

SAB hosts Order of the Pack, announces 2026 homecoming theme

ALLIE CARSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Student Activities Board (SAB) held the 29th annual Order of the Pack at Centennial Bank Stadium ahead of the first football home game of the season.

SAB's Director of Athletic Engagement JP Rowton, a junior accounting major from Harrisburg, Arkansas, said the event has the largest number of students participating for one goal out of all the other A-State events.

"Order of the Pack is all about coming together, celebrating tradition, and getting hyped for our first home football game this Saturday," Rowton said.

Order of the Pack is where Greek organizations team up to show the most spirit and prove they can be loud for the Red Wolves come game day. Other Registered Student Organizations are able to participate in the event as well.

From A-State and Greek themed cheers to performances of game day songs from the band, students are able to not only compete for the Golden Wolf award but also prepare for the game-days ahead.

SAB President Emerson Dorton, a junior strategic communications major from Dexter, Missouri, said the atmosphere of Order of the Pack is unlike anything else.

"It's like a student section," Dorton said. "It's kind of good to go in and be with your group of people, and it just gets everyone more excited because you're not all chanting for one team. You're just kind of chanting for a state as a whole."

At the Order of the Pack students heard from prominent figures at A-State. From the featured speakers to the competition element of the event, SAB continued the traditions of years past.

Event Reveals
One tradition that has held true throughout its years is the homecoming theme reveal.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA WORTHINGTON
Members of Greek Team One's Alpha Gamma Delta celebrate their Golden Wolf Award win during Order of the Pack.

For the week leading up to the Red Wolves' homecoming game on Oct. 24 against Georgia State, A-State is heading into the Howl-Verse with a week of Red Wolves spirit and events.

That's not the only thing revealed during this year's Order of the Pack, however.

SAB unveiled a new student section, closer to the stadium's waterfalls and positioned for more shade.

"We have revamped everything for you. We have changed the student section," Head football coach Butch Jones said during the festivities. "We are going to fill that side, and I'm going to hold you to it."

At the end of the night, after Brandon Baxter, A-State Athletic's in-game host, and Rowton announced the athletic teams and teams competed in a Skills Challenge on the field, Rowton announced the winners for the 2026 Order of the Pack.

Order of the Pack Winners
The event included five competitions. Winners of those contests were:

-Best Dressed: Missionary Baptist Student Fellowship (MBSF)

-One Pack: Student Development and Recruitment team

Best Banner: Greek Team Three (Chi Omega, Sigma Chi,

Sigma Gamma Rho, Alpha Gamma Rho and Kappa Alpha Psi)

-Most Spirit: Greek Team Five (Zeta Tau Alpha, Kappa Alpha Order, Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Iota Phi Theta)

-Golden Wolf: Greek Team One (Alpha Gamma Delta, Phi Delta Theta, Alpha Sigma Phi, Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha and Phi Beta Sigma)

Dorton said she hopes Order of the Pack's atmosphere translates into a packed student section at the games during the football season.

"I hope it just encourages students to go into the games rather than staying outside tailgating. I think it's good to show them that we have such a great student section here," Dorton said. "You have all of your fans, the student section. There's just nothing like it."

After four quarters of football, A-State beat Western Georgia University 52-7 in front of a 16,678-person home crowd.

The next home game is a revenge game against Kennesaw State on Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. The temperature is expected to be in the low 80s at kickoff, significantly cooler than the previous two games.

Inaugural Brunch with the Band kicks off before first football home game

KATHRYN HOLMES
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Family, friends, alumni and band members gathered for Brunch with the Band to both celebrate accomplishments, and walk them through what a game day looks like for the band.

This was the first of what will become an annual event for A-State's Sound of the Natural State Marching Band.

Hosted in the Cooper Alumni Center, the event was catered by IV Kings Coffee, a Jonesboro local business well known for its coffee and adjoining bakery, Southern Confections.

The event was run by members of Tau Beta Sigma, A-State's chapter of the Band Sorority. This sorority provides service to the marching band, and helped make the event happen.

