



VOLUME 93, ISSUE 23

SOJOURNER CELEBRATES
EIGHT YEARS IN UPTOWN

Turn to A5

The East Carolinian

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Tuesday, 4.4.17



PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Patrons sit at Sup Dogs on Fifth Street just minutes before tip off in the National Championship game. The game coincided with Mug Night.

Game draws fans downtown

Jennifer Hines
TEC STAFF

Emily Harvey
TEC STAFF



The smell of beer and cheesy tots wafted through the air as basketball fans gathered to cheer on their teams in the NCAA men's basketball National Championship game last night.

The North Carolina Tar Heels and Gonzaga Bulldogs faced off while people packed into Sup Dogs for Mug Night, making their already popular night jam packed with people both indoors and out.

Carolina fan and freshman speech and hearing sciences major Brooke Digregorio packed onto the deck at Sup Dogs to join her friends and enjoy the atmosphere.

"I knew everyone comes on Mondays and I knew the game would be on so (I came) to hang out with everyone," Digre-

gorio said.

Among others sitting near a TV on the deck, sophomore engineering major Dalton Jordan made his way downtown for the atmosphere, \$1 beers and more.

"I just like how everyone interacts," Jordan said. "And there's a bunch of pretty girls."

While the crowds at Sup Dogs were not washed all in Carolina blue t-shirts, most everyone claimed to support the Tar Heels except a select few. Jordan, an NC State fan, said he hoped the Tar Heels would lose.

"I hope Gonzaga pulls it out," Jordan said. "Yeah, I hope it's a buzzer beater."

Junior elementary education major Claire Jackson, also a supporter of \$1 beers, said she watched the college football National Championship at Sup Dogs. She said that was a good time because of the crowded and fan-filled atmosphere.

"The Bama game here was very fun," she said. "It was so much fun. Everyone was wild."

She said the atmosphere of the Alabama game is what made watching it fun and is why she chose to come out to Sup Dogs for the NCAA championship game this year.

"It's fun, the atmosphere," Jackson said. "But, yeah, it wouldn't be as fun if I watched it at home."

As the sun went down and a chilly breeze swept over the deck at Sup Dogs, more fans arrived and searched for an empty spot wherever they could find one in view of a TV, anticipating the tip-off of the championship game. Drinks and appetizers were plentiful as everyone enjoyed the camaraderie of watching a game together.

To contact this writer, email
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Greenville FR: Arlington blaze undetermined

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

The cause of a fire at the My Eye Dr. located on West Arlington Boulevard has been called undetermined after investigators with multiple agencies spent Sunday night and most of Monday trying to identify what set off the blaze.

In a Monday evening statement to the media, Rebekah Thurston, public information officer with GFR said investigators were unsuccessful at finding any evidence that could identify what started the blaze. Because of the massive loss of property, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and the Greenville Police Department assisted GFR with the investigation.

"Based on the information we have at this point the investigation (the fire) was ruled undetermined," she said.

Thurston explained that fire investigators will use the term "undetermined" when there is not enough evidence to help identify what caused a fire. The investigation will remain open and the cause of fire could change if new evidence is discovered.

The My Eye Dr. was situated in an area of Greenville mixed with both businesses and private homes. Shortly before 5 p.m. on Sunday several eyewitnesses who were in the area recalled hearing a loud boom. When witnesses arrived at the scene the building was fully engulfed in flames with heavy black smoke rising overhead. The sudden fire and massive cloud of black smoke led many eyewitnesses to speculate that an airplane had crashed.

Soon after the blaze began rumors began circulating through social media that a plane had crashed into the building. Both Thurston and Matthew Johnson, a manager at Pitt Greenville Airport denied those rumors and said that no airplane was involved with the fire.

Thurston said the community and businesses located around the scene shouldn't be concerned because no cause has been identified. When a fire is being investigated there are four different types of causes investigators use.

"There are four certain things that each fire can be determined to be. Either accidental, incendiary

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Admitted Students Day welcomes next class

Blessing Aghimien
TEC STAFF

A day of connection was initiated on East Carolina University's campus Saturday, as ECU's Class of 2021 was welcomed through an annual event by students, faculty and fellow incomers.

"Pirates Aboard! Admitted Students Day" is an annual ECU event that is dedicated to preparing the next incoming class of ECU students for life on campus. From current students to faculty and administrators, all hands were on deck to help make the event a success.

"For this event we greatly encourage current student to partake," said ECU's Associate Provost for Enrollment Services John Fletcher. "We use a large number of them to lead campus tours. We also have current students help our guests on busses and get them to where we meet for our sessions throughout the day. We don't just allow the help of current students. We count on it."

Almost every major department and college on campus partook in the event, providing individual sessions for intended majors to discuss their future paths and degree plans. Each session made sure to discuss required courses for



ANDREW CARROLL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Parents and perspective students speak with tour guides during Admitted Students Day Saturday.

degrees, available career opportunities and even had instructors to share study abroad options and internships.

"We partner with almost every college on campus to make this a little more real for these admitted students," Fletcher said. "With these sessions, both students and parents both learn more about the ECU experience in depth and

will hopefully decide to choose our school when they see the variety of options we provide." In an effort to give incoming freshman a glimpse into campus living, several residence halls were open for visitation on ECU's three main campus living neighborhoods: College Hill, West End and Central Campus. One of the demo rooms used in the visitation setting was freshman

nursing major Taylor Meyer.

