

## 29th annual Delta Symposium scheduled for April 4-6



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

The 29th annual Delta Symposium will be held in various locations from April 4-6. The theme this year is "Talking about the Weather".

### A-STATE NEWS

#### PRESS RELEASE

The theme of the annual Delta Symposium at Arkansas State University, set for April 4-6, is "Talking about the Weather."

The 29th edition of the symposium will be held in various locations. Thursday, April 4,

events begin in the Humanities and Social Sciences Building and will then shift at 2 p.m. to A-State Museum, room 157.

Friday, April 5, events will commence in the Carl R. Reng Student Union and be completed with an evening reading at the Bradbury Art

Museum. Symposium sessions are free and open to the public, although there is an admission fee for the Arkansas Roots Music Festival, at the Historic Dyess Colony: Johnny Cash Boyhood Home, on Saturday, April 6. Participants will present research on a range of topics.

In connection with the upcoming eclipse, focus will be provided on research into stories, songs, history, and the science of weather and climate. Presentations will cover a range of topics through inquiries into the literary, artistic and historical heritage of the Delta.

"The Delta Symposium committee is especially interested in this year's event. We have a wide variety of presentations, and the content is especially relevant to contemporary interests in our environment and upcoming total eclipse," explained Dr. Gregory Hansen, Delta Symposium coordinator.

The full schedule is available at the symposium website, [AState.edu/delta-symposium](http://AState.edu/delta-symposium). The event begins on Thursday, April 4, with a panel session on community life and climate change at 9:30 a.m. in room 3001

of the Humanities Building. Throughout the day, presenters will explore a wide range of topics through multimedia sessions and documentary film.

The keynote event is a presentation from Dr. Les Johnson of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He will be meeting students and community members throughout the day, and his presentation is scheduled for 3 p.m. Friday, April 5, in the Reng Student Union Auditorium.

Johnson is a physicist, author, technologist and educator. His presentation will enhance attendees' understanding of the dynamics of the eclipse. His presentation is offered in conjunction with A-State's Heritage Sites, and all are welcome to attend this event and the reception to follow. Friday, April 5, events

conclude with an evening reading by two writers. Dr. Mara W. Cohen Ioannides and Dr. John Zheng will share their creative contributions through a reading to be held at 7 p.m. at the Bradbury Art Museum in Fowler Center, 201 Olympic Dr.

The Delta Symposium concludes with the Arkansas Roots Music Festival. KASU's Marty Scarbrough will serve as master of ceremonies for the festival, which will be at the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home starting at noon Saturday, April 6, and continuing until 5 p.m. Admission is \$35, with proceeds going to support the continued development of the university's heritage sites.

Tickets and information about the concert can be found at [DyessCash.AState.edu](http://DyessCash.AState.edu). Further information about the Delta Symposium can be found at [AState.edu/Delta-Symposium](http://AState.edu/Delta-Symposium).

## Congress approves \$10 million request to support Center for Advanced Materials and Steel Manufacturing

### A-STATE NEWS

#### PRESS RELEASE

A \$10 million congressional appropriation led by U.S. Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., will advance plans for the Arkansas State University Center for Advanced Materials and Steel Manufacturing to support the largest steel producing region in the country.

A-State will use the funding to invest in high-tech equipment for a multimillion-dollar facility that will advance the rapidly growing steel industry in the Arkansas Delta and throughout Northeast Arkansas. The region is the nation's leader in steel production, with more than 20 steel-related companies employing some 3,600 workers and another \$3 billion facilities under construction creating another 900 jobs.

The university anticipates close partnerships with steel manufacturers for research, process improvements, testing of advanced materials and steel

manufacturing while training a growing professional workforce for the industry and region.

"Northeast Arkansas is a national leader in steel production, and the A-State Center for Advanced Materials and Steel Manufacturing will play a critical role in providing the research, process improvement and workforce development to support this thriving industry," A-State Chancellor Todd Shields said. "The Center and these partnerships will fundamentally transform the region and elevate its role as the steel capital of America. Arkansas State benefits from our proximity as the closest research university to current and future steel industry, and we are extremely excited about the successful partnerships that have already developed."

"On behalf of the A-State community and everyone in Northeast Arkansas, I want to thank Senator Boozman for his leadership, his commitment to our university and this major

economic driver of our state and region," Shields added. "These jobs are more technologically advanced than ever before and require a technology-proficient workforce. It is critical to provide opportunities for home-grown talent from our region to ensure that Arkansas establishes itself as a national leader in advanced materials and steel manufacturing."

