

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EAGLE VIEW

April/May 2026

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

Vol. 21, No.8

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News Briefs

NWACC Commencement Slated May 9

NWACC's 2026 commencement exercises will be May 9 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Walmart AMP in Rogers. Tickets are required.

Registration Deadline Nears for Summer

The last days to register for Summer 2026 classes and the relevant parts of term are listed below.

- May 11: 1st 6 Week
- May 14: 1st 12 Week
- May 26: 8 Week
- 1st 5 Week
- 10 Week
- May 28: 2nd 12 Week
- June 22: 2nd 6 Week
- June 29: 2nd 5 Week

Enrollment Support contact information is below:

- Credit Students
enrollmentsupport@nwacc.edu
Call: 479-986-4000
Text: 479-309-5532
- Workforce Students
workforceadmission@nwacc.edu

Board of Trustees Meets May 11

The NWACC Board of Trustees will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, May 11, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Burns Hall third floor boardroom.

Join the Eagle View Staff for Fall 2026

There are several openings for the fall 2026 semester at the NWACC Eagle View, its website, and related social medial channels.

If you are interested in being a reporter, photographer, graphic designer, distributor, or social media manager, there's an opening for you. To find out more, contact nwacc eagleview@nwacc.edu or the fall semester Editor-In-Chief Aneyda Reynaga at areynaga@nwacc.edu.



SUMMER AND FALL 2026 REGISTRATION OPEN

Several New Courses Offered in Fall

Cerella Lor
Reporter

BENTONVILLE, Ark. - As the 2026 spring semester ends, Northwest Arkansas Community College has begun registration for Summer and Fall 2026 courses. Class registration officially opened on April 6, and there's much to anticipate for the upcoming semesters.

Like any academic term, summer courses present both challenges and opportunities for students and instructors. Janet Dodd, General Sociology professor, explains that summer classes "can be challenging because a lot of material is covered in a relatively short amount of time." Similarly, Sheila Smith, instructor of Business and Computer Information, notes, "We must complete the same learning objectives in 4-5 weeks that we normally complete in 15 weeks. Scheduling summer vacations and fun times around classes is also a challenge."

Balancing coursework with personal life can be stressful in such a condensed timeframe. However, taking courses during the summer should not be feared and can present a valuable opportunity. These courses allow students to complete degree

requirements more quickly while engaging more intensively with the material. Summer enrollment is especially beneficial for students who desire to enter the workforce as quickly as possible or get training for a promotion at their current workplace. Ultimately, taking summer classes can be an efficient way to accelerate progress toward graduation.

Looking ahead to Fall 2026, NWACC is introducing several new courses. One addition is Judo, (PEAC 1011-01 - Judo and PEAC 1011-02 - Judo), with the first section meeting during the first eight weeks from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays, and the second section scheduled for the second eight weeks also from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays. In this course, students will learn the basics of Judo, such as throwing techniques, break falls, groundwork, arm bars, and permitted chokes, while also teaching students practical self-defense applications. This course is ideal for those interested in martial arts or personal safety.

Another new offering is Social Institutions, (SCWK 2103 - Social Institutions), which will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 1:15 p.m. This specific course covers U.S. social



A clear image of the Enrollment Support Center located in the Becky Paneitz Student Center at the Benton County campus.

institutions, such as education, welfare, and criminal justice, and how these subjects impact individuals and groups. It takes a deeper look at the challenges of navigating these institutions and how access to resources impacts life outcomes. The Social Institutions class is particularly suited for students interested in government, politics, social work, or criminal justice, as well as anyone curious about the history and influence of social

welfare in the United States. Additionally, a new course under Special Topics in Journalism - Sports Journalism - may appeal to sports enthusiasts. This class (JOUR 2853-01 - Special Topics in Journalism) meets in-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Need to register for classes? Students ready to register are encouraged to schedule an appointment with an adviser. To

schedule an in-person appointment, visit the front desk of the Enrollment Support Center located in the Student Center, or book online through the NWACC website. There are additional options to meet with an adviser over the phone, through video call, or in a virtual advising lobby, which are all easily accessible on the NWACC website. For more information or assistance, visit the NWACC website at www.nwacc.edu.

Photo by Cerella Lor

NWACC Board of Trustees Reviews Key Campus Updates

Trustees discuss college priorities, upcoming events, and institutional planning

Keenan Addington
Reporter

BENTONVILLE, Ark. - The NWACC Board of Trustees discussed a wide range of campus priorities during its recent meeting, including faculty development, student initiatives, facility updates, and a request for increased state funding. The meeting also highlighted upcoming events and ongoing efforts tied to the college's growth and long-term planning.

One of the meeting's most significant actions came when the board approved a letter to Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders requesting increased state funding for NWACC. Trustees pointed to the college's continued growth and

statewide impact, noting that NWACC served 19,188 students during the 2025 academic year, including 12,331 credit students, 2,936 early college students, and 4,885 professional students. Board members also cited the college's production of 1,113 associate degrees, 3,202 technical certificates, and 4,643 professional credentials in support of the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Faculty development was also a topic of discussion during the meeting, particularly a new 50/50 hybrid training model designed to support teaching and learning. The model combines asynchronous online instruction, in-person collaborative learning, and independent practice to help

faculty build stronger hybrid courses. The presentation from NWACC's Colleen Lawrence and Jo Schwader also highlighted peer review of assessments, sandbox reviews of course materials, and curriculum alignment efforts aimed at reducing barriers for students and improving accessibility. According to the presentation, about 35 faculty members participated in the training this semester, affecting an estimated 2,567 students.

Campus operations and long-term planning were also part of the discussion, including the launch of a new ServiceNow AI-integrated ticketing system designed to streamline work requests, improve deferred maintenance tracking, and help

SEE Board of Trustees on Page 2



Dr. Dennis C. Rittle, NWACC president (left), stands with Kim Purdy (center), who received a staff emeritus designation, and Dr. Diana Johnson, Senior Vice President for Learning (right), during a Board of Trustees meeting recognition.

Photo by Jonathan Barrett

NEWS



ACMA Honors Excellence in Student Media at Arkansas Tech Ceremony

Eagle View staff were honored with awards from the Arkansas College and Media Association.

FEATURES



Theatre Presents 'The Mad Ones'

NWACC Theatre brought an emotional and intimate musical to the stage.

SPORTS



Track Crushes School, Personal Records

NWACC Eagles have been firing on all cylinders, and the proof is in the pudding.

ACMA Honors Excellence in Student Media At Arkansas Tech Ceremony

Lu Antolinez

Senior Photographer

The Arkansas College Media Association annual conference and awards ceremony took place on April 10 at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. It brought together students from across the state to honor and celebrate creativity, storytelling, and excellence in student media.

Students representing college newspapers, yearbooks, broadcast stations, and digital platforms gathered to showcase their work and receive awards in a wide range of categories, including news writing, photography, design, and multimedia production. The annual event highlighted Arkansas' student media and offered attendees the opportunity to connect with peers and industry professionals.

Throughout the morning, attendees participated in a series of breakout sessions designed to support learning and professional growth. These sessions gave students the opportunity to build foundational skills, ask questions, and receive guidance from professionals in various fields, including videography, creative writing, podcasting, and sports journalism.

More than 340 awards were presented during the awards ceremony, including 84 first-place honors, recognizing achievements across multiple media disciplines. NWACC's student media won a total of 26 awards.

Randi Tubbs, editor-in-chief of Harding University's Petit Jean yearbook, was among the attendees. "It was a difficult year for our staff, but it helped us stay united and overcome challenges," Tubbs said. "We made it here, and as a team, we were able to earn these awards. My advice for college newspaper staff is to support one another and remember it's never too late to start over."

"My advice for students is to find your passion. Wake up and figure out what motivates you to be in this field, fight for it, and go after it," said a student from University of Central Arkansas News 6.

Beyond the awards ceremony, the event served as a space for learning and collaboration, with participants exchanging ideas and gaining insight into the evolving field of journalism. As students, media continues to adapt to new technologies and audiences, and events like ACMA play an important role in shaping the next generation of media professionals.

A list of NWACC Eagle View awards for print and digital content follows.

Two students received second-place honors in the General Excellence categories of Newspaper Editor of the Year and Reporter of the Year. Editor-in-Chief Chelsea Castillo was the runner-up in the Newspaper Editor of the Year category, and Aneyda Reynaga, managing editor, received second in the Reporter of the Year category.