Meyer said she offered a "fresh perspective" on the campus living experience due to it being her first year at ECU and shared her experience of campus living to the admitted students and their parents.

"I didn't mind having the incoming students and parents in my room because, not even a full year ago, I was in their exact place," said Meyer. "It felt nice to do the little bit that I could, even if it meant having them come into my room and to answer their questions."

Financial Aid sessions were offered to incoming students and parents during the course of the event. There, students and parents were free to ask questions about payment options, billing information and the process of applying for financial aid and loans. Students and parents were also given information on grants and scholarships and were provided with programs and information on how to apply for those as well.

"One of the most intimidating things about college is figuring out how to pay for it. This is

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ONLINE

» Uriah Ward announces start of campaign for District 3 Council seat

» Great Books program hosts political scientist Michael Hardt

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

GPD to host Victim's Rights Week

The Greenville Police Department will host an event on Thursday at the Pitt County Courthouse at 2 p.m. to honor and raise awareness for the rights of crime victims. The keynote speaker at Thursday's event will be a domestic violence survivor and award-winning author Deborah Monroe.

The week of honor began Sunday and will run for an entire week. The event is an annual collaborative event which is hosted by multiple Pitt County law enforcement agencies.

ECU invites alumni Ron Clark for annual awards banquet

East Carolina University alumnus Ron Clark will be the featured speaker at the third annual Corporate and Leadership Awards banquet. The event is hosted by the ECU's Department of Student Affairs and will be held at the Greenville Hilton at 6 p.m. on April 22.

Clark, who graduated from ECU in 1994, is a New York Times bestselling author and subject of the movie "The Ron Clark Story".

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

Correction

From the "Track and Field coach mentors throwers" story from March 30 edition, David Price has helped less outstanding high school throwers become All-American athletes.

ECU students react to HB2 repeal

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

North Carolina's lawmakers passed a repeal on the controversial House Bill 2, commonly known as the "bathroom bill" last Thursday, but some East Carolina University students are concerned about what the compromise may be overlooking.

The repeal was finalized after a 70-48 vote from the State House on Thursday. The urgency for the repeal came from pressure put on the state from the NCAA, who said it would not let the state host college championship games unless North Carolina made changes to HB2.

The new bill, House Bill 142, puts the decision on bathroom policy for the state in the hands of the state legislators. Unlike, HB2, the new bill allows local governments to pass nondiscrimination ordinances. However, the bill states that cities will not be able to pass these ordinances until 2020.

Governor Roy Cooper sent out a statement showing his support for the new bill last week, noting the bill was not what he had originally wanted.

"It's not a perfect deal, but it repeals House Bill 2 and begins to repair our reputation," said Cooper.

Kris Rixon, historian of ECU College Democrats, attended a protest against the new bill Thursday night in front of the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh.

Rixon said he is disappointed in Gov. Cooper for the compromise. He said repealing HB2 was one of Cooper's sole campaign promises, and he should have made it more of a priority.

"I don't think it's a repeal," said Rixon. "I think it's a compromise on hate, and I think the governor compromised on human rights."

Rixon said the new bill still limits cities from raising their individual minimum wage and oppresses workers' rights. He said it still does not change the bathroom issue, because Republicans still hold the majority in the General Assembly.

Trey Jerman, secretary of ECU's College Republicans, said he was happy to see the two parties work together to create this compromise.

"I'm glad to see Gov. Cooper and the Republican leadership in the North Carolina General Assembly come together on a bill that repeals HB2, while protecting women's privacy rights and the rights of the LGBT community in the process."



ARCHIVED | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
ECU students protest House Bill 2 on campus in March 2016. The bill was recently repealed and replaced.

Jon Cockerham, president of ECU's GLBT Student Union, agreed the repeal is lacking in content, and said he wanted to see a full repeal of HB2.

"While, it's better it's still not that good," said Cockerham. "I've seen a lot of people say it's HB2.1."

Cockerham was an intern for the Democratic party during the last elections and said he is disappointed to see Cooper make this decision after helping campaign for him.

"It's just kind of disheartening to see people turn their back on us when we helped them get elected," said Cockerham. "I mean Roy Cooper didn't win by that much."

He said he understands the state wanted to get NCAA events back in North Carolina, but he feels as though they should not have compromised beliefs just to do this. Cockerham said the new bill still does not allow cities to have certain municipal rights and "puts human right on the backburner".

"Oftentimes from the Republican Party we hear that they are for state's rights and they are for local government's rights, but you just stripped local governments the right to give their local citizens a better life," said Cockerham. "If you are going to be for small government, be for small government."

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

ADMITTED

continued from A2

no longer public school, where you can go to classes free of charge," said intended exercise physiology major Jason Wilkens. "It's nice to know that I had a session to go to that gave me a bit of relief and eased the mind of my parents when it comes to how to pay for my education at ECU."

From walking tours to lunch in the dining halls, students were encouraged to mingle and befriend their future peers.

The entirety of ECU's campus was a ground for interaction, as the future Class of 2021 engaged with others in their respective majors or even at the Dowdy Student Stores. Some even left the event having made new friends, taking memories and contact information of others on their way back home.

"I never expect to leave Admitted Students Day making so many friends and even meeting my future roommate," said intended theatre education major Schae Woodley. "I can't wait to finally be able to call East Carolina my home this August."

