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News Briefs

Events Class Offers Food Truck Visit

The Events Catering class will be making birrias, tamales, tacos, pozole and tres leches cake in a food truck parked on the main Bentonville campus on Thursday, Feb. 26. This event is a fundraiser. Please plan to support our students with a purchase.

NWACC Book Club Meets Feb. 26

The NWACC Book Club will meet from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Feb. 26 in Burns Hall 1342. February's selection is Claire Keegan's "Small Things Like These." Time: 10:30-11:45 a.m. Contact Sabrina Chesne schesne@nwacc.edu to borrow a book. More information is available at: <https://nwaccbookclub.blogspot.com/2025/08/fall-2025spring-2026.html?m=1>

Pickleball Club Kickoff Meet Set for Feb. 27

You're invited to the NWACC Pickleball Club's very first meet. Join us for a fun and casual afternoon of pickleball with students, faculty, and staff of all skill levels. The meet will begin at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at Osage Park in Bentonville. Never played pickleball before? Club leaders will be on hand to teach the basics and help you jump right in. Additional information and pointers include: Bring a paddle if you have one. A limited number of paddles will be available to borrow. Refreshments and snacks provided. Contact n3hernandez5@nwacc.edu or o3elshoff@nwacc.edu with any questions.

Save the Date for Commencement

NorthWest Arkansas Community College Commencement will take place at 9 a.m. May 9 at the Walmart AMP, 5079 W. Northgate Road, Rogers. Please continue to monitor your email and text messages for ceremony registration information.

SEE News Briefs on Page 2

SUBSTANCE OVER SPECTACLE

Campus Fair Spotlights Prevention, Recovery and Harm-Reduction Resources

Jennifer Watson

Online Editor

BENTONVILLE, Ark. — "Everyone thinks it's not going to happen to them," said Lesa Ford of Acceptance Treatment and Counseling. "I think that's the biggest thing that I want students to know."

The Substance Smart Prevention Fair took place Feb. 11 in the Becky Paneitz Student Center. Students moved from table to table, asking questions and hearing different perspectives on substance use prevention, recovery and support.

The midday event was hosted by the Dale Montgomery Counseling & Wellness Center. Like all self-respecting college events, there was free pizza, in addition to the thematic mocktails.

Tessa Hale, the center's mental health coordinator, said the goal was to connect students with local organizations in an easy and accessible way.

"We know that this issue is relevant for students, especially college students," Hale said. "We have wonderful counseling resources, but NWACC doesn't have an on-campus recovery resource."

According to the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health – the most recent year available – about 48.4 million people ages 12 or older had a substance use disorder in the past year. Alcohol use disorders declined over the four-year survey period, dropping from 10.6% to 9.7%, while drug use disorders increased from 8.7% to 9.8%.

Young adults ages 18 to 25 reported higher rates of major depressive episodes and moderate to severe anxiety than any other adult group, conditions the survey has



Props of alcoholic drinks displayed at NWACC's Substance Smart Prevention Fair on Feb. 11 at NWACC's Benton County campus.

Photo by Jennifer Watson

consistently linked with higher rates of substance use.

In addition to the counseling and wellness center, six outside substance-use support organizations hosted tables at the event, ranging from peer support groups to addiction treatment providers.

Conversations varied from table to table. Some representatives walked students through what entering treatment actually looks like: phone calls, insurance questions, and terms like "detox" or "sober living." Others focused more on personal experiences.

"The most important thing that we would like to share is that recovery is possible, that they don't have to do it alone," said Kim Mason, clinical location supervisor at EagleCrest

Recovery. "Getting clean and sober is a difficult task."

Brandy Pliker, a volunteer with 2911 Recovery, suggested that anyone unsure whether their substance use has become a problem ask what it might be costing them.

"Are they missing school because they're drinking or using too much, or missing family events because of drugs or alcohol?" Pliker said.

For people who recognize something isn't right and want to make a change, knowing where to start can be one of the biggest hurdles.

White River Peer Support works with patients beginning in the emergency room, offering stability and connection to longer-term resources. Peer support specialist Breanna Janes said sharing her own experiences helps build trust.

SEE Substance Over Spectacle on Page 2

Board of Trustees to Raise NWACC's Tuition

Majority Voted at February's Board of Trustees Meeting

Chelsea Castillo
Editor-In-Chief

BENTONVILLE, Ark. —NorthWest Arkansas Community College's Board of Trustees were given a report from the college's finance committee at the Feb. 8 board meeting. Trustees voted 7-1 on the tuition increase proposal, with Trustee Joe Spivey voting against the proposal. Trustee Mark Scott was absent for Monday's meeting. NWACC students will expect to see tuition increase in the 2026-27 academic year.

NWACC's finance committee reported the cost of attendance would rise a total of 3.1% for the academic year on to the next. Catherine Doner, interim vice president of finance and administration, spoke to trustees about tuition and fee adjustments. "This support will allow us to improve faculty pay, technology improvement, and infrastructure repairs," said Doner at Monday's meeting. The 3.1% increase sits right below the 2025 national higher education value index of 3.6%, according to information she presented. The "7-3-7-7" model proposed by the finance committee states that tuition for in-state would increase by \$3, and in-district, out-state, and international would increase by \$7 per credit hour. The "7-3-7-7" reference reflects the changes in this order— in-district, in-state, out-of-state, and international.

SEE Board of Trustees to Raise NWACC's Tuition on Page 3

Final Sprint to Local Elections

Voters in Benton, Washington Counties Prepare for March 3 Elections

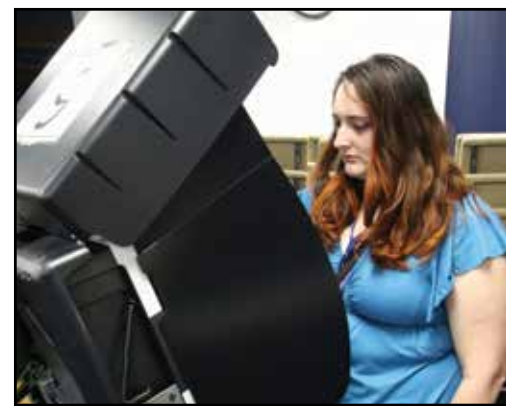
Jonathan Barrett
Reporter

BENTONVILLE, Ark. —Voters casting ballots in the March 3 elections will decide state political party nominees, nonpartisan judicial contests, and three NWACC Board of Trustees posts.

There are three Board of Trustees seats up for election, with one seat being uncontested. For Zone 1, current Trustee Ashley Pointer faces challenger Angela Calix. In Zone 5, incumbent Trustee Ron Branscum is seeking re-election and faces opponent Peter Bailey. Zone 8, Trustee Amber Latimer is running uncontested.

Pointer is looking to retain her seat for Zone 1, which is the area due north of Highway 102 and West of Bella Vista. Branscum is seeking re-election to the seat for Zone 5, which is in the central section of Bentonville—west of I-49 and east of SW I St. Latimer running uncontested will retain Zone 8 located in the southern portion of the county East of Bellview Road, bumping against Zone 9 directly to its east.

