



# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 06.08.22

VOLUME 96, ISSUE 31

## COVID-19 sees increase after decline

**Kristin Outland**  
TEC STAFF

As COVID-19 cases begin to increase after several months of decline, ECU faculty, staff and medical providers in the Greenville community share their thoughts on the increase's impact, available community resources and more.

According to Pitt County Health Department's website, as of yesterday the current number of active COVID-19 cases in Pitt County is 839. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) website also estimated the recovered cases to be 52,934 and the overall death count for Pitt County has reached a total of 223.

LaShae' Wilson, adult nurse practitioner at ECU's Student Health Services (SHS), said the recent increase in positive cases is likely due to the mask mandate being lifted. Now, she said most individuals are not wearing their masks and that vaccination statuses play a large role in infection.

"We're doing the same things, just with less protection. And then people who are vaccinated may have very mild to no symptoms and they could be associated with allergies, or just a general cold," Wilson said. "And so they may be out and about with COVID(-19) and just not know and then it could spread to the people."

It's hard to tell how long the trend of positive cases will continue, Wilson said, but viewing other statistics in other locations such as Europe can give a good idea of what to expect for the next coming weeks or months. She said trends from other countries usually precede trends within the United States.

Following any cold-like symptoms an individual may be experiencing, even if they're mild or allergy symptoms, Wilson said it's always best to get an at-home COVID-19 test and to wear a mask to protect those around them.

"But the best way, I guess, to for sure not get COVID(-19) right now, will be to wear a N-95 (mask), because even if you wear a cloth mask or surgical mask, you're only protecting others and people around you who are in not masks can still be infecting you," Wilson said.

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## Uvalde tragedy stirs debate

**Breanna Sapp**  
TEC STAFF

Following the recent shooting that took place at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, organizations throughout the state and East Carolina University law enforcement discuss firearm safety and the future of gun control laws in North Carolina.

On May 24, 18-year-old Salvador Ramos took the lives of 19 children and two teachers after purchasing two AR platform rifles at a federal firearms licensee in the area on May 17 and 20, according to a timeline created by CNN. Ramos purchased and had a total of 1,657 rounds of ammunition, in which 315 were found inside Robb Elementary. The tragedy has since stirred a national debate surrounding gun control and the future of firearms in the U.S.

In terms of gun safety on ECU's campus, Field Operations Captain for ECU Police Department Chris Sutton wrote in an email statement that according to NC General Statute, concealed carry permit holders are allowed to bring a handgun on campus if the firearm remains and is "in a locked area inside the locked vehicle." He wrote that rifles and shotguns are not permitted on campus.



**Chris Sutton**

"No one should place themselves in a dangerous situation. When officers are responding to a threat and assessing the scene, anyone with a firearm, can and likely will be perceived as a threat," Sutton wrote. "No one wants to hinder response and no one wants to be injured unnecessarily."

Current precautions to prevent gun violence on ECU's campus

include technological advancements, Sutton wrote, such as the LiveSafe app and camera coverage throughout campus. The university educates students, faculty and staff on "Run, Hide, Fight" training in case of an emergency, Sutton wrote. In addition, he wrote that the university has improved door-locking mechanisms and has increased the prevalence of 1 Card doors on campus.

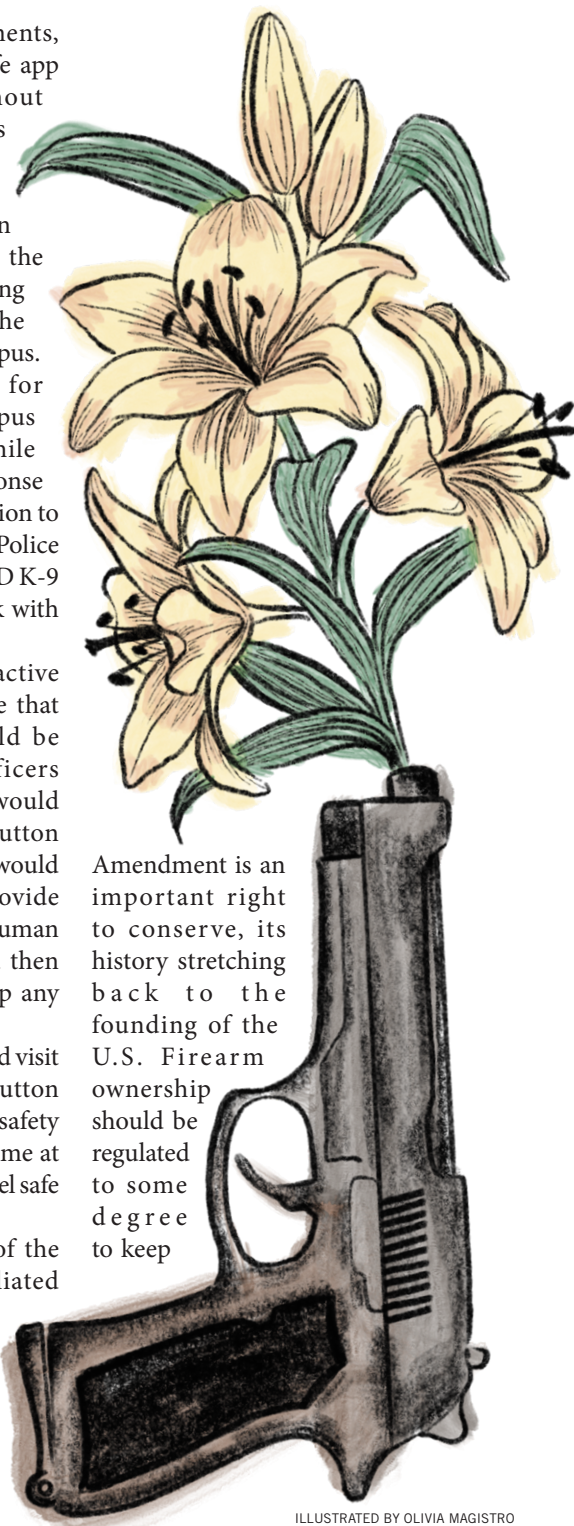
ECU PD is trained yearly for active shooters in different campus environments, Sutton wrote, while the department's Emergency Response Team trains twice a month in addition to training sessions with Greenville Police Department. He wrote that ECU PD K-9 units also train three times a week with local jurisdictions.

