

VOTING FOR SGA ELECTION ENDS AT 5 P.M. TODAY



# The East Carolinian

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## G3ek-tacular fest

### Greenville to host comic event this weekend

Angel De Jesus  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Greenville's geek culture scene is booming.

With comic book stores such as Nostalgia Newsstand, World's Coolest Comics and World's Coolest Comics Uptown, Greenville is a hub for fans of everything "geek." To celebrate this passion, Jeff Wooten, Jason Donnalley and Richard Patterson (also known as "The G3eks") have created the event, G3ek-tacular.

G3ek-tacular, held this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Greenville Masonic Temple, is free to the public, and celebrates TV, movies, comics, sci-fi, video games and animation. Jeff Wooten said it all started a few years to raise money so he and his friends could go to HeroesCon, a comic book show in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"The three of us decided to purge some of our comics and collectibles and held a yard sale together, dubbing it 'G3ek-tacular' to try and catch people's eyes," said Wooten. "We were amazed at the turnout, which was young, middle-aged, old and from all walks of life."

Wooten and others noticed that so many other people from around the area were passionate about the things they were into and wanted to do more to expand G3ek-tacular by taking it from just a yard sale to an event that brings others together.

"When we talked to other fans in the area, we've noticed they were passionate and vocal about the properties they love," said Wooten. "You can't deny their enthusiasm."

For inspiration on expanding G3ek-tacular, "The G3eks" looked to the owner of Nostalgia Newstand, Charles Lawrence, a pioneer in the Greenville comic book scene and someone who has hosted comic book shows in Pitt County for many years.

"When we made the decision to expand G3ek-tacular, we were inspired by the events he put on and hope we can



A Spider-Man comic at World's Coolest Comics. G3ek-tacular will show similar comics.

serve as a pop culture complement to his shows," said Wooten.

People who come to G3ek-tacular 2017 could expect to see a large and diverse array of everything "geek," such as old comic books, latest hard-to-find issues, action figure T-shirts and local comic book titles. There will also be raffles for vintage Star Wars toys and classic comics.

Wooten said this event welcomes people who are new to "geek" culture or

are just wanting to experience something new.

"We hope you will at least be able to engage in conversations with us there about the properties you love or are looking to collect," said Wooten. "We hope that this year's event builds on last year's so that we can present an even bigger one for everyone next year."

To contact this writer, email arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

## SGA takes stand on anti-Semitism with resolution

Mary Katherine Karcher  
TEC STAFF

The Student Government Association voted to take a stand with the Jewish community at East Carolina University as it passed "The Fight Against Anti-Semitism Resolution," during last night's general assembly meeting.

The resolution calls upon ECU "to recognize and reaffirm the fight against anti-Semitism," according to SGA's reading of the resolution.

"Anti-Semitism is the bigoted targeting of a historically oppressed minority and should be taken as seriously as bigotry against all other historically oppressed minorities," according to the resolution. "The ECU SGA supports efforts against any form of hatred based on religion."

After going into detail about what anti-Semitism is as defined by the U.S. Department of State, the resolution outlines some contemporary forms of anti-semitism including instances that could very easily occur on a college campus like ECU.

The resolution was brought to SGA's attention due to instances of anti-semitism within the ECU community including graffiti targeting Jewish students found on campus, in off campus homes of Jewish students, as well as a growing number of bomb threats and hate crimes targeting the Jewish community in the nation at large.

According to the resolution, the assembly enacted this resolution in an effort to show its support and act as allies to student groups including East Carolina Hillel and Pirates for Israel, "to help foster a better understanding of Judaism and American-Jewish identity."

To meet this goal, SGA plans to actively work with Jewish student organizations and maintain an open dialogue with leaders of the Jewish community at ECU about issues important to the ECU community at large.

General Assembly member Troy Nance was a co-sponsor of this resolution in addition to Rachel Evenson, a representative of the East Carolina Hillel, and Ben Schine, a representative from Pirates for Israel.

"So instead of us just talking about going against anti-Semitism," said Nance. "We're just here supporting the two main organizations that deal with these communities."

Chloe Greenfield, a member of Pirates for Israel and East Carolina Hillel, was in attendance to hear the reading of the resolution.

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## White leads ECU past Huskies on Senior Night

Carson Cherry  
TEC STAFF

It was a picture perfect way for senior Caleb White to play his final home game, as he embraced his teammates at center court when the buzzer sounded with East Carolina sitting atop Connecticut, 66-62 on Senior Night.

White had one of the best performances of his career, grabbing a career-high 28 points during the game. The outing put his career points total at 1,545, which is fourth all-time in school history and second in the Division I era.

When it was all said and done, White and his teammates, including fellow seniors Michel Nzege and Andre Washington, met at center court to celebrate a hard-fought victory with emotional implications.

"It didn't hit me at the time," White said. "I was expecting it to. I thought I was going to cry in that moment because I knew it was going to hit me at some point. Just thinking about that being the last time, I just couldn't believe it."

The game ended in exciting fashion,



ECU senior Caleb White takes a shot during his career-high 28 point game in a Senior Night win.

with UConn rallying furiously down the stretch. With 7:11 left in the game, redshirt senior guard Rodney Purvis was fouled

while shooting a 3-pointer to complete a four-point play and put UConn up, 53-52. Sophomore Kentrell Barkley went on a

rampage of his own, setting up an 8-0 run for the Pirates, personally scoring all the points and grabbing the momentum back.

"It was just about making something happen," Barkley said, who scored 18 points and grabbed eight rebounds. "It didn't have to be scoring, just getting the ball and getting my teammates involved. Just being that guy, doing the dirty work and making it happen."

The Pirates' defense was the major factor and ultimately put them over the top. The Huskies shot 34 percent from the field and 35.3 percent from beyond the arc. UConn led for most of the game, for more than 22 minutes, but ECU got the shots that mattered the most down the stretch.

