



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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SEMESTER SETS SAIL



Freshmen Shannon Xiong, Melal Deso and Alexis Lee socialize on the campus mall while practicing mask protocols.

ECU officials welcome Pirates

Emily Bronson
TEC STAFF

Students were welcomed back to campus by East Carolina University today with face-to-face instruction, annual campus events and modified COVID-19 protocols. ECU Chancellor Philip Rogers said the spring 2022 semester is one to look forward to with additions to ECU such as Intersect East and traditional events like the Polar Bear Plunge.

"We (ECU) certainly had a terrific fall semester and I am looking forward to picking right up where we left off in 2021," Rogers said. There are a number of new programs that ECU students can look forward to in the next semester, Rogers said, such as the Brody School of Medicine's partnership with Vidant Medical center. Rogers said the Vidant collaboration is the change for ECU he is most excited for in 2022.

"This semester, we are going to launch the new brand of ECU Health which is our new consolidated academic health system that will essentially clinically integrate the Vidant Health System with the Brody School of Medicine," Rogers said. While excitement for the new semester continues for students and university officials, Rogers said it

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Concerns arise amid omicron

Mary Lofland
TEC STAFF

As students return to East Carolina University today for the spring 2022 semester amid a rise in COVID-19 cases and presence of the omicron variant, ECU officials continue to take necessary precautions for the health of students. The ECU community expectations for spring 2022 state that students and faculty must be vaccinated or follow through with mandated surveillance testing processes.

Dr. Paul Cook, chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Brody School of Medicine, said the prevalence of the omicron variant in Pitt County has grown dramatically in the last couple of weeks. "It probably has not peaked yet, but it probably will peak soon, and soon is going to be in the next week or two, but we don't expect it to last a long time," Cook said. In comparison to the predominant delta variant, Cook said the omicron variant has a higher infection rate that has created a rapid growth in case numbers. Cook said that most people who contract COVID-19 will not experience fatal or long-term effects, but it is important to take caution, as the virus is highly contagious. "This is an extremely dangerous virus and people have to be careful so that they don't catch it and don't transmit it," Cook said. In response to students return-

tion rate that has created a rapid growth in case numbers. Cook said that most people who contract COVID-19 will not experience fatal or long-term effects, but it is important to take caution, as the virus is highly contagious. "This is an extremely dangerous virus and people have to be careful so that they don't catch it and don't transmit it," Cook said. In response to students return-

> **COVID** page A2

Enrollment sees decline, university remains confident

Varun Joseph
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University has wrapped up the spring admissions process and is satisfied by final enrollment numbers as students begin the first day of classes for the spring semester today. Stephannie Whaley, director of undergraduate admissions, said as of Jan. 4, there were 25,084 students registered for the spring term, a total of 1,303 less students than those registered the previous academic year. She said she doesn't believe the omicron variant played a role in the decline but that the university will have a clearer image during the first two weeks of the semester. Whaley said as of Jan. 4, there were 55 incoming freshmen registered for the spring semester, though there weren't as many deferrals compared to years prior. There were also 455 incoming transfer students registered, Whaley said, which is 160 students fewer than last year.



Stephanie Whaley

"We may see some effect of that variant (omicron) over the next week or so if people need to withdraw from classes due to illness or something like that," Whaley said. Paul Gemperline, dean of ECU's graduate school, said the graduate school is still working to register students as campus reopens. He said as of Jan. 4, there were a total of 4,599 graduate students registered for the spring semester. Though there are 158 fewer students registered compared to this time last year, Gemperline said since the deadline for registration isn't for another two weeks the university will most likely see more students registering within that time period. Gemperline said that the omicron variant hasn't had any major effect on registration considering strong initial student interest at registration's opening. Gemperline said that as of yesterday, there were 601 new graduate students, which is 0.8% down compared to this time last year. "Keep in mind that many of our graduate programs only admit in the fall so the spring isn't a big time where we accumulate lots of new students," Gemperline said. David D'Amore, sophomore engineering major, said there's a possibility the university will see a significant number of people on campus since his schedule consists of in-person classes. D'Amore said since ECU had mostly in-person classes throughout the fall 2021 semester, students, faculty and staff should remain accustomed to how the university has handled the pandemic. "The procedure of going to class will be easier since we know to keep our masks on, go to class and are a good distance away in class," D'Amore said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