Pointer is a Texas native who relocated to Northwest Arkansas in 2013. She has degrees from Baylor University and Texas A&M University. Pointer is active in the community with her small business, Card My Yard NWA, and engages in local school organizations. Moreover, Pointer spent multiple years in the education system as an English



Melody Kwok of Bentonville casting her ballot on the first day of early voting, Feb. 17.

Photo by Wayne Cook

teacher. She describes herself as "a lifelong learner." She was appointed to her current position by Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders in June 2025 to fill a vacant position.

In Zone 5, incumbent Ron Branscum is seeking another six-year term. Branscum is a business owner of a company known as Strategic Business Consulting. He also has multiple years of experience in the financial field, including working for the Arkansas State Bank Department. He also served as President of Regional Therapy Services located in Rogers. Branscum is not only a trustee for NWACC, but serves on the board for Family Council

SEE Final Sprint to Local Elections on Page 2

NEWS



Global Flavors, Traditions Fill NWACC'S Student Center

NorthWest Arkansas Community College's International Programs host International Market.

FEATURES



Studying Beyond Borders

NorthWest Arkansas Community College's study abroad program shares about the opportunities upcoming in summer 2026.

OPINION



The World's Biggest Stage, 'The Day the World Danced'

Bad Bunny performed at Super Bowl LX, shared Latin culture with the world.

CONTINUED from News Briefs from Page 1

Washington County ReCharge U Grab and Go Market

NWACC's Washington County Center has updated its vending!
We now have a ReCharge U Grab-n-Go market with sandwiches, snacks and drinks located on the first floor. This is a cashless market (credit or debit card only) with a self-check out kiosk. Prices are not listed, but you can scan an item to see its price. Items will change seasonally and by demand. Items will be restocked twice a week.

Build a Bed with Sleep in Heavenly Peace

You are invited to help build beds for local children in need on Friday, March 13. NWACC is partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bentonville to construct the beds. No prior experience is necessary. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes.
Bed building starts at 1 p.m. on March 13 in the college's Integrated Design Lab 1207 SE Eagle Way, Bentonville.
Individuals may register by completing a form at this address: <https://forms.office.com/r/XzBHF3ubxz>

NWACC Food Pantry Offers Aid

Need help with groceries? The NWACC Food Pantry is here to support students, faculty, and staff throughout the semester.
The food pantry is located in Burns Hall 1214. The Pick-Up Location is Cox Welcome Desk (Burns Hall). Distribution is every other Thursday.
To participate, individuals should:
complete a Food Pantry application bi-weekly
requests are due by 3:30 p.m. the Thursday before distribution
receive an email when your bag is ready.
You'll have one week to pick up your items. Have emergency needs? Email StudentLife@nwacc.edu.

FREE Fitness Center on Campus

Get ready to crush your fitness goals because the NWACC Fitness Center is free for all students!
Hours of Operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to noon Friday.
Want to get started? Simply scan the QR code on the desk when you stop by.

Applications Open For All-Star, Golden Eagle

Applications are now open for the Academic All-Star Scholarship and the Golden Eagle Scholarship.
These awards recognize outstanding academic achievement, leadership and service. All eligible students are encouraged to apply.
The deadline to submit your application is March 1.
For eligibility details and to apply visit the following web pages:
Academic All-Star Scholarship:
<https://www.nwacc.edu/transferservices/academicallstar.html>
Golden Eagle Scholarship:
<https://www.nwacc.edu/studentsservices/goldeneagleapplication.html>

Spring Music Events

Several spring music events are scheduled for upcoming weeks. These are open to the public and free. For additional information, contact m3brown21@nwacc.edu

Faculty Recital
Tuesday 3/3 - 7 p.m.
Burns Hall 2105

Student Recital
Tuesday 3/17 - 7 p.m.
Burns Hall 2105

Semester Concert
Tuesday 4/28 - 7 p.m.
Walmart Auditorium Shewmaker Center

Community Chorus of NWA
Monday 5/11 - 7 p.m.
Walmart Auditorium Shewmaker Center.

Actors Sought for Student Shows

Actors are needed for student shows in which playwrights and student directors share their works. Actors would need to be available during the second eight weeks of the semester.
The Playwrights in Process performances will be at noon April 15. The Directing Showcase will be at 10:30 a.m. April 28.



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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.

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

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Maggie Richardson of Bentonville casting her ballot on the first day of early voting, Feb. 17.

Photo by Wayne Cook

and Blackwood Industries Inc. He graduated from the University of Colorado School of Banking and the University of Central Arkansas.
Trustee Amber Latimer of Zone 8 is running unchallenged for the seat. She works for Gibson Real Estate as an executive real estate broker. Latimer has spent many years in the education field. She holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood and special education from the University of Central Arkansas. She later obtained a master's degree in education theories from Arkansas State University. Before moving into the real estate industry, she worked for 12 years in the public school system — in Little Rock and Rogers. She said she supports, "high quality education for all people."

All candidates for the NWACC Board of Trustees were contacted through email, and no return emails responding to questions were received. All information was taken from the NWACC Board of Trustees webpage via <https://www.nwacc.edu/aboutus/collegeteader/ship/botmembers/index.html>

The elections will be held on March 3 at 35 locations across Benton County. All polling locations will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. that day. For NWACC students, there is a voting center on campus located in the Walmart Auditorium of the Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies at 1000 S.E. Eagle Way, Bentonville. Voters are asked to ensure they adhere to voting locations dress policy. If you have questions regarding dress code refer to <https://bentoncountyar.gov/vote/guides/>. Voters also should be prepared to complete some steps at the website. According to the Arkansas Secretary of State's website, an election official will ask you to state your name, address and date of birth. The election official will request that you to provide an approved form of ID.

A notable change to this voting cycle, voter registration and balloting is party affiliation. The Benton County Monthly Newsletter explains, "The Arkansas Republican Party voted to host a semi-open primary. Those wishing to vote in the Republican primary must register their party affiliation as Republican or Optional. If you are not registered as one of these parties, you can vote in the Democratic Primary or a Nonpartisan-only ballot." To verify your voter status, check VoterView on the Arkansas Secretary of State website <https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/voterview>.

[ar-nova.org/voterview](https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/voterview).

Matt Evans, professor of political science at NWACC, suggests, "You should spend a minute researching the candidates and other issues on the ballot before an election." He also gave a list of a few resources to use that could help your decision on what candidates you are voting for. "Ballotpedia, League of Women Voters, Vote 411," are a few of the resources he would suggest.

Evans later makes a comment about the political party alignment in Arkansas, "Arkansas exists as a single party state...a majority are Republican." For individuals who consider themselves Democrat, Evans states it is unlikely Arkansas will move away from the Republican party in a national office. He also goes on to say if the party does shift, Republicans may have less influence.

The following is a list of Benton County offices up for election provided by <https://bentoncountyar.gov/vote/candidates/>

County Assessor: Republican and current position holder Roderick Grieve of Bentonville is running with no opposition.

Circuit Clerk: Brenda DeShields a Republican of Springdale will retain her position due do no challengers.

