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News Briefs

Music Clubs Gathering Features College Singers

The Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs' 100th year convention is being held Friday and Saturday (May 2-3), in the Shewmaker Center for Technologies on the NWACC Bentonville campus.

The Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs is affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs. Both the Arkansas federation and the national federation are service organizations promoting, providing and encouraging music and music education in America.

As a part of the convention, the NWACC Chamber Singers are presenting "A Mosaic in Music" in the Walmart Auditorium at 7 p.m. May 2.

The AFMC has been a staple of the performing arts in Arkansas for a century. Come see the NWACC Chamber Singers perform in celebration of the 100 years of contributions by the AFMC.

More information is available at <https://www.arkansasfmc.org/>

Party at the Plaza Scheduled May 1

A variety of student organizations will be in Bogle Plaza, between the Student Life Center and Burns Hall on Thursday, May 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The activity is part of NWACC Finals Stress Relief activities taking place at the Bentonville and Springdale locations April 28 through May 1.

There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, and dessert available. Student organizations will be conducting giveaways, offering face painting, and possibly even featuring a jukebox and balloon animals.

Come say hi, grab a bite, and enjoy yourself!

Registration is Open For Fall, Summer

Get ready to soak up some sun and knowledge. Registration for Summer and Fall 2025 is officially open. Jump in and snag your spot before the best classes are gone. Need help? Contact enrollment services at enrollmentsupport@nwacc.edu or text (479) 309-5532.

Have questions about a specific program? Reach out to your academic

SEE NEWS BRIEFS on Page 2

ACMA AWARDS ACCEPTED

Conference Hosted at NWACC. Flow Into Media: Connect. Create. Celebrate.

Kay King
Editor-In-Chief

The Arkansas College Media Association was founded in 1929 and annually convenes to recognize the best of the state's collegiate media output. The name Arkansas College Media Association (ACMA) recognizes that students are involved in not only print journalism, like newspapers, magazines, and yearbooks but also broadcast stations, websites, social media, and podcasts. "Winning entries receive certificates for first, second, third or honorable mention in each of the individual categories. Ties are permitted. Limit honorable mentions to just one per category," according to acma1929.wordpress.com.

Being the hosts, NWACC allowed students to be very hands-on with the event. The Eagle View was heavily involved, and help was available to ensure a smooth running experience for the visiting participants. Graphic Design Professor Kelsi Turk's Advanced Graphic Design students created all of the design



NWACC students and volunteers after the award luncheon.

Photo by Debbie Miller

and physical paper elements associated with the conference. Professor Debbie Miller's journalism and media students acted as conference volunteers assisting in greeting, registering and guiding the many visitors throughout NWACC's halls.

The all day event began at

8 a.m. in the Student Center; a breakfast of pastries, juice and coffee was provided by Walsworth. Like always, ACMA included special guest speakers from the industry, break-out sessions of specialized content areas providing cutting-edge information for student

journalists preparing to enter the media profession, as well as a luncheon before the awards were issued.

Nine breakout sessions took place in Burns Hall from 9 a.m. till noon;

Land That Job was a panel discussion, focused on seeking

internships and full-time journalism jobs. Featured guests; Gina Shelton; Colleen Clement; and Chris Swindle. NWACC's April Wallace, director of communications and public relations, served as moderator.

Capturing the Story in Sound, hosted by Matthew Moore covered everything from the purchase of a \$19,000 lectern by Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders to a coin mint in West Fork. Moore also shared tips for audio reporting/producing.

Taking Care of the Business Beat. Kim Souza discussed covering business, including the development of the world's largest retailer's new corporate headquarters that was taking shape less than two miles from the ACMA conference site.

She's Got Game: Women Flourishing in Sports Journalism. A panel discussion featuring Meridith Mulkey; Christina Long; and Donna Lampkin Stephens. Presenters discussed their own experiences and offered advice for those wanting to pursue a career in sports journalism.

SEE ACMA page 2

Looking Back: The May 2024 Tornadoes

Storm Anniversary Finds NWACC Campus Professors Returning to Normalcy

Editor's note: Deadly and destructive tornadoes struck Benton County a year ago during Memorial Day weekend. News Editor Dayanti Arechiga interviewed faculty members, a college leader, and a meteorologist for this special report.

Dayanti Arechiga
Co-News Editor

Nearly a year after violent storms struck Benton County, two faculty members are close to putting their homes and lives back together. The May 26, 2024, tornadoes hit surrounding towns in the Northwest Arkansas region, such as Decatur, Rogers, and Bentonville.

More than 2,000 Benton County homes and businesses received damage in the storms, with 77 structures destroyed and 267 sustaining major damage, according to figures from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Benton County Emergency Management, and the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.

At least two faculty members at NWACC were among those affected. Faculty members, Professor Megan Looney and Professor Steve Voyak, were

impacted by the storm, and their homes were among the many to have had damage inflicted on their property.

When asked about the experiences that Professor Voyak and his wife endured, Jean Voyak noted, "It does get better; it may take a while, but it will get better."

"It sometimes seems like last week, and sometimes it seems like it was five years ago, like it will never end."

Jean Voyak

The Voyaks had been in Colorado visiting family the night the natural disaster struck. They recalled the need to pack up their belongings in another state, as they waited for everything to fall into place so that they could return home. In Rogers, their house was one of many that were hit by the intense winds. Jean Voyak best described the feeling of helplessness as, "You just become numb."

When recounting their experience with the tornado, Jean Voyak talked about the other aspects of a



Voyak front door and insulation splattered on interior walls after being hit by tornado.

Photos by Jean Voyak

tornado that some may not have regarded, "Tornadoes have a smell that you'll just...It's awful." The odor seemed to be sticking to anything, such as clothing, and it was remembered that the smell was difficult to get rid of. Steve Voyak described the smell as a "combination of water, wood, and insulation, and just anything and everything you can imagine."

Fellow faculty member, Professor Looney, who teaches in the English department, was affected by this disaster as well. Looney experienced damage

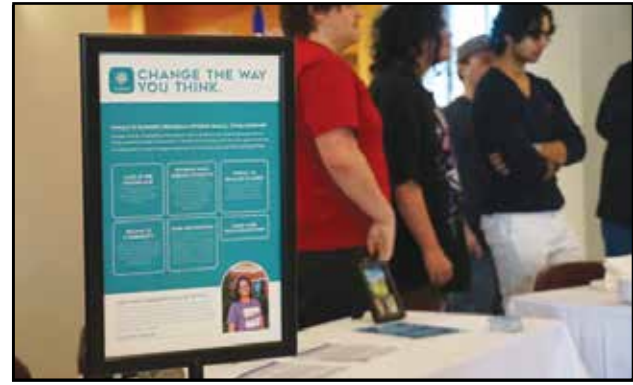


to her Bentonville home. The damage due to mature trees is a factor in many cases of stronger tornadoes. Aftermaths such as holes poked into roofs by the limbs of trees are far too

common. The destruction can then create even bigger problems, such as water and debris falling into the house or business, which in turn creates water

SEE Tornadoes page 3

NEWS



20 Years & Counting for Honors Program

Director of Honors program, along with former and current honor students, share the impact of NWACC's honors program.

FEATURES



Reporting from Planet Comicon Kansas City

Eagle View staff travel to Kansas City to share PCKC experiences, tips and tricks. Exclusive page full of content and pictures.

OPINION



El Salvador Orphanages Provide Place to Call Home

NWACC student and a Northwest Arkansas mission team visit sites in El Salvador during spring break.

NEWS BRIEFS continued from page 1

advisor on Workday.

Some students in Storytelling for Today's Media recently interviewed a few students and faculty members about courses being offered during the fall semester.

Visit the Eagle View YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@nwacceagleview1464>.

Grow with NWACC at Plant-a-Seed Soiree

Support NWACC students at the Plant-a-Seed Soiree on Friday, May 2, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Heroncrest Event Center in Elm Springs. Enjoy live entertainment, a Brightwater-catered dinner, and auctions, with proceeds benefiting student scholarships. Contact Leah Miles at nwaccfoundation.org for information.

