

## KLEK celebrates Black voices throughout the community

TRISTAN BENNETT

NEWS EDITOR

Jonesboro's first and only minority-owned radio station plans to celebrate Black voices during Black History Month.

KLEK 102.5 FM hit the airwaves in 2015 and has since become a staple of the community. LaGanzie Kale, KLEK founder and general manager, said he saw a unique opportunity to cater to the minority community in Jonesboro.

"Jonesboro never had a radio station that was for the black and minority community," Kale said.

In 2010, Congress passed the Local Community Radio

Act offered licenses to nonprofit organizations to start low-power, local radio stations. Kale, a 2003 A-State graduate with a degree in radio/television broadcasting, formed the Voice of Arkansas Minority Advocacy Council, raised the funds and launched KLEK.

"Even though the station was launched to spotlight the minority and the Black community, it has become a community resource and a community hub through all of the community service work that we do," Kale said.

KLEK has won numerous awards for its community service efforts including the Arkansas Community Service Award and the A-State Excellence in

Community Diversity Award. "We're very rooted in community service," Kale said. "We just serve as a platform to allow all voices to be heard."

The station plays music like R&B, classic hip hop and gospel, but its primary role is education.

Kale said KLEK has a wide variety of one minute educational segments. One of the most popular is Black History Moment which is produced by Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch, A-State graduate school dean. There are also segments on health, finance, legal matters and women's empowerment.

"We are legally classified as a noncommercial educational radio station, so we do have to serve an educational purpose,"

Kale said. "But I would do that even if there was no mandate for it because I do believe that part of a station's mission is to be an educational source for the community."

KLEK has big plans to celebrate Black History Month throughout February. They are set to launch [jonesboroblackbusiness.com](http://jonesboroblackbusiness.com) which will serve as a resource to help the community find minority-owned businesses around Northeast Arkansas.

"It's going to have over 270 businesses listed," Kale said. "During Black History Month, if you want to support Black business, you can just go to that website and browse, and if you see something you

like, then you can support it."

They are also teaming up with A-State for several events. Jones-Branch will speak virtually on Feb. 3 about her upcoming book and the A-State Alumni Association is hosting a Lunch and Learn on Feb. 10 where Kale will be the keynote speaker there to share the story of KLEK. It is a free event, but registration is required.

On Feb. 13, the station is hosting a Poetry Showcase and Auction.

"We'll have local poets reading for us, and we'll also have an auction of African attire and some artwork we have that was donated to us," Kale said.

Other Black History Month events include a virtual tour of

the African American Cultural Center on Feb. 16 and the Walk for your Heart community cleanup event on Feb. 27.

Following Black History Month, the radio station will continue to highlight Black voices and serve as an educational source for the community as a whole. Kale said the future of KLEK looks bright.

"We're continuing to make new connections, build new bridges, get involved more," he said. "Obviously, COVID kind of set everything back, but I see a strong and prosperous future where we continue to be ingrained and woven into the fabric of Arkansas State University and Jonesboro."

## Bradbury Art Museum opens new exhibit despite looming pandemic



Photo by: Hannah Risker | Photo Editor

The Delta Small Prints Exhibition opened Jan. 21 and will be available for viewing through Feb. 17.

BAYLEIGH FREEMAN

NEWS WRITER

With all the unexpectedness of the past year, learning how to adapt in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic has been extremely difficult for A-State students and staff alike. Garry Holstein, the director of the campus' Bradbury Art Museum, knows this firsthand as he recently opened a new exhibit despite the long-standing reign of COVID-19.

"COVID-19 has definitely slowed down our process," Holstein said. "The pandemic has resulted in a lot of schedule changing, and it's been difficult for everyone."

BAM, which Holstein said usually features seven exhibits each year, has not been able to produce quite as many in the last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Holstein said the museum did, however, recently open the 2021 Delta National Small Prints Exhibition on Jan. 21. This is the 25th annual showcase of the exhibit, and it was funded by multiple donors.

"The exhibit began in January and premiered from 5-6:30 p.m.," Holstein said. "It will close on Feb. 17. Our exhibits typically run for about six weeks."

He said the exhibit features a range of 29 local and international artists, even though in the past, some exhibit requirements have demanded local artwork.

"We had an exhibit one time called Radius," Holstein said. "The only rule was that each artist had to be within 185 miles of the museum."

The 2021 Delta National Small Prints Exhibition includes 50 different pieces of artwork, and stipulations require that each piece be made in recent years. Holstein said most of the pieces were made in 2020. As for the theme of the exhibit, Holstein said every piece has a relation to the others.

"These pieces are limited scale images printed on paper," Holstein said. "In addition, most of them were done by women. They really represent the female and their varying representations in different cultures."

Despite the end of the Delta

National Small Prints Exhibition in February, Holstein said it is common for pieces to be recycled into different exhibits. In addition, at the conclusion of the exhibit, all the works will be available for purchase.

