

## SPORTS



PHOTO BY STEVE TIPTON SPECIAL TO THE SUN

Members of the Tusculum men's lacrosse team are pictured on Monday at Holley Creek after spending the morning cleaning trash out of the creek.

## Tusculum Lacrosse Team Cleans Up Holley Creek

Monday morning dawned cold and overcast, but that didn't stop 42 members of the Tusculum College men's lacrosse team from cleaning up part of Holley Creek behind the Big Lots shopping center in Greeneville.

Steve Tipton, co-chair of the Middle Nolichucky Watershed Alliance and an adjunct professor at the college, said the MNWA was approached by assistant coach Kevin Shupp about a possible community service project.

The community service that the lacrosse players wound up performing on Monday included removal of 25 tires from the creek, along with a muddy, waterlogged mattress and all manner of packaging material. Greene County Solid Waste helped with tire disposal.

The morning was anything but spring-like, but it seemed warm enough to Nate Wade, a business major from Victoria, British Columbia, and Keegan Bell, an athletics management major from Vancouver. The two Canadians, along with others, rolled up their pants legs and waded in to the creek. "It feels like spring," compared to March weather at home, Wade said.

Francisco Baez who hails from Southport, N.C., also made his way into the water. When asked why, he grinned, "There was a big fan in the middle of the creek."

By the end of the morning the big window fan with its muddy high-water mark, along with several truckloads of other debris were hauled away for proper disposal by the Town of Greeneville.

Bell said, "I'm happy we got it cleaned up. It feels really good. It's super nice to give back to the community, especially so far from home," he said.

After the team's two-hour creek workout in the morning, the rest of Monday was devoted to game films in preparation for their away game on Wednesday, Bell said. That was followed by a full practice followed by a full practice. Tusculum lost to 17-6 to 14th-ranked Limestone College.

The Pioneers' next home game will be Saturday at 3 p.m. The opponent is Mars Hill, and there is no charge for admission.

The MNWA provided pizza and drinks to the team, said co-chair Sarah Webster. Webster had spent several months tracking down the owners of the shopping center, which has changed hands several

times in recent years, and is now owned by a corporation in Cincinnati.

Two hours of hard work by the 42 athletes produced satisfying results. "It looks a tremendous amount better," Tipton said. "We hope the community appreciates that, because we sure do."

The Middle Nolichucky Watershed Alliance is made up of representatives from state, local and federal agencies with a stake in clean water, along with interested individuals.

Members of the Watershed Alliance said they hope the team will be ready for another creek cleanup soon, as many more are needed, on a continuing basis. Coach Carrington made no promises, but said the team tries to do three service projects annually.

## No. 21 Tusculum Women's Tennis Wins Ninth Straight

HILTON HEAD, S.C. — The Tusculum women's tennis team closed out its spring break trip with an 8-1 win over Palm Beach Atlantic Friday morning.

The 21st-ranked Pioneers (9-0) won all six singles matches and took two out of three in doubles from the Sailfish (6-6), who are ranked 10th in the ITA South Region.

In singles, 12th-ranked Katarina Majorova defeated Yuliia Russu 6-1, 6-2 at flight one, 47th-ranked Franziska Funke beat Bella Mermersky 6-1, 6-1 at flight two and 27th-ranked Annie McCullough won 6-3, 7-6 over Vanessa Buchbinder at flight three.

At flight four, Caitlin McCullough beat Taylor Conti 6-1, 6-4, Africa Mota was a 6-4, 6-1 winner over Johanna Kern at flight five, and Angelica De Vicenzis downed Romina Bolagay 10-4 in a tiebreaker after rallying to split the first two sets 3-6, 7-6.

In doubles, Russu and Conti upset the 20th-ranked McCullough sisters 8-6 at flight one, but Majorova and Funke defeated Kern and Bolagay 8-3 at flight two. At flight three, Mota and Amber Lackey earned an 8-6 victory over Michaela Mignemi and Nicole Reich.

The Pioneers will open their South Atlantic Conference schedule on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Coker.

## Rally Falls Short As Tusculum Men's Tennis Falls To Palm Beach Atlantic

HILTON HEAD, S.C. — Tusculum rallied after being swept in doubles, but fell just short as Palm Beach Atlantic picked up a 5-4 victory in non-conference men's tennis action Friday morning.

The Pioneers (8-2) had a four-match winning streak come to an end against the Sailfish (7-4), as both teams had won their first three matches of their respective spring break trips.

The Sailfish took a 3-0 lead after doubles, but the Pioneers started their comeback at flight two of singles as Marco Meon defeated Philipp

Hoffmann by a 6-1, 6-2 score. At flight three, Yago Fernandez rallied from a set down to beat Rodolfo Hasegawa 10-6 in a tiebreaker, after splitting the first two sets 3-6, 6-4.

At flight five, Jorge Cervantes won in a tiebreaker 11-9 against Thomas Salmon after dividing the first two sets 4-6, 6-2, and at flight six Toby de Klerk beat Carlos Niemeyer by a 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) score.

Tusculum will open its South Atlantic Conference schedule on Saturday with a 1 p.m. match at Coker.



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### Debbie Overacker Retires As YMCA Wellness Director

A dinner was held at the Greene County YMCA on February 8 to celebrate the retirement of Debbie Overacker who passionately served as the Wellness Director at the Y for nearly 29 years. Current and former Y staff attended the luncheon, along with members of Debbie's family. Pictured above is former Executive Director Terry Bellamy and current YMCA Executive Director Mike Hollowell, presenting Debbie a certificate representing her outstanding service to the Greene County YMCA. "Debbie should be very proud of the many positive changes we have seen and the growth that has occurred in all phases of our Wellness Department under her leadership the past 29 years", stated Hollowell. "The quality of her work over this period of time was of tremendous value to our organization, and equally important, to the Y members who participated in the many services offered in the area of Wellness".



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### YMCA Elects New Board Members

Pictured above are the most recent elected members of the Greene County YMCA Board of Directors who were unanimously elected at the January meeting. Twenty-one individuals serve on the YMCA board each year and are assigned to various committees that support the organization. New members include: (L-R) Kevin Kinser, Laura White and Todd Smith. YMCA Executive Director Mike Hollowell stated, "This is another excellent group of volunteers who have committed themselves as leaders in our organization. Each brings valuable experiences to our Board, has a good understanding of the Y mission and realizes our commitment in the community for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility". The Y Board also elected the following Officers for 2018 – Dr. Paul Fox (President), Cathy Kyker (Vice President), Joe Gonzalez (Past President), Chuck Williams (Treasurer) and Rodney Bell (Appointed).

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