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Musical

February 5, 2020

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# Six Cars Damaged in Parking Lot Reckless Driving Incident



The rear ends of three cars that were damaged by a drunk driver in the parking lot of Pembroke Pointe apartments on January 25, 2020. PN Photo, retrieved from Twitter.

By Ky'Aire Goode & Stephanie Sellers

Pembroke police responded to a call on Saturday, Jan. 25 about a student driving drunk in the parking lot of Pembroke Pointe apartments. Austin Wallace, 19, struck four cars and damaged seven in total, of which five were not drivable. He was charged with careless and reckless driving and an unsafe movement violation,

“...because North Carolina only allows certain charges in a parking lot,” Sgt. Craig Locklear said. Wallace also hit a tree before finally stopping and attempting to put his vehicle in reverse. The driver was apprehended by residents before he could do more damage. “He may have possibly been impaired,” Sgt. Locklear said. Students who witnessed the crashes stated that Wallace did not appear to

be trying to park his car, but rather just driving aimlessly around the parking lot. “He was DRUNK drunk. [The police] were trying to ask what his name was and where he was from, he couldn’t even speak,” Pembroke Pointe resident and witness Jordan Nabors said. Sgt. Locklear reported that Pembroke Police cannot charge Wallace with DUI, as he was not in the car when they arrived, but rather standing next to it.

According to police, Highway Patrol will be responsible for any charges of driving under the influence and assist the arresting officer, William Cummings, on impairment charges. Wallace was driving a 2012 Honda that did not belong to him. Wallace is facing up to four points on his license and may have to pay up to \$15,000 to get his license back. Several residents reported seeing multiple

females in the car with Wallace, but the exact number and identities could not be verified. Officer Cummings was out for several days with an illness following the accident and the official police report was not available as of the printing of this issue on Feb. 4. *The Pine Needle will continue to follow this story and give updates as they become available.*

# New Designs Coming to Student BravesCards



A sample of the new design for Student IDs. The new BravesCards will roll-out on select dates based on the student’s classification. PNPhoto/BravesCard Office

By Ky'Aire Goode Editor-in-Chief

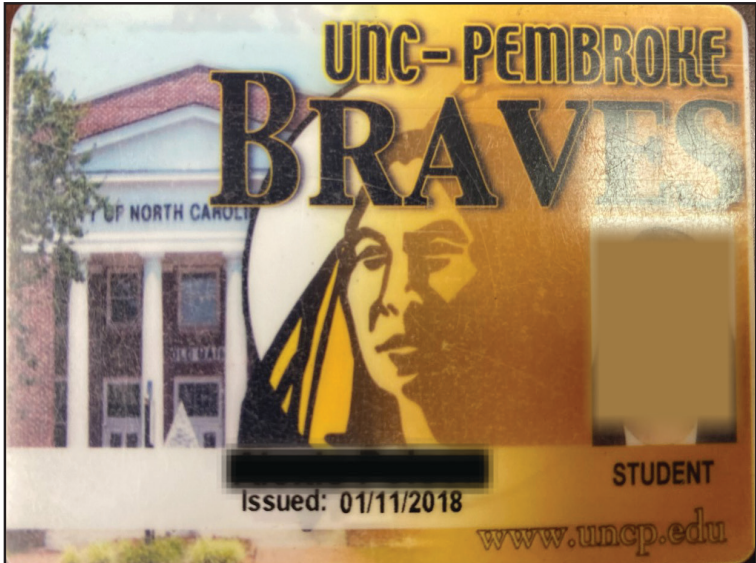
Students will be required to bring in a state or government-issued ID to the BravesCard office (passport, driver’s license, learner’s permit etc.) to verify their identity and accept their new BravesCards. The cards, receiving their first redesign in over

10 years, feature a photo of Old Main in the background and a new blue and white color scheme. University Communications and Marketing took charge of the redesign. “I love [the new design], I think it’s lively and the picture is bigger,” BravesCard officer Chomeka Franklin said. Opinions on the new

card design are mixed, with many praising the new design, but others would prefer more black and gold in their student IDs. “I like it. I think it’s a subtle design and incorporates one of the school’s most identifiable landmarks,” senior Abaigeal Brown said.

Freshmen	February 10-28
Sophomores	March 2-6, 16-20, 23-27
Juniors	April 6-24
Seniors	September

The dates for the new BravesCard releases. Students are set to receive the cards at different times based on the year they graduate. PNPhoto/BravesCard Office



The old BravesCard design. PNPhoto/Ky'Aire Goode



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2020 Spring Involvement Fair



Kayla Smith, a prospective member, and Vice President Danjarus Watkins hold a table for the Caribbean Student Union at the 2020 Spring Involvement Fair. PN Photo/ Sports Tweede

Jaleya Squire  
Staff Writer

More than 30 of UNCP’s clubs participated in the Spring 2020 Involvement Fair at the UC Lounge on Jan. 29.

Recreational and academic clubs, Greek organizations, job and volunteer opportunities spread awareness and interest.

For example, Inkwell is a creative writing club that gives students a chance to relieve stress and express themselves creatively through writing and literature.

“We use Inkwell to collaborate and make pieces that we can be proud of,” Jeremiah Kelly, Inkwell’s president, said.

