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April 17, 2019

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New Challenges to Abortion Ripple Across Multiple States

Mason Miller
Editor-In-Chief

In one of the nation’s strictest abortion laws, Ohio passed a law that prohibits abortion after the first detectable heartbeat.

Numerous states like Texas and North Dakota, have made attempts to impose stricter access to abortions within their states.

According to the Associated Press, the “North Dakota Republican Gov. Doug Burgum signed legislation Wednesday that makes it a crime for a doctor performing a second-trimester abortion to use instruments such as clams, scissors and forceps to remove the fetus from the womb.”

A failed bill in Texas, proposed that women and physicians who perform abortions receive the death penalty.

Texas House Bill 896 would charge women who get abortions with assault or criminal homicide, both of which are criminalized by death in Texas.

Students at UNCP reacted to the new abortion challenges across the country.

“If they are going to ban abortions, they need to give healthcare. Healthcare for the mother and child she probably couldn’t afford. They are creating new ways to go in debt and not raising no type of funds to support the people they are forcing motherhood on. That’s one of the reasons women get abortions because they don’t have support,” Stasia Maddox said.

North Carolina

— (AP) The abortion debate is intensifying in North Carolina over a Republican measure supporters say will ensure doctors care properly for live babies delivered in unsuccessful abortions.

Abortion-rights activists argue the proposal slated for state Senate floor debate late Monday is unnecessary for a non-existent problem and is designed to intimidate physicians and women who need medically necessary later-term abortions.

The bill requires health care practitioners to treat a child born alive after an abortion like any person. They could face a felony charge with active prison time and monetary penalties if they don’t.

Social conservatives present data showing post-abortion live births occur and describe adults who say they survived them. Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper criticized the measure through a spokeswoman, raising expectations he’d veto it if given legislative approval.



A woman recording a group of pro-abortion rights demonstrators the 35th legislative day at the Georgia State Capitol building in downtown Atlanta. (Alyssa Pointer/ Atlanta Journal-Constitution via AP)

What Birth Control Does to the Woman’s Body

By Abaigeal Brown
News Editor

Approximately 64 percent of women that are within the reproductive age range (15-49) are using contraception in the United States, while 35% are not, according to a National Health Statistics Report by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), AWith that number growing, the discussion of the impacts birth control has on the female body is constantly evolving.

37 percent of women using contraception are between the ages of 15-19 while women between the ages of 40-49 make up 73 percent according to the CDC.

“Understanding variation in contraceptive use across social and demographic characteristics offers potential insight into larger fertility patterns, including birth rates and incidence of unintended pregnancies,” according to the CDC National Center for Health Statistics.

Some women feel that they were not prepared for what gynecologists and other reproductive health professionals described to them to be the side effects of birth control, both physically and mentally.

Alexis Hill, 21, has been on three forms of contraception, the pill, the arm insertion, and the IUD, and believes each impacted her body and mind differently.

“I don’t believe that it is 100% safe,” Hill said. “A lot of birth control is new and comes with many side effects. I will say that researching and understanding what is good for your body is the important thing; I won’t say that birth control as an entity is bad, but I will say that women should be mindful as to what is being put into

their bodies.”

Although many benefits are linked to contraception methods beyond preventing pregnancy, such as helping to control periods and regulating hormones, some women find the tradeoff between birth control and their mental health to not be as gratifying as they were expecting.

One of the main concerns women have when preparing to take birth control is the physical changes that may take place, weight gain, acne, etc. but often times the changes that take place mentally are overlooked.

“Birth control can mentally change you. It can cause depression and or change your physical appearance, which may alter how you think about yourself. So, once again this is hard to broaden to an everyone-type-question,” Hill said. “Everyone needs birth control for different reasons and to

“I won’t say that birth control as an entity is bad, but I will say that women should be mindful as to what is being put into their bodies”

make the choice means to understand what you are putting in your body. I think we should just educate women more on their choices and talk more about these things instead of just giving them a pamphlet.”

Even with the anticipated relief birth control is expected to provide, there are still implications that leave women feeling more fatigued due to the contraception. Hill said that while she was on Nexplanon, or the arm insertion, it created long-term bleeding and in order to control it she was taking low estrogen birth control pills simultaneously.

Hill said that if it was not for outlying medical problems that birth control helped aid, she would have decided to not take birth control.

“However, if I did not have any need for birth control, no I wouldn’t take it. Birth control sucks. Plain and simple,” Hill said. “They don’t have it figured out it seems besides the fact it helps me a little it hurts me a lot in the long run.”

Kate Dosser, 29, said she experienced migraines, acne and weight gain when she was taking a contraception pill for five years. Due to the migraines, Dosser was at a higher risk for blood clots and heart attacks.

However, after the five years she had been taking the pill, she was not aware of her high-risk until one of six neurologists and gynecologists she had seen informed her.

“I believe it’s mentally safe but I know the forms [birth control] that are hormonal may cause mental issues,” Dosser said.

Although female sterilization, condoms, and the pill remain the most prominent methods of birth control, trends in studies have shown that more women are starting to lean towards LARCs

(Long Acting Reversible Contraception) such as the IUD because of the longer lasting control.

Other women feel birth control has created an easier and less-stressful way of managing their hormones.

Bianca Basnight, 22, said that she was happy to be taking a birth control pill because of the benefits.

“I did feel like dealing with the side effects was worth it because I was on it for the benefit of regulating my cycle which was making me feel better,” Basnight said. “Although I was unaware of how the hormones would affect other parts of my body, I still needed it to feel normal and healthy.”

For more information visit www.plannedparenthood.org/learn.



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at Pembroke

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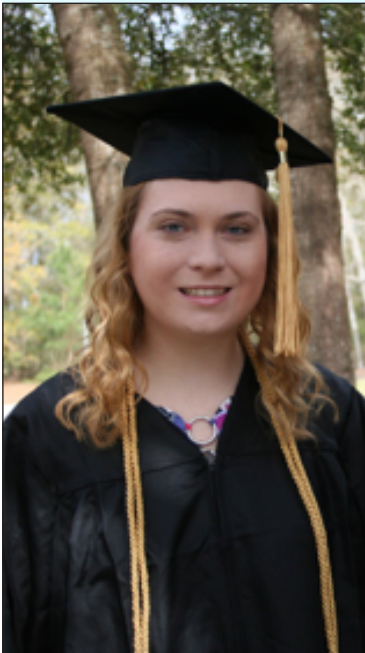
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Jessica Horne
Former Editor-In-Chief/Staff
Writer



Some of my favorite memories have been made with those I have worked with during my time on The Pine Needle. Among those are helping out with circulation on the golf carts with Stedman Davis, working late evenings on layout, hanging around in the office with friends and let's not forget the jam session at the staff Christmas party. Yes, I've taken courses and studied my brains out, but after everything, what I will carry with me are the memories, laughter and friendships I have made among my peers throughout the many emotional intervals I have endured in this college journey.

I want to commend the Mass Communication department for making this place home. Each one of you has impacted me in unforgettable ways. For that I want to extend the warmest thank you. To Mrs. Jennifer Carter, I'll really miss your spirit and your kindness.

I also want to thank Ms. Brigitte Knight for believing in my writing and encouraging me to keep at it. I'll never forget your words.

To my fellow graduates in the class of 2019, I am proud of you and I look forward to walking across that stage with you.

Joshua Reed
Sports Editor



My favorite moment was the 2018 Christmas Party where we got lit listening to Christmas songs and played games to get to know each other better. I also enjoyed going to my first media conference this spring with the staff at North Carolina A&T Whooping the entire pineneedle staff at bowling

I'm going to miss the small classes that allowed me to build real one on one connections with my teachers that let me know that I was more than just a name on an attendance sheet. They had a vested interest in my life and success outside of school and they tried to make sure everybody knew everybody and that everybody had the equal chance to succeed.

I plan on being a sports journalist somewhere and ultimately get a job working as a staff writer eventually the senior columnist for the Baltimore Ravens.

Tyana Morris
Photographer



It has been an honor to work for the Pine Needle and with the best team our organization has to offer. Though production days were always long and stressful, I'm going to miss the way we all put our resources and abilities together to get our job done. We've shared a lot of laughs, wisdom and opportunities amongst our team.

