



PHOTO, 4B
Take a look at "Painting with Beau Jones."

A-State students speak up at Craighead County Library Board meeting to fight LGBTQ book censorship for third month in a row

JONATHAN SCHAUFLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Craighead County Library Board did not make any decision regarding the three month long censorship discussion. The meeting featured 20 speakers – three of which were A-State students – who voiced their opinions at the podium, while the 46 audience chairs were filled and a crowd stood in the back.

The Oct. 5 meeting was the third in an ongoing discussion of book censorship. Several books have been brought into discussion such as: "The GayBCs" by M.L. Webb, "Gender Queer" by Maia Kobabe, "It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health" by Robie H. Harris and Michael Embry and "Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out" by Susan Kuklin.

People spoke out against these books, calling them "pornographic." The ongoing discussion is whether to remove these books from the children and young adult sections. Many said that these books should be restricted and placed where children cannot access them without parent approval.

The meeting began with Library Director and A-State Instructor of Double Bass David Eckert making a general statement about the ongoing issue. Eckert made multiple points about his opinion on the subject.

"Ultimately, it is the parents' choice what their kids check out," Eckert said. "I don't think anyone here wants to be told how to parent." Eckert received backlash due to his position as director throughout the



Photo by Jonathan Schaufler | News Editor

Library Board meeting attendees holding up their red cards to indicate they did not agree with the speaker.

duration of these meetings.

LGBTQ books have been a major topic of discussion. Many citizens said these books are inappropriate for children and should be removed from the children's section. Chenoa Summers, a post-graduate biology major and ally to the LGBTQ community from Jonesboro, brought up how board member Mark Nichols equated being LGBTQ to being disabled and asked for an apology. During the August meeting, Nichols suggested an anorexic person should be told, "No, young lady, you are beautiful and not fat."

Summers continued her argument by sharing how deeply offended she

was by Nichols's statement.

"I am an ally of the LGBTQ community and am deeply offended that you equated being gay to having a mental illness. As a disabled person with many mental illnesses, I am greatly offended that you brought up the disabled community," Summers said. "By doing so, you are placing a stigma on both the LGBTQ plus community and the disabled community."

No apology was given by Nichols.

Amanda Escue, former Library Board member, offered her opinion on LGBTQ books and their relevance to the library.

"I keep hearing that the library needs to be a place for everyone, and I agree with that.

So, there are a lot of books here that I don't contest. But I will say I typed in the word 'queer' on the library catalog website.

There were 152 books in the adult sections.

Three of them are checked out. 22 teen books. None of them are checked out. And eight child books. None of them are checked out. This stuff isn't just hot off the shelves. So, you need to pay attention to what kids are wanting," Escue said.

CONTINUED:
LGBTQ BOOKS,
4A

The Herald Celebrates 100 Years:
A peek into the 1970S



A-STATE HERALD
STAFF REPORT

The Herald of Arkansas State University during the 70's was full of ads of leather shoes and flared pants. Many other ages of ads from the music store 'White Dog' who sold a variety of products from speakers to LP records. And quite a few with a cartoon chicken advertising a place called 'Fantasy,' which was located where restaurant Chin Chin's is now.

The Herald covered events such as Arkansas State's first black regular staff member, Calvin C. Smith, instructor of history in 1978.

"You never accomplish anything by quitting," Smith was quoted.

The Red Apple Spanish Mall advertised selling the "hottest album of the year" available in LP, 8-track or cassette, "Fever" Saturday Night Fever.

A-State had to close campus for the second time in school history due to snow in 1978. The Herald missed its first publication since World

War II because the campus was covered in six inches of snow

One edition featured the story of a 74-year-old woman who took her driver exam 104 times and drove her car legally for the first time after earning her learners permit.

Kappa Alpha held a "dance for those who can't" muscular dystrophy dance marathon. The organization with the largest donation was awarded a 23-inch color TV.

