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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM

## SWEEPSTAKES CAFES OUT OF LUCK



The Burlington Police Department is cracking down on sweepstakes cafes after a string of criminal activity

**Brian Rea**

Event Coverage Coordinator | @brianrea

FROM THE OUTSIDE, IT may look like a dollar store — or at least it did to a group of Elon University students walking by. But on the inside is a virtual Las Vegas, illuminated by the light from computer screens displaying tempting internet games.

Dollar Doz-It is a sweepstakes cafe less than two miles from campus. Patrons pay to play online gambling games to win cash prizes.

Because of the dangers of online gambling, the Burlington Police Department (BPD) is starting a crackdown on sweepstakes cafes such as Dollar Doz-It beginning Oct. 15. This action comes following a string of crime including a murder in 2017.

On April 8, there was an armed robbery at Gone Fishing Sweepstakes on North Church Street in Burlington.

According to records from the North Carolina Court System, four people were charged with a variety of felonies between April 8 and 18 in 2017 as a result of the incident.

Lieutenant Alan Balog, a member of the criminal investigation division at the BPD, says sweepstakes cafes are a magnet for crime.

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## Community members back on campus with Life@Elon

Seniors continue their education beyond the classroom

**Anton L. Delgado**

Managing Editor | @antonidelgado

Four sons and Elon University.

That's what Cynthia Ward had left after her husband Max, a former trustee at Elon University, died. Following her loss, Ward knew she had to continue giving back to the community that had meant so much to her husband.

Together with a small team of faculty and community members, Ward helped welcome the Life@Elon program to the community. The program offers non-credit learning opportunities to people age 50 and older.

The importance of providing a way for older members to stay mentally engaged is something Ward has been preaching throughout her entire life.

"I've said all along



Cynthia Ward cheers on the Phoenix during the Family Weekend football game against the University of New Hampshire, Sept. 28.

that continuing education doesn't need to be in a formal classroom, it can take another form," Ward said. "Even with it being outside of the formal classroom, education can be diverse, interesting

and challenging."

With this mindset of creating a diverse, interesting and challenging learning environment, Life@Elon hosted its first two classes in fall 2011. This first semester was

considered to be a huge success with almost 100 participants in each class.

"I was so privileged to be a part of the first Life@Elon class here at Elon," Ward said. "It involved so many of the leaders in

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**CYNTHIA WARD**

LIFE@ELON MEMBER

the Alamance community and brought together such a wide variety of professions and interests."

Since then, the classes and the senior student body have continued to grow each year. Now in its eighth year, there are four Life@Elon classes with a total of 491 participants.

These weekly classes cover a range of topics, many of which have been suggested by students within the class.

At first, Ward was unsure if some of these top-

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Second-annual Merge art show hosted in Graham

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The Phoenix rolls over UNH on Family Weekend