



VOLUME 98, ISSUE 11

WHERE WILL THE PIRATES FALL IN THE NFL DRAFT? to A6

The East Carolinian

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Gun violence issues continue through 2023

Conversations on safety, regulation discussed amid shootings

Eli Baine
TEC STAFF

With more gun deaths happening in America each week, citizens reflect on laws and practices that may cut down on firearm violence throughout the country.

According to Gun Violence Archive, America has reached 130 mass shootings since the beginning of the year. Around 4,263 murders have been committed this year using firearms, according to the website.

Political Science Professor Jonathan Morris said a large majority of Americans are in favor of “common-sense” gun policies like universal background checks and red flag laws.

“Any political scientist will tell you that on the issue of guns and on several other issues that the Republicans and Democrats in Congress are more extreme,” Morris said. “If you randomly selected 535 members of the mass public and asked them their issues on gun control, more times than not they’re gonna be much more able to reach consensus than our elected members of Congress.”

This polarization in our legislative bodies will continue for as long as the country has the poor gun violence statistics that it does, Morris said. The conversation around guns will remain a contentious topic until America is not a largely more violent country than other developed nations, Morris said.

Americans that hold more extreme opinions on the politics of firearms exist in fringe minorities, Morris said. People on the left do not want to take everyone’s guns away, and people on the right do not want to make buying guns as easy as buying anything else, Morris said.

“Even the NRA or the most right-wing, pro-gun Republican is neces-

sarily arguing that anyone should be able to go buy a firearm at Sheetz next to the Snickers bars,” Morris said. “On the other side, there’s only a small portion of the political left that would want to take people’s guns from people’s homes. When it comes to gun control arguments, the extremes are usually the loudest.”

Owner of Greenville Concealed Carry, a firearm safety and firearm law class James Satterthwaite said he believes North Carolina’s law mandating permits for the purchase of handguns has been useful for gun distributors to know for sure if their customers meet all government requirements to own and shoot guns.

Recently, that law has been threatened to be overturned by the state legislature, Satterthwaite said, and Governor Roy Cooper’s veto power may not be enough to save the gun safety measure.

“I kind of agree with the guy (Cooper),” Satterthwaite said. “If you’re buying a gun from me, I can’t sell you a handgun without a permit. I don’t know your criminal background or if you have mental health issues. I don’t know anything about you, and I’m selling you a gun.”

Satterthwaite teaches a course that is required by the state government to take before receiving a concealed carry permit, he said, a document allowing people to keep a firearm on your person in public for self-defense purposes or otherwise.

Practicing rigorous gun safety measures should be the standard for all firearm owners, Satterthwaite said. Safety is a large part of the class he teaches to new and experienced gun owners, he said.

“You can’t be too safe when handling a firearm,” Satterthwaite said. “I believe in being very safety-con-

scious. In my class, we spend a lot of time going over safety before training with real pistols.”

Owner of Hunt Tactical, another firearm training business, Cory Hunt said he teaches classes from introductory to advanced levels to better educate and train gun owners how to handle their guns safely.

There are four “cardinal rules” of gun safety, Hunt said, with each being equally as important in any situation no matter what when handling any type of firearm.

“The first one (rule) is you treat all firearms as if it is loaded until you personally inspect it,” Hunt said. “Second, you do not point a firearm at anything that you don’t have the intention of firing at and destroying. Number three, you must be mindful of distance penetration and ricochet in terms of how far that bullet will travel, what mediums will go through and what would happen if the bullet hit something harder than itself. Lastly, keep your finger off the trigger guard and the trigger until you are ready to fire.”

Hunt said a large thing that all gun owners should be aware of is the laws surrounding self-defense in NC. Self-defense laws in the state changed the most in 2012 when Governor Pat McCrory entered office, Hunt said.

Prior to McCrory’s governorship, self-defense laws were more limited and it was more difficult for citizens to know when it was acceptable for them to defend themselves without facing extreme consequences in criminal court, Hunt said.

“The new laws have become more friendly to people that may need to defend themselves or others to prevent worse violence from happening,” Hunt said. It changed the entirety of my program, and now I just teach strictly what the current laws state.”

This writer can be contacted at
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AMERICAN GUN VIOLENCE IN 2023 SO FAR



130 mass shootings



5,676 gun deaths by suicide

249 defensive uses

401 children and teens killed



346 unintentional shootings

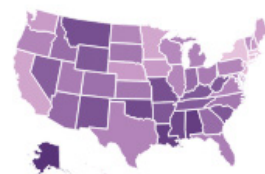
114 gun deaths per day, on average



11 police officers killed, 91 injured



7,459 total gun injuries



9,898 total gun deaths

Resources: <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm_mortality/firearm.htm

DESIGNED BY: ELI BAINE



Shaquille O'Neal attending 2022's Doggie Jams.



Brianna Chickenfry interacting with the Downtown Greenville crowd.

Doggie Jams hosts new faces

Martha Nebab
TEC STAFF

Local bar and restaurant Sup Dogs will host its annual concert Doggie Jams tomorrow from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Five Points Plaza located in Downtown Greenville.

Bret Oliverio, the owner of Sup Dogs, said the concert will open with the rock band Just the Tip and headliner duo Loud Luxury, also known as Andrew Fedyk and Joe De Pace.

Oliverio said this year, Doggie Jams will feature superstar model and TikTok influencer Charly Jordan.

“She’s gonna do a 30-minute opening DJ set,” Oliverio said. “Of

course, the band who we’ve had the last 8 years, Just the Tip, will be back performing live. We sort of added another star and we’re excited for it.”

Holly Plasky, business management major and employee at Sup Dogs, said she’ll be working during Doggie Jams this year after not being able to buy a ticket the year before.

“We usually have Brianna here for Barstool, we had her here for Doggie Jams, and instead we’ll have Charly Jordan,” Plasky said. “It’s fun to see a new face, and I’m excited to see the new DJs too.”