Inkwell is looking for students with a passion for writing, or students who are looking for a safe and creative way to relieve stress.

If anyone is interested in joining Inkwell, you can attend a meeting every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

The involvement fair allows new clubs to recruit members and gain recognition for their club or organization.

This year, the Caribbean Student Union is among one of the newest clubs to get started on campus.

The Caribbean Student Union is an organization that gives students descending from the Caribbean Islands the opportunity to meet and celebrate their cultures.

“We wanted to give Caribbean students a voice on campus,” said Danjarus Watkins, vice president of the Caribbean Student Union.

“I feel that there is so much diversity on campus, we wanted to represent ourselves as well,” said Watkins.

If anyone is interested

in joining the Caribbean student Union, they have an interest meeting on Feb. 3 in the UC from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Students and faculty were really impressed with the Involvement fair this semester, including Bridgette Shope, a junior from the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Shope believes that this involvement fair has been a lot better than some of the involvement fairs UNCP has had in the past.

“I like the fact that the

involvement fair is indoors this year. I also like how they gave out popcorn to everyone and the music is nice this year,” said Shope.

If anyone is interested in joining PRSSA, their next meeting is Feb. 11 at 3:30 p.m. in Old Main.

Warren Neal also agrees with Shope that this Involvement fair was well put together.

“I feel that this years involvement fair was a lot more informative, and I was able to go around and look at everything pretty easily,” said Neal.



PAC Board of Trustees Members, Hannah Stiles and Jasmine Wooten heat pressing customized bags at the Involvement fair. PN Photo/ Sports Tweede



At the Involvement Fair, Vanessa Hawes, the faculty adviser for Delta Sigma Omicron, and Taylor Coyle, the organization’s treasurer, display a presentation poster from Invisible Disability Awareness Month, which takes place in October. PN Photo/ Sports Tweede.





With 200 non-stuffed animals ready to be filled on Jan. 30, 2020, a line formed just before noon with students waiting to get their animal. There were eight different animals to choose, so students were bound to find an animal of their choice. Not even the Pembroke Activities Community was expecting the animals to go within half an hour of the event’s beginning. The lounge was filled with people stuffing bears, penguins, monkeys, huskies and more. PN Photo/Savanna Rudolph

## President of Lumbee Tribe Enterprises Passes Away

By Alexis Polson  
Social Media Manager

President of Lumbee Tribe Enterprises, LLC, Terry Hunt passed away Sunday, January 26 from an illness while on a trip to Nairobi Kenya, according to an official Facebook post by Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

As president of Lumbee Tribe Enterprises, Hunt served as the mediator between Lumbee Tribe Enterprises and the Lumbee Tribal Government.

Caleb A. Malcolm,

Chairman of the LTE Board of Directors, issued this statement on behalf of the Board of Directors:

“With the passing of Terry Hunt, LTE has suffered a major loss. The LTE family will work tirelessly to ensure the timely return of Terry to his family through the Embassy. Notwithstanding that loss, the Board is confident that the rest of the LTE team will capitalize on the foundation that Terry has built.”

Not only had Hunt worked on the Tribal Council himself, he

formerly retired as Police Chief from the Fairmont Police Department.

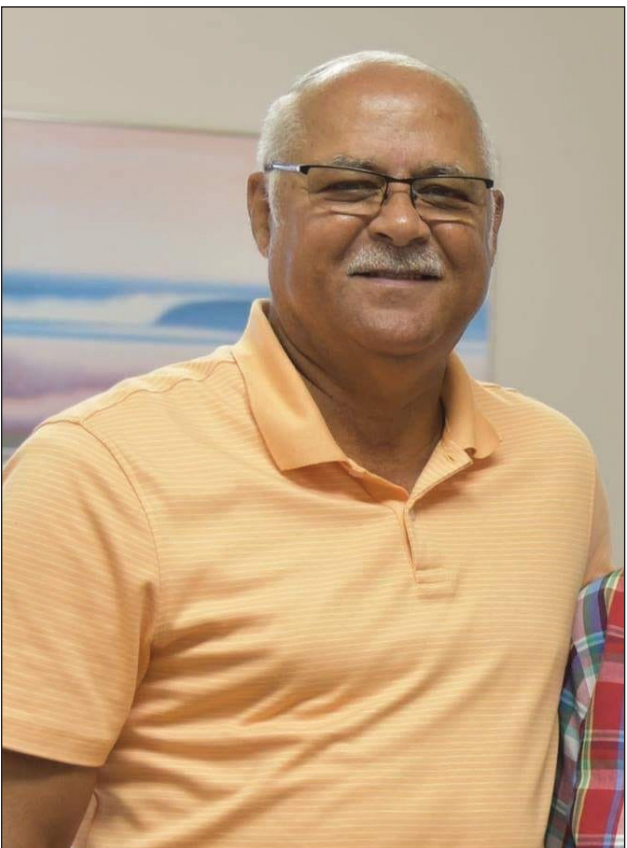
“Chief Hunt was a great mentor, friend and family member to many in the law enforcement community. Even after retirement Chief Hunt was involved in his community while serving with the Lumbee Tribe. The community has taken a big loss.

