



The East Carolinian

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SUMMER TONIZZO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina University Board of Trustees gather for an open session before the start of the fall 2019 semester.

Committee stands passive

Lewis and Moore face no action from BOG members

George Martin
TEC STAFF

Sarah Hooper
TEC STAFF



Yesterday, the University of North Carolina System Board of Governor's Committee on Governance recommended that no action should be taken on East Carolina University Board of Trustees members Phil Lewis and Robert Moore.

In the meeting on Feb. 5 of the UNC BOG's Committee on University Governance, Lewis and Moore were asked various questions by the committee. Both parties represented themselves

individually.

UNC System's Director of Media Relations Jason Tyson said during the meeting it was decided that no action shall be taken against Lewis and Moore, and the time to follow the decision should be seen as a "healing process" for ECU.

"The Committee on University Governance, which is a standing committee of the UNC Board of Governors, is recommending to the UNC BOG that no action be taken on ECU BOT members Lewis and Moore. The full board then will meet and will concur with the Committee on University

Governance, or they can decide their decision didn't matter and make a separate decision," Tyson said.

The East Carolinian reached out to the student involved with the ECU BOT scandal for an interview and was subsequently directed to that student's lawyer who has not gotten back to us as of Wednesday.

BOT member Jim Seagrave said, in a message to *The East Carolinian*, that the lunch meeting between the unnamed student, Lewis and Moore was a "clear set up." Seagrave said the

> BOT page A2

ECU hosts debate with Democrats

Ahren Rau
TEC STAFF

Last night, East Carolina University hosted the North Carolina House District 9 Democratic Primary debate between candidates Brian Farkas and Jake Hochard yesterday in the Hendrix Theatre.

The debate was hosted by ECU's Campus Voter Initiative and was the first event hosted by the student organization. Co-founders of the Campus Voter Initiative, Peyton Pashcke and George Martin, served as the moderators for the debate.

The debate started with moderators allowing each candidate time to deliver their opening statements.

Jake Hochard said he has worked as an ECU professor for the last five years and lives here in Greenville with his wife and dogs.

"It's very reassuring in this divisive time to see this many young people out here and engaging in politics. This is what it's all about," Hochard said.

Brian Farkas said he grew up close to ECU in the Pitt County education system and works with a local architecture firm.

"I'm running for the office because our state legislator, simply put, is broken and like you, I am tired of the political games," Farkas said.

After the candidate's opening statements, the debate

> DEBATE page A2



CONTRIBUTED BY QUIANG WU

Lion dance performs at ECU 2019 Chinese New Year's celebration.

Chinese New Year festivities are underway

Hannah True
TEC STAFF

The Chinese New Year is one of the longest Chinese holidays and is celebrated all over the world as one of the most important holidays and some of the biggest celebrations take place.

Associate professor of the Department of Biostatistics at ECU, Qiang Wu explained how Chinese New Year is important in Chinese culture.

"Chinese New Year is the biggest holiday season in China. It's like Thanksgiving and Christmas combined in the US. It's when family reunion and friends get together happen. People take a break from the hard work of the year and enjoy some nice meals," Wu said.

For the new year, people often wear bright new clothes to wish for good fortune and enjoy festivities and food among family and friends. Depending on the family, it could be a family reunion of sorts.

Children will usually receive red packets full of money

> NEW YEAR page A6

ECU cheer builds bond

Pirate cheerleading is more than just pom poms

Lydia Ryan
TEC STAFF

Being a cheerleader at East Carolina University is not just pom poms and pep rallies. It's a group of hard working athletes that dedicate a lot of time and effort to giving support to other athletes and each other.

Head cheerleading coach Susie Glynn has been with the ECU cheerleading program for 18 years and with the new spotlight brought to collegiate cheer she is hopeful that her athletes will finally start gaining the recognition they deserve.

"They are hard working individuals," Susie said. "It takes a lot of sacrifice personally for each individual to do this, so they give up a lot of time to be able to put in the practice here to be able to cheer them on and get them going and get the fans going."



Susie Glynn

The responsibilities of the cheerleading team is not just limited to just coming to football and basketball games. While they are responsible for attending football, men's and women's basketball and some volleyball to bring out the best in both other athletes and the crowd, the team also goes to events throughout the Greenville community and the university as ambassadors for the Pirates.

In December, ECU cheer turns their focus slightly toward preparing for their own competitions. Coach Glynn combines 24 athletes from her both her co-ed and all girls team for a competition team. These athletes have

practice that can be anywhere from three to six hours in addition to the three practices a week lasting around three hours and weight lifting.

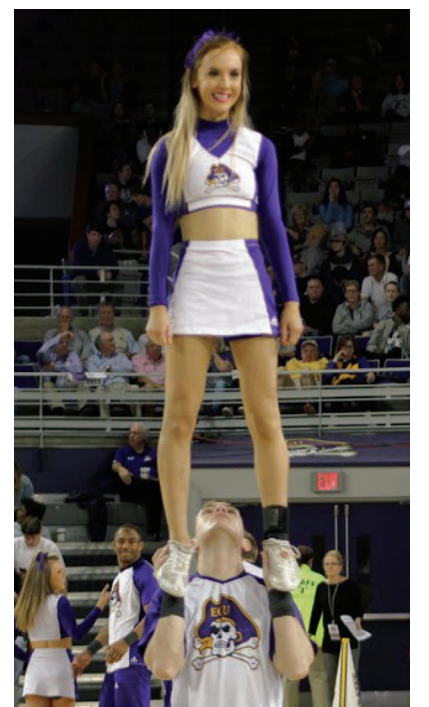
Most of the competition practices consists of learning more complicated stunts, tumbling and pyramids than what is seen at games. They also have a lot of conditioning like two mile runs and repetition to make sure that each athlete is in top physical condition to perform the risky maneuvers required of the sport.

Cheerleading is not recognized nationally as an NCAA sport, which means that cheerleaders don't get the same scholarships and benefits that many college athletes are offered. While the team does get some school funding to cover uniforms and occasional travel expenses, the athletes themselves rely on academic scholarships or other methods to pay for school.

"It's a slow change, but it's more because people are becoming more educated about it," Susie said. "You see that people are finally starting to see what we do across the board."

This often means that cheerleaders are working one or more jobs in addition to the time commitment of being on the team and a full time student. Cheerleaders, like any other athlete, must meet the requirements of the school in order to participate. This includes keeping their GPA up and taking the minimum 12 hours required to be considered a full-time student.

