



The East Carolinian

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COURTESY OF BRIAN VAN DER BRUG | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

Under Phase 3, essential workers such as K-12 teachers and ECU faculty will be given prioritization for COVID-19 vaccinations.

NC enters Phase 3 Vaccination plan expands eligibility

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

Caroline Williams
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



North Carolina will transition into Phase 3 of the state's COVID-19 vaccination plan today, which will begin prioritization of frontline essential workers such as K-12 teachers and East Carolina University faculty and staff.

Health Director and Chief Medical Officer for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Dr. Betsey Tilson said the state has taken a quick and equitable approach as it continues to distribute the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to the first two groups of prioritization. She said Phase 3 will initially open today to K-12 and childcare faculty and staff due to the vaccine's high demand, and then to the rest of Phase 3 on March 10.

Tilson said this transition to essential workers targets the group's susceptibility to COVID-19 due to the nature of their

work and its environment. Not only are essential workers at a higher risk of exposure, she said, but as a population they have a higher percentage of chronic health conditions and historically marginalized groups. She said the state has limited resources, so prioritization of populations at the highest risk is the best route to take.



Betsey Tilson

"We (North Carolina) do not have enough vaccines to get everybody who is in that frontline essential worker group once we open it up," Tilson said. "We've been really transparent about that, we want to make sure people know that. We still have a very limited supply, but we do want to continue to move along and open up."

Dr. John Silvernail, director of the Pitt County Public Health Department,

said Pitt County seems to be doing well in terms of COVID-19 cases, with 17,162 total cases as of Feb. 23. He said the county's demand for a vaccine is greater than the state can supply, so resources will remain limited in the next few months.

Silvernail said although the state's resources are limited, he believes Pitt County needs to distribute the vaccine to other medical practices and clinics to create more vaccination sites throughout the region.

"The state and the federal government looked at a limited supply and gave us guidance as to who we should be vaccinating at this point in time," Silvernail said. "There are different theories out there about how you can do vaccines, with limited supplies to best use it, this is the vaccine distribution prioritization scheme that's been given to us by the NCDHHS and we are following it."

> VACCINE page A2

SGA election virtual voting opens today

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Student Government Association (SGA) will continue its spring 2021 elections with students able to vote from 8 a.m. today until 5 p.m. on Friday via Engage and SGA candidates for the executive tickets continue to share their platform ideas and goals for their potential new roles.

Executive Ticket 1 includes junior political science major Morgan Fried as the presidential candidate with junior political science major Hailey Hogan as the vice presidential candidate. Hogan said the pair hopes to tackle off-campus sexual assault and crime prevention efforts through the addition of lights throughout the grid, a neighborhood where many off-campus students reside.

Hogan said she sees posts on Facebook groups where young females have had attempted break-ins to their homes, cars and other unsafe encounters and she believes women should no longer have to



Hailey Hogan

feel unsafe where they live and attend school. She said the pair also looks to promote a more diverse campus for students.

"We want all students at ECU to feel like this is a safe and welcoming place for them, they shouldn't feel judged based on their skin color or sexual orientation or anything," Hogan said.

For the future of the university, Fried said he would like to see stability in leadership positions at ECU as the university faces current structural challenges where several interim positions make up the university's leadership.

"We'll see this upcoming year it's going to be a huge transition year because Dr. (Philip) Rogers is coming in and we're very excited for Dr. Rogers and we'll have to see what changes he wants to bring to the university," Fried said.

Student engagement has been a yearly struggle for SGA, Fried said, as he has only seen a handful of public comments from students about SGA items. He said he would like to create a monthly newsletter to be sent to students to help keep them informed of current SGA initiatives.

Executive Ticket 2 includes junior finance major Chandler Ward as the presidential candidate with junior marketing and sales major Savannah Slade as the vice presidential candidate. Ward said the pair would like to continue to advocate for mental health

> SGA page A2

TYA virtual performance will be held

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University School of Theatre and Dance's Theatre for Youth Audiences (TYA) club will present a production of a student written play called "Hen Hears Gossip" via Zoom on Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. and the performance will be followed by a Q&A session with the cast.

The link for the show is available in TYA's Instagram bio, according to senior musical theatre major Chase Coston, who is the president of TYA and the playwright of "Hen Hears Gossip." He said the play follows the main character, Hen, and how her gossiping habit causes problems all over the barnyard. He said it includes characters such as a Scottish horse, southern farmer and a goose from Wisconsin.

Coston said he wrote the play as a part of his playwriting and dramatic literature for children class, and he will continue to serve as the playwright in residence for the production. He said he wrote the play for either adults to put on for children or for high school drama classes to perform for students at elementary and middle schools.

> TYA page A4



COURTESY OF ANDREW YATES | ECUPIRATES

Senior guard Synia Johnson locks down on the defensive end. The Pirates will look to build on their last game, a win over Temple.

Pirates set to host Bearcats

Cade Carlson
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University women's basketball team (7-11, 5-8 American Athletic Conference) is set to have a matchup with the University of Cincinnati Bearcats (4-15, 3-11 AAC) on Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. at Williams Arena in Greenville, North Carolina, and the game can be seen on ESPN+.

On Feb. 13, the Pirates traveled to Pennsylvania to play Temple University. Throughout the game, points

were being traded back and forth with ECU's Lashonda Monk having 10 points and Dominique Claytor with nine. The teams traded baskets all the way to the fourth quarter, where the game ended with a score of 57 ECU and 58 Temple University.

After the Pirates' senior night victory over Wichita State on Feb. 20, head coach Kim McNeill said she urged her players at halftime to take a deep breath. In addition, McNeill said she was proud of the entire team's effort in the win.

"Really good to look down at this stat sheet and see multiple people in double figures," McNeill said.



Kim McNeill

"That's what I've been wanting all season long and it just shows that we played together."

The Bearcats came into Greenville as the No. 9 team in the AAC ranks. This season, Cincinnati has

> PIRATES page A6

ONLINE

»NEWS: ECU receives grant from Golden LEAF Foundation for ERPC

»Check out our website for articles, photo galleries and more.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Town Creek Culvert Cleanup to be hosted

Today, SustainECU, American Fisheries Society, ECO-Pirates and Releaf at East Carolina University will host a Town Creek Culvert Litter Cleanup from 2 to 3:30 p.m. This cleanup will take place at 218 Reade Circle, Greenville, North Carolina, and individuals will have the opportunity to pick up trash in the Town Creek Culvert area. Buckets, trash pickers and gloves will be provided and social distancing and face masks will be required. Individuals can RSVP on GivePulse.

