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NWACC Eagle View

News Briefs

Honors Program - 20th Years Celebration!

Whether you're an Honors student, thinking about joining, or just love free cake, this party is for everyone! Stop by the Student Center lobby on Thursday, March 20, from 12-1 PM to grab a sweet treat, connect with Honors students, and chat with Honors instructors about what makes this program special. Join us as we celebrate two decades of curiosity, challenge, and community—and say THANK YOU to everyone who has made the Honors Program what it is today. See you there!

NWACC Hosting College Media Conference

NorthWest Arkansas Community College's journalism and media students and the NWACC Eagle View will host the annual Arkansas College Media Association conference on Friday, April 11.

The conference will include breakout sessions on sports reporting, landing jobs and internships, digital media, audio reporting for NPR affiliate KUAF, magazine journalism, and more. Professionals in journalism will also provide reviews of portfolios and sizzle reels.

Graphic Design Professor Kelsi Turk's Advanced Graphic Design students are creating all of the design and physical paper elements associated with the conference. The theme chosen by the class is Flow Into Media. Journalism and media students will act as conference volunteers assisting in registration and conference programming throughout the day.

A noon luncheon is planned in room 108 of the Becky Panelitz Student Center. The luncheon will include presentations from the annual ACMA contest. Active participants in the organization include Arkansas State University, Arkansas Tech, the University of Central Arkansas, Harding University, Ouachita Baptist University, Central Baptist College, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and NWACC.

NWACC Book Club: April 9TH

Join us to discuss Melissa Lozada-Olivia's collection of poems, Peluda ("Hairy") on Wednesday, April 9, from 12-1 in the Trammel Conference Room (BH 2243). Copies of the book are

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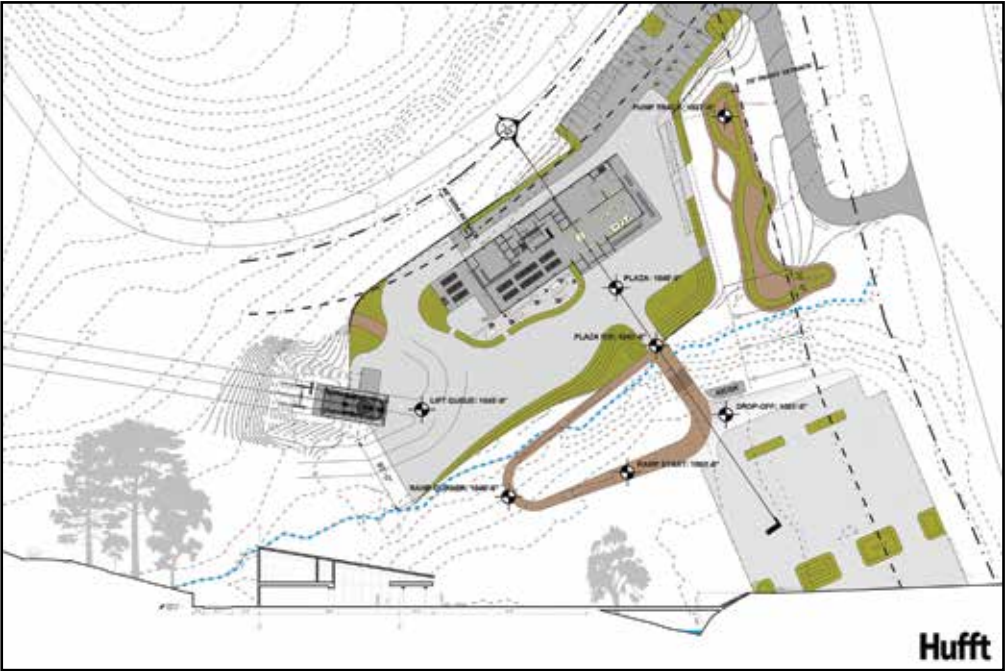
PARK PLANNED IN BELLA VISTA

Residents of Northwest Arkansas and surrounding areas will soon have a new chairlift-served and gravity-fed downhill bike park in Bella Vista

Braxton Kehr  
Reporter

Announced on Feb. 4, with construction scheduled to begin in Spring 2025, OZ Trails Bike Park will include more than 20 miles of gravity trails, a Poma-Leitner high-speed chairlift system providing year-round access, a full-service dining experience, a bike shop and rental center, pump track, a dedicated hiking trail, and art installations sprinkled throughout.

Located on U.S. 71 near the junction of Bentonville and Bella Vista with easy access to Interstate 49, OZ Trails Bike Park will provide access to the region's comprehensive trail system showcasing the unique terrain of the Ozarks. Designed with all skill levels in mind, the park will feature trails planned and built by four companies based locally in Northwest Arkansas that have worked on other trail-building projects in the area: Gravity Logic and Rock Solid Trails, collaborating with Hufft and Crafton Tull.



The site plan for the bike park has been released by OZ Trails. Image courtesy of OZ Trails Media Kit.

OZ Trails, a subsidiary of Runway Group, plans to connect the new bike park to the current OZ Trails network of more than 500 miles of soft surface multi-use trails. "What sets the Bike Park apart is its integration into the ever-expanding OZ Trails network," said Runway

Group CEO Tom Walton in a news release. "As Northwest Arkansas's first purpose-built gravity cycling facility, the park's location strengthens the natural connection between Bella Vista and Bentonville, positioning both communities as premier global cycling destinations. Its focus

on progression ensures everyone from beginners to experts will find their place here," Walton continued.

Designed in part to serve as OZ Trails' new headquarters and social hub, the location offers activities beyond the bike park itself for both active participants

and casual visitors.

"With direct access to the Razorback Greenway and the Little Sugar Trail System, the park's position at the crossroads of existing trail networks makes it a central hub, strengthening Bella Vista's position as a key destination for world-class cycling infrastructure," said John Flynn, mayor of Bella Vista, in the same news release. "The OZ Trails Bike Park represents a pivotal moment for outdoor recreation in Bella Vista," said Flynn.

The bike park is well positioned to bolster the attractiveness of NWA and the trail system among the cycling community. Gravity-fed mountain bike parks are designed to take advantage of natural slopes, allowing riders to descend primarily using gravity. The chair-lift access planned allows riders to more easily and quickly access the trail network at the top. Poma-Leitner will be installing a high-speed 4-person lift with alternating carriages for bikes. The chair lift will accommodate 1000 riders plus bikes per

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Success for Spring Arts & Culture Fest

Risk theme focuses on how attendees can motivate themselves to go beyond their comfort zone and take chances

Kay King

Editor-In-Chief

NWACC hosted its annual Spring Arts and Culture Festival the week of March 3-7. The festival is a multi-day, interdisciplinary event series that brings together artists, academics, intellectuals, and the community to reflect on an annual theme. NWACC.edu introduced this year's theme of Risk this way: "It's often said that the best learning happens on the edge of our comfort zone. As artists, community members, and scholars, how do we negotiate the line between stability and calculated risk? What risks have shaped history and will shape our future as a collective or within a given field? How does risk shape art, culture, and innovation?" All events are free and open to the public. Events include live performances, guest speakers, generative artmaking, dance, music, film, art exhibits, and more.

The festival's opening keynote was given by Alice Driver, with a panel discussion related to the real life stories that inspired the



book, "The Life and Death of the American Worker." Artist Ajamu Kojo hosted an on campus event about his paint collection, "Black Wall Street." Kojo also gave the Closing Keynote at 21c Museum Hotel, March 5. Some of the most attended events were Night and Fog: The Nazi Concentration Camps film, Diva Dance NWA and Women Taking Risk.

Hosted on March 3, from noon to 1:15 p.m., "Night & Fog: The Nazi Concentration Camps" presentation took place in White Auditorium. In 1956, Alain Resnais directed Night and Fog (original French title: Nuit et Brouillard), a short documentary on the Nazi concentration camps. After the showing of the film, there was an in-depth discussion with the following panelists:

Dr. Jennifer Hoyer (Director of Jewish Studies, University of Arkansas), Dr. Richard Sonn (Professor of History, University of Arkansas), and Michael Johnson (History Faculty, NorthWest Arkansas Community College).

"Diva Dance NWA, Community, Choreography and Leaving it All on the Dance Floor," was one of NWACC's most popular events this year. The event involved an instructor teaching a routine, breaking down the choreography with counts and lyrics, and helping participants achieve muscle memory. The Dancers were then able to perform the choreography at the end, with the option of recording their work. DivaDance brought in many attendees to try out

new choreographies in a 100% judge-free zone. Everyone in the community was invited to take the Risk and find a more confident version of themselves on the dance floor, no matter age, gender identity or body composition.

NWACC Professor Chris Huggard presented "Women Taking Risks in Civil War Benton County, Arkansas." The event included the responses of women exposed to the dangers caused by the risks of living during the Civil War in NWA, especially after the major battles of Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove in 1862.

On Wednesday, the Don Tyson School of Innovation had a jazz band performance in White Auditorium.