Sara Brooks, who was Brianna Chickenfry’s hospitality girl of last

year’s Doggie Jams, said it was one of the best days of the year for her. Although the set-up of the concert will be the same, Brooks said Sup Dogs is featuring many new and different artists.

“I have people that have graduated already where they’re in grad school and they’re flying back for the weekend,” Brooks said. “So it’s gonna be a full-house at my house. I’m super excited to host all my friends and have them be here for Doggie Jams.”

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TEC names Jacob Starling as AOTM

Nick Bailey
TEC STAFF

The leader in Runs Batted In (RBIs) for the East Carolina University baseball team (19-5, 0-0 American Athletic Conference) has had a surprising season with his bat and glove work, leading The East Carolinian to name junior infielder Jacob Starling the Athlete of the Month for March 2023.

The former AAC Second Team selection in 2022 has continued his rise on this Pirates squad. As one of only three players on the team who has played and started in all 24 games this season, Starling’s hitting stats have increased significantly from last year.

Starling had 144 at bats last season but was unable to connect with the ball on a consistent basis,

accumulating only 35 hits in 50 games. He has 28 hits and 90 at bats in 24 games this season. This season, his batting average has risen from .243 in 2022 to now being .311.

Additional improvements in Starling’s game have come in his decision making at the diamond, as his strikeouts have decreased significantly through this point in the season, accounting for 39 strikeouts last season and only 18 this season.

The Pirates squad and Starling will look to keep up their win streak as they start their AAC schedule against the University of Houston (12-12, 0-0 AAC) on Friday at 7:30 p.m. for a full weekend series in Schroeder Park in Houston, Texas.

This writer can be contacted at
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ONLINE

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

» POLL: Will you be attending Doggie Jams Tomorrow?

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

GUC to hold blood drive today

Today, the Greenville Utilities Commission and the City of Greenville will sponsor a blood drive. The drive will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Barnes Ebron Taft Community Center.

Well-Being Hub to host its weekly Fresh Food Friday

Tomorrow, at the Main Campus Student Center's Well-Being Hub, the ECU community will be able to enjoy fresh melons offered at the Sonic Plaza, the Mall and hubs at 11 a.m.

SCB to look for new applications

Tomorrow will be the last day to apply for a position on the Student Conduct Board. The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities will stop accepting applications at 11:45 p.m. If accepted, interviews will take place from April 10 to 14.

NAMI to host discussion series

Monday, the National Alliance on Mental Illness will host a virtual meeting. The discussion will take place from 8 to 9 p.m. and the Zoom link and meetingID can be found on the NAMI ENGAGE page.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

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 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 occurred on or within proximity of main campus.

March 24, 2023

At Scott Residence Hall, charges of a Weapon on Campus (Felony) were made and cleared by arrest at 11:05 p.m.

Between March 22 at 6:20 a.m. and March 24 at 8:25 a.m. at the PVA across from the Main Campus Student Center at Library Drive, a charge of Hit & Run-Failure to Stop was found and there is an open investigation following it.

At Scott Residence Hall, between March 15 at 3:20 p.m. and March 24 at 11:38 p.m., charges of Obtaining Property by False Pretense were found and there is an open investigation following it.

March 25, 2023

A Warrant Service for Other Agency charge was made at 3:29 p.m. on Second Street and Pitt Street and was cleared by arrest.

On 14th St. and Rock Spring Road at 11:23 p.m., a Warrant Service for Other Agency was issued and cleared by arrest.

March 26, 2023

At the Bike Rack at the Old Cafeteria Building, a charge of Larceny was found at 11 p.m. and was cleared as the prosecution declined.



ALEXANDER GREY | UNSPLASH

The Transgender Day of Visibility is celebrated nationally each year on March 31 to raise awareness for the community and to celebrate worldwide.

Transgender Day of Visibility recognized

Julia Lawson
TEC STAFF

As Transgender Day of Visibility is celebrated annually on March 31, this year East Carolina University will host a luncheon in the Main Campus Student Center at noon tomorrow.

Rose Bogue, the program coordinator for the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center who goes by they/them pronouns, said the Peel center has worked with the Women and Gender Office (WGO) to plan the luncheon to make the event as inclusive as possible.

"This year we (event planners) decided to do kind of a rebrand of the event, we wanted to make it a little bit different from our other events and give it its own identity but also to make sure that it's reflecting the needs and wants of the students," Bogue said.

Transgender Day of Visibility is used to remember those who have been lost to anti-transgender violence, Bogue said. They said the event will also acknowledge the difficulties of transgender people who are still living and fighting for equality.

Bogue said for ECU, this event is an opportunity for transgender students, faculty and alumni to feel celebrated and recognized by the university.

"We're (attendees) going to meet about 20 minutes before the event starts at the Women and Gender Office and have a procession, kind of like a visibility march but indoors and quieter from the Women and Gender Office up to room 249," Bogue said.

Following the procession, Dr. Matthew Drake, a graduate of Brody School of Medicine, will be the keynote speaker, Bogue said.

Two local business owners, Harry Frank from Blue Ox Games and Madison Hardin from The Sheer Love of Hair, will then host a panel to discuss gender inclusive business practices, Bogue said, and they will discuss how to own a business which is open and affirming to many different people.

"We will be wrapping up the program

with a closing speech from a trans-identified student, this year we're also going to have photo booths that the students made themselves and we're hoping that it'll just be a fun time of celebration," Bogue said.

Aspen Seglund, sophomore music education major, said he is the President of the Sexuality and Gender Alliance at ECU.

Seglund said as president he works closely with the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center where he volunteers as one of the center assistant.

"The purpose of Transgender Day of Visibility is to spread awareness of the transgender community as well as to uplift us and our voices," Seglund said.

At the event, there will be an educational campaign, Seglund said, and he will be at the event assisting in the campaign to teach people about interacting with the transgender community.

Seglund said he hopes the event will remind the ECU community to think about the transgender community on campus as people, not just as a social justice movement.

