

KSA hosts fair to introduce A-State to Korean Culture

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NEWS WRITER

The Korean Student Organization hosted a culture fair to popularize Korean culture to A-State students on Thursday at Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

All participants were required to fill out a reservation form and wear a mask prior to entering.

The fair featured Korean traditional activities such as Ddakji, a game that uses folded paper tiles called Konggi. Players toss and catch five pebbles in the air. People could also make their own Korean name and draw the Korean flag to make keychains.

KSA also prepared traditional Korean food such as Kim-

bap, Kimchi-jeon, and Yakgwa. Yewon Lim, KSA media coordinator, said besides introducing their culture and food, they also wanted to communicate with friends from other countries.

The fair took two weeks to plan and set up. Additionally, there were more than 100 visitors instead of their anticipated number of 50.

Yixing Wang, a junior from China said, "I love the Ddakji game, which I need to smash a stack of paper to the floor and flip another one's papers. I never succeeded. But that was a nice workout since I tried really hard to smash."

He also learned that techniques are more important than strength since his friend could

flip his papers without smashing. Wang finds it very interesting that Koreans like sour food.

"They can eat the whole kimchi cake, which I can't because it's too sour. I had to mix it with gimbap," Wang said.

Yoshika Shibata, a junior from Japan, said that the fair was fun and she really enjoyed it.

"I think it's been a while since KSA had an event, so it was exciting for me, because I was one of the members who hosted events before, so I had fun there as a visitor," Shibata said.

She said drawing the Korean flag was the activity that she liked the most.

"I learned the meaning of the pattern and colors, and it was interesting to know," she said.



Photo by: Rangsiya Faihin | Staff Photographer
Students pose with a Korean flag at the KSA Korean Culture Fair.

Access to vaccine increases across the state

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It has been one year since the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this past year, the nation has learned tremendously not only about themselves but also about modern medicine.

Danyelle McNeill, Arkansas Department of Health public information coordinator, said the introduction of an effective coronavirus vaccine in an era of such unprecedented uncertainty has brought daily changes to her job.

"Although vaccine hesitancy has been a concern, we are seeing more and more interest in obtaining a vaccination, which is great," McNeill said. "As those who are initially hesitant see how safe and effective vaccination is, we are hopeful that they will be more likely to also choose to receive the vaccine."

In Arkansas, 1,409,240 people have received a first dose of vaccine, and 844,783 people have been fully vaccinated. In Northeast Arkansas alone, a total of 96,900 doses have been given, and 10.70% of the population has already

been fully vaccinated, even though vaccine distribution is still in its early stages.

"We're currently in Phase 1-B," McNeill said. "This group includes people of 65 years and older, people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, essential government, education workers, police, firefighters and other first responders, people of public transit and many others."

In addition, people in the food and agriculture industries, grocery store employees, postal delivery staff and the manufacturing sector are eligible for the vaccine at this time.

As to where the vaccine is currently being given, McNeill said the opportunities in Jonesboro and Craighead county are far and wide.

"There are numerous places in and around Jonesboro offering vaccinations, including pharmacies, hospitals and Walmart," McNeill said.

In addition, Craighead county has all three vaccine types available. However, according to McNeill, different vaccination providers offer different vaccines and each provider will only offer one type.

"It's not possible to choose

the type of vaccination you want when you are vaccinated, but it's important to know that if you receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccination, you need to go back to the same provider you visited beforehand to receive the correct second dose." McNeill said. "For example, if your first dose is Pfizer, your second dose has to be Pfizer, and it needs to come from the place you received your first dose."

Despite all the controversy surrounding the extremely fast creation of the vaccine as well as its high demand nature, McNeill said its distribution has

been a surprisingly easy process.

"I would say it's been a smooth process," McNeill said. "Really the only limiting factor right now remains the amount of vaccines. As we get more supply, the number of vaccinations will increase and the eligible groups will expand."

As the vaccination rollout continues, the state has seen a drop in diagnoses and has maintained a lower number of active cases.

SGA passes resolutions to improve campus sustainability

TRISTAN BENNETT

NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association passed a resolution for the university to implement the Comprehensive Sustainability Plan in their meeting Tuesday night.

Rashad Kirksey, SGA president, presented the resolution which had an emergency clause stating it had to be voted on in the same meeting as it was presented.

"One thing about this strategic plan that I want to point out is that these are not just a bunch of empty words," Kirksey said.

The plan involves a complete ban on styrofoam where contracts will allow, a 50% reduction in plastic use in all campus offices and retail dining services, the creation of a food recovery program and the creation of a university-wide composting program.

Their goal is to complete the plan by 2023.

"We just got an update that our university is taking a more drastic stance towards composting," Kirksey said. "We plan to implement a more diverse and encompassing composting program essentially before the semester is over with."