In the potential case of an active shooter on campus, Sutton wrote that an ECU emergency alert would be sent around campus while officers respond to the scene. Campus would go into immediate lockdown, Sutton wrote, while other local agencies would also respond to the scene to provide assistance. In order to preserve human life, he wrote that officers would then attempt to locate, engage and stop any threats immediately.

"Download the LiveSafe app and visit our Run, Hide Fight website," Sutton wrote. "We are committed to your safety on our campus, everyone has a home at ECU and everyone should always feel safe in their home."

David McFarling, president of the National Rifle Association affiliated North Carolina Rifle and Pistol Association (NCRPA), said his heart goes out to the victims in Uvalde, adding that the NCRPA does not condone gun violence. The NCRPA's mission is to protect the Second Amendment right throughout the state, McFarling said, serving as a resource and focusing on NC firearm legislation.

McFarling said the Second



Amendment is an important right to conserve, its history stretching back to the founding of the U.S. Firearm ownership should be regulated to some degree to keep

ILLUSTRATED BY OLIVIA MAGISTRO

> UVALDE page A2

## Local biologists discuss region's biodiversity

**Breanna Sapp**  
TEC STAFF

As eastern North Carolina continues to grow, local faculty and biologists discuss the importance of the region's unique biodiversity and efforts made to conserve its diverse plant and wildlife.

In 2016, the North American Coastal Plain was named the 36th global biodiversity hotspot by environmental nonprofit Conservation International. Global biodiversity hotspots must have at least 1,500 species of vascular plants that are endemic to the region.

The hotspot must also have 30% or less of its natural vegetation, creating a need for conservation efforts.

Misty Buchanan, director of the NC Natural Heritage Program, said biodiversity often comes from an environment full of diverse vegetation, such as various trees, shrubs, herbs, wildflowers and grasses.

Eastern NC was never glaciated throughout history like other areas in the country, Buchanan said, which has allowed a variety of plants and animals to thrive in the region.

"I would say there is a lot of room in North Carolina for economic growth and for land conservation," Buchanan said.

Michael Brewer, professor for East Carolina University's Department of Biology, said global diversity hotspots only cover about 2.5% of the world's surface, yet contain 44% of the world's plants and 35% of land vertebrates.

Brewer said the North American Coastal Plain stretches from parts of northeast Canada down the east coast of the United States through Mexico.

NC has many unique biological characteristics, Brewer said, such as the largest diversity of plethodontid salamanders in the world and one of the highest numbers of fungi.

"It (the North American Coastal Plain) evaded detection for a long time," Brewer said. "Nobody really realized how much diversity we have here."

Carol Goodwillie, professor for the Department of Biology and plant biologist, said she works on a long-term research project to watch the biodiversity and growth of native plant species on a plot of land.

NC has a very high rate of endemic species, Goodwillie said, and 30% of the state's plant species only grow in the coastal plains.

As well as this, she said North Carolina is a unique state due to its variety of environments and soil types.

"We (NC) are kind of an overlap," Goodwillie said. "We get all these temperate species that I see up in Maine, but we also get some representatives of big groups of tropical plants."

Jeffrey McKinnon, professor for the Department of Biology and author, said after moving to NC, he was amazed by the rich diversity of wildlife.

McKinnon said some examples of biodiversity unique to the region include the carnivorous Venus flytrap, the Waccamaw killifish, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and the critically endangered red wolf.

A wave of extinctions has passed throughout the last 40,000 years, McKinnon said, and scientists have determined that the world is currently in a sixth mass extinction, putting biodiversity hotspots at a higher risk.

"This is just this wondrous place biologically, where we're still discovering new species," McKinnon said. "And I think, you know, a lot of us just don't appreciate how lucky we are."

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

**ONLINE | FULL STORY**



JAYLIN ROBERTS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The region of eastern North Carolina was named a part of the North American Coastal Plain biodiversity hotspot in 2016 by the environmental nonprofit organization Conservation International.

### ONLINE

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

» Check out our poll online about the Greenville Community Garden.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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## BRIEFS

**Brewery to promote trafficking awareness**

Today, North Carolina Stop Human Trafficking will hold the Rockin' for a Free World fundraiser beginning at 8 p.m. at Uptown Brewing Company. Featuring rock band 1789, Uptown Brewing Company will donate a portion of beer sales to NC Stop Human Trafficking in an effort to advocate for a trafficking-free state.

**GUC to hold board meeting**

Thursday, the Greenville Utilities Board of Commissioners will meet at noon in the Board Room of Greenville Utilities' Main Office Building at 401 S. Greene Street. The board will meet to review financial statements, discuss construction contracts and authorize funding applications.

**ECU faculty to meet prospective students**

Friday, prospective East Carolina University students and their family will have the opportunity to meet with faculty from the Department of Technology Systems at noon in the Science and Technology Building. Students can ask faculty questions regarding various degree areas offered in the department.

**March to protest gun violence, control**

Saturday, anti-gun violence organization March For Our Lives will hold a march from noon to 2 p.m. at the Greenville Town Common. The organization was founded by students in 2018 in support of gun control legislation. The march will take place in response to the recent shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; 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.

**May 27, 2022**

An open investigation is being conducted for Possession of Marijuana < ½ oz., while another count of Possession of Marijuana < ½ oz. was cleared by citation at Fourth and Cotanche Street at 7:18 p.m.

