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PAYDIRT

Dogs of NMT
p. 7/8

Good Boy Edition
March 9th, 2020



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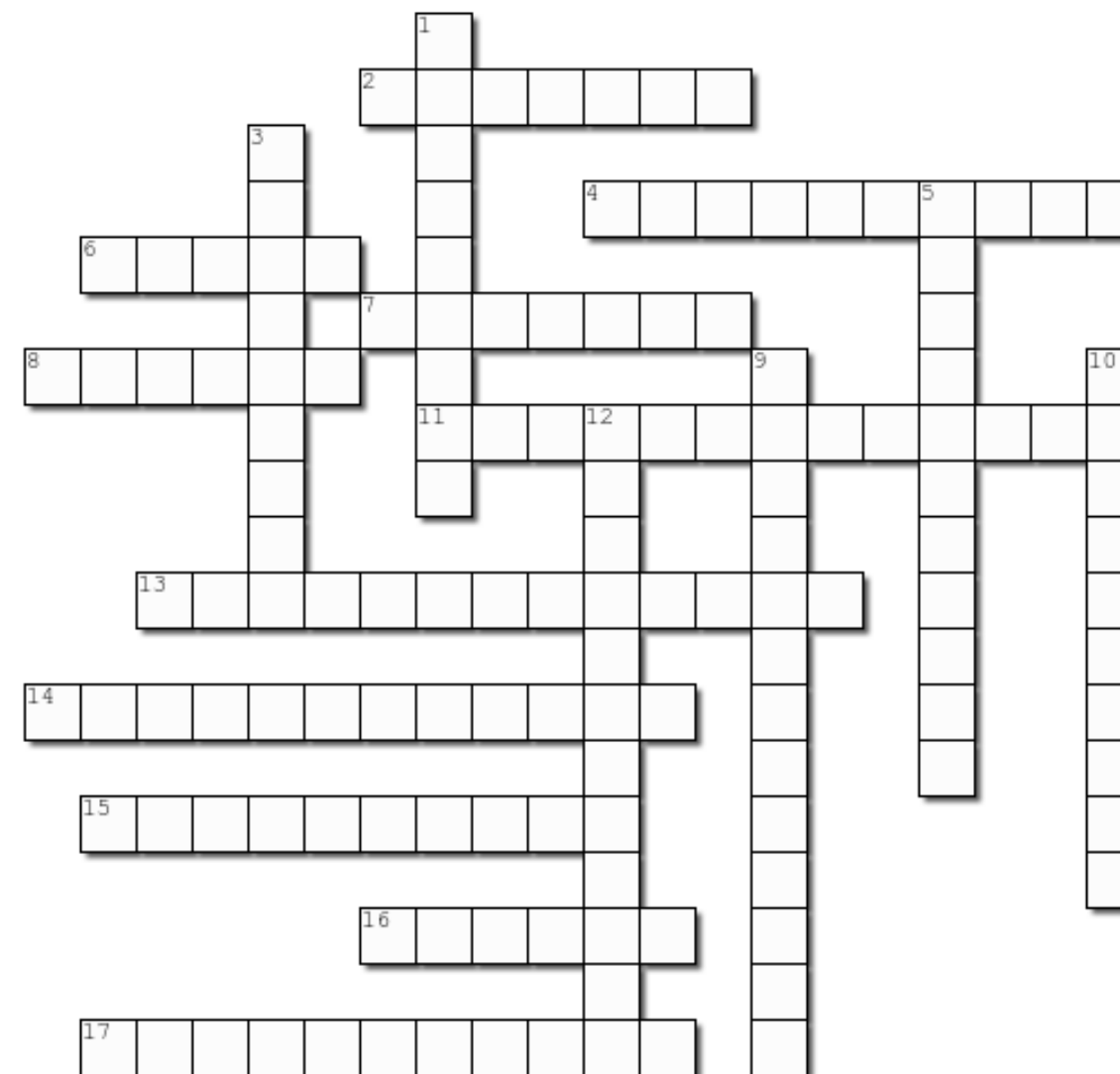
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SGA Meeting Rundown: 3/3/20

