

Ketanji Brown Jackson confirmed as first Black female Supreme Court Justice

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

After Justice Stephen Breyer announced his retirement from the Supreme Court, President Joe Biden revealed Ketanji Brown Jackson as his judicial nominee on Feb. 25.

"I am proud to announce that I am nominating Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve on the Supreme Court," Biden said on the official POTUS Instagram page. "She is one of our nation's brightest legal minds and will be an exceptional Justice."

Jackson attended Harvard University, where she graduated magna cum laude, before going on to Harvard Law School, where she graduated cum laude.

She began her law career clerking for Breyer. She became

a public defender, then vice chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, then judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. She currently serves as a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

The confirmation hearing began on March 21, with a nearly 22 hour questioning session. It concluded on March 24, where Jackson faced questions from both sides of the aisle.

Republicans questioned her on her sentencing of child sex abusers, as well as her views on race, gender, guns and abortion rights. She was also asked about her thoughts regarding antiracism and critical race theory.

Democrats highlighted the importance of Jackson's

confirmation, with Senator Cory Booker (D-N.J.) even delivering a tearful speech about the significance of the nomination to him.

"You're a person that is so much more than your race and gender," Booker said. "For me, it's hard for me not to look at you and not see my mom, not to see my cousins. I see my ancestors and yours."

In order for a potential justice to be appointed to the Supreme Court, they must undergo a series of hearings headed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The examination consists of three parts: a pre-hearing investigation, followed by public hearings and finally a committee decision.

The committee decision has three possible outcomes-

favorable, unfavorable or no recommendation, which are reported to the entire Senate. They then vote whether to confirm the nominee, with a simple majority required.

The Senate voted 53-47, with Republicans Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Mitt Romney joining every Democratic senator voting in favor for her.

Jackson will not be sworn in until this summer, when Breyer retires. When she joins the high court, the justices will include four women, the most at one time.

"It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States," Jackson said. "But we've made it. We've made it, all of us."



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Dr. Joel Gambill Distinguished Speaker Series brings in A-State alumni

CLAIRE FISHER

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Arkansas State University hosted guest speaker Andrea Bruner with the Dr. Joel Gambill Distinguished Speaker Series, where students got to hear about the ups and downs of small-town journalism.

A-State welcomed a familiar face back to campus Monday and Tuesday. The journalism graduate from the class of '96 was more than happy to talk about her time working for small-town newspapers. She was part of the Distinguished Speaker Series

that was dedicated to Dr. Joel Gambill, who was Chairman of the Department of Media and Journalism for 36 years.

Bruner, a journalist from Batesville, drew in a crowd from many departments across A-State. However, the journalism department looked to Bruner as more than just a guest speaker. Journalism students and faculty saw her as a chance to gain information about the field of journalism, and to get advice on their career as a journalist.

"Small towns need a reliable source," Bruner said. She told

students that working in a small town, especially their hometown, could have many moments of happiness, sadness and anger. Towns will all have their fair share of 'mad mommas' when a story of a loved one is published. Bruner told students certain stories have to run in the papers, even if the families do not want the public to know, because the town deserves to know what is going on around them.

"If we do not shine that light, then who will," Bruner said. When students asked how she handled talking to

strangers for information, she told them they needed to put themselves out there and start talking to everyone they meet. By getting to know the public personally, journalists will always have a story to put in the paper. However, Bruner also told them that they needed to be careful when getting information from people they know. "You always need to ask yourself, is it fair? Is it accurate?"

Bruner gave the journalism students insight about her time working for newspapers and how her job was stressful

at times. After she graduated, Bruner took a position at The Modern News in Harrisburg, where she was the only reporter on staff. Bruner reported all of the stories for the paper, she took all of the pictures, she edited her stories and she did the layout for the paper. She said even though the work was stressful at times, she enjoyed the experience and her time at The Modern News.

After her time at The Modern News, Bruner relocated to the Batesville Daily Guard, the newspaper of her hometown. Bruner worked for the Daily

Guard until she retired and even continues to freelance for them occasionally. She told the combined journalism classes she loved working in her hometown because she had always wanted to make a difference in her community. She said, "the people need a voice and somebody to tell their story."

Journalism students walked away from Bruner's sessions with career improving advice, and a new look into their

CONTINUED:
JUMP TEASER, 4A

Scarlet Chess Club holds tournament



Photo by Jack Bond | Staff Writer

Students and community members play games of chess against each other on Saturday's tournament.

