

## Father honors late son, raises funds for MLB



ETHAN WU | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scott Yelle answers a video call with Elon Club Baseball members at the Recreation Fields on April 4. His son Jackson Yelle was a member of the team and was killed in a hit-and-run during a club trip to Myrtle Beach in spring 2023.

Jackson Yelle was killed in a hit-and-run last spring, now Scott Yelle raises money for MLB cause

**Avery Sloan**  
Managing Editor of The Pendulum

Scott Yelle took his son Jackson Yelle to his first baseball game when he was 5 years old. Despite 5-year-old Jackson falling asleep during the seventh inning and needing cotton candy and ice cream to get through the game, he and his dad shared a love of the sport throughout Jackson's life. Now, a year after Elon junior Jackson was killed in a hit-and-run on a beach trip with his club baseball team, Scott honors his son's memory through the Jackson Yelle Family Foundation and stays in close contact with the rest of the team.

Scott came to Elon sporting Jackson's worn baseball hat and a Boston Red Sox

shirt with "Yelle" on the back — along with Jackson's No. 2. Scott came to Elon on April 4 to watch a Club Baseball practice and visit with Jackson's friends, who have meant so much to him and his family.

"Jackson was a club member here and as he always said, 'these are my guys,'" Scott said. "This is his bunch of buddies that he always hung out with and so a lot of camaraderie and friendship here. And after the accident, these guys kind of adopted us and so they mean a lot to us."

Scott said he and Jackson had a goal of visiting every Major League Baseball stadium. While they were only able to go to 12 of the 30 stadiums together, Scott is now continuing the journey himself. Along the way, Scott said he has had family and friends join him for games in different locations, including his own high school baseball coach whom he hadn't seen for 35 years.

The Jackson Yelle Family Foundation serves to support Jackson's legacy and bring

good into the world — as Scott said was Jackson's mission.

At the time of Jackson's death, Elon Club baseball raised \$40,000 in his honor. These funds started the Jackson Yelle Family Foundation. Since then, the foundation has donated to both Elon Club Baseball and Jackson's high school team — as well as partnered with the MLB Nike Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities program. Nike RBI works to bring baseball and softball to young people in under-served communities.

"It combines, I think, Jackson's passion for baseball and just developing young men and women with core values of leadership, understanding teamwork, fighting through adversity," Scott said.

Earlier this week, Scott was in Miami for a Marlins game and had the opportunity to meet four Nike RBI players on the field before the game. Scott said that supporting kids through sports is what the work they are doing is all about.

"Just seeing their faces light up when they

got to meet the pros," Scott said. "You just know they went back to school on Tuesday and just were bragging to all their friends and showing them pictures."

The only regret Scott said he has from when Jackson was younger was not capturing more moments of his son — like the first baseball game they watched together. He said he was always proud of his son, both as a coach and a father, and he said watching him play was always fun.

"It was a joy," Scott said. "I remember his first home run. I remember his first hit on the varsity team."

Scott said he gets a lot of energy being back on campus, surrounded by Jackson's friends, and he is excited to see the seniors on the team graduate. He also said throughout this past year the team has supported his family and will always hold a special place in his heart.

"They're like Jackson: a lot of laughs, good-natured ribbing," Scott said. "I enjoy being here."

## Martha and Spencer Love School of Business dean announces departure

After a 12-year career, Raghu Tadepalli announces his departure for the 2024-25 academic year

**Lilly Molina**  
News Editor

Despite almost 13 years on the job, one of the highlights for Martha and Spencer Love School of Business Dean Raghu Tadepalli was being able to teach and connect with students. After the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Tadepalli taught in-person classes alongside his nervous colleagues because he didn't want them to experience it alone.

"I am not asking them to do anything that I am unwilling to do myself," Tadepalli said.

For the past four years, Tadepalli has taught at least one two-credit class each semester and he said he has enjoyed seeing how hard students work toward their studies.

Tadepalli announced his departure from deanship following the 2024-25 academic year.

This is the sixth senior staff member to leave their position within the past two years.

