

Active shooter presentation held to prepare and inform students

JERRY DON BURTON

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

To prepare and educate students on active shooter procedure, the Arkansas State University Police Department (UPD) held an active shooter presentation Monday.

Billy Branch, UPD captain, said they arrange an active shooter presentation every year to give incoming students an understanding of how to respond to an active shooter threat. "That is just something that happens in the United States more frequently than I wish it would," Branch said. "The main thing is to just let people know that these kinds of situations do happen."

The presentation comprised an overview of what services UPD provides students, a video on bomb threat awareness and a video about how students should act in an active shooter situation.

Justice Hicks, a first-year political science major from Searcy, Arkansas, said she attended the event because

an active shooter and bomb threats are situations that can happen to any campus.

In the video titled "Shots Fired: When Lightning Strikes on Campus" by the Center for Personal Protection and Safety, the narrator said the odds of a student being involved in an active shooter situation are similar to the odds of being struck by lightning. Hicks said she disagreed with this statement.

"I do not think it is the same as being struck by lightning anymore, I think it is way more common," Hicks said. "Just look at what happened in Georgia the other day. It's real. It happens every single day."

Hicks said she wishes A-State would make events like the active shooter presentation mandatory to attend in order to raise awareness.

Randy Martin, UPD police chief, said all students in first year experience classes are required to attend the active shooter presentation.

Allison Clark, a first-year political science major

from Cabot, Arkansas, said attending the event refreshed her knowledge of how to respond to campus threats. She said events like the active shooter presentation are important when in a new location or school because safety procedures may change depending on the location.

"I definitely did not expect a super long video, but it met the expectations of what to do, who to go to and gave me the right resources," Clark said. "I do feel a little more prepared, but if the situation does happen, I'm obviously going to be scared."

The active shooter video covered the different ways students can respond to an armed threat on campus. It explained students must adopt a survival mindset, which consists of awareness, preparation and rehearsal.

In the event of an active shooter on campus, the video advised students to assess the situation and decide on the best course of action. The video listed escaping, hiding and taking out

the shooter as three effective decisions students must choose between when facing a threat.

Branch said the presentation also served to prepare students for what a UPD response would look like if an active shooter was on campus. The captain said students should not expect police to stay with them for long because law enforcement is trained to follow the sound of gunfire and keep moving until they find and eliminate the threat.

Both Clark and Hicks said the most important information they learned at the event was the services UPD provides and how to contact them.

During the presentation, Branch said UPD provides safety escorts, fingerprinting, engravings for valuables, vehicle unlocks and vehicle jumpstarts.

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ACTIVE SHOOTER, 4A

What to do in an active shooter situation

Adopt a survival mindset

Awareness: Taking time to understand your situation

Preparation: Developing effective response strategies

Rehearsal: Practicing your response plan

Decide the best course of action

Get out: can you safely escape?

- Trust your instincts
- Leave belongings behind



Hide out: is there a good place to hide?

- Find a hidden location
- Avoid places that restrict movement
- Find a room that locks
- Blockade the door
- Be silent



Take out: can you take out the shooter?

- Spread out
- Make a plan
- Act as a team
- Make total commitment to action



Graphic by Jerry Don Burton | Editor-in-Chief

Department of Music Celebrates Third Annual "Brass Fest"

KATIE KNIGHT

STAFF WRITER

Arkansas State University's Department of Music hosted its third annual "Brass Fest," a series of inspiring master classes aimed toward the department's music majors, Saturday.

Kristin George, a sophomore music education major from Batesville, Arkansas, said although she was required to attend, music has always been a safe space for her.

Ed Owen, professor of euphonium/tuba and brass

area coordinator, said the faculty in the department of music are top notch professionals in their own right.

"With "Brass Fest" the students get to hear performers of the highest caliber possible," Owen said. "The more they hear other people expressing themselves through music, like storytellers of sound if you might, the more things they're learning in music history and music theory that they can apply to their own personal musicianship."

Matthew Vangjel, guest musician, trumpet professor

from the University of Missouri and the instructor of "Brass Fests" trumpet masterclass, said playing a brass instrument changed the direction of his life.

"I was an army brat growing up and we always moved in the summer, so I had to spend half of the summer alone without any friends before school," Vangjel said. "I started playing trumpet became something that just filled my days for a long time, and I sort of grew to love it. It basically dictated every move I made in my life from that point on."

Owen said students hearing

professionals of Vangjel's caliber is like a shot in the arm.

"It's inspiring to the students and it's inspiring to us, too, it's like, 'I'm gonna go practice,'" Owen said.

The Department of Music will host studio recitals, student and faculty performances every semester.

