

Volunteer group diverts food from landfills, feeds hungry families

Miranda Stith
Staff Reporter
@MirandaStith1

Three days per week, Junior Quinn Grafton wakes up early to dig through piles of fruit in Harps Food Stores, inspecting the fruits and vegetables for imperfections. He, and other members of the Feed Communities Glean Team volunteer group, will help deliver the 286 pounds of produce to local food pantries, churches and community centers.

Grafton, who is majoring in kinesiology, found out about the Glean Team a month ago when he was looking online for community service opportunities on GivePulse, he said.

"I really like seeing the direct impact that the Glean Team has on people," Grafton said. "Like when you go through the whole process and pick up the food from Harps and deliver the food and see the people it's going to affect and feed for that day. It's just really cool."

Members of the Glean Team pick up produce from two local Harps Food Stores every Monday, Wednesday and Friday that would otherwise go to a landfill, said Nena Evans, the



Morgan Browning Staff Photographer

Nena Evans, the Glean Team program coordinator, picks up a box of donated produce from Harps Food Store March 27 to bring to other food pantries.

Feed Communities program manager. The Glean Team then gives the produce to those in the Fayetteville community who need it.

Up to 40% of the food in the U.S. is never eaten, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

In 2016, Washington County had a 14.3% food insecurity rate, with 31,410 food-insecure people in the county, according to the most recent Feeding America report. One in 6 people struggle with hunger, and 1 in 4 children struggle with hunger in Arkansas.

"It's important to salvage the food that we can and keep it

from going into landfills," Evans said. "Aside from the waste of food not going to people, food breaking down in a landfill in an environment with no oxygen produces a lot of methane."

In the first stage of decomposition, municipal solid waste, or items that can be thrown away in the household, generate little methane. However, as oxygen rates go down in landfills over the course of about a year, methane-producing bacteria begin to decompose the waste and generate larger amounts of methane, according to research from the Environmental Protection Agency.

On March 25, the Glean Team collected 286 pounds of produce between the Garland and Crossover locations, Evans said. On Mondays, half of the produce donations go to the Head Start program and the other half goes to Genesis Church. All of that slightly misshapen, but completely edible produce, would have been thrown away if it were not for Feed Communities. In the last three months, the Glean Team has gathered 10,000 pounds of produce from the two grocery stores.

See "Churches, community" on pg. 5

Hunting causes moral divide among students

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Hunting season in Arkansas ended in February, and hunters are locking up their guns until the sport returns in the fall. While some students think hunting is on the wrong side of a line separating ethical and unethical conservation practices, one student sees hunting as a way to escape from his busy life.

Hayden Webb, a sophomore finance major, hunts to escape the chaos of urban life, he said.

"I live a pretty domesticated home life," Webb said. "I've been channelled through private school, and then college, and I probably have a pretty strenuous desk job waiting for me after this. When you're engrossed in the information age and are dealing with constant pressure, the opportunity to hunt becomes coveted."

Beyond the peace and quiet he enjoys while hunting amidst natural beauty, Webb hunts to help the environment, he said.

"Hunting practices are closely tied to the health of wildlife populations," Webb said.

William Etges, a UA professor of ecology, thinks

hunting and fishing are meant to conserve wildlife, he said.

"Hunting and fishing are an essential part of the conservation methods that keep these populations alive," Etges said.

Hunting is necessary because the environment and its resources can only support a limited number of wildlife, said Scott Connelly, a professor of ecology at the University of Georgia. The carrying capacity of a population is the number of individuals that the environment can support indefinitely. When a population exceeds its carrying capacity, resources are exhausted, and individuals die from disease and starvation, Connelly said.

Clay Herman, a senior sociology major, is president of the Registered Student Organization Arkansas Animal Rights Club and he thinks letting the natural environment balance itself out after exceeding carrying capacity is a better alternative than human regulation, he said.

"If a wildlife population gets too large for the environment to sustain it, the population will decline," Herman said. "By hunting, people are preemptively killing these animals in anticipation of those events, and I think that is wrong."

See "Animal welfare" on pg. 3

Recycling resources scarce at some Fayetteville apartments

Andrew Elkins
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Because students have many ways to recycle, UA sophomore Caroline Gschwend thinks it is irresponsible to not use these resources to reduce their environmental impact.

Gschwend, who lives in the Cardinal, an apartment complex on Duncan Avenue, is only able to recycle cardboard boxes and aluminum cans in a small bin available in the trash room of every floor, but she wishes she could recycle more, she said.

"I (recycle) when it's possible," Gschwend said. "They require everything to be clean and all the tape to be removed from boxes."

Junior Carter Hanson, who is majoring in mechanical engineering, lives at Hill Place but he chooses not to use their recycling resources because he thinks carrying his recycling to a different part of the complex about a tenth of a mile away is inconvenient, he said.

Hanson and his roommates recycle about once a month. He saves his paper, brings it home to Rogers and recycles it, he said.

Americans recycled or composted 35% of their waste in 2015. Almost 131 million tons ended up in landfills. Compared

to previous years, recycling is on an upward trend, according to reports from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The city's diversion rate, or portion of waste recycled, in 2017 was 19%, according to a waste diversion update that year.

At the UofA, almost three-fourths of all students live in off-campus residences, according to a report from U.S. News and World Report. Many apartment complexes in the area surrounding the UofA cater particularly to students, but not all locations offer their residents on-site recycling.

UA administrators encourage recycling on campus to reach their goal of a zero-waste campus. In 2013, the UofA had a diversion rate of 35%, according to a letter from Ron Edwards, the former director of facility operations and maintenance.

Fayetteville apartment tenants who do not have immediate access to recycling might use other resources such as drop-off centers. Fayetteville has two designated drop-off centers: one on South Happy Hollow Road and another on North Street at the Marion Orton Recycling Center.

Worsening the problem, some people use recycling bins incorrectly, and they fill them with waste that cannot be recycled, said Stephen Robbins, a route supervisor for



Andrew Elkins Staff Reporter

Hill Place apartment complex residents have access to a recycling container, which is called a battleship, in an auxiliary lot in the complex. The container is divided up into six slots that correspond to the different types of recyclable materials.

Fayetteville's Recycling and Trash Collection Division.

Fayetteville offers recycling containers called battleships in parking lots and open spaces that cars can pull up to, with different slots for different materials, Robbins said. Apartment complexes often use these containers, and Robbins thinks the price is not too steep, he said.

People who live in the Champion's Club apartment complex, located on Razorback Road, do not have access to on-site recycling because of the service's cost, said Courtney King, property manager of Champion's Club.

"We have looked into it in the past, and through the city, it is a very large cost," King said.

One 30-cubic-yard recycling container costs \$1 for every apartment unit in a complex. This cost includes the setup and collection of the waste in the container, said Andrew Cook, a commercial representative for Fayetteville's Recycling and Trash Collection Division.

Beginning April 22, Fayetteville will provide free recycling bins to apartments as long as the complex purchases a collection unit, Cook said.

Varsity House apartment complex residents do not have access to an on-site recycling

resources. Management officials are in the process of getting a recycling drop-off unit for the apartments, said Emily Young, a leasing manager at Varsity House.

"It had been something that was on our minds for quite a while, and we started doing resident polls a few months ago," Young said. "Residents were overwhelmingly interested."