During this brunch came speeches from the Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands, Allegra Fisher and Nichloas Balla, Director of Bands at A-State and students sharing their personal experiences with the band.

One speaker, Cyler Hilton, a graduating senior from Bryant who is majoring in BME instrumental music. He is also Tau Beta Sigma's Vice President of Membership.

Hilton talked about his experience as an incoming member of the band early on.

Hilton said the band became his family away from home and how the event was important to both share that experience and

let people relive it.

"It's a really good opportunity for older band members to come back and see what the band is continually doing and how they're always improving and growing each and every year," Hilton said.

After brunch, guests were invited to watch the band rehearse at Centennial Bank Stadium, an exclusive opportunity. Guests could continue to follow the band throughout their day to the tailgating event to watch the Red Wolf Walk pep band.

During the game, alumni of the marching band were invited to play in the stands with the band during the game.

Connor Moore, a senior majoring in instrumental music from Jonesboro is president of A-State's chapter of Tau Beta Sigma and serves as the sorority's Southwest District President.

Moore said the event

was much more than just a fundraising opportunity.

"It's a fundraiser, it's an opportunity for community outreach, and to show parents what we do," Moore said.

In that regard, the event was a success, with the banquet room overflowing with parents, students, and alumni.

Allegra Fisher is in her third year at A-State as both Director of Athletic Bands and as Associate Director of Bands. She said in her speech the importance of parents and alumni to the band and encouraged them to continue their involvement.

Fisher explained the event's importance to the band and its growth.

"Brunch with the band is designed to give parents a way to come and experience a game day with their student, and to see what their student is doing, get to see them a little bit more on game day," Fisher said.



Photo by Kathryn Holmes | Special to The Herald
Karen Osorio and César Montaña, two first-year band students pose for a photo while eating at Brunch with the Band.

BRIEF: School of Media and Journalism students to host political debates in October

SARA CHAMBERLIN

PRESS RELEASE

Arkansas State University's ASU-TV will host three political debates in October for candidates vying for office.

The debates will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1; Thursday, Oct. 8; and Thursday, Oct. 22.

The Oct. 1 debate will focus on the Arkansas House District 36 race between Republican Rep. Johnny Rye and Democratic challenger Shamal Carter. Rye was invited, but they have not confirmed if they will attend. Carter has confirmed that he will be present at the debate.

The Oct. 8 debate will highlight the U.S. House District 1 race between Republican incumbent Rick Crawford, Democratic candidate Dr. Terri Yarbrough Green, and Libertarian candidate Dr. Steve Parsons. Crawford will not attend, but Green and Parsons will be present.

The Oct. 22 debate will focus on the U.S. Senate race between Republican incumbent Sen. Tom Cotton, Democratic challenger Hallie Shoffner, and Libertarian candidate Jeff Wadlin. Cotton will not be present, but Shoffner and Wadlin will attend.

"We are excited to air these three political debates because they help connect voters with the candidates seeking to represent them. Meaningful debates are essential, as they allow the public to compare ideas, hear differing perspectives and make informed decisions at the ballot box," said Johnathan Reaves, instructor of mass communication, who will also serve as producer.

Panelists for the debates include Allie Carson, editor-in-chief of The Herald; Lexie Burns, KASU reporter; LaGanzie Kale, KLEK general manager; Samantha Mitchell, KASU news director; and Levi Seward, A-State Pre-Law Club president.

Marty Scarbrough, KASU program director, will serve as moderator for the Oct. 1 and Oct. 22 debates. Reaves will moderate the Oct. 8 debate. Students in professor Galen Perkins' Video Two class will organize the programs.

"I am excited to see our students play such a vital role in bringing these debates to the viewers," Reaves said. "Not only is this an invaluable learning opportunity, but it also gives them valuable real-world experience in live television production while contributing to an important civic event. There is no better classroom than working on a broadcast that directly serves the community and helps inform voters."

The debates will air on ASU-TV, KASU Public Radio at A-State, Red Wolf Radio, and KLEK-FM. They will also be available on ASU-TV's YouTube channel and social media channels.



Comic by Ivory Roberts | Special to The Herald