PIRATE BASKETBALL PREPARES TO STORM THE COURT to A7

The East Carolinian

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PeeDee repairs in progress

JAYLIN ROBERTS I THE EAST CAROLINIAN

INSIDE I A2 COLUMN
PEEDEE REPAIRS UNDERWAY

On Oct. 3 around midnight, the PeeDee the Pirate statue was vandalized and damaged by an non-ECU student. The statue was removed from campus following the incident and is currently in the hands of the School of Art and Design awaiting on going repairs. The statue's return date remains undecided.

Breast cancer recognized by university

Jada Gamble
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

While October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the East Carolina University community continues to work to raise awareness about the disease.

Mahvish Muzzafar, breast cancer oncologist and associate professor at ECU's department of internal medicine, said breast cancer develops when cells continue to divide and spread throughout the body.

"If a cell doesn't divide and die, it has a potential to keep dividing. It will become a stage/size where it will spread to other organs, so that's how breast cancer also starts," Muzzafar said.

Breast cancer is complex as there are five different stages of severity. The most common kinds of breast cancer are invasive breast cancer and ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), according to the American Cancer Society. Invasive breast cancer is where the cancer spreads throughout the surrounding breast tissue while DCIS is non-invasive as it has not spread through cell walls to reach the breast tissue.

Muzzafar said breast cancer starts in the tubes of the breast. She said if it reaches the tube and goes to the other parts of the breast, that's where it becomes an early stage of breast cancer. According to the National Breast Cancer society, this stage of breast cancer is more common compared to the other different stages. As the stages rise in numbers, the more severe the breast cancer will be.

"If it spreads to the lymph nodes and under the armpit it can be stage 2 and if it spreads through the neck nodes it can be stage 3, and if it spreads to the other organs like lungs, liver, brain anywhere, that's what is stage 4," Muzzafar said.

Mammograms are a preventative screening method that detects breast cancer. It is recommended by the American Cancer Society that women get screened regularly starting at age 40. Muzzafar said mammograms save lives and it finds cancer early.

"On average, breast cancer diagnoses are in the 50s and 60s (age groups) so one thing the older you get, the

> PINK page A2

Gravy Train will make stop in Greenville, Sup Dogs to host meet and greet event

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

&

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

American Rapper Matthew Hauri, also known as Yung Gravy, will visit Greenville, North Carolina, on Oct. 24 for a performance at State Theatre as well as a meet and greet with his fans at Sup Dogs as a stop on his international tour.

Hauri said as his tour recently began, he has already performed at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He said he has previously performed in NC cities such as Tarboro, Raleigh, Charlotte, Farmville, Asheville, Durham and more and is excited for his upcoming show as has never been to Greenville before.

"I've done a lot of shows in North Carolina but I don't think I've ever been to Greenville," Hauri said. "I also have a friend who goes to ECU, or went to ECU and it sounds pretty lit so I am hype for it."

Hauri said while he feels nostalgic when performing in college towns because it reminds him of when he attended the University of Wisconsin and he enjoys the energy of them.

Performing in college towns is enjoyable because college students notice and are excited to see him, Hauri said.

"It's lit because it's just like a little f-----g village of turnt people. It's just, everybody's lit," Hauri said. "Once you're in a college town, everyone's just hype and I can't go anywhere without everyone recognizing me and that's fun in those situations, it was fun on the day of especially."

As he is coordinating a party at Stilllife after his show, Hauri said he anticipates exploring Uptown Greenville. He said he looks forward to experiencing Sup Dogs for the first time and intends on trying the restaurant's signature sup crush and cheesy tots.

Hauri, who describes his musical style as "memphis, trap, white boy party music," said he coined the name "Yung Gravy" after he decided he needed a rapper name and played around with freestyling.

COURTESY OF DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD I TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

Matthew Hauri, also known as Yung Gravy, performs with DJ Tiiiiiiiiip in Amalie Arena in Tampa, Florida.

"I was 'Mr. Butter' at one point. I was like, 'Mr. Butter' isn't obviously a rapper name, so I got to go with something that's more rapper friendly' and gravy just is smooth so that was that," Hauri said. "I think I was freestyling something and I said something about 'Yung Gravy' so that's where that came from."

Hauri said the social media platform TikTok has helped to boost his music. He said although he hasn't always personally liked TikTok, he has realized that a lot of different people are on the app and it has the potential to bring his music to a wider audience.

"Today we were at this random a-s sandwich shop and one of the cooks was like 'oh yeah you've got to get your tiktoks up bro' and it was like the last person I would have expected to have anything to do with tiktok, like it is kind of cool to see," Hauri said. "I used to hate tiktok, and now it definitely spreads my music and there's definitely some really funny s–t on there."

Originally, the meet and greet at Sup Dogs was intended to be a lunch with Yung Gravy for a winning ticket buyer. It has been transitioned to a larger meet and greet on the roof so that more people can be included in that event.

> GRAVY page A5

ONLINE

»NEWS: Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs releases bi-weekly podcast

»Check out our website for activities, photo galleries and more

SOCIAL MEDIA

@theeastcarolinian | Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian | @TEC_Newspaper

BRIEFS

Pumpkin painting to discuss relationships

Today, the East Carolina University Women and Gender Office will host "Love Shouldn't Be Scary: Pumpkin Painting Event" in room 108 at the Main Campus Student Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A discussion about healthy relationships will take place while painting mini pumpkins in support of Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Month.

Film screening to address climate change

Today, the second film of the sixth annual East Carolina University Sustainability Film & Discussion Series will take place in the Main Campus Student Center Black Box Theater at 6 p.m. The film that will be shown at the film screening is titled "From Pittsburgh to Paris" with a discussion following the movie.

LGBTQ Center to host Coffee House

Today, the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will host its weekly Coffee House at 6 p.m. in suite 209 in the Main Campus Student Center. The event is created as a social gathering with group discussions centered around topics impacting LGBTQ students and engaging activities for those who attend. The weekly Coffee House is open to ECU students and those interested can register for the event on Engage.

Panel to discuss LGBTQ professionals

Tomorrow, the East Carolina University College of Business and the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will host "OUT in the Workplace" at 2 p.m. in room 249 in the Main Campus Student Center. The event will have a panel discussion from various individuals arond the ECU community. The discussion wil be centered around the experiences of LGBTQ-identified professionals in the workplace.

Lift Like a Girl series to teach exercise techniques

Tomorrow, session two of the "Lift Like a Girl" strength series will take place at 6:45 a.m. in room 238 in the Eakin Student Recreation Center Room. The session is designed as a preview of the full program. A coach will demonstrate proper technique when performing resistance training while using weights and machines for all skill levels.

Deadline for Expressions has been extended

ECU's magazine division has extended its deadline for its minority voice publication, Expressions to Oct. 25. The publication will feature the work of minority individuals across ECU's campus which includes painting, drawing, ceramics, songs, film, sculpture and more. This years theme is "Ipseity: the quality of being oneself or itself; the essential element of identity." Individuals who are interested in submitting work are asked to base their work on the theme. Artists can email their contributions or any questions to expressions@ecu.edu.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

PeeDee awaits ongoing repairs

ECU community seeks answers for notable campus landmark

Giana Williams
TEC STAFF

MADISON GRIFALDO | THE EAST CAROLINAIN
Students gather and sing around the spot where PeeDee the Pirate stood at a memorial to honor the statue.

Following the vandalism of the PeeDee the Pirate statue on East Carolina University's main campus on Oct. 3, its repairs are underway and is set to return to campus, but students express concerns about the lack of information provided to them from the university itself.

Between the hours of midnight and 3 a.m. on Oct. 3, Efe Mert Erdem, a non-ECU student, was allegedly responsible for the destruction of the PeeDee the Pirate statue. A video showed Erdem attacking and jumping on the statue which caused damage to the right arm of the statue. The statue was then removed from its location on the main campus following the incident by 3 p.m. on Oct. 3.

Erdem was arrested by the ECU Police Department the same day and was given a $500 secured bond. An ECU student was also involved in the vandalism incident and was referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR). Since the student is a juvenile, information on the individual was not able to be released. Alcohol impairment potentially played a part in the destruction, according to ECU PD.