County Clerk: Republican from Rogers Betsy Harrell is has no contenders for the position, so she will retain the position.

County Collector: A one-man race for the position is Republican and current position holder, Joel Edwards of Centeron.

County Judge: Republican Austin McCollum of Bentonville will face off against Carrie Perrien Smith—a Republican of Rogers.

County Sheriff: Sheriff Shawn Holloway is a Republican from Bentonville has no contenders for his position.

The following is a list of Washington County offices up for elections provided by <https://www.washingtoncountyar.gov/government/departments-a-e/election-commission/march-3-2026-primary-information>

County Judge: Current Republican County Judge Patrick Deakins has three opponents—Democrat Dana Deree, Republican Tim Shepard, and Republican Mark Sealise.

County Sheriff: The current Sheriff Jay Cantrell a Republican is running against Republican Mike Stewart.

County Assessor: Republican Assessor Russell Hill and current seat holder is running against Democrat Nathan Miller

Circuit Clerk: Republican Kyle Slyvester is running uncontested

County Clerk: Republican Becky Lewallen is running uncontested

County Collector: the current Republican County Collector Angela Wood is running against Democrat Rachel Eubanks and Republican Myra Collins

All other candidates running for certain positions can be found at <https://bentoncountyar.gov/vote/candidates/> or <https://www.washingtoncountyar.gov/government/departments-a-e/election-commission/march-3-2026-primary-information>



Image of early voting stickers given at Bentonville Arkansas poll center. Photo by Wayne Cook

CONTINUED from Substance Over Spectacle on Page 1

"I'm able to share my lived experience – what I've been through with addiction, incarceration, all of it," Janes said. "Anything that relates to what they're going through."

At the Alcoholics Anonymous table, a member identified as Pat K. described a similar sense of recognition. "Before I came to AA, I didn't know anybody who drank like I did. I walked into my first AA meeting, and there was a room full of people who drank just like I did. I felt at home," he said, adding that AA tries to provide that same sense of understanding to others: "We know what they're going through, and we are a safe place if they really are ready to try to stop."

Not all resources at the fair focused on quitting substance use. Northwest Arkansas Harm Reduction provides tools and education aimed at reducing the most dangerous consequences of drug use.

The group distributes naloxone, fentanyl test strips and clean-use supplies such as syringes and alcohol prep pads. "We have a confidential hotline you can text with what you need, and a volunteer will deliver it wherever you are - no judgment," said volunteer Tim Billings.

"We're trying to keep people as healthy as possible – and alive — until they can decide to change their behaviors," Billings said. "Harm reduction is medical care, and it saves lives."

As the fair wound down, the tables were cleared and the pamphlets packed away. For many students it was just another campus event. Still, the challenges discussed there often develop gradually, and are not always in plain sight. The mix of treatment programs, peer recovery groups, counseling services and harm-reduction advocates reflected the complexity of substance use and a shared effort to make sure students know where to turn if they ever need help.

Global Flavors, Traditions Fill NWACC'S Student Center

Lu Antolinez
Reporter

BENTONVILLE, Ark. — Vendors, including representatives from Canopy NWA, showcased handmade goods during NWACC's International Market on Feb. 10 in the Student Center. Photos by Lu Antolinez.

Northwest Arkansas Community College's International Programs hosted an "NWACC International Market" on Feb. 10, transforming the Student Center into a vibrant space celebrating global cultures and community connection.

The event welcomed students, faculty, staff, and members of the Benton County community to experience a variety of cultural products, traditions, and small businesses represented by NWACC's diverse population. Designed as a monthly initiative, the International Market aims to both celebrate cultural diversity and support international students on campus.

According to the International Programs office, the event aligns with its mission to empower students, create a welcoming environment, and provide international students with access to quality and affordable education. Throughout the academic year, the program offers activities and resources that help students adjust academically, socially, and culturally.



Representatives from Canopy NWA, showcased handmade goods during NWACC's International Market on Feb. 10 in the Student Center. Photos by Lu Antolinez.

"We support many women refugees as they begin to rebuild their lives here, after leaving their home countries, we want to help them feel that this can be their place too..."

SEE Global Favors, Tradition Fill NWACC's Student Center on Page 3

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.



Vendors showcased handmade goods during NWACC's International Market on Feb. 10 in the Student Center.

Photo by Lu Antolinez

CONTINUED from Global Favors, Tradition Fill NWACC's Student Center on Page 2

The products you see today are handmade from scratch by these women, and all of the funds go directly back to support them.” said Elizabeth Baldwin from Canopy NWA.

The market marked a new step in expanding those efforts. Booths throughout the Student Center featured handmade goods, traditional foods, cultural clothing, and unique items from different regions of the world. More than a marketplace, the event served as a platform for storytelling and cultural exchange.

Students, small business owners, parents, and nonprofit organizations participated, sharing not only products but also personal experiences and traditions from their home countries. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about different cultures while directly supporting members of the international community.

The atmosphere was energetic and welcoming, with conversations flowing between visitors and vendors. For many international students, the market provided a meaningful opportunity to share a piece of their heritage with others on campus. By launching the International Market as a recurring monthly event, NWACC continues to highlight the importance of inclusion and cross-cultural understanding. As participation grows, the event is expected to further strengthen connections between students and the broader Northwest Arkansas community

“We support many women refugees as they begin to rebuild their lives here, after leaving their home countries, we want to help them feel that this can be their place too. The products you see today are handmade from scratch by these women, and all of the funds go directly back to support them.”

- Elizabeth Baldwin from Canopy NWA

CONTINUED from Board of Trustees to Raise NWACC's Tuition on Page 3

The trustees voted 7-1 after hearing Doner’s presentation and reviewing the related PowerPoint slides. Trustee Spivey explained his opposition before the formal vote. “I have no issue with the fees; in-state[tuition], international, I understand that,” said Spivey. He shared that he has an issue with in-district students and parents paying the millage for NWACC, but still having to face tuition increases at the college. Spivey followed with, “I can’t, personally and ethically, support a tuition increase on our in-district students. But, at the same time, I respect all of my fellow trustees, all of you who may think differently. I’ve made promises to constituents that I represent in my district, and so please understand my feelings.”

“I can’t, personally and ethically, support a tuition increase on our in-district students. But, at the same time, I respect all of my fellow trustees, all of you who may think differently. I’ve made promises to constituents that I represent in my district, and so please understand my feelings.”

- NWACC Trustee, Joe Spivey



Image of NWACC's Becky Panetitz Student Center at Benton County Campus

Photo by Chelsea Castillo

NWACC Clubs Include Young Democrats Chapter

Members discuss goals, plans for new club

Aneyda Reynaga

Managing Editor

BENTONVILLE, Ark. - In January it was announced that NWACC would be home to a Young Democrats chapter, one of the newest collegiate chapters of the Young Democrats of Arkansas.

According to the state organization’s website, The Young Democrats of Arkansas is a youth coalition of High School Democrats, College Democrats, and Democrats under 35 across the state of Arkansas. Two other college chapters in Arkansas – at Henderson State University and Arkansas State University–Beebe – have been established in recent weeks, according to the state group’s Instagram page.

