



Susan Hedgepeth is assisted along with her dog Cooper by members of the U.S. Coast Guard in Lumberton, N.C., Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018, following flooding from Hurricane Florence. Hedgepeth was moved to higher ground. (AP Photo/Gerry Broome, File)

Hurricane Florence Doubles Down on Robeson County

By Mason Miller
Managing Editor

To our UNC Pembroke family, our Pembroke community, and our neighbors around Robeson county, the last couple of weeks have been a crucial reminder of the power of nature and fragility of our local infrastructure.

It has been only 2 years since the devastating effects of Hurricane Matthew were felt, not only on this campus, but around majority of Robeson County. Many residents still recovering from Matthew braced for the impact of Flor-

ence.

Approximately 55,000 homes still remain without power in North Carolina and nearly a thousand roads are still inaccessible because of the flooding.

First responders came to campus to assess the damage and help with campus recovery efforts.

20 students, including the SGA President remained on campus during the hurricane and even more students remained in off campus housing.

Many roads and interstates within the Carolinas still remained closed as flooding still

remains a threat to much of the local community.

Rivers such as the Cape Fear river have not fully crested.

UNC Pembroke sustained damage to multiple places around campus including: North and Belk residence halls, Old Main and The Quad.

“As we did after Hurricane Matthew, we will come back stronger. We will show our community what it means to be strong, what it means to be Brave. Our university has much to be proud of

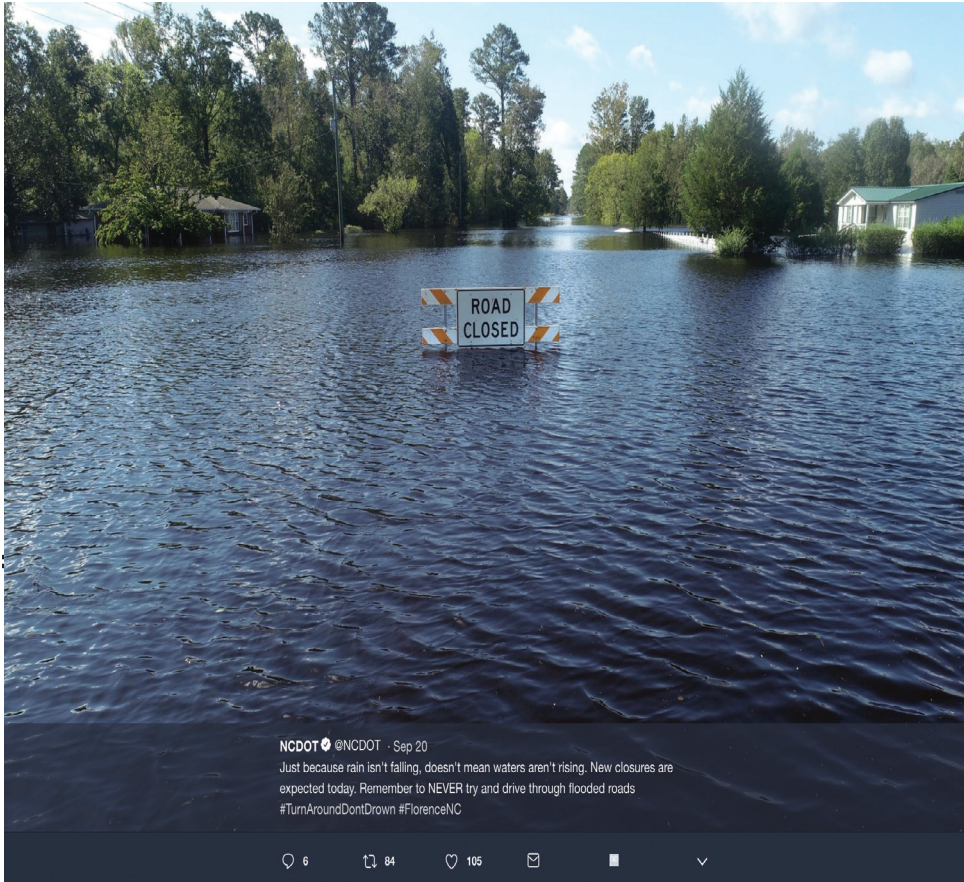
and much yet to accomplish. We will not forget this experience; it will make us ever more determined to fulfill our mission and be the economic engine for southeastern North Carolina,” Chancellor Robin Cummings said.

Students returned to classes Tuesday this week after a nearly two week long break due to the damage UNC Pembroke sustained during Hurricane Florence.

The academic calendar has been extended one full week and classes will now end Friday, December 7, 2018.

If any faculty members or students are suffering from emotional stress due to the natural disaster, you can call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 or text “TalkWithUs” to 66746 to get in touch with a crisis counselor.

(Top right): Flood damage on the Quad at UNCP. (Top Left): Landscapers replace sod in the previously flooded quad area. (Bottom Left): NCDOT tweet of a flooded road. (Bottom Right): Maura Walbourne sits in the front of a canoe looking in at her flooded Long Avenue home as David Covington wades through the wreckage in Conway, S.C. Sunday, Sept. 23, 2018





The Pine Needle
The University of North Carolina
at Pembroke

Founded in 1947

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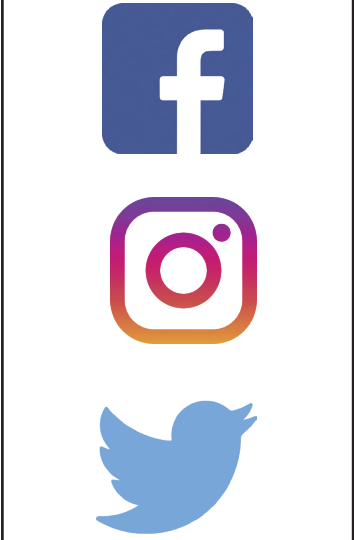
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Florence the week after: Thousands brace for more flooding

BLADENBORO, N.C. (AP) By GARY D. ROBERTSON, MARTHA WAGGONER and ALAN SUDERMAN, Associated Press — Thousands of coastal residents remained on edge Sunday, told they may need to leave their homes because rivers are still rising more than a week after Hurricane Florence slammed into the Carolinas.

About 6,000 to 8,000 people in Georgetown County, South Carolina, were alerted to be prepared to evacuate ahead of a “record event” of up to 10 feet (3 meters) of flooding expected from heavy rains dumped by Florence, county spokeswoman Jackie Broach-Akers said. She said flooding is expected to begin Tuesday near parts of the Pee Dee and Waccamaw rivers and that people in potential flood zones should plan to leave their homes Monday.

The county’s emergency management director, Sam Hodge, said in a video message posted online that authorities are closely watching river gauges and law enforcement would be going door to door in any threatened areas.

“From boots on the ground to technology that we have, we are trying to be able to get the message out,” Hodge said in the video feed, advising people they shouldn’t await an official order to evacuate

should they begin to feel unsafe.

In North Carolina, five river gauges were still at major flood stage and five others were at moderate flood stage, according to National Weather Service.

The Cape Fear River was expected to crest and remain at flood stage through the early part of the week, and parts of Interstate 40 are expected to remain underwater for another week or more.