Deputy Director of ECU News Services Jamie Smith said in an email statement that members of ECU's School of Art and Design are involved in repairing the damage done to the PeeDee the Pirate statue. She said the university is not able to publicize where the statue is located during repairs for security reasons.

Smith said the repairs for the statue will take several weeks depending on the severity of the damages. The university plans to let the campus community know when the statue has returned to its home on the main campus mall.

"We plan to let campus know once the statue is ready to return to its home since it is a very popular feature on campus. Unfortunately, we can't give you a good estimate of the statue's return at this time," Smith said.

JAYLIN ROBERTS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
PeeDee the Pirate sits with damages to his right arm.

ECU students congregated around the site of the statue for a memorial at midnight on Oct. 3, the day after the statue's destruction, leaving memorabilia in its place. During the memorial, students sang various ECU game-day favorites such as "Livin' on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi and the ECU alma mater. Students laid out various memorabilia at the site of the statue such as, but not limited to, no-quarter flags, bouquet of flowers, pictures and alcohol containers.

Following the memorial, the items that were left by students were cleaned up. Smith said the amount of items left grew to the point that it would have blown around campus or been subject to damage due to wind or rain.

The university never released a formal statement following the vandalism, Smith said, due to ECU News Services working with the ECU Police Department to respond to questions related to the vandalism that occurred.

"ECU News worked with ECU Police to respond to questions related to the vandalism from media and posted the information about the vandalism and arrest on ECU Police Twitter," Smith said.

Associate Dean of Students Leila Faranesh, and director of OSRR, said in an email statement that OSRR is not allowed to discuss the processing of the ongoing investigation of the vandalism.

"It would not be appropriate to discuss an ongoing investigation or to speculate on potential consequences. Consequences are determined by a variety of factors and are not cookie-cutter for each offense," Faranesh said.

Chancellor Philip Rogers said the PeeDee statue is one of the landmarks on campus that he walks by everyday when he's on campus because it reminds him of the spirit of ECU. Even though he does not have to walk by the statue, Rogers said he creates a reason to walk by it.

"It's been a challenging walk the last couple of weeks to go through the mall and not see our friend PeeDee standing in his usual location," Rogers said.

Rogers said it was disappointing to see the damages to the statue because it was a gathering place on campus where the ECU community can show their Pirate Pride. He said individuals who visit the statue take photos of it and connect with friends and colleagues.

When he was away from ECU for about eight years before returning to Greenville, North Carolina, Rogers said he would visit the PeeDee the Pirate statue with his children and family and take a picture with it.

The PeeDee statue was an "iconic" place on campus, Rogers said. When any place on campus is disrupted, Rogers said, it runs contradictory to ECU's values as a community.

"So we're (ECU) hopeful for a quick recovery for PeeDee. Know that he is with our School of Art and Design and with our facilities team as we speak under good care," Rogers said. "And I'm excited to bring him (PeeDee) back into the light of our campus mall as soon as possible."

Leo Wells, sophomore intended professional acting major, said he recently transferred to ECU and was not aware of the PeeDee the Pirate statue being damaged. He said if he had known about the incident sooner from the university, he would've paid closer attention to the incident and created talk amongst his peers about the vandalism.

Although Wells was not aware of the vandalism, he said it was pointless for someone to cause damage to a property without a motive. He said the PeeDee the Pirate statue was a "weird" target and it was uncanny the incident had happened in the first place.

"There's nothing cool behind this (vandalizing the statue), there's no motive, there's no take back, you know? If you're just trying to say ECU sucks, then that's pointless. You know anyone can say that any school sucks," Wells said.

Freshman criminal justice major Cole Cline said he was at his home away from campus when he found out the PeeDee the Pirate statue was vandalized through his social media accounts. He said the vandalism made him and his friends upset and he was confused about why it happened.

Cline said he and his friends knew about the statue when coming to ECU and how popular and important it was to the ECU community as it had been part of the campus for about 22 years. He said he was able to take a picture with the statue with his family when he visited the campus during his senior year of high school.

After attending the PeeDee the Pirate statue memorial, Cline said it made him realize how important the statue was for the ECU campus and he felt the school pride that members of the ECU community had during the memorial. Cline said he felt a little more communication from the university about the plans for the statue following the arrest would've been helpful.

"The only thing that I really heard about was through the news and everything about how the kid got arrested and the statue was removed. That was pretty much it honestly," Cline said. "So I feel like it could've been a little more communication about the next steps for it. If they're going to get a new one (statue) or if it will be replaced or something like that."

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

PINK continued from **A1**

risk for breast cancer increases. So 70-year-olds, 80-year-olds have a much higher chance of having breast cancer than say someone who is 30 years old," Muzaffar said. "So it is not very common for breast cancer (to be diagnosed) in your 20s and 30s but it can happen."

In 2021, there will be an estimate of 281,550 new cases of invasive breast cancer diagnosed in the United States, according to the American Cancer Society. In 2018, a study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that North Carolina surpassed the U.S. rate of 126.8 by having 138.5 per 100,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer.

Nikki Nichols, a communication professor at ECU, was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago. She said she has been sharing her experience to bring awareness to the disease.

"Particularly in my age group, women should start getting mammograms and really pushing women to know their bodies and trust their gut. You know, be adamant about making sure that they're healthy," Nichols said.

While performing a self-check exam, Nichols said she found a lump in her breast and eventually got a biopsy and revealed it was breast cancer. She said that due to the severity of the tumor, she thankfully did not have to go through chemotherapy and opted for the removal of the tumor.

Nichols said she decided to have a lumpectomy which is a surgery that removed the cancerous breast tissue, as well as taking cancer preventatives for the next ten years. She said her recovery after surgery went pretty well.

"It didn't take me long (to recover) the physical aspect wasn't so bad, but I think it was really the psychological aspect. You're going to the doctor, surgery, all of that stuff, you are really just focused on what's ahead of you," Nichols said.

On campus, there have been events held by ECU students to help bring awareness to breast cancer as well. Sorority Zeta Tau Alpha in partnership with fraternity Sigma Tau Gamma held their first Think Pink fest on Oct. 5, which involved fundraising to help fight the disease.

As of date of publication, Zeta Tau Alpha sorority has yet to return a response in regards to events held in regards to Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Sophomore computer science major Xavier McNeil shared his thoughts about the events being held on and off campus.

"It is bringing awareness to breast cancer and finding solutions and providing support to those diagnosed," McNeil said.

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

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION FACT CHECK

01 One in eight women in the U.S. will develop breast cancer in their lifetime.

02 **20%** Only about 20% of all breast tumors found are cancerous.

03 **<01%** | **1/1000** Less than one percent of all breast cancer cases are found in men, and only one in a thousand men will ever be diagnosed with breast cancer.

04 **30%** Breast Cancer is the most common cancer in American women, as approximately 30% of all new women cancer diagnoses in 2021 will be breast cancer.

05 **3.8 MLN.** There are over 3.8 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S.

06 **30 MIN** As little as 30 minutes of exercise a day, three times a week can help reduce the risk of breast cancer.

CRIME LOGS

Editor's Note: *The East Carolinian Crime Logs are derived from East Carolina University Police Department's (ECU PD) public crime logs accessible to all individuals. Crime Logs are not done within the partnership of ECU PD and The East Carolinian, as this publication is meant to act as an additional resource for Pirate Nation. Below are listings of criminal activity that has occured on or within proximity of main campus.*

Oct. 12, 2021

A larceny incident occurred in Fleming Residence Hall between Oct. 7 at 4:30 p.m. to Oct. 12 at 9:52 p.m. The investigation is listed as inactive.

A weapon violation occurred in Tyler Residence Hall on Oct. 5 at 2:45 p.m. A referral was issued.

Oct. 13, 2021

An open investigation is being conducted of an injury to personal property incident in Fletcher Residence Hall on Oct. 9 between 1:40 to 2 a.m.

Oct. 14, 2021

An open investigation is being conducted of two larceny incidents at two residence halls on campus. The first incident occurred in Garrett Residence Hall on Oct. 8 at 4:18 a.m. The second incident occurred in Jones Residence Hall on Oct. 13 at 10 p.m.

