie's inside the Student Center.



Kristina Whitaker and Jessica Miller prepare food at the new Goldie's

## Jackson Floyd Senior Reporter

On May 26 at 2 a.m., a devastating storm struck Rogers, Arkansas. Winds as fast as 125 mph sliced a 7.4-mile gash into the city. Hundreds of businesses and homes in its path were damaged or destroyed. NWACC was able to be a small part of continuing one business’s story.

Among the victims of this catastrophe was Susie Q’s staff (now at Goldies). The iconic mall shop and grill that was a staple in the Rogers community. Susie Q’s transcended time with its old-fashioned menu, charismatic bubbly staff, and indisputable southern charm. Originally opened by Mildred Head in 1960, Sheila Jackson-Edmonson took over the business in 2008. Going above and beyond maintaining Susie Q’s legacy, her crew pumped new life and new options into the beloved location.

For 16 years Sheila (aka Goldy or Pinky) and her daughters Jeana Linn-Miller and Jessica Miller ran Susie Q’s. In this time, they

cultivated a dedicated staff. When the restaurant was destroyed, the Head family decided not to lease back out the land for a rebuild, understandably due to their “long standing retirement,” according to Jeana. This left both Sheila’s team and her customers wondering what was next. One team member is 19-year-old Corey Shoptaw. A student here at NWACC, Shoptaw started working at Susie’s when he was only 17. However, he had been a frequent customer of Sheila’s for years. “My grandparents would take me there as a kid, and they would go when they were kids too.” Corey got his first car working at Susie’s; he had his 18th birthday at Susie’s, and now it was gone; but his team was still there. “Honestly, they are more like family to me than coworkers,

Sheila’s team had hope, a hope that would soon be fulfilled by NWACC’s very own food director Diane Boss. Boss stated, “The opportunity came to host the new restaurant after our team realized we had an open spot

for an additional food vendor on campus. We invited them to join us, and they accepted, and we were thrilled,” according to a KNWA/FOX 24 report.

Jeana Linn-Miller said they didn’t own the name Susie Q’s so they chose to name it after “our mama.” Thus, Goldie’s was created and now is housed in the Becky Paneitz Student Center. A new beginning, with new smiling people to create delicious food for. Although the storm took away a local treasure, the heart of Susie Q’s lives on in Goldie’s. Sheila and her daughters have not only found a new home for their beloved restaurant, but they’ve also carried with them the same dedication, warmth, and community spirit that made Susie Q’s a staple in Rogers. As they move forward, they are building new memories and bringing comfort to a community that has supported them through thick and thin. Goldies is not just a continuation; it’s a tribute to resilience, family, and the power of coming together in times of hardship.

CONTINUED from Board 1

“It’s a very effective funding model,” NWACC President Dennis Rittle said to Al Gaspeny of the Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. “If we want to get good at this, it means we’re going to have to lean into it.”

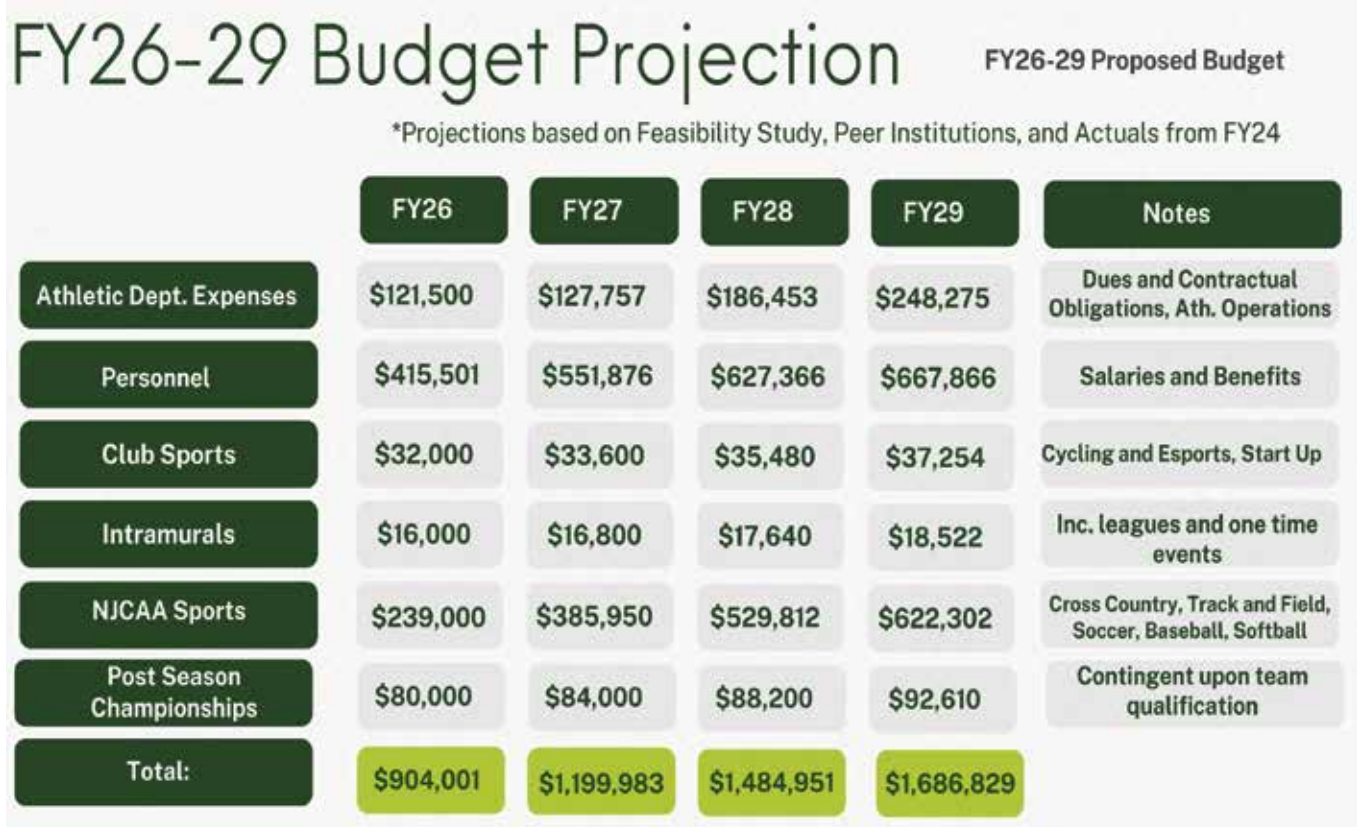
The plan aims to ensure that the NWACC Athletic Department has dedicated funding without taking money from other programs. According to a student poll conducted among 874 students, 50% said that they would most likely attend NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) events, 26% felt neutral about attending, and 24% most likely would not attend. Athletes account for 13% of enrollment at NJCAA Institutions.