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FIRE

continued from A2

or arson, an act of God like a lightning strike or undetermined if they couldn't pinpoint something specific," according to Thurston.

The blaze forced firefighters to shut down a section of West Arlington Boulevard for a couple hours between Dickinson Avenue and Stantonsburg Road. The road was reopened to the public later that evening after firefighters finished their work at the scene.

The fire left the building located at 1840 W. Arlington Blvd a complete loss. Multiple ladder trucks and fire engines were called to the scene in order to contain and put out the fire. It took firefighters less than an hour to bring the fire under control and several more hours to extinguish the blaze. There was no damage to adjacent property as a result of the fire and no injuries were reported, according to Thurston.

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YES 55.7%
NO 44.7%

QUESTION

Did you watch the National Championship?

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Our view

Trollingwood helps improve community

This past weekend, Trollingwood Taproom and Brewery and Villa Verde teamed up for a great cause. The mighty Tar River was given a little support from the community as Justin Smithwick, a general managing partner of Trollingwood, and many community members set out on the river to clean up.

Community members worked together to clean up the Tar River and were rewarded with free food and discounted drinks afterwards, a great way to entice the public to give back to the community. There was a strong public turnout, as Smithwick said nine tandem boats and 27 single kayaks were reserved by late last Wednesday afternoon.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe local businesses, as well as community members, joining up to take care of our city’s environment is a noble cause and others should follow the initiative shown by these businesses.

Smithwick said they hope to continue the river cleanup every year and hopes that more community members will continue to participate, not for the free food but because it is a good cause.

We believe that taking care of the community that you live in is an important task to uphold. It is also encouraging to see members of the community care so much about Greenville’s environment.

Humans must save environment



Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

Don't Mind Matt

The trees at East Carolina University have begun to regain their leafs. The birds and squirrels have reemerged from the cold of winter. Generations of students have come through ECU and been amazed at its beauty. Yet, future Pirates decades from now may not be able to enjoy that same charm.

After President Trump’s recent moves to open jobs at the costs of the environment it has become vital for humans to consider where the world is heading. The warning sirens are sounding, the flashing red lights are blinking, yet we as the dominant species of the world haven’t been able to agree on a path to combat the change.

With today’s modern technology scientist have been able to show that human activity may be a source for climate change. Nonetheless, the human race possesses the intelligence, capability and responsibility or duty to help protect the environment. Whether humans have played a role in

its change or not, we as a species should try every possible method to preserve the planet we call home.

First, the human race is generally regarded as one of the smartest species on Earth. This gift has carried humans to other celestial bodies, to the deepest depths of this planet and given the species the cunningness to survive for thousands of years.

Human intelligence has the potential to solve some of the worst problems in the world. From cancer to even the environment. When society dares a human to dream big, this species usually delivers. That same talent should be devoted to solving the environmental challenges facing the human race. At no other point is it crucial for a species to survive than when they face the very obstacle that could destroy them. The threat of environmental change may not seem sudden, predictable or difficult to stop, but those very assumptions are the most dangerous part of the problem. Being seduced by the challenge only hinders the reaction, not the consequence.

Second, because of human intelligence there is more than enough available or conceivable technology that can help create

healthy habits. Using this technology can help humans tap into new energy sources, scrub pollutants out of extracted resources or build society around the changing landscape.

Humans are more than capable of slowing the environmental changes that will come to affect millions of people in the future. We have all the technology to change the world around us. The only part missing from the equation is the will to make the change. The human race faces two choices. Take on the challenge and save the world that shelters our survival or continue on our path in order to maximize short-term success.

Finally, with the capability to change the circumstances we find ourselves in and the intelligence in order to fix climate change, humans are responsible for the solution.

The air we breathe is no different from that in which pollution flows into. The land humans stand on is no different from the soil that could be flooded due to rising waters. By doing nothing we may not doom ourselves, but we may cause the downfall of future generations. Those future humans will be innocent bystanders set to pay for

the consequences of today’s greed and ignorance.

The decisions of today play directly into the results of tomorrow. Future generations may live on this planet and experience no hardship. However, without change future descendants may inhabit a planet much different from that of today.

The real challenge of environmental change is human wisdom. As a species we need to be wise enough to listen to the warnings and fix the problem. Humans should no longer marvel out the accomplishments of today’s intellectuals because those legacies may fall to no one if we do not correct the danger which jeopardizes the future. Those who are truly wise live today, but plan for tomorrow.

Worrying about the problems of today is smart. Worrying about the problems of tomorrow is wise. Therefore, humans should live today, but focus on tomorrow. At the very end, today will present a limited amount of opportunities. However, the opportunities of tomorrow are bountiful, but only if the sun rises again.

Matthew Prensky is a sophomore majoring in political science and communication. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Mistake made in defunding student art



Blessing Aghimien
TEC STAFF

As an avid thespian, musician and consumer of art in all forms, I was disheartened to find out that President Trump would take defunding creativity as a positive and appropriate thing to do for our country’s progress.

Growing up, I never was a popular kid, a class clown or a star athlete. Thanks to the arts programs that were provided to me at school, I felt like even the most popular of students and the best students athletes were beneath me. On stage, I was untouchable and on top of the world. In the arts, I found pride. I found confidence. I found belonging. My true identity was revealed through each song I sang and each line I recited.

