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## NWACC Eagle View

### News Briefs

**Fall Fest Oct. 16**  
 Fall Fest is planned for Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 5 p.m. at NWACC's Bentonville campus! The event kicks off with a community fair and wraps up with an outdoor movie under the stars.  
 This year's highlights include: Free burgers & hot dogs, Outdoor movie (chosen by NWACC students – starts at 7 p.m., Mobile Escape Room, Photo Booth, Pumpkin Carving, Bounce Houses  
 Booths hosted by NWACC departments and organizations.

**Bed Build Slated Oct. 10**  
 NWACC's Trails & Trades and Service Learning programs will partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build beds for children in need. Volunteers will help build beds using donated materials. The activity begins at 1 p.m. in the Integrated Design Lab on the Bentonville campus. The work will continue until finished. Those participating are asked to wear closed-toed shoes; hearing and eye protection will be provided. Questions can be directed to Ray Taylor at ptaylor7@nwacc.edu. A QR code for sign-up is available in a flier connected to Public Relations announcements.

**Big Win for NWACC! Slim Chickens Discount**  
 Your NWACC Athletics team just scored a deal for you-enjoy 10% off ANYTIME at Slim Chickens! All students, athletes, and staff can show their NWACC ID badge at the 1400 SE Eagle Way location to get the discount (gift cards excluded).

**Music Department Fall Concert Schedule**  
 The fall concert series has been announced for the music department. Admission is free and open to the public.  
 Faculty Recital 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, in Walmart Auditorium  
 Student Recital 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, in Walmart Auditorium. Music Department Semester Concert 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 in Walmart Auditorium. Community Chorus of NWA Concert 7 p.m. Thursday, De. 11 in Walmart Auditorium. The Community Chorus is a non-audition chorus, open to the community. The group meets for rehearsals every other Monday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more info or to join, contact Michael Brown at m3brown21@nwacc.edu.  
**SEE NEWS BRIEFS on Page 2**

# DARKNESS AT DEVIL'S DEN

## Double Homicide Case draws Local & National Attention

**Braxton Kehr**  
 Senior Reporter

In an event that shocked the region, the Devil's Den State Park, a popular hiking and camping destination, became the scene of a brutal double homicide in late July 2025. The case, marked by a swift manhunt and a community on edge, has brought to light the vulnerability of even the most tranquil public spaces.

The tragedy unfolded on Saturday, July 26, when Clinton David Brink, 43, and Cristen Amanda Brink, 41, were fatally stabbed while hiking a trail with their two young daughters, aged 7 and 9. The couple, who had recently moved to Prairie Grove, Arkansas, from another state, were found by authorities after a 911 call reported an assault. The two girls were physically unharmed and were taken into the care of relatives. Arkansas State Police immediately launched a massive manhunt, seeking a suspect described as a white male with a medium build.

A combination of police work and public cooperation propelled the investigation. Authorities released a description and later a composite sketch of the suspect, appealing to anyone who had been at the park that day to review their photos and videos. The public's response was overwhelming, with tips and surveillance videos pouring in, which proved to be instrumental in identifying and locating the suspect. The case drew national media attention with USA Today, ABC, NBC, and CBS broadcasting or publishing reports about the case.

Just five days after the attack, on July 30, Arkansas State Police special agents arrested 28-year-old Andrew James



**Mugshot of Andrew James McGann.**  
 Photo courtesy of Washington County Detention Center

McGann at a barbershop in Springdale. McGann, a former teacher who had recently moved to the area, was charged with two counts of capital murder. Authorities have stated that the attack appeared to be random and that there was no known connection between McGann and the victims. Shortly after his arrest, police said McGann admitted to the killings, and his DNA was reportedly matched to blood found at the crime scene, which was a result of an injury he sustained during the attack. Arkansas State Police Col. Mike Hagar, said, "I'm extremely grateful for the long hours and dedication that our agents put forward in bringing justice to this family. The collaboration between State

Police, other state and local law enforcement agencies, and our federal partners has been second to none."

In the ensuing legal proceedings, McGann was arraigned and entered a not guilty plea to both charges on Aug. 14 in front of Washington County Judge Joanna Taylor. He is currently being held without bond at the Washington County Detention Center. Judge Taylor has scheduled the next hearing for Nov. 14.

Ron Wood, a reporter at the Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette with almost 40 years of experience covering state and federal courts, expects that the public defenders representing McGann, Katherine Streett and James Wyatt, will begin filing motions challenging the legality of Arkansas' death penalty. He explained that the filings are standard procedure in such cases.

Judge Taylor issued a "gag order" in the case on Aug. 28 to limit pre-trial publicity in the case. The judge's order prohibits prosecutors and defense attorneys and their staffs from making any public statements regarding the evidence in the case, its weight or value, opinions as to McGann's guilt or innocence and their opinions as to the likelihood of conviction. A gag order, according to the legal dictionary found at law.com, is a judge's order prohibiting the attorneys and the parties to a pending lawsuit or criminal prosecution from talking to the media or the public about the case. The supposed intent is to prevent prejudice due to pre-trial publicity, which would influence potential jurors. A gag order has the secondary purpose of preventing the lawyers from trying the case in the press and on television, and thus creating a public mood in favor of one party or the other.