"This is not just a great win for our team, it's a great win for our program," interim head coach Michael Perry said. "Obviously I'm vested here and to be a part of a night like this. There haven't been many nights like this since I've been around so it's rewarding."

ECU will wrap up its season Sunday against Houston on the road.

To contact this writer, email sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

### ONLINE

» ECU closes out Black History Month celebration with panel discussion

» Women's basketball set to take on SMU in first round of AAC tournament

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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## BRIEFS

**ECU SGA passes new resolution regarding Athletics renovations**

Dowdy-Ficklen Renovation Support Resolution was passed by the East Carolina University Student Government Association Student Assembly on Feb. 22.

The resolution supports a planned \$55 million renovation of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium and nearby facilities. The proposed upgrades are aimed at improving game day experience for students and alumni.

**ECU to host program on foreign policy issues Saturday**

East Carolina University is set to host its 12th Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions Program Saturday. The program will consist of lectures on topics of global significance.

The program will be held in the Rivers Building, room 105 from 10 a.m. to noon. The cost of attendance is \$65.

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS**

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper, please contact Seth Gullledge at editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

# Brencher shares art of writing love letters

Blessing Aghimien  
TEC STAFF

By devoting this past Tuesday to sharing a message of healing on the campus of East Carolina University, Hannah Brencher brought a new meaning to the art of writing a love letter.

Rising to prominence with the delivery of her 2012 TEDTalk, "Love Letters to Strangers," Brencher has long shown the world her passion for transferring love from pen to paper. Since then, she has been featured on numerous publications such as the Wall Street Journal and Glamour Magazine and published a memoir. She also founded "The World Needs More Love Letters," a global non-profit organization that uses the power of social media to write and mail letters to strangers all over the world. With her two-part event, Brencher said she wanted ECU's community to understand the impact of writing a letter and how it can grow into something "bigger than one person."

"Love to me is a verb. It's much more about what you do, and how you should do the hard things even when you don't feel like it," said Brencher. "College students can deal with a lot of digital disconnect, depression and anxiety. These letters can inspire conversations where you can get outside of yourself, which in turn can be very helpful."

The event was hosted by ECU's chapter of "She's The First," a non-profit organization that supports girls' education in low-income countries. Taking a particular liking to Brencher at the 2015 She's The First Conference, senior university studies major Keerthana Velappan worked for over a year to host an event featuring Brencher. After settling funding and timing concerns, Velappan said she was proud to finally have the Valentine's Day month be one for Brencher to make her ECU debut.

"Personally, Hannah made a big impact on me at that conference. She's someone who is very acclaimed, yet down to earth and very humble," said Velappan, president of ECU's chapter of She's the First. "One of her big things is how you make a choice to keep fighting or to give in. All I hope for is that people will draw inspiration from



Hannah Brencher speaks in Hendrix Theater. The event taught the attendees the art of writing love letters.

this and realize that they don't have to accept their pain as the last chapter."

The first part of Brencher's event was a love letter workshop. Both students and faculty gathered around circular tables and colorful stationery to learn more about Brencher's life long passion in order to apply it to their own personal lives. Brencher laid down some ground rules in the form of do's and don'ts, telling each attendee that it's OK to have imperfections in their letter and that they should avoid trying to be "fixers."

Songs of empowerment like "Unwritten" by Natasha Bedingfield and "Independent Women, Pt. 1" by Destiny's Child rang throughout the room as attendees mingled with each other and wrote letters to their past teachers, close friends and even their future selves. Brencher also gave the names and letter requests for two girls featured on her More Love Letters website, in case anyone wanted to write letters to help them through their struggles.

"When it comes to writing a letter, you have to be there in the moment and engaged. It's all about taking the time to sit down and compose something to keep the art alive, which it turn can

make people appreciate the effort and time such an art can take up," Velappan said.

Brencher spent the second part of her event speaking more intimately about her life, divulging details about how she became the woman she is today. By sharing dark times such as her battle with depression, to sprinkling traces of refreshing humor when she talked about her 70-year-old "Starbucks boyfriend," the scene at Hendrix Theatre was one of cohesion as Brencher made sure to bond with her audience.

Brencher built her message around the word "stay," encouraging her audience to "stay hungry, small and here" in times of adversity. Leaving the audience with a list of actions that they could use in daily life, she assured the importance of staying in the moment especially in the time of a fast-paced, digital age.

"I've learned a lot of lessons from living in the real world," said Brencher. "We live in a culture that so focused on the come and go. We grow when we choose to stay."

To contact this writer, email news@theeastcarolinian.com.

# Vidant Medical Center runs hurricane drills

Cayla Rodney  
TEC STAFF

Vidant Medical Center is wrapping up "120 to Landfall," a week-long exercise that puts staff members through scenarios and prepares them for crises during potential hurricanes.

"This exercise series is particularly critical, not only to Vidant Health, but to all the health care facilities in eastern North Carolina since there are literally thousands of patients that could be in harm's way should a large hurricane impact us," said Chris Starbuck, healthcare preparedness coordinator for VMC, in a recent press release. "We need to be properly prepared and able to maintain a state of readiness to evacuate, and/or if needed, shelter-in-place these patients."

The simulation began Feb. 22 and ends today. Each day focuses on preparedness elements such as evacuation, patient transport and

statewide communication.

For this scenario, the hospital is preparing for a category four hurricane that is making landfall in Onslow County with no signs of weakening and is also bringing in destructive winds. Because of these factors, the staff must decide what is best for the various patients.

Vidant reports that on average over the course of a year it treats about 44,500 inpatients and more than 171,000 outpatients in its facilities.

With thousands of patients to take into consideration, Starbuck said by taking this time to plan, Vidant is able to "identify any weaknesses or gaps in plans so that we can improve upon them prior to an actual event."

