



PHOTO, 4B

Howl-o-ween

32,000 pounds of food donated following Cream of the Crop event

ALLIE CARSON

NEWS EDITOR

The Lambda Chi Alpha (Chop) fraternity hosted its annual Cream of the Crop event, a competition between sororities down the row to see who can collect the most canned food and come up with the best skits.

The event is broken up into three categories: The canned food donation happens during the weeks leading up to the event, Greek Goddess, the pageant portion of the event, where each sorority puts up one new member to compete; lastly, the spirit event, where the 2025 pledge class from each sorority performs themed skits and chants.

Caden Kristofik, Lambda Chi Alpha risk chair, said the holiday season highlights an important goal for the fraternity: to give families in need an opportunity to have a good holiday.

Kristofik, a junior biology pre-professional major from Conway, Arkansas, said their chapter and the sororities down the row spend weeks raising cans of food for Chop's philanthropy.

"The Thursday before Cream of the Crop, we go to each house and grab all the cans," Kristofik said. "We take them to the A-State food pantry and once it fills up, we go to the NEA food



Members of the Alpha Gamma Delta 2025 pledge class perform a skit based on "Top Gun". The skit was performed as part of a competition with other sororities at the Cream of the Crop event.

bank and donate so much food."

This year, Chop raised 32,000 pounds of food, 6,000 more pounds than last year.

Kristofik said his favorite part of the event is watching the Greek Goddess skits, where guys from the fraternities perform skits with a new member in each sorority.

"They work so hard at it and it takes a lot of work, especially how busy we are coming to the second half of the semester,

going and practicing three nights a week in the sorority houses," Kristofik said. "It's fun to watch the guys up there dancing around and acting a fool."

Every sorority had its own theme for the Greek Goddess event. Alpha Omicron Pi's theme was "Circus" by Brittany Spears. Delta Zeta themed theirs to Justin Bieber songs, while Chi Omega's theme was safari and Alpha Gamma Delta's was the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders.

Photo by Allie Carson | News Editor

the entire time backstage. I was talking to them like 'I'm so excited to show this' because I knew how the audience would react and stuff like that."

While the other sororities didn't win the Greek Goddess event, Cooper said she wants them to know it wasn't all for nothing.

"None of the time they spent was a waste. Everything was perfect. Everything was great," Cooper said. "I loved everyone's themes and they did really good and I'm proud of every single one of them."

Cooper said they met around 10 p.m. three times a week for an hour to practice their skit. She said, within 45 minutes, she knew what she wanted the dance to look like.

"I was like 'I'm gonna do it' and I talked to them and they were so excited that they really locked in," Cooper said.

Although students participating in the Greek Goddess part of the competition didn't work directly with other new members preparing for the event, Cooper said her sisters in Zeta have lifted her up and have been with her through preparations.

CONTINUED:
PHILANTHROPY, 4A

Fairgoers enjoy trinket vendors, flute performances, sword-swallower at Red Wolf Renaissance Fair

ELLA DOBSON

STAFF WRITER

Renaissance fans and fantasy enthusiasts alike attended the Red Wolf Renaissance Fair to enjoy a variety of vendors, performers and activities over the weekend.

The event was held Saturday and Sunday at the Craighead Forest Park.

Actors wandered the fairgrounds in-character, interacting with visitors and fellow workers. Eli Kelley, a Jonesboro High School student acting as the character King Williamson, said Renaissance fairs are great at bringing people together.

"I find (Renaissance fairs) quite enjoyable. I see the smiles that it brings to youth and the smiles that it brings the elderly. I know that such events bring together unison from all sides of the spectrum," Kelley said.

Performances ranged from interactive songs and simulated sword fights to more dangerous stunts.

Molotov, a performer at the fair, presented his "Stoopid Human Tricks" routine, which involved flame-eating and sword-swallowing.

Participants played chess

on a giant chess board, provided by the Arkansas State University scarlet chess club.

A special course was also arranged for fairgoers to combat opponents with foam swords and shields.

The Merry Minstrels, a flute band from A-State, performed a 45-minute show with Renaissance-inspired pieces and video game themes. Stephanie Hoeckley, A-State flute professor, said music and Renaissance fairs can create lasting memories.

"Renaissance fairs bring people together in a way that's both creative and joyful. They highlight local talent, support small businesses and offer a space for the community to celebrate art, music and fantasy," Hoeckley said. "With how busy and stressful life can be, events like this remind us to slow down, have fun and share in something uplifting with our neighbors."

An armored martial arts tournament was also held in the center of the fair. Fighters donned medieval-era armor and competed in a complex battle. The tournament was split into two parts: sword fighting and two-handed axe fights. Winners of this tournament

could qualify for national tournaments in the future.

Moriah Hollis, a sophomore psychology major from Paragould, was a fairgoer and player for the Merry Minstrels. She said performing with the Minstrels added to the Renaissance fair experience as a whole.

"My favorite part was definitely dressing up and listening to the other acts, but performing with fellow flutists with the Merry Minstrels was such a fun and unique experience," Hollis said. "I think (Renaissance fairs) allow people to express themselves in ways they can't in normal day-to-day life."

The fair also promoted red wolf conservation, one of the primary goals of the event. Red wolves have entered near-extinction numbers, with only 30 left in the wild and around 280 in captivity, according to the Red Wolf Coalition. The fair partnered with the Red Wolf Coalition and Arkansas Center for Biodiversity Collections to spread awareness for the cause.

More information about the Red Wolf Renaissance Fair can be found on their website, redwolfrenfair.org.



Photo by Ella Dobson | Staff Writer

Molotov, a sword-swallower and dangerous stunt performer, conducts his "Stoopid Human Tricks" routine at the Red Wolf Renaissance Fair.

Miss Arkansas State University pageant scheduled today

The Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity will present the 51st annual Miss Arkansas State University pageant from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in the Fowler Center. The winner will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and represent A-State at the 2026 Miss Arkansas competition. Admission is \$8.

West Memphis Three Attorney panel to be held Thursday

The Sociology and Criminology Association will host a panel and discussion about the infamous West Memphis Three case. The panel will feature three attorneys involved in the case: Jeff Rosenzweig, Paul Ford and Patrick Benca. The panel will be held from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., Thursday, at the Auditorium in the Reng Student Union.

Attorney General's Office to host "One Pill can Kill" event Monday

From 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday, in Centennial Hall, the Attorney General's Office will host an event to educate students on the dangers of fentanyl and how to recognize the signs of an overdose.

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

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