While some schools across the country have started to make their cheerleading teams NCAA sports, it remains a difficult argument to make. With the team's primary job being to support the other athletic teams at



HALIE MILLER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU cheerleader does stunt during a game.

East Carolina, it makes it difficult for any cheerleading team to have enough collegiate level competitions against other schools.

"The difficulty with considering it a NCAA sport is when you define a sport it is not a matter of how hard they work or what athletic abilities are put into it, it's more of your competitiveness," Susie said. "Meaning your competitiveness with other teams and cheerleading. It is hard to have a game like you do in a baseball or basketball or football. You have to have an 'X' number of matches that you go up against and then from there you go to a championship."

The biggest stage that these athletes get to compete on for themselves is in

> CHEER page A4

ONLINE

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

Students encouraged to spread the love

Today from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., students at the Health Sciences Campus are encouraged to make Valentine's Day cards for patients at the Children's Hospital. Each student that participates will receive a free Smash Waffle.

Black Box Theater to showcase interactive play

Today, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. the Black Box Theater will be holding a three-part interactive play that focuses on race, religion, class and gender. All audience members in attendance will be invited to participate in a portion of the play, where they will become the 'jury' and play a role in the play's development.

Student to learn four vital marketing tools

Today, the Office of Student Activities and Organizations will be hosting a G.O.L.D. Leader Series in Main Campus Student Center room 107. Spanning from 4 to 6 p.m., the meeting will center around the importance of marketing tools. Every attendee will receive a free cup of coffee.

LWCC will offer free and anonymous HIV testing

Tomorrow, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center will be offering free and confidential HIV testing from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will coincide with National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center assistants El Perry and Mckenna Moore work diligently together on their laptops under pride flags in the center. ASHLEY LEWIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

LGBTQ Center receives grant

Campaign for Southern Equality to perform advocacy work

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

On Tuesday, a press release said the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center at East Carolina University received a \$2,000 grant from the Campaign for Southern Equality to generate advocacy work in an Educational Settings for the LGBTQ community.

Communications director at the Campaign for Southern Equality, Adam Polaski, issued the press release and stated the funding will be used for Safe Zone Training for K-12 educators in collaboration with the College of Education and Campus Recreation and Wellness at ECU. These sessions will focus on LGBTQ awareness, sensitivity and inclusion.

The executive director of the Campaign for Southern Equality, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara said his staff are honored to support ECU.

"Their staff and students are forging new ground in the region, and we're honored to support their innovative and vital work," Beach-Ferrara said.

Polaski said this \$2,000 grant will also generate support for other training programs, such as preventing bullying and inclusion for all genders in all schools.

There is a lot of work that the Campaign for Southern Equality has done that is community based. This Campaign has a fund

entitled Southern Equality Fund in which the LGBTQ Center was awarded from, according to Mark Rasdorf, senior associate director for the LGBTQ Center in Intercultural Affairs.

"I haven't really been involved with their work, I have just admired Jasmine's leadership and advocacy and the organization she formed from the group up," Rasdorf said.

The grant was issued from the Campaign for Southern Equality's Southern Equality Fund in which they distribute 10% of their annual budget to this innovative program that supports LGBTQ organizers and service providers in the South.

In 2019, their grant-making reached over \$80,000. This year, an additional \$80,000 will be given to Southern LGBTQ

organizers.

"Our team at the Campaign for Southern Equality has been so inspired by the students and staff at the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center, including their work across campus and Greenville, their ethos, and their commitment to equity," Beach-Ferrara said in the press release.

Assistant Director for the LGBTQ Center,

Jessica Melowski, said she will be leading an Alternative Break Experience trip to Asheville in March that is service and learning based. The Campaign for Southern Equality team agreed to meet with the group of students to engage in volunteering, according to Melowski.

This grant will be committed to the Safe Zone Training that is offered to educators, administrators and counselors in the county as an opportunity to learn about LGBTQ sensitivity and inclusion in the classroom. Educated and informed allies that are advocates and want to protect students will be formed through these training sessions, Melowski said.

"This grant is incredible. It highlights the work that is already being done at ECU and allows us to continue building a larger network of support and advocacy that can extend beyond campus, into the Greenville community and surrounding counties," Melowski said.



Mark Rasdorf

ONLINE | FULL STORY

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

ADVERTISE WITH US!

THE Hook
ECU's Student Interest Magazine

Sales deadline: February 6

The Hook is a full-color, lifestyle magazine that takes an in-depth look at topics, interests and activities of today's ECU students. Reserve a spot in the spring edition to showcase your business!

	Dimensions	Price
Back Page	8.5 x 11 in	\$1,000
Premium	8.5 x 11 in	\$900
Full Page	8.5 x 11 in	\$650
Half Page	8.5 x 5.5 in	\$375
Quarter Page	4.25 x 5.5 in	\$250

Contact smaa@ecu.edu for more information.

BOT continued from A1

unnamed students meeting with Moore and Lewis occurred after she left ECU and was no longer a student under the UNC System.

"The girl was not even a student (at ECU) when they went to lunch. 100% a set up," Seagrave said.

Allegations of misuse of power have also been made against BOT chair Vern Davenport and BOT member Fielding Miller by Moore and Lewis. Seagrave believes Moore and Lewis did not break any laws.

"They didn't do anything that every politician in this country does every single day, they take donations and donate to others to try and influence," Seagrave said.

In a memorandum written on Wednesday, Feb. 4, the ECU Faculty Senate Officers, Jeff Popke, Crystal Chambers, Amanda Klein and Purificacion Martinez, called for the UNC BOG to remove Lewis and Moore from the ECU BOT.

"As faculty members, we believe that success in fulfilling ECU's mission requires that those in leadership positions act in the best interests of the University and 'exercise authority honestly and fairly, free from impropriety and threats, favoritism, and undue influence' as mandated in Section 200.7 of the UNC code," the memorandum said.

In an interview with Chair of the Faculty Senate, Jeff Popke said the Faculty Senate wished to join the other voices showing disappointment with the violation of UNC System policy by Lewis and Moore.

"The officers had a vigorous discussion about this and felt that responsible leadership required of us that we add our voice to those that are extremely troubled by what they say in that transcript," Popke said.