G.O.L.D series continues virtually

Today, the G.O.L.D Leader Series and Student Engagement will host a virtual G.O.L.D series focused on time management from 5 to 6 p.m. ECU students can RSVP on the Engage website, can join this event via WebEx and will have the opportunity to learn various tips on how to prioritize one's time.

Healthcare workers to talk vaccinations

Today, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Open School Chapter at ECU will host a WebEx event from 5:30 to 7 p.m. centered around why individuals should put their trust in the COVID-19 vaccine. There will be several healthcare speakers from all over the United States at "Promoting Trust in COVID-19 Vaccine" where they will share their different experiences and perspectives of the COVID-19 vaccine.

'It's C.U.L.T.U.R.E. Series' continues virtually

Tomorrow, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and the C.U.L.T.U.R.E. Programming Board will host an "It's C.U.L.T.U.R.E. Series" from 6 to 8 p.m. which will focus on toxic masculinity within the African American community and will seek to find the root of the toxic masculinity issues along with solutions. Individuals can participate in discussions and can join this event through the link provided on Engage.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



BINTA TOURAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The 25th annual Polar Bear Plunge will be hosted at the ECU Eakin Student Recreation Center tomorrow with COVID-19 safety regulations.

Students to take polar plunge

COVID-19 guidelines set in place to ensure safety

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's 25th annual Polar Bear Plunge will kick off tomorrow from 5 to 9:45 p.m. at the Eakin Student Recreation Center, located at 128 E Seventh St., with slight changes to the traditional event with COVID-19 protocols in place.

Assistant Director of Sport and Youth Programs and Polar Bear Plunge Coordinator Jon Wall said the Polar Bear Plunge is an event where students jump into a cold pool at the Eakin Student Recreation Center, which some may find as a typical activity, while others have turned the event into a custom at ECU.



Jon Wall

"In some ways it's (the Polar Bear Plunge) really simple but also what I think a lot of people have kind of latched onto is the fact that it's an ECU tradition," Wall said. "There's so many people that want to do it just to say that they've done it."

Wall said the Polar Bear Plunge is essentially the "birthday of the recreation center." He said since the recreation center opened in 1997, the plunge has been held every year to commemorate the center.

Many students participate in the Polar Bear Plunge as a group, whether it be with their friends, clubs or sports team, Wall said. Participants get a T-shirt designed by the Communication and Promotion Team, which is an aspect of the activity that students are excited for as it represents that they took the risk and participated in the tradition, according to Wall.

"I think we maxed out a couple years ago, probably 1,100 (participants) and then, typically we have around 800-900," Wall said. "Obviously this year will be a lot less just because of the circumstances surrounding it (COVID-19)."

In regards to COVID-19, Wall said participants will jump in groups of 10, in 10 minute increments, to ensure they are socially distanced. He said in the past, the event included DJ's and food services, which will not be present this year.

Wall said he encourages participants to attend the event already dressed in their bathing suits to limit the amount of people in the locker room. He said participants will be required to bring their own towel and wear a mask at all times besides when they jump into the pool.

"If they (participants) come dressed, jump, dry off real quick and then go, that's what we're really encouraging," Wall said. "Just be prepared for the water to be really cold."

Wall said since he's been at ECU he has worked with the event, but if he was a student he would definitely participate in the jump to partake in the tradition.

Sophomore nursing major Sarah Johnson said she participated in the Polar Bear Plunge with her friends in 2020 after she saw advertisements for the event around campus. She said the experience was a rush.

"There were a lot of people, so it made me want to be the first in line," Johnson said. "I got scared at the last minute, but it wasn't as bad as I thought. It hit me (the cold), but it wasn't painful."

Johnson's advice for someone who wants to participate in the event would be to go with friends to enhance the thrill and excitement of the jump. If she wasn't so busy, she would participate again this year, she said.

The flyers Johnson said she saw at the campus recreation center, dining halls and residence halls persuaded her to attend the Polar Bear Plunge event in the past.

"I didn't want to do it at first because it's

cold, I don't like the cold personally, but then lots of people talked about it," Johnson said.

Sophomore history and anthropology double major Jess Topolewski participated in the jump in 2020. She said she plans to jump this year as well as it was a fun activity to do with her friends.

Topolewski said she decided to attend this year because COVID-19 has restricted her ability to get out of her apartment and see friends.

"Last year I decided to do it because all of my friends were and I figured it couldn't hurt," Topolewski said. "This year I'm doing it because everything's online and we're all stuck in our houses and apartments not doing anything, so, it's just something to get out."

When she participated in 2020, Topolewski said she knew the pool would be cold, but she wasn't prepared for the 40 degree water. As soon as she got out of the cold pool, she was able to run inside and jump into the warm indoor pool, she said.

Topolewski said she saw the Polar Bear Plunge listed under "special events" on Engage, which is how she heard about the 2021 event. She said she feels safe with the COVID-19 protocols in place.

"They have half-hour blocks. You sign up for a block and then it's 30 people and they separate you into groups of 10," Topolewski said. "I think requiring everyone to wear a mask until they get into the pool and then once they get out, I feel pretty safe."

Topolewski said the jump seems scary at first, but overall the experience is a lot of fun and students will regret it if they don't attend. She said she will continue to participate in the Polar Bear Plunge throughout her years at ECU.

Additional information, requirements and history about the Polar Bear Plunge can be found on ECU's News Services page.

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

VACCINE continued from A1

LaNika Wright, Director of ECU Student Health Services, said vaccinations that begin on March 10 will affect a large number of staff and students who work as essential workers at East Carolina University. She said as of Feb. 17, the vaccine will be distributed to local health departments, hospitals and clinics only.

ECU does not currently receive vaccine first-dose allocations from Vidant, as it did during Phase 1 and Phase 2, due to limited supply, Wright said. She said she hopes to receive allocations again by Phase 3.

Wright said she's happy to transition to Group 3 as a state as essential workers make up a great portion of the ECU population. She said she thinks this transition will help slow the spread of COVID-19 significantly and will create great progress for the state.

"The university has to follow the guidelines that are set for them by the state, so we can't move ahead. If everyone would just be patient while we get to their group, our goal is to get to their group and we're working closely as a community. Not just ECU, but the health department, the hospital, we're all working closely together to try to make sure we're getting everyone vaccinated as quickly as we can," Wright said.