Other award recipients were:

First Place

- Social Media—Breaking News: Kay King and Braxton Kehr, DC No Kings Event
- Social Media—Promotion: Riley Smith, The Eagle View, Instagram & Facebook
- Newspaper Sports Page Layout: Chelsea Castillo, November 2025 issue
- Newspaper Feature Story: Evelyn Hernandez and Terrance Poole, First in The Famil
- Online—Multimedia Package: Braxton Kehr, The Roar and the Rally (Bikes, Blues & BBQ)
- Online—Breaking News (within 24 hours of event): Braxton Kehr, Aneyda Reynaga, and Kay King, Breaking: DC Protest Draws Reported Crowd of 200,000, nwacc.eagleview.com
- Online—Headlines: Jennifer Watson, Paper Hearts, Real Grief
- Online—Newswriting: Dayanti Arechiga, Looking Back: The May 2024 Tornadoes

Second Place

- Newspaper Headlines: Braxton Kehr, Darkness at Devil's Den
- Newspaper Newswriting: Chelsea Castillo, Honors Celebrates 20 Years
- Newspaper Feature Photo: Nadia Moutria, Trio Las Hermanitas Alvarez
- Online—Multimedia Package: Chelsea Castillo, Terrance Poole, Riley Smith, Eagle View Covers No Kings Protest
- Online—Video Podcasts: Chelsea Castillo, Kay King and Riley Cook, Spring Arts & Culture Festival

Third Place

- Newspaper Newswriting: Braxton Kehr, AWS Outage Crushes Global Internet; NWACC's Canvas Offline for 12 Hours
- Newspaper In-Depth News: Braxton Kehr, Park Planned in Bella Vista
- Newspaper Feature Writing: Lu Antolinez, From Wood to Dreams

Online—Multimedia Package: Lu Antolinez, From Wood to Dreams

Online—Editorials/Commentary: Jennifer Watson, Best View of the Macy's Parade? In Front of Your TV

Online—News Photo: Braxton Kehr, DC Protest, The Capitol

Social Media—Promotion: Eagle View Facebook reel news broadcast about November issue

Honorable Mention

Online—Breaking News (within 24 hours of event): Dayanti Arechiga, Goldie's Grill Closing Today

Newspaper General Column: Kelli Trigg, The Smells and Sounds of Home

Online: Articles-Arts & Entertainment: Chelsea Castillo, 'Kaws: Family' temporary exhibition opens at Crystal Bridges

Online: Feature Writing: Hannah Swartzell, Coffee Business Closes Chapter



Welcoming sign at the 2026 Arkansas College Media Association on April 10.

Photo by Lu Antolinez



NWACC students Chelsea Castillo-Velazquez, Aneyda Reynaga, Jennifer Watson, Keenan Addington, Jonathan Barrett, Nadia Moutria, Dayanti Arechiga, Lu Antolinez, and Emmanuel Hernandez alongside Eagle View advisor and NWACC professor, Debbie Miller at the 2026 Arkansas College Media Association.

Courtesy Photo



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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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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.

Pastries with the President

Staff Report

NWACC president, Dennis C Rittle, greeted and visited with students and invited them to take a pastry as they walked through the student center in mid April. The students had a chance to win a prize by selecting a specially marked muffin. The pastries events were held at the Bentonville campus and at the Washington County Center.



Northwest Arkansas Community College Students alongside NWACC president, Dennis C. Rittle, at the college's Benton county campus on April 13 for the event, "Pastries with the President."

Photos by Wayne Cook

CONTINUED from Board of Trustees on page 1

forecast future replacement needs for roofs, HVAC systems, and other facilities. Campus updates also included information that storm repairs from the May 2024 tornadoes are set to begin May 11 and that a budget workshop will be held April 29 in the boardroom. Together, those updates pointed to the college's continued focus on both day-to-day operations and long-term institutional planning.

The meeting also highlighted several student and campus life updates, including the upcoming Student Government Association executive election, which will run from April 20 through April 29. Trustees heard that five clubs received funding approval on April 3, pointing to increased student activity and new club growth on campus. The meeting also noted several upcoming events, including Pre-Finals Fest on April 23, the Brightwater White-Coat Ceremony on May 8, and NWACC commencement on May 9 at the Walmart AMP.

Recognition and honors also made up part of the meeting.

NWACC was recognized with Golden and Silver awards in the Best of the Best Awards conducted by the Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, and Stephen Kuhn was honored as the institution's second national champion in e-sports.

Trustees also approved the naming of Room 2012 in the Center for Health Professions as the Jamin Snarr EMS Laboratory, recognizing Snarr's more than 40 years of service in EMS education and community impact. Snarr retired in January. He is credited with training hundreds of EMS professionals in the region.

The meeting also honored Rafael Rios and Mike Rush as honorary associate degree recipients for community enhancement and entrepreneurial leadership. The honorary degrees will be presented at the May 9 commencement ceremony.

The meeting concluded with the board entering executive session to discuss the president's contract. The motion to enter the executive session was approved unanimously before the meeting moved downstairs.

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/commat/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.

Art in Plain Sight

Exploring the sculptures and artwork that define NWACC's visual identity

Keenan Addington

Reporter

For many students NWACC campus art is something seen in passing, a sculpture near a building, a framed piece in a hallway, or work that blends into the background of daily routines. Behind these pieces, however, is a larger story that shows how the college has intentionally built a collection designed to enhance campus life and promote a deeper appreciation for the arts. What may seem like decoration at first glance is, in reality, part of a broader vision for cultural enrichment on campus.

Eric Smith, Interim Chair of Visual Arts & Media and Art Collection Manager for the President's Advisory Council on Art, said he believes that the presence of art on campus serves a larger educational purpose, stating "cultural enrichment and an appreciation of art are essential to the development of well-rounded lifetime learners." It was this belief that led Dr. Becky Paneitz, former college president and the Board of Trustees to establish the Art Council in 2008. Since its founding, the council has guided the presence and function of visual artwork on campus while steadily building the collection through donations, commissions, and purchases.

Over time, that vision has grown into a substantial collection that includes both donated works and pieces created by NWACC students. Smith said the collection now consists of 326 works of art, with 82% of them coming through donations to the college. At the same time, PACA continues to invest in student creativity through its Student Purchase Award, which allows selected pieces from the fall and spring student art exhibitions to be purchased, professionally framed and added to the President's Student Gallery on the third floor of Burns Hall. The collection includes a wide range of works, from twisting abstract metal sculptures to a bronze piece depicting children riding on the back of a turtle and a tall, eye-catching structure built from red bicycles. Taken as a whole, the collection reflects both the scale of NWACC's investment in art and the variety of works students encounter across campus.

One of the clearest examples of NWACC's investment in public art is Whimsical Weather Vane, a stainless-steel sculpture by Wayne Trapp located at the Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development. Purchased in 2011 as part of the building's construction budget, the work is kinetic, spinning on an axis within its base rather than remaining still. Smith said Trapp personally delivered the sculpture from North Carolina and installed it himself, adding another layer of history to the piece. Its movement and placement make it a strong example of how public art at NWACC is meant not only to decorate the campus but also to stand out as part of the student experience.

The stacked red bicycles piece, created by artist Tylur French, stands out against the NWACC landscape. The bike tower sculpture welcomes visitors at the entrance of the Bentonville trail system. French cleaned and degreased about 60 to 90 bikes for the piece. A sculpture of two children riding a turtle titled "Happy Travelers" is displayed at the Melba Shewmaker Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center on campus. It was donated by Shewmaker, a local philanthropist and created by Bill Bond.

Three abstract steel sculptures on display on the south side of Burns Hall were created by Texas based sculptor Nic Noblique. Circle Squared Again was purchased by the college in 2010. That fall semester, he installed it and two other pieces, Good Genes and The Embrace. Noblique is a Texas-based sculptor known for his innovative use of steel and his commitment to sustainability in public art. He has been recognized as one of the foremost abstract sculptors in the United States.

Although many students may only notice these works in passing, the art around NWACC remains an important part of how the college presents itself as a place of learning, creativity, and culture. More than decoration, these pieces help make the campus feel more thoughtful, more alive, and more connected to the broader purpose of education. In doing so, they turn ordinary spaces into places where students can not only study and work but also reflect. Even when they fade into the background of daily routines, these works remain part of the college's identity and its commitment to learning beyond the classroom.



The bike tower sculpture welcomes visitors at the entrance of the Bentonville trail system. Artist Tylur French cleaned and degreased about 60 to 90 bikes for the NWACC piece. A sculpture of two children riding a turtle titled "Happy Travelers" is displayed at the Melba Shewmaker Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center on campus. It was donated by Shewmaker, a local philanthropist and created by Bill Bond. Three abstract steel sculptures on display on the south side of Burns Hall were created by Texas based sculptor Nic Noblique. Circle Squared Again (orange) In the 2011 fall semester, he installed it and two other artwork pieces, Good Genes (raw steel) and The Embrace (blue). A stainless steel harp sculpture outside The Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development on campus reflects sunlight against the campus skyline. It is titled Whimsical Weather Vane and was created by Wayne Trapp. It is constructed with stainless steel and spins on an axis at the base. The artist delivered it from North Carolina and installed it himself for the grand opening of the building. It was purchased for the Shewmaker Center as a part of the construction budget in 2011, by the President's Advisory Council on Art (PACA) according to Eric Smith, Interim Chair of Visual Arts & Media Art Collection Manager.