SoTD reflects on fall, prepares for spring

Noelle Edwards
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's School of Theatre and Dance (SoTD) looks forward to upcoming spring performances, health and safety as students once again return to in-person classes amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The SoTD plans to continue in-person classes for the upcoming spring. Michael Tahaney, head of the SoTD musical theatre program, said since the fall 2021 semester went well, he was hopeful for the spring 2022 semester, yet as the situation has progressed, his worries have increased. "The fall was great and going into the spring, who knows with the delta and omicron variants sort of floating around out there, I really don't know," Tahaney said. The pivot from online to in-person courses for upperclassmen at the start of the pandemic was a difficult process, Tahaney said, but the ECU community did its best to adjust to the change. Tahaney said he continues to remain hopeful as more news spreads about other nearby colleges postponing in-person classes. He said he wants ECU and its community to be able to remain open and face-to-face for the entire spring semester. Even though Tahaney said he wants to remain hopeful, he can't help but be worried ECU could go back to online classes due to a rise in COVID-19 cases, as this could potentially affect the program's first performance, which is scheduled to be "Pippin."



Michael Tahaney



Madeline Douglas rehearses for the Dance at Wright 2021 concert.

"I am directing the first production, which is 'Pippin,' that opens Feb. 23, 2022. So we have about six weeks from the beginning of the semester and that's really fast to put a production up," Tahaney said. Sophomore musical theatre major Reagan Cochrane said the fall 2021 semester was mostly in-person compared to her freshman year in 2020, which was completely online. Cochrane said she was happy to be in-person for fall semester as it made it easier to participate in the more interactive classes.

"This year we (students) were kind of mostly fully functioning. I mean, basically all of my classes were fully in-person and pretty much everything was normal," Cochrane said. During fall of 2021 and throughout the spring of 2022, Cochrane said there will be several opportunities for students to get back to a somewhat normal atmosphere. She said for all performances organized and showcased to ECU, there will be COVID-19 precautions set in places for all performers and attendees. The "Pippin" performance, Cochrane said, should have the same COVID-19 guidelines as the SoTD's last performance, "Head Over Heels," which took place before the winter break began. Junior dance education major Kelly Holt said she is currently trying to continue to stay positive and go with the flow as the pandemic lingers on. Holt said since she is only a junior, she hopes everything will be more under control by the time her senior year comes around. "With the pandemic, it is so hard to know what is coming next. I wasn't expecting omicron to be hitting now," Holt said. "I remember I was a freshman when I heard there was a case in North Carolina, and then two weeks later we went online, so we just never know." The dance program's first performance will be "Spring Dance 2022" and will take place in March. Holt said she expects that guidelines will be the same as past productions.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

ONLINE

»ARTS: SoAD plans for normal programs, in-person exhibits

»ARTS: SoM takes COVID measures, hopes for successful spring

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

LWCC to host Welcome Back Mixer

Thursday, the East Carolina University Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) will welcome students back to campus with its Welcome Back Mixer from 4 to 6 p.m. in Suite 100 of the Main Campus Student Center. Students are encouraged to attend to learn more about the center's resources, meet LWCC faculty and staff and interact with cultural organizations.

SAB to continue 7:07 series

Thursday, the East Carolina University Student Activities Board (SAB) will invite students to participate in various casino and card games at Casino Night from 7 to 9 p.m. in Ballroom C of the Main Campus Student Center. Students will be provided refreshments, music and the chance to win prizes. The SAB 7:07 series offers students entertainment opportunities through

NPHC to host Meet the Greeks

Sunday, the East Carolina University National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) will present their active organizations to interested students for spring 2022 from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Main Campus Student Center. Students will have the opportunity to interact with various NPHC organizations on campus and learn how to join. Those in attendance are asked to RSVP beforehand and to stay for the duration of the event.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



JAYLIN ROBERTS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University students worry about a potential price increase on campus and spending habits due to inflation throughout the United States.

Inflation impacts community

Tuition rates remain consistent, fees rise

Emily Bronson
TEC STAFF

As the United States continues to face high inflation rates, some East Carolina University students have begun to worry if the higher prices might affect the price of tuition and campus living expenses.

Stephanie Coleman, vice chancellor of administration and finance, said the university is not permitted by the University of North Carolina (UNC) System to change tuition rates in accordance with the rising inflation. She said despite this, a student's cost of living is what will be affected the most.

"The only thing we (ECU) could increase were fees and we have increased some fees primarily for services a year ago," Coleman said. "I do think it (inflation) will increase their (students) living costs."

Inflation impacts all Americans, Coleman said, though the only expense she has seen an immediate increase in for ECU students is the price of student fees.

