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NWACC Eagle View

News Briefs

The Madness of Poe On Stage This Week

Gothic madman. Eccentric poet with a penchant for the macabre. Think you know Edgar Allan Poe? NWACC Theatre and Arkansas Classical Theatre are pleased to present "The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story," by David Rice. Performances will take place Nov. 21-23 at White Auditorium in Burns Hall on the NorthWest Arkansas Community College's Bentonville campus.

Tickets are \$5 for the general public, \$3 for NWACC faculty, staff and students and can be purchased in advance on Arkansas Classical Theatre's website: <https://arkansasclassicaltheatre.ludus.com/index.php>

The Hearts Project Now On Display

The President's Advisory Council on Art is sharing the artwork of Monica Moore, who created The Hearts Project, a memorial made to honor lives lost to the COVID-19 pandemic. The individual, hand-cut hearts symbolize all 13,068 Arkansas deaths and places them within quilt-like collages designed to house memory. The intention is to disrupt the illusion that the pandemic is behind us.

As viewers engage with the work, they are encouraged to take time to pause, reflect and remember the diverse experiences and stories of the pandemic.

The project will be on display in the Walmart Auditorium of the Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies now through Feb. 20. More information about the display can be found at theheartsproject.com. For more information about the advisory council or the exhibit, contact Eric Smith at esmith@nwacc.edu

CURE Night Set For Nov. 20

Join us for student presentations of research, hands-on Biotechnology demonstrations and interactive lab and microscopy stations. Meet Faculty and Student researchers and explore career pathways in Biotechnology. Light refreshments will be provided.

The event will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Nov. 20, and student presentations begin at 6 p.m. This will be in Burns Hall 2411.

Model UN Course Set in Spring

Are you interested in learning about international relations, seeing New York City and the United Nations,

SEE NEWS BRIEFS on Page 2

SPRING ENROLLMENT UNDERWAY AT NWACC

Foundation Plans NWACC Giving Day

Chelsea Castillo
Editor-In-Chief

Updated enrollment numbers were released at the Nov. 10 NorthWest Arkansas Community College's Board of Trustees meeting. Trustees were presented recent spring enrollment records; spring enrollment at NWACC was opened a couple of weeks earlier than previous years. Early enrollment opportunities saw a spike in early registration for many students on campus. Along with enrollment reports, the Trustees meeting announced the upcoming "Giving Day" at NWACC.

Enrollment updates showed a 57 percent spike in student registration over the same time last year. President Dennis Rittle said, "We recognized the importance of that and students are expecting more opportunities to enroll early." Justin White, Vice President of Student Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, praised the help from the enrolling management team and schools, which brought the opportunity of opening enrollment almost three weeks early. "Opening enrollment almost three weeks early, and we're really seeing the prescriptive communication," White said.

NWACC is the largest community college in Arkansas, serving more than 15,000 students annually through credit and workforce classes, according to its website. Unofficial academic enrollment for the fall 2025 semester topped 9,000. The college held its first classes as a "college without walls" in 1990, with an enrollment of 1,200 students.

NWACC's Giving Day dates were announced at the board of Trustees meeting, taking place on Dec. 2 noon until Dec. 3 noon. NWACC's day of giving is the 2- hour project that fund raises from faculty, staff and the community to support important projects on campus.

Giving Day takes inspiration from the global "Giving Tuesday" movement. Also branded as "#GivingTuesday," it is a movement that inspires humanity and generosity around the world. It collaborates annually to help people out who are in need and spread their mission to the public. On the organization website, <https://www.givingtuesday.org/about/>, it's stated "Whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts, and everyone has something to give." The upcoming giving day at NWACC marks their fourth annual event. For more information about giving day, visit <https://nwaccfoundation.org/contact/>.

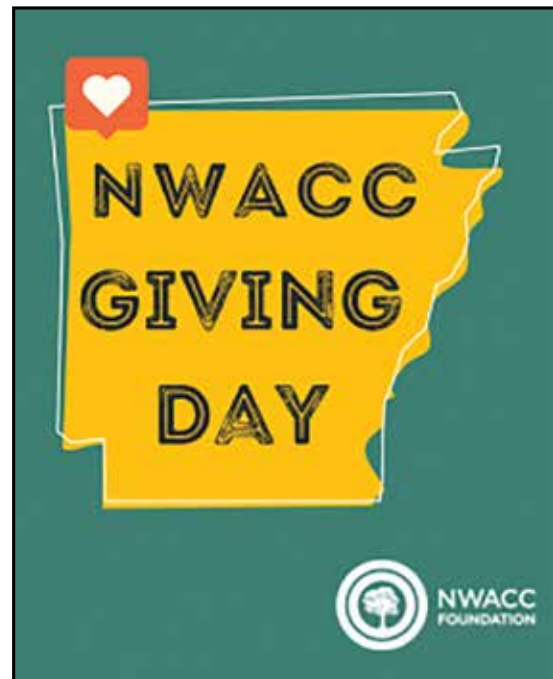
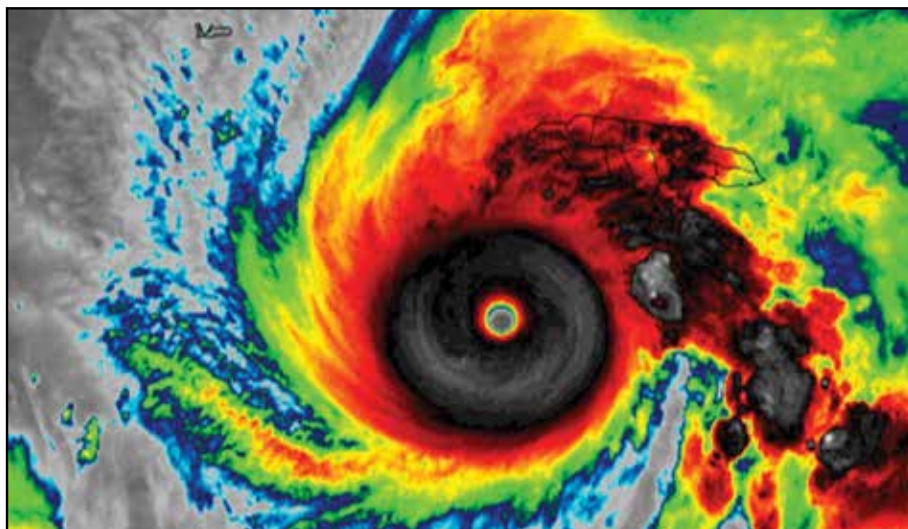


Image of "NWACC's Giving Day" logo. Photo courtesy of NWACC Foundation

Hurricane Melissa's Path of Destruction

Jamaica, Haiti, and Cuba Pick Up the Pieces



Hurricane Melissa as a major hurricane as seen from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) GOES-19 satellite on Oct. 28, 2025

Image courtesy of CSU/CIRA & NOAA

Aneyda Reynaga
Online Editor

Hurricane Melissa ripped through the Caribbean on Oct. 28, leaving Jamaica, Haiti, and Cuba the hardest hit. The category 5 storm toppled buildings as it intensified with winds measuring up to 185 mph.