The NWACC group held its first meeting on Feb. 5, where members talked about their long-term and semester goals. According to their first agenda, their semester goals are to expand, collaborate and establish a permanent presence on all campuses.

With a total of 14 members, they’re eager to grow. Nadia Moutria, member and social media helper, said, “A lot of people are really feeling the need for community and we see that need and we also feel that need. So, we’re just excited to curate a space for everyone to meet.”

Liam Johnson, secretary for the club, said, “We’re living through some very rough times right now and I think people need to hear that people care about them.”

For their other long-term goals, they hope to help students and community members of the Northwest Arkansas region by educating, encouraging equality, addressing prejudice, and more. Moutria said, “The current climate of our nation, whether on a local level or national level, it’s scary... Specific groups are feeling that especially, so we’re wanting to make it known that all are welcome here.”

Their areas of focus include immigrant rights, LGBTQ+ protections and safety, women’s autonomy, gun control, labor protections, and more. Johnson said, “For me, it comes down to everyone has the right to be happy... No one deserves to feel scared. Additionally, Billy Cook, executive president for the Young Democrats of Arkansas, was on campus Feb. 11 as part of the college’s involvement fair.

For more information, contact adviser Matt Evans at mevans8@nwacc.edu or check the group’s instagram @ydnwacc.



NWACC's Young Democrats table at the college's involvement fair on Feb. 9 and 10. Club Secretary, Liam Johnson, executive president for Young Democrats of Arkansas, Billy Cook, and club member, Jennifer Carpio spoke to students about the NWACC Democrats at the fair.

Photo by Nadia Moutria



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Studying Beyond Borders

NWACC's Study Abroad Program

Maebre Peal
Reporter

BENTONVILLE, Ark.— For many college students, summer means taking a pause from classes, deadlines, exams, for a chance to unwind and relax during the break. For others it means boarding a plane, visiting a new country, acquiring new experiences, and continuing their studies far from home.

This upcoming summer, students at Northwest Arkansas Community College will have the opportunity to travel to Japan, Greece, or Italy through the college's study abroad programs. Unlike traditional study abroad programs, which are usually one semester long and can feel financially or operationally out of reach, NWACC's programs are generally shorter-length trips that take place between late May and early July. The program works on making global travel and education more accessible for NWACC's students.

According to Codie Ryan, the director of international programs at NWACC, the purpose of the study abroad program goes beyond students earning academic credit. Ryan said that the goal of studying abroad is to help widen students' perspectives of the world and allow students to experience the world through travel.

Students who study abroad often return from their trips with more than souvenirs and photos; Ryan shared that traveling abroad provides students with lessons in flexibility and adaptability. Students learn to navigate through busy airports, unfamiliar environments, new cultures, and language barriers with the college's program. Along with these hurdles, studying abroad helps strengthen the students' global awareness and increases their self-confidence.

In addition to the personal growth that the students experience while overseas, Ryan also noted that studying abroad can benefit students later on. Having exposure to other cultures and languages while learning in a new educational environment can provide students with additional layers of support and advancement in their future study. In a meeting with the NWACC Board of Trustees on Monday, Feb. 16, Dr. Sevin Gallo, assistant professor of world civilizations and faculty leader of study abroad's Greece trip, shared a presentation about her recent sabbatical leave for study abroad. Gallo stated, "90 percent of students who study abroad are employed within 12 months after graduation." Gallo shared findings that most students searching for schools in higher education look for study abroad programs in those institutions, yet only 10% of the student average take part in the program.

NWACC has implemented several layers of support in the programs to help students feel supported while they are abroad. All of the study abroad programs will have an NWACC faculty member attending with students during the trips. Faculty will be there to help guide students while serving as their first line of support. While she's not traveling



NWACC's study abroad office.

Photo by Maebre Peal

with the groups, Director Ryan remains available to the students 24/7 while they are abroad. Ryan serves as the student's second line of assistance. The students will also be able to get a hold of the NWACC safety office, who serves as the third line of support. All students who are participating in a study abroad will have travel insurance, which also provides an additional support system.

Although some of the programs may no longer be accepting applications, Ryan encourages all students who are interested in studying abroad to reach out to the study abroad office for information on current and future sessions.

Codie Ryan-Director of International Programs.
Student Center 225G, cryan2@nwacc.edu, (479) 619-2224

Steve Jenkins-Brightwater Department Chair and Student Advisor
Faculty Leader for the Japan Study Abroad Program
Brightwater Campus, sjenkins5@nwacc.edu

Victor Chalfant-Study Abroad Coordinator,
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Burns Hall 1153, victor@nwacc.edu, (479) 619-4288

Vince Pianalto-Study Abroad Coordinator, Food Studies Program
Brightwater Campus, vpianalto@nwacc.edu, (479) 631-8604

Dr. Sevin Gallo-Assistant Professor of World Civilizations
Faculty Leader of Greece trip
Burns Hall 2225, sgallo@nwacc.edu

NWACC Students Tackling Daily Obstacles

First-Generation Learners Navigate College

Valeri L. Villegas
Reporter

As a first-generation college student, Giselle Martinez illustrates the various challenges she faces every week in an attempt to balance her work, school, and home life. Martinez emphasizes the overwhelming amount of stress she feels from time to time, attempting to stay on top of her personal responsibilities. These responsibilities include her part-time job at Bath & Body Works, as well as working alongside her mom when she's not working her part-time shifts. Throughout her second semester at NWACC in the fall of 2025, Martinez worked shifts almost every week and weekend during the seasonal hours of Bath & Body Works. Since the seasonal holiday sales have died down, she has been scheduled for fewer hours during the spring semester this year. She has contemplated scaling back to work with her mom only, but she is faced with the reality of not having time for either job.

Martinez highlights that most nights, she is unable to complete her homework until 12 or 1 in the morning, using the time beforehand to shower and eat dinner, as she typically arrives home late in the afternoon. Having little time to rest and prepare for school, Martinez stresses how difficult it is to balance it all. "That's my main stress," she said, "failing and getting a bad grade, especially on a test."

While her work-life takes up a good portion of her time, she also mentions how not only does work play a part in taking up her time, but so does homework from separate courses she's taking throughout this semester. Martinez added that because of the courses she is currently taking, she struggles to keep up with both courses' workload. She goes on to describe how time-consuming it can all get, sighing in exhaustion. "To me," she said, "because of how much homework there is in microeconomics, I focus more on that rather than principles of accounting, even though I feel I should be focusing more on principles

of accounting since that is what I'm majoring in." Taking personal accountability, similar to many students, Martinez also mentions her tendency to procrastinate from time to time, as constantly making an effort to stay afloat as a first-generation college student can lead to immense pressure.

From a different student perspective, Tracy Cortez also illustrates her personal journey as a college student as she tries to balance her personal and educational responsibilities. Striving for her nursing degree, Cortez goes into depth about her educational journey. She began courses at NWACC in the fall of 2023, and she said she believes she will most likely finish this semester as her last, nearing the end of the finish line in completing her requirements for her associate degree in nursing.

