

News

The waterworks

Campus experiences flooding after winter break cold snap

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

Over the winter break, several student living spaces flooded due to frozen sprinkler systems bursting. With the entire state experiencing an unprecedented Arctic blast, Arkansas State University maintenance crews were called in over the break to make repairs.

“We had extremely low temperatures, not even just in general but all of the rest of the state and the mid-south and really the nation. With that when you have temperatures that feel like negative 27 degrees, it causes pipes to freeze. So the sprinkler systems are primarily what froze and then burst,” said Natalie Eskew, executive director of housing.

Affected students received emails notifying them of the initial impact, as well as proper move-in instructions for students who had to move. No students had to be moved off campus.

Eskew encouraged students to check their emails for updates regarding freezing weather. Housing sends out emails instructing students to open their cabinets and drip water if necessary.

“Trust that facilities management is doing what they can. Nobody wants a flooded room. I don’t want

our students to have a flooded room, but there’s only so much that we can do as we go along to make sure that everything is prepared,” Eskew said.

Affected student living spaces included Kays Hall, the first floor of the ROTC/STEM building, Collegiate Park, Pack Place and the Village. More than thirty students had to be relocated.

Along with facilities management, outside contractors were brought in to help with restoration.

Mason Atkins, a sophomore mechanical engineering major from Vilonia, Arkansas, was affected by the flooding. Previously living in Building 3 of Collegiate Park, he and his roommates had to move to Building 6.

After being notified via email about the flooding, Atkins returned to campus a few days later. He said only a few things were damaged, including a lamp, some small mats and a trash can. Atkins added that buying new items cost around \$40.

Atkins said he and his roommates aren’t “the biggest fans” of their new location.

“It’s farther from campus, right next to a pretty active road. My room is the closest one to it and the parking situation is the worst I’ve seen

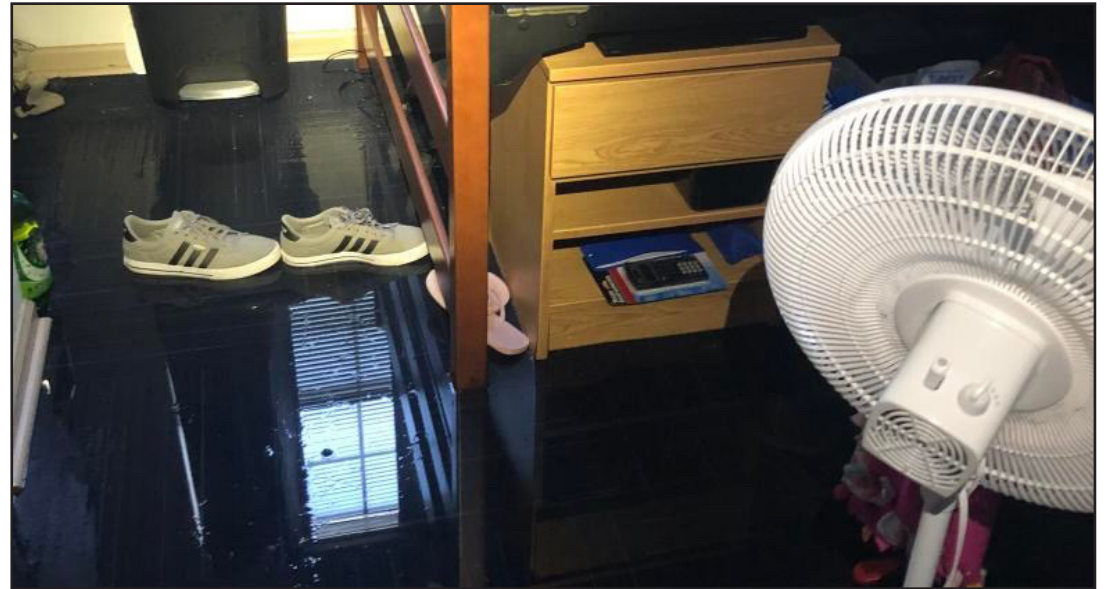
across campus,” Atkins said. “What I mean by that is there are way too many residents for the small parking lot in front of our building. Back at Building 3, we all had ample parking. One upgrade that I like is that we now have built-in carpet in our rooms which is very nice.”

Nicholas Palacios, a junior electrical engineering major from Cabot, Arkansas, returned to his apartment in Collegiate Park Building 5 on Christmas to remove his important items. He said his mattress has a stain on it from cleaning crews placing his wet belongings on it.

“There was water all over the ground and every time you took a step you could see the water rise around your shoe,” Palacios said. “It smelled like stagnant water beginning to mold. Water was dripping from the ceiling in the living room and the walls had condensation on them. In the hallway, the ceiling had caved in and there were pieces of ceiling on the floor.”

Palacios and his roommates now live in Building 1. He added that his new apartment is closer to the Student Union and his classes and that he views it as an improvement from his old apartment.

Facilities management did not respond for an interview.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICHOLAS PALACIOS

The flooding in Nicholas Palacios’ Collegiate Park Building 5 apartment.