Student Success Resources

The Office of Student Success is offering two new student success resources: Weekly workshops on academic success skills for students; and a 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!

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.

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 meals 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.

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.

Honors Work Study Needed

The Honors Program is searching for a work-study for the rest of the Spring semester and rolling into summer and even the fall semester. Your hours worked will vary based on your FAFSA, but they are usually between 5 and 19 hours per week. Work studies are paid \$14/hr and will help with various small tasks and meet new students as needed.

You do NOT need to be a member of Honors to apply.

Contact Sabrina Chesne for questions at schesne@nwacc.edu.



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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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Honors Celebrates 20 Years

Director, Former & Current Students Share Impact of Honors Program

Chelsea Castillo

Managing Editor

NWACC's Honors celebrated 2 decades of their "dynamic and student-centered" learning program on March 20. Many Honors students, Honors instructors and guests gathered in the student center to connect and celebrate what the program has brought to the college throughout the years since its beginning.

The college's Honors program forms a student-centered learning atmosphere with small-discussion centered classes that focuses on showing students a new way of learning. Yullyana Laguna, former NWACC honors student and current University of Arkansas honors student, said "there's a lot of stigmas going into it but honestly with honors classes there's more connection with the professors that I really enjoyed."

Honors classes drive students to achieve new things and experience new ways of education. Students in the honors program should expect; small classrooms with fewer than 15 students, courses that challenge students to think critically and creatively, as well as, incorporate these learned skills to real world issues with hands-on projects, research and



NWACC faculty, staff, past and current students gather to celebrate the Honors Program.

Photo by Nadia Moutria

service opportunities.

"I hope students take away the idea of what they can do with their education if they push themselves to do new things," said Sabrina Chesne, Director of NWACC Honors. Although it is a different type of work compared to other classes, Chesne mentioned that many students who hear about honors automatically assume the workload is too difficult for them. When really honors classes strive to be more hands-on and project oriented, instead of purely more difficult.

Connection building is strongly encouraged in honors. Students involved typically stay

connected with one another as a result of the community building while in the program. Judah Tate, a current NWACC Honors student, said "The [Honors] program has been excellent while I've been at NWACC, and I have met a lot of smart individuals while I've been in the program and gotten to know them more."

Honors has changed the requirements for enrollment, originally only considering GPAs. Now, it has changed the requirement to 3.2 GPA and professor recommendation. "I assumed the program would have been dull and serious, but after I joined, I found myself having a lot of fun

during my time at NWACC," said Tate, "I would recommend that you join as soon as possible if interested."

Chesne also said, "many people start out thinking honors isn't for them, or it isn't attainable. When they take it, I hope they realize that they are honors students and that they do hold all the value, ... I think most of them leave with more confidence than what they started with."

For more information about the NWACC Honors Program, you can reach out to honors@nwacc.edu or visit Burns Hall 1111.

CONTINUED from ACMA 1



Social media post created by Kelsi Kurk's class.

Bringing Photos to Life: How to Style, Design and Select Images for Impact. Little Rock's Soiree Magazine's Emma Devine and Josie Burnett discussed styling, image selection and design for visual storytelling. They presented examples of photo essays for visual storytelling, showed how a designer works with images and elements to extend the visual storytelling, and provided a practical example of managing a photo shoot.

That's Entertainment! Claim Your Voice on the Creative Beat. Jocelyn Murphy shared insights from her time covering the region's arts and music scene — what makes it exciting, what makes it challenging, and how to keep up when you're running a weekly entertainment magazine.

Breaking News in the Digital Space.

Delaney Van Wilpe and Spencer Bailey discussed their roles as journalists in the digital world.

What It Takes to Produce a Quality Publication. Jenny Whightsil discussed the challenges and rewards of producing a quality yearbook. As a former college yearbook editor, Whightsil knows this topic well and is committed to helping college yearbook staff tell their college's stories in their own words.

Creating and Sustaining a Print Publication in the Digital Age. Kody Ford launched The Idle Class in 2011 online and 2013 in print. The magazine seeks to celebrate the arts in Arkansas and features content about music, events, culinary offerings, art, fashion, film, and writing.

After the sessions, the numerous students shuffled into Student Center room 108 to hurriedly eat lunch and learn the award results.

The Eagle View and its current and former staff received 27 awards. Two members of the Eagle View leadership team received honors

in two General Excellence categories.

Chelsea Castillo, managing editor of the Eagle View, received one of the top awards in the General Excellence category. Castillo was named "Reporter of the Year" and received a framed certificate and a \$1,000 check. The judge for the category wrote, "Admired for her writing and reporting, this entrant has demonstrated to her peers and her administrators the value quality journalism can provide to a student media outlet. The letters speak highly of her efforts to keep the students informed of crucial stories on the campus, as well as offering them fun and engaging features. She has done her newsroom proud." The monetary prizes were presented to first-place winners in some of the individual General Excellence categories by the Arkansas Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Kay King, the student newspaper's editor-in-chief, was awarded third place in the General Excellence category of "Newspaper Editor of the Year." The judge for this category wrote, "A great candidate for this honor who provided her staff with solid content, good leadership skills and great support."

Eagle View Staff & Student Contributors Earn 25 Awards in Online & Newspaper Categories

First-place winners:

Johan Trejo, topical reporting/blogs—online, "It Takes a Village: A Look at the Economics of Grand families"

Debbie Upson, multimedia package—online, "Diagnosing Disaster" (coverage of health professions disaster drill)

Samantha McClain and Delaney Reaves, meeting/speech coverage—online, "NWACC Board Approves Tuition Increase"

Delaney Reaves, in-depth reporting—online, "NWACC to Explore AI Possibilities"

Kay King, breaking news

(within 24 hours of the event)—online, "Flying Forward to the Future" (new branding reveal)

Morgan Nunley, review writing, print newspaper, "Snub of the Century: Why Iron Claw is the Best Movie of 2023"

Samantha McClain and Stephanie Roat, online advertising, "Super Tuesday Election Night"

Second-place winners:

Delaney Reaves, feature photo—online, "Sunshine the Squirrel"

Ryen Hale, sports writing—online, "Pursuing Gold through

Steven McElroy's Eyes"

Jaden Burgett, topical reporting (blogs)—online, "When a Doctor Recommends Alcohol, You Know You Are in Trouble"

Jaden Burgett, editorials/commentary/blogs—online, "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Women's Rights"

Jaden Burgett, headlines—online, "When a Doctor Recommends Alcohol, You Know You Are in Trouble"

Kay King and Stephanie Roat, multimedia package—online, "Catching Up on CAST"

Delaney Reaves, sports photo—print newspaper, "The librarians celebrate their wins" (from college-intramural bowling event)

Third-place winners:

Ryen Hale, topical reporting/blogs—online, "9/11-The Day to Never Forget"

Eagle View staff, multimedia package—online, "Overview: 2024 Election"

Vivian Mejia, election/political—online, "State ranks lowest in voter turnout"

Braiden Burton, election/political—print newspaper, "Incumbents Win Re-election to NWACC Board"

Kay King, headlines—print newspaper, "Trails and Trades Takes Off"

Debbie Upson, sports feature—print newspaper, "Making the Cut: A Glimpse into NWACC's Cross Country Open Tryouts"

Honorable mentions:

Kay King and Samantha McClain, headlines—print newspaper, "Creepy Creatures at Crystal Bridges: Spiders, Sharks and Snakes Oh My!"

Kay King, in-depth news—print newspaper, "Brightwater venturing into new territories"

Debbie Upson, feature writing—print newspaper, "Going Beyond the Pages"

Nadia Moutria, feature photo—print newspaper, "Trios Las Hermanitas Alvarez performs"

Stephanie Roat, art/illustration—print newspaper, "Fitzgibbon's graphic novel"



Eagle View staff award winners.