An open investigation is being conducted on possession with intent to sell & deliver schedule I and maintaining a dwelling for the sale of a controlled substance at 12:44 p.m. in Greenville, North Carolina.

An incident of possession of marijuana greater than 1/2 ounce occurred at First Street Apartments at 8:17 p.m. and was cleared by citation.

Six liquor violations occurred in various residence halls on campus. One in Cotten Residence Hall on Oct. 8 at 1:12 a.m. and another on Oct. 14 at 12:15 a.m, two in Jarvis Residence Hall on Oct. 9 at 8:30 a.m. and two in Clement Residence Hall on Oct 12. at 7:30 p.m. Referrals was issued for all violations.

Oct. 15, 2021

Two incidents of simple affray occured around Fifth Street and Reade Street at 2:03 a.m. and both were cleared by arrest.

An incident of possession of marijuana 1/2 ounce occurred at Moye Medical Clinic II at 9:29 a.m. and was cleared by citation.

An open investigation is being conducted on an injury to real property at Tyler Residence Hall between 2 to 2:13 p.m.

Oct. 16, 2021

A breaking and entering incident occurred in Scott Residence Hall at 5:03 a.m. and was cleared by arrest.

An incident of injury to real property occured at Fletcher Residence Halls at 7 a.m. and was cleared by citation.

Oct. 17, 2021

A misuse of 911 system incident occurred around Fifth Street and Holly Street at 2:25 a.m. and was cleared by arrest.

CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX NOLTE

Students participating in programs at East Carolina University's Coastal Studies Institute work together on a project at the campus in the Outer Banks, North Carolina.

Coastal campus seeks students

CSI markets educational opportunities at the Outer Banks

Emily Bronson
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) continues to ramp up its marketing efforts on ECU's main campus to appeal to more students in an effort to let them know that there is an opportunity to study in the Outer Banks, North Carolina.

Reide Corbett

Executive Director and Dean of the Coastal Studies Institute Reide Corbett said that there are many students at ECU that don't know exactly what they want to do in their careers. He said he wants to make it known that ECU's coastal campus is their campus too and an option to help them discover what they may want to pursue professionally in the future.

"Certainly early in any academic career, it is all about figuring out what you want to do and any and every program is going to be marketing to students because one, we're (the Coastal Studies Institute Faculty) passionate about what we do, two, we're excited to share our experiences," Corbett said.

The coastal campus is a fairly new program as it was finished in 2012, Corbett said, and with it being two hours away from ECU's main campus, it's easily overlooked.

Corbett said marketing is a big effort of his right now because he wants ECU students to know what the Coastal Studies Institute is about and what opportunities lie there for them.

"The opportunities for students out here and the growth of ECU's footprint is what we are trying to show," Corbett said.

Different from ECU's main campus, Corbett said the coastal classroom setting is a marsh and marine ecosystem that students get to work in every day. He said the student experience certainly takes a hands-on approach when the classroom is a student's backyard.

Another interesting part of studying on the coast, according to Corbett, is the interdisciplinary menu of interests that are housed in the coastal institute.

"The other thing that we're doing is taking this interdisciplinary menu of classes and focusing it a bit more locally," Corbett said.

The Coastal Studies Institute is much smaller than ECU's main campus, but Corbett said with a smaller campus, there are smaller class sizes. However, he said when recruiting more students, the problem of housing becomes an issue.

Corbett said that housing on the Outer Banks as a whole is difficult to find, but he said that if a student wants to come study at the coast, finding a place to house them will never be an issue because the institution will help assist students in looking for a place to reside during their studies.

"Housing on the Outer Banks is limited, but that is not a reason not to come to the Outer Banks and to the Coastal Studies Institute because we will find housing for our students," Corbett said.

Alex Nolte, the Coastal Studies Institute university programs associate, said right now in her marketing and recruitment efforts, she speaks to current ECU main-campus students, ECU faculty, staff and ECU admissions.

Nolte said that it is one thing to speak to the students on the main campus, but she said that it is equally important to talk to faculty and staff so that everyone is one the same page about what the Coastal Studies Institute offers to students.

"In addition to doing classroom visits, we're meeting with advisors on campus to make sure that not just the students are aware, but that faculty and staff are aware of the program we offer here as well," Nolte said. "I have been working with ECU admissions and attending events with them. So, I am not just talking to pirates, but prospective pirates as well to let incoming freshmen know about this Outer Banks campus."

Nolte said students who have already attended a semester at the coast, and those there now, have not only described the learning experience to be exciting, but they leave with a life-changing experience.

A passionate faculty, eager students and a hand-on classroom atmosphere, Nolte said, is the recipe for a personalized college learning experience.

"It's these personalized experiences where students are working directly with faculty in this amazing facility, but a lot of it is about the relationships that students are able to build," Notle said.

Cora McQuaid, a sophomore bioprocess engineering major and a former Coastal Studies Institute student, said that her experience at the coast was unlike any other. She said that her professors were passionate about what they taught and in her cohort of students, everyone felt as if they were a part of a big family.

McQuaid said because she stayed a semester on the coast, once she returned to ECU's main campus, she started an internship that directly related to her work at the Coastal Studies Institute.

Cora Mcquaid

"I ended up getting an internship and a job on ECU's main campus because of the opportunities that I found at the Outer Banks campus," McQuiad said.

Similar to Nolte's remarks, McQuaid compared her experience to a study abroad trip. She said that her coastal experience was incomparable to anything she had ever experienced in a traditional classroom.

McQuaid said she would recommend a semester on the coast to any student who was considering the opportunity because of how unique it is to any other program on ECU's main campus.

"It is something that you should certainly consider. Not enough people know about it, but it is something really different from what you would get to experience on main campus," McQuaid said.

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

Blue-Light Phone usage decreases

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

As on and off-campus safety precautions continue to generate discussion among the East Carolina University community, ECU officials have found the Emergency Blue-Light Phones located throughout the university's campus to be obsolete and not often used by students.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Safety and Auxiliary Services William Koch said in an email statement that due to the growth of student cell phone usage on campus, the university has noted the decreased usage of ECU's Emergency Blue-Light Phones since his time at ECU.

William Koch

College campuses throughout the state have seen similar emergency systems decline in popularity as well, Koch said, and many have either removed or are not looking to expand their on-campus emergency phones.

"Cameras have been a valuable tool for ECU Police and Greenville Police to deer crime and make faster arrests when crimes occur," Koch said.

Eventually, Koch said initiatives made by ECU safety officials to implement new internal hardware into the Blue-Light Phones that allowed the university to update the system's security technology efficiently followed the survey, as well as the ability to install security cameras within each Blue-Light Phone. He said whenever the university feels security coverage on campus should be expanded within a certain area, Blue-Light Phones are implemented to reduce campus safety costs.

The university has also promoted the use of the LiveSafe application to students, Koch said, an app that allows communication with ECU and Greenville Police via call or text on and off campus in case of emergency.

"The ECU Police also have citywide jurisdiction so they can better assist students where they live throughout the city," Koch wrote. "ECU Police work with GPD to patrol the Uptown District and the Grid to help reduce crime in those areas and help keep our students safe, especially late at night as they enjoy Uptown and walk back home to the Grid."

Chris Sutton, field operations captain of ECU PD, said in an email statement that the Emergency Blue-Light Phones found across campus are highly visible phones that offer two-way communication with ECU PD. When in use, Sutton said the blue light on the emergency phone will flash until police can assist. He said there are approximately 190 Blue- Light Phones across campus that are placed in high-risk areas intended to assist students in emergencies.

Cell phones are the primary forms of contact ECU PD receives in their emergency and nonemergency calls, Sutton said, though the most common occurrence of Blue-Light Phone usage is in situations where students cannot access a cell phone.

"I think the popularity and accessibility of cell phones has reduced the use of Blue-Light Phones. As a safety tool, it is not something we are looking to replace," Sutton said. "The Blue-Light Phones and LiveSafe app are tools to help ECU overmanage safety."