As a first-generation college student, one of the challenges she came across while attending as a full-time student was difficulty finding spaces to focus while studying. Comparing today's NWACC to a couple of years ago, Cortez describes how the number of students who have grown within NWACC's attendance over the years, emphasizing the limited amount of space available where there are not other students. Not only has Cortez undergone academic struggles, but she also works tirelessly to maintain both her academic and personal responsibility of taking care of her nieces and nephews from time to time, stating, "Whenever I have time, I sit at my desk and work as hard as I can or for however long I can and get as much work as I can done, but sometimes it is very hard because of my nieces and nephews, especially them being so little."

Being a first-generation student not only strengthens one's character but also demonstrates a student's capacity and capability to overcome any obstacle they face.

One Stop Spot: NWACC Library

Resources Help Students With Their College Journey

Erin Shields
Reporter

What comes to mind when asked about a library? Do thoughts of books and being quiet pop in your head? Although that is correct, Outreach and Engagement Librarian Heather Lundy wants students to know that the school's library is "a space for students to just be!"

The NorthWest Arkansas Community College Library will not always be quiet when students set foot inside. An individual might see students taking a study break by playing board games together, librarians helping students with research, or even students napping between classes.

Anthropology professor Alissa Bandy is aware that students are "carrying a computer in their pockets with access to the internet." If students need anything they will "look on there," she notes. However, Bandy wants students to understand that the library is a place with helpful and surprising resources. There is access to websites, newspapers, scientific journals, academic journals, and books to expand curiosity of a subject all with a professional to help students navigate through material. For example, someone who is taking Anatomy and Physiology can rent a model of a skeleton for a more visualizing hands-on studying approach to break up repetitive and monotonous studying.

Something that is very useful to a college student, the Internet, is something a person can now take home. With wifi hotspots rentals available at the library students can do assignments anywhere. It is a tool provided by the library that helps students be successful in completing their homework assignments.

Students pay a library fee per semester and should explore what they pay for. Lundy said the library is "rich in resources sitting there waiting" for students to partake in. The library offers workshops. People can expand their knowledge as well as meet fellow peers that could become a familiar face in the halls, a study buddy, and a friend. Bandy encourages students to, "Make friends. Make connections. Grow beyond getting a piece of paper." It's easy to get lost in the fast pace of a two-year college. It can be overwhelming, time-consuming, and strenuous. Utilizing a great resource with a staff that can not only help students navigate, but want to see them succeed can make all the difference in a student's college career.

The biggest takeaway would be to explore the NWACC library. Allow it to become part of your routine. Librarians, such as Lundy, are there to answer those tricky questions and guide you towards the right direction. Fellow peers are there who are trying to make connections. You might meet someone and create a study group to maintain momentum in your classes. Don't let a great resource slip through your fingers. Check out the NWACC library today.



A clear view of the library's main entrance, where students begin their academic journey each day.

Photos by Lu Antolinez



NWACC Students, Giselle Martinez [LEFT] and Tracy Cortez [RIGHT].

Theater Students Host 'Variety Night'

Improv, Monologues Greet Students

Jonathan Lowder
Reporter

On Feb. 12, NWACC's theater students took to the stage to host "Variety Night," which featured different scenes from various plays, some from an improv performed by one of the classes, and monologues to be presented at a festival.

All renditions featured elements of dark humor as most scenes came to an untimely and abrupt end, often due to the characters' own demise.

The end monologues came from NWACC's own Avery Redmond and Matthew Cornog where Redmond portrayed the character Kiratin from "The Pillow Man" by Martin McDonough while Cornog portrayed a reader from "Radium Girls."

One of the scenes featured in Variety Night was titled "The Powder Heist," which was an improv that featured three strangers in a car together in what seemed to be about the friends you made along the way. However, the situation turned out to be following a heist, and the getaway driver had some form of amnesia. As the cops were about to catch the group, the getaway driver forgot how to drive and crashed the car, resulting in everyone's death.

The other scene shown titled "The Belly of the Beast" featured two friends by the name of Todd and Sadie who were stuck in an elevator. As time went on they became hungry and left with no other option they are forced with two drastic options: starve or eat one another. They chose the second option and just as they are about to eat Todd the elevator roof opened up and a new character, Barry the elevator cable guy, came in and offered them "black licorice." The licorice was really the elevator cables. With no other options, Todd and Sadie decided to have some "licorice," which resulted in the elevator falling and the crash causing the death of everyone.

The monologues, done by Avery Redmond and Matthew Cornog, demonstrated the students' use of expression and emotion and their attention to detail used to complete their roles. Redmond portrayed Katurian from "The Pillow Man" in which Katurian is blamed for a couple of crimes including murder and the monologue used is from the scene of Katurian trying to explain her innocence to two cops.

Cornog's character "Reader" was from the play "Radium Girls" and within the scene, Reader is a corporate man who is making a radium-based medicine. He spends his time trying to get his assistants to become excited about what they are doing, which is trying to save lives.



Many performances by the college's theatre department students took place at NWACC's White Auditorium, "Variety Night," On Feb. 12.

Photos by Wayne Cook



Spring Arts & Culture Festival Set For March 2-5

Staff Report

NorthWest Arkansas Community College's Spring Arts & Culture Festival will be March 2-5 with a multitude of free events that are open to the public. Most of the events are on the Bentonville campus with a couple of activities at the Bentonville Public Library. Those seeking more information may email SACF@nwacc.edu.

Some exhibits and activities will be on display throughout the week.

Connecting the Costs of Our Education, a display exploring the costs of textbooks and other high education costs in the lives of students through an interactive dialogue, will be in the first-floor rotunda of the Student Center

Connecting the Dots: The Art & Science of Data, an exhibit that highlights the creativity of ongoing scientific research through data visualizations, photographs, and physical models, and prepare to connect with science and mathematics in a new way, will be in the lobby of Burns Hall

Solve the Puzzle of the Seven Bridges of Königsberg, a small-scale model of the bridges of the city of Königsberg, in Bogle Plaza

Connecting to the Past, an ongoing, interactive display, in Information Commons, Burns Hallway

PRIDE at NWACC Presents Leave Your Own Story, Communication and Arts, display in hallway of Burns Hall

My Culture Connects to Me interactive display, back wall of SC 108

Connections – A Collection of Works by NWACC Art Faculty, Integrated Design Lab

Monday's lineup begins with Improv with Me! How to Connect through the Fundamentals of Improvisation from 9 to 10:15 a.m. in Burns Hall's White Auditorium. Other programs are slated at 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.

A book club discussion of "Is Love the Answer" is slated for 4:30 p.m. in Room 1342. A star party public observing night is planned from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the top floor of the Student Parking Garage.

Tuesday's lineup begins Stitching Well-Being and Crafting Calm at 9 a.m. in Room 108 of the Becky Paneitz Student Center. Other events are at 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 7 p.m.

Words Between Us at 9 a.m. kicks off Wednesday's lineup. Other activities are slated at 10:30, noon, 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. A chess club session is set at the Bentonville Public Library for the 4:30 p.m. event.