Parts of Interstate 95 had also been expected to be underwater for days, but North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper announced Sunday night that the major highway has been reopened to all traffic, as floodwaters had withdrawn faster than expected.

Floodwaters already receding on one stretch of Interstate 40 left thousands of rotting fish on the pavement for firefighters to clean up. Video showed firefighters blasting the dead fish off the highway with a fire hose in Pender County in eastern North Carolina. The local fire department posted online: “We can add ‘washing fish off of the interstate’ to the long list of interesting things firefighters get to experience.”

North Carolina Emergency Management Director Michael Sprayberry said that eastern

counties continue to see major flooding, including areas along the Black, Lumber, Neuse and Cape Fear rivers.

“Florence continues to bring misery to North Carolina,” Cooper said in a statement Sunday evening. He added that crews conducted about 350 rescues over the weekend and that travel remains treacherous in the southeastern area of his state.

But he said National Guard members would be shifting next to more door-to-door and air search wellness checks on people in still-flooded areas. The storm has claimed at least 43 lives since slamming into the coast Sept. 14.

In Washington, Congress is starting to consider almost \$1.7 billion in new money to aid recovery efforts from Florence. Lawmakers already are facing a deadline this week to fund the government before the start of the new budget year Oct. 1, and members of Congress are expected to try to act on the disaster relief along with separate legislation to fund the government.

The chairman of the House Appropriations Committee said the money would be available as grants to states to help rebuild housing and public works, as well as assist businesses as they recover from the storm. GOP Rep.

Rodney Frelinghuysen of New Jersey called that “a first round” and said lawmakers are ready to act quickly if the federal disaster relief agency also needs more money.

An economic research firm estimated that Florence has caused around \$44 billion in damage and lost output, which would make it one of the top 10 costliest U.S. hurricanes. The top disaster, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, cost \$192.2 billion in today’s dollars, while last year’s Hurricane Harvey cost \$133.5 billion. Moody’s Analytics estimates Florence has caused \$40 billion in damage and \$4 billion in lost economic output, though the company stressed that the estimate is preliminary.

In other developments, at least three wild horse herds survived Florence on North Carolina’s Outer Banks, but caretakers were still trying to account for one herd living on a hard-hit barrier island, the News & Observer reported Sunday. Staff members are planning to make trips to the island this week to check on the Shackleford Banks herd. Elsewhere in North Carolina, state environmental officials also said they’re closely monitoring two sites where Florence’s floodwaters have inundated coal ash sites .

2 public schools in NC uninhabitable after storm

GEORGETOWN, S.C. (AP) — The Latest on flooding caused by former Hurricane Florence (all times local):

A North Carolina university closed because of Hurricane Florence is about to resume its fall semester.

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington announced in an email sent to students that classes will resume on Oct. 1 for the majority of its students.

The school said most students may move back into their dormitories beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday. Officials said there will be no access to the dorms before then.

The school added that ongoing work in two dorms will keep those buildings closed to students until Oct. 6.

Faculty members are being encouraged in the meantime to make virtual participation available for students unable to attend classes in person.

Infographic Florence Impact

(right)

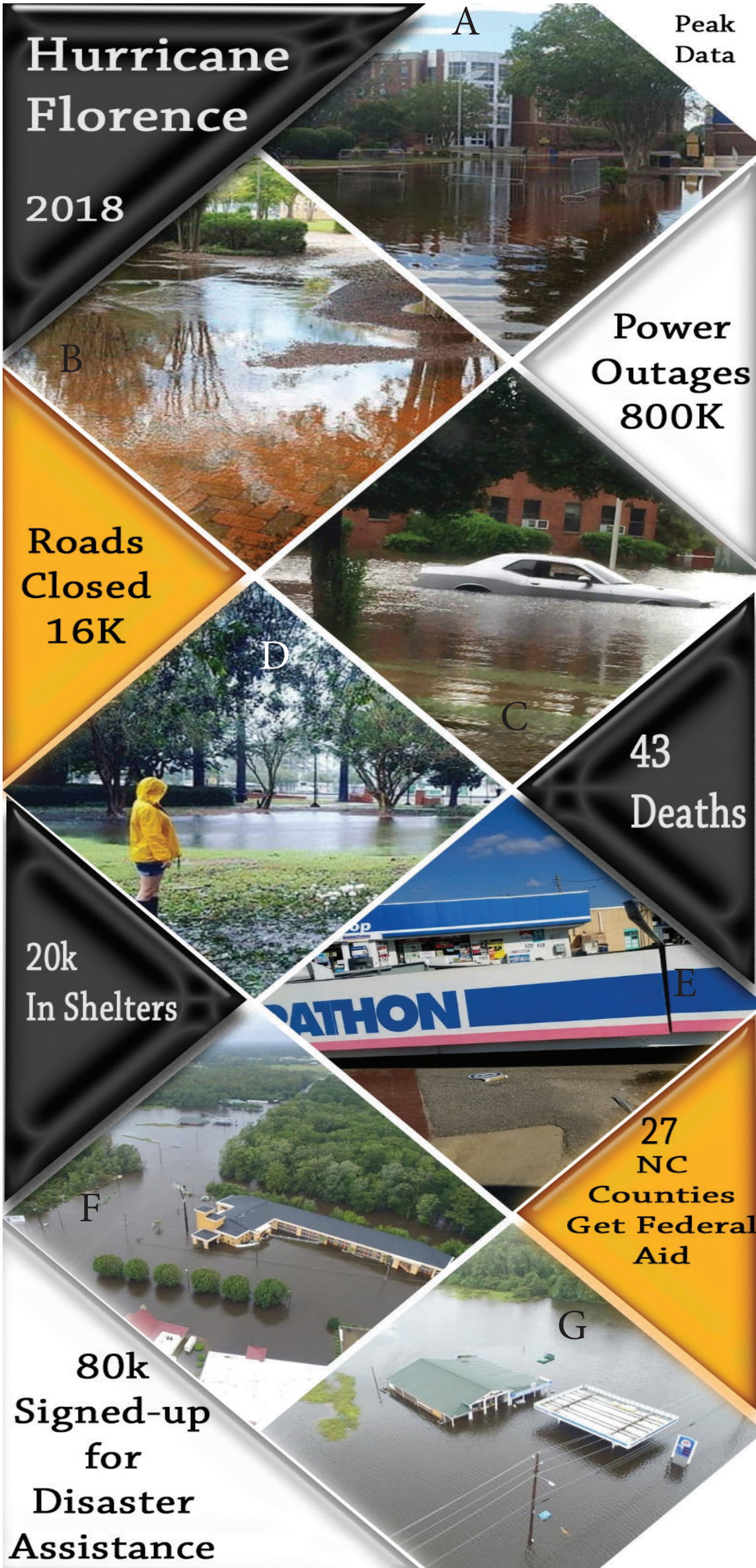
A & B: UNCP Campus, Jennifer Law, Sophomore

C & D: UNCP Campus, Taylor Marion, Senior

E: Marathon gas station’s roof was taken down by the storm in Raeford. Photos by Sports Tweede, Junior.

F & G: photos of Lumberton near I-95, exit 20. Photos by Kris Warwick.

Content NC Department of Public Safety.
Infographic design by Alex Smith & Ky’Aire Goode.