# Enrollment Meets 2024 Record

## Board Presented Updated Numbers

**Chelsea Castillo**  
 Editor-in-Chief

NorthWest Arkansas Community College met last fall's record unofficial tally of 9, 017 academic students, according to information presented to the NWACC Board of Trustees. The trustees' meeting on Sept. 8 announced the record-meeting student enrollment. Justin White, vice president of student affairs and strategic initiatives, spoke to trustees about enrollment continuing throughout the upcoming semesters becoming more fluid and are subject to change every day.

High school concurrent students saw a rise of 444 students from what it was tallied last academic year. Unofficial numbers showed the concurrent enrollment at 3,018. White said the growth is good for NWACC's students, good for the community, and good for the college's high school partners. The college has partnered with 40 individual schools alongside workforce centers, which saw an increase of 434 workforce students this semester.

Riley Smith, journalism major and new student at the college, spoke on how NWACC provided her with many resources to start off her first semester on campus. "The Library has everything you can dream of, from video games, to poetry, to cookbooks, to printing," said Smith. Alongside the resources NWACC's library provides, many faculty and staff members help students navigate any needs or questions students may have. Smith said, "Every faculty member I've come in contact

with has been so willing to help me. I've gotten lost more times than I can admit but even the police officers have shown me where my classes are."

President Dennis Rittle spoke about the opportunity that NWACC has on campus for students to enroll at a time that is fitted for them. He called it "just-in-time education," and spoke positively about future and current students who don't have to wait a long period before starting classes. The "just-in-time" start periods include 18 different parts of terms, such as late-start 12-week classes, and late-start 8-week classes. "When a student arrives at the college, we want them to start classes quickly. You don't want to say that they have to wait another semester or another year," said Rittle.

While 16-week courses have started in August, many shorter-term classes are gearing up to start and having more students on campus and making their way to another academic semester. "It's daunting to go straight to university after high school, and this is an awesome stepping stone. There are also many opportunities on campus. So many people here are willing and looking to help the students and get them ready for life outside of school," stated Smith. Smith's advice to future students thinking about attending NWACC was that although college is small, it is huge in character and involvement in the community.

The University of Arkansas in Fayetteville had a projected enrollment of more than 34,000 students for fall 2025, according to media reports.

# From Creek to Concrete

## A Trail's Second Chance

**Braxton Kehr**  
 Senior Reporter

A \$3.5 million grant from the Walton Family Foundation is set to restore a crucial section of the Razorback Greenway, reconnecting Bentonville and Bella Vista with a safer, more resilient trail. On Aug. 26, the Bentonville City Council unanimously approved the grant agreement and construction contract for the project, which aims to reroute a portion of the Wishing Springs Trail and build two new bridges.

The grant was recommended by Tom and Stuart Walton, grandsons of Walmart founder Sam Walton, following a multi-year closure of the trail

segment. According to a statement released by the City of Bentonville, the original Red Iron Bridge over the Little Sugar Creek was severely damaged by flooding in April 2022, forcing travelers to navigate lengthy detours or a temporary, and often dangerous, protected shoulder lane along U.S. 71.

"When we learned about the challenges facing this project, we knew we wanted to be part of the solution," Tom Walton said in a city news release. Ashley Hodson, a Bella Vista resident who often travels the detour on his bike, remarked that since the detour was put in place, riding between Bella Vista and Bentonville

**SEE Concrete page 2**



Depicted is the current bridge and erosion that makes the rail unsafe is evident

Photo by Braxton Kehr

## FEATURES



### Students make their way around the College's involvement fair

NWACC held its annual involvement fair which brought in various students around campus.

## SPORTS



### College's soccer program kicks off, NWACC hosts athletic luncheon

This summer announced the coming of two new soccer coaches to the college's athletic department. Coaches share their plans for the future soccer teams at NWACC's athletic luncheon.

## OPINION



### 2025's Super Summer!

Long-awaited superheros made it to the big screens this summer. Read the Eagle Viewers' movie reviews on "Super-man" and "Fantastic Four: First Steps."

NEWS BRIEFS continued from page 1

**Book Club Author Talk**

The NWACC Book Club's October book selection is Talya Tate Boerner's "The Accidental Salvation of Gracie Lee." Meet the author during a campus-wide author talk from noon to 1:15 p.m. Oct. 20 in Student Center 108. The Book Club meeting will take place after, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Burns Hall 2243.

Some copies of the book are available for loan and can be bought at the author talk. Contact Sabrina Chesne at schesne@nwacc.edu.

**Walk a Mile in Her Shoes**

The Office of Community Standards will host a Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event on Oct. 1 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Bogle Plaza. Activities will include: nail painting, a raffle and the main event: getting to see men (and anyone else) wear high heels and walk a mile around campus.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is an international program that aims to bring awareness to Domestic and Sexual Violence during October (Domestic Violence Awareness Month).

Organizers are looking for raffle prizes (donate gift cards, gift baskets or other fun things.) Anyone/team/department who contributes a prize for the raffle will be awarded raffle tickets. Questions about donating raffle prizes? Reach out to Cody Taylor at c3taylor2@nwacc.edu.