In the Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette article, Mark

Scott, the board chairman, noted that opposing trustees wanted more time to review the proposal.

The president of the Student Government Association, Taryn Settle, said he did not feel that they were given enough time to consider options. SGA was presented with the issue on Sept. 6, the Friday before Monday’s vote.

“I stated during the trustees meeting that SGA was not offered sufficient time to gauge or assess how this new fee may affect students,” Settle said. “We ultimately assented and approved of the fee because we believed it was the best course for the school. While no one likes spending more money, I’m personally confident that the fee will prove beneficial to students.”



Public records image

The chart above was part of the slide presentation delivered to the NWACC Board of Trustees.

# College Moving Forward with Track

## Say ‘hello’ to more sports



Photos by Ryen Hale

Brooke Brewer, Athletic Director, speaks at the first Athletic Luncheon of the Fall semester.

### Ryen Hale Reporter

Wasting no time, NWACC is adding track to their field of sports. Along with the addition of track, Brooke Brewer, athletic director, informed a crowd of athletic program supporters there will be more than just track coming to the community college. Brewer spoke Sept. 26 at the college’s first athletic program luncheon of the fall semester.

NWACC has had cross country since 2021 and Brewer says the college is excited to add track to their sports field. With the addition of track, NWACC is seeing a tremendous growth in the recruitment within the athletics.

Brewer stated with the growth of recruitment, NWACC not only has seen incoming freshmen want to run for the college but the growth has captured interest from other collegiate runners too. Josphat Boit, the head coach of the cross-country team and future track team, was a two-time NCAA Champion while running for the Arkansas Razorbacks. He has connections with other schools and even international recruiting options. With those options the track team can grow immensely. Brewer said with the addition of track, recruitment has become easier, allowing athletes to run for both cross country and track.

Current athlete India Owens runs cross-country for NWACC and will soon be running with NWACC’s track team as well. Owens said she feels that running for NWACC has taught her that she can do more than she knew she was capable of. She said she feels adding track will bring a lot of athletes into the school. Although some athletes may be at NWACC to run one sport, with the addition of track they can continue in their running with career with joining that team alongside cross country.

Owens said she feels running track and cross country will help



India Owens is a cross country runner for NWACC who is looking forward to the addition of track to the sports lineup

the student athletes keep up with their grades. Not only will they have to maintain a certain GPA, but their coaches will hold them accountable to keeping those grades sufficient as well. Owens said that she thinks the coaches will help with the overarching community within academics.

Throughout the next few years, NWACC is focusing on continuing to grow the athletic program. In 2025-26 the college will be adding field events for track and field. In 2026 the college will add men and women’s soccer. Baseball and softball will be added in 2028 and 2029. Owens hopes to see baseball and volleyball in the near future.

Brewer said, “We have identified some key sports, for what we are calling phase two, known as the soar phase.”