Please keep his wonderful family, friends and colleagues in your thoughts and prayers in the days, and weeks to come,” was posted on behalf

of the Fairmont Police Department on their Facebook.

Harvey Godwin, Jr, Tribal Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina issued the following statement on behalf of the Tribe:

“The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina is deeply saddened by the loss of Mr. Terry Hunt. Terry was dedicated to serving our Tribe and the Lumbee people will be forever grateful of his work on the Tribal Council and as President of LTE. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hunt Family during this time. ”



Terry Hunt Facebook Image/Fairmont Police Department

## Volunteers Honor Martin Luther King

By Alisabeth Limon

Volunteers demonstrated honor for Martin Luther King during the week of Jan. 20 at the CARE resource center and off campus.

The UNCP CARE Resource Center includes an on-campus food pantry and professional clothing closet open to students, faculty, staff, and community members.

As many as 250 from UNCP volunteered to embody the motto of the event: “Empowering change beyond the dream.”

Natural Love, the assistant

director of Community Engagement said that the event began to honor and go beyond the ideals that King had set, in a collaborative and diverse effort here at UNCP. She emphasized the collaborative efforts that everyone put in to make MLK week successful.

Activities including creating several chapters of Little Libraries to increase literacy in areas that do not have similar resources.

They have already began putting the little libraries in schools and in neighborhoods.

“The best part is planning

and working with others and being able to make it our own. Little Libraries was made for the kids to exchange books and be able to read more.

“It helps locals without libraries and those within the community. Being side by side with those here and the community, it means a lot,” Love stated.

The history of MLK week started at UNCP in 2011 and has been continuing ever since across the nation. The social media slogan for MLK week is #beyondavolunteer.



The logo for MLK Week at UNCP

## Distinguished Speakers Series: Becoming Successful



On Wednesday, January 22nd, UNCP alumnus Newy Scruggs hosted Cynthia Marshall, CEO of the Dallas Mavericks, who spoke to students about how to become successful. PN Photo/ Madison Long



# Bandstand Musical Premieres at UNCP



The performance of “Bandstand” in Givens Performing Arts Center at UNCP on January 29, 2020. The World War II musical follows the story of veterans returning home from the war. Submitted Photo/Jeremy Daniel

By Jackie Porter  
Entertainment Editor

The musical “Bandstand” made its premiere on Jan. 29, at the Givens Performing Arts Center at UNCP.

The story follows World War II veterans coming home from the war who do not know what they want to do next in their lives.

The lead character, Donny Noviski, who is played by Zack Zaromatidis, overhears an advertisement on the radio for a contest called Tribute to the Troops.

The contest provides bands the chance to win the opportunity to have their song featured in a new movie honoring the troops that

fought overseas.

Donny sees that this competition is what he needs to do to pay respect to his best friend, Michael, who died overseas during the war.

He goes all over the city of Cleveland putting together a band consisting of him on vocals and a drummer, bassist, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone.

The interesting component they have with their band, is that it is made entirely of men who served in the war.

Over time the audience is introduced to other prominent characters, such as Michael’s wife who he left behind, Julia Trojan, played by Roxy York, her mother, Mrs. June Adams, played by Jennifer Elizabeth Smith, and a

varied cast of others.

The story also takes a crack at showing the different effects of PTSD and how each of the band members deals with it themselves.

“Bandstand” also deals with other hard-hitting issues such as the loss of a loved one, readjusting to life after the war and dealing with various medical issues that the veterans were left with.

The show is not without its humor. The drummer and bassist, who are played by Jonmichael Tarleton and Benjamin Powell respectively, deliver quite a few laughs not only through their lines but their characters’ mannerisms and actions as well.

The dance sequences between scenes provide a nice change of

pace from the musical pieces and show the immense talent of the dancers and the choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler, who also choreographed the hit Broadway musical, Hamilton.

The musical also gains fame from being the first musical to be certified by the “Got Your 6” foundation, a foundation dedicated to the “accurate the contemporary representation of veterans in media, entertainment, and popular culture.”

According to their Facebook page, “Bandstand” has also been nominated for numerous rewards and has won four, including a Tony Award for Best Choreography.

“Bandstand’s” next stop on its tour is in South Carolina.

# Students Voice Their Opinions about the Removal of Confederate Statues

By Mitchell Doub  
Staff Writer

The status and disposition of Confederate statues and memorials has reached the forefront in regional and national news.

Events surrounding the Charlottesville, Virginia violence and the “Silent Sam” protests in Chapel Hill, NC, gave rise to UNCP student concerns about the statues and what should be done.

Abdul-Rahmon Ositelu, a computer science major said he was opposed to what the Confederacy stood for, but if the statues commemorate the dead, “I do understand why there would be a memorial,” he said.

Ositelu said that changing the view of the conflict from “...being ‘we’ instead of ‘us versus them’ there might be more acceptance of the statues.”

“I think the statues residing on public land is perfectly fine, it is a part of history whether we like it or not. I feel like they are memorials to lives lost,” Sara Bowling, a junior mass communication major said.

“I feel like those statues, at their core, represent people and those people matter. Their lives deserve to be commemorated, out for people to see, not stored away in a dusty old museum,” Santiago

Godoy said.