Seagrave said Davenport and Miller both knew about Lewis and Moore's plan to meet with unnamed student in advance, and that they and a past member of the BOT, encouraged the anonymous student to record the conversation at the meeting.

The East Carolinian called Moore and Lewis regarding a statement on the matter, neither returned our calls.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

DEBATE continued from A1

moved into the question section which covered topics like livable-wage in Greenville, gun-safety and the legalization of marijuana.

The moderators started the question portion of the debate with a question on how each candidate plans to work bi-partisanly in a Republican controlled NC House of Representatives.

Hochard was given the first opportunity to respond, and said voters should elect someone that isn't just a "good soldier" of the party, but an individual of the community.

"What we need to do to solve partisan gridlock is to start electing competent individuals who have new ideas and stop electing sounding boards for the party," Hochard said.

Farkas agreed that the state needs political change and said he is certain Democrats will retain the House this upcoming election.

Another topic which brought energy to the crowd was the issue of the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana medically and recreationally.

Farkas said he fully supports the decriminalization of marijuana, including a retroactive expungement of previous marijuana charges and is for the legalization of marijuana as well.

"These specific crimes have disproportionately affected those in our minority communities, let's take this opportunity to do the right thing. Focus drug enforcement and attention where it needs to be," Farkas said.

Hochard said he also supports the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana, pointing at the opportunities the tax revenue can create for education.

Both candidates agreed on many of the issues presented tonight including the support of raising the minimum wage to help combat poverty in Pitt County.

"Minimum wage has not increased in North Carolina since 2008, which means that today if you're on minimum wage, you're earning a \$1.25 less per hour than you did 12 years ago," Hochard said.

Voting for the Democratic Primary is on Mar. 3 and will determine the Democratic Nominee to run against the incumbent Republican Perrin Jones in November.



Brian Farkas

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

OUR VIEW

Depression needs to be monitored

With mental health problems continuing to be a major issue among youth, it can be easy for students to feel as if they are the only person who feels a certain way. When that happens, it is incredibly important to reach out and ask for help.

The East Carolina University Counseling Center recently talked about the concept of seasonal depression, warning students to try and guard against it. It is a phenomenon where many see a drop in mental health with the passage of time, with some times of the year feeling worse than others.

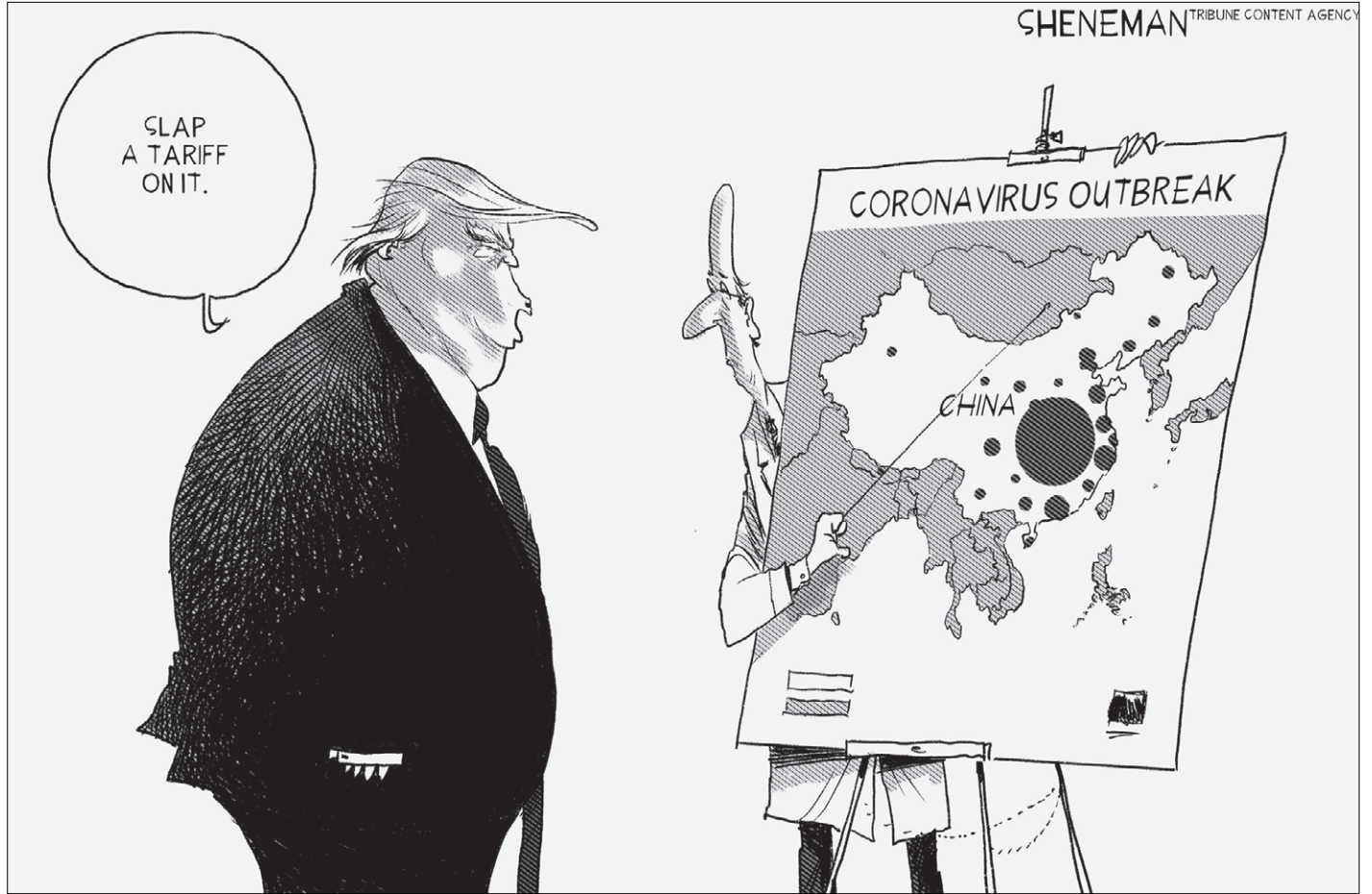
We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, appreciate the efforts of ECU's counselors to raise awareness for this prevailing issue, as well as the continued support by those mental health professionals. It is important to have people on campus fighting to help improve the mental state of the students who attend.