Melissa has left hundreds of people without homes throughout Jamaica, Cuba, and Haiti. According to NPR, Melissa left at least 14 people dead and more than 13,000 people in shelters in Jamaica. In Haiti, at least 30 people have died with many still missing as the death toll continues to rise in both countries.

Yanick St. Jean, a professor of Sociology and Haitian herself, said, "Melissa is far from the last one. Storms will continue – no doubt due to the position of the island...Lack of preparation for these storms is the problem. How do we prepare for what is likely to continue; that's the key question."

St. Jean mentioned that she didn't know anyone who was affected, but that she felt deeply for her country. When asked about how the international community should respond, she said,

SEE HURRICANE MELISSA'S PATH OF DESTRUCTION on Page 2

College Celebrates International Education Week

Events included Masquerade Ball, Study Abroad Information Session

Terrance Poole
Reporter

NWACC hosted International Education Week Nov. 10-14 by celebrating cultural diversity on campus.

Two international students shared what the occasion meant to them: Juliet Kyalo from Kenya, who serves as the Vice President of Citizens of the World, and Ghita Jeroundi from Morocco, who is the Vice President of the Student Government Association and a captain for Model United Nations.

When asked about the importance of International Education Week, Jeroundi explained that as someone coming from another country, it means a lot to her.

"It's just a reminder of how beautiful it is to have people from all over the world," she said, "all reunited in one place, learning from one another, and discovering new cultures, and getting to know other people from all over the world." She said she feels that it's very beautiful and very genuine too. "International week makes me feel proud of my roots and grateful for the diversity around me," she concluded.

Kyalo said one of the things that she had to face while moving away from home was learning to become more independent in what she does. "I can't just call my mom and my dad and say I need this or that," she said. "I've learned to become okay with being by myself." She also mentioned that "being at NWACC and being an International student it's hard to make friends

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NEWS



NWACC Wins Best Delegation

Students Compete in Arkansas Model UN Event.

FEATURES



International Masquerade Ball Helps Students De-Stress

Global affairs council provides opportunity to unwind for finals week.

SPORTS



Cross Country Crosses Finish Line of Fifth Official Season

NWACC's cross country team is fairly new and small in stature, but like Aesop said, the best things come in small packages.

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cultivating diplomatic and teamwork skills, and honing your public speaking and writing skills?

Apply to take Intro to UN Honors course in the Spring 2026 semester. NWACC will pay for flight, shuttle bus, hotel and conference registration. Every student will be responsible for a \$100 fee, their food on the trip, and doing online and in person prep work. The trip will take place April 5-11. Previous MUN experience and membership in the Honors Program are not disqualifying. Questions? Email Matt Evans, the MUN adviser, at mevans8@nwacc.edu.

The application form is due at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2.

NWACC Foundation Scholarship Application

The NWACC Foundation scholarship application for the upcoming academic year 2026-27 is open! Students simply submit ONE application to be eligible for numerous NWACC Foundation scholarships. Students do not need to be financial-aid eligible to receive an award.

Visit nwacc.awardspring.com to get started. Students must create an account to access the application.

Important Updates and Reminders:

-Students do not need to be financial-aid eligible to receive an award.

-Scholarships will be awarded for the upcoming academic year Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 semesters.

For questions about scholarships, please email rpilgrim@nwacc.edu or text 479-252-9554.

Singers Can Join Community Chorus

The Community Chorus is a non-audition chorus, open to the community. They meet for rehearsals every other Monday from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Upcoming rehearsals:

December 1

A dress rehearsal will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, and the concert will take place at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11, in Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies — B102.

For more information or to join, contact Michael Brown at m3brown21@nwacc.edu.

Life Transitions Closet Opening Soon

Change is part of every journey - new jobs, new goals, new beginnings.

The Life Transitions Closet will soon open to help students, faculty and staff access clothing that fits who they are and who they are becoming.

In order to fill the closet we are looking for donations of gently used clothing, shoes, accessories and outerwear and new socks and underwear. Please deliver donations to the boxes outside the library, outside the Life Transitions Closet (SC 318), or to the offices of Meredith Davis (SC 350) or Sharon Fox (BH 1124). We will also be adding a box at the Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development by the computer lab. The closet is planned to open before the end of the fall semester.

Library Holiday Hours Announced Library Hours - Thanksgiving Week

Thanksgiving is coming. Library hours will adjust for the holiday, Nov. 24–29:

- NWACC Library (Burns Hall 1304)
- Monday–Tuesday: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: 8 a.m.–noon
- Thursday–Saturday: Closed

Learning Commons (Burns Hall 1217)

Monday–Friday: Closed

Walker Information Commons (Washington County)

Monday–Friday: Open during building hours, unstaffed

Plan ahead and stop by early for your study, printing, or tech needs before the break and to return or borrow books, media, and equipment More details at <https://library.nwacc.edu/calendar>.

Music Department Concert Slated Dec. 4

The Music Department Semester Concert will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 in Walmart Auditorium.



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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK continued from Page 1

BUT with the Citizens of the World club it makes it easier to find people, at the end of the day it teaches you to grow up.”

Events during the week included a talk by Jennifer Sorey, cofounder and executive director of Hub of Hope regarding human trafficking; a Study Abroad information session; an International Market with a vibrant mix of global vendors; and a Masquerade Ball with varied costumes and global pop music. Events were sponsored by the NWACC Global Affairs Council, Globalizing Service Learning Project, Latin Culture Club, Global Studies, and NWACC’s International Office.



During international education week at NWACC, the college held an international market in the student center building. Many market booths were showcased, such as Canopy Northwest Arkansas. Photos by Nadia Moutria

Democrats Win Elections in Some Key November Races

Observers Begin to Focus on 2026

Aneyda Reynaga

Online Editor

After over a year of campaigning Zohran Mamdani has won the mayoral race in New York City. The Democratic Socialist defeated Independent Andrew Cuomo and Republican Curtis Sliwa Nov. 4.

During his victory speech, Mamdani was filled with emotion. He was greeted with cheers as he spoke to his supporters saying, “New York will remain a city of immigrants, a city built by immigrants, powered by immigrants, and as of tonight led by an immigrant.” The remarks were a nod to his views on protecting the city and immigrants from ICE. The 34-year-old will make history as one of the youngest, and the only Muslim mayor in New York City history.

In Virginia, Democrat Abigail Spanberger defeated Republican Winsome Earle-Sears, becoming the first woman governor in Virginia history. During her victory speech on Nov. 4 she thanked her daughters and told her supporters, “You all chose leadership that will focus relentlessly on what matters most.”

