

## A-State Celebrates Valentine's Day

**ERIC MCGEE**  
STAFF WRITER

Valentine's Day can be a stressful day for many. Finding a last minute gift for the person you care about can prove to be challenging. On Feb. 14, several A-State campus organizations made that challenge a bit easier at the Carl R. Reng student union.

The NYIT School of Osteopathic Medicine had a table set

up selling roses and valentines day grams. All the proceeds from their sales went to the St. Baldrick's Foundation. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-powered charity that is committed to finding cures for childhood cancers.

The Gender and Sexuality Alliance table was selling candy grams to raise money for more LGBTQ events. The mission of the GSA is to establish a more welcoming campus and offer a

platform to gender-diverse students. Their table was especially colorful.

The Black Student Association was also selling valentines day grams to raise money for future events. The BSA's mission is to develop university spirit among African American students. They aim to enhance the cultural and social life of African American students on campus. In addition to candy, they were including soft drinks in their valentines day grams.



Image by Eric McGee  
The Black Student Association advertises the prices of their candygrams.

## CAMPUS CRIME

**MATTHEW WILLIAMS**  
NEWS WRITER

**Feb. 8 | 9:11 p.m.**

UPD responded to a house on Iroquois Street on Saturday night to investigate reports of a missing person. Just after 9 p.m., a witness said she saw the victim, a minor, walk outside to take out the trash. While watching from her balcony window, she saw the victim get into a grey vehicle. Her husband gave police a description of the victim's clothes, and told them the vehicle the victim got in was a taxi.

The husband spoke with the taxi company around 9:30, and they told him that the victim had been dropped off at Bill's Fresh Market Grocery on Stadium Boulevard, and that she was in the company of an unidentified male. The witness told police she thought the victim was with a boy who had been given a no-contact order for an earlier incident where he had cut her at school. The company confirmed that the suspect, also a minor, was the same person the witness told police about.

A search of the suspect's residence initially turned up no sign of the victim. The taxi company told police about the suspect's movements throughout the night, where he had gone from his house to the victim's but apparently was unable to get in contact with her, then to Walmart on Red Wolf Boulevard, and then back to the victim's house where she got into the cab and then to Bill's Fresh Market Grocery.

Police told the suspect he could be arrested for violating the no contact order if he didn't tell them where the victim was, and she was subsequently located

hiding in the suspect's bedroom closet. Jonesboro Police issued her a criminal trespass order, and she was taken back to her house.

**Feb. 9 | 9 a.m.**

Officers witnessed a car fail to stop completely as it pulled out of the Kum & Go parking lot. Pulling onto North Caraway Road, the car took off driving at high speed. The speed limit on that street is only 30 mph, and as police turned on the lights to stop them, the car kept moving. The officers followed to the intersection of Caraway and Greensboro. The driver still hadn't pulled over, and once stopped at the intersection, the driver waved for police to follow him.

Moving west on Greensboro, and frequently crossing the center line in doing so, he continued down the road and eventually pulled into a driveway and stopped. The driver, Tony Venable, 40, apologized several times to police but was placed under arrest for fleeing. After telling officers his name and date of birth, they asked him whether or not his license would come back as suspended. He said yes, and was taken into custody.

A search of the vehicle found expired insurance and a system search of his name confirmed the license suspension. He was charged with fleeing, lack of insurance information, hazardous driving, and operation of a vehicle under a DWI suspension, and given a court date. His vehicle was towed.

**February 14 | 3 a.m.**

University Police officers monitoring traffic at the Aggie/University Loop intersection pulled

over a speeding vehicle Friday night, after witnessing the vehicle accelerating to 46 in a 20 mph speed limit zone. The officers used radar on the truck as it passed and turned on their lights to pull them over.

Approaching the driver, they could smell the strong presence of alcoholic beverages in the vehicle. The driver, Barrett Wrinkles, 19, was asked for his credentials, and at that point the officers noticed an open 12-pack of beer in the passenger floorboard, as well as an open can of beer in the cupholder.

When Wrinkles was questioned about this, he told police that he had taken people home, and also that he hadn't had anything to drink himself. His eyes were bloodshot and his answers were delayed, and when questioned about this, he began to tell police a story about sand that officers found not to make any sense.

Backup was called to perform field sobriety tests, all of which he failed. He tested positive for alcohol in a breathalyzer test, and was transported to the Craighead County Detention Center for booking and further BAC testing. He informed officers while en route that he had been at The Eagles club, and that that's where he'd been drinking that night.

He was determined to have a BAC of .12 (the legal limit is .08) and was charged with speeding and DWI 1st offense. His license was confiscated and he was given a court date for his charges.

## Update on the Coronavirus

**ERIC MCGEE**  
STAFF WRITER

Every day the number of people infected with the new-coronavirus increases. As of Feb. 16, there have been more than 1,600 confirmed deaths worldwide. An overwhelming majority of the fatalities have been in China. Nevertheless, anxiety in the U.S. and the rest of the world is rising.

Perhaps the rising anxiety can be attributed to the daily reports of new infections and fatalities. However, knowing the basic facts can prevent that anxiety from turning into panic. Keeping things basic tends to answer more questions and generates more reason.