Throughout the festival there were week-long events that were

also open to participants. In the library there was an interactive video display from faculty, staff, and students reading portions from their favorite risky writers. Board games were set up in common spaces where students could go and play them throughout the week. A collection of works by the NWACC Art Faculty was also displayed throughout the week in the integrated design lab. This art showcased how risk manifests in personal creative expression through daring color choices, unconventional techniques, and challenging societal norms.

Special thanks to all the guest speakers who came to the Spring Arts and Culture Festival:

Magaly Licolli, recognized by the Arkansas Business Publishing Group (ABPG) as one of Arkansas's 250 most influential leaders.

Dr. Jennifer Hoyer, director of Jewish Studies at the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Richard Sonn, professor of history, University of Arkansas.

Michael Johnson, History Faculty at NWACC.

SEE Success page 2

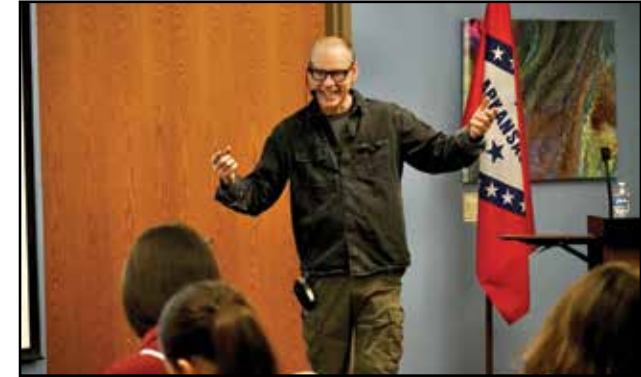
NEWS



Alice Driver and "The Life and Death of an American Worker" at SACF

Festival keynoter, Alice Driver, spoke to audiences about her book "The Life and Death of an American Worker."

FEATURES



How to Crowdfund Your Creativity

Recap of one of SACF events, "Taking the Next Risk: The Art of Crowdfunding with Sean Fitzgibbon

OPINION



Wickedly Wonderful

A viewer's review on the 2024 musical movie hit, "Wicked."



**NEWS BRIEFS** continued from page 1

available to loan on a first come basis. Contact [schesne@nwacc.edu](mailto:schesne@nwacc.edu). There is also usually one copy in the NWACC library.

**Finals Week Begins May 5**

All right, Eagles! Get your notes ready and sharpen your pencils, because Finals Week (May 5-9) is creeping up faster than a caffeinated squirrel.

**Student Success Resources**

The Office of Student Success is offering two new student success resources: Weekly workshops on academic success skills for students Study Buddy Program to connect students with a study partner

**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:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. to noon

Want to get started? Simply scan the QR code on the desk when you stop by Enjoy Eagles!

**Music Department Events Slated**

Students, staff, faculty and friends are welcome to enjoy the 2025 music season at NWACC. To whet your appetite for our regular concerts and many special musical offerings, we have Professor Miles Fish with a special Music & Lecture evening of "Vivaldi & Venice". There will be much going on in the Shewmaker Center for Workforce Walmart Auditorium including the NWACC Chamber Singers performing for the 100th Anniversary Convention of the Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs.

Don't forget to check your emails for updates and reminders. For questions contact S. Rene' Garcia- Oliver, Concert Hostess, at [sgarciaoliver@nwacc.edu](mailto:sgarciaoliver@nwacc.edu)

**Library Workshops Slated for Semester**

Interactive, 75-minute Academic Literacy Workshops cover a variety of topics to support information literacy, student success, and student life.

Participate in eight or more workshops and earn a recognition stamp on your NWACC transcript. You must be present and participate in the entire session to earn workshop credit toward the transcript recognition stamp. You'll be able to track and monitor your workshop participation in your ConexED account.

Register at <https://bit.ly/LibraryLearn>

Tuesday sessions are at 4:30 p.m. online on Teams

Wednesday sessions are hybrid in Burns Hall 1208 and on Teams

**Food Pantry & Pop-Up Pantry**

NWACC's food pantry is available to students and employees to assist in food shortages you may be experiencing. Feel free to apply for assistance or donate food to help fellow students and employees.

Be sure to fill out a food pantry distribution request form EVERY time you request food from the pantry.

For emergency cases, please contact [studentlife@nwacc.edu](mailto:studentlife@nwacc.edu).

Food will be distributed every other Wednesday and Thursday at the COX Welcome Desk in Burns Hall. View the food pantry distribution dates.

The Pop Up Pantry is for Students, Faculty, and Staff to get free meal and fresh fruits, vegetables, milk products, and eggs. This will happen once a month in Student Center 108.

**The Butcher's Larder at Brightwater now open**

The new Brightwater butchery shop, The Butcher's Larder, is open each week on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 6:30 pm., and NWACC faculty and staff are welcome to come by.

While the program is still in the training and building phase with the students, the team is excited to welcome everyone. The shop will have fresh meats, sausages, and charcuterie available.



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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.*

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Construction in the Community

Road work and construction continues around NWACC

**Kay King**  
**Editor-In-Chief**

During the 2018 Community Planning process, the citizens of Bentonville collectively prioritized thoughtful growth as a pressing concern for our next 10 to 20 years. In response, the city of Bentonville launched a more in-depth community conversation around exactly what that looks like. It's called Plan Bentonville, and the city asked a series of questions about how and where the community would want to grow. "What character do we want to cultivate? How do we want our streets to feel and function? Where in the city should we encourage desired growth and where do we seek to preserve the qualities we love?" said Bentonville.com.

The Bentonville Community Plan, created by the Comprehensive Planning division, was initially adopted on Oct.23, 2018, and later amended on Feb.11, 2025. The plan - fully titled "Bentonville Community Plan, A Plan for a New American Town," - states, "The Bentonville Community Plan addresses the issues, challenges, trends, and opportunities facing the community. The Plan articulates a vision for Bentonville that reflects the community's aspirations while respecting the unique character and defining sense of place that distinguishes Bentonville from



Ongoing construction on Water Tower Road. Photo by Kharma Beck

other places. The Community Plan addresses issues related to land use and development, sense of place, transportation and mobility, facilities and infrastructure, open space and environment, economic development, and much more."

The plan is not an ordinance or a regulation, but instead serves to identify key areas of focus, define a vision for future growth and development, and provide guidance for city actions and investments over the next 10 to 20 years. The city of Bentonville is becoming a key player on a national scale, being home to world headquarters for Walmart, world renowned trail systems, NWA regional airport, and cultural amenities like the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Bentonville Film Festival. According to the plan, these assets are "bringing wide-spread

attention to the city at large. The city's continued growth as a corporate, recreational, and cultural hotspot is putting Bentonville on the national and global stage."

Bentonville has completed Phase 1, Future Land Use Plan, to guide the city on the road ahead. Now the community moves into Phase 2 — updating the zoning code — to ensure that the rules that govern local development are aligned with the community aspirations that are being mapped out now. Per the timeline on [planbentonville.com](http://planbentonville.com), as of Feb. 11, 2025, "Bringing closure to a lengthy process of community engagement and hard work, Bentonville's City Council unanimously approves Plan Bentonville's proposed Future Land Use Map and accompanying Alignment Policy."

Students of NWACC have



voiced that the construction is no longer as confusing as it has been in previous weeks, and the congestion of entering the school has lightened. To contact or give your feedback to the city of Bentonville, go to [www.plan-bentonville.com/contact](http://www.plan-bentonville.com/contact).

NWACC Tuition Will Increase for Fall Semester

**Trustees to raise the tuition for students in the upcoming fiscal year**

**Chelsea Castillo**  
**Managing Editor**

On Feb. 17, NWACC's board of trustees approved raising tuition and fees for students in the upcoming fiscal year of 2026. The fiscal year begins July 1, 2025.

The meeting held two rounds of voting for the matter. The original proposed tuition and fees plan had it set for a tuition raise for the next three fiscal years, but that plan failed to pass. The second round of votes approved for the next fiscal year passed 6-1. One trustee, Joe Spivey, voted against the proposed increase both times. The approved fees include an additional \$12 per credit hour and \$5 per course for the forthcoming fiscal year. The fees would go toward improving

campus experience for students and helping improve the wages for staff and faculty.

While the original proposal that trustees considered was to approve a plan for increased tuition levels for the next three fiscal years, the idea met resistance from some of the trustees. In the first round of voting, the proposal received 5 nays and 2 yes votes. Trustee Spivey spoke about his disapproval of the plan. Spivey said on the course of his re-election in fall of 2024 he spoke to many voters who worried about any new tuition raises that might be proposed in the future and he assured them he would be against any more raises. "When you make a promise, you can't break that promise," Spivey said at the meeting.

NWACC's President Dennis Rittle told trustees that the raise will allow improvements

in maintaining the campus buildings and keeping up with staff salaries in following years. When most trustees seemed to have reservations, Rittle said, "I know it brings heartburn towards tuition, but it is necessary." At the meeting, presenters stated there isn't another way of cost cutting, and raising fees is an effective way for improvement.

Trustees then conducted the vote on the fiscal 2026 tuition rate, which resulted in the 6-1 vote.

While NWACC's financial team received the approval for the first year of tuition increases, the board members wanted to reserve the option of considering further increases in subsequent years. Rittle said, "We need to do this for our staff, for our students, and for our community."

