

News Briefs

Kickstart Your Career

NWACC's Counseling and Wellness Center will offer an opportunity to "kickstart your career" on Monday (Feb. 2) from noon to 1 p.m. The event will be in the Student Center Game Room 113B

Enjoy free pizza while learning about networking, resumes, interview skills, and more, brought to you by Counseling & Wellness.

For more information check out @nwacc_counseling_center on Instagram

Eagles Athletic Luncheon

The Eagles Athletic Luncheon is slated for Thursday (Feb. 5) from noon to 1 p.m. The luncheon will be in Peterson Auditorium, Room 1047, of the Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development.

Don't miss out on this chance to engage with student-athletes and coaches while receiving the latest athletic updates and a meal. Tickets are \$15 and are available through the NWACC Marketplace's Touchnet. Sponsor for the luncheon is Jordan Sharp of Friday Firm.

Transfer Fair

A college and university transfer fair is slated for March 9 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Student Center.

Representatives from colleges and universities in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas will be present.

Commencement Set for May 9

NorthWest Arkansas Community College Commencement will take place at 9 a.m. May 9 at the Walmart AMP, 5079 W. Northgate Road in Rogers.

Additional information will be shared in upcoming weeks.

Pickleball Group at NWACC

The idea of starting a campus pickleball group for students, faculty and staff and organizers want to know how many might be interested in joining.

Pickleball is a fun, inclusive sport that's easy to learn and great for all skill levels. The goal of this group would be to create opportunities for casual play, physical activity and community engagement, whether you're brand new to pickleball or have played before.

SEE News Briefs on Page 2

Hot Cocoas, Friendly Faces Usher in 2026

A Warm Welcome to Start the Spring Semester

Lu Antolinez

Reporter

BENTONVILLE, Ark. — During the week of Jan. 19 - Jan. 23, NWACC initiated the new spring semester with a welcoming event that did more than just greet students; it made them truly feel at home.

As students arrived on campus, they were greeted with an assortment of snacks, hot cocoa, and friendly faces, creating an ideal setting to start the semester positively. The gathering provided a chance to take a breather, connect with others, and prepare for the busy days to come, highlighting that NWACC is not just a place for classes; it's a community.

As students mingled, engaged in conversations, and held their cocoa cups to warm their hands, the welcoming team emphasized that support and a sense of belonging are fundamental to the NWACC experience.

"Our aim is for students to feel acknowledged and supported right from the moment they enter campus," said Norma Logan, coordinator of Student Life. "Sometimes, something as simple as a warm beverage and a kind greeting can significantly impact, especially at the beginning of a new semester."

The event showcased NWACC's dedication to creating a student-focused environment where everyone feels appreciated and encouraged. For newcomers, it offered a reassuring first experience; for those returning, it served as a reminder of the strong community spirit that characterizes the college.

Though warm beverages, kind words, and valuable connections, the gathering set an optimistic tone for a successful and supportive semester ahead at NWACC.



Norma Logan, Coordinator of Student Life, at NWACC's welcoming week stand. Photo by Lu Antolinez

Midterm Primaries Are Approaching

Some Judicial Races, Party Nominees to be Decided March 3

Jonathan Barrett

Reporter

If you are looking to participate in the upcoming midterm primary elections and cast a vote on certain local and judicial races and questions, there are some things you need to know. The primary election date is March 3. Early voting begins on Feb. 17.

Registration ended Feb. 2. How do you register? You must fill out a Voter Registration Application and return it to the appropriate office, which, for local residents, can be found at <https://bentoncountyar.gov/vote/registration/>, and <https://www.washingtoncountyar.gov/government/departments-a-e/county-clerk/voting/voter-registration>. If you completed the registration application by the Feb. 2 deadline, allow two weeks for processing. You may check your voter registration status by checking VoterView, <https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/voterview>, on the Arkansas Secretary of State's website.

What are the requirements to register? You must be an Arkansas resident for at least 31 days prior to

the election; you must be 18 before the day of the election; you must not be a convicted felon; and you must be a U.S. citizen.

Where do you go to vote? For early voting, there are 15 early voting locations in Benton County. More information is available on the Benton County government's election webpage, <https://bentoncountyar.gov/vote/elections/>. Early voting in Washington County is available at the Washington County Clerk's Office, 280 N. College, Suite 300 in Fayetteville.