Adonis Johnson, a sophomore political science major has a different perspective on the confederate statues.

He said that he feels that “... trying to keep Confederate statues you’re really trying to live in the past instead of trying to move forward.”

“I’d prefer to see the statues placed in museums. You can preserve the history but move forward by trying to help the country,” said Johnson.

“This is a tough part of history,

“... I’d like to see us have more in-depth conversations about the subject and avoid knee-jerk reactions,” said Woods

I mean, it was the only war fought on American soil. I’d like to see us have more in-depth conversations about the subject and avoid knee-jerk reactions.

“It is interesting to note that most of the statues that were put up in the South were constructed decades after reconstruction just as African-Americans were beginning to gain rights.

“I think the statues were put in place to intimidate people, as if to say, ‘this happened before, and it could happen again.”

“I believe Robert E. Lee was



Demonstrators and spectators gather around a toppled Confederate statue known as “Silent Sam,” at UNC- Chapel Hill in August 2018. (Julia Wall/Raleigh News & Observer/TNS)

even against the construction of Civil War monuments and statues,” Desmond Woods, a senior Political Science major said.

“Even with my personal thoughts about Confederate statues, if they are on private land, no one has the right to vandalize private property.

“I think others should do what they did in Columbia, South Carolina and put the statue in a museum. You can still preserve your history but not run the risk of putting a divisive object out for all to see.

“Think about it, museums highlight the ugly sides of history all the time, why should this be any different,” Johnson said.

“It may be offensive, you know, Confederate flags, statues,

memorabilia, but if it’s on public land, if we start trying to say what people can have, then we risk infringing upon their first amendment rights,” Woods said.

“I think each state should decide what happens to their statues, perhaps through a public hearing and then a vote in the legislature. I think if they are to be moved, they should be moved to an outdoor location that is designated as a place of historical significance and remembrance,” Godoy said.

Some people have recommended that all Confederate statues be moved to Bentonville battleground in Johnston County.

“We could remember the dead and learn about our history in the same unoffensive location,” Godoy said.



# Students React to Ongoing Impeachment Trial

By Mitchell Doub

President Donald Trump was impeached in Dec. 2019 for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. Trump had, in a phone call, asked the Ukrainian president to “do us a favor” and investigate whether Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden had broken any laws while he was vice president and may have assisted his son, Hunter, in acquiring a high paying job with a Ukrainian gas company. Trump also refused to turn over numerous documents to the House investigation committee and insisted several of his White House aides to not testify.

“I think he (Trump) did do things that were wrong and I think every person should be held accountable for the things they do, but I do think that 90% of the people that are pursuing this course of action on the Democrat side are doing it for political reasons. Think about it, election season is getting started and he gets impeached? The Democrats may want to see justice served but they get the bonus of discrediting their opponent,” Des Woods, a senior political science major said.



President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at U.S. Bank Arena in Downtown Cincinnati on Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019. (Photo: Sam Greene/The Enquirer)

“I believe the impeachment is the right course of action because I believe he has done shady stuff, but don’t get me wrong, I feel like the Democrats are going about this the wrong way, the two charges against him seem to be a bit flimsy and I don’t see it going anywhere in the Senate,” Adonis Johnson, a sophomore political science major said.

“I think Trump is doing a pretty good job, and although he needs a filter on his character or on the way he communicates, I haven’t seen evidence strong enough to remove him from office. Just get him off Twitter,” Santiago Godoy, who was visiting campus and hopes to transfer, said.

“I believe one has to do with Trump seeking a quid-pro-quo with Ukraine,” Woods said.

“If I’m right, that was the abuse of power article,” Johnson said, concerning the two articles handed down by the House.

Concerning the allegations, “In the context they are being used, I don’t think so at all. I think the House members are doing this for their own political gain, I mean, more power to them, I guess that’s how politics is played,” Godoy said. “No, I would not say they are impeachable offenses. It feels like a witch hunt against Trump, and that’s just unfortunately the state of politics in America. Everyone is for their party and their party is seemingly the most important thing in their life. If you do anything against their party, they are just going to jump down your throat,” Sara Bowling, a junior mass communications major said.

“Unless there is a smoking gun, nothing will happen,” Woods said.

“The vote will be straight along party lines,” Johnson said.

“You know, the very fact that the House waited so long to deliver the articles.... could that be considered obstruction of justice? I think it’s dead on arrival,” Bowling said.

“This may have just opened up Pandora’s box. What’s to keep flimsy impeachment articles from being used by opposition parties from here on out?” Johnson said.

