

# The Pine Needle

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

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## UNC-TV airs town hall meeting

By Hayley Burgess  
News Editor

UNC-TV came to UNCP on Oct. 13, to tape the first in a series of town hall meetings discussing what's next for rural communities trying to develop economically.

The series "NC Rising" has been an ongoing series over the last year with a grant by the Golden Leaf Foundation.

The series of reports look at how rural North Carolina is developing economically. The first taping of the town hall meeting was a kick-off for the final part of the project.

About 125 students, faculty, staff and members of the community attended the event held in the James B. Chavis University Center Annex with taping starting at 8 p.m.

A panel of community leaders discussed ways that Pembroke and the surrounding community are dealing with developing economically.

UNC-TV's Shannon Vickery asked the panel questions about the top issues facing Southeast North Carolina.

On the panel were



UNC-TV's Shannon Vickery moderates a panel of community leaders at the televised town hall meeting held in the Annex Oct. 13.

UNC Chancellor Charles Jenkins, UNCP Board of Trustees Chair and Porter Scientific CEO Dr. Freda Porter, Fayetteville Technical Community College President Dr. Larry Keen, an economic developer from Southeast North

Carolina Steve Yost and a representative of the North Carolina Agricultural Commission Archie Hart.

Problems facing rural North Carolina include loss of manufacturing, school dropouts, poverty and people leaving North

Carolina.

The common answer from the panel is to have a positive attitude and to be proactive with education and agriculture.

The main challenge for the region is trying to compete in the global economy.

"We face a very competitive global economy with many opportunities and challenges," Yost said.

Yost said that other countries have caught up with the United States and are putting pressure on rural parts in the country. However, Yost feels like the country will become more competitive over time.

Dr. Porter has faced challenging times running a business during the economic downturn.

"It's a challenging time," Dr. Porter said. "We must think beyond our normal operating schemes to make things work."

Hart said Southeast North Carolina is blessed with being the third most agriculturally diverse region in the country. Hart believes the strategy for agriculture in Southeast North Carolina is to keep the raw product in the hands of the farmers.

"We need to find ways for North Carolina farmers to feed North Carolina people," Hart said.

Both Fayetteville Technical Community

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## Ousted CIA agent to speak at GPAC

By Wade Allen  
Editor

When former covert CIA agent Valerie Plame Wilson appears in GPAC on Nov. 5 as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series, members of the UNCP campus community will have a unique opportunity that some would kill for – to ask direct questions concerning her history of being one of the most famous spies the country has ever known.

She will speak and entertain questions in GPAC at 7:30 p.m., following a dinner with Chancellor Charles Jenkins.

### Identity

When the late columnist Robert Novak, who died on Aug. 18, published Plame Wilson's identity to the world on July 14, 2003, many people had questions and they were demanding answers.

Many Americans still do not understand the complexity of her intense and controversial life.

While Novak was praised for his investigative skills by some of his colleagues in the media industry, he was very much scrutinized by Plame Wilson and the government for leaking her classified status.

Plame Wilson's husband, former ambassador Joseph Wilson, was particularly critical of the George W. Bush Administration and American involvement in the Iraqi conflict.

According to a "60 Minutes" interview conducted by Katie Couric in 2008, Plame Wilson said that she believes Novak exposed her identity because of the critical comments her husband made about the Bush Administration.

Further, in the "60 Minutes" interview, Plame Wilson said that her job with the CIA mainly dealt with ensuring that Saddam Hussein and other foreign leaders considered as threats to America did not get a hold of weapons of mass destruction.

Tickets to her speech are \$10 for the general public, \$5 for UNCP faculty and staff and free for UNCP students.

They can be purchased from the GPAC box office by calling (910) 521-6287.

The Distinguished Speaker Series is sponsored by the Office of Student Life and features speakers of national and international prominence, speaking on a wide variety of issues.

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## Sauna reopens after vandalism

By Grant Merritt  
Assistant News Editor

The sauna in the Jones Athletic Complex was ordered to close Oct. 9 and each weekend afterwards after three instances of vandalism during the fall semester. It reopened Oct. 24.

According to Facility Manager Tony Chavis, drinks, urine and feces were left on the hot rocks that heat the sauna.

"The security guard opened the sauna door, smoke came out and set off the fire alarms," Chavis said. "My supervisor said to shut it down on the weekends."