Alongside the addition of the future sports, Brewer wants to focus on growth outside of the athletics. This includes launching

new logos and branding, reaching out to the community and building partnerships and implementing the launch phase for NJCAA sports. Within these steps Brewer wants to grow the community outside of NWACC sports as well.

Since NWACC announced the addition of the future sports, student athlete enrollment is up 345% and Brewer feels that stems from people being excited about the involvement in sports. NWACC leaders are looking forward to where these additions will lead them and are expectant for a bright future. That future will include adding new athletes to roaster, coaches to lead teams and more people on staff for NWACC. Brewer said they want to make sure that they are not only serving the athletes but the whole student body and with their future plans.

CONTINUED from Registration 2

In recent days the Elections Divisions office in Little Rock has received tens of thousands of applications delivered to them, which Burns says is normal for this time of year.

When asked what is one misconception he has seen people have that prevents them from registering to vote, he stated that many convicted felons are not aware that they are eligible to vote after their charges have been cleared. Once their sentence has been discharged or pardoned, a paper signed by a judge certifying that they are now eligible to vote needs to be taken to their county clerk’s office, where they get issued a voter registration card and can request a ballot.

An online voter registration option could be a way to increase voter turnout in Arkansas by making the process more accessible. 42 states in the US have online registration; Arkansas is one of the states that does not. A 2019 study published in Social Science Quarterly found that implementation of online voter registration increases the turnout of young voters by about 3 percent. Washington and Kansas also saw a sharp increase in registration after online registration was implemented in the states, according to the Legal Defense Fund.

When asked if implementing an online

registration option could be possible for Arkansas in the foreseeable future, Burns said that “there’s a lot of talk going around about it.” Currently, it is not possible for an electronic voter application to be accepted, as the Arkansas constitution states that a “wet signature” is required for the application to be processed. In order for online registration to be possible, the legislation would have to be changed. A bill to amend the constitution would have to go through the House and Senate, be approved by both, and then be signed into law by the Governor to go into effect.

Though young people ages 18 to 24 historically have a low voter turnout, trends from recent years show that young people’s voter participation is increasing, according to the US Census Bureau. College students in particular are more likely to vote than those with no college education, including in Arkansas, the Arkansas Civic Health Index shows.

Whitaker says her message to people considering registering to vote is “Register to vote while you can, register to vote while you’re young.” She says as you educate yourself on topics to vote on, you can choose what you want for the future. As Whitaker puts it: “If you want to see a change then you got to go vote ... It’s kind of weird to think that one person could make a choice and make a difference, but if everyone was that one person, that’s a lot of people.”



Courtesy Photo

NWACC Student Government has been encouraging students to register to vote in the November 5 general election.

### VOTING INFORMATION

The deadline to register is October 7th.  
Where to register can be found on the Secretary of State’s website:



**The general election is November 5th.**

Sample ballots, poll sites and registration status can be found on the AR Secretary of State’s Voter View website: <https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/voterview>

### Food Pantry Available

NWACC’s food pantry is available to students and employees to assist in food shortages you may be experiencing. Feel free to apply for assistance or donate food to help fellow students and employees.

More information is available at <https://www.nwacc.edu/student-services/healthandwellbeing/foodclothing.aspx>.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

# EXCLUSIVE Content Available!

<https://eagleview.news.blog/>

# Chappell Roan's Gift to Arkansas

**Dayanti Arechiga**  
Reporter

Chappell Roan, an upcoming pop artist born in south Missouri who gained rapid fame through social media this year, visited Northwest Arkansas on Wednesday, Oct. 2. The concert, in short, was electrifying.

The show was sold out, with not a single ticket left to sell. The Walmart AMP venue clarified to those who bought lawn tickets that the show would be standing-only. Blankets were not permitted due to the sheer capacity of the show. Before

starting the concert, Roan sets a theme for her fans to dress up as. This show was themed on mermaids, after a music video of hers. Many fans, including me, wore assortments of blues and fish nets with mermaid-stenciled makeup. A few friends and I were lucky to get close to the stage next to the railing. As the audience formed, the show formally started at 7 p.m.; local drag queens performed as Roan's openers.

There were three outstanding and captivating drag queens: Baxaer, Juicyy, and Angel Divinity. Each had a solo performance that consisted of remixes of popular songs. They would then lip sync to the music playing as they danced along, occasionally doing acrobatic stunts to earn a loud cheer from the crowd. After finishing their performances, the queens stated that it was the largest crowd they had had the chance to perform to. This is all thanks to Roan's constant support for drag queens, giving local drag a larger platform at her shows.

