

Spartan Echo

The Voice of the Spartan Community

Vol. 62, Issue 1

SpartanEcho.org | 700 Park Avenue, Norfolk, Va. 23504

08.29.14

TOP STORIES INSIDE

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Are you tired of traffic? Tunnel traffic and toll woes for commuter students

...Page 3



Spartan prepare for season opener on August 30.

...Page 7



Wear your green and gold on Friday, August 29.

Gay marriage still off the table for now

By Danielle Kirsh

The same-sex marriage ban that has kept many people from being legally married in Virginia has been put on hold once again.

During the week of Aug. 11, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond rejected a motion that wanted to delay the implementation of their previous ruling that would remove Virginia's same-sex marriage ban.

The Supreme Court had until 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20 to intervene and the appeals court ruling was to go into effect on Thursday, Aug. 21 at 8 a.m.

Attorney General Mark Herring requested that the Supreme Court stay enforce-

ment on the ban so they could have more time to make a decision.

In Jan. Herring said that he would not support any ban on same-sex marriage because it goes against what the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution says.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe released a statement following the Supreme Court's decision saying, "I applaud Attorney General Mark Herring for his continued efforts to see this case concluded as quickly as possible, and I hope the Supreme Court takes immediate action to uphold the 4th Circuit's decision so that Virginia can finally take this next important step in our history."



The U.S. Supreme Court placed a stay on the case of legalizing gay marriage. Photo from <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.123892961037680.27999.123892551037721&type=3>

Only 19 states currently have legal same-sex marriages, ten of which allowed it by a court decision or state legislature following the fall of the Defense of Marriage Act in 2013.

"Today's decision is a temporary delay to the inevitable conclusion that Virginians who love each other should have the opportunity to marry regardless of their sexual orientation," said McAuliffe.

NSU professor robbed

By Richelle Hammel

While the campus police have been concerned about the students being robbed, faculty and staff are targets as well.

Dr. Carol Pretlow, who works in the political science department, was the most recent victim of this local crime, which took place on July 24, 2014.



Dr. Carol J. Pretlow was robbed on July 24, 2014. Photo from <http://www.nsu.edu>

On that sunny afternoon at the light rail station on Brambleton Avenue, two African-American males who she thought were previous acquaintances of her's approached Dr. Pretlow.

Unexpectedly, one of the males made remarks to Dr. Pretlow that she thought were jokes, but turned out to have vicious intent.

"What you going to do for me?" one of the men asked Dr. Pretlow.

Shortly after, she was asked to give up the belongings from her purse, but when she didn't comply quickly enough, the suspects became aggressive.

"You're getting things out too slowly, so I might have to smoke you anyway," the suspect said.

Luckily, Dr. Pretlow was not harmed in the situation, but her purse was stolen. Shortly after the robbery, both of the suspects were caught and taken into custody. Since they were both under the age of 18, the police were unable to release their names to the public.

One main objective of every community is to make it a safe place to accommodate its visi-

tors and residents; and it's the same for the NSU campus. Even though it's nearly impossible to completely rid the campus and communities of all crime, the best effort would be to extend all efforts to prevent it.

"Walk with other people. If you're alone, stand near the alert system, spread the word, vote and make sure legislators know the problem," said Dr. Pretlow.

These were a few words of advice from Pretlow in hopes of informing people on better ways to stay safe and possibly prevent the incident she faced from happening to anyone else.