Mike Waldrum, chief executive officer at Vidant Health, said the vaccination of Group 3 protects a population that is most likely to be



LaNika Wright

exposed to and contract the virus. He said the state's limited supply required a plan that prioritizes different groups that are affected differently.

Waldrum said the different groups and the goals that the state sets for these groups will evolve as the vaccine supply continues to grow.

"It protects the person, and that protects our communities, which protects our economy, and our societies too. I think it's a really important intervention to use these highly safe, highly effective vaccines for something that has been devastating for our communities," Waldrum said.

Kaylen Maier, Pitt County K-12 teacher, said the vaccine would give her a better sense of security as she works at D.H. Conley High School. Maier said though she understands why people might be nervous to get the vaccine, the vaccinations aren't just for the safety of the teachers but for the students and other faculty as well.

Maier said the pandemic has shown that teachers are essential to the community. She said even though she is not a high risk individual, she hopes the vaccine will give her a peace of mind as she goes to work every day.

"I think it is important to get the vaccine, I understand that people are scared about it, that makes sense to me, but I think it is important if we are going to be around students and around each other," Maier said. "I guess that it goes back to that sense of security, like we should all feel safe at school whether that's health-wise or whether that's the students just being comfortable in school. I think teachers should feel the same way and all the staff."

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

SGA continued from A1

awareness on campus and inform students available resources.

Ward said they would like to advocate for more transparency with ECU as he feels it lacks when leadership makes decisions. He said he would like to see an increase in student representation and consideration when leaders take action.

"Obviously a lot of people were frustrated with how the university handled tuition and student fees and housing this past year with COVID-19 and sort of seeing that we were left in the dark a little bit on some of those executive decisions," Ward said.

The pair would like to advocate for the option for professors to attach their course syllabus to registration on Banner, according to Ward. He said he believes it would help students when they sign up for classes to be able to read a full description and see textbook prices, attendance policies and grade scales.

Slade said she would like to see the community around Greenville grow in the future in hopes to strengthen the relationship between ECU and the city.

"The more support you have around the university, the more alumni you have around the university helps the people that are there and you have people there to lead us in the right decisions," Slade said.

ONLINE | FULL STORY



Chandler Ward

Executive Ticket 3 includes junior computer science major Lilah El-Halabi as the presidential candidate with junior business administration major Marvin Francisco Del Cid as the vice presidential candidate. El-Halabi said the pair will advocate for diversity, inclusion and equity on campus to ensure students feel supported.

El-Halabi said as a minority student she feels the minority population is not represented enough on campus and she wants to advocate for all populations at ECU. She said the pair would like to bridge the gap between undergraduate and graduate students, who are not included in most campus affairs.

"We have hit almost every small part of ECU and grad students pay so much and they do so much for ECU and there's a big divide between undergrad and graduate so that's kind of the mission to making sure graduate students have a connection to ECU and they have say in the things that they're doing," El-Halabi said.

El-Halabi said ECU is faced with the challenges of communication between the student body and the administration.

Del Cid said ECU can benefit from better communication and ability to listen better to students for a successful future. He said the university needs to incorporate these changes so students who may feel small and unheard can receive a voice.

"For me myself, I'm more of a quiet guy, I prefer to sit back and have somebody communicate with me and let me understand what their issue is that way I can help them," Del Cid said.

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

OUR VIEW

TEC will endorse Ticket 1

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, endorse Executive Ticket 1 for the SGA election. We believe Executive Ticket 1's plan to enforce policies for more diversity, sexual assault and crime reduction is important as these problems are prevalent on and off our campus.

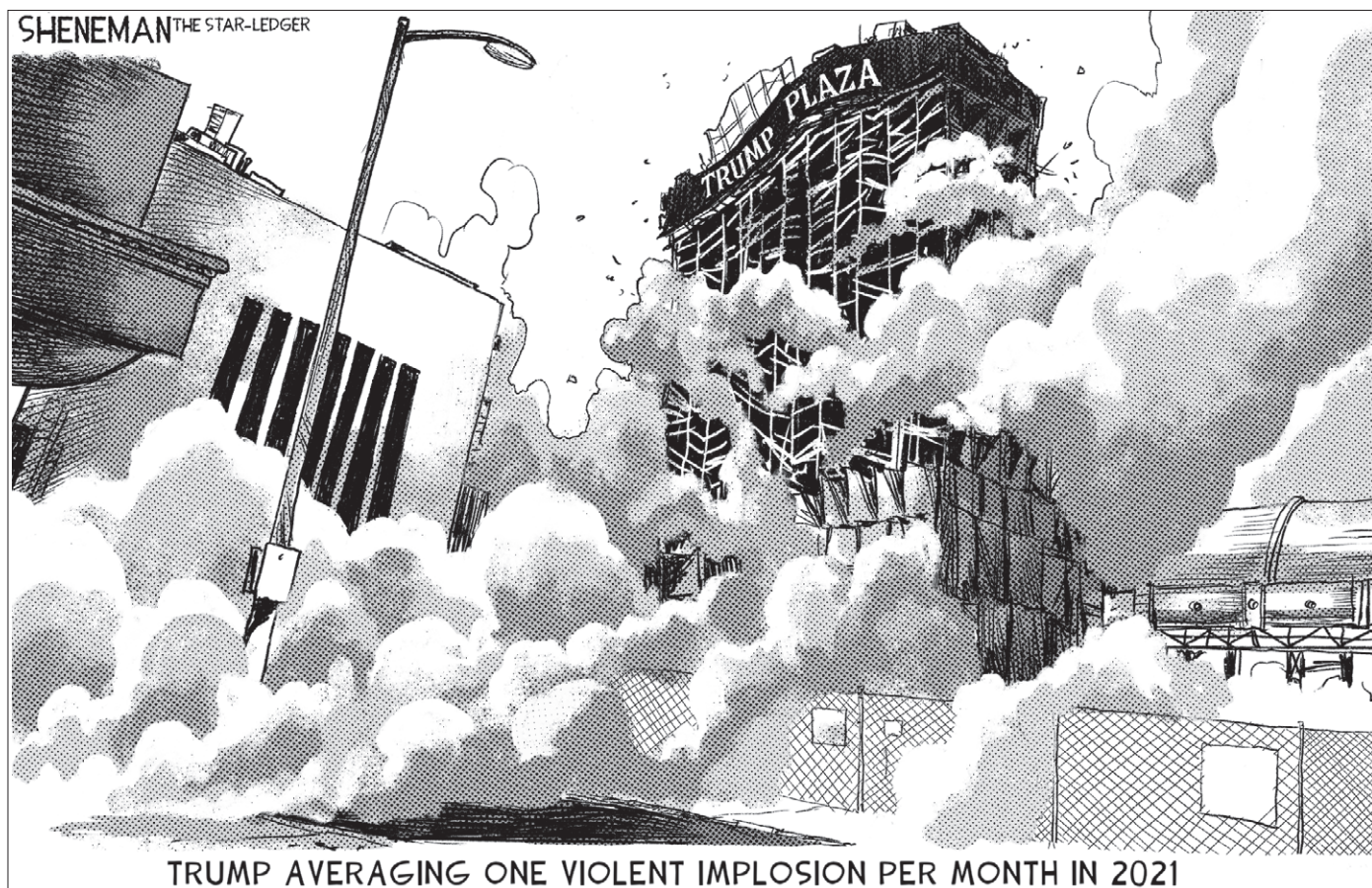
There are three Executive Tickets students are able to vote for in the SGA election. Executive Ticket 1 consists of candidates junior political science major Morgan Fried and junior political science major Haley Hogan, who want to focus on implementing policies for sexual assault and crime prevention. They also want to work toward the reduction of the annual SGA fee for students and promote a more diverse campus.