On the March 3 election day, there are 35 locations across Benton County where you are able to cast your ballot. If you would like to cast your vote while on campus March 3, you can go to the Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies, 1000 S. E. Eagle Way, Bentonville, Arkansas. In Washington County, there are more than 40 voting centers open on March 3.

SEE Midterm Primaries on Page 2



Primaries, School Board and Non-partisans judicial races are on the March 3 ballot. Unsplash Image

Spring Enrollment Number Shows an Increase for Online Courses

NWACC's Spring Semester Commences; Student Enrollment Sees An Uptick

Chelsea Castillo

Editor-In-Chief

BENTONVILLE, Ark. — As the 2026 spring semester kicked off at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, early reports of student enrollment started to be released. Digital learning for the college has reached high numbers since the COVID-19 Pandemic. Additional numbers will be released later in the semester when later courses such as 12-week and 8-week classes commence.

In a recent press release shared by NWACC, reports showed a total of 5,261 students enrolled in at least one online course at the college. "Digital learning classes reached a record high for the first time since the covid pandemic, with 5,261 students enrolled in at least one online course," according to the release. The total represents approximately 62% of the college's student body, with its unofficial count of 8,364 students. Online courses are described to bring flexibility for students whose schedules do not align with in-class courses, along with providing resources students will need to succeed online.

Myriam Hernandez, current NWACC student majoring in elementary education, spoke about her experience as an online and in-person student at the college. "I appreciate how easy NWACC makes it for students to be successful virtually. In my experience, the classes are set up with all the resources and information the student will need." Hernandez shared that she is not fond of taking online courses due to feeling a sense of disconnect compared to an in-person course, but she spoke about how online courses ensure students' success throughout the semester.

SEE Spring Enrollment on Page 2

FEATURES



Comic Con Comes Back

Fans gather for panels, vendor browsing, cosplay at NWA Comic Con.

OPINION



Is Money Worth Our Future?

AI data center coming to Arkansas with possible negative impacts.

SPORTS



Men's Soccer Signs 4 New Athletes

Additions bring variety of skills, position experience to NorthWest Arkansas Community College.

Continued News Briefs from Page 1

The group could include:

- Informal, open play times on campus or locally
 - Basic rule explanations and beginner-friendly sessions
 - A fun, low-pressure way to connect with others across campus
- Please take a moment to let us know:
- Whether you would be interested in participating
 - Your experience level (new, some experience or experienced)
 - Any preferred days or times to play.
- Email n3hernandez5@nwacc.edu your responses. These will help guide next steps and determine feasibility. If you have questions or would like to help with organizing, include that in your reply as well.

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.

Interested in Joining the Eagle View?

Join the staff of the award-winning student newspaper, NWACC Eagle View, and develop or fine tune communication skills. Build a portfolio, work as a team, and practice the kinds of job skills that have given many Eagle View alumni a leg up in their college and work careers.

Students of any major may join the Eagle View staff to cover topics of current and lasting interest in various academic fields and in areas of personal interest. Those who volunteer to become staff members often see NWACC in new ways and develop a unique sense of belonging. In fact, the newsroom often becomes staff members' home away from home.

Meeting hours for the Newspaper are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3pm till 4:30pm.

For additional information contact Editor-In-Chief, Chelsea Castillo at c3castillo@nwacc.edu

**Editor-In-Chief**

Chelsea Castillo

(c3castillo@nwacc.edu)

Managing Editor

Aneyda Reynaga
(areynaga@nwacc.edu)

Online Editor

Jennifer Watson
(j3watson8@nwacc.edu)

Reporters

Lu Antonlinez
Jonathan Barrett
Maebre Peal

Design Adviser

Duane Coleman

Sports Editor

Riley Smith

Newspaper Adviser

Debbie Miller
dmiller13@nwacc.edu

Photographers

Lu Antonlinez

MISSION STATEMENT

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

The Eagle View
One College Drive
Burns Hall, Room 1021
Bentonville, AR 72712
479-986-4016
nwacc.eagleview1@gmail.com
Visit us online:
www.nwacc.edu/academicdivisions/commart/studentnewspaper/default.aspx
www.facebook.com/NWACCeagleView

