

A-State holds first COVID-19 vaccination clinic 800 employees receive their vaccine at First National Bank Arena



Photo by: Tristan Bennett | News Editor

Bekah Hickman, Admissions director of communications, receives her vaccination during the employee clinic at First National Bank Arena on Tuesday. Her dose was administered by A-State nursing student Emma Koehler.



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A-State nursing students and faculty volunteered to administer vaccinations to employees. The clinic included a total of 10 vaccination stations.

TRISTAN BENNETT

NEWS EDITOR

Arkansas entered phase 1-B of their vaccine distribution plan this week, which includes the state's educators. Arkansas State University held a clinic to vaccinate around 800 employees on Tuesday. Bill Smith, A-State chief communications officer, said university officials began working on the logistics of a mass vaccination clinic for employees as soon as the governor announced educators would be eligible. "We asked who among the

employees would be interested in receiving a vaccination," Smith said. "We were able to build a waiting list of around 1,000 so that when the vaccine became available we could enact our plan and begin the process." Lori Winn, assistant vice chancellor for human resources, and a team of A-State officials put a system in place to ensure the clinic ran smoothly. "We were able to get about 84 done as a test on Sunday evening," Smith said. Rebecca Oliver, director of the Honors College, was among those 84. She volunteered to help with Tuesday's clinic as well.

"I got mine on Sunday," Oliver said. "My arm has been a little sore, on Sunday night and yesterday. It's not as sore today, but I think I'm distracted talking to lots of people, but other than that, very easy." The test run on Sunday was successful, so the university was able to vaccinate around 700 employees on Tuesday with the help of volunteers from across campus. "You've got faculty from the College of Nursing and Health Professions, students from nursing, students from emergency management, students from our EMT

program, and other volunteers from around campus," Bill Smith said. "So it's been a great team effort." Each employee was given an appointment time to arrive at First National Bank Arena. They could enter through the yellow or the blue entrance. They were then led to one of the 10 vaccination stations where nursing faculty and students administered the shots. Then, they remained in the socially-distanced holding area for 15 minutes as per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. "That's part of the protocol.

You have to be observed," Smith said. "Our EMT students are helping watch, so they would be the emergency responder if something were to happen." Bekah Hickman, Admissions director of communications, received her vaccine on Tuesday. She said, "I know a lot of people don't have the same opportunity to get it so quickly, so I'm very grateful to A-State." Oliver said she feels great about receiving the vaccine. "It's one step closer to, I think, some new normalcy in society, but it's also one step closer to hugging my parents again, who I haven't

seen in six months," she said. Smith said the university hopes to have another clinic for employees who still remain on the waiting list later on in the week, and they are open to allowing the community to use their set-up as well. "We think we've got a really good system here for the ability to bring a lot of people through in a short period of time," Smith said. Smith recommended employees still on the waiting list answer their cell phone and keep an eye on their email for more updates on another clinic.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY DAMPHOUSE

Dr. Tamara Pace-Glover, associate professor of social work, and her husband, Leo, appeared on NBC's The Wall, a game show which features a 40 foot high wall similar to a pachinko game. Players have to answer questions before balls reach the bottom of the wall, earning them the amount they land on. They can win up to \$1 million. The Glovers won over \$215,000 on the show which they plan to put back into the community.

CAMPUS CRIME

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Jan. 13 | 5:10 p.m.
University Police followed up with Christine Miyawa, who reported noticing people following her on multiple occasions. As she walked to class on Jan. 12, she noticed a facilities vehicle following her. Officers reviewed the cameras and did observe a facilities management van driving behind Miyawa, but they were unable to identify the driver. She also stated on the same day she observed two males following her as she was leaving the on-campus daycare, and she noticed two white males watching that night as she exited her front door. Officers were unable to review footage from those incidents because there were no cameras at the locations. They advised Miyawa to contact the department any time she felt uncomfortable.

Jan. 14 | 5:09 p.m.
University Police were dispatched to the Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority House in reference to a fire alarm. They made contact with Madeline Stricklin, who stated she was frying bacon and the smoke caused the alarm. The Jonesboro Fire Department cleared the building and reset the alarm.

Jan. 15 | 6:41 p.m.
Officers arrived at Pack Place Building 1 to investigate an audible alarm. They made contact with Colton Phillips, who stated he was cooking steak with Sarah Young when the alarm began sounding. Officers ensured nothing harmful was happening, and the alarm was reset.

Jan. 18 | 12:33 a.m.
University Police were dispatched to the Honors Living Learning Community Building 1 to investigate a complaint of a female subject knocking on a residents' doors. Officers made contact with Heidi Hauptman, 20. The residents stated they did not know her. Hauptman was having trouble keeping her balance and did not have her identification on her, but provided her name and date of birth and stated she lived in Collegiate Park. Hauptman stated she had not had anything to drink or taken any medications, but officers could smell intoxicants on her. She submitted to a preliminary breath test which came back positive. She was charged with minor in possession, searched and transported to the Craighead County Detention Center. She will appear in court on Feb. 17, and she was given a university referral for alcohol violation.