"All of the works you see in the museum for the exhibit will be for sale," Holstein said. "Sometimes some of the artwork from different exhibits even ends up featured throughout campus in various buildings."

Holstein said BAM, which was first established in January of 2001 by Curt Bradbury and was known as the Bradbury Gallery, is going to continue to trek forward despite the obstacles of the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan for the next exhibit has already been decided.

"The next upcoming exhibit is called Star Children," Holstein said. "It is going to be a showcase of A-State students who graduated with a degree in studio art."

BAM will continue to showcase local and national artists for the community.

## SGA introduces two new resolutions

TRISTAN BENNETT

NEWS EDITOR

In their meeting Tuesday night, A-State Student Government Association senators introduced two new resolutions that will be voted on during their next meeting.

Senator Reed Middleton read his resolution to name the red wolf statue that sits in the middle of the roundabout on Aggie Road near the Welcome Center. The statue was placed in 2017 and has not been named since. It originally came from Querétaro, Mexico, where A-State has a campus. A-State Jonesboro students collaborated with students from Querétaro to come up with the name "Tiago," which means "may God protect" in Spanish.

The two other red wolf statues on campus are named Rufus and Mohegan. Middleton argued that their names give them a greater recognition and sentimental value.

Senator Ellie Mayberry

read her resolution to bring the Swipe Out Hunger program to A-State. It would allow students to donate meal swipes from their meal plan to other students in need. Mayberry said Sodexo already has a partnership with the program and fully supports the plan.

In addition to new resolutions, senators also met in small groups with the dean of their college. Dr. Carl Cates, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Communication, asked them to share their concerns about last semester.

Senator Blaze Cantrell said, "We did start off half in person and half online, but then we wouldn't even have a Zoom lecture to hop on. We would just literally teach ourselves, which I feel like is kind of ridiculous when I'm paying to go to school. I don't feel like I'm learning anything."

Cates said he would not defend professors that did not stick to the format they told their students they would.

"There were a couple days

I was spot checking even past midterms, and every empty room I saw where there was supposed to be a class, I inquired with their chair and got what I regarded as a satisfactory answer," Cates said.

Rashad Kirksey, SGA president, said as a choir student, he is eager to get back to singing together in person.

"I do want to commend the Department of Music because they have done a tremendous job trying to accommodate their students even through all that's going on and trying to keep us safe."

Senators also expressed concerns about less hands-on experience, and Cates encouraged them to think innovatively to find a solution.

Senator Mayberry also announced she has been working with Access & Accommodation Services to implement a resolution from last year regarding signage on handicap stalls in bathrooms across campus.

## CAMPUS CRIME

TRISTAN BENNETT

NEWS EDITOR

Jan. 31 | 12:35 a.m.

An officer was exiting parking lot N-5A at 2301 U St. when he noticed something hanging on the exit gate. He recovered a red and black Arkansas State lanyard with two gold keys and a silver and black key. The item has been placed in an evidence locker at the University Police Department.

Jan. 31 | 6:56 a.m.

An officer was on routine patrol when he observed Christopher Greenwood going through the trash receptacle on the north side of Red Wolf Den Building 3. Greenwood told the officer he was not an A-State student or employee. The officer told him he could not dumpster dive on campus and issued a persona non grata for the entire campus. If Greenwood is caught on campus for any reason before the PNG is lifted, he could be arrested for criminal trespassing.

Jan. 24 | 2:20 a.m.

University Police stopped Christopher Dougan for going 33 mph in a 20 mph zone on Marion Berry Parkway. Dougan told the officer he did not have a driver's license, but he did have an Arkansas identification card along with the proof of insurance and registration. Jennifer Jones, the passenger, did have a valid driver's license on her.

The officer discovered Dougan's license had been suspended, he was on parole and he had a search waiver on file. Both stated there was nothing in the vehicle, but the officer found a glass pipe with white residue on it which tested positive for methamphetamine. Jones stated that the purse in which it was found was hers, and she was placed into custody.

As the officer continued the search, he found a black zip-up pouch containing two syringes, two pipes, a grinder with marijuana inside, a small jar with the remains of two

marijuana blunts, an open package of rolling papers and a small plastic scraper. In the back, there was a backpack containing a pair of black nunchucks.

Dougan stated the backpack was his, but he is not allowed to have nunchucks as he is on parole. He was then placed under arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Both suspects were transported to the Craighead County Detention Center where Jones reached into her bra and pulled out two more glass pipes with methamphetamine residue on them. As Dougan was searched, officers found a small bag with two small squares of paper in it. Those tested positive for LSD.

Dougan was charged with speeding, driving on a suspended license, felony possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a schedule one substance. Jones was charged with possession of methamphetamine and felony possession of drug paraphernalia.