In the event that seasonal depression hits, students are encouraged to seek someone to talk to. This doesn't have to be a professional. Sometimes, having good friends who understand you can serve a similar purpose.

Mental health is an important thing to monitor. Depression and anxiety can have a heavy impact on the ability to accomplish daily tasks, and performance can suffer while being under their effects.

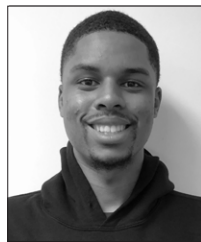
Don't wait to get help. If someone is sick, they go see a doctor; if someone breaks a bone, they go see a doctor; if someone has chronic issues, they go see a doctor. There is a stigma in society against reporting mental health problems, but if someone is suffering from ailments that can't be seen, they should still go see a doctor, or a therapist/psychiatrist in this case.

The best thing a student can do for themselves in today's world is to take care of themselves, especially when it comes to taking care of the mind.



Impeachment trials ultimately pointless

Doing the Dan thing



Daniel Roberts
TEC STAFF

If you have paid attention to the news lately, you have heard that the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump just ended yesterday with the United States Senate acquitting Trump of both impeachment charges.

Seeing how Trump's impeachment trial went, I have to ask a couple of questions which I want people to keep in mind. Did this impeachment get Trump out of office? No. Has it ruined his chances of re-election? Probably not, if people don't do what they are supposed to do by going out and voting.

In the history of the United States, two other presidents have faced impeachment trials in Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton, while another president almost had to deal with it but chose to resign before the trial began in Richard Nixon. While each case may have been different in terms of severity, history has repeated itself once again in that the president who was impeached got to remain in office and finish off their term.

As a result of seeing this happen again, I believe that this whole

"I believe that this whole impeachment process was just another event that was hyped up by the media."

impeachment process was just another event that was hyped up by the media.

I, along with everyone else that is either reading this article or active on the internet on a daily basis, have managed to hear update after update talking about what has gone on with the impeachment process or upcoming election.

The media has done a good job of keeping the people posted on the latest news regarding both situations. However, the latest news we have heard regarding the impeachment process didn't do anything. The Senate decided to acquit the impeachment charges of Trump yesterday, so long story short he is staying in office.

People want to get all excited about somebody being impeached but little do they think about what the impeachment process consists of. Just like a court case, a claim has to be made, evidence has to support the claim and a big trial has to take place. Democrats tried to make a claim against Trump for the way he abused his power. Seeing how the

trial ended up, I have to say that this impeachment process did nothing once again.

While seeing a president impeached may sound exciting to the common man because of how rare something like this happens, it brought up a point within my mind that has been found to happen more times than not. That point is history will find a way to repeat itself. No matter how much people may be displeased with a president's actions, and want to see them removed from office, they find a way to end up serving the rest of their terms. This impeachment process was hyped up by the media with no change.

The only thing that can happen at this point is come election day, people need to go out to the voting poll and vote for who they think will best run this country.

Roberts is a senior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Scandals wear on students

Corruption in administration fails ECU community



Sarah Hooper
TEC STAFF

In late January, it was revealed that two East Carolina University Board of Trustees members had offered financial support to a student who they wished to run Student Government Association elections.

This has, naturally, sparked outrage among students and alumni alike. But much of the discussion I've heard on campus focuses around why ECU has so many issues right now. I've heard my peers mention that "no other college in NC is facing the issues we are."

Like any other institution, ECU has seen its highs and lows. This most recent scandal involving BOT members Phil Lewis and Robert Moore is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of behind the scenes meddling from those who claim they work for the "university's advancement."

How does bringing ECU into a negative light yet again advance our great university? Short answer: it doesn't. The people in positions of power on these boards may indeed think they have the best interests of the university at heart, but have failed to show it in their actions.

While many of the members on BOT and other boards within the university say they have students interests at heart, it does not show. For example: BOT members voting to raise the athletic fees paid by students by nearly

\$70 is not prioritizing student wants and needs.

Take a look at the Silent Sam issues at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, another power struggle between students and administration. It was revealed this past month that the UNC System office paid \$74,999 to pay off the Sons of Confederate Veterans. While this was not paid using student money or taxpayer money, imagine how that makes African-American students feel. The system running their university is paying the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Another example of corruption is stated clearly in the transcript between Lewis, Moore and the unnamed ECU student. John Bell, NC Assembly member, and Republican Senator Jim Perry are cited in the transcript as "wanting to see change" within the ECU BOT.

Why are senators and a Republican majority leader within the North Carolina Assembly wanting to "see change" within the BOT? What right do these men have to meddle with the operations of our university beyond state funding? Neither are alumni from ECU; Bell is a UNCW alum and Perry attended UNC Chapel Hill and NC State. It seems as though those outside of ECU always want to have a say in our university.

My peers and I are fed up. Students are tired of reading about our great university in a negative light. The only reason we are seen in a negative light is because of the "leaders" who try to

better ECU, but instead dig our institution into a deeper hole. The students of ECU and all students throughout the UNC System deserve leaders in our universities who care about the students, and not just money and votes. Students deserve to be seen for the positive things we are doing on our campuses, not the selfish, immature ways of those who have brought unwanted light on ECU.

This being said, I would like to point out that the majority of ECU is filled with wonderful administrators, faculty and staff who love ECU and its students. These people are the reason that ECU has gotten through and will continue to persevere through storms.

My point is simple: students deserve better. ECU deserves better. The only way to fix the negativity forced on us by news outlets and those that claim they try to improve the university is for students to speak up and vote to make change. ECU students are tired of defending the school they love from scandals and bad news articles focused around leaders such as Lewis and Moore. It makes our university look unprofessional.

If the university and its board members truly wish to improve student life, admission rates and student morale, they will take out the rot that these board members and other leaders have planted into the heart of ECU.

Hooper is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Pirates to take on Knights

Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

Losers of five of the last six games, East Carolina University (9-13, 3-6 AAC) has slipped to 4.5 games back in the conference. Once toward the top of the league after a win over Southern Methodist University (16-5, 6-3 AAC) earlier in the season, the Pirates have failed to score more than 64 points in each of their last five defeats.

On Saturday against Temple University (11-10, 3-6 AAC), ECU managed to shoot just 39.3% from the field and 23.5% from three-point range. For the second straight game, the Pirates shot less than 40%, a fact that resulted in back-to-back convincing wins for their opponents.