I know for sure that our organization will always be in good hands and that the Pine Needle will continue to be an excellent example of student journalism.

Sadira Bacchus
Copy Editor



I remember writing for The Pine Needle my first year at UNCP and now, it's my final year. College itself has been a roller coaster, but it was worth the ride. My favorite memories from The Pine Needle would have to be the NCCMA Conference and the Christmas office party. We became one big family. Besides for The Pine Needle, I've had other unforgettable moments at UNCP. I've stepped out of my comfort zone and left my mark. The thing I'm going to miss the most about UNCP is the friendly faculty/staff.

They've helped me so much throughout my college career and have given me the opportunity to gain experience in the work field. I'm beyond thankful for everyone that I've met at UNCP and the Pine Needle team. Good luck to you all and go Braves!

Alex Smith
Sports Copy Editor



The Pine Needle is something that I didn't get involved with until further in my college career, but I feel like I've been around since the beginning. We're a big family that can laugh and play together but also drop appearances and get to work at any time.

I've really enjoyed working with everyone and going through the ropes of being a student reporter.

UNCP Volunteers Help Children Read and Write

By Mason Miller
Editor-in-Chief

UNCP’s Community and Civic Engagement recently partnered with Reading Solutions Incorporated to expand teaching young children how to read and write.

Reading Solutions was founded by its CEO Reginald Oxendine with the mission to increase childrens’ reading comprehension in grade school.

“We started off with two audio cassette tapes and a book. They [kids] listen to the tape, follow along in the book and learn to read,” Oxendine said.

The website contains “over 300 hours worth of reading, writing and spelling comprehension. With 2,700 full motion videos that teach the reading skills.”

The UNCP alumn was also previously a professor at UNCP.

The partnership between Community and Civic Engagement and Reading



UNCP student helps tutor in the afterschool program with literacy. PN Photo/Micheál DeMers

Solutions allowed students on campus the opportunity to tutor young kids in afterschool programs on their literacy skills.

Currently there are 10 volunteers that spend their time teaching local kids how to read and write.

Jasmine Childs, Junior,

was hired as a social media manager to help promote Reading Solutions’ message to the local community.

Reading Solutions is now a certified business that students can volunteer at on UNCP volunteering site, UNCP Serve.

Last semester, volunteers from Howard University helped Reading Solutions. The volunteers went to local schools with reading solutions tutors and taught kids literacy skills during afterschool programs.

However, this is not CCE’s first partnership that aided the literacy skills of young kids.

Literacy Commons is another organization CCE has partnered with to

The office of Community and Civic engagement had this to say about the recent partnership,

CCE statement said, “This one of UNCP’s many volunteer opportunities to get involved in.”

According to 2003 data from the National Center for Education statistics, 20 percent of the people, 16 years and older, in Robeson County lack the ‘basic prose and literacy skills.’

The overall literacy rate in North Carolina is 14 percent.

For more information about how to get involved around campus visit Community and Civic Engagement’s website or call 910-521-6136.



Literacy Commons located in Wellons Hall on the first level. PN Photo/ Micheál DeMers

Nationwide Organization Localizes to UNCP Campus

By Madison Long
Staff Writer

Delight Ministries was started on UNCP’s campus in spring of 2018. Delight is a nationwide ministry that invites college women into a Christ-centered community that allows them to be open about what they are going through and transforms stories that women can relate to.

“I decided to start Delight here at UNCP because I saw something special in the way Delight spreads the word of God. Delight is so different than any other ministry because the stories are so relatable. Being able to spread His word to the women at Pembroke is an amazing experience,” junior Meeghan Worden said.

Delight ministries has over 100 chapters across the United States. On UNCP’s

campus the leaders focus on providing women with tools and resources to grow and sustain a Christ-centered place for women to worship.

Delight gather “delight dinners” so they can come together to spend time with one another and attend “delight dates” to hosts devotionals. They also do services where they have taken time to pick up the trash and clean up UNCP’s campus.

Members of Delight share stories of their struggles and testimonies. These stories open up conversations during the meetings that allow the women to all grow together.

They gathered to share the story of a young woman named Hannah whose testimony described “finding your identity and embracing the gifts that God has given to people.”



Delight Ministries conversing about the different resources and tools with scriptures. Photo Submitted

According to the story, “In college we are surrounded by people who are doing big things, have huge dreams, and are pursuing their God-given passions. We must remember that the purpose behind our out time in college is to discover our passions and the path

God has designed for us.”

After the story, the women did an activity together about sharing their God-given gifts that they see in the person sitting next to them.

“Coming to college is a very difficult process while leaving your home, family,

and friends to move to a new place. Being in Delight has brought me so many new friends that are my new family. The best part about this family is that we all share the love for Jesus,” Worden said.

North Carolina Local Government Budget Association Advices UNCP Students

By Mason Miller
Editor-In-Chief

The North Carolina Local Government Budget Association visited UNCP to advise students how local government entities budget their money.

Three presenters from the association discussed working in local government finance.

Engaging students with discussion the intricacies of budget and financing.

Representing three different counties across North Carolina, UNCP alumn Chris Cauley representing Mecklenburg County, UNCP alumn Janet Schaffer representing Cabbarus County and Paarth Mehta representing Wake County.

Hosted by UNCP’s Political Science Department, the NCLGBA representatives answered student questions and offered career advice.

While budget may not be

the most interesting topic, the representatives made engaging dialogue between the mixed crowd of graduate students, undergraduate students, and staff.

“While our organization is budget association, our mission statement doesn’t just include budget,” Mehta said. Strategy, performance measurement, these kind of five principles in mind - accuracy, continuous learning, diverse membership, net-working and collaborative

partnership.”

Working to make students aware of what they do not only as self proclaimed detectives, but as councilmen, to ensure elected officials continue to understand what happens in a budget and finance office.

“We in the budget office, we have to make sure that whatever was adopted at the beginning of the year, we have that same number throughout the year - unless we have taken things

to the Board to change it,” Mahta said. While offering ‘solutions and innovations’ NCLGBA continues to help make organizations more effective in their budget process.

The organization are visiting a number of schools from Duke, UNC-Charlotte, UNC, North Carolina State, including our own University and more.

Changing the Narrative of Victim Shaming

By Octavia Johnson
Campus Life Editor

Student organization Rise Together created a viewing of survivors of sexual assault clothing in their “What were You Wearing?” Their special guest was Melody Wilson, life coach and abuse survivor.

Rise together contacted the Pembroke community, UNCP’s faculty, staff and students, who experienced sexual abuse, to provide the clothing that they wore during the incident. They created a display to show how “the type of clothing doesn’t determine whether or not a person will face sexual assault.”

Some clothing couldn’t be retrieved so they used similar clothing inspired by the survivor’s outfit.

Haiven Pierce, Rise Together president, spoke about her experience in high school with her best friend’s boyfriend during her freshman year.

“I usually wear a hoodie and jeans to school so I stayed covered up. I will make a disclaimer before I

really dive into my story at all, I was never physically abused in anyway, it was more of a mental abuse that I experienced,” she said.

Pierce said there were some unwanted physcial aspects but it never escalated to the point that the police would be involved.

She started to grow fearful after the boyfriend found out that Pierce planned to tell her friend about his abuse towards her. When she did decide to consult with her family and the friend, she faced victim blaming.

“My parents punished me for what happened and I eventually was able to tell my best friend,” she said. “She didn’t believe me, she chose to believe him and stuck with him.”

Pierce said the friend’s boyfriend contacted her five years later apologizing for his behavior towards her. She was originally going to text him that “she didn’t appreciate what he did to her and it was a cowardly thing for him to do” but she added another paragraph “thanking him



This camouflage shirt was displayed as a representation of what a military woman was wearing at the time of her abuse. PN Photo/Octavia Johnson

for creating a stepping stone in her life and now she advocates for those who face sexual abuse.”

Wilson shared her story about being sexually abused by her father.