JACK BOND

STAFF WRITER

Arkansas State University's Scarlet Chess Club held a tournament on April 9 in the Mockingbird Room of the Reng Student Union. Students, faculty and anybody else was welcome to attend. There was no entry fee, yet there were trophies for the winners.

Sachleen Singh, the organization's president, said "We've been wanting to do this for so long, but due to COVID-19, we could not actually have it. We just wanted to get the club started back up again and have regular meetings and stuff."

The tournament was in Swiss style, which means that participants were not eliminated. Instead, everybody was paired up with a different partner for

five different rounds. Whoever did the best overall, was the winner. In this case, there were three different winners for the different sections: open, faculty and staff, and student.

The winner of the open spot was James Boozer from Jonesboro. "I was actually a bit of a late bloomer in chess," he said. "I didn't start playing until I was about 24, 25 and I'm 33 at the moment, so I had a little catching up to do you know what I mean? But ever since I discovered the pieces and how they function on the board and everything, I kind of fell in love with it, and I've been playing ever since."

He said he "definitely would" get into teaching chess once he feels more confident in his abilities. "I don't wanna teach people the wrong moves,

you know? I'm not a scrub at chess necessarily, but I'm definitely not high tier, so I wanna just learn a little bit more about the game and get a little better myself before I start putting the information out in the ether for everyone."

Dr. Gregory Hansen, professor of English and folklore, was the winner of the faculty and staff section. "I started out playing chess as a kid, then just didn't play much of it for quite some time until I bought a small handheld computer chess board," he said. "I figured I'd do okay, and I put it on the intermediate level and got beaten in like five moves.

CONTINUED:
JUMP TEASER, 4A

CAMPUS CRIME



RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

April 9 | 8:32 p.m.

Officer Anthony Gielen overheard Jonesboro Police Department Dispatch regarding a dog struck by a vehicle and lying in the roadway at Red Wolf Boulevard and Aggie Road. The dog's owner was also lying in the roadway next to it.

Gielen responded to the area to assist. Jonesboro Police Department Officer Noles arrived a short time later.

Upon arrival in the area, he observed a man lying in the roadway in the right eastbound lane approximately 50 feet west of the intersection of Aggie Road and Pawnee Street. Victim one was holding onto a large tan-colored dog that was obviously deceased.

Gielen attempted to question victim one, but he refused to answer. He replied, "What does it matter?" Gielen spoke with a witness, who said he and his friend had observed a white GMC or Yukon with a lift kit speeding east on Aggie Road. He said that about 10 minutes ago the vehicle had struck the dog and then left the area. No further information was available regarding the suspect vehicle.

Gielen contacted U.P.D. Dispatch and requested the security camera video footage checked from the E-phone camera located at the intersection on Aggie Road

and Olympic Drive. He was informed a short time later that no details were observed on video footage regarding the previously described vehicle striking a dog.

Noles and Gielen spoke with victim one, who still appeared distraught but provided them with a photo ID and informed them that his dog's name is "Honey". Victim one stated he had been walking about 20 feet behind his dog when it was struck by a vehicle on Aggie Road. Victim one and his dog were walking from the direction of the Village Apartments when it occurred.

Victim one was unable to provide any information regarding the suspect vehicle other than the impact was in the center front of the suspect vehicle.

Victim one agreed to have his dog transported to his residence until other arrangements could be made. Gielen requested Officer Dustin Mitchell respond to the location with the John Deere Gator to transport the dog.

Gielen transported victim one to his residence and met Noles and Mitchell there. He asked victim one about placing his dog in his vehicle, but he stated he had left it parked at Hoolihan's at Embassy Suites because he had been drinking.

Victim one requested that the dog be brought into his second floor apartment. Gielen informed victim one that they

lacked the necessary equipment. The dog was placed on the ground near an air conditioner on the back side of the building. He agreed to cover his dog and make arrangements to have it removed the next day.

The following day, victim one waved Officer Takeem Bowman down near the Willow Apartments. He was losing his balance and swaying from side to side as he approached Bowman.

Victim one requested Bowman assist him with placing his deceased dog in his vehicle. Victim one explained to Bowman that he was unable to find a vet service that was open at that time. Bowman assisted victim one in locating a vet service that was open.

He told victim one it was unsafe for him to drive due to him being intoxicated. Facility maintenance was requested for assistance but couldn't assist victim one with transporting his deceased dog to the vet.

Bowman asked victim one if he wanted to speak to Counseling Services and victim one stated he would speak with them. Counselor Devin Nelson was briefed of the incident and was provided with victim one's phone number.

Dispatcher Kayce Porter made arrangements for her husband to assist victim one transport his deceased dog to the vet.