



**PHOTO, 4B**  
HAIRSTYLES OF A-STATE

## Red Wolf Renaissance Fair raises money for red wolves

SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE

NEWS EDITOR

The inaugural Red Wolf Renaissance Fair was held to raise money for the funding of the American Red Wolf Conservation and Research Center Project.

The event raised \$12,424 for the project after taxes and completing payments to the partners that assisted in running the fair.

Lauren Hopkins, a junior wildlife fisheries and conservation major from Independence, Missouri, organized the fair held Oct. 12-13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Craighead Forest Park.

Hopkins said she does armored combat fighting with Memphis Armored Fight Club and wanted to combine her hobby with bringing awareness to the need for red wolf conservation efforts.

"American red wolves are in dire need of a renaissance," Hopkins said. "There's less than 20 left in the wild population and genetically that's really dangerous. Any one disease or anything could really just wipe them out."

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services there are about 241 red wolves held in captivity in facilities across the United States.

The American Red Wolf Conservation and Research Center Project is a \$5 million initiative proposed by Arkansas State University in 2022. The goal of the project is to build a red wolf conservation habitat at Craighead Forest

Park where the old police shooting range used to be.

On Sunday, a coronation for the king and queen of the fair was held. Bailey Richardson, an A-State alumni, was crowned queen.

Richardson said she won her crown through an essay contest held before the fair which included questions about grace, mercy and leadership.

"Renaissance festivals are just my thing," Richardson said. "I saw that there was a contest I entered. I was like, 'Oh, that would be fun. That'd be really cool.' I'm a lady on the court for the Arkansas Renaissance Festival, so I got to step up and be queen for a day."

The fair featured booths set up by locally owned businesses and food trucks. Knights from Memphis Armored Fight Club and Crowley's Ridge Direwolves also engaged in armored combat.

Live entertainment for the fair included a performance from the local band "Spring Hollow", a story time reading from Amanda Stodgill from the Craighead County Public Library and a skit from the Not on Probation (Anymore) Improv Comedy Group.

The ASU Funtime Channel Performing Arts Colorguard executed their vampire-themed routine "Immortal Heart" and the A-State Flute Ensemble and Wind Quintet performed "Merry Minstrels: A Renaissance Serenade."

CONTINUED:  
RENAISSANCE, 4A



Photo by Shailey Wooldridge | News Editor

(Left) Logan Sanders and Mandy Mooneyham engaging in armored combat. Sanders is a member of the Memphis Armored Fight Club. Mooneyham is a member of the Jonesboro chapter Crowley's Ridge Direwolves.



Photo by Shailey Wooldridge | News Editor

(Left) Lauren Hopkins, event coordinator, celebrating the coronation of the queen of the fair, Bailey Richardson (middle).



Photo by Shailey Wooldridge | News Editor

(Left) Katie Evans and Emily Vines eating snow cones. Evans is a sophomore studio art major from Highland, Arkansas. Vines is a sophomore elementary education major from Paragould.

## ASU-TV debate heats up as Senate candidates go head-to-head

LAILA CASIANO

OPINION EDITOR

Arkansas Senate District 20 candidates faced off in ASU-TV's second political debate, outlining their stances on key issues such as education and economic development.

In comparison to the first debate, the second was more heated between the candidates.

Makenzie Cutler, a senior creative media production major from Hollister, Missouri, served as the executive producer for ASU-TV's political debates. She said the heated dynamic helped her better understand each candidate's platform.

"They both fought for it very diligently and it was very entertaining, but it was also very informative," Makenzie Cutler said. "It showed me what the candidate stood for and it gave me personally a better idea of who I'm going to be voting for, and helped me put an actual identity to the name."

The debate featured Republican candidate Dan Sullivan and Democratic candidate Erika Askeland. Each candidate spoke on their initiative to better Arkansas' educational and economic needs.

Askeland, a public school

educator for the past 20 years, is critical of the LEARNS act and Sullivan's involvement with the legislation.

"I'm watching what's actually happening from inside our classrooms right now, the teachers' stress level has been put on them because of the LEARNS Act that my opponent did sign into action," Askeland said.

The LEARNS Act was enacted on March 8, 2023 by Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders to address Arkansas' education system.

Sullivan defended school choice as a bipartisan solution to Arkansas' educational challenges and said both parties should work together to improve the system.

