

# THE PENDULUM

ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025 | ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUME 55, EDITION 10

## CrossRoads fights human trafficking in Alamance County

Trafficking victims build strength through advocacy, therapy

Anjolina Fantaroni  
Elon News Network

Christa Hippe was just 12 years old when the sexual abuse began. The abuse was from someone her family trusted, and it went on for years before she knew what human trafficking meant.

“As a young child, I was traumatized,” Hippe said.

By 14, she was running away with older friends who had cars, money and alcohol — things she thought made them cool.

“One of the first things traffickers do in my experience, and in the experience of some of the kids that I’ve supported, is they offer them drugs, alcohol, they make you feel grown,” Hippe said. “They get your boundaries weak.”

She said that after one occurrence, victims can feel full of shame and almost stuck in the situation. She said that she saw one abuser as her boyfriend and love interest. She said that one night after a concert, she was drugged at a party.

“I didn’t even know I was being

trafficked,” she said. “I thought I went to a party. Someone gave me a bad drink. These bad things happened, and somehow I ended up stuck with these people. And I got close to one of them, and he became both my protector and my abuser.”

Now, almost 20 years later, Hippe works at CrossRoads Sexual Assault Response & Resource Center, a Burlington nonprofit that supports survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking. She found herself using CrossRoads resources in the 1990s after a friend recommended their services.

“I kind of help them with coping skills and recognizing their feelings and how they feel in their body, and then what to do after that, when they have these icky feelings in their body,” she said.

However, Hippe said that most clients don’t know what the word “advocate” means at first.

“I tell them, ‘It means I’m here to support you. I work for you. I work for your family,’” Hippe said.

Hippe is one of many advocates at CrossRoads.



ANJOLINA FANTARONI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Christa Hippe sits at her desk Oct. 10 at CrossRoads Sexual Assault Response & Resource Center. Hippe is a survivor of sex trafficking.

See CROSSROADS | pg. 4-5

## Burlington City Council appoints new city manager

City manager oversees daily operations, municipal departments

Alannah Klingsporn  
Elon News Network

Burlington City Council appointed Bob Patterson as the new city manager, as former City Manager Craig Honeycutt retired. Honeycutt will remain in the role of city manager emeritus until Dec. 31. Patterson began his new role Oct. 30.

The Burlington City Manager is an appointed position that oversees daily city operations and all municipal departments, implements council policies, and keeps the council informed on the city’s finances and affairs, according to the City of Burlington’s website.

“Near-term goals are to maintain our staffing levels, competitive wages, make sure we have good quality employees to provide that continued excellent service to our citizens across all of our departments, and also provide the best value for our citizens’ tax dollars,” Patterson said.

The council held an internal application process to find its new manager. The search started internally before looking for an applicant externally. The City Council ended up choosing Patterson, an internal candidate. Patterson, who previously served as the Waters Resource Director for Burlington, said encouragement from others inspired him to apply for city manager. Patterson said he previously worked in civil engineering in Pennsylvania for a water utility before moving to Burlington to work in the engineering department, where he helped design water and sewer lines.

“I had a lot of encouragement from other employees,” Patterson said. “They respected me and saw me as a leader.”

Honeycutt emphasized the importance



Bob Patterson began work as Burlington City Manager on Oct. 30.

of trust when it comes to this role and he said he feels Patterson has that as well as the experience.

“He’s been public works director. He’s been over engineering, he’s been over water resources,” Honeycutt said. “Bob knows everybody, and Bob instills confidence with staff.”

Patterson initially wanted to work at a civil engineering consultant firm and never thought that he would go into politics. However, Patterson said Burlington’s community is what encouraged him to stay in local politics.

“I enjoyed the direct service to our citizens that local government provides,” Patterson said.

departments across Burlington.

“I know there’s a lot of great staff in those departments,” Patterson said. “I will also get more opportunity to work with our police department, our fire department, our Animal Services Division, several of these departments that I haven’t, I don’t know as well, and just that ability to interact and work with our employees is just because they do such a good job.”

