

Pipe bursts in Honors 4 due to ice storm

JACK BOND

STAFF WRITER

During the first winter storm in early February, roads iced over, campus facilities were shut down and classes were canceled. In Honors Building 4, one of the pipes froze and burst, leaving students with plumbing issues for the following weeks.

While maintenance was fixing the busted pipe, access to water was turned on and off.

“As long as you showered in the morning, everything was fine before the water got shut off,” said Evan Reynolds, a freshman pre-med biology major from Sheridan. “Then the water got shut off, so you couldn’t do anything in (Honors 4), so if you had to shower you

had to go to another building.”

To overcome the issue, residents used the facilities in other buildings on campus. In addition, A-State Housing allowed residents key card access to the other Honors buildings to use the common space restroom.

“If I had to use the bathroom, I had to go to the Union or someone else’s dorm. It was not the greatest, not ideal, but it wasn’t too bad,” Reynolds said.

Maintenance sent out an email to residents briefing the situation and advising them what to do in the meantime.

“It just wasn’t that much of an inconvenience,” says Mason Atkins, a freshman mechanical engineering major from Vilonia. “I shower

probably more than the average person, but I guess the timing worked out to where it didn’t really affect me that much.”

Other students did not go to other buildings, choosing to wait for the water to return or using what they had on hand.

“I had to brush my teeth using a water bottle,” said Jeri Holland, a freshman clinical lab sciences major from Sheridan.

After being slowed down by the second winter storm, maintenance continued working on the situation. The problem was fixed earlier this week, allowing students to return to using their dorms for showering, going to the bathroom and more.



The remainder of the construction on the burst pipe

Photo by Rachel Rudd | News Editor

Office of Student Conduct hosts drug and alcohol awareness seminar

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

The Office of Student Conduct hosted a drug and alcohol awareness seminar on March 1. These seminars were started as a way for Student Conduct to create a positive association with students. It was meant to serve as a relaxed environment for participants to have an open conversation regarding drugs and alcohol.

It was hosted by Kynlee Cunningham, a graduate assistant for the Office of Student Development. She stated this event was created to provide students with more resources and education regarding drugs and alcohol.

“It’s made people consider the steps and choices that they make whenever they’re consuming drugs or alcohol,” Cunningham said.

Participants said they felt for the most part, other students did not seem to care

about drug and alcohol use. They said it was relatively common on college campuses. In addition, they noted they had not seen many negative portrayals of it in the media.

In addition to the effects of drugs and alcohol, the seminar discussed potential criminal charges. They talked about the differences between a misdemeanor and a felony. A misdemeanor will result in time in a local jail, while a felony will result in incarceration in a state prison. Some of the possible charges described included a DWI, driving while intoxicated, BUI, boating while intoxicated and a MIP, minor in possession.

In addition to actual charges, Cunningham brought up how a drug or alcohol charge can affect someone’s life, including serving time, large monetary charges, having one’s driver’s license revoked and impacting future employment opportunities.

“That obviously makes

employers at least back off, much less just not consider you,” Cunningham said. “(It) eliminates your voting rights, (it) eliminates the right to bear arms and other negative consequences as well.”

The seminar created various fake scenarios to open a discussion about the impacts of drugs and alcohol. In one scenario, resident assistants discovered a person’s roommate’s marijuana and as a result, both were changed. In another, a designated driver in a group of friends becomes pressured into drinking alcohol. They highlighted the importance of communication and accountability.

Some students chose to attend to receive education on the topic, stating that they hadn’t had an open conversation about drugs and alcohol.

“I decided to come just for some decision making. I learned a lot about felonies and how



Kynlee Cunningham describes the minor in possession charge and the increasing penalties for repeat offenses

Photo by Rachel Rudd | News Editor

drugs and alcohol may affect you in the long term,” said Nya McLaurin, a sophomore exercise science major from Southaven, Mississippi.

The Office of Student Development wants this event to make students aware of not only their choices with drugs

and alcohol, but also of what can lead into a worst case scenario. They designed their messages intentionally, in a way that will not lead to a defensive response.

“(The Office of Student Conduct) really just has the best intentions and wants these kinds of messages to be

heard fully, rather than people always thinking that they’re in the worst trouble in the world,” Cunningham said.

The next drug and alcohol awareness seminar will be hosted on April 19 in the St. Francis River Room. in the Student Union.

