

CONSTRUCTION, CONTINUED



Photo by Rachel Rudd | Editor-in-Chief

The lounge on the second floor of the Education/Communications Building. Renovation is to be completed by next month.

Also under construction is the lounge on the second floor of the Education/Communications Building. Lance Bryant, associate dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science, said the lounge had not been renovated since the building was constructed.

Construction started at the beginning of the summer and is to be completed within the next month.

“It’s going to bring things up to a place where we hope that the students will be inviting for the students and the students will want to hang out,” Bryant said. “It’s just more modern and more appealing to the student body.”

The patio connected to the lounge has also been worked

on. The wood on the picnic tables has been replaced and new lighting will be installed.

“It’s going to be more inviting, there’s going to be an indoor/outdoor element and we are doing things on the outdoor patio space to make that inviting. We have furniture and outdoor seating that complements the things that they’re doing on the inside of the building,” Bryant said.

Despite the lounge being closed, vending machines are available for use.

There are no plans for any more renovations in the Education/Communications Building at this time.

Facilities Management did not respond for an interview.

Campus and community come together to remember 9/11

SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE
STAFF WRITER

The department of military science, Reserve Officers Training Corps, Jonesboro firefighters and community members gathered at Centennial Bank Stadium to climb the equivalent of 110 stories to honor the steps taken by firefighters, emergency medical technicians and other responders in the World Trade Center.

Beginning at 6 a.m. on Sept. 11, the climb concluded at 9 a.m.

“It’s important for people to remember the sacrifices and all the lives that were lost,” said Joshua Driver, a Jonesboro firefighter. “It’s only been a little over 20 years and it feels like it’s more of a joke now than it is something to remember like an actual tragedy.”

Lt. Col. Morgan Weatherly started this event in 2021 after seeing the lack of a 9/11 memorial in Jonesboro.

“Having been in service for over 21 years, I’ve lost friends, peers and mentors, and soldiers that were under my charge. If not for our nation’s involvement in the Global War on Terrorism, I’m confident that those individuals would still be here,” Weatherly said. “I didn’t personally know anyone that was present at the World Trade Center on the day that the towers were taken down, but I’ve still lost,” Weatherly said.

“I possess nine memorial bracelets that remind me of those friends and colleagues who are no longer with us,” Weatherly said, pointing out the bracelets on his arm. “So to me, it’s the ensuing aftermath which has left the largest impression on my life,” Weatherly added.

The majority of the student population at Arkansas State University wasn’t alive yet or are too young to remember 9/11.

Lt. Col. Morgan Weatherly said there is always going to be

some level of disconnect with this, but some younger people do have a connection with it.

“Unless you just have an affinity for service to your nation or a deep love of patriotism, you might not have that and I know that something I felt was waning in the country right now,” Weatherly said. “Hopefully just bringing awareness to a situation and reminding people that this is something that happened and this is why our nation is kind of in the state of not being able to agree.”

Madelyn Cunningham, a junior studying mid level education from Batesville, said her sister was only two months old and “she wasn’t even thought of yet” on Sept 11, 2001.

Sara Low, a Batesville High School alumni who went to high school with Cunningham’s mother, was a flight attendant on the first plane to crash into the Twin Towers.

Cunningham said she did



Photo by Shailey Wooldridge | Staff Writer

A-State Army ROTC students participating in the memorial stair climb. Those in attendance climbed the equivalent of 110 stories to honor the steps taken by firefighters, emergency medical service technicians and other first responders.

several relays in track over the gun signaling the town forever,” Cunningham said. the years in remembrance beginning of those races. of Low. Low’s father shot “It’s going to impact that

The experience of a lifetime

REBECCA ROBINSON
NEWS EDITOR

Clay Sherrod, Ph.D., visited Jonesboro First National Bank Arena to give a presentation on the historic April 8, 2024 eclipse. The presentation was free and open to the public with approximately 40 in attendance.

“We look forward to this educational tool this evening. I know it will be very informative,” Mayor Harold Copenhaver said. “I am looking forward to him sharing his wisdom from his personal experiences and how we can prepare as a community.”

Sherrod began studying astronomy in 1970 with Arkansas Sky, Inc. He serves as the executive director for the Arkansas Sky observatory on Petit Jean mountain. Sherrod gave insight for what to expect during the eclipse and how the community can prepare.

“Solar eclipses are extremely rare. That’s why people get excited about them, we like adventures,” Sherrod said.

“This one is going to be the granddaddy of all eclipses ever to have happened on North American soil.”

This eclipse will be the darkest eclipse ever witnessed in America. Jonesboro’s location is on the eastern edge of the totality zone making Jonesboro a destination for those wanting to see the eclipse in totality. Jonesboro is expecting an additional 50,000 to 100,000 in town for the eclipse.

“If you are a business person, if you own a restaurant or a hotel or you sell doodads on Main Street you can sell the heck out of stuff. T-shirts, cups, bumper stickers,” Sherrod said.

In a majority of the places in the totality area hotels and booking is already completely full. Sherrod urges business to be prepared for the inflow of people, and to take advantage of some of the business opportunities eclipse viewers will bring like merchandising and using bigger parking lots for camping.

Carrie White, chairmen

of the Mayor’s Eclipse Committee, was in attendance at the presentation. She has been helping organize events and making sure small businesses are prepared.

“I’m excited because I think it’s a great opportunity for our community, it’s going to have a huge economic impact,” White said.

Sherrod also talked about the best tools to view the eclipse are your eyes.

“Everybody has heard not to look at the sun during an eclipse. Well that should be worded, don’t ever look at the sun,” Sherrod said. “You’re not getting any more radiation out of the sun during an eclipse than you would if you were on the beach in Pensacola. There is no magic radiation coming out of the sun.”

Sherrod also discussed wanting eclipse glasses to look at the sun while the moon is passing to make sure they are approved by NASA and have ISO certification and to stay wary of fake or knock offs being sold.

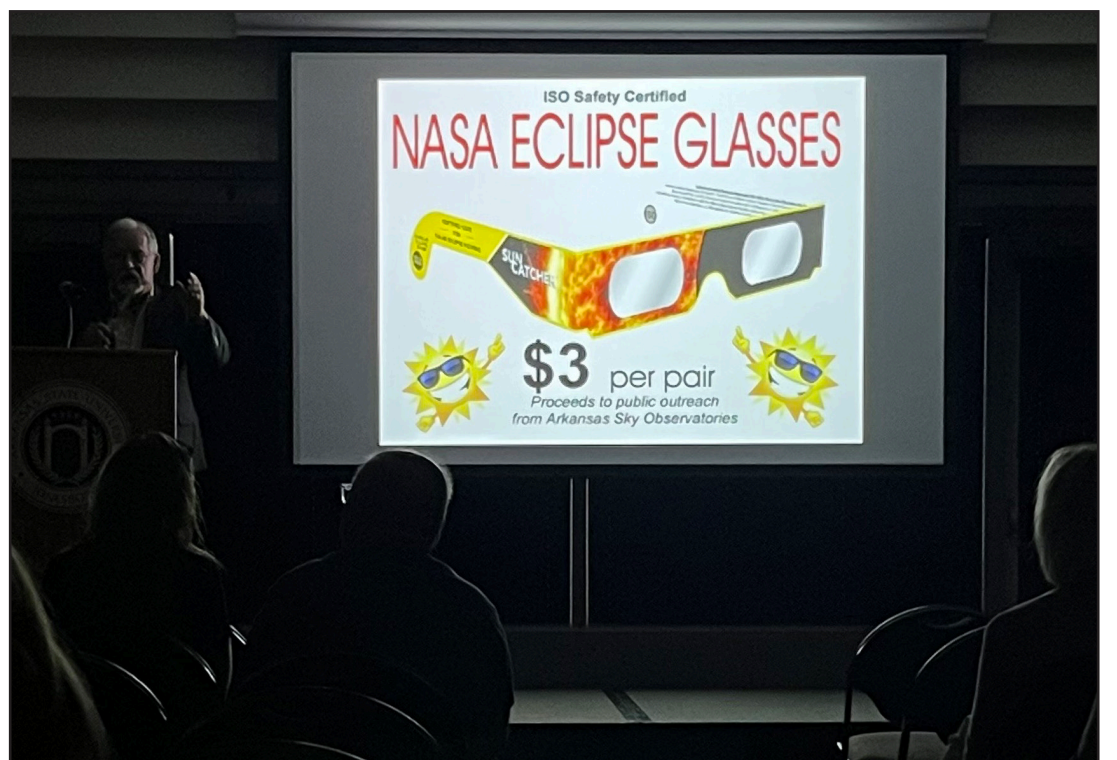


Photo by Marissa Pirtle | Staff Writer

Clay Sherrod, Ph.D., giving a presentation about the April 8, 2024 eclipse. The eclipse will be visible in Jonesboro from 12:37 p.m. to 3:14 p.m.

“If you can see the little edge of the sun and all the sudden something wrong with your glasses and you can’t see the

sun is behind the moon, take your glasses off or you’re not going to see totality because there’s no light,” Sherrod said.

Students hoping to catch the eclipse can view it between 12:37 p.m. and 3:14 p.m. The eclipse reaches totality at 1:56 p.m.