It goes without saying that without the arts I would be completely different than the woman I am today. I have found lifelong friends from being in theater pro-

ductions. I have gotten leadership opportunities from being involved in choral ensembles. I’ve traveled and I’ve grown not only as an artist, but as a person. Arts gave me what sports or academics couldn’t.

Cutting funding for such programs would devoid millions of children from the essential opportunities that I got a chance to experience. Envisioning what my childhood would be like without my involvement in the arts is borderline unbearable. I’m grateful to have been fortunate enough to attend an elementary, middle and high school that made the arts an option for students. That’s not the case for many. I was one of the lucky ones.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 50 percent of the poorest public elementary schools don’t even have an art room. Yet, several studies show that low-income students who are highly engaged in the arts are more than two times as likely to graduate college than their peers with no art education.

Researchers find that sustained learning in music and theater correlates strongly

with higher achievement in math, science and language arts. Yet we have federal funding for the arts and humanities rolling in around \$250 million a year, while the National Science Foundation is funded around the \$5 billion mark.

Money spent on the arts, more specifically arts education, should be seen and taken as an investment. A disservice is being done in schools when children have to pay hundreds of dollars a semester for being cast in musicals, being members of marching bands or singing in choral ensembles. This is a problem that a national budget is supposed to take notice of and fix.

If all goes to the president’s plan, 2018 will be a tragic year of loss for arts education in American schools. According to the Washington Post, the National Endowment for the Arts will receive a 100 percent cut, eliminating its \$148 million budget. Money that could be used for new sheet music to challenge students. Money that could be used for musicals that theater teachers have only dreamed of putting on.

Money that could be used to take students to compete in competitions in places they couldn’t afford to go to the year before.

Defunding the NEA would also cut already scarce resources for the arts in underrepresented and low-income communities. According to the agency, 40 of the activities it supports take place in high-poverty neighborhoods. The neighborhoods filled with the most vulnerable of children. Children that take refuge in arts programs to keep them out of trouble and to bring them a sense of self-worth.

I will never understand why a student should be forced to cope with the repercussions of being artistic. Why should any extracurricular of any kind come with repercussions? This budget cut for the arts is just another low blow to the young, future artistic creators of our nation. Children shouldn’t be taxed for showcasing talent or for wanting to build upon their craft.

Blessing Aghimien is a freshman majoring in communication. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Serving ECU since 1925, The East Carolinian is an independent, student-run publication distributed Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year and Wednesdays during the summer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, columnists and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration at East Carolina University or the Student Media Board. Columns and reviews are the opinions of the writers; “Our View” is the opinion of The East Carolinian Board of Opinions.

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Dis- ‘spelling’ stereotypes

The Sojourner celebrates eight years of business Uptown

Amanda Shea
TEC STAFF

Set in among storefronts of a stereotypical college town is a shop that has brought magic and witchcraft to Greenville for eight years.

Michelle Jenkins, owner of The Sojourner Whole Earth Provisions at 414 Evans St. in Uptown Greenville, said the group bought and cultivated the shop from 2008 to 2009 into what is seen today.

“We signed a three-year lease that seemed kind of risky at the time,” said Jenkins. “Mostly I’d set my sights on being open three years and beyond that there was a five-year business plan, everything after that has been kind of a guess.”

Sojourner’s, which just celebrated it’s eighth anniversary on Friday, sells everything that would be expected of a new-age witchcraft store, as well as products needed for other religions.

“In general we sell all sorts of things. The idea is to be a general store for people who follow different paths in life,” said Courtney Varnadoe, the assistant manager at Sojourner’s. “So, we have candles and incense and your typical new-age type things, but then we also have spiritual supplies that you wouldn’t be able to get otherwise, like buddhist prayer malas and things like that.”

Jenkins also said that being located in a college town has helped the business during the past eight years.

“This generation has been raised in a culture where so many television shows deal with the paranormal and the supernatural and, even if it’s all pure fiction, at least it was part of the whole discourse,” she said. “Even if all they know is that they liked ‘Charmed’ as a kid, they still can come in here and be like ‘So what’s the difference between this and Charmed?’ and we can tell them, but it was interesting enough to get them through the door and not be afraid.”

Though she said ‘Charmed’ is not an accurate representation of their ideals or lives, it has created a bridge for young adults to explore their curiosity, something she said she didn’t have at that age.

“When I was 25 and working in Raleigh... there was a store just exactly like this...and it was very close to my work, and I had to walk past it every day...every time I’d look longingly down the sidewalk, like try to peak in the windows without anyone seeing me because I was terrified anybody would find out,” Jenkins said. “I never even stepped foot in the door, I couldn’t tell you what it looked like inside. Every day I wanted to go in, (but there was a) fear of being caught there. So I understand when people say ‘I’ve never come in all these years, I was too afraid.’ I get it.”

For people who may be curious about



Liz Merritt measures and weighs herbs at The Sojourner Whole Earth Provisions at 414 Evans St.

witchcraft or paganism, Jenkins and Varnadoe recommended one of the books they sell called “Paganism: An Introduction to Earth-centered Religion” by Joyce and River Higginbotham. Varnadoe also teaches classes throughout the year about how to make natural body care products, like lotion and deodorant, out of natural supplies and Jenkins teaches a year-long series called “Modern Witchcraft.”