- CORRECTION:** Paydirt previously stated that new Chemical and Mineral Engineering Graduate Programs have been approved. Paydirt was informed that this is incorrect; the programs have a way to go before being offered. Paydirt apologizes for this error and any confusion it may have caused.
- The SGA is working with Dr. Phaiah to find a larger room to host meetings.
- There will be a Tech Funday March 28th, serving as a pre-Spring Fling event.
- Student Life is looking to loosen up class attendance policies to accommodate sick students.
- Protocols are being prepared in case of a Coronavirus outbreak at NMT.
- At the state level, \$32 million was allocated to financial aid programs in House Bill 2, increasing tuition coverage via the Lottery Scholarship.
- The Socorro Youth Soccer League, AYSO, is looking for referees. No previous experience is required. Training will be held early March. Email mbaranuk@yahoo.com for more information.

RPG Franchises Crossword

Hey, listen! Here's a crossword based on some various Role Playing Game Franchises! These are based on video games, so tabletop games like DnD are not here.



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

- a) It's (b) but with guns.
- This tactical RPG boasts many characters and classes.
- Synonyms: tale, legend, fantasy
- 'Gotta catch 'em all!'
- AKA Earthbound.
- This franchise created one of the most popular titles for speed-runners.
- Known for having a crazy, unfocused storyline.
- Almost all 15+ games in this franchise have separate story-lines.
- This Eastern-European novel-to-game franchise recently received a TV series.
- 'By three they come.'
- Known for its cute design of Slimes.

Down

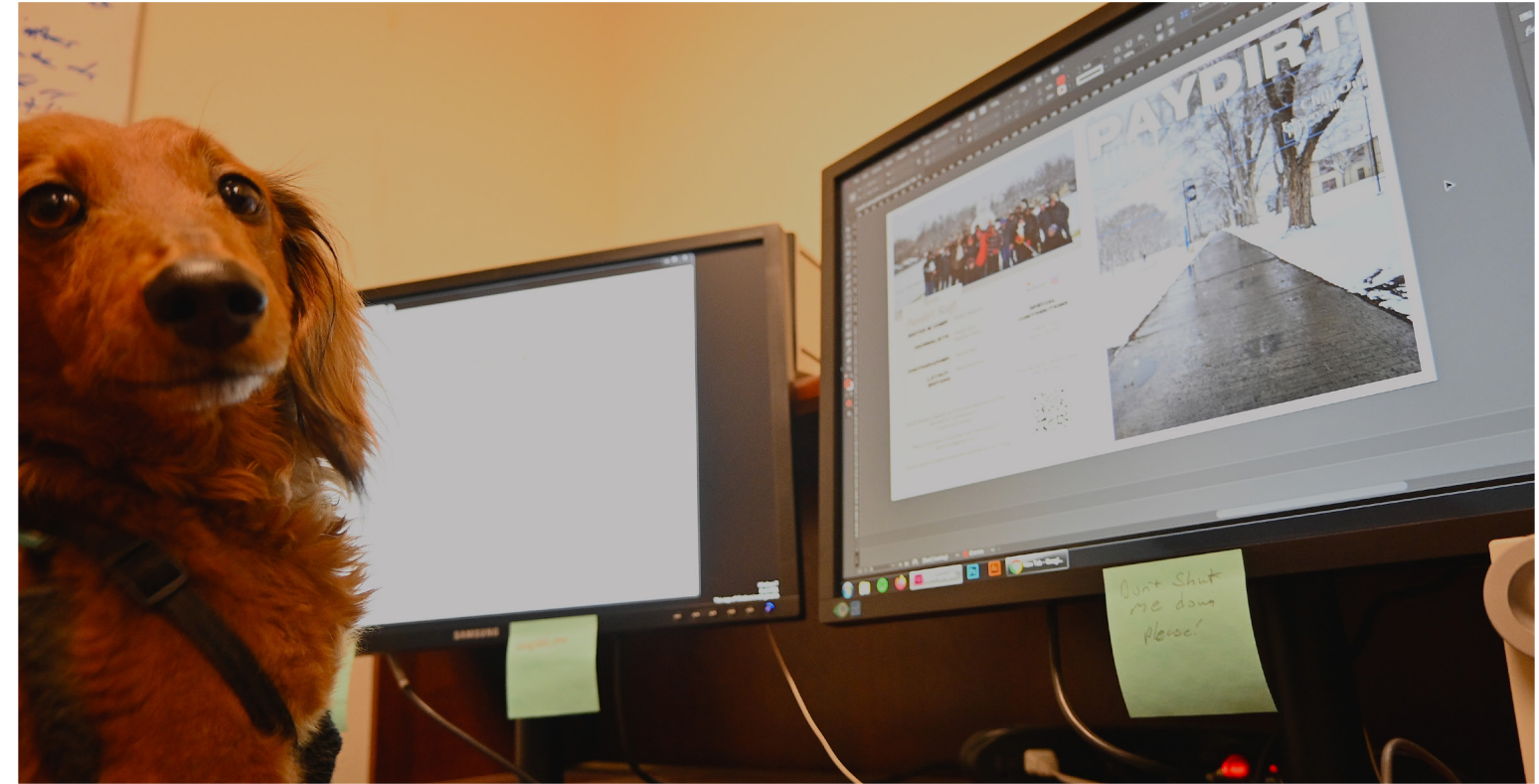
- 'Praise the Sun!'
- What rises in the east, and sets in the west?
- This franchise is to release a new title soon, almost 20 years after its last game.
- Similar in concept to Shadow of the Colossus.
- 'I'm in the middle of some calibrations.'
- b) It's (a) but with magic.