Tadepalli will be returning in the 2026-27 academic year after a yearlong sabbatical to serve as dean emeritus and special assistant to Elon University President Connie Book.

As he approaches his 13th year as dean, Tadepalli said he has already served much longer than the average dean.

"The usual average for a business school dean is about four to five years, so I have exceeded the record by two times," Tadepalli said.

Senior Rafi Dahdal, a member of the Love School of Business Graduate Advisory Board, said he was sad to see the news of Tadepalli stepping down. Dahdal said he loves how optimistic the dean is and appreciates how he was open to always receiving feedback.

"Anytime he interacts with me personally it's been very positive energy, very open to feedback and very open to improving the business school," Dahdal said.

Assistant Dean of the Love School of Business Haya Ajjan said a good dean is someone that leaves a lasting impact beyond their time at Elon.

"He has left this place much better than when he arrived," Ajjan said.

Ajjan said Tadepalli successfully achieved

three accreditations for the school of business by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, receiving the most recent accreditation April 3. In addition, Elon has ranked in the top 40 business schools in the country for the past three years.

students enrolled in business majors compared to the now 2,145 students — a roughly 58% increase.

He also expanded the school's degrees to six new undergraduate majors including business analytics, project management and human resource management.

The university will begin its search for a replacement in the fall 2024 and Ajjan said that she is looking for her next "partner in crime."

"Somebody who is value-driven like he was and he is," Ajjan said. "Somebody who definitely will sustain the great trajectory that the Elon School of Business is on because I think what we have created is something amazing."

Tadepalli said he hopes the future dean focuses on the growth of graduate programs, as well as how to prepare students on using artificial intelligence in the workforce.

"I've always said Elon is like a rocket ship and it doesn't matter what seat number you have, just strap on your seatbelt and make sure you do what you need to do so that everyone has a good ride," Tadepalli said. "Elon will find someone very, very capable to take not just the business school, but to help Elon University go to the next level."



ENR FILE PHOTO

Martha and Spencer Love School of Business Dean Raghu Tadepalli speaks on Aug. 20, 2022. His deanship will conclude after the 2024-25 academic year.

According to an email sent to faculty and staff, some of Tadepalli's most notable accomplishments while serving as dean were the expansion of the number of faculty, staff and students attending the school of business. At the start of his deanship, there were 1,356



Spring Break schedule affects Easter plans

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Elon freshman twins release debut album

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THE PENDULUM

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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.

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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.

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CORRECTIONS

There are no corrections from the last edition of The Pendulum.

# ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR

## Communi-Tea Hour

Every Thursday | 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. | CREDE - Moseley 221  
Connect with fellow students, faculty and staff while enjoying a selection of teas and snacks from Asia.

## APSA & GLC: Rainbow Boba

Thursday, April 11 | 6 to 8 p.m. | CREDE - Moseley 221  
This event hopes to talk about the intersectionality between the Asian and LGBTQ+ communities with colorful boba!

## Pacific Islanders and Environmental Justice

Monday, April 15 | 5:30 to 7 p.m. | CREDE - Moseley 221  
The CREDE and Office of Sustainability are teaming up for this discussion event about conservation.

## APSA: Ramen Across Asia

Tuesday, April 16 | 5:45 to 7 p.m. | Moseley Kitchen  
Celebrate the cultures within the API community by trying ramen from different countries across Asia.

## Asian Studies: Film Series

Tuesday, April 16 | 6:30 p.m. | Global Media Room - 103  
Abacus: Small Enough to Jail, 2018, USA, 90 min., from acclaimed director Steve James, the little-known story of the only U.S. bank prosecuted in relation to the 2008 financial crisis: a small, family-run bank in Chinatown.



ETHAN WU | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Trays of Asian Pacific Islander cuisine are served to students at the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month kickoff event on April 3 at Medallion Plaza.



ETHAN WU | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Sonali Schroder draws art prints and henna for customers as part of the celebration of the beginning of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

## Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.: Kiai Arts Collection

Thursday, April 18 | TBD  
Experience an array of diverse art at Elon University, each piece a masterpiece with its own unique story.

