

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE EAGLE VIEW

December 2025

NorthWest Arkansas Community College's Student-Run Newspaper Since 2007

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News Briefs

Music Department Concert Dec. 4

NWACC's Music Department Semester Concert will feature the Northwest Arkansas Community College Chamber Singers and Jazz Band in concert the first week of December.

The concert is starting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, in Walmart Auditorium in the Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies at 1000 SE Eagle Way Bentonville.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Course Evaluations Available in Canvas

Course evaluations are open in Canvas for the current term. The evaluations will close to students at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5.

Text Anxiety Workshop Dec. 3

Feeling the pressure as finals week approaches? Join us for a Test Anxiety Workshop on Dec. 3rd from 12-1 p.m. in the Student Center Game Room.

We'll share quick, effective coping tools to help you manage stress and stay focused during tests. Everyone who attends gets a free Nothing Bundt Cake. Come stressed, leave prepared (and with dessert!).

Pizza and Convo With Faculty

Hey, students! If you don't have lunch plans for Thursday, Dec. 4, and you want to get a jumpstart on your spring 2026 schedule, we have an offer for you.

A Pizza and Conversations with Faculty event is slated for 12 noon Thursday, Dec. 4, in Student Center 108.

Please come grab a slice of free pizza and talk with some of the faculty members who will be teaching a few niche classes in the spring semester.

You can learn more about Intro to Podcasting, Public Speaking for Workforce, Writing about Mental Health, Technical Communication and more. You can also learn about how two hybrid courses (in technical communication and public speaking for the workforce) work in tandem to allow you to complete a microcredential.

For additional information, contact Debbie Miller at dmiller13@nwacc.edu.

NEWS BRIEFS continued on
Page 2

WAYS TO SUPPORT FOOD PANTRY EMERGE

College Community Helps Meet Growing Need

has been established that can be accessed from the <https://www.nwacc.edu/student-services/healthandwellbeing/foodclothing.html>.

Other creative opportunities also have been developed. In November, the human resources department hosted a photo contest titled "NWACC Paws for a Cause Pet-Tastic Photo Contest" in which votes were cast by donations that will go to the food pantry. On Dec. 1, the human resources team announced 12 winners had been chosen and there are now plans for a calendar from the competition. Proceeds from the pre-orders also will go to support the food pantry.

Also, this month, the Music Club at NWACC is hosting Lunchtime Karaoke on Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Student Center Room 108. The event is aimed at reducing the stress often experienced during the end of semester with class assignments, projects and test deadlines coming due. While allowing that opportunity, the

Music Club also will collect shelf stable items for the NWACC Food Pantry. However, organizers noted, it is not necessary to have a donation to participate in karaoke.

According to the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank, more than 89,000 men,



Image of NWACC's Bentonville campus food pantry, located in Burns hall. For assistance on food, NWACC has a food pantry distribution request form available for students and employees to fill out. The form can be found on, <https://www.nwacc.edu/studentservices/healthandwellbeing/foodclothing.html>.

Photo by Chelsea Castillo

women, senior citizens, and children in the region face hunger every day. The number of hungry people has increased in the past years, according to food bank statistics, but the organization continues to fight for everyone to have access to nutritious food to eat. In that endeavor, food bank supplies food to 110+ member agencies

and operates mobile food pantries.

One of the many food-related organizations serving the region through direct distribution is "Feed 479." For more about the organization, "Feed 479," read an opinion column by Eagle View staff member Lu Antolinez on page 3.

College Moving Forward on Plan

Riley Smith

Reporter

Starting next year, the Northwest Arkansas Community College is expected to begin construction on its campus master plan. From dorms to athletic facilities, the NWACC campus will be completely transformed in the coming years. The goal? To create a "more vibrant campus," says NWACC's athletic director, Brooke Brewer.

She spoke highly of the plan and explained what she hoped to accomplish with it. "My personal hope is that students will want to spend more time on campus," Brewer said. "I want to cater to each student and provide a space

for each and every one to enjoy; give them something to be proud of." When asked about her hopes in terms of athletics, she explained the new field and court being built. "We're planning on an intramural field—somewhere we can host soccer, flag football, and really anything else. Construction has already begun on the new fitness court, as well. We'll have a space for tennis, pickleball, basketball, and any other sport you'd want to play on a court."

NWACC officially began recruiting efforts for their soccer team this year with hopes of getting both boys and girls ready to play by spring 2026, with hopes of playing and hosting on the predicted field.

Women's Soccer Coach Nick Marquez commented

that, "Although I should be most excited for the new stadium, what I'm most excited for is the indoor gym." Marquez said he believes having the futsal court indoors will differentiate the NWACC sports from most community colleges in the area.

In terms of the future of NWACC athletics, Brooke described the new programs and teams she would oversee. "Since soccer hasn't been officially kicked into high gear yet," she laughed at her own pun, "adding onto our sports is in the more distant future. Next, we want to add basketball, then, hopefully, baseball and softball."