# 'Pieing for a Purpose'

**Jennifer Watson**  
Reporter

Five NWACC faculty and staff, including the college president and chief of police, took pies to the face from colleagues just before the start of the fall semester, raising funds for student scholarships and initiatives across campus.

Employees gathered in Bogle Plaza on Aug. 15, to watch the annual pie-in-the-face tradition. The playful spectacle ended the NWACC Foundation's iGive campaign, urging faculty and staff to donate through payroll deduction to help fund scholarships, programs, and clubs.

This year's pie-in-the-face recipients were:

- **Lucas Paxton**, Director of Digital Learning
- **Lenora Clouse**, Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- **Dr. Dennis C. Rittle**, NWACC President
- **Dr. Justin White**, VP of Student Affairs and Strategic Initiatives
- **Chief Cecil White**, NWACC Chief of Police

NWACC employees nominate colleagues to be pied through a survey sent the week before. Organizers select the nominees with the most votes and confirm their participation. Participants receive a small incentive. Organizers ask each participant their favorite pie flavor, then provide a personal Gooseberry's pie that they can enjoy immediately after the event.

Once the nominees have confirmed their participation, organizers set out boxes around campus corresponding to each pie recipient. Employees can donate to a particular recipient's box for a chance to throw the pie at that person.

Beyond the pie-in-the-face event, the campaign's impact comes from "champions", faculty and staff selected prior to the start of the week who share their personal of why they give to NWACC, encouraging their colleagues to do the same. Champions also write the letters that kick off the campaign.

The campaign also features virtual bingo sessions that engage employees. Prior to the start of each session, a Champion comes on the call and speaks to those gathered, sharing honestly about why giving to this campaign is important to them. This year's champions included two first-generation students who credited the scholarships and guidance they received as NWACC students for their continued success. On average, about 100 employees participate in payroll deductions each year, proving generosity is alive and well at NWACC.

Leah Miles, Director of Development for the NWACC Foundation, shared how impressed she's been by "how philanthropic, how giving the faculty and staff are," also adding, "It's become very clear to me that [NWACC faculty and staff] are very passionate about their programs and their NWACC students."



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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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# Involvement Fair Kicks Off

## New Recruits Found for Clubs, Organizations, & Extracurriculars

**Bokarik Karu**  
Reporter

NorthWest Arkansas Community College held an involvement fair for new and current students for clubs and organizations to recruit new members. The event was held on Sept. 9 and 10, so every student could get a chance to learn to get involved with extracurricular activities on campus.

Clubs and organizations have brought upon a strong sense of community, and the importance of this involvement fair gives leaders an opportunity to recruit just about anyone who is interested in getting involved.

"We're welcoming anyone of all ages, not just students but faculty and staff as well," said Jo Schwader, co-advisor of the music club. Anyone who joins the music club will not just expect to have fun and talk about music, but also have an opportunity to get some community hours as the club plans to have one community service project every semester.

NWACC has an organization and club for just about anything, ranging from cultural backgrounds to interests and hobbies. One organization that stood out was the Red Flag Campaign, which is a bystander intervention program to connect people from the NWACC community. This program creates awareness for issues such as domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault.

Cody Taylor, Associate Director of the Office of Community Standards, shared what to look forward to from the Red Flag Campaign. "We're hoping to attract all students when we put on some big events on campus." In October, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the program is having an event called "Walk a



Many tables and clubs displayed at NWACC's involvement fair on Sept. 9 and 10.

Photos by Nadia Moutria

Mile in Her Shoes," a campaign where male students walk a mile in women's shoes around campus to help raise awareness for domestic violence.

Outside Bogle Plaza, where the involvement fair took place, few students discussed why being involved is important to them. "Student involvement is important because I think engaging in an environment where you

know you're going to spend a lot of time in makes your college experience incredible," Faran Bryant said.

"We're not really a traditional university, so moments like these are important," Salem Moy added. The involvement fair reflected NWACC's community spirit, and the event demonstrated students' eagerness to connect beyond the classroom.

# Student Success

## Achievements, Student Life & Financial Matters

**Braxton Kehr**  
Reporter

The NWACC Board of Trustees heard presentations about a variety of topics Sept. 8. The meeting opened with a series of recognitions for outstanding achievements, including an accreditation success. NWACC's Health Information Management program was re-accredited after a virtual visit, receiving a 100% compliance rating, the board was told. The program is now a "demonstration program" for its accrediting body, CAHIIM, the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education.

Justin White, the vice president of student affairs and strategic initiatives, presented

information to the board on a newer initiative that separates revenues from student activity fees and athletic fees. (Previously, the fees and revenues were grouped together). A student activity fund review board made up of six students and six employees makes recommendation decisions about requests submitted for expenditures of student activity funds. When the board has made a decision on a request, the request is then presented to the college cabinet for consideration. Judd Harbin, the dean of students, shared figures and information about how the fund had been used in the previous two years. Harbin said more than \$226,000 were allocated to 36 different activities during the past two years. "That's a total of \$6,299 per project," Harbin said. A variety of funded activities were given as

examples of the program's impact, with activities including a holiday meal for students, the first-generation graduation banquet, and speaking fees for various artists at the Spring Arts and Culture Festival.