Relax and Unwind

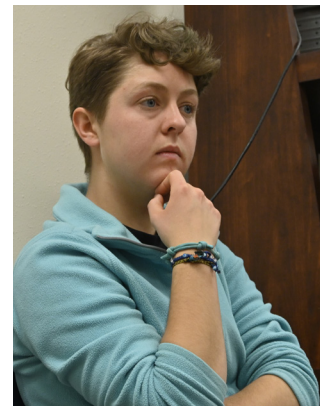
"The best way to meditate is through meditation itself." - Ramana Maharshi



Meet The Staff



Honorary Member: Jasper

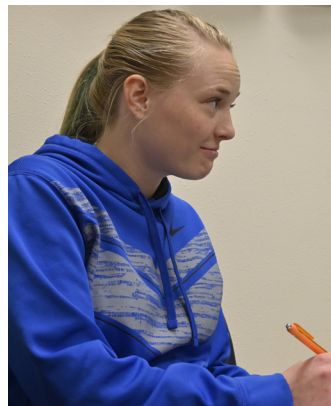


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Journalist: Katelyn Green

Layout Editor: Jaime Mendoza



Sports and Athletics

"I try to separate my personal life from swimming." - Michael Phelps

NMT Sports Highlights

Men's Rugby

The men's team will have a 7's tournament in Dallas Texas on March 7th and will play 4-5 games (Ahead of time so no scores). The weekend of Spring Break the men's team has an away 15's game against the University of Denver one day and then they play Regis University the next day. In the future the men's team will play a tournament at UTEP and in Albuquerque.

Women's Rugby

The womens team hosted a game against UNM on February 22nd. Sadly, they lost to the Lobos 31-15. Their next game will be March 28th in Albuquerque at the Zia 7's tournament.

Golf

Right now the golf team has 20 active members and have played over 30 rounds of golf. They have used over 60 tokens of driving range. Golf plays a social round every Friday: anyone is welcome to come and play. They expect more people to come out and play as it gets warmer and the days get longer. Come out and play some golf!

