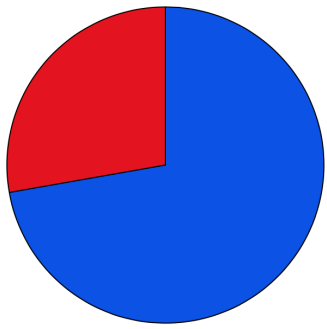


What's Your Opinion?

Did you/are you planning to vote in the Arkansas primary election?

Out of 36 responses:
I have/plan to -- 26
I have not/no plan to -- 10



● I Have ● I Have Not

Next Poll:

Female Role Models

Who are the women in your life who inspire you?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](https://www.instagram.com/astateherald). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [astatetheherald.com](https://www.astatetheherald.com). Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to heraldopinion1921@gmail.com.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

Primary voting is important too

ELIJAH TEMPLETON

OPINION EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a junior creative media production major from Jonesboro.

This week was the Arkansas primary election and whether you voted or not, the importance of voting in primaries cannot be overstated.

A primary election comes around every four years, a few months before the general elections in November, determining who occupies several offices and positions throughout federal and state governments.

In Arkansas, many of the races were already set with only one candidate for both the Democratic and Republican parties being on the ballot, effectively making the primary a formality.

This was seen with the landslide victories and nominations of both President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump for the November election.

Nearly every other race on the ballot was an uncontested one with the incumbent candidate running unopposed.

For a few races though, like the vacant seats of Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice and another seat on the state Supreme Court, these functioned as general elections with multiple candidates running for the nomination.

The Associated Press called the race between Justice Courtney Hudson and Circuit Judge Carlton Jones for the vacant seat on Tuesday night for Hudson, which prevented Jones from becoming the first Black justice to serve on the court.

The race for Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice had not been called at the time of writing, but the results offered a chance at history, with three nominees all vying to be the first female Chief Justice in the court's history.

While presidential races receive the majority of media attention, they are only one of the many races that show up on ballots across the nation during election season.

This leads to state government races being overlooked and allows candidates who can have a much more impactful role in citizens' day-to-day lives to compete in races with a much smaller voter pool, which can make the path to

victory or defeat that much smaller.

According to a study by States United Action, the average voter turnout for primary elections has been 27% of registered voters, while the general election turnout is 60.5% of registered voters in elections since 2000.

That is millions of Americans who are not making their voices heard in primary elections for one reason or another, meaning that those who turn up to vote can make decisions for those that don't in regards to who represents them.

A study conducted by the National Conference of Citizenship showed that in the 2020 election, 54% of Arkansans voted compared to the national average of nearly 65%.

These results rank Arkansas dead last in the nation in voter turnout, with several different factors like education and income being deciding factors in these results.

In Arkansas, if you did not vote in the primary, you have allowed two candidates that you know little to nothing about to join our

state's Supreme Court that could make rulings that change your life.

You allowed other people to choose your state's nominees for President of the United States, no matter how much of a formality the results turned out to be.

From the roads we drive on to the taxes that we pay, our elections play vital roles in our lives and not participating in them leaves you with little room to complain about things if they negatively affect you.

You can only make changes that you wish to see by voting and whether it is a primary or general election, your vote always matters.

If you did not participate in the primary, make sure you do so in the fall. Vote like your way of life depends on it, because it does.



GRAPHIC BY ADRIENNE ALLS | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Graphic depiction of a polling station.

Stop exploiting children for content

CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR



Caroline Averitt is a senior multimedia journalism major from Jonesboro.

Imagine your entire childhood was filmed and uploaded to YouTube. All your temper tantrums, embarrassing moments and awkward phases are available to anyone with internet access.

This is the reality for kids on family vlog channels.

Many family vloggers, those who make internet content by filming their family's daily life, have amassed viral popularity. Well-known family channels include The Labrant Fam, The ACE Family and the Ballinger Family.