Featured in a 1978 paper was a cut out sheet to mail in a vote for the legal sale of alcohol in Craighead County. The ad was paid for by Mike Lovejoy. The mail in the portion read "YES. I'm a Citizens For Freedom of Choice and support the FREEDOM campaign to legalize the sale of alcohol in Craighead County."

"Legal Sales would end the inconvenience of driving to another county. It would end the needless expense and waste of gas. Legal sales would put an end to over-possession penalties since there would no longer be a reason to stockpile" another ad campaign read.

A-State COVID-19 booster shot clinic on standstill until Moderna booster is granted FDA approval

RACHEL RUDD
STAFF WRITER

Pfizer remains the only FDA-approved COVID-19 booster vaccine as of Tuesday. A-State mainly distributed the Moderna shot at the vaccine clinic held last year. This means there could be an undetermined wait time on booster vaccines from an on-campus clinic.

Nearly 900 faculty members, staff and students received the Moderna vaccine, while approximately 120 received the Pfizer vaccine. Since the only FDA-approved booster vaccine is produced by Pfizer, A-State doesn't know when it will be able to provide boosters on campus.

Chief Communications Officer, Dr. Bill Smith said,

"We've known this has been a little bit of a moving target. Our situation was standing up a clinic, (but) we needed to be cleared for Moderna because that's what most of the people got."

According to an announcement from A-State Chancellor Dr. Kelly Damphousse, many who are eligible (aged 65 and older or 50-64 with underlying health conditions) and already received the Pfizer vaccine have already scheduled appointments with their physicians to receive the booster.

"We have plans ready for a clinic, but we are waiting for when we can provide boosters to a larger number," Damphousse stated. Smith said the

Moderna booster goes before the FDA on Oct. 14 and 15.

"If they get a quick ruling, we will be setting things up fairly quickly after that. As soon as we get clearance on Moderna, and possibly Johnson & Johnson, we're going to begin to put those on-campus vaccination plans in motion," Smith said.

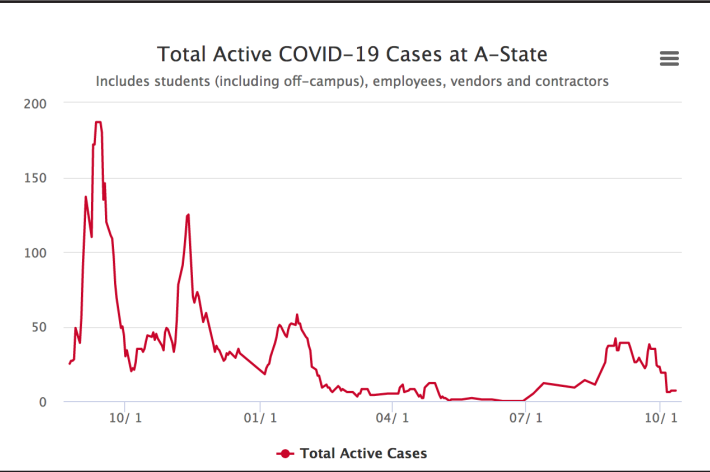
The booster clinic would operate nearly the same way as the clinic last spring. However, booster recipients would be required to bring their vaccination cards to this upcoming clinic.

"In the meantime, as we wait for Moderna, that's something I would recommend to everybody that's interested: locate your vaccination card," Smith said.

Booster shots would be available to faculty, staff and students who meet the eligibility requirements. However, this clinic would not be open to the public. Those who received their shot through A-State would be the only ones eligible to receive an on-campus booster.

"We've found that the vaccines are widely available. You can go anywhere. We've got roughly 800-900 individuals that might want to come on in, and it's a convenience for them. That's another reason why we wouldn't want to stand up a (community) clinic when (boosters) are so easy to get," Smith said.

Until Moderna booster shots are approved, A-State recommends students



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE
Graph displaying the total number of active cases of COVID-19 as of Monday.

and staff continue to practice social distancing, masking and to consider getting vaccinated.

"If you have not, I want to remind you that vaccination is your best defense

against serious COVID-19 illness. We've come through a lot, and we've done it like we always have – together, as a pack," Damphousse announced.