## Paint Your Identity In Crisis

Tuesday, April 23 | 5 to 6:30 p.m. | CREDE - Moseley 221  
Join us in expressing your identity through painting and arts. Chance to embrace your identity and meet others in this safe, welcoming space.

## Chinese Club: Game Night

Friday, April 26 | 7 to 9 p.m. | CREDE - Moseley 221  
Chinese Club's game night is a chance to learn new games that you might have not played before or revisit your favorites. Games will include mahjong, go, and more.

## PAVE: AAPI Film Festival

Saturday, April 27 | Noon to 2 p.m. | Greensboro History Museum  
A free film festival featuring six local AAPI filmmakers. A panel discussion will follow after the film showing.



ETHAN WU | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sally Giang, smiles as she engages in conversation with a customer who purchased accessories at the Wristlet table that were part of the celebration.



# Partial eclipse passes over Elon, watch party on campus



JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR

The partial solar eclipse seen just after the apex of the event at 81% totality which occurred around 3:15 p.m.



ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon junior Daniel Esterman watches the partial solar eclipse at Innovation Quad.



JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR

Elon University President Connie Book watches the partial solar eclipse.



JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR

Elon sophomore Elina Shah watches the partial solar eclipse on April 8 beside the SmartFlower solar array at Innovation Quad.



ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Elon University Physics Department held an eclipse watching event at the Innovation Quad between 2 and 4 p.m., where roughly 500 people showed up at the moment of partial totality.

Town of Elon experiences 81% coverage of sun by moon, university community watches April 8

**Joseph Navin**  
Photo Editor

On the afternoon of April 8, a rare total solar eclipse — referred to by some as the “Great North American Eclipse” — traveled over parts of Mexico, the United States and Canada — blanketing parts of North America located in the “path of totality” in

a brief period of darkness. While Elon and central North Carolina were not situated in the area for the total eclipse, the region did experience a partial eclipse.

The Elon University Physics Department held an eclipse watching event at the Innovation Quad between 2 and 4 p.m., where roughly 500 people showed up at the moment of partial totality.

The department ran out of glasses all 500 free pairs before 3 p.m.

While not a total eclipse, Claudine Moreau, an Elon lecturer in physics, said she believes that the partial eclipse was still a significant event.

“I went to see the 2017 eclipse in Clemson, South Carolina to see totality. And there’s nothing quite like totality. But most of us who have jobs and school to go to — we weren’t able to do that,” Moreau said. “The next best thing is to put on a pair of protective glasses and look up because when you’re talking about an 81% eclipse, that’s still pretty significant to witness.”

While some areas of the U.S. under the eclipse were blocked by cloud cover, central North Carolina only had partly cloudy skies, with Elon getting a clear view of the partial totality.

For freshman Matthew Rieck, the forecast

was not a concern.

“When we were setting up there were clouds covering the sun,” Rieck said. “I never really got worried.”

The next total solar eclipses in the continental U.S. will not occur until 2044, while the next to occur across a wide range of the U.S. will occur in 2045.

“It’s stranger than anything that’s ever been written in science fiction because it all makes sense,” Rieck said. “The moon is moving, the earth is moving to make a solar eclipse happen — that’s incredible because everything has to work as you’d expect it to, at least from our perspective of science and physics.”

## Later Spring Break poses issue for Catholic students

A later Spring Break forced students to travel back to Elon in time for classes on Easter Monday

**Miles Hayford**  
Elon News Network

Campus Catholic Ministry President Jillian Thomas said she didn’t originally realize how drastic of a difference Spring Break would be this year.

Thomas said she enjoyed her time relaxing, spending time with family at home and catching up on downtime amidst hectic classes. Yet, she was surprised to learn that her break would be cut short, since she needed to drive back to school on Easter day.

“That change is a little surprising to me, and I do question why that was decided,” she said.