Running

The running team practices are Wednesdays and Fridays at 2:30pm. They had a race on the weekend of February 28th in Las Cruces with its beautiful mountain scenery. Join the running team, they are always looking for more runners!

Swimming

The newest club to Tech has 19 active members and 12-15 students show up to practices regularly. Practice is Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 8:30-9:30pm. By next year, the swim team hopes to compete against other schools if they get sponsored by New Mexico Master Swimming. On February 29th, the Swim team had a friendly swim meet here at Tech between the students on the team.

Climbing

Climbing club had a competition in Colorado Springs March 6th. Regionals will be coming up March 28th. They are also hosting a climbing competition at home here in April.

E-gaming

E-gaming has started off the season strong with 7 more game wins than last season. Another team just started their season off 1-0. The club went to Los Angeles the weekend of March 6th.



Science and Research

"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value." -Albert Einstein

Degg Griego and Geology at Tech

New Mexico Tech has its origins as a mining school, and here in the middle of the desert we are still well situated for such work. What form does that take, though? To learn more, Paydirt spoke to Degg Griego, an Earth Science (ES) student who also works for the Bureau of Geology. He told us about his work and interests, as well as about the ES department in general.

Like many kids, Degg was interested in paleontology. But unlike many, his passion developed past dinosaurs to a wider spread of concepts and organisms, such as marine invertebrates. This served him well when he took the very last paleontology class ever offered at Tech, and has given him an appreciation of geology that has persisted throughout the course of his degree.

However, there are "no jobs in paleontology," he explained, so his interests now lie in hydrology. It is a very broad field and includes areas such as surface water, glaciers, meteorology, ecohydrology, and also groundwater, which is Degg's focus. Groundwater is a growing field, in part because of concerns over water availability due to climate change. It is also a difficult and computationally heavy discipline, involving a good deal of math, fluid dynamics, and physics.

Degg is confident facing these challenges because of his background in information technology and programming. He currently works at the Bureau of Geology as their IT support, specifically as the person who "fixes all the machines," he said. As such he has to know about what work the geologists are doing. He said the work is "busy but very easygoing," since people are focused on their science. "It's weird having a job where I look forward to the work," he admitted, explaining that it is "really nice feeling like my work is valued."

The Bureau has many subdivisions. Mapping is a very important part, and one tool they use is drone surveys. Geochemistry, volcanology, hydrogeology, and economic geology (such as assessing mining effects) are other research areas, and there is a good deal of educational outreach as well. But while the Bureau is closely related to Tech, it is in fact a separate entity from Tech and our Earth Science department.

Earth Science is a lot more than just looking at rocks, although "a lot of people don't realize how interesting rocks are," Degg said. He said ES is "one of those majors where you can do a lot for the world... you can have a fulfilling career that involves a lot of getting outside."

Speaking of outside, Paydirt learned that ES has a program called field camp, the geology equivalent of senior thesis or senior design. This required class, taken over the summer, involves six

weeks of camping in the desert with a small group and working to map out the area. It is "very very physically and mentally demanding," said Degg. Students hike 10-12 miles per day, carrying all the supplies they need to both take care of themselves and to map the area very accurately. They must figure out the locations of rock formations and how they could have gotten there. "It fundamentally changes how you view the landscape," Degg noted. The social aspect of working with a small group for an extended amount of time is also noteworthy.

Unsurprisingly based on these experiences, Degg the feeling that understanding our planet is very important. He sees climate change, pollution, and lack of clean water as some of the most important issues we face, and explained that the science shows that the "consequences of consumerism will [have an] effect in our lifetime." He would be interested in getting into water management down the line, but for now wants to "work in the field" to help people get clean water and use it efficiently. This is an admirable goal and Paydirt wishes him all the best.

- Evelyn Byrd

11:00am to 1:00pm
March 9th-13th

GATHER THE GANG AND GET YOUR GAME ON!

LEGALLY LIT

Come and play an informative boardgame with the NMT ASAP program in the Fidel Atrium.

Drink Smart
ASAP
ALCOHOL SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Resources and Capabilities of the SAC

The SAC, or Student Activity Center, is somewhat secluded from the rest of campus. Located behind Torres and in front of South, it often goes unnoticed and, some would say, underappreciated. Despite this, the SAC offers a large number of services and resources to students, most of them free. I sat down with Student Activity Technical Director Casey Aumack, previously seen in Paydirt's KTEK article, to talk about what the SAC can do.

I first asked Casey to give me a general list of the resources that the SAC can provide to Tech students. He divided the list into four sections: Atrium, Studio, Rentals, and Offices. Casey detailed the Atrium first:

C: "We can host dances, raves, parties, fashion shows, bands, plays, movies, gaming events, etc. We will be holding a 16 hour charity livestream with E-sports. People can come in [the SAC] and learn how to be a technician, even if they don't want to participate in events. We can do almost anything that needs a stage, or equipment, or lighting. Pretty much anything Macey [Center] can do at a miniature scale. They have more 'stuff,' but here it's student run and student organized. At Macey it's a little more 'corporate.'

Continuing with his point about teaching technicians, Casey mentioned that there will be big training sessions in the near future for sound and lighting. At the time of publication, most of these dates will have passed, but he had also mentioned that there might be lighting training on the 22nd, so be on the lookout for information if you are interested.

This led into the capabilities of the SAC's recording studio, and then Casey only briefly described the status of KTEK, as Paydirt previously wrote about KTEK in our last issue during the Fall 2019 semester.

C: "The Studio is for audio editing, podcasts, recording, radio show hosting, etc. We have 4 dedicated mics but we can do more. We can record bands: it's a significantly sound proofed [room.] It's open to anyone, but we require that during your first few sessions a [team member] sits in to make sure everything is being run appropriately. After that, you can get a card encoded and then come in at any time to use the space. However, it can only be used for things like recording, not studying [or otherwise.] We encourage you to put your content on KTEK, but it's not required.

C: (In regards to KTEK) "We have a dedicated server running our web stream on studio2.nmt.edu:8882. Currently we are running one show, being Bob Ross from 8-9pm. More DJs are planned to be on the radio in the near future. We are working towards moving to a website that will more permanently host the web stream as well as hold all event details about the SAC and KTEK.

The SAC can also rent out equipment to students as needed.

C: "Anything that's not bolted down in the SAC or Studio that isn't in current use can be rented out. [We have] K2 speakers that are used at most outdoor events or when people are running a conference to amp their voice. We have a mobile sound unit and mobile snake (which is like an extension cable.) we have basic lighting with our mobile light unit, mics, stands, music stands, turntables, mixers. We also have unpowered speakers, but those are usually less powerful, [requiring] an actual amp to amplify the sounds. If you wish to rent out equipment, we have rental forms at our SAC offices.

Finally, Casey ended by talking about the actual Offices that the SAC has.

C: "Our offices are in the SAC, across from the Atrium, up the stairs, to the right. Once in there, you'll walk into an open room with a big meeting table for any questions you may have to address them in an open space. We have refreshments to make the office feel more inviting. We use this space to deal with more 'business' type matters. My office hours are 2-5pm Tuesday and Thursdays. The Head Tech and Head DJ's office hours are 2:30-4pm on the same days.

Before we ended our interview, Casey also mentioned that there have been plans to move Campus Police out of the SAC, opening up new offices and meeting spaces for students and the like. If you have any questions or would like to take advantage of any of the above resources, contact Casey at nmt.sga.satd@gmail.com.

-Skyler Matteson

Student Spotlight

"Archery requires very sensitive muscles." -Im Dong-Hyun

Molly Olander-Archery



Archery is a popular sport worldwide and takes a certain level of strength and lots of practice to become proficient at it. Molly Olander, a sophomore here at Tech who's majoring in Chemical Engineering, has seemed to master the art of archery, so much that she competes competitively. She was in girl scouts for several years and was first introduced to archery at a camp. She continued practicing, and now has 6 years of archery experience.

