

Exploratory Talks Program

10:30am--Andrew Battisti -"The Cosmic Distance Ladder" - How do astronomers measure distances in space?

11:00am--Neco Kriel - Magnetic fields: the quiet architects of galaxies

11:30am--Sara Webb - 2023 Space Odyssey

12:00pm--Brad Tucker - Exploring the Solar System

13:30pm--Matt Dodds - How to explore the night sky with a telescope

14:00pm--Sara Webb: Alien Life in the Solar system!

14:30pm--Katie Auchettl - 2023 BOK LECTURE

A stellar crime scene: piecing together the life and death of stars

Stars are the powerhouses for forging elements. During their lives they can forge elements all the way up to Iron. However, like us, stars also don't live forever and when they reach the end of their lives, they don't go quietly, but rather explode like a firework in something called a supernova explosion which enriches the universe with these and even heavier elements. However, one of the most uncertain aspects related to our understanding of the end points of a star's life is the link between the properties of the star during its life and the type of supernova explosion that it will undergo. In this talk, I will highlight how we piece together the leftover pieces of these stars using telescopes both on Earth and in space in an attempt to further our understanding of the life and death of stars.