In New Jersey, Democratic Rep. Mickie Sherrill defeated Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli in the governor’s race. The former navy pilot said a defining moment in her life was when she swore to defend the constitution, “It taught me that leadership means carrying the weight of other people’s hopes. Standing firm when it is easier to bend and always putting the common good above personal gain,” she added.

All of these candidates campaigned on the promise of affordability. In recent days, President Trump has argued that there is not an affordability crisis and the economy is better, according to The Associated Press.

On the other side of the country, California passed Proposition 50 which would allow the state to redraw their congressional map in favor of Democrats. This could earn Democrats five new seats in next year’s House elections. The California vote was in response to redistricting done in Republican states like Texas, Missouri and North Carolina.

There were a limited number of races and ballot issues on Nov. 4.

The Washington Post noted that Democrats see the off-year victories as a sign that voters are unhappy with Trump and perhaps ready to give them the House majority in next year’s midterm elections. According to reporting by The Associated Press on Nov. 16, many GOP leaders insist there is no problem with the party’s policies, its message, or President Trump’s leadership.

In Arkansas, the candidate filing period for the March primaries ended last week. A roundup of federal candidates published by The Arkansas Times follows.

U.S. Senate

Republican: Incumbent Senator Tom Cotton is seeking a third term and faces challenges from Jeb Little of Harrison and Micah Ashby of Bradford.

Democrat: Hallie Shofner, a farmer from Newport, faces Ethan Dunbar, mayor of Lewisville.

U.S. House of Representatives, District 1

Republican: Incumbent Rick Crawford is seeking re-election.

Democrat: Terri Yarbrough Green is seeking the party’s nomination.

U.S. House of Representatives, District 2

Republican: Incumbent Rep. French Hill of Little Rock is seeking re-election and faces a challenge from Chase McDowell.

Democrat: Chris Jones of Little Rock, who ran for governor in 2022, faces Zac Huffman, a teacher from Little Rock to be the party’s nominee.

U.S. House of Representatives, District 3

Republican: Incumbent Steve Womack is seeking his ninth term.

Democrat: Robb Ryerse, a pastor and nonprofit leader, is seeking his party’s nomination.

U.S. House of Representatives, District 4

Republican: Incumbent Bruce Westerman is seeking his sixth term.

Democrat: James “Rus” Russell III and Steven Layne O’Donnell are seeking the party’s nomination.

The political primaries in Arkansas are scheduled for March 3, 2026.

NWACC Wins Best Delegation

Students Compete in Arkansas Model UN Event

Staff Report

NWACC’s Model UN team took the best delegation award for the entire conference and awards in every committee at Arkansas Collegiate Model UN at Harding University on Nov. 17.

Melany Chavez won an honorable mention delegate award for representing Algeria on the Economic and Social Council. Mandy Lopez won an honorable mention delegate award for representing Algeria on the Security Council. Angela Deneke won a best delegate award for representing Algeria on the Council of Arab League. Ghita Jeroundi won a best delegate award for representing Bangladesh on the Human Rights Council. Querenda Torres won an honorable mention delegate award representing the Republic of Sudan. Jeroundi, Enrique Soto, and William Wise won a best delegation award for representing Bangladesh.

Other members of NWACC’s Model UN team included Hidgens Leonard and Matthew Cornog II (representing Algeria on the Human Rights Council), Lindsey Lawrence and Anthony Suviaz (representing Netherlands on the Economic and Social Council), Mollie Kilgore (representing the Human Rights Council), and Kennan Addington and Lucien DuSoleil (representing the Republic of Sudan on the Human Rights Council). In total, NWACC had 14 students compete in the 15th annual Arkansas Collegiate Model United Nations.

Arkansas State University, Harding University, John Brown University, and the University of Central Arkansas also had students represented in the conference. Seventy-five students competed in the 15th annual Arkansas Model UN event.



NWACC’s Model UN team posing for a photo at the Conference awards on Nov. 17. Photo courtesy of Matt Evans

HURRICANE MELISSA’S PATH OF DESTRUCTION continued from Page 1

“Do not send money...more than likely, it will not get to the people who need it. Show respect for the history of the country [Haiti] and include it in the curricula.” Her comment references some of the historical exclusion Haiti has faced from the international community.

According to CNN, Melissa has tied with four different hurricanes for the second strongest storm recorded in the Atlantic. Although not his specific background, Casey Brewster, Professor of Biology, said, “Climate change in general does predict a lot more extreme weather patterns, and that’s been documented in a lot of other things outside of hurricanes.”

These storms are likely to continue and could cause more devastation in the future for these countries. Brewster emphasized that because of this, “catastrophic weather events are and will continue to increase in quantity with the rapid pace of climate change – they are one more factor causing the loss of biodiversity on our planet.”

NPR reported that Melissa was a category 3 storm by the time it hit Cuba, but no deaths were reported after more than 735,000 people were evacuated before the storm made landfall. However, the destruction was vast with lost roofs, power lines and substantial losses in banana and coffee plantations.

Now, these countries are left to pick up the pieces and rebuild after this catastrophic damage. The UK has said they were sending £2.5 million in aid and China’s ambassador to Cuba shared a video on X showing boxes of aid.

According to the Department of State, U.S. President Donald Trump authorized “an immediate U.S. response.” Now, volunteers from around the world have gone to give aid and help in cleanup efforts.

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.

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.

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International Masquerade Ball Helps De-Stress

Global Affairs Council Provides Opportunity to Unwind for Finals Week

Lu Antolinez
Reporter

The night was vibrant with colors, cultural influences, and a sense of community. Guests sampled an array of dishes from various countries, enjoyed music from different parts of the world, and experienced multicultural performances by families, adding a special and heartfelt element to the festivities. Almost 70 students joined, transforming the evening into an energetic and joyful celebration.

“It was important for us to create an event where students could feel welcomed and have fun before the final round,” said Ghita Jeroundi, a student and the organizer behind the event.

Several faculty and staff members from NWACC also supported the event, helping to realize the concept and making sure the evening proceeded without a hitch. Their assistance contributed to what was widely regarded as a warm, memorable, and inclusive experience.

The success of the Masquerade Ball established a solid groundwork for future multicultural gatherings on campus, events that celebrate the diversity, unity, and creativity inherent in the NWACC community.

The evening included energetic dancing and an impressive drum showcase by a family, attracting students to join in and energizing the venue. They welcomed all to participate, honoring togetherness through dance and sound.

As the gathering wrapped up, coordinators urged students to maintain connections and keep an eye out for upcoming Global Affairs happenings, each one designed to bring people together, celebrate culture, and strengthen the welcoming community that NWACC is known for.