Courtesy Photo

CORRECTIONS

Corrections shall be made in print and online in the event of an error of fact. No content should be amended without the knowledge of the editor-in-chief after it has been published. Eagle View does not remove content from www.nwacc.edu/academicdivisions/commart/studentnewspaper/default.aspx at the behest of a source under any circumstances.

In the case of factual error in a print story, a correction will be run in the next issue after the error is discovered. Any corrections to facts in an online story will be made immediately, with an editor's note marking the date and the nature of the correction. Small grammatical errors may be updated without an editor's note.



Parents on Parade

Resource Fair Brings Local Support Services & Community to NWACC

Kay King
Editor-In-Chief

NWACC’s Bogle Plaza hosted a -free and open to the public- parenting resource fair on April 23. The fair was designed to connect parents with valuable community, academic, employment and health resources. A total of 20 organizations were on site to help primarily students who are parents; however, the event was open and beneficial for all.

Those who attended learned about additional educational opportunities after completing an NWACC program of study, how to sign up for health services and wellness programs, as well as connect with employment services.

In addition to valuable resources, the event included popcorn, pizza, door prizes and freebies. Career Pathways hosted the event.



Student, Brittany Jones, running the AR Health table and student, Angela Deneke.



Photos by Nadia Moutria



CONTINUED from Tornadoes 1

damage inside the buildings.

That was the case for Looney’s home. “One of the trees had almost, like, hatcheted into the part of the house that’s actually right above our bedroom,” she said. “And that’s where the electric service connects to the house. So, it had hit that and just completely disconnected everything.”

The storm damage was not the only challenge that the couple faced.

“The next couple of weeks just seemed a bit like a comedy of errors,”

Megan Looney

Looney and her husband were under the weather with COVID-19 as the events took place. Dealing with a heavy sickness, fallen trees, and tornado damage that forced them to strip their houses to avoid mold growth made the ordeal trickier. To add to her situation, their basements flooded once more after draining them, and the powerline

pole fell over, starting a fire shortly afterwards.

According to 40/29 News, the events of the Memorial Day weekend storms occurred in the early morning hours of May 26. The first and most damaging Decatur tornado touched down after heavy winds and storms mixed. The tornado began at 12:59 a.m. and ended at 1:21 a.m. and ranged in maximum winds of 145 to 155 miles per hour. To measure the strength of the event, meteorologists use the Enhanced Fujita Scale to categorize the intensity. Starting at EF-0 as the weakest and EF-5 as the most destructive, anything over an EF-2 would be considered a stronger tornado. The first Decatur tornado reached a level of EF-3, being one of the strongest tornadoes Northwest Arkansas has seen. The first tornado that hit Decatur was credited as the widest tornado in Arkansas’s state history, with a width of 1.82 miles.

As the minutes passed, the Rogers tornado would land, causing notable damage to the heart of the downtown and its surroundings. The Rogers tornado ranked as an EF-1/EF-2 in power and



The Voyaks’ home demolished for rebuilding.

Photo by Jean Voyak

Board of Trustees Approves Honorary Degrees

Former NWACC instructor, local artist to receive honors

Chelsea Castillo
Managing Editor

NWACC’s board of trustees approved awarding Lynette Bennett and Stan Dark with honorary degrees at the board’s April 14 meeting. The trustees voted unanimously to confer the degrees to the two candidates.

NWACC Trustee Carolyn Reeves introduced the candidates at meetings and stated they were selected by NWACC’s honorary degree committee. Both nominees attended the meeting.

Lynette Bennett is a former instructor at the college who taught in Health Professions. She was nominated by a former student of hers who is graduating in May this year. In a recent article published by the NorthWest Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Bennett said the recognition was an honor since it came from a previous student of hers and she values passing knowledge and experience to new students in the profession.

Stan Dark is a local artist in Northwest Arkansas, and his nomination emphasized his community contributions related to the arts. Dark had lived in the area previously and moved back to Northwest Arkansas in 2018 after living in Baton

Rouge, Louisiana, for 45 years. The Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette article stated that Dark mentioned that seeing the strength of the community and how it valued artistry made him want to be a part of the region again.

As president of Artists of Northwest Arkansas, Dark helped the organization through finding a new space after the May 26 tornado damaged the organization’s gallery and space.

As the nonprofit organization was seeking a space, an artist member offered a building a couple of blocks away. According to a 5News report, the nonprofit was able to start occupying the space in January, but needed to do some work before the gallery opened to the public. The grand opening event was April 25.

According to the NWACC website, NWACC’s Board of Trustees periodically grants honorary degrees to recognize and celebrate outstanding services to the college and/or the community. The honorary degree is awarded to select individuals who, beyond their occupational pursuits, exemplify a high caliber of service to enhance the quality of life.

The honorary degrees will be awarded at the May 14 commencement ceremony at the Walmart AMP.

Tornado Tips

Darby Bybee Offers Advice for Staying Safe

Dayanti Archiga
Co-News Editor

When looking back at the tornadoes, it is important to keep in mind the warnings avnd advice of your local meteorologist. 40/29 News Chief Meteorologist Darby Bybee said, “We’ll let you know exactly where the greatest risk is, and when that risk has passed for the communities that had to take cover.”

He added, “Once the storms form, it’s important to pay particularly close attention. Keep your phone on you.”

Additional advice he offered: If you happen to find yourself in a predicament with a tornado warning being placed and do not live in a building where going underground is a choice, be sure to “find a spot in your home on the lowest floor, as interior as possible (as many walls between you and the outside as possible).”

The questions of where to go

when living in an apartment or when you are on the road are prevalent. Bybee said, “If you’re on the second, third, etc. floor of an apartment, you still need to find the most interior spot possible.

If you can get downstairs to a trusted neighbor’s apartment or a nearby clubhouse, that could be better. But you should be very confident that the tornado is still far enough away before venturing outside. If you’re unfortunate enough to be out driving around or just not located in some kind of structure (camping, hiking, biking, boating, etc), you should first try to get to the nearest structure. If that’s not available, your absolute last resort is to get down low in a ditch or some low-lying spot.”

However, don’t worry too much about the upcoming months, as tornadoes are generally rare. “Even in conditions that look perfect for tornado

development, not every storm will produce a tornado. In fact, most will not. And most tornadoes are of the weaker variety,” Bybee said.

Damage to Homes & Businesses in Benton County

77– Destroyed (more than 2 surfaces gone)
267 - Major Damage (one surface gone)
912 – Minor Damage (ceiling or wall penetrated)
1,313 – affected (tree down, hail damage, shingles off)
Source: Assessments were a joint effort and completed/ reviewed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Benton County Emergency Management, and/or Arkansas Department of Emergency Management



Professor Steve Voyak and Jean Voyak's home aftermath.

Photo by Jean Voyak

“Being able to laugh at the absurdity, I think, just reminded me of the importance of being able to laugh and the importance of finding humor in situations, even if they are bad situations.”

Megan Looney

Nevertheless, as the hard times pushed on, the professors had moments throughout their aftermath that put sparks of light into their lives. An example of this can be seen when Jean Voyak was picking up the aftermath of their dresser being torn from their bedroom. When picking up the debris of it all, Jean Voyak recounted the number of socks she had picked up from her husband’s collection. Thinking, “Oh my God, I did not realize how many socks he had! Every time you lifted up a board, there would be another sock!”

Another highlight of the Voyaks and their process to normalcy was the chance to help retire a United States flag that belonged to a neighbor of theirs. They found the flag wedged and wrapped in the roots of a tree, blown into their house. Then soon, the Voyaks helped their neighbors retire the flag in honor of the neighbors’ father, who had served.

As the anniversary of the storms approaches, the professors will return to normalcy. Reflecting on the collective experiences may help others remember the light we must carry with us when situations become dark, as we continue looking forward to the better.