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

Comic Con Comes Back

Fans Gather for Panels, Vendor Browsing, Cosplay

Jennifer Watson

Online Editor

NWA Comic Con returned to Northwest Arkansas in early January, a year after winter weather forced the event's cancellation. The Jan. 17-18 event drew fans of film, television, animation, and geek culture for panel discussions, autograph sessions, costumed role-play, and a wide range of vendor booths. Attendees packed panels featuring actors and industry professionals, browsed tables selling collectibles and original work, and showed off elaborate cosplay inspired by favorite franchises. Among those in attendance were actors and performers, including Kel Mitchell, Joey Fatone, Dante Basco, Diedrich Bader, and Edward James Olmos, with many fans coming to hear them discuss their careers and connect face-to-face.

While much of the attention centered on scheduled programming and featured appearances, the convention also relied on a quieter ecosystem of local groups and creators whose work operates largely outside the spotlight. Among them were Cos-Medics, Starfleet International, and Art Attack Studios.

Just outside the main event hall, a wide hallway hosted Cos-Medics and Starfleet International, two organizations focused less on sales than on service and outreach. For Sylinda Furgason, a volunteer with Cos-Medics, that work begins when something goes wrong. The group provides emergency cosplay repairs for attendees whose costumes break during the convention, often at moments when months of preparation are suddenly at risk.

"It's strictly volunteer," Furgason said. "We do it just because we want to help cosplayers."

Over time, she said, the group has expanded its ability to respond to those needs. "It's taken a little while to build everything," she said. "Over the years we've put together a pretty extensive station." The repairs Cos-Medics handles are practical but essential, ranging from shoe repair and sewing to fashion tape and other quick fixes that keep costumes together. Furgason recalled a particularly memorable repair at another convention that involved sewing a Spider-Verse Spider-Man costume in a bathroom stall.

Nearby in the same hallway, Starfleet International offered a different kind of continuity. Shane Landelius, president of USS Ozark in Fayetteville, described Starfleet International as "an international fan club" organized into regional chapters. Members of USS Sun-Tzu, based out of West Fork, were also on hand, in addition to representatives from USS Blackstone in Little Rock.

Rather than focusing on the convention itself, Landelius emphasized regular interaction among members. "We do a lot of watch parties," he said. Other activities include gaming, board games, and role-playing games, both in organized settings and informally. "A lot of stuff online," he said.

The organization also participates in community service. "We did a food drive," Landelius said, adding, "We're currently doing a coat drive."

When asked what he enjoys most about Comic Con locally, Landelius answered candidly, "Just people watching," he said. "It's really cool to see all the costumes."

That sense of continuity was echoed elsewhere on the convention floor. Groups like NWA Ghostbusters, a volunteer-driven Ghostbusters



Members of NWA Ghostbusters pose with TV star Kel Mitchell at the 2026 NWA Comic Con (pictured left to right: Derrick Midkiff, Tyler Boothe, Andrea Lawson, Jarrad Butz, Jeffery Arcanum)

Photo by Jennifer Watson

fan club that participates in charity work and community events, drew attention with screen-accurate costuming and an emphasis on fundraising and nonprofit efforts. The Northwest Arkansas Blaster Club highlighted a different kind of fandom, organizing free, monthly Nerf battles throughout the year that remain open to new players and emphasize a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Nearby, Ozark Otakus represented an adult anime community that regularly hosts events in Northwest Arkansas, offering another entry point for fans looking to stay connected beyond the convention weekend.

Inside the main convention hall, the experience was different but no less personal. Cari Williams, owner of Art Attack Studios, was attending NWA Comic Con as a vendor for the first time. Williams, who lives in Centerton, said she had previously sold her work at smaller venues, including the Bentonville Farmer's Market, and currently maintains a booth at the Highway 102 flea market, where she sells stickers.

"Oh, I love it," Williams said. "To me, this is my quote-unquote big break."

Williams also described a professional background that extends beyond vending. She taught high school art for seven years and continues to teach once a month at a nonprofit organization called Innova Collective. Reflecting on the weekend, Williams said she felt ready for the opportunity and satisfied with how her booth had come together. "I feel like I put myself together," she said, adding that while she was happy with her setup, she could also see ways to improve.

