

Chancellor announces plans for Reng. Student Union empty bookstore

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NEWS EDITOR

“One of the overwhelming requests I have had from students is a study space that is open 24/7,” A-State Chancellor Dr. Kelly Dampousse said. Dampousse revealed the university’s plan on what to fill the empty bookstore space in the Reng. Student Union with on Monday. It has been decided that the space will be a 24/7 study area. “We envision a very open study area where group work can happen,” Dampousse said. “Also, individual meeting spaces where students can come together to go to work on projects. We will also have printers in here as well. This will be a place to plug in, charge up and to print.” “Now that Textbook Brokers has become the official A-State bookstore, moving the brick-and-mortar bookstore location across the street from campus literally opened the door for what we are going to do here today,” Dampousse said. The new space checks off

every box the university wanted in a space like this. It is near housing, it has ample after-hours parking in the student union parking deck connected to the building and has exterior entry for late night access as well. Dampousse has said multiple times, “We want our students to have a role and a say in what we do with this space.” Two A-State students Ellie Mayberry, SGA president, and Keyon Atkins, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. president, spoke at the meeting. “Having this new area at the heart of campus, just makes sense,” Mayberry said. “Having something like this is really groundbreaking. I’m so glad that Dr. D and Dr. Speck really included me in those discussions,” Atkins said. A recent poll done on The Herald’s Instagram asked if students felt as though they had a chance to give input on what goes into the empty space. It revealed as of 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 17 of the 21 respondents said they felt they did not have input. In a previous interview with A-State Chief Communications Officer Dr.

Bill Smith, he was asked how the university plans to get student’s input campus-wide and he said, “My understanding is they have been talking with SAB and SGA. The chancellor does have his chancellor leadership class as well. I don’t know if it has been in a formal ‘let’s have a town hall,’ but it has been going on.” Whether or not the university plans to gather more student’s input, the empty bookstore space is soon to be filled. “For generations of A-State students, the Reng. Student Center has been where students gather to study and to collaborate. Now we will enhance that possibility with this new space” Dampousse said. “Over the next months and weeks, these concepts will become plans and we will begin working on this space as soon as we have those plans finalized.” As of now, the space does not have a name. However, the university thinks the students should have input on the name and plans to hold a naming contest for students to be involved in. There is no set finish date for the space as of now.



Photos by Jonathan Schaufler | News Editor
Dampousse announced plans for the empty bookstore space with designs for the space displayed.



A sketch of the design plan for the empty bookstore space in the Reng. Student Union.

Physical Therapy Student Association hosts “Sensory Trick-or-Treat” event for local children

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The physical therapy and occupational therapy programs hosted a “Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat” event on Thursday. For children with sensory processing issues, this event offered a safe, calm environment where they could play games and get candy without worrying about becoming overwhelmed. The event was open to the Jonesboro community. Families that couldn’t trick-or-treat because of sensory issues or families that just chose not to were welcome.



Photos by Courtney Edwards | Editor-In-Chief
Local child picks out candy from a volunteer’s basket at the Nursing and Health Professions building.

“There are some kids who have sensory needs who need a low environment – low tone, low light, low noise,” Allison Miller, a third-year physical therapy student said. “We wanted to put together this event so that they would have that opportunity. Parents can bring them in and not worry about if they’re going to have a meltdown or anything.” Every room set up for the event had at least one activity for the children. Most of the rooms had Pixar movie themes including “Up” and “Finding Nemo.” There was also a pumpkin patch themed room and a “Candy Land” themed room. The rooms featured activities for the children including ring toss, pumpkin bowling, a crafts table and sensory activities. One of the sensory activities included a bin full of rice with treats hidden inside. Madison Sutton, a first-year physical therapy student said one of the main reasons the event was created was to give kids a welcoming space without any of the scary decorations or costumes. “I know when I was young,

I was scared of the scary costumes,” Sutton said. “That’s, I think, the main thing – most of the kids don’t want to go trick or treating in their neighborhoods, only because they’re scared. Or, they have other sensory issues where they need to be in calm environments.” Hannah Knight attended the event with Lucas, who has sensory issues. Knight is Lucas’s therapist. She said he receives Applied Behavior Analysis services. “He kind of is a little of everything, which a lot of kids are. So, he actually likes a lot of the (stimulus) input, but he also like proprioceptive input,” Knight said. Proprioception is known as sensory input gained in the joints or muscles to alert people of their movements and body position. Certain sounds, textures, smells or tastes can be overwhelming to children with sensory issues, along with bright lights. Lucas is nonverbal and did not trick-or-treat in his neighborhood this year. Knight said the “Sensory Trick-or-Treat” event succeeded in accommodating his needs.