"I hope this impacts ECU as a whole by getting people to think about the transgender community on campus," Seglund said. "As a community, transgender people have been fighting off harmful bills and comments."

Seglund said he often sees cisgender people claiming they support the transgender community, but when situations occur involving the discrimination of transgender people they are silent.

Events and campaigns like the Transgender Day of Visibility reminds people who are not directly affected by discriminatory laws to be aware of the inequality taking place, Seglund said, and he hopes this will remind them to pay attention.

"To my trans siblings; you are loved, you

are beautiful, you are seen. Happy Transgender Day of Visibility," Seglund said.

Chelsie Hargrove, director of the WGO, said the office was involved in the coordination of the event, primarily planning the local business owners panel and the march from the WGO office to the MCSC.

Hargrove said the whole month has promoted transgender visibility through an educational campaign allowing transgender students, staff and faculty to share any part of their stories.

"Participants (of the educational campaign) shared their pursuits, future goals, positive experiences that they have had at ECU, and what gives them gender euphoria," Hargrove said.

Transgender Day of Visibility honors transgender voices, Hargrove said, and an opportunity to share their experiences with the ECU community.

Hargrove said this day is a celebration to allow transgender people, as well as LGBTQ+ allies, to acknowledge the courage it takes to be one's true self.

"We (WGO) also wanted this event to be a day where we celebrate the courage it takes to live openly and authentically," Hargrove said.

This event will hopefully unite ECU and the larger Greenville community, Hargrove said, as it will create a space for understanding and open discussion.

Hargrove said the committee who coordinated the event invited business owners in Greenville who accommodate the needs of transgender people into their business plans.

"We (WGO) hope this event can bring the ECU and Greenville community together to share support and understanding, while also being a space to celebrate and uplift transgender voices and experiences," Hargrove said.

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

IFC ORGANIZATIONS HOST CLEAN-UP



JAYLIN ROBERTS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Trash and litter was picked-up around the grid neighborhood.



JAYLIN ROBERTS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Both the Alpha Gamma Delta and Sigma Nu joined together for the "Grid Clean-Up."



JAYLIN ROBERTS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Erica Stark and Jamie Bonfiglio from Alpha Gamma Delta helped.



JAYLIN ROBERTS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Members of the East Carolina University campus cleaned the streets of Greenville.

Staff Report

On Monday, two of East Carolina University's Interfraternal Council (IFC) Organizations, Sigma Nu Fraternity and Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, hosted a clean-up event in an effort to improve the cleanliness of the grid neighborhood located across the street from ECU's main campus.

The event was titled "Grid Clean-Up" and was led by the Alpha Gamma Delta's Chairwoman McKinley Carter and the Sigma Nu

fraternity President Trysten Welch .

Both the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and Sigma Nu fraternity houses are located in the grid neighborhood.

Various members of IFC Organizations joined to help clean up litter and trash that procured over ECU's tailgate seasons and event throughout Greenville, North Carolina.

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

OUR VIEW

ECU should finish strong this semester

The spring 2023 semester is coming to a close and with just over a month remaining, staying on track and finishing well is the key to rounding out this spring semester strong.

As the months and days wind down towards what is the final semester for some as a Pirate and only the first semester for others, finishing strong is important to maintaining, if not improving, your grade point average to launch yourself into a better tomorrow.

We, the editorial staff of the East Carolinian, believe finishing out the semester strong is necessary for success. Go to class, study hard, ask questions, and do your work to the best of your ability. Even if this semester has been a rough one for you so far, remember that it is not about how you start, but how you finish.

Finishing strong has the power to boost your mood, confidence and overall happiness. As you develop your healthy work ethic habits, avoiding procrastination is key. Create a routine or schedule to help keep yourself on track.

Maximize your potential by seeking out low scores and strategizing on how to better them moving forward. Make up any missing work that you can still turn in, pursue opportunities for extra credit and above all else, make sure you pay attention.

If you are on pace, get ahead! Staying ahead is the best way to make sure that you do not fall behind. Work on what you can as soon as it is available.

If you have fallen behind, it is not too late to recover, but recovery needs to start now. The miles behind us matter far less than the miles ahead. Finish strong, Pirates.

PIRATE RANTS

The East Carolinian does not endorse the statements made in Pirate Rants.

36 DAYS SENIORS! JUST 36!

Greenville is lightyears behind other major cities and it's so evident omg.

Did y'all know there was a dog walking class? And no one spread the word?

I can feel that this is gonna be a good summer but mainly because I know that when August comes back around I won't be sitting in another classroom ever again.

I do not understand why ECU doesn't have an emergency maintenance person. I can use my toilet and it's all the way backed up so my bathroom smells like poop! Love it here.

Some of y'all really need to take a shower. BO early in the morning is not a good thing.

I know we're trying to keep the campus grounds pretty, so the smell of fresh fertilizer is worth it!

Dear ECU, if you are going to charge us these technology fees and SGA fees can you please give us something better than 1/2 ply toilet paper.

I wonder if Loud Luxury is going to be multiple hours late like Shaq last year.

Graduation is soooo close but it feels soooo far away!

It's ridiculous that there weren't enough grad gowns for all the grads...

Questions regarding Pirate Rants can be directed to Emily Peek at editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

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



ILLUSTRATED BY OLIVIA MAGISTRO

Although Galleria's approach to stardom wasn't like the rest of the group, she made decisions to skyrocket the Cheetah Girls to success.

The real star of the Cheetah Girls Although unorthodox, Galleria was always right

That's that on that

Imagine this. It's Aug. 15th, 2003 and for the last few weeks all you've been seeing is commercials about Disney Channel's newest movie, The Cheetah Girls.

Jala Davis
TEC COLUMNIST

You've begged and pleaded with your mom to get you a fresh pizza for you and your friends to watch what would become the greatest movie the network has ever put out in the history of the network.

Well, imagining is all I can do too, because I was two years old at that particular time, but I'm sure that's exactly what young girls all over the nation were doing on that very day.