After "Brass Fest", one of many events the Department of Music will host is a final gala concert, where the musicians perform a series of fanfare written for St. Mark's Chapel in Venice, Italy.



PHOTO BY KATIE KNIGHT | STAFF WRITER
Matthew Vangjel, guest musician and trumpet professor from the University of Missouri, performing at "Brass Fest."

Students show off their tie-dye skills with FBLA

SHELBY RUSSOM

PHOTO EDITOR

The A-State Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) showed off their tie-dye skills on Sept. 11, adding some color to the Delta Center for Economic Development lawn.

Students were invited to dye FBLA t-shirts, tube socks and more while learning about the organization, meeting officers and making connections with other students.

Madison Wintizer, FBLA marketing director, said the event is a great time for students to get involved with FBLA by meeting the officers and other members.

"This is one of our favorite annual events to host," Wintizer, a sophomore strategic communications major from Piggott, Arkansas said. "The goal of it is primarily to draw potential new members in with a fun, laid back, social atmosphere."

For the event's third year, instead of typical plain white t-shirts for dyeing, the organization provided 50 free FBLA-branded t-shirts in various sizes. Additionally, FBLA had some left over tube socks and allowed



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAVANNAH LOFTON
(From left) Austin Murray, a senior business economics, finance and business major from Brookland and Sebastian Rodriguez, a junior agriculture geographical information systems major tie dye items at the FBLA event.

students to bring their own items to dye for free.

"We hope that as people wear their cool, fun tie-dyed shirts that say FBLA on them around campus, it will start a conversation and increase our involvement," Wintizer said.

Savannah Munkel, a sophomore graphic design major from Texarkana, Texas, said the tie-dye event made her feel more confident in her decision to join FBLA and attend events.

"I know my first year I was scared about attending my first FBLA event, but it was such an easy-going environment where nobody was expected to make a masterpiece," Munkel said.

Savannah Lofton, a first-year management major and member of FBLA from Memphis, Tennessee said FBLA made a great choice in putting on a tie-dye event. She said having fun activities combined with more serious meetings will help the organization grow since it is not "all work and no play."

Wintizer said the event was successful and will continue to happen yearly.

"I love to see how much it grows and helps to expand our chapter every year," Wintizer said. "It's easy to execute, but is also a very successful way to increase involvement."

CAMPUS CRIME



SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE

NEWS EDITOR

Sept. 14 | 11:17 p.m.

Officer Robert Kary initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of Red Wolf Boulevard and Alumni Drive in a gray Chrysler traveling with a defective tail light.

Associated Person One said she didn't currently have a driver's license, but had paid the reinstatement fees to get it back.

Kary was running Associated Person One's information when a black Chevy pulled behind him and Arrestee One exited the vehicle and said his mother was the person stopped. Arrestee One was told to park his car away from the traffic stop until it was completed.

Arrestee One's tires squealed as he backed his car up at a high speed. Kary told Associated Person One that Arrestee One could be on the phone with her, but could not interfere with the traffic stop.

Kary called for backup after Arrestee One began walking up to the traffic stop again. Kary approached Arrestee One and told him again that he could not interfere with the traffic

stop. While he was speaking to Arrestee One, Associated Person One exited the vehicle and began arguing with Arrestee One.

Kary told Associated Person One to get back in her vehicle and Arrestee One started yelling at Associated Person One before getting back into his vehicle and driving recklessly to Embassy Suites where the Jonesboro Police Department assisted in arresting him.

After it was verified that Associated Person One had a valid driver's license they were released with a warning. Arrestee One was charged with obstructing governmental operations, disorderly conduct, careless and prohibited driving and transported to Craighead County Detention Center.

Sept. 11 | 6:15 p.m.
Officer Heidi Custodio responded to Pack Place in reference to property damage to a vehicle. Upon arrival Custodio made contact with Victim One who stated that they had gone to a car wash held at the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house.

Victim One said after they left the car wash they noticed there was a crack in their windshield

and wanted to file a report. Custodio took pictures of the damage to the vehicle and Victim One filled out a voluntary statement.

Custodio then made contact with the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity who stated they had a car wash.

Sept. 11 | 7:02 a.m.
Officer Jeremy Oswalt responded to a one vehicle accident in the intersection of Alumni Blvd and Olympic Drive.

Upon arrival Oswalt met with Complainant One, who stated she was traveling eastbound on Aggie Road when she fell asleep, causing her to collide into a brick pillar on the side of the roadway.

Upon inspection of her white Honda, Oswalt noticed damage to the front passenger side fender, bumper and tire. Complainant One had already contacted a tow truck to retrieve her vehicle. Upon initial inspection Oswalt did not notice any damage to A-State property.

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