“When I would braid his hair, he would put hand on me and start go up my thigh, I was like ‘something is not right,’ so I pushed his hand away, then he did it again and I got mad and went to my room,” she

said.

Wilson recalled wearing a long “granny” grown every night to bed when her father would try to sexually abuse her so she understood that clothing wasn’t an indication on whether or not someone get sexually abused.

When the town, school and family found out about her father’s sexual abuse towards her a year later, she lost friends and some

family members refuse to speak to them.

“During his hearing, his lawyer blamed me for what I wore and had the nerve to ask me why didn’t I defend myself because my father was a Tai Kwan Do instructor,” she said.

Wilson encourages other survivors to remember that “to tell your own story, don’t let nobody tell it for you.”

HOROSCOPES FOR UNCP STUDENTS

Aquarius

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

♒

As a water sign, you are naturally independent and trustworthy.

Pisces

(Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

♓

Stay in touch with your emotions today. Don't space out!

Aries

(Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

♈

Keep your fire burning, don't let anyone put it out.

Taurus

(Apr. 20-May 20)

♉

Use cation before speaking or acting.

Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

♊

Go with the wind.

Cancer

(June 21-July 22)

♋

Cry if you want to, it's your party.

Leo

(July 23-Aug 22)

♌

Yes you look great today, yes I like your outfit.

Virgo

(Aug. 23-Sept 22)

♍

The best sign, Virgos are the Mother Teresa's of the Earth.

Libra

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

♎

Don't forget to take care of yourself.

Scorpio

(Oct. 23-Nov.21)

♏

Make sure to tell yourself, how much you love yourself.

Sagittarius

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

♐

Take the high road this week. Avoid unnecessary banter.

Capricorn

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

♑

Get your ducks in order, you have very big things headed your way soon.

Creating Art With Individuality

By Daniel Arrington
Staff Writer

“Spectrum of the Arts” was held in the UC Lounge from 6-9 p.m. on April 9. The Student Government Association (SGA) sponsored the event along with the Art Club and Inkwell.

“Tonight is about coming to showcase your individuality and being proud of who you are,” said Blake Carney, president of Spectrum.

The event tied into their event earlier that day called “Are You Proud of Your Sexuality/Gender Identity?”

Spectrum hosted an art gallery with an open mic



Blake Carney’s painting “This is Our Happy Place” in Spectrum’s art exhibit. PN Photo/Daniel Arrington

for the public to express their sexuality and gender identities. Inkwell and Spectrum members came together and presented poems to the audience.

The purpose of that

event was to give out information on different sexualities. Spectrum wanted those who attended to reflect and be empowered by their individuality.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. David K. Walton



Dr. David “Kalonji” Walton sitting in his office in Dial 211. PN Photo/Brian Pridgen

By Brian Pridgen
Reporter

The day in the life of Dr. David “Kalonji” Walton is one filled with involvement with his UNCP students. From his classes to after-hour functions, some students can count on Walton to be there to aid and assist as an advisor, leader, professor and an ear to listen. He gives the student body many knowledgeable and self-supporting stories of black history. This year, he won an award from The National Council for Black Studies for Outstanding Leadership and the Promotion of Africana Studies. With all that he does on campus, he still finds time between grading papers and assignments to offer the less fortunate and those unable to provide for themselves dinners and services to help them strive for success at UNCP.

Q: What do you provide to the students of UNCP?

DW: Beyond classroom instruction, I advise and push students to be more active and self-confident.

Q: What is your goal for the students here?

DW: The goal for me would be that every student is successful in the goals they set forth to achieve.

Q: What drives to engage with your students?

DW: My passion for black history and the passion to see the positive development of students.

Q: Would you mind telling me the toughest challenge for you when it comes to this campus?

DW: The toughest challenge for me is breaking through the barrier of the inability to connect with students.

Walton encourages every student to use the resources available, such as the library, because these resources can “take you farther than you can imagine.”

Kirstjen Nielsen Resigns as Secretary of Homeland Security

By Tyana Morris Emberton
Asst. Photo Editor

Kirstjen Nielsen, the secretary of Homeland Security, resigned on April 7 after a meeting with President Trump.

“I have determined that it is the right time for me to step aside,” Nielsen said in a resignation letter. “I hope that the next secretary will have the support of Congress and the courts in fixing the laws which have impeded our ability to fully secure America’s borders and which have contributed to discord in our nation’s discourse.”

According to CNN, Nielsen did not resign willingly and was under pressure to do so. Senior administration officials said that Niel-

sen had a 5 p.m. meeting at the White House with Trump where she was planning to discuss the immigration and border issues and a path forward.

Nielsen’s resignation comes after constant demands from the president that she take action to stop migrants from entering the country, including illegal actions, such as blocking all migrants from seeking asylum and cutting off foreign aid to Central American countries even though the funding was the responsibility of the State Department.

President Trump announced the former secretary’s exit on Twitter. “Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen will be leaving her position, and I would like to thank her for her service,” Trump tweeted.

The president chose U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan to replace Nielsen as acting secretary of Homeland Security. “I am pleased to announce that Kevin McAleenan, the current U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner, will become Acting Secretary for @DHSgov. I have confidence that Kevin will do a great job!” he announced on Twitter.

Installing McAleenan as secretary would have skipped over acting Deputy Secretary Claire Grady, who also serves in the Senate confirmed role as the Undersecretary of Management. However, Grady resigned two days after Nielsen. According to CNN, Homeland Security officials said she was forced to either resign or be fired.

Former VP Amidst Multiple Sexual Harassment Claims

By Alex Smith
Sports Copy Editor

Joe Biden, the 2020 presidential race candidate and former vice president, is facing multiple allegations of sexual harassment.

The claims have brought up the issue of “disqualifying conduct,” according to NBC News.

On March 29, former Nevada State Assemblywoman Lucy Flores wrote

for “The Cut” detailing a situation from 2014 involving Biden that made her uncomfortable. He reportedly “leaned further in and inhaled my hair” and “proceeded to plant a big slow kiss on the back of my head,” according to her op-ed.

Three days later, former congressional aid Amy Lappos, accused Biden of “inappropriate behaviour” when he “reached for her

face and rubbed noses with her” during a fundraiser in 2009 in Connecticut.

On April 2, the New York Times published two more accounts who allege that Joe Biden touched them inappropriately.

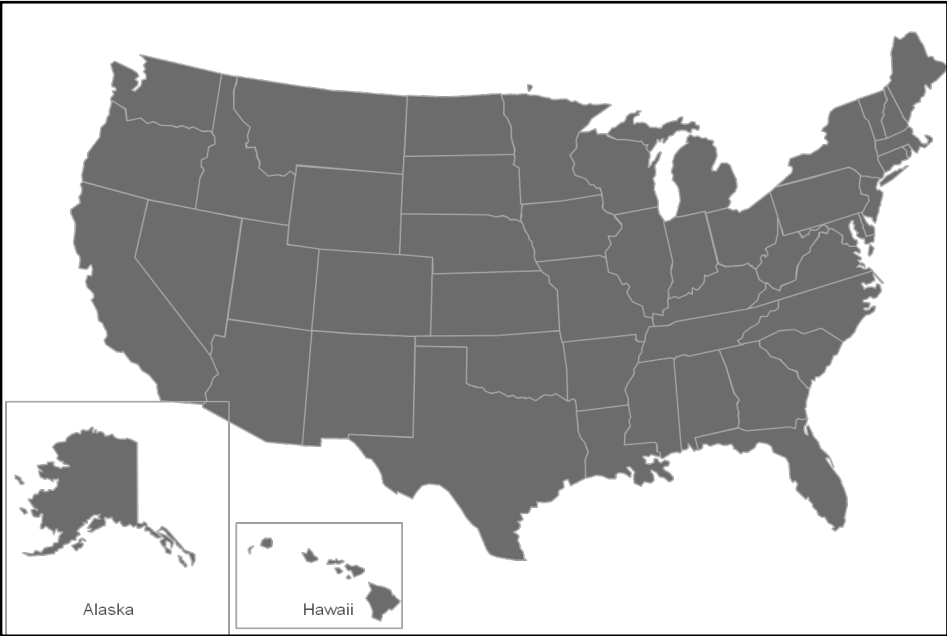
One, Caitlyn Caruso, said Biden put his hand on her thigh while she showed physical discomfort, and hugged her “just a little bit too long” at an event on sexual assault at the Univer-

sity of Nevada at Las Vegas when she was 19.