Fresh off facing two solid defensive teams in the University of Houston (17-5, 7-2 AAC) and Temple, the Pirates will seemingly get no reprieve. The University of Central Florida (11-10, 2-7 AAC), ECU's next opponent, allows just 66.4 points per game on average, a number that ranks 102nd in the NCAA.

"Coach (Johnny) Dawkins has always made sure they're good defensively," ECU head coach Joe Dooley said. "(Redshirt junior forward) Collin Smith, I think, is one of the better front-line players in our conference, versatile. (Redshirt junior guard Ceasar) DeJesus is experienced. They brought in a couple grad transfers, (redshirt senior Dazon) Ingram is a good player, (redshirt senior guard) Matt Milon is a guy that can really shoot the ball, so they've got some balance."

As Dooley mentions, both Smith and DeJesus are at the center of everything the Knights do. One and two respectively in scoring, that duo is averaging 23.4 points



ECU men's basketball team during the game last Wednesday against the University of Houston.

per game on average, or 34.6% of UCF's total scoring output.

Standing 6'11", Smith pulls down better than six rebounds per game while Ingram is UCF's leading rebounder from the guard position. With Tacko Fall now in the NBA, the Knights have failed to let their efforts on the boards slip.

Down less than a rebound per game from last year's 36.8 mark, the Knights rank toward the middle of the country in total rebounds per game (36) and defensive boards per contest (25.2). On the offensive glass, UCF finds itself ranked 111th in the nation as it pulls in nearly 11 second chance rebounds per game.

While ECU grabs nearly an identical amount of rebounds per game, the Pirates boast the second-best rebounder in the conference in sophomore forward Jayden Gardner. Up to 9.6 boards per contest, Gardner is also the conference's leading scorer at 20.8, a category he leads by better than five points.

Following back-to-back games scoring north of 25 points, Gardner tied his season-low of 11 points on Saturday against Temple. Just 5-of-15 from the field, Gardner made it to the free throw line one time (1-of-

2) and failed to record an assist for the first time since Jan. 1.

"It's just mathematical odds, I don't care who you are, you're not going to play great every game," Dooley said. "I still thought he played a good solid game. I thought he got a little sped up on offense. I just think it was one of those things, and he missed a couple shots he usually makes. He'll bounce back, he'll be fine."

Averaging just 64 points per game as a team in conference play, the Pirates will need Gardner to return to form, if only in an offensive capacity. On the boards, however, Gardner's play could very well be the most impactful.

After beginning the season with a 9-2 mark, the Knights have lost eight of their last 10 contests. Fresh off a season-low 48 points against the University of South Florida (10-12, 3-6 AAC), UCF is still favored by 3.5 points over the Pirates on Thursday.

"We need to get back on the winning track," Gardner said. "We got two winnable games coming up at home and on the road."

ECU and UCF will tip-off tonight at 7 p.m. inside Minges Coliseum.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

CHEER continued from A1

Daytona Beach, Florida. Every spring the National Cheerleading Association (NCA) holds the College Nationals. The Pirates have attended for the past six years. According to Susie, they have finished in the top-three almost every year, including last year where they finished second in the intermediate co-ed division.

These athletes spend a great deal of time with each other. Between practices, competitions and games they see each other almost daily. Seniors Bayleigh Glynn and Haywood Mckoy describe it as almost a sibling, family-like bond and while they sometimes fight it is key to have a great deal of trust in each other.

"In many aspects of it, it's going to be hard to be successful if you're not already treating each other like family and friends," Mckoy said. "It's really close the things that we are doing, that have risk to it, you kind of want to trust the person that is either under you or over you. That they are going to protect you as well as themselves."



During most games many people overlook the cheerleaders. Besides halftime performances, they mostly keep to the sidelines and mingle with the crowd. However, not many really consider how much hard work and dedication that these athletes put in while not supporting other teams here at East Carolina.

More than anything the cheerleaders appreciate the fans. Mckoy and Bayleigh credited a lot of motivation into what they do to Pirate Nation and the families that bring their kids to games. The cheerleaders don't just feed the crowds energy, but they get energy from the crowd as well.

"We don't do it for the teams, we do it because we love the crowd," Bayleigh said. "We want to support them as much as we can, so for nationals and showcases and stuff it would be kind of cool if they came out and supported us. It would be cool to see more of that when we need cheering on."

The NCA Collegiate National Championship will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida from April 8 through the 12. The ECU Cheerleading team can be seen tonight at Minges where they will be supporting the men's basketball team at 7 p.m.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

ECU to rely on pitching depth in 2020

Pirates feature strong weekend rotation with trio of starters

» ANALYSIS



Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

"Nobody likes to hear it, because it's dull, but the reason you win or lose is darn near always the same -- pitching," Hall of Fame Major League manager Earl Weaver was quoted as saying to the Los Angeles Times during his career.

A World Series winning manager in his tenure with the Baltimore Orioles, Weaver coached the likes of Jim Palmer and accomplished a lot of winning, racking up over 1,400 victories across 17 years.

Like Weaver sustained for so long, the East Carolina University baseball team is no stranger to successful seasons. Fresh off 47 wins, a Regional victory and a subsequent Super Regional berth, the Pirates welcomed a host of fresh faces to their roster in the off-season, particularly on the mound.

"That's probably the biggest thing that is uncertain for the coaching staff, just roles for certain pitchers," head coach Cliff Godwin said. "A lot of new guys, a lot of talent. We're deeper on the mound than we've ever been. A lot of talent, so we're excited about that."

Junior right-handed pitcher Gavin Williams, junior left-handed pitcher Jake Kuckmaner and senior right-handed pitcher Tyler Smith provide the Pirates with what should be the most experienced returning rotation in the American Athletic Conference.

Despite an injury that will keep Williams from starting on Opening Day and arm soreness plaguing Kuchmaner that will likely limit him early in the season, when healthy, this trio could be very impactful on ECU's success.

"This team has, for what I can remember and this is my fifth year, I would say this is the best returning rotation that they've had from last year to this year," ECU baseball's play-by-play announcer Corey Gloor said.

By innings pitched, the Pirates will return the most experienced pitcher in the conference in Kuchmaner. In 2019 the southpaw tossed 87.1 innings, striking out 73 and posting a sub-3.00 ERA. Bested only by Jake Agnos and the University of Houston's Fred Villarreal, Kuchmaner finished third in the AAC in ERA and second in strikeouts looking (32), also behind Agnos.