When a threat such as this arises, Starbuck said, "Hospitals will try to decompress its patient load if patients have a safe place to go and as the storm nears, elective procedures will decrease

and ultimately stop at some point prior to landfall."

He said the decision to evacuate and relocate patients "could produce a significant strain to the health care infrastructure across the state."

Though Vidant has never had to evacuate because of a storm, the threat is always there. Many factors would go into Vidant's decision to evacuate, such as the intensity of the storm, the speed of the storm, previous rainfall and flooding.

"Leadership must weigh all these factors against the risk of patient movement," said Starbuck. "Evacuation of the medical fragile is not without risk of possible harm to the patient. Especially if the patient has to be moved long distances."

This exercise has been conducted for the last three years by healthcare agencies, county emer-

gency management organizations, public health agencies and emergency medical services (EMS) providers from the 29 counties that fall under the Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (EHPC). Also six counties from the Southeastern Healthcare Preparedness Region (SHPR) have participated in the events.

The EHPC and the SHPR have both put effort into planning meetings, workshops, tabletop exercises, a functional exercise and now the "120 Landfall" exercise.

Though Vidant hopes to never have to use these evacuation plans, Starbuck said it knows the potential for a big storm is always present.

"All hospitals should plan and exercise those plans to stay vigilant in the preparation of events that threaten the safety to those we serve," said Starbuck.

To contact this writer, email news@theeastcarolinian.com.

# Town Hall draws vocal crowd

Melissa Glen  
TEC STAFF

Greenville citizens were reduced to voicing their concerns to cardboard cutouts of North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr and Sen. Thom Tillis last night, after both representatives failed to show up to the local Town Hall meeting.

Marianne Montgomery, East Carolina University's English department chair, said she decided to host the event after seeing no response to numerous petitions asking for the senators to host town hall meetings during the congressional recess last week.

Around 50 people showed up to Sheppard Memorial Library for the event, speaking on a range of topics.

Amanda Klein, a film professor at ECU, was among the crowd. Klein said she thinks it is crucial Burr and Tillis listen to people at the local level to get ideas of what they need to and be doing as their representatives.

"I know they are actively avoiding these, but clearly people have something to say," said Klein. "I think a lot of people feel really helpless right now with what's happening in the White House, and they are the only voice we have right now."

Klein said she would like the senators to focus on improving public education for the state. Klein added funding has been a big issue at the university level and she feels as though the appointment of Betsy DeVos will only hurt the education system even more.

"We have been systematically stripped back for resources year after year," said Klein. "I am hoping that our senators will take the public education of North Carolina seriously."

Another hot topic at the meeting had to do with environmental concerns, specifically regarding the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Local



A Greenville community member speaks at the public library. Cutouts of NC senators are on the wall.

citizen, Brian Glover said he wanted to thank Sen. Burr for introducing Senate Bill 348, which reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but he wants to see the bill being fully funded to its \$900 million budget again.

Glover also said he would like to see the senator introduce legislation to bring back the greenhouse gas regulations that were in President Obama's clean power plan.

"We are probably going to be the first part of North Carolina to suffer greatly from the effects of climate change," said Glover.

Jan Paysour, a Greenville local, said healthcare was the reason she came out to the meeting. Paysour said she hopes to see the senators take note of how costly it could be for someone without good healthcare to encounter medical issues.

"I want our Republican leaders to give us an affordable healthcare plan as they promised they

would," said Paysour. "We want answers. We want a plan. We want a plan that's easy to understand."

Paysour said she was disappointed Burr and Tillis did not come out to the meeting themselves to hear from the people they are representing.

"The news story for today was that they were too cowardly to be here," said Paysour. "They didn't have enough courage to face us and we weren't a violent group; we were people like me, grandmothers that just want to be heard."

Montgomery said she reached out to both of the senators' offices, inviting them to the event but only heard a response from Burr's office. It said the office would think about sending someone in his place. However, no one from either office attended the event.

To contact this writer, email news@theeastcarolinian.com.

## TAKING A STAND

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"One of the places that got called with a bomb threat was my high school in Greensboro," said Greenfield. "So I was in the same boat (as Evenson) thinking 'There wasn't already anything about that here?'"

Greenfield and Evenson attended the meeting together as a way of showing their support for the resolution and SGA. Evenson was a freshman at ECU when several public forms of anti-semitism occurred. She said she supports SGA's resolution.

"I didn't know that anti-Semitism wasn't already part of hate crime rules or a part of SGA originally," said Evenson. "I thought that was a no brainer. That has to be a hate crime."

With the passing of this resolution, SGA shows its support of Jewish students at ECU and works to enhance the relationship between Jewish student organizations, the general student body and SGA.

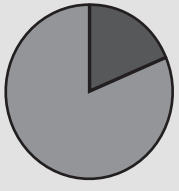
"Now that it's being passed and seeing how many people supported it," said Greenfield. "It was warming."

To contact this writer, email news@theeastcarolinian.com.



## ANSWER

Did you go to the baseball games this past weekend?



YES 18.8%  
NO 81.3%

## QUESTION

Are you leaving the country for Spring Break this year?

Vote online at  
[www.TheEastCarolinian.com](http://www.TheEastCarolinian.com)

# Our view

## Symbiotic value of press to democracy

The press is a crucial building block to American democracy. The two way street of providing essential information to the world about the government allows the people to hold their representatives accountable. In return, the public holds the press responsible for the accuracy of the content they produce.

This system has allowed the United States to become a beacon for democracy. However, this way of life has come under attack by certain government officials. Moreover, in recent years trust in the press has dropped with the growing sentiment that the content the media is producing is fake, bias or lying.

The press of this nation is tasked with covering the government. This duty means that news reporters must examine the statements and topics brought forth by politicians no matter who the individual is or what their party affiliation is.

It is the duty of the press to report the facts. The press must ask the critical questions to politicians and in some cases even publish articles questioning the government. The media does this in order to give its readers the information they need to make informed decisions.