Multicultural performances from the community coordinated by the Global Affairs Council. Photos by Lu Antolinez



Entrepreneurship & Innovation

New Design Club Kicks Off

Lu Antolinez
Reporter

NWACC kicked off its new Entrepreneurship and Innovation Club on Nov. 12, holding its inaugural meeting that provided students with a glimpse of what to expect in the upcoming spring semester. The purpose of the club is to establish an environment filled with opportunities for anyone eager to delve into creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

The club welcomes participants from all academic disciplines, making it clear that you don't have to be a business major to take part. “Everyone has something valuable to contribute and learn,” said Dr. Chris LaFata, dean of Business and Computer Information Systems. “Whether your background is in health, the arts, or business, creativity

and innovation are embraced in this club,” he said in encouraging students from every area of the campus to get involved. “Being part of a community is essential for student success.”

The meeting focused on the club's goal: to foster a nurturing setting where students can investigate ideas, enhance their skills, work in teams, and build their confidence in the realm of entrepreneurship. Whether students aspire to start their own business, improve their problem-solving skills, or simply like collaborating creatively with others, the club provides an inclusive space for all.

Students who wish to join can scan the available QR code to reach the registration form and become a member of this vibrant new community at NWACC.

Entrepreneurs & Innovators by
Design Club Interest



Then & Now:

How NWACC Has Grown Through the Eyes of Its Students

Lucas Luangsisombath
Reporter

NorthWest Arkansas Community College has been a place where students come to grow. Not just academically, but personally. Over the years, the college has seen countless students navigate challenges, discover their passions, and build communities that extend beyond campus life. Comparing the experiences of alumni and current students shows how much NWACC has evolved and how much its spirit remains unchanged.

Finding Focus, Building Foundations

For Nate House, who transferred with an engineering background in late 2019, managing time was one of the hardest parts of college life. “The biggest challenge was finding the time to do proper justice to my classes,” House said. “I saw NWACC as a chance to get into the groove of college, and I couldn't afford to mess up. A lot of that had to do with how hard I worked and how tough the learning was.”

House's determination paid off. “My goal when I started was to graduate as an engineer and gain the foundation I needed to do that,” he said. “I did accomplish that goal and have grown well past it. NWACC helped a lot on that path.” Like many students, House viewed NWACC as both a launching pad and a proving ground — a place to develop the skills and confidence necessary to succeed after graduation.

A Campus Built on Connection

House credits the college community for helping him thrive both in and outside the classroom. “The community was the best part of NWACC; I met my wife! I met all my best friends there,” he said. “If it wasn't for that community, I couldn't have made it through the classes.”

He found his place through a rock-climbing organization. “The community was the biggest tool,” he explained. “I really found myself through the rock-climbing club I co-founded and worked hard to belong to that group of people.” For House, friendships and teamwork were as critical to success as any study habit. Years later, that same sense of belonging continues to shape the NWACC experience.

A Modern Student Perspective

For Sam Cooper, a second-year business major and international student, NWACC provides a welcoming and close-knit environment that makes academic life manageable, even with a busy schedule. “Balancing classes is definitely a challenge,”

Cooper said. “I'm a full-time student taking four classes and also work behind the front desk on campus. Another challenge would be making new friends.”

Cooper's goals are both practical and ambitious. “I plan to graduate with an associate's degree in business and transfer to the University of Arkansas,” he said. “I'm also exploring opportunities with Walmart and other large corporations in the area.”

He describes the campus atmosphere as small but dynamic. “The size of the campus is very good, and the fact that everything is close together gives it a personal energy that's inviting,” Cooper said. “Class sizes are great; you get all the attention you need from professors.”

As an international student, Cooper said the college's support systems have been vital to his success. “We have our own department and club called ‘Citizens of the World,’ which has been really helpful,” he said. “The Learning Center and Writing Center have also been great for tutoring, especially for algebra, which I struggled with before.”

Still, he believes there's always room to grow. “I'd like to see more sports on campus,” Cooper said. “There are already plans for track and field, and maybe even a stadium, which would really enhance student life.”

Timeless Advice for Students

Though they come from different backgrounds and eras, both students emphasize similar lessons about success. “Find yourself the thing to care about,” House said. “It can be anything, even something that isn't real yet. If you work hard and stay passionate, that's all you need to succeed.”

Cooper offers a more practical but equally thoughtful perspective. “Stay punctual and on top of your homework,” he advised. “Build a good schedule, go out of your comfort zone, and try public speaking. There's nothing wrong with change, as long as it's positive.”

NWACC's Ongoing Journey of Tradition

From Nate House's rock-climbing club to Sam Cooper's international student network, NWACC's growth is about more than expanding buildings or programs; it's about people. The college continues to adapt to new challenges and student needs while holding onto what's always made it special: its strong sense of community. No matter the year, NWACC remains a place where students learn, connect, and discover who they are, one class, one challenge, and one conversation at a time.

Theatre Program Delights with Night of Original Acts

Lu Antolinez
Reporter

The NWACC Theatre program turned the campus into a hub of creativity and artistic expression Nov. 13 during its eagerly awaited night of original performances authored by students. The event included four separate acts, each lasting around ten minutes, providing the audience with an engaging mix of humor, narrative, character exploration, and artistic innovation.

From the start of the first act, the environment buzzed with excitement and intrigue. Students, faculty, and visitors converged to show their support for the performers and writers who dedicated weeks to writing scripts, rehearsing their pieces, and honing their stage skills. The outcome was a night filled with joy, profound messages, and the special creative connection that live performances offer.

Every act delivered something distinctive; the audience encountered unexpected story developments, vibrant characters, witty dialogue, and moments that provoked thought and laughter. The performers' enthusiasm energized the venue, allowing guests to fully engage with the imaginative worlds crafted by the students. Among the four presentations, the audience's favorite was “Fem Fae Tale.” This exceptional performance combined whimsical storytelling with nuanced themes and symbolic components. While it was lighthearted and amusing, the act also contained deeper meanings, smart enough to inspire reflection and clever enough to make noticing every detail a delightful challenge. Its mix of insight, humor, and creativity garnered enthusiastic applause.

“This environment has encouraged me to push past my boundaries,” Cat, a playwriting student, remarked. “Initially, I was uncertain about joining, but I've gained so much knowledge and have a blast participating. Any student can be part of this, no matter where they are at. We enjoy evolving together as a team.”

Her experience mirrored the feelings shared throughout the evening: the Playwriting class serves as more than just a creative platform; it's a nurturing community where students can test their limits, find their voices, and collaborate with others who share a love for storytelling.

As the night wrapped up, attendees exited with smiles, lively discussions, and a deep admiration for the student talents showcased on stage. The students welcomed more people to become involved, whether they are writers, actors, directors, or simply have an interest in theater. The message was unmistakable: everyone is invited, and every new viewpoint enriches the group's diversity.

With excitement already building for upcoming activities, like a showcase, playwriting, as a subject, continues to evolve as a place where creativity flourishes, confidence grows, and stories unfold one act at a time.



Theatre program students performing together. Photo by Lu Antolinez

Go to www.nwacceagleview.com for more content.