Honeycutt described success in this role as being able to communicate with the community. According to 2020 U.S. Census data, Burlington has population of 57,303 — making it the biggest city in Alamance County by population.

“You have to have experience, especially in a community this large,” Honeycutt said. “You have to have trust, especially from existing staff, that you have somebody, elected officials and state officials and nonprofits, you have to be able to work with the gamut of all types of people within our organization.”

Honeycutt also emphasized the importance of building relationships as city manager.

“This job is about relationships,” Honeycutt said. “It’s about relationships with elected officials. It’s about relationships with, you know, chambers and nonprofits and staff. And again, the job is not that hard, but its hard to coordinate a lot of different opinions and a lot of different needs, but you have to just be open, listen and trust what people are telling you.”

Honeycutt said the biggest advice he had for Patterson was to focus on the bigger things rather than the smaller things.

“There’s a lot of little things that come up that seem important but they usually work out themselves,” Honeycutt said. “Focus on the big, pressing issues for the city, but there’s a lot of little things that come up that’ll work out themselves.”



Drug drop-offs encourage safe disposal of medication

PAGE 6 LIFESTYLE



Peacehaven set to open new community center

PAGE 7 LIFESTYLE



Goalie looks to end Elon career on high note

PAGE 8 SPORTS



THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF  
ELON NEWS  
NETWORK

ESTABLISHED 1974 | VOLUME 55, EDITION 10

Elon News Network is a daily news organization that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and podcasts. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to [enn@elon.edu](mailto:enn@elon.edu) as Word documents. ENN reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of ENN and will not be returned.

ANJOLINA FANTARONI

Executive Director of Elon News Network

SARAH T. MOORE

Managing Editor of The Pendulum

NIA BEDARD

Managing Editor of [elonnewsnetwork.com](http://elonnewsnetwork.com)

FIONA MCALLISTER

Broadcast News Director

REAGAN SIZEMORE

Design Chief

VIRGINIA VANCE

Copy Chief

ETHAN WU

Photo Editor

CHARLOTTE PFABE

News Editor

MILES HAYFORD

Politics Editor

BENJAMIN BERFIELD

Sports Editor

NOLAN WILLIAMS

Audience Engagement Manager

OLIVIA BERGER

Producer of ENN On Air

MEGAN WALSH

Special Events Coordinator

EDITORIAL POLICY:

ENN seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty, as well as serve as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page.

Contact  
[corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com](mailto:corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com)  
to report a correction or a concern.