Shortly after the queens ended their portion of the show, Chappell Roan stunned the stage. With the lights dimming and a large LED screen showing a postcard-esque photo that said, "Greetings from Chappell Land," her band came on stage. The crowd roared and cheered. Roan then ran on stage in a mermaid-inspired fashion to match the chosen theme of the night. She would then start singing her shamelessly vibrant and theatrical album, *The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess*. Her starting song, "Femininomenon," is a play on words of the word Phenomenon. Roan sings about how women should celebrate each other rather than mediocre men who do the "bare minimum." The performance and song were beautifully performed. Roan is capable of an incredible amount of stamina. You would find her jumping, running across the stage, dancing, and singing like no tomorrow, bringing the crowd's high to another level. Roan's crowd work is something to be admired, bringing out the inner superstar in everyone.



Photo by Chelsea Castillo  
Greetings from Chappell Land was the backdrop when Artist Chappell Roan came onto the stage.

As the night went on, the crowd became increasingly intoxicated by Roan's passion and excitement. Everyone was dancing, screaming, or jumping along with her. The exhilaration of Chappell Roan being in front of our eyes in Arkansas, of all places, numbed us all. Soon enough, we were found listening to Roan introducing one of her most popular songs, "Hot To Go"; it's an inescapable song, rightfully so. The song, just like many of her other songs, is full of catchy lyrics and rhythms. The chorus is not a heavy-hitting layered poem but a fun statement telling us that Roan can be taken hot to go, making a double entendre to food and her love life.

Along with the catchy chorus, there was the notorious dance to be paired with it. Almost like how the YMCA dance is done, you are to form your hands to the letters of the song title, H-O-T-T-O-G-O—spelling it all out. The entire song, from the singing to the dance, felt uniting, with everyone awaiting this moment to do it together. I recommend looking it up if you have not seen any dance clips. Having all their hands up following Roan's lead, the crowd is absolutely hypnotizing. Not done before in any of her concerts, during the song, Chappell Roan brought out our famed Arkansas Razorback Cheer Team! With two of our mascots and cheer squad dancing along with her, she then did the famous Hog Call. Lost on what to do, she cheered on our cheerleaders, and we called the cheer back at her.

As the concert slowly came to a close, Roan took a few minutes to express her love and understanding for queer kids in the South; being from the Midwest, she understood how it felt to be queer in a community that may not be as accepting compared to bigger cities. Roan is a newfound, prominent figure in the LGBTQ community, specifically for the sapphic community. Continuing, she expresses her gratitude towards the crowd, stating that the show was her largest headlining concert. Afterward, she sang a few more songs until the last one finally played. The song, *Pink Pony Club*, is about being queer

and wanting to escape to a fantasy where you could be accepted for who you are but being unable to since she was living in a religious southern household. Repeating the feeling of disappointing her mother, she sings through her mother's eyes and her response back, closing out the concert with the crowd yelling the lyrics back at her.

Chappell Roan's concert was bewitching, glamorous, and freeing. A gift to Northwest Arkansas from Roan that we may not see come by often as her fame continues rising. However, I believe everyone should one day have the pleasure of watching her. If not, listening to her music on blast will do just the trick.



Photo by Dayanti Arechiga

Chappell Roan sings to the Arkansas audience at the Walmart AMP

## Remembering 9/11:

### How One Tragedy Shaped Generations to Come



Courtesy Photo  
Sara Low was a flight attendant on the American Airlines flight that struck the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Low was a native of Batesville, Arkansas and her name is included at the memorial site with the names of other people on that American Airlines flight.

**Georgia Almaguer**  
Contributor

8:46 a.m. in New York and lives were already changed, meanwhile thousands of miles away on the West Coast, at 5:46 a.m., people were just starting their day as the events unfolded. High school senior Jenna Mayfield was one of them. What was intended to be a normal Tuesday morning for every American quickly turned into one of the worst tragedies to date.

Jenna, 17 years old at the time, got up for school at 6 a.m. (PST). When asked about that morning, Jenna recalls, "[seeing] the news on the TV in the living room." Every single channel had changed its programming and was airing that fateful day in real time. "I was slightly confused because when the channels changed, the only thing I saw was smoke coming out of the first tower." That morning, every channel on TV changed to the news. Across the country, people watched in fear, waiting for any information about what had happened.

9:03 a.m. (PST), millions of Americans watch as a plane hits the second tower. It became clear what this was — a domestic terrorist attack on U.S. soil. People like Jenna had no choice but to carry on that morning.

"I remember going to school that morning, but admin and faculty decided that we would stay in our homeroom classes and watch the news instead of our normal routine," she said. These high school students were having to witness a defining moment in history, not only for their future, but also for their kids' future. "There were so many questions that we didn't have answers for, I mean the media

was getting updates the same time the citizens were." After the second tower was hit, the possibility of another attack was on everyone's mind.

Two more planes were involved in this attack. One hit the Pentagon at 9:40 a.m. (PST) and the other, which was believed to be headed for the White House, crashed in a Pennsylvania field. "I don't think I'll ever forget that day, or even that week," Jenn said. "Before the towers collapsed, we started seeing people jumping. I guess they realized the outcome of the situation was not looking too good, so they jumped." These people had no idea that what should have been a normal Tuesday in the office for them turned into a day embedded into US history.

