

Derailments Cause Campus Concerns



Several CSX Transportation trains travel through Pembroke daily past Mary Livermore Library, Old Main and the Oxendine Science Building. PN Photo/Anayah L. Peterson

By Anayah L. Peterson

The last week of March saw major derailments in six states following the Norfolk Southern derailment in Ohio, and April just saw a derailment and fire in Maine. Many Americans are anxious about potential derailments. The campus community is unsettled about trains that roll by daily.

Camille McDougald, a residential student, said it makes her feel unsafe to live close to active railroad that sometimes carries hazardous materials.

“I see it as one of those incidents that make you say, ‘Wow, that could have happened in my small town’ because it is very much possible. I just hope it doesn’t. In fact, I don’t feel great in general,” McDougald said.

Railway at UNCP

The railroad located in front of adjacent to Old Main, the Mary Livermore Library and the Oxendine Science Building is very active with two road gate arms. The commuter parking lot in between those street crossings has two pedestrian crossings for students to use for travel on campus but no gates.

There are no signs at these crossings for pedestrians. Pedestrians cross the railroad tracks in areas that are not designated crossings.

Shawnie Henderson, a Sodexo employee at UNCP, said she feels that Pembroke Police and campus police should take more responsibility and action to making the crossing at the railway safer. She has a son who crosses the railway tracks daily.

UNCP Chancellor Dr. Robin Cummings said the school always worries about the safety of their students and that the tracks are close to campus.

“Sometimes people do cross in other areas on the tracks. We certainly encourage folks to cross only in that area (the pedestrian cross walk paths) because that is where the engineers and the train folks are focused on,” Cummings said.

Tabitha Cain, Assistant to the Chancellor for Communications and Research, said the university does not cover derailment in the freshman orientation.

Cummings said the school had conversations with CSX and the Town of Pembroke about safety improvements. He said there was a time that they were talking about closing some of the crossings

beyond the Burger King area around downtown Pembroke. He said the university and the town stopped talking to CSX about the plans a few years ago.

Cummings said that the school has a great relationship with CSX. During the commencement ceremonies at UNCP, CSX stops all trains from traveling through until commencement is completed.

UNCP has a plan for if a train derailed from its tracks near the campus, which is planned by the UNCP Environmental, Health and Safety Office. The UNCP Safety Handbook does not have a detailed plan and only mentions derailment by using it as an example of a shelter-in-place on page 24.

Hazardous Materials

The Pine Needle noted placards on some trains passing by campus. Some of the trains contained tankers carrying materials including methanol, corrosive liquid, liquefied petroleum gas, nitrobenzene, nickel oxide, class three flammable liquid and elevated temperature liquid (HOT).

Cameo Chemicals, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has a website, which can be used to identify chemicals by placard numbers on tankers or by name.

Methanol is a colorless liquid with a faintly sweet pungent odor like ethyl alcohol. It is highly flammable and can explode in the container.

A corrosive liquid can be toxic when inhaled and may include liquids such as chromic acid, and sulfuric acid.

Liquefied petroleum gas is a mixture of several gases (propane, isobutane and other hydrocarbons) that can rupture violently and combust if the containers are exposed to heat. It is highly flammable and used in lighter fluids.

Nitrobenzene is a pale yellow to dark brown liquid with a flash point of 190 degrees. It is toxic by inhalation and by skin absorption as the chemical is poisonous. When combusted it gives off toxic oxides of nitrogen.

Class three flammable liquids are flammable liquids with flash points of no more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

CSX Transportation does not allow the public to know the schedule of the trains due to safety precautions, nor does *(Continue to page A8)*

Old Main Festivities Moves Indoors



Children and adults enjoy activities provided at the Old Main festival. Anayah Peterson helps the children with the duck pond game provided by the Pine Needle. See story on page A8. Submitted Photo/D. Natale

Campus Voices

In light of the East Palestine, Ohio derailment, what are your thoughts about the trains passing by near our campus.

Camille McDougald

“I see it as one of those incidents that make you say, ‘Wow, that could have happened in my small town’ because it is very much possible. I just hope it doesn’t. In fact, I don’t feel great in general.”

Shawnie Henderson

“I feel that both the Pembroke Police and campus safety should take more responsibility and action in making crossing the train tracks on campus and the area safer. It would make me feel better because I have a son who crosses those tracks everyday to get to the bus stop and they’re are no directors or anyone out there. They may have somebody out there at lunch time.”

Aniya S. Lewis

“Yesterday evening after work I decided to go across the street to McDonalds to get some food and the train passed by and I felt myself becoming nervous, like, ‘oh my gosh will this train snap right here? While I’m sitting right here?’ I was at the corner right before you get to the train tracks and it made me think about that incident. Its scary knowing that there’s so many people near that train on a daily basis.”

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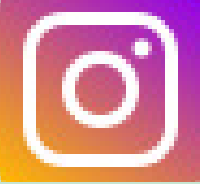
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The Pine Needle UNCP

Farewell Graduating Seniors

Anayah L. Peterson

Editor-in-Chief

The Pine Needle had its up and downs but I still have a many favorite memories with the newspaper during my undergrad at UNCP. Staying in the office late night drinking coffee and eating pizza with my colleagues, to traveling to D.C. for the first time on plane to go to a conference. I got out of my comfort zone while working for the newspaper.

I want to thank my advisor Dr. Natale for helping me throughout challenging moments during my time here. She was able to encourage me to continue writing, even if I was nervous to do so.

Congratulations to the class of 2023, as we each go on new journeys after graduation.



Abigail Chabala

Photographer



Mahala Treish

Photo Editor

I plan to further my career and my dreams, I also want to continue my education and obtain my masters. I have enjoyed my time at UNCP making connections with my professors and classmates. I have been able to reach for the stars at UNCP and achieve many things. I appreciate the time each professor has taken to help me become the best student and journalist I can be.



Alana Peterson

Graphic Artist

Recently I have found that I know what I am doing, what I love to do, but I don't know where I belong. However, I have found that I need to find a place that will find me. Pembroke has definitely found me and made me feel like I belong. I will always treasure the pain, love, happiness and sadness I have felt in Pembroke.

I am graduating a year early and plan on going back to school for welding to enhance my welding skills and become an art sculptor using those skills. I plan on working on my business with my mom and using my knowledge of using a printing press and screen printing learned from Pembroke.

I would like to thank my professors for everything.

Daria Parker

Campus News Editor

My favorite memory from UNCP is meeting all the people that are now some of my closest friends! I'm extremely grateful to the Pine Needle for helping me find my love for writing and journalism. I will miss it so much along with UNCP and the amazing professors.



Springing into Annual Powwow and Gathering



Le Peace and Jacob Richardson hugging after Richardson completed his dance. PN Photo/Anayah L. Peterson

By Anayah L. Peterson

The 2023 BraveNation Powwow and Gathering (BNPG.) was a celebration of American Indigenous culture and tradition held at the Vendors and dancers from the local area and outside of North Carolina participated. There was an increase in attendance compared to 2022, with over 2,000 attendees. Many adults, children and students attended. The powwow was a cultural gathering where indigenous people celebrated and honored their heritage through dance, music and ceremony. There was a drum contest and several dance competitions for adults, teens and juniors. The special contest consisted of a “Sidestep for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women” (MMIW) and the “Red Dress Dance Special for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women” (MMIW.) Powwows begin with a Grand Entry and a prayer to bless the circle, the dance arena. Viewers can watch the dances along the sidelines and seats inside the gym. Walking across or

in the circle is disrespectful because it is for the dancers. Dr. Ashley McMillian is the director of the American Indian Heritage Center at UNCP. She said the powwow was a chance to bring the community together to celebrate their culture and traditions. She said that many people traveled to participate in the event. Students at UNCP are encouraged to experience the powwow to learn more about the culture and history of the community. The event is a learning opportunity for students to experience. “I am Native American so it means a lot to me to be able to share my culture with other people in the community and students on campus,” junior Jayden Worriax said. The powwow at UNCP was a time for many to immerse into the great culture and history of the Lumbee Tribe and other Native nations in organizations around North Carolina.

Anayah L. Peterson is the Pine Needle Editor-in-Chief.

UNCP Celebrates 136 Years



Students, community, founding families and donors attended Founder’s Day at Old Main. PN Photo/Anayah L. Peterson

By Anayah L. Peterson

UNCP celebrates 136 years of education in Old Main for Founder’s Day. UNCP was founded on March 7, 1887, by seven founders of Croatan Normal School, a former institution of UNCP. The seven founders of UNCP are Issac Brayboy, James E. Dial Sr., Preston Locklear, W.L. More, James Oxendine, John J. Oxendine and Olin Oxendine. “Without the vision of our seven founders, UNCP would not exist,” Chancellor Cummings said. This year, seven students read prompts on what UNCP meant to them to represent the seven founders of UNCP. The Pembroke Singers performed at the event along with historical observations from Dr. Lawrence Locklear, director of the Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity and the adjunct associate professor of American Indian Studies.



Dr. Cummings speaks about his thoughts and appreciation of the seven founders. PN Photo/Anayah L. Peterson

Lynch Embraces Culture Through Tribal Dancing

By Mahala Treish

From three months old until present day, powwows have played a huge role in Aiyana Lynch’s life helping her embrace her culture. She attended the Bravenation Powwow not only to enjoy the vendors and gathering of friends and family but also participate in the tribal dancing. At only three months old, Lynch went to her first powwow for her tribe the Haliwa-Saponi. After learning how to take her first steps, tribal dancing followed shortly after. Taking part in her Native American culture was something her parents really wanted for her. Lynch’s parents were not able to participate in tribal dancing due to financial cost when they were younger so when they made sure their children were going to be able to get the full experience at powwows. There were many opportunities to learn how to tribal dance by going to culture classes or having family members or friends teach you. She first was taught by her mother on traditional tribal dancing techniques which she was not too fond of because the tempo was too slow for her. “When we moved from Rocky Mount to Elon, I started going to culture class when I was three or four traveling to Greensboro every week,” Lynch said. The different types of tribal dances that she participates in are the Traditional and Jingle styles. She danced Traditional from when she was able to walk till she was four years old where she transitioned into Jingle dancing and has not stopped. Women’s Traditional is usually a very slow pace where Jingle is more fast paced. “Jingle is a healing dance so everytime Jingle dance dressers dance, they send up good medicine and prayer. This weekend at the powwow they had a Jingle dress special to honor Rosa Revels Winfree who was well known in the community and a side step special to honor everybody who has passed on,” Lynch said. Being active is something that she truly takes pride in which follows her through every aspect of her life. Going to different powwows around the states helps her stay engaged with her culture and community. “I always get to see family and friends that you normally don’t see because most of the time people from other tribes, you don’t see them unless you’re at a powwow cause obviously y’all live in different areas and regions of the state,” Lynch said. Tribal dancing is something that she enjoys doing regardless of rewards or competitions. She dances because of the meaning behind her tribal dances versus dancing because she wants to win awards and prizes. Dancing is something that she likes to use as a stress reliever allowing her to put her all into the steps. The regalia dress she wore to the powwow was neon green which she chose because it is very bright and helps her stick out in a crowd of other dancers. The design on both of her regalia and beadwork is the Moravian star which is the star that you read about in the bible. There are a variety of colors in her beadwork so she is able to get dresses in many different colors without having to get new beadwork for each dress. Lynch, a UNCP senior, is majoring in Exercise and Sport Science with a concentration in Health Promotion, along with a minor in American Indian Studies. She represents the Haliwa-Saponi tribe which is one of the many well known Native American tribes in North Carolina. She has contributed to many different organizations and departments on campus such as being a co-captain for cheer on the Spirit Squad. She works part-time for the School of Business and Campus Recreation and she is the president of the Health Advocates for Wellness with Kinesiology students. Lynch works off-campus for a mental health agency as a marketing assistant. Lynch plans to attend a couple more powwows this year at Duke University and the Haliwa-Saponi powwow in Holister, NC. The atmosphere and community of the powwows, bringing everyone together enjoying one another is what brings her back every time

Mahala Treish is the PN photo editor.