Trending TikTok Community

Booktok’s on the Reading Community

Kharma Beck
Copy Editor

TikTok has been taking the world by storm and with that creating popular sub communities within. “Booktok” is considered one of those TikTok subcommunities. This subcommunity is similar to ones seen on other social media platforms such as Instagram with “Bookstagram” and Youtube with “Booktube.” According to The Cornell Sun, “Booktok first formed around 2020.” Social media has affected what things are trending whether that be clothes or television shows and movies. In this subcommunity across the different social media platforms, it sets trends for books, authors, and what tropes are popular amongst the masses. These trends have started to influence what some bookstores carry in-store.

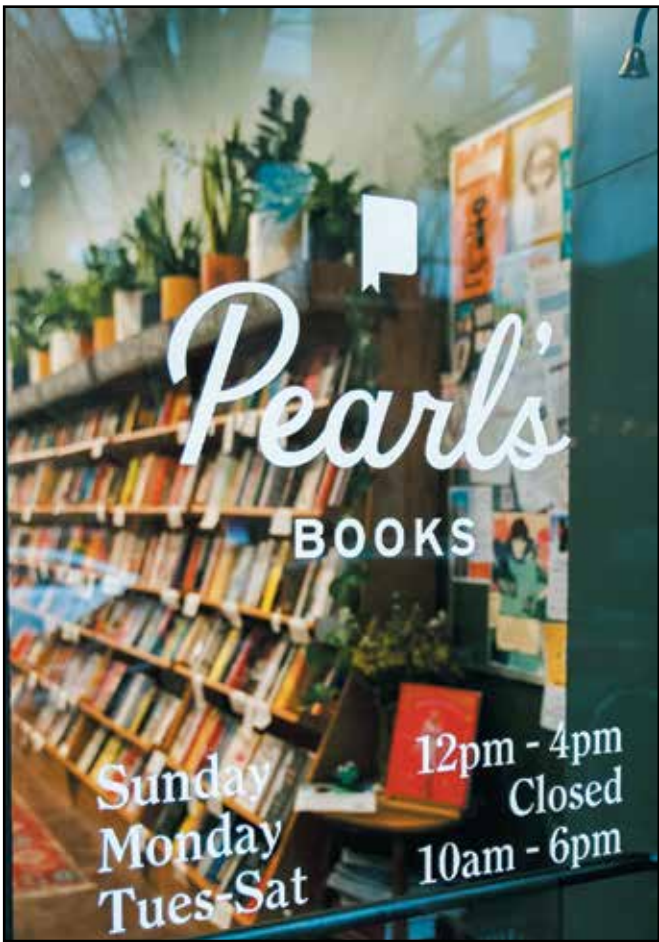
TikTok has had a large impact on the book community due to the accessibility it offers for creators and followers. It’s easy to make a short video about a book that was just read, or about an author who has a new book coming out. It’s even easier to go on TikTok and find a book recommendation by looking up a genre, trope, or author. A representative of Pearl’s, a local bookstore in downtown Fayetteville, was asked about “Booktok” or “Bookstagram” having an impact on the store and its popularity. Pearl’s manager, Hallee Israel, said, “I wouldn’t say ‘booktok’ has necessarily increased our store’s popularity, but it has certainly influenced which titles are popular in the store.” The Cornell Sun did mention that “by 2021, book sales in the U.S. rose 9 percent to reach 825.7 million print sales which was the highest reported statistic since BookScan started recording data in 2004.”

The majority of the books trending on “Booktok” are romance, fantasy, and the genre that combines the two that most refer to as “romantasy.” The popularity of these genres are not difficult to spot when pursuing the book sections of stores like Target or Walmart, and are even more apparent when going to a bookstore like Barnes and Noble. Smaller, locally owned bookstores like Pearl’s carry these

popular genres, but also “try not to advertise books with a lot of traction online because they don’t need our help, so [they’d] rather focus on smaller titles and authors”, according to Israel. When it comes to advertising books, Tiktok has made that easy.

Authors have used “Booktok” to their advantage to help promote their books. When asked about how the TikTok ban might affect sales, Israel responded, “I wasn’t concerned about the Tiktok ban impacting sales, but I was interested to see how it would impact authors. Authors have gained a lot of traction on TikTok and use it to promote themselves, in a way that I don’t think can be replicated, so I was definitely concerned for up and coming authors looking to build an audience”. Smaller authors like to read or show excerpts from their books that include a trope that is currently trending on “booktok” to gain the attention of potential readers. A trope is a recurring plot device or character archetype. Popular tropes on TikTok include enemies to lovers, found family, grumpy sunshine, and Hallmark cliché. Authors also go live on TikTok and show themselves writing their books as a way to connect with the communities they’ve created. There, they are able to ask their community for opinions on different aspects of the book that they are currently working on and get immediate responses.

“Books have always been a great way to bring people together, and while ‘bookstagram’ and ‘booktube’ have been around for ages, Tiktok is a force unlike any other,” according to Israel. “People bond on that app and trust the creators they follow, so ‘Booktok’ influencers have a lot of influence.” Although there doesn’t seem to be a direct correlation between “Booktok” and the recent jump in numbers seen from publishing and physical booksellers, that doesn’t mean there hasn’t been any impact whatsoever. “By streamlining word of mouth, rekindling excitement for reading and romanticizing the art of the home library, Booktok has brought young people back to bookstores,” The Cornell Sun reported.



The front door of Fayetteville's indie bookstore, Pearl's Books.
Photo courtesy of Pearl's Book Instagram, @pearlsbooks

Values Play Strong Role in Choosing Health Professions

Desire to Help, Compassion Drive some NWACC Students

Shannon Padilla
Contributor

Our values are what shape us. They create the foundation for choices we make, the connections we sustain, and shape the inevitable person we will become. Our values often lead us to the career path we chose, indicating what’s most important to us.

Health professions specifically require a strong commitment to personal values. With long hours and strenuous activity, the choice to step into the health field is no light task, but students are continuously answering the call. Occupations in the field are growing rapidly, even projected to grow faster than the average for all occupations from 2023 to 2033, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Outlook Handbook.

Events such as the Covid 19 pandemic, general employment growth, and those leaving the field either to retire or switch career paths are all causes for growing demand in health care. Those with a strong sense of justice and a knack for helping others are stepping up to fulfill both their personal and professional duties.

Lucas Mets, an EMT student at NWACC, talked about his core values and the instances that led him to pursuing this career path. When he was a child, his grandmother valued community and helping the

neighborhood in any way she could. “She would take our neighbors food and do any tasks they might need before they could even ask for help,” Metz said. This trickled into his own life. He said his biggest indicator for wanting to pursue an EMT certificate and eventually train to be a firefighter is his drive to help others.

When asked what values he thought are needed to pursue this field, he listed courage and bravery as the two most important. “I’ve grown up with the mindset of ‘If not me, then who?’” he says, “which I think has shaped my outlook in every aspect of life.”

Megan Hawley, who is in the physical therapy assistant program at NWACC, discussed the values she holds and why it brought her to the PTA program. “I’ve always wanted to have a career that involves human connection,” she said. “Physical therapy combines many of my personal interests such as health, fitness, and the anatomy and physiology of the human body, which allows me to help people become the best version of themselves.”

Hawley’s biggest challenge while trying to succeed in the accelerated program is one that many students find themselves facing: financial burdens. “Because this program is accelerated, it doesn’t leave much time for work.” Hawley contributes much of her drive and success to the help of others around her. “I have relied heavily on my husband

to provide financially during this time, and we have had to budget, knowing that this is a temporary sacrifice for a long-term reward.”

The dean of Health Professions, Mark Wallenmeyer, discussed why some students may choose to join health professions. “We all have a ‘reason’ that we got into healthcare,” he said. “For some, it may be a family member that went through a rough time and the student witnessed-- let’s say a nurse and the care they gave. They want to emulate that experience and give the same care.”