Paid petitioners collect signatures for recreational marijuana

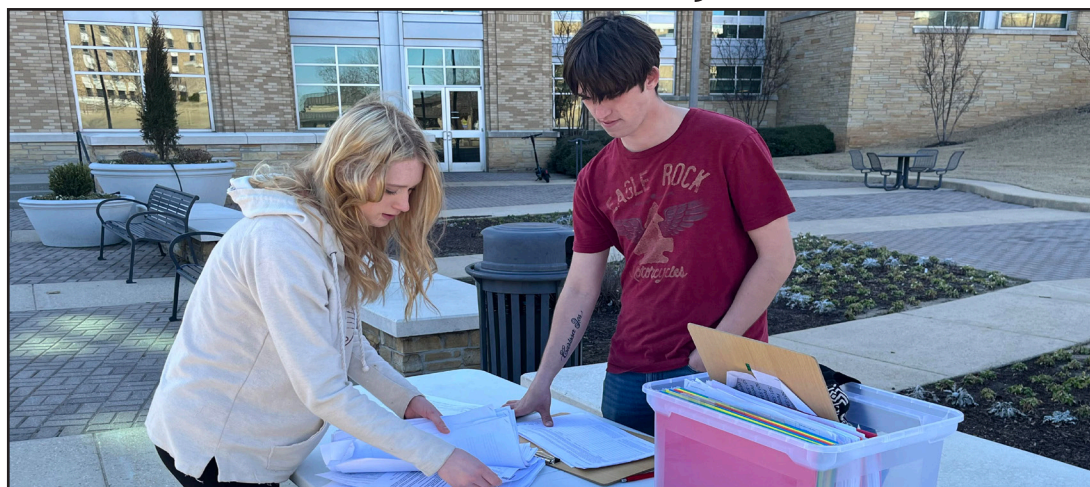


PHOTO COURTESY OF GARRETT HATCHER

Carissa McNamee (left) and Aaron Klemmer (right) are paid petitioners working with the company Advanced Micro Targeting. They travel to highly trafficked locations across Jonesboro and Paragould, such as Walmarts, gas stations, DMVs and courthouses. McNamee and Klemmer came to A-State on Feb. 28. They gathered more than 100 signatures, trying to get recreational marijuana on the ballot. The pair want it to be taxed and regulated and make it legal for people aged 21 and older.

“I’ve seen a lot of people do worse things that are legal, such as alcohol. I just don’t see the point in this, we’re losing a lot of money as a state,” Klemmer said.

McNamee and Klemmer need 86,000 signatures by the end of July to ensure the petition passes. They have been working on the project for just under a month and in total have gathered around 1,000 signatures.

“We’re not trying to necessarily sway anybody, we’re just trying to ask their opinion on something,” Klemmer said.

At the moment, recreational marijuana is illegal in Arkansas. However, due to increased support and other states legalizing it, the pair think the law can change.

CAMPUS CRIME



RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

Feb. 25 | 1:33 p.m.

Officer Sammy Williams received a call from dispatch to meet complainant one at North Park Quads building one room 1107 about a phone scam. When he arrived, Officer Williams spoke to complainant one. He stated that a couple of people added him as friends on Instagram and Snapchat and he added them back. Complainant one said they showed him an indiscriminate photo of himself and stated they would ruin his life by sending the picture to all his friends if he didn’t send them \$500. Complainant one stayed on the phone with them and went to the store, where he bought iTunes cards and sent them the money. He hung up on them and decided to call the police. Officer Williams asked him how they got the picture of him and he stated that he didn’t know.

Feb. 22 | 1:45 p.m.

Victim one came to the Arkansas State University Police Department to report a hit-and-run accident. He stated that while attending a basketball game on Feb. 19, he parked his vehicle near 217 Olympic Drive. Victim one stated he later found that his vehicle had been struck and caused damage. Due to the area that he parked in, there are no cameras that cover the area.

Feb. 21 | 6:35 p.m.

Officer Anthony Gielen spoke with complainant one while at the Arkansas State University Police Department. Complainant one stated she was alerted at approximately 4:51 p.m. by her iPhone that

she was being tracked by an unknown device. Complainant one stated she used the “Find My iPhone” map, which showed a device had begun tracking her at approximately 11:07 a.m. from the Lab Science/Library/Computer Sciences and Mathematics area to her residence hall. Complainant one stated she and an unidentified adult male accompanying her had searched her vehicle for a tracking device similar to an AirTag, but did not locate one. Complainant one stated she does not suspect anyone in particular and this has not previously occurred. Officer Gielen requested that complainant one contact the U.P.D. if she located a tracking device or with any further information.

He enlisted the assistance of Lieutenant Gilliam with checking security video footage and it was determined that the tracking device was likely placed somewhere on complainant one’s person when in the area of Lab Science/Library/Computer Sciences and Mathematics.

Officer Keith Gilliam was