Second was the account of D.J. Hill, a writer who met Biden in 2012 at a fundraising event in Minneapolis: “When she and her husband, Robert, stepped up to take their photograph with the vice president, he put his hand on her shoulder and then started dropping it down her back, which made her “very uncomfortable.” As senator, Biden over-

saw the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, which he calls his “proudest legislative accomplishment.”

He continued this cause with the Obama administration and focus on what it said was an “epidemic of sexual violence by male students against their female classmates on college campuses,” according to Politico.



News Briefs

First Picture of Black Hole Unveiled

- The Event Horizon Telescope project released the first image of a black hole to ever be captured on Wednesday and was evidently taken two years ago. The image was able to be captured due to the power of eight telescopes that were placed and synchronized throughout four continents.

Tiger Woods Wins Masters 2019

- Tiger Woods, 43, has won the 2019 Masters, being his first major tournament victory since 2005 and first Masters win in 14 years. At the Augusta National, Woods received his fifth green jacket and also replaced Jack Nicklaus as the oldest Masters winner (1986). Woods also replaced Gary Player as the record-holder of longest time between Masters wins.

Fire Burns Roof of Notre Dame

- People around the globe are in shock as the notorious Notre Dame cathedral caught fire Monday night. The spire of the cathedral quickly caught fire, ultimately splitting and falling over. The entire roof of the building burned, leaving onlookers and authorities worried about what will remain from the fire. This is not the first time the church has caught fire.

Representative Sent Death Threats

- Representative Ilhan Omar has started to receive death threats after a confrontation over social media between Omar and the President. In an appearance on local television station KSTP, Trump called Omar “extremely unpatriotic and extremely disrespectful to our country.” Tweeting spiced images of Omar and the 9/11 attacks, some argue that Trump’s endorsement of the tweet have created the overwhelming death threats send to Omar.

Bernie Sanders Town Hall Debate

- Fox news hosted a town hall segment Monday where 2020 Democratic primary candidate Bernie Sanders discussed his support for policies like free college tuition and called out President Trump to be a ‘pathological liar’. According to Fox News, the town hall debate delivered 2,554,000 viewers which makes it the most watched town hall during this pre-election season.

Artists and Fans Mourn Husband, Father, Entertainer Nipsey Hussle

By James Jones & Jalen Head
Staff Writers

On March 31, Ermias Joseph Asghedom, better known as Nipsey Hussle, 33, was shot and killed in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. The shooting happened at 3:25 p.m. outside of his clothing store, Marathon Clothing.

Hussle was hit five times in the torso and once in the head. Two others were wounded in the shooting. All three victims were immediately transported to a hospital, where Hussle was pronounced dead at 3:55 p.m. Eric Ronald Holder, 29, was arrested the following Tuesday, April 2, as the alleged gunman.

Hussle, a singer songwriter, entrepreneur, and community activist, emerged from the West Coast Hip Hop Scene in the mid 2000s. He was initially known for numerous mixtapes including his Bullets Ain’t Got No Name series, The Marathon, The Marathon Continues and Crenshaw, which gained fame due to hip hop artist Jay Z purchasing 100 copies for \$100 each.

In 2018, Hussle released his debut studio album Victory Lap, which was nominated Best Rap Album for the 61st Annual Grammy Awards in 2019 - less than two months before his subsequent death.

Amidst his death controversy and conspiracy theories concerning a possible motive for murder related to the now deceased Honduran holistic healer, Dr. Sebi, who had proven he could cure AIDS during a court trial held by a New York attorney general. In total, 77 patients came to trial to testify Dr. Sebi’s authenticity from personal experience. Hussle, on the hit radio program “The Breakfast Club”, had said that he thinks the story is important and a powerful narrative. There is news of a potential documentary in the making.

His fiancé, actress Lauren London expressed her grief in multiple statements on various forms of media. In an Instagram post she said, “I am completely lost. I’ve lost my best friend. My sanctuary. My protector. My soul....I’m lost without you. We are lost without you babe. I have no words.”

Many high-profile names have shared their grief and heartbreak at the news of the rapper’s death, such as NBA player LeBron James, fellow rappers Meek Mill, Pharrel Williams, Chance the Rapper, Snoop Dogg, Rick Ross and comedian Ava DuVernay.

Holder pleaded not guilty on April 4, during a brief court appearance. The judge ordered Holder to a \$5 million bond.

Hussle is survived by a 2-year-old son, whom he had with London in 2016, and a daughter from a previous relationship.

UNCP Junior Jonathan Hill said, “I had a bad feeling when I saw the news for the shooting with his name. The man was a legend walking and a good role model for everybody. When I saw the breaking news, I just hoped for the best. When I saw he didn’t make it I was stunned.”

Though he was known for his mixtapes while in the underground scene of hip-hop, Hussle’s debut album released February of 2018 received a Grammy nomination for the 2019 “Best Rap Album” category. Throughout his time rising to prominence Hussle looked to establish a clothing brand called “The Marathon Continues” also known as “TMC.” Through his entrepreneurial efforts, Hussle looked to provide employment to homeless members of the community and ex-convicts returning to civilian life. Nipsey leaves behind a wife, mother, older brother, two children as well as an entire hip-hop community that mourns his death.

Us

‘Us’ Breaks Box Office With Horror Performance

By Jalen Head
Staff Writer

In its debut weekend ‘Us’ by Jordan Peele grossed \$70 million, making it the second-largest debut of the year only behind Captain Marvel (\$153 Million). ‘Us’ has earned the largest box-office performance for an original horror film.

The movie was Peele’s second psychological thriller to hit the theaters.

The film received a lot of attention and hype after the first trailer was released on Christmas of last year.

The film stars Lupita Nyong’o and Winston Duke, who were both a part of the star-studded Black Panther cast.

The film centers around a family on vacation in Santa Cruz, Calif. who are attacked by doppelgängers or “tethers” and they must find a way to defeat them before the tethers ‘take their place’ on the surface.

There were numerous Easter eggs and clues spread throughout the 2-hour film left some fans with questions.

Since its release, ‘Us’ has created confusion with audiences who viewed it.

As previously discovered with his directorial debut ‘Get Out,’ his is a big fan of leaving loose context for fan-interpretation. This approach has left some feeling like they need more explanation.

The film includes a controversial plot twist that left some audience members stunned. Some UNCP students believe the movie makes a person think and it shouldn’t matter how it ended.

“I messed with ‘Us’ heavy. I lowkey want to go see it again. People love to call a movie trash or bad because it isn’t like the basic movies. They want everything to be spelled out to them and don’t try to go past the surface level of it and really think,” sophomore Jimere Rudolph said.

Alpha Hosts Annual “Big Man on Campus”

By Madison Long
Staff Writer

Zeta Tau Alpha hosted their annual “Big Man on Campus.”

The event is one of their major philanthropy events every year allows the sorority to raise money for Breast Cancer Education and Awareness. The event is a male pageant consisting of casual wear, a talent portion, swimwear and formal attire and questions about their organization.

Judges included, Jade Jones, the assistant director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Emily Oxendine an alumnae of Zeta Tau Alpha and their on-campus adviser, as well as their former big man on campus, Christian Ceccato. Freshmen Kandice Darnell and Mary Davis hosted the event, keeping the crowd entertained during breaks. The UNCP acapella group “Vocal Harmony” also gave a special performance during the event.

The night kicked off with all the participants do-

ing a choreographed dance.

“The dance the guys did before the event really got everyone excited for what was to come of the night, and I really loved their enthusiasm it got them more comfortable on stage,” sophomore Kinsey Land said.

The talent portion of the evening got the crowd excited. Jeremiah Kelly, junior, performed a spoken word he wrote himself. Garrett Carbenia, a freshman, did a dance with two of his friends to Shakira’s song “Hips Don’t Lie.” He pulled some people out of the crowd to dance along with him. Duncan Younger, junior, and Colton Meeks, senior, did a lip sync to “Old Town Road.” Harrison Whitt, sophomore, also did a dance in the dark using glow sticks.