Crime is common in Greenville, North Carolina, and in the surrounding areas, according to Fried, who said he had seen multiple posts in various ECU Facebook groups that talk about break-ins and other crime happening at local housing for students. "Safety Gals," is an example of a Facebook group that students utilize to report experiences with crime in the area.

Executive Ticket 1 also focuses on reducing the SGA student fee, something unique to Fried and Hogan's platform. By working toward reducing the SGA student fee, which many students don't know about, the team brings awareness to the breakdown of how much students pay for their services.

We believe Executive Ticket 1 will be able to tackle the issues of crime prevention and sexual assault on and off our campus and we look forward to see what they could if elected.

Students, be sure to vote for your 2021-2022 SGA candidates on Engage while the voting window is open from today at 8 a.m. to Friday at 5 p.m. It is important to cast your vote in this election and use your voice.



Black history is important

Culturally historic month needs recognition from ECU



Dennis McCunney
GUEST COLUMNIST

The history of our country contains all sorts of moments to be celebrated, mourned and remembered. But the history of our country and how the story is told is, actually, a particular choice made by historians, policymakers, educators and others who have some kind of social power. Actually, there are many stories -- and not just one narrative -- that make up our country's complex history. As historian and educator Howard Zinn said, "...a historian (or a journalist, or anyone telling a story) [is] forced to choose, out of an infinite number of facts, what to present, what to omit. And that decision inevitably reflects, whether consciously or not, the interests of the historian."

One way to help share another side of our complex story and shape the "interests of the historian" has been to recognize the cultural contributions of communities of color. While in many ways these time-based commemorations are symbolic, they do also provide an important opportunity to focus on the diverse parts of our collective story as a nation. And, quite honestly, symbols contain powerful truths.

Our Black History Month heritage dates back to the early part of the 20th century, when the Black community celebrated the February birthdays of both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, two prominent supporters of civil rights and fair and equal treatment for all persons. But initially, the celebration only spanned one week. In the early 1970s, students and professors at Kent State University proposed a month-long celebration and recognition to honor the breadth and



TY HUFF | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Black History Month, which takes place during February, needs recognition from ECU community.

depth of this history. Slowly, this expanded timeframe started to take root across the country. President Gerald Ford praised the idea of expanding the recognition from a week to a full month, saying that all Americans should "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Lest we forget, a key challenge to remember is that these historical commemorations are tied to our country's long history of systemic racism and subjugation. While it can be tempting to view these symbolic memorials as simply another part of a broad, national, and univocal history, we need to keep in mind that these commemorations are borne out of tragedy, strife and deep pain (as we've witnessed recently with the killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, to note just a few examples).

Attempts to attenuate that tragic reality are dishonest and disingenuous. A similar "watering down" of history happens with

figures like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. That temptation can get in the way of an honest and critical assessment of some of our country's worst sins and how we address that history moving forward.

As a university community that is deeply committed to the values of diversity, equity and inclusion, I encourage all of us to view our collective story as an "already and not yet." That is, Black History Month highlights important happenings from the past that offer sobering lessons, and these lessons should empower and inspire us to create an equitable community that does not exist yet.

There are so many high-quality programs during Black History Month through the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and other diversity-focused departments on campus. I strongly encourage you to check out these events and engage as fully as you can.

Dennis McCunney is the Director of Intercultural Affairs and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Eating disorders need awareness

MORE WITH MICHELLE



Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

It is important for us to recognize and be aware of the various eating disorders individuals may potentially suffer from all around the United States.

Some of the common eating disorders include bulimia nervosa, an eating disorder centered around bingeing preceded by purging, an attempt to clear the food consumed, which can be done either by laxatives or by vomiting. Most individuals who suffer from bulimia are normal weight although they are often very dehydrated, according to Healthline.

Bulimia also causes imbalances throughout the body, low potassium and electrolyte levels, pregnancy complications, irregular heartbeat and it can erode the teeth, according to Healthline's website. The website said bulimia affects more young women rather than older women, but it also can affect men.

In the United States 1.5% of the female population suffers from bulimia nervosa, according to the American Addiction Centers website, while 0.5% of the male population suffers from this specific disorder.

One of my close friends, who I have known since middle school, told me

"One of my close friends, who I have known since middle school, told me recently she suffered from bulimia, as well as anorexia nervosa, another common eating disorder, all throughout middle and high school."

-Michelle Mazzei

recently she suffered from bulimia, as well as anorexia nervosa, another common eating disorder, all throughout middle and high school. I had known my friend for all those years and I had no idea she suffered from multiple eating disorders, which is why it is so important to recognize eating disorders are not always visible.

Anorexia nervosa is when an individual has an abnormally low body weight, according to the American Addiction Centers page on anorexia nervosa. Some of the symptoms of anorexia nervosa include exhaustion, low blood pressure, loss of muscle structure, infertility and lack of menstruation in females, brain, heart, organ issues or failure, along with other various symptoms, according to the page.