Several students shared their experiences about journeys funded by the student activity fee. A group of students attended the Kennedy Center for American College Theater Festival for Region 6 in Austin, Texas, during the spring semester. Curtis Gilgen, a NWACC student enrolled in the Associate of Fine Arts program, spoke about the workshops and opportunities to learn and feel inspired by other students from the Southwest. A particular lesson Curtis brought back from the conference was, "Don't appropriate, appreciate," Curtis said. One of his favorite workshops focused on showing cultural respect and appreciation for the context of works of art.

Genesis Guerra, a journalism student, spoke about the opportunities for learning and growth as a student journalist attending the College Media Association conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, in late October.

Fernanda Sanchez, the newly elected Student Government Association president, was introduced to the board. Sanchez will serve a student trustee during the 2025-26 academic year. She also mentioned being a part of the trip to New Orleans and expressed appreciation for the opportunity. After her introduction, Sanchez thanked the board and stated, "I'm happy to be here."



NWACC's theatre professor, Stephanie Freeman, alongside fellow theatre students share their experience traveling to theatre programs out of state with the help of NWACC's student activity fee. Photo by Nadia Moutria

**CONTINUED from Concrete 1**

has become more hazardous, saying, "There really isn't any barrier between you and cars going 50mph." Regarding safer temporary alternative routes, Trailblazers chief executive officer, Victor Gurel, said, "The City of Bella Vista's trails and active transportation manager, Megan Workman, is currently working hard to get a protected bike lane with concrete barriers along 71 to provide a safer solution for residents."

The project, which is expected to take about a year to complete from October 2025 to October 2026, will reroute about 1.5 miles of the trail. The new route will feature two flood-resilient bridges across McKissic and Little Sugar Creeks, replacing infrastructure repeatedly damaged by erosion.

According to David Wright, the city's Parks Director, the closure has impacted hundreds of people who rely on the Greenway for commuting, exercise, and connecting the two communities. "This grant will not only restore that vital link, but will provide more resilient infrastructure

designed to withstand future weather events," Wright said.

The project's design was a collaborative effort between the city, Trailblazers, and CEI Engineering Associates. Trailblazers, a local non-profit dedicated to developing trails and active transportation infrastructure, also procured the two new bridges, which are already being fabricated. When discussing the new red iron bridges and the flood mitigation steps being taken to prevent future damage, Hodson said, "I'm very excited for the route to reopen....Bella Vista had just put all of that work into the bridge underpass by the soccer fields." He continued by noting, "I'm looking forward to utilizing that underpass once everything reopens again."

The Walton Family Foundation grant will cover a \$3.1 million construction agreement with Ground Zero Construction and a \$74,525 agreement with McClelland Consulting Engineers Inc. for geotechnical services. The construction is set to begin in October, with the new trail expected to be open to the public in late 2026.

## 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.

# SUPERMAN 2025

## It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's the Movie of the Summer

**Kay King**  
Managing Editor

Superhero fans and movie enjoyers alike packed theaters full to get a glimpse as David Corenswet dawned the iconic red cape this summer. IMDB.com summarizes the movie as, "Superman must reconcile his alien Kryptonian heritage with his human upbringing as reporter Clark Kent. As the embodiment of truth, justice and the human way he soon finds himself in a world that views these as old-fashioned."

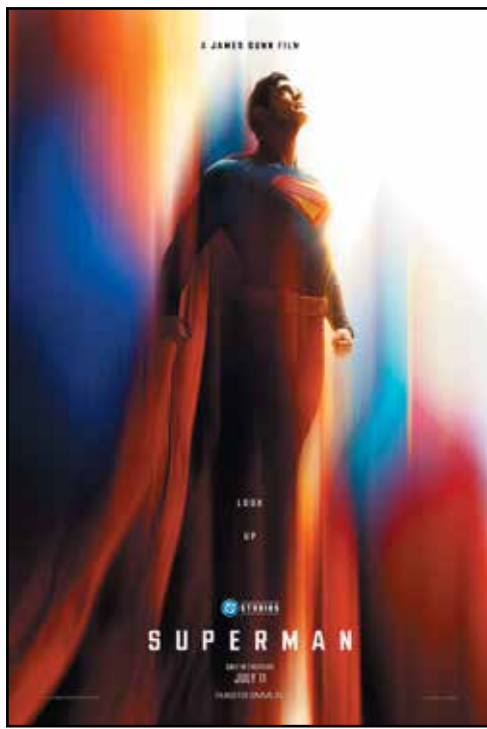
Director James Gunn, familiar with making comic book pages come to life, also directed "The Guardians of the Galaxy," "Avengers: Infinity War," and "Avengers: Endgame." The director, and now DC co-CEO, has been writing and performing as long as he can remember. "He began making 8mm films at the age of twelve. Many of these were comedic splatter films featuring his brothers being disemboweled by zombies," according to IMDB.com.

Gunn is bringing DC into a new era called the Gunnverse, a universe or timeline in which films, TV series, and comics all relate to each other. The Gunnverse as of now includes Superman, Peacemaker, The Suicide Squad, and Creature Commanders, all of which can now be found on HBO Max. Fans everywhere are excited for what Gunn will continue to bring to the franchise.