While prices of fuel, food and other essential amenities continue to rise, Coleman said it would be unavoidable to raise the price of the student fees.

"We do take into consideration the affordability of college. I'll say, in North Carolina in general, the focus is to keep the cost low," Coleman said.

Philip Rothman, macroeconomics professor in the Department of Economics, said it is important for everyone to understand the state of the economy to be well-informed citizens.

As voters, students and citizens, college students should understand what inflation is and what it might be affecting, Rothman said.

"Certainly at a place like ECU, and I think for most of the UNC System, we need to look at tuition and fees," Rothman said.

Outside of the expected expenses for a four-year college degree, Rothman said students should not worry about increased tuition rates.

Rothman said being impacted by inflation is relative depending on one's driving, food and other monetary habits.

"I don't think that students face any particular or specific inflation risk relative to

everybody else," Rothman said.

Emily Boyd, a freshman music education major, said she thinks inflation will have a large and lasting impact on college students.

Boyd said the stereotype of a "broke college student" is an unfortunate reality for many.

"I definitely think it's (inflation) an issue on campus," Boyd said. "But I don't really think it's something that can really be fixed by the officials at ECU. I think it just has to do with our world right now."

Boyd said she thinks if prices continue to rise, the cost of tuition will follow in pattern and become more expensive in years to come.

If inflation increases, Boyd said it scares her to think about what expenses might be after graduation.

"I'm scared about location because the pay for teachers is decreasing," Boyd said. "North Carolina is a state that notoriously doesn't really pay their teachers a living wage."



Emily Boyd

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



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PIRATES continued from A1

is important for everyone to understand the health risks of the COVID-19 omicron variant.

Rogers said the new variant does not pose a threat to in-person instruction, but he advises all students to wear masks indoors and to get vaccinated.

"We're (ECU) most certainly going to see high case counts of COVID(-19) early in the semester. That will not be a moment to panic, we've already managed through several years of the pandemic together and we can get through the first month of the semester too," Rogers said.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Virginia Hardy said last semester was a success due to how well students were able to adapt to COVID-19 protocols.

New protocols have already been sent out to students and staff, Hardy said, though most of the community standards are the same as last semester. Hardy said she hopes student responsibility will remain a habit throughout the spring.

"Kudos to our students last semester. Kudos, thank you. Students did a really good job in following the community standards," Hardy said.

Madisyn Todd, freshman exercise physiology major, said she looks forward to the new semester despite some of the uncertainty about the omicron variant.

Todd said because she is a freshman, she found it difficult to navigate campus and her new role as an ECU student. She said she's excited for the sense of routine that will come from in-person classes.

"I think the last variants were handled fairly well," Todd said. "Any time that I have heard of anybody getting sick, the classes are postponed and it seems to have worked for the most part."

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

COVID continued from A1

ing for the spring semester, Chancellor Phillip Rogers said the impact of COVID-19 has created a model for how the university has implemented preventative measures.

Rogers said there are no plans to shift to virtual course delivery over the spring semester. He said the university is working hard to maintain an appropriate level of quarantine and isolation space.

"I encourage all of our students, faculty and staff to remain flexible and adaptable to the conditions that come our way," Rogers said.

Student Health Services Director LaNika Wright said reentry testing is crucial to give the university a chance to contain the virus and decrease the likelihood of infection rates before students reach campus.

Classes that received a high exposure risk in fall 2021 were moved online for a short amount of time to slow the spread within the classroom, Wright said, and officials are prepared to carry out the policy during the spring semester.

"Student Health will be available for vaccines and for boosters at our testing sites, we'll have them now and then by appointment only once the big reentry testing is completed," Wright said.

Xailyn Batista, senior biology major, said she hopes students continue to abide by university guidelines.

Batista said that while case numbers rise, students should get vaccinated because she doesn't want to face another semester with online instruction. She said she prefers a more hands-on approach to academics.

"I am excited to be back on campus and hope that we do not go back online because I want to enjoy the campus life to the fullest extent for my final semester," Batista said.

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



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OUR VIEW

Pirate Nation must continue to be vigilant

The first day of class for the spring semester begins today as students, faculty and staff return to East Carolina University to finish off the 2021-2022 academic year. In the weeks leading up to the beginning of the new semester, ECU officials have consistently updated COVID-19 guidelines to ensure the safety of the Pirate community and to reduce the spread.