Admissions Surge in the Wake of NC Promise

By Jessica Horne
Editor-in-Chief

UNCP has reached a milestone in record enrollment with the help of the NC Promise Tuition Plan this fall. According to a university press release, “UNCP welcomed a freshman class of 1,233 and 838 new transfer students--a staggering 56 percent more than fall 2017. Another 256 re-enrolled at the university, marking a 59 percent jump in readmissions over fall 2017.” Additionally, the retention

rate has increased by five percent, in part of Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, David Ward’s task force initiatives. The task force assembled last fall, was comprised of representatives from multiple departments who were in charge of specific areas. From there, a sweep of campus was done, with research and in depth looks at sizes of classroom areas in accordance to holding capacity and fire codes, in preparation of a projected landslide amount of admissions.

Additionally, during the process of task force operations last fall, Ward shared that his main focuses in preparation for NC Promise were “academic policy and retention,” which he seems to have achieved with the retention rate (rate of students who returned/re-enrolled for their second year) and the heightened academic ACT and SAT scores of incoming students. According to the university press release, “Average freshman SAT scores are up nearly 100 points compared with last year while both ACT scores

and GPA have also risen.” “Through NC Promise, more students than ever before are seeing the value in the high-quality and affordable education UNC Pembroke offers,” said Chancellor Gary Cummings. “This innovative program is helping us advance UNCP and the UNC system’s shared mission of access and affordability, and this fall’s historic enrollment growth is the result of the visionary commitment to the power and potential of higher education by our state’s leaders.”

NC Promise is a \$500 per semester tuition plan enacted at UNCP, Elizabeth City State University and Western Carolina by the North Carolina General Assembly who allocated \$51 million to make it possible for every North Carolinian to have a higher education within reach of their means. The effects of NC Promise have helped enrollment rise in all three institutions, with increases in student enrollment and a heightened GPA of the student body.

SGA President Discusses Plans for New Semester

By Octavia Johnson
Campus Life Editor

Student Government Association (SGA) President Omar Torres is planning on continuing the future plans of the previous presidents focusing on meal plans, residential life, transportation and his own five concepts for this year. Torres said the SGA was developing a relationship with Sodexo, the food service in UNCP’s cafe. They held meetings to discuss on how the students can really benefit from their meal plans. They came to a conclusion to change the meal plans by adding a “Meal Exchange” program that allowed students to use one meal swipe a week at any of the eateries on campus like Papa Johns, Chic-Fil-A, Starbucks and Hawk’s Burgers. Torres plans to meet with the new General Manager Mike Mahaffey of UNCP’s dining team to discuss further options for students. Torres believes students should continue to speak up on getting the printers and desktops back in the labs because they are important resources for their education. He is willing to talk to

the Director of Housing and Residence on how to get those resources back in the residential halls. Torres also took notice the number of students who were



PN Photo/ UNCP Photography trying to attend UNCP after the NC Promise plan was installed. In Belk and North Hall, there are about four to five beds in the study rooms of each floor. When asked about changing the room situations, Torres said there are current plans for two new off-campus apartments to be built during 2019 and 2020 but it was not yet finalized. He also plans to discuss the possibility of building a new residence hall.

The school is also planning to construct the new business building. “There’s an idea to make it the face of the university,” Torres said. “It’ll be over by Dial and Sampson in the gravel area.” The library had its own renovations while being remodeled over the summer. Torres explains to the Pine Needle that the library’s last renovation was over 10 years ago. “The library was due for remodeling,” he said. “They used brighter colors to give students a calmer feeling.” The library will also hold a new dining area called Café 641. When asked about the limited parking lots for students, commuters and faculty and staff, Torres breaks down the “General Parking” confusion. In fall 2018, the parking lots that were originally designated as “General” parking were changed to “Faculty/Staff” parking. “General parking was originally just for faculty and staff,” he said. “The confusion came around because people thought the general parking area was for everyone.”

He further explained that faculty and staff must have a place to park because they work for the school. The campus is planning to have new bikes that students can pay to have for a certain amount of time. The discussion is still in progress to help students with transportation. Torres is excited for the new year and hopes to achieve his five concepts that he has planned for the students at UNCP. The first concept is to really strike an impact with diversity and inclusion on campus. Torres once worked for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. He respected what they did for students when holding discussions on any open topic. He also loved the diversity within the university. The second concept is a smooth transition if NC Promise was to end due to legislation. Torres, who is also the co-chairman in the Student Tuition and Fee Committee, wanted to make sure there was a plan for students if the NC Promise changed in the future. He discussed keeping the student fees to a low-

increase. “I’ll try to make sure to not have the fees increase irrationally,” Torres said. The third concept is making sure there is an Art Night every month. Torres has a passion for art and culture and he took the initiative of embracing the different cultures. The fourth concept is taking the initiative to help with mental health. With assistance from Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Torres wants students to know it’s okay to talk about mental health. He also wants students to be more aware, so that they can help their peers who are going through any signs of depression or anxiety. Even those who don’t know if they have it. He believes in giving out the proper resources to help students cope. The final concept is building a better relationship between the campus and the community. Torres would love to see more involvement, such as students going out into the community to learn about the culture.

What is your hurricane Florence experience?

WE WANT TO TELL YOUR STORIES
TELL US WHERE YOU WERE AND HOW YOU WERE IMPACTED

Email your photos and stories to the Pine Needle at
Pineneedle@uncp.edu

Or contact us on Twitter at
[TWITTER.COM/UNCP_PINENEEDLE](https://twitter.com/UNCP_PINENEEDLE)

We understand that this hurricane has devastated many lives, including some of our students. If you were in any way personally impacted by this storm, please let us know. We want to hear from you.



Counseling and Psychological Services: Put on Your Thinking CAPS



Exterior of the Health Services building that houses the Counseling and Psychological Services. PN Photo/ Madison Long

By **Madison Long**
Staff Writer

The Counseling and Psychological Service here at UNCP have a lot of resources and services to offer for our students. It is currently located upstairs in the Health Services building which is a brick building behind the Health Science building.

For students who make their first appointment they will mainly just discuss they current situation and then the counselors will decide the best service for that student.

Some Signs to be concerned about in yourself or a friend are any possible eating disorders. This can be shown by fear of gaining weight, paying very close attention to food or dieting, or even taking diet pills. Also other situations to be concerned about include, signs of depression, drug and alcohol use, and potential suicide.

There is never a wrong time to go to get assistance with concerns. There are a lot of support programs here at UNCP. The therapy dog is no longer at Pembroke for

services.

However our counseling services offer groups and workshops, this allows students who share common concerns and work through their situations together. These groups meet weekly and it gives them the opportunity to give each other feedback and advice to others.

There is also therapeutic yoga that students can attend, this helps people maintain emotional and physical well-ness.

There is also individual counseling that can be at-

tended. These sessions help people deal with life stresses effectively and helps them gain skills to deal with new challenges life may throw their way. However these sessions are just a positive first experience in therapy that will transition students into long term group work or continuing individually.

CAPS students who attend may get a referral to outside services because they may need some more intensive care, if they will be leaving Pembroke soon and can no longer attend, or if a student

can get an appointment outside of CAPS faster.

UNCP has given students who need it, the opportunity at plenty of resources that can be beneficial to them. Also CAPS is committed to offering students the best service that will meet their needs.