**May 31, 2022**

Warrant Service for Other Agency was cleared by arrest at PVA of The Eastern on 10th Street at 10:20 p.m.

**June 2, 2022**

Driving While Impaired was cleared by arrest at First and Meade Street at 2:28 a.m.

**June 3, 2022**

Warrant Service for Other Agency (x2) was cleared by arrest at Tenth and Elm Street at 11:15 p.m. cleared by arrest at First and Meade Street at 2:28 a.m.

# ECU class explores virtual reality BIM technology benefits construction management

**Destiny Miles**  
TEC STAFF

In an effort to introduce building information modeling (BIM), students in East Carolina University's Department of Construction Management are using virtual reality to see their developed models in the real world.

Chair of Construction Management George Wang said VR technology was first taught in an upper-level construction management course that covered BIM. Wang said while he doesn't teach this BIM course, he visited the VR lab and was involved in designing a ladder safety training project using VR technology.

Wang said that students can use the VR equipment to learn about real construction job sites, construction management, safety management and materials labs,

as well as mechanical, electrical, plumbing, different labs and construction site activities.

"Using VR technology is part of the digital transformation in the construction industry. Now digital transformation is introduced into construction management education. This will enhance undergraduate teaching, and connect our students to the real construction world," Wang said.

The construction management program needs larger spaces for lab equipment practices, Wang said, so if they don't have the space or equipment needed, they can use VR technology to show the students the real construction site.

Wang said Associate Professor of ECU Department of Construction Management Yilei Huang teaches BIM to teach students how to design commercial and

residential buildings through VR technology. He said the technology is a tool to show students the concept of the design.

"Using the innovative technology makes our construction management students and our program special and different from others. That means our students are more technically and professionally ready to join the 21st Century construction industry," Wang said. "I'm not the computer guy or the person who teaches this virtual reality, but I can tell you introducing VR into the classroom is a revolutionary step in construction management."

Huang said the software the BMI class uses is Iris VR, which allows students to get inside the buildings and see their own design, helping with students' understanding of their design and modeling.

Students create their 3D site model from the computer, Huang said, then export it from the computer modeling software to the VR software where they are able to see their model from the VR headset. For others to see what a student sees in their VR, Huang said students cast it to the computer connected to the projector.

"They (students) create their models on the computer and then I convert the model into the VR format, I have to create an account for each of the groups so that they can see their own model on their separate devices," Huang said.

Huang said the five Oculus Quest 2 VR headsets were purchased through the Fall 2021 Course Innovation Grant from the ECU Office for Faculty Excellence. This semester, Huang said students are using the trial account of the software because of its high cost.

"This upcoming semester, the class will use the two-week trial because last semester they had a license for the class, since it was the first time they ever used the VR. They (students) realized the license was not needed since they don't need it for the whole semester," Huang said.

The VR program helps the class get into the 3D model of a building and see what's hard to see on com-

puter screens, Huang said.

The BMI course uses the VR program towards the end of the semester to see students' finished 3D site models, Huang said, as students develop their models throughout the rest of the semester.

"(The VR) gives students a better understanding of how construction modeling works and is important for the students to identify the design and modeling problems that are not easy to see on computer screens," Huang said. "(It is a) way to get our students to see the real world. VR is being used by more industry companies."

Jordan Lipton, product sales specialist of the XR team at Autodesk - The Wild and Prospect by IrisVR, wrote in a email statement that during the early days of VR, architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) firms would need to hire a software development team to build a VR experience for each specific model used on different projects, which included a lot of time and finances.

Prospect by IrisVR was started with the goal of making it easy for people to bring their models into VR for a design review through 3D modeling software, Lipton wrote, such as Revit and Navisworks. Lipton wrote that other features such as issue tracking and BIM data inspection have helped establish BIM workflows. It's easy and comfortable to use, Lipton said, and being scalable has made Prospect by IrisVR a valuable tool.

"It's about more than just looking at your models in VR; the software has built-in design review tools like measurements, markups, viewpoints and visibility settings. On top of that it also includes VR meeting functionality for anyone in the world to collaborate live in their model together," Lipton wrote.

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



CONTRIBUTED BY RHETT BUTLER

Using virtual reality, Braxton O'Hara views future construction plans.

## COVID-19 continued from A1

As the virus continues to evolve, Wilson said new strains of variants can be expected in the future. When a new variant comes out, she said the public is informed through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Wilson said officials expected to see a trend of lower COVID-19 cases in the summer and higher cases in the winter, but these trends cannot be confirmed since the virus is still new.

"Because it's warmer, people are out more and doing more things, so I'm suspecting that hopefully over the summer we'll eventually see a decrease in, eventually see a decrease in COVID(-19) cases like we do with our flu cases," Wilson said.

Suzanne Lea, associate professor for the Department of Public Health, wrote in an email statement that the recent positive cases for Pitt County had increased from 17 percent to 20 percent from statistics that ended last Thursday, according to the CDC dashboard.

The omicron variant is highly transmissible, Lea wrote, and it consists of nearly all of the

reported cases in North Carolina.

Lea wrote that ECU students are 75% vaccinated, faculty and staff are 87% vaccinated and overall, the university has a vaccination status of 77%. Unvaccinated individuals who have received one vaccine dose is 57% and those who are vaccinated with one or two doses with one booster is 26%, she wrote.

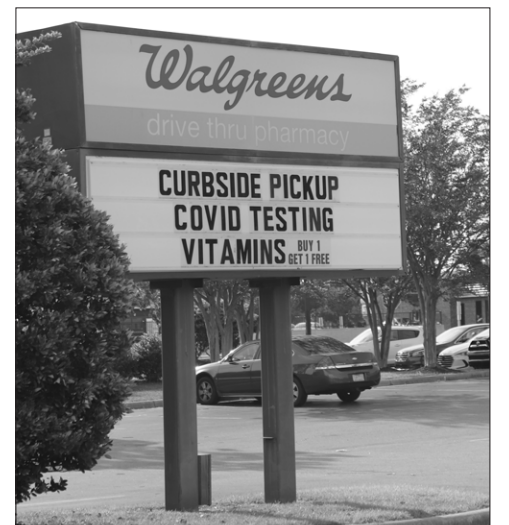
Lea wrote it is likely to see new variants emerge in the future, and large increases of positive cases are typically seen at the beginning of the academic year and late in the month of January after winter break.