NWACC Trustee Mark Scott was absent.



Student presenters from the NWACC book club and Intro to gender studies class lead a discussion of "sissy," the debut collection of poems by national endowments for the arts award winning writer, Canese Jarboe.

**CONTINUED from Success 1**

Toni Garcia-Butler, poet and community artist.

SG Huerta, Xicanx writer, editor, and organizer.

Mary Spears Polk, Youth Services Manager for the Faulkner County Library System.

Sean Fitzgibbon, professor, artist and author.

Traci Hall, collaborative pianist for the NWACC Music Department and University of Arkansas.

Dr. Lenora Green-Turner, professor of voice at the University of Arkansas.

Chris Huggard, NWACC Professor of History.

Cory D. Perry, internationally recognized multimedia and performance folk artist.

Bitty Martin, board member of the Garland County Historical Society.

Heather McCain and Shawna Thorup, NWACC Librarians.

Ajamu Kojo, artist.

Jane V. Blunsch, writer.

Dana Doughty, seamstress, business owner, artist, teacher, community organizer, and NWACC Honors graduate.

Jud Ferguson, former professional skateboarder.

Freda Goodman, director of the NWACC Chamber Singers and co-advisor of the Music Club at NWACC.

Chris Lynch, director of advanced technologies at NWACC.



Photos by Nadia Moutria



Chris Huggard presenting for Women Taking Risk in Civil War Benton County. Photo by Nadia Mountria

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](http://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.



# Alice Driver and “The Life and Death of the American Worker” at SACF

Chelsea Castillo  
Managing Editor

This year’s Spring Arts and Culture Festival theme was “Risk” and had keynotes from Ajamu Kojo and Alice Driver. Alice Driver spoke to audiences the past Monday morning as a kickoff to the week’s events. Driver is the author of the book, “The life and Death of the American Worker.” The book was a heavy talking point at Monday’s Lecture. It primarily focuses on immigrant Tyson workers in Arkansas during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and how that impacted their lives.

Driver is a James Beard Award-winning investigative journalist and native of Arkansas. When writing her book about Tyson immigrant workers, Driver said, “I never decided to write this book, I came here to write one article.” During the beginning of the pandemic, Driver thought about how the meatpacking industry would be heavily impacted by this epidemic. She applied for a grant from National Geographic that funded her work on the book and got her to work with a local newspaper during her time in NorthWest Arkansas. Throughout her work on this story, she faced many hardships. Many people were hesitant to talk to Driver for her investigation. Driver said, “Nobody wanted to speak with me. They said, if I speak to a journalist, I’ll lose my job.” Driver also spoke about how the local newspaper she worked with at the time wasn’t pleased with her story either. Driver mentioned how they would criticize her and call her a “terrible journalist” while pursuing this story.

Yet throughout the hardships, Driver knew the story of the immigrant workers had to be shared. Driver is a bilingual speaker, which helped her to communicate with the workers who spoke to her about their experiences. Driver felt it was of the utmost importance that people should know what was happening. At the beginning, Driver told the interviewees that they could speak to her, and it will be anonymous to ensure the safety and protection of the person’s well-being and family. “There are all these barriers to them getting help or knowing their rights or feeling any sense of trust in you, and that they’re going to be protected if they tell their story to a journalist”, Driver stated at the lecture.

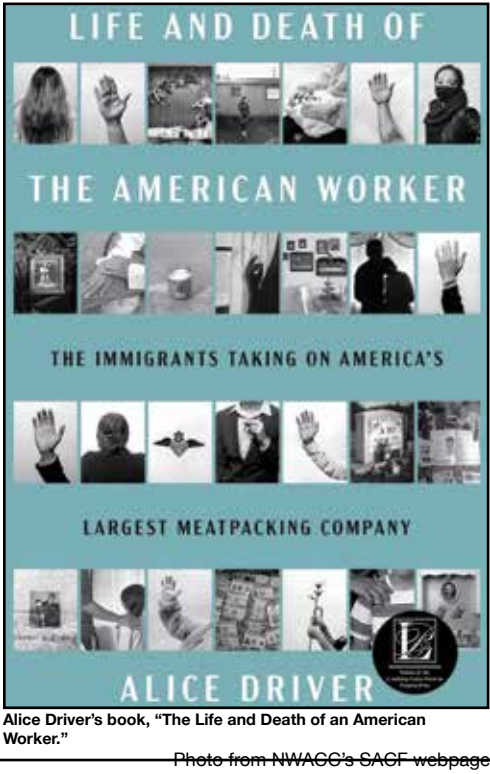
In her book, “The Life and Death of the American Worker: The Immigrants Taking on America’s Largest Meatpacking Company” she shares the stories of workers over the course of 4 years. For her determination in her writing this book, she gained access to their lives. Driver spent countless hours in the workers homes and even accompanying them to doctor’s appointments to tell their stories honorably.

She wrote in her book the story of Plácido and Angelina Arrue, Tyson workers and natives of El Salvador who resided in Springdale, Arkansas. Plácido died of Covid July 2, 2020, and Angelina embarked on a mission to share the story of his life and death. They faced many health problems after working for Tyson for almost 20 years, such as cuts from their work of cutting chickens, being prone to hazardous falls due to the working conditions in the plant, or lack of safety equipment during their shifts. Yet, the company still gave no attention to the needs of their employees. During the pandemic, Driver stated that there were no regulations on social distancing, and the workers would work shoulder to shoulder amongst one another. With those conditions, workers faced the worst of the disease and led to the deaths of many immigrant workers.

Drivers’ presentation sparked many attendees of the event to open their eyes on what has been going on in their community in the past several years, even decades. Rebecca Babington, a student at NWACC, said, “I didn’t know about any of this and what was happening to incarceration inmates and immigrant workers, it’s a sad realization that we have not changed at all.” Many of the attendees were rallied with questions on what they can do to spread awareness of the maltreatment of workers, and where to learn more information about the situation. Babington said afterwards that she is planning to purchase Driver’s book very soon to inform herself on the story more. When asked what she would hope attendees took away from her event, Driver said, “In Arkansas, there are so many stories to be told, and we really need more people doing that work, and Arkansas is a state that often gets ignored and there’s so much work needed to be done here.”



Alice Driver speaking to audience members during her opening keynote at SACF. Courtesy Photo



Alice Driver's book, "The Life and Death of an American Worker." Photo from NWACC's SACF webpage

*“In Arkansas, there are so many stories to be told, and we really need more people doing that work, and Arkansas is a state that often gets ignored and there’s so much work needed to be done here.”*

- Alice Driver

# Ajamu Kojo Closing Keynote at 21C, “One’s Artist’s Struggle for Integrity”

## Artist Ajamu Kojo pays a visit to NWACC for Spring Arts & Culture Festival

Chelsea Castillo  
Managing Editor

Throughout the first week of March, NWACC hosted its annual Spring Arts and Culture Festival. Many events that took place were, Diva Dancing NWA, True Crime Investigation: “Snake Eyes”, “Risk” Readings & Open Mic, etc. This year, the festival had two keynotes, Alice driver and Ajamu Kojo. Ajamu Kojo had two events such as, his Q and A at NWACC’s White auditorium Wednesday morning, and later that Wednesday night at 21c Museum hotel in Bentonville City Square.

Ajamu Kojo works as a figurative painter and scenic artist in the TV and Film industry while living in Brooklyn, New York. Kojo was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas and mentioned how glad he is to be back to the state during his time at the festival. He has had some of his artwork displayed in shows such the HBO series “Insecure” and Hulu’s original series, “Only Murders in the Building.” Kojo spoke about his journey into his career and how he started off with the intention of being an attorney but throughout his studies, he said, “I learned that I preferred to make a film of being an attorney instead of becoming one.” At his closing keynote at 21c, Kojo spoke about his many art pieces such as his 2017 exhibition “Black Wall Street: A Case for Representation.”

Kojo first learned about the 1921 Tulsa massacre of Black Wall Street while attending Howard university for undergraduate in film studies. Kojo

mentioned how it stuck to him and how he felt a lot of the information about it had been swept under the rug for a long period of time. “I had the opportunity to create a solo exhibit in New York, so I remembered about the Tulsa massacre at Black Wall Street. I knew I needed to address the massacre itself.” Throughout the much suffrage black people have faced, Kojo’s mission for this exhibition was to reflect the positivity they held regardless, and to not let what had happened to them be ignored. Each art piece of the exhibition was a portrait of a black family impacted at the time, and at the bottom of each canvas resembled fire damage to the portrait in nod to what was used against them in the massacre. While on the top of the canvas, it showed the effect of dripping “crude oil,” which was one of the factors the land they were living on that was heavily coveted and main things sought to be destroyed in the massacre.

At the end of his keynote, Kojo spoke about what he hopes attendees take away from his time at Spring Arts and Culture Festival, he said, “I hope they walked away knowing that fear shouldn’t cripple them from goals they want to chase for themselves.” He also spoke about some advice he would give to those choosing a similar career path as him. Kojo said, “You must keep going no matter what. Don’t spend time worrying about whether that you’re going to make enough money, I know we live in a capitalist society, but it should only matter that you get better at what you love to do.”