While Kuchmaner was throwing ECU's first perfect game as a sophomore in 2019, both Smith and Williams struggled to find their footing.

Smith, who started 15 games for the Pirates, allowed 46 earned runs on 86 hits over 74.1 innings pitched, culminating in a lofty 5.57 ERA. Only two non-position players posted a higher ERA than Smith in 2019 as opposing batters posted a .293 batting average against the right-hander last season.

At least in part, Smith's struggles can be traced back to the possibility that he placed too much pressure on himself in his draft eligible year as a junior. His 7-1 record aside, Smith hit 10 batters in 2019 to lead the team while walking 28 and issuing 17



Senior right-handed pitcher Tyler Smith throws a pitch during an East Carolina University baseball game earlier in his career.

doubles.

With last year in the rearview mirror, however, Smith has looked good in fall and spring scrimmages. Just last week, Smith toed the rubber for intrasquad scrimmages, striking out the first three batters he faced with off-speed and breaking ball offerings.

"I think Tyler had a really good fall," ECU pitching coach Jason Dietrich said. "As I've gotten to know him and talk to him with the coaches, he's made some progress. There's a couple things that I think he's made some strides forward and a couple things we need to refine to get to where they need to be."

Command and reducing contact in the air has no doubt been key points for Smith this off-season, a notion that can also be applied to his rotation-mate, Williams.

Having struggled to the tune of a 4.56 ERA across 49.1 innings pitched in 2019, Williams' plight has been command. Gifted with a cannon for a right arm, Williams walked 23 batters last season, striking out 56 across the same time span.

With a fastball that can touch triple-digits, a sharp curveball that has profiled well in the fall and spring and a slider that is still a work in progress, Williams possesses the tools to be a standout pitcher in his junior campaign.

Shut down early in the spring with a fractured finger on his pitching hand, however, Williams will miss the beginning of the 2020 season after being in the mix to become the Pirates' Opening Day starter.

Nevertheless, much work has gone into molding Williams into the best version of himself for the upcoming season. With input from Dietrich and the coaching staff as a whole, Williams focused on a lesser talked about attribute during the off-season to help improve his command.

"Definitely doing mental imagery, shadow (bull)pens, things like that," Williams said. "That's probably the biggest thing that has helped me."

While it may take some time for adjusts to show, especially with his setback, Williams headlines a pitching staff that can give opponents all types of different looks. From the fire-balling righty to the soft-tossing lefty in Kuchmaner to the sinker-baller, changeup guy in Smith, plus all the options out of the bullpen, the Pirates have a pitcher for seemingly every situation.

"You want different looks out of the bullpen, you want different arm slots, different arm actions, different actions on the ball," Dietrich said. "That's always a good piece to the puzzle so it's not just the same guy. The arms that we have, it's a variety, which I like."

Different looks are key to keep opposing hitters and teams off-balance. Without experience, however, raw talent can often fail to be fully harnessed. Between them, the trio of Williams,

Kuchmaner and Smith have racked up 356 career collegiate innings, not to mention Burleson's 114.1 frames over two seasons.

"That's huge for me," Dietrich said. "When you have that experience and those innings, you're pitching on weekends, there's no substitute for that. That's what you need and when you have those guys out there that have been through the battles, that can pay dividends down the road."

Shaping up to not be serious injuries for Williams and Kuchmaner, the Pirates' depth will be put to the test early in 2020. Perhaps that will provide good early experience for some new names while saving some bullets for the stretch run late in the campaign.

The first pitch of the 2020 season is scheduled for Feb. 14 at 4 p.m. against The College of William & Mary inside Clark-Le-Clair Stadium.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Greenville Little League is seeking baseball umpires for the 2020 season. No experience is necessary however it is helpful to have some baseball background. An informational meeting for prospective umpires will be held Sunday, February 9 from 5:30-6:30 at Elm Street Park (1055 South Elm Street). Questions may be directed to Brian Weingartz at baawein@aol.com or 252-341-5680.

FOR RENT

Apartments for Rent Near ECU: 400/402 Lewis Street Apartments 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Water/sewer included. \$450 per month For more information Contact Wainwright Property Management 252-756-6209

Townhouses/Duplex for Rent Near ECU: 1103 E. 4th Street-2-3 Bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse/duplex. \$1000.00 per month. 1102 Johnston Street - 2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse/duplex. \$800 per month.

802-A Forbes Street- 2 Bedroom, 1 bath duplex. \$660.00 per month. For more information contact Wainwright Property Management 252-756-6209.

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Avoid domestic controversy and fuss. Follow your heart. Share dreams and ambitions with family. Consider long-term implications and consequences. Initiate actions later. Make plans together.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Share and connect over a common passion. Expect travel and communication delays. Monitor conditions and focus on short-term objectives. Edit again, and launch when ready.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Focus on practical financial priorities. A barrier blocks the way toward a long-term goal. Build and strengthen your house, one brick at a time.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Follow a spontaneous personal passion as long as you don't neglect responsibilities. Talk about what you love. Find others who share your dream.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Rest and recuperate. Envision and dream. You can see what's blocking the way to a long-term goal. Consider different options for navigating around it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Talk with friends about potential dreams, visions and goals. Wait for better conditions to take action. Coordinate a team solution. Make detailed plans.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Review your professional plans for possible alternatives to a blocked route. Edit outbound communications before sending. Carefully monitor current events. Consider career dreams.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Talk about where you'd love to go. Plot an adventure with someone you'd love to share it. Speculate, dream and imagine. Plan your itinerary.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Financial challenges could make a long-term goal seem distant. Don't give up. Keep taking small steps forward. Contribute what you can. Stay in communication.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Focus on the here and now with your partner. Don't worry about the future. Wait for better conditions to pursue a shared dream.

