



Northwood Police Department

Statement (Form S-349)

Case No.
15-1107

WITNESS DETAILS

First Name: Kyle

Last Name: Jensen

Occupation.: Research Assistant

Address: 1496 Cactus Way, Tempe, AZ

STATEMENT

When I first started working with meteorites at the Northwood Observatory, I thought of them as scientific artifacts – objects to be measured, cataloged, and displayed. But the more time I spent around them, the more I realized that wasn't true. These aren't just rocks. They're alive in a way that's hard to explain. They have energy, purpose – a journey. They come from the stars, travel through fire, and end their voyage when they touch Earth. That moment, when they return to nature, is their destination.

And what do we do?

We seal them behind glass, shine lights on them, and call them "ours."

To me, that's not preservation – it's imprisonment. I couldn't stand watching the Amesworth Meteorite being treated like a trophy. Every time I saw people crowd around it, laughing, taking pictures, I felt sick. It deserved peace.

That's when I started posting as Stargazer424. It was my way of venting – of seeing whether anyone else felt what I did. I didn't mean for it to get attention, but it did. I realized I wasn't alone.

On the night of the Stargazer Event, I saw my chance. Everyone was at the telescope demonstrations, the building mostly empty. A few weeks earlier, I'd watched Rick Hanlon restart the security system after one of its "random glitches." He said it happens all the time, and no one bothers to check those brief outages. That stuck with me.

WITNESS STATEMENT (continued)

I went into the control room, triggered the short blackout, and walked straight to the exhibit. I knew where the spare key was kept – in the staff office drawer. I opened the case, took the meteorite, and slipped it into my telescope case. It fit perfectly. Then I left, saying I was heading to the river to stargaze.

That was it. No alarms, no one even noticed.

When I got home, I stayed up all night thinking about what to do next. I didn't want to destroy it – that would go against everything I believed. I wanted to return it to nature, to finish its journey. The next morning, just after sunrise, I buried it in the Northwood Arboretum, near the Marie Sundial. They were doing work there, so the ground was already dug up. It felt right – quiet, peaceful, surrounded by trees and light.

When I went into work the next day, everything was chaos. Police were asking questions, everyone was panicking. I hadn't expected that kind of reaction. I thought maybe they'd accept the loss – that it would just become another unsolved mystery. But as days passed, I realized the town wouldn't stop searching.

So I built a replica. I used iron, nickel, and a few chemical surface treatments to mimic the Widmanstätten pattern. The density wasn't perfect, but I figured no one would check that closely. I wanted to give them something to ease the panic – to make them stop looking. I knew if I tried to sell it at the pawn shop it would eventually make it back to the observatory.

When Dr. Markham certified it as genuine, I was shocked... and relieved. Things went back to normal. The observatory's reputation was safe. People smiled again. And the real Amesworth Meteorite rested where it belonged.

Then someone started digging again – the "special investigator." Once they found the real one and the police reopened the case, I knew it was over. I couldn't protect it anymore so I moved on – landing in Arizona.

I'm not sorry for freeing it. But I am sorry for lying – to Dr. Markham, to the police, and to Northwood. I didn't do this to hurt anyone. I did it because I thought it was the right thing to do.

The Amesworth Meteorite wasn't lost. It was home.

DECLARATION

I declare that this statement is made voluntarily, and I confirm that the information provided is accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge and memory. I also understand that this statement may be used in legal or formal proceedings.

Kyle Jensen

OFFICE

Sgt. Daniel Bellamy, Northwood PD
Badge #108



Northwood Police Department

Case Notes

Case No.
15-1107

CASE CLOSED

SUBJECT: The Amesworth Meteorite Theft

Following the recovery of the Amesworth Meteorite at the Northwood Arboretum and the subsequent confession by Kyle A. Jensen, former Research Assistant at the Northwood Observatory, the Northwood Police Department has concluded its investigation into the theft originally reported on October 17, 2015.

Mr. Jensen admitted to removing the meteorite from its display case during the *Stargazer 2015* public event, temporarily disabling the observatory's internal security system, and replacing the meteorite with a fabricated replica in the days following the theft. He further confessed to burying the original meteorite near the Marie Sundial at the Arboretum in an effort to "return it to nature."

The confession has been corroborated by physical evidence, the replica meteorite recovered from the display, and Mr. Jensen's own digital communications under the alias StarGazer424.

No additional individuals are believed to have participated in or been aware of the theft. Mr. Jensen has cooperated fully with authorities and expressed remorse for misleading investigators and colleagues.

The Amesworth Meteorite has been verified as authentic by the Northwood Observatory and returned to secured display.

Based on the evidence and full admission of guilt, the Northwood Police Department formally declares this case closed.

Case status: Closed - Property Recovered - Confession

OFFICE

Sgt. T. Bellamy

Sgt. T. Bellamy, Northwood PD
Badge #108

Northwood Observatory Welcomes Rare Lunar Meteorite

By Rachel Nguyen, Staff Reporter

The Northwood Observatory has announced a remarkable new addition to its collection — a lunar meteorite on loan from the National Geological Collection. Believed to have originated from Earth's own moon, this rare specimen will be on display for both researchers and the public in the coming weeks.



Director Dr. Helen Markham expressed her excitement about the new arrival.

“Lunar meteorites are among the rarest of all finds,” Markham said. “Having one here in Northwood is an incredible opportunity. It’s a reminder of how far our curiosity — and our collections — can reach. The observatory and the community will cherish this piece of the cosmos for years to come.”

The meteorite, temporarily housed in the Amesworth Display Hall, marks the beginning of a new chapter for the observatory — and the closing of another. After more than two decades leading Northwood’s scientific and educational efforts, Dr. Markham announced she will be retiring at the end of the month.

Known for her dedication to both research and community engagement, Markham plans to take some well-earned time to travel, visiting museums and observatories across the country before “settling into the relaxing life of a snowbird,” as she fondly put it.

The observatory will announce a new director in the coming weeks, but for now, the focus remains on celebrating this exceptional lunar visitor — and the legacy of the director who helped Northwood reach for the stars.

Around Northwood

New Bakery Opens on Main Street

Sweet Haven Bakery opened its doors this week, offering fresh pastries, artisan bread, and locally roasted coffee. Owner Ella Moreno says she’s excited to bring “a little warmth and sugar” to the downtown strip.

Pet Adoption

Find your next best friend. The Humane Society of Northwood is having an adoption extravaganza next Saturday at city hall.

Band Concert

The Northwood marching band, three time state A champions, will perform at their annual indoor band concert next Wednesday. Tickets are available on the high school website.

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