Paper Hearts, Real Grief

Jennifer Watson

Reporter

You remember the COVID-19 pandemic differently than the person sitting next to you in class. That's the strange thing—we all went through it, but no two people have the same story. Age mattered. Jobs mattered. Who you lived with, whether you got sick, whether you lost someone.

A new exhibit at NWACC holds space for all of it.

The Hearts Project, now on display in the Walmart Auditorium at the Shewmaker Center through Feb. 17, 2026, is a traveling COVID-19 memorial. When complete, it will hold 13,068 hand-cut paper hearts—one for every recorded death in Arkansas during the pandemic. The three frames currently at NWACC contain about 900 hearts, roughly 20 percent of the finished work.

Monica Moore, a Fayetteville artist, started the project in 2020 while working at the University of Arkansas. There, she advised pre-med students and helped teach a class featuring doctors and hospital administrators. She heard firsthand about the stress they faced—the long shifts, the losses, the exhaustion.

Each frame hangs exactly six feet from the next. The spacing is deliberate, representing the gap we were told to keep from one another for nearly two years. Moore turns the distance into part of the message.

"Using spacing in this way can help people recall our collective experience during that uncertain time of separation and anxiety," she said.

The three frames each tell a different story. One honors healthcare workers who showed up to overcrowded hospitals day after day. Another recognizes essential workers—grocery store employees, delivery drivers, warehouse staff—who faced higher

exposure because their jobs couldn't be done remotely. The third represents families who grieved alone, holding funerals over Zoom or skipping them entirely.

"My inclination was to preserve the experience, honoring their heroism and great sacrifice to keep us safe," she said.

The idea to use hearts came later that summer, when tensions were running high over protests and mask rules. Moore wanted to express something simple: a wish for peace. She started cutting shapes from old magazines. Hearts stuck—a symbol everyone understood.

The project took off when a volunteer donated 500 hand-cut hearts. Moore arranged them into quilt-like patterns, a format that made sense—quilts have been used for generations to preserve memory and tell stories.

Moore knows the pandemic isn't something everyone wants to revisit. That's partially the point.

"When they experience the memorial, emotions often arise they were not expecting," she said. "The challenge becomes responding to that grief in ways that meet the moment with empathy and compassion."

She hopes students won't just look at the exhibit—she wants them to become part of it.

"I want [NWACC students] to learn that their own stories can expand what we can recall about the pandemic," Moore said. "All walks of life can and should engage to help us meet this lofty goal. I want the students to do more than visit the memorial. I want them to get involved."

Additional content appears on the NWACC Eagle View website, nwa.eagleview.com.

FEATURES



Theatre Students Earn Recognition

2 Performers Chosen to Compete for Irene Ryan Scholarship.

OPINION



Eagle On The Street Christmas Segment

Eagle View staff members asked students around campus what is on their 2025 Christmas list.

ENTERTAINMENT



The long awaited 'Wicked: For Good' Hits Theaters

Sequel to 2024 film arrived in theaters Nov. 20, set opening record.

NEWS BRIEFS continued from Page 1**Eagles Athletic Luncheon Dec. 4**

The NWACC community is invited to engage with student-athletes and coaches while receiving the latest athletic updates and a delicious meal.

The event will be at noon Dec. 4 in Peterson Auditorium of the Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development. Cost is \$15. The luncheon is sponsored by Dr. Joshua Jones.

NWACC Women's Cross Country team finished 9th in the nation, their best-ever ranking and NWACC Men's Cross Country team came in the top 20 for the fifth straight year. NWACC programs swept the Region 2 Championships and Pedro Morales was the #1 runner in the region.

Ace Your Finals, Math Study Hall

Drop in for a FREE Math Study Hall! Stay as long as you want. Two sessions are planned at each location

2-4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at Burns Hall 1342 on the Bentonville campus and in the Washington County Center at Room 117.

10 a.m.-noon Friday, Dec 5, in the Learning Commons, Burns Hall 1217 on the Bentonville campus and at Washington County Center in Room 111.

Need dedicated time and expert help to conquer your math finals? Join us for a Math Study Hall before exams. This is your ultimate chance to review tough concepts, get one-on-one help and focus in a distraction-free zone.

What Can You Expect?

Expert support: Faculty and tutors will be available to answer questions on everything from Math Essentials to Algebra to Calculus. Bring your homework, review sheets and practice problems!

Fuel your focus: We'll have free snacks and drinks to keep your energy up and your brain sharp.

Study smarter: Get insider student success tips from Success Coaches on effective study habits, test-taking strategies and managing pre-exam stress.

A place to focus: Whether you need help or just a quiet place to work alongside your peers, this is the spot.

Life Transitions Closet Open

Change is part of every journey - new jobs, new goals, new beginnings. The Life Transitions Closet will soon open to help students, faculty and staff access clothing that fits who they are and who they are becoming.

Donations of gently used clothing, shoes, accessories and outerwear and new socks and underwear are sought to fill the closet. Please deliver donations to the boxes outside the library, outside the Life Transitions Closet (SC 318), or to the offices of Meredith Davis (SC 350) or Sharon Fox (BH 1124). A box also is being added at the Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development by the computer lab.