He emphasized the importance of strong values and their role in the healthcare field. He states that honesty, ethics and compassion are highly regarded when it comes to caretaking and patient confidentiality.

“To be in healthcare you have to be 100% honest with everything you do,” Wallenmeyer said. These values can help students have a smooth transition into their chosen career. “Ethics because we have to abide by these laws and all national certifying boards have ethics clauses in them. If you do something that is unethical, you can lose your license for a period of time or forever. It is just best to be honest and ethical and do the right thing.”

Compassion, the value that most students attribute their interest in the health field to is arguably the most encompassing. Wallenmeyer said,

“Compassion because healthcare is very taxing emotionally. You will have ups and downs, and you build a relationship with a lot of your patients. We see them over and over and we see their progression in health. It takes a lot of compassion to be in healthcare.”

Whether you’re training to be a first responder in the face of chaos, or fixing the aftermath of someone’s hardships, there is a lot that goes into getting ready for a job in the health field. NWACC specifically has high standards when preparing their students to join the workforce.

Wallenmeyer said “NWACC is truly a leader in the state in healthcare,” with 10 to 20 percent of students averaging higher first-time pass rates on certification exams in comparison to state and national averages.

“Additionally,” he said, “ninety-five% of the students who graduate from NWACC stay in this area. So, we are providing a needed workforce for Northwest Arkansas.”

With the growing rate of population in Northwest Arkansas, a larger amount of healthcare workers is tremendously useful. “My hope for the future is to listen to industry needs and hopefully provide what the healthcare industry needs for this area,” Wallenmeyer says.

Student Literary Magazine Launches in May

Nucleus Offers Space for Designers, Creators to Show Work

Meadow Reaves
Contributor

The first issue of the new student-run literary magazine, Nucleus, is set to be released by the first weeks of May. Nucleus will exclusively feature NWACC students’ work, accepting submissions from genres such as poetry, creative writing, short stories, original artwork and more. The staff behind the new magazine encourages students to keep their eye out for the new issue, and to consider submitting their work for the next issue, which is planned to release in the fall.

Larissa Sprecher, the faculty adviser for Nucleus, said that the main goal of the magazine is to expand the artist community at NWACC. From creative writing to graphic design, Nucleus hopes to give creatives at NWACC a designated space to showcase and view each other’s work. The first issue of Nucleus will be available to view digitally; however, Sprecher has said that she hopes future issues will be printed. Those interested will be able to read the first issue on the Nucleus website, and a link to it can be found on the NWACC website.

Sprecher mentioned that she understands how submitting your work to a journal can be scary, but emphasized how Nucleus is not meant to be a competitive space. “This is to showcase our students, our community, and the creative work that we do here, because we have a lot of really creative students here ... I really want to emphasize that Nucleus is just for us.”

The same staff working on Nucleus are behind the production of Hive Avenue, an NWACC run literary journal that accepts submissions internationally. Sprecher said that the idea for Nucleus began last spring, when NWACC dean, Sharon Fox, suggested that it was time for NWACC students to have a creative space of their own. Sprecher said Fox introduced the idea of using the name Nucleus for the new magazine. A nucleus, Sprecher said, is a starter hive. A single frame where a new hive emerges, which she said fit perfectly with the team’s vision for what they wanted the new magazine to be; a place for NWACC student creatives to grow and showcase their talents together.

Duane Coleman is an NWACC Graphic Design professor who has been involved in the production of Nucleus since the beginning. Coleman’s students have been working on the first issue, and are responsible for a number of tasks, such as creating marketing material, branding, and composing the style of the magazine. Coleman mentioned that his students put their own effort into researching the medium to ensure the quality of the new magazine, despite many of them having no prior experience working on a literary journal. Coleman said the most rewarding part of creating Nucleus has been seeing the finished product, and having the chance to witness his students’ hard work pay off.

Coleman also expressed a similar sentiment as Sprecher when asked about student submissions. “We want to get students’ artwork out there, get people to see it and appreciate it. NWACC has a top-notch art department, and the students’ work reflects that. I want students to know that they can do it.” He said that having your work featured in a magazine like Nucleus is something students can be proud of, and that it can be a benefit to students’ resumes if they intend to take a creative career path.

One of Coleman’s students, Kimberly Gaucin-Calleros, said that she has taken a lot from her time working on Nucleus. “I learned a lot about teamwork ... it was also really cool to watch my teammate’s work grow from our ideas ...” She said that, despite the challenges she faced, her time working on the magazine has been exciting, and that she can’t wait to see the final result.

Sprecher said that Nucleus is very much a collaboration between the English and Graphic Design departments, and likened the magazine to a bridge connecting the two. She also expressed the importance of student participation when it comes to Nucleus. “This has been started for the students here, to give them a stress-free way to share their work and gain that confidence, and see what other people around the college are doing for creative work, but it can only keep running if it’s supported by the students, because that’s who it was started for.”



Nucleus issue 1 cover mockup by Samantha Lyles

“This is to showcase our students, our community, and the creative work that we do here, because we have a lot of really creative students here ... I really want to emphasize that Nucleus is just for us.”

- Larissa Sprecher, Faculty Adviser for Nucleus

'KAWS: Family' Exhibition at Crystal Bridges

Artist KAWS Showcases Art on Display in Northwest Arkansas

Chelsea Castillo
Managing Editor

Renowned artist KAWS made his mark in Northwest Arkansas last month with the opening of his new art exhibition on display at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. “KAWS: Family” opened on March 15 and is available to the public up until July 28.

KAWS, also known as Brian Donnelly, started his art career in the early 1990s; his first dip into art was with graffiti, which is shown in his art style with his KAWS characters who are named COMPANION, CHUM, and BFF. He has grown much attention throughout the years with his art characters displayed in 2D and 3D art. KAWS and Crystal Bridges collaborated to bring his famous artwork for NWA Arkansas residents to experience first-hand.

The exhibition first opened at the Art Gallery of Ontario in September of 2023, yet only having 7,000 square feet of space in Ontario’s vicinity at the time. With its arrival at Crystal Bridges, it opens to 11,000 square space and brings in more to show for public audiences. The exhibition displays the concept of different characters to connect to different family dynamics. Alejo Benedetti, Associate Curator at Crystal Bridges, stated, “what was exciting about this whole concept is that it is about family and looking at these different characters and the sort of family dynamics between them, it brings a really wonderful jumping off point for guests.”

Benedetti stated that public turnout has been exceptional, and it’s been helpful that admission for the exhibition is free for those who are 25 and younger. He also said, “I love getting to walk through the gallery and see the people in there. Although the numbers look great on paper, seeing the people engage with the artwork is a really gratifying thing to be able to witness.”

The KAWS exhibition is fitted to engage many types of audience members. The art pieces have connections to many famous cartoons such as the Simpsons, Sesame Street, Peanuts, etc. Benedetti exclaimed, “even if you’re not an art person, the coolest thing about this is that I guarantee that many people have seen the cartoons. Many will recognize the pieces displayed and hopefully bring in a connection between the art and most viewers while they experience this in person.” The characters CHUM, COMPANION, and BFF are displayed alongside these well known cartoons in eye-catching ways.

Within two months of the opening, many guests have shared great content after experiencing this



Artwork displayed for the KAWS exhibition at Crystal Bridges.

Photos by Chelsea Castillo

art exhibit. Edwin Beltran, a high school junior student and KAWS enthusiast shared, “I’ve been looking forward to this exhibition since it was first announced that it was heading to Crystal Bridges and getting to see it in person rather than all his artwork I’ve seen online has been so much fun.”

The admission for “KAWS: Family” exhibition is \$15 for general adults and free for those who are 25 and younger, veterans, Crystal Bridges members, and SNAP participants through enrollment. You can experience this exhibition up through July 28 this year. Benedetti said, “If you have seen his work, seen pictures, seen it online, or seen people posing with it, it’s worth coming to see in person.”



Joe Mandiola performing for Variety Night.