The crisis resources are also available for emergencies, to contact them simply dial 911 or campus police at 910-521-6235.

Brave Dialogue Series: Don’t Box Me In



Students gather to discuss social issues in Brave dialogue series “Don’t Box Me In.” PN Photo/Octavia Johnson

By **Octavia Johnson**
Campus Life Editor

Diversity and Inclusion and OSIL held their biweekly dialogue series, “Don’t Box Me In,” at 3 p.m.- 4 p.m. in the UC room 208 to discuss how society boxes people into a certain category.

The discussion was hosted by Bethany Wendler and Robert Canida. Wendler introduce the topic and told the students the rules of speaking in the dialogue series. The rules were as followed; use “I” statements, be respectful of people’s personal belief, participants have to be careful to not have too much control over the conversation and take a mental break from the conversation.

The discussion was about how sometimes people feel forced to choose a race, religion, etc. on any application.

Wendler starts off the conversation by explaining how the participants felt about checking off boxes and not being able to check of boxes when referring to race/ethnicity.

One participant used an example of how mixed people are forced to choose one box. For example, if they were Asian and Latino, sometimes they would have to choose one.

Wendler asked the participants how the boxes should be changed.

“You should be able to check more than one box,” one student said.

The conversation continued with why most people are forced to pick just the few boxes. Most people do not have boxes that they can check off in, like the boxes with black/African American or white/Caucasian.

“At UNCP we have a high number of ‘no response’ on people’s race/ethnicity,” Canida said.

Most students don’t know what to check off in one of the boxes. Wendler said some people ‘code switch’ to switch their identities to present themselves others.

For example, if someone were of one race but checked the box of another race. Some would try “passing” to choose

another race other than there own for what they believe is more “superior” or for what fits the circumstances within the country they live in.

“The boxes don’t help because it makes a person have to choose,” another student said. “It’s like society is saying you can’t be both or your own race.”

They ended the discussion with the difference between race and nationality and some of the participants gave their honest opinion.

“The real question is how many races are there in this world,” Canida said.

They ended it with a survey of how the session went and one of the participants pointed out that they were checking off boxes which is what the discussion was about.

For more information on the Brave dialogue series, contact Bethany Wendler at bethany.wendler@uncp.edu or Robert Canida at canida@uncp.edu.

Upcoming Events

September 27

National Voter Registration Day
8 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
University Center Quad

Distinguished Speaker Series: Martin Sensmeier
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
GPAC

September 28

Jessica Jane & Niels Duinker’s Magic Variety Act
8 – 9 p.m.
GPAC

October 1

Circles
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
University Center Room 208

Movie Night: ONE VOTE Documentary
7 – 10 p.m.
University Center Lounge

How to Prepare for a Successful Semester

By **Janisha Gore**
Staff Writer

Homework, deadlines, meetings...oh the pains of being a college student! Have you ever thought about how important it is to prepare for your day?

As Ben Franklin said, “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”

Being prepared allows one to perform to the best of their abilities and when you take time to do so, you have already succeeded.

Even though you may be able to function without properly preparing yourself, preparation allows you to be calm and make clear, sound decisions.

Self Care Comes First

It all starts with taking care of your body. If your body is not taken care of, it’s a possibility you may not be able to carry out certain tasks to the best of your abilities. This includes getting adequate sleep and having a substantial diet.

“It’s just as important to focus on taking care of yourself

as it is your academics,” said senior Sequoya Locklear.

Plan Ahead

Have a calendar or a planner handy.

Keeping a close track of upcoming events and deadlines will prevent you from scavenging to get things done at the last minute. For the chronic procrastinators, please pick up a planner. Your life will have order and you will be so thankful that the small step you took made such an impact in your routine.

“I have a calendar planner and a whiteboard calendar. I always keep an inspirational quote posted above my calendar, a different one for each month. Right now, I have a bible verse posted: To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven, Ecclesiastes 3:1,” said junior Gabrielle Apollo. “I actually tutor Bio 1000. I always tell students to take notes and to make their own quizzes.”

However, a calendar isn’t the only way to keep up. Sticky notes, note cards,

alarms or anything that will stand out to you will do the trick. My mom keeps notes posted on the fridge. That tends to lessen the confusion by keeping everyone in the loop with what’s going on. You must do what works for you!

Seek Help

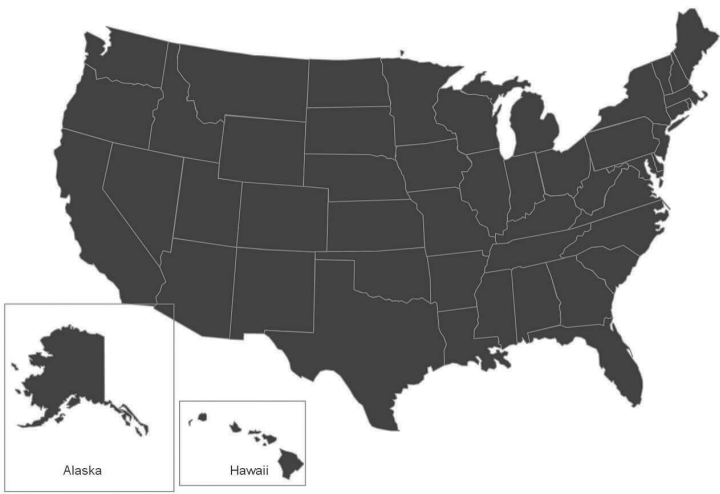
“I’m not afraid to ask for help. If I’m unsure of something, I use my resources such as: The Center for Student Success, tutoring, and even the writing center in D.F. Lowry. I also try to build good academic relationships with my peers,” said junior Calyce’ Taylor.

In the end, it’s not about how ready you were for the task but rather if you carried it out successfully.

Being prepared is only logical because it will have you less worried about the things you need to accomplish.

Take a moment to plan for your meeting/assignment/task and most likely you will take the proper steps from there.

News Briefs



• Over the weekend of Sep. 8, singer and songwriter John Legend, 39, became the youngest artist as well as the first African American man to achieve the EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony) title 12 years after winning his first three Grammys in 2006. Legend has won one Emmy Award, 10 Grammy Awards, one Oscar Academy Award and one Tony Award.

• After a loss in the U.S. Open, Serena Williams was fined \$17,000 for three code violations. CBS News reports the tournament referees office on Sunday docked Williams \$10,000 for verbal abuse, \$4,000 for being warned for coaching and \$3,000 breaking her racket.

• Apple reveals three new iPhones at their Keynote conference earlier today. The names of the phones, XR, XS, and XS Max have starting prices at \$749, \$999, and \$1,099 in which will be released in the next coming weeks.

• In a document released by Sen. Jeff Merkley on Sep. 11, the Trump Administration transferred \$9.8 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement in June of 2018. The Department of Homeland Security informed Congress that ICE needed \$200 million due to a higher demand for the cost of detaining and deporting immigrants. The money redistributed from FEMA cut back on infrastructure, training, budgets and response/recovery.

• Despite being located in mandatory evacuation zones for hurricane Florence, prisons in South Carolina were ordered by Gov. Henry McMaster to keep inmates inside because they will be safer. MacDougall Correctional Institution as well as Ridgeland Correctional Institution are both Level 2 institutions that detain over 1,000 inmates. More than 100 prison employees were also required to stay.