Youtube channel: @nwacceagleview1464

Juanita Franklin, Sparking Community and Guidance at NWACC

Chelsea Castillo
Editor-In-Chief

Many students at NorthWest Arkansas Community College have experienced the well known LIFE program on campus at some point in the fall semester, whether that be the Dia De Los Muertos event, Halloween Lifeline, LIFE Summer program, etc. As director of the LIFE program and Hispanic and Latino outreach at NWACC, Juanita Olivares Franklin heads the program and creates a notable impact on the community college and the region. Her compassion for helping those who want to know more about the higher education route for students and parents is one of the many cores of Franklin's work at the college.

Franklin is a first-generation American. Being the first in her family to be born in the U.S, she comes from immigrant parents who both migrated from Mexico, along with her five older siblings who were born in Mexico. Franklin's parents grew up without furthering their education, her father only completing up till middle school and her mom not completing second grade. Yet, Franklin's parents gave their kids the expectation of doing better than they did. Although Franklin knew she wasn't going to college after high school, she still aspired for higher education. Starting college at 41 years old, Franklin aimed to provide the guidance future students and families need that she didn't have. "I want to be for these students and their families the person that I and my family did not have when I was growing up," stated Franklin.

"I want to be for these students and their families the person that I and my family did not have when I was growing up,"

- Juanita Olivares Franklin

She has worked for the college for 18 and a half years, starting off as the executive assistant to the vice president of student services for Todd Kitchen. Franklin is now the Director of the LIFE program at NWACC, the program connects and supports local high schools in the area and communicates with high school students who are looking to pursue higher education. The program started off as an idea by Kitchen, they looked into forming some sort of outreach for the area

and sharing the resources available for future students and building bonds within the community. The LIFE program is an acronym for "Learning, Improvement, Fun, and Empowerment." Franklin works alongside student LIFE mentors and coordinators to run the program, along with hosting events at the campus and visiting local high schools in the area to speak to younger students.

Miguel Palacios, former LIFE mentor and now LIFE program coordinator and Hispanic outreach, spoke about how Franklin's impact on the program has impacted many students during their time at NWACC, current or past. "When I first attended the LIFE Program, she welcomed us with such a warm smile and a great energy to make us feel like we've known her forever. It's hard to explain that feeling, but it made us, the high school students, feel like we needed to be there," Palacios said. Along with the advice and leadership Franklin gives to those around, she is known for inspiring those around her and embedding words of encouragement and guidance into those she impacts. Palacios stated, "Her words of encouragement rang clear and stayed embedded in us. 'You will be the difference in the future.' Ever since then, she's been a great mentor, in addition to colleagues, and a life long friend."

Jessica Chronister, Dean of Community and Student Engagement at NWACC, shared how Franklin provides meaningful connections with people and is committed about helping them achieve their dreams. "Juanita is passionate about meeting people where they are and helping them achieve their dreams, both at NWACC and beyond. She inspires others, builds meaningful connections, and works tirelessly to be a changemaker in Northwest Arkansas," Chronister said. As Director of Hispanic and Latino Outreach, Franklin guides students and their families through the often-confusing higher education process. Helping them understand the merit of college, simplifying the enrollment process, and supporting their journey all the way to graduation, she is seen as a monumental figure in many students' and people's lives. Chronister shared, "There's a quote with dubious authorship that goes something like this: 'At the end of the day, people won't remember what you said or did; they will remember how you made them feel.' Juanita makes people feel seen and heard. In a world where we're all rushing to the next thing, her genuine care stands out. She reminds me to pause and focus on what truly matters – the people we share life with."



Juanita Olivares Franklin, director of the LIFE program and Hispanic and Latino outreach at NWACC.

Courtesy photo

"There's a quote with dubious authorship that goes something like this: 'At the end of the day, people won't remember what you said or did; they will remember how you made them feel.' Juanita makes people feel seen and heard."

- Jessica Chronister

NAVIGATING THE TRANSFER PATH: NWACC STUDENTS AND FACULTY SHARE CHALLENGES AND SUCCESS STRATEGIES

From NWACC to the U of A: Students Share the Realities of the Transfer Process

Kelli Trigg
Reporter

Each semester, hundreds of students at NorthWest Arkansas Community College take the next step toward earning their bachelor's degree by transferring to four-year universities. While the process can open doors to new opportunities, many students say it's more complicated than expected – and that support from NWACC staff plays a vital role in making that possible.

For Harrison Riffel, a recent NWACC student who transferred to the University of Arkansas, the process was far from simple. "It was difficult," Riffel said. "I didn't feel prepared before starting the process."

Riffel described the process as a lot of back-and-forth communication between schools. "It was mostly talking to U of A admissions and NWACC support to send transcripts to the right place," he said. "I had to make sure the electronic transcript was valid for the University and that all my classes showed up as complete."

Many students share similar experiences, according to Meredith Autrey, NWACC's associate director of transfer and degree completion, who often advises students preparing to transfer. "The transition can be stressful," Autrey said. "Students are juggling final projects, deadlines, and the pressure of getting everything right for the next school. That's why communication is key – both between institutions and with students themselves."

Autrey emphasized that learning to communicate effectively is an important part of navigating the transfer process. "When students learn to ask clear questions, send professional emails, and advocate for themselves, the process goes a lot smoother," she said.

NWACC's advising and transfer services aim to make that process easier. The college provides workshops, one-on-one advising sessions, and transcript request guides to help students avoid common pitfalls.

Riffel said he believes even more could be done to help future students. "It would help if there were a short video explaining what to expect," he said, "something that walks students through how long it takes and where to send your transcripts, so they're accepted for credit."

With more than half of NWACC's students planning to transfer after earning their associate degree, faculty and staff are committed to making the transition as seamless as possible.

"Transferring is a huge milestone," Autrey said. "It's not just about moving schools – it's about moving forward. We want every student to feel confident and supported during that step."

As Riffel settles into life at the University of Arkansas, he hopes his experiences will encourage other NWACC students to start early and ask for help when they need it. "It's a process, but it's worth it," he said. "Once you get through it, you realize how much you've learned – not just about transferring but about taking charge of your own education."

Fall 2025 Student Works Exhibition



A guest at the student works exhibition opening reception studies some of the artwork. Photos by Nadia Moutrix



Landon Manweiler admires the winning artwork.



Art Club members and attendees pose for a group photo at the Spooky Opening Reception. Below, guests look at the submissions. Photos by Nadia Moutrix



Breaking Records, Breaking Stigma: Mental Health Center Sees Increased Demand

Counseling visits up 29% compared to last October

Jennifer Watson

Reporter

Last month, NorthWest Arkansas Community College's Dale Montgomery Counseling & Wellness Center hit a milestone: 131 appointments scheduled in a single week, the highest number in its history.