The Pine Needle is Hiring for the Fall 2023 Semester!

Watch for ads on Handshake over the summer or contact: Darlene.natale@uncp.edu

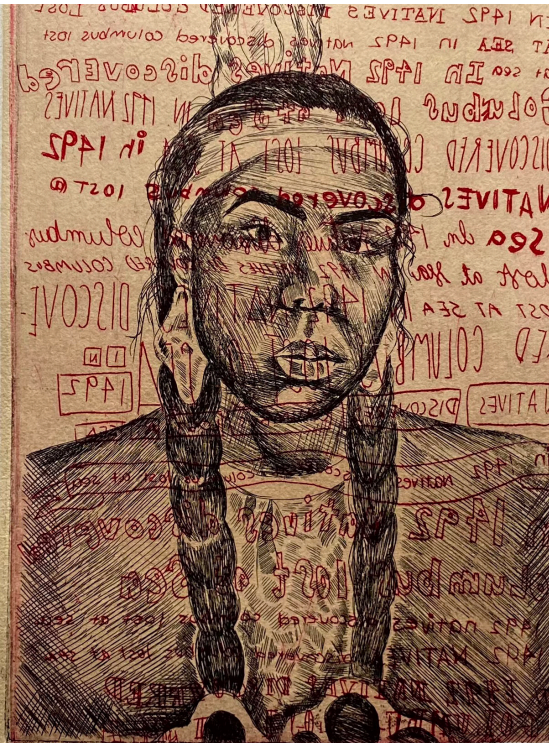
The Artist Behind the Art: McMillan

by Alana Peterson

Karina McMillan a former UNCP student, has had work shown at many exhibits since graduating UNCP. McMillan is a Lumbee native from Red Springs who expresses her identity and storytelling through portraits. McMillan graduated from Pembroke with a BFA degree.

She followed the studio art track with a concentration in printmaking. “Professor Sanderson was so encouraging and the best professor that I have ever had” said McMillan.

She loved the idea of printmaking because the original idea that is sketched is turned into something more meaningful.



A print named “Storytelling”. Created using ink. Photo Submitted/Karina McMillan

In December of 2021, McMillan’s art was one of the 36 works selected out of 436 to be exhibited in The Fierce Urgency of Now: Socially Engaged Printmaking exhibit at Turners Point museum in Chino, California. The exhibit ran from February 14th to April 9th, 2022.

She transferred to UNCP in 2019 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to be closer to home. McMillan’s experience at Pembroke was so amazing that she said “I wish I went to UNCP all four years”.

UNCP changed her by expanding her artistic abilities and ideas because of the exposure to studio classes.

“I don’t think I would have dabbled in many of the art techniques that I did at UNCP if I didn’t go there” said McMillan. The smaller class sizes and large studio spaces helped encourage McMillan’s creativity.

She had a piece of art in the United States Capitol building for a year while attending Lumberton High School. She won first place for her piece, My Family in May 2017.

McMillan was accepted into the Raleigh Fine Arts Society - North Carolina Artists Exhibitions and won Juror’s Choice this year. “These are very big accomplishments I am extremely proud of” said McMillan.

McMillan works at Montessori Chocolate, but is in the process of getting an art

teaching job at a middle school in Franklin county. She resides in Raleigh because of the big art scenery. Raleigh has been a way to expose more art and help with advancements in her career. “I have made loads of art connections this way” said McMillan.

McMillan uses many different mediums including graphite, acrylic paints, pen, ink, and marker. She focuses on making simple pieces that include one specific area where all the details are. Most of her work are portraits that express her own style. All of her work consists of a neutral, basic color scheme because it helps unify the piece by flowing together. McMillan’s pieces focus on her identity through storytelling. “I love the idea of identity and every person being different with a different story and how they came to be. This can all be seen in a single portrait, The story is always in their eyes” said McMillan.

The most influential experience with exhibitions was McMillan’s



Self Portrait painting created out of oil paints. Photo Submitted/Karina McMillan

Senior Capstone project at UNCP. “I feel like that was a defining moment. Seeing my art on the walls of the A.D. Gallery was wonderful” said McMillan.

McMillan had to create all of the pieces, frame them, get approval for the pieces, create cards, and provide refreshments for the reception.

The process was what made the experience meaningful and influential. “Everything came together and it inspired me to see that I love doing this. I’ll never stop making art. This was a push for me to keep on going and creating” said McMillan.

A Step into Japanese Art

by Lydia Cooper and Alana Peterson

Located in Locklear Hall, the art department gallery (A.D Gallery) had original Japanese prints on display.

The prints are all original with some dating back to 200 years ago. From Jan. 11-27, these prints will be on display in the A.D gallery.

These include works from the Ukiyo-e era of print which originated from Japan. Ukiyo-e is a form of printmaking that relates to woodblock cutting techniques.

The Ukiyo-e prints displayed in the A.D gallery were found between the 18th to 20th century.

Ukiyo-e prints often portrayed famous actors and sumo wrestlers. Some display geisha, which are professional entertainers. Shin Hanga prints are displayed alongside the Ukiyo-e prints.

These prints take a lot of inspiration from Ukiyo-e as a tribute to the pre-modernization of Japan.

The exhibit was installed by gallery members and the gallery director, professor Joseph Begnaud. The prints are loaned by an anonymous loaner.

“The exhibit is really fun and relaxing,” said Leah Moore, one of the gallery members and a senior studio art major with a concentration in drawing. “There’s always fun and cool exhibits.” said Moore.

The reception was held Jan. 25 and open to the public. Free food and drinks were provided. During the reception, the different printing tools and information relating to them were dis-

played.

One of the tools displayed were the nori inks used in a lot of Japanese woodblocks. Nori is an acid-free water-based ink that dries clear.

A lot of the inks and tools displayed had a brief description of what the items were and how to use them.

There was also a video of Keji Shinohara, a Japanese traditional printmaker. In the video, Shinohara explains some of the ukiyo-e techniques he uses in his own pieces. One of the techniques Shinohara uses is the use of micro powder to create a metallic finish. The video of Keji Shinohara can be accessed on Shinohara’s website at <https://www.keijiart.com/about/videos/>.

The A.D gallery will be hosting the next exhibition, “Passing Time” which will be displayed from Feb. 2- Mar. 13. The reception date will be announced soon.

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High Schoolers Shares Artistic Talents

by Raven Hanning

For the last 42 years, UNCP has organized an art exhibition to recognize student artistic achievement and teacher success for surrounding schools. This year’s show had a reception on Saturday, Mar. 25 at 2:00 p.m., featured seven different schools and 44 individual students competed for a \$300 prize.

Sam Ray’s piece Bella, made with charcoal pencil, won the competition. Ray’s inspiration for this piece is her friend.



“Leaving the Recycling Calendar” charcoal drawing in the “Passage of Time” exhibit. Photo Submitted/Camile McDougald.

Artists Present Time in Art

By Alana Peterson

“Passage of Time” is the 13th Annual International Juried Exhibition at UNCP’s A.D. Gallery through March 13. The exhibit included a variety set of different techniques and methods that demonstrated the contemporary theme of “time.”

The goal of the exhibit was for the juror to select artists that show time in varying ways. Adam N. Justice, who is the current Director of Galleries at University of North Carolina at Charlotte selected the artists for the show.

Sarah Jenkins was listed as first place for the special recognition. Caroline Hartfield came in second and Ally Zlatar was in third.

The passage of time was shown in many unique measures and different mediums. There were paintings,

sculptures, installations, and drawings.

“My favorite piece would have to be the two charcoal drawings that were on the wall because I really think the shading and lighting in both pieces is well done and perfectly sets the mood. I also really liked how detailed everything was and how they both manage to tell a small story,” said Kristen Price a senior majoring in Studio Art with a concentration in digital art. One charcoal drawing that was shown was “Leaving the Recycling Calendar.” The piece shows the passage of time through urban life and showing a busy scenery. Other pieces show the passage of time through natural elements, decay, burning, or destruction.

The A.D Gallery will hold the “Passage of Time” exhibit from 9 am to 6 pm every day until March 12.

“I thought the pieces were fantastic! And the quality of work that the students were able to produce was really extraordinary. I was very surprised and impressed with how good the pieces were.” Said Milewicz.

The second place runner up piece was Old Mule day’s Barn, a sculpture made using found objects by Jullian McMahon from Triton High School. In third place was Frog, a painting made using Batik Mixed Media by Tory Oxendine from Purnell Swett High School.



Three photojournalism students (Lucille Revels, Madison Schwenneker and Raven Hanning) are hands-on with an exhibit. The Museum offered many areas for visitors to interact personally. Photo/Landon Powell

One of three painting titled “The Faceless Dancers” painted by Katelyn Bass. Photo/ Madison Schwenneker

The Native South Art Exhibit Through the Eyes of Photojournalists

A compilation of various photo essays from Photojournalism students created to showcase the new exhibit in the Museum of Southeast American Indians. The new exhibit displays artwork from American Indian artist located in North Carolina.



(Above top) The materials used in this choker are leather, sinew and bone tube beads. Photo/ Raven Hanning. (Above lower) A Cherokee Feather Mantle shows the importance of the wearer in the community. Photo/Raven Hanning.

(Right) Traditional Lumbee beaded headpiece for the Miss Lumbee Pageant that highlights UNC Pembroke. Photo/Madison Schwenneker

SGA Offers Students Chance to DeStress in the Campus Garden and Apiary



Left: Students prepared various plants and herbs to be planted in the UNCP Garden and Apiary. Right: Hanging plants were sold at the spring plant sale included these Superbells Lemon Slice flowers. PN Photos/ Daria Parker

By Daria Parker

The second annual Mental Health Awareness Week hosted by SGA is in full effect, offering students the opportunity to volunteer in the campus garden, to de-stress on Wednesday, April 5th.

“This is offered to give students time to come out early in the morning, to relax and connect with nature as a way to escape,” said Brittany Best, a senior Students Affair Chairman for SGA.

This event was located in the Campus Garden that is located in the back corner of Cypress

Hall. This is where the Agriculture club and various other environmental organizations and majors can be found. This is a wide plot of land used to grow and educate students on different herbs, flowers and plants.

Students were able to help plant peppers and artichoke plants, along with landscaping the garden where these plants abide.

UNCP SGA has written into the constitution that they will allow a week out of the semester to focus on the mental health of the student body. This week signifies that mission that has been pledged by the Student Government.

“This is a part of SGA’s mission to give back

to the community and to advocate for the mental health of students at UNCP,” said senior Yamilkal Hernández Sánchez, the Student Body Vice President.

The SGA committee plans to host more mental health events similar to this one.

For students who are interested in plants, the Agriculture Club is an organization that would offer opportunities to work in the UNCP Garden and Apiary. For more information contact AG Club President, Tyler Locklear at tll056@brave-mail.uncp.edu

Daria Parker is the PN News Editor.

Students Solve a Murder Mystery in the Library

By Raven Hanning

The Mary Livermore Library hosted a “Murder Mystery Night” for students to relax after classes and learn about the library’s layout.

The event was held from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21, with 30 students and faculty participating.

This is the second “Murder Mystery Night” the library has hosted.

It themed around love in celebration of Valentine’s Day and followed the story of a love based betrayal that ended in a murder.

Students were invited to come alone or with friends to solve the case using clues on both the first and second floor before submitting their answers in a survey.

The actors for this event were library staff who organized the event over the past year.