People who live in apartments at the Vue on Stadium Drive do not have an on-site recycling drop off because of the space the container requires, said Grier Blaylock, assistant property manager at the Vue.

"At this moment, we don't have a good location for (the container)," Blaylock said. "We don't want to jeopardize any resident parking spaces to accommodate it."

The Vue's management is looking into alternate recycling resources to provide its tenants, Blaylock said, but they do not have anything specific planned.

Management officials from the Cardinal apartment complex and Atmosphere apartment complex declined to comment on the recycling resources they offer.

Sophomore Josh Buercklin, who is majoring in poultry science, lives in a Hawg Rent apartment complex on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. This apartment complex does not offer on-site recycling drop-off to its tenants, so the only way people who live there can recycle is to go to one of the public drop-off locations around Fayetteville.

Buercklin and his roommate only use the drop-off locations, which is located less than three miles from the apartment complex, once per semester. Other than this, Buercklin thinks recycling is not easily accessible to him, so he and his roommate do not do it often, he said.

"A couple of times, we have saved up all of our recyclables, and my roommate takes it to the drop-off," Buercklin said.

Activists fight to save Buffalo National River from pollution



Student organizations are fighting to preserve the Buffalo National River to keep it clean and beautiful.

City foresters reward residents for chopping down Bradford Pears



Fayetteville foresters are offering residents native trees in exchange for cutting down an invasive species of pear tree.

Big Cat Public Safety Act could increase protections for endangered species



U.S. House Bill 1380 could reduce the abuse of the nearly 5,000 tigers living in captivity in the U.S.

Editor's Note

Students drive discussion about environment



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The March issue of *The Arkansas Traveler* focuses on a topic that is near and dear to our state: environment and sustainability. Arkansas prides itself on its

commitment to preserving the nature and beauty that the state finds its identity in, evident by our state's nickname being "The Natural State." Arkansas has over 50 state parks and almost 3 million acres of national forests, according to the state. The UofA even drives this idea home to students by promoting outdoor activities that can they can enjoy in Devil's Den or the Buffalo National River, for instance.

With climate change being such a divisive issue in today's political atmosphere (and possibly a discussion topic in the upcoming presidential primaries), along with Earth Day coming up April 22, a timely discourse surrounding what local communities can do to alleviate this issue is more important than ever, especially in our state.

That is why this paper explores stories relating to what Fayetteville and Arkansas as a whole are doing to address certain environmental and sustainability issues, whether it be proposed policy that is moving through the state legislature or food waste at campus dining options.

We have other stories relating to the concerns and arguments for the increasing urban sprawl in Fayetteville as well as a more in-depth look at what sustainability services are offered at the plethora of student housing complexes that populate the city.

Other topics that were covered include how ticks have become increasingly problematic for Arkansas residents over the past decade, along with the health problems

associated with them, and the ethical dilemma surrounding hunting practices.

We also looked into how litter affects the UofA, specifically on Senior Walk where chewing gum obstructs several names, and how UA staff are working to solve the problem.

To understand what students are doing to preserve the environment and make sustainability a priority in their lives, we looked into recycling, river cleanups and food reallocation and how students get involved.

Younger generations are pushing for more eco-friendly products and services from businesses and government, and UA students can be at the forefront of that discussion especially with Arkansas being "The Natural State."



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The Arkansas Traveler is a public forum, the University of Arkansas' independent student newspaper and all content decisions are those of the editors.

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Facilities Management lacks resources to prevent defacement of Senior Walk



Kevin Snyder Photo Editor

A piece of chewing gum fills portions of letters in alumnus Thomas Hopkins's name April 2 along a portion of Senior Walk.

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She had not been on campus in over six years and was excited to see her name etched into the iconic Senior Walk for the first time. Alumna Haley Malle made her way past the Chi Omega Greek Theatre and Hillside Auditorium, looking for her name. To her surprise, she found her own covered in a string of blackened chewing gum that stretched between the L and E in her name and the name above hers. There is no regular, scheduled maintenance for the Senior Walk sidewalks, said Kelley Sharp, the facilities project and program manager. The last time Senior Walk was cleaned was three years ago.

Last summer was the first time Malle had visited campus to see her name engraved in the sidewalk since she graduated in 2011.

Malle, who now lives in Phoenix and has no family close to Fayetteville, said she probably will not be on campus again. Her first and only trip back to Fayetteville was her only chance to see her name on Senior Walk.

Senior Walk is a landmark that began with the class of 1905. Names were stamped by hand before the invention of the Sand Hog, a machine specifically created to etch names into the walk, according to the registrar's website. Damaged names are repaired when the newest class is added to the walk.

Over 170,000 graduates' names are now listed on Senior Walk, according to the Office of the Registrar. Names are typically added a year after the graduation of a class, and changes are made for administrative errors and damaged names only.

Blackened by wear and time, chewing gum sticks to the names. Phillip Malloy, who graduated in 2011, is one of many alumni whose name is

covered with chewing gum, he said.

Malloy has not visited campus in three or four years, and there was no chewing gum during his last visit. He thinks facilities management should clean the chewing gum off of Senior Walk if it continues to be an issue, he said.

"It would be disappointing to come back to visit Senior Walk and find gum on my name," Malloy said. "I would probably have the temptation to get a pocket knife out and clean it off myself."

She does not know if there is anything officials can do to prevent it, but she thinks they can do more to help keep it clean, Malle said.

"I wouldn't think about it as a student," Malloy said. "I have a lot going on in my head. I'm going to class, and I spit a piece of gum out. I think signs of encouragement would help ...

her name was not covered in chewing gum. She lives in Little Rock and does not visit often but would like to someday show her kids her name on Senior Walk, Prazak said.

"We're in Little Rock now, so hopefully we'll get to visit more," Prazak said. "I have a 2 year old and a 1 year old. When they do get older, I would love to take them. It would kind of suck if my name is one of the gross names."

Senior Ashley Oline, who is majoring in communication disorders, looks forward to coming back to campus someday to see her name on Senior Walk and would be very upset if the first time she came back she found her name covered in chewing gum, she said.

Oline thinks the university officials and employees should check names on Senior Walk for chewing gum at least once per year, she said.

"I understand that's money,

visitors to respect campus by disposing of their chewing gum properly, said Breanna Lacy, the communications coordinator for Facilities Management, in an email.

"While we understand the frustration of finding gum on sidewalks, time and resources prevent us from scraping gum from the five-plus miles of sidewalk that encompasses Senior Walk," Lacy said. "As these things get out of hand and resources become available, we will sometimes organize a special project to try to clean up the areas receiving the most damage."

Facilities Management upkeep 8.5 million square feet of buildings and over 500 acres of grounds around campus, Lacy said.

There are 119 workers for Facilities Management, according to the campus directory.

"I've been to other campuses



Kevin Snyder Photo Editor

Remnants of chewing gum obstruct letters in names on Senior Walk by the Arkansas Union on April 2. Facilities Management acknowledged the problem but do not have enough resources.

just some type of awareness to it."

Virginia Prazak, who graduated from the UA School of Law in 2010, last visited campus four years ago, and

but we do pay to go this university," Oline said. "We want to be proud of it and be like, 'Look, that's my name.'"