Photos by Wayne Cook

Veterans Barbecue Event Funds Scholarships

Staff Report

Students, faculty and staff were treated to barbecue hamburgers and hot dogs, April 22, as a fundraiser for the Veterans Service Learning Scholarship. The Service Learning Office, the Veterans Resource Center, NWACC staff, and service learning students came together to conduct the fundraiser.

All the money raised at the BBQ and other events throughout the year goes to veterans' scholarships. Greg Workman, Director of Veteran Services, said the event is in partnership with Dr. Matt Evans, Service Learning Coordinator and Political Science Professor. Through the projects, including the barbecue, Evans' students "learn the power of volunteering," Workman said.

The barbecue raised \$1,017.77 for the Veterans Service Learning Scholarship, according to Evans.



Greg Workman, Director of Veteran Services (right) and Matthew Fann, Certifying Official for the Veterans Department, grill another round of hamburgers for the Veterans Service Learning barbecue, April 22. The barbecue is one of many ways to raise money for veterans' scholarships throughout the year.

Photo by Wayne Cook

NWACC Introduces 'Life Transition Closet'

Campus closet provides students, faculty, and staff with clothing "fits who they are and who they are becoming"

Chelsea Castillo-Velazquez

Editor-In-Chief

Northwest Arkansas Community College had its soft opening for the "Life Transition Closet" at the Benton County campus last fall. The closet provides students, faculty, and staff with an array of donated clothing that one can take and use for their own purposes. "Change is part of every journey – new jobs, new goals, new beginnings. The Life Transitions Closet is now open to help students, faculty and staff access clothing that fits who they are and who they are becoming," was the slogan for the announcement of the closet opening in the college's public announcements.

Paige Titsworth, NWACC student and contributor for the Life Transition closet, shared how they hope the closet lets people on campus know that help is available. "No one should have to struggle for clothes, may it be for an interview, change of life, a new season, or just every day," Titsworth said. The idea was a long process in the making, Titsworth mentioned how the process was challenging yet rewarding to have the closet be a part of the college. "The process was challenging but rewarding. It took a while for the closet to become a real thing on campus and not just an idea, to which I'm incredibly grateful I was able to experience its opening," said Titsworth.

Yet, not many people on campus are fully aware of this new addition. Emily Safcsak, NWACC student and contributor for the Life Transition closet, said, "Public outreach has been a little difficult. Not many people know that this resource is available, and how to get access to it." Titsworth mentioned that they're working on growing public outreach and it has improved more recently than it was at the opening. The closet has multiple donation boxes that can be located around campus. Students, faculty, and staff can donate new or gently used clothing at the donation boxes. The closet's official location can be found on the third floor of the student center in room 318, you can find a QR code outside the campus that directs you to a survey that one can fill out. The survey asks, "what items you picked up," "what size are you looking for," "how many items did you take today," etc.

"We actually have more clothes than room and are working towards a place to store them. I'm very thankful for everyone who has donated to the closet! We're also working towards better hours and availability for the closet. Volunteers are always welcome," shared Titsworth.

'HELP! I Don't Know What I Want to Be When I Grow Up'

Erin Shields

Reporter

Tick tock, tick tock—the sound of another stressful second passing without answers to the infamous questions: What career do I want? How do I get there? Am I behind because I don't know? NWACC counselor Bridgit Richie explains that the “average person will go through 6+ careers in their life” and encourages students to “take the pressure off, work hard, and make the absolute most of the next step.”

Sometimes, it is easier said than done. The steps taken in this season of life can feel like they determine a person's entire future. Society often makes us feel like we should know exactly what we want to do and how to get there, and when our path becomes unclear or derailed, it can leave us feeling defeated. Stress builds from expectations we place on ourselves, parental pressures, and financial responsibility.

However, it's funny how life happens when we are busy making plans for it. General Psychology professor Becky Meacham says, “Any rigid timelines also don't take into account ‘life’ circumstances—relationships, children, geographical moves, etc. I think it is best to have a general idea of what you would like to achieve—as well as a general idea of when—but realize that you may have to tweak your goals and deadlines.”

Former NWACC student Johnathan Hartman is all too familiar with adjusting timelines: “It took me two and a half years to finally conquer calculus, and I know that might sound crazy to some people. But you cannot live by someone else's timeline or expectations.” For some, clarity comes early. Hartman said, “I'm fortunate enough to have known what I wanted to do since I was in seventh grade.” But even with that clarity, following a set timeline is not always realistic. He said that reassurance meant a lot, especially since he had been at NWACC for a long time and sometimes wondered if he was behind. Counselors helped him feel seen, reminding him that his goals mattered and that he was being taken seriously. As Meacham explains, “The key is being able to define success for yourself and to decide what is motivating for you.”

Oftentimes, those pressures begin to fester. Uncertainty, stress, and anxiety can become overwhelming and consume a majority of our energy. It can feel like our control panel is being overtaken by a little orange, spastic creature with wiry hair. We lose our joy—or more simply, we lose sight of why we started in the first place. We forget why we are here: to pursue a degree that leads us toward a career that genuinely interests us.

So what happens when “life” happens? Those same feelings of uncertainty, stress, and anxiety can quickly take over. According to Meacham, “Stress only becomes a problem when it is chronic and we are unable

to manage our response to it.” When the weight of the future becomes unmanageable, she suggests counseling. Seeking help from an expert can be a valuable resource when navigating careers and life decisions.

Ritchie, who previously worked as a talent coordinator for large corporations such as Google and Facebook, focused on ensuring people were the right fit for their roles. Through that experience, she worked with individuals who were also unsure of their next steps. She explains that her approach to career counseling is holistic, “helping people understand their story by combining strengths, values, and challenges they've overcome to explore their career options.”

Rather than giving students a “right” answer, her approach encourages exploration. Through conversations and reflective techniques, such as narrative-based career counseling, students begin to shift their perspective. Ritchie emphasizes that a career is not a single destination, but a long journey. With that in mind, the pressure to have everything figured out right now begins to fade. At its core, career counseling provides clarity. It helps students better understand what they want, what they need, and how to move forward which saves time, energy, and unnecessary stress.

In psychology, a theory developed by Erik Erikson explains that people develop through a series of life stages, each with a key conflict that shapes their identity and growth. Traditional and slightly older college students often fall into the Identity vs. Role Confusion stage. According to

Meacham, “This is the stage of adolescence (which currently lasts for many until the mid-20s) when it is important to explore the possibilities of who you would like to become.”

Maybe the clock isn't something we're racing against; it's something we learn to move with. The pressure to have everything figured out right now begins to lose its power when we understand that careers are not a straight path, but a series of evolving steps. There is no single timeline, no one “right” answer, and no reason to measure your progress against someone else's. What matters is continuing to take the next step, even when it feels uncertain. Because clarity doesn't always come before action, sometimes, it's built along the way. That ticking clock isn't counting us down after all but reminding us that we still have time to figure it out.

Erin Shields is an NWACC graduating student enrolled in the spring Media Writing class.



The tick-tock sound of a clock can be a metaphor for the pressure of nagging questions such as “What career do I want?”

Photo by Lukas Blazek on Unsplash

College Theatre Hosts 'Playwrights in Process'

Cerella Lor

Reporter

On April 15, NWACC Theatre hosted “Playwrights in Process” at White Auditorium, an event designed to highlight student-written work through performance. The showcase encouraged students to write short-form scenes and present them on stage in front of an audience, creating a collaborative and low-pressure environment for experimentation and growth. The event was created by NWACC theater coordinator Stephanie Freeman, who saw an opportunity to connect student playwrights with performers while promoting a stronger sense of community within the department. “I devised Playwrights in Process as a way for my student playwrights to showcase their work while getting to know other theater students,” she said.

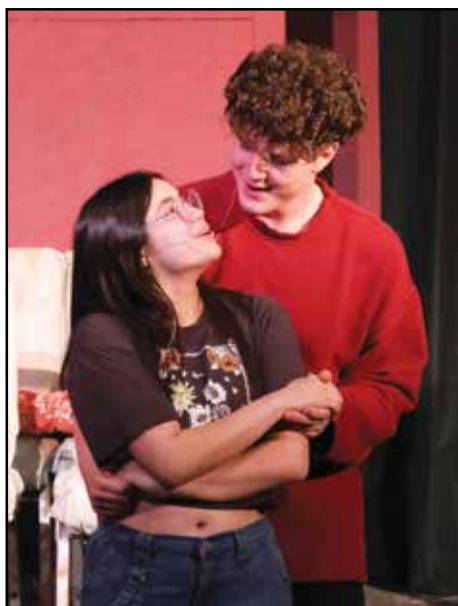
The showcase featured nine original scenes written by theatre students Jackson Collins, Percival Ferguson, Tony Martin, RJ Perry, and Micah Woolbright. Each piece varied in tone, ranging from comedic moments to more serious themes, giving the audience a diverse and engaging theatrical experience. Student actors Julie Wilson, Kieran Bonds, Avery “Birdie” Redmond, Micah Woolbright, Jackson Collins, Olive Naylor, Charles Merryman, and Percival Ferguson brought these works vividly to life. With limited rehearsal time, performers relied on creativity, embracing the natural impulses that come with staged readings. For many participants, the experience was both creatively fulfilling and personally meaningful. “Being a part of Playwrights in Process made me feel like an important part of a community here at NWACC,” said theatre student Kieran Bonds.