ONLINE | FULL STORY

In addition to the Blue-Light Phones, Sutton said ECU PD maintains several hundred security cameras that cover both ECU's east and west campuses and are monitored by telecommunicators trained for emergency services. He said the university has implemented "incandescent pole and exterior building lights" throughout campus that are brighter and more efficient, as well as a Crime Suppression Team that works to pinpoint and mitigate campus crime hotspots.

Sutton said locations throughout Greenville are patrolled by ECU PD to minimize crimes within areas of student living. The most recent armed robbery reported in September was the first since 2019, Sutton said, though other crimes where the victim is familiar with the offender may occur more frequently. He said ECU and Greenville PD routinely meet with campus community leadership to discuss safety and security measures on and off campus.

Chris Sutton

Freshman biology major Kailyn Kelly said though she's never used the Emergency Blue-Light Phones on central campus personally, she appreciates their presence at the university. She said she was told about the Blue-Light Phones and their general purpose during her orientation to ECU and from other current students.

Kelly said ECU informed her of the LiveSafe App and she download it to feel safer during her walks through campus to her residence hall.

She said she appreciates the university's safety measures, although additional resources would always be helpful, she doesn't know what else could be implemented without increasing ECU PD's presence on campus.

"I get really anxious when it's dark outside, so knowing that they are there and having to walk home, or having to walk to my dorm, knowing that they are there has helped a lot," Kelly said.

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

OUR VIEW

Halloween costumes need consideration

On Oct. 6, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) at East Carolina University launched its annual campaign series, "My Culture is Not a Costume." The event was created to educate the campus on the effects of cultural appropriation that is often seen in Halloween costumes.

The campaign series will go on every Wednesday until Oct. 27 at the Main Campus Student Center in Suite 100. Students who participate in the event are encouraged to share their thoughts on cultural appropriation and receive a T-shirt for their involvement.

Inappropriate cultural references in Halloween costumes can be insensitive and offensive to an individual's culture. Many people may be unaware of the importance of cultural awareness when it comes to costumes and, as Halloween approaches this month, students must take the time to conduct research and educate themselves.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe the "My Culture is Not a Costume" campaign is a necessary event to educate the ECU community about the harmful effects of cultural appropriation. Considering ECU is a predominantly white institution, educational cultural campaigns like this are an essential to campus life that should continuously be talked about.

The cultures of the minorities on ECU's campus should be recognized and not mocked by the use of Halloween costumes. It's important for students and community members to do research before choosing the costumes they wish to wear during Halloween, especially if any prior cultural questioning arises.

PIRATE RANTS

Editor's Note: **The East Carolinian does not endorse the statements made in Pirate Rants.**

To the person who thinks I walk in the bike lane, no I do not. I once rode a bike before I got a skateboard. But I keep it on the road.

Imagine being homophobic and feeling the need to yell slurs at people on campus. Like dude I'm just trying to get my starbucks.

Us oldies know there used to be a Chick-Fil-A in Mendenhall. Miss those days, but I've been enjoying Cane's too much so I can't complain.

BLACK MOLD in the dorms seriously??? Everyone is getting sick and it's not just the "pollen." Do better ECU!

The amount of people wearing face masks below their noses on campus is ridiculous. Might as well get rid of the university mandate since these people make it worthless.

Why do people feel the need to ghost someone? Like I don't care if you're dating or just hooking up, how hard is it to tell them you don't want to do it anymore? Let's not hurt people's feelings more than we need to.

What's the point of Grubhub if none of the workers will use it? I'm tired of waiting in line 30 minutes after my food is ready and people who order right then in person get theirs immediately.

Questions regarding Pirate Rants can be directed to Jennifer Sieg at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Submit your Pirate Rants on our website under the opinion tab or scan the QR code.

Commencement should improve

In-person ceremonies for individual colleges must return

Jenny's Journal

Jennifer Sieg
TEC COLUMNIST

A university's commencement ceremony gives us all a time to celebrate, especially after four years of hard work. As COVID-19 has notably put a twist on how we celebrate commencement and other various accomplishments these days, we need to work to ensure our needs as students are met.

I commend East Carolina University for putting forth the efforts to ensure that a safe, in-person commencement ceremony is available for students, however, we need to bring back individual college ceremonies.

In the last year and a half since the pandemic has created an unprecedented change to university commencement, the university has worked diligently to ensure a commencement of some kind is available but has left out the option to attend our individual college ceremonies in person.

Sure, there are a great number of people who wish to pile into Minges Coliseum and celebrate their accomplishments with hundreds of fellow colleagues and students. But isn't it important that we also share this celebration more personally with our fellow colleagues and students that have remained alongside us in our colleges these past four years?

To celebrate individually with our college's smaller celebrations is not only more inter-connecting, but it can be just as safe, if not more. There would be less people at one time in one place and, to be fairly honest, I believe it would be less of a hassle to manage safety precautions.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

If we can attend classes, lecture halls, football games, concerts and other gatherings around campus, why can we not attend our individual college ceremonies to join in on a final celebration that we prefer? The hard work we have put forth these past four years deserves to be celebrated in a manner that we favor.

My fellow communication students, professors and instructors are who I would like to spend my graduation day with come May of 2022. Piling into Minges Coliseum may seem like a big break and a great alternative to virtual graduation that was introduced at the beginning of the pandemic, which it is, but it is only a step into the better direction of allowing us to celebrate with our colleges in our individual ceremonies.

There is an undeniably large number of students who look forward to their individual college ceremony only and would rather not even attend the main commencement ceremony in Minges. Can we work to provide these students with respectable, safe and preferable commencement accommodations that include in-person college ceremonies? I truly do not believe we as a university will not regret it.

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

Lack of diversity hinders growth

Rachana Charla
GUEST COLUMNIST

As a cute icebreaker at my first official job at the East Carolina University Women and Gender Office, we were tasked with creating a pie chart of what defines us. Looking around the room with like minded women, many of us wrote down aspects of our physical identity as a woman, family member, partner, activist, ally. For me, the biggest chunk was Indian and brown.

Now, these similar ideas take up two distinct identities. Being Indian meant my Indian heritage, and brown meant the ramifications of being a person of color. This split identity should ideally take up one small space at the back of my mind, but instead my racial identity and cultural background have driven every thought or reaction I have to those around me.

Not having to think about race is truly a privilege that I never realized existed. Race is intertwined with everything I do. Despite being a racial minority that has a model minority status, my experiences cause me more emotional turmoil than anticipated, especially at a college where diversity is a little lacking. My roommates constantly ask me why I came to this university. Why would I go to a college where I knew I wouldn't feel like I belong? And the simple answer is, I wouldn't but that is a luxury I do not have and so I am going to a college where sometimes I am the only person of color in a room.

I am not here to complain about the lack of racial diversity at a school that exists in a place where racial diversity isn't the current reality. I realize, acknowledge and accept this. My issue is the fact I am constantly worrying about a problem that no one here seems to mind. I crave and value diverse ideas and have actually grown up surrounded by diversity.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

The lack of diversity in student bodies at college actually hinders the growth of the students, and university as a whole. Having faculty and staff with different backgrounds allows students to connect with adults who can relate to their shared experiences and help them along the way. ECU's lack of diversity among both the faculty and student body is no surprise with approximately 65% of students identifying as white with a similar correlation among staff. Despite having over 16% of the student body identifying as Black, this diversity in the student body is not reflected in classroom education. It is not enough to have a diverse student body without acknowledging that diversity directly in the learning environment.

Catering to students' backgrounds and ensuring that their lived experiences and history must be reflected in the curriculum can allow for a more diverse learning experience. But this will only be effective if accompanied by an open conversation about how race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity affect a student's life and in turn allows students to learn more from one another.

ECU has a long way to go in terms of increasing diversity in both the faculty and student body and have that reflected in the classroom. However, I have realized what a great learning opportunity living here can be. I have met so many people who are truly willing to learn and explore and talk about the most unfamiliar things. And while I may get frustrated that sometimes the most obvious things like white privilege or isolated racial communities are so visible on campus.