Across the convention floor, those connections took different forms. Some vendors were experiencing Comic Con from behind a table for the first time, testing how their work would land with a larger crowd. Others were seasoned exhibitors, moving from one convention to the next as part of a full-time routine. Fan organizations filled a different role, using the energy of the weekend to support communities they are active in year-round.

When the convention is over, once tables have been taken down and the celebrities returned to California, the fandom community in Northwest Arkansas doesn't have to hibernate. Local volunteer groups continue meeting, fan organizations remain active, and artists are visible at farmers' markets, craft fairs, and similar events throughout the region. Together, those local presences show that involvement in pop culture and fan communities in Northwest Arkansas extends beyond Comic Con itself.

CONTINUED from Spring Enrollment PAGE 1

"I would recommend students to fully read their course syllabus and make sure to pace themselves accordingly. It is easy to want to leave everything until the last minute, especially since most assignments are due on Sundays, but a lot of the classes give lessons to read or watch. This will culminate and make it difficult to complete assignments efficiently if you're not prepared, which I promise will affect your overall grade," Hernandez said when asked what advice she would give to students considering enrolling in an online course at NWACC.

Students can still enroll in late-start 12-week and 8-week courses.



Image courtesy of UNSPLASH.

CONTINUED from Midterm Primaries on Page 1

A list is available at <https://www.washingtoncountyar.gov/government/departments-a-e/election-commission/election-day-sites-for-the-march-3-2026-election>.

All voting locations will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on election day. When at the voting centers, ensure to follow the dress code. That means do not wear any party-affiliated paraphernalia. This includes hats, shirts, pens, and stickers. If you fail to comply with the dress code, you will be asked to change your clothes or remove the items.

There are numerous offices up for election during the political party primaries, nonpartisan judicial general election, and the annual school election.

If you would like to find a list of offices that are up for election, and the candidates who are running for those positions in Benton County, you may refer to the listings at <https://bentoncountyar.gov/vote/candidates/> or for Washington County, visit <https://www.washingtoncountyar.gov/government/departments-a-e/election-commission/march-3-2026-primary-information>.

Party primaries allow members of the political party to select the candidate that will represent that party in the November general

election. There are also nonpartisan judicial races and school election issues to be decided on March 3.

There are three seats on the NWACC Board of Trustees up for election. Incumbent Ashley Figer Pointer of Bentonville, appointed to the board in May 2025, faces challenger Angela Calix of Bella Vista in a race for the Zone 1 seat. Incumbent trustee Ron Branscum of Rogers vies for re-election to the Zone 5 seat and faces a challenge from Peter Bailey of Bentonville. Trustee Amber Latimer is unopposed in seeking re-election to a Zone 8 seat. All of the positions carry a six-year term.

If you are unable to vote on the designated day, ensure to file for absentee voting. To vote with an absentee ballot, you must be avoidably absent from your voting location on the date of the election, a member of uniformed service or family member, a US citizen residing outside of the US, or unable to attend due to injury or illness. If you meet these requirements, go to <https://bentoncountyar.gov/vote/absentee-voting/> and fill out the application. You must submit your application the Friday before the election. Once you have submitted it, and it's approved, it will be valid for one calendar year.

If you have any other questions regarding the voting process, eligibility or candidates, visit <https://bentoncountyar.gov/vote/elections/> or <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections>.

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.

Is Money Worth Our Future?

AI data center coming to Arkansas with possible negative impacts

Aneyda Reynaga
Managing Editor

Two weeks ago it was announced that a massive 760-acre data center will be coming to Pulaski County near Little Rock. The project is a \$6 billion investment with \$21 billion total through its entire development. The project is set to start construction in 2026 and will be completed and energized in 2027.

According to the company AVAIO, the AI ready data center, Leo, is projected to "...create more than 500 new full-time permanent operations jobs over the next five years as the campus is built out." Adding new jobs to the state is a positive development, but I can't help but wonder about the implications of this project.