Thursday includes a keynote presentation by Travis Simpson at 10:30 a.m. in White Auditorium. Williams will present "Connected By Story: How Fiction Old and New Shapes Who We Are."

A full list of SACF events can be found on the Eagle View website, www.nwaccagleview.com



SPRING ARTS & CULTURE FESTIVAL

March 5, 2026

10:30 am - 2:30 pm
White Auditorium, Burns Hall
NWACC Bentonville

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

T.L. Simpson

Author of *Cope Field*
A Printz Honor Book

KEYNOTE

*Connected By Story:
How Fiction Old and New
Shapes Who We Are*

Plus

- Food Trucks
- Interactive Breakout Sessions
- Campus experience at NWACC



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Promotional poster of SACF's Keynote, T.L. Simpson

Back on Track

NWACC track coach Josphat Boit speaks with athletes during practice at Old Tiger Track, Bentonville,

Riley Smith

Sports Editor

BENTONVILLE, Ark.—NWACC track and field have been in full stride preparing for the upcoming spring season. The head coach Josphat Boit and assistant Chris Weller have been eagerly training their runners in anticipation of the season.

“The biggest challenge for us right now is the switch in mindset,” Boit said. “From running on rough and uneven terrain to competing in a straighter and stricter race is difficult for the runners.”

Freshman Kevin Perez will tackle the “mindset switch” a little differently, continuing his long-distance running by competing in the 800-meter and the 1500-meter races. He has set a goal of breaking two minutes in the 800-meter race.

“I’m pretty excited because we’ve worked really hard all offseason and preseason,” sophomore Marian Hendricks explained. “I’m just excited to see the fruits of Coach’s plans and see how we’ve gotten better.”

Coach Weller explained, “As much as we’re excited for this first meet, we’re using it as a test to see where we really are and what we need to do.” Boit agreed, adding, “It’s a sort of landmark, a way to see our work on paper.”

The teams have been using NWACC’s facilities for weightlifting and indoor training. They have trained on Old Tiger Track and have also used Bentonville West High School’s track.

The team will debut a few field events, including shot put, high jump, and triple jump. Their first meet will be the Hendrix Invitational at Hendrix College in Conway on Feb. 27-28.



NWACC track coach Josphat Boit speaks with athletes during practice at Old Tiger Track, Bentonville.

Photos by Lu Antolinez

NWACC Athletics Signs Over 40 New Athletes

Staff Report

NWACC Athletics have been firing on all cylinders this spring semester, and they’ve racked up a grand total of forty-one signees this year in everything from ESports to Cross Country.

WOMEN’S SOCCER- NINETEEN

Allisa Dumas- Goalkeeper from Edmond Santa Fe High School in Edmond, OK
 Nadia Soto- Midfielder from Pebble Hills High School in El Paso, TX
 Isis Chapa- Midfielder from Uvalde High School in Uvalde, TX
 Jada Damian- Midfielder from Don Tyson School of Innovation in Springdale, AR
 Lilia Carvalho- Midfielder from Guiseley AFC in Bingley, England, UK
 Erin Clarke- Midfielder from Soham Town Rangers in Cambridge, England, UK
 Leila-Mae Per- Midfielder from Broomfield FC in Colchester, England, UK
 Trinity Brown- Midfielder from National Park College in Siloam Springs, AR
 Ava Sherfield- Midfielder from AFC Reading in Reading, England, UK
 Jackie Ayala-Gonzalez- Midfielder from Springdale High School in Springdale, AR
 Mariana Araujo-Martinez- Midfielder from Springdale High School in Springdale, AR
 Carla Samblás Benito- Midfielder from CF SPA Alicante in Alcoy, Spain
 Gizelle Fierros- Winger from Southwest High School in Atascosa, TX
 Deisy Mendez- Winger from Springdale High School in Springdale, AR
 Faith Baker- Forward from Uvalde High School in Uvalde, TX
 Rylee Hamill- Forward from St. Francis Xavier in Edmond, Alberta, CA
 Jessica Vallejo- Center back from Northside High School in Fort Smith, AR
 Ellen Piggott- Center back from Dussindale and Hellesdon Rovers FC in Norwich, England, UK
 Ava Derossitte- Outside back from UA-Rich Mountain in Sherwood, AR

MEN’S SOCCER- SIXTEEN

Jack Munson- Goalkeeper from AFC Sudbury in Hadleigh, England, UK
 Alan Mendoza- Midfielder from Neosho High School in Neosho, MO
 Jordan Moore- Midfielder from Denham Springs High School in Denham Springs, LA
 Jack Bagnall- Midfielder from Gosport Borough FC in Gosport, England, UK
 Byron Adams- Midfielder from Maldon & Tiptree FC in Colchester, England, UK
 Damian Carranza- Midfielder from Pea Ridge High School in Pea Ridge, AR
 Tino Le- Midfielder from Southside High School in Fort Smith, AR
 Kyan Okoli- Forward from Leighton Town FC in Hockliffe, England, UK
 Aukele Paikuli-Campbell- Forward from Kealaheke High School in Kailua-Kona, HI
 Hari Lambe- Forward from CPO Pwllheli in Caernarfon, Wales, UK
 Oliver Okeh- Defender from AFC Sudbury in Claydon, England, UK
 Ethan Twine- Defender from Penybont FC in Bridgend, Wales, UK
 Brandon Lawson- Defender from Bentonville High School in Bentonville, AR
 Tefanny “Tef” Chitango-Mendes- Defender from Connors State in Sheffield, England, UK
 Jodon Grey- Winger from Manning’s School in Sheffield, Jamaica
 Evan Rees- Outside back from Penybont FC in Bridgend, Wales, UK

ESPORTS- THREE

Allan Clark- Fortnite and Overwatch 2 athlete in Tier 1 from Rogers, AR
 Stephen Coop- Street Fighter 6 in Tier 1 and Super Smash Bros. and Rainbow Six Siege in Tier 2 from Bentonville, AR
 Bryce Sparrow- Super Smash Bros. athlete from Springdale, AR

TRACK AND FIELD- TWO

Lilly Lunsford- Jumper and sprinter from Arkansas Connections Academy in Bentonville, AR
 Joanna Rockwell- Jumper and sprinter from Heritage High School in Rogers, AR

CROSS COUNTRY-

Judy Kipruto- Transfer from Newman University in Wichita, KS

NWACC Soccer Finds “State-of-the-Art” Home Field

Staff Report

Heritage High School’s David Gates Stadium in Rogers will host all of NWACC soccer’s home games during their inaugural season this coming fall.

According to an announcement published on the NWACC Eagles’ website, women’s coach Nick Marquez said, “It’s becoming very real. Honestly, I’m getting butterflies- I’m already nervous for matchday to be quite candid.” The women’s team will take the field for the first time in 2026 during the fall semester.

“I think the main thing is the people, to be honest,” men’s coach Dean Johnson said in the same announcement. “I know the coaches very well and the admin has been awesome to work with. It’s obviously a beautiful facility to play at, but I think just having those relationships and those connections is the reason we chose to play here.”