Moreover, when politicians have potential conflict of interests or give the media a need to investigate a topic, the press must look into the issue.

The press investigating certain topics and not others does not reflect any bias within the industry. Publishing information with certain identities of sources being withheld does not make the industry full of liars or the news being processed being fake. Some journalist or news organizations are more ethical than others, but as a whole the media is honest. At the core of every journalist or organization is the motivation to create an informed society.

# Trump needs to work with media



### YOUR DAILY MEL

President Donald Trump announced on Twitter Saturday that he would not be attending the White House Correspondents' Dinner this year, and if this

was supposed to be Trump's way of taking a stance on mainstream media's dishonesty, it was a misguided attempt.

Refusing to go to a dinner which celebrates young students in the field of journalism because of personal concerns with the mainstream media is not only failing to send a message to mainstream media outlets, but it is sending the wrong message to all journalists in the country.

As a student-journalist, I see a different side of media than most of the country. I see young adults who are passionate about

journalism, passionate about uncovering the truth and passionate about making a difference. I see people who have not offended Trump, people who have not distributed "fake news." I see people who have no reason to be associated with Trump's attacks on media, but are getting caught in the crossfire.

While the dinner is satirical in nature, it can easily be seen as unimportant or even as a joke. However, the important part of the dinner is not the skits and the shows. The main purpose of the dinner is to celebrate the future of journalism and I wish our current president saw this as something worth celebrating.

Trump needs to realize that to be silent and passive is to be part of the problem. By not going, Trump is giving in to the people he claims to be against. He says he has a problem with the media. He says the media needs to change, but in order to enact change, one needs to form a relationship with the group in question.

Trump cannot shut the media out. He cannot ignore the media. He cannot pretend the media does not exist. If Trump wants the media to take his criticisms seriously, he needs to address it and be willing to work with it.

Is fake news a problem in America? Yes, I am not ignorant. I know objectivity is becoming rarer and rarer every day, but Trump shows no solution to this issue. If anything, the scariest part of Trump's war on media to me is how easy it is for him to give up on the media.

Rather than try to encourage young journalists who are about to step out into the real world to fight for truth and honesty, Trump seems to be more satisfied with giving all media a bad name.

Trump says he does not have a problem with all media, just the "fake news" or "liberal-biased" media, but they are not the only media outlets which will be present at the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Fox,

Wall Street Journal and many other conservative-leaning news outlets will be there as well.

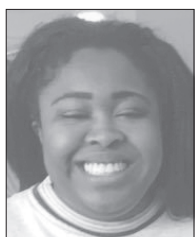
Media is crucial to any government and will continue to be a crucial part of America. There is no question of its importance in my mind.

Even Thomas Jefferson said, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

The truth is the media is pivotal to a government, because it serves as the check for this government. Without media, there would be no one to hold these public figures accountable. For this, media should be seen as an asset to the country, but I am continuously finding it hard to believe Trump only wants media to change and not disappear altogether.

Melissa Glen is a sophomore majoring in political science and communication. To contact this writer, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

# Technology takes over valuable life moments



Virality has become the norm on planet Earth, a norm that has been almost too real to accept at times. People are too focused on liking and retweeting what's behind a screen than taking in once-in-a-lifetime moments that may be standing right

in front of them. The true meaning of the word "friend" has been warped into a kind of mysterious entity that you or I may never be able to truly define. While it has its benefits, virality has proven to be a problem that we cannot ignore for a second longer.

About two weeks ago, I attended an event here at East Carolina that made me evaluate my entire purpose. My purpose as a student, as a daughter, as a sister and even as a human being. That purpose what centered on the question of why.

Hannah Brencher is who I have to thank for posing the question of why in my mind. By attending Brencher's event on the art of writing love letters, I gained a brand new understanding of what it means to truly be aware of the world around me. Brencher's work is something that has inspired me to start a goal of my own--to write a letter to every educator who has had some sort of

impact on me at some point in my life, from elementary school to high school, before the end of 2017.

Why, you may ask? I'm a high school graduate, one that doesn't have to revisit my past. Middle school and elementary school are a blur to most, including myself. The reason behind this project is because I want to take the time out my day, each day, for the purpose of stopping to think. To reflect on what it means to be a current student who values her education so much. Along the way were many teachers who stood out in my memory, all being stepping stones to my journey of pursuing a high education.

To my 10th grade creative writing teacher who taught me the importance of imagination. To my 11th grade newspaper teacher who helped to reassure me that journalism was the path I shouldn't stray from. To my 12th grade theatre teacher who saw something in me when no one else would and cast me in a show that later became the best memory of my high school experience (Note: never go to a trampoline park and put yourself at risk for ankle sprain a week before an audition). I thank you for showing me what it means to value a student. I thank you for being the epitome of what every educator should be. These are the people who are worthy of gratitude, who are worthy of every word that I've written in the letters meant



PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Students sometimes look at social media platforms during class instead of engaging in activities.

for them. Who are worthy of me staying in the moment. This is a task worth looking up from the likes that social media may offer me Reader, I encourage you to do just as I have. I don't necessarily mean revisiting the glorious days of junior high and high school just to shop for the teachers that didn't give you detention. I encourage you and I challenge you to stay in the moment. Don't fall victim to virality and the tight grasp of the digital age. Take the time out of your day, everyday, to reflect on the world around you in real-time. Have a face-to-face conversation with a friend without picking up the phone when there's an awkward silence. Write a journal entry about how your day was. Look at a

photo album or that photo that's collecting dust on your desk and think back on the moment when that photo was taken.

Don't be afraid ask yourself why. When caught up in technology, sometimes we can be taken to websites and profiles that make us ask ourselves, "Why am I here again?" That should be a question we ask ourselves daily. If we are clueless to why we're doing something, maybe that should be a sign that we have no business doing it. You have forever to be caught up in the world of technology. There's no such thing as forever and a day when it comes to the world around us.