In the past DC films have lacked in popularity due to their main competitor, Marvel Studios, although in 2022 everyone's interest was piqued thanks to The Batman. Attention turned to DC in anticipation to see if the success of the caped crusader was a one off thing or if the next major motion picture would live up to expectations.

"[Superman] — originally titled Superman: Legacy — was announced in January 2023," according to Usamagazine.com, "just one month after Henry Cavill shared that he would no longer be portraying the beloved superhero." To say fans were upset was an understatement. Everyone thought the new movie would be a flop due to the loss of the beloved actor; however, in hindsight the casting of a new Superman made complete sense to pair with Robert Pattinson's Batman. "In June 2023, it was announced that David Corenswet would be taking over the role as the superhero with Rachel Brosnahan playing Lois Lane. Filming on the project began in early 2024 and was finished that summer," said Usamagazine.com.

Eagerness for the film only grew because of its amazing social media and marketing. Fans got behind-the-scenes looks on Instagram, James Gunn answered fan questions on X, and the chemistry between the cast was palpable. Amazon Prime members even got early access screening of the movie in IMAX a week before the global release date.



Promotional Movie Poster for Superman

Photo Courtesy of DC Studios

To say all the hype was a success would be an understatement. Marvel Studios released "The Fantastic Four: First Steps" shortly after the competing film, and DC was victorious at the box office. Superman earned \$354,099,797 domestically, \$261,200,000 internationally, and \$615,299,797 worldwide, whereas The Fantastic Four earned \$273,522,134 domestically, \$247,067,424 internationally, and \$520,589,558 worldwide, according to boxofficemojo.com.

Unfortunately not everything was smooth sailing for David Corenswet's big blue Boy Scout. There was political backlash caused by the similarities of the main conflict in the film and current events. The movie reminded everyone that the Superman character is literally an undocumented illegal alien whose goal is to fight injustice and spread basic human kindness. Some people, including a prior actor who portrayed the role, found this unacceptable and a sort of "woke" agenda pushing. Defined as "aware of and actively attentive to important societal facts and issues (especially issues of racial and social justice," by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, when James Gunn was asked, by pretty much everyone by on social media who had a problem with Superman being "woke," every time Gunn would simply agree and move on to the next question.

If there is one thing that the film accomplished in representing its titular character, it's that every living thing deserves safety no matter how big or small. That everything in life is unexpected and even in the worst of times having hope is what gets us through it.

Because being kind is the real punk rock.

# New Soccer Program Kicking Off

## Two coaches join college to recruit, build legacies

**Riley Smith**  
Reporter

Two new coaches have come together to create a program for NorthWest Arkansas Community College students to further their soccer careers and aid in their goals to play professionally. Next spring, the new teams will begin their first seasons of matches on the pitch.

This summer, Dean Johnson joined the college's athletic department as men's soccer coach and Nick Marquez was named women's coach. Both coaches, who attended the first athletic luncheon of the fall semester, are excited about the challenges and opportunities associated with building their programs from scratch.

"I've always loved puzzles," Marquez said. The new coach has put together the pieces before, building a team from scratch. "I tend to get bored in a normal coaching setting, so when my daughter [who was 3] wanted to play soccer ... Most of the teams around us were made up of boys. I thought, 'Why not just start our own club?' and that's how 'FIERCE United' was born." He spent years building the team, recruiting girls from around Austin, Texas who wanted to play for a club team, all for his daughter. "FIERCE" is actually an acronym, it stands for: fearless, intelligent, enthusiastic, respectful, coachable, and empowered. That's what we're looking for. Good players, who are good both on and off the pitch. It's not just about the score the team produces; it's about the team the players produce."

Both coaches were adamant on the fact that they were not only looking for the best players, but the best people. "If my players are taking a test," Johnson said, "I expect them to get the highest score. If they're running a race, I expect them to win. If someone needs help, I expect them to lend the most that they can. For me, it's about being the best in every aspect."

Marquez agreed. "I want players who, if I tell them to dig a hole, the first question they ask me is 'Where can I get a shovel and some gloves?' I'm big on servant leadership; humble, yet capable players."

Some of the information shared at the luncheon dealt with finding housing and host families for new athletes coming to Northwest Arkansas to play.

Coach Dean said, "Right now, our goal is to recruit as many players as possible, but it's been difficult without being able to promise them a place to stay." Marquez agreed, stating, "Our main issue is funding. Me and Dean have been the main fundraisers for this project."

"We're both extremely excited to get this legacy going," Marquez said. "We want to leave behind something for generations to enjoy, and we can't wait to see what happens."

A small part of that new legacy is the first signee -- Aukele Paikuli-Campbell, who currently plays for Johnson on his club team: Ozark United. Paikuli-Campbell, who is moving to NWA from Hawaii, is set to start classes on campus in November.

Those interested in hosting players to help move the program along can email [athletics@nwacc.edu](mailto:athletics@nwacc.edu).



Executive Director of Athletics and Institutional Branding, Brooke Brewer, encourages the community to support the athletic department for current and upcoming seasons at the end of the luncheon.

Photo by Alyssa Spitzer

# Board Lauds Athletes' Success

**Braxton Kehr**  
Senior Reporter

Student Jared Asteel was recognized as a national winner at the Sept. 8 NWACC Board of Trustees meeting.