"More transmission may occur among the unvaccinated or those not fully vaccinated. The good news is that the ECU community are overall 77 percent vaccinated," Lea wrote.

John T. Fallon, chair of the Department of Pathology in the Brody School of Medicine, said the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases is due to the new subvariant strain of omicron, B.12.1, which is even more infectious than other strains.

Although it is difficult to say how long the increase of positive cases will remain steady, he said there are many ways to protect yourself from contracting the virus.

As of now, Fallon said there are also two new sub variants, BA4 and BA5, that are spreading across the world and appear to be even



OLIVIA MAGISTRO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A local Walgreens advertises COVID-19 testing.

more contagious than the initial subvariant, BA.2.12.1, that has been spreading. There have been a few cases of these new sub variants in the U.S., he said, but it has not spread rapidly like some other variants have in previous years.

"Wear a mask, socially distance, stay away from anybody that they know has COVID(-19), get tested if you feel sick or you've been exposed. That's really the only thing you can do at this point," Fallon said.

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

## UVALDE continued from A1

out of the wrong hands, though McFarling said the issue of gun violence is primarily societal, not legal.

The complete restriction of firearms does not prevent gun violence, McFarling said, considering these crimes still persist in countries with strict gun control. If a person is unable to purchase a firearm legally, McFarling said they'll do so illegally. Regardless, he said the "mentally disturbed" should in no way have access to firearms and should instead receive the services they need.

"In a perfect world, we'd (the NCRPA) like to see a world with no murder and no emotional sickness, and people would be using firearms just for recreational purposes, or hunting purposes, you know, to feed their families, and to defend themselves if it becomes necessary," McFarling said. "It's not that type of world

anymore, but if we don't have some way to defend ourselves with firearms, then we become defenseless."

Becky Ceartas, executive director of North Carolinians Against Gun Violence (NCAGV), said the organization focuses on all acts of gun violence, including domestic violence, suicides, mass shootings, urban community gun violence and accidental shootings.

NCAGV works to advocate for various state gun control legislation, Ceartas said, and is currently working on saving the Pistol Purchase Permit system since the Robb Elementary shooting. She said this legislation closes gun show loopholes that allow federal firearms licensees to sell handguns to customers that would otherwise be unable to obtain one. Currently, Ceartas said the NC legislation requires a background

BECKY CEARTAS

check and permit to do so.

A Pistol Purchase Permit system made gun homicide rates go down 28% and suicide rates go down 33% in Connecticut, Ceartas said, while gun homicide rates went up 47% and suicide rates went up 28% when similar legislation was repealed in Missouri. She said NCAGV would also like to see an Extreme Risk Protection Order law passed, which allows family members or law enforcement to present evidence to a judge to have an individual's firearm taken following due process.

"We have two gun owners on our board, so we aren't anti-gun. We're about pro-gun violence prevention. And so, you know there are laws that can be put in place, like the Extreme Risk Protection Order law," Ceartas said. "People do exhibit warning signs, and so we can and we must take action to prevent those tragedies from happening."

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

## EVENTS

## TODAY

**Umbrella Market**

Uptown Greenville  
Fifth and Evans Street  
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
(252) 561-8400

**Open Mic Night**

Pitt Brewing Street Company  
630 S Pitt St  
8 to 10 p.m.  
(252) 227-4151

## TOMORROW

**Concert on the Common**

Greenville Town Common  
105 E. 1st St.  
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
(252) 329-4567

## FRIDAY

**Emerald Express Uptown Circulator**

G.K. Butterfield  
Transportation Center  
600 S. Pitt St.  
12 to 8 p.m.  
(252) 329-4532

**Holden Dixon Live at Uptown Brewing Co.**

Uptown Brewing Company  
418 Evans St.  
8 to 11 p.m.  
(252) 689-6487

## SATURDAY

**Pinkest Floyd - A Tribute to Pink Floyd**

The State Theatre  
110 W. 5th St.  
7:30 to 11 p.m.  
(919) 828-4444



The Greenville Community Garden grows a number of vegetables, herbs and fruit that are donated to various local community organizations. JAYLIN ROBERTS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

## Community Garden unites Greenville City, local organization encourage service, sustainability

**Kristin Outland**  
TEC STAFF

The Greenville Community Garden, a partnership with the organization Love A Sea Turtle (LAST), continues to grow and work toward providing East Carolina University students and Greenville, North Carolina, community members with a space for gathering and skill learning opportunities.

Daniel Sokolovic, executive director of local non-profit organization LAST, said the garden itself is a partnership with Sustain ECU as well, a university organization that focuses on conservation and green policies.

Sokolovic said everything grown in the garden is donated to local organizations such as Joy Soup Kitchen, Purple Pantry, Hope of Glory and more.

"We were able to work outside, and we were able to safely space," Sokolovic said. "So it became a space where we can grow, heal and enjoy each other's company safely."

Sokolovic said the garden started off very small, but eventually grew into several gardens with other features such as orchids and beehives.

The main garden on the left side of Stencil Road is considered to be a traditional garden with dirt and several crops, Sokolovic said. He said that as of now, the crops being planted in this area are green beans and onions. Sokolovic said other crops and produce such as potatoes, carrots, lettuces, garlic, peppers, pears, plums,

pecan trees, blueberry bushes, mulberry and a blackberry hedge that surrounds the garden are also featured.