Unlike a fully produced play, “Playwrights in Process” focused on the development stage of theatre. Playwrights were able to receive immediate feedback from audience members, helping them identify strengths and areas of improvement. For actors, it provided a chance to explore new characters and scripts without the extended time commitment of a full production—an important benefit during a busy academic season. In addition to benefiting those directly involved, the event allowed audience members to witness works in progress and support emerging student artists.

Events like “Playwrights in Process” play a crucial role in building confidence, encouraging collaboration, and strengthening the artistic community within NWACC Theatre. By providing a platform for experimentation and feedback, the program helps students grow not only as writers and performers but also as creative thinkers. Overall, “Playwrights in Process” proved to be a valuable and engaging experience, offering NWACC Theatre students the opportunity to develop their craft, share their voices, and take meaningful steps forward in their artistic journeys.



Promotional production poster of NWACC Theatre's spring musical, “The Mad Ones,” from April 23-26 at White Auditorium.



NWACC Theatre students London Omo, left, and Solomon Nicolas, right, rehearse scenes for “The Mad Ones.”

Photo by Wayne Cook



NWACC Theatre students London Omo, left, and Nadia Salinas, right, practice scenes at rehearsal.

Photo by Wayne Cook

NWACC Theatre Presents 'The Mad Ones'

Cerella Lor

Reporter

Northwest Arkansas Community College Theatre brought an emotional and intimate musical to the stage called “The Mad Ones” by Kait Kerrigan and Bree Lowdermilk. The musical was based on an idea by Zach Altman and Bree Lowdermilk and directed by Stephanie Freeman, NWACC theater professor and theater program coordinator, with musical direction by Marc Turner, communication coordinator. Others who were a part of the production team included Jackson Collins, stage manager; Avery Redmond, prop designer, and Rebecca Harrold, pianist.

The cast included theatre students London Omo (Sam), Solomon Nicolas (Adam), Nadia Salinas (Kelly), and community artist Lynn Manning (Beverly). Julie Wilson, assistant director, commended the cast and their ability to bring the musical to life. “Each performer brings their own pizzazz to these characters and relationships,” she said.

“The Mad Ones” (formally titled “The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown”) explored the coming-of-age journey of 18-year-old protagonist Samantha Brown. Caught between the expectations of her mother and the lingering influence of her adventurous late best friend,

Samantha must decide whether to follow a safe path or embrace a life of risk and freedom. Audiences listened to a compelling musical score—one that sold over 15,000 pieces of digital sheet music in 2019. “It's a challenging score, but fortunately, the cast is very talented,” said Turner, the music director.

With its heartfelt themes and emotional moments, Wilson said, “You may want to bring some tissues.” NWACC Theatre students, stage crew, and staff collectively rehearsed in anticipation of their show date. During previous rehearsals, Wilson said, “It has been amazing working with this group, and audience members will not be disappointed.”

Performances ran from April 23-25 at 7 p.m., with a matinee on April 26 at 2 p.m. The show was held in White Auditorium, located in Burns Hall on the Bentonville campus. The production was recommended for audiences ages 13 and up due to brief moments of adult language and situations.

The theatre students presented Freeman with a golden telescope at the end of the Sunday matinee performance because of all the ways she has made them feel seen over the last few years. Communications and Arts leaders also presented her with a plaque thanking her for all the works she has done in building up the theatre program. Freeman is leaving NWACC at the end of the semester to accept another teaching position in Tennessee.



Theatre students Avery “Birdie” Redmond (left) and Kieran Bonds (right) enacting their characters at Playwrights in Process on April 15.



Micah Woolbright (left) and Jackson Collins (right) performing in an excerpt during Playwrights in Process at the White Auditorium.

Photos by Cerella Lor

Professor Miles Fish Retires After 28 Years

Music Educator Leaves Legacy at NWACC

Lu Antolinez
Senior Photographer

After 28 years at Northwest Arkansas Community College professor Miles Fish leaves behind a legacy shaped by passion, dedication, and a deep commitment to his students.

Fish began his academic journey at the University of Arkansas, where he earned his bachelor's degree in journalism in 1974. Years later, he returned to pursue a second bachelor's degree in vocal performance in 1995. This experience helped define the dual passions that would guide his career in both communication and music.

Describing his time at NWACC as a fulfilling experience, Fish has spent nearly three decades shaping students both in and out of the classroom. In addition to teaching, he participated as the conductor of the Chamber Singers, where he inspired students through music and performance.

One of the most meaningful aspects of his career has been seeing graduated students come full circle. Some of those he once taught are now part of NWACC's music department, a reflection of the impact he has had as an educator. According to Fish, the motivation and welcoming environment at NWACC are what continue to bring students back and encourage them to stay connected.

"You can't give up, you have to keep going, because it almost always gets better," Fish said. "You might not always get what you want, but if you keep working at it, it will improve. When you have a dream, you cannot give up on it." Michael Baker Brown, now chair of the Communication and Arts division at NWACC, was once one of Fish's students around 2004-2005.

He recalls the early days of learning under Fish, including one of the first songs he was taught, "The Water is Wide" by Andy Beck. "Miles Fish is a maestro; his experience

conducting and teaching truly makes him one. He's someone who has impacted so many lives," Brown said.

Brown also described Fish as deeply passionate about his work, noting that it's rare to see him without a smile, something that has helped create a positive and encouraging environment for generations of students.

Although he's stepping away from the classroom, Fish is not slowing down. He plans to continue working as a writer, developing a novel based on a screenplay he previously wrote. During an upcoming six-week trip to Europe, he plans to visit locations that will serve as inspiration for his story, writing daily and sharing updates about his progress.

Having started his career as a musician, Fish now looks forward to continuing his creative journey through writing, proving that his passion for storytelling, in all its forms, is far from being over.

"You can't give up, you have to keep going, because it almost always gets better."

- Miles Fish



Michael Baker Brown (left), NWACC Music Department Chairperson and Chamber Singers Director, presents Miles Fish with a plaque for nearly three decades of service to the college music department at a concert featuring the jazz band and chamber singers, April 28. Fish was given the honor of conducting the final number of the program "Sure On This Shining Night". Former students of Fish were invited to join the Chamber Choir for the final number.

Photo by Wayne Cook



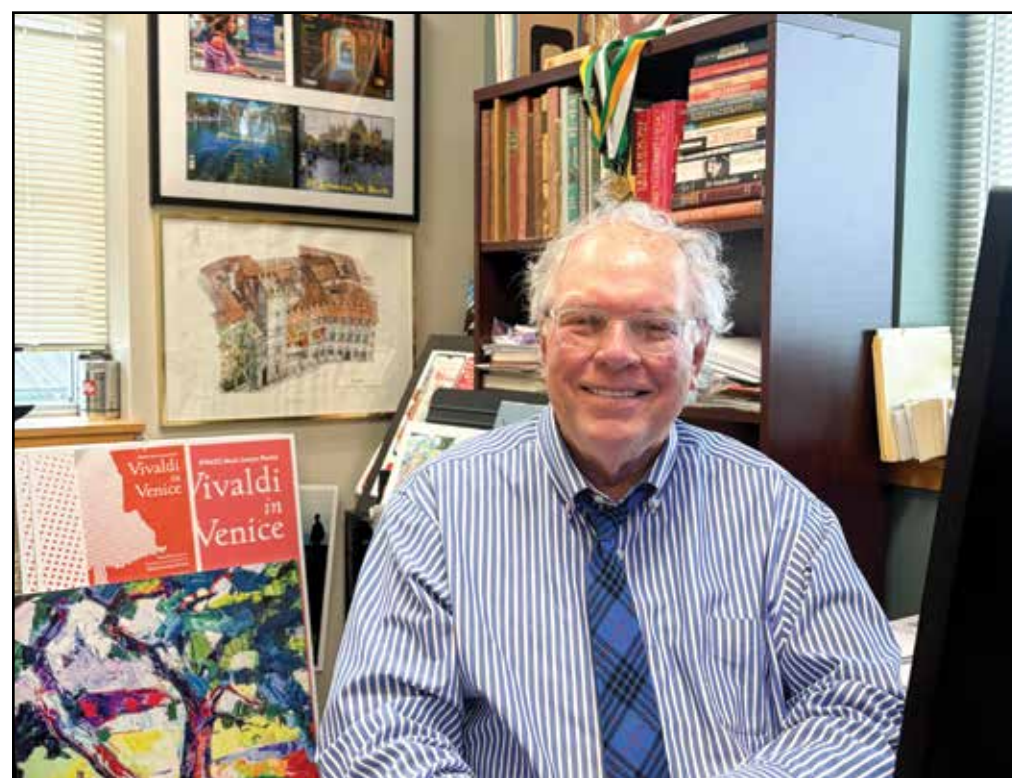
Miles fish conducting the final number of the program, "Sure On This Shining Night," on April 28.