**CONTINUED from Park 1**

hour.

OZ Trails, Northwest Arkansas’s signature trail system, is a world-class network showcasing the Ozarks’ unique terrain. It connects communities throughout the region, featuring purpose-built trails seamlessly blending with the natural landscape. The announcement of the park has been met with resounding approval from the local biking community.

Still, some residents of Bella Vista have trepidations about the challenges presented by traffic congestion and parking. Marla Barina, a Bella Vista resident since 2005, expressed her concerns through public comment at the Bella Vista Planning Commission Meeting on March 10, 2025. Barina commented that the plan for parking and pedestrian crossings toward the park is dangerously inadequate and inherently unsafe. Referencing pedestrians and cyclists crossing the intersection entering the park and nearby roads, Barina said, “That particular

intersection and Oldham Road are the worst in our whole city, and this is just going to make it 100 times worse. And I guess we’re going to have to have people killed before anything is going to change.” Another Bella Vista resident and City Council Member, Craig Honchell, summed up his concerns by saying, “If this development blows up like anticipated, we have exactly one shot to get this right because it’s going to affect this community 20 years down the road.”

Whether you’re a seasoned cyclist, a hiker, or an outdoor enthusiast of any skill level, OZ Trails offers an unparalleled experience. Through strategic trail development and maintenance, the system has positioned Northwest Arkansas as a premier destination for outdoor recreation. By combining natural beauty with accessible infrastructure, like the bike park, OZ Trails creates unique outdoor experiences that truly reflect the region’s character and foster growth.



Crowds were engaged and excited to see exhibits and discuss the bike park with contractors and representatives from involved parties. OZ Trails hosted an Open House for the public to see renderings of the bike park. Photo by Braxton Kehr.

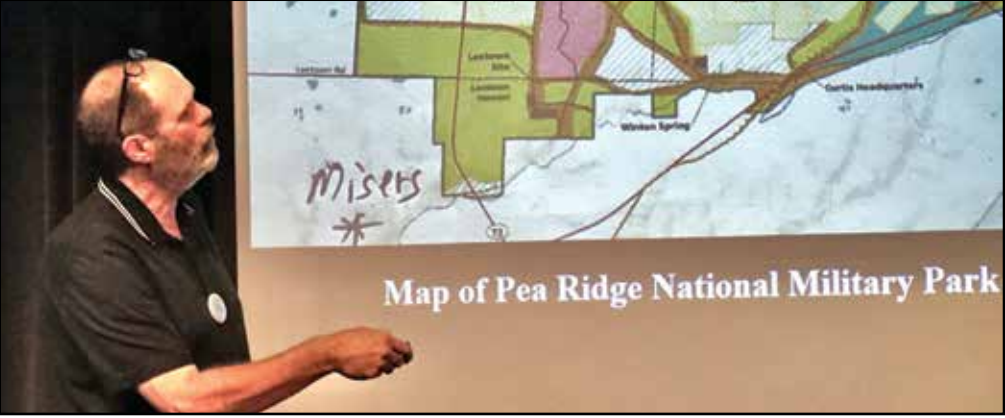


Ajamu Kojo and Erin Hughes speaking at the 21C closing Keynote event. Photo by Chelsea Castillo



# Risks in Benton County History

## Presentation Explores Women Taking Risks During Wartime



Professor Chris Huggard speaking at “Women Taking Risks in Civil War Benton County,” SACF Event.

Photo by Nadia Moutria

**Presli Sickels, Ryen Hale, and Terrance Poole**  
Contributors

Professor Chris Huggard, history professor at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, took a risk on March 4 in sharing several different women’s perspectives on the Civil War in Benton County. His presentation, titled “Women Taking Risks in Civil War Benton County, Arkansas” was part of the Spring Arts & Culture Festival at NWACC. The theme for this year’s annual festival was “Risk.” His presentation was described this way in the full event schedule: NWACC Professor Chris Huggard will present on the responses of women principally to the dangers caused by the risks of living during Civil War in NWA, especially after the major battles of Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove in 1862. Huggard has always had an interest in history. “I began as a mining historian,” Huggard said. He and Terrence M. Humble were the co-authors of the book, “Santa Rita Del Cobre: A Copper Mining Community in New Mexico.” The work was published by the University of Colorado in 2012 as part of the Mining the American West series. “Santa Rita Del Cobre” was the winner of the 2012 Howard Bryan Western History Award, a 2012 Southwest Book Award, and the 2013 Clark C. Spence Award for Best Book in Mining History. In conjunction

with his interest in mining history, Huggard has been active in the Mining History Association and served as president of the organization in 2022-23. Another area of interest to the history professor has been the history of Pea Ridge’s battlefield site. The Battle of Pea Ridge, also known as the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern, took place during March 7-8, 1862. Huggard has been awarded a contract to write the history of the Pea Ridge National Military Park. In the manuscript titled “On Pea Ridge: Civil War Battle, Community Memory, and the Making of a National Park,” Huggard will include information about personal experiences of women who lived in Benton County during the Civil War. The risks covered in the book and in his presentation include women’s roles changing by becoming the main providers of the family, clothing, feeding troops, and even stealing rival horses. Huggard said of the overall book: “It is a big, long history story, history of settlement, battle of Pea Ridge, the chain of what happened after, establishing national cemeteries, and the National Park.” This book is still in the writing process, but Huggard looks forward to seeing the work published within the next year and a half. *Presli Sickels, Ryen Hale and Terrance Poole are students in the spring 2025 class of Storytelling for Today’s Media.*

# Returning College Student Explores Next Steps

## ‘It Will Work Out,’ She Would Tell Younger Self

**Shannon Padilla**  
Contributor

Megan Castaneda is a returning student at NorthWest Arkansas Community College. She was born in Honduras and lived there for the first two years of her life before her family moved to Bentonville. As a returning student, Castaneda has taken serious consideration into her next steps in life and what path she might lead. Castaneda decided to head back to school in hopes of finishing her degree. She studies fine art, specifically graphic design. She previously attended NWACC three years ago directly after high school but took a break to test out other hobbies such as interior design and mural painting. She wanted to give graphic design a second chance to make sure that it was what she truly wanted to pursue. After a semester back, however, she realized that it may not be her truest passion. Her latest and seemingly most natural interest, naturopathy, has been sparking attention within her again. With a unique knack for understanding the ins and outs of how the world connects to us on a deeper level, Castaneda seems to have a keen attentiveness for listening to the body and understanding what may or may not be serving someone’s physical and mental well-being. Whether that looks like a formal

degree plan or interning under a mentor, Castaneda knows this is the shift she is meant to take. According to friends and family, she is constantly learning new ways to lead a healthier and more mindful life. Her husband, Calvin Snyder, says her best traits are “Her love for others, her drive to grow and her passion for connecting to the Earth.” Megan and Calvin’s main goals at the moment are to explore what else might be out there for two young adventurers, whether that’s living and traveling in a van they hope to convert themselves or eventually moving abroad. Megan’s biggest career goal would be to one day work for herself and share the knowledge she has learned about the world. “I’d love to work for something that feels true to me and showcases an authentic representation of myself,” she said. Castaneda loves to juggle many hobbies at once, usually finding time to knit, journal, read, cook, and explore outdoor activities such as hiking and camping in the warmer months with friends. One memory, from her friend Elijah Smith, involved getting lost on the way to a campsite: “We took a wrong turn because we got distracted listening to music and ended up with no service, completely lost and unsure of where to go next. Eventually with everyone’s help, we found a few road signs that looked familiar



Megan Castandea

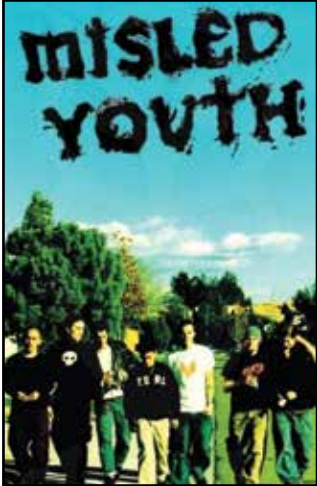
and got our GPS working again. We took a scary situation and made it a fun story.” Mainly a homebody, Castaneda will occasionally head out to listen to live music or attend local events. When asked if she could tell anyone in the world only one thing, she responded with, “I would tell them that nothing is truly that deep. As I get older every year, I continue to realize that nothing is as big of a deal as I make it out to be. Also to do your best and not overthink it.” When asked what advice she would give to her younger self, she responded with, “It will work out.” Mental hardships throughout her teens caused Castaneda to develop a mindset of worry, but as she’s come to realize, “It will keep getting better. As a kid, I put a lot of expectations on myself, coming from a family with very high standards. I would tell my younger self that I can be whoever I want to be, people may judge, but that’s fine. Be true to yourself.”