“It’s eight different sessions, and each session has its own major focus area, but all of them together are a curriculum in studying what we would consider modern witchcraft,” said Jenkins. “Neo-paganism, as both a religion, as an art form, you know, as a metaphysical science, a divination session, a session on shamanism, a lot of meditation and that kind of thing.”

Jenkins said if someone is questioning or considering these beliefs, they shouldn’t think of it as bad thing.

“The first thing is, forgive yourself, you’re OK, there’s nothing wrong with you because you’re questioning these things. Questioning things is good,” she said. “It’s alright to ask these questions and let the divine answer for itself-himself-herself, as opposed to trusting what someone else said is true, it’s okay to seek that information directly and then see what it says. See what feels right to you.”

Though there are many misconceptions about their beliefs, Jenkins and Varnadoe said their ideals center on the natural world.

“It’s a different way of looking at the world, where nature is alive and, you know, plants, crystals, animals, they’re all conscious beings and we’re all integrated together--it’s about partnership, not domineering or mastering, or somehow manipulating (another consciousness) to your will. It’s partnership,” said Jenkins.

Their own beliefs aside, Jenkins and Varnadoe said they want to expand their store and hopefully grant better access to tools and products for other religions as well.

“I’d like to double or triple the size of our apothecary and we’ve been working on getting web-store presence... getting that prepared is monumental for a small business,” said Jenkins. “We have an idea of how we might expand that and we’d also like to continue to expand our offerings when it comes to stones and crystals and continue to deepen the other traditions we have in the store currently...and start fostering those paths as well.”

As the apothecary grows, they said they hope to make access to finished products easier.

“We carry bulk-dried herbs and they’re really just plants and people kind of have to know what to do with them when they get here,” said Varnadoe. “We’re looking to expand into, one, products that are premade. Not just ingredients for people to make things themselves, and also, things like teas. There’s not really anywhere in the area that carries bulk loose teas and we’re looking to do that.”

As summer is quickly approaching, Jenkins said she hopes Greenville residents will remember them.

“We’re really grateful for everyone’s patronage. It’s really been expanding a lot lately. The sales have been really good,” she said. “Our summers are very difficult when the students go home. We have a very difficult time paying the rent, let alone anything else.”

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Fraternity hosts kids’ egg hunt

Michelle West
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Spring has finally arrived when Phi Sigma Pi hosts its annual Easter Egg hunt on the Mall of East Carolina University.

On Sunday, about 100 children along with their families gathered for the 17th Easter Egg hunt.

“One of my favorite things about this event is that we send out an email to all the professors, and we send out flyers to other elementary schools. It kind of brings ECU’s campus together,” said engineering major Morgan Randolph, the head service chair for Phi Sigma Pi.

The festivities began at 1 p.m. with the first Easter egg hunt for kids ages 1-5. Later on at 2:30 p.m., there was an Easter egg hunt for the older kids, ages 6 and up.

“(There were) probably around 400-500 eggs per hunt. We saved 100 for children who came late and missed the hunts and ended up doing a hunt for them,” said Randolph.

In each egg hunt, there was a special egg and the founder of this egg won a prize.

Event-goers agreed the activities surrounding the Easter Egg hunt were also a lot of fun.

“It has been great. The two different Easter egg hunts have been good,” said event-goer Natalie Cross. “You know one for the smaller children and one for the older kids and the activities have been really popular especially the spoon race and the bunny sack race.”

This year, donations were accepted for the children at Vidant Medical Center. Phi Sigma Pi collected toys to be given to the children.

“Kids at the Vidant hospital can’t really attend these events so it is like an Easter egg hunt for them,” said Randolph.

Overall, the event spread happiness to many children that day.

“I am happy with it, [the event],” said Randolph. “I think that everything worked out.”

Although the event seemed to run smoothly, a lot of time and effort went into putting on this Easter egg hunt by the members of the Phi Sigma Pi.

“I actually started [planning] the second week of the semester,” said Randolph.

This event is not Phi Sigma Pi’s only service event of the year.

“We do a lot of other service events like the firemen’s dinner. We do stuff with the Humane Society. We make blankets for the homeless,” said Randolph.

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Nile Project spreads awareness

Lauren Sura
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University will host “The Nile Project,” a group of artists from 11 Nile countries who make new music with diverse cultural roots, from Wednesday until Saturday.

The band performs to bring awareness about the concern over scarcity of water resources, water rights, pollution, salinity, sea level change, invasive species and fair use in the area surrounding the Nile River Basin that affects more than 400 million people.

“In Greenville, we understand the same issues, but we probably know them from more polarized perspectives,” Michael Crane, associate dean of research, marketing and outreach for the College of Fine Arts and Communication, said. “When we listen to water issues in the context of the Nile, they’re understandable and non-divisive.”

The use of different African cultures along the Nile have created a total new blend of music, featuring a variety of influence, such as percussive music from Ethiopia and aspects of the jazz genre in Egyptian music.

The event will kick off with a music and dance workshop on Wednesday at 5 p.m. in Wright Auditorium, where the audience will learn two distinct African dances and music styles. Two workshops will be held afterwards, as well as a panel discussion and ritual demonstration.

The first panel, at 6 p.m. in Fletcher Music



Performers from the Nile Project sing and dance. The Project involves countries along the Nile River.