This year April 1 was Easter Monday, a holiday that marks the second day of Easter celebrations for many Christians. Typically, this has been a day that Elon students have had off in the past as Spring Break has been scheduled earlier in March. However, with Easter Monday the day after Spring Break this year, it was not counted as a day off.

Because of this many students had to travel back to campus on Easter. This affected the Catholic community at Elon, in particular members of CCM.

“It was a shock to a lot of members of our community when they realized that a lot of Easter was going to have to be sacrificed for

the sake of travel,” CCM Vice President Alexa Ferraiuolo said.

In the future this timing of Spring Break may become the norm at Elon. According to the 2024-25 academic calendar, Spring Break will be around a similar time with classes in session on Easter Monday.

Thomas said this decision to have Spring Break earlier affected more than just the celebration of Easter Sunday and Monday. Because the entire week leading up to Easter — known as Holy Week — was spent away from campus, CCM’s ability to hold activities throughout the week was impacted.

“I think for me and for members of our community, we look forward to the whole week and spending time together on campus when it is occurring,” Thomas said. “We have different events and special masses for Holy Thursday, as well. So, mostly, I think about that time and community that we didn’t have.”

According to Ferraiuolo, CCM had to change the way they scheduled Holy Week activities like the Stations of The Cross — an exercise of visiting and praying at 14 stations to commemorate Jesus’s passion and death on the cross — as a result of Spring Break’s timing this year.

“We tried to schedule similar reflective activities for the week prior, but, obviously, not all of it can be moved because some specific days are designed for specific activities and rituals,” Ferraiuolo said.

CCM still held an Easter Sunday service but moved it to later in the day in order to accommodate students who were traveling back from break that morning.

According to the University Registrar Rodney Parks, classes starting on Easter Monday was a decision made by the calendar committee.

He said in a statement to Elon News Network that the university made the decision partly due to the limited number of weeks in the semester and the classroom hours needed to meet accreditation standards. For students who celebrate Easter Monday, he said that there is already a policy in place that supports requests for days off due to religious holidays.

Thomas acknowledged it must be difficult to plan an academic year and accommodate everyone.

“I’m sure it’s a horrible nightmare trying to plan that academic calendar for a year,” Thomas said.

Ferraiuolo agreed, saying that Catholic students are usually prioritized by the university.

“I will say that we are lucky that we Catholics aren’t typically forgotten by members of the institution, especially those who are involved in planning student life. I don’t think the decision was anything intentional against Catholic students,” Ferraiuolo said.

Thomas believes that despite the drawbacks, there are benefits of this potential new schedule.

“I appreciate being able to also have Good Friday at home and not worry about classes because I would not have gotten religious absence because I do want to prioritize my studies. So, in some ways, I am grateful that that wasn’t a worry for us this year,” Thomas said.

Ferraiuolo said there is a lot of value in spending time away from studies during a week that is very important to Catholics.

“I think there’s a lot of value in us being able to have time away from studies on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. So having that this year had a lot of benefits,” Ferraiuolo said.

According to Ferraiuolo, Christians will get a religious holiday off whether it’s Good Friday or Easter Monday.

“So, no matter how you slice it, there are important days that we’ve had off,” she said.



MILES HAYFORD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Elon Community Church as seen on April 4. The church is one of the major gathering places for Easter celebrations on campus.

# HOLI CELEBRATION PROMOTES CULTURAL AWARENESS

Festival of Colors works to expand students religious worldviews, spirituality at Elon

**Ruth Cruz**  
Elon News Network

Elon University's Truitt Center celebrated the end of winter and the warmth of spring with the Holi Festival of Colors at Speaker's Corner on April 5. Holi represents hope and new beginnings in the Hindu culture. The spring festival includes colored powder — traditionally called gual — or colored water.

Holi aims to commemorate connection and companionship, as well as bring the community together to acknowledge diverse cultures. The festival also teaches diverse stories reflected in the celebration.

University Chaplain and Dean of Multifaith Engagement Kirstin Boswell encourages students to participate in these events, which offer opportunities to learn

about diverse cultures. She said the Holi festival educates students about minoritized religions on campus.