The record-breaking week reflects a broader trend both locally and nationally. Between October 2024 and October 2025, the center saw a 29% increase in clients. Nationwide, 37% of college students screened positive for moderate or severe depression, and 33% for moderate or severe anxiety, according to the 2024-2025 Healthy Minds Study, which surveyed over 84,000 students across 135 colleges and universities. At NWACC, students are increasingly willing to seek help—and the center has expanded dramatically to meet that demand.

"The counseling and wellness center has actually grown exponentially over the past four years, I would say," said Tessa Hale, the center's mental health coordinator. What started with one full-time and one part-time therapist has ballooned to four full-time therapists and seven interns—a testament to both increasing demand and decreasing stigma around mental health care.

Free, Confidential, and Unlimited

For NWACC students, the center offers something increasingly rare in healthcare: truly free service with no session limits. All students are eligible for these free services regardless of whether they have insurance or not.

"As long as you are enrolled in at least one credit hour, you are eligible for counseling for the semester," explained Melody Kramme, a mental health counselor at the center. "As of right now, there is no limit for students."

This unlimited access is particularly significant given that many students nationwide face barriers like cost—cited by 20% of students—or not knowing where to go, reported by 14%. National data shows that among students with positive depression or anxiety screens, only 61% received therapy or medication in the past year, with just 48% receiving counseling.

At NWACC, the counseling center aims to eliminate those obstacles. Services include one-on-one confidential counseling with licensed counselors, themed group counseling sessions that incorporate peer support, and educational and self-care events throughout the year.

Students seek help for everything from everyday stress to deeper challenges. "Sometimes people just want to vent about their day or have somebody to talk to," Kramme said. "A lot of the times, we'll see test anxiety or anxiety surrounding classes and classwork." She added that the center also helps students navigate past trauma and relational issues with parents or partners.

These concerns mirror national patterns. The Healthy Minds Study found that 53% of students reported academic impairment from mental health issues in the past month, with 16% experiencing six or more days of disrupted academic performance. Additionally, 11% of college students nationwide experienced suicidal ideation in the past year, and 27% engaged in non-suicidal self-injury.

Taking the First Step

For students hesitant about counseling, both Hale and Kramme emphasized that one appointment creates no obligation.

"Counseling is not a requirement," Kramme said. "If you sign up for one appointment in the semester, you do not have to keep going throughout the semester. Your counselor is not going to be angry at you if you decide that it's not for you."

She acknowledged that seeking help can feel vulnerable: "There's often stigma around going to counseling, and that makes sense, and it's a scary decision to make. However... you're not paying for it, you don't have to come back. It's pretty low risk. So I would just give it a try."

The stigma Kramme references is real—though overestimated. Nationally, 36% of students believe most people would think less of someone who has received mental health treatment, though only 7% personally hold that view. Despite these concerns, 83% of students report knowing where to access mental health resources on their campuses.

For students who need more specialized care—such as a formal diagnosis or medication—the center provides preliminary evaluations and connects students with community resources based on insurance and individual needs. The goal is to establish a coordinated care team where everyone works together to support the student.



Frankie is a turtle who can be seen at NWACC's Counseling & Wellness Center



Tessa Hale and Melody Kramme talk to journalism students about mental health and wellness.

Photos by Jennifer Watson

The Human Side of Helping

Both counseling center representatives acknowledged that holding space for others' pain takes its toll. Kramme credited her own therapy, supportive relationships, and "touching grass" as essential self-care practices.

But the rewards are profound. "Sometimes we'll see people walk into our office and they're obviously distressed," Kramme said. "By the end of the session, it's not that the situation has changed necessarily, but to see them smile and express more hope for the future—that makes my day."

Hale described counseling conversations as a privilege: "As you learn about people that you are in proximity to, I think that it makes you a more empathetic person."

Not Just Therapy

Here is what many students do not know: you do not need to be in crisis—or even seeking therapy—to use the center.

"Even if you don't want therapy, just come and use our office,"

Kramme noted. "I like to encourage it as a safe space. Maybe you're feeling overstimulated in the student center, or the library is just too full, you need a quiet space to do homework, or you're feeling emotionally overwhelmed—I would encourage you to come to our office."

"I would encourage you to come to our office," she continued, "We have snacks. We have a turtle that you can watch. There's no judgment [here]. You can take your time and spend it with a comfy couch, blankets. Do what you need to do. Our center truly is available for you."

Connect With the Center

The Dale Montgomery Counseling & Wellness Center is located on the second floor of the Becky Paneitz Student Center, next to the Financial Aid office. Students can follow the center on social media for updates on events and resources, including Instagram (@nwacc_counseling_center), Facebook (NWACC Counseling and Wellness Center), and TikTok (@nwaccounseling).

Dia De Los Muertos Celebration



Student Terrance Poole takes advantage of activities by having his face painted for Dia De Los Muertos.

Photos by Nadia Moutria



Trio Las Hermanitas Alvarez look on while Juanita Franklin talks to guests at the Dia De Los Muertos celebration.



Maria Tapia serves tamales to guests at the celebration.

Cross Country Crosses Finish Line Of 5th Official Season

Riley Smith
Reporter

NWACC's cross country team is fairly new and small in stature, but like Aesop said, the best things come in small packages.

Head cross country men and women's Coach Josphat Boit has led the team to their fifth national championship where the men jumped from being ranked nationally at 22nd to 19th, and the women from 10th to 9th. Boit summed the entire season up into one word: "resilient."

"We've had ups and downs the whole season," he recalled. "We had three returnees [to the men's team], and they held the group together. They were always up in the front." One of those returnees finished in the top 100 — Kriz Perez, who ran a 28:10.2 for the Eagles in Iowa at the NJCAA Division II National Championship. The men's team swept regionals for the fifth consecutive time, the last two being on their home turf. "I think we had a little advantage because they knew the course; we do all our workouts and practices out there," said Boit.

The women's team has two all American runners with them: Cindy Soto and Judy Kiproto. They continue to help their ranking as they repeatedly place in the top 10% of the country. Even with their significant winnings, Boit still has one goal: "always move forward, keep improving." Since they've wrapped up their season, he prepares to make the switch from cross country to track by focusing on lifting and getting stronger.

"Now, the focus is recruiting runners; it's a quick turnaround when you only have them for two years." Boit's recruiting efforts are aided by the promise of NWACC's Campus Master Plan, which is set to be completed over the next 10 years or so. A task force is currently discussing the possibility of housing for workforce members and students as a part of that plan. "[The new dorms] will give us an opportunity to recruit from other states," Boit said.

Tryouts are hosted on the campus's cross country course, which is located on the east side of campus. The two-mile loop is open to the general public, and can be used as a walking or running route. To qualify for the cross country team, men must be able to complete a 5K in under 17 minutes, and women under 23 minutes.

For additional information about athletics, visit <https://nwacceagles.com/landing/index>.



Sophomore Kriz Perez, who was NWACC's top finisher and placed 47th.