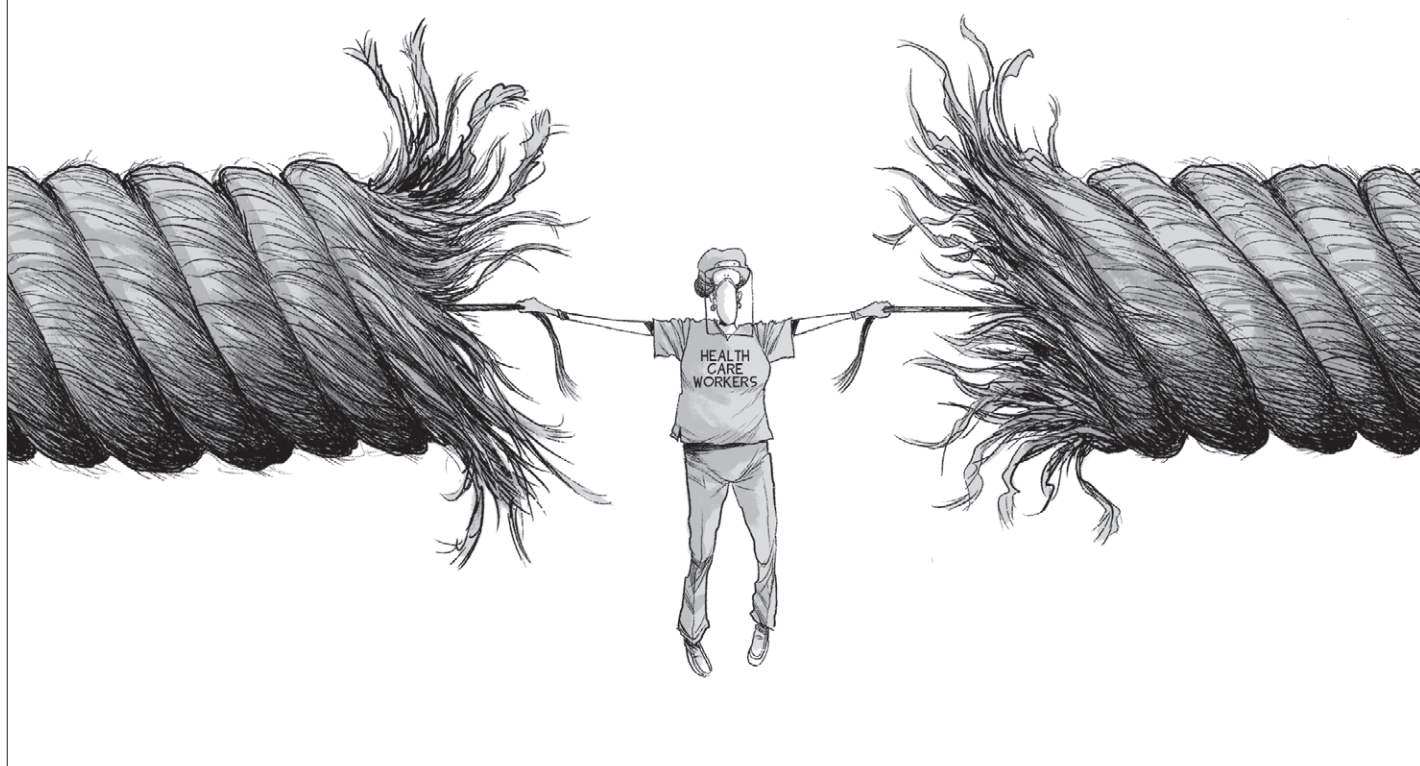
We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, would like to welcome both new and current students back to Pirate Nation and encourage everyone to finish the school year strong. Despite the challenges we are facing with the ongoing pandemic, we hope everyone continues to be safe and healthy as they return to campus.

With COVID-19 variants such as delta and omicron continuing to impact eastern North Carolina, it's important for the ECU community to remain vigilant when it comes to COVID-19. Students need to continue to follow the guidelines provided by both the university and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in order to remain on campus in person for the remainder of the school year.

ECU will be offering various COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites in the Main Campus Student Center ballrooms and the Mako Testing Site. These sites should be used to students' advantage as they are free for students to access and will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 as more students get vaccinated or regularly tested.

Fighting against COVID-19 is a community effort, and as members of Pirate Nation we should all make it a goal to take care of one another.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



Welcome from the new EIC

Introduction of position, encouragement for spring semester

Jennifer Sieg
TEC COLUMNIST

Welcome back and happy new year, Pirates! I would like to officially introduce myself as the new editor-in-chief (EIC) of The East Carolinian as I begin and continue this position throughout the semester.