Asteel brought home the National Junior College Athletics Association eSports Champions trophy in Mario Kart. The award represents NWACC's first-ever national championship.

More information about other champions is available at <https://www.njcaesports.org/past-champions>. More than 300 colleges and universities support eSports programs across North America, according to the About section of the NJCAEsports website, <https://www.njcaesports.org/>

Several staff and family members of NWACC staff also were recognized for their win in the Educators Cup at the Tri-Fest for MS competition in Bentonville. NWACC's team, consisting of Coach Aaron Messer and Sarah Marquez, took third overall and first in the Educators category.

Josphat Boit, who serves as a coach for cross-country and track and field teams, also was a part of the award-winning effort. Coach Messer and Sarah Marquez were highlighted as they also had the fastest times in their individual competition fields. Tri-Fest for MS is an annual fundraising event hosted by the Rampy MS Research Foundation.



Award recipients Sarah Marquez and Aaron Messer pose alongside Trustee Todd Schwartz and President Rittle in acceptance of the Educator's Cup in the Tri-Fest for MS-competition. The presentation was at the September Trustees' meeting.

Photo by Nadia Moutria



NWACC Student Jared Asteel holds his trophy for the NJCAA Mario Kart Championship.

Photo by Nadia Moutria

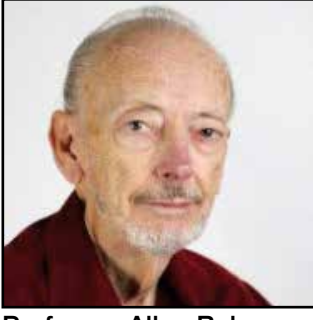


Cross-country runners compete in the home opener event for the cross-country season. NWACC's men's and women's cross-country teams held their home opener meet at NWACC on Friday, Sept. 5. Both teams won their competitions.

Photo by Lizeth Cervantes

# Faculty Profile

**Kayrat Bektemirov**  
Reporter



Professor Allen Baker

**Name:**  
Professor Allen Baker

**Department:**  
Computer Information Systems

**Job Title:**  
Professor

**How long have you been in your current role?**

I have been a Professor at NWACC for 15 years as of this past August.

**What do you enjoy most about your job at NWACC?**

I enjoy seeing students grasp new concepts and develop new skills. I especially enjoy reconnecting with former students who have taken full-time jobs after college and are excelling at what they are doing.

**What do you think the local community should know about NWACC?**

The local community needs to know more about what courses, degrees, and certificates that NWACC offers.

**What led to your decision to work at NWACC?**

I had taught for eight years at the University of Arkansas and then had a full-time programming job. The programming job ended when a federal grant proposal was denied, and the company didn't have the resources to keep me on board. I had taught a few classes as a part-time instructor back in 2002-2003, and in the summer of 2010, I checked in with the Computer Information Systems department, who welcomed me back to a full-time position.

**How would you characterize the nature of the job market, particularly as it relates to the realm of computer science?**

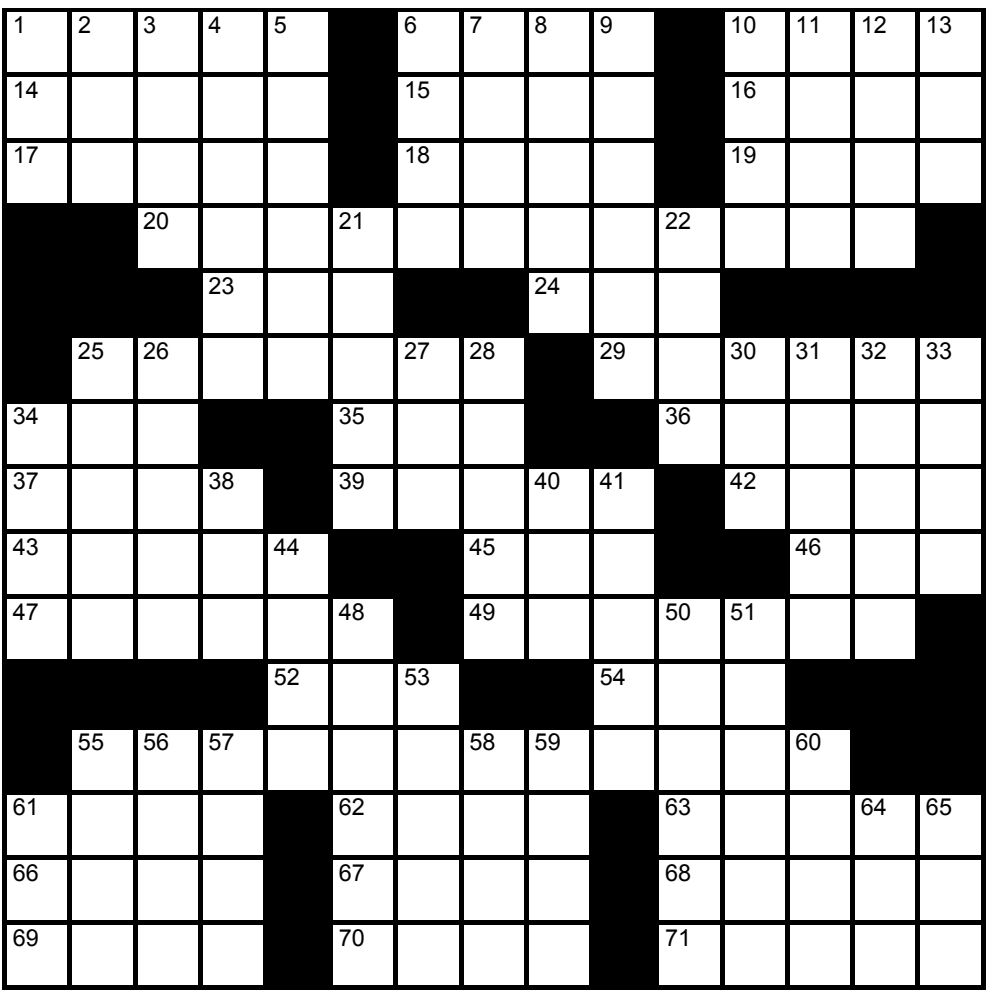
My job at NWACC is to expose students to the fields of computer programming and software development so they can make informed choices about their long-term career. For those who choose to pursue a degree in Computer Science, my job is to prepare them for the academic and professional challenges they will face in a 4-year college and in the workforce after that.