# Misled Youth:

## Risk, Reward & the Skater’s Journey

**Terrance Poole**  
Contributor

The Mislead Youth event, held in student center 108, explored the theme of Risk with former professional skateboarder Jud Ferguson in an event that blended film, storytelling, and inspiration. Hailing from Little Rock, Arkansas, Ferguson left everything behind to pursue a professional skating career in Los Angeles, a bold leap that shaped his life and legacy. The event kicks off with a screening of Misled Youth, a film that captures the raw energy, creative freedom, and rebellious spirit of skateboarding. Featuring Ferguson, the film offers a glimpse into the world of professional skating at a time when the sport was carving out its cultural identity. Directed by Jamie Thomas in 1999, “Misled Youth” was Zero’s second video release and arguably their best video to date. With a team consisting of Adrian Lopez, Ryan Bobier, Erik Ellington, Jim Greco, Jud Ferguson, Matt Mumford and Jamie Thomas, it’s pretty easy to see why,” said the overview given by themoviedb.org. Following the screening, Ferguson discussed the personal and professional risks he took in pursuing his passion. Leaving the comfort and familiarity of home, Ferguson faced the challenges of navigating an unpredictable and highly competitive industry. From injuries to financial uncertainty, Ferguson shared insights into what it meant to put everything on the line for the chance to live his dream. In 1999, people were riding bikes, going to work and playing sports. Well that was until Jud Ferguson started skateboarding and, in a way, revolutionized it with the help of the film. The skateboard was created in the 1940-1950s, although unfortunately, it took 40-50 years for people to make it a trend. But



The Film poster of “Misled Youth.”  
Photo courtesy of SkateVideoSite

when the Misled Youth group started skateboarding they did tricks you wouldn’t usually see, ollies, kick flips, pipe grinds and many more. Now as cool as this is, it wasn’t really liked in the beginning. Unfortunately, people thought the shows of talent and athleticism were stupid or served no purpose. However Jud Ferguson and the Misled Youth battled through the challenges. Not to mention, skateboarding hurts when you fall from high jumps, land different ways and put a lot of pressure on your knees, but the team still pursued. Ferguson said, “I would be at the skate park for hours and I would try one move for hours and the gratification from landing that one move felt like the greatest thing ever” as well as, “skateboarding teaches you how to fail and get back up.” These lessons rang true during Ferguson’s discussion, because in life we fail, sometimes people don’t know how to get back up, and there are multiple ways to learn how to get back up.

**Braxton Kehr**  
Reporter

How do we perceive risk? How does our perception of risk change in media? These are the questions asked by Dana Doughty as part of the NWACC Spring Arts and Culture Festival this year. Doughty was invited to present “What’s the Risk? Collaging Identity, Media & Perceptions of Safety”. Introduced by Professor Sabrina Chesne of the English and Honors Department, Doughty shared her journey as an NWACC Alumni, an accomplished artist, and a liaison for Weave the Social Fabric Project NWA. While presenting, Doughty shared her passion for art and purpose with buoyant energy and sincerity. The discussion among students, facilitated by Doughty, was vibrant and informative. Students were asked to describe low-stakes risks taken on a daily basis and how they compare to larger risks, such as discussing gender identity or politics. The continuous theme throughout the discussion was the risk of revealing different parts of ourselves to different people. The vulnerability experienced when sharing personal views varies by platform, discussed Doughty, as she related to Erving Goffman’s seminal work “The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.” Doughty masterfully weaved together lessons from Erving Goffman about “front stage” and “backstage” versions of ourselves with the modern application of Goffman’s work through the lens of social media. Students discussed how one might curate their social media by platform for different audiences and how this gives different windows into students’ lives. As Doughty wrapped up her presentation, students seamlessly transitioned into collage and used art to express the ideas discussed. A bounty of collage materials such as magazines, newspapers, portraits, paintings, and more were available to students. When collaging began in earnest, Doughty enthusiastically encouraged everyone to be



In photos above starting from the left, Gauge Boze, NWACC student, works on his collage, and students listen to the presentation on Risk in Media. Below, Charista Paine, honors student at NWACC, takes a break from collaging and students collaborate on a collage that represents risk in media. Dana Doughty presented “Collaging Risk in Media” as part of the Spring Arts and Culture Festival at NWACC on March 6.



Spring Arts and Culture Festival Logo.

Photo from NWACC’s SACF webpage

genuine in their expression, stay light-hearted, not obsess over perfection, and explore their ideas and artwork with gusto. As students began collaging, the enthusiasm remained high, and the discussion continued among smaller groups. Charista Paine, an NWACC Honors student, playfully riffed with Doughty and others about the effort needed for artwork, saying, “If you want to take it seriously, then you have to put in the effort.” Another student, Gauge Boze, when asked how he felt about the workshop, said, “I really enjoyed it!” The finished collage will be presented later this month. Even on the last day of the Arts and Culture Festival, engagement remained high, and enthusiasm was unbridled. In a world of ever-changing perceptions and risks, the blessing of a handful of people sharing ideas and collaborating in kinship was inspiring and refreshing.



# How to Crowdfund Your Creativity

## Festival Speaker Discusses Finding Resources for Projects

**Dayanti Arechiga and Shannon Padilla**  
Co-News Editor and Contributor

The lecture, “Taking the Next Risk: The Art of Crowdfunding with Sean Fitzgibbon,” demonstrated how to crowdfund your project and publish it. Fitzgibbon has firsthand experience with this due to his work on his book, “What Follows Is True: Crescent Hotel.” The book tells the haunted stories of the Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs, AR, that Fitzgibbon had been fascinated with since childhood. The book was independently created by Fitzgibbon, meaning everything was self-published, including marketing his idea to others. Aside from being an author and artist, Fitzgibbon teaches at NorthWest Arkansas Community College as an art professor. He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree and has a continued passion for visual storytelling. To add, he holds the 2022 Arkansas Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship Award for his novel and was a recipient of the 2021 Artists 360 grant. Fitzgibbon is seen as an independent creator, marketing his book on sites such as Kick starter.

Kick starter is a crowdfunding app that allows users to donate to independent projects ranging from books to music to games. Crowdfunding is a term used for the act of raising scattered amounts of money for a specific venture with the help of an audience. This is where Fitzgibbon had originally begun the funding for his book and successfully raised money to his goal with the help of others donating. As he began his journey on Kick starter, he used two books, specifically, “Your First Kick starter Campaign” by Vilius Stanislavaitis and “Crowdfunded” by Mark Pecota, as well as the podcast “Comix Launch” with Tyler James, to fuel

his comprehension on the matter. Fitzgibbon originally sought out a publisher and soon found out things were not as easy as it seemed; Fitzgibbon had close calls with publishers interested in his book but did not take a chance on it. The reason can be summed up with the idea that “...they were unfamiliar with the material,” and would rather look for a story that is “universal,” according to Fitzgibbon. This roadblock is found whether you are scouting out publishers on your own or with a literary agent.

This made Fitzgibbon take matters into his own hands, finding a printing company that met the requirements that he looked for his ideal book. Fitzgibbon moved onwards with the company until the mention of the price came up. This led him to start his Kick starter account, and within a month, he was fortunate enough to earn the donations of many to hit his goal. He would hit this by creating a package system for the amount of money donated by each person, he would find it easier to obtain his financial target. Each package would include a different item and amount of items; for example, there would be a print and book included with a certain price donated once the objective was hit. Once hit, he would proceed with the printing process. He sent many books and print packages to those who supported his art.

Afterwards, the audience members were asked about their thoughts on the lecture and if it had changed their perspectives on independent creators/creations. Audience member Yuselly Escobar commented about Fitzgibbon’s lecture, stating, “I think it was interesting how he explained it in depth and where it started.” She comes from a standpoint where she is an avid follower of indie animation and knows, to a point, how much



Sean Fitzgibbon Speaking at his SACF Lecture.  
Photo by Nadia Moutria

work goes into pieces like these. The second member, Erin Hughes, had more insight about the Kick starter site: “...all of the research he did is important because he had an exact minimum.” This is foreshadowing the aspect of Kick starter that becomes a gamble to be a part of. If you did not meet your goal for the project, you would have to lose all the money donated to Kick starter. All the donors would be refunded, and no fees would be collected by the company; this would become an ultimate loss to the creator of the fund. Fitzgibbon advises on this particular aspect of the site, believing that you should keep a Kick starter open for a month. This would give the “all or nothing” feel for your project and to those donating. This makes Fitzgibbon’s efforts and accomplishments something to marvel at as he continues to work on his future projects. This includes a new nonfiction graphic novel about the folklore and history of the Plum Bayou Mounds.