"We've been on the bottom long enough," Sullivan said. "With Democrats in charge, it's time to change that dynamic."

Askeland criticized Sullivan's role in Arkansas' economic disparities, arguing low-income families should be prioritized rather than demonized by policy.

"We need to do better by the people of District 20. We don't need to treat people as pariahs," Askeland said. "These are human beings, they are people

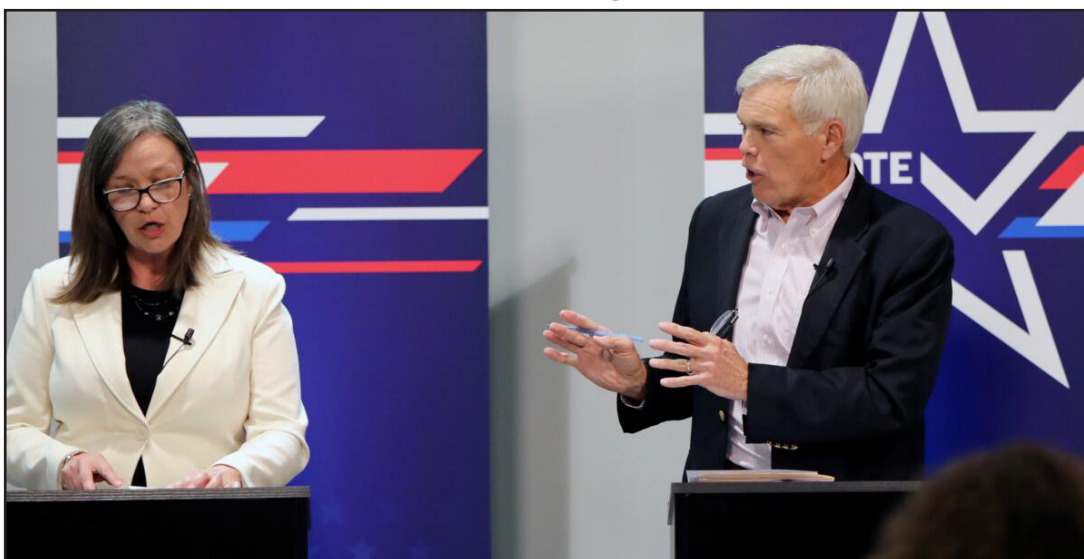


PHOTO COURTESY OF JONESBORO RIGHT NOW

Democratic candidate Erika Askeland (left) and Republican candidate Dan Sullivan during the debate. Askeland and Sullivan are running for Arkansas Senate District 20.

that reside in our state and have chosen Arkansas as home and we have a duty to represent them."

She said tax cuts for the wealthy detract from addressing critical needs such as food security and adequate public education funding.

"We are the most food insecure state in the entire nation, and if we are making big tax breaks and we're not taking care of our people, there is a major problem," Askeland said.

Both candidates agreed on certain policy areas, such as education and healthcare, but

Sullivan questioned Askeland's lack of specifics on how to fund such initiatives, particularly given limited resources.

"She talks about healthcare for all. That's a great idea. I agree with her on that. How we achieve that? I don't know," Sullivan said. "She hasn't described how to do that."

Additionally, he said Askeland's approach to governance involved raising taxes without clear plans on how to use the revenue effectively.

"Her philosophy is, 'Let's raise the taxes and figure out

what to do with it.' That's not sustainable," Sullivan said.

The ASU-TV debate served as a hands-on class for creative media production students to gain real-world experience in debate-style shows.

"Not only do they get in front of the camera, but they also have to work behind the scenes as well. So that's been the carryover into doing these debates," Dustin Sullivan said.

CONTINUED:  
DEBATE, 4A

THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

OPINION, 2A

- Stop buying dogs from backyard breeders
- Children should not have phones

NEWS, 3A

- Bradbury Art Museum hosts Lazy Looms on the Lawn
- Environmental club cleans up around Parker park
- Fall Festival held at the Village

SPORTS, 1B

- Red Wolves Volleyball crushes Louisiana-Monroe
- Bobcats deliver Texas-sized beatdown to Red Wolves, 41-9
- Red Wolves battle Southern Miss to 2-2

ARTS & E, 2B

- "Brat" remix album review
- 30 years later, "Pulp Fiction" still rules
- This week's Pop Pick

LIFE, 3B

- From Querétaro to Jonesboro, Red Wolves proud of Hispanic heritage