

## Hoops and Howls shows off men's basketball team

**ALLIE CARSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

The annual basketball banquet, now rebranded as "Hoops and Howls," gave Arkansas State basketball fans a first look at Coach Ryan Pannone's first Red Wolf team. The event, held Thursday, Oct. 9, featured a courtside dinner, silent auction items and a scrimmage from the team. Brandon Baxter, A-State athletics host, said the event celebrated the Red Wolves. "There is a brand-new energy inside A-State athletics and a brand-new vision," Baxter said. The entire men's basketball team has a different look this season with new head coach Pannone, a new vice chancellor for intercollegiate athletics in Chris Pezman and an entirely

new roster and coaching staff. Pezman said the event now has a different format and setup since it's been renamed Hoops and Howls. "It's something that we think is going to be a lot more interactive and hopefully a lot more enjoyable for the fans," Pezman said. Pezman said he has seen the team develop over the course of the season and how the program will build off what they've done in years past under Pannone. "Ryan is somebody in the basketball business and the college business who has an incredible reputation," Pezman said. "We're very, very lucky to have him here to lead our program." Pannone started his speech by thanking everyone who showed up to support the team and



Photo by Allie Carson | News Editor  
Event organizers hold the silent auction while the basketball team takes a timeout during the scrimmage. Fans were able to bid on trips with the team during the timeout auctions.

those who will attend the games. "Without you, what we do wouldn't be possible," Pannone said. "Our season runs from the support that you guys give us, and this is your team. This isn't our team. This is the fans' team. This is the community's team,

and we've tried to embrace it." Matt Stolz, the voice of the Red Wolves, introduced the team and the scrimmage, the main event of Hoops and Howls. "How cool is it that you not only get to meet this team tonight, but you actually get to see them play for the very first time? In just a minute, they're going to take the floor," Stolz said. "But before that, this team has been working for months and months, getting ready for the start of the season, which is coming up on November 3, as they travel to Ohio for opening night." The scrimmage featured the Scarlet team facing off against the Black team. The matchup was very back and forth during the two 10-minute halves before the scrimmage ultimately ended 44-45 after the Black team got a buzzer-beater off to take the lead and bragging rights. During timeouts, the silent auction was underway, auctioning off thousands of dollars worth of trips to the highest-bidding fans. Winnings included all-inclusive trips with the team to wherever they would be playing, whether in Little Rock or Pensacola for the conference championships. The event concluded with closing remarks from Pannone, who thanked fans for their support and players coming around to meet the attendees. The home opener is an exhibition game against UT Martin on Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. before the season opener in Ohio on Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. for the MAC-SBC Challenge.

## Students celebrate Hispanic culture with game of Lotería

**AHTZIRY ZUÑIGA**  
STAFF WRITER

Several student-led Hispanic and community organizations hosted the Lotería event in commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The event, hosted by Hermana y Hermano and the campus chapter of the Sigma Iota Alpha (SIA) Hispanic sorority, in collaboration with the Student Activities Board (SAB) and the Multicultural Center, was held Thursday, Oct. 9. The second of two large events being organized by Hermana y Hermano to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Lotería brought forth life, tradition and culture to the Reng Student Union, as Latino students shared a piece

of home with their Arkansas State University community. Latino music sounded from speakers as guests arrived and ate sugar-coated churros before the awaited centerpiece of the event, the Lotería games, began. This year, Lotería winners were awarded prizes. The prizes, consisting of goodie bags and college merchandise, were catered by the SIA sorority sisters and SAB. The name of the event, Lotería, directly translates in English to lottery and stems from the board game that, although originating in Italy and traveling to Mexico in 18th century colonial time, has established itself in becoming a symbolic part of Mexican culture over the centuries. The game is played much like

bingo, although with traditional images in the place of each space on the Lotería cards, and winners must shout "buenas" or "lotería" to announce their victory. Edward Jackson, a junior Political Science major from Tyler, Texas, recalled memories of playing Lotería with his family when he was younger. He said gathering around the dinner table and playing Lotería with family is a memorable childhood tradition for many Latino students. "I think Lotería is a staple game in the Hispanic community, and I've been playing it since I was like, four, so I think it embodies the Hispanic Heritage Month pretty well," Jackson said. "It just invites people to come join. Most people here aren't Hispanic and