The Greenville Community Garden website and Facebook page show the success behind all of the dedication given to the garden.

"We have existed for 18 years. We provide students with opportunities to lead and to perform programs themselves. We started out as an organization that made sea turtle shaped cookies, and my daughter did this 18 years ago, sold them to raise money for the sea turtle hospital, has evolved into a youth-led leadership program," Sokolovic said.

Chad Carwein, ECU's Sustainability Manager, said the purpose of the garden was to feed those in need within the community through donations to organizations for the less fortunate. Carwein said his role is to provide many opportunities for both community members and students alike with ways to get involved with the environment both on and off campus.

The garden contains a variety of herbs and a recent pollinator garden that opened in the spring, Carwein said, attracting pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hummingbirds in an effort to help pollinate the garden. Carwein said the garden features standard

produce such as tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, eggplants, okra, cabbage and other greens such as spinach, lettuce and kale. He said two of the biggest crops grown in the garden are onions and garlic.

"We also partner with LAST, in the non-profit. That enables us to apply for grants and accept donations from businesses all across organizations. We partner with national organizations like the Whole Kids Foundation," Carwein said.

Student Advisory Board member with the garden, David Yoon, said his role as one of the garden leaders includes mentorship of other leaders in the garden and helping out with tasks.

The garden's project initially started as a piece of land that was used for trash disposal, Yoon said, but it was able to be turned into an organization that would benefit both the community and citizens of Greenville.

Yoon said working in the garden provides a good understanding of where local food comes from and teaches other sustainable methods individuals can use themselves.

"For me personally, being able to donate almost 30,000 pounds of produce to over 400 at-risk families and providing nature experience, mentorship, and leadership are all really important skills that the garden provides for the community," Yoon said.

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

## GMOA exhibit 'Growing up Queer in the South' kicks off Pride Month

**Rachana Charla**  
TEC STAFF

In an effort to celebrate southern queer culture, the Greenville Museum of Art (GMOA) debuted a brand new exhibit, Growing Up Queer in the South, last Friday which will be open through Sept. 24.

The opening reception, held from 5 to 8 p.m., featured prominent members of the community and had a turnout of over 200 people. The GMOA gave out artist awards and had a performance by local drag queens.

Parks McAllister, guest curator for the exhibit, said he came up with the title of the exhibit as a way to reflect on how states throughout the American South shape queer youth and the adults they become.

He said the artists in this show are from all over the South and are from all backgrounds and walks of life. Some are young artists still honing their craft, some do art full time, and other pieces came from professors, self-taught folks and two ECU students, McAllister said, representing queer artists who deserve to have a space in the museum.

"I just recently moved, but I had spent my entire life in the American South. I loved it, but I think we see on a daily basis what needs to change and queerness in the American South feels so different," McAllister said.

A gallery owner in New York City, McAllister said he grew up in Monroe, North Carolina. He is a member of the LGBTQ+ community and said in March 2021, he had a contact at the GMOA who was fully supportive of the show and wanted to take it on as a four month long exhibit.

McAllister said the art exhibit is a way for people to approach the queer community and interact with the expressions of their identities in a reflective way.

"Historically, southern people who have been here for generations and don't know much past their own and their own families, but I feel also tend to be cis(gendered)-het(erosexual) white people, is also the majority here,"

McAllister said. "I am a firm believer that art is such a special way to create safe conversation."

Trista Reis Porter, executive director of the GMOA, said the call for artist submissions went out in January 2022 with over 200 artists sending in submissions. She said there are 43 artists included in the catalog that highlights the background of the artists, sold for \$15 at the show.

This is the first time the GMOA has participated in an exhibit like this, but Porter said it will not be the last. She said exhibitions like Growing Up Queer in the South are important to represent the movement forward for the museum and the queer community. She said celebrating this kind of diversity and inclusion gives people a space to be themselves.

"I really wanted to get a wide variety of media. A really diverse group of artists from multiple southern states is kind of what I was looking for, so multiple kinds of diversity, all kinds of different pronouns, different ways that people relate to the LGBTQ+ community and different ethnic backgrounds and training," Porter said.

Creating a public queer space can often offend people, Porter said, as she has already received some negative comments from older folks in Greenville. But, Porter said she hopes people can come to this exhibit and pause to think about their negative assumptions and react in a more positive way.

The focus of the exhibit on the art, the artists, and their story was reflected in the pieces, Porter said, some with many interactive components. Porter said the focus on queer people and queer people of color from throughout various southern states creates a unique intersectional space that allows people to really understand one another.

"Art is a way for people to express themselves in spaces, not necessarily

like museum spaces. Although it's definitely true that those museums' spaces have not historically celebrated or created space specifically for this identity," Porter said.

Mark Rasdorf, director of the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center at ECU, said he just recently joined the board of the GMOA. He said he was excited to learn about an exhibit that represents his own line of work.

Rasdorf said supporting queer artists in an exhibit that focuses on their upbringing in the South creates an opportunity to reach people far beyond Greenville, North Carolina.

The unique experience of identifying as LGBTQ+ while growing up in the South is an experience people around the United States can recognize, Rasdorf said. He said the feelings of isolation that accompany queer folks growing up in the South has historically led to high suicide and depression rates, and the opening of the exhibit is a perfect way to welcome Pride Month.

"I think one of the significant factors about this exhibit is that we see our lives in this art, in an exhibit focused on queer identities which to my knowledge, is the first kind of exhibit like this in the history of the museum. I don't think it's been done before," Rasdorf said.

Andy Marlowe, who goes by they/ them pronouns, is a junior fine arts, studio art and creative writing major at Florida State University, who has a piece in the exhibit.

They said they drove up nine hours from Tallahassee, FL for the exhibit and were surprised and excited to see the crowd for the opening reception.