A-State announces update on veterinary school



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Those present for the announcement included (from left) Dr. Len Frey, Dr. Todd Shields, Dr. Mickey LaTour, Dr. Jennifer Bouldin, Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch and Dr. Tom Risch.

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

A-State Vets for Arkansas was the message from Chancellor Todd Shields as Arkansas State University provided an update on its plans to open its College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM).

The university would be the sole operator of its new CVM, deciding after a careful period of study to not partner with any outside groups. Starting the process with internal discussions in 2019 on a CVM to complement existing graduate programs, Arkansas State initially considered a public-private partnership agreement to launch a veterinary school. Over the recent months of study, the most cost-efficient pathway in the long run, both for the university and future students, is for A-State to operate internally.

“When I interviewed for the chancellor’s position, I made it

very clear that this was a top priority of mine, and I believe it is also a priority of our faculty, our community and for the people of Arkansas,” Chancellor Shields said. “It gives me great pleasure to announce we will be filing our Letter of Intent and seeking Board of Trustees approval to create our own College of Veterinary Medicine. This will be an A-State degree with A-State faculty and facilities and we are committed to providing more veterinarians to meet the needs of our state.”

As a Carnegie 2 Research university with a deep investment in biosciences including the Arkansas Biosciences Institute, Arkansas State also brings its Agricultural Research and Teaching Farm in Jonesboro along with other agricultural research stations as primary assets to the start of the veterinary program. Arkansas State’s status as a national

doctoral-granting institution with the state’s largest graduate enrollment is another plus.

“We have the opportunity to build the only university location in Arkansas with a medical school, a veterinary school and a long-standing commitment to research,” Shields said. “There is a chance for great cross-disciplinary development.”

“This has been a topic of discussion for three years, but as our discussions and due diligence progressed, our commitment became even stronger,” ASU System President Charles L. Welch said. “Our ASU System Board of Trustees has been enthusiastic about this possibility from the beginning.”

CONTINUED:
VETERINARY, 4A

CAMPUS CRIME



RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

Jan. 11 | 9:12 a.m.

Officer Daniel Bradway was dispatched to 111 N Caraway Road in reference to a bus that had entered the parking garage and gotten stuck. Upon arrival, Bradway noticed that the bus, a 2019 Chevrolet Express Microbus #14, had become wedged between the roof of the garage and the floor.

After calling the proper facilities management personnel, the decision was made to try and put people on the bus to compress the rear suspension enough to back it out. On the way out, Bradway noted that a total of five structures were hit prior to the vehicle getting stuck. Upon entering the garage there is an eight foot clearance beam which the bus did not clear and continued on into the garage.

It is unknown as of this report if any damage was caused to the structure, that will have to be determined by a structural engineer at a later date. The damage to the bus appeared minimal, the flashing beacon on the top was destroyed and the roof of the bus was scratched heavily.

Jan. 4 | 1:16 a.m.

Officer Stephen Montgomery observed a vehicle traveling above the posted speed limit as it traveled westbound on E. Johnson Avenue. Montgomery confirmed this observation by clocking the

vehicle at 54 mph in a 35 mph zone. He initiated a traffic stop on the involved vehicle at the intersection of E. Johnson Ave & State Hwy 91 / Leggett St.

Upon initiating the traffic stop, the vehicle exited the road way and navigated into a residential parking lot. Upon my approach, the driver, suspect one, was issued multiple verbal commands to stop and exit his vehicle prior to his attempt to back into an adjacent parking space. After repeated commands, suspect one exited the vehicle and was instructed to place his hands on the rear of the vehicle to be patted down for weapons.

Suspect one refused to obey yet another lawful command and was subsequently detained into wrist restraints. A search was then conducted of his person, where a clear plastic vile containing a green leafy substance was recovered. Suspect one was then secured in the rear of Montgomery’s marked, caged patrol vehicle in order for the investigation to continue.

A probable cause search was conducted on the involved vehicle, with no additional find. The vehicle was then turned over to a licensed driver on scene, per request of suspect one. Suspect one was charged with speeding—more than 15 MPH over limit, obstructing governmental operations and possession of a controlled substance Schedule VI less than 4 oz.

Jan. 4 | 11:14 p.m.

Officer Stephen Montgomery was conducting foot patrol in the area of 2319 North Street. It was there that he noticed an individual leaning against the commons building of the North Park Quads. Due to the hour of the incident and the numerous thefts which have occurred from residential areas, he made contact with the individual.

Montgomery identified suspect one, where it was confirmed that suspect one had been issued a “persona non grata” from the entire Arkansas State University campus. Suspect one was then secured into double locked wrist restraints, where he was placed into custody for a related offense.

After a search of his person, suspect one began to walk away from the front of the patrol unit where he was told to remain. After he had been issued multiple verbal commands to stop, Montgomery laid hands on suspect one in order to escort him to the rear passenger seat of the patrol unit.

It was then that suspect one began to resist entering the rear of the patrol unit, and attempted to break free from Montgomery’s grasp by flailing his body. Officers were forced to physically command suspect one into the rear of the patrol unit in order for him to be transported. Due to the totality of the circumstances, suspect one was charged with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct.