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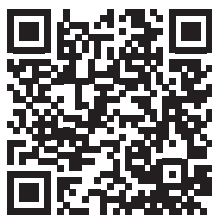
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Sauce: to Project Hail Mary Movie.

Loss: to the University Place 1 gate being broken.

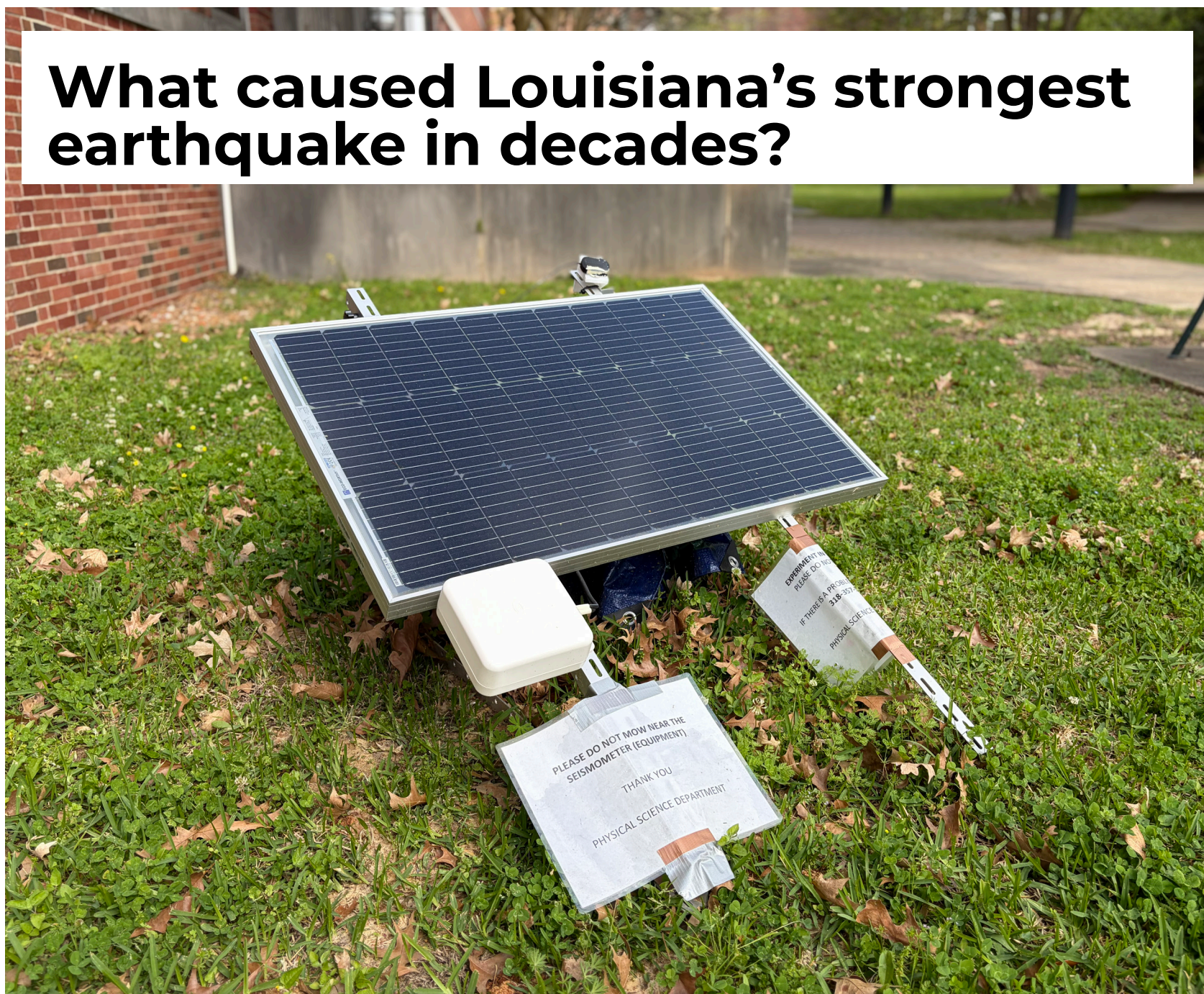
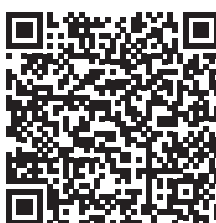
Sauce: to the new Chick-fil-A sandwich.

Loss: to Vic's and ForkStop not selling Red bull.

Sauce: to Demon Fest.

Loss: to filing taxes.

Have a Sauce or a Loss? Submit here!



By Timothy Reeder
News Editor

After an earthquake hit Louisiana, the first in almost a decade, Northwestern State University of Louisiana and Tulane University are collaborating to collect seismic data from natural and induced events for research. NSU's seismograph is located outside Fournet Hall. **Photo by Lalaina Wood**

On March 5, 2026, a 4.9-magnitude earthquake hit Louisiana, marking it as the strongest recorded earthquake in the state since 1950.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the earthquake occurred around 5:30 a.m. about 35 miles southeast of Shreveport, near the town of Coushatta. The earthquake was felt more than 100 miles away, with over 1,500 people reporting the shake through the "Did You Feel It?" system, a system used to collect information on earthquakes.

"This is the largest documented earthquake in Louisiana since at least 1950," Jessica Sigala, USGS geophysicist, said.

Although earthquakes in Louisiana aren't unheard of, there is growing evidence that show a shift toward a higher frequency. Since 2020, Louisiana has seen at least 10 earthquakes with a magnitude of 3.0 or greater, far greater than those in previous decades.

The shake itself might have alarmed residents, but

the impact was reported to be minimal at most. However, there is reason to believe that there may be risks to infrastructure.

Dr. Christopher Lyles, director of STEM and associate professor of biology at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, explained that although Louisiana is not prone to seismic events, certain engineered environments could still be vulnerable.

"Areas such as landfills, old mines or carbon capture sites are designed to contain potentially harmful substances," Lyles said. "If any seismic activity compromises those barriers, there is a potential for contamination to migrate into surrounding environments."

Lyles went on to add that, although the overall risk may seem low, there are already signs of geological disturbances. In one nearby excavation site, sand was reported to be pushed back towards the surface due to a subsurface pressure change caused by the earthquake. However, most infrastructure that was impacted was largely due to age.

Despite infrastructure damage, there are no immediate concerns to public health.

"A small earthquake like this would not cause direct public health concerns," Lyles said. "But indirect effects, like bridge closures, sinkholes or water system disruptions, could impact daily life."

It's expected that this won't be the only seismic activity, and aftershocks are expected. "We have located six aftershocks," Sigala said. "The largest aftershock is a magnitude 4.4 that occurred on March 9, and there is about an eight percent chance of having a magnitude 4 or larger within the next week."

The earthquake itself came with no clear indication and wasn't linked to any known activity in the surrounding areas. This is especially concerning since Louisiana is known to be a low seismic area, with the nearest fault system being located in Arkansas near the Gulf Coast.

"This earthquake occurred in a region that's typically

considered low risk for seismic activity and isn't tied to any known fault activity," Sigala confirmed.

This increase in activity has also led to the collaboration of researchers at both NSU and Tulane University to review these changes.

"Historically, Louisiana hasn't maintained an extensive seismic monitoring program because activity has been so limited," Lyles said. "We were fortunate to have installed the seismograph just prior to this recent earthquake activity and have contributed to collecting valuable baseline data as these seismic events occur and increase. Louisiana is not necessarily unprepared for this; we just have less operational practice."

For some residents, the earthquake came as a surprise. Former NSU student Andriejz Diaz reported the tremor to the USGS and explained how he was startled by the shaking and was left alarmed and confused.

"I was half asleep when I felt my bed shaking, and honestly, I thought at first I was having a dream," he

said. "But then I actually woke up and realized it was still going. I was confused since at first I didn't think it was an earthquake, so it definitely freaked me out a bit. Earthquakes here aren't really a thing, or at least I guess I didn't think they were."

Paul Harris, a freshman psychology major, said it was an average day. "I felt a little shake for like a second, but I kind of thought I was going crazy, so I just ended up going back to bed. Later, I realized it was an earthquake, but clearly it wasn't strong enough for me to worry about," Harris said.

Any seismic events in Louisiana, a place that remains uncommon for them, can be viewed as valuable for both research purposes and geological insights.

As activity continues to be monitored, the earthquake has been a rare opportunity for Louisiana and can aid in research to better understand seismic behavior both in the Natchitoches area and in surrounding areas moving forward.

Louisiana launches \$140 million-dollar development plan; Natchitoches set to benefit

By Emma Bolduc
Reporter

Louisiana officially launched the FastSites program on March 3, a \$140 million economic development initiative meant to provide funding for projects around the state in order to encourage more business opportunities and promote economic prosperity. At Northwestern State University of Louisiana, the program implications can be witnessed firsthand, as Natchitoches is one of 19 recipients of this first round of funding.

The FastSites program, according to its website, will “use state funding to improve land and sites that can bring big benefits to local regions. The goal is to create more market-ready sites, places where businesses can build and grow quickly.”

To this, the program acts as a “revolving fund,” according to Government Market News, “where once a business eventually buys or leases one of the prepared sites, the state expects to recover its investment and reinvest the money in additional locations.” This allows for consecutive innovation attempts to happen within the state, with an overall reinvestment outlook, as money will continuously be put into the state.

The criteria to apply are listed on the FastSites website, including “local or regional economic development groups, cities and towns, non-profits, redevelopment authorities and other public groups (e.g., parishes or districts).”

The program had a quoted number of 50 applicants, but only 19 were accepted and funded. Some of these businesses consist of: Acadiana Regional Airport-Iberia Parish, ARQ Red River-Red River Parish, Esperanza-St. Charles Parish, Franklinton Industrial Park, Washing-



ton Parish, Gulf South Commerce Park-St. Tammany Parish, Lake Charles Regional Airport-Calcasieu Parish, Natchitoches Parish Port Warehouse-Natchitoches Parish, Naval Support Activity-Orleans Parish, Port Distran-Rapides Parish, Port of Columbus-Caldwell Parish, Port Viton-Calcasieu Parish, Proof Works-East Baton Rouge Parish and Riverplex MegaPark Port-Ascension Parish.

One of the accepted applicants is the Natchitoches Parish Port Warehouse, bringing FastSites funding to the local Natchitoches community.

“This project will support infrastructure at the port, such as new warehouses and road work on the grounds of the port. There are already tenants interested in leasing the space once construct-

ed,” Laura Lyles, president and executive director of Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce, said.

Lyles predicts that advancements “will make the port more competitive to attract new industry, meaning new jobs in high-wage industries.” Lyles isn’t aware of any Natchitoches business that applied, but with the early success of the Natchitoches Parish Port Warehouse, more may apply should the program open funding to a second round of businesses.

Lyles described the key characteristics of the accepted projects. “Most of them went to multi-modal sites, meaning they had access to highway and rail, or highway and barge (water), or all three. These are the kinds of logistics solutions that are highly attractive to indus-

try,” Lyles said.

With the logistics focus for the program being reinvestment, this method will allow the program to quickly generate a return on investment.

Although over half of the applicants were rejected, businesses should not be discouraged from applying and reapplying to the program.

Northeast Louisiana Economic Development (NELA) is an organization representing around 10 parishes in Northeast Louisiana that attempts to boost business growth, giving insight that rejection was always expected to be part of the program because of the demand for funding outpace[s] the supply. Rob Cleveland, NELA president,

said that upon the delivery of results by the program jobs and new investment opportunities will be created. Furthermore, Cleveland notes that, “When those results are realized, we hope to have additional funding to provide to projects that were not selected.”

If the return on investments from the 19 selected businesses of this first round is high, it is more likely that the reinvestment cycle will remain operational and worthwhile to investors for future businesses. With Louisiana ranked 47 in economics, 46 in infrastructure and 46 in opportunity in the United States, as stated by the Consumer News and Business Channel, the FastSites program aims to provide more economic

opportunities to businesses throughout the state, helping to improve infrastructure and providing the chance for growth.

Photo by Dana Paola Barreto
The FastSites program will benefit Natchitoches businesses and promote economic prosperity.



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“Fahrenheit 451”: Fanning the flames of free will

that they’d rather obliterate all individuality than accept that we all have the right to what we think (and honestly, the world is so much more beautiful and worthwhile when we can allow ourselves to be different—when we accept that different is okay).

Bradbury’s work matters now more than ever, and I urge everyone to take the time to read “Fahrenheit 451.” Not SparkNotes, not an AI summary, not a movie adaptation. Every time someone chooses to turn away from a novel like this, Bradbury’s dystopia takes another step toward reality. This book, truly, should be on everyone’s list of books to read within their lifetime.

“The problem in our country isn’t with books being banned, but with people no longer reading. You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them,” Bradbury said in response to “Fahrenheit 451.”

Photo by LearningLark on Flickr
FastSites program will benefit Natchitoches businesses and promote economic prosperity.

Ray Bradbury’s 1953 novel “Fahrenheit 451” models a dystopia in which books and the different opinions they contain have been outlawed to prevent the violence of individuality. The

By Ella Dupuie
Copy Editor

451 degrees Fahrenheit. A number plucked from the air, not because of the way it looks on the printed cover of a novel, but because it is the temperature at which knowledge ceases to be. At which visionaries are silenced. At which books burn.

Ray Bradbury’s 1953 novel “Fahrenheit 451” introduces a bleak dystopia that has become a haunting reflection of our current world, one in which misinformation, forced compliance and the erasure of knowledge have made Bradbury’s cautionary tale something far more than a prediction—it has become reality.

“Fahrenheit 451” follows Guy Montag, a fireman in a world where firemen don’t put out fires, but start them. Montag and his colleagues have been tasked with the crucial job of destroying the most dangerous and threatening contraband in their world—books. Dousing the illegal items, the homes of their possessors and sometimes even the book owners themselves in flames, Montag has never questioned his assignment.

One day, Montag meets a 17-year-old girl named Clarisse, a gentle girl in awe of nature and life in a way that is seemingly nonexistent in their reality. As his meetings with Clarisse grow more frequent, Montag begins to question the detached monotony of his life, his eyes opening to the superficial nature of their existence—an existence in which people’s living room walls are giant screens projecting fictional families; television shows provide watchers with predictable scripts; the masses

wear ear buds that project a constant stream of stimulation to prevent time for free thought; and those looking for any semblance of excitement do so by speeding down roads, uncaring for those they hurt.

When Clarisse is struck and killed by one such speeding car, Montag’s grip on his life and obligations begins to slip. In an effort to subtly fight back against the overwhelming power that dictates his life, Montag begins to steal books, saving them from burning and hiding them within his home. The sudden influx of knowledge is dizzying to him, and when he begins to neglect his work, his fire chief, Beatty, visits his home with the damning proclamation that Montag had been caught.

Beatty shares the truth of their calling with Montag—why books must burn. Once, books contained strong, uncensored opinions that led to the upset and offense of certain minorities and special-interest groups. To prevent any such offending, books were simplified until they could hurt no one at all and authors attempted to remove controversy from their writings. When even this proved too offensive, the edict to burn them all was declared. The only way, Beatty revealed, to prevent the masses from being subjected to conflicting opinions was to outlaw them all.

Beatty leaves with a final warning to Montag to destroy the books he has taken, and when he does not, his own wife turns him in to the firemen. Beatty forces Montag to burn his own home, yet when he attempts to arrest Montag, Montag turns his flamethrower on Beatty and flees.

On the run and pursued by a fearsome beast known as the Mechanical Hound, Montag escapes the city, where he meets a group of rebellious book lovers. The men are part of a nationwide network of readers dedicated to preserving as many books as they can, each member memorizing priceless lines of literature in the hopes of one day putting it back to paper and recreating what was lost.

The novel ends with a bomb destroying the city that Montag has narrowly escaped, the consequence of a war ignored by those without the capacity for independent thought. Montag and his new allies resolve to reach the remnants of the ruined city and search for those who survived.

Terrifyingly accurate, “Fahrenheit 451” is a must-read in our current world. Bradbury paints a picture—70 years too soon—of a world not unlike ours, distinguished only by the fact that, to modern-day readers, the tyranny within his novel should be obvious to its prisoners.

It is true that books are not illegal in our country; they are not burned by any mandate. Yet book bannings have occurred for decades, if not centuries, those horrified by an opinion other than their own silencing those they disagree with. This is more real, and more prevalent, than many realize today.

Bradbury initially grasps his audience with rich metaphors and larger-than-life dystopias, but keeps them engaged with eerie depictions of a society enslaved, unable to think for themselves or disagree with the opinions of those on high. As a reader, you want to

scream at the characters who favor their digital families over their real ones, who betray their spouses for daring to think differently, who burn people for seeking knowledge.

But look around. Everything he depicts is happening today, just far more subtly than words on a page, being illegal and firemen burning the world down. At its heart, “Fahrenheit 451” isn’t about all of that—not really.