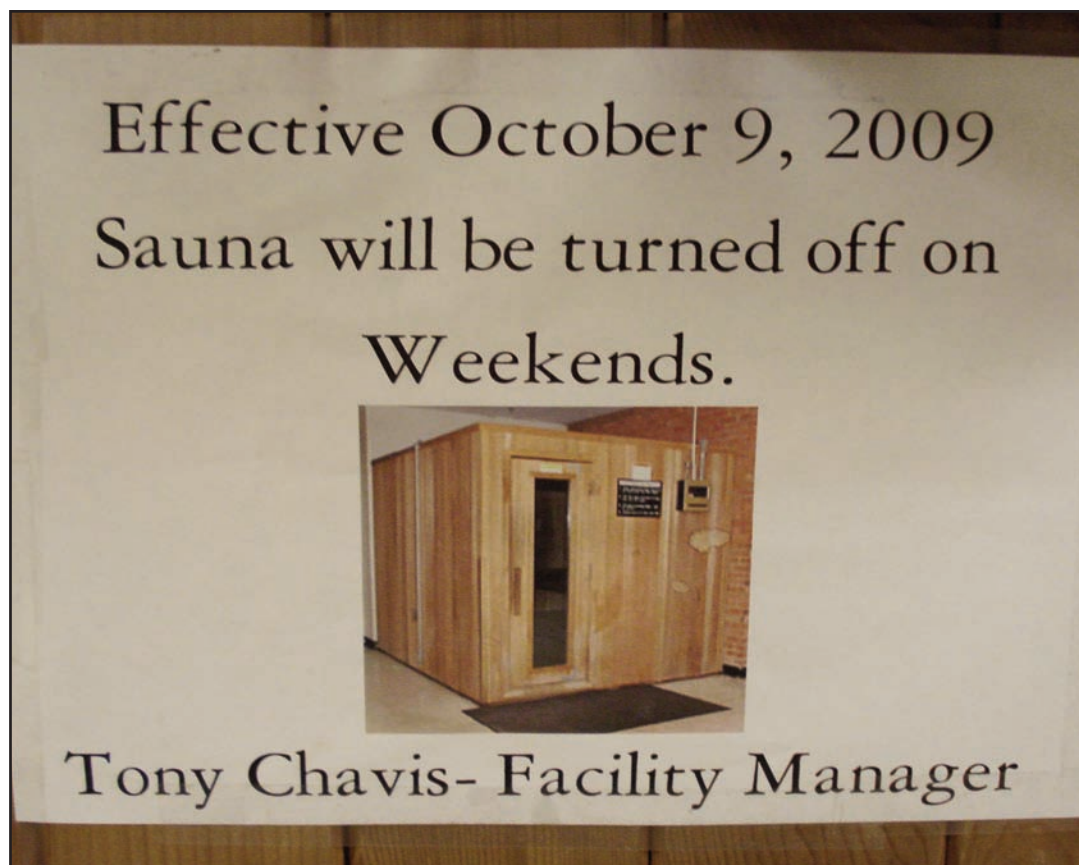
A notice was placed on the side of the sauna by Chavis to inform students that starting on Oct. 9, the sauna was turned off on the weekends. It was closed on the weekend of Oct. 9, 10 and 11 and the weekend of Oct. 16, 17 and 18.

Department of Physical Education Chair Dr. Tommy Thompson said that each time the sauna was vandalized, it cost a couple \$100 to disassemble, clean out and sanitize the sauna. He said it had happened three times.

Detective Ed Locklear of Campus Police confirmed one incidence of vandalism to the sauna.

"Drinks and other stuff were poured on it," Locklear said.

On Oct. 20, after student complaints, the sauna was reopened on the



The sauna in the Jones Athletic Complex was closed Oct. 9 and the weekends following it after it was vandalized three times during the fall semester. The sauna was reopened on the weekends on Oct. 24 after student complaints.

weekends. Students were concerned about the sauna closing on the weekends because it took away from student activities.

"Students should not be punished for the arrogant acts of others," Freshman Sarah Beal said. "But that short term suspension [of two weekends] should send a clear message to all."

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Diane Jones said she had not been aware of the sauna closing, and she asked Dr. Thompson for it to be reopened.

"I want that service available for students. I want good, clean facilities for students," Dr. Jones said. "Students should be responsible."

To keep the facilities safe and clean, Dr. Jones encouraged more student policing of the gym facilities to help prevent further vandalism to the sauna.

Dr. Jones said that the administration is willing to work with students on issues like this. She did not want to deny sauna services to students who want to use it on the weekends.

"It's not fair that one or two students are keeping 6,000 other students from using the sauna," Dr. Jones said.

For safety and security measures, Dr. Jones said a possible card swiping system, much like the card swiping system of Pine, Oak, North and Belk Halls, could help. She

said that it would keep a record of who used the sauna and keep it locked when not in use.

Dr. Thompson was concerned about the costs for this card swiping idea and was concerned that it would be too expensive.

"Don't worry. The sauna will be open on the weekends," Dr. Thompson said.

The sauna's regular hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Students who see vandalism taking place can call campus police at 521-6235.