Of the male population, 0.3% suffer from anorexia and 0.9% of the women population suffer, the page said. 1.2% of the U.S. population that are 25 years or older has had

anorexia at some point in their life. Even though 1.2% is a relatively small percentage, it is still too high as the percentage for anorexia, along with all other eating disorders, should be 0%.

As a college student in today's society, I am constantly on social media. A few months ago, I came across an Instagram post that highlighted some of the eating disorders normalized in "eating disorder culture."

Some individuals may not eat throughout the day to fit into the outfit of choice or to have more fun when they go out, people may "pull trig" or comment on others' weight or food intake, the post said. It is important to be aware of these actions to help reduce eating disorders.

Michelle Mazzei is a sophomore majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

EVENTS

TODAY

Karaoke Night
5th Street Distillery
120 E. 5th Street
10 to 11:30 p.m.
252-757-3034

Open Mic Comedy Night
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt St.
7:30 to 10 p.m.
252-227-4151

Open Mic Comedy Night
The Blackened Kraken
123 E. 5th Street
7 to 11 p.m.
252-215-8822

Open Mic with JT Ackerman
Molly's Community Café
300 S. Evans St.
6 to 9 p.m.
252-227-4449

Wednesday Night Pub Run with Fleet Feet
Uptown Brewing Company
418 Evans St.
6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
252-353-3338

TOMORROW

William Seymour
Molly's Community Cafe
300 S. Evans St.
6 to 9 p.m.
252-227-4449

Pitt Street Run Club
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt Street
6:15 to 9 p.m.
252-227-4151

Comic Book Club
Smashed Waffles
718 Dickinson Ave.
7 to 9 p.m.
252-364-2872

Wine Tasting: South American Varieties
The Rickhouse
710 Red Banks Road
6 to 8 p.m.
252-689-6377



Greenville citizens Ronnie Swantner, Andrew Blough and Sawyer Phillips walk with their takeout orders from Smashed Waffles in Uptown Greenville.

Takeout campaign concludes

Uptown Greenville restaurant owners see increases in local business

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF



Uptown Greenville, North Carolina, will wind down the #TakeoutUptown campaign, which was made to encourage people to order takeout directly from local restaurants in Greenville, as the month reaches an end.

Events Manager for Uptown Greenville Courtnee McGrath said in an email statement the idea for the #TakeoutUptown campaign was sparked by a similar campaign in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, labeled #TakeoutPhilly.

The marketing staff at Uptown thought February would be a good month for the campaign, McGrath said, because Valentine's Day falls within it. She said restaurants still operate at reduced capacity, so while many people would usually dine out on Valentine's Day, the restaurants may not be able to serve them all.

"Most people normally dine out for Valentine's Day, but due to COVID-19 the restaurants' capacity is limited and takeout is a great solution to still support the restaurants. It was also decided that February would be the perfect month since many people took a

break from eating out in January because of common New Year resolutions," McGrath said in an email statement.

People can participate in #TakeoutUptown simply by ordering takeout food or cocktails from local restaurants, McGrath said. She said people are encouraged to place pick-up orders directly from the restaurant rather than a third-party delivery service.

McGrath said the desired impact of the campaign is to support local restaurants. She said, based on the performance of Uptown's social media posts and how many people have participated, the campaign has been successful thus far.

"People should participate in the initiative because it is helping the local business owners. Many of these businesses have seen a loss in revenue due to the pandemic. #TakeoutUptown is another way to continue supporting local merchants," McGrath said.

The Uptown Greenville website on the campaign said patrons of local restaurants are encouraged to post pictures of their takeout food with the hashtag #TakeoutUptown.

Owner of Luna Pizza Cafe Richard Williams said the restaurant has had an increase in sales due to Valentine's Day weekend so it is difficult to see right now if the #TakeoutUptown campaign contributed to that increase in sales.

Williams said takeout sales

have increased by 20% since the pandemic started last year and the dine-in service is at a 50% capacity right now so guests can socially distance themselves. He said they prefer that guests call first to guarantee they have space for them to dine-in.



Richard Williams

"If you spend money in local businesses you are supporting your neighbors, you're supporting ECU students. We have 20 to 21 employees and 15 of them are ECU students, so you are keeping the money local and you are helping to support your neighbors and friends," Williams said.

Local businesses do not get the same support as large businesses that are nationwide, according to Williams. He said larger businesses have systems in place to stay efficient and leverage their business in times like these.

Williams said the #TakeoutUptown campaign helps get the restaurant's name out to the public and lets them know that they offer takeout. He said the majority of the menu is available for takeout and one alcoholic drink per adult with an I.D.

"We are very appreciative of the local communities' support throughout this entire thing (pan-

dem). We've felt nothing but love from Pitt county and ECU. We are forever grateful. Uptown Greenville doing events like this is tremendously helpful for us," Williams said.

Quinetta Wilson, a manager of The Breakfast Bar, said she has noticed an increase in business especially from ECU students. She said it's dining room is open at a 40-person capacity and they are taking all safety precautions for customers to dine-in.

Wilson said the takeout campaign is helpful and works well with the restaurant's menu since they make breakfast food to order.

"We serve all of our food to order. We like to serve hot, fresh food. Breakfast food to me is not good cold at all, you can't rewarm it," Wilson said.

People should support local businesses to keep money local and because local businesses offer support to their communities, according to Wilson.

Customers should order takeout to enjoy good food and to save them time cooking, Wilson said.

"I am excited to be a part of it (campaign). I hope it gives us the opportunity to gain more business and more customers. We have a variety of foods for people to come out and try if they haven't been here," Wilson said.

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TYA continued from A1

"It can be done with any age and it even has jokes in there that only the parents will get, like all good children's movies and plays do. So it's really for everyone, but the lessons and the morals of the play are geared toward those ages about five to 13," Coston said.

TYA is an organization made up of East Carolina University theatre students, Coston said. It holds open auditions for anyone in the School of Theatre and Dance regardless of membership in TYA.

Coston said not much had to be done to the script to adapt it to a Zoom setting. He said he wrote in stage directions and designs that would be in his dream production, but when it came time to it, all he needed to bring the play to life were the actors, costumes and time.

"I think 'Hen Hears Gossip' gives life to a time when we're all struggling to just have a little fun every now and then. It's some lighthearted comedy, you don't have to think too much, and everyone can relate to this idea about not knowing where information is coming from, but still being interested enough in it to talk about it," Coston said.

Emily Sobken, a junior theatre education major, TYA secretary and director of "Hen Hears Gossip," said she most looks forward to the opportunity to work with the cast of the production.