It’s about those who don’t take the time to further their own knowledge, trusting that those in command are always telling the truth. It’s about the masses that would rather let an artificial intelligence summarize books than read the novels themselves, robbing a generation of their critical thinking skills and leaving them gullible, ignorant and susceptible to the control of others.

It’s about people being so afraid of a different opinion



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“Scream 7”: You either die the “Scream” or live long enough to become the “Stab”

By Sharye Belcher
Contributing Writer

Have you ever seen a franchise completely ruin the foundation that made it so good in the first place? Or raise audience expectations just to crush them in the end? Well, that is exactly what “Scream 7” did.

“Scream 7” is the latest installment in the “Scream” franchise, a series of slasher films in which various characters play the Ghostface killer throughout each film.

Following Sidney Prescott and her daughter Tatum, “Scream 7” did record-breaking numbers at the box office, making a total of \$64.1 million in its first week, according to Box Office Pro. To understand what happened to this film, we must first discuss the behind-the-scenes events that led up to its production.

The two “Scream” films leading up to “Scream 7,” the 2022 reboot “Scream” and “Scream VI,” follow characters Samantha and Tara Carpenter, played by Melissa Barrera and Jenna Ortega, respectively. Barrera and Ortega were set to return in “Scream 7” in their roles as sisters until Barrera was fired over social media posts where she criticized Israel for the genocide in Palestine.

After Barrera’s exit, Ortega announced that she would also be leaving the film, citing scheduling conflicts as the reason. It wasn’t until a later interview with “The Cut” that Ortega admitted the real reason for leaving was Barrera’s absence from the film and the new directors set to work on it.

Radio Silence Productions, which directed the previous two Scream films, left the project before Barrera’s firing. Director Christopher Landon of “Happy Death Day” announced he was dropping the film with a post on X (Twitter), saying, “It was a dream job that turned into a nightmare. And my heart did break for everyone involved.” Kevin

Williamson, director of “Scream 7,” had directed only one other film before and, despite working on the other Scream films, had only screenwritten for them.

As a result, the original plan and the film’s draft had to be rewritten. Neve Campbell was brought back to reprise her role of Sidney Prescott after she declined to be in “Scream VI” due to a pay dispute. “My value to this franchise was bigger than what had been offered,” Campbell told CBS Mornings in an interview.

This last-minute reframing of the story makes the film feel rushed and underdeveloped in several ways. From plot holes to the ghost face reveal, “Scream 7” feels like it was thrown together and shoved in the faces of fans. It tries to rely on nostalgia.

The cold open of “Scream 7” features a couple, Madison and Scott, who are horror movie fanatics. They have rented out Stu Macher’s house, now an Airbnb, and are staying the night under the guise of the “Stu Macher Experience.”

Madison and Scott’s cold opening was one of, if not my favorite, sections of the film. The way in which Scott discovered the animatronic Ghostface had been swapped for the real killer was arguably the creepiest moment in the film, and their deaths felt like true “Scream” killings. The only issue with this scene is that it has no connection to the rest of the film.

In “Scream 7,” McKenna Grace plays Hannah Thurman, a member of Tatum’s friend group, which is introduced just after the cold opening. Hannah, the character, experiences a brutal death at the hands of Ghostface while practicing for their school play. This death was my favorite of the film and reminded me a lot of Dru Barrymore’s character’s death in the original “Scream.”

The first time Ghostface comes for the Prescott, now

Evans, family, it is after the police supposedly sweep the house and fail to check the attic. Overall, this was a great fight scene. We got to see Sidney’s husband, Mark, in action, and the fight scene with Sidney and Tatum on the wall was well executed and directed.

During this fight scene, it is revealed that Tatum had no idea that there was a safe room inside their house. Earlier in the film, it is mentioned that Sidney hasn’t taught her daughter how to fight because she doesn’t want Tatum to live the same scared life Sidney did. Despite this, while Ghostface has a knife to Tatum, she sees her dad make a head nod and seems to know exactly what to do when he gives the signal to drop. This action suggests that Tatum has, in fact, had some form of training for moments like the one she is in now.

This fight scene ends with Gail Weather, played by Courteney Cox, showing up with the twins, Chad and Mindy Meeks, from previous films. The group runs Ghostface over with their news van, ultimately killing Ghostface and leading to the franchise’s first mid-movie Ghostface reveal.

When the mask is removed, we see Karl Gibbs, a random customer from Sidney’s coffee shop, whom even the characters say holds no real connection to the family. It isn’t until later that it’s revealed Karl was a psychiatric patient at the hospital where all the Ghostface killers in this film met.

Every “Scream” film has rules or meta-commentary during the movie to help drive the plot. In the original “Scream,” Randy Meeks relays the rules of a slasher: No sex, no drug/alcohol use, and never say “I’ll be right back.”

The next major fight scene is at the tavern where Chloe, one of Tatum’s friends, works. It is here that Mindy

provides the meta-commentary for this film, similar to how her uncle Randy did in “Scream” and “Scream 2.” Mindy explains that this time, the movie is about “nostalgia.” The killers aren’t obsessed with the in-universe “Stab” franchise, but rather Sidney Prescott herself.

While the movie tries to comment on nostalgia films, it does too much and ends up becoming a nostalgic film itself. Between Tatum’s boyfriend climbing through her window in the intro scene, Tatum wearing her mother’s “Scream 2” jacket and Stu Macher returning, the movie fails to provide any real commentary on nostalgia films.

Also at the tavern, Tatum shows her boyfriend, Ben, video footage of Stu from the video calls her mom has been receiving. Ben is apparently skilled with computers, so Tatum seeks his advice on whether the videos could be deepfake AI, a video or audio recording that seems real but has actually been manipulated by artificial intelligence. Based on the conversation between Tatum and Ben in this scene, it seems clear that this is the first time Ben has ever seen this footage.