The closet is now open, with these hours available:

Monday 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Thursday 10:30 a.m. to Noon and 1:15 to 4 p.m.

Friday 10:30 a.m. to Noon, 1-3 p.m.

Washington County Hours Announced

Building hours for NWACC's Washington County location in Springdale have been announced. These are for the time period after finals and during the winter break.

After Final Exams:

Dec. 15 – 19: 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Dec. 22 – 23: 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Christmas Break:

Dec. 24 - Jan. 1: Closed

Lunchtime Karaoke Supports Food Pantry

The Music Club at NWACC is hosting Lunchtime Karaoke on Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Student Center Room 108 A & B. The event is designed to reduce the stress often experienced during the end of semester with class assignments, projects and test deadlines coming due.

Blow off some steam and sing like there's nobody listening! You don't have to sing well. This is about having some fun, connecting with others and singing your favorite tunes alone or with others.

The Music Club will collect shelf stable items for the NWACC Food Pantry; however, it is not necessary to have a donation to participate in karaoke. Any shelf stable food would be greatly appreciated but at this time, the pantry really needs peanut butter and canned fruit.

Announcements Moving to MyNWACC

All college announcements will be available only on the landing page of MyNWACC beginning Jan. 5, 2026.

The improved formatting on this platform will make items easier to read and access. Faculty and staff can opt in to see student announcements and other categories if they wish. Links and more detailed information to come in December.

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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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Theatre Students Earn Recognition

2 Performers Chosen to Compete for Irene Ryan Scholarship



Arkansas Classical Theatre and NWACC Theatre combined forces in November to present "The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story." Several NWACC students were recognized for their work in the production. Shown above, back row, from left are Solomon Oxford as Angelo and Matthew Cornog as Fortunato. The front row, from left, shows Aurora Patterson as Helena and Avery Redmond as Luciana.

Photo by Nadia Moutria

Staff Report

Some performers, production team members, and NWACC theatre students received meritorious awards and Irene Ryan nominations for their work on a recent production related to Edgar Allan Poe. The recognition came from Region VI of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Arkansas Classical Theatre and NWACC Theatre presented "The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story," by David Rice, in White Auditorium in Burns Hall on the Bentonville campus, Nov. 21-23. In Rice's work, it's been two years since Poe's wife died, and Poe is not only haunted by her memory, but also seems to be conjuring scenes from his frightening stories.

Aurora Patterson, who portrayed a Prisoner and Helena, was nominated for the Irene Ryan Scholarship Program. Avery Redmond, who played Luciana, also was nominated for the program. Guest artist Olivia Mack was

recognized with a meritorious achievement award for excellence in lighting, and Keefer Roach received a meritorious achievement award for excellence in sound. Guest artist Peter Kieklik was recognized for excellence in acting, and guest artist Emma Lovell also was recognized for excellence in acting.

"These two actors are encouraged to bring a monologue and a scene to the Irene Ryan competition to represent NWACC at the February conference in Abilene, Texas. We couldn't be prouder of their amazing choices on stage and their professionalism throughout this process!"

**Professor Stephanie Freeman,
NWACC Theatre Program Coordinator**

Prior to the production taking to the NWACC stage, Director Jilka said, "'The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story' by David Rice has been an absolute pleasure to work on. David Rice has been generous in helping with the dramaturgy of the play, even Zooming in with our actors on the first day of rehearsal. We started this piece in September with a professional production in Fayetteville, and now we are producing this play with a set of delightful college students at NWACC Theatre. This play is genius in the way it interweaves Poe's last day on Earth, in a sense, as he is going through the stories, poems and characters he has created in his mind. His memories are boundless as we see his characters come to life. It is a love story to Poe and his writing, as well as a story about the love between him and his beloved wife, Virginia."

The Spring Region VI Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival will be Feb. 20-24 in Abilene, Texas.

A Heart for the Holidays

How Diana Martínez Found Her Calling in Nursing

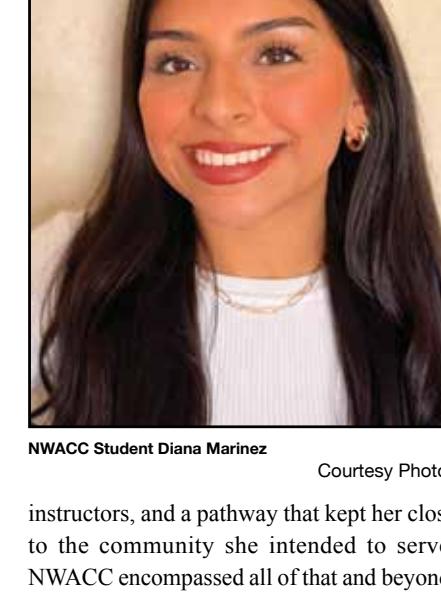
Lu Antolinez

Reporter

As December arrives at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, the college is bringing the cheer of the holiday season for many students across campus. NWACC's nursing student, Diana Martínez, contemplates her journey marked by determination, community support and a sense of purpose. Now in her third year in nursing, NWACC has evolved into a space where aspirations are encouraged and opportunities abound—a setting that has contributed to her development both personally and professionally.