The production team has utilized virtual backgrounds and planned how the actors' cameras will be oriented so characters will

face each other properly, Sobken said. She said they suggest audience members use the "hide non-video participants" option in Zoom so only the actors will be visible.

"All of the actors are in their sort of own space, or sort of in their own isolation, so we really have to create the physicality of the animals to portray the story as well as the use of camera angles," Sobken said.

Senior theatre for youth major Cassie Murray said "Hen Hears Gossip" will be her first production with TYA and she will play the Goose as well as Crow Chick No. 2. She said the Goose will have a nasally Wisconsin accent.

"I'm really excited to play the main character I'm playing, the Goose. She is just so funny, so sassy, and I just, I love her character. I have read through the play and every time I read it to get to know my character even more, I just get more and more excited about playing the Goose," Murray said.

Murray said the energy is different when not physically together with the other cast members and the virtual format adds challenges of working with technology.

"Being in an apartment there are distractions, you know you have people above you being loud, you have traffic outside loudly. But what really helps me is I kind of just like try to quiet myself and just kind of get ready for the character," Murray said.



Cassie Murray

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Loveseat class offered

Kyle Arno
TEC STAFF

Makerspace of Greenville, located at 102 Staton Court, Suite E, will host the "Viking Chair Loveseat" class at 6 p.m. on Feb. 25 taught by carpenter Chris Strathy where pupils will learn to create a loveseat from reclaimed pallets and two-by-fours.

Chris Strathy said he has practiced carpentry his entire adult life. Strathy said last year he built a structure out of reclaimed materials which he had originally planned to donate to the city as a little library. After converting it to a food pantry, he built and donated three more to assist during the pandemic.

Strathy said he came up with the idea for the "Loveseat" class about a month ago, and he thought it would make a good introductory course in building. Strathy said he has also taught workshops on tiny house builds in locations across the United States.

"I think (we'll have) eight or nine couples, and each couple will build a chair, and you know we'll go through everything from learning about pallets, learning how to dismantle them, plating that lumber down and then taking some old two-by-fours and making a cool little

lounge chair," Strathy said.

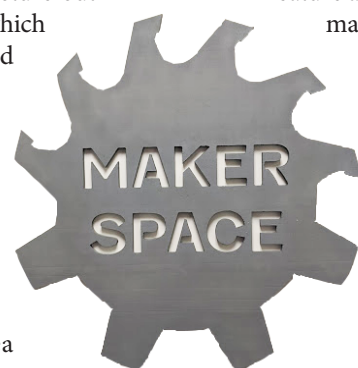
Darby George co-owns the Makerspace with his wife Tara George and said Strathy is a great person and teacher, and has an "impressive" beard and handlebar mustache. Darby George said the reclaimed pallets and two-by-four planks used in the construction will be provided at the cost of the class.

Darby George said the Makerspace continues to add classes, and next month will feature a class also taught by Strathy, to make a porch swing.

"So the date night class is Thursday the (Feb.) 25, and we're trying to have one a month, maybe one maybe two, just so we can have people get out, do stuff, build things. The idea is it doesn't have to be a date," Darby George said.

Matt Olson, owner of Snap Fitness at 2120 E Fire Tower Rd., #111, Greenville, said he participated in the "Loveseat" class on Oct. 21, 2020.

"Makerspace is kind of like a hidden gem. I don't think as many people know about it as they should. I think the concept is just, it's needed and it's new and I think if the word gets out that something like this exists for the general public, that it could really take off," Olson said.



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The Makerspace entry sign.

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

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Despite the obvious challenges, a romantic opportunity has long-term potential. Energize a passionate cause. Invite participation. Have fun together. Jump on in; the water's fine.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — In spite of personal doubt or worries, an unexpected opportunity offers you a straight shot to realize a long-term goal or dream. Push forward boldly.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — Broaden your educational horizons. Discover something new from far away. Research expert views. Keep your objective in mind. Make promises and keep them.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Find long-term solutions for a domestic mess. Housekeeping and renovation projects satisfy. Make a change to your home scenery. Consider color and lighting.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Carve out private time to rebalance and weigh your options. Consider long-term dreams and visions. Prepare for what's next. Strategize and reinforce structures.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Collaborate for shared accounts. Clean messes. Build resources for long-term growth. Keep costs down through careful shopping. Replenish reserves. Pull together for common gain.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — What you're learning has long-term benefit. Keep an open mind. Connect with a larger conversation. Share discoveries. Make a convincing case. Push for what you love.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Discover hidden opportunities with short deadlines. You can make it with a push. Teamwork goes the distance. Aim for the moon. Pull together.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — At first glance, you might notice obstacles or barriers to partnership. Keep looking for common ground. Coordinate for shared gain. Strategize for long-term benefit.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Hunt for hidden gold. Long-term goals seem surprisingly within reach. Find unexpected opportunities. Make deals, agreements and promises. Sign contracts. A push now pays off.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Handle urgent priorities first. A professional opportunity could have long-term benefit. Discuss the possibilities with trusted advisors. Advance on a long-term goal.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — There's another rush job coming in. Negotiate, don't demand. Gentle, steady pressure works better than force. Make promises, goals and commitments. Focus on

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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BLISS