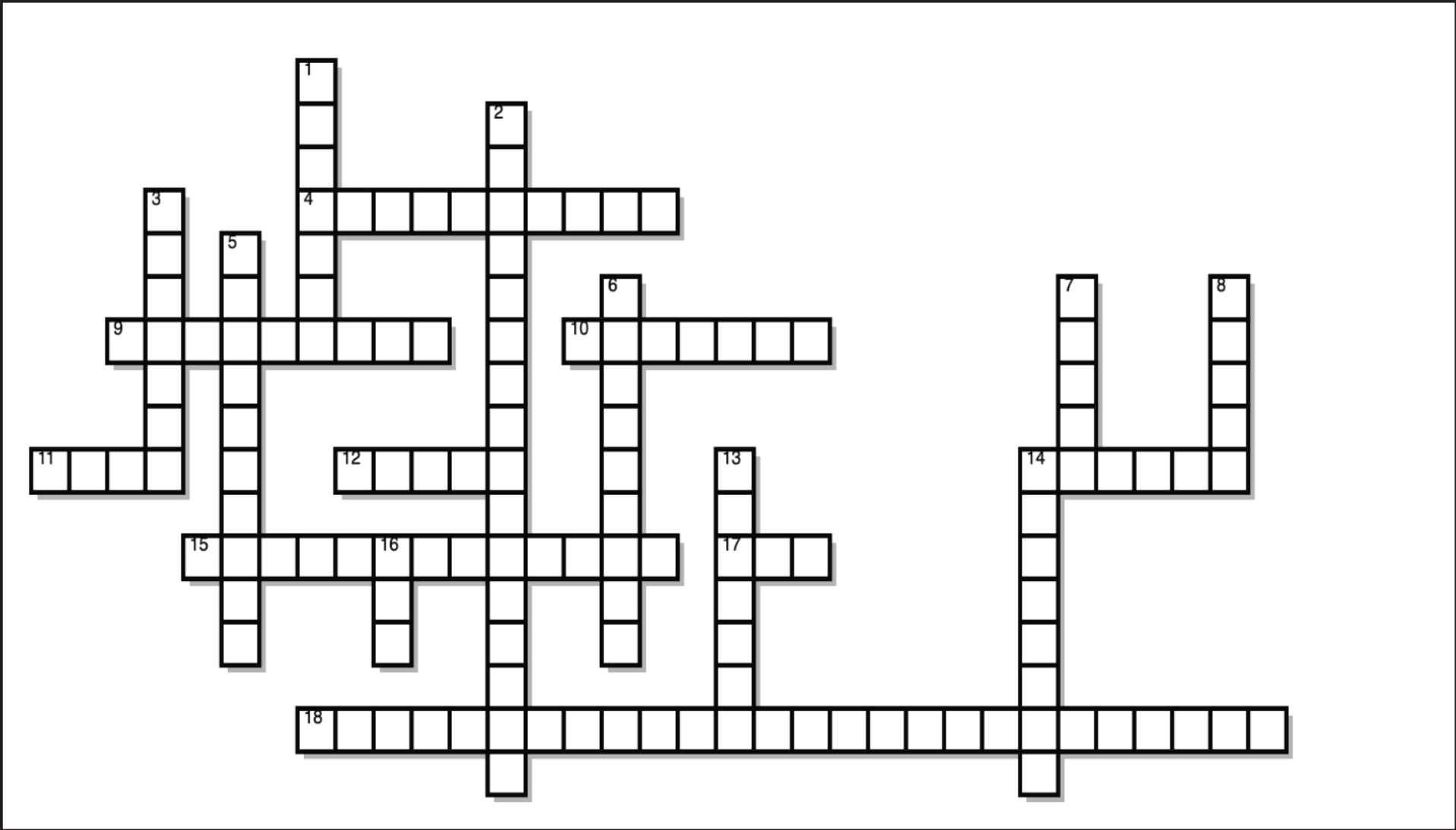
The two articles of impeachment were submitted to the Senate and Chief Justice John Roberts presided over the trial. Today the Senate will vote on whether to remove the president from office. It appears that the Senate will vote along party lines and acquit Trump.

Students will be given an opportunity to sound off again after the trial is completed.

Two previous presidents were impeached. Andrew Johnson was impeached in 1868 for violating the “Tenure of Office Act” and was found not guilty in the Senate by one vote. Bill Clinton was impeached in 1998 for lying under oath and obstruction of justice. Clinton was being sued for over \$700,000 by state employee Paula Jones who claimed Clinton had sexually harassed her. Clinton lied under oath during the process that he had never had sexual relations with White House intern Monica Lewinsky, thwarting attempts to establish a chain of sexual misconduct. Clinton was found innocent by the Democrat controlled Senate in 1999.

# Crossword Puzzle!

By Ky’Aire Goode



ACROSS

- 4 Five-Time NBA Champion
- 9 Refused to give up her seat on the bus
- 10 Knocking the ball out of the field of play in baseball
- 11 Nickname for police
- 12 Opposite of tall
- 14 Blood Relatives
- 15 You're probably gonna be single for this holiday
- 17 If you run around the track once, you ran a...
- 18 Held at GPAC; guests come to share wisdom with students

DOWN

- 1 Super Bowl Halftime performer
- 2 Famously had a dream
- 3 Super Bowl MVP
- 5 These Student IDs are getting redesigned at UNCP
- 6 Apartment complex near Grace P. Johnson Stadium
- 7 Application for Financial Aid. Can never remember your password to it
- 8 "can't buy you happiness"
- 13 Apartment complex across from Cypress Hall
- 14 Shortest month of the year
- 16 Broke the story on Kobe Bryant's death



# UNCP Softball Hosts UNCP Invitational

**Zachary Young**  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Braves Softball team kicked off their season with the UNCP Invitational from Friday, Jan. 31 through Sunday, Feb. 2.