# Prepared to Be Pinched for St. Patty’s Day

## St. Patrick may be the patron saint of Ireland, but many holiday traditions were born in the United States.

**Kay King**  
Editor-in-Chief

From a sacred Irish holiday to an American gimmick, originally celebrated with religious feasts and services, St. Patrick’s Day became a secular celebration of Irish culture when it reached the United States alongside Irish immigrants. St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of St. Patrick’s death in 461. St. Patrick was a 5th-century missionary to Ireland and later served as bishop there. He is credited with bringing Christianity to parts of Ireland and was probably partly responsible for the Christianization of the Picts and Anglo-Saxons, according to Britannica.com. Ireland is also renowned for its wealth of folklore, like tales of tiny leprechauns with hidden pots of gold, and the many legends associated with the life of St. Patrick. St. Patrick was a 5th-century missionary to Ireland who is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. He became a legendary figure by the end of the 7th century and is considered a patron saint of Ireland. According to legend, before reaching sainthood, Patrick miraculously drove all the snakes of Ireland into the sea, he is said to have used the three leaflets of the shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity, and also performed miracles like reportedly raising as many as 33 people from the dead. Either as a coincidence or evidence of the saint, before their introduction as pets and in zoos in the 20th century, snakes had not lived on the island for thousands of years since the Ice Age. Common English animals such as the weasel and the mole do not exist in Ireland, so there would not be any way for a wild snake to survive without that prey to rely on. For several centuries, March 17 was a day of solemnity in Ireland with Catholics attending church in the morning and partaking of modest feasts in the afternoon. There were no parades and certainly no emerald-tinted food products, particularly since blue, not green, was the traditional color associated with Ireland’s patron saint prior to the 1798 Irish Rebellion, said History.com.

It was emigrants, particularly to the United States, who transformed St. Patrick’s Day into a largely secular holiday of revelry and celebration of things Irish. Cities with large numbers of Irish immigrants, who often wielded political power, staged the most extensive celebrations, which included elaborate parades, said Britannica.com. Boston held its first St. Patrick’s Day parade in 1737, followed by New York City in 1762. Since 1962 Chicago has colored its river green to mark the holiday. Irish and non-Irish alike commonly participate in the “wearing of the green”—sporting an item of green clothing or a shamrock, the Irish national plant, in the lapel. Corned beef and cabbage are associated with the holiday, and even beer is sometimes dyed green to celebrate the day. Although some of these practices eventually were adopted by the Irish themselves, they did so largely for the benefit of tourists. The March 17 parades by the Irish through the streets of New York

City raised the ire of nativist, anti-Catholic mobs who started their own tradition of “paddy-making” on the eve of St. Patrick’s Day by erecting effigies of Irishmen wearing rags and necklaces of potatoes with whiskey bottles in their hands until the practice was banned in 1803, said History.com. After Irish Catholics flooded into the country in the decade following the failure of Ireland’s potato crop in 1845, they clung to their Irish identities and took to the streets in St. Patrick’s Day parades to show strength in numbers as a political retort to nativist “Know-Nothings.” “Many who were forced to leave Ireland during the Great Hunger brought a lot of memories, but they didn’t have their country, so it was a celebration of being Irish,” says Mike McCormack, national historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians. “But there was also a bit of defiance because of the bigotry by the Know-Nothings against them.” McCormack says attitudes toward the Irish began to soften after tens of thousands of them served in the Civil War. “They went out as second-class citizens but came back as heroes,” he says. As the Irish slowly assimilated into American culture, those without Celtic blood began to join in St. Patrick’s Day celebrations. The party atmosphere only spread to Ireland after the arrival of television when the Irish could see all the fun being had across the ocean. “Modern Ireland took a cue from America,” McCormack says. The multi-day St. Patrick’s Day Festival, launched in Dublin in 1996, now attracts one million people each year. There are some American traditions, however, that might not catch on in Ireland, such as green Guinness. As McCormack says, “St. Patrick never drank green beer.”



Graphic by the extraordinary Kay King

# Music Motivated Maven

## Curated Tastes Provide Soundtrack for Day-to-Day Life

**Dayanti Arechiga**  
Co-News Editor

Skyler Baird finds music and connection with others around her important– these are cardinal as she navigates her life, giving her strength as she faces the life ahead of her. Baird was born in Springdale and has lived there ever since. She is majoring in General Business at the NorthWest Arkansas Community College, hoping to transfer to the University of Arkansas. When at the university, Baird hopes to pursue a marketing or advertising major. When asked what particular career she strives to achieve, Baird comments, “I hope to go into business and marketing or advertising...” with the hope of holding down a steady job and income after graduating. There is more to Baird than schooling. Music plays an important role in her day-to-day life.

Whenever she can, her curated music taste will be playing for every situation. Recently, she has been trying to get into different types of music genres, such as the Neo-psychedelia genre. The genre has notable names such as The Flaming Lips or the modernly known Tame Impala. The music can also be described as “acid punk” and is filled with funky electronic instruments and synths, along with a strong bassline. When questioned about an artist specifically that she has been enjoying in this genre, Baird remarked: “I’ve been listening to some Olivia Tremor Control, specifically their Dusk at Cubist Castle.” The album, “Dusk at Cubist Castle,” has been a standout for the music-motivated individual.

Baird has made an impact on those around her, whether at work or school. This can be seen throughout those who have encountered her and her personality. Two of her friends– Anna Matkowski, a co-worker and friend, and Akiyah Catron – provided additional insight into Baird’s character and personality.

Matkowski has known Baird for an estimated year. “We met because of a mutual friend and grew our friendship through our job,” she said. When asked about working together, there was a favorite moment that stood out to Matkowski with Baird; On a slower shift, they found themselves on the floor cleaning grout to pass the time but when cleaning, they found themselves “...talking about events in our life recently, we started calling it our ‘floor debrief time’” That moment explains the connection between the two and also showcases what her friend describe as Baird’s “light.” When asked about Baird as a friend, Matkowski described her in one simple sentence, “...a positive bubble that brightens up any room she walks in!” Matkowski hopes that “...everyone around her also sees her light” when encountering Baird.

When speaking with Catron about Baird, she remembers meeting her for the first time in their freshmen year of high school’s Spanish class. The two quickly became friends that year and have remained friends since that time. When asked about any special memories with Baird, Catron reminisced about a trip to Silver Dollar City. When asked about any special memories with Baird, Catron reminisced about her trip to Silver Dollar City with the girl. “Skyler knows how to have fun,” Catron said. “So, all memories are good ones, but I fondly remember our long Silver Dollar City day with our friend Zander. I had so much fun.” After knowing Baird for a good amount of time, Catron would describe her personality as a “...sweet and straightforward girl who makes it her life mission to play.” For clarification, playing is a term used by the circle of friends to describe their hangouts and time spent together. This is something Baird finds herself enjoying as another way to relax. When asked about any finishing words for the student, Catron commented, “...she is constantly grinding at being an awesome friend, coworker, family member, and student. I don’t know how she does it all!”



Skyler Baird

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# Top Golf Tournament Benefits NWACC Athletics

Braxton Kehr  
Reporter

Supporters of NWACC were invited to take a swing at the TopGolf Tournament benefiting student-athletes at NWACC on March 13. Presented by Textbook Brokers, NWACC’s partner for book-store operations, the tournament hosted supporters for a few hours of fun and camaraderie as both pre-formed and ad-hoc teams chipped away at their chance for a series of prizes. Seventeen teams had registered in advance for this year’s tournament.

From serious contenders to those just looking for a laugh, everyone was drawn in by the chance for fun, prizes, and a worthy cause. Prizes were awarded for the Most Spirited teams, Longest Drive, the Worst Golfer and more, enticing all skill levels and dispositions. Both seasoned pros and long-shot dreamers alike teed up for their chance at a cash prize in the Hole in 1 Bay. NWACC’s own Bookstore staff, competing as “Bookstore Bonkers” took home numerous prizes including High Score and Most Spirited. “Bookstore Bonkers” represented NWACC with smiles, cool confidence, and cheers as one of their members, Seth Williams, took home the award for Best Player. The tournament was open to all supporters including local companies like FlintCo who also received a Most Spirited Team award. Some awardees were not available



NWACC’s own “Bookstore Bonkers” took home multiple awards. Pictured are Kyle Nix, Hannah Stellpflug, and Miles Ortiz.

for presentation but will receive their prizes at a later date.

The energy was par for the course and evident in the laughs and smiles both in and out of the tee box. Players spent time mingling with co-workers, old friends, new friends, and everyone in between as calls of “Fore...NWACC Athletics rang out.” Teams of NWACC staff, family, alumni, and participating companies like FlintCo all joined in the fun and fundraising.

Fundraisers like this are an important part of our institution’s “backswing” as it enables the student-athletes to give their best effort on the “downswing” when competing. The outpouring of community support for these events acts as the follow through of NWACC’s drive on the fairway of life in the pursuit of higher education, be it on the putting green, the track, or in the classroom.



Photos by Braxton Kehr  
Brooke Brewer presents awards at the conclusion of NWACC’s Student Athletics Fundraiser at TopGolf, presented by Textbook Brokers.

# Track Team Has Solid Start Off the Block

## Brewer Highlights Future Tryouts and Student Section Opportunities

Genesis Guerra  
Co-News Editor

Brooke Brewer, Athletic Director at NWACC, encourages students to attend upcoming track events to support student athletes in their inaugural season.

In a recent interview she said, “Everybody’s always welcome to come to the meets, and they’re super fun. We usually spend the whole day there, so it’s a great chance for students to see the team in action.”