Photo by Wayne Cook



NWACC Students performed at the college's music program, "Sure On This Shining Night," on April 28 in Walmart auditorium.

Photo by Wayne Cook



Miles Fish is seated in his office surrounding by mementoes from his travels and work, including the "Vivaldi in Venice" display. Vivaldi has been the subject of some of Fish's study.

Photo by Lu Antolinez

La Piñata S.A.A.M. Brings Community Together in Rogers

Sophia Ruiz
Reporter

Family and friends congregated at Lake Atalanta in Rogers on Saturday, April 11, for La Piñata S.A.A.M., which is a cultural and community-centered event. It was hosted through the Northwest Arkansas Center for Sexual Assault as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The event highlighted Hispanic families, where cultural support and information came together in a space that was welcoming to all. Throughout the event, the organization's message "estamos contigo" meaning "we are with you" was presented through local resources and people showing up for their community.

Piñatas, mariachis, and delectable food set the tone for this event. Families moved from booth to booth visiting different organizations and collecting stamps on a passport card at each stop to get more interaction and information about those same local organizations. Each stamp represented a new service. Once the passport was fully completed, it could be entered into a raffle for prizes. The setup encouraged families to engage while still moving naturally through the park's pavilion.

Odalys Serrano, a bilingual Survivor Services Advocate with Northwest Arkansas Center for Sexual Assault, also helped organize the event and said it was designed to build trust, break barriers, and make resources more accessible and known.

"This event continues to grow each year because people yearn for community," Odalys said. "It's about creating a place where families feel safe about their surroundings."

Odalys said planning also included extra precautions for safety reasons. She made sure to have people off site perusing surrounding areas in case immigration enforcement was reported nearby. This was a step meant to help families feel more secure in attending the public event.

Organizations focused on outreach, education, and overall support. Northwest Arkansas Community College representatives provided information on college programs and answered questions in both Spanish and English, creating a comfortable environment for transitioning students and others who were interested.

Miguel Palacios, a LIFE mentor, spoke with families about education and long-term goals. "Education

can open doors to people like us, but it definitely takes persistence," Palacios said. "There are challenges, but there is also strength in community."

He explained how programs like LIFE helps students stay on track through college and enable them to move forward despite barriers.

Other organizations represented included OneCommunity NWA, Venceremos NWA, and NWA Women's Shelter, offering different services and support. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art took its Mobile Art Lab, giving children space to therapeutically create art. Flower Walls NWA also set up photo areas that drew families together throughout the day.

The sounds of live mariachi music carried across the park and added to the cultural significance of the event. The mix of music, food, and Spanish conversation had families engaged without feeling overwhelmed. It made people like Lisette Serrano feel comfortable attending the event.

"There's a lot here for families," Serrano said in Spanish. "The flan, free merch, and fun atmosphere make it nicer to learn about what is out there."

Other event participants, like Savannah Hannah, said they heard about the event through social media. Hannah attended the event to support the Hispanic community and said being present is important, including how people show up.

"It's important to be there for communities without trying to center yourself," Hannah said. She continued talking about Northwest Arkansas being a place where many communities are growing in an extremely difficult period in time. As the afternoon heat continued, families stayed in the park talking and walking, moving to the music, and inquiring about the best parts of Northwest Arkansas.

This event served as both outreach and community building. For the Center for Sexual Assault and its community partners, the whole turnout reflected a growing need for spaces that combine cultural familiarity with access to critical resources, helping more families feel safe and informed. At the event's significant core, the cultural symbolism of a piñata reflected a larger message through breaking barriers and reducing isolation in everyday connection with support systems.



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The Golden Clash in Northwest Arkansas

Razorback stadium receives LigaMx Teams

Aneyda Reynaga

Managing Editor



Fans show support for Club America by waving banners and releasing yellow smoke

Photo by Aneyda Reynaga

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark.— Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium hosted its first international friendly soccer match in a “Golden Clash” with two major rivals of the Mexican league. The men and women’s Club America and Club Tigres were part of a doubleheader that faced off on March 28.

Club Tigres was established in 1960 and is a younger team compared to Club America. They have a total of 7 Liga MX Femenil titles for the women and 8 Liga MX titles for the men. They are based in San Nicolas de los Garza, Nuevo Leon and have a historic rivalry with C.F. Monterrey, a team also based in Nuevo Leon.

Club America is one of the oldest teams in the league, established in

1916. It has a total of 16 titles for the men’s — the most of any team — and a total of 2 Liga MX Femenil titles for the women. They are based in Mexico City and are a part of the “Big Four” in the Mexican soccer league.

As people were walking to the stadium, there was a sea of yellow and blue, the two main colors of both teams. There were many fans featuring team merchandise, flags, horns, drums and more. The atmosphere was full of energy as fans gathered at the first gate ready to see their favorite teams.

Some fans had already been to a game, so the atmosphere wasn’t new for them. When asked about his reaction to the announcement that these teams were going to be playing in Northwest Arkansas, Club America fan Mauricio Maciel said, “I was super excited because we don’t really have the opportunity to see futbol of this caliber.”

Ruben Sanchez, who also attended the game, commented, “Well, it’s good, right? Because normally they always do it [the game] in Texas and other places that aren’t here.”

As the gates opened and fans made their way to their seats, the women’s teams started coming out and warming up. Spectator Sofia Cruz said, “This is actually my first one [game] so exciting.” Zamaro Mofford, who was sitting in the Club America section said, “...I don’t really follow it [Mexican league]. I follow more bigger leagues but it’s good to come and see the atmosphere and everything.”

The match started at 2 p.m. where the first goal was made by Club America’s Sarah Luebbert at the 4’ mark. Fans cheered and booed as Club Tigres tried to tie up the game, and the tie came at the 18’ mark with a goal by Jheniffer Cordinali with an assist by Dilary Heredia-Beltrán. However, at minute 22 Club America was given a penalty kick that was scored by Nancy Antonio, making the final goal count 2-1.

As the women’s match came to an end, the men began lining up at the entrance to the field, determined to keep the energy going. As the male teams began warming up, more fans started arriving carrying their team flags.

During the first half, neither team ended up scoring and it wasn’t until the 57’ mark that Club America’s Raúl Zuñiga scored the first goal of the match. Twenty minutes later at the 77’ mark Club Tigres scored but it ended up being an offside goal. However, 6 minutes later at the 83’ Club Tigres officially tied up the game with a goal by Juan Francisco Brunetta.

At the 88’ mark, Club America scored a controversial goal that ended up being taken away by a call from the referee. This goal caused many Club America fans in the stands to boo. Despite the game being a friendly match, Club America players pushed back on the decision made by the referee. This caused the players to start pushing each other at the end of the game, giving spectators a glimpse at this heated rivalry.



Club America and Club Tigres women’s teams get ready to kick off the game.

Photo by Aneyda Reynaga

The Student-Athlete’s Semester

Eagle Track and Field Athletes Discuss Schedules

Riley Smith

Sports Editor

What does it actually look like to be a competitive collegiate athlete? Freshman Logan Bouzek calls it “an insane experience.” Most athletes competing at the collegiate level have played their sport for at least four years of high school, some for their entire lives.

“[It’s] something I had worked towards for years,” Bouzek explains. “I feel like most people who play sports through high school dream of those nights on the turf under those bright lights, and to have the opportunity to compete in college sports and build a foundation before I transfer is such a surreal feeling.”

Bouzek competes in the triple jump for the Eagles and has come away with both personal and school records during his debut season. He competes alongside his friend, Owen Suesy, who calls the track his “happy place.” Suesy competes in short distance races and has also set multiple school records.

“The track team is like a second family for me and we’re all very close. Before the 4x1, we do a group prayer to get us locked in before the race.” Suesy says. “All I have to do [at meets] is trust my training and run my races like Coach Weller and I have planned that week.”

Both athletes place importance in their teammates, but also their coaches. Bouzek shared that coaching can make or break a team. “To have a coach who truly believes in your talent and will work to provide

anything to get you there is something special,” Bouzek explained when asked about his experiences with the NWACC coaches.

“But it really doesn’t stop there because the group we have on this team has become my family,” Bouzek said. “It doesn’t matter if it’s race day and I’m on the finish line or just completing reps in practice, the group we have has done nothing but cheer me on. This community we’ve built is so important to me that the group prayers, march madness brackets, or team coffee go further than anything anyone else could offer me,” Bouzek shared.