Photos by Danny Kotula



Freshman Litzy Garcia, who finished 76th.



Left, freshman Talitha Venter (196th); center, sophomore Judy Kiproto (20th), who was NWACC's top finisher; center right, sophomore Cindy Soto (33rd); far right, freshman Ruby Salas, who did not participate due to injury.



Left, Salas; center right, Soto; far right, Kiproto.

NWACC Opens Fitness Court

New Offering Available to Community

Genesis Guerra
Senior Reporter

NorthWest Arkansas Community College celebrated the grand opening of its new Fitness Court on Oct. 27. The ribbon cutting took place behind the Center for Health Professions building and brought together students, administrators, staff, and local community members.

The new outdoor court is the first major project finished as part of NWACC's Campus Master Plan. The Fitness Court is about the size of a doubles tennis court and is free for anyone in the community to use. It's designed for all fitness levels and can be used for individual workouts, group exercises. On the other side of the court is an outdoor learning area with Wi-Fi where students can study.

Brandom Gengelbach, President and CEO of the Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce, and Geovanny Sarmiento, Senior Vice President of Community Engagement for the Rogers Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, both spoke at the event. Gengelbach began with a joke, saying, "Geovanny and I actually will be doing squats after this, raising money for NWACC here." Sarmiento replied, "Pull ups?" which made the crowd laugh. Gengelbach smiled and said, "Oh, it could be both. You're a pull-up guy—I can tell."

Gengelbach then shared how important teamwork is in this region. "NWACC represents partnership and regionalism," he said. "The business community is here to support you. This is just the first step toward more opportunities for businesses and young adults."

Sarmiento followed by talking about his long connection to NWACC. "This is a long time coming," he said. "Every student here has the opportunity to be successful and the resources to reach their goals. This project shows what's possible when we come together to support education and growth."

NWACC President Dr. Dennis Rittle introduced Brooke Brewer, the college's Executive Director of Athletics and Institutional Branding, who helped lead the project. Brewer said, "This project is a perfect example of how we can provide opportunities for our students while also helping the Northwest Arkansas community. It's not just for athletes—every student can use this facility from dawn to dusk. It's for everyone."

Brewer explained that the Fitness Court was made possible through a three-way partnership between NWACC, the National Fitness Campaign, and Flintco, which helped fund and build the project. NWACC's Trails and Trades program also built the trail that connects the court to the main campus.

"We could not be here without the support of our partners, our foundation, and our community," Brewer said. "This Fitness Court will serve NWACC students and the Northwest Arkansas community for years to come."



College officials and representatives from local chambers and Flintco cut the fitness court ribbon on Oct. 27.

Photos by Genesis Guerra

At the end of the ceremony, the ribbon was cut by representatives from NWACC, Flintco, the Trails and Trades program, and local Chambers of Commerce—showing the strong partnership between Bentonville and Rogers.

Students who attended were asked if they were excited to start using the new court or if they planned to visit. Student Ethan Vongkhamchanh said, "Yes! I wanna come here." His friend Clementine Zikhali joked, "He's already started." Vongkhamchanh laughed and continued saying, "I mean, I'm gonna probably, just for fun, try to come here after classes." He added that he wants to do pull-ups on the court's ring shaped handlebars. Zikhali said she would "come around and see what's going on."

The new NWACC Fitness Court is now open for public use and serves as a new space for health, community, and connection on campus.



Athletic students demonstrate the fitness court to attendees.



A sign placed on the fitness court stating, "WORLD'S LARGEST FREE OUTDOOR GYM NETWORK"

Thoughts on This Thanksgiving

People Can Take Stock of What They Have Before Deciding They Need More

Kayrat Bektemirov

Reporter

As Thanksgiving nears, we are afforded the opportunity to rest and reflect on the world around us. And after listing out everything we're thankful for, it is only natural that we forget about it all, decide that we need more, and frantically shop for Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals the days after.

But jests aside, I am very thankful for a lot of things in my life. I am thankful for all of the great instructors I have had in my time at NWACC. I am thankful for the academic advisers who have guided me along my academic path. I am thankful for my wonderful classmates who are with me on this shared journey of academic enlightenment. I am thankful for friends and family who have helped me throughout my life.

My end goal is a bachelor's degree. I'm quite a way from that at the moment, but I do know that an associate's degree can serve as a middle point in such a path. That said, I had not really paid too much attention to getting one. My mindset was a bit too myopic, focused solely on a bachelor's.

Luckily for me, I had some time and I thought about seeking a second opinion, a second pair of eyes. I had signed up for spring classes recently and I thought I had my schedule mapped out for the most part. So, I went and met with an academic adviser to more or less confirm whether I was on the right track. The adviser let me know that I was extremely close to getting an associate's degree. That is, if I tweak my schedule a bit. I took the recommendation and switched out one of my classes for another one that I had not thought about, and by next semester I should have an associate's degree. But the thing is, this scenario would not have been possible had I not met with that adviser. So, I have to be thankful



A traditional Thanksgiving meal may be central to some celebrations.

Photo by Megan Watson on Unsplash

for the academic advising staff: they were extremely helpful. This feeling of gratitude will probably at least double come spring.

Instances like this, where I was afforded a new perspective that I had not previously considered, have happened so often during my time in college: I'm thankful for every one of those instances.

Let me wrap things up with an analogy. Everyone has seen a movie or two, so I think it's best we look at Thanksgiving through that lens. Every movie has, at the end, rolling credits of all the staff who helped make the movie. I think college degrees are sort of similar. There is ultimately the principal director (the student), but there are countless people working behind the scenes to make the magic happen. I'm lucky enough to have encountered wonderful professors, classmates, friends, and just a lot of people in general.

So this Thanksgiving, before looking at all the Black Friday deals and Cyber Monday sales, let's take the time to really appreciate what we already have, before going out to get more.

Kayrat Bektemirov is a student in the fall 2025 Media Writing class.

The Smells and Sounds of Home: A Thanksgiving Story

Kelli Trigg

Reporter

The first scent I register every Thanksgiving morning is coffee and cinnamon. It wafts up the hallway before I even open my eyes, warm and beckoning, as if the holiday itself is whispering. "It's time."

Mom is in the kitchen, humming along in a soft murmur to some old '90s country playlist as she finishes up the pies. The oven door opens and closes slowly and squeaks a little in the process. She shuffles around some mixing bowls and measuring cups. "And don't forget to butter the crust this time," my dad calls from the living room. "I didn't forget last year!" Mom answers, even if everybody knows that she did. Their good-natured banter is as much a part of our Thanksgiving morning as the Macy's parade.

Grandma comes a little after nine, with her favorite dress shirt and comfy coat fluffed up to her neck and a foil-covered casserole dish clutched to her chest as if it's her most prized possession. "You would think this vegetable casserole recipe took the prize." My sister taunts, laughing. "It did," she fires back. "The reward is that you get to lick the pan clean every year." The kitchen fills with laughter, and the hiss of escaping steam when I remove the dish's lid. The scents pile on, one at a time – rosemary, roasting turkey, baked apples and brown sugar, and the hint of smoke from the wood-burning fireplace. It's not just food. It's a recipe for memory. Every smell links you to the past, to something familiar.

