



WEATHER
Time: 5:41:28 PM **Currently:** 41°F
High: 43°F **Low:** 27°F
Winds: 6mph
7-Day forecast

Provided by: **AccuWeather**

Search for jobs with
YAHOO!

Search Site: **GO**

Get your TV listings
ONLINE
www.paragoulldailynews.com/guide

ADVANCED SEARCH

News

- Home
- Local News
- Local Sports
- National/World News
- Obituaries
- Opinion
- Celebrations
- Paragould Personalities
- Classifieds
- Gallery
- Calendar
- Local TV Listings
- Online Features
- Special Sections
- Archives
- Letters to the Editor
- Podcasts

Reader Services

- Login/Register
- Services
- Business Directory
- Subscribe
- Place a Classified
- Advertise
- Contact Us

Search Paragould
Yellow Pages

Opinion

Publication Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2010

Print | E-mail | Comment (No comments posted.) | Rate | Text Size TT

State Capitol week in review

By **State Sen. Robert Thompson**

Published: Tuesday, February 2, 2010 12:12 PM CST

LITTLE ROCK – The number of college students who need remedial classes rose significantly this year, from 51.3 percent to 54.6 percent.

One factor in the increase has been a sharp rise in the number of non-traditional students over the age of 25 who are going to college. In the current slow economy, many adults are trying to improve their job skills and marketability by getting a college degree. However, they're finding that they are not prepared for college level course work so they must first take remedial classes in math, reading and English.

Having to take remedial courses is a big obstacle for many college students because even though they are paying for the classes, they are not receiving credit. That means the cost of getting a degree is even more expensive for them.

Even taking into account this year's increase in the need for remedial education, Arkansas students are better prepared for college than they used to be. For example, as recently as 2002 the percentage of newly enrolled college students who had to take remedial classes was 58.4 percent.

Over the past couple of decades Arkansas high school graduates have steadily improved their academic preparation for college. A big reason is that educators strongly encouraged them to take a more rigorous curriculum. This year's graduating class will be the first that has been required to take the so-called Smart Core preparatory curriculum in high school.

High school students have been taking more challenging academic classes, and that has worked to bring up test scores. However, a much greater number of students have been taking standardized tests in preparation for college, and when the number of test takers increases it tends to hold down scores.

ADVERTISEMENT

This is a good example of a trend that has good and bad aspects. Although we could brag more if average test scores went up faster, it is very encouraging that greater numbers of high school graduates are going on to college.

The number of students who took the ACT standardized test went up from 20,481 to 21,689. If they fail to score a 19 or above, they are required to

State
Switch
\$489
Virginia Wal
Virginia V
Paragoul
POB
Average annual per ho
national 2009 survey
reported savings by

[Top Searches](#)
[Nursing Homes](#)
[Massage](#)
[Day Spas](#)
[Churches](#)
[Marriage Counselors](#)
[Restaurants](#)
[Mobile Homes](#)
[Discount Stores](#)
[Doctors](#)
[Fabric Stores](#)
[Trophies](#)
[Movie Theaters](#)
[Used Cars](#)
[More](#)

Photo Galleries



Scrapbook
(43 photos)

Calendar

FEBRUARY 2010

| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | | | | | | |

[» This Week's Events](#)
[» Submit an Event](#)

Stocks

Enter symbol
 Symbol lookup



[Active Markets](#)

Last Updated: 4:40PM CST 02/02/2010



take remedial classes in college. A perfect score is a 36.

Math was the toughest subject for the test takers — 46.1 percent did not score high enough to avoid remedial math in college. English was the second most difficult — 33.7 percent did not score a 19 or above on the English portion of the ACT. On the reading section of the test, 29.1 percent scored below a 19. Two thirds of the students who required remediation needed it in at least two subjects.

Attorney general sues Internet lenders

The state attorney general has sued a payday lender that operates over the Internet. The suit alleges that the company charges interest rates from 300 percent to as much as 1,300 percent, which violates Arkansas laws against usury.

The Internet lender operates a web site called Loan Point USA. Other Internet lenders charging usurious fees have stopped doing business in Arkansas after the attorney general contacted them.

About 240 payday lenders in Arkansas shut down because of legal pressure from the attorney general's office. They were charging interest rates as high as 300 percent.

[« Previous Article](#)

[Editorial cartoon](#)

Article Rating

Current Rating: 0 of 0 votes!

Rate File: Select Rating: -

Reader Comments

The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of paragouldaily.com.

Submit a Comment

We encourage your feedback and dialog, all comments will be reviewed by our Web staff before appearing on the Web site.

You must register with a valid email to post comments. Only your Member ID will be posted with the comments.

Registered users sign in here:

Member ID:

*Password:

Remember login?
(requires cookies)

[Forgot Your Password?](#)

Become a Registered User

Do not use usernames or passwords from your financial accounts!

Note: Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required!

Create a Member ID:

*Choose a password:

*Re-enter password:

E-mail Address:

Year of Birth:

(children under 13 cannot register)

First Name:

HYI
TERMITE & PE

716 Fair
Paragould
870.23