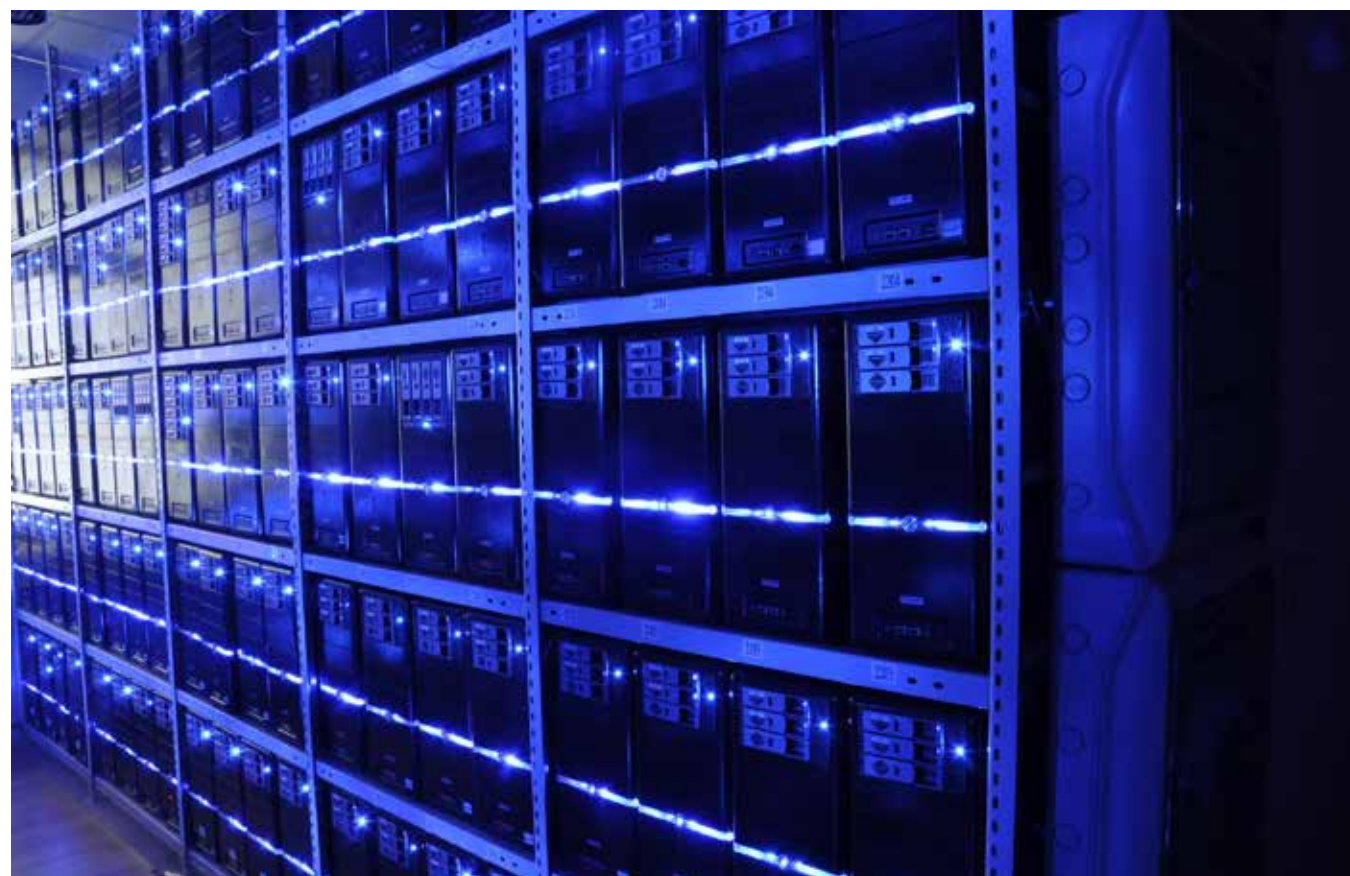
Data centers are popping up around the country to accommodate the use of AI. One notable example is Elon Musk's, xAI data center in Memphis. According to TIME, Memphis Light and Water "couldn't provide nearly enough power for Musk's needs." To make up for this, Elon Musk brought gas turbines that released smog, sound pollution, and raised concerns about water usage.

AI uses enormous amounts of water and according to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, "Large data centers can consume up to 5 million gallons *per day*..." If this is the amount of water per day, the amount of water per year would be 1.8 BILLION gallons. This amount of water will only increase with large, AI-ready data centers, so where is this water going to come from?