A few moments later, Ben escorts Tatum to his car, where she finds a video of him in front of a green screen, acting out the Stu footage. In the film, he explains this by saying, “I created that one just to see if it was possible.”

This explanation doesn’t hold up in my eyes, but Tatum seems to buy it later on in the film. Seeing as the dialogue inside the tavern implies that it was the first time he had ever seen the footage, it makes it nearly impossible for him to have filmed the green screen footage while inside the tavern.

This scene was poorly written and left a big plot hole in its wake. Was Ben actually helping the Ghostface killers, or was he simply taking his AI deepfake testing a bit too far?

Meanwhile, inside the tavern, Ghostface is tearing through the characters one by one. First to die is Chloe, who is dragged across the bar and ends up with a shard of glass in their neck. During this fight, twins Chad and Mindy are injured and downed for nearly the rest of the movie.

The next death is Lucas, Sidney and Tatum’s true crime-obsessed neighbor, who is often referred to as “creepy kid.” His death is probably the most graphic and gory death in not just this film, but the entire franchise. Ghostface goes above and beyond when killing Lucas, which makes the Ghostface reveal even more absurdity.

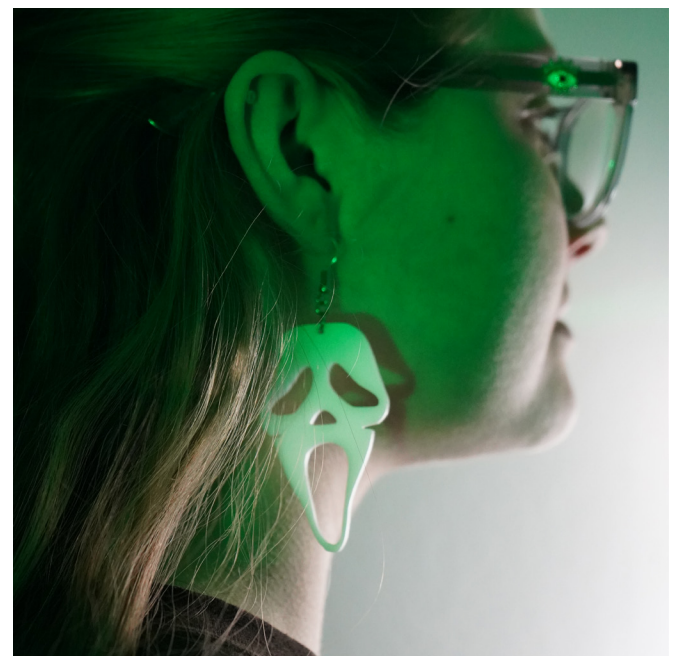


Photo by Dana Paola Barreto

The infamous “Ghostface” is the well-known masked killer in “Scream 7,” the seventh installment of the “Scream” franchise, released Feb. 27, 2026.

The audience is also given no reason to feel any attachment to the characters as they die. Of course, we feel a sense of wrongdoing, but the film does a terrible job of making the audience root for or care for the characters’ deaths. They are so often referred to as the “boyfriend,” “best friend” and “creepy kid” that audiences leave knowing them only as such.

Following the tavern scene, Tatum goes into town, where a curfew is set due to the recent Ghostface killings. Tatum locks herself inside her mother’s coffee shop, where her mother instructs her on where to find a gun and how to shoot it. It’s in this scene that we see more of Tatum’s inability to defend herself, which becomes the arc of her character later in the film.

During the fight, Tatum is kidnapped by Ghostface and taken to her house, where Sidney finds her tied up to a chair, similar to the boyfriend in the original “Scream.” Here is where it is revealed that the other Ghostface killers are Jessica Bowden, a psycho-superfan and Sidney’s neighbor, and Marco Davis, a psychiatric orderly who had been in one scene up to this point.

It is also revealed that Marco used to work for Google and apparently has AI experience. He is the one who decided to bring Stu back to life via AI deepfake in order to torture Sidney and mess with her head. While I’m glad Stu remains dead in the franchise, I find it annoying that Matthew Lillard was brought back to reprise his role as Stu, only for it to be AI.

This could also have given “Scream 7” the perfect opportunity to insert social commentary on the use of AI in today’s society. “Scream” is typically a franchise that doesn’t shy away from commenting on modern issues, but no issues about AI were raised, other than that it’s bad and not to use it. I was very disappointed with Stu’s return and wish Lillard had reprised his

role in a far more substantial way.

Jessica’s motivation for putting on the Ghostface mask is that she is mad at Sidney for not being in New York, where “Scream VI” was set. Sidney and Tatum proceed to fight off Jessica, and together they fire a total of 27 shots at her head and face. This is where Tatum delivers a variation of an iconic Sidney line, demonstrating that she’s no longer the shy girl she was made out to be at the beginning of the film.

While I loved seeing Tatum and Sidney fight side by side, Tatum’s character arc seemed to be a stretch. Just a few minutes ago, Tatum was struggling to fire a gun at her mom’s coffee shop and couldn’t bring herself to shoot Ghostface in the head. Now, she’s shooting without second thought at her unmasked neighbor.

Jessica’s motivation does seem to be a meta-commentary on some fans of the “Scream” franchise. Fans took to Reddit threads and other social media platforms to voice their dislike over Sidney’s character not being in “Scream VI.” In “Scream 7,” Jessica talks about Sidney’s absence and explains that it isn’t a “Scream” movie without her.

As a long-time fan of this franchise, I’m highly disappointed in the direction this film took. From behind-the-scenes problems to last-minute rewrites, I believe this film let down many “Scream” fans. My rating of this film is 2.5 out of 5 stars, which matches its average rating.