"We want to represent the diversity that we see within our community, but within the wider world," Boswell said. "Then make sure that a full spectrum of diversity is represented because if we only went with celebrating the religious festivals, holidays and traditions that are most represented on campus, we would be missing a big swath of religious traditions that are minoritized."

Boswell said she wants to connect students with the spiritual and ethical practices of other cultures. She said the Truitt Center provides educational opportunities and religious guidance to support students' identities.

"It's from a perspective of not standing on the outside peering into someone else's religion or tradition in a way that is negative or voyeuristic," Boswell said. "But to engender a true appreciation of the identities that we see in the world around us."

Hillary Zaken is the interim assistant dean of multifaith engagement and said the Holi festival is a great way to have fun and distress

from school. The Holi colors include red, yellow, pink, purple, orange and blue.

"It has a religious and spiritual significance, but it's also a wonderful way to bring the community together," Zaken said. "To welcome spring in what I think is one of the most beautiful moments when everyone throws the paint in the air after the countdown and the sky is full of color. I love it."

Zaken collaborated with students to organize the Holi festival including their multifaith interns and Surtal Bollywood Dance Group. She said the multifaith interns are practitioners who help share diverse perspectives and experiences of religions.

Juniors Morgan Williams and Madison Williams are twins who participated in the Holi festival. As multifaith interns, they had an opportunity to research Hindu culture and learn the significance of light over darkness or good over evil.

"The planning and celebration has taught me a lot about learning about other people as far as their different values and traditions," Morgan said. "But I also realized that a lot of the values are holy with the different colors

and what they represent. I can identify with that even though I'm not Hindu."

Morgan said as a multifaith intern, she became a global citizen and learned about humility for other cultures. She said the festival brings awareness to different regions around the world.

Madison said this was her first time participating in the festival so she promoted the event to her peers. She said she hopes that students use this opportunity to educate themselves about Hindu culture.

"I hope people understand that this is more than just throwing paint and that they're encouraged to look at the meanings of what each color means," Madison said.

Junior Rece Raju, vice president of Surtal, said this was a great opportunity to share her culture with the community.

"Growing up, I didn't celebrate any Indian holidays," Raju said. "When I got to Elon and got to be a part of Diwali and Holi, it was a whole other thing for me because I wasn't really in tune with that part of my culture. And so that's why it's so special to me because I get to be a part of something that I didn't even realize was missing."



A cup of powdered paint set out ahead of Holi. The festival marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring where colored powder is thrown to celebrate the earth returning to color. ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Sophomores Kaila Burke and Lathan Rubant react to powdered paint being thrown into the air during the peak of the Holi celebration. ETHAN WU | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon senior Sydney Brown makes snow angels on the powder-covered mat around the conclusion of Elon's annual Holi event. KATHERINE MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon junior Ashley Josey throws powdered paint at other students as a part of Holi celebration on Young Commons. ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Powdered paint can be seen covering Elon senior Avery Broughton's face near the conclusion of the Holi celebration on April 5. ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Students throw powdered paint, or gual, on each other as a part of Holi celebration. ETHAN WU | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon students celebrate Holi by throwing powdered paint, creating a haze of powder in the air. The Holi colors include red, yellow, pink, purple, orange and blue. ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Cups of powdered paint were prepared for students and passed out at Speakers Corner for the Holi celebration. ETHAN WU | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



On April 5, roughly 75 Elon students threw powdered paint — known in some cultures as gual — into the air on Young Commons near Speakers Corner to celebrate Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colors. This year Holi was March 25, but Elon's celebration was held at a later date because of the university's spring break. JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR

# Limelight Records twin duo release their self-titled debut album

The Elon freshman duo released their first album through an artist project grant

**Charlotte Pfabe**  
New Member Coordinator

Whether they're blending their voices to create heavenly harmonies or playing dazzling melodies on piano and guitar, Ali and Andi Dalton find comfort in performing together. As identical twins, Ali and Andi have been writing music together for a few years, and recently released their debut album, titled "Ali and Andi," on March 31.