AVAIO Digital emphasizes sustainability on its website saying, "Sustainability is embedded in the core architecture..." The company website also says that the group has contracted with Entergy Arkansas for 150 MW of power. However, as the facility grows, the power Leo will need is estimated to be 1 GW, which is enough to power about 876,000 homes for a year. Despite the company's sustainability claims, I'm still concerned about the incredible amount of power and water it will need and what it means for Arkansans.

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders said this data center is the largest investment in the state's history and "sets the Natural State up to become a technology powerhouse that can compete with any state in the nation."

While this might be one of the largest investments in our state's



Displayed above is a server room of Baltic Servers.

history, I wonder if it's worth polluting our ecosystem. In 2023 Gov. Sanders introduced the Natural State Initiative designed to boost the outdoor economy. Since then, we've seen an increase in the outdoor economy, the 2024 Arkansas tourism economic impact report says, "Tourism and outdoor recreation are powerful driving forces in Arkansas' economy." In the same year 2.5% of all jobs in Arkansas were new outdoor jobs, which consisted of trail development, gear production and more. This initiative is clearly working, and many have come to the Natural State because of its natural beauty, trails, and

Photo courtesy of Baltic Servers/Wikipedia Commons
rivers. This AI data center may threaten not only our ecosystem but also our economy. As Arkansans, it's our duty to protect and preserve our natural state and its beauty.

Aneyda Reynaga is managing editor of the NWACC Eagle View. She is studying journalism, and she loves reading and playing video games.

David: Musical Shepherd to King

Animated Musical Presents Meticulous Retelling of Biblical Story

Maebre Peal
Reporter

Angel Studios' "David" is an animated musical that follows the biblical story of David (voiced by Brandon Engman & Phil Wickham), as he goes from a lowly shepherd to King of Israel. The film, which was produced by Sunrise Animation Studios before being distributed



"David" Movie Review

Runtime: 1h 55m

Genre: Musical, Biblical, Adventure

Directors: Phil Cunningham and Brent Doves

Release Date: Dec. 19, 2025

Rating: 4/5

Currently Playing:

Malco Pinnacle Hills

shepherd watching over his father's flock. David returns home from the fields, only to find his life eminently changed as he is secretly anointed to be Israel's new King by the Prophet Samuel (Brian Stivale), much to the protests of David's jealous eldest brother, Eliab (Jonathan Shaboo), who declares the act as treason against King Saul. As David struggles to understand his anointing, and the role that comes with it, he is brought to the palace of King Saul (Adam Michael Gold) with the other musicians of the village. The musicians are there to help calm the King, who is troubled by Samuel's words that he will lose his throne to another. With his musical gift, David is able to soothe the King's troubled mind, only for Saul to immediately send him back to Bethlehem. Uncertain and confused, David talks with his mother (Miri Mesika), who encourages David to believe that God is weaving his story, even if the threads he sees are messy at the moment. His mother's words follow David to the battlefield, where, after hearing Goliath (Kamran Nikhad) mock God, David insists that with God on his side, he can beat Goliath.

The story does not end with the victory of David and the Israelites, instead seamlessly transitioning into David's adult years, as Saul realizes that David was the one Samuel anointed to take his throne. Saul's fear and pride give way to his anger and jealousy, forcing David, and those loyal to him, to flee his village after being branded as an enemy by the rage-consumed King. This leads to the film's most emotionally charged and impactful moments, as David is shown battling with his fear, self-doubt, loss, and his now wavering faith in God, as the film slowly moves towards its ending.

Overall, "David" is a meticulous animated retelling of the biblical story of David, that goes deeper than the story's most well-known events. Through the film's use of music and distinctive character journeys, the film highlights David's growth from a young shepherd boy to a king, and the challenges he faces along the way. The film maintains a family-friendly approach, though some scenes and imagery may not be suited for young children.

Maebre Peal is a student in the spring semester's Storytelling for Today's Media and Media Writing classes.



Promotional movie poster of the movie "David".

Photo courtesy of movie press kit.

Being a student can be tough and, as student journalists, we're well aware of that. So here are some resources to help relieve that stress. Scan the QR codes to find out more. Remember to take care of yourself and relax from time to time.

You can do it Eagles.

Infographic by Jennifer Watson.

NWACC

STUDENT RESOURCES

	Library		Disability Resource Center
	Writing Center		Food Pantry
	Math Center		Clubs and Organizations
	IT Help Desk		Student Success