Variety Night

Performers Host Variety Show to Raise Money for Eagle View

Kay King
Editor-In-Chief

On April 11, after a busy day for NWACC Communications and Arts School, a Variety Night was arranged in the White Auditorium showcasing the theatre and music departments. Admission was free for all. Raffle tickets given to donors had the chance to win four voucher tickets for the play “110 In the Shade,” presented by NWACC Music and Theatre. All donations went to the NWACC Eagle View Student Newspaper. Donations totals \$88.



David Fox and Jina Her at Variety night.



Photos by Angela Allen and Nadia Moutria



Jordyn Bunting and Jadzia Craft performing at Variety Night.

Writing Winners

Spring Writing Contest Results

The Spring 2025 Sigma Kappa Delta Writing Contest was themed “Secrets of the Rain.” Winners received a \$25 gift card and have their winning entries published in the Nucleus.

The winner for Poetry is Carson Haller with the poem Rain’s Whisper

The winner for Short Story is Sophie Calin with the story “I am, but a flower”

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Comic Con Compilation

A Brief History of Comic Book Conventions

Kay King
Editor-In-Chief

Planet Comicon Kansas City is the largest comic book and pop culture convention not just in the Kansas City area, but within this entire region of the Midwest. The NWACC Eagle View staff members were invited to participate and report at the convention from March 20 to 23. Planet Comicon has a 26-year history, with the first convention being held in Overland Park, Kansas, in March 1999.

The first comic book convention took place in New York City in 1964. San Diego Comic-Con International, which is considered in the industry to be the flagship event, got its start in 1970. “These early conventions were intimate affairs, hosted by small groups of like-minded comic collectors and fans, generally taking place in regional hotels. (The first San Diego Comic-Con had around 100 participants; today, the annual attendance exceeds 130,000.) In these early cons, the emphasis remained largely on exhibiting rare or special comics and bonding over shared fandom,” according to UCF.edu.

San Diego Comic Convention—the corporate name of the non-profit organization behind Comic-Con International: San Diego—also puts on WonderCon and many other events. From 1995 until 2014, Comic-Con also was in charge of APE, the Alternative Press Expo, in San Francisco (2002–2014) and San Jose (1995–2001). “Founded by Dan Vado of SLG Publishing, the Alternative Press Expo was one



People coming on to the main floor of the convention.

Photo by Kharma Beck

of many shows across the United States that year that focused on independent comics. Vado’s vision was to create an event that would spotlight small publishing companies, self-publishers, and creators working in the alternative and independent side of the comics industry. This show also allowed greater interaction between attendees and creators and added fuel to the DIY (Do-It-Yourself) comics movement growing around the world. That first APE tied into a series of like-minded gatherings around the country, coming off the “Spirits of Independence Tour” of Dave Sim, creator of Cerebus, and is one of only two conventions that survived and flourished beyond the first

show,” said comic-con.org.

Conventions have changed considerably and are now more widely accepted including different kinds of fandom — not just comics, but also sci-fi movies, board games and more. Major publishers and even Hollywood movie studios have gotten involved.

One of the most significant evolutions may be the rise of cosplay, or dressing up in costumes. This is an increasingly common occurrence at comic conventions, with fans delighted to show up dressed as their favorite superheros or movie characters.

In recent years, conventions have gotten bigger and bigger. In 2015, San Diego Comic-Con generated profits exceeding \$17 million and it continues to grow each year, with the revenue in 2017 reaching \$19 million. “San Diego remains the largest comic convention in the United States, while New York Comic Con is the largest on the East Coast. At any given convention, there may be hundreds of events; in San Diego, participants have more than 600 options for panels, demos, previews and similar activities,” said UCF.edu.

As for international conventions, Comiket (or Comic Market), which takes place in Tokyo, often has attendance exceeding 590,000 people, mostly focusing on the Japanese comic genre called manga. This convention started in 1975 and has grown considerably since then.

The NWACC Eagle View team is very appreciative that we got to participate in such a large and cultured experience.

Comic-Con Community

Braxton Kehr
Reporter

As the escalator rose, my stoic facade began to crack. I tried to steel myself against the coming distractions, knowing it to be futile. My attempt at journalistic seriousness gave way to the giddy schoolboy who loves Ninja Turtles and stares in awe at fabulous costumes. I grabbed my camera to try to capture this moment as I began cresting the top of the escalator and the whole floor of the convention hall at Planet Comic-Con Kansas City came into view; my jaw dropped. The giddiness gave way to awe and wonder. The cosplay showcase was at the top of the escalator for all attendees to see, open to anyone, and one of my personal favorites. The costumes were incredible, the excitement of attendees waiting to take a picture with their favorite characters was palpable, and there were smiles as far as the eye could see.

I attended Planet Comic-Con Kansas City on March 22 with my wife, our daughter, and my daughter’s friend, both of whom are 11. At first, the trip was focused on the girls and their excitement. After all, the trip was their idea, and my wife and I were merely going along to chaperone and glean some fun from the whole experience. While the girls enjoyed themselves, my wife and I began to realize that we were the target audience for the convention.

I couldn’t help but smile as every time I turned my head, there was either a familiar character from a long-lost TV show or a hot new pop culture flavor of the month, or the next potential obsession. The convention floor was bustling with activity. Booths showcased the



Attendees dressed as Mandalorians, characters from the Star Wars universe created by George Lucas.
Photo By Braxton Kehr

latest merchandise, artists displayed their craft, and cosplayers posed for photos. Panels and presentations offered insights into the creative process of artists and actors, while games and contests provided entertainment and brought camaraderie. Christopher Lloyd from Back to the Future, David Wenham and Andy Serkis of The Lord of the Rings, and Christina Ricci from The Addams Family were a few of the more prominent guests and panelists. I met an author from NWA who has found success and was excitedly interacting with attendees and fans. Beyond the simple commerce of the convention, the inundation of support and affirmation uplifts artists in new ways.

Between the displays of costumes, commerce, and celebrity queues for photo opportunities, I could see families

like mine, wide-eyed with wonder. At the same time, groups of friends shyly weaved through the crowds, passionately debating the merits of costumes and plot lines among themselves. The diverse crowd spanned various ethnicities, genders, and fandoms, including families, collectors, cosplayers, and casual fans, all united by their shared passions. Rather than the rivalry found between some fandoms, such as Star Wars and Star Trek, everyone was celebrating as one, sharing their love for their particular fandom with others. Interacting with both local and world-famous artists, celebrities and creators known for iconic pop culture portrayals, and official cosplaying communities bring out the unabashed excitement and passion that the rest of the world doesn’t uniformly embrace.

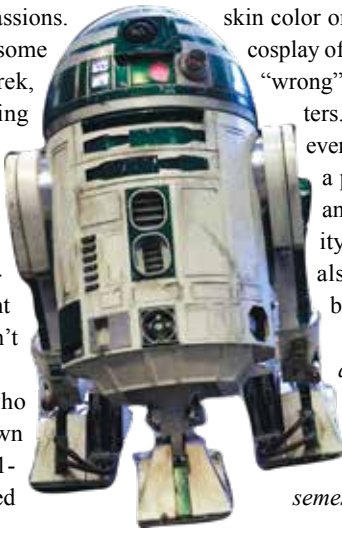
A diverse community of people who might not have otherwise met was drawn to this very convention hall on March 21-23, 2025, to celebrate not only their shared



Droids from the Star Wars universe created by attendees participating in the Droid Pageant.
Photos by Kharma Beck

fandoms but each other. Sharing their differences and celebrating their uniqueness, whether it’s their skin color or the fabric chosen for their cosplay of a Jedi Master, there were no “wrong” costumes or “right” characters. At Planet Comic-Con KC, everyone is welcome who shares a passion for the creative arts and expressions of individuality, assuming, of course, you also agree that Star Trek is better than Star Wars (wink).

Braxton Kehr is a reporter and writer for the NWACC Eagle View. He is part of the student newspaper and media lab class this semester.