Raised in Springdale, Martínez always envisioned a career in healthcare, but the real inspiration ignited early on. In middle school, she was captivated by tales from her aunt, a medical assistant, who shared experiences of caring for patients during their most vulnerable times. These tales went beyond medical practice; they emphasized the essence of compassion. From that young age, Martínez understood the significant influence one individual could have. This realization lingered with her, influencing her decisions as she moved into high school and joined the Springdale High School Medical Academy. There, she cultivated her enthusiasm, enrolled in medical courses, and achieved her PCA certification, marking her initial strides toward nursing.

When it was time to pick a college, NWACC felt like the perfect fit—where family, culture, affordability, and educational prospects converged. She aimed for a program that offered robust clinical training, helpful



NWACC Student Diana Martinez

Courtesy Photo

instructors, and a pathway that kept her close to the community she intended to serve. NWACC encompassed all of that and beyond.

"NWACC represents an opportunity for me, an opportunity to grow academically and personally. It's a place where I truly feel like I belong," Martínez said.

That feeling of being at home became the basis for everything that followed. During her time at NWACC, Martínez encountered what many students wished for. She found teachers who pushed her boundaries, peers who bolstered her spirits and resources designed to foster her success. Entering the RN program heralded a new phase—one brimming with practical clinical experiences and roles that permitted her to convert knowledge into self-assurance.

A standout moment in her journey occurred when she returned to Springdale High School as a board member of the Student Nurses Association. Standing before students who were once in her position, she shared insights about NWACC's nursing curriculum, the clinical profession, and the journey she took to reach her current standing. She describes it as a full-circle moment—returning not as a student with dreams of the future but as someone actively constructing it.

Her experience as a Hispanic student has played a significant role in her time at college. She has observed NWACC's commitment to promoting inclusivity, enhancing representation, and establishing environments where students from various backgrounds feel acknowledged. Initiatives like LIFE, cultural festivities on campus, and student-organized groups have fostered a sense of community where students can recognize themselves, receive support, and be celebrated. For Martínez, witnessing other Hispanic students pursue their aspirations has been incredibly inspiring, boosting her pride in her heritage and reinforcing her determination to uplift others.

Her advice to fellow students emphasizes this understanding. She urges them not to let their academic outcomes or the pressure for perfection define them. College can be challenging, particularly in nursing; yet, it is also filled with opportunities to build character, bravery, and resilience. She reminds her peers that setbacks are merely a part of the journey, not the conclusion.

"Mistakes don't define me—they refine me," Martínez said.

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/studentnews-paper/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.

Stability and Holiday Hope

Feed 479 is a Reliable Source of Comfort & Aid

Lu Antolinez

Reporter

During this time of year, characterized by bright decorations, social gatherings, and aspirations for brighter times, numerous families in Northwest Arkansas encounter a more subdued reality – escalating grocery prices, unforeseen difficulties, and the challenge of making the festive season enjoyable while dealing with financial constraints. In such situations, Feed 479 emerges as a reliable source of comfort and aid in the community. Although often associated with local entities, Feed 479 operates independently of NWACC or any specific organization. It truly represents the whole Northwest Arkansas community, offering support with dignity, warmth, and a strong commitment to addressing genuine human needs to everyone who arrives at its doors.

Feed 479's influence extends throughout Benton and Washington counties, assisting families who are diligently working yet struggling to manage their finances. The pantry is stocked with fresh fruits and vegetables, essential pantry items, proteins, culturally significant foods, hygiene products, baby necessities, and other items that many families often

do without. As the costs of rent, gas, and utilities continue to rise, this pantry has become a crucial resource for residents in need of assistance, particularly those who may not qualify for or feel at ease seeking government aid. For countless individuals, a single trip to Feed 479 can make the difference between struggling and managing the week with dignity.

The emotional burden of the holiday season can exacerbate these difficulties. Parents aspire to provide hearty meals. Grandparents wish to create cozy environments in their homes. Young adults in college, living independently for the first time, are pressured to celebrate while navigating financial limitations. Feed 479 acknowledges these realities with empathy, supplying seasonal items, holiday ingredients, and culturally appropriate products that enable families to uphold their traditions without overextending their finances. These options—such as a familiar seasoning mix, a preferred type of rice, or a festive treat—might seem minor, but they hold significant emotional value. They transform a house back into a home.

What sets Feed 479 apart is its inclusive approach. There are no barriers, no judgments, and no stipulations for visitors to meet a specific criterion. The

pantry is open to everyone in Northwest Arkansas, from long-standing residents to newly settled families looking to build their lives here. Volunteers foster an atmosphere that resembles a local market more than a typical service program. Individuals select what they require, are met with friendliness, and depart with their dignity intact. For those who may already feel burdened, this method transforms a challenging experience into one of connection and solace.