“We really enjoyed the ‘Finding Nemo’ room,” Knight said. “He loved that one.” Knight suggested not asking children to say anything when passing out candy because some may not be able to say anything or they may just be too shy. She also said overexcitement can stress some children out. The event was also fully wheelchair accessible, so anyone could participate. Traditional trick-or-treating can limit some on where they can go, especially since some houses have stairs leading up to the doors. The Physical Therapy Student Association (PTSA) created this event to reach out to the community and expand their club. Sutton said the pandemic hindered the club’s plans to expand in the past. “We wanted to reach out to the public now that with the use of masks and social distancing, we can do more things,” Sutton said. This was the first time PTSA held the “Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat” event. Miller said they would love to make it a yearly event from now on.

CAMPUS CRIME

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Oct. 27 | 10:07 p.m.
Cpl. Takeem Bowman witnessed suspect one travelling southbound on Marion Berry Parkway and Aggie Road. Suspect one was traveling at 36 mph in a 20 mph zone and failed to stop at the stop sign. Bowman then conducted a traffic stop and suspect one provided proper identification and paperwork. As Bowman was speaking to suspect one, he could smell a distinct odor of marijuana from the vehicle. Suspect one was removed from the vehicle and searched for weapons. A probable cause search was then done, and no contraband was located. Suspect one was issued a citation for operating a motor vehicle without a driver’s license, traveling more than 15 mph over the posted limit and failure to obey a stop sign.

Oct. 28 | 3:19 a.m.
Officer Dustin Mitchell was sitting stationary on Johnson Avenue when he observed a vehicle heading west bound at a high rate of speed. Mitchell clocked the vehicle with a radar at 99 mph. Mitchell then conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. Upon making contact, the

vehicle contained a driver and one passenger. Mitchell asked the driver to step out of the vehicle and conducted a Terry frisk on him to ensure he did not have any weapons. Upon being given consent, Mitchell conducted a search of the vehicle and found an open Bud Light can in the back seat. It was then discovered that the driver was underage. The driver was placed under arrest for minor in possession of alcohol, reckless driving, speeding and possession of an open container of alcohol. He was then transported to the Craighead County Jail. The passenger of the vehicle could not provide a proper driver’s license and the vehicle was towed.

Oct. 30 | 12:30 a.m.
Officer Caleb Lawson was driving in the parking lot at the football stadium when an individual stopped him and advised him there was an altercation at a vehicle a few rows down in the parking lot. Lawson made contact with victim one who stated suspect one had hit him. Suspect one stated she and victim one were ex-boyfriend/girlfriend and she was trying to get her ID back from him. Lawson asked suspect one if they had hit each other and she stated he had grabbed her, and she then had hit him

in the throat. Victim one then showed Lawson where he had been hit and revealed the side of his face, but all that was visible was facial hair. Victim one stated he never touched suspect one. Witness one and two on the scene stated they did not see anything. However, witness three stated she witnessed the whole thing while waiting in the parking lot. According to her, she saw the two individuals at the car in front of hers and they were arguing when the female suspect started pulling on the male victim and was trying to grab his wallet. She stated victim one put his hands up and was not touching her while she kept pulling on him. After a few minutes of this going on, suspect one then hit victim one in the face and victim one told her to stop. Witness three then stated suspect one then hit victim one in the face again and he pushed suspect one away. After pushing her away, suspect one yet again tried to hit victim one, but he went to the other side of the car to get away from her. Suspect one was arrested for domestic battery in the third degree. Victim one did not want to press any charges and he did not want to go to court. Suspect one, due to the charges, was transported to the Craighead County jail.