“Making this all happen was my favorite part. We honestly repurposed most of what we used, a lot of the students liked what we had last time but wanted it to be more obvious what was part of the event,” said Elizabeth Jones who is an Outreach Librarian.

For more information on future events like the murder mystery, you can go to the events section on library’s website at <https://libguides.uncp.edu/uncplibrary>.



Students investigate the crime scene at the library's murder mystery. Their goal was to solve the case. PN Photo/Raven Hanning

Letters to Assault Survivors

By Raven Hanning



Students were invited to write letters of encouragement to victims of sexual assault and learn about student support programs on campus last Thursday, Feb. 2.

Robeson County’s Rape Crisis Center visited UNC Pembroke to discuss sexual assault with students. UNC’s title IX team also spoke at the event.

The Title IX department is dedicated to helping students who experience discrimination or violence.

They can help students get connected with a CARE team which can help students gain access to counseling services both on and off campus and includes a 24-hour

crisis call and text line.

“I’m really impressed because (students) have come forward very quickly which shows just how far the student body has come when it comes to reporting violence,” said Danielle Evans, a Title IX Campus Investigator.

Students who need assistance ranging from mental health to food instabilities are encouraged to visit www.uncp.edu/safe for access to the next steps of getting the help they need for a successful career at UNCP.

“I’m just glad that I’m on a campus where the students are given so much support and encouragement.” Said one student after the event.

Raven Hanning is a PN Reporter.

Left: Erin Morrison and other students wrote letters to sexual assault survivors. PN Photo/Raven Hanning.

Former PN Editor Earns Recognition for Communication

By Anayah L. Peterson

Former Pine Needle Editor-in-Chief Jessica Horne received Blue Ribbon Awards from the North Carolina School Public Relations Association for outstanding communication on Feb. 10 in Highpoint.

Horne is the Chief Communication Officer for Public Schools of Robeson County.

During the ceremony on in High Point, NCSPPRA presented three awards to Horne. It is the second year in a row that she received the excellence in communication citation.

The district received a Bronze Award for Excellence in Writing, a Bronze Award for Photography and Silver Award for Publication.

“It is an honor for the district to receive Blue Ribbon Awards for the second year in a row from NCSPPRA,” Horne said.

“I am thankful for the opportunity to serve this district, its students and our stakeholders across Robeson

County who make up our PSRC family. I am committed to continuing the improvement of our communication both internally and externally. I am also grateful to work with people across departments who are just as passionate and committed to the work as I am. This is one testament of the many great things happening in PSRC. Stay tuned for many, many more!”

PSRC received a Blue Ribbon Award in 2021 for Electronic Media.

Ken Derksen, NCSPPRA president said the work of the award winners exemplifies the high standards members demonstrate in their daily school communications programs.

NCSPPRA is a statewide professional organization serving more than 175 members. Its mission is to build support for public education through well-planned and responsible public relations.

Anayah L. Peterson is the Pine Needle Editor-in Chief.



Jessica Horne, Chief Communication Officer for Public Schools of Robeson County, holds three earned awards from NCSPPRA. Submitted Photo/Public Schools of Robeson County

OSID Celebrates Pride For UNCP Students



Dr. Elise Dixon and Clavaria Jeffreys shared laughter with each other, while welcoming students into the celebration. PN Photo/Daria Parker

By Daria Parker

On Monday, April 10th The Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity hosted a Pride fest to promote safe spaces on campus for students who identify as LGBTQIA+.

“Students at UNCP deserve to see LGBTQ represented especially in the rural south, it’s crucial to see queer folks safe and thriving,” said Dr. Elise Dixon, Director of the writing center.

The Pride fest was from 12 p.m. till 2 p.m. The event allowed students to get a shirt that they could decorate with markers. There were different LGBTQ organizations who held a booth at the event to share information.

“A lot of LGBTQ is focused on hate and bias towards the community and having these events help celebrate the love and joy that comes with being a queer person,”

said Junior, Emma Cooke.

Fayetteville Pride attended and shared pamphlets of support for those who are needing help with identifying their sexuality. Fayetteville Pride will be having their pride fest on June 24, at festival park from 12 p.m. till 6 p.m. This is an event to celebrate unity, diversity, and inclusion in Fayetteville.

“This event is to celebrate queer culture and art, and to continue to spread awareness of gay rights that are being revoked in North Carolina,” said Dannielle Fullerton, Secretary of Fayetteville Pride.

There will be volunteer opportunities offered during the festival, and forms can be filled out and signed off by the President, Katrina Marden. If interested, email Dannielle Fullerton at danniellefullerton@fayettevillepride.org.



Bubble Bunny was created by Adeline Kelley, a Junior at UNCP, and has created these custom soaps in honor of PRIDE. PN Photo/Daria Parker



Students gathered to add designs to shirts and play Kahoot trivia in different facts about the LGBTQ community. PN Photo/Daria Parker



Nails to match the celebration! The Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity strives to create safe spaces across campus. PN Photo/Daria Parker

‘Deeply Rooted’ Exhibition Celebrates Senior Journeys

By Raven Hanning and Anayah L. Peterson

The senior capstone exhibited “Deeply Rooted,” featuring six undergraduate art students. The reception allowed students to show their artwork to the community, their family and friends.

“Deeply Rooted” exhibit focused on connecting with nature, the world and those who share their lives and culture. A few students centered their pieces on relationships with cultural identity, family, society and more. It showcases the growth of the students’ journey in a variety of creative ways.

Alana Peterson uses her artwork to unfold her struggles with anxiety and depression from maturing at a young age through surrealism. Using a crime scene, plants, fungi and tools to explain her story. The artwork is used for others to see through the eyes of how maturing at a young age can affect one’s mental health and how it can be challenging

to repair it.

Maggie Trimpe focused their capstone on humanity’s relationship with decorative invasive plants. The plants that sometimes take over the homes they’re planted around, are used within the inks of their print.

Aly Horn’s art focuses on floriorgraphy, “I’m free with multiple e’s. It feels sad because I’m leaving, but good because I’m growing. The art explains my family trauma and human experiences,” Horn said.

Horn researched the language of flowers known as floriorgraphy and used their knowledge to create entire discussions from the symbolism of the flower. The images are meant to keep the viewer engaged in the storytelling similar to how humans have always used visual storytelling.

Donique McLaurin got his inspiration by looking at what he is going through and what’s going on in the world around him. He focused on empowering the African-American community emphasizing the importance of staying connected to their

roots and not forgetting those that came before them.

“What About My Dreams is about the victims and people of color that have been killed because of the color of their skin or been falsely accused like Treyvon Martin or Emmett Till,” McLaurin said. “We don’t want to be judged by our skin tone, we just want to be judged by our actions.”

McLaurin wants to be an inspiration to other young African-American artists and represent the black community within the art community.

Leah Moore titled her series “Love and Grief” is meant to show how grief is generated by love and can’t exist without it through the use of bright colors despite depictions of sorrowful emotions. The piece itself is a sequence of illustrations following a man and his cat which are connected to a storybook that Moore is writing. The artwork was inspired by Moore’s own experience with loss from old age and cancer. “I just

love the way it turned out and I felt really confident when I was creating it because I was just really enjoying incorporating fantastical elements into a standard illustration.” Moore said while describing their favorite piece Sickness and Suffering.

Jasmin Sanders depicts four Black women of different colors and hair colors aiming to show how far African-Americans have come in 300-400 years despite certain hairstyles being considered unprofessional while not affecting their work.

“I wanted to create something that represented African American women. It is represented through four colors. I wanted to create something that black people can look at that isn’t in a negative mind set,” Sanders said.

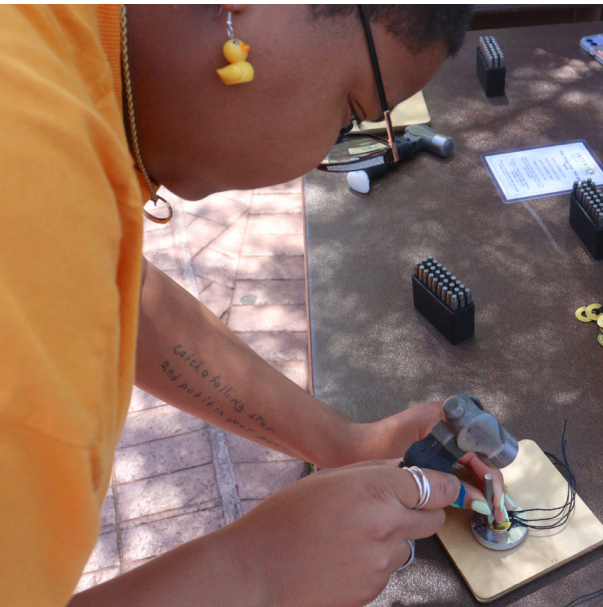
Sanders’ artwork depicts different patterns that can be touched, so attendees can understand that Black women have different hair textures.

UNCP will have an exhibition for alumnis from Aug. 12 – Sept. 9.

Students Make Positive Intention Bracelets

By Raven Hanning

The Pembroke Activities Council hosted a free Make and Take event on Thursday, April 13, for students to make positive intention bracelets as the semester comes to a close. Students could choose a word or short phrase to stamp into a brace-



let that will remind themselves of a personal or educational goal, to bring positivity. “These events allow students to engage with themselves and organizations on campus besides their classes and that’s really important here at UNCP,” said Maria Lazaro, lead organizer for the Make and Take event. Participants were asked to swipe their student ID or have

Deja Stevenson stamps the bracelet with a positive phrase. This is done by using the hammer to imprint the phrase onto the bracelet. Pembroke Activities Council hosted this event and has done events in the past for students that allow them de-stress and do crafts to allow them some positivity into their daily lives. Students can check BraveWeb to find more activities like this. PN Photo/Daria Parker

Annual Old Main Festival

(Continued from page A1)

By Alana Peterson

Pembroke hosted the annual Old Main Festival on April Fools this year with plenty of family friendly events. Hosted by the Office of Campus Engagement and Leadership and UNCP admissions, the event is hosted every year in order to allow students and staff to experience campus related activities with family. The festival was established to give students who normally can not participate in weekly activities the opportunity to. This year, there were 15 organizations and 16 departments that tabled at the event. Some of those organizations included were art club, Greek life, Pembroke activities council, and more. Some of the activities included were a photo booth, caricature designs, friendship bracelet beading, face paint, indoor bouncy house, and many games that unlocked prizes. There were over 800 participants this year. There were 278 students, 260 guardians and guest, and over 130 local residents. “I think this year was a huge hit for Festival at Old Main, we had the largest crow in attendance in the past thirty years and we look forward to bringing more exciting and interactive activities to campus in the future” Bailey Miller, assistant director for Campus Engagement said.

DJ Gizmo was in charge of the music. Free food was offered which included unlimited funnel cake. Guest were encouraged to stop at very table and learn about the many organizations Pembroke had to offer. The first 200 people who attended the event was given a free T-shirt and yellow ribbon. Some of the organizations gave away free items and informed people about their organization as they came up to their tables. Miller said they are always looking for ways to elevate this event to have student organizations showcase various activities. It allows them to promote their organizations to the community and incoming freshman. She said that many participated in the event. “Obviously anytime you have to make a weather call it will impact your event. Despite the smaller space and moving indoors, we still had an excellent turn out for the event and we are hopeful that it will only be bigger and better next year,” Miller said. The festival usually consists of a Ferris wheel and is located outside of the QUAD. Dueue to inclement weather the Ferris wheel rides were hosted on Friday, March 31st and other activities were moved into the auxiliary gym in the Jones Center. There was strong winds and heavy rain during the event. Alana Peterson is the Pine Needle Graphic Artist.