OK, let's get back on track.

Anyways, if you're not familiar which you should be, the Cheetah Girls is a movie about four girls in New York who are extremely talented. The group consists of Galleria Garibaldi, Chanel Simmons, Dorinda Thomas and Aqua Walker.

Although I love all of the Cheetah Girls for their own reasons, Galleria is my favorite for so many reasons. For as long as I've been old enough to watch and understand the premise of the movie, I've always known that Galleria was absolutely right about everything she did even though she may not have always had the right approach, which was rare.

Galleria was a young visionary and had a good head on her shoulders. She saw

beyond what others could see, was super particular about the choices that she made, knew what she wanted for her future and would stop at almost nothing to get it.

With that being said, Galleria was certainly seen as the villain because she had an unorthodox approach just like one of my other favorite Disney characters, Sharpay Evans.

To spare you the minute details, in the first movie she was seen as the bad guy because she was trying her very best to put the group on the map by any means necessary but where we really get into the nitty gritty, is in The Cheetah Girls 2.

In the second movie, the group gets the opportunity to perform in a singing contest in the beautiful city of Barcelona. While Galleria was putting in the effort to make sure that her group was being the best they could be in this competition, the rest of the girls were out and about living life as if their careers weren't on the line.

Galleria wanted to make sure that the girls were doing what they needed to do to be the best. She wanted to make sure that everything would run smoothly and that the group was dedicating time to practice and really perfecting their performance.

With that being said, everybody else was focusing on their own things trying to soak in all of what they could in the city, it was putting the group at a greater risk of coming up short in the competition.

It goes without saying that two things can be right at the same time. I'm not ignorant to the fact that if I too were in Barcelona, I would want to bask in all of it's glory, but I am also not ignorant to the fact

that they were there to perform and with all of the distractions. If Galleria wasn't who she was, it would have been a train wreck to see.

In both the first and second movies, at some point the girls end up detaching themselves from Galleria because of the way she acted. However, at some point they had to realize that Galleria was ultimately the glue of the group and that my friends became especially obvious in the last movie, The Cheetah Girls One World.

Galleria was gone and the group was at a standstill. Without her they had no structure, no drive and no sense which ultimately led them India to perform in a Bollywood movie.

Again sparing the minute details, the group broke up over three men. A group of three very talented women broke up over three men who put them against each other to be the lead role in the movie. Had Galleria been present, it would have never ever happened and I and the audience know it.

I say all that to say, Galleria was what the Cheetah Girls needed to remain a solid group and it was evident that when she left the group was immediately lost without her. Galleria was right the whole time. She knew exactly what the group needed and we found out quickly that without her, they couldn't maintain without her.

Galleria's talent, structure, enthusiasm, goals and will for her and her group to be the best was exactly what the group needed to survive.

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

Why we still need women's history month



Dr. Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs
GUEST COLUMNIST

"From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength, and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well."

So began President Jimmy Carter's 1980 presidential proclamation designating the week of March 8 "Women's History Week," a recognition that grew out of the already established observance of International Women's Day. Six years later, the US Congress would formally recognize March as National Women's History Month; and presidents have reaffirmed that national observance every

" So this month as we honor the women who came before us – and recognize the leaders who share our lives – let us work together for the equality of all genders. "

-Dr. Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs

year since the mid-1990s.

Born at the turn of the 20th century from women's labor movements here and in Europe, the yearly "celebration" reminds us that we still have a lot of work to do. One hundred years after Alice Paul called for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, women remain all but invisible in the Constitution. In the workplace, the pay gap has remained relatively stable over the past 20 years with women earning 82 cents or less for every dollar their male co-workers make. And in the fast-growing field of STEM, women comprise only 28%

of workers, often being dissuaded from these occupations by often well-meaning counselors. In their personal lives, women experience sexual and domestic violence at incalculable rates; and their bodily autonomy has come under attack by legislators and the courts.

So this month as we honor the women who came before us – and recognize the leaders who share our lives – let us work together for the equality of all genders.

Dr. Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs
Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of English
Chair, Gender Studies Executive Board
Co-director, Gender Studies Program

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CLASSIFIEDS

YARD SALE!

242 Windsor Road, Greenville, NC 27858 \$1 Six and Three bedroom houses with 2 baths for jeans, sweats, dresses, shoes, shirts, coats, August'23. Also One-bedroom units for \$675.00 t-shirts. 100 items for 25 cents. Furniture, includes water/sewer! All are 2 blocks from ECU and books, tools, beer glasses. To many items to have fenced yards. Low Pet Fee with NO pet rent! list. This Friday from 10a.m. to 6p.m. and this Text 252-565-7052 or tilleyproperties.net Saturday. From 7a.m – 5p.m.

FOR RENT

HOROSCOPES



Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Relax despite a change. Romantic ideals don't match reality. Advance causes that call to your heart. Follow a passionate dream. Hunt for hidden opportunities.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Action speaks louder than words. Imagine the results you want already accomplished. Prioritize a personal passion. How can you use your power for good?



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — An investigation could face a complication or obstacle. Immerse yourself into a good book, nature, or both. Persistence and determination go the distance.



Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Savor home sweet home. Advance domestic projects. Rearrange and renew. Adapt spaces for changes and to nurture mind, body and spirit. Relax and recharge.



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Love and nature feed your spirit. Look back for insight on the road ahead. Build foundational structures and prepare for action. Plan moves in advance.



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Collaborate to increase the bottom line. Focus on practical financial details. Manage changes with insurance, taxes or legal matters. Go for a lucrative prize.



Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is an 8 — Hunt for solutions for a challenging puzzle. Consider unusual suggestions. Disciplined actions can realize a dream. Follow the heart of the story.



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Adapt around social changes. Things may not be as they were before. Strengthen networks with participation. Coordinate actions with friends to grab a dreamy opportunity.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Surge forward in collaboration and coordination. Share the load around a barrier. Compromise and empathy can defuse an upset. Patiently keep a dream alive.



Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 9 — Stay in action for lucrative gain. Your discipline is admirable. Plan and strategize to adapt with changes. Push to advance a dream.



Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — A professional limitation or challenge requires adaptation. Keep your eyes open for opportunities. Push for a dreamy situation. Do the homework. Polish your promotional materials.



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — It's all about action now. Watch your step to avoid accidents. Advance physical goals with patience and persistence. Keep your own scorecard. Prioritize health.

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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BLISS

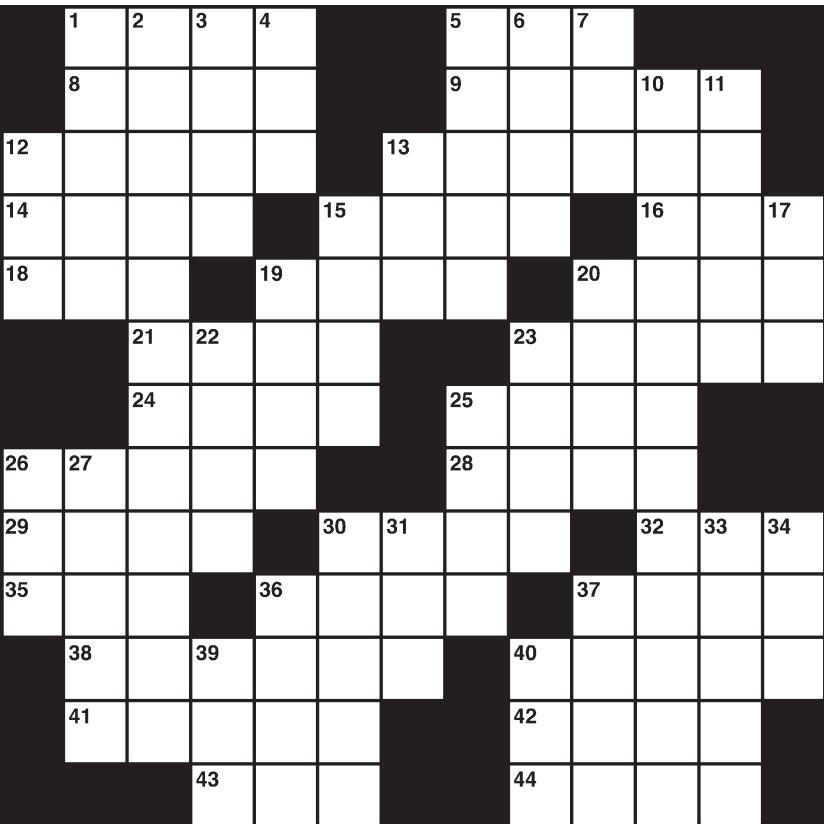


"You're nuthin' without me!"

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

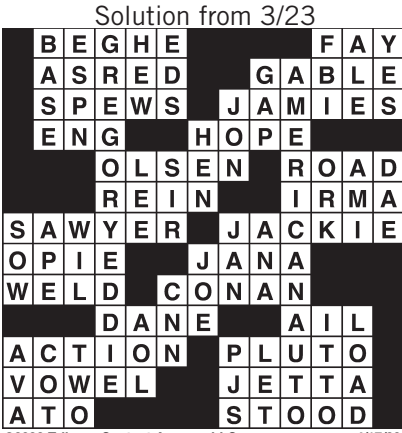
ACROSS

- 1 "___ Betty"
5 Morton of "Chicago P.D."
8 Actor Scott
9 Carey & Barrymore
12 Actress Sophia
13 Colorful drink
14 Dumbo's "wings"
15 Allen & Daly
16 K-O connection
18 Gobbled up
19 "___ the night before Christmas..."
20 Wily scheme
21 Hatcher or Garr
23 1953 Alan Ladd western film
24 Math class, for short
25 ___ and Span; cleaning product
26 Sylvester Stallone thriller
28 Alan ___ Jr. of "Gilligan's Island"
29 Woodwind instrument
30 Gentile of "The Goldbergs"
32 Chem. or biol.
35 Yogi's buddy, for short
36 "Deal ___ Deal"

- 37 "Eyes Wide ___"; Cruise/Kidman film
38 One of the planets
40 Terrors
41 "___ of Endearment"; Nicholson movie
42 Regulations
43 "How I ___ Your Mother"
44 Bancroft or Murray

DOWN

- 1 German submarine
2 Role on "Blue Bloods"
3 "Big Little ___" (2017-19)
4 Hither and ___; in many places
5 Sandler & Brody
6 Med. scans
7 "Are We There ___?"; Ice Cube film
10 Actor on "Young Sheldon"
11 "America's Got Talent" judge
12 Actress Michele
13 Farrow or Sara
15 Tiny branch
17 "Bill ___ the Science Guy"
19 Musketeers or Stooges
20 "Dr. ___"
22 Actress Kathryn
23 ASPCA advice
25 "Beat it!"
26 Carl Reiner's son
27 "Mad ___ You"
30 Confidence
31 ICU staff
33 Use foul language
34 "___ a Living" (1980-89)
36 "Lean ___"; popular 1972 song
37 Astin or Lennon
39 Sleeve filler
40 "Empty Nest" setting: abbr.

