



ELON WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

Defeats No. 2 team in SoCon

PAGE 7



Mebane Historical Museum opens in Mebane, N.C.

PAGE 5



INSIDE THIS EDITION

DID ANDERSON COOPER CROSS THE JOURNALISTIC LINE?

PAGE 4

CHARGING THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR NEWS

PAGE 3

ELON EVADES NATIONAL COLLEGE DEPRESSION TREND

PAGE 6



Fake Break Edition

THE PENDULUM

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Winter storm leaves mark on Elon, NC



Jack Dodson
News Editor

Snow battered the state of North Carolina from Jan. 29 through Jan. 30, leaving eight inches of lasting snow in Alamance County, prompting closures as late as Monday morning.

Elon University remained closed Monday and Tuesday mornings because of the winter storm, opening officially at 10 a.m. Alamance County schools remained closed Monday to allow towns more amount of time to clear the roads.

North Carolina, among other southern states, was declared in a state of emergency by Gov. Bev Perdue last Saturday morning. The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning that lasted through the weekend.

Mike Dula, the town manager for the Town of Elon, said it was fortunate the storm fell on a weekend. He said because of the cold temperatures after the snow fell, the roads became very icy.

"It'll eventually go away, but if it freezes overnight, it can hang around," Dula said.

The Town of Elon is equipped with dump trucks with blades on the front to clear snow, as well as other trucks with the same equipment. The town does not have chemicals that prevent ice on roads, Dula said.

He said the state is responsible for clearing certain roads in the area, including Haggard Avenue, Williamson Avenue and University Drive.

Sophomore David Hodges said he had to come back to campus early from western North Carolina in order to avoid driving through the storm.

"Friday night it just started pouring down and Saturday morning it was a totally different story," Hodges said. Being from Florida, Hodges said he didn't have any experience driving in the snow and had trouble keeping control when he drove during the weekend.

Grant De Roo, a sophomore from New Hampshire, said he had to drive to the airport in Raleigh on Monday and was surprised by the

condition of the highways.

"It was unbelievable. It was awful," De Roo said. "The highway was the same as anything off the road ... the sidewalks were plowed better than the road."

Hodges said North Carolina, and Elon in particular, is not adequately prepared to deal with a snow storms. He said he didn't think investing in snow equipment in North Carolina is worth the cost.

De Roo said he felt, despite the few occasions in which the South sees snow on the level of this past weekend, a better system of clearing the roads would be worth the price.

"Granted, it might only be a couple days a year (that it snows), but it's four days now and people are still canceling school," he said.

According to the Burlington Times-News, the city of Burlington and the N.C. Department of Transportation spent more than \$342,000 cleaning the streets of the city.

The Greensboro News and Record reported the city of Greensboro spent \$25,000 in preparation for the storm.

The Duke Energy Web site reported on Monday afternoon there were still almost 9,000 power outages in North Carolina and South Carolina. Jackson County in the Western part of North Carolina saw the most power outages, with almost 4,000 alone.

Jenequa Breeze, the assistant manager at Starbucks on Huffman Mill Road, Burlington, said she opened the shop everyday during the weekend and had more customers than she was expecting.

She worked on Saturday with only her student manager, who lives close enough that coming in to work wasn't an issue. Most businesses on Church Street and Huffman Mill Road, were closed on Saturday, she said.

Breeze said that there really weren't any snow plows around clearing the roads during the day.

"It would be nice to see more snow plows because there are still a lot of roads with ice on them," Breeze said.

New green jobs grant offers NC \$150 million

Samantha King
News Editor

The Obama administration recently pledged to create sustainable jobs across the nation, authorized by the American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009 and known as the "Pathways Out of Poverty" grant. North Carolina will receive \$150 million as a part of this grant.

The United States Department of Labor collaborated with nonprofit organizations to develop a budget for the grant and determine where the funds are most needed across the United States. The grant is intended to help those with low incomes, criminal records or minimal education find and maintain jobs, according to Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis in a press release.

Jim Barbour, associate professor of economics, said the grant would not harm the economy other than the deficit it would possibly create.

"Anytime people have extra money to spend, it would help the economy," Barbour said.

While Barbour said he could not comment on the long-term prosperity of the grant, he did acknowledge North Carolina's need for change and new jobs.

"The existing (job) structure of North Carolina is badly damaged," Barbour said. "Ideally, this would free up intellectual ability to create better mills and put them to use. What they will do, I have no idea, but it would free up people to imagine a better world."

The funds are allotted and outlined to serve specific purposes within the 38 different companies it will be divided among across the United States, according to a press release by the United States Department of Labor.

Three North Carolina businesses will receive funds to aid in the burden of the recession, while creating sustainable jobs for the future.

Good Will Industries International will receive more than \$7 million in six U.S. cities, including Charlotte, to aid "people with disabilities, chronically unemployed individuals, ex-offenders, older workers, homeless individuals and high school dropouts," according to the press release.

MDC Inc. is a company dedicated to helping "low wage workers and unemployed individuals" find lasting careers, according to the press release. The more than \$3 million allocated will be distributed among eight mostly rural areas in the United States. The majority of the funding will go to MDC Inc. headquarters in Charlotte, N.C.

The final North Carolina location served is a branch of Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America Inc. in Asheville. The \$4.9 million allocated will be shared between Asheville and two other cities.

Couple gives \$1 million to Elon Academy

Samantha King
News Editor

Elon Academy, an Elon University-based program designed to help low income and first generation high school students in Alamance County to prepare for college, received a \$1 million donation from Elon alumni Doug and Edna Truitt Noiles.

The company was sold to Johnson and Johnson, leaving Doug and Edna with more than

enough money to continue the modest lives they chose to live.

"I've thought about it a lot," Doug said, referring to the gift. "We had more than we needed. We lived a basic, simple life for 50 years."

The couple's long endearment with the program began almost four years ago when President Leo Lambert told them about the "abysmal situation" at Cummings High School during lunch.

After speaking with Lambert, Doug and Edna decided they

wanted to do something to help the students of Alamance County. They promptly donated \$220,000 because they wanted to help make change possible. The academy had not yet been established.

"In the beginning, Leo came and we listened and we knew we wanted to do something to help," Edna said. "When we put the money in, we didn't know

See GIFT | PAGE 3