

Freshman Micayla McGowen joins Student Government Association as senator

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JACK BOND

STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 18, Micayla McGowen joined the Student Government Association as a senator. The freshman marketing major from Sheridan is looking forward to working with her fellow students at A-State. She chose to wait until her second semester to join the SGA so she could “get (her) feet underneath (herself) first.” Taking the time to learn more about the university and its community was her first priority. Now that she has familiarized herself with campus, she feels more confident in her ability to fulfill her duties as senator. This is not her first experience with a student government. In high school, she served as vice president of her student council. She was also captain of the soccer team, senior class president and a member of the National Honor Society.

When asked about her goal as senator, she said: “My goal as senator right now is to be able to help kids out that are new to Arkansas State. I know that, as a freshman, the hardest thing for me coming here was being able to know the resources that we have here at Arkansas State, and so that’s one of the main things that I want to do as senator – is make sure that kids know what is here at campus.” She wants to help her peers in any way she can. “What motivates me, especially as a senator, is making sure that everybody’s comfortable at A-State – like the new people that they’re around and everything like that,” McGowen said. McGowen is still adjusting to her new position. “It’s all new to me still, but everyone’s super welcoming. My first meeting, when I got elected, everybody was just

like, ‘Hey! I’m so and so, it’s nice to meet you! If you need anything, just let us know.’ They were super helpful and very welcoming,” she says. “They’re very motivating too. The things that they say about Arkansas State and their ideas for the campus are very motivating for me to make a difference on campus like they do.” Her position as a senator will test her leadership skills. In her eyes, a strong leader is one who is confident, but not cocky. They have the strength of will to not get tossed around and the good sense to know not to act recklessly. “I’m really looking forward to working with the student body and being able to be someone that they can come to and ask questions about the campus or even just about SGA in general. I’m excited to be a part of a group on campus that people come to get to know campus a little better.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICAYLA MCGOWEN

Young Democrats weigh in on State Rep. Monte Hodges molestation allegations



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSASHOUSE.ORG

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

On Feb. 2, State Rep. Monte Hodges stated he was falsely accused of child molestation about 20 years ago. Despite the accusations, he said he will be staying in the race for Arkansas’ 1st Congressional District. Hodges is running as Democratic bid for the seat, going up against Republican incumbent U.S. Rep Rick Crawford, who is from Jonesboro. The allegations came weeks after his announcement to run. According to a Blytheville Police Department investigation in 2003, Hodges was accused of molesting a four-year-old boy. Hodges was a friend of the boy’s family, but he was never charged or arrested. A prosecutor refused to charge Hodges, citing the age of the child and stating that the boy was the only witness. Hodges has been advised to drop out of the race, with the head of the Arkansas Democratic

Party, Grant Tennille, asking him to withdraw from the race before the filing period started. In addition, on Feb. 5, members of Hodges’s campaign staff resigned due to the accusations. Hodges said he has no interest in dropping out and that this is not the first time he has been accused of this. In a statement issued to Region 8 News he said: “Every time I’ve run for office over the last 14 years people have threatened me about these baseless allegations. And every time this has happened I have focused on the people I represent.” Despite Hodges’s claims that the allegations are baseless, some of A-State’s Young Democrat leaders have differing views. Kaleb Webb, a junior political science/global studies double major from Cabot, AR, as well as the vice president of the Young Democrats, stated that the allegations were serious and if they were true, they disqualified

Hodges as a public servant. “Though Rep. Hodges claims to have been exonerated, we know that all too often justice is not truly served in these situations. I join Democratic Party of Arkansas Chair Grant Tennille in asking Rep. Hodges to drop out,” Webb said. Aliah Rowe, a senior pre-law economics major from Jonesboro, AR, and the president of the Young Democrats, said she will not be supporting Hodges. Like Webb and Tennille, she thinks Hodges should drop out. “These allegations are serious and morally I will not stand behind someone facing them. As someone who is a part of the (1st) District, I believe we deserve someone in this position that is a morally just person and will represent us and the 1st District accordingly,” Rowe said. The Young Democrats will be releasing a statement in the forthcoming weeks regarding the situation.

CAMPUS CRIME



RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

Feb. 5 | 11:33 p.m.
The Jonesboro Police Department dispatched an officer to the 3400 block of Aggie Road in reference to a vehicle in a ditch. While assisting them to locate the vehicle, Officer Daniel Bradway found the listed vehicle nose down in the ditch on the north side of Aggie Road behind the baseball stadium. When he went to speak to the driver, Bradway was immediately hit with a very strong odor of intoxicants. Bradway asked suspect one to walk up to the street but he was unable to walk and Bradway had to assist him from the ditch to the road. Once on the road, Bradway asked suspect one how much he’d had to drink and he responded by saying “not enough.” As Bradway was standing near him, he was able to smell the odor coming from suspect one. He was also able to see that suspect one’s eyes were bloodshot and he was having trouble speaking. Suspect one spoke with a thick tongue and in broken sentences. Bradway used the dry pavement of the roadway to perform the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus test. During this test, he noticed that there was no resting nystagmus and both eyes tracked equally. Bradway then saw the onset of nystagmus in both eyes as well as at maximum deviation. He attempted to do the walk and turn test, but suspect one refused to perform the rest of the tests. Bradway placed suspect one

under arrest for DWI and handcuffed him behind his back, placing him in the rear of Bradway’s caged patrol unit. He then transported suspect one to the Craighead County Sheriff’s Office for a BAC test. When they arrived at the jail, Bradway escorted suspect one into the BAC room where he began his 20 minute observation time. During this time, Bradway read the BAC rights form to suspect one where he signed in all locations. He signed that he would not take the test. Bradway read the ALS form to suspect one and had him sign it. Then at 12:16 a.m. the refusal result was printed. During this time, suspect one stated to Bradway that he was looking for the Embassy Suites parking lot and he was on the phone with someone who told him to turn right and he went into the ditch. Since suspect one refused to test, Bradway transported him to St. Bernard’s E.R. for a blood alcohol kit. Once there the warrant was filled out and sent to Judge Tommy Fowler, who signed and returned it. Bradway escorted suspect one into the E.R., where he was checked in. Then at 1:20 a.m. RN Joven came in and prepared suspect one for the blood draw. The search warrant was executed at 1:29 a.m. and two vials of blood were collected. The evidence was sealed by RN Joven and placed in the carrier to be transported. Bradway transported suspect one back to the CCSO to be held on the listed charges. A property receipt for the blood taken was left with suspect one.

Once back at the University Police Department, Bradway filled out all the necessary paperwork for the blood evidence and sealed the box for transit to the Arkansas State Crime Lab for a toxicology screening. The evidence was packaged and placed into the evidence refrigerator. Due to there not being any damage to the vehicle the owner did not want a report. The only other damage was to the ground in the bottom of the ditch, which was able to be filled in once the truck was removed. Feb. 6 | 7:36 a.m.
Officer Traci Simpson responded to a parking lot accident with a ASU vehicle and no injuries. Upon arrival she checked with victim one to make sure he was okay. Victim one stated that he was fine but didn’t realize how slippery the parking lot was. He said that around “5:30ish he was on his way to football operations.” Victim one stated “the roads and parking lots before this one were cleared so I didn’t realize this one was as icy as it was, so I started sliding and hit the curb.” Due to the parking lot being so icy and slippery it was even hard to walk on. Victim one had already called his supervisor about the accident. Facilities Management Dutyman Kendall Moody was called out to see about towing the vehicle. The vehicle was left at the scene at the time of report. The keys were taken by Victim one and Mr. Moody.