“What I loved about big man was that it was more fun than anything. Even though I didn’t win I still enjoyed every minute of it and look forward to doing it again next year,” Harrison Whitt said.

The best talent award was given to Whitt and best dressed was awarded to Duncan Younger. The Mr. Popular award was presented to Dylan Patawaran, freshman. Mishark Jibinor, sophomore was awarded the new title of Big Man on Campus 2019.

“I want to thank all of the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha for their support and the crowd for helping us raise money for Breast Cancer. I’m so thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the pageant,” Mishark Jibinor said.

Zeta Tau Alpha raised over \$1,000 for Breast Cancer Education and Awareness for the night’s festivities.

“Our philanthropy events allow us to raise awareness for Breast Cancer. Having the chance to raise money helps us fight for the one out of eight women effected by Breast Cancer and those who are fighting for a cure,” said Meeghan Woorden, Think Pink chairman for ZTA.



Zeta Tau Alpha awards Mishark Jibinor, middle, the “Big Man on Campus” in the Moore Hall Auditorium. PN Photo/Madison Long

Students Share Their “Break-out Moments”

By Ky’Aire Goode
Managing Editor

In theory, every college student has a “breakout moment.” The time in a person’s college journey where they truly realize that they’ve arrived on campus is a defining point in a student’s life. Whether it’s a late night swamped with schoolwork, that first walk of shame, joining a Greek organization or another unique life moment, every student comes to a point where they recognize the reality of college life.

For some students, it happens right away during their freshman year, right when they arrive at their university. Caroline Carver, a student at Lander University in Greenwood, S. C., had her breakout moment in the summer when she first moved on campus. For her, it was living on her own and realizing she’s more independent than ever as a college student.

“I don’t have to be told I can and can’t do [things].

I got my own cat...if I want cake at 2 a.m. I can go get it,” Carver said.

The moment was less of a shock for Carver than some other students, as she goes to school very close to her home. The breakout moment tends to hit some students more harshly, as they go through major changes in their lives while being expected to keep their grades up.

“For me it was probably when I was hanging out in my best friend’s apartment doing an essay. It just kinda hit me hard that this is my life and I’m on my own, I’m making my own decisions away from home...I had a really hard time adjusting to being on my own at first,” one former student at UNCP said.

This student deals with depression and takes medication for it, but had to adjust to her school’s psychiatry department, which she said often cancelled appointments because it was understaffed. The psychiatrist was only in the office

for a few days out of the week, which made it difficult for her to set up dates and get her medicine.

The feeling of being away from home and left to take care of ones’ self can be overwhelming, but she continues to see the positive side of it.

“It was a very free feeling knowing that I can do with my life what I want,” she said.

For others, like UNCP student Kara Stafford, the jitters from going to class are the time when the breakout moment really hits home.

“For me, it was actually when I started my first day of classes. I was really anxious and nervous because it was so different from high school,” Stafford said.

Stafford eventually became more comfortable in her college environment with the help of a close friend who helped her branch out and meet more people over time.

Other social individuals like junior Ariana Lugo and

former UNCP student Taylor Marion had their breakout moments at parties.

“Like three days after move-in date I was at a kickback and realized I had to be home before my mom started calling me,” Marion said. “I called her right away telling her I was leaving my friend’s place and it hit me.”

College socialites like Marion and Lugo recognize how hard it can be to find a balance between the things they want and the things they need.

“It’s been very stressful trying to prioritize between schoolwork and having a social life. But at the end of the day I’m still pushing through getting ready to graduate next year,” Lugo said.

Lugo’s breakout moment came at a pool party, the last one of her freshman year. Surrounded by all her closest friends, she realized that she couldn’t wait to come back after the Summer.

Junior Taylie Bray had

her moment this year, but shares something with Lugo that’s essential to a breakout moment for a college student.

“I was just hanging out with my roommates. They’re a bunch of girls who are all really different from me, but college brought us all together and that feels good. My moment was with them. That’s when I felt like college was right for me, surrounded by a bunch of different types of people that I’ve genuinely come to love,” Bray said.

Bray’s moment is emblematic of what the breakout moment is supposed to do for a college student. Whether that moment is a good, bad, fun, boring or scary experience for the student, it propels them to a newfound appreciation of college; a place where many different people come together and share moments like these.

What you won’t see in the Mueller report

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK**

The special counsel’s Trump-Russia report will be out on Thursday for all to see. But not all of it.

The Democrats’ demands for a full, unredacted version of Robert Mueller’s report are likely to prompt a political and legal battle that could last for months, if not much longer.

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, New York Rep. Jerrold Nadler, has said he is prepared to issue subpoenas “very quickly” for the full report on Russia and Donald Trump’s presidential campaign if it is released with blacked-out sections. And that would set the legal fight in motion.

Attorney General William Barr has said he is redacting four types of information from the report, which the Justice Department says will be released Thursday. Congressional Democrats cite precedent

from previous investigations in saying they want to see it all. But some Republicans defending Barr are also citing precedent, saying it is appropriate to keep at least some of the information from Congress and the public.

A look at what types of material Barr is redacting, and why Democrats say it should be released:

GRAND JURY INFORMATION

Barr has staked out his position on releasing secret grand jury information, saying last week that he would not go to court to request its release. He said Democrats are “free to go to court” themselves, and Nadler has said he is ready to do so.

Grand jury information, including witness interviews, is normally off limits but can be obtained in court. Some records were eventually released in the Whitewater investigation into former President Bill

Clinton and an investigation into President Richard Nixon before he resigned.

Both of those cases were under somewhat different circumstances, including that the House Judiciary Committee had initiated impeachment proceedings. Federal court rules state that a court may order disclosure “preliminary to or in connection with a judicial proceeding.”

But Democrats have said they are not interested in impeachment, for now, and are likely to argue in court that they don’t need to be in an official impeachment proceeding to receive the materials.

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Congress frequently receives classified documents and briefings, and Democrats say there is no reason the Mueller report should be any different.

Many Republicans agree, including the top Re-

publican on the intelligence committee, California Rep. Devin Nunes, who wrote a rare joint letter in March with House intelligence committee Chairman Adam Schiff asking for “all materials, regardless of form or classification.” In the letter, which was obtained by The Associated Press, Schiff and Nunes also asked for a private briefing from Mueller and his team.

Democrat Schiff has argued that some of that information should be released to the public, as well, citing Mueller indictments that have already revealed granular detail about the Russian effort to influence the 2016 election.

“All of that information at one point was classified, but the decision must have been made the public interest outweighs that. And I think a similar analysis should be undertaken here,” Schiff said on CNN this month.

ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS

Barr said he will redact information related to investigations connected to the Mueller probe that are still underway. Those include cases handed off or referred to federal prosecutors in Washington, New York and Virginia.

Democrats have noted that the Justice Department has released such information before, including some related to Mueller’s own investigation while it was in progress. Republicans who were in the House majority last year, obtained documents related to the beginnings of the Russia investigation, arguing that officials were biased against then-candidate Trump.

Republicans argued at the time that it was necessary to obtain that information to maintain the integrity of the investigation.

New Video Sheds Light on a Recent Police Brutality Case

By **TOM FOREMAN Jr. and SARAH BLAKE MORGAN**

Police video released Monday shows an officer in Charlotte, North Carolina, fatally shooting a man who was armed but didn’t point his weapon at authorities.

The body camera footage shows two officers approaching 27-year-old Danquirs Napoleon Franklin outside a Burger King on March 25 after witnesses called 911 to report a man with a gun acting in a threatening manner.

The police video shows officers repeatedly yelling for Franklin, who is black, to put his gun down. He’s seen squatting by the open door of a car, facing someone in the passenger seat.

“Sir, put the gun down,” says the officer wearing the body camera. “Drop the

gun!” Franklin doesn’t move as police approach him, the video shows. As they shout at him, Franklin can be seen raising his right hand with an object in it, still facing the person in the passenger seat.

