



A-State Hosts Lit'l Bita Christmas

RACHEL RUDD
STAFF WRITER

The Lit'l Bita Christmas event held its 35th show over the weekend. The event is one of the largest arts and craft shows in the mid-South, and this year it attracted over 225 vendors. It is hosted by the Red Wolves Foundation, a fundraising arm of the A-State Athletics Department.

Lit'l Bita Christmas started in 1987, when A-State coach Bill Templeton saw local crafters at the Indian Mall, with around 20 vendors. Templeton saw a way to provide scholarships to A-State athletes and cover costs the university might not. "Ever since then, it has grown over to 225 booths this year of arts, crafts and commercial vendors," Gina Winchester, the event's coordinator said.

As the event has grown over the years, it has helped to provide more funds for athletes, and cover more costs that are outside of the university's budget.

"There's a lot of restrictions in the budget, so it just helps when something's not covered. They look to the Red Wolves Foundation to pay those expenses," Winchester said.

As well as helping athletes, Lit'l Bita Christmas also helps the community. It encourages vendors from all over the country to travel to Jonesboro and promotes local businesses and entrepreneurs as well. The event also serves as publicity for Craighead County. "We'd like to encourage the community to come out. If they come out they can get all of their holiday shopping done and then at the same time help a student athlete," Winchester said.

For some vendors, the event acts as a way to not only build their business, but also strengthen familial



Photos by Rachel Rudd | Staff Writer

Attendants of the Lit'l Bita Christmas event browse various booths. The event had over 225 vendors each with their own products, ranging from home goods to Christmas decor.



bonds. For Frances Hutson and her sisters, it acts as a way to keep the memory of their mother and older sister alive.

"We've done this for years. Our mother and other sister did it probably from the first time. They have passed away and me and my two other sisters have it now," Hutson said.

For Jacob and Claire Vickery, this year was the first year their business, the Artsy Acorn, appeared at the

event. The business provides customers with custom wooden décor. Mr. Vickery cuts the wood and Mrs. Vickery paints and designs the products.

"It was a little stressful trying to get all of it ready and prepped, but it's been exciting," Mrs. Vickery said. "We've enjoyed getting to meet everyone and talking to other vendors and clients and making a lot of connections."

AGGIE HERALD

"WE ARE BOOSTERS OF THE WONDER STATE"

FEATURE BY
JONATHAN SCHAUFLE
NEWS EDITOR

At the top of the very first campus newspaper, Aggie Herald, right under the title, the phrase "We are boosters of The Wonder State" could be found. What did this mean for the newspaper, and why was it put at the top of each publication? In the early 1920s, as former

Governor Charles H. Brough traveled around the south, he was amazed by the natural attractions and bounty of resources that could be found in Arkansas. Being a poet himself, he then coined the term "the wonder state." It wasn't until 1923, however, that the Arkansas Advancement Association led the effort for the Arkansas General Assembly to adopt "Wonder State" as Arkansas'

first official nickname in 1923. This name lasted until 1953 when it was changed to "The Land of Opportunity." The Aggie Herald and their team were just beginning to lay the foundation for something that would last 100 years on campus, and used this phrase at the beginning of each publication to mark themselves as part of the "Wonder State."

L.W. "Tex" Plunkett: The Father of Journalism

FEATURE BY
JONATHAN SCHAUFLE
NEWS EDITOR

L.W. Plunkett, or "Tex" as his friends called him, is often referred to as the "Father of Journalism" at A-State. Plunkett served the A-State community for 38 years. He was a man who did many things including teaching in the English department, sponsoring The Herald, heading up the News Bureau, handling sports information and serving as chairman of the Athletic Committee and chairman of the independent Division of Radio-TV, Journalism and Printing. But his most memorable attribution was founding the School of Journalism.

"I can't say enough about him," Joel Gambill, former adviser of The Herald, said. "Tex was very instrumental. Not only people at ASU knew him, but he was widely known and thought of."

In 2009, the alumni association featured Plunkett in their "100 year, 100 Voices" issue. The feature attested to Plunkett being widely known. "At his retirement in 1974, 'Affairs of State' declared that Leland 'Tex' Plunkett 'has probably known more than half of the 15,000 graduates who have passed through the institution.'"

Mel Coleman, current CEO of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative and a Class of 1974 A-State graduate, spoke highly of his former professor.