New Career Path Awaits Former Editor-in-Chief

By Anayah L. Peterson

Former Editor-in-Chief of the Pine Needle Zachary C. Young was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Michigan Law School. Young was also acceped at New York University’s School of Journalism. “It was validating because I put a lot of work in during my undergraduate,” Young said. At UNCP, Young was the manager for the CARE Resource Center and was Editor-in-Chief of Pine Needle student newspaper. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Mass Communication. Follion graduation he became an academic success coach for first-generation students. He chose to focus on law at the University of Michigan instead of following a journalism path at NYU. It was a challenging decision for Young as he was passionate about writing. He wrote many pieces for the Pine Needle that focused on his

local community. Young uncertain what area of the law he will focus on but has interest in sports law and indigenous people law. Young said he wouldn’t down-play his feelings about leaving home. “I was gone for six years in the military so I’m not too worried about leaving, but it will be different from the military,” Young said. He said taking a gap year was the best decision for me.” I did so much during my undergrad that I burned out for a bit,” Young said. He advises those who want to go to law school to take a gap year to take a break from their undergrad. Young also encourages those applying to apply early for the deadlines rather than waiting near the end. Three years from now, Young hopes to be studying for the bar exam. He wants to join a law review or journal to fulfill his passion for writing.

their Banner number ready before starting their bracelets. The bracelets were made by placing a metal ring around a base before lining up a metal letter stamp, and then lightly hammering the stamp on the ring to spell out a word. One student, Deja Stevens, a sophomore studio art major, stamped the phrase ‘Love Yourself’ onto her

Trains and Concerns

(Continued from page A1)

the public know what is carried on the trains until the trains pass by. The trains have placards that can be used to identify materials in the rail cars.

Preparedness

The university has a plan for hazardous chemical spills through its Disaster Preparedness Plan. A campus hazardous material response would begin with a report to the University Police Department by calling 911 or to the campus Building Facility Manager by dialing 6235. Jennifer McCarrel, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer said the university’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated in an emergency to coordinate their response with local, state and potential federal officials. McCarrel said in the scenario of a train derailment, “The role of UNCP would play varies based on the specific details of the crash. Responses could range from simply rerouting traffic near Old Main to a full evacuation of campus.”

In the event of a derailment, the incident commander would communicate with the rail company to determine if or what hazardous materials may be involved base identification markings on the placards on individual railcars. Michael Bullard, the Director of Environmental, Health and Safety, said the school received grants from the Robeson County Emergency Management Office for a 2022 tabletop exercise on Oct. 3 and a full-scale exercise on Oct. 15. Exercise participants included Robeson County Emergency Management, State Emergency Management, UNCP Emergency Management, EHS Office, UNCP Campus Police, the Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team and the local fire, police, 911 dispatch and EMS first responders. Both exercises were the same, with the scenario of a train striking a bus carrying a visiting football team. The train had hazardous materials that leaked and spilled from the crash. Participants worked on the discussion involving how to deal with injured or deceased victims. They also reviewed when to evacuate an area versus a shelter-in-place. Participants also learned how to identify, contain and dispose of spilled hazardous materials.

“All participants worked well together and it was a well-received training event that reminded all participating emergency services personnel of the dangers involved in responding to a hazardous materials incident as well as how truly dangerous railroad crossings are,” Bullard said. The university uses Brave Alert, an emergency notification system, to deploy text and email messages to students, faculty and staff. Members of the university may also enroll into LiveSafe, an application that notifies users about current warnings. Audible warnings are transmitted through UNCP’s loudspeaker system and internal speakers. Members of the university may also receive a phone call if they are registered to receive them. When it comes to safety, “you should be worried,” said Gerri

bracelet. Among the other events around campus, PAC is planning more events like this one in the future to build connections with students, campus organizations and vendors. Students who participated looked to be engaged with the arts and crafts as they made their intention bracelets and spoke with organizers and peers.

Songer from La Coalition, a Campaign Liaison. She said that the school should make sure to include the four corners plan. The plan represents four different routes for four directions that the wind could spread the spill material too. There needs to be four different safety evacuation zones and a plan for movement if the wind were to change direction. She worries that the public isn’t aware about train safety and said they need to be informed about it. “They’re using air brakes which is old technology that isn’t even the 21st century,” Songer said. Locomotives are equipped with air brakes or electronically controlled pneumatic brakes. A problem with systems that are strictly air brakes is that separation of the hoses connected to it can cause loss of air pressure. Losing the force needed to slow or stop a train.

Legislation

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown introduced the Railway Safety Act of 2023 on March 1. The bill is designed to enhance the safety of requirements for trains transporting hazardous materials and for other purposes. The bill would broaden the requirements for materials on a railcar to be classified as a high-hazard flammable train. The Department of Transportation would also regulate new requirements for rail carriers carrying hazardous materials to provide the state emergency response commissioners with advance notice and information about the materials. If the bill were to pass, the Secretary of Transportation would be able to implement and modify new regulations for brake safety and operations on a train. It would be effective no later than one year after the bill is enacted. Fritz Edler, Railroad Workers United Special Safety Representative said towns can’t place laws on banning hazardous materials because railroad companies are protected by International Commerce Law. “All the railroad companies run on the same idea to spend little money on the operation,” said Elder of his concern for the safety of railroad workers . When following a major incident on social media like East Palestine, Ohio, the smaller incidents are overlooked. According to the dataset table by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, from 2018-2022, there is an average of 1,018 derailments yearly, yet most are minor, such as the derailment at Lexington, N.C. in March. According to the dataset table by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, from 2018-2022, there is an average of 1,018 derailments yearly. “The students need to be really aware of the train, be cautious. It’s not to be taken lightly. The crossing is there for a very good reason, it’s designed to protect you and to make sure that you are paying attention to your surroundings,” Cummings said. He also said it is crucial for the locomotive driving the train to pay attention to that area. Students should obey the safety measures in place to ensure safety when crossing the railway tracks. Anayah L. Peterson is Editor-in-Chief of the PN.

‘Forever Young’ Takes Audience Down Memory Lane



The five main friends of the show singing the hit Thin Lizzy song, “The Boys Are Back in Town” as there grand opening number. PN Photo/Abigail Chabala

By Abigail Chabala

“Forever Young” delivers the audience a blast from the past, singing music by The Beatles, Michael Jackson, Queen, Johnny Cash, Billy Joel and more.

The show started with a dark stage, then low lights revealed a group of friends hanging at one of their houses, and after discovering a record player and some records in the basement, the show really began. The five guys hit play on the record player and began to sing along with the music.

The record player blasted “The Boys Are Back in Town” by Thin Lizzy, getting the crowd excited and clapping to the song. The only catch with the record player was that there were no words, and the boys had to sing the words for each song. The five guys quickly caught the audience’s attention with their harmonies and runs added to the songs. You could tell when the audience liked the song

based on the cheering and clapping.

“I enjoyed the show because it told us a relatable story about a group of friends losing sight of what really mattered to them and then we got to see how music brought the friends back together and to their roots,” Nick Golden, a UNCP alum said.

The crowd went crazy when the guys did a mashup of ‘Poison’ by Bell Biv DeVoe and “Billy Jean” by Michael Jackson. They sang the words of ‘Poison’ to the music from ‘Billy Jean’, and it got a loud reaction from the crowd.

The set for the show would follow the guys and matched where they were in life. When they needed to changed location, they would add or remove different props to change the scene.

The story told us how each friend went their separate ways after graduating high school, and they were all off doing their own things. One of the members be-

came a Major League Baseball player and the scene changed into a locker room. Another was on a boat sailing the sea and the others helped transform the stage into a beach while he was in a sailboat.

By the end of the show, they had all met up again after years of going their own ways in life, through music and memories.

“Forever Young” was live on

January 20, 2023, in UNCP’s Givens Performing Arts Center. Forever Young was written by Josh Sassanella, Justin Sassanella, Evan Bosworth and Tony Turner. The cast were Josh Sassanella, Justin Sassanella, Brad Baker, Jay Poff and Avilla Martin.

Abigail Chabala is a PN Photo-journalist.

Concerto Competition Winners Shine at GPAC



Jaelyn Wilson, One of the concerto competition, plays “Parade Concerto II. Andantino.” PN Photo/Raven Hanning.

By Raven Hanning

The UNCP concert band gave their final performance for this semester on Tuesday, Feb. 28, with solo performances by the 2023 concerto competition winners.

Casey Bell is a music education major, she won the audition as a soprano. Her performance was the vocals for the piece “Non è ver!”.

Other vocalists were tenors Nick Rumbeau, a music theater major performing “O del mio amato ben”, and Chad Barnes, a non-traditional student who performed “Lonely House”.

Holly Riedesel is a music education major like Bell and played “Concertino” on the flute. Phillip

Brown, another instrumentalist, played “Xylophonia” on the Xylophone and other instruments.

Jaelyn Wilson was another winner and a senior, who is double majoring in music and psychology, performed for the last time at UNCP. She was the pianist for the concert and performed “Parade Concerto II. Andantino.”

“I had to push past my anxiety and open myself up to sharing my music with others. So many people were depending on me to represent the music department well, and even though it was a debilitating experience it was so rewarding”, said Wilson, “it was the most rewarding feeling I’ve felt in a long time.”

Raven Hanning is a PN Reporter.

Rihanna’s Big Reveal



Rihanna Performs “Rude Boy” at the Super Bowl Halftime Show. (Yong Kim/The Philadelphia Inquirer/TNS

By Abigail Chabala

Not only did Rihanna perform some of her top hits at the Superbowl Halftime show but she wore a stunning red jumpsuit halfway unzipped, revealing her baby bump during her 12-song set.

The last time Rihanna performed live prior to the halftime show this month was during the GRAMMYS in 2018, where she collaborated with DJ Khaled for “Wild Thoughts.” Rihanna’s Superbowl performance is one that won’t be forgotten. She performed on platforms hanging from the ceiling of State Farm Arena.

Her performance had many of her top hits, such as, “Wild Thoughts,” “Pour It Up,” “All of the Lights,” “Run This Town,” “Umbrella.” She finished the set list with “Diamonds” and opened her coat up at the end to expose her baby bump one last time on camera.

Rihanna performs during the Super Bowl LVII halftime show at State Farm Stadium on Feb. 12, 2023, in Glendale, Arizona. (Monica Herndon/The Philadelphia Inquirer/TNS)

Rihanna did very minimal moves, while her backup dancers did more strenuous moves all around her, wearing white puffy jackets with their hoods up, with matching puffy pants and black sunglasses.

Fans speculated if she was pregnant as soon as the halftime show started, and Twitter flooded with tweets about whether she was pregnant with her second child or not. There were people saying it was obvious, and there were people saying it’s no one’s business if she was or not.

Prior to the Superbowl, Rihanna had an interview with CBS Sports’ Nate Burleson, where she said she was “thinking about bringing someone” as a surprise for the show. Burleson asked if she would tell him off camera where she laughed and said “no!”

At the beginning of “All of the Lights,” one of her dancers came up to her with a makeup pallet, where Rihanna patted some makeup on her face, promoting her makeup line, Fenty Beauty.

When she started singing “All of the Lights,” some wondered if she would have Kanye West as the surprised guest for the show, but the song quickly transitioned into “Run This Town” at the part of the song where Kanye usually comes in.

Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky welcomed their first child in May 2022. A representative for Rihanna has confirmed that she is pregnant, and Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky are expecting their second child.

ROAD TRIP!

Disney World!

Whoo!

Goodbye 50th Anniversary, Hello 100 Years of Wonder

By Mahala Treish,

The celebration of the 50th anniversary of Disney World began on October 1, 2023 still ongoing into March 31, 2023. As the 50th celebration comes to an end a new celebration is beginning The Story of Disney: 100 Years of Wonder.