With the beginning of a new year and a new semester, I encourage you all to remain diligent with your coursework, create goals and immerse yourselves within our campus culture. The East Carolinian is here to help you learn and understand what the campus and Greenville, North Carolina, community has to offer. Taking up an opportunity in front of you is something that you should never regret and East Carolina University has a plethora of them.

I am extremely thankful for this new position as EIC, which gives me the opportunity to lead a staff of amazing student journalists in a direction of success while continuing to provide you all with relevant and informative content.

As we return to school once again in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, The East Carolinian is here to remain



HANNAH BOLICK | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Jennifer Sieg is the new editor-in-chief of The East Carolinian for the spring 2022 semester.

dedicated to the campus community. Don't be scared to reach out with any feedback, tips or ideas, as we truly want your voices to be heard.

We will work diligently each week to ensure you remain well-informed as you navigate classes, work and outside campus or community activities. Don't forget to grab an edition of our weekly printed newspaper on Wednesdays, subscribe to our digital newsletter and check out our

occasional special editions and projects.

On a side note, remember to look out for the health and safety of your fellow classmates, professors and friends. Let's make this a semester of great achievement, success and accomplishments, and The East Carolinian will be here to guide you along the way.

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

PIRATE RANTS

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

As a Pirate alumni, it's great to see the Pirate Rants back. Let's bring them back to the glory days level!! ARGH!

If you are the ones that play on the piano in the student center, please don't stop. It's beautiful and one of my favorite parts about coming here.

Au Bon Pain fix your straws! I'm tired of having holes all in it!

My deepest secret is that I do not like Christmas.

I believe everyone should be treated kindly. But one thing I have learned at ECU is that diversity and tolerance are valued much more than hard work and honesty

Please, for the love of all things good, STOP SPEEDING THROUGH THE PARKING DECK

The wild mushroom bisque at Au Bon Pain is a crime. It was like eating rubber bands in gravy.

ECU needs every dorm to use LaundryView. I'm tired of having to go down to the bottom floor and look to see if there's washers open.

Questions regarding Pirate Rants can be directed to Giana Williams at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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



Chancellor offers words of support



Philip Rogers
GUEST COLUMNIST

To our students and all of the campus community, welcome back!

We are building on some big accomplishments, milestones and new beginnings from the fall as we move into the Life Sciences and Biotechnology building, develop Intersect East and plan for a new medical education building. Our faculty continues to impress with innovative teaching and groundbreaking research and the staff makes it all possible and ensures that the Pirate experience is engaging and fulfilling for all of us.

And the students! Before the break, we celebrated the ultimate Pirate moment with more than 1,800 newly minted ECU graduates. I had the opportunity to meet many of them and hear their stories, and I must tell you that it is simply a joy for me as your chancellor to celebrate that special day with our new graduates and their families. All of you are writing your own stories, and

whether it's this May or a few years down the road, I look forward to sharing that transformative moment with each of you.

But we have work to do and memories to make before that time comes. As we returned to campus in the fall, I remarked on how Pirate Nation has persevered during the pandemic, and my pride in all our efforts to protect each other. Now, more and more I see that it's not just persevering; in many ways we are thriving — rising to meet each new challenge and taking our individual and collective efforts to new levels. But that's not to say that it's easy, and I also know that many of us are struggling. So continue to lend a hand or an ear when you can to those around you — that's Servire. And reach out for help if you need it. We have great resources and people eager to assist. You are not alone.

As for what our precautions will look like this spring, campus will operate much as it did in the fall, with masks required in indoor spaces and social distancing measures in place. Vaccinations and boosters

are available on campus, and regular testing is required for those who are unvaccinated. In December we reached an 80% campus vaccination rate, and I take that as a great sign of Pirates protecting Pirates. As I shared in a recent campus communication, I can't emphasize enough how important it is for you to get vaccinated and to receive your booster as soon as you are eligible.

I hope that each of you had a restful break, I'm glad to have you back in Greenville and on campus, and I wish you a fun and successful spring semester. I know you will do amazing things.

From music and theater to student clubs and events, you will have plenty of opportunities to get involved in campus activities. We've seen firsthand that we can't take campus life for granted, so take full advantage. Winter sports are in full swing, and spring sports will be soon. Get out and support your fellow Pirates, and I'll see you there!