Although this film was a letdown, it still broke franchise box-office records, so an eighth installment is likely. My only hope is that the franchise finds a way to return Melissa Barrera, Jenna Ortega and other directors for the eighth film. While some may argue ending Sidney’s storyline, I think it’s time to finally give her the happy ending she deserves.



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NSU's Morgan Health Performance Center operation delayed until May 2026

By Heidi Gauthier
Sports Editor

The development of the David and Sherry Morgan Health Performance Center at Northwestern State University of Louisiana has been delayed longer than expected. The facility was anticipated to be in operation by February 2026; however, it is now expected to be in use by May 2026.

The delay came after contractors discovered underground utilities that were not identified before construction started.

Kevin Martin, director of facilities and plant operations, said that the project has been delayed approximately 90 days because they had to address those issues.

Martin oversees the project to ensure everything is progressing smoothly. This includes coordinating with architects, engineers, contractors and state agencies that are involved in the project.

Martin explained that on projects such as the David and Sherry Morgan Center, he works closely with NSU athletics staff to ensure the facility aligns with the needs of NSU's athletic programs.

"Construction is currently 70% complete, and we have moved well into both the interior and exterior finishing stages of the project," Martin said. "At this point you can really start to see the building take shape."

Kevin Bostian, NSU's director of athletics, said the facility is a \$12 million project, where construction began after the ground breaking in March 2024.

"This facility will bring us up to division one standards," Bostian said. "It will help improve on what we are trying to do from a strength and conditioning standpoint."

Bostian added that the building is named after NSU alumni David and Sherry Morgan because of their generous support to NSU and this project.

"David and Sherry Morgan are wonderful supporters of NSU. They donated \$1.5 million to this project, thus getting their name on the building," Bostian said. "They are also big supporters of Greek Life and they do the Morgan Extra Mile Scholarships."

Martin said the new center is intended to improve training conditions for student-athletes across all

sports.

"The new center is designed to provide a modern and efficient training environment for our student-athletes across all sports," Martin said. "The primary feature is a fully upgraded weight room that will be utilized by all athletics programs, offering improved layout, functionality and capacity to support strength and conditioning at a highest level."

The project is a two-part project. Phase One is the building and construction of the David and Sherry Morgan Center, while Phase Two is renovating and converting the Athletic Fieldhouse.

"Phase Two includes renovations to the existing weight room, which will be converted into a training and recovery area," Martin said. "This space will include a treatment area, whirlpool area, exam room, and offices."

Bostian explained that the facility will house a new weight room, a nutrition area and offices for strength and conditioning coaches.

Both Martin and Bostian said that the projected completion date of the building is the end of May 2026.

The Sauce Stand-Up of the Month

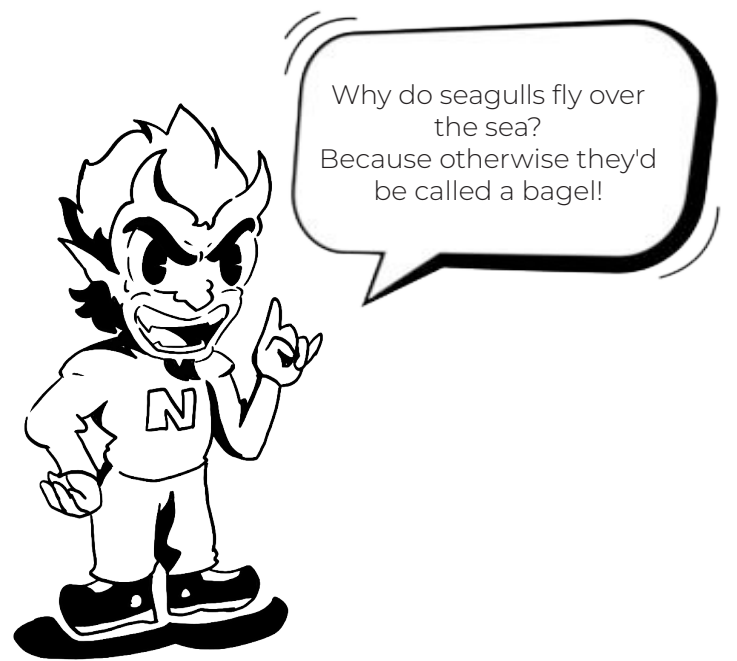
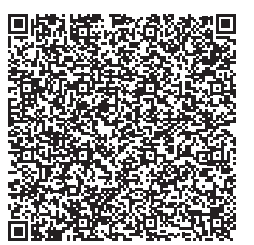


Photo by Lalaina Wood
Construction for the David and Sherry Morgan Performance Center is continuing to make progress, with the projected completion date being May 2026.



Interested in advertising in our next issue? Scan the QR code or email thecurrentsauce@gmail.com for more information.

Generation-Z: Pessimistic or just realistic

By Phillip Voorhees
Viewpoints Editor

Between discourse about the “Gen-Z stare” and “dark Gen-Z humor,” one might get the impression that young adults these days are entirely miserable. How true is this? Does Generation-Z have a more pessimistic outlook on the world, and if so, why?

Gen-Z is the category for Americans born between 1997 and 2012, according to Encyclopedia Britannica. Generational groupings are a useful lens through which to view recent history; the defining cultural experiences shared by those within a generation lead to trends in their belief systems and behavior.

The consensus from our elders seems to be that Gen-Z is a problematic bunch. According to a Gallup poll, Americans are not optimistic about Gen-Z’s success in the future. In fact, “Americans have as little optimism as they have had at any time in nearly three decades about young people’s chances of having greater material success in life.”

Employers find Gen-Z difficult to work with due to negative attitudes and disrespectful tendencies. A sur-

vey by Intelligent Magazine found that 27% of surveyed managers would avoid hiring Gen-Z employees if possible, due to issues such as “poor work ethic” and “lack of professionalism.”