He lowers his hand right around the time when the first of two shots by the officer can be heard, according to the video. “Shots fired!” the officer yells into her radio. About 40 seconds had passed from the time the officer exited her cruiser to when Franklin was shot. She then reaches under his body and can be seen picking up a handgun, saying: “I gotta pick up the gun.”

The officers tell the person in the passenger seat, “Let me see your hands,” and the person holds them out on the dashboard. Police

have not released that person’s identity.

Before the release of the footage, Charlotte leaders held a news conference to urge community members to be calm after seeing what’s on it. They noted that protests had been planned even before the video’s release. No protesters were observed at the Burger King on Monday afternoon, shortly after the video came out.

Mayor Vi Lyles urged the community to engage in a peaceful discourse about what happened. “It is in moments like this that we can open for a discussion and discourse. We can talk about what’s on that video,” she said. “But what I always think about is how we respond as a community will reflect how we honor the memory of

Danquirs Franklin.”

Police Chief Kerr Putney said the video is hard to watch, but it shows that Franklin was armed. “There is clear and compelling evidence that Mr. Franklin is armed. You will see that” on the video, Putney said at a news conference.

Putney said Monday that the video is consistent with what police have said all along, that Franklin refused to drop his weapon and an officer fired after perceiving a lethal threat. Before the shooting, one witness who called 911 said that an armed man had entered Burger King and tried to start a fight with employees.

“Can you please send somebody quickly? Please. He got a gun. ... He’s pointing it,” she said.

But since the shooting, some have questioned whether police were too quick to use lethal force, including students who walked out of a school to protest the shooting days after it happened.

The officer who shot Franklin was identified as Officer Wende Kerl, who has worked for the department since 1995. She has been placed on administrative leave while the shooting is investigated by detectives, who will turn their findings over to the district attorney. A department spokesman has declined to release Kerl’s race.

The video was released Monday by a judge in response to a media petition.

Catastrophic Fire Engulfs Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris

By **LORI HINNANT and SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

A catastrophic fire engulfed the upper reaches of Paris' soaring Notre Dame Cathedral as it was undergoing renovations Monday, threatening one of the greatest architectural treasures of the Western world as tourists and Parisians looked on aghast from the streets below.

The blaze collapsed the cathedral's spire and spread to one of its landmark rectangular towers. A spokesman said the entire wooden frame of the cathedral would likely come down, and that the vault of the edifice could be threatened too.

"Everything is burning, nothing will remain from the frame," Notre Dame spokesman Andre Finot told French media. The 12th-century cathedral is home to incalculable works of art and is one of the world's most famous tourist attractions.

The cause of the blaze was not known, but French media quoted the Paris fire brigade as saying the fire is "potentially linked" to a 6 million-euro (\$6.8 million) renovation project on the church's spire and its 250 tons of lead. Prosecutors opened an investigation as Paris police said there were no reported deaths.

Flames shot out of the roof behind the nave of the cathedral, among the most visited landmarks in the world. Hundreds of people lined up bridges around the island that houses the cathedral, watching in shock as acrid smoke rose in plumes. The fire came less than a week before Easter amid Holy Week commemorations.

French President Emmanuel Macron was treating the fire as a national emergency, rushing to the scene and straight into meetings at the Paris police headquarters nearby.

Deputy mayor Emmanuel Gregoire said emergen-

cy services were trying to salvage the famed art pieces stored in the cathedral. Built in the 12th and 13th centuries, Notre Dame is the most famous of the Gothic cathedrals of the Middle Ages as well as one of the most beloved structures in the world. Situated on the Ile de la Cite, an island in the Seine river, the cathedral's architecture is famous for, among other things, its many gargoyles and its iconic flying buttresses.

Among the most celebrated artworks inside are its three stained-glass rose windows, placed high up on the west, north and south faces of the cathedral. Its priceless treasures also include a Catholic relic, the crown of thorns, which is only occasionally displayed, including on Fridays during Lent.

The cathedral was immortalized in Victor Hugo's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," published in 1831, and has long been a subject

of fascination in popular culture as well as the traditional art world. French historian Camille Pascal told BFM broadcast channel the blaze marked "the destruction of invaluable heritage."

"It's been 800 years that the Cathedral watches over Paris", Pascal said. "Happy and unfortunate events for centuries have been marked by the bells of Notre Dame."

He added: "We can be only horrified by what we see."

Associated Press reporters at the scene saw massive plumes of yellow brown smoke filling the air above the Cathedral and ash falling on the island that houses Notre Dame and marks the center of Paris. As the spire fell, the sky lit up orange. Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo is in despair at the "terrible fire." Hidalgo said in a Twitter message that Paris firefighters are still trying to limit the fire and urged Paris citizens to respect the

security perimeter that has been set around the cathedral.

Hidalgo said Paris authorities are in touch with the Paris diocese. Reactions from around the world came swiftly including from the Vatican, which released a statement expressing shock and sadness for the "terrible fire that has devastated the Cathedral of Notre Dame, symbol of Christianity in France and in the world."

In Washington, Trump tweeted: "So horrible to watch the massive fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris" and suggested first responders use "flying water tankers" to put it out. Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, said he was praying "to ask the intercession of Notre Dame, our Lady, for the Cathedral at the heart of Paris, and of civilization, now in flames! God preserve this splendid house of prayer, and protect those battling the blaze."

SPORTS



SECTION
B

The Pine Needle

Baseball Roundup: Braves Struggle to Find Consistency



Junior Ethan Baucom awaits his fellow infielder Luke Jackson to celebrate at home plate after the senior hit a home run in game one of their Peach Belt Conference series with North Georgia on April 13. PN File Photo/Trevon Knight

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The Braves have struggled to find any semblance of consistency down the final stretch of the regular season after dropping six of their last eight games. They are in serious jeopardy of not just missing out on the postseason but also finishing with a losing record for the first time since the 2004 season just

one year after finishing 39-15.

With eight games to go they currently sit at 19-22 and are fighting for their playoff lives. Here are some nuggets from their notable performances of the past two weeks:

Francis Marion 04/07/19:

After dropping the first two games of the series in a doubleheader on Saturday, the UNCP baseball team bounced back in major

way the next day and avoided getting swept by the Francis Marion Patriots. They pummeled their Peach Belt Conference foes into submission in 23-10 victory in the final game of the weekend series.

The Braves racked up a staggering 19 hits on the day, set a single-game record for runs with 23, and had six innings in which they scored three or more runs.

North Georgia 04/14/19:

The UNCP baseball team was able to salvage a win in the final game of their weekend Peach Belt Conference series over the Night Hawks of North Georgia thanks in large part to the significant contributions from their graduating class. The Braves’ seniors off on Senior Day in front of family, friends and a whole flock of Black and Gold faithful at Sammy Cox

Field in an 18-6 victory. After the Night Hawks climbed on the board first with a solo homer in the top of the first inning, it was all UNCP the rest of the way. The Braves would record a new season-high 24 hits and tripled the number of runs by No.8 ranked North Georgia who sits atop of the conference standings with 18 through eight innings.

Softball Roundup: Explosive Offense Has Given Braves New Life

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The Braves have been battling back from a rough and sluggish start to their season and have now captured five of their last eight games in large part due to their ability to hit the ball out of the park early and often over the past two games.

First-year slugger Cam Davis has had the hottest bat on the season, but especially as of late when she has stepped to the plate. She was named PBC player of the week after recording two grand slams in two days against Lander and Flagler. Here are some highlights from some of their notable performances from the past two weeks:

Lander 04/06/19:

The UNCP softball team faced off against the Bearcats of Lander University in a doubleheader at the UNCP Softball field on Apr.6. The two teams would split the twinbill in the Peach Belt Conference matchup with the Braves taking the first game 6-3 and the visiting



Freshman Cam Davis had a host of Braves waiting her after she hit a grand slam in game one of the team’s double header with the Lander University Bearcats. PN File Photo/Trevon Knight

Bearcats capturing the second game 9-1.

Flagler 04/07/19:

The UNCP Softball team capped off their weekend of doubleheaders with Peach Belt Conference opponents on Sunday with a twinbill against the Saints of Flagler College on Senior Day.