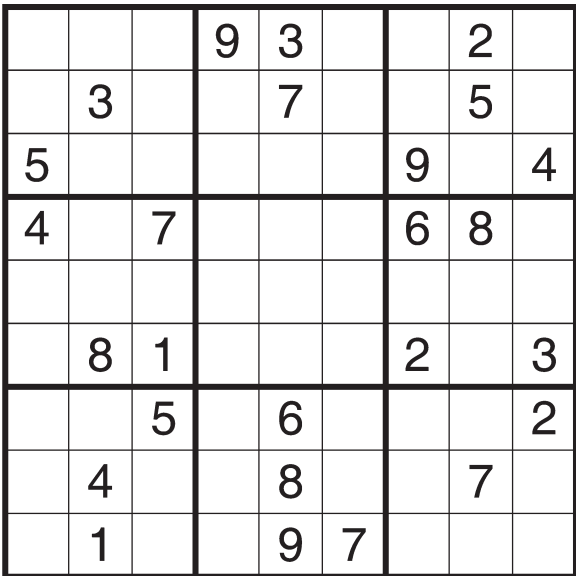


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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

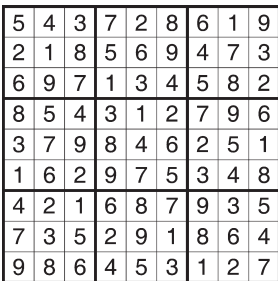


Level



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 3/23



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EVENTS

TODAY

Call for Artworks - Fine Arts Ball

Greenville Museum of Art
802 S. Evans St.
11:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
(252) 758-1946

Trivia

5th Street Hardware Restaurant
120 W. Fifth St.
7 to 9 p.m.
(252) 364-8921

GMOArcade

Greenville Museum of Art
802 S Evans St.
9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
(252) 758-1946

Glass Workshops at The GlasStation

The GlasStation
3732 West Wilson St.
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
(252) 325- 6665

Therapeutic Thursday

Wellbeing Hub at HCSC
1868 Health Science Dr.
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

TOMORROW

David Blount Band AJ McMurphy's

1914 Turnbury Dr.
8 to 11 p.m.
(252) 355-7956

Don Merckle Live

Christy's Euro Pub
301 S. Jarvis St.
8 to 11 p.m.
(252) 758-2774

ECU Flute Symposium - Julietta

Curenton flute
ECU A.J. Fletcher Music Center
Room 102 A
7:30 to 9 p.m.
(252) 328-6851

Treasure Island

Ayden Arts and Recreation
4354 Lee St.
2 to 4 p.m.
(252) 481-5837

Women's Market - Women Owned Small Business

Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt St.
6 to 9 p.m.
(252) 227-4151

SATURDAY

Party With a Purpose - Benefiting NC

Stop Human Trafficking
5th Street Hardware & Taproom
120 W Fifth St.
7 to 10 p.m.
(252) 347- 5784

Springtime on the Farm

Hope Farms and Learning Center
872 State Rd. 1415
2 to 5 p.m.
(252) 531- 6106



CONTRIBUTED BY KAYLA SHARBERW

Students in the East Carolina University School of Theater and Dance practicing a musical number for their upcoming musical "Last Stop on Market Street."

SoTD will perform new musical

Alayna Boyner

FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina University School of Theatre and Dance (SoTD) will be performing the musical "Last Stop on Market Street" tomorrow at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at Wright Auditorium.

Lisanne Shaffer, assistant professor of theater education and theater for youth at ECU, said she is the director for the upcoming musical performance. Shaffer said the 10 a.m. student youth showing has been sold out, but the 7 p.m. showing still has tickets available for students and the public.

Tickets are \$10 for ECU students and \$15 for the public, Shaffer said. "Last Stop on Market Street" was inspired from the children's storybook, she said, which encompasses themes of community, diversity, and getting to know people who may look or think differently. She said the show is open to anyone in the community to come and see.

"What's great about this show is that I think anyone can enjoy it. So, all the way from Pre-K to adults. It's really one of those shows that has something for everybody," Shaffer said.

The production is also representative of ECU's

theater arts program, theater for youth, which will soon be transitioning to theater for young audiences, Shaffer said. She said the focus of the concentration is to learn how to take stories and shape them into theater for young and new audiences.

The musical production has been led by theater students at ECU, Shaffer said, with an entire team of student designers and managers. She said the theme of diversity represented in the musical is meant to show that diversity is beautiful, not scary.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

"This show is really important to me. I really want our community to know that our school of theater is really diverse and it is really important for all of our students' voices to be heard," Shaffer said. "And that representing stories from all types of people, I think that is really important at our school right now."

Kayla Blaze Sharber, senior theater arts major, said she is the stage manager for the musical production. She said her role as stage manager includes a lot of behind the scenes work, including a lot of preparation work before rehearsals begin.

Sharber said she is also the sound designer for the musical, which includes working with different sound effects and music for show use.

"I kind of fell into sound because we didn't have a person to do it, so I said 'I'll do it,'" Sharber said. "Essentially, we have all the tracks from the show. I put them into a program, and I also find all of the sound effects."

Sharber said initially when working in pre-production for the musical, the biggest conflict was finding enough crew.

One student performer, Isaiah Bussey, sophomore theater arts major, said he will be playing the lead character CJ in the musical.

Bussey said a lot of the preparation for his character has been a reflection of his own life. He said he too has experienced having preconceived judgements of others, but said it is important to learn how to break them down and love people even for what you don't see yet.

"Learning how to tie in my own personal experience with CJ's experiences, helps me to play the character and prepare for the character," Bussey said.

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



CONTRIBUTED BY JULIETTA CURENTONN

Guest artist Julietta Curenton will give a flute performance that honors her African American roots.

SoM to host guest artist

Martha Nebab

TEC STAFF

East Carolina University will host its Flute Symposium featuring guest artist Julietta Curenton and ECU pianists Shoko Abe and Alisa Gilliam at the A.J. Fletcher recital hall on Friday w from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Christine Gustafson, faculty of ECU School of Music's (SoM) Flute Studio, said the free Flute Symposium which started yesterday and will end on Friday, will feature two guest artist recitals from Julietta Curenton and ECU SoM alumna Alison Mossey. The Symposium, Gustafson said, will also feature masterclasses from both guest artists, an expert flute panel and a flute demonstration where visitors can play tables of flutes, piccolos and headjoints for free.

The Flute Symposium is held every two years as an event catered to ECU students, performers and members of the community and local schools, Gustafson said.