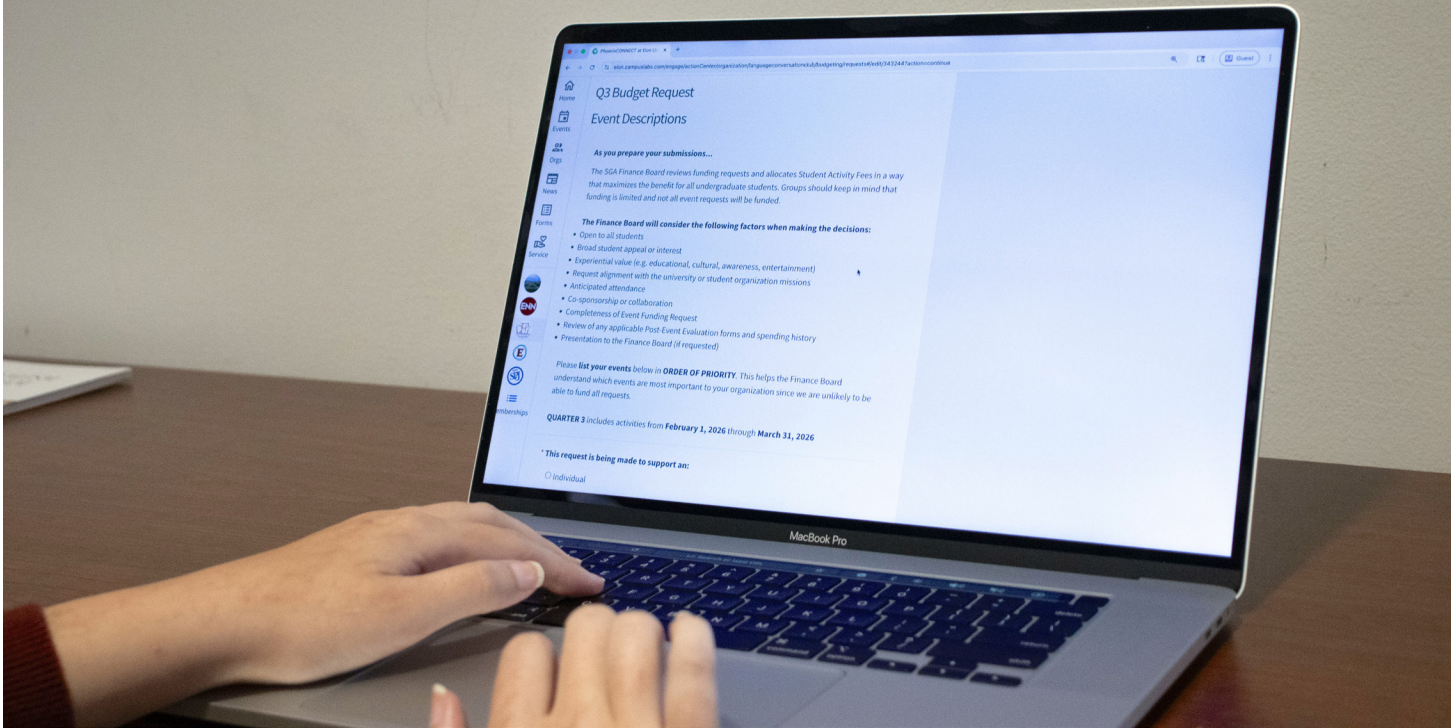


CORRECTIONS

The article "More than a shot: Weight loss drugs are reshaping student health, identity" from the Oct. 29 edition of The Pendulum has been updated on [ElonNewsNetwork.com](http://ElonNewsNetwork.com) with additional context about muscle loss and access to weight loss medications.

The list of polling locations on page 2 of the Oct. 15 edition of The Pendulum included locations that were not open for voting Nov. 4. Elon News Network regrets this error.

# Q&A: SGA vice president of finance prepares for quarter 3 funding



REAGAN SIZEMORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A photo illustration of a student filling out the Student Government Association's quarter three budget request form.

## Elon's Student Government Association's quarter 3 funding requests due Nov. 7

Fiona McAllister

Elon News Network

As Elon's Student Government Association's quarter three funding requests are due 11:59 p.m. Nov. 7, SGA's Vice President of Finance Ian Brecker said student organizations getting their budget requests in earlier will help both himself and SGA's finance board when it comes to making decisions. Student organizations can submit their budget requests through PhoenixCONNECT.



*This interview has been edited for clarity.*

**What is the difference about quarter three funding compared to the past two quarters? Are there any big differences or major changes?**

No big difference for Q2 to Q3, same format when submitting funds, same sort of rules we're applying. So your Q2 which was approved will get it, most likely, can't make any promises, as it is up to the Finance Board. But for Q3 right now, we have the same mindset going forward. We just ask for the clubs to share more details. That's the only thing that we're struggling with, we just need details.

**What would you recommend to people who aren't as descriptive as you'd like?**

I will be constantly looking at it, but I'm also a student — so I have exams and stuff, and I can't constantly be checking them.

But I do as frequently as I can, as well as our advisers. If it comes early enough, and you have a description that isn't as descriptive as we would like it, yes, we would return it. And that's what we did for a majority of Q2 but being college students and who we are, majority of them come in the day before.

We try to say, get them in early, and I'll be more than happy to review it. And you can even, I even offer this to everyone, any org., any exec. member, to come to our office hours, my office hours and I could walk through with you, "Is this descriptive enough? Is this good enough?" And I'm more than happy to sit with with you and submit it. So that's what I've been offering.