Facilities staff encourages all members of the university and

before, and it is truly unique to have a senior walk," Malloy said. "It's nice to go back and validate that I was a part of this. I think it's important to keep it cleaned off and maintained."

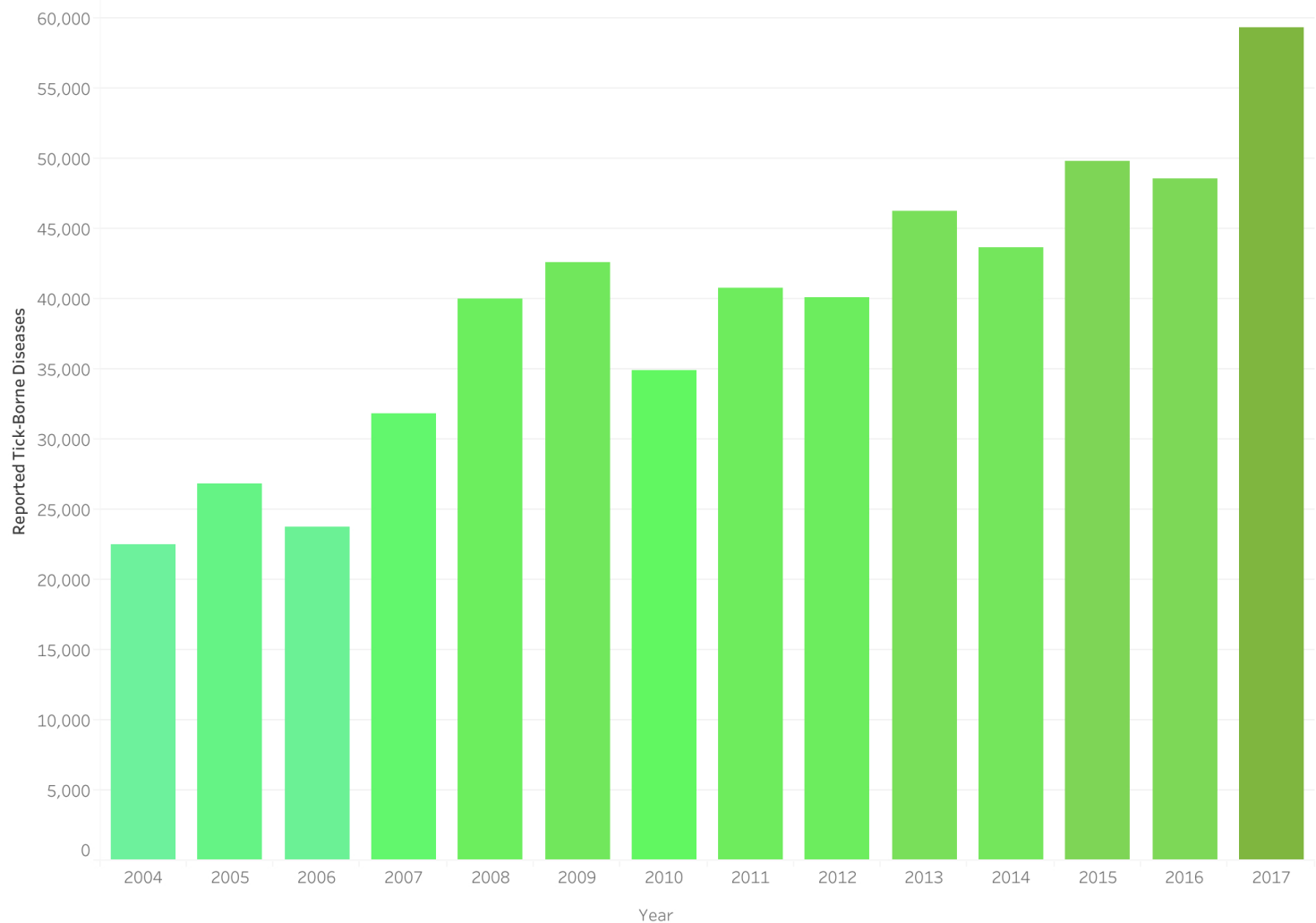


Growing tick population endangers residents, students

Halie Brown
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Reported Tick-Borne Diseases in the U.S. from 2004-17

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/data/>



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

He could not breathe. It had been hours since Fayetteville resident Kevin Culwell had eaten dinner, and it was the middle of the night. He clutched his throat and found that his airway had closed. This was the first time Culwell had an allergic reaction, but it would not be his last.

Culwell used to only have seasonal allergies to grass, but at 40 years old, he was surprised to learn that he was suffering from a severe allergic reaction from the bacon in his pasta because of a tick bite he does not even remember. Culwell has alpha-gal syndrome, an allergy that causes him to have a reaction to red meat three to six hours after consumption, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Studies show that alpha-gal might be caused by tick bites, and that alpha-gal allergy has been found in some types of ticks, according to the CDC.

Tick-borne diseases have been on the rise, with 2017, which is the latest data on tick-borne diseases, being a record-breaking year, said Ashley Dowling, an entomology professor who started the Arkansas Tickborne Disease Project.

The Arkansas Tickborne Disease Project distributes tick kits in different counties, which allow people to self-report their ticks by collecting them and sending them in vials to the UofA where the ticks are collected and screened for pathogens, Dowling said.

The number of tick-borne diseases in the U.S. increased 87% between 2007-17, according to the CDC, and the number of illnesses caused by mosquito, tick and flea bites tripled in the U.S. from 2004 to 2016, according to a 2018 press release.

Reported tick bites are concentrated in cities, Dowling said.

Mild winters and warm springs and summers give pathogen-carrying ticks a stronger chance for survival and increase the overall tick population. Climate change can also lead to an expansion of tick habitats, which might allow more people to come in contact with pathogen-carrying ticks, according to a CDC report.

Junior Trip Phillips, who is majoring in philosophy, developed alpha-gal in 2017 while hammocking in west Little Rock after he received "an absurd amount of tick bites," he said. Later that spring, he had a severe allergic reaction and had to be taken to the hospital.

What causes alpha-gal and how it is transferred is still unknown, Dowling said. Unlike bacterial pathogens that takes time to infect a host, alpha-gal is a sugar molecule and is thought to immediately transmit to a host because it is found in tick saliva, Dowling said.

Phillips life has changed since he had developed alpha-gal, but not drastically. He now eats more chicken and vegetarian burgers than he did before he developed an allergy to red meat, he said.

"I can't really eat burgers anymore unless they're disappointing burgers," Phillips said.

Alpha-gal is only one of several tick-borne illnesses in Arkansas, including Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis, tularemia, anaplasmosis and Lyme disease, according to the Arkansas Department of Health. Rocky Mountain spotted fever is one of the most common tick-borne diseases in Arkansas. The American dog tick is the most common carrier, and infected bites can induce symptoms like fever, headache and muscle pain.

While the American dog tick is the most common carrier of spotted fever, spotted fever

pathogens are found in 45% of lone star ticks, Dowling said.

The CDC found that the U.S. needs to be better prepared for insect-borne health threats, according to the press release. CDC officials are trying to prevent diseases from mosquitoes and ticks by funding and partnering with states and territories to detect and respond to ticks, developing and improving laboratory tests and educating the public on mosquito, tick and flea bites.

Deer are the most common host for lone star ticks, which are the most common carrier for alpha-gal and are found mostly in the southeastern U.S., but the lone star tick appears to be spreading farther north and west, according to the Mayo Clinic.