Marquez agreed, saying, “To me, it’s not as much about the brick and mortar so much as the people who will make this place feel like home,” he said. “[Heritage boys soccer head coach Christian] Saavedra and [Heritage girls soccer head coach Chase] Cook and the administration as well, they’re, to me, what makes it special. It’s not a transactional relationship, but we’re each sharing success.”

The field primarily hosts Heritage’s football and track and field events but will now additionally be the place the Eagles can call home.

“I think it’s undoubtedly the best in our region in terms of game fields,” Johnson stated. “To be able to have that in your one- when all of our stuff is still getting built- is awesome, so we’re really thankful for Heritage and the community for allowing us to play here.”

More information regarding both the men’s and women’s soccer teams, along with any updates about the field and schedule, can be found on the athletics website and the teams’ social media pages.

The World's Biggest Stage, 'The Day the World Danced'

Bad Bunny performed at Super Bowl LX, shared Latin culture with the world

Chelsea Castillo

Editor-In-Chief



Promotional poster of Bad Bunny's Feb. 8 Super Bowl LX Halftime Show.

Photo courtesy of Apple Newsroom

America held its biggest game of the year, Super Bowl LX, on Feb. 8 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. NFC and AFC Champions – Seattle's Seahawks and New England's Patriots – played against each other in the final game of the 2025 football season.

Although the game is the biggest aspect of the night, the Super Bowl's halftime show was the most anticipated moment of the whole event for many viewers. Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, also famously known as "Bad Bunny," was this year's Super Bowl Halftime Show performer. The Puerto Rican rapper, singer, and record producer performed and displayed many impactful moments and symbolism throughout his 13-minute performance. Performing some of his hit songs off of his 2025 album, "DeBí TiRAR Más FOToS," and many of his other popular songs off of his well known discography, Bad Bunny brought many viewers to the world of dance throughout his halftime performance. With a couple of special guests taking part in the half time performance as well, there was a special moment for everyone with his show.

The week prior to the Super Bowl performance, the 68th Grammys Awards were held on Feb. 1. Bad Bunny had a total of six nominations and won three. He won "Best Global Music Performance," "Best Música Urbana Album," and one of the most monumental awards of the night, "Album of the Year." Following his wins, he spoke about the ongoing conflict in America with anti-ICE protests and the current president's administration's crackdown on immigration throughout his acceptance speeches. When accepting his first win of the night for "Best Música Urbana Album," Bad Bunny said, "Before I say thanks to God, I'm going to say: ICE out." Following that statement, he also said, "We're not savages, we're not animals, we're not aliens...We are humans and we are Americans." He shared the importance of not letting hate take over during the ongoing conflicts in Americans' lives. "So, please, we need to be different. If we fight, we have to do it with love," the singer said. One of the biggest awards of the night, "Album of the Year," made history with his win. Bad Bunny's album, "DeBí TiRAR Más FOToS," marked the first all-Spanish album to have claimed this prestigious award. When accepting the final award of the night, he dedicated his "Album of the Year" award to those who left their homelands to follow their dreams and all the Latinos in the world. "The Only Thing More Powerful than Hate is Love," was an important statement Bad Bunny shared throughout the Grammys and his Super Bowl Halftime show performance.

"We're not savages, we're not animals, we're not aliens...We are humans and we are Americans."

- Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio

In May of 2025, the artist announced his world tour for his new album with venues in Latin America, Australia, Japan, and Europe. It was a noticeable factor that Bad Bunny had excluded North America entirely for this tour. In an interview with "i-D Magazine," the artist spoke about his concerns with ICE targeting his concerts in the U.S. "But there was the issue of—like, fucking ICE could be outside [my concert]. And it's something that we were talking about and very concerned about," shared the singer in i-D magazine's interview. With the announcement of his Super Bowl Halftime Show, it signified the only date Bad Bunny would have in North America. The artist tweeted on the social platform "X" in September 2025 saying, "I've been thinking about it these past few days, and after talking it over with my team, I think I'll do just one date in the United States." Marking his Feb. 8 performance as the only U.S. tour date brought much more of an impact for many of the artist's American fans.

During the Feb. 8 performance, the singer performed big hits such as, "Titi Me Preguntó," "Yo Perreo Sola," "LO QUE LE PASÓ A HAWAii," "El Apagón," etc. Displaying much symbolism in his performance, his songs share deep messages about issues many Latinos face. His song "LO QUE LE PASÓ A HAWAii," translated to, "I don't want them to do to you what happened to Hawaii," is a reference to many fears faced in Puerto Rico with ongoing heightened tourism, gentrification, and neocolonization of the country. It compares Puerto Rico to Hawaiian Islands in a purposeful way; the Hawaiian Islands were illegally annexed by the U.S. in 1898. That same year, the U.S. had acquired Puerto Rico as a colony of America. The song was performed by one of the surprise guests, Ricky Martin. The Puerto Rico singer sang a small portion of the song with its transition into Bad Bunny's next song for the performance, "El Apagón." "El Apagón" translating to "The Outage," is another song referencing to the ongoing issues in Puerto Rico with power outages on the island and symbolizing the lack of government action to resolve their outages. Background dancers for the song were dressed up as electrical workers on powerlines working to resolve electrical outages on the island. Many of Bad Bunny's songs tie back to Puerto Rico's history and culture, and his performance at the Super Bowl LX Halftime Show made sure to highlight those significant moments.

Tying to his statements of love, Bad Bunny showcased the importance of caring for one another during these times in his show. During his performance, there was a wedding ceremony that took place in between the songs. According to an article published by "USA Today," the couple who married during the halftime show were Thomas Walter and Elesia Aparico. The California locals got engaged back in October of 2024. While preparing for their big day, they had sent out an invitation to the singer's representatives in hopes that the singer would attend their ceremony. "According to Bad Bunny's representatives, the couple had invited the Puerto Rican superstar to attend their wedding, but instead, he extended an invitation to them to be part of the Apple Music Halftime Show," stated USA Today's article. Surprise guest Lady Gaga sang the hit song, "Die with a Smile" salsa remix after they were officiated. Following Lady Gaga's performance, Bad Bunny sang his song, "BAILE INOLVIDABLE," and dedicated it towards the newlyweds, the singer also signed the couple's marriage certificate. At the end of his Super Bowl Performance, Bad Bunny shouted out all the countries in the Americas. Dancers throughout the field held up all the flags of the named countries, Bad Bunny ended his show with the final words, "Seguimos aquí." The final song of the night, "DMF," is the title track of his newest album, "DeBí TiRAR Más FOToS." It played throughout his walk out of the field along with many of his background dancers, the song holds a significance of themes about regret and longing for the past. It draws in the importance of loving one another and appreciating the moments you have with loved ones. The message, "THE ONLY THING MORE POWERFUL THAN HATE IS LOVE," was showcased on the Levi stadium's big screens throughout the ending of Bad Bunny's performance.

You can now rewatch the Super Bowl LX Halftime show performance on Apple Music app and on YouTube on the NFL's Channel.

Chelsea Castillo is the Editor-In-Chief for the NWACC Eagle View and a reluctant fan of the eattle Seahawks.