Charla is a sophomore majoring in biology and a guest columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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EVENTS

TODAY

Sustainability Film Screening
Main Campus Student Center Lawn
501 E. 10th St.
6 to 8:30 p.m.
(252) 744-4190

Open Mic Comedy
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt St.
8 p.m.
(252) 227-4151

TOMORROW

Flesh and Blood Weekly Armory Tournament
Well Played Games
1400 Charles Blvd. Suite 130
6 to 10 p.m.
(252) 378-2098

The Schwa Show
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
404 Evans St.
5 to 8 p.m.
(252) 551-6947

FRIDAY

Anita's Taqueria Food Truck
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt St.
6 to 9 p.m.
(252) 227-4151

October Wine Tasting
Jarvis Street Bottle Shop
211 S Jarvis St.
5 to 7 p.m.
(252) 364-2840

SATURDAY

Mason Jar Bonfire
AJ McMurphy's
1914 Turnbury Dr.
(252) 355-7956

Youth Arts Festival
Jaycee park Center for Arts & Crafts
2000 Cedar Ln.
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(252) 329-4567

Trunk or Treat
Hope Farm and Learning Centers
876 Briley Road
5 to 7 p.m.
(252) 531-6106

Pop! Swap Sponsored by Blue Ox Games
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt St.
1 to 3 p.m.
(252) 227-4151

HALIE MILLER I THE EAST CAROLINIAN

"Winter Wanderers," the current mural on the side of Starlight Cafe by alumnus Vincent Li, will be replaced with "Listening" by ECU associate professor Beth Blake.

Uptown to welcome new mural

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

&

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

Uptown Greenville should be on the lookout for a new piece of art located on the side of Starlight Cafe in the coming weeks as The Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge (PCAC) will install "Listening," its third mural rotation of the Five Points Archway Public Art Project by this year's artist Beth Blake.

The expected reveal date of the new mural is Nov. 5. PCAC Executive Director Holly Garriott said the council conducted a national call for artists using the platform CaFÉ, where artists could submit their proposals before the deadline, which was on Aug. 28. Garriott said they received over 70 proposals from across the country through CaFÉ, which is funded through private grants and donations.

Garriot said Blake is an East Carolina University School of Art and Design (SoAD) associate professor. She said though the call for artists was national, each mural artist has been affiliated with ECU since the start of the project.

The rotating murals are switched out every three years as the vinyl used for the murals is only guaranteed to last that long due to weather and integrity of the material, Garriott said.

"The design is actually reproduced by a local company called Signsmith and they print on a vinyl material, the design and that vinyl tends to weather and sort of break down between three and five years," Garriott said. "We wanted to make sure the integrity of the material and the image was at its utmost best."

Holly Garriott

Sarah Lazure, marketing and exhibits coordinator at Emerge Gallery and Art Center, said the rotating installations in the Five Points Archways serve as encouragement for people to get out into the community and enjoy both the architecture and the art available in Uptown. She said each piece that has occupied this space has had a special meaning for the community.

This trend of ECU artists being chosen for the project is purely coincidence, according to Lazure, but she said it is a testament to the immense talent that ECU and Greenville have to offer.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

"We have had, this last time, a national pool of over 70 candidates and I think that it truly shows the magnitude of the talent that is here," Lazure said. "And especially showcasing what is happening at the School of Art and Design, afterwards or as a result of being part of the community."

Blake said when designing her mural, she knew she wanted to incorporate community and diversity. She said her garden and yard represent diversity in a community.

"I have this yard that is a work in progress, I'm working on it, I'm trying to build in my yard diversity, wildlife diversity and in order to have a community that's healthy you need diversity," Blake said. "I just started drawing stuff from my yard so the image is really, you know, if I simplify it, it is an image of my yard, it's a fragment of I guess what might be my flower garden."

Each of the five panels of the mural represent a different part of her yard with various wildlife, Blake said. She said as many of her pieces have an "environmental undertone," she used aspects that exist in her and her neighbors' yards.

Blake said community members who view "Listening" should think about what the community needs to do in order to uphold a healthy environment."

"I would like people to look at this and think about what we do need to do to create healthier environments," Blake said.

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

Live music continues gradual return

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

Following the nearly complete pause in live music performances caused by COVID-19, the music scene in Greenville, North Carolina, is beginning to gradually rebuild as more audience members return to live performances.

Event coordinator and founder of Spazz Presents, Jeff Blinder, said while some venues and audience members have been somewhat hesitant to return to in-person shows, he has had a lot of interest from musicians about getting back in front of live audiences.

Jeff Blinder

Throughout COVID-19, Blinder said he continued to coordinate live events by keeping audiences smaller and venues mostly outdoors and abiding by various other COVID-19 restrictions. He said during this time many touring musicians put their activities on hold, but these days they are eagerly anticipating a return to the live stage.

"We are seeing a lot of resurface in the actual touring acts finally being comfortable enough to plan fall tours and spring tours," Blinder said. "Now my email is loading up with really cool options and basically I have to see what venues we have still."

Summer Evans, manager at AJ McMurphy's Irish Pub, said the pub welcomed back live music outdoors a year ago in October of 2020 and allowed performances indoors starting this late spring around April or May. She said their customer turnout is pretty steady and can be heavier on certain nights depending on what band is playing.

Although some customers are hesitant about returning to live performances and the potential of being around larger groups of people, Evans said most of their regular musical acts have been eager to return.

"The majority of the bands we had in 2019 have returned," Evans said. "There's a few that we lost, that they're just not playing in general. But I'd say at least 80% of the talent that we had previously seen, they're returning."

Now that live music has begun to return, Evans said many people are taking advantage of the opportunity to get back out into the community.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

"It's amazing how many people are going to concerts and shows and things like that because they have that choice now," Evans said. "And I don't think anybody realized how important live music was until it wasn't there."

Grey Daniels, a local singer/songwriter, said they returned to doing live performances in late 2020, entering the holiday season. They said that when East Carolina University is not in session and students aren't on campus, attendance at shows goes down.

When they returned to live performances, the audiences were largely made up of an older crowd of long-time members of the Greenville music scene, Daniels said. They said they have noticed an increase in younger audience members attending shows recently.

"And now I'm seeing a lot of younger people. I saw some highschoolers even coming out, which is super cool, a couple weeks ago at Molly's (Community) Café, which has been really nice to see because that's how it used to be," Daniels said. "Back when I was in high school it was mostly like kids hanging out and listening to good music."

Daniels said it has been exciting to be back performing and surrounded by the community of people who are as deeply invested in music as they are.

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

GRAVY continued from A1

the roof so that more people can be included in that event.

Hauri said he's been a part of last minute "eat and greet's" before a few of his shows, though not as put together as the upcoming event with Sup Dogs.

"I've done just random thrown together ones where we got along with some restaurant. But not many, this is special." Hauri said. "It should be good, especially now that I know they have sup crushes.

Sup Dogs Owner Bret Oliverio said he was contacted by Yung Gravys promoter, who was interested in Sup Dogs being involved in Yung Gravys trip to Greenville. Oliverio said he realized that holding a meet and greet before the concert would be a good opportunity for the bar and restaurant.

Oliverio said the meet and greet, which will take place the afternoon of the concert for around 45 minutes to an hour, will be available to anyone who bought a ticket to the Yung Gravy concert. He said Sup Dogs will do its best to accommodate as many fans as possible.

"What we're aiming for is just to open the rooftop (and) hopefully (Yung) Gravy eats some cheesy tots, has a sup crush and hangs out with a bunch of fans before the show," Oliverio said. "The plan is if you have tickets to the show, we're going to take as many people as we can to come hangout with him on the rooftop."

Over the years, Oliverio said various "big names" have come through Sup Dogs such as Jonathan Smith or Lil Jon, Paul D. DelVecchio Jr or DJ Pauly D, William Moore or DJ Esco, Scotty McCreery and more. He said whenever big names visit Greenville they bring a lot of energy to Uptown.

Oliverio said when Sup Dogs announced the news that Yung Gravy would be hanging out at their restaurant, the news "exploded." He said he was surprised by the age range of Yung Gravy's fans.

"What sort of got me was the range of ages of his fans," Oliverio said. There's Alumni that have contacted us that they're coming back for the show, we've also had 18-year-old employees who are big fans so he kind of has a wide range of fan base."