However, young adults deny the claim that Gen-Z is more negative. Students at Northwestern State University of Louisiana believe that the stereotype of misanthropic Gen-Z-ers is a complete misunderstanding.

“There is a wide diversity of opinions,” Aaron Fletcher, a sophomore English major, said. “I don’t know if there’s actually more who are pessimistic, but I think that they make their voices more loudly heard.”

Some students believe that the behavior of young people on the internet warps public perception of our generation.

“Based on how people act online, they seem more miserable, but in person, you hear anecdotally that most people are optimistic,” Jared Cole Becton, a senior musical theatre major, said. “I am an optimist!”

Music professor Adam Hudlow does not consider himself an optimist in general, but is specifically an “optimist for Gen-Z.” He believes that Gen-Z’s negative attitude may not be

true pessimism, but rather a heightened awareness of world events and a productive concern with the state of society.

“You are just better informed than I ever was at your age,” Hudlow said. “You’re better connected. You are able to see counter-cultures and resistances better than anybody was ever able to, so you can make better informed choices ... we [Millennials] are going to die sadder than our parents, but I don’t think you guys are.”

Perhaps the negativity of Gen-Z is a reasonable reaction to the common experiences of the age group. Our formative years are still being impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the general public no longer has constant fear of the virus itself, the cultural impact of the pandemic was severe. The same is true for violent incidents around the country that we have been keenly aware of.

“There is definitely a lot of nihilism,” Louise Guy, a sophomore liberal arts major, said. “For one because of COVID, and all the stuff that happened to us before we were even able to do anything. We don’t remember a time before we had, like, school shooting drills

that we had to be afraid of. We just deal with it through dark humor.”

Gen-Z is just reaching adulthood. It is impossible to say for certain how our generation will impact the world, because we are just beginning. Older generations have always been skeptical of the abilities of the youth, but there are always some people who see our potential and want to encourage us.

“If the world is burning, Gen-Z is gonna be the people with the fire extinguisher,” Hudlow said. “At least my Gen-Z-ers that I know.”

The outlook of Gen-Z is distinct from past generations. Due to our experiences growing up in the technological age, we see the world differently. Increased access to information leads some people to develop a pessimistic attitude, but as a whole, Gen-Z may not be as hopeless as some sources say. Our unique perspective is our strength.

Corrections from Vol. 126, No. 06

On Page 1 - In our Sauces and Losses section, we have “to Vic’s being closed on Fridays” as a Sauce; however, it should be a Loss.

See a mistake in this edition? Email us at thecurrentsauce@gmail.com.

How do NSU students feel about campus dining?

By Priya George
Social Media Reporter



Sydney Thompson
Freshman - Child and Family Studies Major



Ayden Hymel
Freshman - Elementary Education Major

“I really like the campus dining options. Iberville is my favorite place to go. I usually go there for breakfast and dinner. They’re really versatile. Sometimes, they have different Mexican, sometimes Asian food. Different stuff like that. I like that option. It’s a lot better quality than I expected it to be. And I like the option of not having to actually go off campus and spend money elsewhere. It’s right there, it’s local, I can just leave my dorm and go there. Steak N’ Shake is also cool too. Everything foodwise, it’s literally right within a circle. I can get out of class and go there. I like that. It’s really convenient.”



Taylor Rochelle
Junior - Nursing major

“It’s so diverse now. The jambalaya has been my favorite so far, and their jerk chicken was fire. They’ve been doing a good job.”



Chadestiny Taylor
Freshman - Elementary Education Major

“Campus dining is so nasty, I’m not going to lie. Chick-fil-A and Vic’s are actually good. Chick-fil-A, I wish they were free. But they’re not, so that’s okay. And Vic’s, their prices are high, and it kind of takes up all my money.”

“Campus dining is pretty good on campus. I love Vic’s, they always have something very good to eat. I love getting the buffalo chicken pizza, and then I also like Iberville. I just sometimes wish that when they post their menu online, that it would actually be what’s served in the cafeteria. Because some of that stuff looks good, and then I get here and it’s not there, and I get really sad. But, for the most part, it’s really good, honestly. And I have a big sweet tooth. There’s always desserts, so that just makes me really happy.”



Trintee Hymel
Freshman - Performance & Directing Major

“It’s convenient for the students, and they have good food sometimes, but there’s little improvements that could be made, like menu changes and equipment. Sometimes all the drinks will keep going after you clicked it once and just overflow or stuff like that. So it can have minor improvements.”



Burning Conversations

Burning Conversations is the official podcast for The Current Sauce.



Photo by Shakiya Allen
Opinions about Generation-Z being the most pessimistic generation continue to fly around. Is Gen Z more pessimistic, or just realistic?

Coffee and Chess

Photos By Madelyn Murphy

On March 16, 2026, the Northwestern State University of Louisiana Chess Club hosted "Coffee and Chess" at StoryBrew Coffee Cafe.