**What is something organizations can do to get approved for the funding that they need?**

One thing I'm also promoting is inclusive, campus-wide interests aligned with Elon's missions, SGA's values.

The more specific you are, the more clear it is. That's great explain the impact the expected audiences prioritize your requests, right? Because it's all now "event one," "event two," "event three," "event four." So prioritizing what you want. ... Collaborate, of course, and just be very thorough of all the costs, right, the taxes, the setup, the shipping, everything.

**What's something you've learned that helps you decide when it comes to allocating funding?**

Communication is very important. There are a lot of organizations, yes, I'm familiar with them, but there's also a ton that I'm not familiar with. So what I've learned is getting familiar with all the orgs that submit, so I know for myself, I've done a lot of due diligence. So when they come and they ask questions, or I see them submit a budget request, I know how to tailor it to what their request is, what

they're asking for.

**Have you noticed if organizations are submitting requests for less or more funding?**

Less funding. I think everyone's a little bit more cautious on what they are asking for. I feel like Q1 was such a big amount of requests and a little amount of allocated funding. They're building up slowly but steadily, because I know the number of requests for Q1 from Q2 went down a bunch. So we'll see what happens with Q3. Maybe it'll be steady, maybe it will increase. But I always encourage everyone to submit a budget request, whether it will or will not be approved.

**Are you planning on holding any sessions for organizations to get funding elsewhere if they do not get approved for SGA funding?**

Nothing currently in the works, but there definitely can be. I know fundraising is something I'm getting more information on, on what is allowed, what isn't allowed, looking over the bylaws. So something hopefully will be, it's in the works.

## HOW TO OPEN A BUDGET REQUEST

1. Log in to PhoenixCONNECT
2. Go to the club's "finance" page
3. Click the blue "create request" button on the top right of the page
4. Click the blue "budget request" hyperlink on the application information page

ADVERTISEMENT

## SEE ELON NEWS NETWORK'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION COVERAGE ONLINE



SCAN TO READ MORE





ALEXANDER SIEGEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Elon University men's soccer team beat William & Mary 1-0 in their final regular season game of the year Nov. 1 at Rudd Field. Elon will rest for a week before hosting the winner between University of North Carolina, Wilmington, and Campbell University at 1 p.m. Nov. 9 in the second round of the Coastal Athletic Association Men's Soccer Championship. Elon's graduate student goalie, Jackson Leavitt, has emerged as a key player this season. Read more about Leavitt on page 8.



JESUS ROMERO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon junior Tolulope Balogun — whose stage name is Tolu Balo — performs his song “Uuu Girl” during Lime Fright at Taphouse on Oct. 30. Lime Fright featured performances from five artists and three bands from Limelight Records and Limitless, which are student organizations that represent musicians on campus.



ABIGAIL HAAPAPURO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alamance County community members hand out candy to children Oct. 30 at the Alamance County Sheriff's Office Trunk or Treat Event. ACSO Public Information Officer Byron Tucker said he wants children not to be afraid of police officers. “We want them to know that, no matter who you are, where you're calling from, whatever your background is — you call for help, we're there,” Tucker said.



VENUS SOTO CASTANEDA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Hank Heimlich hangs for 100 seconds for the Big Muscle Big Hearts tabling activity at the Gender and LGBTQIA Center's Fall Pride event Oct. 31 in McKinnon Hall. Heimlich answered questions such as “Why can consent over text be problematic?”



# CrossRoads seeks to bring comfo

## CROSSROADS | from cover

### The Fight Led by Advocacy

When Rhonda Chaney took a break from her job at Child Protective Services, she began working at CrossRoads.

“I’m at a point in my life and in my career where I want to see the outcomes of positive services and how they would impact children, families and adults,” Chaney said.

Chaney is not only an advocate for CrossRoads but also the director of advocacy services, where she oversees client services for children and adults by managing the advocacy staff. Before joining the nonprofit, she worked at Child Protective Services as a social worker.

