

News

The State of the State

By Mimi Mays, Associate Editor

As we publish our first issue of 2019, we reflect on the many newsworthy things that have happened since our last issue of 2018 (Dec. 5). "The State of the State" aims to refresh audiences on the latest in North Carolina and US news with a short, succinct bulletin. Sources include Gov. Roy Cooper's Press Office and CNBC.

Winter Weather Week

Raleigh and much of North Carolina is preparing for another round of sub-freezing temperatures and winter weather over the next few days. A strong cold front will move across the state Tuesday bringing accumulating snow to portions of western North Carolina. Wind chill values well below zero are likely across the mountains Wednesday and Thursday mornings. In central and eastern parts of the state, significant snow accumulation is not likely as just a dusting of snow is expected late Tues. Jan. 29 evening, primarily on grassy surfaces. As temperatures fall below freezing Tuesday night, isolated slick spots could

develop by Wednesday morning in locations where pavement remains wet. Wind chill values will be in the teens Wednesday morning and in the single digits Thursday morning across northern portions of central and eastern NC. North Carolina Emergency Management and the State Highway Patrol are monitoring the forecast and conditions across the state, and stand ready to respond as needed. "North Carolina is bracing for more cold and snowy weather, and I urge people to monitor their local forecasts closely and take proactive steps to stay ready, warm, and safe," said Governor Cooper. Additional winter safety tips can be found on the free ReadyNC mobile app or online at readync.org.

Funding for Coast Improvements

North Carolina coastal communities will receive over \$1.1 million in grants to improve public access to coastal beaches and waters, Governor Roy Cooper announced Tuesday, Jan. 29. "North Carolina's coast is one of our greatest treasures and we want it to be accessible to all," the governor said. "These grants will

help coastal communities welcome more people to enjoy our spectacular beaches and waterways, increasing investment in our state's economy." 12 total communities along the coast—from Manteo to Holden Beach—will receive funding from the state's Division of Coastal Management in the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.

Government Shutdown

On Friday, Jan. 25, President Trump signed a funding bill that will allow the US government to remain open until Feb. 15. This decision ended the 35-day government shutdown, which the US has been enduring since December 2018. This shutdown hiatus occurs without the \$5.7 billion allocation towards a border wall, something that was previously described as absolutely necessary by the President. Until Feb. 15, lawmakers will be working to structure a budget that will satisfy Trump's immigration goals, though bipartisan compromise on that matter is not guaranteed—but, according to Trump and other Republicans, it is also not needed. North Carolina Representative Mark Mead-

ows tweeted that "compromise is important, but not required, to secure our border and protect American families." House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer stated, "I hope the experience of the last 35 days has taught us that we should never repeat this exercise of shutting down government again." An official statement from Governor Cooper on Jan. 25 reads, "Today's agreement finally ends President Trump's unnecessary shutdown and alleviates anxiety for thousands of working families in North Carolina, and for all who rely on the federal government to inspect our food, ensure safe travel, test water samples and more. I urge leaders in Washington to work together on a responsible, permanent solution to keep the country running."

The State of the State of the Union

President Trump's State of the Union Address was originally scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 29, but with urging from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and in light of the wake of the government shutdown, the address has been rescheduled for Feb. 5.

Kappa Nu Sigma Induction

By Kathleen Daly, Staff Writer

On Jan. 24, Meredith's honor society Kappa Nu Sigma held its annual induction ceremony for students with 3.9 GPA and over 75 credit hours or students with a 3.8 GPA and over 90 credit hours. Along with the induction of new members, the ceremony also acknowledged the 39 first and second-year students who received the Helen Rice Scholarship for having the highest GPA in their classes. There was excitement and joy expressed from both the parents and new members. "I'm really excited I got to do this, even though I missed a class for it. This was a really big deal for me and my family," Dominique Bateman, an inductee, remarked after the event.

After the new members took the Kappa Nu Sigma pledge, the event ended with a speech from guest speaker Dr. Lisa Bullard. With a PhD in Chemical Engineering, Dr. Lisa Bullard is the Director of Undergraduate studies in

the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at NC State. Dr. Bullard said that she treats students coming to her as if they have a package for her. She said that whenever someone comes to you, you have a choice: you can either tear open their "package" carelessly to get to the thing inside or you can examine and appreciate all the aspects of the package. To remind her of this idea, she keeps a package on her desk with a beautiful wrapping she picked herself. Dr. Bullard summarized, "Each [person's story] is an offering to you, and it's your choice as to how to respond to the gift given: their talents, their hopes, and their fears. Be the one who chooses to unwrap the package."

For students who want to join Kappa Nu Sigma, Olivia McKain advised, "Prioritize time and study. Also, it's okay not to always

get an A. I've gotten grades that are lower than As and I've still been able to do well."



Photo courtesy of Dr. Kelly Roberts

In the Arms of the Angels: How You Can Help Shelter Pets

By Olivia Slack, Staff Writer

Companion animals are a key part of many Americans' lives—the average pet-owner takes great joy in caring for and spoiling their dogs, cats or exotic animals. However, many domesticated animals in the U.S. have no owners and are taken in by animal shelters like the SPCA or county adoption centers. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), approximately 6.5 million cats and dogs enter animal shelters every year. Of those, about 3.2 million animals are adopted, but nearly 1.5 million are euthanized. This overcrowding of shelters, and more broadly overpopulation of companion animals in general, is a serious issue, but one that can help be resolved by almost anyone.

There are many things you could do in order to help the plight of shelter animals. For one, if you're able, you could adopt or foster a shelter pet. Around the Triangle area there are many adoption events that regularly take place. Local businesses like AniMall in Cary Towne Center

offer spaces for animal rescue groups to hold adoption events, and doing an online search or looking at event calendars yields many results for adoption events, especially on weekends. An upcoming local event is the TICA Time Cat Show, which takes place the weekend of Feb. 16-17 and costs \$5 for adult admission. Besides being a cat show and a place to learn about different breeds of cats, the event will have cats available for adoption from local shelters.

Of course, adopting or even fostering a pet is a huge responsibility and should be thoroughly thought through before any decisions are made. In fact, that is one of the reasons so many pets end up in shelters: the idea of owning a pet and the reality of owning a pet are quite different, and animals who are purchased from breeders sometimes end up brought to shelters because their owners did not realize the true responsibility of owning a pet.

If you don't think you're ready to bring a new pet into

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