"We have multiple people coming and presenting and discussing flutes and flute techniques and flute equipment and flute music. It's multiple presenters and we're all working together," Gustafson said. "Then the audience will get a chance to ask questions or bring their musical concerns to the Symposium to discuss it with professionals and other students."

The seasoned performers who registered for the masterclasses will get the chance to perform for Curenton, Gustafson said, while the younger performers will perform for Mossey. The masterclasses will be recorded for posterity and for the benefit of students, Gustafson said, so they may use their critique to inform their future practices and recitals.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

Gustafson said she met Curenton at the 2011 National Association of Flute Convention in Charlotte, where she heard Curenton play "Three Spirituals," a set of pieces arranged by Curenton's mother Evelyn Simpson-Curenton for flute and piano.

"I heard the music from down the hall, sight unseen, and I wondered who that was," Gustafson said. "After that, I knew then that I wanted to have her here."

During one of the masterclasses, Gustafson said one of her students will play "Feathers and Wax," a piece commissioned by Curenton and composed by Gustafson's and Curenton's mutual friend, Amanda Harberg.

Curenton, the newly appointed assistant professor of flute at Shenandoah Conservatory, said she's excited to have a student interpret and perform a piece from a contemporary female composer. As an African American musician, educator and an arts advocate, Curenton said she wanted to bring more diverse compositions to the world of chamber music.

"I like to commission marginalized composers," Curenton said. "That means people like women like me or Black, Indigenous, People of Color like myself because I want to see that their voices continue to grow in the classical music world."

Abe, ECU assistant professor of collaborative piano, said she will be playing Curenton's contemporary pieces, while Gilliam will play the classical ones.

"Usually when I play with students, I have more time like a few weeks or even months or even the semester, a long time to practice together," Abe said.

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

Pitt Street Brewing Co. holds market

Candi Johnson

TEC STAFF

In celebration of Women's History Month, Pitt Street Brewing Company will hold the Women's Market - Women Owned Small Business event in Greenville, North Carolina with nine women-owned businesses tomorrow from 6 to 9 p.m.

Mary Ann Ricks, taproom manager at Pitt Street Brewing Company, wrote in an email statement the purpose of this event is to promote and encourage people to shop at small and independent women owned businesses in eastern NC. These businesses, she wrote, will be held in the Pitt Street Brewing back taproom to showcase their creations ranging from goods to artwork.

"We are a women-managed brewery and love the opportunity to showcase other women-owned businesses in the area!" Ricks wrote.

These markets, Ricks wrote, began being hosted after COVID-19 and events and fairs were being canceled. She wrote that people being interested in the market encouraged the decision to host another Women's Networking event.

Lauren Hamilton, owner of The Standard Dog Salon and Supply Company, said this is her businesses first community outreach event.

Hamilton said Pitt Street Brewing and her business already had good interactions through social media that led to a relationship growth between the two.

"We're trying to branch out a little bit more and get involved with Greenville as a whole," Hamilton said.

Amajha Slade, owner of Majhaa Creations, said items she will be promoting at the event will be indoor mats and outdoor mats, which will range from \$25 to \$45.

Slade said that she came across the event through social media, Instagram, and reached out about participating.

"I would just want to say to anyone if you have any ideas, any inspiration that you feel in your heart, always go for it and push, no matter how hard you think it may be," Slade said.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

TEC'spertZ

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this week's events

Kiarra Crayton

Sports Reporter

ECU baseball vs Houston from Friday to Sunday

Score Prediction? ECU 3-0

Why? The Pirates are simply the better team in the series. I don't see ECU having any major issues since those should've been smoothed out during regular game play. This will be a big boost going into tougher conference matchups.

Chris Long

Sports Chief

ECU baseball vs Houston from Friday to Sunday

Score Prediction? ECU 3-0

Why? Conference play has been the least of the Pirates worries in years past. After winning 20 straight games in conference last season, ECU's weekend record should prove itself right once more. This group is No. 8 in the nation for a reason. #teamofdestiny

Nick Bailey

Sports Reporter

ECU baseball vs Houston from Friday to Sunday

Score Prediction? ECU 3-0

Why? The Pirates swept the Cougars in last season's series, but I don't think that will happen again. Though Houston is currently ranked fifth in the AAC, ECU has a sub par 3-3 road record. I believe the Cougars will win one game, but the Pirates will win the overall series.

>> ANALYSIS



Former quarterback Holton Ahlers hands the ball off to his running back Keaton Mitchell as wide receiver C.J. Johnson takes off on his route.

Pirates prepare for the NFL draft



Chris Long
TEC STAFF

Between the National Football League (NFL) Combine and East Carolina University's annual Pro Day, six eligible Pirates will be vying for attention from 32 teams in an effort to be selected in seven rounds of selection.

The NFL draft is an annual event where former college athletes nominate themselves for selection to play at the professional level. Though thousands can enter their name to be drafted annually, this year there are only 259 names that will be called from the podium between April 27 through April 29. Of those, the Pirates have six opportunities to hear the names of former program athletes called.

Former quarterback Holton Ahlers, running back Keaton Mitchell, wide receiver C.J. Johnson, wide receiver Isaiah Winstead, offensive tackle Noah Henderson and defensive lineman Shaundre Mims all entered their names, waiving any remaining National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility.

The highest profile prospect of the grouping is running back Keaton Mitchell. As one of the only two Pirates to receive an invitation to the NFL Combine this year from Feb. 27 through March 6, Mitchell had the opportunity to show off his skill at the highest level.

Where he excelled was during the 10-yard split drill, where Mitchell had the fastest time (1.48 seconds) among all running backs at the combine. Additionally, he ranked second among running backs in the broad jump at 10'6" and third in the vertical leap at 38 inches.

The big story was Mitchell's 40-yard dash. The speedy runner has been known for his accelerations, but a 4.37 40-yard dash finished third among the running backs that competed. There were 12 running backs who did not participate in the 40-yard dash.