• Hurricane Florence wreaks havoc on N.C. beaches and inland cities like Lumberton, Whiteville, Bladenboro and more. The Hurricane has breached dams in Laurinburg, causing some to evacuate their homes. Many homes and local businesses remain flooded as a result of the storm.

• In response to Nike unveiling their “Just Do It” 30th anniversary campaign with Colin Kaepernick, on Sep. 5, the mayor of Kenner, LA issued a memorandum banning any booster club that uses the Kenner Recreation Facility from buying or wearing any equipment/apparel from the brand unless the Director of Parks and Recreation approved it. The policy has since been overturned due to pressure from the American Civil Liberties Union for calling the ban unconstitutional. Nike’s sales have increased 31% following the campaign with Kaepernick.

• Jeff Fager, executive producer of CBS popular news program “60 Minutes” has left the network after accusations of fostering an abusive workplace. According to the New Yorker the accusations included inappropriately touching employees, with another report from the Washington Post stating that Fager tolerated years of alleged abusive conduct by a senior producer.

• Pope Francis along with several other bishops from around the world gathered Wednesday to discuss the accusations of sexual abuse surrounding the Holy Catholic Church. New York Times said that this meeting marks the first time that presidents of bishops conferences worldwide have been summoned for a meeting on a specific topic.

Fall 2018 Revised Academic Schedule

September 26

Final date to withdraw from 1st 8-week courses

October 12

Last day of 1st 8-week courses

October 11-13

Fall Break

October 15

Midterm grades due

Grades due 1st 8-week courses

2nd 8-week courses begin

October 17

Last day to add/drop 2nd 8-week courses

Financial Aid Freeze date

October 17-18

Grad Finale

October 22-26

Advising week and declaration of major/minor

October 26

Deadline to withdraw from regular session courses

Preregistration for continuing students Spring 2019

October 29 - November 1

Seniors: October 29 @ 12 a.m.

Juniors: October 30 @ 12 a.m.

Sophomores: October 31 @ 12 a.m.

Freshman: November 1 @ 12 a.m.

Thanksgiving Break: November 22-24

Classes end: December 7

Final Exams: December 10-14

Graduate Commencement: December 14 @ 7 p.m.

Undergraduate Commencement: December 15 @10 a.m.

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The Pine Needle
April 19, 2018

Braves Rebound from Opener by Dominating the Vikings

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

After battling back to take the lead in the last 12 minutes of their home opener against Winston Salem State, only to see it slip through their hands on an uncanny play in the last 75 seconds of the game. Following a semi short week of practice and reflection, the Braves blew out the Vikings of Elizabeth City State University 51-6 on Sept. 8 at Grace P. Johnson Stadium.

The Braves completely dominated the Vikings in all three phases of the game, and outside of allowing a late game kick-off return after the returner had problems fielding it before finding a lane up the left side line for ECSU's only points of the day.

"I like where we're at. I thought we responded well after last week's tough loss and obviously it feels good to be on the winning end," Head Coach Shane Richardson said.

Thanks to stellar special teams play and a ferocious defensive performance, the Braves offense consistently found themselves working with short fields and would capitalize on all but one of their five opportunities when they had excellent field position on their opponents' side of the field producing three touchdowns and field goal.

Freshman quarterback Josh Jones was awarded his first collegiate start after giving the Braves new life and almost completing the fourth quarter comeback in the opener. While he did split time with redshirt freshman Joshua Dale, he legitimized the coaching staff's decision to give him the start as he led the team to three quick scores to

fierce with both passers leading touchdown drives of over 40 yards. Dale was inserted into the game on the second drive of the second quarter and quickly got off to a hot start completing his first four passes to march the Braves down the field before delivering a perfectly placed back shoulder fade to redshirt freshman Tyshawyn Carter on his fifth passing attempt to bring their lead to 24-0.

Jones was brought back in on the offense's next drive of the quarter and he only needed one play to put the Braves up 31-0 going into halftime. After establishing a prominent rushing attack in the first half the Black and Gold called for the play action at the perfect time as the defense bit down hard on the fake, sold out on the run and Jones was able to find redshirt junior receiver Quay Threatt running wide open down the right sideline for the score.

In the second half the Braves running game took over as the team looked to salt the game away. The ground and pound was in full effect in the third quarter as they surpassed the entirety of their first half total converting just nine carries for 70 yards and a score. Redshirt junior Josh Sheridan who led the team in rushing with 10 carries for 82 yards had his best run of the night on the first drive of the second half.

"I think Josh Sheridan is a heck of a running back and I thought he actually did a lot of things to create those big runs out there...I thought Josh had a heck of a night," Richardson said.

Just when the ECSU offense began to find a semblance of rhythm on offense assisted by some Braves penalties, redshirt



Freshman quarterback Josh Jones finds redshirt junior receiver Quay Threatt wide open down the sideline off of play-action. PN photo/Trevon Knight

Everett read the quarterback's eyes the entire way and jumped the intended receivers out breaking route and raced to the endzone for the 63-yard pick six to run the score up 45-0. It was the kind of play that

program all time lead with two and senior Tajai Liles added and was a mainstay in the backfield.

"We really just wanted to bounce back," said Hinton. "It was a tough loss last week, but we wanted to

Jordan Howard picked one of the Braves six sacks on a blitz.

"We were able to let the front four really do their jobs and everybody else could just settle into playing their fits and their cov-



Redshirt junior Shawn Everett has nothing but green grass in front of him on his way to the endzone after jumping the route of the intended receiver for the defense's first touchdown of the season. PN photo/Trevon Knight

corners dream about and that quarterbacks dread, when they can undercut and out route and have nothing but green grass and maybe a trailing quarterback in front of them.

"I really liked that our team didn't stop playing in the second half and I thought challenge was at halftime that we wanted to really continue to keep the gas pedal on because that is a reflection of really who we're going to be," Richardson said.

Both the offensive and defensive lines dominated the line of scrimmage for the Braves in this game and constantly winning the point of attack in the trenches. The defensive line was unrelenting in their pursuit of the Vikings' quarterbacks as they racked up a combined six sacks and applied constant pressure off the edge as well as collapsing the pocket. Redshirt senior Tyler Hinton led the team in sacks on the night and added to his

just let that go, shake that and get ready for this week and I think we did that."

Richardson believed his team matched up well up-front on defense in particu-

lar. The team rarely sent a blitz on the night, opting instead to rush just their four down linemen. Red-shirt sophomore linebacker



Redshirt junior wide receiver Quay Threatt celebrates his touchdown reception en route to UNCP defeating Elizabeth City State 51-6. PN photo/Trevon Knight



Sophomore kicker/punter Alex Alvarado knocks through a field goal to extend the Braves' lead. PN photo/Trevon Knight

build an early 17-0 lead in the first 16 minutes of play.

The second quarter showed why the quarterback competition is so

junior defensive back Shawn Everett delivered the defense's best and UNCP's longest play of the day.

play very well."