"The thing that stands out in my mind is how much he loved what he did

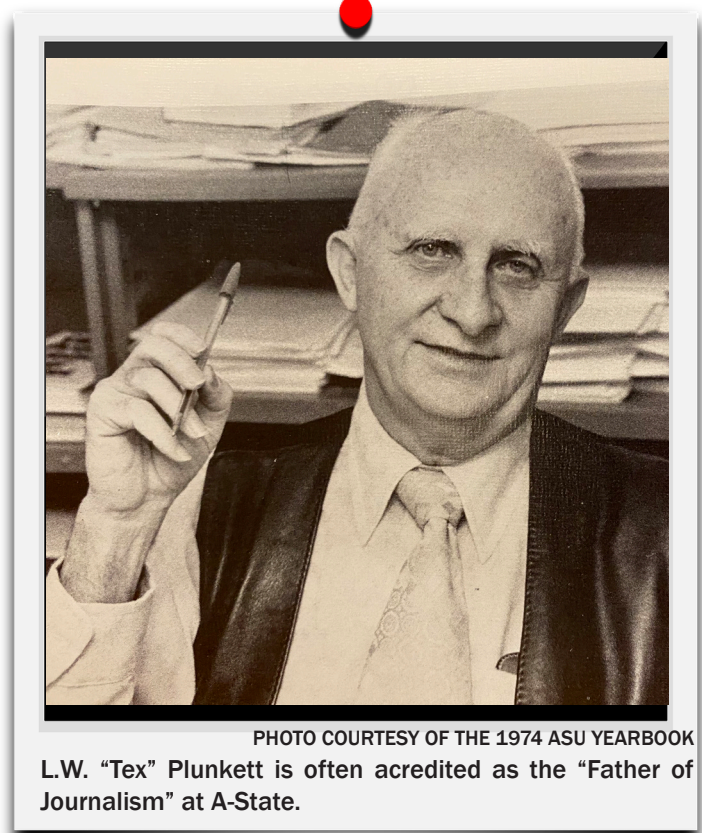


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE 1974 ASU YEARBOOK
L.W. "Tex" Plunkett is often accredited as the "Father of Journalism" at A-State.

and how much his students loved him," Coleman said.

Coleman graduated from A-State with a degree in Radio-TV and worked in radio for 10 years before his current position.

"You felt like you had a special relationship with Tex because he was extremely friendly and wanted everyone to, first of all, learn what he was teaching but secondly, have fun in the class," Coleman said.

Plunkett won many awards during his career, including the 1963 Arkansas Education Association award for 25 years of dedicated teaching, a 1963 Arkansas State College award from journalism students and alumni,

a 1967 Arkansas Press Association award for dedicated and meritorious service to Arkansas journalism and a 1969 National Collegiate Association College Football Centennial Award.

Plunkett died in December 1993 from natural causes. Two scholarships have been named after Plunkett and are given each year to incoming freshman majoring in journalism. Plunkett was a man who left his mark, not only on the journalism department, but A-State as a whole.

"He always said to everyone in the class, 'his friends call him Tex'. You don't call him Mr. Plunkett. He always wanted his students to be his friends," Coleman said.

CAMPUS CRIME

JONATHAN SCHAUFLE
NEWS EDITOR

Editor's Note: Crime on campus first started being mentioned in The Herald on Feb. 2, 1982, when thefts were on the rise. However, it was not until Aug. 22, 1997 that Campus Crime as you see it today was implemented. Campus Crime has had the same traditional look with the reports listed and a police badge in the background until this year, when its look was updated to include a Red Wolf and police lights. The original Campus Crime also featured a title each week of a major crime that happened. The following reports are replicas from the very first Campus Crime in 1997. The times of the reports were not given as they are now.

Aug. 13 | 1997
Clair House of Brookland reported her vehicle had been entered and her purse taken. House later found her purse at home. The door of her vehicle door was open, and objects had been moved.

Aug. 14 | 1997
Johnathan Swift of Jonesboro reported the theft of his Roadmaster 15-speed bicycle from the rack on the north side of Twin Towers. A tool was used to cut the lock from the bike.

Aug. 17 | 1997
Richard R. Grady of Jonesboro was arrested for minor in possession and was released. He was reportedly walking north on Robinson Street when the arrest was made.

• Joseph Warren Childers of Jonesboro was arrested at the Old Pavilion on the ASU Campus for public intoxication and minor in possession.

• An ASU Housing authority reported a bomb threat to Arkansas Hall. The premises were searched, and no bomb was found.

• Adam Saulsborg of Jonesboro reported his vehicle was damaged by a subject and a Sony detachable face stereo, sun glasses, two compact discs and a glove box were taken.

• An ASU Housing authority reported a bomb threat to Kays Hall. The premises were searched, and no bomb was found.