NWACC continues to grow and develop its athletic programs. The track team is already off to a great start in its first season. Currently, the focus for this season is on running events, with the addition of field events planned for next year. The team has already competed at multiple locations, including a recent meet in Colville, Kansas, and upcoming meets in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

“We have a mix of athletes specializing in different events, so there’s something for everyone,”

Brewer said. Currently, the team has five women and around 10 men. Brewer added, “The number could change as the season progresses.” The team includes a variety of athletes specializing in different track events, including short-distance sprints, long-distance running, hurdles, and relays, allowing for a broad range of competition.

There will be plenty of opportunities for students to participate, watch, and cheer on the team.

“We’re excited about what’s to come,” Brewer said. “This is just the beginning, and we’re looking forward to building the program as we move into next year.”

As the program continues to grow, additional opportunities for students to get involved will be made available. For those who are interested in joining the track team, it’s encouraged to keep an eye on announcements for tryouts. If students would like to get on the list early, they can email the athletics department at [athletics@nwacc.edu](mailto:athletics@nwacc.edu).

# Students Reflect on Taking Risks

NWACC students in Debbie Miller’s Storytelling for Today’s Media class spent the week of March 3-6 covering the Spring Arts & Culture Festival. The students incorporated their own version of “Risk” in the week’s activities when they collected audio, video, photos in addition to traditional print journalism reporting. Professor Jason Shifflett coached students through editing the video packages and producing a news segment.

This year’s Spring Arts & Culture Festival was super cool to see from a journalist perspective. As someone who is not super great at multimedia, I enjoyed

being challenged and pushed to think outside the box. Although I was only able to attend one event, I still was able to grasp what this festival’s goal was. Night & Fog was incredibly impactful and created an environment for productive, educational discussion. The wide array of events last week provided something of interest for anyone who attended

– Georgia Almaguer

I enjoyed filming Ajamu Kojo’s Q&A, but felt anxious the whole time because I wasn’t sure that I was going to be able to meet the assignment’s requirements. Aside from my anxiety, I liked hearing what Kojo had to say about being a black artist

from Arkansas as he collaborated with celebrities and created his own art series centered around Black Wall Street. I also liked that Kojo combined other black history events like the Little Rock Nine into his work.

– Edie Brannon

Some of my thoughts on the Spring Arts & Culture Festival were that it was very fun. I loved walking around and seeing everyone have their own subject and topic to show or teach. I was able to interview some people and the stories they told were amazing. All in all the festival was a blast and it sucks that I won’t be able to see another.

– Addison Tull

SEE on page 7

Ad



# Wickedly Wonderful

## “She’s Dead / The Witch of the West is dead!”



**Dayanti Arechiga**  
Co-News Editor

“Wicked”, the latest box office hit, was released on Nov. 22, 2024, just in time for the holiday season. Many know the movie to be based on the ever-popular Broadway musical, “Wicked.” Originally starring Idina Menzel as Elphaba, better known as the Wicked Witch of the West, and Kristen Chenoweth as Glinda the Good Witch. Few know the musical was originally adapted from the book “Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West” written by Gregory Maguire.

Taking a closer look into how this all occurred, we find one of the most classic movies we all watched when growing up, “The Wizard of Oz.” The film follows a young girl named Dorothy and her little dog, Toto. The two live peacefully on a Kansas farm with her family until, one day, an otherworldly tornado sweeps them away. Dorothy and Toto somehow find themselves in the magical technicolor world of Oz.

To fit into the mysticalness of this new land, the movie itself changes its monochromatic color scheme to the total opposite. Oz is filled with a wide range of colors and special effects, creating a revolutionary, beautiful film caught in a nostalgic time capsule. The two must find their way home by listening to the advice given by Glinda the Good Witch. Along the way, they meet a few friends, such as a tin man, a scarecrow, and a cowardly lion. Together, they must defeat the Wicked Witch of the West and plead to the Wizard of Oz to grant each of their wishes.

“How would ‘Wicked’ fit into this timeline?” was a question raised when Maguire was featured in an interview with the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. When speaking about the book with the DCPA, Maguire

said that he does not view the book as a prequel to the “The Wizard of Oz” franchise: “It’s not a retelling of ‘The Wizard of Oz,’ and it’s not really a prequel. It’s another story of another life.”

It is a common perception that the movie is seen as a prequel to the franchise and commonly is treated as one to keep it simple for those who are casually watching, reading, or listening. The stage play has been performed both on Broadway and on tour since 2003 and 2005, respectively. It was created by screenwriter Winnie Holzman and musical composer Stephen Schwartz. The origins of the musical begin with Schwartz and his vacation in Hawai’i in 1996, where he first found out about the book. In return, it instantly caught his eye and mind. Afterward, Schwartz pleaded and persuaded Maguire to give him stage-production rights to create a musical. Unexpectedly, there was then a bump in the road where Maguire had already given Universal Pictures the right to make a live adaption of the book. Agreeing with Universal producer Marc Platt, Platt would agree to give up the rights if, in turn, Schwartz would allow him to become a joint producer for the musical. After negotiating, they would give Schwartz the green light to continue onto the musical and also gave Universal Pictures the rights to Wicked as a stage musical as well as the 2024 film.

You may be wondering, “What is the plot of ‘Wicked’ anyway?” Maguire created the world of “Wicked” to give us deeper insight into who the Wicked Witch of the West is. Who is the person behind the infamous name? Is she truly evil-hearted? The plot of the musical and movie are virtually the same: Years before the events of Dorothy and her friends, we meet a nerdy Elphaba, a girl who had been born green due to

a scandal her mother took part in, and a preppy and popular Glinda, with an unwilling new green roommate. The two are complete opposites of each other, unknowingly possessing qualities both yearning to have. However, as the story continues, they start to create a close and unexpected bond. The story ensues with political conflict intertwined throughout the story, which ends up separating the two girls. This creates the iconic versions of Glinda the Good Witch and the Wicked Witch of the West.

The world of “Wicked” has created many iconic moments throughout the years that have stuck with viewers, even those who know nothing about the material. An example of this is when the musical created countless memorable songs throughout the productions, such as the song “Defying Gravity.” The song features a riff done by the character of Elphaba when she has finally accepted the false narrative that would be given to her, becoming the Wicked Witch of the West. The riff originally done by the first Elphaba on Broadway, Idina Menzel, has become important to Broadway history and media as a whole. The new rendition of “Wicked,” featuring Ariana Grande as Glinda and Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba, has opened a whole new rabbit hole for those unaware of the franchise. When the film premiered across the globe, it gathered major positive acclaim for Grande and Erivo’s acting in their roles as the two girls. The relationship between the actors was palpable through the screen and earned them love from audiences familiar with the material from the past and introduced a newfound love for many more.

Dayanti Arechiga is the co-news of the NWACC Eagle View.

# Is Benjamin Franklin to Blame for Daylight Saving Time?

## Maybe Not. A Bug Lover may have Come Up with the Idea

**Genesis Guerra**  
Co-News Editor

Daylight saving time, even though its original intent often feels outdated. Still every year, we shift our clocks forward or backwards, we might even tell ourselves it’s saving energy. However, the truth we’ve consistently ignored for generations, is all that Benjamin Franklin really wanted was to save his money on candles and lamp oil. The real person we should blame for taking that one hour we so planned on dedicating to the gym, was invented by George Vernon Hudson, New Zealand entomologist and postal clerk.

In “Daylight Savings Time And The Man In Benjamin Franklin’s Long Shadow,” Dorian Rolston explains that George Vernon Hudson was a bug lover -- a scientist who was very passionate about insects, their biology and behavior. Before discovering Daylight Saving Time, Dorian Rolston notes that, “The man behind ‘seasonal time,’ as it was then called, was no hyper-productive American of founding-father fame, but rather a New Zealand postal clerk and accomplished entomologist; the man’s name was not to become synonymous with

‘Benjamins’ but with bugs: George Vernon Hudson, the man standing in Franklin’s long shadow.”

George Vernon Hudson had no intention to give us back an hour every other six months, but his dedication to bug hunting had him faced with an obstacle that many modern-day bug enthusiasts might empathize with: time. India Bourke explains in “The Creepy-Crawly Origins of Daylight Saving” George Vernon Hudson’s idea to shift the clocks during the summer months “was not for a societal shift but a personal one.” “At the age of 13, the budding amateur naturalist wrote his first manuscript – based on insects he collected and drew in meticulous detail” (Bourke).

Hudson’s legacy shows us that success isn’t always about following the traditional path. Sometimes, it’s about sticking to what matters most to you and pushing through. “ By the time of his death in 1946, he had penned and illustrated seven books, and amassed one of the largest collections of insect specimens in New Zealand.”

Daylight savings is a solution driven by Hudson’s passion for entomology.

Genesis Guerra is co-news editor of the NWACC Eagle View.



Public domain image from PICRYL

# ‘Mickey7’ Book Finally Gets Movie Adaptation

## Film ‘Mickey17’ Sci-Fi and Dark Comedy hits theaters this March after long delays

**Chelsea Castillo**  
Managing Editor

After many delays due to constant release date changes and setbacks from the actors and writers strike of 2023, “Mickey17” sci-fi and dark comedy film is officially yours to experience. The well anticipated movie-adaptation of the book “Mickey 7” hit theaters on March 7, and has taken on a different name from the book, as it is called, “Mickey 17.”