Rogers is the chancellor at ECU and a guest columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 500 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — You're getting creative. Lucrative opportunities are hiding in plain sight. Put in the work to realize dreamy results. Luck is on your side.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Invent, build and grow a dreamy professional possibility. Luck shines on disciplined efforts. Put your heart into it. You can find what you need.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Prioritize physical health and fitness. Nurture yourself. Practice your moves for growing strength, endurance and ease. Keep doing what's working. Get your heart pumping.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 9 — Something you've been dreaming for is open and available. A disciplined push is required. Aim for love, fun and happiness. Good fortune follows personal initiative.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 9 — Seminars, classes and webinars provide valuable skills. Concentrate intensely. Optimism, confidence and luck grow along with your understanding. Studies and research get fruitful.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — You're especially lucky in love. Romance sparks in conversation. Connect with your own creativity and passion. True your course to your heart.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 6 — Have faith in your own imagination. Encourage it with privacy and peaceful conditions. Revise plans and invent new possibilities. Put away the past. Look ahead.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Collaborate to realize a shared dream. You can find the resources you need. Use what you're learning to cut waste. Together, you're especially lucky.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Stick close to home. Domestic projects satisfy a craving. Repair something that's been bothering you. Relax and enjoy familiar surroundings. Bake something fragrant.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — You can find what you're looking for, with a little help from your friends. Connect and share what you're up to. Advance a team dream.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Exchange kindnesses. Share the load. Support your partner and be supported. Fortune follows dedicated efforts. Work together for what you love. Celebrate results.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Apply intellect, experience and creativity to solve a puzzle. Think outside the box. Listen to dreams or subconscious clues. The shower muses serenade you.

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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



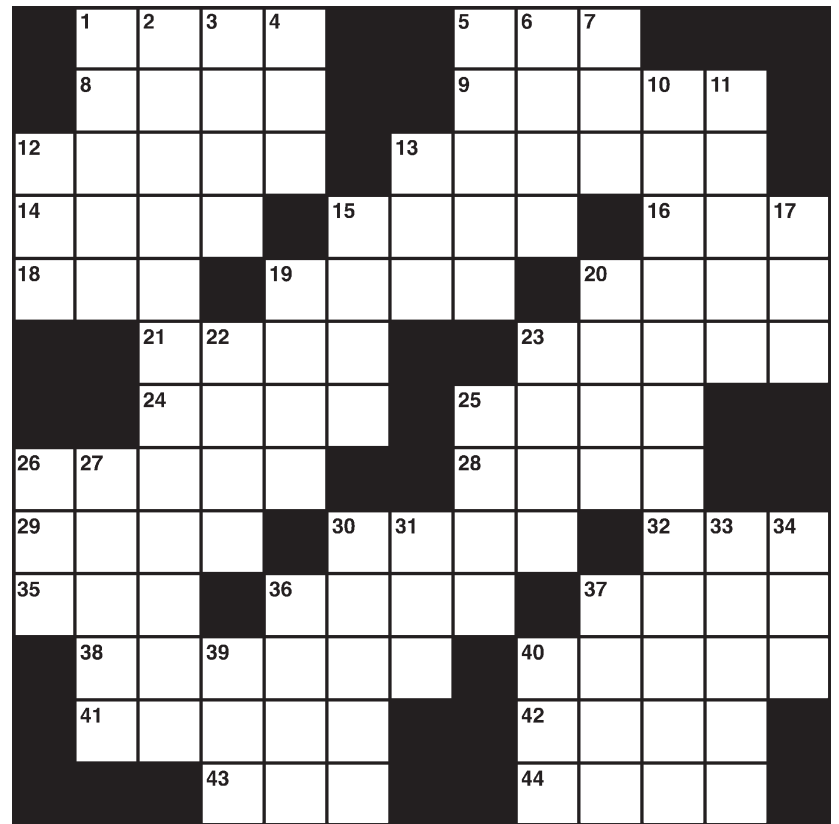
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CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS
 1 “__ Bloods”
 5 Role on “Alice”
 8 Broadcasts
 9 “__ Judy”
 12 “Home __”; Macaulay Culkin movie
 13 Namesakes of Jim Nabors’ role
 14 Goodman & Cariou
 15 “The World According to __”; Robin Williams film
 16 “One Day __ Time”
 18 180 degrees from NNW
 19 Actor Hirsch
 20 “Law & Order: SVU” actor
 21 Rich soil
 23 “Touched by an Angel” actress
 24 Frolic
 25 Writing table
 26 Erik Estrada police series
 28 Actress Moreno
 29 Tampa team, for short
 30 Actor Florek
 32 Word of disgust
 35 “Be quiet!”