Trojans Sweep Braves in Three Sets

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

Due to the impending impact of Hurricane Florence and the precautions taken by the university to make sure the players and coaches got to safety, the UNCP volleyball team had their regular scheduled match against the University of Mount Olive Trojans moved up to noon on Sept. 11 at the Kornegay Arena. The Braves intended to build off of a strong showing against St. Andrews Knights in which they completed a 3-0 sweep of their own against a struggling Mount Olive team with only one win on the season. However, they were unable to pull off late set rallies and headed into their reprieve from classes and

competitive season by getting swept by the Trojans in three sets to give them just their second victory of the season. The Trojans got out to a early 8-4 lead before the Braves managed to tie the set up at 20 even until the home team was able to put away the first set by scoring five straight unanswered, two coming off of service aces and another by way of a Braves service error. Set number two was more of a back and forth affair that saw both teams take the lead from the other on several different occasions. While the Braves were able to go on a 4-1 run midway through the set, the Trojans were able to close the gap and eventually take the set due to yet another

UNCP attack error. The third and final set featured rallies from both teams early and late in the set while the Braves were able to tie it up 24-24 due to an attack error by a late attack error by Mount Olive, but the Black and Gold were undone by two straight kills to end the match. Senior Aquia Jones once again led the team and posted double-digit figures in kills with 15. Senior Bailee Jones recorded the most assists for the 12 straight match this season with 25 and even finished second in digs on the day with eight. Junior libero Anna Heinz notched the most digs for the Braves with 12 and redshirt freshman Ashley Caesar had the most blocks on the team with five.



The UNCP volleyball team had their originally scheduled match up with Mount Olive moved up so that the athletes could evacuate sooner in preparation of hurricane Florence. The Braves fell to the Trojans 3-0. PN file photo/Trevon Knight

Special Teams Plays Key Role in Braves’ Success

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The UNCP football team was firing on all cylinders in all three phases of the game when faced against the Vikings of Elizabeth City State University on Sept. 8 at Grace P. Johnson Stadium in their home opener in front of a rambunctious home crowd. The Braves’ special team units played an integral part in not just putting up points via field goals and extra points after touchdowns but also in setting up the other two phases of the team for success with excellent field

position for the offense and pinning the opposition back so that the defense could pin their ears back and go hunt. The punt return unit provided juice and set up the offense with short fields on multiple occasions throughout the game. They applied constant pressure on the Vikings punter and managed to get a block in the first quarter to set up the Braves’ second scoring drive. Redshirt sophomore defensive back Devin Jones was an absolute monster in the return game on the night racking up 74-yards on five punt returns.

He showed an impressive knack for quickly getting upfield and finding the open lanes after making the initial would-be tackler miss. Sophomore receiver Corey West had the second longest return on his lone opportunity of the night with a 29 yarder. Jones’ longest return of the night went for 31 yards and set the Braves up at the Vikings 16-yard line, which led to one of Alex Alvarado’s two converted field goals of the night just four plays later. “Very electric,” said Richardson about Jones.

“That was our plan to get him rolling. He is very fast and if he can make the first guy miss then I think he always puts himself in a position to be able to score and give us great field position.” Having a weapon that can flip the field and give an already suffocating defense an even bigger advantage by setting up the opposing team’s offense inside of their own 20 or even 10-yard line is extremely helpful. That is exactly what the Braves have in redshirt sophomore punter Isaac Parks. While he only had three opportunities to shine, the

Greensboro native made the most of his three chances to pin ECSU back deep. He racked up 138 yards with his best punt being a 42 yarder that went out of bounds with surgical precision at the opponents 3-yard line. “He feels really good right now. I think he’s really punting the ball well,” Richardson said. “He’s very energetic about what he’s doing and very confident about what he’s doing so that does really help.”

Running Back Josh Sheridan Is a Human Highlight Reel

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

Redshirt junior running back Josh Sheridan has been the UNCP football team’s most explosive player thus far into the season. Not only is he the teams leading rusher with 141 yards, he has also racked up a team high three rushing touchdowns. While his overall numbers on the ground don’t exactly jump off the stat sheet and he has yet to eclipse the century mark in rushing, he has provided some of the most impressive and electrifying plays for the team through the first month of the season. Sheridan had one of his best plays as Brave come

against the Elizabeth City State University Vikings on Sept. 8 in the team’s home opener at Grace P. Johnson Stadium, where he scored a 30-yard touchdown on an elusive run. On what seemed like a rush for minimal gain to the left side of the line Sheridan then began to cut across the entire length of the field before outracing the whole Vikings’ defense to the right pylon. He’s accounted for at least one score and a play of over 20 yards in each of the Braves’ games and he’s been just as dynamic coming out of the backfield as a pass catcher. Although he has only reeled in two catches, he has a 31.5-yard per catch



Redshirt junior RB Josh Sheridan is lifted in celebration by OL Gage Baldwin after scoring a touchdown. PN file photo/Trevon Knight

average as each reception has gone for at least 30 yards. On his second catch of the season in the same game against the Vikings came on a half back screen off of a

fake jet sweep to receiver Eric Price and he took it 33 yards to the one-yard line. The Braves were successful on running the sweep with Price on a couple occasions for nice gains but this time while the defense flowed with full force to stop the sweep, Sheridan was able to slip out of the backfield. He made the reception, followed his backside blockers and weaved his way through a few defenders before being brought down just shy of the goal line. Sheridan is perhaps the most dynamic weapon what looks to be a loaded Black and Gold arsenal and he hasn’t provided any indication to doubt that it isn’t the

case. He has shown a consistent ability to make defenders miss in open space, evade would be tacklers at the line of scrimmage and the quick feet and natural field vision to find and hit the holes provided by his linemen. “I just try to do whatever I can to help the team, it’s not a one man show. Whatever the coaching staff and the coaches want me to do, I just try to do it to the best of my ability,” Sheridan said. For more information on Braves football stats, rankings and more, visit uncpbraves.com.

BRAVES UPCOMING FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

UNCP vs. Newberry- <i>Sept. 29 (Sat) - 7 p.m. - Parents and Family Weekend - Home</i>
UNCP vs. Wingate- <i>Oct. 6 (Sat) - 7 p.m. - Robeson County Schools Night- Home</i>
UNCP at Central State- <i>Oct. 13 (Sat) - 1 p.m. - Away</i>
UNCP vs. Concord- <i>Oct. 20 (Sat) - 4 p.m.- Homecoming - Home</i>
UNCP at Lenoir-Rhyne- <i>Oct. 27 (Sat) - 2 p.m.- Away</i>
UNCP vs. Mars Hill- <i>Nov. 3 (Sat) - 1 p.m. -American Indian Heritage Day - Home</i>

The Starting Quarterback Competition is Alive and Well

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

After a less than lack-luster performance in the season opener and being absolutely outplayed by true freshman Josh Jones, red-shirt freshman Joshua Dale threw his hat back in the ring and proved that there still is an open competition at quarterback with brilliant performance on the night.

He exhibited poise in the pocket and stepped up in the pocket to make throws, im-

throw of the season so far with a perfectly placed back shoulder fade to redshirt freshman receiver Tyshawn Carter in the left corner of the endzone. Dale finished the day 9-10 for 93 passing yards and a touchdown and had one less incompletion than he had completions against the Rams.

While Dale did everything in his power to keep the quarterback controversy alive, Jones did nothing to suggest that his fourth quarter magic from the week

the team up 17-0. He was also the leading passer on the day completing 10-19 passes for 100 yards and a touchdown.