Oliverio said while there is no home football game the weekend of the concert, the Yung Gravy meet and greet and concert should be the "event of the weekend." He said Sup Dogs is excited to be a part of it.

East Carolina University alumnus Nick Horvath said as he has been a big fan ofv Yung Gravy for the past six years, he is excited to attend the upcoming concert.

"I guess I just like the style of music, like the funniness he adds to the music he makes," Horvath said. "Just his whole demeanor and how he makes music is just pretty cool to me."

Over the summer, Horvath said he saw on Spotify that Greenville was a place of interest for Yung Gravy to perform in. He said he requested for Yung Gravy to come to Greenville through the app and was excited to see that he was actually coming.

Horvath said he hopes to be able to meet Yung Gravy at the meet and greet at Sup Dogs. He said if he got the opportunity to speak with him, he would ask Yung Gravy to let him and his friends come on stage and perform with him at the concert.

"(I'm looking forward to) just a person that I've never seen before and just to see him in Greenville is pretty awesome," Horvath said. "He's been in my Spotify top five artists for the last three years in a row."

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

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — A challenge reorients you. This Full Moon in your sign illuminates a new personal direction. Expand your boundaries. Turn toward an inspiring possibility.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Review priorities privately. The Aries Full Moon illuminates transitions. Begin a two-week introspective phase. Balance old responsibilities with new. Meditate on dreams, past and future.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — One door closes and another opens. Adapt with community and team changes. Share appreciations, goodbyes and greetings. Begin a new social Full Moon phase.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Make a professional change with today's Aries Full Moon. Redirect efforts toward your talents, passions and purpose. An exciting career opportunity has long-term benefits.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — An exploration changes and evolves. Today's Full Moon illuminates a shift in your educational direction. Experiment with new concepts for a few weeks.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — The stakes could seem high under the Aries Full Moon. Shift directions with shared finances over two weeks. Work out the next phase together.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Adjust to changes. Reach a turning point with a partnership. Compromise and collaborate for shared commitments. Adapt for new solutions. Love strengthens foundations.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 9 — Begin a new physical health and fitness phase. Adapt practices for conditions illuminated by this Full Moon. Reduce poisons and toxins. Increase strength and vitality.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — Express your heart, imagination and artistry. The Full Moon shines on a turning point. Change directions with a romance, passion or creative endeavor. Shift perspectives.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Make repairs. Renovate, remodel and tend your garden. Domestic changes require adaptation under the Aries Full Moon. Begin a new home and family phase.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Start a new chapter. A new two-week phase in communications, connection and intellectual discovery dawns. Consider familiar stories from another perspective. Write and share.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 9 — Make a shift around income and finances. Discover profitable opportunities in new directions. Harvest an unexpended windfall. Redirect attention to discover fresh potential.

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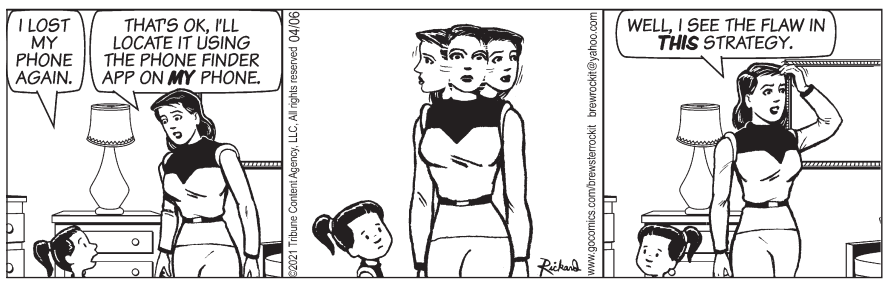
COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT

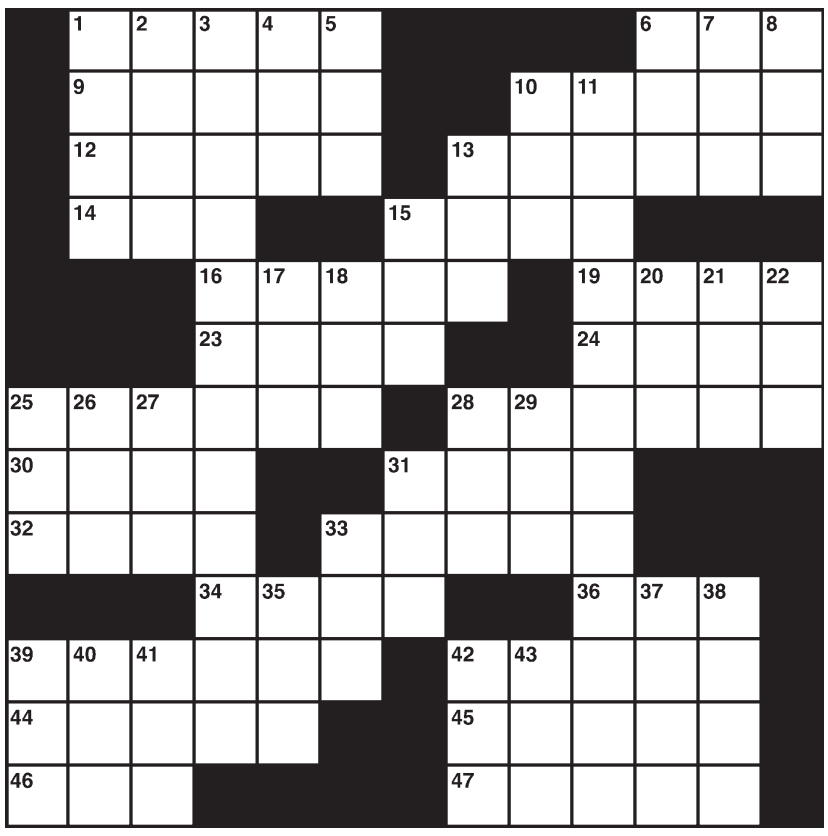


BLISS

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS
1 Role on "How I Met Your Mother"
6 "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" role
9 "Carmen" or "Rigoletto"
10 "Two of __"; series for Mary-Kate & Ashley
12 Region whose capital is Lhasa
13 Musical for Travolta & Newton-John
14 "Now You __ Me"; Jesse Eisenberg film
15 "Less __ Perfect"
16 One of the Judds
19 Part of speech
23 Actor Close
24 Meditative exercise
25 Actor __ L. Jackson
28 Actress Jill __
30 "The Man Who __ Too Much"; James Stewart film
31 "The Oh in __"; Parker Posey movie
32 "The King __"; Yul Brynner film
33 "__ Off the Boat"
34 Irritate
36 "Bill __, the Science Guy"
39 "__ Little Liars"
42 Beghe of "Chicago P.D."
44 Buzzi & others
45 __ as the hills
46 "Cat __ Hot Tin Roof"
47 Richard Gere/Vanessa Redgrave movie

DOWN
1 Goes bad
2 Mayberry resident
3 Lilith's portrayer
4 Wrath
5 Natalie Cole's dad
6 Tamera's twin
7 Nav. rank
8 …FDR, HST, __, JFK, LBJ…
10 Late coach Parseghian
11 Actor on "S.W.A.T."
13 F's followers
15 Premium cable network
17 "The Kids __ Alright"
18 Jed Clampett's discovery
20 "Hollywood Squares" win
21 Word of disgust
22 Fabray, to friends
25 Music from Jamaica
26 Curry or Cusack
27 "Chicago __"
28 "Murder, __ Wrote"
29 "…'__ the season to be jolly…"
31 Raw mineral
33 "I'll __ Away"
35 "Leah Remini: __ All Relative"
37 Part of an egg
38 Finishes
39 "Semi-__"; Will Ferrell movie
40 "__ All Night"; Liam Neeson film
41 Greek letter
42 __ Leno
43 "Not __ Stranger"; Sinatra movie

Solution from 10/13

	A	N	D	Y		C	A	T
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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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4				5				9
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		5		7	9		3	
7				3				1
		4						
8	5					9	4	

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 10/13

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

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EVERY FRIDAY

TEC 'spertz

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this week's football matchup

Markayla McInnis

Sports chief

@m3_mcinnis

ECU vs Houston on Saturday 10/23
Score Prediction? Houston wins 38-28
Why? I think Houston will come out on top, but I don't think ECU will let the Cougars get into the 40s with scoring. I think the Pirates will give Houston a run for its money, but I think Houston may run away with it in the end.

