



PHOTO, 4B
A perfect day at the park

Day at the Park promotes student engagement with athletics

ERIC FLUKE

SPORTS EDITOR

A mid-week baseball match-up between Arkansas State and the Memphis Tigers kicked off with a Student Activities Board (SAB) event titled Day at the Park.

Over at Tomlinson Stadium Tuesday, students entered the gates met with a table full of custom jerseys and hats. While the supply dwindled after the first wave of fans, a crowd began to form around a set of four cornhole boards as a tournament of six male and eight female teams began.

CJ Sterrett, the director of athletic engagement at SAB, said he wanted to incorporate a competitive incentive for students to participate in the event, giving out a \$50 Amazon gift card to each member of the winning duo.

"A way to get students involved is to have that little fun sports aspect and a little competition aspect," Sterrett said. Jake Bellou and Kaleb Tedder came out on top, winning the tournament and taking home the grand prize.

While the grand prize was only for cornhole winners, the bystanders still walked away with goodies from the SAB's giveaway. Due to its success in raising student engagement with the various A-State sports, Sterrett said



Photo by Sooyeong Choi | Photo Editor

Day at the Park attendees participate in a cornhole tournament. Jake Bellou and Kaleb Tedder won the tournament, hosted by the Student Activities Board. CJ Sterrett, SAB director of athletic engagement, said their athletic events have increased student

engagement in Arkansas State University sports. this strategy has been a regular for the board, being used in previous SAB athletic events such as Order of the Pack and Howl on the Hardwood.

"We know this is college, so everything's pretty much expensive, so we're trying to give out as many things as possible," Sterrett said.

The SAB athletic engagement director said they have continued to increase student engagement with A-State sports through their athletic events. He said the basketball head coaches Ryan Pannone and Destinee Rogers have mentioned the turnout at these events as contributing to the performance of their teams.

"They want students there to bring the energy because it really does change the atmosphere of the game," Sterrett said. "They love all the enthusiasm that the students brought to the game."

The SAB's success in gathering the student body for sports games has not been the only shining aspect of their work shown through Day at the Park and other events.

Tanner Yielding, a first-year finance major from North Little Rock and participant in this year's cornhole competition, said his favorite part of the program was the SAB staff themselves.

"If you're confused on an event at all, you should talk to

them, which is nice and I always enjoyed that factor," Yielding said. "They always have cool ideas to get you to come out."

Despite expressing praise for the quality of SAB's athletic events, some members of the student body are disappointed with the quantity.

This semester, SAB hosted three athletic events, which is about average.

Jace Garcia, a sophomore accounting and finance major from Searcy, Arkansas, who came out to support his friends participating in the tournament, said more events could help increase the student population at events.

"(There needs to be) just more stuff like this to get students involved," Garcia said.

Sterrett said the SAB's budget and scheduling are the contributing factors to this shortcoming in their planning.

"In the future, if things permit, we can go ahead and do another sporting event," Sterrett said. "It would just need to be a planned earlier process than what we thought it would need to be."

While Day at the Park will be the last athletic event for SAB this semester, the board will host a live musical game show event titled Aux Cord Wars in the student union's Centennial Hall on April 16.

Only 22 days until the last day of class!

April 30 is the last day of spring classes. Final exams are scheduled for the week of May 4. Undergraduate residence halls will close on May 9. All grades are due at noon on May 11.

Parking issues? Take our survey and share your experience!

The Herald is currently working on a story about where the money from paid parking tickets goes. Scan the QR code below to take our survey and share your experience:



Where the Howl is Howl?! Scavenger hunt scheduled Monday

The Student Philanthropy Council is hosting a one-day, campus-wide scavenger hunt from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, April 13. Participants will solve clues, explore campus and complete photo challenges for a chance to win prizes. A \$5 donation to the Student Emergency Fund is required to participate.

BRIEFS COURTESY OF A-STATE DAILY DIGEST

Appeals on Wheels brings case appeal justice hearing to campus

AHTZIRY ZUÑIGA

STAFF WRITER

The Sociology and Criminology Department hosted Appeals on Wheels, which featured the justices of the Arkansas Supreme Court and gave students a firsthand look at the state-level legal appellate process.

The event, held in the Riceland Hall of the Fowler Center Thursday, formed part of the larger Appeals on Wheels initiative, which takes place in only two U.S. states: Indiana and Arkansas. The Appeals on Wheels program brings the appellate process to various communities throughout the state, and Arkansas justices conduct hearings in venues throughout the state.

In Arkansas, Appeals on Wheels is held biannually, with justices traveling for these voyage hearings once in the spring and once in the fall. The educational project was established in Arkansas in 2002, and aims to bring awareness to students and local communities in the state about crucial judicial processes.

Sakshi Kaura, a senior economics major from Jackson, Mississippi, and business chair of the A-State Pre-Law Club, said understanding the multi-faceted angles of the criminal justice system is vital. "Most people don't think

about the justice system as the justices or the people that are sitting on the Supreme Court," Kaura said. "They think of the legislators, of the people who are creating these laws. I think of the mayor, right? I hope that (everyone here) learned something new about them."

During the session, the Arkansas Supreme Court decided the correctness of a sentence imposed by the Craighead County Circuit Court. The decision, made by Circuit Court Judge Scott Ellington, sentenced defendant Pierre Wright to the highest possible conviction, life in prison, for the offense of aggravated robbery.

Defendant Wright robbed the Jonesboro location of Plato's Closet, while armed, and had multiple convictions of armed robbery out of the state of Tennessee at the time of the incident.

Currently, Arkansas ranks 48 out of 50 in crime and corrections, with the adjacent factors of public safety and corrections outcomes being among the lowest in the country, according to statistics published by U.S. News.

Students from various high schools in the Jonesboro area attended Appeals on Wheels. Joann Kim, a senior at Valley View High School and incoming freshman at Princeton University, said her roots are



Ahtziry Zuñiga | Staff Writer

John Thompson, a sophomore political science major from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, briefs the facts of the Pierre Wright case before the hearing begins at Appeals on Wheels. The Sociology and Criminology Department hosted the event, which gave students a firsthand look at the Arkansas legal appellate process.

a big motivator for her to pursue a career in the judiciary.

"From a very young age, I've always wanted to be a judge. When I was little, I had no idea why. But, as I've grown up and I've gotten to experience a lot of things and public service initiatives, I was able to realize that I really enjoy being a voice and advocate for others," Kim said. "I used to

be really shy, I used to not be able to speak English, and I felt helpless in these situations. So, I want to be that advocate for those who can't really speak."

Associate Justice Rhonda Woods of the Arkansas Supreme Court said she hoped attendees took away a better understanding of the judicial court system's function at the state level. "Hopefully you found it

interesting to see that we aren't really, a lot of times, focusing on guilt or innocence. We're trying to focus on whether due process was followed," Woods said. "Was Arkansas law followed to make sure everybody sort of had their opportunity, their fair trial? Whether you're guilty or sentenced, it's worthy of concern."

THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

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- The case against pineapple: protecting real pizza

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ARTS & E, 1B

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- Quantity over quality: the downfall of Amazon originals
- Your favorite Easter movie as a kid still entertains today

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- Women's B-Ball season comes to close