Center B136, will host ECU professors who will discuss the trance ritual Zar and the role of women in the interactions between Islam, Christianity and indigenous religions, followed by the demonstration of the female-centric trance ritual, Zar, at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

Thursday hosts five events during the day and evening, ranging from cultural discussions locally and in the Nile River Basin, to storytelling.

A discussion of what it means to be a citizen of the Nile will begin in the Mendenhall Great Rooms at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a panel discussion comparing regional water issues with those of the Nile

at 11 a.m.

The day proceeds with discussions of environmental issues facing eastern North Carolina and citizens’ activity in sustaining resources at 12 p.m. and river stories describing the meaning of the Nile and its local cultures at 1 p.m.

Thursday ends with a Voyages of Discovery premiere presentation and a discussion of how individuals can become more involved in the management of this precious and limited resource in Wright Auditorium at 7 p.m.

The event is free to students with a ticket from the ticket office in Mendenhall Student Center.

Friday continues the diversifying experience with an Arts Smart presentation at 10 a.m. in Wright Auditorium that will showcase music, dance, culture and Nile river basin hydro-politics, and a music and arts entrepreneurship discussion in Fletcher Music Center B136 at 11 a.m.

While the event hosts a variety of music events, the main concert will be on Friday at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

The Nile Project will perform its latest album, “Jinja,” in which the musicians from the 11 nations bordering the Nile share their traditions and passions. A question and answer session will follow the performance.

The concert is free to students with a ticket from the ticket office in Mendenhall.

“It’s the centerpiece of the entire week, but most of the other events on the schedule have a musical component,” Crane said.

Saturday rounds up the experience with a world music jam, an unstructured performance, at 10 a.m. at 1100 W 5th Street.

“Having a working understanding of other cultures is a hallmark of a well-rounded college experience,” Crane said. “The Nile Project is also important to host on campus because the hosted discussions led by the band can help us to have difficult discussions with our friends and neighbors about sustainability issues in eastern North Carolina.”

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

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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

	4		8					
		5		4		2		
		2				3	4	
	2	7				6	1	
				3				
	1	8			6	4	7	
	9	3				1		
		4		5		8		
					7		2	

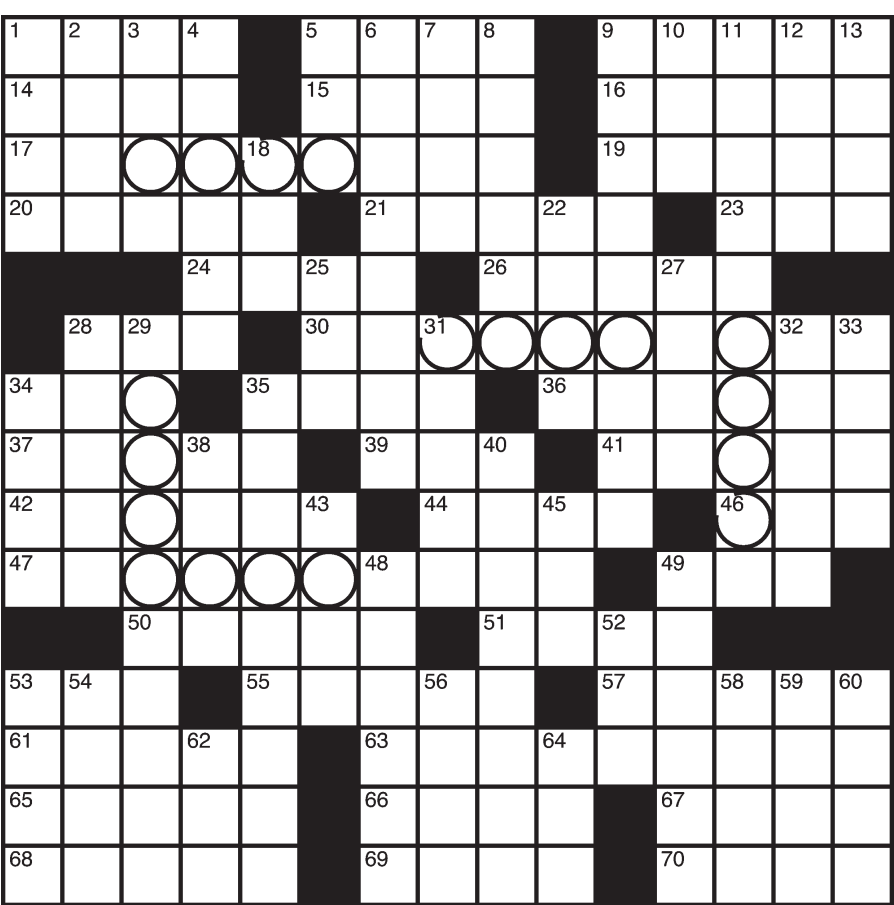
Thursday's Puzzle Solved

1	3	7	2	6	4	8	5	9
2	6	5	7	8	9	1	3	4
8	4	9	3	1	5	7	6	2
5	9	6	4	7	1	3	2	8
3	7	2	6	5	8	4	9	1
4	8	1	9	3	2	5	7	6
6	5	4	1	9	3	2	8	7
9	2	3	8	4	7	6	1	5
7	1	8	5	2	6	9	4	3