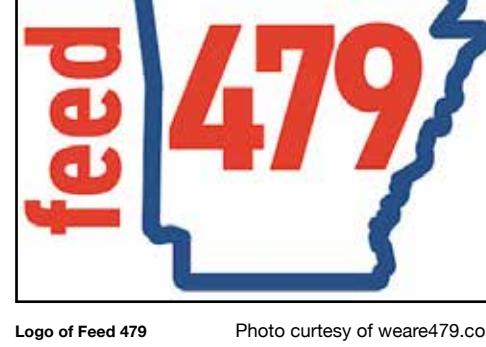
During the shutdown of the federal government, numerous individuals in the area voiced their worries about the provision of food aid and community programs. Feed 479 acted swiftly to assure everyone that it would continue its operations during the shutdown period. Since the pantry relies on local collaborations, contributions, and regional backing rather than federal support, it remained operational, and its mission persisted without interruption.

The core strength of Feed 479 lies within the community itself. Local enterprises, farmers, community organizations, families, and volunteers dedicate their time, resources, and kindness to keep the pantry functional. Their joint dedication embodies what distinguishes Northwest Arkansas: a collective conviction that no one in the community

should have to endure hunger in isolation.

As the festive season approaches, Feed 479 represents more than just a food pantry. It symbolizes the idea that kindness can be a formidable force — one that supports families, closes divides, and unites individuals. In a year filled with economic hardship and political instability, its unyielding presence provides something rare and profoundly valuable: a feeling of inclusion, a sense of optimism, and the assurance that, in Northwest Arkansas, the essence of community is about caring for each other.

Lu Antolinez is a journalism student and reporter/videographer for the NWACC Eagle View.



Logo of Feed 479

Photo courtesy of weare479.com

Walking in a Recycled Wonderland

Every Paper Snowflake is the Same

Kay King

Managing Editor

Unlike the real deal, the unmelted paper snowflake isn't a scientific feat as the formation of ice crystals falling through the air and landing on your eyelashes or tongue only to disappear as quickly as it came into existence. Although there is a bit of geometry that goes into trying to create a design, most people rely solely on their scissor skills when making DIY snow.

When my roommate, former NWACC student Kharma Beck, and I set out to decorate our home into a winter wonderland, we tried to stay away from the stereotypical cutout shapes. We quickly found out that trying for perfection was one of our failures, (so were dull scissors). Once we leaned into trusting the process our snowflakes began to come to life. We also tried different shapes rather than the tried and true circle, such as triangles, squares and a few unintentional semi-circles.

Sourcing the paper was another challenge. We didn't want to buy printer paper just to cut it up, although I have done crazier things in the name of holiday cheer. Fortunately being college students had its perks for once. We had plenty of assignments, syllabus, and general school printouts that could easily be recycled and given a jollier life.

Even though our man-made mega snow isn't the most incredible phenomena of the holiday season it still effectively decorated our home and brought tons of tidings of comfort and joy.

Kay King is the managing editor for NWACC's Eagle View.



Photo by Kay King

Hand-made paper snowflakes in various sizes and patterns.

Eagles on the Street

What is on your Wish List?

Kaitlyn Mountz

"I recently moved, and I have zero clothes right now. And my driver's license!"

Eli

"I want to get my car windows tinted for sure, that's probably on the top of my list!"

Savannah

"I just moved, so a lot of it is stuff for my house, so some of it is silverware, very basic stuff!"

Landon Manweiler

"New pair of boots!"

Info & photos gathered by journalism students:
Lizeth Cervantes, Bobo Karu & Elizabeth MacConnell
Graphic made by Kay King

Film Captures Struggles of Adolescence

'The Perks of Being a Wallflower' Resonates With Audiences

Elizabeth MacConnell

Staff Writer

Stephen Chbosky's "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" (2012) is a coming-of-age film that beautifully captures the pain and wonder of adolescence. From its opening scene, the film immerses the viewers in the world of Charlie, a shy and quiet 15-year-old beginning his freshman year of high school. The story follows Charlie as he goes through the hardship of navigating a new school and the people in it, while also dealing with the internal struggles that he already faces.

At the beginning of the film, Charlie is established as an extremely observant and empathetic person. He sees the world as something happening to him, rather than something he feels he can actively participate in. He finds himself watching from the sidelines, with a belief that he goes unnoticed by those around him. That is up until he meets Patrick and Sam, and a meaningful, exciting friendship unfolds.

This film, based on a novel, is both a deeply emotional and raw portrayal of youth that many young people have identified with and felt impacted by. I decided to write about this film because it has also had a profound impact on me. The film's honest portrayals of mental health can be extremely hard to find, especially one that provides relatability. Since I first watched the film, I have seen myself in Charlie, and it has helped me recognize the importance of representation. Storytelling or media in general can be such a powerful tool for people to feel seen and understood, and that is why depictions like these are so important.