"It feels amazing to have a space to show something. To have an exhibit like this growing up, it would have felt really illuminating. So much of my life I have been searching for people like me, like a kinship and I have queer people in my family, but no one could kind of understand the trans experience," Marlowe said.

This writer can be contacted at  
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GMOA visitors attended the debut of McAllister's exhibit last Friday. RACHANA CHARLA | THE EAST CAROLINIAN



CONTRIBUTED BY ROSE BOGUE  
Niveles, Jesus Daniel Lopez.



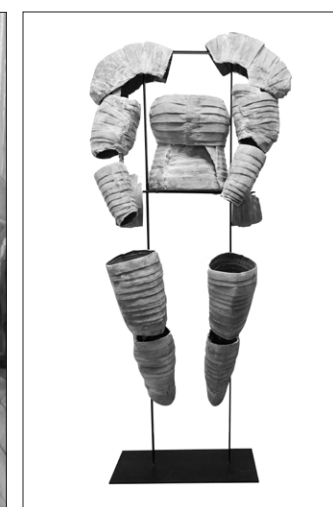
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Kendall and KE II, Jasmine Marie.



CONTRIBUTED BY ROSE BOGUE  
\$3 for your Youth, Carmen Descrito.



CONTRIBUTED BY ROSE BOGUE  
Fuera del Closet, Nathan Hosmer.



CONTRIBUTED BY ROSE BOGUE  
Ideal Body, Annah Heath.

## OUR VIEW

### K-12 students need exposure to the arts

Following the opening reception of Emerge Gallery and Art Center's summer exhibit featuring art from kindergarten through 12th grade Pitt County students on June 3, exposure to the arts from a young age should be accessible and celebrated in the public school system.

The arts provide a number of benefits and opportunities, ranging from learning and tactile development, to cultural exposure, to increased engagement.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe the introduction and encouragement of the arts to students entering the public school system is most beneficial to their growth, creativity and freedom of expression.

Often, the arts are considered to be an extracurricular or elective class not needed for a child's development and education. Career paths in the arts are sometimes dismissed, arguing that being an artist isn't a "real" job.

Yet art educators continue to advocate for the importance of the arts to serve not only as a creative outlet, but as a discipline that encourages confidence, learning, awareness and expression.

Early exposure to the arts can create a desire for children to continue down this path, whether that be as a hobby or potential career, allowing students to reap the benefits that the discipline can provide for a lifetime.

The arts can just be for fun, of course, but its inclusion in a kindergarten through 12th grade curriculum creates a promising outcome for children and educators alike.



As the field of journalism continues to evolve every day, younger reporters question the idea of bias while older generations push for objectivity. COURTESY OF BANK PHROM | UNSPLASH

## Journalistic bias needs a redefinition

### Your opinion is inevitable, objectivity is possible



**Breanna Sapp**  
TEC STAFF

One of the first things taught to an incoming journalist is to remain unbiased: remove editorialized verbiage, utilize the neutral voice, stray from conflicts of interests and opinionated reporting. Of course, this brings to question something that every journalist has wondered at some point throughout their career - can humans really be unbiased?

In the 1920's, there was a growing movement in the field of journalism to ditch the outdated and harmful practice of yellow journalism. This practice was exchanged for objectivity, a term that pushed journalists to pursue a scientific approach when reporting in order to collect evidence without any personal bias.

But, the faith behind this shift to unbiased has faded over time. Newsworthy events such as foreign wars and policies and the COVID-19 pandemic mixed with political rhetoric have led to a number of editorials to debate over the idea of journalistic objectivity. The field of journalism seems to be split in half, with some experts arguing for a redefinition of objectivity, while others question its existence at all.

Young, diverse reporters are advocating for updated reporting techniques, arguing

that it's not possible to hear two sides of a story when one side is harmful to the other's existence. Older generations of reporters are praying that journalism remains the honest third party it was transformed into in the 1920's. Who's right in this debate? Is anyone?

I argue that bias is not as clear cut and straightforward as it may seem. I will be as transparent as possible when I say reporters are human. We all have our own point of views, our own political beliefs and our own moral compass. It would be absolutely unrealistic to be the unbiased robots many expect a journalist to be.

But, I also argue that it is possible to keep bias out of your investigations and your presentation of evidence. I argue that it is possible to listen to individuals of every point of view with the same patience and curiosity you would expect others to give you. I argue that it is possible to communicate the vast number of ideas in this world with full truth and accuracy.

I'm sure that I sound too old-fashioned for the growing world of journalism, but I will be the first person to admit that I have many opinions and beliefs that may have conflicted with sources I've interviewed. But isn't that the beauty of journalism? Shouldn't it be fascinating to have a discussion with someone who thinks the complete opposite of you, and be forced to listen because of your role?

If there's anything I've learned in the two

years I've been a young journalist, it's that I have learned more about the world and people around me than I have my whole life. My views are constantly challenged on a daily basis. I have been inspired and I have fumed after logging off of an interview: but I have learned.

Yes, we as reporters will always disagree with someone that we interview. And yes, we will encounter issues we are so passionate about that it's hard to believe someone could think otherwise - but journalism reminds us that it is possible.

There is no doubt that there are opinions that we as young journalists will encounter and disagree with at some point in our career. It's inevitable. But, reporting the full truth of what these people say will only benefit our ability to tell the truth, grow our knowledge and teach us more about patience than any classroom ever could. Without the truthful and accurate spread of ideas, you would never know what or what to not believe.

Yes, I am a human being with internal bias. But as a journalist, my superpower is the ability to communicate the tragedies and curiosities of the world without twisting these ideas with my own beliefs. In doing so, the world and I are challenged, and the growth of ideology and the beauty of discourse continue to persevere.

Sapp is a junior majoring in English and International Studies To contact her, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## PIRATE RANTS

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

With all of the school shootings happening around the nation, I feel like ECU should release an action plan about what we would do if that happened here.

PIRATES ARE IN THE SUPERS!