The Center will develop mechanical property measurements for steels and other alloys; X-ray diffraction, spectroscopy, and electron microscopy analytical tools; computational materials science investigations of novel materials; and maximize the use of artificial intelligence in the manufacturing process. The quality of steel is dictated by its mechanical properties, and current testing for production facilities in Mississippi County requires expensive transportation costs that delay shipments to buyers. The comprehensive

measurements will be complemented by competencies in artificial intelligence, data science and data analytics, and computational materials science, in which diverse material modeling techniques – including molecular dynamics, phase field modeling, computational fluid dynamics, finite element modeling and systems engineering models – can be used to validate new material formulations and manufacturing processes.

"We look forward to successfully working closely with leaders in the steel industry to implement cutting edge research in advanced materials and steel manufacturing, supported by data science and artificial intelligence," said Dr. Abhijit Bhattacharyya, inaugural dean of the A-State College of Engineering and Computer Science. "We will help solve industry-related problems and provide faculty and students invaluable opportunities to work side by



PHOTO COURTESY OF FANJIANHUA ON ADOBE STOCK

Stock photo of interior view of a steel factory.

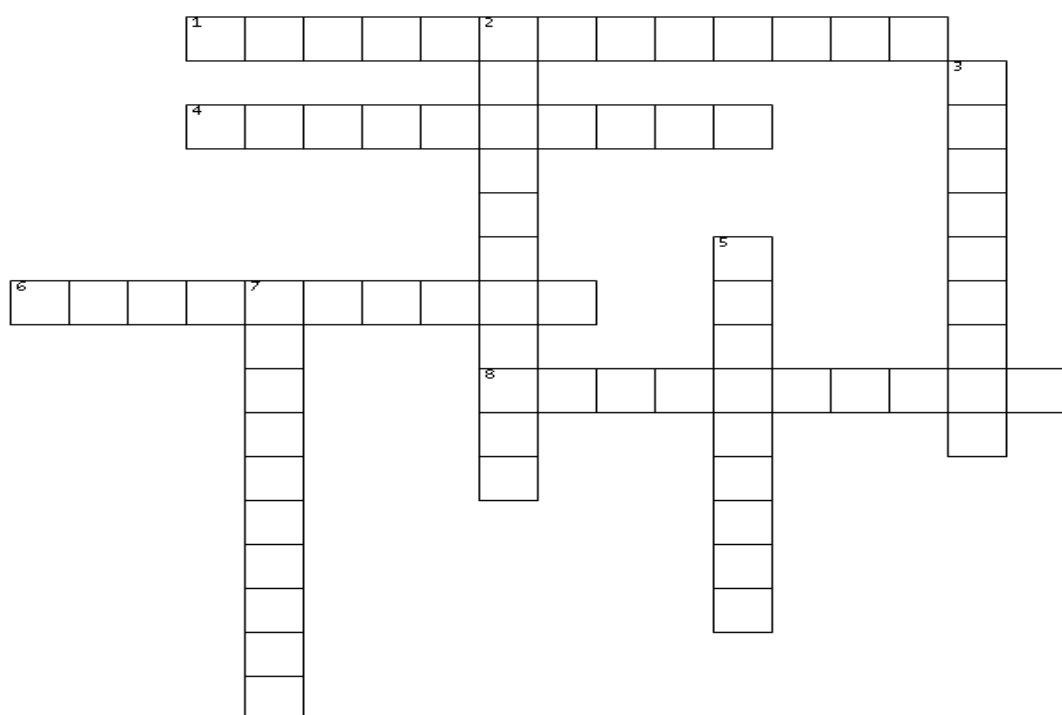
side with scientists from the steel industry. The programs we are developing will be world class, just like the world class steel mills located in our backyard."

A-State is reallocating faculty positions to support the Center by creating a new department in the college focused specifically on material science, metallurgy, steel manufacturing, supported by data science and artificial intelligence. Faculty and students will work collaboratively with scientists and employees at

steel plants around the region.

"This is exactly how a research institution should successfully partner with local industries," Provost Calvin White said. "We are excited to work with industry partners to find business solutions, grow markets, improve production, expand high-skilled employment opportunities and be a central part of economic development throughout our region, the state, and the nation."

## THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE



### DOWN

- 2. Rugby player featured on sports page
- 3. "Rookie of the Year" SGA award winner
- 5. TikTok's parent company
- 7. Bradbury Art Museum exhibit running until April 3

### ACROSS

- 1. Caroline's Music March Madness bracket winner
- 4. April 5 is the last day to do this
- 6. Of or relating to horse-riding
- 8. A part of the southern United States vulnerable to strong tornadoes