The film's audience primarily consists of young people from teenage years to college age, mirroring the ages and experiences of the characters themselves. The audience transcends that specific audience, however, allowing its older viewers to appreciate the film for other reasons, with many watching the film able to reflect on moments of isolation and loneliness in their own youth. Because of the diversity and representation of the characters, people of many genders and backgrounds have found the story resonates in their own life. This wide range of relatability and connection is what makes this film so special.

While the introduction of the film mostly focuses on Charlie's struggle with belonging and putting himself out there, the essence of the story comes to light as his close friendships with Sam and Patrick advance, offering him the opportunity to learn and grow, and enabling him to better understand himself and those around him. The film pushes past the expectations of a normal coming-of-age drama, offering an insight into the process of growing up and how subjects such as grief, guilt, depression, and isolation can shape us profoundly into who we are.

The film allows its viewers to follow along with Charlie's journey as he slowly steps out of his shell and embraces truly living, while enforcing valuable lessons about the importance of self acceptance and how friendship can coincide with it. Through his experience, the viewers are shown that personal growth does not usually come on its own but is often from facing difficult things such as pain and vulnerability.

The technical quality and editing of the film were not overlooked. The film includes both cinematic shots and pacing that draws the viewer into a sense of nostalgia with familiar settings such as a high school cafeteria, classrooms, and football games that were used. The color palette contains colors that allow the viewer to feel the warmth of through the screen. The film also contains an excellent soundtrack, with indie songs that perfectly capture

the feelings and emotions of the different scenes.

The cast is mostly white, lacking the representation for people of color within the film. The film makes up for its lack of racial diversity within the characters through the experiences they encounter. Charlie is an amazing portrayal of mental health struggles; his struggles are not stigmatized but rather honestly shown as he deals with depression and post-traumatic stress.

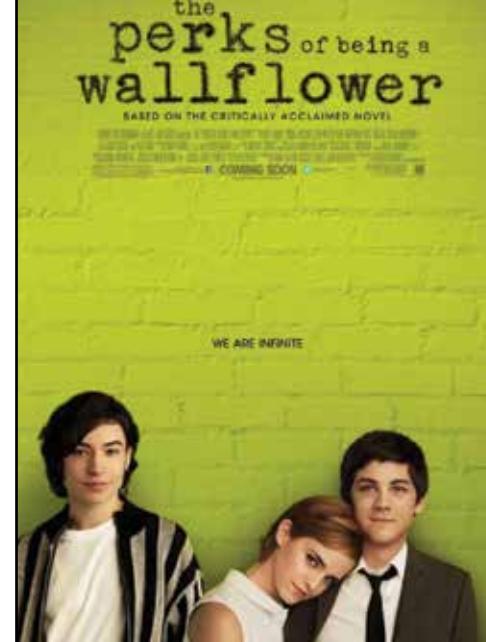
disorder throughout the film. Patrick's story portrays a gay teenager and the difficult struggles that come with that, but also the beauty in finding yourself and living honestly and truthfully. Besides the disappointing lack of racial diversity, the film does a good job accurately portraying different experiences people face in adolescence.

Since its release, "Perks of Being a Wallflower" has had a huge impact on its viewers, especially during the Tumblr era of the 2010s. During this time, social media became a place for young people to express themselves, show vulnerability to their followers, and connect through these feelings. The aesthetic cinematic shots paired with relatable quotes were exactly what was popularized at the time on the platform. Besides the impact on the internet, the film also became a steppingstone for other coming-of-age films to reach past surface level. The film helps to convey the message of the importance of these works with a new standard of emotional honesty in storytelling.

By the end of the film, the whole story feels cohesive and complete. The character faces a challenge, deals with it, and resolves it in a way that comes together and makes sense. The story avoids many of the classic high school cliches and focuses on the real and honest portrayals of each character. The ending offers the audience a satisfying end and resolution to the film that can make you cry with both happy and sad tears, and I would definitely recommend it for anyone who has not seen it.

Overall, "Perks of Being a Wallflower" is an incredible depiction of the highs and lows of high school, capturing the beauty, pain, and confusion that can come with growing up and exploring the world around you. Through its honest portrayal, the story has a deep and emotional influence on its viewers who find themselves relating to Charlie, or another character's story in some way.

Elizabeth MacConnell is an NWACC student in the fall 2025 Media and Society class.



Promotional movie poster of "The Perks of Being a Wallflower."