Pricing in the student center needs to be lower.

I was told that I need to pay \$50 for a summer membership to the rec as a student??

I wish the parking deck would open up for the students. We understand during class times, but all the time there is student workers that get off at 9. The garage should not be 24 hours if it is. Parking should be \$.50 an hour.

Why do we have to pay for parking on top of tuition?! Seems like a scam.

I actually can't wait to see little grub hub robots rolling around campus.

We need more food options on campus I'm tired of literally everything.

We STILL need a Trader Joes in Greenville.

Why are there so many roaches in Greenville?

Rest in Peace Sheetz on 10th and Charles, you will be missed. I already miss your mac n cheese bites :(

I swear storage units in Greenville only make a profit because apartments have these two week gaps between leases.

Questions regarding Pirate Rants can be directed to Emily Peek at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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



## The Boston Celtics are uninspiring

### Convictions with Chris



**Chris Long**  
TEC COLUMNIST

The Boston Celtics have created the most boring finals run, if not entire playoff run, of the last quarter century of National Basketball Association play.

There, I said it.

The team, composed of young talent and veterans tested by Father Time, put together some of the most unexciting basketball that my eyes have ever beheld. The problem lies not within a singular player, nor group of players, nor the coaching staff. The problem exists with the franchise as a whole from the top, down.

Let's start with Jayson Tatum. As the franchise's primary star, Tatum serves as the primary scorer and leader on the offensive end. This season, the 2021-2022 NBA season, Tatum scored a career high 26.9 points per game while averaging a career low three point percentage as well as being within three tenths of a point from averaging a career low in field goal percentage.

To summarize, the heart of the offense is having the most inefficient scoring season of his career, yet usage and time of possession are not considered to the fair weather fan

when looking directly at the still impressive 26.9 points per game. The question is, at what cost to the offensive unit?

This is not a hit piece on Tatum, but his 12 points on 3-17 shooting in game one of the 2022 NBA finals was a non factor with the Celtics blowing out the Warriors by 18 points. To be fair, in that game Tatum created 13 assists. However, they were boring assists, mostly outlet passes and easy looks.

The next player that needs to be addressed is the 2022 Defensive Player of the Year, Marcus Smart. I will not make the case that Smart did not deserve the DPOY honors, but I will make the case that media narratives aided his case thoroughly. Advanced statistics and analytics point to Smart being not number one, nor number two in defensive rating this year. In fact, his defensive rating was ninth best in the league, ranking behind the heart of the offense himself, Tatum.

Smart is by no means a bad defender. He is simply an overrated defender. He has had flashes of the alleged greatness throughout the playoff run, but overall his presence on the court is more of an annoyance. Being able to guard the one through the five slot at a slightly higher than average level should not aid your case as much as it did Smart's.

Al Horford, the 36 year old center, found the fountain of youth. Unfortunately, he

“ Sincerely, a Philadelphia 76ers fan. ”

- Chris Long

did not drink enough from the fountain and his three games of dominance are over. The eastern conference finals run against the Miami Heat villainized Horford for me. As a Sixers fan, seeing Horford put up elite numbers after his abysmal time with my favorite team has done nothing but inspire me to nitpick his every movement.

There is so much more to say, from the uninspiring and dull big man rotation to the nameless, faceless guards and forwards that fill out the bottom of the rotation.

The only redeeming qualities that this team has resides in Jaylen Brown, Aaron Nesmith and Derrick White. Those players are wholly interesting and fun to watch. I hope they find their way to a better home than Boston. Warriors in six. Sincerely, a Philadelphia 76ers fan.

Long is a senior English major and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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Serving ECU since 1925, The East Carolinian is an independent, student-run publication distributed every Wednesday during the academic year and during the summer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, columnists and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration at East Carolina University or the Student Media Board. Columns and reviews are the opinions of the writers; "Our View" is the opinion of The East Carolinian Board of Opinions.

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### Did someone say FREE?

Looking for a roommate or a sublease?  
Got something for sale?  
ECU students can submit a classified for **FREE!**  
Contact [smaa@ecu.edu](mailto:smaa@ecu.edu) for more information.



## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Support each other with a challenge. You can see the boundaries and limitations. Don't push your luck. Simplify expectations. Clarify the plan. Collaborate.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Dig deeper into a fascinating subject. A creative barrier stops the action in one direction while things open up another way. Stay flexible. Take notes.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Teamwork can overcome a shared challenge. Provide your piece of the puzzle. Listen and observe closely. Contribution produces satisfying results. Support an effort with friends.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Slow to reassess the terrain. Avoid accidents or pitfalls. A health change or challenge deserves attention. Nurture your body with good food, rest and exercise.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 9 — Unexpected expenses require adaptation. Extra efforts produce the resources you need. Adjust the budget to reduce elsewhere. Creative solutions arise with determination.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — Hunt for solutions to a professional problem. Do more research before launching. Avoid reckless moves. Strategize with your team. Consider options and potential.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — Relax. Romantic barriers are temporary. Separation makes the heart grow fonder. Keep agreements, bargains and promises. Express your creativity, passion and commitment. Get playful.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Ponder the possibilities. One door closes and another opens. Treat yourself with kindness while adapting with a personal challenge. Compassion starts at home.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Enjoy the scenery. Explore the view, whether from your backyard or a long-distance ramble. Patiently persist with your investigation despite delays. Determination pays.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Clean a domestic mess or breakdown. Work done now has lasting benefits. Sort through things and give away what's no longer needed. Enjoy the results.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Take a break to recharge. Monitor conditions and prepare before launching. Wait for an obstacle to clear. Imagine perfection and plot the steps necessary.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 9 — To avoid financial errors, play the game strictly by the book. Review budgets and balances. Monitor conditions before advancing. Research expenditures carefully. Manage accounts together.