Molly started off competing with a club team that was not part of her high school team. The academy she trained with was the Junior Olympic Archery Development club in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which is a national organization. Molly has done several in state shoots, and has also competed in Arizona and Texas. She went to a shoot in Texas that was called the "Texas Shootout." It was a national competition hosted at A&M University. She also attended a tournament in Glendale Arizona where she placed second. Molly explained that she shoots about 120 arrows to get ready for competitions compared to 30-60 arrows for recreational shooting. Molly holds 7 state records and her farthest shot was an astounding 80 yards!

Molly doesn't shoot as much anymore because of school, but she still does it for fun. Molly said, "I won't compete competitively again because that takes a lot of training that I don't have time for, but I will still do it for fun when I can." When talking about stances in archery, she added that she likes to do "whatever feels

natural and is simple." Molly uses an olympic style recurve bow. It typically achieves higher scores than a barebow. Molly said that "the most important factor is shooting the style you enjoy most. Keep in mind when choosing a style, that you will compete against other people who use the same style."

Molly talked about the differences between compound bows and olympic style bows. She said, "Compound bows have a let off (uses cables and cams to store energy and reduce the holding weight at full draw. This reduction in holding weight at full draw is called "let-off," and is calculated as a percentage of the overall draw weight that you can hold onto for longer). Olympic style recurves are taller bows and don't have a let off. That's how it differs, I'm not sure exactly why the olympic style recurve is used in the olympics and not the other one."

Archery has been around for a long time and is continuing to grow in popularity today. If you want to try something new archery is a great place to start. Molly ended her interview with some great advice and said, "Archery is a great stress relief and I would recommend it to people even if you aren't good at it. It's still fun to shoot arrows. Try archery, you won't regret it."

-Katelyn Green

Go See Do

"As a writer, one is busy with archaeology." - Michael Ondaatje

Bursum Springs Group Hike



An excellent fossil find prompts a spontaneous geology lesson. (Photo credit: Kaaren Goncz)

One of the many fossils spotted along the way. (Photo credit: Eshani Hettiarachchi)

Sunday, March 1 brought a beautiful morning for the NMT Hiking Club's most recent expedition. The hike was at Bursum Springs in the Quebrada Mountains just east of town, which is a popular and scenic place to visit. A picture of the main pool, taken on a previous group hike, has even graced the cover of Paydirt in the past.

The hike started atop a hill overlooking the springs. After walking down and admiring the main spring pool, the group ventured up the wash for about 1.5 miles. The cliffs, water-polished rocks, and even a few pools of water along the way helped this hike stand out from others in the area.

This time, the 11 member hiking group consisted of students, faculty, and community members. It included Cynthia Connolly, a geologist from the Bureau of Geology, whose impromptu geology lessons were well received by the group. Fossils remaining from when New Mexico was covered by a shallow inland sea were common during the course of the hike. Also found were perfect pale circles on

the red rocks, indicating the presence of microbial growth. Even in the middle of the desert, the Techies appreciated the science.

Once the canyon flattened and the wash broadened into a wider, sandy strip, the group cut south to exit the canyon. They passed a cement tank and a rusty, wheeled metal container full of bullet holes. Some members enjoyed venturing briefly into the entry tunnel of an old mine, where they did not encounter any fun surprises. After following the old road for a while, the group closed the loop by returning to the springs along the top of a nearby ridge. The entire hike was 3.3 miles and took 2 hours and 20 minutes to complete.

The next group hike is on Sunday, March 29, on the Socorro Valley Trail located at the end of Otero Street. If you are interested in joining the group, email melissa.begay@nmt.edu.

- Evelyn Byrd

and do not realize they are in the exact same position as so many other students. And the OCDS is there to help everyone.