DOWN
 1 Actor Christian & his family
 2 “American Idol” judge
 3 Crematory shelf supplies
 4 Suffix for Japan or Nepal
 5 Norwegian inlet
 6 Unwanted find in mashed potatoes
 7 “__ to Billie Joe”
 10 Actress on “Man with a Plan”
 11 Rob or Will
 12 Roker & Molinaro
 13 Word attached to fly or about
 15 “Forrest __”
 17 Dined
 19 Traffic tie-ups
 20 Suffix for chill or cheer
 22 Klutz’s word
 23 Harness strap
 25 First James Bond movie
 26 “Hawaii Five-0” network
 27 Sled dog
 30 Male bee
 31 Sitcom about an alien
 33 Small fruit
 34 Entertainer Don & his kin
 36 Prefix with culture
 37 Sherman Hemsley sitcom
 39 Natalie Cole’s dad
 40 Historical period

Solution from 11/17

L	E	W	I	S		C	B	S				
A	R	O	S	E		O	S	S	I	E		
S	I	R	E	N		E	L	A	I	N	E	
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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level
 1 2
 3 4

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

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 11/17

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

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EVENTS

TODAY

Intro to Painting, Drawing & Mixed Media
 Emerge Gallery and Art Center
 404 Evans St.
 1 to 3 p.m.
 (252) 551-6947

Daytime Potters Wheel
 Emerge Gallery and Art Center
 404 Evans St.
 10 a.m. to Noon
 (252) 551-6947

TOMORROW

'Bonitas and Bikes' Tandem Bike Dinner Tour
 Riverside Recreation and Ville Verde
 100 E. First St.
 6 to 8 p.m.
 (252) 215-0878

Tuesday Metalsmithing Basics
 Emerge Gallery and Art Center
 404 Evans St.
 3 to 5 p.m.
 (252) 551-6947

WEDNESDAY

Intro to Bookmaking
 Emerge Gallery and Art Center
 404 Evans St.
 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
 (252) 551-6947

SideBar continues unique cuisine

Noelle Edwards
 TEC STAFF

Michelle Mazzei
 TEC STAFF



SideBar, located at 707 Dickinson Ave., opened on Nov. 16 and continues to welcome the residents of the Greenville, North Carolina, community to enjoy its unique Tex-Mex cuisine.

Reservations for SideBar must be made for the restaurant's hours of operation from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The restaurant is closed every Sunday and Monday. The menu prices, which can be found on SideBar's Instagram page, generally range from \$5 to approximately \$13.

Tandi Wilson, one of SideBar's owners, said despite some minor setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the restaurant has been successful. "Business is doing really well," Wilson said. "Everybody has been very receptive and grateful. We're just super happy with the turnout we've had so far."

SideBar recently had to close down on Dec. 21 due to a COVID-19 outbreak among employees, Wilson said, but the staff continues to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines in order to keep everyone safe. Wilson said the restaurant was able to reopen on Dec. 30, just in time for the new year.

Wilson said, the business, although cautious of the pandemic, will continue to see more customers as the spring season comes into play.

"We have a beautiful patio, so when it starts to get warmer, it's going to be nice out there," Wilson said.

Since there is no other of this kind of Tex-Mex style restaurant in Greenville, Wilson said she and her husband, Jacob Wilson, took the opportunity to open one up.

The Wilsons are not only the owners of SideBar, but also other businesses located in the area, including Christy's Euro Pub, Dickinson Avenue Public House and Jarvis Street Bottle Shop.

SideBar has employees that work at those multiple locations owned by her and her husband,



Tandhi Wilson



The Smoked Chicken Tinga tacos offered at SideBar, located at 707 Dickinson Ave. in Greenville, North Carolina.

according to Wilson. Therefore, she said various restaurants have been affected by the spread of COVID-19.

"We have crossover employees, so depending on who was exposed and how many people were exposed, we try to stay conscious of making sure multiple restaurants close due to exposure," Wilson said.

Despite the recent temporary closure of SideBar, Tandhi Wilson and the restaurant's sous chef Kevin Kayes said the business is still where they want it to be.

Kayes said the kitchen staff has done really well since the opening of SideBar.

"It's coming along beautifully. We have three different really good chefs who have worked together for a very long time so we work well together," Kayes said.

On the restaurant's menu, one can find different styles of chip dishes, such as "Salsa Two Ways" and "Pork Chili Verde Nachos," Kayes said. He said SideBar also offers taco and non-taco options as displayed on their Instagram page.

