



PHOTO, 4B

Take a look at "Spring Festival"

## A-State firearm ban up to judge

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A judge is set to make a decision on whether a private citizen can carry a firearm into First National Bank Arena.

Craighead County Circuit Judge Melissa Richardson heard arguments Monday over dueling motions. There is not a set date on when the ruling will be out but the ruling will be put in writing.

Arkansas State University's current weapons policy prohibits concealed handguns in Centennial Bank Stadium, First National Bank Arena, Cooper Alumni Center, Fowler Center, Pavilion, Tomlinson Stadium and private educational institutions such as NYIT.

Conway attorney Chris Corbitt sued A-State in November, claiming the ban violated the state's current conceal carry law. Corbitt, who holds an enhanced concealed carry permit wants the judge to declare the ban unlawful.

According to Assistant Attorney General Carl F. "Trey" Cooper III, firearms must be banned from the First National Bank Arena because alcohol is sold on the premises.

### Gun policy at Arkansas State and sporting event exemption

According to A-State's weapons policy there are areas where a concealed handgun is prohibited. One of those is a posted firearm-sensitive area defined as "collegiate athletic event that has security plans approved by the Arkansas State Police. A 'collegiate athletic event' is a sporting or athletic contest, event or practice of an individual or team in which one or more individuals or a team sponsored by, funded by, represented by or associated with a public or private university, college or community college

competes against themselves or another individual or team."

Corbitt's law partner, Robert H. Steinbuch said state law bans firearms for collegiate sports events over fear of sanctions from the National Collegiate Athletics Association.

Former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson signed a law in 2017 to allow concealed weapons to be carried into more places including public university campuses if the person underwent an extra 8 hours of training. Arkansas State and University of Arkansas officials opposed the initial law to allow concealed weapons on their campuses to remain up to the schools.

Hutchinson said he supported the efforts to exempt college sporting events from this law.

In 2017, the Sun Belt Conference wanted Arkansas gun law changed to exempt sporting events. The Southeastern Conference also backed the exemption.

The Senate voted to exempt sporting events from the campus carry law 22-10 and was signed by Hutchinson into law. The bill also exempted the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the state hospital.

### Enhanced Concealed Carry vs. Concealed Carry

Enhanced carry requires more training and does not need to be renewed unlike plain concealed carry. An enhanced license also allows the holder to carry a concealed handgun in more locations.

In the law, creating enhanced carry allows those to bring guns into "sensitive places," which includes public university campuses, bars, churches and the State Capitol.

On top of regular requirements, enhanced carry holders also have to pass a live-fire exam with a score of 35 out of 50. It also required

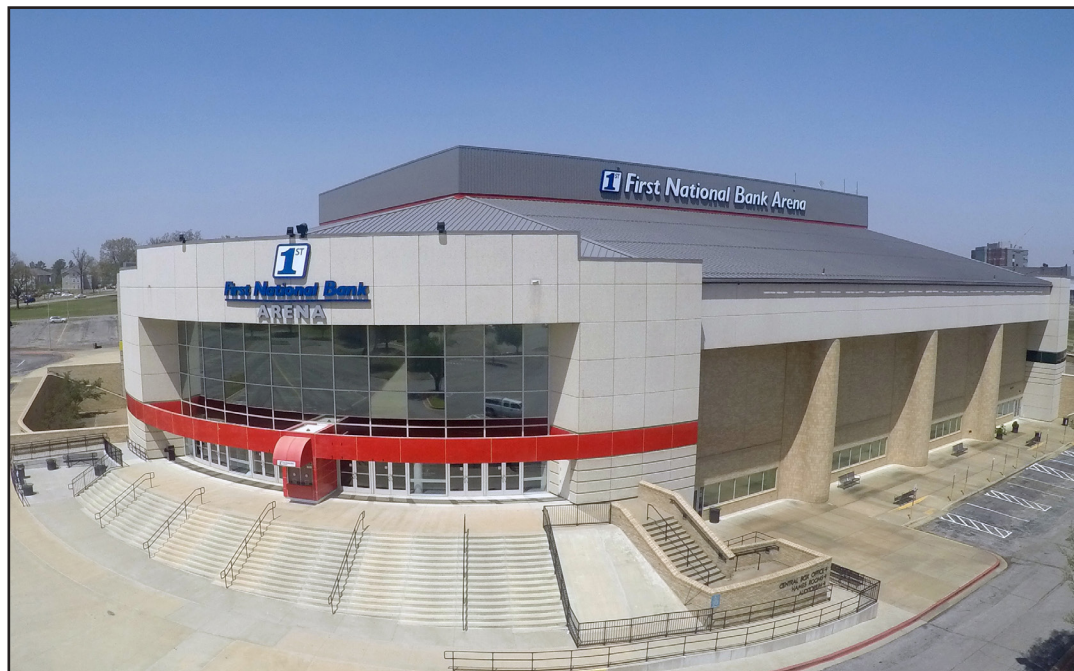
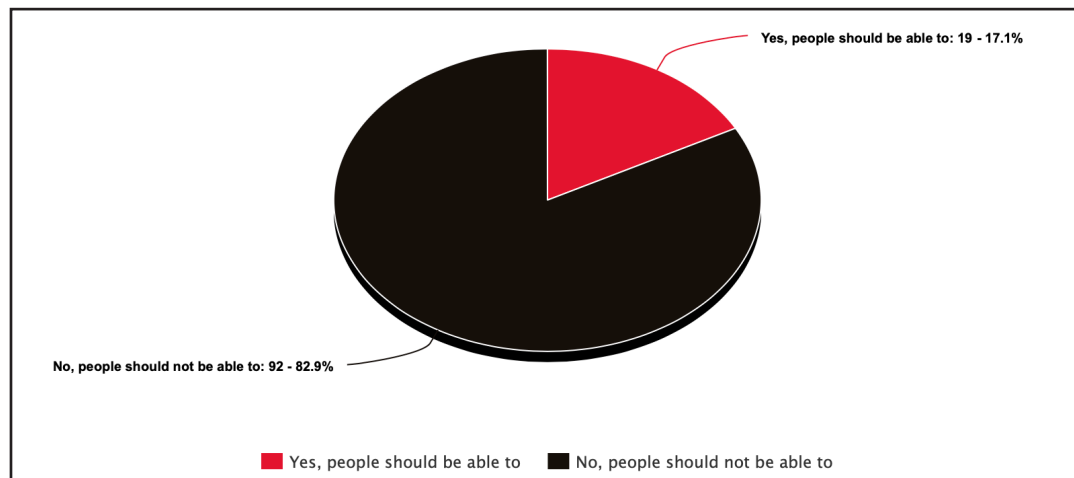


PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

The First National Bank Arena is considered a firearm-sensitive area. The arena does not allow handguns with concealed carry or enhanced concealed carry.



Graphic by Rebecca Robinson | Editor-in-Chief

Poll question: Do you think people should be able to conceal carry at campus sporting events? Areas such as: First National Bank Arena and Centennial Bank Stadium. Out of the 111 responses 92 people voted no and 19 voted yes.

a course detailing what to do in an active shooter situation.

### Previous Lawsuits

Corbitt and Steinbuch also filed legal challenges for other venues as well, including a lawsuit in October against Pulaski County officials seeking a ruling over whether lawyers can possess firearms in court and another challenge of a gun ban at the Saline

County Courthouse in Benton. Both are pending cases.

In August 2021, Corbitt filed a suit against the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. In May, a circuit judge ruled in favor of game and fish.

The suit began after Corbitt was barred from entering the firing-range at the commission's Camp Robinson Firing Range in Conway

despite having an enhanced concealed carry permit.

ASU Systems vice president of strategic communications Jeff Hankins wouldn't comment due to the lawsuit pending litigation. Hankins provided documents regarding the case that can be found at [astatetheherald.com](http://astatetheherald.com).

Story contributed to by Rachel Rudd and Caroline Averitt.

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#### OPINION, 2A

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- Bill 81: useless at best, homophobic

#### NEWS, 3A

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- Second provost finalist Mark Clarke, Ph.D., visits A-State
- Last provost finalist Calvin White, Ph.D., visits A-State
- Registration is opening, here's what you need to know
- Campus Crime

#### NEWS, 4A

- Fowler Center to present singer/songwriter Kaia Kater in concert on March 31
- This week's crossword puzzle: Women's History Month edition

#### SPORTS, 1B

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- Esports director
- A-State football announces 2023 schedule
- Women's golf finished ninth at UNF Collegiate

#### LIFE/ARTS, 3B

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- What is your coffee order?
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## Ejji Studios and Multicultural Affairs fashion show "Evolve" celebrates Black history

CAROLINE AVERITT

STAFF WRITER

Students and members of the community showcased how Black media and fashion has evolved through the decades with Evolve the Show.

The show, put on by Ejji Studios and the Arkansas State University Office of Multicultural Affairs, showcased Black media and fashion from the '70s up to the present day.

Joycelyne Williams, an academic success coach in transition studies and the adviser for the Black Student Association, wrote the show with Andrew Daley, the creator of Evolve and owner of Ejji Studios, a Jonesboro based photography studio.

Before Daley became a full-time photographer, he attended A-State as a student and worked for the university in finance. "Evolve is something I came

up with that I wanted to do on the campus of Arkansas State University," Daley said.

He said he wanted to create something for students to get involved in and give them a chance to meet people they would not normally meet.

Students, faculty, staff and members of the community came together to perform this show in Centennial Hall on March 4. Along with runway modeling, performances included singing, dancing, acting, painting and spoken word.

Kellie Dukes, a sophomore health studies major from Marion, Arkansas, walked the runway.

"I didn't know I could model until now and apparently I have that walk," Dukes said. Dukes said she learned so much from being in this show and had a lot of fun.

"I'm closer to friends. I'm learning more about Black

history; I'm learning more about Black involvement," Dukes said.

The show opened with the '70s and highlighted radio and the Soul Train Line.

"Everybody's super, super groovy. (We're) paying homage to Don Cornelius, but also some really important singers and fashion from the '70s," Williams said.

Then, the show moved into the '80s in which they highlighted Black Entertainment Television and the Black church.

"One of the things that we wanted to pay homage to is the Black church and how the Black church played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement and just in Black culture in general," Williams said.

The runway showcased '80s fashion, but also church fashion within the Black community.

The show highlighted the highs and lows of the '90s. "The '90s is pretty heavy. We

wanted to highlight suicide in the Black community, specifically in Black men," Williams said.

She said they wanted to show even with the uplifting music of the decade, the Black community suffered staggering suicide numbers.

This portion of the show paid homage to talk shows such as "The Montel Williams Show."

The '00s portion of the show also paid homage to talk shows, but focused specifically on talk shows with Black women at the forefront, such as "The View" and "The Wendy Williams Show."

Along with talk shows and fashion, Evolve highlighted the rise of respectability politics in the '00s.

The show ended with the present day and highlighted the popularity of podcasts. Evolve closed with a grand wedding reception with models wearing wedding attire from all decades.

Those in attendance of



Photo by Caroline Averitt | Staff Writer

David Arnold at the Evolve fashion show.

the show were invited to the center of the room and served wedding cake while the performers danced.