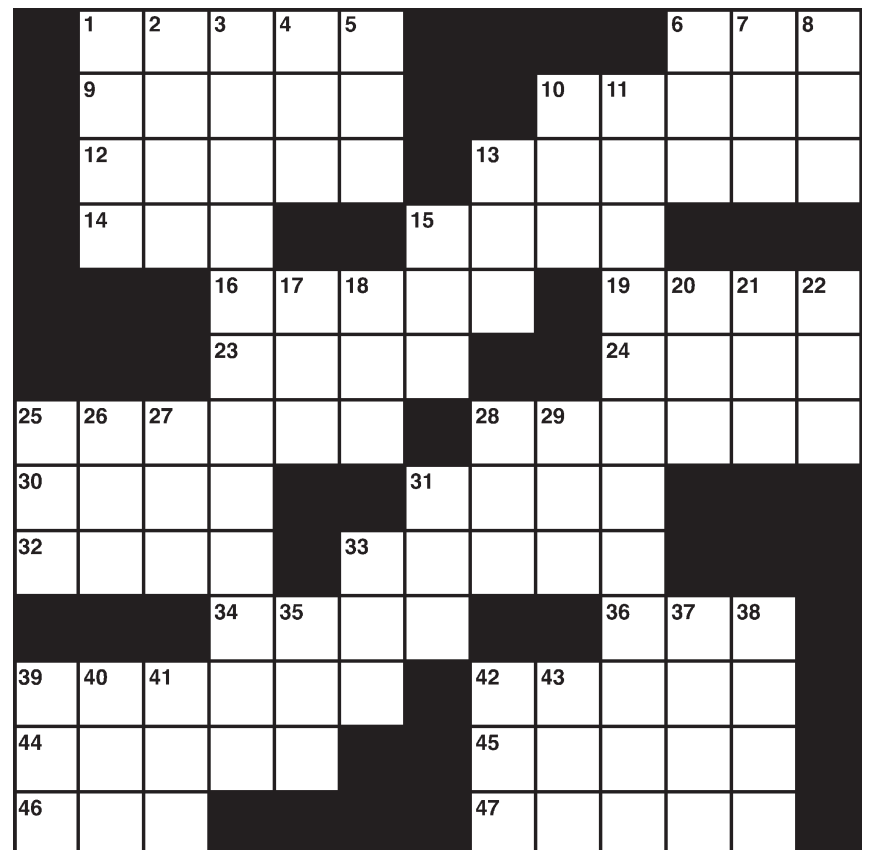


"Listen, George, it's called 'me time.' Get used to it."

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
 1 Wallace & Farrell
 6 Denver or Barker
 9 ___ Ryan of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
 10 ___ Fields; role on "Pretty Little Liars"
 12 Impressionist painter Claude ___
 13 Actress Peet
 14 Hostel
 15 Flabbergast
 16 "___ So Vain"; Carly Simon song
 19 "Death ___"; Bruce Willis movie
 23 New York team
 24 "___ dead people"; line from "The Sixth Sense"
 25 "___ I Go to Sleep"; Nicole Kidman film
 28 "Welcome Back, ___"
 30 Actress Remini
 31 One of the Roloffs
 32 Setting for "Grand Ole Opry": abbr.
 33 Terra ___; patio pot clay
 34 As ___ as a boil
 36 Mr. Sajak
 39 Cartoon dog
- DOWN**
 1 Kennedy or Rogers
 2 "___ Man"; Robert Downey Jr. film
 3 Actor on "S.W.A.T."
 4 90 degrees from NNW
 5 ___ up; arrange
 6 Canister
 7 "The New Adventures of ___ Christine"
 8 Hanging ___ thread; precarious
 10 World's 2nd-largest bird
 11 Matt LeBlanc series
 13 Dined
 15 Yrbk. section
 17 "... the ramparts we watched..."
 18 Univ. of Utah athlete
 20 Suffix for violin or art
 21 "We're off to ___ the Wizard..."
 22 "Death Becomes ___"; Meryl Streep film
 25 Sandwich letters
 26 Wide shoe width
 27 "The ___"; Robert De Niro baseball movie
 28 Beth's "2 Broke Girls" costar
 29 Two months ago: abbr.
 31 Orange female monster on "Sesame Street"
 33 "Boys Don't ___"; Hilary Swank film
 35 Make a choice
 37 MacGraw & Larter
 38 Tim Daly's sister
 39 "Murder, ___ Wrote"
 40 VP Rockefeller's monogram
 41 "Days of ___ Lives"
 42 Night we watch "48 Hours": abbr.
 43 "Avengers: ___ of Ultron"; sci-fi film

Solution from 02/17

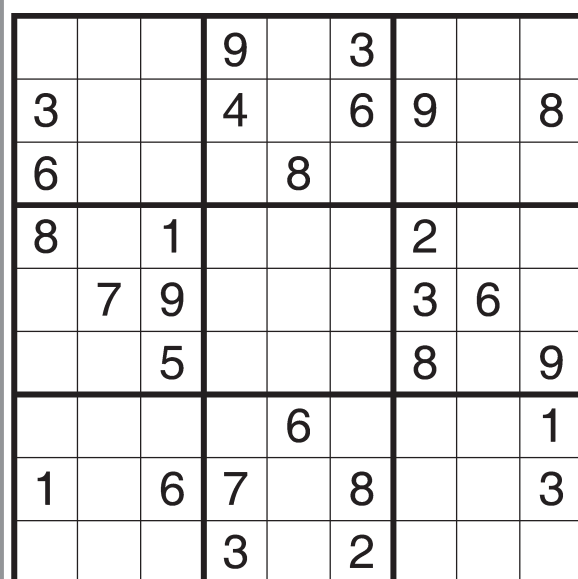


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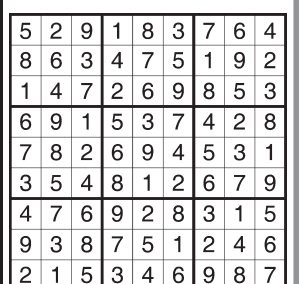
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



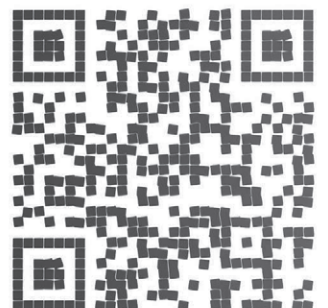
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution from 02/17



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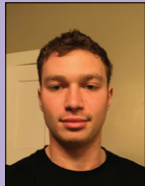
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TEC 'sports

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this week's athletic contests

Jess Sabin

Men's basketball reporter
@Jess_Sabin



ECU baseball vs. Georgia Southern on Feb. 26-28

Who wins? ECU sweeps series 3-0
Why? ECU showed

little to no rust in its opening series against Rhode Island while Georgia Southern was swept in its opener. ECU has the more talented roster and with a few games already under their belts the Pirates should sweep easily.

Cade Carlson

Women's basketball reporter



Women's basketball vs. Cincinnati on Feb. 24

Who wins? ECU wins 67-60
Why? ECU has had

time to prepare for the end of its schedule due to postponements and cancellations of games. Rest and experience will help ECU win this one.

Brendan Cavazos

Sports Chief
@bcvaz_xi



ECU softball vs. UNCC on Feb. 24

Who wins? ECU wins 6-2
Why? ECU has had

a great start to the season with its 5-1 record. As they face UNCC, who only has one win so far this season, the Pirates should have a strong chance to come out on top.



COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

Freshman right-handed pitcher Logyn Estes winds up a pitch from the mound. The Pirates will look build on their 5-1 record against UNCC.