Kayes said the cooking style at SideBar is seen as putting the chefs' own interpretation on traditional dishes.

"We're doing a bit of a fusion and hoping to do a lot more different cuisines as far as fusion," Kayes said. "We're going to do specialty tacos, as

far as doing Indian and Tex-Mex, and do a little bit of Asian Tex-Mex. We've got a lot of ideas."

Haley Lathrop, a junior education major, said she has eaten at SideBar several times. She said the restaurant staff is always friendly and welcoming.

SideBar additionally has outdoor seating, according to Lathrop, which is nice in the summer, so she looks forward to the coming months. She said it is also nice to sit outside in the colder months as SideBar has heating lamps on the patio.

"The outside is just as cute as the inside. There's a bar where people can order all kinds of drinks. The lights inside are kind of a traditional style, but also modern, so it really brings out the homey feeling," Lathrop said.



Haley Lathrop

SideBar has various menu items that do not limit one's nutrition preferences. Lathrop said she enjoys the vegan options SideBar has to offer, although she is not vegan.

Reservations for SideBar must be made before dining at the restaurant by emailing side-bar.greenvillenc@gmail.com.

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

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Sophomore runningback Keaton Mitchell finishes a long run in the endzone against Charelston Southern on Sept. 25. Mitchell ran for 126 yards when the Pirates beat the Buccaneers 31-28.

HALIE MILLER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

» ANALYSIS

Optimistic football season takes turn



Chris Long
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University football (7-5-0, 5-3-0 American Athletic Conference) was left disappointed by the end of its turnaround season when the Military Bowl game in Annapolis, Maryland, was canceled due to competitor Boston College (6-6-0, 2-6-0 Atlantic Coastal Conference) having more than 40 players unavailable to play against the Pirates.

The Pirates' season was one that has inspired hope in the future of the program. With an overall record of 7-5-0, ECU gained the same number of collective wins this season that the program has had under the rest of head coach Mike Houston's time at ECU.

The season kicked off in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the Bank of America Stadium against Appalachian State University (10-4-0, 7-1-0 Sun Belt Conference) in a 33-19 loss. From there, the Pirates faced the University of South Carolina (7-6-0, 3-5-0 Southeastern Conference) and lost in a close 20-17 game. The Gamecocks hit a walk-off field goal with the clock expiring to take down the Pirates.

However, following an 0-2 start, it was uphill for the Pirates. ECU won three straight games against Marshall University (7-6-0, 5-3-0 Conference USA), Charleston Southern University (4-6-0, 3-4-0 Big South Conference) and Tulane University (2-10-0, 1-7-0 AAC). The highest scoring game of the season came in the win against Tulane as the Pirates scored 52 points to the Green Wave's 29.

The Pirates then went on a two-game road trip, first against the University of Central Florida (9-4-0, 5-3-0 AAC) and next against the then undefeated Houston University (12-2-0, 8-0-0 AAC). ECU lost to the Golden Knights by four points in a 20-16 Saturday night game.

The game against Houston was delayed for several hours due to weather concerns, kicking off at 9:20 p.m. The Pirates stayed in the game until overtime, where an untimely fumble cost ECU the win in the 31-24 loss.

From the 3-4 start, the Pirates rallied together for the final stint of the season to give ECU its first four-game win streak since joining the AAC. ECU toppled the University of South Florida (2-10-0, 1-7-0 AAC), Temple University (3-9-0, 1-7-0 AAC), Memphis University (6-6-0, 3-5-0

AAC) and the United States Naval Academy (4-8-0, 3-5-0 AAC) to bring the overall record to 6-5. This enabled ECU to hit the season goal of six wins and make the Pirates bowl-eligible for the first time since 2015.

In those four games, ECU outscored its opponents 142-81. The Pirates were nearly able to shutout Temple in a 45-3 win that saw ECU beat the Owls at home for the first time since 1996. The most important win of the season came in the 30-29 overtime win against Memphis, which solidified the Pirates' bowl-eligibility.

The last win of the season over Navy may be the most memorable. The Pirates were able to defeat Navy off of a 54-yard walk-off field goal by redshirt freshman placekicker Owen Daffer by a score of 38-35.

ECU's last game of the season came against undefeated No. 4 Cincinnati (13-1-0, 8-0-0 AAC). The Pirates were unable to ruin the Bearcats perfect record, losing 35-13.

Following the successful season, Houston signed a contract extension to retain his position through 2026.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

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