

Black Student Association hosts talent show

RASILA RIJAL

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The Black Student Association (BSA) concluded their 2025 BSA Soul Train activity week with their final event, "Get Down: A Night of Rhythm and Talent."

The talent show featured seven contestants who sang, rapped and spoke poetry at the Reng Student Union Auditorium on Feb. 11.

Cabrina Pope, a sophomore marketing major from Little Rock and BSA president, said the idea behind hosting a talent show was to showcase the talents of the Black student population here on campus.

"We have many talented students and we wanted to provide a space for them to show what they can do," Pope said.

She said the talent show was the first of its kind that BSA has ever organized and she wanted to end BSA week off with a "bang."

Additionally, she said hosting the event during Black History Month was important as it highlighted the special talents many of her peers have.

"Black History Month is a time to celebrate Black culture,"

Pope said. "It is important to acknowledge those who fought so hard for us to be here and the progress that we have made."

An estimated 20 students attended the talent show.

Ahmelia Williamson, a first-year social work major from Nashville, Arkansas, attended the event and said her favorite performance was by Louis Gonzalez, who played songs on their guitar.

She said events like this are important because they remind people that Black history is not always about pain.

"It brings the community together and allows them to be seen beyond just their identity as Black individuals," Williamson said.

Caliyah Banks, a junior occupational major from Monticello, Arkansas, said she enjoyed watching her peers entertain and perform.

"These events are inspirational for African American people and also a space where they can perform confidently and carefree," Banks said.

Konstance Bains, a first-year psychology major from

Fayetteville, said she decided to attend the event after she saw the posters and flyers around the university.

"Many African Americans are afraid to show their talents and having these kinds of programs really matters as they can show their talent among their people," Bains said.

She also said even though she is not social in general when these kinds of events happen on campus, she likes to attend and enjoy the activities.

Judges on the panel were Joycelynn Williams, a former BSA advisor; Latika Johnson, the director of the multicultural center and Marques J. Ruff, an associate director for choral activities.

The winners of the talent show comprised: first place, Asia Simmons for her spoken poetry; second place, a tie between Elise Brazile and Louis Gonzalez; and third place, Adrian Gonzalez, who performed a song.

"We truly appreciate the exposure that BSA has been given recently," Pope said. "We are glad that the audience enjoyed the show!"



Photo by Rasila Rijal | Special to The Herald

Asia Simmons performing in the Black Student Association Talent Show. She won first place for her poetry performance.

Student Athletes participate in "National Random Acts of Kindness Week"

MARKELL MCCOY

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The Student Athletic Advisory Committee participated in "National Random Acts of Kindness Week" by making Valentine cards for residents at Ridgecrest Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Director of A-State Childhood Services, Jo Ann Nalley, and Curriculum Coach, Taylor Carpenter, both attended the event. The event took place Feb. 13, at the A-State childcare center.

The athletes said they enjoyed spending time with the children and cannot wait to come back to volunteer. They were there to help assist the children with creating Valentine's Day cards and to assist with entertaining the babies.

4-year-old Lillian Vasquez took part in this event and helped make cards for the residents at Ridgecrest.

"I love making cards! Look, I wrote my name for the grandmas and grandpas," Vasquez said.

She said she was so happy to help make the people at Ridgecrest feel special and loved.

Alaina Carmer, an infant teacher, said she enjoys when



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYLOR CARPENTER

Student athlete helps children make Valentine cards for residents at Ridgecrest Health and Rehabilitation Center.

the children have visitors who they can look up to as role models. She said the athletes are patient, kind and really make the kids happy when they visit and she hopes this is something they can continue every year.

"I love how energetic Mr. Nick was," Carmer said. "He

got down on the floor and really played with the babies."

Yvette Prescott, a Ridgecrest resident, said she misses her grandchildren and how they would make her cards when they were younger. She said this visit helped her remember them.

"This is so wonderful, it really

makes me feel so happy to receive a card this year. Usually, we don't get anything, but this was really touching," Prescott said.

She said she hopes this is something that Childhood Services will continue to do each year, as she will be looking forward to it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYLOR CARPENTER

Alaina Carmer, an infant teacher, helps children make Valentine cards for residents at Ridgecrest Health and Rehabilitation Center.

CAMPUS CRIME



SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE

NEWS EDITOR

Feb. 15 | 5:27 p.m.

Officer Robert Kary responded to The Circle in reference to a broken entry gate.

Upon arrival, he took pictures of the damages to the gate arm and began

reviewing camera footage.

According to the footage, at 3:17 p.m. a car pulled up to the gate and badged. The gate arm tried to raise but malfunctioned and broke.

Maintenance was notified of the malfunction.

Feb. 14 | 3:41 p.m.

Officer Travis Harwood

responded to St. Bernard's Urgent Care and First Care in reference to a victim bringing herself in.

The victim said she had not been taking her medication and was experiencing suicidal ideations. The victim said she had no plans, at the moment, to do any harm to herself.

It was recommended to

the victim by the clinicians at First Care, that she go to the emergency room to speak with a doctor about getting back on her medications and getting the help she needed.

All of the EMS transport services in the Jonesboro area were unavailable and had multiple calls waiting.

Sgt. Chase Barnett and Harwood offered to transport her to the NEA Baptist emergency room in their patrol vehicle. The victim agreed and was voluntarily searched before getting into the back seat of the patrol vehicle.

Once they arrived at the NEA Baptist emergency

room, Harwood and Barnett went into the waiting room with the victim to assist her in being admitted and waited with her until she was in the care of the staff at NEA Baptist.