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

PUZZLES

- ACROSS
- 1 Complain and complain
 - 5 Frolic in the field
 - 9 Searched for shells in the shallows
 - 14 Where to find Java
 - 15 Governor Kasich's state
 - 16 Be a ham
 - 17 Verizon invoice, e.g.
 - 19 Way to get there
 - 20 Saint at a gate
 - 21 Melt frost from, as a windshield
 - 23 Self-serve salad site
 - 24 Old World Style sauce brand
 - 26 The "c" in a + b = c
 - 28 Govt. agency that lends to start-ups
 - 30 Second wife of Henry VIII
 - 34 "It's ___-brainer!"
 - 35 Humerus neighbor
 - 36 "___, black sheep ..."
 - 37 Pierced ear parts
 - 39 Gives approval to
 - 41 Horse's harrumph
 - 42 Consider carefully
 - 44 Coup d'___
 - 46 Opposite of SSW
 - 47 Country divider that allows unrestricted travel
 - 49 Free app annoyances
 - 50 ___ Manor: "Batman" mansion
 - 51 Mani go-with
 - 53 Sound of disdain
 - 55 Tot's reply to a taunt
 - 57 Shady retreat
 - 61 Appliance maker
 - 63 Sensitive elbow area, and a literal hint to the circled letters
 - 65 Flat hat
 - 66 Spring blossom
 - 67 Moniker
 - 68 Perfumer Lauder
 - 69 Pinup Hayworth
 - 70 Raised, as cattle



- DOWN
- 1 "Li'l Abner" creator Al
 - 2 Arthur with three Grand Slam singles titles
 - 3 Civil mayhem
 - 4 Bakery-café bread company
 - 5 Steal from
 - 6 "Hmm, gotta think about that ..."
 - 7 Eight furlongs
 - 8 Well-mannered
 - 9 "Mom's gonna kill us!"
 - 10 Latin "I love"
 - 11 Molecular link with two pairs of electrons shared by two atoms
 - 12 Sundance's sweetie
 - 13 Bambi, for one
 - 18 Hurler's stat
 - 22 ___ salad
 - 25 Guy's partner
 - 27 Actor Alda
 - 28 Nosy one
 - 29 "Button-Down Mind" comedian
 - 31 Not wearing a thing
 - 32 Tall tales

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

P	S	H	A	W		C	F	O	S		F	A	V	A
A	T	U	N	E		A	R	O	W		I	R	I	S
D	E	L	I	S		P	A	N	E		N	E	C	K
D	N	A	S		T	O	T	A	L	B	A	S	E	S
Y	O	S	E	M	I	T	E		L	O	L			
					A	L	E	R	T		O	F	A	R
G	A	L	O	R	E		N	U	N		O	L	E	O
U	N	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y	Q	U	A	D	S
M	A	Z	E		S	I	T		J	U	R	I	S	T
S	T	A	R	Z		B	Y	S	E	A				
					T	I	E		H	I	T	L	I	S
L	E	M	O	N	D	R	O	P	S		S	T	E	M
C	Y	A	N			G	O	U	P		E	D	E	M
D	E	L	E			E	L	S	E		P	U	L	P
S	S	T	S			S	L	E	D		T	E	E	T

33 "Big" comics kid

34 Dog food brand

35 Milk-souring warning number

38 Novelist Ferber

40 "Hit the gas!"

43 Rice-A-___

45 "___ we alone?"

48 Colorful timber tree

49 Online rent-a-room option

52 Week segment

53 Yankee Ruth

54 Iowa college town

56 TomKat's daughter

58 Wild hog

59 "I'll pick up the tab"

60 Oboe or bassoon

62 Marriage announcement word

64 CIA cousin

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ECU swept, falls to 0-3 in AAC

Tyler Gavin
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina baseball team opened its conference season the same way it started the regular season back in February at Ole Miss, by getting swept.

Instead of being overpowered by the better team again, it was the Pirates who beat themselves all weekend against Connecticut, dropping the final game of the series on Sunday, 5-1.

For a team that entered conference play as one of the strongest offenses in the American Athletic Conference, the Pirates (18-11, 0-3 AAC) struggled at the plate all series. ECU only recorded three extra base hits and scored four runs over the three games while striking out 37 times.

"It's very disappointing to get swept anytime," ECU head coach Cliff Godwin said. "We've got to look ourselves in the mirror. All of us: players, coaches, support staff and figure out how to get a little bit better because today wasn't a good day for the Pirates."

ECU's struggles culminated Sunday as the Pirates only mustered five hits off the Huskies' starter, freshman Mason Feole. Feole allowed just one unearned run over his seven innings of work.

On the other hand, UConn (16-9, 3-0 AAC) entered the game with one of the weakest offenses in the conference, but instead of letting this spoil its trip, the Huskies allowed ECU to beat itself while tacking across just enough runs to leave Greenville with the sweep.

The Huskies were lead by the duo of underclassman Anthony Prato and Zac Susi, who teamed up for half of UConn's RBI (4 of 8).

Sunday's game was highlighted by five ECU errors, one more than the club had on Saturday. These mistakes allowed Connecticut to score three unearned runs. UConn's first run was set up by a throwing error from ECU shortstop Nick Barber in the third inning, allowing Alex LeFevre to reach safely to start the inning. Two batters later, Prato



DANIEL GAJDA | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina Pirates line up before a game inside Clark-LeClair Stadium. ECU was swept by the UConn Huskies in its first AAC series this season.

would drive him home before coming in to score thanks to a fielding error at first from Spencer Brickhouse.