The track and field team has been dominating in their conference, demonstrating true dedication and grit on the track, and grace and humility off of it.

The athletes at NWACC have the same school week as the average student and continue to show up not only for themselves, but for their school, team, and “second family.” The athletes will compete in two more meets this season with two more opportunities to qualify for the National Championship in Hobbs, New Mexico beginning May 13.

NWACC Track Crushes School, Personal Records

Riley Smith

Sports Editor

NWACC Eagles have been firing on all cylinders, and the proof is in the pudding. Not too far from our Eagles’ homes, they competed in the Arkansas Spring Invitational at John McDonnell Field on April 11 in Fayetteville. They came home with 10 new personal records, crushing the previous school record of PRs at a single meet.

Omar Medina started a new legacy for the Eagle’s Track team as one of the first athletes in NWACC history to compete in a field event and the first to qualify for nationals. Medina threw a shot of 51’ 10 ½, securing his spot at the NJCAA National Meet at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, New Mexico the weekend of May 13-16.

Freshman distance runner Gloria Kurgat set her third PR this season and shaved over 10 seconds off her previous best, which had been her previous PR just a week ago. Jakson Suit, a freshman sprinter, scored multiple PRs, setting NWACC records in both the 200-meter dash and 400-meter dash.

Sophomores Marian Hendricks and freshman Talitha Venter both ran personal bests in the 400m with a 1:07.47 and 1:07.72. Hendricks set a new personal record for the 400-meter dash for the second time this season.

Like the women’s 400, the men’s 800-meter run saw two competing Eagles win new personal bests with freshmans, Kevin Perez and Benjamin Venter.

The Eagles only have two more meets before they make the trek to New Mexico to compete in the National Championship. More information on times, schedule changes, and updates can be accessed on the college’s athletics website, nwacc eagles.com.



Sophomore Cindy Soto and Freshman Gloria Kurgat nearing the finish line of the 1500 meter race at the University of Arkansas Spring Invitational at John McDonnell Field on April 11. Soto and Kurgat ran 5:05.24 and 5:10.45, respectively. Soto also competed in the 800 meter event with a time of 2:32.2.

Photo by: Wayne Cook



The men’s 800-meter run saw both competing Eagles register personal bests. Freshmen Kevin Perez and Benjamin Venter ran 2:08.69 and 2:09.76, respectively, both coming in the same section at the University of Arkansas Spring Invitational at John McDonnell Field, April 11.

Photo by Wayne Cook



Freshman thrower Omar Medina delivering a NJCAA nationals qualifying shotput at the University of Arkansas Spring Invitational at John McDonnell Field, on April 11.

Photo by Wayne Cook

A Man of All Countries

Why Charlie Chaplin Still Has Something to Say

Keenan Addington
Reporter

“I’m sorry, but I don’t want to be an emperor,” said Charlie Chaplin at the end of his 1940 film “The Great Dictator.” “That’s not my business.” He continued, “I should like to help everyone, if possible. We all want to help one another. Human beings are like that.” In many ways, America today seems far removed from Chaplin’s belief in humanity. Political discourse has grown harsher, compromise has become rarer, and disagreement is increasingly treated as a moral failure. In that atmosphere, Chaplin’s words do not sound like a relic of the past. They feel more relevant than ever.

Chaplin’s speech did not emerge from comfort but from a world being consumed by dictatorship, war, and dehumanization. He was speaking in the shadow of fascism, Hitler, and a Europe being torn apart by hatred and propaganda. During the Holocaust, 11 million people were murdered, including 6 million Jews. Chaplin felt this as more than a distant crisis. His half-brother Syd was Jewish from his father’s side, and Chaplin himself had long been associated with Jewish identity. His most famous character, the Tramp, was often mistaken for being Jewish. He also felt a disturbing connection to Adolf Hitler: His most famous character, the Tramp, shared Hitler’s toothbrush mustache, and Chaplin was only four days older than him. In “The Great Dictator,” Chaplin turned that eerie resemblance into defiance, using satire to mock dictatorship at a moment when much of the world had not yet fully grasped how deadly it would become. History also shows that such impulses were never limited to America’s enemies. After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States itself turned fear into policy, forcing approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans into incarceration camps, where official records counted 1,862 deaths. Chaplin would later learn that even in America, speaking too boldly against fear and power could make a person a target.

Chaplin’s humanism did not end with “The Great Dictator.” As the war and its aftermath reshaped the world, he became

increasingly vocal in ways that made American authorities deeply suspicious. Chaplin saw himself less as a nationalist than as what he referred to as a “citizen of the world,” believing nationalism to be an obsession with one’s own country and a dangerous force that helped lead the world into war. That belief, combined with his public speeches and political outspokenness, helped make him a target. J. Edgar Hoover’s FBI compiled a massive file on Chaplin, monitored his movements, and treated one of the world’s most famous artists as a possible subversive. In Cold War America, Chaplin’s insistence on speaking as a human being first, rather than as a patriot, was enough to place him under suspicion and ultimately into exile after U.S. authorities revoked his re-entry permit in 1952.

Chaplin’s warning remains powerful because the temptations he confronted still exist. They can be seen in the urge to divide the world into patriots and enemies, insiders and outsiders, the deserving and the disposable. In that kind of climate, politics becomes less about persuasion than about punishment, and public life begins to lose its humanity. That pattern can still be seen in a political culture shaped by grievance, spectacle, and suspicion, one that rewards fear of outsiders and treats compromise as weakness. It thrives on drawing hard lines between who belongs and who does not, who is virtuous and who is disposable. In such a climate, power is no longer measured by wisdom or restraint, but by the ability to humiliate, exclude, and dominate. The language may be modern, but the moral danger is not.

That moral danger is not confined to rhetoric. It shapes policy, including war. In the current conflict with Iran, the language of strength, necessity, and national resolve has once again made it easier to speak in terms of targets, retaliation, and strategy than in terms of human cost. Yet this is exactly the kind of thinking Chaplin warned against. He understood that once power begins dividing the world into the worthy and the disposable, violence becomes easier to justify and empathy becomes easier to dismiss. War may be defended as order, security, or patriotism, but it

still leaves behind shattered lives, widened fear, and suffering that no slogan can redeem. The names and circumstances may change, but the temptation is the same: to let power speak louder than conscience.

War does not remain confined to the battlefield for long. The conflict with Iran has already shown how quickly violence spreads outward, unsettling the region, disrupting energy routes, and extending fear far beyond the people who first authorize it. What is presented as a measured assertion of strength can leave behind civilian suffering, economic shock, and a wider climate of instability that reaches well beyond any single target. Chaplin understood that this is one of power’s oldest illusions: it promises control while creating consequences that no one fully controls. Once again, the human cost proves larger than the language used to defend it.

The cruelty of immigration policy is not new, and pretending otherwise would weaken the argument. A previous Democratic administration deported more than 2.4 million people and was condemned by immigrant advocates as the era of the “Deporter in Chief.” It expanded family detention during the 2014 surge of Central American arrivals, and it often swept in people with minor to no criminal histories. Yet by its later years, it had also narrowed formal priorities toward national-security threats, serious criminal convictions, recent arrivals, and recent removal orders, a framework that Migration Policy Institute analysts estimated effectively shielded most unauthorized immigrants from deportation.

What makes this current moment feel different is not simply the existence of enforcement, but its tone, scale, and theatricality. In its first year, the current administration took more than 500 immigration-related actions, ended prior limits on enforcement in or near protected areas such as churches and schools, and oversaw a detention system that rose by more than 75 percent from roughly 40,000 people at the start of 2025 to more than 68,000 by year’s end. At the same time, the share of people arrested by ICE and held in detention with no criminal record rose from 6 percent in January to 41



Charlie Chaplin poses as his iconic character, the Tramp, in a colorized image based on a 1915 photograph. Wikimedia Commons notes that the coloring is speculative and may differ from the original.

Photo by Cassowary Colorizations, via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0.

percent by December, suggesting a much broader dragnet than the language of targeting only the “worst” would imply.

That shift matters for the same reason Chaplin still matters: once a society gets used to seeing certain human beings first as problems, burdens, or symbols, it becomes easier to strip them of dignity in the name of order. Immigration then stops being discussed as a question of law, responsibility, and human complexity and becomes a theater of force instead. The louder the raids, the harsher the imagery, and the broader the category of who counts as suspect, the easier it becomes to confuse punishment with principle. Chaplin warned against politics that sorted the world into the deserving and the disposable. Immigration is one of the clearest places where that warning still applies.