There are four different parks at Disney World: Epcot, Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom and Magic Kingdom, home of Cinderella’s Castle. There is also a dining and shopping area that is related to Disney World called Disney Springs which has free entry.

Pop Century, a Disney value resort is in a central location for all of the parks with complimentary transportation using the buses or the new Skyliner. The Skyliner which opened four years ago transports visitors by gondola cabins above the parks and resorts to Hollywood Studios, Epcot and the Riviera and Caribbean Beach resort.

Getting to Orlando in the late evening on arrival day would not be worth spending money on a park ticket, it makes the most sense to go to Disney Springs. Looking for something to eat after a long day of traveling, a reservation for Splitsville, a bowling and dinning experience was first on the agenda. Spend the rest of the afternoon walking around the crowded paths browsing through stores like Zara, World of Disney and Lululemon.

Believing that you can go to Disney World every year and not have something new to do or new to experience would be a false belief. The new ride “Guardians of The Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind” in Epcot debuted May 2022 with a full size version of the Xandarian ship in front of the attraction.

Disney World hosts many different after hour events or parties during the normal park hours. “The Magic Kingdom 50th Fireworks Dessert Party” allows you to try a variety of desserts from all around the park, buffet style and open bar for the non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks. The cast members take you to a private location after enjoying the dessert party to view the fireworks and castle projections, there are no specific mark offs for where your party can sit so everyone was left to fend for themselves.

Finding the best places to dine can be tough with all of the choices of restaurants and fast food locations around the parks. Ohana is a family style restaurant located at the Polynesian Village Resort where guests can enjoy as much as they want of



In the heart of Magic Kingdom sits Cinderellas Castle, a crowd surrounds it while Mickey and Friends are performing on stage. PN Photo/Mahala Treish

each course. The different courses consist of coconut bread, honey-coriander chicken wings, spicy shrimp and more. Connections Eatery is a new fast food restaurant that carries Italian, Asian and French cuisine located in Epcot. The Liege Waffle is a sweet treat that comes with strawberries, whip cream and chocolate sauce. Inside of the eatery you are able to see the cast members creating your food.

Disney World is continually evolving with new technologies and food every year. Doing your research is important before you go to Disney World to get the most out of your trip. Find the things you will enjoy and what fits best for your party.



As vistors walk towards the “Gurdians of The Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind” ride, they are met with a statue of the Xandarian ship. PN Photo/Mahala Treish

If You’re Going Walt Disney World, Orlando

Address:
Disney Welcome Sign
World Dr, Kissimmee, FL 34747

Hours:
Magic Kingdom
Monday - Sunday 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Hollywood Studios
Monday-Sunday 8:30 a.m.- 9:30 p.m.
Epcot
Monday-Sunday 9 a.m.- 9 p.m.
Animal Kingdom
Monday-Sunday 8 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Contact:
407.939.5277

Flight/Drive Time:
RDU to MCO nonstop flight is one hour and 40 minutes.

UNCP to Orlando, FL driving is seven hours and 41 minutes.

Website:
<https://disneyworld.disney.go.com>



In the center of Animal Kindom is the Tree of Life, this tree can be viewed from many different locations in the park. PN Photo/Mahala Treish

Tatiana Sims Wins First Place at the Talent Show

By Abigail Chabala

Tatiana Sims won the 30th annual PAC talent show at UNCP with her original poem ‘Me!’

Tatiana is a junior at UNCP and is majoring in art and psychology. Sims was born in South Carolina and grew up in a small town called Evergreen NC.

Growing up, she had to face tough challenges, which inspired her to write her poem. Her poem is about the hardships in her life. The poem talks about how Sims grew up and how things were for her.

“It’s not just about this is what happened, but it’s about this is where I’m from and this is where I am now. I didn’t have the easiest childhood, and I’m not from the easiest place but I’m continuing to push. It’s a survivor’s poem,” Sims said.

Sims took a lot of things away from her experience at the talent show. The talent show made her realize that you must have a positive attitude about your performance. When she had the “jitters” onstage, she kept a positive attitude. She also learned how important having a good community around you was.

“The competitors were encouraging each other and having that kind of environment helped me

keep a positive mindset,” Sims said.

When second and third place were being announced, Sims was relaxed and not worried about it at all. She thought that after third place was announced, there was no way she would get second place. She felt like most talent shows are won by singers and dancers, so it was a huge shock to her when they announced her name for first place.

“My competitors were really good, and I know the first singer and she was amazing, so I thought she was about to win. I didn’t expect it and I didn’t have the slightest Idea that I would win. I was already telling myself in my head that I would try next year,” Sims said.

She wants to encourage anyone else who might consider doing the talent show next year to “go for it and do it.” She had a ton of fun being in the talent show and she got to showcase what she could do to the crowd.

“Not only do you live once, but you get to show people what you got. It’s your time to shine and you got the spotlight. I have the biggest spotlight but it’s not as bad as it seems and I couldn’t see anyone in the crowd because of the lights,” Sims said.

Sims chose to read a poem

because she wants to write her own book one day, be a motivational speaker, share her story with the world and bring awareness to certain things.

“I want to be that person who can go up there and talk about the hard stuff and the best way to do that was with a poem,” she said.

Something nobody knew about her poem was that she had not read the poem until she got up on stage.

“I wrote that poem maybe a year ago, and I write poems when I’m in certain headspaces and it helps relieve my anxiety or depression or whatever goes on in the moment, so I had written that poem and then never touched it after that until the talent show,” Sims said.

When she writes her poems, she does not touch them again. She was deciding what poem to do for the talent show and she chose ‘Me!’ out of her list of poems.

Sims plans on going to the Army after graduation and enter as an Infantry Officer. She eventually wants to write a book, be a motivational speaker, and start a nonprofit organization helping youth with challenges that she’s had to face growing up.

Abigail Chabala is a PN Photographer



Tatiana Sims recieves her first place prize at the 30th annual Talent Show. PN Photo/Abigail Chabala



Tatiana Sims reads her poem. PN Photo/Abigail Chabala

‘Legally Blonde The Musical’ Ends in Standing Ovation

By Abigail Chabala

The Givens Performing Arts Center had a ray of hot pink across the audience members for “Legally Blonde the Musical.”

The musical is based off the 2001 romantic comedy, “Legally Blonde,” starring Reese Witherspoon as the main character, Elle Woods.

Elle Woods is a blonde, University of California Los Angeles student and sorority girl, who studied fashion merchandising and had a 4.0 GPA. Elle Woods is known for her cute dog and her over the top and stylish pink wardrobe. Her dog also wears the same bright pink colors.

After her boyfriend, Warner Huntington III, did not propose and broke up with her because she wasn’t serious enough for him. Elle

decided to become a serious girl to win her boyfriend back.

“My friends and I just watched the movie and really wanted to see the musical. My favorite part was in the restaurant when Elle’s boyfriend was about to break up with Elle and it was funny because I knew what was coming,” Hayden Clubb said.

Elle decides to win her ex-boyfriend by hatching a plan to get into Harvard Law School, which was the same place Warner got accepted to.

“I came to see this musical to see how it is to be an audience member and watch a show. I’ve only been in shows, and I wanted to see what it was like to be in the audience,” Seonte Mckeithan, Theatre major, said.

After Elle was accepted, she was extremely excited, but was



Elle Woods showing her UCLA pride, dancing for Harvard Admissions. PN Photo/Abigail Chabala

at Harvard for the wrong reasons. She wasn’t there to learn law. She soon realized that if she was going to stay in law school, she needed to stop worrying about impressing Warner, but open up a textbook and start studying.

“My favorite part was all of the dance sequences because of the energy they had in the dancing, the lighting was exciting, and made me want to get up and start dancing. Overall it was really great,” Mckeithan said.

Elle finds a study partner, Emmett Forrest, who helps her with what to study to be a successful law student. Emmett Forrest in the movie was played by academy award nominee Luke Wilson.

The studying pays off when

Elle starts knowing the correct answers in Professor Callahan’s law class. She eventually becomes a part of Callahan’s internship team.

After a 20-minute intermission, act two starts with the internship students visiting a woman, Brooke Taylor-Windham, in jail for allegedly killing her husband and become her legal team.

During Brooke’s trial, Elle uses her knowledge about beauty and hair styling in order to prove the innocence of Brooke. The ending of the musical is when Elle and her friends all graduate from Harvard and she ends up getting into a relationship with her study partner, Emmett.

Abigail Chabala is a PN Photographer.



Elle Woods and her sorority sisters singing and dancing. PN/Photo Abigail Chabala

‘Teen Wolf’ Delivers a Fun Yet Disappointing Film

By Victor Mays

After six years off the air, the popular hit tv show “Teen Wolf” returns as a brand new movie streaming on Paramount Plus. The show returns 13 years after the events of the final season. The characters are all in entirely new places. Unfortunately, this turns out to be a detriment to the film.

With many behind-the-scenes controversies with certain actors not getting paid enough money to come back, the film fails to let fans know where those missing characters are.

The almost 150 minute runtime, the movie benefits from the absence of characters by being able to focus on others. A neg-

ative of the runtime is that the show feels more like an extended episode of the show rather than a complete story. With a cast as large as “Teen Wolf,” it’s hard to tackle the last 13 years for each character while also telling a new story in the present day.

The absences of fan-favorite main characters Stiles Stillinski, played in the show by Dylan O’Brien and Kira Yukimura, played by Arden Cho are felt. They drop vague references about the former and fail to mention the latter.

This is strange considering the romantic relationship between Kira and Scott, the film’s main character. Romance is featured in a significant portion of the film.

The movie’s main plot follows werewolf Scott McCall as he gathers old friends and enemies to deal with the threat of the Nogitsune, a villain from season three of the show. While also dealing with the sudden resurrection of his old girlfriend, Allison Argent, played by Crystal Reed.

The film’s actors slip back into their old characters smoothly. However, some fan-favorite characters don’t interact with other characters, and some even have unexplained new dynamics with certain characters.

When we left the main character Scott at the end of the final season, he was in a relationship with a werecoyote named Malia Tate.

In the film, Scott and Malia are

somewhat uncomfortable around each other, with the latter being in a new relationship with a hellhound and Deputy named Jordan Parrish. Liam Dunbar and Mason Hewitt, best friends in the film’s previous season, don’t share the same screen in the movie and are not shown or implied that they have talked in the last 13 years.

While the dynamics are fun, the film fails to pull together an exciting plot, with the story and the villain being a rehash of the film’s most popular season, season three. The film premiered to high viewership over on Paramount+ and fans are hopeful for more.

Victor Mays is a PN Entertainment Editor.

Netflix Cracks Down on Users Sharing Passwords



A phone and TV Screen both show the netflix logo. (Olivieir DOULIERY AFP via Getty Images/TNS

By Victor Mays

Netflix announced that it will be cracking down on password sharing at the end of March for the United States. It used to be that if one person paid for the account they could share their password with anyone they wanted for free. This will no longer be the case.

Now your Netflix account is confined to one primary household. This means the account must be linked to one designated Wi-Fi network. For those who are in college and pay for a Netflix account used at home and school,

do not worry because there is a way to watch tv shows and movies in both locations.

Subscription holders can pay an extra fee to have up to two people who are not in your set primary household access to the account. When logging onto the account on an unauthorized device, Netflix will send an email with a four-digit code to the owner of the account to verify the device.

The verification will allow the user to use Netflix for 31 days before having to re-verify the account or return to the primary household. The days of sharing account passwords

with anyone for free are over.

The crackdown on password sharing goes against Netflix’s initial 2017 tweet that said “Love is sharing a password.” Many have taken to Twitter to discuss their disdain and some post funny memes pointing out the irony of the statement or how the tweet didn’t age well.

“Netflix is shooting themselves in the foot. They are completely out of touch with this generation,” sophomore Madison Schwenneker said.