On his only touchdown pass of the day he found redshirt junior receiver Quay Threatt streaking wide open down the right sideline after the Vikings bit hard and were completely duped by the play action fake after he rolled out to his right, planted his feet and delivered the 44-yard bomb.

Jones continued to show his process for taking deep shots down the field that he displayed in the season opener. He could have doubled his passing yardage on the day had he connected on two deep shots down the seam where Carter and sophomore receiver Corey West both had split the two deep safeties and had more than a step on the nearest defender, but they just couldn't haul them in. If he can find a way to hone in on those throws and complete those plays, he just might pull away for sole possession of the starting gig.

"We go on based off of a system. It doesn't matter who's the guy in there (the huddle), we're all back him up no matter what, keep the same energy no matter who's in so it's not really a change, we keep the same



Quarterback Josh Jones hooks a pass along the right sideline during UNCP's win over Elizabeth City State. Jones went 10/19 for 100 yards and a touchdown pass in the game. PN photo/Trevon Knight

beat," said redshirt junior running back Josh Sheridan.

Head Coach Shane Richardson believes that he and his staff will let the tape tell the tale of which quarterback executes the offense better.

"Josh Jones had significantly more reps earlier in the game, but I thought Josh Dale made a heck of a throw on the one touchdown to Tyshawn (on the back-shoulder fade). I thought that was a fantastic play and so we're going to keep evaluating and make sure we continue to put ourselves in the best position possible at that position," said Richardson.

Both quarterbacks

helped the offense move down the field with ease that night. They both led multiple scoring drives, exhibited all the traits of a quality and starting caliber quarterback and neither of them made the job of nailing down a starter easy on the UNCP coaching staff.

Look for them to continue to employ the two headed attack similar to what the Clemson Tigers and Alabama Crimson Tide are using until one guy stakes his final claim with his play on the field.



Redshirt freshman receiver Tyshawn Carter celebrates with the team after catching a back-shoulder pass from quarterback Joshua Dale for a touchdown. PN photo/Trevon Knight

pressive mobility in eluding the rush but still keeping his eyes down field to find his receivers. He also showed excellent touch on his best

prior was a fluke. The true freshman got his first start of his collegiate career and led the Braves on their first three scoring drives to put

Braves Volleyball "Wingwomen"

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

It's one thing for an athlete to start for their team, it is a whole other accomplishment to excel in the field of play of their respective sport at their particular position and in their specialized discipline.

Through the first month and a half of the season senior Bailee Jones and junior Anna Heinz have put up astounding stats for the UNCP volleyball team as they both lead the Braves in categories that set their teammates up for success by landslide margins.

Jones is the starting setter and she leads the team in assists with by a substantial margin and Heinz is the starting libero and has accounted for 209 digs. The two team captains are not

just two of the top performers on the court but also serve as key leaders of this year's team.

In volleyball the roll of a setter is similar to that of a quarterback in football. Their primary responsibility in the offensive scheme is to give their scorers on the outside opportunities to put up points and put them in the best positions to succeed.

Jones has been masterful in orchestrating scoring plays for the Braves this season with her best game coming on Sept. 1 against Coker, where she set a career high in assists and accounted for all but two of the team's assists in the match with 55.

The Braves typically utilize two setters to split the load but due to injuries and illnesses early in the season, Jones has had to be leaned



Senior Bailee Jones is off to a terrific start for the Braves volley team and currently leads the team with an astounding 374 assists. The stellar starting setter from Trinidad, CO registered a season high as well as set a career best is assist in a match against Coker College with 55 (9/01/2018). She also recorded a season high 20 digs in that very same match. PN file photo/Trevon Knight

on heavily and will continue to be until the team can get some of their other setters back into the lineups.

"We should be having our other setters back soon

so it'll be interesting to see how they come and compete in practice and see if they earn their way back onto the court but Bailee has definitely been dominating and that senior leadership that she brings out there and that confidence and just her experience out there in general," said Assistant Coach Katie Rueffer.

After being named a captain as a sophomore Heinz has been the quarterback of the Black and Gold's backrow junior season as the team's starting libero. The libero's role is to keep the ball in play and prevent kills as well as service aces with digs. They are often the ones usually seen diving for the ball and sliding across the court. Her best game of the year so far

came against the Knights of St. Andrews on Sept. 8 when she registered 26 digs.

"She expects a lot out of her teammates and she's very vocal and that's something that we need out of a libero. She has to be a ballhawk out there, that's her position," said Rueffer. Rueffer points to their experience and their capabilities as leaders as to why they are both effective and vocal on the court.

"The team looks to them a lot defensively and offensively but just in the leadership aspect the team looks to them... They're always the first people to communicate and they're just the leaders out there," said Rueffer.



Junior Anna Heinz is has been excelling in running the back court as the libero for the UNCP volleyball team this season, and currently holds the team lead in digs with 209. The Salemburg, N.C. native and two-time team captain registered a season high 26 digs against St. Andrews (9/08/2018). PN file photo/Trevon Knight

Braves Soccer Shuts Out Anderson 4-0



UNCP soccer posted their second shutout of the season against Anderson University. PN/photo Trevon Knight
By Ky'Aire Goode
Asst. Sports Editor

On a Saturday where soccer seemed to serve as an opening act for UNCP football's home opener, Braves soccer stood out in its own right, shutting out Anderson University 4-0.

The 4-0 win was UNCP's second shutout of the season, three games into the campaign. The team was stout defensively, holding their opponents to just six shots in the first half (recording saves on five of them) and 13 shots in the game overall. The Braves also played a clean game in terms of penalties, as there were none assessed throughout the match.

For as stingy as the team was on defense, they were equally aggressive on offense, scoring a season-high four goals.

Sophomore Alexis Pittman, the team's leading scorer from a season ago, returned after missing the previous game with an illness and scored the lone goal of the first half. Off the assist from Bree Mason, Pittman struck from the top of the box into the upper left corner of the net to give UNCP a 1-0 lead.

"Alexis is a natural-born goal-scorer. It was a very [Alexis] goal. She was opportunistic, it was a great

strike. It was great to see her back on the pitch." Head coach Lars Andersson said of Pittman's goal.

As UNCP's attack ramped up in the second half, the team's second-leading goal scorer from last season, senior forward Stacey Scott, scored twice on the day.

Scott's first goal came from close-range off an assist from senior Christine Rolfes that allowed Scott to strike from inside the box. Rolfes again assisted on Scott's second goal of the afternoon, a header off the corner from the left side that extended the Braves' lead to 3-0.

The two goals were Scott's second and third of the season respectively.

Rolfes notched another assist on the game's final score, a header into the right side of the net by redshirt junior Carly Rochelle.

Andersson was pleased with his team's tenacity and attentiveness to detail in the second half that lead to the uptick in goal scoring and the overall dominant performance.

"We tweaked a couple of things. We held onto the ball a little too much in the first half. [in the second half] we came with more numbers. Stacey was fantastic and Christine's delivery was fantastic

as well on the corners. We were very dominant. It's good to have a team that pays attention to the information they're given at halftime. I'm really proud of them." Andersson said.

The team now looks ahead to its matchup with third-ranked Columbus State, who UNCP defeated in the conference championship last season.