Friday’s game against Kutztown University Golden Bears ended in a 7-4 victory in favor of the Braves. UNCP ended the game with nine hits, compared to the 10 by Kutztown University.

Standout performers during the game were: Senior Rendi Wetherington with three hits on four at bats and one RBI; Junior Mary Sells with two hits on four at bats with two RBI’s; and Sophomore Lauren Hilbourn with two hits on two at bats. Senior Malerie Leviner registered her first win of the season (1-0), while Senior Raygan Larson earned her first save of the year (1).

Larson also pitched for the Braves, recording her first win of the season (1-0).

Saturday, Feb.1, the Braves completed their two-grand sweep of the Golden Bears. The Braves needed extra innings to put away Kutztown University, ending the game in 9 innings with a final

score of 6-5. The final run was scored on an RBI single by Junior Emily Biddle, bringing in Junior Tatum Brummitt from third base.

Key performances came from: Tatum Brummitt with three hits on five appearances at the plate, including one home run and three RBI’s; Junior Mary Sells with two hits on five at bats; and Emily Biddle with two hits on four appearances at the plate, including two RBI’s.

UNCP had a total of nine hits, while Kutztown connected seven times. Both teams ended the game with one error a piece.

Sunday, Feb. 2, UNCP took on West Virginia State Yellow Jackets for the third and fourth games of the UNCP Invitational.

Senior Malerie Leviner pitched the first game against the Yellow Jackets, registering her second win of the season (2-0), allowing just three hits in seven innings.

The defensive effort of the Braves led to a 5-1 victory over West Virginia State.

Notable performers were: Junior Jordan Adcox with two hits on three at bats; Sophomore Lauren Hilbourn with two hits at three at



**Malerie Leviner pitches in the Braves softball game against the West Virginia State Yellow Jackets. Photo/ UNCP Athletic Department.**

bats; Senior Rendi Wetherington and Junior Mary Sells both registering one hit and one RBI a piece.

With this win, coach Brittany Bennett tied the UNCP Softball all-time record of 153 wins.

Sunday’s second game resulted in the Braves’ first loss of the season, falling 4-3 to West Virginia State.

The Braves recorded 10 hits compared to eight by the Yellow Jackets, and UNCP also recorded

the only error of the game. Senior Jordan Hall pitched for the Braves, this was Hall’s first loss of the season (0-1). Senior Rendi Wetherington ended the game with 2 hits on 4 plate appearances; Junior Mary Sells with 2 hits on 4 at bats; Junior Emily Biddle with 2 hits on 4 at bats; and Senior Shelby Thomas with 2 hits on 2 plate appearances. The Braves end the weekend with a record of 3-1, their best start to a season since 2005.

# Softball Spotlight: Coach Brittany Bennett



**Softball Coach Brittney Bennett Photo/Willis Glassgow**

**Zachary Young**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Coach Brittany Bennett is entering her seventh year as the head coach for the UNCP Softball team.

After the 2019 campaign ending with a 22-27 record, Coach Bennett looks to improve on an 8th place finish in the Peach Belt Conference. The Braves are entering this season with an experienced team consisting of 11 upper classmen,

but are bringing in some fresh faces with a total of five freshmen players: Abby White (RHP), Kaci Roberson (OF), Lauren Baker (UTL), Carley Dawson (INF), Conner Brisson (UTL) and one Junior transfer: Emily Biddle (OF). Coach Bennett was emphatic about the fact that everyone should see playing time at some point this season, even newcomers. “I don’t bring in freshmen with the intention of not playing them. We are a program where you grow with experience... so the ones who are healthy will see playing time in the first couple of weeks,” Bennett said. Regarding the balance of the team, Coach Bennet expressed trust in her squad “I feel the calmest I’ve ever felt [probably] in my entire career here with this team. I don’t worry about our pitching; our defense and I know for sure we are going to produce runs on offense.” In the Peach Belt Conference during the 2019 season, the Braves finished fourth in home runs with 32 and fifth in total hits with 372. The Braves also finished last season with a team batting average of .286. When it comes to the pitching rotation, Coach Bennett is confident

in the abilities of the bullpen. With four of the five pitchers being upperclassmen, the maturity of the Braves provides some relief for Coach Bennett. Freshman Abby White (RHP) has impressed with her ability to get ground ball outs and is also expected to contribute immediately. With a versatile pitching staff Coach Bennett is optimistic about their potential this season. “I’m really impressed with how they complement each other. At any point I can call on our pitching staff to throw and everybody would give us a chance to win,” Bennett said. Grit, that is the team motto this season. According to Coach Bennett you become a gritty player by owning the process, hitting good pitches, responding to failure and winning at home. Coach Bennett is focused on the Braves winning more home games, with 34 of the teams’ 52 games being played at UNCP. “We want to absolutely be a terror at home. We have spent the last two seasons not competing as well as we should when we are sleeping in our beds and not having to get on the bus... we play well on the road; I want us to play better at home,” said Bennett