Oscar-winning director, Bong Joon Ho makes his comeback with this movie after his award-winning film “Parasite.” Boon Joon Ho delivered a comedic yet very symbolic film with “Mickey 17.” Many fans of the film have shared much praise for the movie as it connects to what many people feel about the state of our world today. The film holds an average rating of 3.7 stars out of 5 on the well renowned social app for film enthusiasts called “Letterboxd,” and with a whopping 214,994 movie reviews on the application.

I went to see the movie the following Thursday before its set release date. I managed to arrive at the theater just 5 minutes before the showtime, alongside my girlfriend, we both have been anticipating this movie for over a year. We both have strong appreciation for movies from Bong Joon Ho after our exposure to the movie “Parasite,” and have been waiting for any new work of his to be released.

I believe that “Mickey17” doesn’t disappoint the audiences. The movie delivers fun yet impactful remarks throughout its runtime. It follows main protagonist “Mickey,” as he navigates the process of dying and having his body regenerated to assist in scientific research to help humanization establish a living habitation on the ice planet called “Niflheim.”

He signs up for the role of an “expendable,” to escape earth from a loan shark who is chasing his friend “Timo” and Mickey. The spaceship heading to the new ice planet is led by “Kenneth Marshall,” who is a failed politician on earth and restores his own civilization, hence Niflheim. In the four years it takes the new civilization to reach the new planet, Mickey goes out on a mission and then is left stranded behind by his group. After Mickey accepts his fate, he is saved by the alien inhabitants,

“Creepers,” from death. When returning to the spaceship’s base, he is then led to discover that they have created another Mickey clone in his absence called, “Mickey 18.” As the movie progresses, both Mickeys navigate which one is destined to stay alive since it is illegal to have both clones exist, which in their case is called “multiples.”

The movie left me feeling all sorts of emotions such as happiness, grief, excitement, etc. The overall message of the film strongly implies how we all just want to live our life, and even with the possibility of being able to come back from the dead, it is still prominent that our fear of dying is only natural. I am planning to purchase the book “Mickey7” written by Edward Ashton in hope to learn more about the story amongst the film, and I strongly believe others should dip into this spontaneous film and book as well.

Chelsea Castillo is managing editor of the NWACC Eagle View

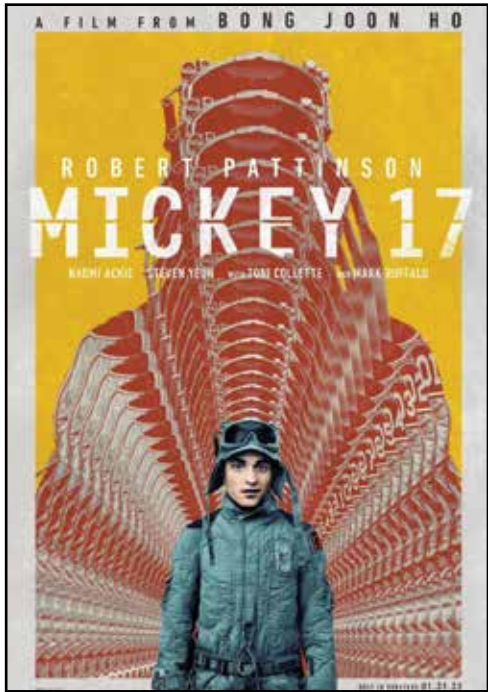


Image courtesy of Warner Brothers

**CONTINUED from Risks 6**

I enjoyed this year’s Spring Arts & Culture Festival at NWACC. I was able to try new ways of storytelling and gain new experiences. The events held this year were very impactful and gave me a new meaning of taking risks. Also, working as a team with my classmates was very fun, and I look forward to getting to experience that again.

– **Chelsea Castillo**

I enjoyed reporting on Ajamu Kojo because he had lots of valuable advice to give young artists. He told us to take risks and do things that scare you because that will help us reach your fullest potential as an artist. I also attended one of the open reading events, I loved hearing people’s poetry and excerpts from their favorite books. I think the whole festival is a great way to bring the NWACC community together. I hope it continues, and I look forward to seeing what events next year holds.

– **Alex Blanton**

I didn’t get a chance to really participate or write as much as I would have liked. However, the only events I attended were the Night and Fog and the Women Taking Risks in Civil War. Both events were heavy on detail and heavy on the heart.

– **Brett Nichols**

This year’s SACF was stressful but still fun all the same. Besides the technical difficulties, we worked

effectively and efficiently as a team. Thankfully everything was able to be pulled together at the last minute and we were able to make a wonderful broadcast.

I really enjoyed covering the Spring Arts & Culture Festival this week. Walking around to all the different workshops was exciting and I loved seeing the crowd getting involved. Speaking to the directors of each workshop and getting more information about each subject was something I enjoyed as well. My favorite part of this week was interviewing Professor Huggard about his upcoming book. I am a big fan of history and getting to hear what sparked his book was fascinating. I learned a lot about interviewing and capturing videos, which are both skills I would like to continue in the future of this class.

It was an amazing experience to cover the SACF. I liked listening to and seeing my classmates discuss their experiences at the events they went to. Although I wish I could’ve experienced more, personal circumstances limited my involvement. The highlight for me was the Don Tyson School of Innovation band and viewing the true crime podcast on the book, “Snake Eyes in a Southern Town,” which was very engaging and memorable.

– **Dylan Turner**



# Chamber Singers



The NWACC Chamber Singers under the direction of Freda Goodman and Traci Hall, collaborative pianist, and Music Professor Drew Morris combined a music performance and lecture as part of the Spring Arts and Culture Festival. The presentation on March 6 addressed the controversial music of composer Philip Glass.



Photos by Nadia Moutria

# Don Tyson Jazz Band



Members of the Don Tyson School of Innovation jazz band performed in White Auditorium on March 5. The performance was part of NWACC's Spring Arts and Culture Festival.



Photos by Nadia Moutria

## Across

- 1 Ranch unit
- 5 Guides
- 10 Dance lesson
- 14 Whiskey cocktail
- 15 Come out of denial
- 16 Beatles name
- 17 Needlecraft
- 19 Consequently
- 20 Before amble or cede
- 21 Complain
- 22 Engender
- 23 Hot condiments
- 25 Mishap
- 28 Runs in neutral
- 29 PC linkup
- 30 Bit of business attire
- 31 Petticoat junction
- 32 High \_\_\_\_
- 35 Bummed
- 36 Children’s reading material
- 39 Marry
- 42 Anxiety
- 43 Start of a nautical day
- 47 U.N. workers’ grp.
- 48 Sylvester, to Tweety
- 49 Compel
- 50 Act of turning to for assistance
- 53 Ledger entries
- 54 Balances
- 55 Wild ox
- 57 Gangster’s gun
- 58 Sawbucks
- 59 Share

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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				36	37							38		
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47					48						49			
50				51				52		53				
54								55	56				57	
58						59	60					61		
62						63						64		
65						66						67		

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- 62 Initial stake
- 63 Bond, for one
- 64 Urban haze
- 65 “Hey, buddy!”
- 66 Hauls around
- 67 Engine sound
- 8 Board member, briefly
- 9 Hog heaven?
- 10 Floor it
- 11 Shooters’ marks
- 12 Myrtle family trees
- 13 Conspired
- 18 Wood sorrels
- 22 Gambling game
- 24 School terms (Abbr.)
- 26 Duffer’s collection
- 27 Rapids transit
- 32 Navigational aid
- 33 Waste allowances
- 34 Swedish shag rug
- 37 Ballet skirts

- 38 Turning point?
- 39 Bug
- 40 Cricket teams, e.g.
- 41 Instructors
- 44 Japanese paper folding art
- 45 Eight-sided shape
- 46 Savings
- 49 Terrarium plant
- 51 Beginning
- 52 Cousin of a bittern
- 53 Twosomes
- 56 Unpopular spots
- 59 Butter serving
- 60 Bigheadedness
- 61 Kitchen meas.

# SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY: HARD

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	3								
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			7		9	8	6	4	
		5	6					1	7

SOLUTION FOR HARD SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION FOR MEDIUM SUDOKU

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

# Ready for Spring Break?

Some students are making plans

Genesis Guerra  
Co-News Editor

NWACC’s spring break will be March 24-28.

Students on campus were asked what their plans for spring break were. During a recent interview, one of NWACC’s students, Cayleigh Keeney, said she has been feeling a bit nervous for midterms, so she is very excited for break. Keeney says her plans away from school involve lying out in the sun while enjoying the

pool at her friend’s place, as any spring breaker would.

Sisters Audrey and Addison Newman have always made mini road trips part of their spring break plans. Audrey Newman said, “We usually go on a mini vacation.”

Addison Newman said, “It’s just within a few hours.” They said the plans for this spring break are to visit towns in nearby cities or states like Tulsa,Oklahoma, and the gorgeous Eureka Springs.

DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM

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AD