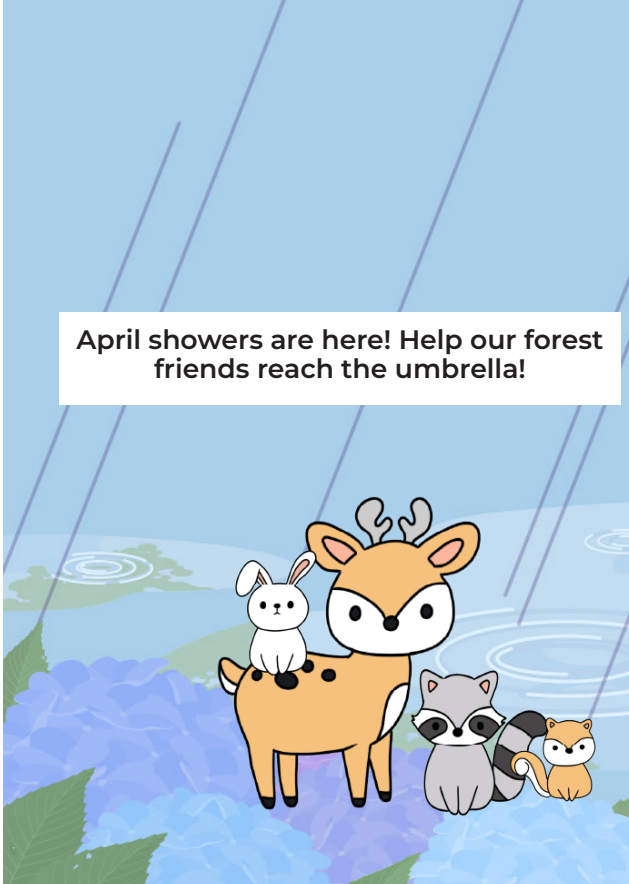
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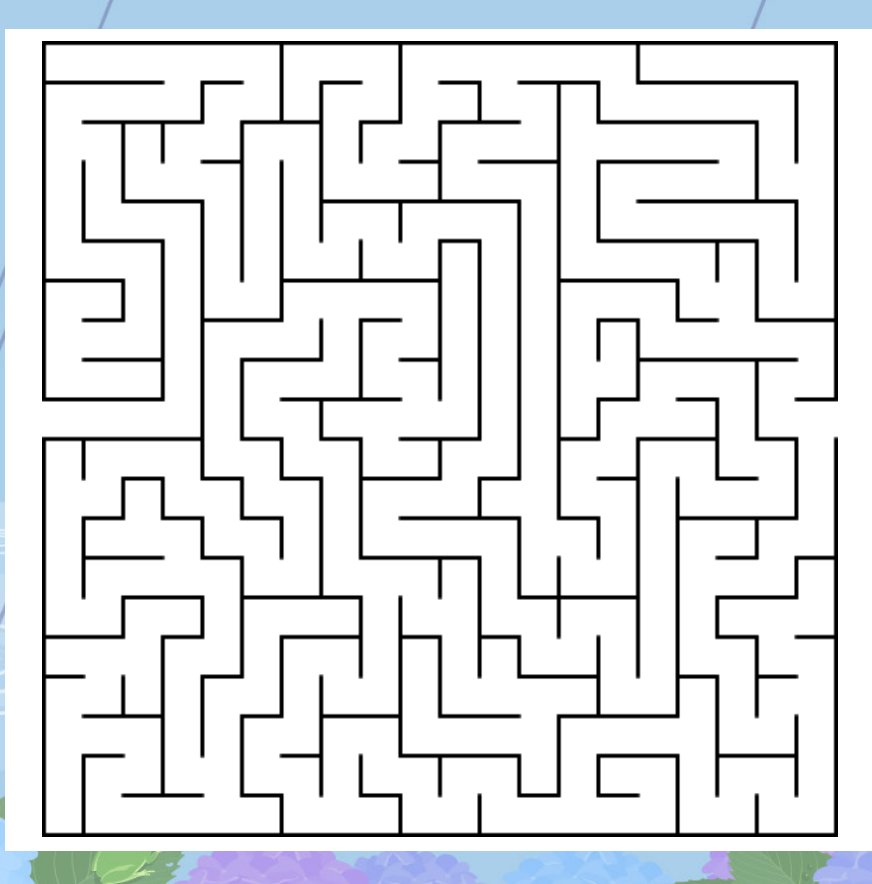
Words may appear in any direction (including diagonals) and may overlap.
Use the word bank.


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- Word Bank**
- BASKET
 - BUNNY
 - CHICK
 - EGGS
 - HUNT
 - SPRING
 - SUNDAY
 - CHOCOLATE
 - JELLYBEAN
 - MARSHMALLOW
 - CANDY
 - PASTRY
 - DAFFODIL
 - TULIP
 - BLOSSOM
 - GARDEN
 - LILY
 - NEST
 - CARROT
 - BONNET
 - VIBRANT
 - FLUFFY
 - BOUQUET
 - PETAL
 - PAINT

April showers are here! Help our forest friends reach the umbrella!

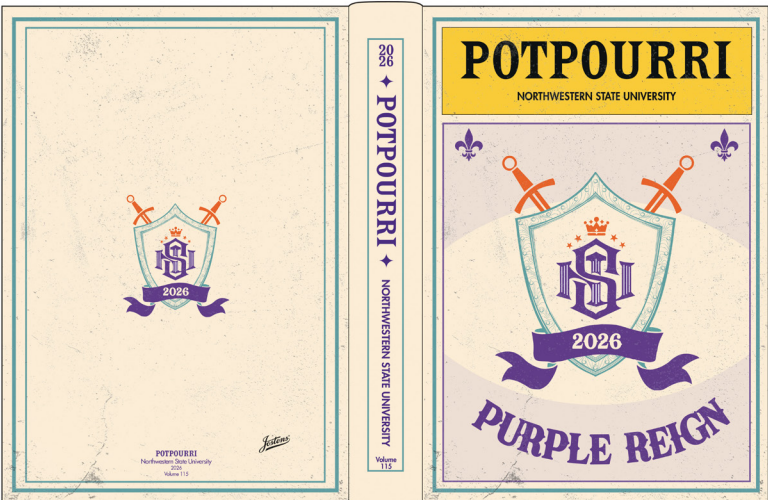






Sudoku

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Here's a sneak peek at the 2026 Potpourri Yearbook. Books will be distributed in May 2026 and will be available for pick-up at Kyser 225.