Brendan Cavazos

Sports editor

@bcvaz_xi

ECU vs Houston on Saturday 10/23
Score Prediction? ECU wins 35-24
Why? ECU has shown sparks on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball both against Tulane and UCF. The Pirates have not given me a reason to doubt them against Houston, unless they come out and can't score for the first two quarters. Come out and hit them in the mouth, I think ECU can blow the lead open early.

Max Lukas

News and sports reporter with WZMB

ECU vs Houston on Saturday 10/23
Score Prediction? ECU wins 35-28
Why? I don't foresee the Pirates getting blown out at all, especially since the way the defense has been playing, which has been phenomenal lately in the last few games. The defense has really picked it up, especially since that App State game. Really showing some fight moving on since the Marshall game. Really have been unflappable.

Basketball prepares for '21-'22 season

Reyna Crooms
TEC STAFF

After finishing with a record of 8-11, 2-10 (American Athletic Conference) for the 2020-2021 season, East Carolina University's men's basketball prepares for its 2021-2022 season with almost all new faces on the court.

The team's freshmen include guards RJ Felton and Javon Small, forwards Tay Mosher, Brandon Johnson, Marlon Lestin and forward\guard Alexis Reyes. The team also has a few new Division 1 transfers with senior forward Vance Jackson, junior forward Alanzo Frink and sophomore guard Wynston Tabbs. With all the new talent on the team this year head coach Joe Dooley said the team is focused on offense and motivated for the new season.

Joe Dooley

"At this point I like where we are offensively, obviously you always want to get better but the ball moves better, there's much better movement with more and more pass, much better driving, I think obviously offense is a continuity type deal it's a feel, lots of repetitions and I think the guys have done a nice job so far," Dooley said.

The team is a bit different this year although they have some experience with familiar faces, Dooley said, senior guard J.J. Miles, sophomore forward\guard Brandon Suggs and sophomore guard Tristen Newton.

ECU men's basketball was ranked 11th in the American Athletic Conference Coaches Preseason Poll. The University of Houston was ranked at No.1 and the University of Memphis came in at No. 2. The University of South Florida and Tulane University were tied for the ninth position just above East Carolina. Miles said the team uses that as motivation to work hard and get better every day.

"I've seen a lot of improvements, the returning guys we got I feel like are doing a better job of being leaders for the younger and new guys who come into our organization. We're just showing them how we do things at ECU," Miles said.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

Dooley and Miles both said the freshmen on the team work hard and that there are more shooters on the court this year. Alanzo Frink and Alexis Reyes both played for the Dominican Republic National team. Frink in 2016-2017 and Reyes 2018-2019. Frink previously played at South Carolina and will be joined with Jackson, who played at the University of Arkansas last season.

Miles said there's always room for improvement but he just wants to do his part to make the team better.

"I love the fans here at Minges. It's motivation like last year we didn't have the fans, I think it's a good opportunity to have the fans back...we just use it as motivation to get better everyday," Miles said.

The first game will be held in Greenville, North Carolina, on Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. against South Carolina State inside Minges Coliseum. The team will also participate in the Myrtle Beach Invitational Nov. 18 through Nov. 21 in Conway, South Carolina.

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

COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG I ECUPIRATES

Junior guard Tremont Robinson-White dribbles the ball downcourt.

'Pirates Supporting Pirates' returns

Markayla McInnis
TEC STAFF

This year the East Carolina University's Pirate Club's "Pirates Supporting Pirates" program will make a return with added perks and benefits for the first time since 2017.

The "Pirates Supporting Pirates" initiative is a way ECU partners with local Greenville, North Carolina, businesses through the Pirate Club to both support ECU and promote places around the community.

"I'm excited the Pirate Club announced that the Pirates Supporting Pirates initiative is back for 2021," ECU Athletic Director Jon Gilbert said, according to ECUPirates. "The Pirate Club staff have worked to create additional benefits and exposure for businesses. Let's work together and have 'Pirates Supporting Pirates' stickers in all our local businesses."

In past years, the program faded away but with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting businesses around the city, the Pirate Club agreed on the return, according to Pirate Club Executive Director Ryan Robinson.

Before the pandemic hit, Robinson said the Pirate Club staff talked about starting it back up but as COVID-19 came about, plans were put to a halt. Now that it returns, the team has added benefits and a Perk Program to draw businesses in.

"I mean, there's a strong partnership there and it's really cool to be a part of. We have loyal passionate fans," Robinson said. "Now we have to attract more businesses. There are probably close to 1,000 local businesses. You know our goal is to have every local business support this initiative.

Ryan Robinson

For the businesses that choose to join at the Buccaneer level for $500, the business will receive a membership card, a window decal, a listing on ECUPirates as part of the club, complimentary tickets, discount rental rates for ECU's Harvey Hall and TowneBank Tower for events the business may hold and various other perks.

The point of the program is to get Pirate Nation to buy from local businesses so ECU can support Greenville and vice versa, according to Pirate Club Assistant Director of Development Danielle Morrin.

Along with the businesses receiving perks, the program also benefits individuals involved in the Pirate Club or Student Pirate Club, Morrin said. Club members can get discounts from participating local businesses depending on what the business puts in place for those individuals. Businesses will also be entered in a monthly drawing that will start Nov. 1.

At the beginning of each month, the drawing will be held and the business chosen will get pregame field passes to a football game, visits from ECU's football head coach Mike Houston and PeeDee the Pirate and various tickets to other ECU sporting events.

Danielle Morrin

To any person that is already a part of the Pirate Club, they must enter their business into the Buccaneer level to receive the business benefits.

For more information, Morrin is the main contact for this initiative. Her contact information is 252-737-4945 and can also be reached at morrind16@ecu.edu.

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Baseball recruitment receives national rankings

Markayla McInnis
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's baseball team added 17 players to its roster for the 2021-22 season and received two top-50 national rankings for the team's recruitment class.

On Sept. 28, Collegiate Baseball ranked the Pirates' recruitment class No. 26 out of 50. In mid-September, ECU was listed in the Top 35 by Baseball America due to the 17 recruits they brought in for this upcoming season, according to ECUPirates. Teddy Cahil, who covers recruitment for Baseball America, was not surprised by the team's recruitment as they have been "strong" over the years.

Teddy Cahil

"As (head coach Cliff) Godwin and (associate head coach Jeff) Palumbo have been there, they've recruited well," Cahil said. "They're generally somewhere in between 15-20 sometimes 20-35 in rankings. I think this is a typically strong class for the Pirates. They did a good job about going out there and getting some in the pitching class."

At the end of the 2020-21 season, the Pirates ended with a 44-17 record and a 20-8 record in the American Athletic Conference. After making it past the Greenville Regionals on June 6, ECU traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, to play Vanderbilt University in the Super Regionals where the season came to an end after two losses.

Before COVID-19, the cap for rosters was 35, but due to COVID-19 each team is able to have additional players on the roster. With recruitment starting as far as three years out, as the coaching staff closed it out they brought on four infielders, two outfielders, two catchers and nine pitchers. With those additions, the team now has 13 freshmen, 19 sophomores, five juniors and five seniors.

"Each year Coach Palumbo and our entire coaching staff work tirelessly to bring in players who are talented enough to help us compete for a national championship, while at the same time being the right fit for our culture," Godwin said, according to ECUPirates. "We are excited to develop this group into being the best versions of themselves and to help us compete at the highest level on and off the field."

When the 2020-21 season ended at the Nashville Super Regionals and the Major League Baseball draft began, the Pirates lost three key players to the leagues. Starting pitcher Gavin Williams was drafted at pick No. 23 in the first round by the Cleveland Indians, second and third baseman Connor Norby was taken in the second round at pick 41 to the Baltimore Orioles and first baseman Thomas Francisco was drafted in the nineteenth round at pick 571 by the Peoria Chiefs.