The Braves put up 24 over both games, 10 of which came as extra-base hits. They split the doubleheader winning the

first game 4-2 and dropping the second game in extra innings 13-11. Prior to their victory in game one, they had dropped four-straight bouts with the Saints.

Winston-Salem 04/10/19:

After splitting their last two doubleheaders with Peach Belt Conference opponents, the UNCP softball team swept the Rams of Winston Salem University in a nonconference matchup at the UNCP softball field.

The Braves continued their recent streak of explosive offense at bat by capturing the first game 6-3 and the secured the sweep in game two with an 11-3 win.

Georgia Southwestern 04/13/19:

The UNCP softball team faced off against the Georgia Southwestern University Canes in a Peach Belt Conference doubleheader at the Lady Canes Softball Field. The Braves took both games

of the twinbill into extra innings and while they came out victorious in game one when they broke the scoreless stalemate for a 1-0 win, they would drop game two 5-6 in extra innings after their host scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the 10th.

Upcoming Games:
@ Johnson C. Smith - Apr. 17
@ Augusta - Apr. 19
@ Columbus State - Apr. 26

Offense Shows Flashes but Defense Reigns Supreme in Spring Scrimmage



Running back Quadrin Williams gets tackled in the backfield as he fights to get back to the line of scrimmage. PN Photo/Trevon Knight

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The UNCP football team held their annual Black and Gold inter-squad scrimmage on April 11 at Grace P. Johnson Stadium. When the Black squad faced off against the Gold squad, the Gold squad came out of the defensive bout victorious in a 10-9 triumph.

The Braves held a draft earlier in the week where the elected captains chose which players were going to be on their team. The Black squad got starting quarterback Josh Jones, the Gold Squad led by Head Coach Shane Richardson went defense heavy in the early rounds of the draft and it ultimately paid off.

Defensive Highlights:

The overall play of all the defenders was tremendous on the night especially in some of the areas where the Braves struggled the most last season which was secondary play and tackling in the open field at the second and third levels of the defense.

Defenders made the offensive skill players on both squads work hard and fight for every yard that was gained and every catch that was made. They flew around all over the field, swarmed to the ball, hit hard and hustled on every play.

A great example of the amount of effort and heads up play that was being exhibited on the night was when freshman receiver Trey Dixon made a great

adjustment to a pass from Jones and made the first defender miss only to have the ball punched out just before he crossed the goal line and it would wind up being recovered by the Gold squad defense in the endzone for a touchback.

“I thought both defenses played very well, and the thing was there was still some things out there that were left on the field where there were some plays that we probably could have been better at,” said Richardson.

Offensive Highlights:

The offense showed flashes of big-play capability and several players routinely displayed their playmaking ability. Both Jones and converted wide receiver Rodney Smith made plays from the quarterback position with their arms and legs by escaping, rolling out and standing tall in the pocket to make throws on the run as well as off platform.

Smith, in particular, looked really good operating the run-pass-option offense and showed great judgment as well as athletic ability when he did decide to pull the ball and take off to pick up first downs and some additional yardage.

“I think Rodney has a great opportunity here ahead of him,” said Richardson. “I think he does bring a different dynamic than Josh obviously but I think he is a guy that continues to embrace his role, he continues to show up every day, he continues to

show up every day, he continues to work and stay after practice. I’m really excited about what he can bring to the table.”

He was a quarterback in high school, and he was brought in and changed to wide receiver, but the team did not have enough quarterbacks to run their scout team, so he ran the scout team offense as a freshman this past season. Richardson says that he earned the No.2 quarterback spot with his work last season and throughout this offseason.

Defensive Backs:

The defensive backs on both teams were outstanding in coverage for most of the night, limiting the impact of the receivers by playing tight coverage, breaking up passes and forcing turnovers. Both of the front seven units were extremely disruptive, applying a lot of pressure on each of the quarterbacks, making plays at and behind the line of scrimmage, racking up several sacks and coming up with some highly instinctive and acrobatic interceptions.

“I thought the corners did a great job...It was really good to see them to make plays on the ball,” said Richardson.

Tight Ends:

A position group that prominently stood out among the offensive skill players was a pair of underclassmen tight ends. Sophomore Tyzaiah Eller and freshman Faheem Diaab were dynamic in the passing game catching passes across

the middle, down the seam and even down the sideline on vertical routes. Diaab, in particular, made a beautiful catch down the right sideline to set the Gold team up with a first in goal.

“What a great threat when you have tight ends that can catch, that block and can run and can go up and get it,” said Richardson. “It brings another element to the offense and I think it really helps us to be a little bit more balanced and spread out and be able to use different weapons.”



Wide receiver Aaron Whitaker pins a touchdown pass against his chest for the Gold squad. PN Photo/Trevon Knight

Quarterbacks:

Both Jones and Smith threw for a touchdown on the night with Smith’s coming on a roll out to his right when he threw a dart to Cory West who had uncovered in the back of the endzone for the game’s first score and Jones’ came on a pass to Aaron Whitaker where he threaded the needle and zipped the ball between two defenders for what would have been the

people,” said Richardson. “There were some good performances on the O-line. That unit has really gelled together well. They have done some really good technical work this spring to be able to just move their game forward.”

He pointed to redshirt sophomore Gage Baldwin as the leader of the unit who has really embraced that role by taking charge and leading the other guys as the group continues to develop and build continuity.

Running Backs:

They were able to find some creases, holes and cutback lanes to hit and run through. One back that stood out with his downhill running style was freshman Jerry Roberts who didn’t spend to much time trying to bounce the play to the outside or try to cut back.

He got north and south without hesitation, ran hard and picked up decent yardage and first downs with most of his carries. Starter Josh Sheridan ran well off tackle picking up nice gains on a few occasions.

The Braves will kick off their 2019 season at home on Sept.5 against the Winston Salem State Rams.



Running back Josh Sheridan stiff arms safety John Jones as he tries to shed the tackle and gain more yards as takes play up the left sideline after bouncing it to the outside. PN Photo/Trevon Knight

SPORTS

FEATURE SPOTLIGHT

First Round Mock for 2019 NFL Draft: Pineneedle Edition



Kyler Murray will attend the 2019 NFL draft that will take place at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, TN from April 25-27.

By Joshua Reed & Ky'Aire Goode
Sports and Managing Editors

With the 2019 NFL draft right around the corner here’s first-round Mock Draft of how the top 32 picks might shake out barring any trades. This mock is predicated on the consensus belief that Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray goes No.1 overall to the Arizona Cardinals.
Round One:
1. Arizona Cardinals - QB Kyler Murray: Ever since the Heisman trophy winner officially measured in at 5-10&1/8th at the Scouting Combine and silenced all the critics that had a height prejudice against him, he’s been all but deadlocked into the top spot in the draft.
2. San Francisco 49ers - DT Quinnen Williams: The team has been stockpiling top five picks along their front seven for years and the former Alabama star would round out a loaded defensive line.
3. New York Jets - DE Nick Bosa: The Jets have been chasing that dominant edge rushing presence for years, and for yet another year will have a top pros-

pect fall into their lap. Nick Bosa fits the bill and is a safe pick, but they pass on Josh Allen in this scenario. Will they regret it?
4. Oakland Raiders - OLB Josh Allen, Kentucky
5. Tampa Bay Buccaneers - ILB Devin White: They could replace Kwon Alexander with another former LSU Tiger who is viewed as the best and most well-rounded linebacker in the draft.
6. New York - Giants DE Rashan Gary, Michigan
7. Jacksonville Jaguars - OT Jawaan Taylor: They are two years removed from an AFC championship appearance so now that they have their franchise quarterback in Nick Foles, they could sure up the right side of their offensive line with arguably the top Tackle prospect.
8. Detroit Lions - DE Montez Sweat, Mississippi State
9. Buffalo Bills - WR D.K. Metcalf: The freakishly athletic former Ole Miss Rebel tested his way into the top 10 of the draft with a fantastic showing at the Scouting Combine. At 6-3, 228 pounds of extremely lean muscle and with 4.33