Ali and Andi's music falls into the singer-songwriter, folk genre, with plucky guitar lines and breathy vocals layered on top of one another to create a chorus of harmonies.

Two of the ten songs on the album are covers, including The Beatles' song "Help!" The duo said they take inspiration from The Beatles when writing their music — especially the complex chords heard in many of the band's songs.

Growing up in Hickory, North Carolina, the sisters' experience with music began with musical theatre. After a few years, they decided to take a different route and Ali began to learn guitar while Andi began to learn piano. Eventually, Andi joined her sister in learning guitar during her junior year of high school.

"We started having lessons together too, with songwriting and harmony, and music theory," Andi said.

Ali and Andi work with Limelight Records, Elon's student-run record label, but when they first came to Elon, the sisters didn't know about the label. After attending the fall organization fair, the sisters were introduced to the label and quickly joined.

During the time leading up to the debut of their album, Andi said Limelight recommended they release a few songs from their new record before releasing the whole album at once. According to Ali, she said she believes releasing a few songs prior to the album release gained more listeners for their music and the record overall.

Andi and Ali returned to their hometown on April 5 to celebrate the release of their album with a release party and performance. At the event, their shared guitar teacher, Alan Mearns, was also celebrating the release of his

own music.

Throughout the recording process, Mearns guided the duo and taught them about music production. According to Ali and Andi, recording the album was different from performing live but was a whole new adventure.

Ali and Andi produced their album with the financial assistance of the Innovation Artist Project Grant awarded through the United Arts Council of Catawba County. In a recent Instagram post, the council wrote about Ali and Andi's journey in creating music, encouraging the community to attend the release show.

"The blend of sweet harmonies and acoustic guitars are what makes Ali and Andi's music so beautiful," United Arts Council of Catawba County wrote.

Receiving the grant in May, Ali and Andi already knew they wanted to create an album, but needed to write more songs. Four months later, the duo finished writing songs for the album and began recording the tracks.

Scan the QR code to listen to "Ali and Andi"



While Ali and Andi share many of the same interests, their songwriting processes differ. Ali said she enjoys writing lyrics before thinking of the instrumental composition, pulling inspiration from moments and events in her life. Andi said she's the opposite of her sister when it comes to writing as she writes more conceptually about hypotheticals, focusing on the musical composition before bringing in lyrics.

While the two musicians agree that recording their music was an exciting experience, they said that performing live together is more fun. Especially at their live

shows, Ali and Andi said they find comfort in performing with each other.

"I'm not as nervous because I have her with me," Andi said.

Currently, Ali and Andi do not plan on majoring in music. Andi said that's because she worries music will stop being as exciting and start to feel more like work as a major.

However, they said they plan on making more music.

"We're still trying to write more," Ali said. "So, it'd be cool if the album did well to maybe do another one."

Ali and Andi's next live show will be at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 19 at The Oak House as a part of the coffee shop's live music performances.



Elon freshmen and identical twins Ali Dalton, left, and Andi Dalton released their debut album. As a part of Limelight Records, the duo released 10 songs in their album. SARAH T. MOORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Back in bloom: Elon Farmer's Market returns for 2024 season

Market will be open Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. through Oct. 31, beginning this month

**Jordyn Forni**  
Elon News Network

Bob Thomas, the owner of Gardener Bob LLC, returns to the Elon Farmer's Market for the third year, and feels the market presents an opportunity for the community to get fresh air and mingle as they shop locally. He is one of several returning vendors for the Farmer's Markets new season.

The Elon Farmers Market opened for the first time this season on April 4. The market will be open on Thursdays, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Almost all of the previous vendors will be returning for the new season and attendees can expect up to 25 vendors in total, according to Town of Elon Market Manager Sarah Bass. Bass said this includes a handful of new vendors as well.

The new vendors will be selling products such as seasonings, fair trade coffee, herbs, kombucha, pasta, sauces, pizza dough, peanut butter, pottery, handmade leather goods and seafood, Bass said.