This attack raised a lot of concerns for Jenna and her ideal future. "I knew even then that I wanted to be a mom, but right after the attacks I just kept thinking about being in that situation or my future kids being in that situation," she said. This is a perspective many Americans have, and it's bled into the next generations. People are still dying because of the smoke and debris that they inhaled that day. First responders have to carry the weight of the "what ifs" and the trauma from that day. Families are missing moms and dads, and brothers and sisters. Survivors have to deal with the survivors' guilt and PTSD from something that traumatic.

9/11 has changed day-to-day activities; it prompted the founding of TSA and the passing of The Patriot Act. Although I wasn't alive when the attacks happened, I can still feel the aftermath of the attack and I mourn those 3,000+ people lost.

*Georgia Almaguer is a student in the fall 2024 Media Writing class. She interviewed her mother, Jenna, about the events of Sept. 11, 2001.*

## Rapper Soulja Boy Performs in NWA

**Brandon Dolanski**  
Contributor

Fans of DeAndre Cortez Way, popularly known as Soulja Boy, were likely pleased to hear that he would be performing at JJ's Live in Fayetteville on Oct. 4. The venue has held many popular artists such as Nelly, Jelly Roll, Tech N9ne, Ice Cube, TWINSICK, Designer, and Ludacris.

Soulja Boy has made several hit songs over the years, such as "Kiss Me Thru The Phone," "Crank That," "Turn My Swag On," and "Pretty Boy Swag." His song "Crank That (Soulja Boy)" became such a fan favorite and created a dance move that many still do whenever they hear the song today. Whether that song is played at a party or at a club, this song is a classic that many Millennials and Generation Z listeners will know and dance to.

Soulja Boy may not be a name you hear often in today's music, but he was very well known to Millennials "back in the day." Kristen Bailey, a Millennial, discussed her younger years. When asked about Soulja Boy coming to a venue that is so close to home, Bailey said, "I am very excited that Soulja Boy is coming to NWA. It gives my old friends and I a reason to reunite and reminisce on our teenage years."

Millennials were likely not the only ones excited about Soulja Boy's appearance in NWA, as Generation Z fans were also hyped to hear him live. Sachi Lor, a fan of Soulja Boy's music and a part of Generation Z, was very excited to not only see him coming to a local venue, but also other top artists that are coming to that same location. When asked about her thoughts on how cool it is that top artists are coming to NWA, Lor said, "It's refreshing to see artists choosing to perform in smaller cities. This trend not only brings high quality entertainment to smaller areas but encourages a deeper connection between artists and fans... I hope this trend continues, allowing more people to enjoy live music without the need to travel to major cities/venues."

There are several other artists coming to the venue in upcoming weeks, such as Cannons, DIESEL (popularly known as Shaquille O'Neal), and Larry Fleet.

# 'Normal People' is Not a Normal Show

**Kaleb Lightfoot**  
Contributor

Intimate, raw, and frustrating, Hulu's "Normal People" is one of the most realistic depictions of the ups and downs of a relationship. We are introduced to Connell and Marianne at the end of their high school period and the struggles of going into their adult lives. This confusing season in their lives has them intertwined whether they like it or not. This heartfelt story, based on the novel written by Sally Rooney, is well adapted to the screen. There isn't a scene left to waste or a shot that wasn't on purpose. Every little detail packed in this short 12-episode show is for a reason, from the eye contact to the way the main characters are shot up close.

From the start we know Connell and Marianne are different from the people around them. They put on a front towards other people not wanting to show their true selves, but when together the chemistry is unmatched. They fully understand each other and can be who they truly are. There

are many intimate scenes, which I'm not the biggest fan of, but it felt integral to the story. You get to see them connect in a way only true lovers connect. This isn't your normal happy ending, though I don't want to spoil it, the best I can describe it as, is real. Everything about "Normal People" feels deep and connected, it's a story that shows the struggles of isolation, the confusion of communication, and accepting who you are. The characters in this show are beloved by many. Marianne is smart, charming, and captivating. Connell is reserved and doesn't seem to understand his feelings. This dynamic calls for some frustrating interactions and scenes. During a later episode the show explores how depression, anxiety, and suicide can affect people. It also showed how one person can be a beacon of light and hope for those that are depressed.

There are only a couple things I didn't like in this show that takes you on a roller coaster of emotion. I mentioned it already, but the frustrations of how they

communicate and misinterpret each other can get a little old and infuriating. There is also a scene where a man gropes a female character, and nothing is really said about it. Marianne's mother is also an infuriating character and just above all a horrible person. I get it moves the story along, but she grinded my gears anytime she was on screen.