“I value CrossRoads more today than I did the day that I started,” Chaney said. “That reason is because it provides a service that, if I had as a young Child Protective Services social worker, might have saved more lives, not just for children, but for adults.”

CrossRoads originally began as the Rape Crisis Alliance in 1976, after a police officer had raped a Black woman in Burlington. The founders included Kathy Hykes, Barbara McCall and Caroline Ansbacher. The agency has since grown to provide services to child survivors of sexual violence and victims of trafficking.



I VALUE CROSSROADS MORE TODAY THAN I DID THE DAY THAT I STARTED.

**RHONDA CHANEY**  
DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY SERVICES

According to Chaney, CrossRoads has always provided advocacy services for victims who arrive at the hospital after a sexual assault, human trafficking event or case of child maltreatment. Beginning this year, she will do something that she hopes will make them feel like a human being when they walk out of the doors of the hospital — provide comfort bags.

When adults undergo a sexual assault exam at a hospital, their clothing is often collected as evidence — part of a difficult and lengthy process that can take several hours.

“Those bags are going to include a pair of sweatpants, a T-shirt, bras and underwear, personal care items, hygiene items, and some inspirational types of things to teach, to tell them that they can keep going,” she said. “And a blanket.”

Care bags will also be created for children and adults to stay calm during court dates.

“It’s going to be things like fidget toys and coloring books, and I think we even talked about putting clay in there or just little journals, ink pens, things like that,” Chaney said.

One of the main things CrossRoads is known for is its Child Advocacy Center, where the first step is to bring the child for a special type of interview inside the center. Chaney said that these interviews are done by professionals trained to interview children in a non-leading and non-threatening way.

“When law enforcement contacts us and says they have an adult who’s been raped or is a survivor of childhood sexual abuse or is a victim of human trafficking, and they want to interview that person, and they bring them to this space — as opposed to interviewing them in the cold, damp areas in the police department,” Chaney said.

Funded through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, CrossRoads also offers a child medical evaluation program that allows the center to hire physicians



ANJOLINA FANTARONI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Detective Amanda McDaniel with the Alamance County Sheriff’s Office points to a map of Alamance County on Sept. 29. McDaniel gestures to the interstate, where trafficking could take place. McDaniel said many people live in a bubble and don’t know that trafficking happens in the county. “Unfortunately, it’s everywhere,” she said. “They need to be aware of what’s going on and be aware of their neighbors, people coming in and out of houses in the middle of the night, have people move in for a week, and then all of a sudden, they’re gone. They need to be aware.”



ANJOLINA FANTARONI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Rhonda Chaney, director of advocacy services at the CrossRoads Sexual Assault Response & Resource Center, explains the interview room and viewing room, where staff members can watch forensic interviews in real time Sept. 19.

and pediatricians trained in child abuse and neglect. Chaney said pediatricians conduct medical evaluations to gather information about a case and perform a physical, noninvasive exam.

“It makes a child feel safe and comfortable in an exam space where they might not normally feel safe and comfortable,” Chaney said.

Inside the interview room are two overstuffed chairs — one for the interviewer and one for the victim — a small table and a box of tissues. For children, several coloring books, fidget toys and CrossRoads teddy bears sit on the side of the room.

Chaney said she uses the word “victim” loosely because staff members at CrossRoads often refers to people who walk in the doors as “victims” — but sometimes, those individuals prefer to be called “survivors.”

The interview room is soundproof, with a microphone hidden behind the chair where the interviewee sits and cameras mounted in the ceiling. Those cameras allow investigators and advocates to observe the interview in real time, Chaney said.

Amanda McDaniel, a detective with the Alamance County Sheriff’s Office, said that CrossRoads is where the Sheriff’s Office conducts its interviews as well.

“If there are children that we think are being trafficked or are sending CSAM [child sexual abuse material] images or receiving images, we will do our forensic interviews there so they also feel comfortable,” McDaniel said.

McDaniel said one major reason for trafficking in Alamance County is because of the proximity to the interstate.