Some news outlets are reporting that this crackdown on password sharing might be the right thing to do. USA Today said that while people like to get things free, it can be unsustainable to do so.

“I’m personally not affected by this, so I don’t care. I think you should be paying for your own account,” student Caleb Simpson said.

The discourse surrounding password sharing has circulated around multiple social media platforms with StopNetflix hashtags and skits being made on different platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and YouTube.

This new direction has caused many students and parents to worry about charges for sharing a password. Some are even considering canceling their subscription to the platform.

“This is crazy. While trying to stop people from sharing a password might be good financially, I think this is an absurd move by Netflix. If I am paying for the service, I should be able to share my password with whoever I want,” senior Alaqua Jacobs said.

Victor Mays is a PN Entertainment Editor

How Does This Affect Students On Our Campus



“I don’t think this really affects me majorly, although I can see how this would affect others. I mean its not like Netflix is gonna to lose money with people sharing a password,” Sophomore Malcom Gray said.



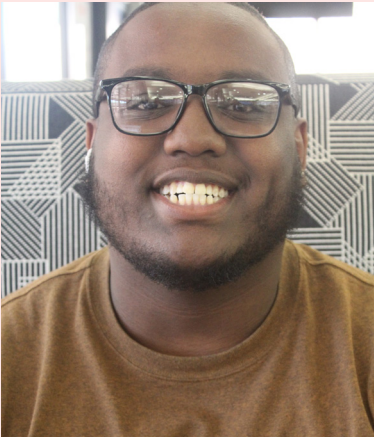
“It doesn’t seem like I would be able to use Netflix anymore. I think things will be rough since there is no cable on campus. So I am kind of stuck watching Youtube. Peoples lifestyles change and this is very inconvient for them,” Sophomore Aniya Lewis said.



“It sucks because I share my account with my family, and each of us pays for a month. We are broke college students and we don’t want to live without Netflix,” Senior Nia Brown said.



“I usually use my roomates Netflix account because we share the same tv. I can’t even use my family netflix because they are cracking down on my dads password and he is always on the road so he can’t always verify that Im using his account,” Senior Christina Limbert said.



“Since I have been fortunate enough to use my sisters Netflix, since I was in high school, I feel like them cracking down really takes a toll on incoming college students. So know they would have to spend their money that they don’t have on Netflix,” Junior Valdez Wilson said.



“Since I have been fortunate enough to use my sisters Netflix, since I was in high school, I feel like them cracking down really takes a toll on incoming college students. So know they would have to spend their money that they don’t have on Netflix,” Junior Choley Babson said.



“My sister, shes financially struggling so if I wanted to let her use my Netflix account, I guess I wouldn’t be able to do that. You know i’m not doing to good myself either so that sucks,” Junior Diego Santiago said.



“Sometimes I give my password to some of my friends, so when that doesn’t work it makes me feel like I can’t help them,” Freshman Riley Lowrey said.



“I shared my password with a lot of people so that we could actualy afford it. There are better options out there,” Alumni Wayne Linton said.

PN Photos/Victor Mays

Champions and History in Women’s Basketball



The Braves celebrate their victory after their Conference Championship win against powerhouse Belmont Abbey. PN Photo/Mahala Treish

By Dai-Shon Donald

Tested through hardship, adversity and setbacks, the Braves pushed through it all for their goal --a championship win.

With new pieces and returning veterans, the Braves looked for a chance at redemption after failing to reach the semi-finals following a loss to Emmanuel College in the 2021-2022 Conference Carolinas tournament.

With a new season in-hand, the Braves were given another opportunity to rewrite their team’s history.

At the start of the new campaign, the Braves got off to a rough start with a five game losing streak.

It appeared to observers that the Braves would not make the post season with their shaky start. But the Braves appeared to have other plans.

An unlikely overtime victory against Saint Augustine’s Falcons proved just enough for the Braves to turn their early missteps into a memorable year.

After an away win versus the Falcons, the Braves went on a three

game win-streak. Starting to find their stride, the Braves began to ascend the standings - taking down conference opponents in consecutive games.

Then came a crushing five game losing streak, followed by a transformative by a nine game win-streak. Many begin to see a noticeable swagger about the Braves team.

Defeating top conference rivals such as Mount Olive, Francis Marion, and Chowan - the Braves impressive winning streak led them to the second seed in the Conference Carolinas standings, only trailing Belmont Abbey.

When all seemed perfectly in place for a championship run for the Braves, adversities started to creep into their game play.

After putting together an inspiring mid-season run, the Braves had the misfortune of losing their final two conference matchups.

With just a week away from the Conference Carolinas tourna-

ment, many questions were left unanswered for the recently rattled Braves.

Seeking to conclude their campaign on a more positive beat, the Braves knew a conference championship win was the only route to silence the doubters.

Without their all-around playmaker, Courtney Smith, due to injury - the Braves had a difficult test ahead of them.

Coach Haskins said the hardships provided the team a great opportunity to show true grit.

“You can find an excuse not to do it or you can find ways to do it,” Haskins said.

The Braves opened the conference tournament with a transparent win against rival Mount Olive. They then followed with an overtime thriller victory versus Francis Marion.

When all hope seemed lost at the end of the season, the Braves now had a possibility to rewrite

Tested through hardship, adversity and setbacks, the Braves continued to push through it all for their one goal: A CHAMPIONSHIP WIN.

their own story ending. The Braves earned their way into the championship round.

As the right to be called conference champions hung in the balance, the Braves were matched against the powerhouse, Belmont Abbey.

Responsible for their previous regular season loss, the Braves had a chance at redeeming their blemished season.

With title hopes on the line, the Braves got off to a hot start. In the first quarter, the Braves put on an imposing defensive display, only allowing just two points for Belmont Abbey.

The Braves continued to showcase their dominance throughout the contest, putting Belmont Abbey away in a comfortable 56-46 victory.

The Braves won their championship in the Conference Carolinas.

Under his leadership, Coach Haskins gives all the credit to the grit and heart showed by the team.

“It’s the players. The one thing that struck me was how happy I was for the girls,” Haskins said. And I told the girls, I don’t need that as validation of my coaching. It was just really cool to sit there and just watch those girls cut down the nets, watch those girls celebrate. Really excited for them and just really proud of them.”

There is a clear difference in results from the previous season and the Braves can now label themselves as conference champions.

The UNCP women’s basketball team got off to a quick start in their first trip to Southeast Regional Tournament by scoring the first nine points of the contest. But top-seeded and nationally-ranked Catawba outshot the Braves and took away a 57-40 victory in the opening round of the NCAA Southeast Regional Tournament at Goodman Gym.

The setback for the Braves (22-10) snapped a three-game winning streak and capped off the most historic season for the Black & Gold in program history.

This was a historic season for the Braves on the hardcourts.

Dai-Shon Donald is the Managing Editor for the Pine Needle.

UNCP Bolstered Confidence With Huge Conference Wins

By Nicole Cook

UNCP vs. King - Jan. 28

The UNC Pembroke women’s basketball team had a dominant performance against King winning 64-43 at home on January 28.

The Braves forced 25 turnovers and scored 28 points in the paint on their way to a win. Pembroke now has

a 15-7 record and 12-2 in conference play, as well as eight straight home game wins under their belt. This win improves Pembroke 3-1 against King.

Redshirt junior Kalaya Hall was key in her team’s performance with 18 points on the scoreboard and game highs of three steals and seven rebounds.

Hall, redshirt sophomore Hannah

Russel and sophomore Malea Garrison all tied the game high of seven rebounds while redshirt junior Aniah McManus recorded the game-high of four assists.

Sophomore Zaria Clark also recorded a steal, 12 points and five rebounds while redshirt junior Lillian Flantos followed on the scoreboard with eight points and two rebounds. The Braves were 80% from the free-throw line at the end of the night.

The Braves handed the Tornados their sixth consecutive loss and have only won two out of 11 games on the road. UNCP now boasts a 15-7,12-2 overall record standing at second in the conference.

UNCP vs. Mount Olive- Jan. 25

The UNC Pembroke women’s basketball team delivered a decisive 58 -42 victory over Mount Olive on Wednesday, Jan. 25. The Braves shot above 40% in two quarters, scoring 24 points in the paint, and extended their home win streak to six games. They now have a perfect 17-0 all-time record against Mount Olive in Pembroke.

Courtney Smith led the Braves on the scoreboard with 16 points and 8-8 free throws while fellow redshirt



Zaria Clark sets a pick for Aniah McManus as she drives to the hoop. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift

junior Lillian Flantos scored her career high of 13 points and seven rebounds against the Trojans recording 75% shooting.

Other game leaders included sophomore Zaria Clark with three steals and 10 points, redshirt sophomore Kelci Adams with seven points and redshirt junior Alcenia Purnell with a game high of four assists.

Meanwhile, the Trojans suffered their third consecutive loss, falling to 2-7 when playing on the road.

The Braves will take the court again at home for the Alumni game against King University at 4 p.m. at Lumbee Guaranty court on Saturday, January 28.

Nicole Cook is the Pine Needle Sports Editor.



UNCP’s Alcenia Purnell travels down the court while keeping Mount Olive players off of her back. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift

Men’s Basketball Sets New School Records as Season Champs



Nygell Verdier defies gravity to score in a game agaisnt the King Tornadoes. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift

By Nicole Cook

The UNCP Braves’ victory against the Belmont Abbey Crusaders laid claim to the regular season conference title on Wednesday, Feb. 22 and broke the progam record for the most home wins in a regular season since 2018.

The men’s basketball team, ranked 7th at this time, displayed an impressive performance in their evening game against Belmont Abbey. They shot with over 50% accuracy from the floor and dominated the paint, leading to an 87-51 victory. This win allowed them to secure their second consecutive Conference Carolinas outright regular season

championship at the Lumbee Guaranty Bank Court. This win also enabled the Black and Gold to set another new record for the most number of regular season victories in their program’s history.

The Braves flushed the Crusaders away with a final score of 87-51 to make it to the conference carolinas championships where they’d face off against the Crusaders again for the tournament title.

However, this time around the Black and Gold fought a close scoring game but ultimately suffered a heartbreaking fall to the hands of Belmont Abbey 67-77. Despite this, The Braves still qualified for the NCAA Southeast Regional Tournament and packed up and hauled over to Augusta, Georgia to play the North Georgia Nighthawks for a spot in the semifinals.

The Braves suffered an upset and a hard fought match 58-76, thus ending the season with the second best overall record in program history (26-4), just short of last year’s record of 27-4.

Regardless, UNC Pembroke’s men’s basketball team managed to retain their spot n the top 10 teams nationally in the NCAA Division II Sports Information Directors Association regular season media poll, as of March 7th. The team was ranked at number 10 with a total of 248 points. Additionally, they also retained their ranking in the National Association of Basketball Coaches final regular season poll, where they were placed at number 8 with a total of 267 points.

The Braves then received further recognition when head coach Drew Richards was named the two-time consecutive Southeast District Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches. Richards has this year’s crown all to himself after sharing the honors last season with two other coaches.

Coach Richards now boasts a .836 winning percentage (56-11) over the course of two seasons and is only the second coach in the school’s basketball program history spanning 84 years to have received this title, the latter being Coach Lacey Gane of the 1972-73 squad.

Nicole Cook is the Sports Editor for the Pine Needle.

Keeping Chowan at Bay Amidst NCAA Tournament Selection

By Nicole Cook

The UNC Pembroke men's basketball team won a game against Chowan with a final score of 87-61.

They shot 56.5 percent from the field and made 10 out of 15 three-point attempts. The Braves also had a 16-4 run early in the second half that helped them secure the win. With this victory, UNC Pembroke has clinched at least a share of the 2022-23 Conference Carolinas regular season title.