The contrast, then, is not between innocence and guilt, but between two different failures. One administration built an enforcement machine so large that it tore apart families even while trying to narrow its focus and pair enforcement with limited executive relief. The other has pushed that machinery toward something more sweeping, more performative, and more openly punitive,

backed by roughly \$170 billion in new enforcement funding and a detention system. Whatever the final deportation totals become, the public message is already unmistakable: fear is being used not merely to police the border but to reshape the moral imagination of the country. That is exactly the kind of degradation of public life Chaplin spent his career resisting. Chaplin’s faith in humanity was not naive sentimentality but a deliberate act of resistance against the world he saw around him. In “The Great Dictator,” he insisted, “We want to live by each other’s happiness—not by each other’s misery. We don’t want to hate and despise one another.” Even after everything he had witnessed—war, dictatorship, greed, and bloodshed—Chaplin still believed that hatred was not the natural state of man, but the corruption of it. His speech acknowledges how far humanity had fallen: “Greed has poisoned men’s souls, has barricaded the world with hate,” and yet he refused to end there. “More than machinery we need humanity. More than cleverness, we need kindness and gentleness.” That may sound idealistic in a cynical age, but ordinary life still proves him right. People still comfort the

grieving, shelter the vulnerable, feed the hungry, and sacrifice for those they love. Cruelty may be loud, but it is not the whole truth of human nature. Chaplin’s belief endures because, even now, there remains something in people that reaches toward one another rather than away.

Chaplin still has something to say because the world he warned against has never fully disappeared. It changes its language, its symbols, and its slogans, but it still asks people to fear more than they feel, to hate more than they understand, and to mistake domination for strength. Chaplin answered that world with something far more difficult: humanity. He believed that people were meant to live by one another’s happiness, not one another’s misery, and that conviction is what makes him more than a comedian, more than a filmmaker, and more than a man of one nation or one era. He remains, as this moment reminds us, a man of all countries. As long as public life continues to tempt us toward cruelty, his voice will continue to matter.

Keenan Addington is a reporter for the NWACC Eagle View.

Wolverines Bring Home NCAA Title

By Impact, Fab Five Stands Alone; By Achievement, 2026 Team Holds the Crown

Jonathan Lowder
Reporter

For decades, greatness in basketball at the University of Michigan has been measured against one legendary standard: the Michigan Wolverines men’s basketball Fab Five.

Their swagger, star power, and cultural influence transformed college basketball in the early 1990s, making freshmen Chris Webber, Jalen Rose, Juwan Howard, Jimmy King, and Ray Jackson household names long before NIL deals, social media fame, and modern recruiting hype. They changed how the game looked, how it felt, and how young stars carried themselves on the national stage.

But in 2026, a new Michigan team gave Wolverine fans something the Fab Five never could in a championship. Led by head coach Dusty May, Michigan completed a historic season by defeating UConn Huskies men’s basketball 69-63 in the 2026 NCAA Men’s National Championship Game, capturing the program’s first national title since 1989 and only the second championship in school history. Guard Elliot Cadeau led the Wolverines with 19 points, helping Michigan finish an incredible 37-3 season and ending a 37-year championship drought.

That title instantly elevated the conversation. For years, comparing modern Michigan teams to the Fab Five felt unfair. The Fab Five’s legacy was untouchable because of what they represented: boldness, excellence, and a cultural revolution in college sports. They reached back-to-back national

championship games and became icons, but they never won the final game. Their greatness was built on influence, not banners.

The 2026 Wolverines changed that equation. This modern team represented everything today’s game values: roster construction through the transfer portal, elite coaching adjustments, disciplined defense, and offensive balance. Unlike the Fab Five’s flashy, youthful energy, this Michigan squad was composed, strategic, and battle-tested. They didn’t just make history; they finished it.

Still, comparing the two eras reveals a fascinating truth about greatness. The Fab Five remains Michigan’s most influential team. No group in college basketball history blended culture and talent quite like they did. Their baggy shorts, black socks, unapologetic confidence, and fearless style changed basketball forever. They were more than a team — they became a movement.

Yet the 2026 Wolverines accomplished what that iconic team could not: they brought a national championship trophy back to Ann Arbor.

So who was better? If greatness is measured by impact, the Fab Five still stands alone. If greatness is measured by achievement, the 2026 champions now hold the crown. At Michigan, history now has two defining basketball teams—one that changed the sport, and one that conquered it.

Jonathan Lowder is a journalism student and sports fan.

Sigma Tau Delta 2026 Convention

NWACC Students Travel to New Orleans for National Convention

Jonathan Barrett
Reporter

Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honors Society, hosted the organization’s national convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, from March 29 through April 1. The theme of the conference was Second Lines & New Beginnings, an idea inspired from the resilience that is embodied by all writers. During the four-day convention, students and advisers took part in round tables, workshops, and student led panels.

Faculty Adviser Professor Greg Barlow led the group of students to the convention and has been the faculty adviser for multiple years. He took Vice President Annie Tillery, Treasurer Le Nguyen, Secretary Emily Safcsak, and me (President Jonathan Barrett) to the national conference.

The opening day began with the reception where all students gathered representing their respective organizations. The reception was followed by one of three keynote speakers—Maurice Carlos Ruffin. Award-winning author and national bestseller, Ruffin is the author of novels such as “The American Daughters” and “The Ones Who Don’t Say They Love You.” Ruffin spoke on how aspiring authors have an obligation to use their writing as a platform for change.

The second day was headlined by keynote speaker Jesmyn Ward. As the author of many novels including “Salvage the Bones” and “Sing, Unburied, Sing,” Ward is a two-time National Book Award winner. Ward spoke about how she used her childhood in the South as inspiration for her writing. Later, a Q&A conducted at the end of her talk allowed students to pick Ward’s brain for advice on how to become better writers.

Throughout the day, close to 100 sessions were held across all topics in literacy. The wide variety included “American Literature: Race, Power, and Empathy,” “Original Prose: Queer Lives in Prose,” and “Original Poetry: Struggle and Survival.” Following the sessions, the night was finished off with a trivia night, where students and advisers went head-to-head answering questions ranging from Sigma Tau Delta history to literature history.

The third day, sessions were conducted from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sessions included “Workshop: New Orleans Writing Marathon,” “British Literature: Medieval Literature in Focus,” and “Original Poetry: Sonnets, Seasons, and Natural World.” The day was highlighted by keynote speaker Aimee Nezhukumatathil. A professor at the University of Mississippi, Nezhukumatathil is a New York Times Bestselling poet. She is the author of five poetry collections, including “Night Owl,” “Oceanic” and co-authored “Lace & Pyrite” with Ross Gay. Following the sessions of the day, an open mic night was held, allowing students to read their original works for other students and advisers.

The final day had sessions running through the morning followed by the awards ceremony. Awards and scholarships were presented to students who displayed elite literary skills across all forms of writing.

Balancing It All

NWACC Student Applies Discipline to Work, Studies

Addie Spriggs
Reporter

Charlzie Jones is a freshman in her second semester at NWACC. She balances a full class schedule with shifts at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. — and she does it with a level of discipline that didn't come overnight.

After graduating a semester early from Bentonville schools, Jones had a semester off that she describes as a "reset." She didn't start working again until she started school in August. When she did, her new job at Cracker Barrel was her first job outside of fast food. "I like working," she said. "It gives me something to do, and I like getting money."

Jones is still trying to figure out what she wants to study. Originally, she planned to study agriculture. She wanted to learn how to live off her own land one day, and homestead. However, the course focused more on agricultural careers than personal sustainability. "I just want to go farm and not have to work again," she said. Now, she is exploring art in hopes to gain some skills for tattooing. "It's making me a better drawer," she explained.

Balancing school and work hasn't been easy. Jones explained that last semester, more of her classes were online, which gave her flexibility to work more hours. This semester all of her classes are in-person so she had to cut back her work schedule. Her typical weekday starts with classes from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., some days until 4. On workdays, she goes home, showers, and heads straight to her shift, often not finishing until 8 p.m. Somehow, she still tries to make it to the gym.

"She does everything she's expected to do, and we can always trust her to work hard."