**How would you characterize the benefits and drawbacks of graduate degrees, especially as it relates to computer science?**

I have a master's degree in electrical engineering. Having the degree opened some doors for me, but I have used very little of the actual coursework in my professional life. The usefulness of the graduate degree depends on the career field, and in the case of Computer Science, it raises the salary scale and opens doors into more competitive and rewarding jobs than can be had with an associates degree or even a bachelor's degree.

**Across**

- 1 Latin dance
- 6 Treasure hunters' aids
- 10 Escalator part
- 14 Beseech
- 15 Nanking nanny
- 16 Shred
- 17 Eye-opener?
- 18 Siberian river
- 19 Ambience
- 20 Golf course feature
- 23 Period in history
- 24 Bro or sis
- 25 Services a car
- 29 Truffle, e.g.
- 34 Devotee
- 35 Miss the mark
- 36 Trunk
- 37 Govern
- 39 Smacks
- 42 Season to be jolly
- 43 Think out loud
- 45 Bygone bird
- 46 Metal in rocks
- 47 Falling star
- 49 Some TV shows
- 52 Henpeck
- 54 Actor McKellen
- 55 Words of support
- 61 Prepare to fly
- 62 Dressed
- 63 Maxim
- 66 Like gastric juice
- 67 Chorus member
- 68 Leered
- 69 Gambles
- 70 Strong cleaners
- 71 Brief tussle



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**Down**

- 1 Bathroom installation
- 2 Totally
- 3 "Beowulf" beverage
- 4 Desolate
- 5 Look up to
- 6 Timbuktu's land
- 7 "I'll second that"
- 8 Twinges
- 9 Zhivago portrayer
- 10 Aquatic bird
- 11 Hoodlum
- 12 Emerald Isle
- 13 1968 hit "Harper Valley \_\_\_"
- 21 Ming things
- 22 Go up against
- 25 Brownish gray
- 26 Pitch-black
- 27 Web browser entry
- 28 Strollers
- 30 \_\_\_ compos mentis
- 31 Wedding party member
- 32 Consumers
- 33 Exclusive
- 34 Gift tag word
- 38 Compass pt.
- 40 Polynesian paste
- 41 Lustrous fabric
- 44 Geologic periods
- 48 Imp
- 50 Chocolate trees
- 51 Uptight
- 53 Arroyo
- 55 Gallop
- 56 Door sign
- 57 Gives a hand
- 58 Evaluate
- 59 Hubbubs
- 60 Shaker contents
- 61 Bar bill
- 64 Comprehend
- 65 Tokyo, once

# Family Makes Long-Awaited Cinematic Comeback

## The Fantastic Four: First Steps hits Theatres this Summer

**Chelsea Castillo**  
Editor-in-Chief



Promotional Movie Poster for The Fantastic Four: First Steps  
Photo Courtesy of Marvel Studios

The well-known super hero family returned to our screens this July in the "Fantastic Four: First Steps" movie. It's one of Marvel's most recent film releases of the year. With their releases of "Captain America: Brand New World" and "Thunderbolts," Fantastic Four leads the cinematic universe to its next film, "Avengers: Doomsday" coming Dec. 18 of next year.