Unfortunately for Mitchell, this season's running back class is deep, which hurts his draft stock. According to NFLDraftBuzz, he is ranked as the 11th best running back in the class. Teams looking at Auburn's Tank Bigsby or Tulane's Tyjae Spears are not looking for the same type of player. Different players offer different skill sets and for a team looking for a speedy receiving back, Mitchell is as good as they come.

Along with being fast, Mitchell takes care of the ball too. Of the 27 running backs in his class, Mitchell has the lowest fumble rate amongst his peers, fumbling only 0.19% of his college carries. For comparison, his next closest peer is Kansas State's Deuce Vaughn who has a fumble rate of 0.39 percent, over double Mitchell's. The worst in the class is the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Dewayne McBride at 2.04%.

Ranked as the 135th overall best prospect in the class, Mitchell is certain to be selected, but the question is where. The majority of running backs in the class will not be selected until after the second round, which leaves the question of where Mitchell will be taken a bit tricky. Depending on how scouts and teams evaluate this talent, he can be drafted anywhere between the fourth and sixth rounds, though it is likely to be somewhere in the late fifth or early sixth round.

The other Pirate to receive an NFL Combine invitation is the next most likely to be selected in the draft. C.J. Johnson was a four year starter for Head Coach Mike Houston's offense at ECU, racking up 2,849 yards and 21 touchdowns as a Pirate. Johnson's big story is the rebound of his career in 2022 after being suspended by the team ahead of the season.

Through Johnson's big 2022 campaign, he nearly doubled his career stats which drew attention from teams across the league. The 6'2 receiver is ranked as the 379th best

prospect in the class, so with 259 picks, it is unlikely that Johnson will be selected unless a team really likes his skill set. Playing in a skill position also elevates his stock to where he may be selected in the seventh round.

Another player that can find his way onto a roster is former quarterback Holton Ahlers. Like Mitchell, Ahlers enters the draft in a deep class at his position. Fellow American Athletic Conference quarterback Clayton Tune is the tenth ranked quarterback in the class, despite both him and Ahlers having record setting careers within the American Athletic Conference. The question mark surrounding Ahlers is how his skill set will translate to the next level.

As a physical left handed passer who has had some struggles with eye and accuracy, Ahlers' name gets left behind in the conversation of the class's best passers. In addition to his convincing 2022 campaign that broke records in the school and conference's history, Ahlers led the Pirates to their first bowl game victory in a decade and participated in two post season bowl games, winning the Most Valuable Player award in both.

Ahlers has been linked to the Green Bay Packers, who went on record as having met with Ahlers multiple times in February. However, other teams have also met with the five year starter. The Chargers, Seahawks, Jets, Giants, Steelers and Panthers have also met with Ahlers through the predraft process.

The annual NFL draft will take place beginning with the Panthers' first selection at 8 p.m. on April 27 and will conclude on April 29 in Kansas City, Missouri. Teams will be able to sign players and form deals with undrafted talent beginning April 30.

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

Baseball hosts Houston this weekend

Nick Bailey
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University baseball team (19-5, 0-0 American Athletic Conference) will take on the University of Houston (12-12, 0-0 AAC) in a weekend series to open up the Pirates AAC conference schedule tomorrow through Sunday at Schroeder Park in Houston, Texas.

Before facing the Cougars, the Pirates will host the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) (15-9, 7-2 Colonial Athletic Association) for the second time this season at Clark-LeClair Stadium.

The Pirates are in their ninth season in the AAC, having joined in 2015. They are also in their 89th season as a collegiate baseball team. Except for the shortened 2020 season, ECU has earned the AAC regular season conference champion title in three of the last four years.

ECU will attempt to maintain their hot start to the season as they begin AAC conference action, having won seven of their last eight games and 13 of their past 15 games before they play UNCW. In the AAC conference, each team will play each other three teams each, for a total of 24 regular season conference games, before going on to play in the AAC tournament.

Based on the current AAC rankings, the Pirates lead the conference. They have a near-perfect 16-1 home record, but a 3-3 road record with one loss when playing at a neutral location. Houston now ranks in the middle of the AAC with a .500 record and they also have fewer defeats on the road than at home.

Last season, the Purple and Gold finished at the top of the AAC for the second season in a row, they went 46-21 overall and 20-4 in the conference. Houston finished third in the AAC last season, ending with a 37-24 overall record and a 13-11 conference record.

Looking back at last season's matchup, ECU was able to sweep the series from May 19 to May 21, 2022. This series was played in Greenville, North Carolina, and the Pirates won all three games by a combined score of 16-9.

ECU won the first game of the series 8-4. They rallied from a 4-1 deficit in the bottom of the sixth inning to score four straight runs, putting them up 5-4, and going on to win with three more runs in the eighth.

The Pirates led the second game 4-0 early in the second inning. The Cougars kept the game alive in the sixth with a triplet of runs, but a clutch RBI by junior infielder Joey Berini allowed the Pirates one more run to win the series 5-3.

On senior day, the Pirates defeated the Cougars 3-2 in the final game of the series and regular season. The game was knotted 2-2 before going into extra innings, when senior outfielder Lane Hoover scored on an error to capture the season's last win and complete the sweep of Houston.

The entire history of this battle demonstrates that the teams have been rather close even over the last eighteen years. The Pirates have 28 wins, while Houston has 29, with one game ending in a tie. ECU is currently on a seven-game winning run against Houston, dating back to April 6, 2019, when they won 15-2.

The Pirates may not see the Cougars again for a while, as Houston, along with the University of Cincinnati (11-14, 0-0 AAC) and the University of Central Florida (16-8, 0-0 AAC), will all leave the AAC on July 1, 2023 to join the Big 12 Conference.

After this road weekend series, ECU will enjoy an eight-game homestand for the rest of the first half of April. After Houston, they will play North Carolina State University (17-7, 3-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) at Clark-LeClair Stadium in Greenville, North Carolina, on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. This game can be heard on 94.3 The Game or seen on ESPNU.

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

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