Overall, this is a story I highly recommend anyone watch. The beauty in the highs and lows of life really shine in the TV adaptation. The characters are amazingly written; the script is beautiful; the camera work is phenomenal. If you can binge all 12 episodes I highly recommend. Just have some tissues with you as you watch. This is a show in which I will always regret watching because I'll never get to experience it again for the first time.

*Kaleb Lightfoot is an NWACC student enrolled in Composition I and penned this essay for that class.*

# A Hit Close to Home: Twisters, the New 2024 Thriller

**Jessica Solorza**  
Contributor

Directed by Lee Isaac Chung, "Twisters" is based on an original 1996 film by the name "Twister." This sequel hit close to home with all of us in the Northwest Arkansas area following the tornado we had back in May of 2024. Coincidentally, Lee Isaac Chung directed this movie because of his personal connection to it as well, having been an Arkansan. "Twisters" is a very informative, exciting, and tensely plotted movie, which I hope readers will be enticed to watch.

The experience of going to watch the movie was pleasant. I was able to schedule my movie date, time, and seats on the AMC Theater online app. The tickets can be purchased in person or on a movie theater online website. The tickets cost around \$10.99 per adult or \$7.99 per child before taxes. The length of this movie is approximately two hours, and every minute is worth the watch. The movie focuses on storm chasers and is rated as a PG-13 movie with a current 4.5 out of 5 stars. The beginning of the movie centers around Daisy-Edgar Jones playing Kate Carter, a former storm chaser. She is drawn back to her hometown in Oklahoma to help scientists in gathering data on tornadoes. Once back in her hometown, she meets Tyler Owens, a storm-chasing YouTuber, played by Glen Powell. Kate and Tyler then compete against each other and the reliability of their instincts to find the biggest tornadoes.



Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures  
Daisy Edgar-Jones and Glen Powell star in "Twisters".

Throughout the movie there is a tension created between the two with a love-hate relationship. The graphics and fast-paced scenes near the tornadoes they encounter make you feel that blood rush and intensity to hope they reach their goal without harm.

Apart from the intense plot, this movie brings awareness to all the people who have never experienced a tornado in their hometown as the director and I have. As I mentioned before, we in the Northwest Arkansas area really connect to this movie because it was released within months of our damaging tornado. We experienced an EF-2 rated tornado that spread across approximately 2 miles and destroyed many businesses and homes in the Rogers area. Similarly, Lee Isaac Chung experienced a tornado as well in the Lincoln, Arkansas, area when he first moved there from Colorado as a kid. Later on, as

a teenager, he watched the original "Twister," a movie directed by Jan De Bont. Lee Issac Chung then connected the movie with his own experience and was led to direct "Twisters" now as an adult. This great production of realistic tornado-based movies is really doing a service to everyone around the world, hopefully drawing them towards connecting with the movies as Issac did with the original "Twister," and I did with his sequel "Twisters."

In essence, the 2024 thriller, "Twisters" should be on your next watch list to hopefully give you as great of an experience as mine. Additionally, for all of those people out there who have never experienced this type of natural disaster, watch this movie and help spread awareness of the real danger tornadoes can cause and how to better prepare for them.

*Jessica Solorza is a freshman student at NorthWest Arkansas Community College.*

## Solution for hard

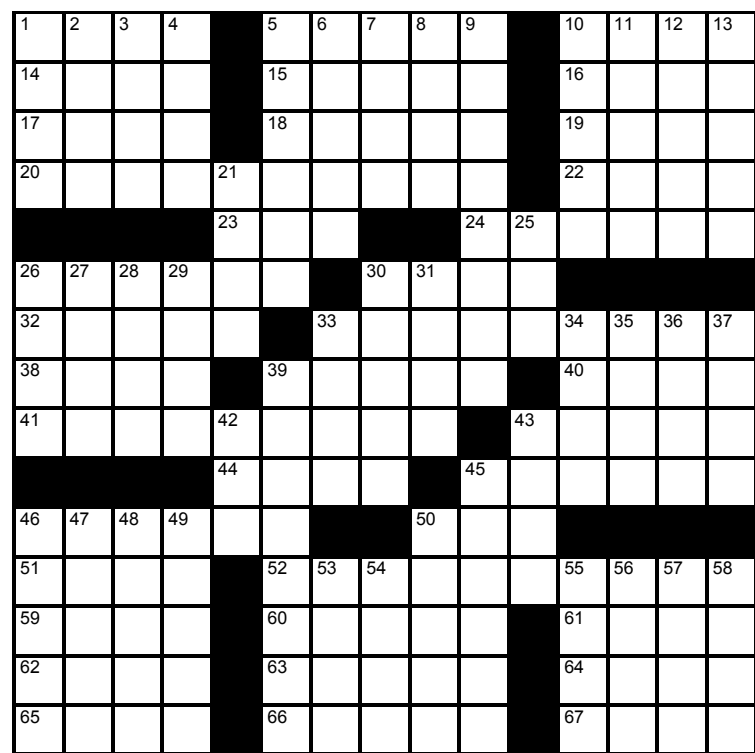
4	9	6	2	7	3	8	5	1
2	8	3	4	1	5	6	9	7
1	5	7	8	6	2	4	3	9
6	2	8	5	1	7	4	9	3
5	4	3	6	2	9	7	8	1
7	1	6	3	4	8	5	2	9
3	4	1	8	2	9	7	6	5
9	2	7	1	5	3	4	8	6
8	5	7	3	4	9	2	1	6