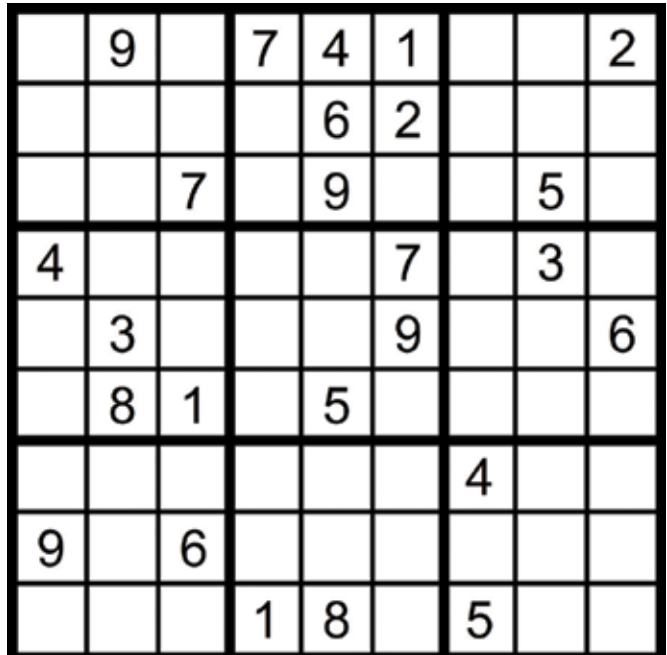
The film follows the superheroes Reed Richards, Sue Storm, Johnny Storm, and Ben Grimm, along their journey of becoming the world's most loved superheroes and family in a 1960s set retro vibe. Their journey began with a space mission gone wrong. While in space the crew came in contact with cosmic rays that altered their DNA and granted them special abilities. Reed Richards is known as Mr. Fantastic along with his stretchy abilities. Sue Storm known as Invisible Woman with her invisible power, and Johnny Storm is known as the Human-Torch for his abilities to turn into fire, and lastly Ben Grimm is known as "The Thing" due to his power of becoming a strong rock like entity. The family navigates their most challenging battle yet with Silver Surfer and Planet Destroyer Galactus. When their earth is marked by utter annihilation, the superhero family tries to find ways to avoid their planet's demise.

Over the past summer this film has been one of my most anticipated films yet. Growing up, I was quite fond of the many Marvel characters and stories released by the well known franchise. Fantastic Four was one of my favorite fictional families and the release of the film brought me back to my younger self. I went to watch the film alongside my brother and cousins. We all have been waiting for this release for months and constantly talked about when we should go watch it together. The film brought me many emotions such as laughter, anguish, excitement, etc. Many longtime fans awaited the return of their fond family for years and seeing them once more brings the feeling of nostalgia to many, such as myself.

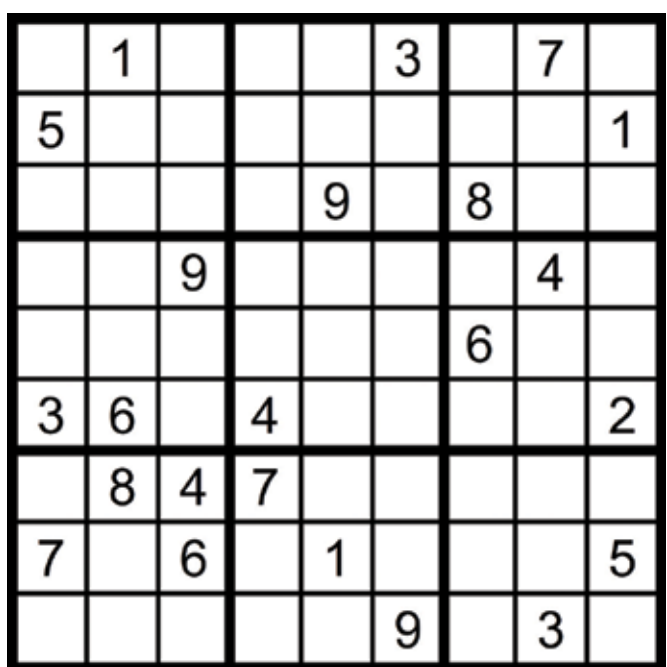
Little is known of when the hit movie is yet to make it to its designated streaming service, Disney+, but you can now own or rent the movie today on Amazon Prime video, Apple TV, and Fandango at Home.

# SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY: HARD



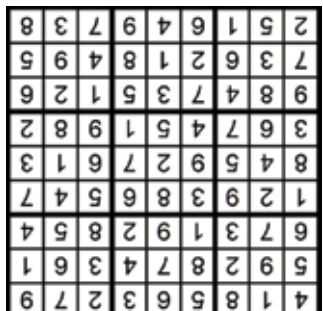
DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM



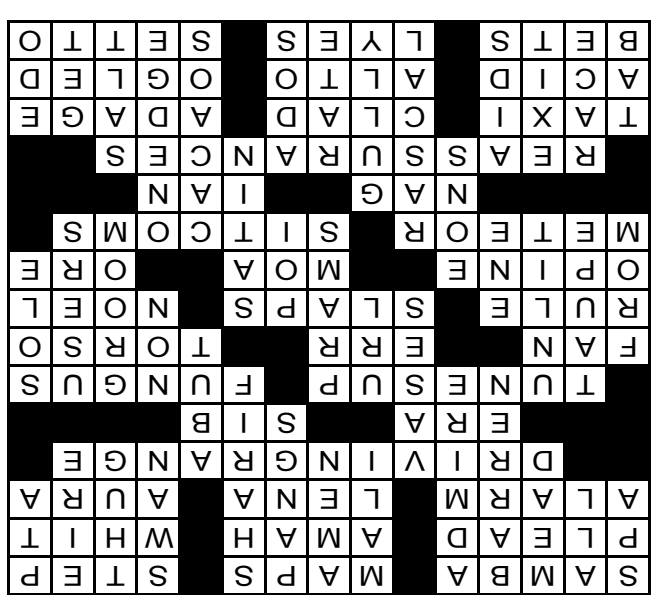
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