Deer herds can carry tick-borne diseases, and a growing deer population means an

Halie Brown // Campus News Editor

increase in tick-borne diseases, according to a presentation made by Pere Nierengarten, the city's sustainability and resilience director and Gina Niederman, the city's sustainability and resilience project manager.

To prevent deer spreading disease, Fayetteville's Animal Services Advisory Board tries to educate citizens on how to behave around deer, encouraging citizens not to feed deer, to fence in yards and apply deer repellent in gardens, according to the city's deer management page.

Deer and warmer weather allow ticks to propagate farther north. The gulf coast tick, which is a type of tick traditionally found in the South, has been making its way north, Dowling said.

"It may be a good indicator of subtle climate changes that are occurring," Dowling said.

Environmental organizations work to preserve Buffalo National River with lawsuits, cleanups

Tegan Shockley
Contributing Reporter

His family packed into the car to spend the weekend exploring the winding river and the soaring cliffs and roaring smores over a campfire. Senior Andrew Jewell's fond memories of the Buffalo National River motivated him to help clean up the waterway.

"People, I think, don't realize the value of protecting our environment because they don't get out in it," said Jewell, who is majoring in biological and agricultural engineering. "Taking care of your only Earth is actually valuable."

As a member of the Student Sierra Coalition Registered Student Organization, Jewell helps remove invasive species and trash from the river. Last year, he helped re-establish the group, which spreads information about environmental issues to the UA community.

Multiple Arkansas organizations are dedicated to preserving the river. Aletha Petty, the river cleanup coordinator of the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission has dedicated her career to keeping the river clean, she said.

"People certainly don't want to go floating down a trashed-up river," Petty said.

The commission's goal is to prevent litter and promote recycling, according to Keep Arkansas Beautiful. Other organizations, like the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance also take action to help keep the river clean after Arkansans raised concerns about a nearby hog farm.

The Buffalo River Watershed Alliance is a group of advocates who think government officials made an oversight in allowing C&H Hog Farms to operate five miles upstream from the Buffalo, according to the

Watershed Alliance. They fear that the family-owned farm threatens to destroy the river's ecosystem.

Acknowledging public concern, the farmers have had groups like the Environmental Protection Agency take steps to ensure the farm is safe, according to the Arkansas Farm Bureau.

Millions of gallons of liquid hog waste are sprayed on fields and stored in manure ponds that can drain into the Buffalo, according to American Rivers. Contaminants in manure fields might pollute groundwater or harm wildlife.



A discarded water bottle sits off a trail along the Buffalo River on April 1 where the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission is working to clean up the river.

The Watershed Alliance formed to combat threats to the water quality in the river, said Jack Stewart, vice president of the organization.

Stewart helped start the organization to ensure preservation of the first national river in the U.S., he said.

"The whole idea was that (the river) would be preserved for present enjoyment and for

future generations," Stewart said. "It seemed to me that we were breaking that promise by allowing this facility to operate."

Watershed Alliance officials sued C&H Hog Farms on multiple occasions concerning water quality in the Buffalo River, Stewart said.

The first lawsuit involving the farm was against the federal government, Stewart said. The Watershed Alliance won the suit, which required a second environmental assessment of C&H Farms.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service

to protect the river through legislation, Petty takes an individual approach to help it by organizing cleanups along different sections of the waterway, which happen three days throughout the year. The first will happen April 22, which is Earth Day; June 21, the longest day of the year, and September 28, which is National Public Lands Day.

"I've had as many as 60 volunteers and as few as 20," Petty said. "We floated down the river, filled up canoes, and you get to the end, and there's a big pile of trash that we've collected."



André Kissel Staff Photographer

Petty thinks that volunteers have found less garbage than previous years, she said. People come from all over to help clean the Buffalo.

"I really enjoy having the youth there," Petty said. "I think it's good for it to be multigenerational. I think people are being more conscious cleaning up not only after themselves but just what they find along the river."

Animal welfare groups voice complaints over conservation argument



Photo Illustration Kevin Snyder Photo Editor

While some Arkansas residents think that hunting is an ethical concern, others think it is necessary for conserving the environment.

Continued from page 1

Mac Elliott, a junior supply chain management and finance major, has been hunting pheasant and quail since he was 11 years old, he said.

Beyond the comradery of the sport, Elliott hunts to conserve wildlife species, he said.

"Environmentally conscious and responsible hunting helps the environment," Elliott said. "Responsible hunters understand the importance of conservation to preserve the wildlife populations."

Biologists of state wildlife agencies calculate the carrying capacities for wildlife populations so that they can use conservation strategies to slow the growth rate as carrying capacity is approached. The agencies then set state hunting regulations and limits based on these calculations, Connelly said.

"Hunting is part of the calculation to maintain crowd control," Etges said. Regulations for hunting and fishing in Arkansas are guided

by the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan, which identifies the actions needed to conserve each of the state's species, according to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Etges thinks hunting is a win for all involved: the wildlife populations that need regulation, the states that need a source of wildlife management and hunters who enjoy the sport, he said.

"When these resources are managed appropriately, they serve as conservation measures to make sure that these species don't go extinct," Etges said. "So overall, it's a win-win situation for both humans who enjoy hunting and fishing and for the resources that are being conserved."

Overhunting has the capacity to put animals at risk, but the lack of conservation would be just as dangerous for wildlife populations, Etges said.

"Many endangered species have come back because of the regulations and management of the resources in a way that makes it sustainable over time," Etges said.



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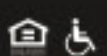
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Residents speak out against urbanization, development

Abby Zimmardi
Staff Reporter
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Because of the potential for losing valued land and threats to the safety of children, Fayetteville residents have continued to speak out against the rapid urbanization of Northwest Arkansas.

Urbanization is population growth resulting in the formation of cities. By 2040, the population of Fayetteville is expected to grow to 140,000 people, said Andrew Garner, the Fayetteville planning director.

To accommodate the growth, the city uses vacant lots that are between existing houses and discouraging new developments outside of the city, he said.

Will Dockery, the Friends of Lewis Park vice president, started the initiative Save Lewis Park in September 2017. He created this group because the Parks and Recreation department and the UA Board of Trustees was going to cancel the city lease for the land six months earlier than what was planned in the lease. This would leave the

space to be sold and used for condominiums.

Residents' petitions extended the lease until June 2019, and the next public vote on the bond issue is April 9, Dockery said.

The bond issue has 10 items to vote on which will extend a one percent sales tax. If questions one and five pass, Lewis Park will be saved. Question one asks for the refinancing of sales tax bonds, and question five asks for park improvements, he said.

Lewis Park is valuable to Fayetteville because of its location, Dockery said.

Lewis Park helps manage water because the south side of the park is bottomland hardwood, which is a type of wetland that reduces the severity of flooding and provides an area to store floodwater, Dockery said.

Mervin Jebaraj, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research, thinks that NWA is growing rapidly and has the room to expand, he said. Commercial spaces that are out of use can be turned into new commercial spaces, which allows for businesses to grow and saves natural spaces.

"That has meant a lot more disputes with where roads

should go and how dense roads should be," Jebaraj said.

Mervin thinks urbanization is a positive thing, but not every space can be saved. Growing cities have the pressure of providing more housing options, making development inevitable, he said.