By lunch time, the house is alive with sound. A blaring television plays the football pregame show, kids race up and down the hallway pushing toy cars, and my uncle, belly-laughing as loud as a train. The noise should be deafening, yet it isn't. It's comforting in that way, like a song we all know by heart. "Check the rolls!" someone yells. "Too late!" comes the reply. Burnt rolls are another tradition because no one can seem to pay attention to them long enough for them to turn out good.

My aunt waves the smoke away from the oven, grumbling. "Every year, same thing," and we all laugh because it's always true. When at last, we sit down, the sound shifts again. Plates clatter, silverware ekes, and hums with voices. It's Grandma who gives grace in our family, a constant voice. "For food and family, for warmth and laughter, we give thanks," she says, and the clinking pauses for a second.

Now the jabber starts up again, a little louder this time with stories, jokes, and some mild wrangling over which side dish was better. My favorite part is after dinner, when the living room subsides and there's space for more civil conversation. The dishes are piled, the leftovers wrapped in foil, and the house smells of the last whiffs of turkey and a cool sweetness – pie crust, so very lightly scented. The older cousins gather at the table to play cards, and the younger ones squabble about the TV remote. I still hear the dim crackle of the fire, and mom's mirthful chuckling from the kitchen. I take a seat, and the day begins to pile up on me. Thanksgiving is not a meal; it's the hours and moments leading up to it. The clatter of my mom's music, the smell of rosemary, the heat coming off the oven from the kitchen, and laughter that pushes at me like waves. These are the things that add up to home. And every year, regardless of what has changed – the kids grow older, the recipes shift, the playlist is updated – the smells and sounds are always consistent. They are the thread connecting our family during this time of year.

Kelli Trigg is a NWACC student in the fall 2025 Media Writing class.

ICE-Y Thanksgiving

Family, business facing holiday without husband, owner

Aneyda Reynaga

Online Editor

Its controversial history aside, Thanksgiving has become synonymous with spending quality time with family. Every year families from all over the country travel to spend time together, dine together and catch up on things they've missed. Seems like a great time, right? Maybe, but this year that picture isn't the reality for many across the country. For them, their lives are filled with terror wondering if they'll make it home to their families, with some not making it home at all.

This is true for a Prairie Grove family who are now missing their father and husband. Waldin Sanchez was the owner of Del Rio Supermarket in Prairie Grove before he was detained. Sanchez was the head of the household but with him in ICE custody that responsibility has fallen onto his wife, Maria Verde.

With two children at home and a business to run, Verde is unsure about the future of the supermarket, saying, "I can't do whatever he did; he took care of some things, I took care of other things and now everything's on me and we might close."

After posting their story on Facebook, Verde received tremendous support from the community saying of her neighbors, "They come to purchase things, even if it's not a lot, just a soda helps, anything helps."

Since President Trump has taken office and as the weather's gotten colder, ICE has taken over the streets. A Supreme Court ruling on Sept. 8, 2025, allowed federal agents in Los Angeles to consider using race as a factor to use in deciding who to stop or detain. Regardless of that ruling, some say it's clear that ICE is targeting people of color everywhere.

While Sanchez had a previous misdemeanor from the state of Oklahoma 3 years ago, he had no convictions in Arkansas. The CATO Institute showed that out of 204,297 individuals held by ICE, 65 percent had no criminal convictions, and 93 percent had no convictions for violent offenses since Oct. 1, 2024.

Verde described her husband as a hard worker, kind person and great father who loves his children. That doesn't sound like the people that Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Tricia McLaughlin insists they're going after as said in a video posted by DHS on X, "these are truly the worst of the worst individuals that our brave ICE enforcement officers are getting off American streets..."

Hundreds of videos on social media show that ICE has detained people at work sites, stores and more. Thousands have seen videos coming out of Los Angeles, Chicago, and other major cities.

Being undocumented is NOT a crime, the American Immigration Council states that not having documentation while being in the United States, "is a civil violation, rather than a criminal offense."

So why the ICE actions? According to a report by the Wall Street Journal (Online) on June 10, "Agents didn't need to develop target lists of immigrants suspected of being in the U.S. illegally, a longstanding practice, Miller said. Instead, he directed them to target Home Depot, where day laborers typically gather for hire, or 7-Eleven convenience stores."



Front doors of Del Rio Supermarket

Image Credit: Aneyda Reynaga

Clearly, it's about the numbers which is why countless citizens and non-citizens alike have been detained, and thousands are scared to leave their homes regardless of status. With Thanksgiving around the corner, the Sanchez-Verde family is one of many that are going to be missing someone at their table.

Grateful for Technology This Thanksgiving

Paige Keck

Reporter

I have thought long and hard about what I am thankful for this Thanksgiving, and I truly believe I am the most thankful for modern technology. I don't just mean the internet or phones but all the amazing things that have been invented in modern times. Yes, I will admit that some inventions can be very harmful. I won't deny the existence or the harmful nature of technology like AI. I just think all the good that has come out of modern times should be recognized and maybe even celebrated.

With a few button presses on my phone, I can talk to someone miles away. With a quick Google search, I can learn something new, and I can carry countless books with me because of one device. These are things that people would have found impossible just a handful of generations ago.

The uses and helpfulness of our current day technology are quite possibly countless; for me, these are amazing tools to keep connected to old friends and to make new ones; to others, these things can be assistive tools for disabilities or maybe they're tools to help people pay bills or work from home.

The tools to keep everyone connected are so important that there are countless organizations that strive to help others keep connected. I use a service called PC's for People and it helps me get cheap internet. This is just one example of thousands of services that attempt to help others stay connected with the modern world.

Even if we were to take things like phones and the internet away, I and countless others would still be grateful for things like modern television to help us stay up to date on current events, or emergencies or inventions like GPS to help people navigate their way around. To me, the uses of technology and its overall helpfulness to humanity seem endless as we continue to innovate and create more and more.

We live in an age where we are more connected now than ever before, and I think that's something amazing. Even when horrible things happen or when things feel helpless, it's easy to find people who want to help just because they can. In the current digital age we live in, it feels impossible to find a bad situation that people aren't immediately willing to help make better.

I've seen strangers make jokes with each other while being miles apart, I've watched people donate to those in need, and I've been a part of online movements to help others just because we were made aware



Technology was listed as a source of gratitude by Journalism Student Paige Keck

Photo Courtesy of Pexels

of a problem; none of these things would have been possible without our current day inventions like computers or the internet. This is why I am so grateful for all the things modern technology has given us. It might be horrible at times, but I also think that these tools help us stay connected and be more human to our fellow man.