Tina Rogers

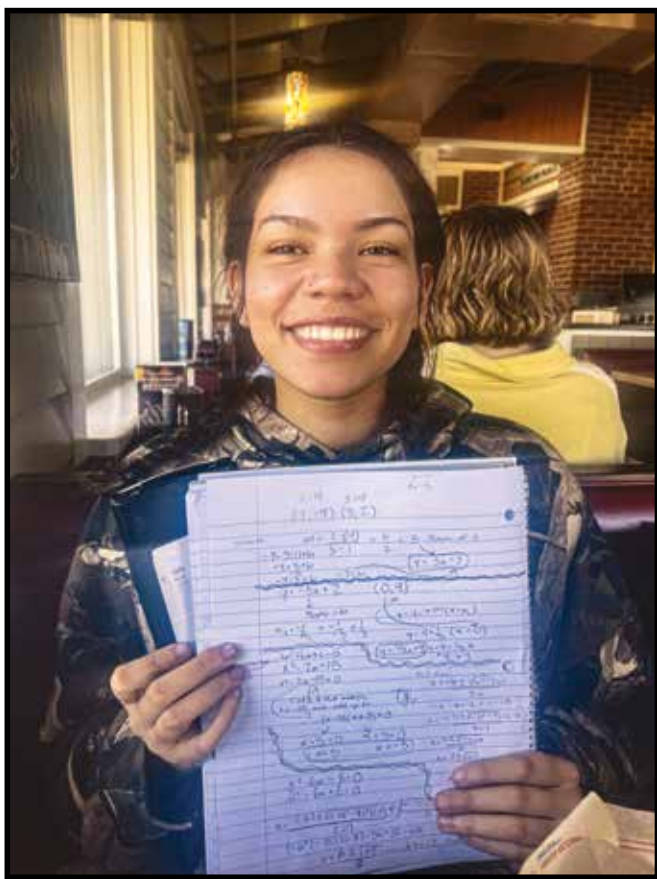
However, on overwhelming nights, she skips the gym and goes straight home to finish homework. She journals to manage stress and rereads her entries to decide what she can improve. While reflecting, Jones acknowledges her busy schedule requires her to sacrifice some time with friends. "I feel like I'm missing out," she said, but added that in those moments she reminds herself of her priorities.

For Jones, organization is key. She keeps everything she needs — gym clothes, work uniform, school materials — in her car. She sets "a million alarms" and sometimes leaves an hour early to beat traffic. When everything feels urgent she ranks everything by importance and then works through them one by one. Even though she does her best to stay on top of things there have been setbacks. Instead of giving up, she adjusted. She talked to her manager and requested more days off to focus on school.

Her manager, Tina Rogers, describes her as always on time and reliable. "She does everything she's expected to do, and we can always trust her to work hard," Rogers said. She also added that Charlzie never lets school interfere with her work or affect her performance.

Coworker and friend Rose Gore agrees. She says school and work actually strengthen Jones' abilities in both areas. "Going to school helps her develop the skills she needs for work, and going to work helps her develop the skills she needs for school," Gore said.

Each shift, each class and every late night has become a routine that is shaping Jones into someone better. It isn't easy, but with every adjustment she makes, she is proving she can handle more than she once thought.



Charlzie Jones poses with her work

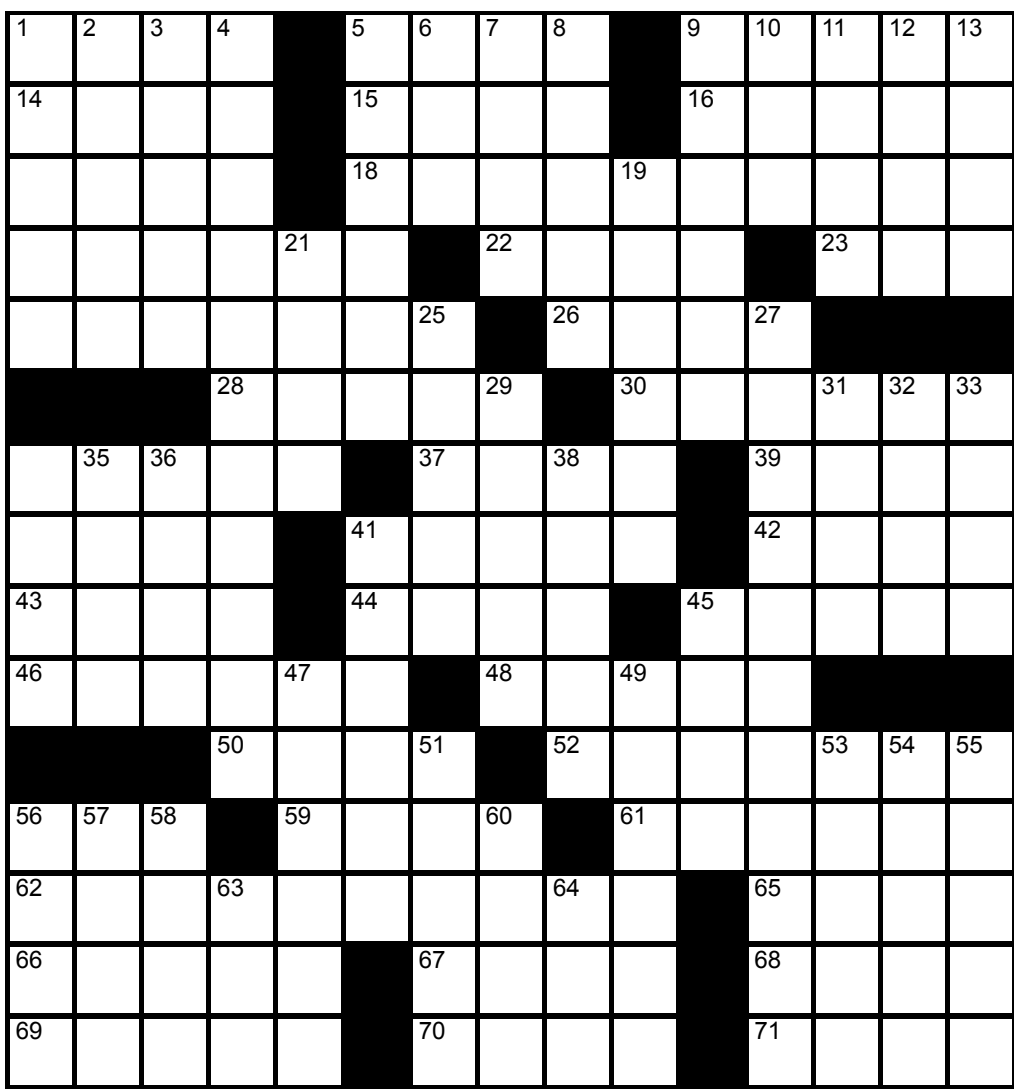
Courtesy photo

SOLUTION FOR CROSSWORD:

A	W	O	K	E	R	I	E	R	I	E	Y	A	R	D
M	E	T	R	O	C	A	K	E	L	Y	O	N		
A	N	T	A	G	O	N	I	S	T	L	I	M	E	
L	A	O	I	D	O	L	T	E	A	R	U	P		
S	E	N	I	O	R	S	S	H	U	N	S			
G	L	A	N	C	E									
O	L	I	O	S	H	I	A	G	N	O	M	E		
M	A	L	I	P	A	R	E	R	E	G	A	D		
S	M	I	T	H	R	U	D	E	S	O	D	A		
F	H	Y	S	I	C	S	Y	U	L	E				
U	G	A	N	D	A									
A	U	R	A											
C	A	R	R											
S	L	A	T											

Across

- 1 Thin strip
- 5 In the distance
- 9 Brandish
- 14 Mystery writer John Dickson
- 15 Corporate image
- 16 Lassitude
- 17 Mystique
- 18 Firebug
- 20 Entebbe locale
- 22 In a frenzy
- 23 Fitting
- 24 Science course
- 26 Festive time
- 28 Writer Asimov
- 30 Modus operandi
- 34 After gun or lock
- 37 Boorish
- 39 Fountain order
- 40 Senegal neighbor
- 41 Fruit-peeling device
- 42 Old-time oath
- 43 Medley
- 44 LaBeouf of film
- 45 Fairy tale figure



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- 46 Peek
- 48 Beginning
- 50 Eschew
- 52 Elders
- 56 Indochinese language
- 59 Hollywood favorite
- 61 Shred
- 62 Adversary
- 65 Margarita fruit
- 66 Subway
- 67 Bakery item
- 68 City on the Rhone

- 69 Came to
- 70 Great Lakes city
- 71 Sail support

Down

- 1 Diving duck
- 2 Chuckle
- 3 Impressive display
- 4 Passages
- 5 Petting zoo animal
- 6 One of seven "little" ones
- 7 Old Mogul capital
- 8 Spacious
- 9 In a feeble manner
- 10 Vacation spot

- 11 Author Bagnold
- 12 Island feast
- 13 They're spotted in casinos
- 19 Cat, e.g.
- 21 Potluck choice
- 25 Vaughan of jazz
- 27 Basically
- 29 Antique shop item
- 31 African nation
- 32 Cheese in a ball
- 33 Fabricated
- 34 E.P.A. concern
- 35 Shopping center
- 36 Hip bones
- 37 College bigwigs
- 41 Fraud
- 45 Heredity unit
- 47 Small tropical flea
- 49 Living room piece
- 51 Time being
- 53 Magadhan language
- 54 ___ has it ...
- 55 Not be frugal
- 56 Tibetan priest
- 57 De novo
- 58 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
- 60 Makeup artist?
- 63 Biblical boat
- 64 Hit the slopes

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Hard

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

SOLUTION FOR HARD SUDOKU:

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

SOLUTION FOR MEDIUM SUDOKU:

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

CHECK OUT OUR YOUTUBE!