"I think it's valuable saving parks that people use," Jebaraj said. "If part of the park is saved and other parts are used by the university, that would put the city in an ideal position."

Once the Lewis Park petitions gained over 1,000 local signatures, Mayor Lionel Jordan and the board of education helped to get the lease extended, Dockery said. The petition was to stop the early sale of Lewis Park.

City council members also try to give residents all the information for an issue through a public process in which residents can hear about it and also give their own input, City Engineer Chris Brown said.

City council members also considered Rolling Hills for development. Nicole Claesen, Parks and Recreation advisory board member, created a petition



Kevin Snyder Photo Editor

Cars pass through the intersection of Rolling Hills Drive and Old Missouri Road April 2 where city council members have considered expanding of Rolling Hills Drive.

to stop the development of a road that was to be built in Rolling Hills because of safety, environmental and ecological concerns residents had, she said.

Residents had safety concerns about building a road in this area because the road will go behind Butterfield Elementary School, and the loud construction equipment would be harmful to the students' hearing. Residents were also concerned about

dust being blown into the playground for eight hours a day, Claesen said.

"We know growth happens, and we know it can happen responsibly," Claesen said. "We believe (Rolling Hills) has so much environmental importance. It has a lot of properties that make it extraordinarily unique."

The original plan for Rolling Hills was to make it an arterial street, which is a street that handles a high volume of

traffic, like College Avenue. After a city council vote that recognized residential input, it was downgraded to a collector street, which is a street that connects residential roads to arterial streets, Brown said.

City planners intend to create developments close to the center of town to reduce the distance a residents have to go to find existing services, Brown said. The city council members want to do this and also preserve parks.

Fayetteville foresters offer bounty for invasive Bradford Pear trees

Grant Lancaster
Campus News Editor
@grantlan145

Fayetteville Urban Forestry volunteer implemented a creative solution to combat Bradford Pear trees in the city: offer residents a bounty to cut down the invasive species.

Residents who send a picture of the felled trees to the Urban Forestry department until April 27 can get a free tree that is native to the city, said Will Dockery, a volunteer on the Urban Forestry Advisory Board. Native alternatives to Bradford Pear trees include yellowwood, flowering dogwood and fringe tree.

Bradford Pears are white-flowered trees native to Asia that produce foul-smelling blooms each spring, according to an educational packet released by the city. Despite their striking appearance, these trees can choke out the root systems of other trees and plants.

These trees are one of 18 invasive species that Fayetteville officials must not plant as part of city development projects, according to the Fayetteville Code of Ordinances.

This does not affect private property like homes and businesses, and there are too many Bradford Pears planted in the city for

Fayetteville officials to take down anyways, Fayetteville Urban Forester John Scott said.

Dockery envisioned the idea as a positive parallel to bounty systems used in Ontario in the 1800s and early 1900s that nearly drove wolves to extinction in the region, he said.

Less than 10 people have submitted pictures of themselves with felled trees as of 2 p.m. April 2, but the department expects more people to participate before the end of the month because of the way the program gained in popularity on social media, Scott said.

The department has 100 trees available to give away but might have to get more, Scott said.

Dockery is confident the department will give away all 100 trees they have by the end of April and expects most people to submit their pictures on the 27th, he said.

The program quickly took off on social media and in the news, with organizations like USA Today and Southern Living publishing stories about the initiative, Dockery said. Dockery expected the plan to be popular with Fayetteville residents but not spread past the city.

"I was definitely shocked that it went as viral as it did," Dockery said.

Dockery has talked to urban foresters from Fairfax County, Virginia, and Tulsa,

Oklahoma, who contacted Urban Forestry officials asking to implement the plan in their cities, he said.

Dockery thinks that removing invasive species is an important part of the department's job and has contributed to Fayetteville earning awards for its forestry, he said.

The Arbor Day Foundation has named Fayetteville a Tree City USA member for 24 years in a row, according to a press release March 20.

To be recognized as a Tree City USA member, a city must have a department that manages trees in the city, an ordinance protecting trees, a forestry program with a budget of at least \$2 per capita and must recognize Arbor Day in a city ceremony, according to the Arbor Day Foundation.

Dockery would also like to see the UofA become a Tree Campus USA member alongside schools like Arkansas Tech University and the UA Monticello, he said.

To become a Tree Campus USA member, UA officials and students must establish a Campus Tree Advisory Committee, make a tree care plan and provide a budget for the plan, have an Arbor Day ceremony and take part in a service learning project involving campus trees, according to the Arbor Day Foundation.

Churches, community centers benefit from food conservation



Morgan Browning Staff Photographer

Junior Quinn Grafton unloads boxes of donated produce March 27 to bring to other food pantries.

Continued from page 1

After dropping off half of the produce at Head Start program, the delivery van swings by Feed Communities to refill the emergency cooler, Evans said. Intended for people in emergency hunger situations, the outdoor cooler offers 24/7 accessible food with no questions asked. Then, in the afternoon, they take the other half of the food to Genesis Church.

The team delivers produce to the Yvonne Richardson Community Center, Head Start program, Genesis Church, Unity Covenant Church, the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and the Growing God's Kingdom Preschool, Evans said. Feed Communities has a far reach with its gleaned produce, with deliveries extending all the way to West Fork.

Grafton's favorite location to deliver to is the Yvonne Richardson Community Center where people were lined up at the doors waiting for the food, he said.

"The YRCC offers positive programming for youth and their families. We also have resources such as an open gym and event spaces," YRCC director Tenisha Gist said.

The YRCC started receiving food from the Glean Team in 2017. The YRCC has an average of 40 people picking up food per month, Gist said. There

are a total of four pickups per month supporting an additional 60 people residing within each household, which totals 100 people served.

When the YRCC receives the food deliveries, there is a mass text message to those who have expressed interest in receiving food, Gist said. The YRCC sets out a combination of prepackaged sandwiches, salads, pastries and fresh produce, which the Glean Team collected.

The volunteers go into Harps and collect vegetables like sugar snap peas, whole and chopped onions, tomatoes, bags of salad mix, whole potatoes, baby kale, sliced mushrooms, mini bell peppers, heads of cauliflower and avocados, which are a rare find in the donations to the Glean Team, Evans said. The donated produce includes oranges, grapes, bananas, apples, pineapples, cantaloupes and kiwis.

Evans has been the program manager at Feed Communities for the past year. Evans' job includes overseeing all of the programs and interns. Founded in 2011, Feed Communities' goal is to alleviate hunger and increase access to healthy foods by creating sustainable ways to get food such as community gardens and the Glean Team, Evans said.

"I went to the University of the Ozarks and started a campus garden there," Evans said. "Basically, it was a way

to get fresh produce into the diets of the kids that were not getting consistent or healthy meals at home. Then, I moved to Fayetteville to work on Cobblestone Farm. Cobblestone actually donates 50% of the produce they grow to the Northwest Arkansas community."

Fayetteville has a large homeless population and a lot of low-income areas, Evans said.

Feed Communities' newest program is a diabetes prevention program, Evans said. This program targets pre-diabetic individuals and tries to implement healthy lifestyle changes to prevent the onset of Type 2 diabetes.

Another program through Feed Communities is the community gardens. In 2018, Feed Communities opened a Springdale community garden that serves churches of predominantly Latino and Marshallese people, who are more at risk for food insecurity, Evans said.