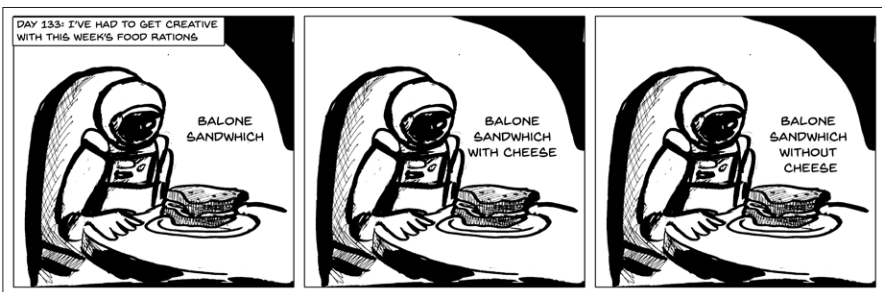
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- Nurture your health and wellness. Physical performance could face a barrier. Get enough rest. Take your medicine when needed. Get expert feedback.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- An obstacle prevents a romantic objective. Don't get frustrated about long-term dreams. Enjoy simple pleasures with friends and family. Focus on the here and now.

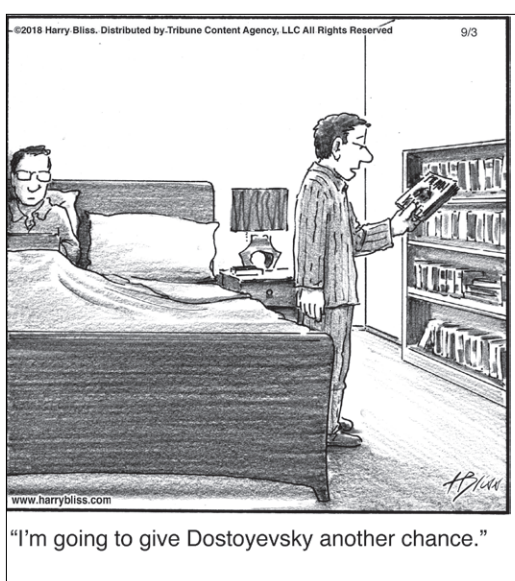
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COMICS

ONE AND ONLY BY BRIAN JUDGE



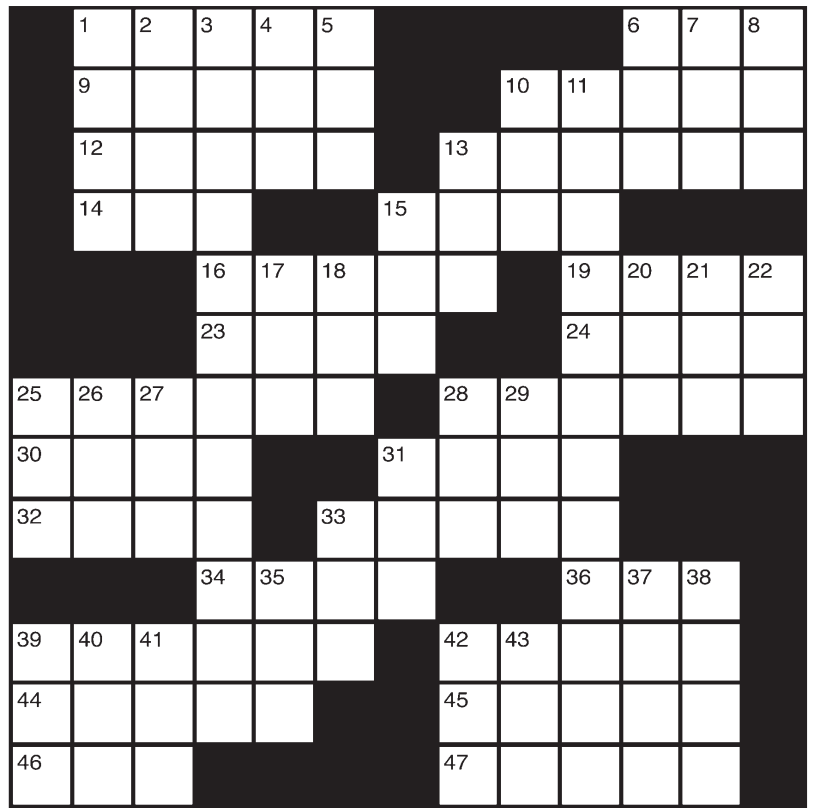
BLISS



CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Actress Reese
- 6 "Fresh ___ the Boat"
- 9 "Never Say Never ___"; 007 film
- 10 Company that produced Pong and Pac-Man
- 12 G-___; like movies for children
- 13 Actor ___ Kutcher
- 14 180 degrees from WSW
- 15 ___ Vogel of "The Brave"
- 16 Procrastinator's word
- 19 "___ the Explorer"
- 23 Sherman Hemsley sitcom
- 24 Role on "The Goldbergs"
- 25 Sheen or Short
- 28 "Seven ___ for Seven Brothers"
- 30 Mayberry kid
- 31 ___ Patrick Harris
- 32 Ryan and Tilly
- 33 Moore or Patinkin
- 34 "In the ___ of the Night"
- 36 Premium cable channel, for short
- 39 "No Country ___ Men"; movie for Tommy Lee Jones
- 42 Boring
- 44 Carey and Barrymore

- 45 Fragrance
- 46 Charles or Romano
- 47 Septic tank alternative

DOWN

- 1 "Where Eagles ___"; film for Clint Eastwood and Richard Burton
- 2 Actor Richard ___
- 3 "The ___ with James Corden"
- 4 "___ to Me"; Tim Roth crime drama series
- 5 "Sanford ___ Son"
- 6 Cereal grain
- 7 To and ___
- 8 Ice-T's role on "Law & Order: SVU"
- 10 "___ This Old House"
- 11 Longest-running program on Comedy Central
- 13 "Up in the ___"; George Clooney movie
- 15 "___ Behaving Badly"
- 17 "What Kind of Fool ___?"
- 18 Number of seasons for "JAG"
- 20 "The ___ Couple"
- 21 Charlotte ___ of "Diff'rent Strokes"
- 22 Mornings, for short
- 25 Series for Mimi Kennedy
- 26 "Tarzan the ___ Man"
- 27 Big ___; eighteen-wheeler
- 28 Jerry Stiller's son
- 29 Get ___ of; shed
- 31 Natalie Cole's dad
- 33 "___ About You"
- 35 Golfer Ernie
- 37 Brit ___; TV journalist and political commentator
- 38 Sharif or Epps
- 39 ___, HST, DDE, JFK, LBJ...
- 40 "Are you a man ___ mouse?"
- 41 Alejandro ___ of "The Flying Nun"
- 42 "London ___ Fallen"; film for Morgan Freeman
- 43 Unrefined mineral