The start of the 2024 Elon Farmers Market on Thursday, April 4 in the Elon Community Church parking lot. The market will be open Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. until Oct. 31. JORDYN FORNI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Most of our vendors are growing, creating and producing within Alamance County or just outside the county," she said.

Benevolence Farm, returning for its second season at the Elon Farmers Market, is an example of this.

Eden Gustavsen, who works with Benevolence Farm, said the non-profit organization sells body care products and candles made from herbs grown at their local farm. All of their profits go to housing

formerly incarcerated women.

Thomas is a local business owner of Gardener Bob's Homestead Kitchen in Greensboro and a third-time vendor at the market.

Thomas said he sells sourdough bread, pickles and home brewed kombucha through Gardener Bobs LLC, his farm stand and bakery — which are not only locally sourced products but are also free of dyes, preservatives and artificial ingredients.

Thomas previously worked at Elon, and sold his products on the side before he discovered the market.

"The rest is history," Thomas said.

Curry Wilkinson, of Curry Wilkinson Pottery, and George Smith, an Elon alum and the owner of Smith Century Farms, are both new vendors at the market.

According to Smith, the market was busier than he expected but offered an opportunity for students and local residents to intermingle.

Bass said along with new vendors, the farmer's market is also hoping to increase student musical involvement.

On April 4, Techronica — an indie, alternative and pop ensemble — performed at the market and is scheduled to return on April 25. Gabe Germain, an Elon student musician, is scheduled to perform on April 18 and May 2.

Bass said this initiative is only one of the new additions to the market, in addition to an abundance of activities planned for the upcoming season such as crafts and games.

Bass is excited about these new initiatives, and Thomas said he's seen the positive impacts the market already provides.

"The market drives students and the local community together," Thomas said. "Plus, who wouldn't want to shop local?"

# BURLINGTON SERVES UP NEW PICKLEBALL FACILITIES



The site of the future pickleball courts can be seen on April 4 in Fairchild Park in Burlington. With construction underway, the facilities are set to open in the Fall.

JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR

## Burlington City Council is set to construct 17 permanent pickleball courts

**Ellie Reasbeck**  
Elon News Network

Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports nationwide according to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association and it's hitting Burlington. The new facilities will open opportunities for Elon students to play and see more of what the area has to offer.

The Burlington City Council responded to trends with construction for a new 17-court complex at City Park with a shaded Championship court and ADA compliant courts, as well as six permanent pickleball courts at Fairchild Park.

Since its creation in 1965, pickleball has hit a recent rise in participation over the last few years. Pickleball has gained media attention nationwide and had a membership increase of 15% over 2023 with the target age range being

between 18 and 34 years old according to USA Pickleball. The sports popularity has made its way to Elon, where a club team formed in the fall of 2023 that now has nearly 150 members.

Freshman Hanna Stuart joined the Elon pickleball club this fall after discovering her joy for playing competitively against her friends.

"I've been playing pickleball for about a year now, and I really enjoy the competitive and social aspects of it," Stuart said. "Playing on the club team at Elon is nice because I meet new people who want to have fun but also want to compete to win like me."

Tony Laws, director of Recreation & Parks for Burlington, said the primary reason for building these courts is to accommodate locals. In addition, Laws said the complex in City Park is a prime location for tournament play.

With tournaments bringing in outside competitors, the surrounding community will benefit economically, said Rachel Kelly, the assistant city manager. People aren't just here to play and leave — they also have the opportunity to shop, eat and sometimes stay

the night, Kelly said.

"I think this is going to be one of the nicest pickleball courts in the region," Kelly said. "It's going to be a place with a lot of pickleball players, so a lot of energy and folks to interact with."

While the courts are the main attraction, the hope is that the community members will venture out and see the wide variety of attractions. City and Fairchild Park have an aquatics center, splash park, amusement park, amphitheater, playground, fitness center and various fields to offer.

There will be many opportunities available to get people on the courts, Laws said.