## Solution for medium

3	2	4	1	7	5	8	6	9
5	8	6	2	9	4	3	7	1
1	6	9	8	3	4	5	2	7
6	7	1	8	3	2	5	9	4
9	4	5	7	6	2	1	3	8
8	3	2	5	4	9	6	7	1
7	5	1	4	2	9	3	8	6
2	6	8	3	5	7	1	4	9
6	4	3	9	8	1	7	5	2
4	3	9	8	1	7	5	2	6

## Across

- 1 Charity
- 5 Gold, e.g.
- 10 "Run \_\_\_ Run" (1998 film)
- 14 Aerial maneuver
- 15 Go gaga over
- 16 Receptive
- 17 Shrek, for one
- 18 About that time
- 19 One year in a trunk
- 20 Greenhorn
- 22 Means justifiers
- 23 Mr. Rogers
- 24 Upright
- 26 Small compact saddle horse
- 30 Kind of collar
- 32 Alaskan native
- 33 Atrium
- 38 Iranian coin
- 39 Tasteless
- 40 Banned apple spray
- 41 Associate
- 43 Slow down
- 44 Bakers' wares
- 45 Bamboozled
- 46 Talk like a pig?
- 50 Long March leader
- 51 Polly, to Tom
- 52 Unchangeable
- 59 Shower alternative
- 60 \_\_\_ donna
- 61 Jejune
- 62 "\_\_\_ From Muskogee"
- 63 Baltimore's \_\_\_ Harbor
- 64 Twinge



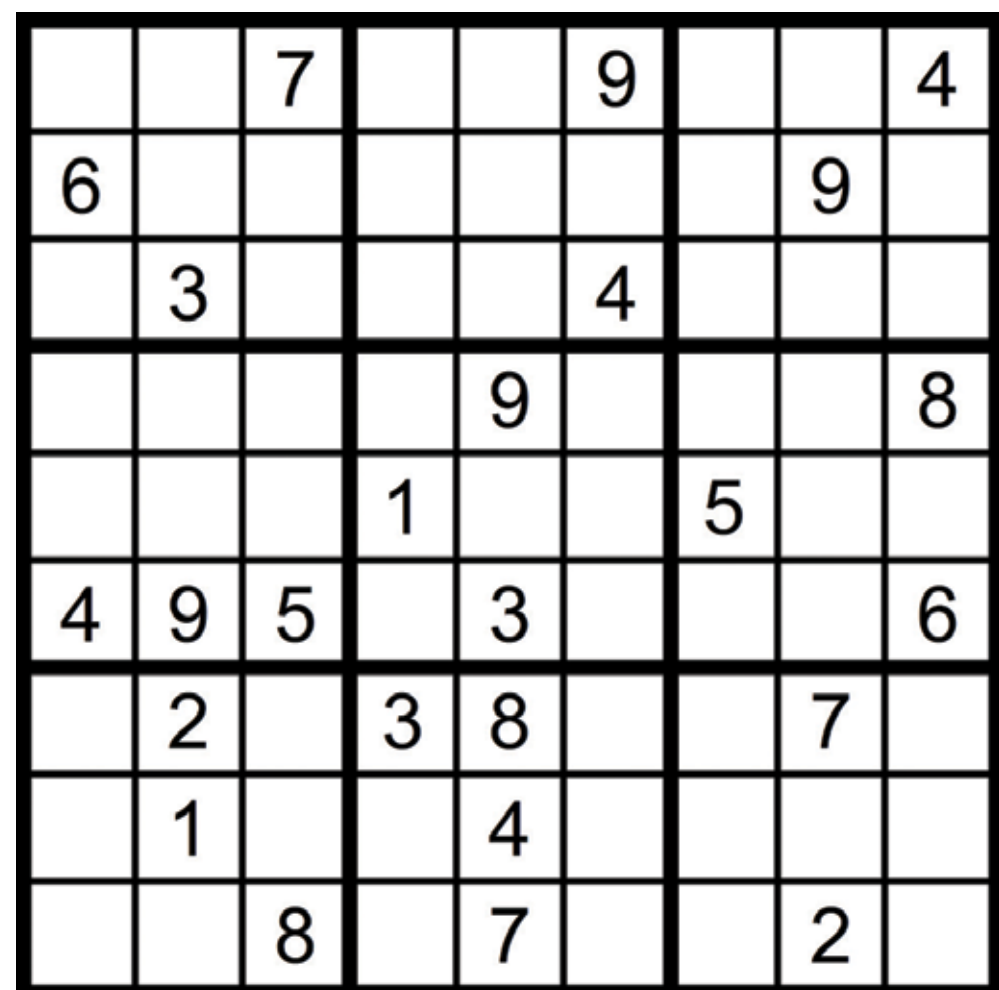
Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com