“Traffic is continuous, it’s the same,” she said. “Here you have the truck stops, you have both 40 and 85 coming through, it’s just the free gambit of the interstate.”

The most recent human trafficking data for Alamance County is from 2019, according to the North Carolina Judicial Branch. That year, there were 16 reported cases within the county. Data after 2019 has not yet been released.

According to data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, human trafficking can take many forms and happen in a variety of locations.

McDaniel said many people live in a bubble and don’t know that trafficking is prevalent in the county.

“Unfortunately, it’s everywhere,” she said. “They need to be aware of what’s going on and be aware of their neighbors, people coming in and out of houses in the middle of the night, have people move in for a week, and then all of a sudden, they’re



Devyn Waldron, therapist at CrossRoads Sexual Assault Response & Resource Center, explains the interview room and viewing room, where staff members can watch forensic interviews in real time Sept. 19.

gone. They need to be aware.”

### The Fight Led by CrossRoads’ Therapy

Up the stairs, down the hallway and before the second-floor CrossRoads lobby is a small, cozy room on the right. Inside is Devyn Waldron, the therapist at CrossRoads. A lifelong Alamance County resident, Waldron first came to the center as a high school junior through an internship.

“I fell into doing clinical social work, which is basically therapy,” she said. “I found out that I was very passionate about it, and so I begged them here at CrossRoads for a therapy job as I was finishing up grad school, and it just worked out.”

Clients who use CrossRoads’ resources can also seek therapy if they choose. Waldron said there is no timeline for healing from trauma as severe as trafficking.

“There’s no right way to heal from trauma,” Waldron said. “So it’s really dependent on if that’s a service they’re wanting, and if they’re ready for that.”

The therapy room is covered with colorful tapestries, fidget toys, and several child and family-friendly books. Waldron



# rt to assault, trafficking survivors



orce Center, gestures at a “feeling wheel” tapestry in her office Oct. 3. She uses the tapestry to talk to clients about what they’re feeling. ANJOLINA FANTARONI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

said it’s not just about adding color, but making the space feel comfortable — a place where sitting crisscrossed feels normal.

“You don’t have to be on your best behavior,” she said. “It feels homey and comfortable, and that you get to be whoever it is you want to be, not who you think you have to be in this space,” Waldron said.

Waldron said that her job is totally separate from everything that happens downstairs, such as medical and forensic interviews.

“I might be asking you questions about this, but it’s because I want you to understand that I can help you and see how I can be of service to you and to help you move forward,” Waldron said.

CrossRoads is a regular presence at Alamance County festivals and community events, sharing information with people who may not know about its services. Waldron said they do that to show they are a part of the community.

“We’re on the totally opposite side of town from Elon, but we serve this entire county,” she said. “We will be in Elon one day, but Snow Camp the next, and then like Mebane the next day. No matter where you are, this is a place for you, and no matter where your background is or any of those things, this is a place for you.”



ANJOLINA FANTARONI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Devyn Waldron, a therapist at CrossRoads Sexual Assault Response & Resource Center, writes the connections between thoughts, feelings, sensations and behaviors on the whiteboard in her office Oct. 10.



ANJOLINA FANTARONI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
A box with travel-size stick deodorants sits in a storage room Sept. 19 at CrossRoads Sexual Assault Response & Resource Center, waiting to be packaged in comfort bags. CrossRoads Director of Advocacy Services Rhonda Chaney said she these bags — which also include clothes and other hygiene items — are for people undergo a sexual assault exam at a hospital, where their clothing is often collected as evidence.



ANJOLINA FANTARONI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
A teddy bear wearing a tie-dye shirt that reads “Where there is Hope, there is Healing,” sits in the interview room at the CrossRoads Sexual Assault Response & Resource Center on Oct. 10.



"We like to think we are making a difference," Webb said. "We do have a lot of people, especially at these events, who come and say, 'Thank you so much. This is a great opportunity.'"