Finding Love in February

Caring Surrounds Us Each Day of the Month

Cerella Lor

Reporter

February is the month that includes a holiday solely based on love—Valentine's Day. Although not everyone celebrates Valentine's Day, love surrounds us each day of the month. This is for those who may not traditionally celebrate Valentine's Day, as they should know they are deeply loved and capable of love. Even if you do participate in Valentine's Day, there are still multiple ways to express and receive love.

Well, what are some ways love is within and around us? To truly feel love, it needs to be given as well. Luckily, love comes in many forms, even in ways we may not automatically recognize. According to BetterHelp's article, "Five Ways To Spread Love and Happiness To Others Around You" by the BetterHelp Editorial Team, spreading love does not always have to be a grand gesture.

The smallest gestures can have great impacts, too. For example, BetterHelp claims that any acts of kindness, such as a compliment, can make a person's day. It is typically not an advanced skill to give compliments, especially to strangers, so this one would be great to practice daily.

Another simple gesture could be helping others. Let's say someone dropped one of their belongings without noticing. It only takes a few seconds to let them know they dropped something of theirs and hand it back. This often leads to expressions of gratitude and active listening, which are also ways to project love or kindness. All these small acts can eventually result in your own way of spreading love that is personal to you. Students around the campus of NorthWest Arkansas Community College were asked two questions: "What are some ways you spread love to others around you? How does it impact you and your community?"

Javier Fernandez, a student majoring in education at NWACC, said his personal way of spreading love is by saying joyful things to those around him, such as giving compliments. Fernandez stated, "By the end of the day, I feel satisfaction and self-accomplishment knowing I was able to be kind to others." As we saw previously, BetterHelp's article mentioned how offering compliments can be impactful. Additionally, Javier Fernandez not only lovingly impacts those around him but also himself by finding joy in being kind. The article curated by the BetterHelp Editorial Team claims "[e]ngaging with others from a loving place can benefit both them and you in many ways." Love leaves a positive footprint on your community and can encourage you to look at the world from a different perspective.

Now, these small acts may seem like an average day, but that's the beauty of it all. Most of us are familiar with the quote "To be loved is to be seen." Being able to spread love, no matter how big or small the gesture, allows everyone to be seen.

Here's a suggestion: practice expressing love and kindness with more people outside your friend group. For instance, join a club! NorthWest Arkansas Community College has a lot of clubs open for anyone to join. It's guaranteed you will find others who share similar love traits as you.

Cerella Lor is an NWACC student who is part of the Student Newspaper and Media Lab.



NWACC Students, Javier Fernandez [Top] and Keenan Addington [Bottom] speak about ways they're spreading love this February.

Photo by Cerella Lor.

"By the end of the day, I feel satisfaction and self-accomplishment knowing I was able to be kind to others."

- NWACC Student, Javier Fernandez



Broadway Actress Elaine Bromka Empowers Student Performers

Lu Antolinez
Reporter

On Feb. 12, students gathered for an interactive monologue workshop run by acclaimed actress Elaine Bromka, who brought her years of experience from stage and screen into a close, collaborative learning setting. Promised as a dive into “intentions, circumstances, rhythm, character, and impulse,” the session delivered that promise.

Bromka guided attendees through the main components that set a monologue from a plain recitation to an enthralling, fully realized performance.

Bromka is admired for her dedication to instructing performance as well as for her acting career spanning Broadway, film, and television. She emphasized her great experience, noting that effective monologue work begins with a thorough grasp of aim.

Consider what your character wants, she

exhorted the audience. From that everything flows.

Earlier in the day, an NWACC audience had been able to watch a recorded version of the play “Tea for Three” in which Bromka portrayed first ladies Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford.

During her monologue workshop, students had the chance to present parts of their monologues and get real-time comments during the session. Bromka demonstrated how a scene’s emotional resonance could be influenced by slight adjustments in emphasis or cadence. Performers started to explore fresh layers in their characters by adjusting their timing, improving their objectives, and completely interacting with the provided environment. The idea of impulse, encouraging a spontaneous feel rather than a rehearsed one was a major part of the session. Bromka said that being honest on stage sometimes results from

really listening and reacting in the now, even in a scripted situation.

The workshop created an atmosphere that fused structure with creativity. As students took chances and uncovered surprising emotional complexity in familiar material, the room buzzed with laughter.

“Don’t take no for an answer. Keep fighting and pursue your dreams—the limits are only in your mind,” Bromka said.

At the end of the afternoon, attendees departed with practical techniques, a self-assurance boost, and a deeper respect for their craft. Bromka said clearly that a great monologue is distinguished by purpose, genuineness, and relationship rather than volume or theatrical flair.

The workshop on Feb. 12 was more than just a chance for students passionate about performance to learn; it also was motivating.



Elaine Bromka works with students on stage during her Feb. 12 monologue workshop, encouraging performers to explore impulse and emotional truth. Photos by Lu Antolinez



SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION FOR HARD SUDOKU

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

Across

- 1 Kind of moss
- 5 Oodles
- 9 Minimal
- 14 Sitar music
- 15 Blue-pencil
- 16 Host
- 17 ___ and anon
- 18 Salacious look
- 19 Some wedding guests
- 20 Royal pains
- 22 Try for a part
- 24 Consume
- 25 Church nook
- 28 Virtuoso
- 30 Orchestra member
- 34 Bad blood
- 38 “For ___ a jolly ...”
- 39 Religious scroll
- 41 Reeked
- 42 The good life
- 44 Full of excitement

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21			22		23			24		
			25		26	27		28			29			
30	31	32					33		34		35	36	37	
38				39				40		41				
42			43		44			45		46				
47				48		49				50		51		
52					53		54				55			
			56			57		58						
59	60	61		62			63			64		65	66	67
68			69			70		71	72		73			
74						75					76			
77						78					79			

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- 75 Gusto
- 76 French silk center
- 77 Kind of button
- 78 Split apart
- 79 Swerves at sea
- 11 Teen affliction
- 12 “La Scala di ___” (Rossini opera)
- 13 Exam
- 21 Roasting rod
- 23 Triumphant cry
- 26 Winter forecast
- 27 Like “The X-Files”
- 29 Tubular pasta
- 30 Kind of board
- 31 Percolate
- 32 Very, in music
- 33 Dawdle
- 35 Civilian clothes
- 36 Ill-suited
- 37 Internet communication software
- 40 Graceful bird
- 43 Coastal raptors
- 45 Medicine amount
- 48 Burbot
- 50 Ministers, briefly
- 53 Witness
- 55 Slight
- 57 No-cal drink
- 59 Winged
- 60 Pro or con
- 61 Spanish liqueur
- 63 Govern
- 65 Kind of bean
- 66 School zone sign
- 67 Cravings
- 69 “Wow!”
- 71 Embargo
- 72 Dissolve

Down

- 1 Kind of school
- 2 Overhang
- 3 Mellows
- 4 Kind of sauce
- 5 Hair raiser?
- 6 Jonson work
- 7 Coffin
- 8 Spread around
- 9 News story parts
- 10 Ostrich relative