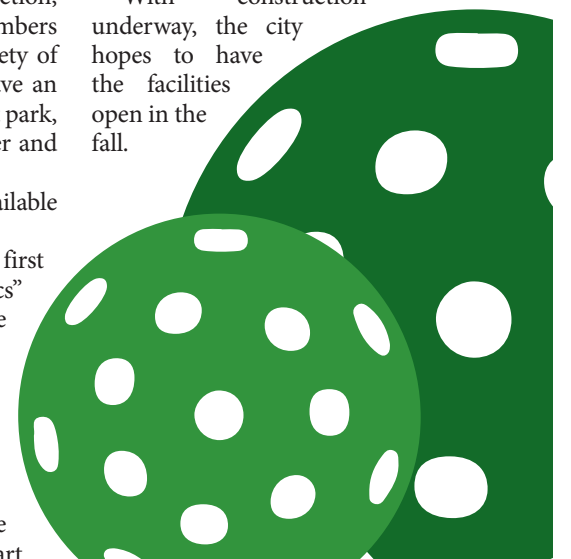
"We're going to do a lot of local play first then offer leagues, instruction and clinics" Laws said. "For Elon students we have leagues they could join. The Elon club team could have their own league and we could accommodate that too."

Elon's campus only has two indoor courts available for play. The new courts would offer a place for players to play outside with others in the community who share this interest. Stuart

is excited for the chance to play in different facilities.

"I would love to play on the courts," Stuart said. "I like playing outside with the sun and the wind, it adds to the unpredictability of the game."

With construction underway, the city hopes to have the facilities open in the fall.



## Elon University Dance Team heads to national competition

The Elon Dance team is competing at the NDA competition April 11 to 13 in Daytona, Florida

**Rachel Holley**  
Assignment Desk Editor

The Elon University Dance Team is making its way to compete in Nationals at the National Dance Alliance in Daytona, Florida. The team won first place in 2022 in the Hip Hop division, yet in 2023 placed second. The team hopes to rank at the top for the Hip Hop and Pom Divisions this year.

All teams will compete in preliminary rounds of performances and the top 60 percent will move on to finals. The team will compete April 11 to 13 in Daytona, Florida, and the performances will be live-streamed on the Varsity website.

Junior Juliette Baudoin has been on the team all three years of her college

experience, and said having a send-off and seeing support from the community means a lot to the team.

"It was just the best feeling ever to see all of our friends and family just here to support us and just feeling the energy in the crowd," Baudoin said.

She also said having other athletic teams supporting them at the send-off was an amazing feeling.

This year's routines are unique in the way they tell a story, she said.

"I feel like every year we just keep getting better and better and I'm so excited to show everyone our routines, I love them," Baudoin said.

Senior Henna Reid said she got her nerves out the first go-round in past years.

"There's always going to be little butterflies in your stomach going on stage, that's just what a dancer deals with all the time," Reid said. "But at this point I've learned how to maintain my nervousness."

Reid said seniority and class titles aren't factors in roles and leadership within the team.

"Our team has allowed us even as a first year or sophomore," Reid said. "We all feel welcomed, loved, heard, and we just work with each other in the best ways possible."

Senior Sophia Gallagher also said seniority isn't a huge factor on the team.

"Even though I'm a senior, I still have so much to learn from everyone, like even the freshmen," Gallagher said. "It's interesting to learn from them as much as they can hopefully learn from me."

Gallagher said even though the team spends a lot of time together, they don't get tired of each other as they have a 'team before me' mindset.

"You're not trying to compete against the person next to you, like everyone works together," Gallagher said. "We win as a team, we lose as a team."

Freshman Sarah Culver said being on the Elon Dance Team is different than any other dance team she has been a part of before.

"The Elon Dance Team's biggest difference is the heart," Culver said. "We all want it so bad and that's shown in our practices, performances, nationals, just in

everything you can tell that everyone on the team is just like really rooting for each other and so supportive."

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**SARAH CULVER**  
ELON DANCE TEAM MEMBER

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