What is the coronavirus? According to the World Health Organization, coronaviruses make up a large family of viruses that can infect several species of animals including, bats, birds, dogs and human beings. If the virus gets into the lungs it begins to replicate which kills the cells in the host's lungs. This can cause respiratory illness. In some people the illness may be mild like a common cold. In other people, usually people with vulnerable immune systems, the illness can progress to pneumonia or severe bronchitis.

The first coronavirus epidemic came out of southern China in 2002 and 2003. It was

A column by Eric McGee

known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS. It was believed the virus came out of the Guangdong Province from a market where live animals were sold. Over 8000 people contracted SARS, resulting in over 700 deaths. Fortunately, the virus quickly disappeared limiting the amount of fatalities.

The new coronavirus was first detected in the Hubei Province in central China. According to the World Health Organization, the new coronavirus is spreading much faster than the SARS epidemic. However, at present the new virus has a much lower mortality rate. For those infected with the SARS virus, they mortality rate was 9.6%. As of Feb. 16, the mortality rate of the coronavirus is 2%. The 2% number is based on reports coming in from China and are expected to fluctuate significantly.

What is the United States government doing to prevent a coronavirus outbreak here? On Jan. 31, Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex Azar, declared a public health emergency in response to the possible threat. This gives local health-care providers more flexibility in dealing with the virus. The Centers for Disease Control has recently grown the coronavirus in cell cultures which will help in developing an accurate diagnostic test and developing,

perhaps, with developing a vaccine. The CDC has developed a diagnostic test for the virus but it's accuracy has not been verified yet.

As of Feb. 18, the Chinese government has placed over 150 million people on lock down, over 10% of their population. The United States has imposed a travel ban on China. On Feb. 1, President Trump signed an executive order banning all foreign nationals from entering the U.S. who had been in China. This could seriously affect Chinese nationals whom have student visas, and the effectiveness of travel bans is heavily debated. There are strong arguments pro and con.

Treatment for the new coronavirus is somewhat uncertain. According to the CDC, there are several anti-viral medications that have been used to treat ebola and malaria which may be effective. A class of drugs called "protease inhibitors" have also been effective in fighting previous coronaviruses. "Protease inhibitors" alert the immune system to viral invaders.

As of Feb. 18, there are more than 73,000 confirmed worldwide infections of the new coronavirus, according to the World Health Organization. So far, the virus has not taken hold in the United States except for a few isolated cases. Hopefully, the virus burns itself out before it becomes a pandemic.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Feb. 20</b> Living Black History Museum	Centennial Hall	11 a.m.- 6 p.m.
<b>Feb. 21</b> God of Carnage opens	Simpson Theatre	7:30-9:30 p.m.
<b>Feb. 23</b> BSA Week: Church Service	St. Paul Missionary	11 a.m.
<b>Feb. 24</b> Bubble Soccer Tournament	Student Activity Center	7-10 p.m.
<b>Feb. 25</b> Mid-semester Exams Begin SAB Crawfish Boil on the Lawn	Heritage Lawn	Noon-2 p.m.

## Antartica is Thawing

**DAKOTA MAGGARD**  
STAFF WRITER

Antarctica is a huge continent that sits at Earth's southern pole. Recently Antarctica has been struggling with huge loss of ice, which could be devastating for the rest of the world.

Throughout the month of February there has been a lot of media attention on Antarctica's new record high temperature, surpassing 68 degrees Fahrenheit (20 degrees Celsius.) This

is horrible news for the rest of the world as the huge losses of ice can considerably raise the ocean's water. Some areas of the world like Italy already have had intense struggles coping with flooding and the addition of more water would only create additional difficulty.

While the issue of Antarctica warming is a problem, it is important to recognize that it is part of a worldwide trend known as global warming. This global warming is a gradual increase of Earth's overall tem-

perature rising and Antarctica's new record highs are only one part of it.

Despite best attempts to stop, or at least slow, global warming it has continued undeterred. Now the CEO of Amazon, Jeff Bezos, is joining in this fight by pledging \$10 billion to help stop global warming. Bezos is calling global warming "the biggest threat to our planet." Considering the impact it seems to have on Antarctica, it would seem to be true.

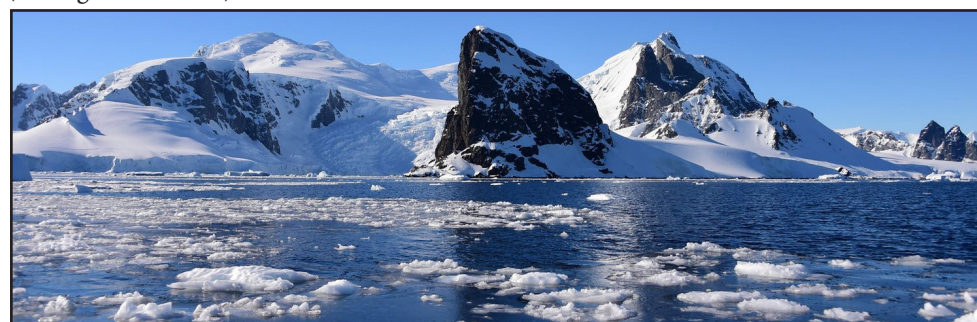


Image courtesy of Getty Images  
Orne Harbour in South Shetland Islands, Antarctica.