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PHOTO, 4B

Take a closer look at HOLA's Day of the Dead altar presentation!

Presidential race not yet decided, Copenhaver elected mayor

KRISHNAN COLLINS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Photo by: Chase Gage| News Writer

Voters stand in line in downtown Jonesboro. Presidential election results are still pouring in from different states across the country. However, many local Arkansas elections have been decided. Harold Copenhaver was elected to be Jonesboro's mayor Tuesday night.

While the presidential race stands too close to call across the country, local issues and races across Arkansas stand in a clearer picture.

Taking a quick look at the presidential race between Donald Trump and Joe Biden, Donald Trump won Arkansas to receive the state's six electoral college votes.

At the time of writing, Biden holds a 227-213 lead over Trump with many states still counting ballots, including absentee ballots. Important states still up for grabs include, Georgia, Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and North Carolina. *For updated information, head to The Herald's website.*

Looking closer at the local picture, Harold Copenhaver won the mayoral race in Jonesboro receiving 12,643 votes to Andy Shatley's 10,861 votes. Thomas Elwood registered 1,605 votes.

Jon Milligan won the race for State Representative in District 53 by 9,053 votes to Shawn Only's 2,783 votes. Brandt Smith beat Jim Burton to win the race for State Representative in District 58 while Jack Ladyman beat out Reginald Prunty for State Representative in District 59.

On the national level, incumbent Republican Sen. Tom Cotton won reelection after defeating Libertarian Ricky Dale Harrington Jr.

In Craighead county, 26,223 people voted for Cotton while 11,519 voted for Harrington Jr.

Four U.S. Representative spots were up for grabs and Rick Crawford, who represents Arkansas' 1st Congressional District (where Jonesboro is located) ran unopposed.

French Hill took down Joyce Elliot in Arkansas' 2nd Congressional District. However, at the time of writing, Elliot's last issued statement on Twitter at 11:10 p.m. Tuesday night was that she had not conceded the election and she would wait for ballots to continue to be counted. *For updated information, head to The Herald's website.*

Steve Womack defeated Celeste Williams and Michael Kalagias in Arkansas' 3rd Congressional District. Rounding out the state in Arkansas' 4th Congressional District, Bruce Westerman beat out William Hanson and Frank Gilbert.

Across Arkansas, three issues on the ballot affected Arkansans statewide.

If voted for, Arkansas Issue 1 would make a 0.5% tax to support state and local highways, roads and bridges permanent. According to the New York Times, Issue 1 received 55% of votes statewide in favor of supporting a permanent transportation sales tax as the issue passed.

In Craighead county, 20,230 people voted for Issue 1 while 17,518 people voted against Issue 1.

According to the New York Times, Arkansas Issue 2, nicknamed the Term Limits Amendment, received 55% of votes in favor of the issue. Although nicknamed the Term Limits Amendment, it actually gives members of the Arkansas Legislature the opportunity to serve for life. Before the amendment passed, Arkansas representatives and senators could serve up to 16 years in the Arkansas General Assembly. Now, with Issue 2 passing, members can serve terms of no longer than 12 consecutive years but then could return after a four year break. The issue passed.

In Craighead county, 18,575 people voted for Issue 2 while 18,421 people voted against Issue 2.

Arkansas Issue 3, the Initiative Process and Legislative Referral Requirements Amendment, would have made it a lot harder for Arkansans to petition the state government. However, according to the New York Times, Issue 3 received 56% of votes against the issue. The issue did not pass.

In Craighead County, 14,128 people voted for Issue 3 while 22,027 voted against Issue 3.

HOLA brings Day of the Dead altar presentation for students to see



Photo by: Hannah Risker| Photo Editor

HOLA showcased three different Day of the Dead altars Monday night on the Heritage Plaza Lawn to show students on campus how people in Mexico celebrate their loved ones who have died. Altars are decorated with candles, sweets, food and pictures of loved ones.

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A-State's Hispanic Outreach & Latino Appreciation student organization hosted a Día de los Muertos altar presentation Monday on the Heritage Plaza Lawn to show students how the country of Mexico celebrates its loved ones who have died.

HOLA is an organization that aims to help students of all backgrounds at A-State understand Hispanic culture and the Day of the Dead presentation was another event where any student could come and learn about a foreign tradition. Día de los Muertos, translated to Day of the Dead, started on Nov. 1 and ended Nov. 2.

HOLA member and sophomore Faith Ochoa's parents moved to the United States from Mexico to give Ochoa more opportunities. Now at A-State, Ochoa shares her Mexican heritage with others.

"It is a Mexican tradition, so it's not celebrated anywhere else other than Mexico," Ochoa said. "The point of it is to make an altar and on the altar you put pictures of your dead family members and the past, anyone you can remember. The picture represents them when they were living."

Pictures are not the only items placed on these altars. Three different altars were presented at the event and all the altars included lit candles along with a variety of decorations.

CONTINUED: HOLA, 4A

Communication Center continues to help students amid pandemic

SAM SCOTT

NEWS WRITER

While COVID-19 continues to affect campus, the Communication Center continues to assist students communicating in the virtual age.

Like many other departments, services and on campus in general, many significant changes have occurred in response to COVID-19 at the Communication Center. Although the pandemic has affected operations, the Communication Center is handling those changes well.

Matthew Robins, director of the Communication Center and instructor of Communication Studies, expresses how the service is coping with the pandemic.

"So, I have been really happy with how steady that we have been having appointments," Robins said.

He explained how the current guidelines, such as maintaining social distancing, wearing masks and providing sessions through Zoom, have left a satisfying outcome for their program.

"We've been doing the best we can, and so far we're really happy with the results. And our tutors have been fantastic this semester," Robins said.

It comes as no surprise many staff members, including Robins, expressed concerns when COVID-19 hit last spring. What was certainly important for Robins was the well-being of the staff involved.

"I've told the staff last semester, and I've told them this semester, before anything, you know, their safety and their health is my number one priority," Robins said.

One component the Communication Center has adopted since COVID-19 is the Penji platform, where students can contact tutors, schedule appointments and set up Zoom meetings for presentations.

This way, students can have an easier time setting up meetings for practice presentations.

The option to incorporate Zoom meetings has also been adapted for the Communication Center due to COVID-19.

CONTINUED: COMM CENTER, 4A

OPINION: RED ZONE, 2A NEWS: ESA, 3A LIFE: HOROSCOPES, 1B SPORTS: CROSS COUNTRY, 2B