Softball to face UNCC

ECU Pirates will take on Charlotte 49ers at Daughtridge

Stephen Babich
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University softball team (5-1, 0-0 American Athletic Conference) will play the University of North Carolina Charlotte 49ers (3-4, 0-0 Conference USA) today at 3 p.m. at Sue M. Daughtridge Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the game will not be televised or available to stream.

According to ECUPIrates.com, the Pirates recently competed in the Battle at the Beach in Conway, South Carolina, and won the first two games of the tournament, the first being against the University of Buffalo Bulls (0-4, 0-0 Mid American Conference), 9-4 on Feb. 20. The Pirates then beat the St. Francis University Red Flash (3-1, 0-0 Northeast Conference), 4-2, on Feb. 20.

The Pirates then lost to the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers (2-2, 0-0 Sun Belt Conference) 11-3 on Feb. 21 and then beat Coastal Carolina 9-1 on Feb. 21 in the Battle at the Beach.

In the first game at the Battle of the Beach in Conway, South Carolina, reigning AAC Player of the Week and sophomore infielder Bailey Ledvina scored two runs and recorded eight RBIs. ECU senior outfielder Olivia Narron scored a run and went 3-4.

ECU beat the St. Francis University Red Flash 4-2 during the second

game the Pirates had on Feb. 20. Junior infielder Chandley Gardner had a pair of hits and scored a run. Sophomore utility Keira Womack, redshirt senior utility Rachel McCollum, and freshman pitcher Logyn Estes each had a run.

The Pirates fell to the Coastal Carolina University Chanticleers 11-3 during the first game on Feb. 21. According to ECUPIrates.com, Narron had two runs scored and went 1-2 for the game. Furthermore, McCollum had two runs at two at bats.

In the second game against the Chanticleers on Feb. 21, the Pirates won 9-1. Freshman utility Emma Anthony and Narron scored two runs each. Anthony and junior infielder Ashleigh Inae both had two RBIs.

The 49ers lost three out of their four games at the Bubby tournament in Gainesville, Florida, according to Charlotte49ers.com. The 49ers beat the Georgia Southern University Eagles (1-4, 0-0 Sun Belt Conference) 5-4 on Feb. 20, then lost to the No. 6 University of Florida Gators (8-0, 0-0 Southeastern Conference) 5-2 on Feb. 20. The 49ers then lost to the

Eagles 13-5 on Feb. 21, then lost to the Gators 4-0 on Feb. 21.

According to Charlotte49ers.com, in the 49ers' first game against Georgia Southern on Feb. 20, senior utility Spenser Gray went 2-3 hitting and recorded an RBI and scored two runs. Graduate transfer Kourtney Gremilion had three RBIs. Freshman infielder Cori Henderson and freshman outfielder Kiyah Garrett both had doubles.

In Charlotte's second game of the tournament against the Florida Gators on Feb. 20, sophomore center fielder Vannoy scored once and went 1-3 with a double and an RBI. Sophomore outfielder Rochelle scored once and had an RBI. Freshman pitcher Madelyn Wright pitched in six innings and allowed three hits.

Charlotte went on to play Georgia Southern and lost 13-5 on Feb. 21. Vannoy and freshman pitcher Madelyn Wright each had two hits. Vannoy had two doubles and two RBI and Wright scored twice with an RBI of her own.

The Pirates will play the Ohio University Bobcats (0-2, 0-0 Mid American conference) at the Pirate invitational on Feb. 27 and Feb. 28. The series will be played in Greenville, North Carolina.

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



Rachel McCollum

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PIRATES continued from A1

averaged 60.5 points per game as a team, shooting 40% from the field, but only 24.5% from the three point line. On the defensive side, Cincinnati scores 14.4 points per game off turnovers and they protect the paint as they block 4.3 shots per game. The Bearcats grab 34.6 rebounds per game and they have 268 total assists this season.

Senior forward Ilmar'I Thomas leads Cincinnati in points scored per game with 21.9 points on average and she also grabs 7.4 rebounds per game. Sophomore guard Caitlyn Wilson is second for Cincinnati in points as she averages 8.4 points per game, shoots 77.8% from the free throw line and she is the team leader in made threes this season with 32.

McNeill said she was happy with the way Monk was able to handle the defensive pressures in their latest victory over Wichita State.

"I challenged her at halftime to not allow them to take her out of the game," McNeill said. "I thought she (Monk) really responded to that."

The Pirates, who are No. 6 in the AAC, still look to build their confidence and rise in the ranks as they meet the Bearcats at home. As the 2020-2021 season begins to wind down, the Pirates have averaged 58.1 points per game, with 25.5% being from the field and 62.7% at the line. ECU's defense has helped to score points as the team averages 16.06 points per game from turnovers alone, while stealing the ball almost 11 times a game and averaging 34.1 rebounds per game.

Senior guard Lashonda Monk leads the Pirates in points scored with an average of 14.1 points per game, which includes her averages of five field goals, 2.5 free throws and 2.8 steals per game. Sophomore guard Taniyah Thompson is right behind Monk in scoring as she averages 11 points and 30.3 minutes played

per game. Thompson also leads the team in 13.3 field goal attempts per game.

McNeill said although she was happy with the win over Wichita State, she has stressed to her team that the season is far from over and they still have a lot to accomplish.

"You know I told them this is a four game tournament starting with today because we're playing for something," McNeill said. "We're playing for a first round bye in the tournament, so we took care of game one and we've got three more to go."

This season, the Pirates have also ranked in the top five in five of the AAC's major statistical categories. As a team this season, ECU currently ranks first in steals, second in turnover margin, third in offensive rebounds, fourth in offensive rebound percentage, and fifth in scoring defense, according to the American.

It is also important to note that even with COVID-19 protocols and regulations this season, the Pirates' win percentage of .389 has been their best since the 2018-2019 season, where ECU finished with a .516 overall win percentage and a .375 conference win percentage for that season.

This is the second time this season that the Bearcats and Pirates will face off. On Dec. 20, 2020, the Pirates traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio, and were able to defeat the Bearcats at Fifth Third Arena with an end score of 74-67.

After the Pirates' contest with Cincinnati, they will play their last home game of the season in a matchup with the University of Memphis Tigers (4-10, 2-7 AAC) on Feb. 27 in Greenville, North Carolina. The game is set to tip off at 1 p.m. and can be seen on ESPN+.



Taniyah Thompson



Lashonda Monk

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