- 65 Blow the whistle
- 66 Poverty-stricken
- 67 Sheltered, at sea
- 12 Imparts
- 13 Apprehensive feeling
- 21 "Hoc \_\_\_ in votis"
- 25 Kind of grass
- 26 Painter Chagall
- 27 Assortment
- 28 Authentic
- 29 Beach bird
- 30 Concentrate
- 31 Gospel writer
- 33 Zoo feature
- 34 Weaving material
- 35 Astronaut Bean
- 36 Croupier's tool
- 37 Historic Scott
- 39 Emotional collapse
- 42 Ecol. watchdog
- 43 Bronx cheers
- 45 Caged tweeter
- 46 Wooden shoe
- 47 Temblor
- 48 Sammy Kaye's "\_\_\_ Tomorrow"
- 49 Lucy's best friend
- 50 Played charades
- 53 River to Donegal Bay
- 54 Trident part
- 55 Spanish appetizer
- 56 Word-of-mouth
- 57 Diamond complement
- 58 Advantage

For answers, see our blog: [eagleview.news.blog](http://eagleview.news.blog)

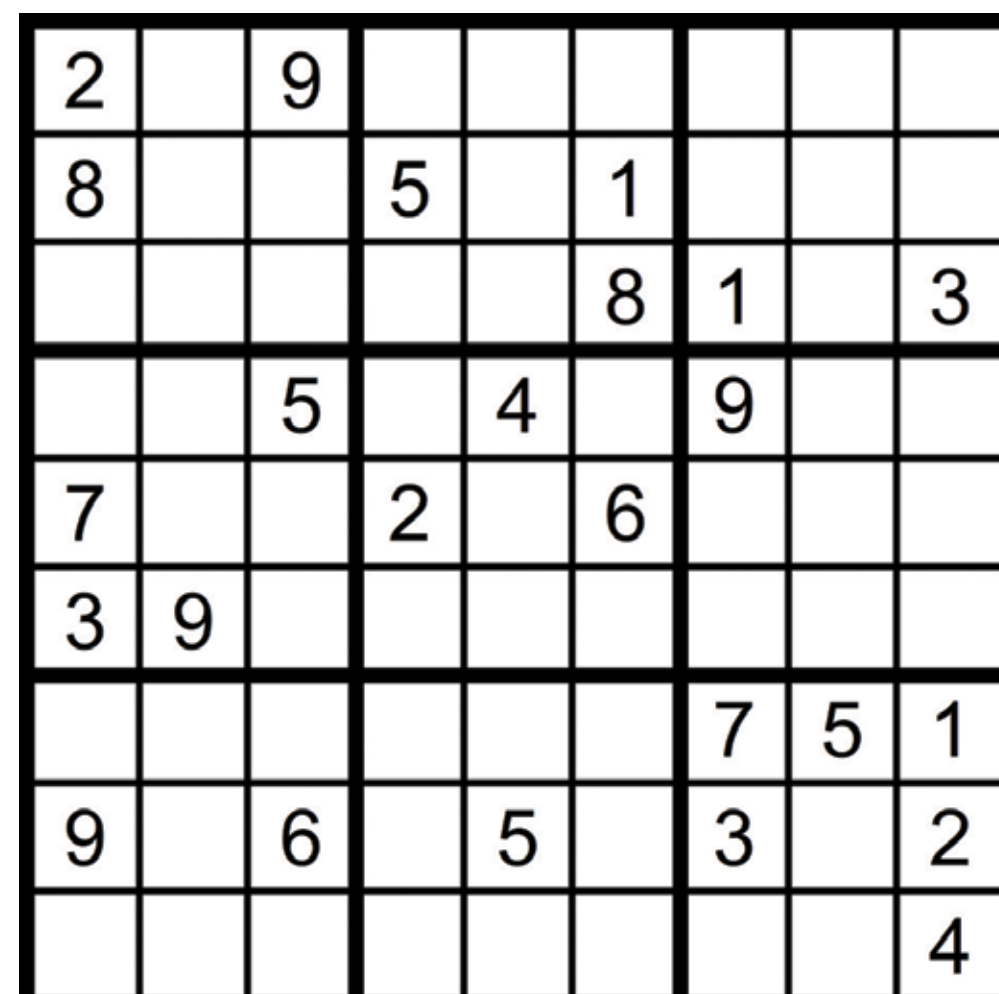
# Sudoku

Difficulty: Medium



Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com

Difficulty: Hard



Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com