Throughout the recruitment process, the coaching staff looked for players that would fit in with the team and its culture, according to Palumbo, who is also the team's recruitment coordinator. They looked for players that would help fill the places of the ones who were drafted or graduated.

Jeff Palumbo

"We didn't lose that many people so to speak but we lost a high end of production," Palumbo said. "As a coach you kind of look at it like a little bit of a challenge trying to get the newcomers and the guys that have been in the program prepared to take that next step and show their abilities."

The 2021-22 season schedule has yet to be announced but has historically begun mid-February. Individual workouts began shortly after classes started for the newcomers and the team on Aug. 23. The team scrimmages every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Clark Le-Clair Stadium.

The annual Purple & Gold World Series will be Nov. 5 to Nov. 7 and specific times will be announced as the event gets closer. Each game is free to the ECU and Greenville community. Palumbo is interested to see what this team will do in the pre-season and how they will continue to prepare each day to be ready for the regular season.

"If they usually fit these three things then they will fit in well here at ECU. It's pretty simple, it starts with the ability, do we feel like they're going to bring something to the table to help us win championships," Palumbo said. "Are they academically committed to their degree and third they just have to be a quality person."

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

TOMORROW

What: Tennis at ITA Carolina Regional Championships
When: Oct.21 through Oct. 25
Where: Winston Salem, North Carolina

What: Soccer vs. the University of Central Florida
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Johnson Stadium
Watch: ECUPirates.com

FRIDAY

What: Swim vs. University of Richmond
When: TBA
Where: Richmond, Virginia

What: Volleyball vs. Tulane
When: 6 p.m.
Where: Minges Coliseum

SATURDAY

What: Lacrosse vs. Duke University
When: TBA
Where: Durham, North Carolina

What: Football vs. the University of Houston
When: 4 p.m.
Where: Houston, Texas

What: Men's Golf at Grandover Collegiate
When: Oct. 23 through Oct. 24
Where: Greensboro, North Carolina

What: Softball vs. NC State University
When: Noon
Where: Max R. Joyner Stadium

MADISON GRIFALDO I THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Sophomore wide receiver Tyler Snead runs over to the sideline after a big gain on offense during the homecoming game against Tulane.

Football looks to Houston

Chris Long
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University football (3-3-0, 1-1-0 American Athletic Conference) is set to take on the AAC's leader, the University of Houston (5-1-0, 3-0-0 AAC) at 4 p.m. on Saturday after the Pirates broke their three-game winning streak against the University of Central Florida (3-3-0, 1-2 AAC).

The seventh game of the Pirates' season will take place at the John O'Quinn field in Houston, Texas. The game will be televised on ESPNU and will also be broadcast on 107.9 WNCT-FM.

In the two teams' history of facing off, they are both tied at seven wins against one another. The Pirates have dropped their last two meetings with Houston, in both 2017 and 2018. The last time ECU was able to topple the Cougars in Greenville was in 2012, led by former head coach Ruffin McNeill in a 48-28 victory. The Pirates have not beaten the Cougars at their home field in Houston since 2007.

ECU's last game on Oct. 9 saw the team lose to the University of Central Florida in a 20-16 game with a late score from the Knights.

"Hats off to UCF; they made the plays there in the fourth quarter to win the game," head coach Mike Houston said, according to ECUPirates. "I hate it that we had to be a loser."

The Pirates are led by starting junior quarterback Holton Ahlers, who through the first six games of the season has put up 1,485 yards with eight touchdowns and six interceptions. In the loss to UCF, Ahlers threw for both a touchdown and an interception, with 219 yards passing. He also attempted seven rushes, resulting in a total loss of one yard.

The Cougars are 5-1 on the season. Their last game against the Tulane Green Wave (1-5-0, 0-2-0 AAC) ended in a 40-22 victory for the Cougars. Junior quarterback Clayton Tune led the way against the Green Wave with 288 yards for three touchdowns. Junior wide receiver Jeremy Singleton caught two of the three scores for 62 yards.

ECU will look to receive production from its freshman running back Keaton Mitchell. On the season, Mitchell has rushed for a total 639 yards on 77 attempts for an average of 8.3 yards per carry and four touchdowns. He has also caught 15 passes for 157 yards and a touchdown. Along with Mitchell, the Pirates look to sophomore wide receiver Tyler Snead for production. Snead has caught 28 passes for 362 yards on the season with two receiving touchdowns.

On the other side of the ball, ECU will look to limit Houston's offense with the help of sophomore cornerback Ja'Quan McMillian. Through six games McMillian leads the team in total tackles with 37, passes defended with 12 and interceptions with four.

Ja'Quan McMillian

"Well, you just look at him, period. If you start asking him about any of that stuff, he's going to focus on one thing – the team and winning. How can I help my teammates play well? Doing my part. That's how he sees all of that. He's not all about Ja'Quan McMillian, he's about the ECU Pirates," Houston said, according to ECUPirates.com. "He has worked very, very hard. I thought he had a good year last year, but I think he's worked very, very hard,"

The Pirates will look to inch closer to their goal of six wins on the season by taking down the conference leader. After visiting Houston, the Pirates will face the University of South Florida (1-4-0, 0-1-0 AAC) at home on Oct. 28. The Thursday night game will be held at 7:30 p.m. and will be televised on ESPN and will be available to listen to at 107.9 WNCT-FM.

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Pirate soccer will face UCF Knights at home

Abbie Clavijo
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina University (7-7-2, 2-2-2 American Athletic Conference) soccer team will return to Greenville, North Carolina, this week where they will face the University of Central Florida (6-5-1, 2-2-1 AAC) at 7 p.m. and fight to secure another conference win tomorrow.

The end of the season quickly approaches with only one game following the upcoming match against the Knights of UCF. The Pirates will close their season with a game at home against the University of Memphis (10-2-1, 4-1-0 AAC) on Oct. 24. The Tigers currently are second in the AAC standings, one spot above the Pirates.

ECU will return home from a tough match against the University of Tulsa (6-7-2, 1-4-1 AAC) on Oct. 17 that cost the team it's three-game winning streak. Freshman midfielder Haley McWhirter and graduate student forward Tori Riggs each hit a goal in the match, but it resulted in a 2-2 draw after a double overtime.

Haley McWhirter

McWhirter was named AAC Rookie of the Week for the third week in a row on Oct. 18 and is currently tied for first in goals among AAC athletes in conference play with four on the season. Riggs was also awarded by the conference with a spot on the AAC Weekly Honor Roll.

The Pirates currently sit four spots ahead of the Knights in the AAC with a total of two conference wins to UCF's one. However, the Knights are coming to Greenville off of their first conference win against Tulsa, who the Pirates were unable to defeat. A win against UCF will allow the Pirates to keep their spot among the top three teams in the conference.

UCF was able to grab a win in its most recent game against Tulsa on Oct. 10 in a 3-0 shutout. Not only was it the Knights' first conference win, it was also the fifth game this season that the UCF redshirt senior goalkeeper Caroline DeLisle was able to keep a clean sheet.

In their previous game against Tulsa, the Pirates' offense struggled in the first half, conceding a goal in the first five minutes of the game. Though the Pirates put up six shots on goal compared to Tulsa's five they were unable to get the ball into the net a third time during overtime in order to break the 2-2 tie.

Defensively, the Pirates have continued to demonstrate their dominance by only conceding a total of four goals over the previous four games. Sophomore goalkeeper Maeve English now holds a total of 12 saves over those games as well.

Offensively, the Pirates hold a total of six goals over the course of their last four games, four of which occurred during their three-game win streak. They put up a total of six shots on goal against Tulsa but were only able to get two in the net.

The first was made by freshman midfielder Haley McWhirter in the 18th minute and the second by graduate student forward Tori Riggs in the 73rd. Tulsa's offense was unable to answer Riggs' goal sending the teams into overtime. Though ECU's offense dominated the overtime period, it wasn't enough to keep the winning streak alive.

"We have to be consistent, that's what the best teams do. They find a way to play their best game in and game out regardless of the opponent," head coach Jason Hamilton said, according to ECUPirates.

The Pirates will return to Johnson Stadium at 7 p.m. on Thursday to attempt to add another conference win to their record and move up in the AAC rankings as they face the Knights of UCF.

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