The Braves however have not won at Columbus State since 2011.

For perspective, current assistant coach Brittany Padilla was a player on that team.

The matchup was originally scheduled for September 15, but has been postponed due to weather complications from Hurricane Florence.

"I think Columbus State is one of the best teams in the country. I'm sure they haven't forgotten [the conference championship game]. We haven't won at their place since 2011, but if you don't want an opportunity like that, why do you play college soccer? Competitive players want to play in games like that. I look forward to it. It'll be a tremendous challenge, but we have a full week to prepare and I know my players can't wait to get going." Andersson said.

Braves Volleyball Sweep St. Andrews Knights 3-0

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

On September 1, the UNCP volleyball team faced off against the St. Andrews University Knights. The Knights returned to Lumbee Guaranty Bank Court after a short rest and an underwhelming performance in the FMU invitational the day before the match took place to face the Knights. The Braves defeated the Knights three nil in what was not quite dominant play, but was in decisive fashion.

"I think we had a lot of people step up and make some big plays for us and I'm just really proud of the team overall for bouncing back this weekend and finishing it off with a positive win for us," said Head Coach Ellen McGill.

Senior Aquia Jones was sensational attacking on the day with a hitting percentage of .433 and a staggering kill percentage of .533. Jones not only led the Braves in kills with 16 in only three sets, she also set a new career high with the outstanding performance.

"I'm just really proud of her. She's one of our captains and has really been stepping up into that leadership role for us and making big plays and big swings. I'm proud of where she's at and expect to see more of that this season," said McGill.

The first set did not get off to the start that the Black and Gold had envisioned and was not indicative of the superb play that would ensue. After finding themselves down by seven at one point 12-7, the Braves would use a 21-12 run to close out and win the set 26-24.

Set number two was the Braves most efficient attacking set of the afternoon with a .325 hitting percentage. It was an evenly contested contest before the home team began to turn up the heat and pull away for the 25-20 win.

"We were just telling them to stay aggressive and swing to the corners and make sure that we were getting our middles (hitters) involved as well so we can open up opportunities at the pins," said McGill.

The third and final



The Braves won a one-sided match up over St. Andrews 3-0. PN/photo Trevon Knight

Upcoming Matches:

UNCP vs. Augusta
Sept. 28 (Fri) - 6 p.m. - Home

UNCP vs. Georgia College
Sept. 29 (Sat) - 12 p.m.- Home

UNCP vs. Chowan
Sept. 29 (Sat) - 3 pm. - Home

UNCP at Claflin
Oct. 2 (Tue) - 6 p.m. - Away

UNCP vs. Flagler
Oct. 5 (Fri) - 6 p.m. - Home

UNCP vs. Elizabeth City State University
Oct. 9 (Tues) - 3 p.m. - Home

UNCP vs. Mount Olive
Oct. 9 (Tues) - 7 p.m. - Home

UNCP at Francis Marion
Oct. 12 (Fri) - 7 p.m. - Away

Golf Kicks off Season at Cutter Creek Invitational

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

After finishing last season as runner-ups for the Peach Belt Conference Championship Golf Tournament, the Braves looked poised to embark on the new season with the intentions of finishing on top in the tournament.

Unlike most sports at the collegiate level, golf is regular as well as post-season, running just about through the entire school year from September to April with the PBC tournament.

The UNCP golf team kicked off their season with the Cutter Creek Invitational at the Cutter Creek Golf

Club in Wilson, N.C. on Sept. 10 and 11, but the second day of the competition was canceled due to lightning in the surrounding area and will not be resumed.

On the first and only day of the invitational, the Braves finished fourth as a team despite having two players, senior Alexandria Bare and junior Katy Flax, finish in the top 10.

Bare carded a 6-over-par 78 to finish with a tie for fourth place and Flax finished just seven strokes away from the lead following a 79 open-round.

Sitting at 316, the Braves finished just nine strokes away

from the first place Mount Olive Trojans.

Sophomore Madison Corley and junior Casey Burroughs ended what would be a one-day contest in a four-way tie for 18th place.

The Black and Gold had a pair of first-year players make their collegiate debuts in Snow Hill on the 5,894-yard, par-72 Cutter Creek greens is freshmen Parker Melting and Amanda Hamrin.

Melting finished in a tie for 23rd place after shooting an 87 and Hamrin, who entered the invitational as an individual competitor, finished in a tie for 27th place after carding an 89.

Joshua
Reed

Feature Spotlight

Rising Sophomore Crowder is Off to a Hot Start

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

After seeing minimal action in her first season as a Brave, second year player Kaila Crowder is off to a blazing start to the season in her increased role. With the graduation and transfer of some notable and talented players, Crowder has found herself thrust into a major role in the team’s lineup and has been among the Braves’ leaders in kills. In the team’s 2-3 loss to the Cobras of Coker College on Sept.1, it was Crowder who was raking up kills with the tenacious precision of a venomous predator. She set a new career high for herself on kills and the most by a Brave in

a match since 2015 with a staggering 18 in the match. Standing at just 5ft. 6in. the Chesterfield, Va. native has shown a consistent knack for climbing the ladder to notch an immense number of kills through the first month of the season. She is among the top three statistical leaders in both kills with 59 and kills per set with an average of 3.08. “She just has this go getter mentality,” said Assistant Coach Katie Rueffer. “She’s just aggressive out there, she’s not afraid of anybody, she’s a battler, she’s confident in herself and I think that’s something she’s definitely been working on. It’s just her self-confidence and knowing that she can out work anybody.”



Sophomore Kaila Crowder is off to a red hot start to the season after seeing limited action as a freshman the second year outside hitter is shining in her expanded role. PN file photo/Trevon Knight

Typically, athletes at the collegiate and even professional level make their biggest jumps in progress

and performance from year one to year two. While a plethora of variables can be attributed to what appears to be a quantum leap or a night and day change, they can often be broken down into two key factors: experience and more importantly, confidence.

“I think last year a typical freshman was a little bit nervous and a little bit scared. Trying to find her way but this year she just knows that she has to have a different mindset and she’s a lot more confident in herself. We’re confident in her as a coaching staff and I think her teammates are confident in her,” Rueffer said.

Despite her being more aggressive and dominant on the court the coaching staff sees that she is being more particular about the shots she is taking this season and is playing much more strategically. “We’ve been looking for that outside (hitter) position in particular. Somebody who can dominate out there, somebody you can just put the ball away for us and I think she is really taking that role in and I think she has a lot of confidence with it,” Rueffer said. “She knows what we expect out of her and she’s just taking full advantage of her opportunity that she has right now.”



Crowder has been relentless in her offensive attack as she is third on the team in kills (59), points (62.5), points per set (2.72). She posted a season as well as career high in kills with 18 against Coker College (9/01/2018). PN file photo/Trevon Knight



The UNCP football team paid tribute to professor Steven Bourquin in their home opener against the Vikings of Elizabeth City State University on Sept. 8. Bourquin tragically passed away earlier this semester and was huge fan as well as integral part in bringing football to UNCP in 2007. Members of his family joined captains Quadrin Williams, Josh Manns, Tyler Hinton and Josh Sheridan for the coin toss as the team hoisted a 12th man jersey with his name printed across the back. PN file photo/Trevon Knight