JaJuan Carr had a career high of seven assists and led the Braves on the scoreboard with 17 points. Newcomer Amare Miller had a career and game-high of 13 rebounds against the Hawks and teammates Bradlee Haskell and Nygell Verdier each boasted six more rebounds.

The Black & Gold now have a record of 25-1 overall and 17-1 in Conference Carolinas. They have won 18 consecutive games and are ranked

5th in the country. They were also included as one of 10 teams "under consideration" for selection into the NCAA Tournament in the first edition of the NCAA Southeast Region ranking that was released on Wednesday afternoon.

On the other hand, the Chowan Hawks have a record of 12-11 overall and 10-8 in Conference Carolinas. They had won their previous three games before losing to UNC Pembroke. This was also their third consecutive loss in Pembroke.

“We know that Emmanuel is a really good team and the toughest road game we’ve played all year in a really tough environment against one of the best players in the country.” Coach Richards said of the upcoming faceoff against Emmanuel. “We’re going to approach it like it’s any other game as far as preparation, but we understand that it's going to be a highly contested game.”

Nicole Cook is the Sports Editor for the Pine Needle.



JaJuan Carr Redshirt Sophomore lays the ball off at the rim. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift

Pembroke Ranked Eighth After 14 Consecutive Wins



Sophomore Bradlee Haskell attacks the basket for a floater. Haskell finished the game off with 14 points, four assists and one steal. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift

By Nicole Cook

UNCP vs. King- Jan. 28

The UNCP men’s basketball team had another impressive performance with a 96-72 victory over King shooting 60% or better from the field for the second time in four days.

The Braves started strong, utilizing a 20-6 run in the first eight minutes to take the lead and maintain it for a 14-game winning streak against King. This is the fastest the program has recorded 21 victories in its 84-year history, surpassing last year's team which took 23 games to reach 21 wins.

There were several positive performances to note both as a team and as individual performances. The team was 70% from beyond the arc in the first half and 66.7% overall.

Individually, Sophomore Nygell Verdier led the Braves on the scoreboard with 19 points, a career high of four assists and seven rebounds. Sophomore Javante Waverly and classmate Bradlee Haskell both added 14 more points for Pembroke, and redshirt senior K.J. Walker also contributed 12 points.

Meanwhile, the loss marks the fifth consecutive defeat for the Tornados, who now have a 1-4 record in their series against the Braves. This win keeps the Braves standing tall at eighth in the conference with a record of 21-1,13-1.

UNC Pembroke plays Southern Wesleyan University next on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Lumbee Guaranty Court.

UNCP vs. Mount Olive- Jan. 25

UNC Pembroke men's basketball team had a remarkable night, achieving a season-high offensive performance of 108 to Mount Olive’s 83 at Lumbee Guaranty Bank Court.

The first half saw a 72.7% shooting rate and a 13-for-21 performance from the perimeter of the 8th-ranked Braves. As a result, Pembroke extended their win streak to 13 games with a 108-83 victory over Mount Olive.

This triumph helped match the record of last season’s 2021-2022 team for the best record in program history through 21 games. Additionally, it earned head coach Drew Richards his 50th victory at UNCP.

Cortez Marion-Holmes, a redshirt freshman, tied his career high against the Trojans putting 23 points on the board by the end of the night.

Other outstanding performances came from redshirt senior K.J. Walker who was 4-4 from beyond the arc and with a tied career high of 17 points overall, sophomore Nygell Verdier with his career high of 20 points and sophomore Bradlee Haskell with his personal best of 10 assists this night. Defensively, redshirt sophomore Elijah Cobb recorded three blocks and three steals.

The loss ended Mount Olive's three-game win streak (7-13, 5-7), and marked the Trojan’s seventh loss out of their last eight matchups against the Braves.

Nicole Cook is the Sports Editor for the Pine Needle.

Athlete Spotlight: Delsin Burkhart Goes The Distance



Redshirt Delsin Burkhart leaves his competitors in the dust as he takes lead. Submitted Photo/Bob Stoner of Conference Carolinas

By Nicole Cook

Redshirt junior Delsin Burkhart takes a moment to focus on the kickoff of the outdoor track season. Burkhart has been running as a distance runner for the Braves for three years and is a vital part of the indoor and outdoor track and cross country teams. From Fayetteville, N.C., Burkhart made his mark in Pembroke over the last three years as a staple runner for the 800, 5k, 3k, 1500, and 4x400m relay.

Burkhart went on to capture first place and his own personal-best time of 4:21:03 in the mile-run at the invitational this past weekend, and it’s clear that his confidence in both the team and himself proves to be propelling the team forward.

Burkart has a pregame routine of running three whole miles in his colorful Christmas themed toe socks as a warm-up and then drinking a coffee, which proved to have worked this past weekend.

“I’m in the moment. I’ll just read the track,

and I’m looking at the paces, looking at what runner is doing what. But also, at the end of the day I’m just free-minded,” Burkhart said.

Burkhart is coming off a knee injury, making the weekend at the Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational his first meet for outdoor track of the year.

The Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational in Myrtle Beach, S.C., hosted over 40 universities and clubs of all different rankings of D1, D2, D3 and NAIA schools.

Burkhart said he and the team were ready to face their foes and turn their motivation as runner-ups from their most recent indoor track season into wins for outdoor track. The only problem Burkhart foretold for the spring season was the weather.

“I think there’s nothing more we can do. We’ve already done everything we need to.”

Burkhart said for the indoor track season, he is confident that the Braves should have taken the championship title and has no doubts about what

the team is capable of.

“We just had a couple mistakes and a couple of hiccups. We really should’ve won,” Burkhart said.

The experience Burkhart has from running for the cross country team, which placed first in the conference in the fall, has fueled his excitement for this track and field season.

“We just need to keep going in the direction we’ve already been going. It’s been set and established at the beginning of the season that we can win,” Burkhart said,

He said there wasn’t anything they could change from what they are doing in their training. The team’s primary goal is to stay healthy to perform well.

“Because if we’re healthy, that’s it. That’s another ring coming back to Pembroke,” Burkhart said.

Nicole Cook is the Sports Editor for The Pine Needle.

UNCP Hosts the 2023 Robeson County Special Olympic



The participants that scored in the top three recieving their medals for the 19-21 age group softball throw. PN Photo/Abigail Chabala

By Abigail Chabala

The Dick & Lenore Taylor Track was full of sunshine and cheerful faces at the Special Olympics on April 4 at UNCP.

The 2023 Special Olympics is an event that focuses on inclusion and community, where everyone is welcomed and accepted, no matter the disability or ability.

“We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place—one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time,” according to the official Special Olympics website.

The volunteers for the Special Olympics wore yellow shirts and the teachers, and participants wore dark blue.

“I’m a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and we try our best to try and participate in as many volunteering opportunities as possible whether they are on campus or in the community. People can find us on Instagram @ rhuonu_uncp,” Talisha Bell, student volunteer said.

The Special Olympics at UNCP had many events to pick from. There was a softball throwing section where participants threw the ball as far as they could, and the volunteer kept track of the distance the ball landed. The softball throw was similar to the track and field event, shotput. The furthest distance the softball throw was 135 feet.

Some of the other events were standing long jump, 100-meter sprints, and a 100-meter walk. Each participant was fed lunch at the end of the event and volunteers took everything down.



Participants standing with newly awarded medals for the Women’s softball throw. PN Photo/Abigail Chabala



Olympians competed in the softball softball throw. PN Photo/Abigail Chabala

“My favorite thing from today was seeing everyone come together as a whole, seeing the kids have a good time and helping give the kids an athletic experience,” Niya DuBois, student volunteer said.

At the end of each event, the three people with the best performance, fastest run, or the furthest distance thrown, depending on the event, got a medal and stood on the podium to receive their metal and pose for a photo.

Abigail Chabala is a PN Photographer.

Keeping Chowan at Bay Amidst NCAA Tournament Selection



Christian Jayne hits a dinger in the game against Erskin. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift

by Nicole Cook

Pembroke vs. Emmanuel- Thursday, April 6

In a doubleheader, the 17th-ranked UNCP baseball team split with the Emmanuel College Lions at Tommy Carey Field, Franklin Springs, Ga.

In the first game, Emmanuel rallied from an early 5-0 deficit to win 6-5 in 11 innings, but the Braves bounced back in the nightcap to win 8-1 by capitalizing on five errors by the hosts. This was only the second doubleheader split for the Braves this season.

The game was delayed for over two and a half hours due to lightning and rain. The final out was recorded at 1:05 a.m. on April 7. Luke Barrow pitched four scoreless innings of relief with seven strikeouts in the opener but was not awarded a decision. In the second game, Jonathon Jacobs recorded five strikeouts and gave up just one unearned run in six innings to earn his team-lead fifth win of the season.

With the split, the Braves improved to 28-10 overall and 13-7 in Conference Carolinas. Emmanuel fell to 21-16 overall and 10-10 in conference play.

Pembroke vs. Coker- Tuesday, April 4

The UNC Pembroke Braves defeated the Coker Cobras with a score of 10-5 at Sammy Cox Field.

The Braves scored four runs in the opening inning and then held off two rallies by the Cobras in the middle innings to secure the victory. This win completed a season sweep of the Cobras for the Braves, who also won 4-3 in their last game against them in Hartsville, S.C.

The Braves remain undefeated this season against left-handed starters with a record of 9-0. The loss marks the sixth straight setback for the Cobras, who have a 3-19 all-time record in Pembroke.

Tyler Strickland, a redshirt sophomore,

picked up the win for the Braves and pitched in 2-1/3 innings. The Braves used a pre-determined six-pitcher rotation and redshirt junior Chase Jernigan struck out four batters in three scoreless innings but did not receive a decision.

Pembroke vs. Erskine- Saturday, April 1

The UNCP baseball won both games to sweep the series in a doubleheader against the Erskine Flying Fleet at Sammy Cox Field.

During the first game, the Braves were down 4-2 going into their last at-bat but rallied to score three runs and win 5-4. In the second game, the Braves dominated with a score of 19-1. With the victory, Braves won a total of 15 home games for the season and gave them their ninth series win of the year, including five against Conference Carolinas opponents.

The Flying Fleet, on the other hand, dropped both games and fell to 11-11 on the road this season. They have also lost seven of their last nine away games.

In the first game, newcomer Luke Barrow picked up the victory, he struck out two batters and allowing just one earned run. In the second game, Jonathon Jacobs earned the win by a strike out to eight batters. Five hits were given out and no one was able to earn runs in six innings.

The start of the doubleheader was delayed by three hours due to inclement weather in the early afternoon.

Pembroke vs. Erskine- Friday, March 31

UNCP baseball moves up through the rankings from no. 20th ranked to no. 17th and clinched five of the last seven games included a win against Coker, the series against Erskine and a split with Emmanuel.

In a home game at Sammy Cox Field, the UNC Pembroke Braves lost to the Erskine Flying Fleet with a score of 10-3.

The Braves initially fell behind by one run in the first inning, but were able to tie the game in

the sixth inning with a double hit by junior Joey Rezek. However, the Flying Fleet responded with nine consecutive runs, seven of nine, which scored off of home runs.

This loss ended a 9-game home win streak for the Braves, who have now lost three of their last five games against the Flying Fleet. This places Pembroke at no. 19 in the rankings.

Erskine has won four out of its last five games and earned its 11th road win of the season with this victory.

Nicole Cook is the Sports Editor for the PN.

Braves Sweep Catawba on Wing Co. Wednesday

by Andrew Thrift

Pembroke vs. Chatawba- Wednesday, March 1

For Wing Co. on March 1, Braves baseball took on the Catawba Indians.

After a slow start to the day, the Braves finally put some digits on the board, when they scored two runs in the bottom of the second inning. Sophomore Jake Bradley hit a homer out to left field that got the Braves those points.