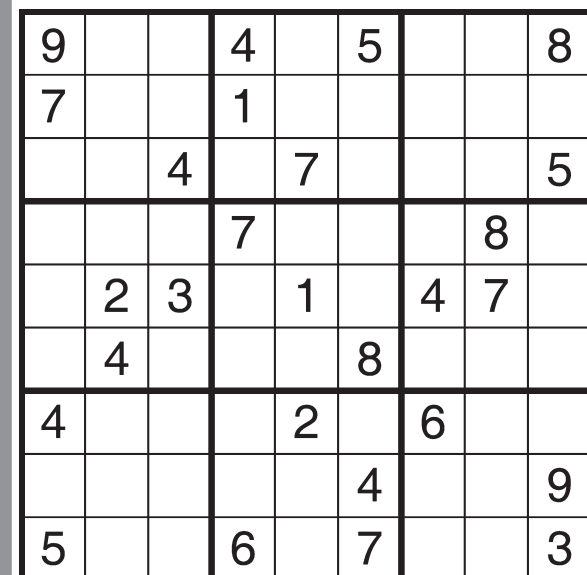
Solution from 02/04



SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

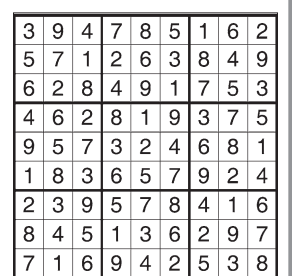


Level:



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

Solution from 02/04



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TAP THE APP

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EVENTS

TODAY

Zoso at State Theater
The State Theater
9 p.m.

College Night at Stumpy's
Stumpy's Hatchet House
5 p.m.

Tiny Art Show Pancake Dinner & Fundraiser
Emerge Gallery & Art Center
5:30 p.m.

TOMORROW

Prints Charming T-shirt Printing
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
5 p.m.

Blackbeard Sessions I Holden Dixon
Blackbeard Coffee Roasters
7 p.m.

February Art Walk
Schroko's Hair Studio
6 p.m.

SATURDAY

Buggy's Bar presents Rural Route Romance R3X!
Buggy's Bar
10 p.m.

Shakey Neil Young Tribute Show
Whirligig Stage
8 p.m.

Burpees and Brews
Crossfit Greenville
10 a.m.

SUNDAY

Family Workshop: Valentine Jewelry Making
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
1:30 p.m.

February "We Love CHOW" Drag Brunch
The Scullery
10:30 a.m.



CONTRIBUTED BY BRIAN DRYSDALE

Bluegrass band, The Grass is Dead, performs in front of a crowd at The Spirit of the Suwannee Spring Reunion concert at Live Oak, Florida in March 2018.

Bluegrass comes to Uptown

The Grass is Dead and South Hill Banks unite for concert

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

The Grass is Dead and South Hill Banks will perform tomorrow night at 7 at the State Theatre as part of The Grass is Dead's 2020 Tour.

Both groups consider themselves as having been based in bluegrass music, but with a little something more. Grass is Dead drummer and vocalist, Brian Drysdale, said that their bluegrass is heavily influenced by The Grateful Dead, hence the name The Grass is Dead.

"The live performances bring into view a traditional sensibility of bluegrass, swing and folk music launched directly onto a psychedelic paintbrush of modern influences, most importantly, the music of The Grateful Dead," Drysdale said.

Drysdale also said that the band's leader, Billy Gilmore, allows each musician to have input in each show and encourages a free-flow of communication between musicians on stage. This means that each show is different, with different instrumentalists taking different turns and routes through the music each time they play a song.

South Hill Banks mandolin player, Eric Horrocks, described their band's sound

as "jam infused bluegrass," and also mentioned that their live shows include psychedelic elements.

"We have bluegrass instrumentation but we use different effects with the electric instruments, so we stretch the songs and break from the traditional pattern of bluegrass tracks," Horrocks said.



Dan Fiasconaro

Dan Fiasconaro, South Hill Banks' vocalist and acoustic guitar player, added that they also draw influences from rock-and-roll and psychedelic music. He also emphasized the fact that they like to stray from the small box of Bluegrass music as it would be expected.

"We allow ourselves to jam, and have a free experience, a free space," Fiasconaro said. "Traditional bluegrass is rigid in a lot of ways, so this is a nice way to kind of break out of that box."

Like The Grass is Dead, Horrocks said that especially when they are playing multiple nights in a row in the same area, they are sure to change up their setlist. He men-

tions how every show is different, whether someone went the night before or three nights in a row, they will not hear the same thing.

"We got to know them and invited them to play in Richmond for the first time together, and you know, just kind of linked up, you know we both enjoyed each other's sound," Horrocks said.

Drysdale said that this show will have something for everyone, even if they don't expect it to. He states that the show brings two different worlds of music together and the audience will be impressed.

"I think that's what's great about the show. It brings together two different worlds of music and collides them together in a way that even people who may not be Dead Heads or people that may not even like bluegrass or whatever will go, 'Hey, I really liked y'all's show,'" Drysdale said.

Tickets are on sale for \$12 on The State Theatre's website.

This writer can be contacted at arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

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NEW YEAR continued from A1

from their parents. Banquets of food are set up. Food can range from dumplings to wontons to rice tang yuan.

Haiyong Liu, chair and professor of economics at ECU, explained the significance of the holiday why it's important to Chinese families.



Haiyong Liu

Chinese New Year celebrations will be occurring around Greenville to honor the new year that is open to the public, according to Liu.

"There is a small Chinese community in Greenville and we usually hold a Chinese New Year celebration together with faculty, students, members from local churches, and their friends. It is a very diversified community and many local residents who are interested in Chinese and Asian culture will participate in this celebration, which includes a stage show and a big holiday meal that follows," Liu said.

While the holiday vastly celebrated in China, many families celebrate differently. Some eat different things, and much like our holidays, they all have different family traditions. Wu explained the variety in celebrations one could see for the Chinese New Year.

"Happiest ones will be the kids. Besides some nice food and clothes, they will get new toys and some red packet money to spend in the new year. But the celebration can vary from family to family, especially for people from different ethnic groups. China is a large country with 56 ethnic groups which differ greatly in their cultures and beliefs. You can tell from the types of food they eat and the styles of the clothes they wear," Wu said.

This writer can be contacted at arts@theeastcarolinian.com.