

# McEwen closed because of leaky plumbing

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Managing Editor

Several leaking drainage line connections separate students from their spicy chicken strips, hummus wraps and Asian stir-fry.

McEwen Dining Hall, both upstairs and downstairs, is closed because of multiple plumbing problems involving the drainage lines from the dishwasher and floor drains on the second floor of the building.

Physical Plant Director Robert Buchholz said there were more than three pipe connections that would need to be fixed.

The leaks caused several inches of dishwasher water to fill the cross base of the building. He said food material from the dishwasher had "worked its way in" with the water.

"A cross base isn't a basement but it is where the foundation of the building is located," Buchholz said. "It has a couple of access points, and its where you can find the pipes."

He said the men fixing the leaks would have to work on their backs and knees to fix the leaks.

"We had people cleaning out the water (on Monday), and we are bringing in a contractor to fix the leaks," Buchholz said.

Vickie Somers, director

of Auxiliary Services, said the other waste lines were checked in the building and no problems were found.

"We closed the entire building too get all of (the problems) done at one time," Somers said. "I don't think the repairs will take too long, maybe a week total. We will look at it day by day to see how repairs are coming."

Some students said they feel like there have not been enough updates on the building repairs and they are being kept in the dark.

"I mean its ridiculous that there still hasn't been official notification sent to the students about what is going on," sophomore Chris Liotta, a student living in Sloan residence hall, said. "I was walking by the other night and saw men with biohazard suits and gas masks. Is it safe to be living next to this place, much less eat from there?"

Buchholz said the building was safe.

"It is fine to walk by there," Buchholz said. "Once we get everything completed we will bring the health inspector and we will make sure everything is fine."

He said the leaked water caused an odor and employees in the building began to complain.

Ryan Moore, assistant food service director, said

there are more than 40 employees who work at McEwen Dining Hall. He said the employees are being shuffled to other dining halls but the other dining halls were already fully staffed. Moore said they are covering for workers who call in sick.

Moore met with the employees before the dining hall opened for dinner on Thursday informing them the building would be closing after that night's dinner.

"Not all of the employees are going to have positions," Moore said. "But we are trying to find them places to work."

Some students have said they have noticed the increase of students at other dining halls.

"It's frustrating that three places are now closed," sophomore Brittany Moore said. "Everywhere else the dining halls are busy. And the increase of students is making it more difficult for everyone else."

The Town of Elon public works director, Don Wagoner, said Elon has not experienced any problems with the sewer in connection to McEwen Dining Hall besides an incident where a grease trap was cleaned out last week.

Somers said students could expect to see updates on E-net on the maintenance repairs.



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Old pipes sit behind McEwen Dining Hall which has been closed down due to leaking drainage line connections. The building is expected to open again within the next week.

## Alumna disappears after leaving home for a run

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has helped create options for the family, he said.

"She calls Crystal on a regular basis," he said. "(The family's) all linking to Mike's Facebook."

The Facebook group Clark refers to was created by one of his former students, Michael James, who felt compelled to help when he was told Jocelyn was missing.

"Basically, the idea is to just get her picture out there to people who haven't seen it," James said.

"You're basically taking a shot in the dark," he said, referring to the idea that someone on Facebook might know the whereabouts of Jocelyn.

To Clark, the showing of support from family and friends, all demonstrated by the group on Facebook, is welcome.

"This may not be someone who's an Elon student now, but she's part of this extended Elon family," Clark said. "(Friends and family) started calling... they were shocked, stunned, most of

them torn."

Since Feb. 3, when the group was created, the membership has drastically increased to 2,300 people. Comments fill the wall offering prayers and support for the family.

Smith Jackson, the vice president for student life at Elon, said the university plans to support efforts to find Jocelyn, though he said there wasn't a simple answer as to how to do that.

"We certainly want to support any efforts to find her."

Jackson said he talked to staff and faculty members to see if they could help investigate.

Looking ahead, Clark said he's going to let the Facebook group get the word out. He hopes it will reach family members, friends of Jocelyn's all over the country and other people with connections to Elon that may have known Jocelyn.

"I don't know how long it's going to take," Clark said. "But I hope it's not long."

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