The ban on styrofoam

would only be for where retail contracts will allow, such as at university-owned Howl's. While this would mean a slight increase in cost to the university, there are ways to offset the costs.

SGA Graduate Senator Sara Saucedo said, "Cost is a main issue, and we're aware of that. In the long run, we will actually be saving money elsewhere. For example, if we eliminate all of the styrofoam and plastic that ends up in our trash cans, then the amount we pay for our trash system actually decreases."

The Campus Store has already begun limiting the use of plastic bags by encouraging reusable bags and charging a fee for plastic ones.

They also plan to partner with Volunteer A-State to create a food recovery program.

"To begin with, Sodexo will be donating their unused refrigerated items like sandwiches, fruit cups and things like that to the A-State Food Pantry," Kirksey said. "So that's a great start for this semester, and we know if we're starting there we can go even further by 2023."

More recycling bins will also be added in the union in the next few weeks with signage indicating what can be placed in them.

A survey conducted by SGA in Fall 2020 found that 92% of students supported the campus

taking more measures to become more environmentally friendly.

The senate also passed a resolution to create a temporary SGA Sustainability Liaison to assist with the fulfillment of the Comprehensive Sustainability Plan. They will serve as the primary connection between university administration, Facilities Management and Sodexo. The need for the position would be reevaluated after the completion of the plan.

Sen. Saucedo and Mikee Olegario, the cultural diversity director, also presented a resolution to encourage University Housing to introduce pet-friendly residence halls and adopt the proposed pet policy agreement.

The Village and Circle Apartments are both already designated as pet-friendly residences, but their resolution proposed the addition of Red Wolf Den Building 3 and Collegiate Park Apartment Building 5.

Students wishing to have a pet would have to complete an application and have more than 60 credit hours. There would also be a \$200 pet fee per student each semester.

The senate will vote on this resolution in their next meeting on March 30.

CAMPUS CRIME

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NEWS EDITOR

March 11 | 12:30 a.m.

A University Police officer stopped a white Chevrolet Tahoe at the intersection of University Loop and Aggie Road because it did not have a license plate. The vehicle traveled three blocks after the officer activated his lights before stopping. The driver, Shawna Miller, told him she had already received several citations for failing to register the vehicle.

Miller was on probation and had an active search waiver on file. Nothing was found in the vehicle, but when asked if she had anything on her, Miller removed a capped hypodermic syringe from her pubic region. She was cited and released on charges of possessing instruments of a crime, no proof of liability insurance and expired or no tags.

The officer spoke to Miller's probation officer, Kayla Sain, who told him she was supposed to report to her office the next morning anyway and she would have her report to the Craighead County Jail to be fingerprinted for the crime. Miller was given a court date of June 30 for all three charges.

March 12 | 6:10 a.m.

Mary Dunn called University Police and said she was concerned that she had not heard from Emma Hansson.

She told police Hansson and Baylee Rash went to the Lambda Chi Alpha House the night before, and Rash got sick and returned to the Delta Zeta House around 2 a.m. Dunn tried to call Hansson at 2:46 a.m. and got no answer. She then tried to snap her at 3:04 a.m. and did not get a reply.

Officers went to the Lambda Chi Alpha House at 6:25 a.m. and spoke with Garrett Overstreet and Tyler Hickman. Overstreet said he thought he found her phone but did not see her. The phone did not belong to Hansson. Hickman said he saw her around 12:30 a.m. but only talked to her for a few minutes and did not see her again. The officers checked the area and parked vehicles looking for her. They returned to the house at 9:30 a.m. to collect statements. While there, Hansson woke up in a room with only a couch in it. The room was locked from the outside. She noticed she had missed several phone calls and was told UPD was looking for her. An officer took her to the Delta Zeta House and left her with her friends.

March 13 | 2 p.m.

An officer dispatched to the Alpha Gamma Delta House in regards to a fire alarm. As the officer entered the house, he could see smoke and smelled burnt food. Inside the microwave, he found charred macaroni and cheese. He opened

the front and back doors to help clear the smoke and verified that everyone was out of the house. Shortly after, the Jonesboro Fire Department cleared the scene.

March 14 | 4:32 a.m.

University Police officers were dispatched to the Northpark Quads Building 5 to investigate a report of a tall, mixed race male wearing a black Nike hoodie that had entered a room on the third floor. Upon arrival, an officer saw a male matching the description walking towards the Commons Building. He made contact and identified him as Brian Williams.

Williams was evasive and vague when answering the officer's questions. He said he lives in the building on the second floor but did not know his room number. He initially denied entering anyone else's room but later admitted he had because he was "confused." Williams said he had been to a party off-campus and drank "a little bit." Then, he later said he had more than a little and was scared he would be in trouble because he is only 18. Officers administered a breath test which indicated a positive result.

Williams was arrested for minor in possession and criminal trespass and transported to the Craighead County Detention Center. He was given a court date of April 5 and referred to Student Conduct.