Family vloggers are no strangers to controversy. Most recently, Ruby Franke of the channel "8 Passengers" was sentenced to prison for child abuse. According to the Associated Press,

Franke pleaded guilty by saying, "With my deepest regret and sorrow for my family and my children, guilty."

Franke admitted to denying her kids food, kicking and holding their heads underwater, binding them with rope or handcuffs and other abusive behaviors.

This may be extreme for family vloggers, but some of her abusive tactics were uploaded to YouTube including banning her son from his bedroom and threatening that Santa would not bring toys to the kids as a form of punishment.

Boring videos don't entice viewers. Mundane, run-of-the-mill family life won't get these channels viewers and engagement. So, they turn to extreme actions to get clicks even if it harms their kids.

Regardless, making money off of content about your kids is distasteful and exploitative.

Many of these channels show parenting decisions, which in turn exposes the faults and missteps of the kids. Imagine the embarrassment these kids feel when their mistakes and punishments are posted for the whole world to see.

Some children can't escape the public eye due to the status of their parents. However, some celebrity parents take explicit action to protect the privacy of their kids.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VOICEBOX

Mother and her child filming a video.

Eva Mendes said about her kids' privacy on social media, "Since my children are still so little and don't understand what posting their image really means, I don't have their consent. And I won't post their image until they're old enough to give me consent," according to E! News.

Kim Kardashian also takes action to protect the privacy of her kids, though she is not as strict as Mendes. Kardashian's daughter, North West, regularly uses TikTok, but does so on an account shared with her mom in which comments are disabled and, as the bio says, it is "managed by an adult."

It would be so easy for these celebrity parents to use their kids to make content and money. However, many of them understand the scrutiny that comes

with being public on social media and want their kids to be safe.

However, family vloggers are doing the exact opposite. They don't protect their kids' privacy and often force them into bad situations for the thrill of a new subscriber.

Whether the parents are abusive, like in the case of "8 Passengers," or if they just show regular daily life, the bottom line is these kids cannot consent to this media exposure.

I know some of these family channels may have entertaining videos and it may be easy to binge them for hours on end. But I beg you to resist the urge to watch those videos, despite the tempting clickbait, and respect the privacy of these kids.

THE HERALD

RACHEL RUDD: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
rachel.rudd@smail.astate.edu

JERRY DON BURTON: NEWS EDITOR
heraldnews1921@gmail.com

ANNA COX: SPORTS EDITOR
heraldsports1921@gmail.com

ELIJAH TEMPLETON: OPINION EDITOR
heraldopinion1921@gmail.com

CAROLINE AVERITT: ARTS & E/LIFE EDITOR
heraldlife1921@gmail.com

JACK DOUGLAS: PHOTO EDITOR
heraldphoto1921@gmail.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN EDITOR
heraldonline1921@gmail.com

SANDRA L. COMBS: ADVISER; ADVERTISEMENT SALES
scombs@astate.edu
heraldonline1921@gmail.com

THE HERALD OFFICE IS IN ROOM 224 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS/EDUCATION BUILDING.

NEWSROOM: 870-972-3076

AD OFFICE: 870-972-2961

FAX: 870-972-3339

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Story ideas or news tips may be emailed to heraldnews1921@gmail.com. The Herald welcomes comments, criticisms or ideas that its readership may have. We encourage you to send a Letter to the Editor to rachel.rudd@smail.astate.edu.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Herald is printed every Wednesday during the semester, except during finals and holidays. Copies of The Herald are free.

CORRECTIONS GUIDELINES

The Herald wants its news reports to be fair and accurate. We correct all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please contact us.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Opinions expressed in personal columns are those of the writers and may not reflect the opinions of the staff as a whole.

These opinions are not necessarily reflective of the students, faculty or administration at A-State.

Columns, letters to the editor, cartoons and other content on the opinion page are the views of the author. Content does not necessarily represent the opinion of The Herald.