speed he’d provide the Bill’s offense and second-year quarterback Josh Allen an uber-talented big-play threat on the outside.
10. Denver Broncos - TE TJ Hockenson, Iowa: He’s viewed as the most complete tight end to come out of the draft in years with his ability to make plays in the passing game as well as block on the end of the line. New quarterback Joe Flacco is at his best when he has a prolific tight end to throw to like he did with Todd Heap and Dennis Pitta in Baltimore.
11. Cincinnati Bengals - OT Andre Dillard, Washington State
12. Green Bay Packers - TE Noah Fant: He was part of a dynamic tight end duo at Iowa with Hockenson and could be part of another one with Jimmy Graham for the Aaron Rodgers and the Packers. He’s the most athletic tight end in the draft who provides a vertical threat down the seams of a defense and looks like a big bodied receiver in open space.
13. Miami Dolphins - QB Dwayne Haskins: Coming off a season with 50 passing touchdowns for Ohio State, Haskins is the clear-cut best pure passer in this draft. Getting him at 13 is a major value pick for the Dolphins, who solidify the quarterback position here.
14. Atlanta Falcons - OT/OG Jonah Williams, Alabama:
15. Washington Redskins - QB Drew Lock, Missouri
16. Carolina Panthers - DE Clelin Ferrell
17. New York Giants - QB Daniel Jones: After opting not to take their future franchise quarterback with their top 10 pick, they might grab

him here. Jones has ties to the Manning family through his college coach at Duke and the Giants have been tied to him in a lot of recent mock drafts.
18. Minnesota Vikings - DT Ed Oliver, Houston
19. Tennessee Titans - DE Brian Burns, Florida State
20. Pittsburgh Steelers - CB Byron Murphy: Despite being one of the best pass rushing teams in the league, their secondary has been their Achilles heel for years. Pairing a young aggressive corner that can play both man and zone at a high level and isn’t afraid to make tackles in the run game with veteran Joe Haden would make a nice tandem.
21. Seattle Seahawks - DE Jaylorn Ferguson: He led the nation in sacks last season with 17.5 and finished his career at Louisiana Tech as the No.1 all-time sack leader in college football history. If they are unable to reach a long-term agreement with Frank Clark, he could slide into his spot after this season or form quite the formidable edge rush combo for years to come if Clark is resigned.
22. Baltimore Ravens - WR Hakeem Butler, Iowa State
23. Houston Texans - OT/OG Cody Ford, Oklahoma
24. Oakland Raiders - TE Irv Smith, Alabama
25. Philadelphia Eagles - ILB Devin Bush, Michigan
26. Indianapolis Colts - S Jonathan Abram, Mississippi State
27. Oakland Raiders - CB Greedy Williams, LSU
28. Los Angeles Chargers-DT Dexter Lawrence: Since they decided to not

retain Corey Liuget and with Brandon Mebane on the back end of his career, the massive defensive tackle for Clemson would anchor the middle of a stacked Chargers defensive line for years. At 6-4 and 351 pounds, he’s a mammoth of a man with rare quickness and speed at his size.
29. Kansas City Chiefs - CB DeAndre Baker, Georgia
30. Green Bay Packers - WR AJ Brown, Ole Miss
31. Los Angeles Rams - C Garrett Bradberry: After letting go of two-year starter John Sullivan this offseason, the reigning NFC champions will likely address the center position in the draft after not signing a free agent to date. The former member of N.C. State Wolfpack won the Rimington Award in 2018, given to the nation’s top center, and is the top-rated prospect at the position in the draft.
32. New England Patriots - DT Christian Wilkins: If the former Clemson star defensive tackle were to fall into the lap of the defending Superbowl champions, Bill Belichick might run to the podium himself to turn this card in. He’s one of the smartest, most instinctive, technically sound and versatile players in the draft and would excel in their system.
First Round Sleepers:
CB Rock Ya-Sin, Temple: One of the toughest cover corners in this class and could sneak into the first round.
RB Josh Jacobs, Alabama: The dual threat weapon without a lot of tread on his tires is viewed as the top running back prospect in this class.

Here’s What a Perfect Draft Haul for the Carolina Panthers Might Look Like

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The Panthers are coming off of a 7-9 season in which they got off to a hot start with a 6-2 record before dropping seven-straight games and finishing the year tied for third in the NFC South with the Atlanta Falcons. They have several needs on both sides of the ball with their top need being along the offensive line and at pass rusher. Here’s what a perfect draft haul for the Panthers might look like barring any trades:
No.16 overall: DE Clelin Ferrell, Clemson
With franchise sack leader Julius Peppers’ retirement early this offseason, the team still needs to address their pass rush despite signing former first-round pick and Superbowl champion Bruce Irvin in free agency. Ferrell led the national champion Tigers in sacks with a career-high 11.5 in his senior season. While he doesn’t possess the ideal bend to dip underneath offensive tackles, he has a great get off, active hand usage, a nasty rip move,

a relentless motor and a rare blend of size, speed, and power at 6-5 and 260 pounds.
No.47 overall: OT Dalton Risner, K-State
Even though they signed top free agent center Matt Paradis, Carolina still needs to address their offensive line so that they can better protect their franchise quarterback Cam Newton. He is coming off of an injury-riddled 2018 that saw him miss the final two games of the regular season due to a lingering shoulder injury. Risner played both center and right tackle for the Wildcats so his versatility to play inside and outside would help the Panthers on either edge or interior of their porous offensive line from a year ago.
No.77 overall: LB Josiah Tauaefa, UTSA
The Panthers parted ways with franchise stalwart Thomas Davis this offseason as part of their youth movement on the defensive side of the ball leaving a hole at one of their linebacker positions. Tauaefa is a speedy sideline-to-sideline linebacker with excellent

lateral quickness and plays with a violent downhill physicality that would fit in perfectly into the spot vacated by Davis and taking into account that the team didn’t address the position in free agency.
No.100 overall: S Amani Hooker, Iowa
The former Hawkeye plays at his best within 20 yards of the line of scrimmage as more of a box safety where he can snuff out and blow up screens, blitz off the edge on running and passing plays and disrupt plays across the middle. He also possesses great ball skills that he uses to pick off overthrows, tipped passes and make plays on the ball down the deep middle of the field. He’d form a dynamic safety duo with Eric Reid and all him to patrol the backend from his free safety spot.
No.115 overall: WR Jalen Hurd, Baylor
He is a converted running back who transferred from Tennessee to Baylor for an opportunity to play wide receiver for his last year of eligibility. At 6-4 and 217 pounds, he

would’ve been too tall and lean to play running back for most teams in the NFL if he had remained at that position. However, when he gets the ball in hands as a receiver it is almost as if his has muscle memory takes over and he reverts back to his days in the backfield. He runs through the defense in the second level like he’s still a running back and actually runs routes well despite only playing the position for a year.
Hurd put up 1,155 yards from scrimmage in his senior season for the Bears with 946 coming as a receiver on 69 catches and 209 coming on 48 carries lined up in the backfield. He’d be a great addition to the Panthers offense since they lost their red zone threat receiver Devin Funchess in free agency and Newton could use another big bodied target in the passing game.
No.154 overall: OG Dru Samia, Oklahoma
He was a four-year starter for the Sooners at guard and blocked for the last to winners of the Heisman trophy in Baker Mayfield

who went No.1 overall to the Cleveland Browns last year and Kyler Murray who is expected to go No.1 overall to the Arizona Cardinals this year. He is an athletic mauler in the run game and possesses the agility to get out in front of runners and pave the way into the second level of the defense.
No.187 overall: QB Tyree Jackson, Buffalo
He may not still be here this late in the draft, but Jackson would be the perfect back up for Newton. The two have similar builds and playing styles, with the 6-7 former Buffalo quarterback actually being two inches taller than the No.1 overall pick of the 2011 draft. He ran a 4.59 in the 40-yard dash at the Combine which was the same time that Newton ran and fastest that any player that tall since 2006. If he is gone by this time they could go with another Auburn Alum like Newton and select Jarrett Stidham, who also fits their offense but isn’t built the same as Jackson or Newton.