Beginner’s Guide to the Planet

Newcomer shares tips for experience

Kharma Beck
Copy Editor

When going to Planet Comic Con Kansas City, I wasn’t sure what to expect. Planet Comic Con KC is known as the “largest comic book and pop culture convention not just in the Kansas City area, but within this entire region of the Midwest” according to the information on the event’s website, planetcomicon.com.

As this was my first Comic Con experience of any kind, the number of people and booths was overwhelming. I was unsure where to start looking. I went in blind with no prior knowledge of the reality of a comic book convention other than what I had seen presented through the media. I had

very few expectations to not get my hopes up. All I hoped for and held to be fact was that people got dressed in costumes as their favorite characters.

Lots of fandoms were represented, not just comic book related ones. A fandom is a group of fans of someone or something and are very prominent in today’s pop culture. Comic book conventions have morphed over the years from being strictly about comic book collecting and bringing comic books to get graded, to being about any fandom imaginable.

It was a last minute decision to go; we had less than a week to prepare everything. Should we dress up? What should we dress up as? Did we have enough gas money to actually get there? Ultimately we decided to go as two characters from the Superman universe – Lois Lane and Jimmy Olsen – two

powerless journalists from the Daily Planet. After arriving at the convention and seeing everyone’s costume and how much effort was put into them I wished I had more time to prepare. Although with such a short timeline of everything, I was proud we even attempted to come in our costumes that consisted of regular clothes from our closets. All these people had months, if not years, to prepare and make the perfect debut at the event. Even though lots of people dressed up, there were just as many, or maybe more, people that decided to say no to a costume. Then there were the people who decided to just wear a shirt in support of their favorite fandom. My advice to people in the future who are about to experience their first convention is that there really is no pressure when it comes to choosing your outfit.

Before going to the convention there was an opportunity to

pre-purchase photo opportunities with big stars and celebrities like Skeet Ulrich and Matthew Lillard. Although it looked like fun, I didn’t have enough time to find out more information or check prices until arriving. As I unfortunately assumed correctly, photo-ops were more expensive than expected. With the little time we had to actually plan and prepare for the trip, I was unable to get any photos with fandom stars I had originally wanted. Luckily for other attendees like myself, there were free panel discussions to attend of the celebrities. If the big names didn’t spark your interest, there were also authors and artists positioned at booths that attendees could meet and get autographs from.

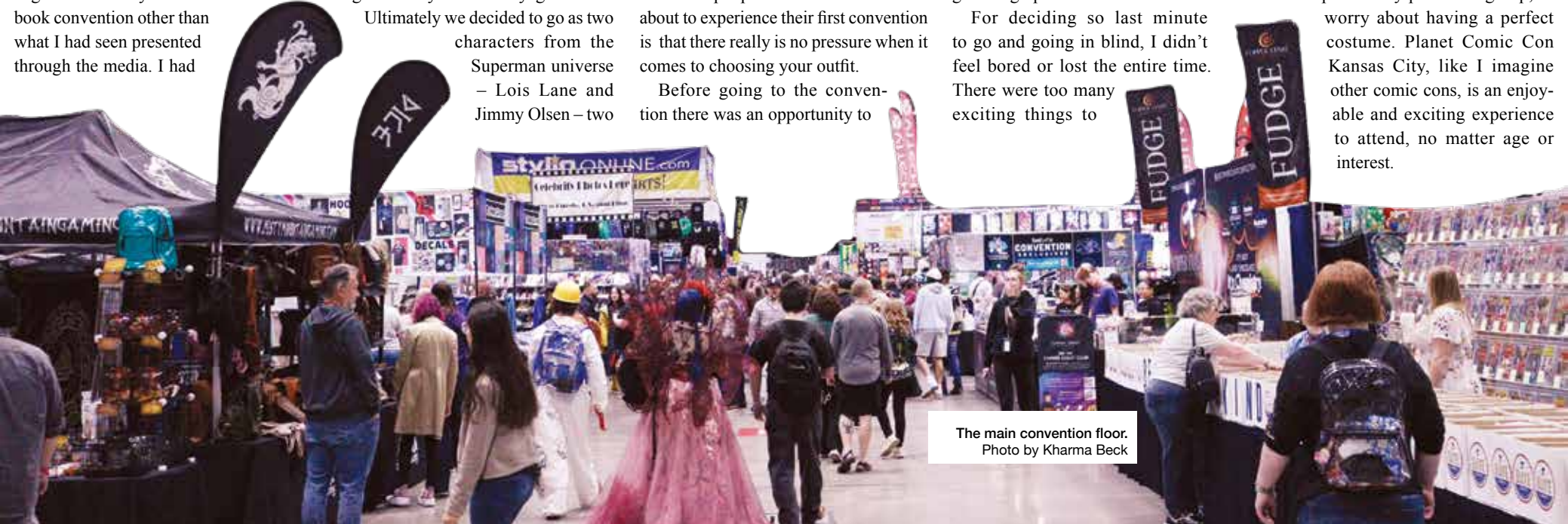
For deciding so last minute to go and going in blind, I didn’t feel bored or lost the entire time. There were too many exciting things to

experience to be bored. Multimedia panels with different people talking about topics like their careers in acting, storyboarding, or comic book illustration. Merchandise and knick knacks to buy. AFantastical characters to watch in ordinary situations.

Despite personally not being a really big fan of various things like the other attendees, I didn’t feel out of place at all.

There were numerous booths set up selling various things. Even if I wasn’t a part of the fandom it was directed towards, everything was still interesting to see the creations people brought to share with like-minded people.

Overall there was no pressure to be a part of any particular group, or worry about having a perfect costume. Planet Comic Con Kansas City, like I imagine other comic cons, is an enjoyable and exciting experience to attend, no matter age or interest.



The main convention floor.
Photo by Kharma Beck

El Salvador Orphanages Provide Place to Call Home

NWACC student and NorthWest Arkansas Mission teams visit sites in El Salvador

Logan Brown
Contributor

We all want someone to come home to, whether that is a guardian or some other form of significant other. Unfortunately, this world is cruel and unforgiving, but thanks to places like Remar it’s not all bad.

Remar is an orphanage in La Libertad, El Salvador. It houses 100 or so kids, from birth to 18 years old. Although the youngsters can leave whenever they want, most of the children live their whole lives there. Some even stay and volunteer there after they grow up. Some kids there had kids during their time at Remar, so they are able to take care of their children there. Remar is a safe haven for children from broken or abusive homes. There are only four main volunteers there, not including the head of the orphanage, Maria. The kids at the orphanage all have chores, things like taking care of their chickens and cows.

They have a lot of work out there and a lot of mouths to feed. They make money from the garden and the livestock they own; they also sell the plastics they use. Remar does not receive any money from the government; the government just gives the kids to them or takes them out.

El Salvador had a bad gang problem after their civil war in the ’80s. The gangs were a very large problem for its people; they controlled most of their lives and at one point there were hundreds of murders. The Pulitzer Center published a story by Kayli Plotner (March 20, 2016) about the orphans in El Salvador, Plotner wrote “As of January 2016, the homicide rate was 104 people per 100,000.” Obviously, something had to be done.

The president tried to throw the people in prison. If you had any kind of association with them, you would be incarcerated. Since there were so many gang members in jail, a lot of kids lost their parents. So, leaders put the children in the orphanages. As a result of all that, El Salvador had one of the highest orphan rates. Their government does not keep an official record of the orphan rate, so there is no official number.

Maria, the leader of the orphanage, said, “I see new kids coming in every few months, I’m always seeing new faces and giving up kids who have been here for years. We sometimes don’t get to build a bond with them, our president [Nayib Bukele] just puts them in and takes them out.” The sheer number of families under the poverty line and orphans was beginning to make the country as a whole look bad,

so they put the kids back with their abusive families. The whole thing was a really bad situation.