Feed Communities is increasing the sustainability of their own building, Evans said. Feed Communities collected 500 gallons of rainwater to use in the gardens in the last few weeks.

Other organizations that work with food insecurity in Northwest Arkansas are Seeds That Feed, Tricycle Farms and the Jane B. Gearhart Full Circle Food Pantry, Evans said.

"Aside from feeding people, you're helping the environment," Evans said.



Liz Green Assistant Photo Editor

A Bradford Pear tree stands in front of the chemistry building April 2. Fayetteville residents are being offered a reward to chop down the trees as they are considered an invasive species.

OPINION

Fayetteville requires skyline expansion, narrower sprawl

Joah Clements
Opinion Editor

In May 2018, the Northwest Arkansas Council found that the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers metropolitan statistical area would join the top 100 fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the country by the end of 2019, based on the council's analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data.

Despite this rapid growth, Fayetteville has maintained a relatively flat skyline and has opted for sprawling growth, probably in favor of preserving the integrity of its various historic districts and in the interest of preserving the city's scenic nature. Regardless, the inevitable long-term effects of climate change are fast-approaching within the coming decade, so Fayetteville needs to update its architectural rubric if it is to

become more environmentally sustainable.

This is not to say that the city's legislators have done nothing to address Fayetteville's environmental impact. In November 2018, the Fayetteville City Council approved the adoption of solar panels on municipal land to provide power to both the Noland Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Westside Water Treatment Facility.

This constituted a major development in the city's greater plan to source 100% of municipal power from solar energy. Ultimately, this seems like an especially achievable goal for Fayetteville. Google's Project Sunroof estimates that 81% of Fayetteville roofs are solar-viable, which is 2% higher than the national average.

That 81% is a number that could be improved, though. Solar energy availability is a factor that benefits greatly from increased

vertical growth in any given city. Solar panels operate most efficiently if they are exposed to more uninterrupted contact with the sun, so it follows that building solar panels on the roofs of skyscraper buildings is the best way to avoid solar obstructions.

For this reason, Fayetteville's buildings should ideally grow taller as the city itself expands in acreage to compensate for growing energy demand. This is particularly true if Fayetteville, as part of the surrounding metropolitan area, continues to expand at its current rate.

Cities can also decrease their environmental impacts

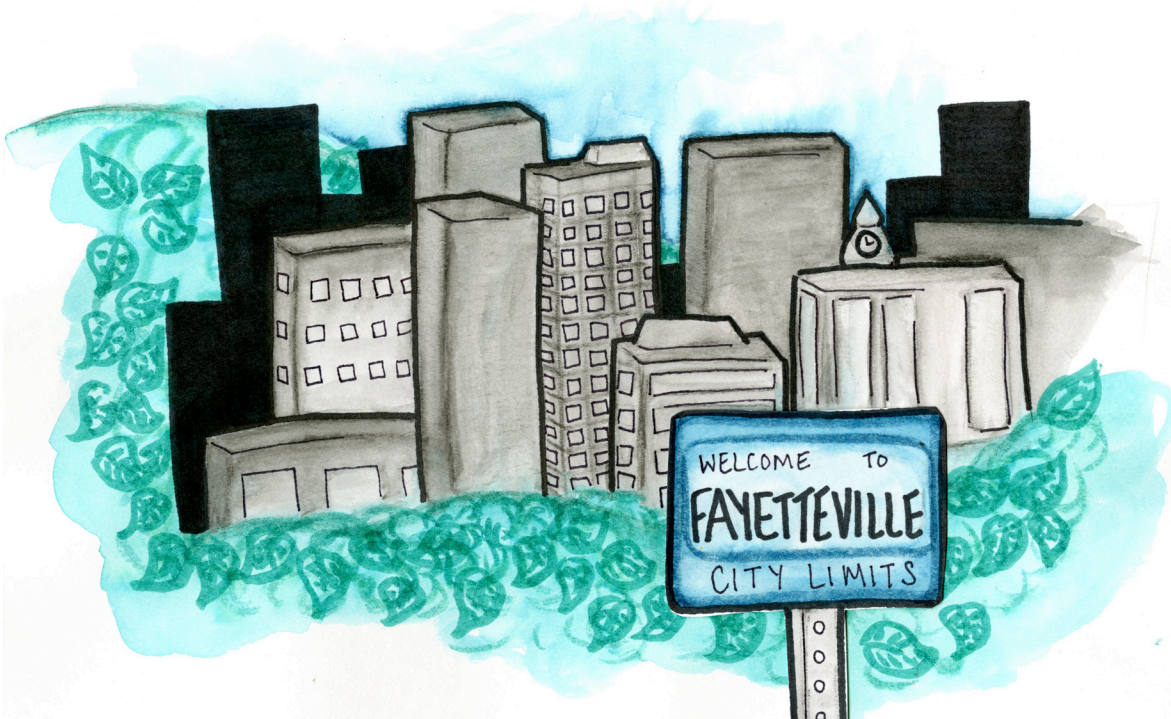
by emphasizing vertical growth over sprawling growth. As cities consume more acreage, they require the development of additional infrastructure to extend municipal services to those living in the city's outer perimeter.

Essential services like sewage, power lines, water treatment facilities and public transport routes should ideally be extended to all city residents. In this way, cities might easily produce needless waste through inefficient city planning.

Between the two aforementioned variables, solar panel placement and efficient city planning, the need for Fayetteville

to promote vertical architectural growth is therefore twofold. On the other hand, I also recognize that planning for these factors might not be within the immediate fiscal capabilities of smaller cities such as Fayetteville.

It is worth noting, though, that Fayetteville zoning ordinances generally prohibit buildings taller than three stories, and this ordinance needs to be adjusted before my propositions are made possible. After that, it seems far more pragmatic for that responsibility to lie with the federal government, though such measures seem unlikely under the current administration.



Claire Hutchinson Cartoonist

Regardless, the push for environmental sustainability is not a vacuous movement. Efficient city planning represents a key component in the fight against climate change that is not addressed often enough, and the full compliance of every major U.S. metropolitan area will be necessary for a tangible difference to be made.

Joah Clements is a senior English major and the Opinion Editor for The Arkansas Traveler.

Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal delivers mixed bag of proposals

Hunt Cummins
Columnist

As one of the few democratic socialist members of Congress, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D) has wasted no time in applying a unique approach to two prescient issues: the plight of the American middle class and the threat posed by climate change in what she has dubbed a "Green New Deal" — a clear and clever evocation of progressive icon and former president Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The "green" portion of the Green New Deal is an aggressive and necessary step against the extant climate threat. Unfortunately, these goals are bound to economic reforms that are both prohibitively expensive and economically disastrous, a

coupling that threatens both the Green New Deal's passage and the planet as a whole.

The world is at an environmental turning point. Rising global temperatures are causing destructive changes in all corners of the globe. Warming oceans are making hurricanes more destructive and common while rising sea levels threaten millions of people in coastal cities.

Simultaneously, droughts and heat waves are becoming longer and more intense in hot and arid areas, while flooding and rainfall has worsened in wetter, cooler areas. It has long been the consensus of the scientific community that these changes are man-made, driven by a greenhouse effect from human carbon emissions.