Blessing Aghimien is a freshman majoring in communication. To contact this writer, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## TUNE IN EVERY DAY



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**72**  
hours  
MAP OUT YOUR WEEKEND

**TODAY**

**Embrace Film Screening and Panel**  
Hendrix Theatre  
5 p.m.

**2017 African American Writers Read In**  
Joyner Library  
7 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

**First Friday ArtWalk**  
Uptown Greenville  
5 p.m.

**Beyond Bricks and Mortar**  
Joyner Library  
5 p.m.

**Comedy Night**  
Whirligig Stage  
8 p.m.

**SATURDAY**

**The Still Shakers**  
Whirligig Stage  
7:30 p.m.

**G3ek-tacular Greenville Masonic**  
Temple  
10 a.m.

**8th Annual Chili Cookoff**  
Ron Ayers Motorsports  
9 a.m.

**SUNDAY**

**Free Market**  
Corner of 12th St. and Forbes St.  
11 a.m.



Collin Yates tries on a wig from "1776." Along with acting, Yates' hobbies include both card tricks and magic. COURTESY OF ECU.EDU

## From Magic to Mainstage

Acting and magic collide with ECU actor Collin Yates

**Andy Li**  
TEC STAFF

Collin Yates does magic and once you know that, that's all you can see. His fingers, like him, are long and lean and constantly fidgeting, just waiting to flip the card over, to trigger that shocked and astounded reaction when he says, "Is this your card?"

"I'm a very kinesthetic person. I like to use my hands when I speak, I fidget a lot," Yates said in his matter-of-fact voice. "When I was in high school, I would doodle on my paper all the time. When I learned magic, I had something I could take everywhere — a deck of cards. Now, when I'm in class, I sit there and I practice shuffling, I practice a flourish."

Yates doesn't mince words when he talks about magic; he states the facts plainly. It's only when he talks about acting that a lopsided smile stretches across his face. It's only when he discusses "the work" when his eyes really brighten and the words begin to flow out.

"The rehearsal process has been amazing," Yates said. "Getting to know the cast and getting to work with Robert Caprio and Tommi Galaska, it's just been an amazing process to take this work and put it on the stage."

The work Yates is talking about is "1776," which finished its run Tuesday. Yates

played founding father and author of the Declaration of Independence Thomas Jefferson, a quiet and intellectual man.

"A lot of the research that I did seems to show a lot of the things people care about start after the Declaration," Yates said. "There's not a lot about his personal life before that. Especially with his wife, Martha. After she died pretty young, he burned all of their letters."

Despite some difficulties, Yates found some research on the reserved president.

"He was a very amazing guy. Had a fear of public speaking," Yates said. "In his autobiography, halfway through the book, it said, 'I hate how much I'm talking about myself, but I have to because people want an autobiography, but I just want you to know how much I hate it.'"

Yates' own journey to the stage began in sixth grade, which spiraled into his passion today.

"I auditioned for the Wizard of Oz. I got the Lion and really from then on I knew what I wanted to do," Yates said.

Yates added, "My parents were both in theatre. Both my mom and my dad worked in New York for a while. My entire family does theatre."

Yates' passion had been given immense tutelage while

at East Carolina University and he is grateful for the support he has found here.

"I'm just really excited to finish out the training in the next couple of years," Yates said. "The meisner training and the musical theatre training that Michael Tehaney provides us... all of that helped me immensely since I came. I was a completely different actor when I came here two years ago."

After spring break, Yates immediately begins rehearsals for "Lend Me A Tenor," which premieres in April.

"That is a very, very small cast," Yates said. "I'm really, really excited to work with... it's only eight people. I'm really excited to work with a small cast. And I haven't done a straight play since high school."

Yates hopes that once he graduates, he can use magic to support himself while pursuing theatre in New York. He urges others to go out and make their dreams a reality.

"In the words of Shia Labeouf, 'Just do it,'" Yates said. "Good or bad, don't let anyone's opinion's sway you. If you want to do something, go and do it."

Yates seems confident about going out and following his dreams and no doubt he'll be keeping a deck of cards close by through it all.

To contact this writer, email arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

## Whirligig to host local band

**Lauren Sura**  
TEC STAFF

When one door closes, another one is sure to follow as the band The Still Shakers, who will perform at Whirligig Stage Saturday at 7:30 p.m., demonstrates.

Coming from two previous bands, the members embrace their individuality while contributing to the group's bluegrass sound.

Members Adam Jones, William Smith and Robert Norman were a part of Washington-based band Carolina Still while Smith also played with current members David Hayes and Jason Bullard in Greenville-based band Redhorse Black.

The road for both bands ended when the leads from each band took a different path.

"We just kind of decided to combine efforts and was just like, 'Hey let's get together and go from there,'" Jones said.

Norma added, "A few things have come together, I'm not really sure



**Jason Bullard**

what they are but we can feel it come together."

The members bring a variety of experience to the table, ranging from country and rock to church

music.

"Nobody's an expert at one particular thing," Bullard said. "Nobody's a traditional bluegrass player."

While playing around eastern North Carolina, the band embraces projects that come its way, with plans of future recording.

"I'm excited for the band cause I feel like we're really coming together and talking musically," Hayes said. "It's just going to be really cool to see where we go."

With all members having the typical nine-to-five job schedule, the band is an important aspect that will continue to grow in their lives.

While each musician has their own musical journey to take, The Still Shakers know bringing passion and energy to the collaboration is important.

"It's not just playing... it's listening to everything you can with an open mind," Bullard said. "At the end of the day, we don't expect anything. We'd love people to come out, fill the place up and have a good time. That would be really cool on a regular basis to get that."