The Indians went on to score four total runs during the third and fifth inning, which left the score at the end of the fifth inning 4-2 Indians.

The Braves were down by two, but when has that ever stopped them? The Braves were able to put 10 runs on the board in the sixth inning, a spot on the board.

The Indians tried to bounce back, only to secure one run in the seventh inning. They were no match for the Braves who scored three runs in the seventh, with a total of 15-5 at the end of the seventh inning.

The ninth inning was the Indians' last chance to have victory against the Braves after an uneventful eighth inning. The Indians were only able to scrape up one run, the the final score 15-6 for the Braves at the end of the night. The Braves have a 11-3 overall.

Braves Open Season With Weekend Sweep at Home

by Dai-shon Donald

Pembroke vs. Saint Anselm- Friday, Feb.3

First-time matchup in the first game of the season, the Braves kicked off in a three-day weekend series against the Saint Anselm Hawks.

Last season, the Braves finished their 2021-2022 season with a record of 38-17, a second-place finish in the Conference Carolinas tournament. To fall short to Mount Olive. With a re-loaded squad, the Braves focused on a path to return to the conference championships.

In their weekend series against the Hawks, the Braves took the early advantage with an impressive 18-0 shutout win on Feb 3. The Braves initiated their superb afternoon with a quick 5-0 lead to close the first inning.

The Braves maintained momentum, they were able to hold off the Hawks on defense. In the bottom of the seventh, the Braves registered eight-runs to conclude their shutout win, 18-0. In the matchup, Kody O'Connor and Ethan Ott were standouts in the Braves' offense, combining for six-runs in the evening.

Pembroke vs. Saint Anselm- Saturday, Feb.4

On the next day, the Hawks looked for a better outing. But the Braves momentum from the previous evening seemed to carry over to the following day. Like before, the Braves opened the game with another exceptional start. The Hawks surrendered four hits and three runs to the Braves in the bottom of the first inning, the Braves led 3-0.

From yesterday, the Braves continued to hold a noticeable control over the Hawks. The Braves took a 7-0 lead after two scored runs in both the

third and fourth inning. After being shutout in the initial game, the Hawks obtained their first run at the top of the fifth inning. Will Panarello secured an unearned run to help the Hawks get on the board. Their initial run was enough to power their offense. They strung five more runs throughout the afternoon. Better in the second matchup, the Hawks efforts were not enough to sustain the Braves aggressiveness. The Braves built on their early 7-0 lead, by adding six more to take another win past the Hawks, 13-6. The Braves held a 2-0 advantage on the weekend's series.

With sights set on a series sweep, the Braves retained the upper hand in Sunday's matchup. In typical fashion, the Braves got off to a fast start. Down 2-1 early, the Braves had a resurgence in the bottom of the second. The Braves took the go-ahead run after a single from Sophomore-Infielder, Michael Kocen. His knock brought in two unearned runs as the Braves now led 3-2. After trailing in the first inning, the Braves sprung an assertive attack on offense.

The Hawks held to two runs, the Braves went on a nine-point stretch from their first lead in the second. The Braves gained the final win of the weekend series, 12-2. They opened their new season in commanding form, the Braves are off to an impressive beginning of the 2023 spring campaign.

The Braves continue with an unblemished 3-0 record for the start of the season. With a new-look for both programs, an interest in this season's contest should be favorable.

Dai-Shon Donald is the Managing Editor for The Pine Needle.



Spencer Faulkner steps up to the plate. PN Photo/Mahala Treish

Braves Celebrate Senior Night At Final Game

by **Andrew Thrift**
UNCP v. Francis Marion (March 18)

During their last home matchup, the Braves took on the Francis Marion Patriots as they celebrated senior night. The Braves have six graduating players and one graduating assistant coach. At the start of their doubleheader against the Patriots, Francis Marion sent a ball straight out of the park leaving the Braves behind by one at the start of the game.

The Braves weren’t putting any points on the board and were behind by 12 at the top of the fifth. The Braves thought they might be left with nothing until Olivia Hall sent a dinger out of the park to finally give the Braves some points on the board. After only five innings, the final score was 12-1 to end game one.

With the sun slowly setting, the Braves began

their comeback in game two. During the bottom of the second inning, with bases loaded, Lauren Hilbourn sent a ball straight out to the parking lot. This sent all four runners across the home plate putting the Braves up 4-0.

At the top of the third, the Patriots were able to put some points on the board with a ball sent straight to the fence. This allowed for the two Patriot players that were already on bases to take it home, giving them two runs in the third inning.

During the bottom of the fifth, the bases became loaded yet again with Samantha Alred at bat. After two strikes for Allred, she finally sent a ball out to center field to the fence allowing for three runners to make it home and putting herself on second. This put the Braves ahead at the bottom of the fifth 7-5.

By the end of the night, the Braves managed

to steal game two as well to finish with an 8-6 win over the Francis Marion Patriots.

Andrew Thrift is a photographer and writer for the Pine Needle.



Sophomore Braves player, Samantha Alred steps up to bat on senior night before logging a double and five assists. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift.

Softball Notched Three Wins During Conference Opener

by **Andrew Thrift**
UNCP v. Southern Wesleyan (March 17)
UNCP v. Belmont Abbey (March 18)

After a disappointing twin-ball against West Chester on Monday, the Braves took to the field in their conference opener against Southern Wesleyan.

Friday’s matchup at home took place on St. Patrick’s Day but no luck was needed for the Braves. Game one saw the Braves rack up eight unanswered runs giving them the win in just five innings and scoring in every inning.

At the bottom of the second inning, Lauren Hilbourn sent a double straight out to center field putting her on second base. This put Emily Rose on third base giving the Braves two more runs on the board.

The Braves had eight runs, 11 hits and no errors after game one.

Game two went slower, but with the same outcome. The Braves took another W against Southern Wesleyan 0-7 with seven runs, 10 hits and no errors.

This was the first time since 2017 that UNCP has won the two opening games of conference action.

following day the team had a Captains practice where they got to work amongst themselves without the coaching staff. This had a large impact on the week and I believe it brought this team closer. Practice leading up to game day was united and it was clear to see they were ready,” said Head Coach Stephanie Graziani.

The Braves will be on the road for an eight-game road trip, but will be back at home March 31 against North Greenville.



Braves celebrate after a nail-biting conference opening weekend. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift.

Braves Dominate Georgian Court

by **Andrew Thrift**
UNCP v. Georgian Court (March 1)

After four straight losses the week before, the Braves hoped to get their wins up as they took on the Georgian Court University Lions Wednesday.

The first game of the doubleheader had the Lions out on top scoring two runs at the top of the first inning. The Braves were unable to answer the Lions’ runs after they scored two runs in the top of the third and one in the top of the fourth.

The Braves just weren’t having that when they put three runs on the board in the bottom of the fifth making the score 5-3 Lions.

The Braves fought hard to come out on top, but they were no match for the Lions when they put five more runs on the board during the sixth and seventh inning. At the end of game one, the Lions came out victorious beating the Braves 10-3.

Game two showed what UNCP Softball is all about. The Braves were able to put seven runs on the board in the first four innings, leaving the Lions in the dust.

The Lions bounced back in the fifth inning, but not far enough, only scoring five runs during that inning, having them fall just short of the Braves eight total runs. The Braves took their win against the Lions 8-5.

The following day, the Braves were back in a doubleheader against Belmont Abbey. The Braves hoped to use the previous day’s victories as momentum to pull in two more wins, but the Crusaders had other plans.

The Crusaders were able to score four runs at the top of the second, but the Braves fought even harder when they scored two runs at the bottom of the fourth inning and two more at the bottom of the sixth tying the game.

The Braves were no match for the Crusaders though when their offense scored two runs in the seventh inning leaving game one of the twin-ball 6-4 Crusaders.

Game two against the Crusaders had the Braves behind by 11 at the top of the third. The Braves ended up making a huge comeback scoring four runs in the fourth inning and seven in the fifth. At the end of the sixth inning, the score was tied 14-14.

Neither team was able to score during the seventh. Braves defense was able to hold the Crusaders at bay for the Braves to pull one final run, snatching them the win at the end of the conference opener weekend. Final score 15-14 Braves with 15 runs, 21 hits and three errors.

“We started off the week by playing West Chester, which I thought was good competition to have before we got rolling into conference. The

Adelphi Shuts Out the Braves

by **Andrew Thrift**
UNCP v. Adelphi (Feb. 22)

UNCP Softball took their losses from the day before in hopes of beating the Adelphi Panthers in a double header. The day started out with a delayed game forcing their 2 p.m. start time to 3:45 p.m.

The Braves were no match for the Panthers’ force with Adelphi securing their first run in the top of the first inning making the game 1-0 Panthers. The Braves were able to hold the Panthers at bay with neither team scoring any runs until the fifth inning when the Panthers scored another two runs making the game 3-0- Panthers.

The sixth inning was when the Braves finally put some numbers on the board when they got three runs, but so did the Panther. After the sixth,

the score was 6-3 Panthers.

The Braves knew they needed to push during the final inning, but the Panthers just wouldn’t allow that. Both teams got two runs making the final score 8-5 for a Panthers win.

Later in the day, the Braves once again took on the Panthers in game two of the doubleheader. The Braves were able to keep the Panthers at bay until the Panthers got a homerun in the top of the third which gave them two points on the board. The Braves tried their hardest, but were no match for the Panthers where they got two more runs in the fifth and sixth inning.

The seventh inning was tough for the Braves with the Panthers raking in 11 unanswered runs putting them ahead of the Braves 0-15. Final score of the night, 0-15 Panthers.

The Braves Lose Twice During UNCP Round Robin Tournament



Pembroke native Summer Bullard pitches against Wingate. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift.

by **Andrew Thrift**
UNCP v. Adelphi (Feb. 21)
UNCP v. Wingate (Feb. 21)

The Braves were back in action this week for the UNCP Round Robin Tournament after a trip to South Carolina where they beat the 12th in the nation, Anderson University.

The Braves started the tournament on Tuesday morning with a game against the Adelphi Panthers that turned into a tough battle for the Braves.

The Braves were out on top at the bottom of the third inning scoring three runs, putting them up three to nothing. The Panthers couldn’t deal with their zero on the board and scored their first run of the game during the top of the third, but the Braves held their own extending the lead by adding two more runs to their score making the game 5-1.

Adelphi racked up another two runs during the fourth inning with both teams going on to not score during the fifth.

The sixth inning was when the Braves started to lose their lead. The Panthers pulled off four runs during the top of the inning making the game

7-5 at the end of the sixth.

The Braves fought long and hard during the seventh but were no match for the Panther with both teams scoring two runs each during the inning. Final score: 7-9 Panthers.

Later on in the day, the Braves took on the Wingate Bulldogs. Even with the Bulldogs just finishing up a game against the Panthers, the Braves still knew the Bulldogs were gonna be a tough foe.

The first inning left both teams tied for zero. The top of the second was when the Bulldogs were able to show the Braves what they’ve got. The Bulldogs pulled out six total runs during the second inning putting them ahead 6-0.

During the third inning, the Braves allowed the Bulldogs to get another two points making the game 8-0.

The Braves were down by eight points but that didn’t stop their defense or offense. The Braves held the Bulldogs to a score of 8-0 for the remaining two innings. Mercy rule gave the Bulldogs the win with a perfect game leaving the Braves 0-2 at the end of the UNCP Round Robin Tournament.

Black Defeats Gold During Spring Kick Off Contest

PN Photos/Andrew Thrift

UNCP hosts annual Spring kick off event for fall 2023. During the event Black was against Gold. Black lead with 32 while Gold finished off with 27 points. Braves will start their season on Aug. 31, 2023 against Fayetteville State University.