Members of Congress are certainly going to tweak and modify the specific policy details of the Green New

Deal as it moves through the legislative process, but the preliminary outlay seems to target the most prominent sources of American carbon emissions effectively, even if the specific policy details are sparse.

The Green New Deal gives renewable energy sources priority, with an ambitious goal to meet "100% of U.S. power demand" through zero-emission sources. Thankfully, costs are declining rapidly, with a megawatt of solar power in 2018 costing less than half a megawatt of coal-generated power, but change isn't coming as fast as it could be. Public subsidy and further research on renewables could certainly accelerate the transition away from dirty energy sources.

The Green New Deal targets other sources of emissions as well, particularly in agriculture. Industrial agriculture accounts for 14.5% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Cattle farming, which accounts for 41% of agricultural emissions, is the worst offender, according to the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations.

Not only do cows emit methane from their digestive tracts, but the large swaths of land that farmers clear to house and feed them destroys plants and trees that can filter carbon from the atmosphere naturally.

There are plenty of other goals within the Green New Deal, such as transportation and energy efficiency. They all have merit but unfortunately lack policy specifics, but do show a comprehensive understanding of climate issues. Unfortunately, the misguided economics that follow tragically undercut the rest of the deal.

One of the more notable economic proposals is a federal job guarantee. The specifics aren't clear here, but it isn't the first time such a program has been suggested. New Jersey Senator and presidential hopeful Cory Booker (D) has developed and introduced a federal pilot program that would grant, to anyone who needs one, a full-time job with a prevailing wage and full benefits in certain municipalities.

It's unclear what the specifics of the Green New Deal

equivalent would be, but there is a body of economic research on the topic. According to a University of California San Diego study, Ocasio-Cortez is correct that such a program would increase wages and employment, but 90% of those gains would come from the wage increases that accompany the jobs in the program, not the guarantee of a job itself, and it would come with an enormous price tag.

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimated that such a nationwide guarantee could cost as much as \$543 billion a year, rivaling even Medicare in scale. The same effects could be mimicked through minimum wage increases and better labor protections without passing on the cost to the taxpayer.

The public ownership provisions in the Green New Deal outlay are also its strangest and possibly its most dangerous. They seem logical at face value: The deal would ensure that the public would receive "appropriate ownership stakes" in companies that are contracted to perform work dictated by

the Green New Deal, or that receive taxpayer dollars for research.

The provisions would ensure that all Americans receive a return on their tax dollar's investment, but the vagaries of the details open it to broad criticisms from the right that supporters can't directly dispute. It won't be long before a Republican brings up the economic crisis in Venezuela, which the failures of state-owned enterprises in part caused, to scare people away from the Green New Deal as a whole.

The Green New Deal's ambition cannot be overstated. Were it to pass, it would be one of the most impressive, varied and expensive programs in American history. Bigger is not always better. In this case, Democrats' aspirations might be their folly, taking the future of the earth with them.

Hunt Cummins is a junior political science major and a columnist for The Arkansas Traveler.

Quote of the Issue

"People, I think, don't realize the value of protecting our environment because they don't get out in it. Taking care of your only Earth is actually valuable."

- Andrew Jewell, UA senior, biological and agricultural engineering major
Environmental organizations work to preserve Buffalo National River with lawsuits, cleanups, pg. 3

THE ARKANSAS TRAVELER



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Arkansas GOP sympathetic to state water pollution

Micah Wallace
Columnist

On March 27, Arkansas Republicans nearly passed a bill that would have allowed the pollution of state water bodies.

Had it not been pulled, Senate Bill 550 would have transferred the responsibility for the regulation of liquid waste in our water supply from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

Included in the bill were provisions, masquerading as efficiency measures, for liquid waste regulations. In reality, these provisions were attempts to make it easier to get away with escaping public accountability and lowering water quality standards. Thankfully, the bill was pulled by its house sponsor after passing through the senate, though a majority of the GOP-controlled Arkansas Senate passed the bill.

The bill's provisions would have ended guarantees for the notices of permit applications

for liquid waste, as well as the ability to request a public hearing on permit applications. In short, the consequences for violating liquid waste regulations would have been lessened.

The deregulations would have enabled agricultural businesses to pollute Arkansas bodies of water with fewer repercussions, which is incredibly worrisome.

By transferring water management to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, it would also become much more difficult for journalists to utilize the Freedom of Information Act to investigate water-related records, which should already be publicly accessible, for possible violations.

Tad Bohannon, the Central Arkansas Water CEO who oversees the state's largest water district, later told the Arkansas House panel that SB 550 had the potential to expose our drinking and recreational water sources to toxic and dangerous animal waste.

Because of the deregulation provisions in the bill, the Buffalo National River would once again be susceptible to large

swine operations, making it easier for businesses to pollute Arkansas water and rake in profits at the expense thereof.

Politicians and government officials might constantly insist they want to be as transparent as possible, but anyone who looks closely knows that reality tells a different story. There should be binding regulations in place to assure the public where its tax money is going and what it is drinking.

At the committee meeting where Rep. Bentley presented the bill on March 27, Colene Gaston, the staff attorney for Beaver Water District, commented that, "Intent is not sufficient."

Her assertion is undeniable. The members of regulatory commissions will not host public hearings out of the goodness of their hearts. It is about public pressure and statutes that mandate them to be responsible for their actions.

Republicans who take positions against big government and bureaucracy should be talking about this more than anyone, but

instead, the state's GOP politicians are falling in line behind the whims of corporations that would benefit from this law. It is shameful that politicians and businesses might threaten something as basic and essential as water solely for corporate profits.

Though Rep. Mary Bentley (R-Perryville) originally sponsored the bill, even she has realized "there were too many questions" to pass it and pulled the bill during the committee debate. Though appreciation is due for her revocation of the bill, it is important to realize that the Republican-controlled Senate passed it prior to the debate.

Bentley has said that she intends to run the bill in upcoming sessions. This means vigilance is mandatory for anyone who uses public water or cares about preserving corporate accountability.

Micah Wallace is a sophomore political science major and a columnist for The Arkansas Traveler.

ASG, RIC work to reduce plastic waste on campus through legislation

Katelyn Duby
Senior Staff Reporter
@KatelynDuby

Associated Student Government and Residents' Interhall Congress legislation supporting reduced plastic use has contributed to a 25% decrease in plastic bag waste at Pei Wei on campus, a Chartwells Dining official said.

Since collaborating with ASG, Chartwells officials have observed a substantial reduction in plastic waste, said Andrew Lipson, resident district manager at Chartwells.

"In Pei Wei, we have seen a drop of 25% in plastic bag use, and we have completely stopped using the individually wrapped plastic forks, spoons and knives," Lipson said.

In February, ASG senators passed Senate Resolution No. 8, which supported efforts to reduce and consolidate plastic use in the food court. Since

passing the resolution, ASG and Chartwells have been able to change how corporate vendors use plastic packaging and cutlery in the Arkansas Union food court.

Pei Wei and True Burger employees have already changed their packaging systems with regard to utensils, condiment and plastic bag distribution in compliance with ASG's proposals, said Sophie Hill, Residents' Interhall Congress director of sustainability and co-author of the resolution.

At Pei Wei, cashiers now give out plastic to-go bags by request only and do not give out pre-packaged plastic utensils. Students can get utensils as needed from stations at the food court, Hill said.