To contact this writer, email arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

## Project Cinderella gives back to Greenville youth

**Madison Lawson**  
TEC STAFF

In a woman's wardrobe, the possibilities of outfit combinations are endless. In the very depths of the closet, usually behind all those hand-me-downs and clothes that are now too small, hangs that amazing one-of-a-kind dress from senior prom. Whether that prom was a few years ago or 20 years ago, a local organization offers the opportunity to donate old dresses Saturday at 10 a.m and give them a second life this prom season.

"I posted on Facebook that I wanted to donate my prom dresses and next thing you know a bunch of people commented on my post and wanted to do the same thing," said Robin Linkous, co-founder of Project Cinderella.

Other co-founders, Kelly Williams and Cedrick Lee, said they saw this huge response as an opportunity to give back to the community.

"Our mission is to round up dresses that people don't want anymore and give them to high school girls who can not attend prom due to financial hardships," said Lee.

Linkous said prom is an important experience in a young girl's life.

"They have been dressing up since they



A woman shops for dresses downtown. Project Cinderella will recycle used prom dresses for teens. PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

were babies," said Linkous. "It starts with those cute little Cinderella costumes and I don't think that passion ever dies as they get older."

What started out as a small idea turned into a full-fledged prom dress shopping experience in a matter of two months. The project hopes to create an inviting atmosphere where every girl is welcome to look around and try on what they like.

Since January, the three founders have been working hard to not only get dress donations but donations from local

businesses as well.

"Bowens Dry Cleaning is really helping us out by giving every girl a coupon for a free dry cleaning," said Williams. "It's amazing. Also, Payless has donated a coupon for 20 percent off all shoes and accessories in case girls want to look for shoes elsewhere."

As a foster parent for two girls, one of them in ninth grade, Lee knows what it's like to have a daughter who wants to attend a school dance.

"She really had nothing to wear that made her feel comfortable enough to fit in,"

said Lee. "We want to make sure that the girls who come Saturday don't feel like they are wearing an old dress. We want to make it as real as possible for them."

To make it feel real, the group has over 120 dresses for girls to choose from with sizes ranging from zero to 22. They also have a Mary Kay makeup artist coming and made sure to include a range of accessories such as shoes, jewelry and handbags.

As a single mother, Williams said prom can be a very expensive event and it can be hard on parents to give their kids the experience they want them to have.

"They say the average cost of prom is around \$500," said Williams. "People don't have that kind of money laying around."

With this in mind, Project Cinderella hopes to have a big turnout Saturday and calls all high school students looking for dresses to stop by. The event is being held at the University Church of Christ on 100 Crestline Blvd. from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Prom is one of those memories people cherish," said Williams. "We want these girls to know that people are thinking about them and that they are not alone. Hopefully, we inspire them to take this kindness and pay it forward."

To contact this writer, email arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

## HOUSES FOR RENT

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lease for each home MUST start on the date listed in the homes description. We can show and sign a lease now for a lease starting this summer. Last year all of our houses were rented by March find your house now so don't miss out. Go to **PIRATEPLACES.COM** today.

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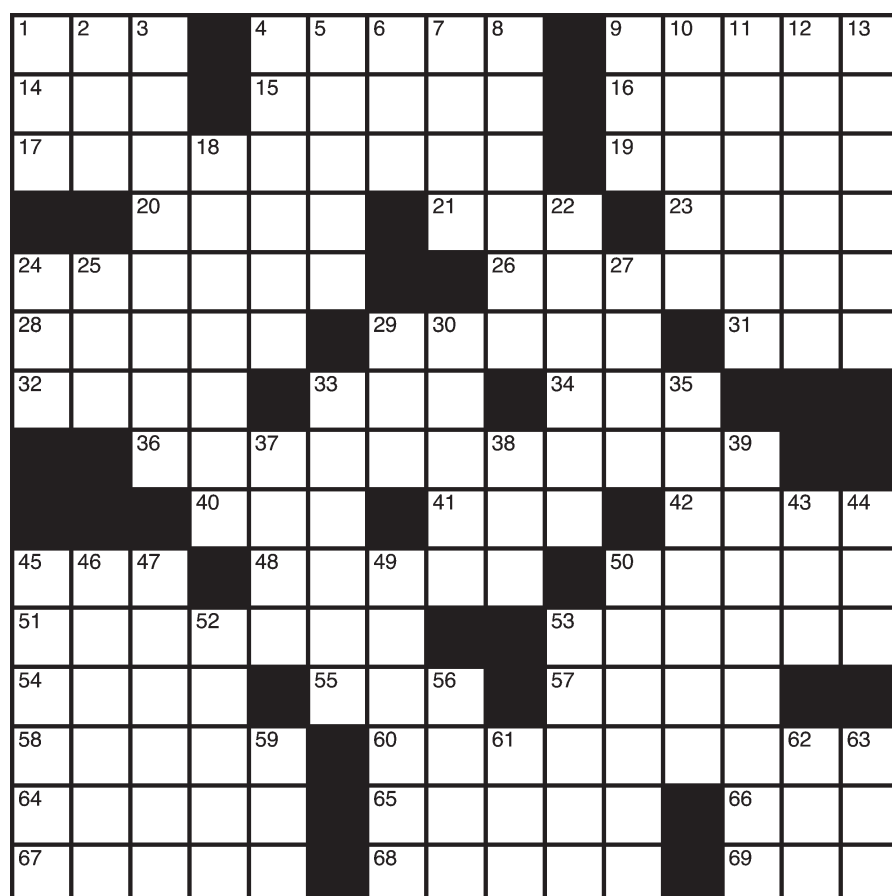
## OTHER:

**G3ektacular Super Saturday!** 3/4, 10a-4p. Kick off Spring Break with comics, collectibles, pop artwork & more! Lots of vendors! Greenville Masonic Temple, 1104 Charles Street. P: 565-2352; FB: G3eks.