Remar did its best for the kids they took care of, but the lack of money was a scary problem. Luckily, a family from Spain was touched when they saw what Maria was doing in Remar. The father gave them his support, and when he died, his daughter picked things back up for him. With the extra money they were able to obtain, they made Remar into a school for the public. There was another school in the area, but people began to flock to Remar. They were able to make more money from the school as well, so Remar is able to continue its good work. Remar started creating a good name for themselves.

During spring break, I went with a group from New Hope church to El Salvador. Fifty of us went, with the ages ranging from 10 to 70. As we flew into El Salvador, customs asked what we were doing in their country. When we said we were working with Remar, they knew exactly who we were talking about and said they do great work here. These kids can live fruitful lives due to Remar. Thanks to the hard and dedicated work of the volunteer work and the money they have obtained, the kids there feel seen, loved, and desired. Life is not always bright for them, but Remar makes it their goal to raise them up and send them out.

San Miguel is another orphanage in El Salvador, run by a family living there. They are both in their early 30s and have two kids who also live there. They have 22 other children that they take care of. This orphanage is up in the mountains near the center of the country. There are no other orphanages near their area, so it’s up to them to care for the surrounding area. They have very little money, but they make use of what they have. When we went to San Miguel, the 50 of us were split into two parts. Twenty-five people stayed back in La Libertad. I was there helping in San Miguel; we installed a shower, toilet and sink. We also gave money to add some lighting and equipment for cement. The kids there get their education from some other school.

The orphanage is a non-denominational institution. These guys don’t have much, but they all seemed to be full of joy, seeing light in even the darkest of places. The children at both orphanages are a testament to the idea that less is more. Thanks to places like these, the kids can keep smiling.

Logan Brown is a student in the spring Media Writing class. During the recent spring break, he made the trip to El Salvador with a New Hope church group.



The photo above displays the Remar campus in El Salvador, and the photo below shows a volunteer building a sink in San Miguel, El Salvador.

Photos courtesy of Logan Brown



AD

Plant-Loving Artist Finds Challenge, Reward in Motherhood

Meadow Reaves
Contributor

Skyler Reaves is a 23-year-old mother from Northwest Arkansas who’s recognized as a painter, as well as a self-taught botanist. She’s currently working at a daycare and hopes to receive a formal education at some point, although she hasn’t had much time since becoming a mom. Specifically, she mentioned an interest in plant biology and architecture.

The people in Reaves’ life know her as someone with artistic talent. “She’s a great artist ... she’s always trying to do something different,” says her co-parent, Ashton McCormick. The belief that Reaves is a venturesome person seems to be a common thread through the people in her life. When Jasmine Przetocki, a close friend of Reaves’, was asked what Reaves is best at, she replied, “Trying new things and giving it her all.” McCormick described Reaves as, “... someone who is adventurous, is really curious, (and) who has so much drive, maybe too much sometimes ...”

Another thing that Reaves is known for is her green thumb. She said her passion for botany began in 2021, when she started looking at online tutorials. “I watched a lot of YouTube videos and eventually figured it out.” She has around 20 plants in her home right now and said she raised about half of them from either cuttings or seeds. When asked for advice on raising plants, Reaves said, “If at first you don’t succeed, try again ’cause I’ve killed about as many plants as I’ve raised,” she laughed.

When asked if anyone has changed the way she sees the world, Reaves’ response was immediate.

“Coyote. Coyote is my baby. He’s 9 months old and he’s flipped my world upside down ... I don’t know what I would do without him.”

The change in Reaves’ life after having a baby is clear to the people around her as well. Przetocki said that, since becoming a mother, “... she (Reaves) is more loving towards everyone.” McCormick said that having a baby has “... made (Reaves)



Skyler Reaves with her son, Coyote. Courtesy photo

more passionate as a person ... She has a very deep well of love now that she’s a mother.”

However, it seems that Reaves’ love doesn’t only extend to Coyote. Przetocki said that “Skyler is a really caring and giving person. I think she does those two a little too much, and it might wear on her sometimes ... She’ll always be there for the people she cares about no matter what’s going on in her life. I feel like she’d be there at the drop of a pin.” McCormick said “... I’ve definitely been taken care of by Skyler before. And, from what I’ve heard, other people have too.”

“Skyler is a really caring and giving person.”
Ashton McCormick

Reaves’ life isn’t without struggle, though. She said that, even though she and McCormick work full time, they’re still living paycheck to paycheck. When asked what the hardest part of being a mother is, Reaves’ reply was, “Not having the support that I feel like I need.”

Despite the obstacles she has faced, Reaves finds reason to persevere.

“No matter what’s going on,” she said, “I still have room in my heart to keep going because of him (Coyote).”

Meadow Reaves is a student in the spring Media Writing class at NWACC. The profile of her sister was in response to an assignment to write a profile applying journalistic reporting and writing skills.

Across

- 1 Hindu deity
6 Raincoat, for short
9 Go astray
12 Bank check-up
13 Hand (Sp.)
14 Church alcove
15 Glasgow’s river
16 Bartlett’s abbr.
17 Pepsi, for one
18 Curly cabbage
19 Timber mechanic?
21 Tramp through water
23 Snorkeling site
24 Bunk
26 Be generous
31 Brazilian dance
35 Folklore fiend
38 Chisholm Trail town
39 Former
40 Stars and Stripes land
41 River of Orléans
42 Lohengrin’s love
43 Rugged rock
44 German industrial city
45 Leading lady, maybe
47 Historical period
49 Greet the judge
52 Something in the air
56 Talking head’s forte
61 Extremely
63 Poi party
64 Alcoholic beverage
65 Marsh plant
66 Etcher’s need

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

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- 67 Legal claim
68 Heavenly hunter
69 High degree
70 Printer’s widths
71 Sports figures

Down

- 1 Big bag
2 Luau dances
3 Tennyson poem
4 TV feed
5 Absorbed, as a loss
6 Country estate
7 Positive pole
8 Yield
9 Parking place
10 ___ of Capri
11 Within reach

- 13 Kind of jacket
14 It’s the law
19 Reporter’s question
20 ET carrier
22 Mark for life
25 See the sights
27 Newcomers, briefly
28 Spanish liqueur
29 Bad thing to blow
30 First family’s home
31 Design detail
32 Folk singer Guthrie
33 Hit alternative
34 Dugout, for one
36 Govt. property org.

- 37 Road ___
41 Cordelia’s father
43 Corrugation
46 “___ we having fun yet?”
48 Sci-fi killer
50 Spot
51 Overhangs
53 Manifest
54 Press
55 Insider’s vocabulary
56 Thunder sound
57 “That hurts!”
58 Motel employee
59 Strong joe
60 Did a marathon
62 Longings
65 Distress letters

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY: HARD

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

SOLUTION FOR
HARD SUDOKU:

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

SOLUTION FOR
MEDIUM SUDOKU:

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

SOLUTION FOR CROSSWORD:

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



NWACC student Joseph Mendiola strikes a pose as Bill Starbuck from “110 in the Shade,” the spring musical presented at NWACC. Photo by Nadia Moutria

Theatre, Music Team Up for Rainmaker

Staff Report

The musical, “110 in the Shade,” was performed April 24, 25, and 26 and told the story of a Texas community seeking rain for their drought-stricken region.

Professor Stephanie Freeman directed. Professor Drew Morris was the music director. Professor Freda Goodman was the vocal coach, and Curt Gilgen was the technical director. Production collaborative pianist was Rebecca Harrold, and choreography

was by Dani Mott.

NWACC Music/Theatre student Angela Allen made her debut on the White Auditorium stage as the wistful yet wise-cracking Lizzie Curry. Other cast members were NWACC students Joseph Mendiola, Hidgens Leonard, Dave McWhorter, Jordyn Bunting, David Fox, Jina Her, Destaney Marie, and Dylan Head, with Professor Doug Krueger and NWACC librarian Jadzia Craft, along with community member Simon Marie.

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