"The first two games we didn't play terribly. Today we played terrible," Godwin said. "Obviously with five errors that's very disappointing, but it's gut-check time for us."

However, the Pirates bats came alive late and they managed to get the tying run to the plate in the ninth inning.

Thanks to three, two-out, singles from T.J. Riles, Turner Brown and Eric Tyler, Charlie Yorgen stepped to the plate looking to cut into the 5-1 deficit. Instead he flew out to center field and helped finalize the third sweep of the Pirates this season.

"We knew coming in they were good but we didn't execute our game plan in a single game and we have to get better," Yorgen said.

The first two games of the weekend both finished with UConn on top 3-2, but both games took very different routes to get

there. After taking a 1-0 lead on Saturday, the Pirates let freshman Trey Benton go to work. After seven innings of stellar pitching, Benton left the mound with men on first and second, two runners that would eventually score off Sam Lanier to give the Huskies the lead entering the final inning. Those two runs would later be credited to Benton.

As was the case all weekend, the Pirates only got one hit in the inning. But using two wild pitches and a sacrifice bunt, pinch-runner Brady Lloyd slid across the plate to send the game to extra innings. Only one extra inning was necessary as Susi came up and plated the second half of his due in Prato to win game two.

Friday night's game made history for ECU. Unfortunately it wasn't history it was looking to make as the Pirates struck out 19 times against a trio of Husky pitchers. It was the most strikeouts for the Pirates since they struck out 23 times against Rice in

2011. The main culprit, last year's Freshman AAC Pitcher-of-the-Year, Tim Cate, struck out 13 over his seven innings of work. Then using a double and a single in the eighth, Connecticut plated two of its three runs and take game one.

"I've never coached a team that struck out 19 times," Godwin said. "I've been part of teams that have faced a lot of very good pitching, Tim Cate is really good, he's one of the best pitchers in the country, Russell is really good but there's no excuse for us striking out 19 times."

Up next for the Pirates is a trip to Chapel Hill to try and get revenge on the Tar Heels who beat them 6-2 in Greenville back on March 22. First pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m. at Boshamer Stadium.

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

Ritchie leads Pirates, softball drops series

Chase Carroll
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina softball team picked up its second American Athletic Conference victory this weekend against Central Florida but ultimately dropped the series against the Knights with back-to-back losses.



Lydia Ritchie

The Pirates (18-20, 2-4 AAC) took the first game of the series easily by a 9-0 mercy rule, but was unable to make a dent in the Knights' defense in the last two matchups due to great UCF (19-16, 3-3 AAC) pitching.

Sunday's game posed an unpredictable outcome as both the first two games were split with mercy rule decisions. In the final game of the series, it came down to a pitching duel, ultimately going the Knights' way as they defeated the Pirates, 3-0.

Pirate pitcher Lydia Ritchie pitched a complete game and went well over her supposed pitch count of 80. She threw 117 pitches resulting in 10 hits, three runs (two earned), with four walks.

She pitched in all three games during the series and looked strong despite throwing so many pitches. Ritchie went 1-1 on the weekend, but a lack of offense in the final game and a fielding error were key in the loss.

In Saturday's game Ritchie pitched well for the majority of her time on the mound, but a collapse from the ECU bullpen helped give UCF pitcher Alea White the victory. Ritchie started the game and gave up four hits, two earned runs and two walks in four innings pitched.

After 90 pitches she was replaced by Mary Williams who gave up five hits and six runs (five earned) in 1/3 of an inning pitched. The remaining two pitchers who came in from the bullpen, Meredith Burroughs and Abigail Umphlett, each pitched 1/3 of an inning as well before the game was ended in mercy rule.

"I think (Ritchie) had a very good weekend," head coach Courtney Oliver said. "I

think she did a really good job, she kept us in every game that she was in."

Although Ritchie pitched well over the weekend, the offense took a step back in the last two games after its nine-run mercy rule victory in the first game.

The Pirates had eight hits in the first game of the series, but combined for just nine hits in the final two games, including just three in Sunday's game. Oliver credits Knights' pitcher Alea White for the Pirates' struggles in their two weekend losses.

"I think their pitcher had a lot to do with it," Oliver said. "They have a tremendous pitcher that they threw in the circle again to us today. I thought she threw better than she did yesterday against us, and that's what happens. Good pitching will limit your hits offensively."

Leading the Pirates offensively this weekend were senior Kacie Oshiro, who added a grand-slam in the first game of the series to help spark the Pirates' victory, and redshirt freshman Tate McClellan, whose home run and RBI in the second game of the series kept the Pirates within striking distance until the end.

With the UCF series behind them, the Pirates will face off against Radford in a doubleheader on Wednesday in one of their last non-conference tests of the season. Radford is 16-14 on the season, but has struggled mightily on the road, going just 6-11.

With the Highlanders' struggles on the road this season, the Pirates will have a great opportunity to fix the problems they have faced on offense recently. Oliver will look for her batters to gain some confidence in their tune-up games.

"I would like our hitters to feel good, get a couple streaks going and just get back on track," Oliver said. "It's tough whenever you are facing a pitcher that throws the way White did the past two days at you. Sometimes you just need a day to feel good. Radford is very well coached and we are going to have to execute, and do all the little things right offensively."

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