Another option is the Health Center for medical assistance. The Health Center and OCDS work very closely together, explained Hannah Quigg, the Center's Nurse Practitioner. Hannah has been a nurse for over ten years and an NP for four years, and came to Tech two years ago. Before that, she worked in family medicine and specialized in women's health and cardiology.

Of the 20 students Hannah sees every day, at least 3 are there for a mental health issue. She is able to write prescriptions to help with a variety of psychiatric issues, and can also refer students with more specific or extensive needs to her colleague Dr. Courtney at Socorro Mental Health.

Finally, students in need of support may also reach out to Dr. Peter Phaiah, one of the key figures involved in non-academic support of students. He is the Dean of Students, Title IX Coordinator, Acting VP of Student Life, and SGA Advisor. He has worked at Tech for almost two and a half years now.

One of the many issues Dr. Phaiah works on is mental health, and he tackles it from a variety of angles. He coordinates groups, including ASAP and student clubs, to hold seminars that increase awareness, sensitivity, and self-determination of Techies. His goal is to address issues holistically, so that students get the support they need. He tries to make the best use of limited resources by focusing on known issues like the "red zone," which is the time between the semester start and Thanksgiving that freshman girls are most likely to experience sexual assault.

One more resource for students to help each other is the Behavioral Intervention Team. The core members of this group are Dr. Phaiah, Angela, Dr. Peter Mozley, and the Chief of Police. This group takes in and assesses information about student behavior that might need intervention, such as showing signs of being a threat to themselves or others, and takes action as necessary. The team follows a guide used by other universities to rate the threat

level, and keeps everything as confidential as possible. If you are concerned that a student may be in crisis, you can contact the team via an anonymous online form.

Clearly, there are a lot of mental health resources at Tech. "The biggest issue," said Dr. Phaiah, "is asking for help." Students might feel like it is wrong or weak to admit they are having a rough time, which is perfectly understandable- it can be a scary thing! But if you had a broken leg you would go get help, and mental health is just as important to take care of. Like Angela said, when you are feeling bad you "have to try something different" to improve the situation. And the OCDS, the Health Center, the Dean of Students, and the Behavioral Intervention Team are all there to help.

OCDS website and intake form:
nmt.edu/cds/counseling

Health Center:
<https://www.nmt.edu/studenthealth>

Dr. Phaiah:
deanofstudents@npe.nmt.edu

Behavioral Intervention Team:
nmt.edu/bit

- Evelyn Byrd

Mental Health Resources at Tech



New Mexico Tech: “where the smart kids go”, right? This comment is often directed towards Techies, and it’s not wrong. Tech is tough and everyone here works hard. But you can’t learn it all in a textbook, and one thing that definitely takes some work to figure out is how to be aware of and take care of your mental health.

Here is some information on the different services and resources available for students, including how they work and who runs them.

The Office of Counseling and Disability Services (OCDS) offers free counseling to any Tech student enrolled in 6 or more credit hours. It offers individual and couple’s counseling, and also holds workshops and events throughout the year. There are two therapists, so if one does not quite work for a student they are welcome to change to the other. Outside referral is also an option if necessary.



Angela Gautier is one therapist, and is the Director of the OCDS. She has 20 years experience in mental health care, and specializes in crisis work. She has been at Tech for three years now, and finds our school different and unique, with a narrower range of mental health concerns than her previous non-school experiences.

Laura Barker, the other therapist, has been at Tech for two years now. She specializes in short-term goal oriented therapy, which is commonly what college students need. “Working with college students is a passion of mine,” she explained. Along with a chance to chat, she offers students stickers, candy, and “jokes of questionable quality,” she said.