# Kobe Bryant’s Death Announced Prematurely

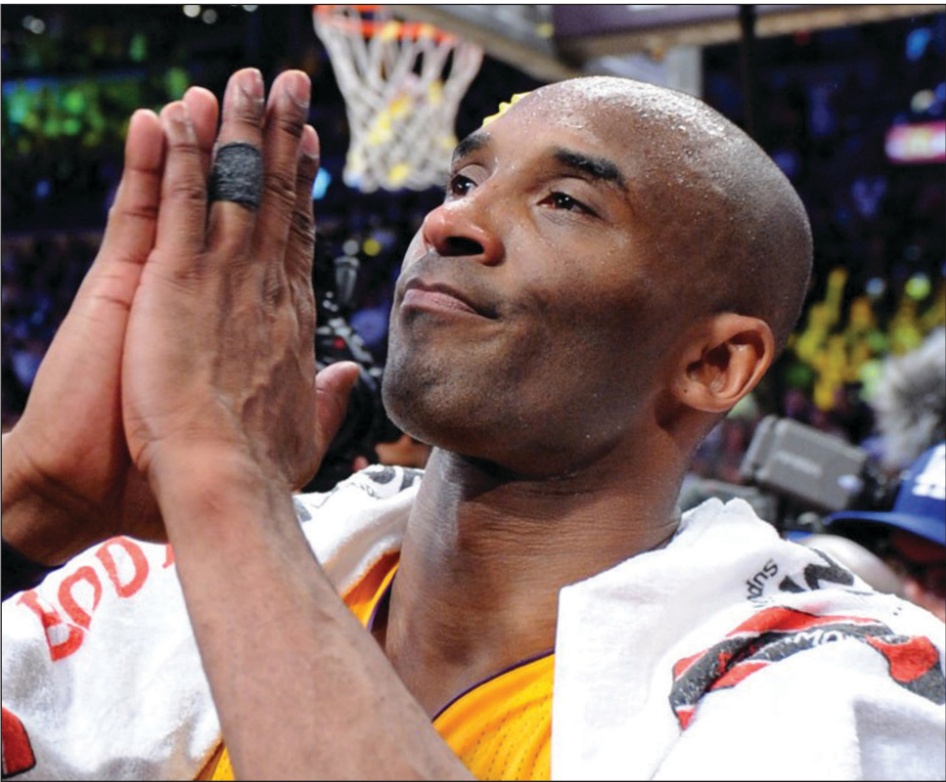
**Karyn Lindsey**  
Staff Writer

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department is unhappy with TMZ after the celebrity news outlet reported the story of Kobe Bryant’s death before his family was officially notified. Nine people, including Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old Gianna, were killed in the helicopter crash. The other victims of the crash were baseball coach John, Keri and Alyssa Altobelli, mother and daughter Sarah and Payton Chester, basketball coach Christina Mauser, and pilot Ara Zobayan. TMZ is well connected in the LA County area, and they are known to be incredibly accurate when it comes to celebrity news. However, the speed with which they released the news is coming under fire. LA County Sheriff Alex Villanueva called TMZ’s timing “disrespectful” and “inappropriate”

in a press conference held on Sunday afternoon. Officers felt that the timing of the report from TMZ was unfortunate. “I understand getting the scoop but please allow us time to make personal notification to their loved ones. It’s very cold to hear of the loss via media. Breaks my heart,” LA County Undersheriff Tim Murakami tweeted. Harvey Levin, founder of TMZ defended the story’s timing on daytime talk show The Real earlier in the week. In a video made available on The Real’s YouTube channel on Wednesday, Levin says that TMZ did have confirmation of Kobe’s death from his own people. Around campus, students overwhelmingly agree that TMZ’s actions were disrespectful to all the families involved in the crash and say they shouldn’t have broken the story until all families had been officially notified.

“The fact that they did that is disgusting,” UNCP Senior Jada Atkins said. The majority of students thought that the accuracy of the story does

not make it acceptable for TMZ to release it when they did. They said that the families should have been granted some degree of privacy to grieve.



**Kobe Bryant pays homage to the fans at Staples Center Los Angeles in following the final game of his career on April 13, 2016. Photo/Tribune**



# Braves Defeat Patriots at Home, Now 16-4 Overall

**Victoria Brousseau**  
Staff Writer

The UNCP men’s basketball team held a moment of silence to mark the passing of famed athlete Kobe Bryant before tip-off against Francis Marion University (FMU) on Jan. 29.

The game, billed as Military Appreciation Night, acknowledged the service and sacrifice of the U.S. military as well as students, family, and friends who have or are currently serving.

The team also took a moment to recognize Senior

forward Akia Pruitt as the Peach Belt Conference’s all time leading rebounder.

The Braves quickly took control of the game, led by Junior guard Tyrell Kirk.

Kirk led the team with 23 points, connecting on 7 of the team’s 12 three pointers. Kirk also recorded six rebounds, two assists and one steal.

The Braves did not look back from there, winning 84-70.

The Braves’ prolific offense was not the only thing that put them over the top.

On the defensive end of the court, the Braves

held FMU to only 25.8% shooting in the first half.

This win gives the Braves a win in nine of their last 10 games. The Braves look to keep the momentum heading into their next game against Clayton State.