Photo courtesy of Lionsgate

The Long Awaited 'Wicked: For Good' Hits Theaters

Sequel to 2024 film arrived in theaters Nov. 20, set opening record

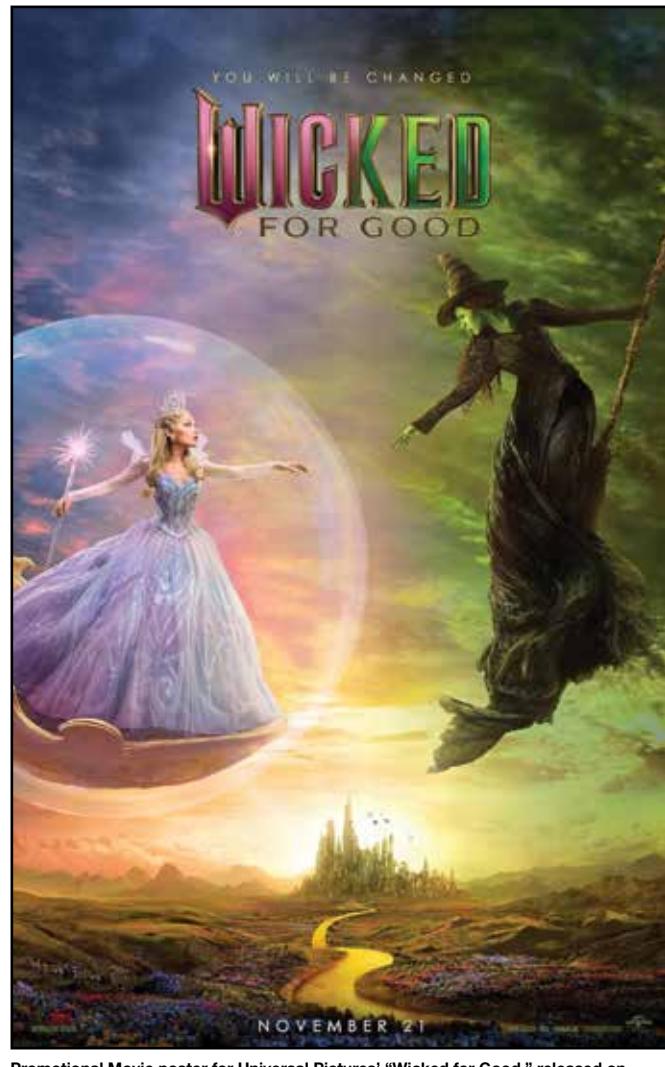
Chelsea Castillo
Editor-In-Chief

The hit musical movie, "Wicked: For Good," arrived in movie theaters on Nov. 20 and set a record for opening box office receipts totaling \$226 worldwide. That performance made the sequel the biggest global opening ever for a Broadway musical adaptation.

"Wicked: For Good" follows the 2024 release of "Wicked." The movie follows the stories of Elphaba, "The Wicked Witch" and Glinda, "The Good Witch." After the first movie capturing the retelling of the girl's lives during school and how both witches came to be, the sequel follows the aftermath of how the world of Oz perceives the two witches. Elphaba fights against the discrimination animals are facing in the land of Oz, and Glinda follows along with the "Wonderful Wizard's" propaganda and embraces the role of the "Good Witch" against the wicked witch. The Wicked movie franchise is based on the popular Broadway musical, "Wicked." It is well known for its imaginative story based on the original book, "The Wizard of Oz."

The musical has many hit songs such as "Defying Gravity," "For Good," "No Good Deed," "Thank Goodness/I Couldn't Be Happier," etc. But, what brings in more audience excitement for the movie release this year is the announcement of two brand new songs, composed by Stephen Schwartz, the original composer for the Broadway musical. In the digital release of the movie's soundtrack, Schwartz spoke about the excitement he had for this album, "I think I may be even more excited about this album than I was about 'Wicked: Part 1.' There is so much on it that is new." The new songs are titled, "No Place Like Home" and "The Girl in the Bubble." Solo songs from both of the main characters connect the audience with the characters. The songs embody each of the characters and open the audience to more of what each of the characters, Elphaba and Glinda are feeling.

Although I had not been fully aware of the Broadway musical until the announcement of the movie adaptation, my fondness for the movie has grown exponentially. The story compels the viewer to understand many topics such as friendship, identity, the importances of marginalized voices, etc. Watching the finale part of the latest release brought me many emotions in the theater. The topic of friendships is a strong pinpoint in the movie, following the character's Glinda and Elphaba relationship – from being enemies, to best friends and now former acquaintances. Amazing performances from Ariana Grande, Cynthia Erivo, Johnathan Bailey, Marissa Bode, Ethan Slater, etc. fully bring the movie to life for the audience.



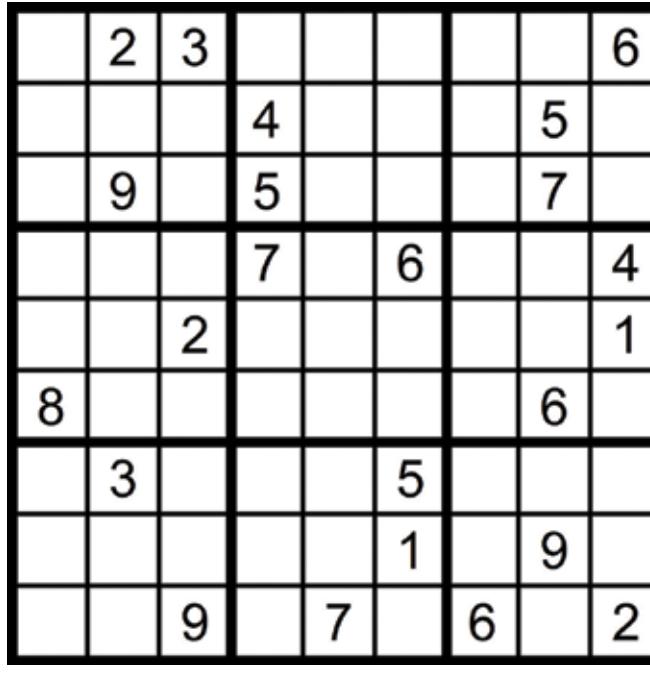
Promotional Movie poster for Universal Pictures' "Wicked for Good," released on November 21, 2024.

Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

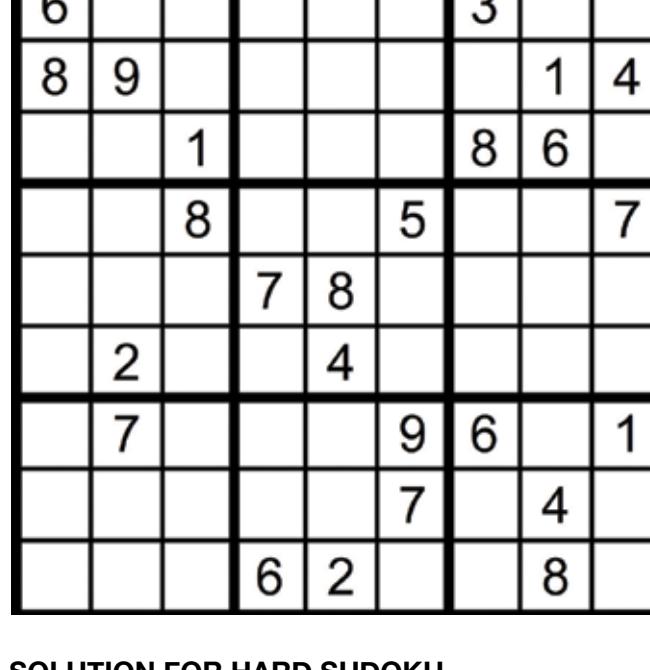
It is not known yet when the movie will hit streaming services but you can look for current showtimes on the Fandango app for "Wicked: For Good." Digital streaming is expected to be on the streaming service app, Peacock.

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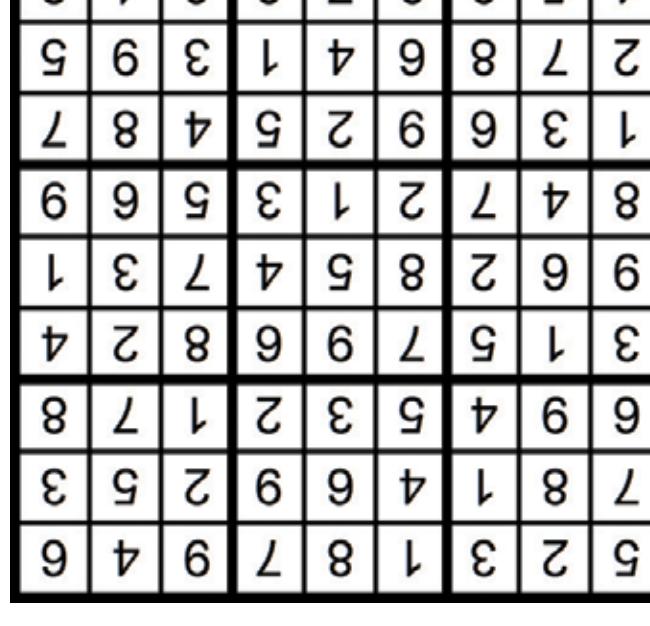
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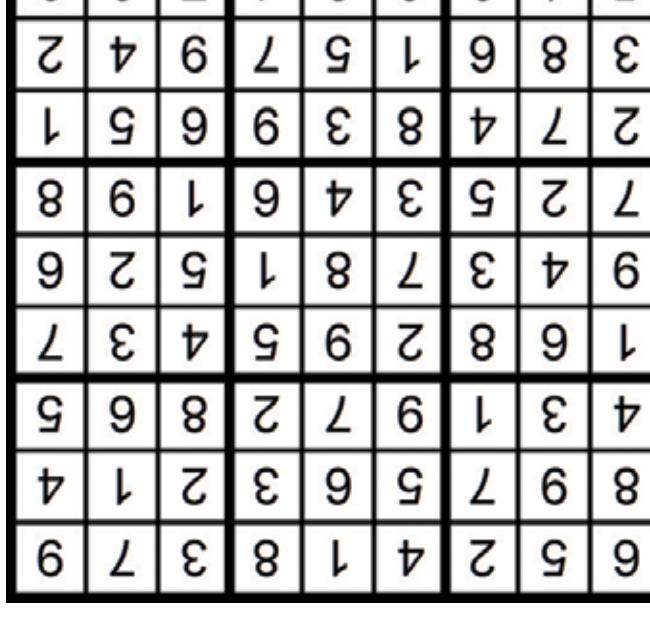
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