The OCDS has hundreds of visits each semester, including both new and returning patients. A lot of what students at Tech have to deal with are depression, anxiety, and stress, so the center is very well equipped to help with those issues. Like Angela explained, “people feel so alone,”

The circles are a clear sign of microbial activity, even out in the middle of the desert. (Photo credit: Eshani Hettiarachchi)



This trip’s hiking group. (Photo credit: Andrew Aliser)



Dog Spotlight

"I love pets, especially dogs." -Jurgen Klopp

Dogs of NMT

NMT boasts a variety of different students, professors, faculty members, etc. And many of them have their own diverse pets that can be seen running around campus. Interested, I interviewed students, graduate students, and professors about their dogs here at NMT. Anything is pawsible with these awesome pets, they are sure to leave you howling, come take a look.

Molly-Beagle

Owner: Ryan Himes, Sophomore at NMT majoring in Civil Engineering

(Paydirt) How long have you had Molly and where did you get her?

Ryan: I have had Molly since 2013. I got her when she was 2 years old from a family friend in Taos who raised their own beagles.

What is your favorite activity to do with her?

R: She loves hikes, and always loves to sniff everything, she loves to do her own thing.

Can Molly do any tricks?

R: Only when she wants to, she is well trained. She can sit, stay, and loves to get her belly rubbed.

What do you love most about Molly?

R: I love how friendly she is towards everyone and I love her curiosity!

Is it beneficial having a dog in college?

R: Absolutely, it's like having a best friend with you at all times. I love having the continuous moral support and love, it's great! A dog will always love you uncondition.



Loki-Australian Shepard

Owner: Talysa Ogas, 3rd year Biotechnology PhD student

How long have you had Loki and where did you get him?

Talysa: I have had Loki for 3 years and got him in Belen.

What is your favorite activity to do with him?

T: I absolutely love to play frisbee with him, catch, and go on walks with him.

Can Loki do any tricks?

T: He can sit, shake, lay down, and is really good at catching the frisbee.

What do you love most about Loki?

T: Loki is me and my husbands pup son and our world revolves around Loki. He loves to cuddle and is an all around sweet and good natured dog.

Is it beneficial having a dog in college?

T: Yes, it is super beneficial however, it is not easy. I'm lucky that i'm a grad student so I don't have to many classes because he needs a lot of attention and daily exercise. It's a gigantic time commitment, but I would hate not having him. If you can put in the time, then having a dog is extremely beneficial to anyone's overall happiness.



Maple-Corgi

Owner: Henry Prager, 5th year Graduate Student Physics major.

How long have you had Maple and where did you get her?

Henry: I have had Maple for three years and got her when she was 8 weeks old from a breeder in Belen.

What is your favorite activity to do with her?

H: Me and Maple play Pokemon go because she loves to walk. She loves to be outside and just walk.

Can Maple do any tricks?

H: Maple can sit, shake, high five, double high five, wave, and catch.

What do you love most about Maple?

H: I love how friendly she is towards everyone and the attention she gets from everyone is so adorable. She is so well behaved and I love that I can take her to class with me.

Is it beneficial having a dog in college?

H: Yes, being a graduate student is tough and I sit at my desk for hours at a time and Maple helps me get outside and get a break from all of my work. Having a dog is a great stress relief and I love having Maple by my side.



Jasper-Dachshund

Owner: Julie Ford, Mechanical Engineering Professor, has been at Tech since 2003.

How long have you had Jasper and where did you get him?

Julia: We have had Jasper for 6 years and we got him from the New Mexico Dachshund Rescue Society.

What is your favorite activity to do with him?

J: We love to give him belly rubs and he has a PhD in barking.

Can Jasper do any tricks?

J: He burps after every meal and he eats a lot. He can sit and stand on his hind legs and jump. He once ate a stick of butter and he loves to get into the dishwasher.

What do you love most about Jasper?

J: I love how friendly he is and he has a great personality. He loves to cuddle and burrow under the blankets.

Is it beneficial having a dog in college?

J: I think dogs add so much to our lives, so yes, absolutely, having a dog in college is a great thing.

-Katelyn Green



If you are interested in adopting a dog visit the Socorro Animal Shelter and Adoption center at the location of: 100 Airport Rd, Socorro, NM 87801.