## PUZZLES

- ACROSS**  
 1 Bleach container  
 4 Shed door attachments  
 9 Like iceberg lettuce  
 14 Freudian topic  
 15 Marginally ahead  
 16 Relative of bongos  
 17 Queen's domain  
 19 Cause of a skid, perhaps  
 20 Tom Jones' "\_\_\_ a Lady"  
 21 Payroll service co.  
 23 \_\_\_-à-porter: ready-to-wear  
 24 Keep from happening  
 26 Queen's domain  
 28 Corporate big shots  
 29 With false modesty  
 31 Bubbly opener?  
 32 Hide from a hunter

- DOWN**  
 1 39th pres.  
 2 "Bummer"  
 3 Runs amok  
 4 Uncouth types, in Canadian slang  
 5 Severe anxiety  
 6 Yellow \_\_\_  
 7 Adidas rival  
 8 Left in the dust  
 9 Nos. that are beside the point  
 10 Actor Fiennes  
 11 It's across the Pyrenees from France  
 12 Tailor's measure  
 13 Auction spiel  
 18 Destroy  
 22 New York suburb bordering New Rochelle  
 24 Recipe amt.  
 25 Tinge  
 27 Once-over giver  
 29 USCG rank  
 30 Took out  
 33 Gossip  
 35 Santa portrayer in "Elf"  
 37 Alguna \_\_\_: something, in Spain



## Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



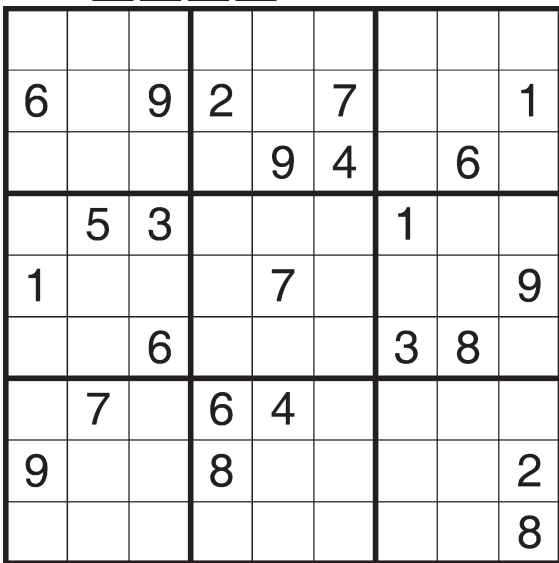
- 38 Cavs, on a scoreboard  
 39 White way  
 43 Chem class suffix  
 44 "Game of Thrones" patriarch Stark  
 45 Covers stealer  
 46 Join the club  
 47 Guide for a chair  
 49 High standards  
 50 Scold  
 52 Weighted down  
 53 \_\_\_ boom  
 56 Met delivery  
 59 "Then what happened?"  
 61 Critter on the Australian 50-cent coin  
 62 Machine part  
 63 Beer source

## SUDOKU

# SUDOKU

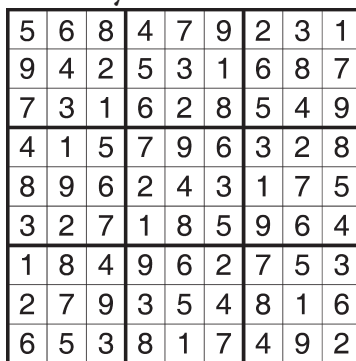
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4



## Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

3/2/17

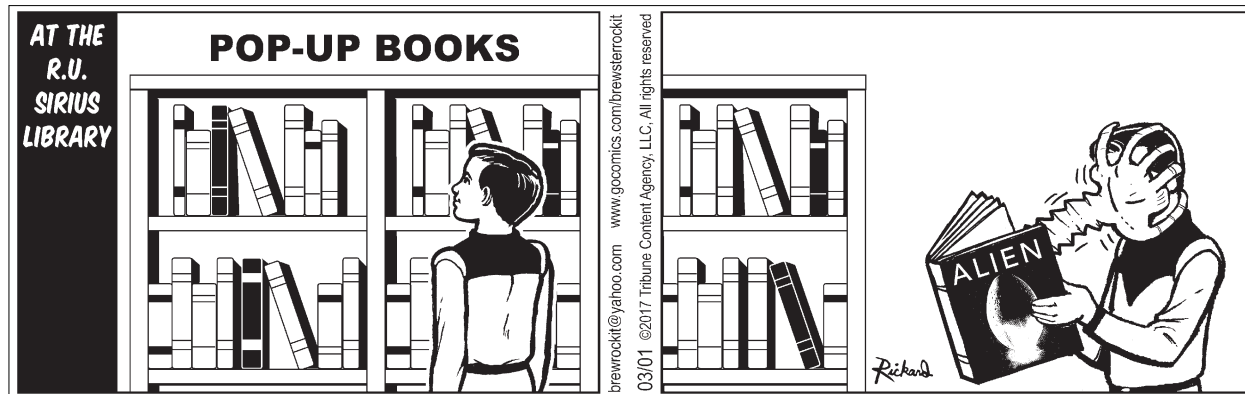
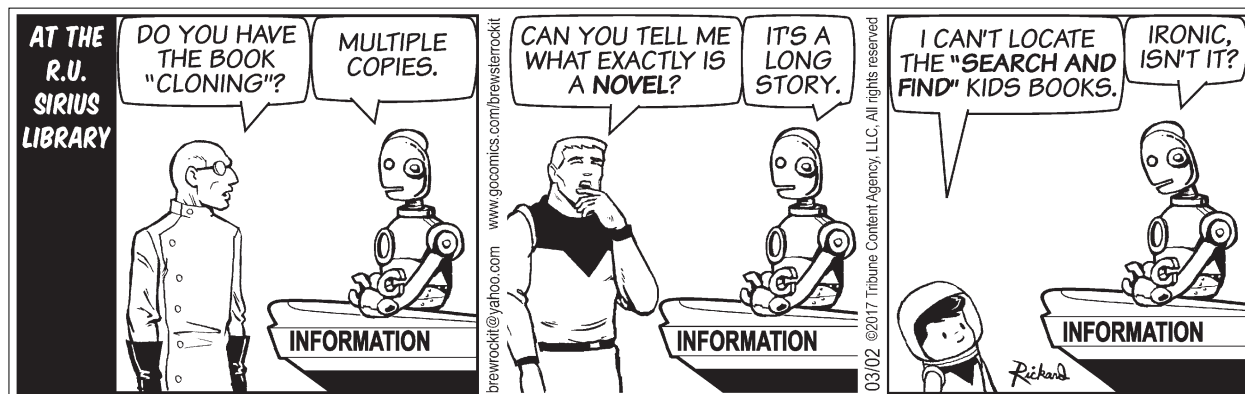


Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

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## COMIC

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## Pirates conquer Phoenix

### Holba pushes ECU past in-state Elon

**Tyler Gavin**  
TEC STAFF

Chris Holba stepped on the mound Wednesday night with hopes of giving East Carolina a chance to beat in-state foe Elon to push the team's winning streak to five.

Holba lead ECU (5-3) to a 7-2 win over the Phoenix. His nine strikeouts are almost twice as many as his previous career-high of five, and the 7-inning outing is also the longest of his career.

He rolled to a night he won't soon forget, setting two personal bests and allowing the Pirate hitters to make up for the few mistakes he made.

"(Midweek starter is) my role for right now and I'm just executing it," Holba said. "It's nice to have a weekly routine I can go through and have some consistency with my preparation."

However, Holba's success didn't come right away. The first batter of the night, Elon's Zach Evers, laced a double into the outfield and scored when Joe Satterfield ripped a double down the right field line.

This was the first time in ECU's first eight games that the Pirates weren't first to score, and the first run Elon had scored in 23 innings.

Satterfield came around two batters later on a sacrifice fly by Kyle Jackson to give the Phoenix

a 2-0 lead. "Anytime the first three guys get on, your antennas go up a little bit, but we didn't send anyone to the bullpen," head coach Cliff Godwin said.

It wasn't until the third inning that the Pirates finally got on the scoreboard. T.J. Riles, who usually bats in the top half of the order, found himself in the nine hole last night but made the most out of his first at bat as he shot a grounder in between the first and second base-man.

Advancing to third off of Charlie Yorgen's single in the next at bat, Riles started toying with Elon catcher Hayden Platt enough to make him throw it into left field, allowing him to score easily. Later in the inning, Yorgen scored off a Luke Bolka sacrifice fly to knot the game at two.

Yorgen found himself in the leadoff spot for the second consecutive game and didn't miss the opportunity.

Going 2-for-5 on the night with two runs scored and a RBI, Yorgen led ECU in RBI on Wednesday and was a key in the win. He is now batting .370 on the year.

"I'm definitely not the fastest leadoff guy in the country," Yorgen said. "I think I was there once my freshman year but never since then, but it's all fun and I'll do whatever



Sophomore Chris Holba winds up to throw a pitch against Elon.

helps the team win."

The third inning broke open the flood gates for the Pirates, as they went on to score four more runs in the next two innings, highlighted by Travis Watkins' first career triple in the eighth inning. He later scored on a passed ball to make the score 6-2.

The four-run cushion was plenty for the stellar pitching of Holba and Matt Bridges, who came in to close out the last two innings. Of the seven batters Bridges faced, he struck out three and only surrendered one hit.

Up next for the Pirates is the 14th Keith LeClair Clas-

sic hosted by ECU. They will be welcoming St. John's and two in-state schools with Western Carolina and Appalachian State both coming to Greenville.

ECU's chance to represent the historic coach is meaningful to everyone in the organization.

"Anything that has coach LeClair's name on it is special to me, to all of Pirate Nation and to our fan base," Godwin said. "We just want us to come out and play the way coach would want us to play."

To contact this writer, email sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

## Norrman set to represent ECU in Indianapolis

**Daniel Roberts**  
TEC STAFF

Junior Vendela Norrman is heading to Indianapolis, Indiana to compete among the nation's best in the 200-yard breaststroke event at the NCAA Women's Swim and Dive Championships, March 15.



Vendela Norrman

The NCAA Championships is something Norrman has aspired to be a part of since she first came to East Carolina.

"It is very exciting, it really motivates you when the whole team supports you and is behind you in all of this," Norrman said. "I have been close for two years, it did not go like I wanted so I kept trying to get to this point."

As a freshman, Norrman competed in seven dual meets and was a member of the American Athletic Conference Championship squad. She was a two-time championship event finalist and a two-time Nike Cup Championship finalist.

Norrman was also a NCAA "B" Qualifier in the 200-yard breaststroke. She broke the ECU freshman record in the 100-yard breaststroke race, as well as setting the freshman and varsity record in the 200-yard breaststroke event. Along with her accomplishments in the pool, she made the Dean's List in both her fall and spring semesters.

In her sophomore season, Norrman competed in eight dual meets and scored 35 points at the Conference Championship. She set the ECU varsity record in the 200-yard breaststroke again and accumulated 15 top-three finishes during the regular season. She was a member of the AAC All-Academic Team and was named to the Pirates' Chancellor's list during both semesters.

When it came to recognizing who helped her reach this point the most, Norrman credited assistant coach Kevin Woodhull-Smith for her success as a swimmer.

"He taught me a lot with swimming and other stuff," she said. "He helped me work on my mental approach to help me prepare for the upcoming meet."

Norrman has worked hard in practice to get her body in top shape to make sure that when she gets to the meet her physicality would not be an issue. Competing among the best in the nation comes with a lot of pressure both physically and mentally. Norrman has been focusing more on her mentality than her physicality when it comes to preparing to go to Indianapolis.

"To be able to compete against the best, you have to work hard to get your body and mentality prepared," Norrman said. "It is more of a mental thing. You have to think positive and know that you can do well in order to perform well."

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