**32ND ANNUAL CAROLINA  
RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL™  
& ARTISAN MARKETPLACE**

**GATES  
OPEN!  
9:30AM!  
Arrive Early!**

**TICKETS  
LIMITED!  
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!  
ONLINE ONLY!**

**EIGHT FESTIVE WEEKENDS ♦ OCTOBER 4-NOVEMBER 23**  
**SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS ♦ 9:30AM-5:30PM ♦ ARRIVE EARLY**

**PEPSI** **SUNBELT RENTALS** **Harris Teeter** **BUY TICKETS ONLY ONLINE AT CAROLINA.RENFESTINFO.COM**



# Peacehaven Community Farm grows mission of inclusion with new community center



Jeff Piegari, a core member at Peacehaven, explains his idea of a news broadcast to staff members in the Peacehaven barn Oct. 29.

ANJOLINA FANTARONI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Center set to open new residential spaces in 2027, offer additional opportunities

**Anjolina Fantaroni**  
Elon News Network

Phelps Sprinkle's 22-year-old daughter has intellectual disabilities. He said he has seen through her eyes how tough it is to find belonging.

Sprinkle is the CEO of Peacehaven Community Farm, an 89-acre farm in Whitsett, North Carolina, that provides community housing, programs and an environment for adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as a place for adults of all abilities to work and learn together.

"Society is really having it set up for this group of folks and their families, and so we're trying to create change on what that looks like," Sprinkle said.

Community isn't only in the title of the farm, but it shows through the people who engage themselves in the programs and make it bigger every year.

"For about three and a half years now, that's what we've been trying to do, is figure out, 'How do we take this amazing thing that we have here and grow it and scale it and help more people here and see what we're doing?'" Sprinkle said.

Peacehaven is set to grow with the addition of a new 20,000-square-foot community center on its current property.

Sprinkle said the center will have everything, including co-working spaces, event space, adaptive fitness space, classrooms, art rooms, sensory rooms and even a café with food that will be prepared and served by people of all abilities.

"That is important to do because we do not want Peacehaven to be thought of as a place where just people with intellectual

disabilities live and play," Sprinkle said. "We want to be a place where people of all abilities do."

After the community center is built, the farm will add residential housing for around 150 to 200 people, those with disabilities and those without, right on the farm. Sprinkle said a project like this does not exist in North Carolina.

"We believe that if we can do that, then we can build a model that can be replicated, and you can see a lot more of these types of places popping up in the future," Sprinkle said.

“

THIS WILL BE OPEN FOR ALL ABILITIES, NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR TALENT IS.

**JEFF PIEGARI**  
PEACEHAVEN RESIDENT

The funding for the center comes from 75 public and private sources, who have contributed at different levels, according to Sprinkle.

Currently, the farm has residential housing for "core members," such as resident Jeff Piegari. Core members are permanent residents of Susan's View, the name of the house, dedicated to Peacehaven's founder, Susan Elliot.

Piegari has been a Peacehaven resident for 10 years and said he is excited for the new community center, where he hopes he can produce his own news show — with happy stories.

"I want to keep it positive and family friendly, for all ages," Piegari said.

Piegari said he is looking forward to all the opportunities the new center has to offer.

"This will be open for all abilities, no matter who you are, no matter what your talent is," Piegari said. "There would be an opportunity for you to face your fear of trying to do something or teach you how to play ukulele, which I play."

Director of Programs at Peacehaven Dana Roseboro oversees the fiber arts and Rise and Shine program. Rise and Shine is a job-preparation program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She said the community center will bring endless opportunities for both the creative and career sides of her job.

"I can take not just the job skills I'm

teaching here, which are transferable out to the community at large, but be able to actually make it where people can become employed right here in this space," Roseboro said.

Roseboro said the center will seek to expand partnerships with other organizations, such as the one they have with the North Carolina Museum of Art.

"I hope that once this community center is built, that everybody will come out and find that belonging that we're all seeking," Roseboro said.

Sprinkle said the community center plans to receive its temporary certificate of occupancy by March or April 2027, which will allow for full operation.