The UNCP Braves currently have a record of 16-4 overall, while possessing a conference record of 10-2. In the Peach Belt Conference, the Braves are currently ranked second; winning their last six games.

“We have a veteran team, a lot of the guys are very talented,” interim head coach Tony Jones, said.

“Our conference is a tough conference,” but that did not seem to dim his optimism and if the team continues to put in the work and perform the way they have they will have very little trouble for the rest of the season.

After the game, both junior Tyrell Kirk and redshirt senior Cason Mounce said they looked up to Bryant both on and off the court.

“I [Kirk] grew up watching Kobe, he inspired me a lot and he was my favorite player growing up. He was a really good guy,” Kirk added that he was praying for the Bryant family during this emotional time.



Senior Forward Akai Pruitt bringing the ball upcourt against Francis Marion University. PNPhoto/Carson von Taborsky



Senior Forward Akai Pruitt is honored on Military Appreciation Night as he becomes the Peach Belt Conference all-time leader in rebounds. PNPhoto/Jared Freeman

# Women’s Basketball Wins in Convincing Fashion

**Isaiah Dunovant**  
Sports Writer

Looking to bounce back after a tough five point loss to Georgia Southwestern University, the Braves came off a two game road streak, where they finished 1-1.

The UNCP Women’s basketball team hosted the Patriots of Francis Marion University on Military Appreciation Night, on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Coming into the game, the Braves were fourth in scoring defense in the Peach Belt Conference and they continued their defensive habits.

They started off the game strong with an early 7-0 run and ended the first quarter tied at 14.

However, the Braves would find a spark from Alcenia Purnell and Melanie Horne.

Purnell and Horne combined for 18 points in the first half, while also playing stifling defense.

The Braves started the second quarter with a 13-5 run. They also forced 8 turnovers while holding Kiana Adderton to 10 points.

Adderton is main threat for the Patriots and is coming off a week where she received PBC player of the Week honors.

In winning both the rebound and points per turnover battles, the Braves took a 12 point lead going into halftime.

The Patriots came out in the second half looking to take the momentum away from the Braves.

However, UNCP got Francis Marion into foul trouble and started a 5-0 run with five straight points by Melanie Horne.

After a scoreless third quarter for Alcenia Purnell and a shaky offensive quarter for both teams, the Braves took a 42-34 lead into the fourth quarter.

Nevertheless, Purnell would get back to her aggressive ways, scoring 4 quick points which

started a game clinching run for UNCP.

Melanie Horne got hot and ended her night with 18 points and 3 three pointers.

The Braves would go on to out score the Patriots 18-9 and held a plus 6 rebounding advantage enroute to 62-44 victory.

The Braves were efficient defensively forcing over 15 turnovers, as well as offensive production from Purnell and Horne combining for 33 points.

Coach John Haskins has preached both good defense and good rebounding, as well as being efficient on both ends of the court.

The Braves proved to be successful despite being undersized against 6’1 Kiana Adderton and 6’2 Tatyana McClaney.

The Braves improve to 9-11 on the season and 4-8 in conference play.

The team looks to continue its winning efforts this Saturday in an

away game against Clayton State University.

The Braves lost to the Lakers earlier this season but with the team coming off an efficient game, Coach Haskins will have his team better suited for this contest.

# Braves Swim Dominates St. Andrews

**Mike McGuinness**  
Sports Editor

The Braves took control and thrashed St. Andrews, 212-48 on a night when multiple school records were broken.

The Jan. 22 meet was held at St. Andrews. The Braves won 11 events out of 15.

Junior Victoria Brousseau set a school record in the 50-Yard Breaststroke with a time of :33.42, as well as finishing second in the 100-yard breaststroke, coming in at 1:16.87.

Records also fell in the 1000-yard Freestyle, set by Nathalia Silva (10:35.66); the 100 Yard Butterfly, by Katelyn Rodriguez Matos (1:01.22); Jena Wise (:29.07) in the 50-Yard Butterfly; and the 800-Yard Freestyle Relay, Silva swam a record first leg with a time :25.79, for a total time of 8:24.41.

The Braves are carrying momentum into the Mountain East Conference (MEC) Championships.

Currently sitting at 5-3 overall, the Braves have strung together 4 straight victories.

The MEC championships, held in Canton, Ohio from Feb. 12-15, will be a platform for the Braves to challenge for a spot in the NCAA Division II championship in March.



Junior Melanie Horne attempting to escape the Patriots double team. Horne ended the night with 18 points, 6 rebounds, 2 blocks and 1 assist. PNPhoto/Carson von Taborsky



## Crossword Puzzle Answer Key from Page 5

A crossword puzzle grid with 18 numbered squares. The grid is filled with the following words:

- Across:
  - 4. KOBEBRYANT
  - 9. ROSAPARKS
  - 10. HOMERUN
  - 12. SHORT
  - 15. VALENTINE
  - 16. INESDAY
  - 17. LAP
  - 18. DISTINGUISHEDSPEAKER
  - 19. SERIES
  - 20. Y
- Down:
  - 1. SHAR
  - 2. MAT
  - 3. MAH
  - 5. BR
  - 6. CURTY
  - 7. FAF
  - 8. MON
  - 11. COPS
  - 13. VILAG
  - 14. FEBRUARY