[Lotería] invites them to join us." Ellie Suggs, a junior nursing major from High Point, North Carolina, said celebrating one's heritage out-loud is important. "I just feel like [one's heritage] is something that everyone needs, and I feel like it's something that everyone can enjoy, and that we shouldn't be private about celebrating people's culture and who they are," Suggs said. "I feel like that's something that everyone should celebrate." Will Glass, a graduate student in finance from Jonesboro, said the event had a strong impact on him. "I think [this event] really brings people together, and it builds a sense of community, letting everyone know to stay informed while bringing



Photo by Ahtziry Zuñiga | Staff Writer  
Amber Cisneros, sophomore animal science major from Hope, Arkansas and secretary of Hermana y Hermano poses after winning the Lotería event.

us into their life. It's a good experience," Glass said. "I got to learn more and to step out of myself and into a cherished community with others."

## Collaborative event held to highlight mental health advocacy

**BENJAMIN MCDOWELL**  
STAFF WRITER

Cultivating Inclusive and Mentally Healthy Spaces was a one-day event focused on promoting awareness and action around mental health and inclusivity. Attendees explored strategies to create supportive, inclusive environments that foster mental well-being. The program, held Thursday, Oct. 9, was presented by the Arkansas State University, St. Bernards Medical Center, Arisa Health, and the New York Institute of Technology's (NYIT) Office of Access and Community Engagement. Evette Allen Moore, assistant dean for Access and Belonging and committee member for NYIT, helped organize the event. "People should pay attention to their mental health and mental well-being. But then there's also looking at the research and the stories. There are some stigmas attached to taking care of your mental health. I think that's one of the biggest barriers to break through," Moore said. Moore said she helped make



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADELEINE VOLNER  
Nastasha Bowman gives the keynote address to event attendees. Bowman, an advocate for mental health, shared her journey from overcoming congenital heart disease to becoming a guru in management.

the conference possible through connections with various mental health organizations and is motivated by the positive outcomes for the community. "I see more and more people becoming aware and more and more people being willing to advocate. There's going to be tools for not just

helping yourself, but also being able to direct other people to resources," Moore said. Moore said she looks to improve and bring more awareness to mental health as much as she can.

**CONTINUED:  
MENTAL HEALTH 4A**

## CAMPUS CRIME



**ALLIE CARSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

**Oct. 11 | 9:31 p.m.**

At approximately 7:21 p.m., Patrolman Marcus Caskey was dispatched to the Red Wolf Center regarding a male student, the complainant, who requested police assistance. He asked that an officer accompany him to his apartment to stand by while his ex-girlfriend retrieved her belongings.

Upon arrival, Caskey made contact with the complainant, who said that he and his ex-girlfriend, the suspect, had been involved in an argument earlier in the parking lot of Collegiate Park. He requested police presence while she returned to gather her belongings.

The complainant said that, during the argument, the suspect grabbed the sleeve of his shirt, and he pushed her hands away. He said she struck him on the left side of his chest. The complainant also said that he did not wish to press charges and that she did not strike him hard.

Caskey escorted the complainant to Collegiate Park. The complainant entered the

residence, and Caskey followed him inside. Shortly afterward, the suspect arrived to retrieve her belongings. During the time both parties were present in the apartment, neither became aggressive or confrontational. The suspect gathered her belongings and left without further incident.

**Oct. 10 | 12:42 a.m.**

At approximately 10:02 p.m., Patrolman Marcus Caskey was dispatched to Kays Hall regarding a student who was moving from one room to another room on a different floor within the same building.

The student requested a police presence due to an ongoing conflict with his roommate, fearing a possible physical altercation. UPD Dispatch also told Caskey prior to arrival that the roommates were separating as part of an active Title IX investigation.

Upon arrival, Caskey proceeded to the third floor, where he made contact with the complainant, Associated Person One and Associated Person Two. They said that while assisting the complainant with moving his belongings, Suspect One

had been aggressive, and both the complainant and the suspect had been yelling at each other.

They requested that Caskey accompany them to the room to ensure the peace while they collected the remainder of the complainant's belongings.

Upon arrival, the complainant, Associated Person One and Associated Person Two entered the room while Caskey stood in the doorway observing. Inside the room, Suspect One, Suspect Two and Suspect Three were seated on the left side, while the complainant and his associates gathered his belongings.

During this time, the complainant and Suspect One exchanged passive-aggressive remarks toward each other, but neither individual acted physically aggressively or raised their voice.

Once the move was complete, Caskey escorted the complainant, Associated Person One and Associated Person Two to the complainant's new room.

**CONTINUED:  
CAMPUS CRIME, 4A**