ANJOLINA FANTARONI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Anne, a core member at Peacehaven Community Farm, reads a photo book titled "Boom the Barn Cat" on Oct. 29. The handmade book is to remember Boom, a cat who died. The book includes photos of Peacehaven staff and residents holding and playing with Boom.





# Graduate goalkeeper makes most of starting opportunity, hopes to leave on high note

Men's soccer goalie emerges as key contributor despite playing only 2 games his first 4 years

**Benjamin Berfield**  
Elon News Network

Since the summer, graduate goalkeeper Jackson Leavitt went into the season with a bigger sense of urgency than before. Throughout his first four years for the Elon men's soccer team, Leavitt appeared in just two matches and had previously been recruited by other colleges through the transfer portal.

However, Leavitt said he was poised to contribute at a high level in his final year for the Elon men's soccer team, and make this year count. Leavitt said he hoped to head out on his own terms since he knows this will be his last season playing soccer.

"It's different whenever you're going into your last year after giving your all to the program for four years," Leavitt said. "I'm just trying to leave here with no regrets."

So far, Leavitt has made the most of his first opportunity to consistently start. He's emerged as a valuable piece of a defense that has allowed the least goals in the Coastal Athletic Association. In the 16 games Leavitt started in as of Nov. 5, the Phoenix have recorded more shutouts at 10 than goals allowed at seven.

Leavitt said he is proud of those

numbers, but also credited his teammates for making it difficult for opponents to score. He said the team's focus on defense has made a significant difference.



I'M JUST TRYING TO LEAVE  
HERE WITH NO REGRETS.

**JACKSON LEAVITT**  
GRADUATE STUDENT

"You take a lot of pride in it, but it's a big group effort," Leavitt said. "I have 10 guys in front of me who are jumping at every single shot, and it's shown throughout the season."

When opponents have been able to break down Elon's defense, Leavitt is there to prevent the ball from getting into the goal. As of Nov. 5, he has 45 saves — his save percentage is first in the CAA — but his 86% save percentage leads all conference goalies and is No. 9 nationally.

Head coach Marc Reeves said Leavitt has been a consistent asset through his perseverance and resilience. He said Leavitt's improvement over the years has led him to this position.

"He has always believed he's ready,"

Reeves said. "His development has been a really cool thing to watch and it's really accumulated to this season."

But in order to start, Leavitt had to compete for the position over the summer. Reeves said the team brought in some goalkeepers through the transfer portal for depth at the position, and Leavitt would have to establish himself as the starter. Reeves said the competition was beneficial toward Leavitt's performance.

"He had to come back and reprove himself," Reeves said. "We brought in a lot of goalkeepers to ensure that we are solid at goal. Jackson really thrived on that and his work ethic prepared him to be successful."

Leavitt said he agreed that competing for his spot was helpful in the long run. Due to an internship along with an injury, Leavitt wasn't able to play during the summer. He said the competition was a reminder that he had to show he was capable of starting.

"I wasn't able to work out as much as I wanted to," Leavitt said. "There's great goalkeepers on the team that push me every day, and you still have to prove that you're the guy back there."

Reeves said he could not be more proud of Leavitt for continuing to believe in the process of getting to where he is now. He said Leavitt is always in the moment and knows when it's his time to step up.

"The top goalkeepers know they're capable of being consistent the whole way through,"

Reeves said. "A lot of guys can make really good saves, but they have some down moments. Jackson has been hugely consistent and has had some saves that have been outstanding to watch."

For Leavitt, he said his situation hasn't been so much different than other years. He said it always helps to be challenged toward improving his performance and this season was more of the same.

"I've been pushed for all my four years here, and I kind of thrive on that," Leavitt said. "This season was honestly no different."



ALEXANDER SIEGEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Graduate goalie Jackson Leavitt leads the Coastal Athletic Association in save percentage.



ALEXANDER SIEGEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Graduate goalie Jackson Leavitt gets ready to block a goal attempt during Elon's 1-0 win against William & Mary at Rudd Field on Nov. 1.