Chartwells officials have received positive feedback from guests regarding the changes at Pei Wei, Lipson said. The guests they have heard from were pleased about the option to use less plastic, he said.

Chartwells added

condiment dispensers between the True Burger and Chick-fil-A stations to replace individual condiment packages, but food court guests initially hesitated to embrace this change, said Will Motazedi, ASG director of sustainability.

Chartwells supplies plastic cups to hold condiments, and some guests brought up concerns about this creating substantial waste, Motazedi said.

"There are several ways to mitigate that issue, but that was one thing we had to be very careful about whenever Chartwells implemented that," Motazedi said.

Motazedi and Hill, the Resident Interhall Congress director of sustainability, decided that using plastic cups is less wasteful than using individual condiment packages, because cups do not have to be single-use items.

"You can come back and use the same cup twice, but you can't use the same ketchup packet twice," Motazedi said.

Chartwells is working to make the switch from plastic to paper cups for condiments, Lipson said. "We could save a bit

No. 8 passed through the Senate, getting support from Chartwells was a seamless process, Motazedi said.

with the Union Advisory Committee to create graphics and marketing materials about plastic waste, which Chartwells will display in the food court, he said.

Hill is working with other RIC members to enforce "Ban the Bottle" policies, which the organization adopted in 2015.

Under the policy, money from the RIC budget can no longer go toward the purchase of bottled water. RIC members no longer hand out bottled water at their events and encourage students who attend to bring their own reusable water bottles, Hill said.

The UA Office of Sustainability plans to make the UofA 90% waste-free by 2040 through waste prevention planning and increased recycling and composting. The primary objectives of Zero Waste are to prevent waste before it happens and to keep plastic out of landfills, according to the UA Office of Sustainability's outline of the Zero Waste Goal.



Liz Green Assistant Photo Editor

The Associated Student Government and the Residents' Interhall Congress are pushing for increased campus sustainability by reducing plastic waste.

more with mindful use of the condiment pumps," Lipson said. "Guests are using the portion cups, which add to plastic usage. We are looking at the small paper portion cups as an alternative."

After Senate Resolution

"Whenever we were meeting with the Chartwells people, they were already on board with a lot of what we were wanting to propose, so the resolution just helped us get the student support for it," Motazedi said.

Motazedi is working

Congressional act could further regulate endangered species ownership

Zachery Sutherland
Staff Reporter
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Momma Tiger lived four years as the mother to round after round of cubs at a pay-for-play facility. When Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge employees found her in 2016, she was pregnant and afraid. After years of rehabilitation, Momma Tiger is free.

In response to the need for more protection for big cats like Momma Tiger, Rep. Mike Quigley (D) introduced H.R. 1380, known as the Big Cat Public Safety Act, in the House of Representatives in February. If passed, the act will make it "unlawful for any person to import, export, transport, sell, receive (or) acquire...any prohibited wildlife species," according to H.R.1380.

At the Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in Eureka Springs, employees care for the big cats that they have rescued from owners around the nation who did not provide the cats with adequate care or overbred them, Assistant Curator Laurie Vanderwal said.

Many of the cats that are under Turpentine Creek's care come from private ownership, which has resulted in an overpopulation in this country, Vanderwal said.

"These animals need the help now," Vanderwal said. "It's one of those weird situations where we wish we



Liz Green Assistant Photo Editor

A tiger sits on a platform in its enclosure at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge on April 1. Turpentine Creek rescues many different exotic species from owners who could not care for them properly.

didn't have to exist. We kind of wish we weren't here, but we have to be because (people) try to keep these guys as pets."

There are at least 3,890 tigers still in the wild, but Momma Tiger is just one of 5,000 tigers living in captivity in the U.S., according to the World Wildlife Fund.

After all the trauma Momma Tiger faced, she was initially aggressive toward the Turpentine employees, Vanderwal said.

"She was definitely nervous around people," Vanderwal said. "I didn't see her at the facility, but when she came in she was incredibly aggressive,

charging the fence, and hissing at us. But that was because she didn't trust people."

The bill would also limit the types of people who can come into contact with endangered species to trained professionals, veterinarians and the faculty and staff of refuges and conservations, according to H.R.1380.

Emily McCormack, the head curator of Turpentine Creek, was determined to rehabilitate Momma Tiger and slowly helped her become acquainted with other people, Vanderwal said. When Momma Tiger arrived at Turpentine Creek, she was also

pregnant with cubs, who are still at Turpentine Creek today.

"A lot of it is letting her kind of be," Vanderwal said. "The interns would clean the enclosures. We just gave (the tigers) their personal space."

Vanderwal thinks there should be a greater federal law that protects the animal's right to safety, she said.

"The state law regulates that you cannot own tigers and bears with the exception of animal sanctuaries," Vanderwal said.

There are 77 cats and 14 other animals living at Turpentine Creek, Vanderwal said.

Scott Eidelman, an

associate psychology professor and advisor for the Arkansas Animal Rights Club, a UA Registered Student Organization, is pleased that organizations like Turpentine Creek exist to help these wild animals, but he thinks it is the best of a bad situation, he said.

Eidelman thinks that they have a decent quality of life and ample space to run and be free, but he is unhappy about the cages, he said.

"It's not ideal, but it is better than what they had before," Eidelman said.

Senior Clay Herman, the Arkansas Animal Rights Club president who is majoring in criminology, thinks that although Turpentine Creek allows the animals to live free from abuse, workers there are feeding the cats meat-based products, he said.

"It is an ethical dilemma: you let the cat die, or do you have a cow die? I would rather have a lion die if they were eating more than one cow," Herman said.

However, Turpentine Creek employees obtain most of the meat they feed the cats from recycling chickens that humans can no longer eat, but is still edible for the big cats, Vanderwal said.

"Biologically (the animals) are carnivores, so we don't have a choice but to feed them some kind of protein," Vanderwal said. "They cannot survive off of vegetables or tofu."

Kate Chapman, an assistant professor of psychology, researches the comparative

psychology between animals and humans at Turpentine Creek, she said. Chapman thinks that Turpentine Creek's protection of endangered species is vital, because when animals are subject to life in captivity, there are strenuous legal, ethical and environmental challenges to returning them to their natural habitats, she said.

"Something that really appealed to me was the idea that I could conduct research that would potentially benefit the animals themselves, as well as Turpentine Creek," Chapman said.

To help accommodate the wild animals in their new habitat, Turpentine Creek has behavioral management courses and medical care to ensure the cats live the best lives they possibly can in captivity, Vanderwal said.

Momma Tiger is doing well, thriving in an expansive habitat where she can run around freely, Vanderwal said. Turpentine Creek employees introduced her to Bosco, another white Bengal tiger, who she need to fear having to breed with. Together, the two cats live in a stress-free environment that is peaceful and safe.

"We strive to give them something to do every day so they are not bored," Vanderwal said.

We get them in the habitat, give them space and don't make them to do anything they don't want to do, Vanderwal said.

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A Growing Concern



Aleena Garcia Staff Photographer

Senior Noah Sanders points out an invasive species growing on a tree March 28 in the Kessler Mountain Reserve, a property protected by the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust. Sanders, who interned with the NWA Land Trust in 2018, explains how dangerous invasive species are to the environment and why it is important to remove them.



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