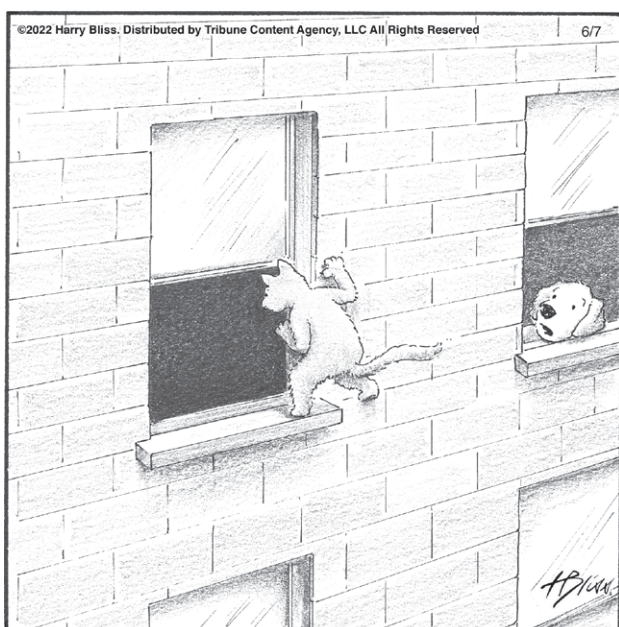
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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKIT



### BLISS

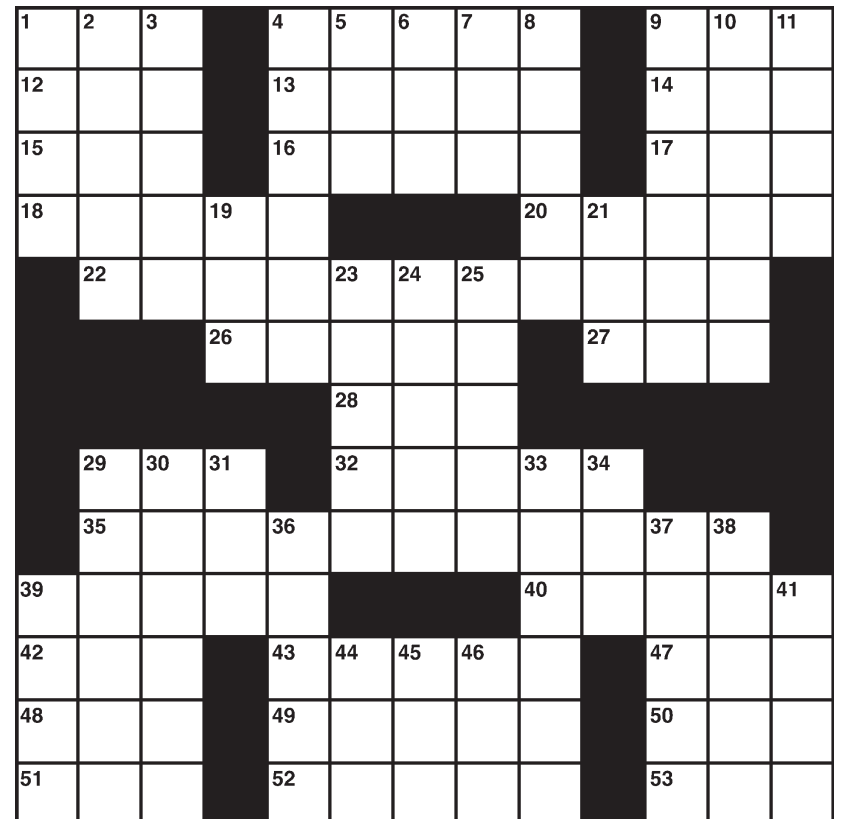


"Are there treats? Just grab the treats and get outta there!"

## CROSSWORD

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

**ACROSS**

1 \_\_\_ Hanna; "NCIS: Los Angeles" role  
4 "\_\_\_ in Toyland"  
9 "\_\_\_ Smart"  
12 Letter from Greece  
13 Main character in "The Little Mermaid"  
14 "Star Wars: Episode \_\_\_ - Revenge of the Sith"  
15 Ending for Dan or Nathan  
16 Walk leisurely  
17 ...FDR, HST, \_\_\_, JFK...  
18 "Pretty Little Liars" role  
20 Rarin' to go  
22 Actress on "Mixed-ish"  
26 Greta \_\_\_  
27 Whitney & Rainier: abbr.  
28 Number of seasons for "JAG"  
29 Suffix for art or violin  
32 Regions  
35 Actress on "This Is Us"  
39 Garr & Hatcher  
40 \_\_\_ Hotchner; "Criminal Minds" role  
42 Thirsty Frenchman's need

**DOWN**

43 Alf or Mork  
47 Prior to  
48 "The \_\_\_ and I"; Fred MacMurray film  
49 \_\_\_ to; increased  
50 Get it wrong  
51 \_\_\_ Moines  
52 Actress Bow of early films  
53 Layer of turf

**Solution from 6/01**

B	L	U	E		A	B	C
R	I	T	A		B	O	O
J	E	T	E	R	S	A	W
E	A	T	S		C	A	T
J	K	L		C	O	M	E
				E	M	I	L
				T	O	A	D
Y	A	H	O		E	V	E
A	R	I	D		D	I	R
M	T	N		B	E	R	N
				I	G	U	A
				E	S	S	E
				A	R	E	S

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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](http://sudoku.org.uk)

Solution from 6/01

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

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## TEC 'spertZ

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this week's events

**Chris Long**  
Sports Reporter



**ECU baseball vs Texas Series Prediction?** 2-1 ECU wins

**Why?** The Pirates are one of the hottest teams in the nation. With the dominant performance in the Monday afternoon win over Coastal Carolina, ECU has found a groove that can only be taken down with intense game planning. There's only so much the Texas' pitching rotation can do to slow down the Pirates, led by Jenkins-Cowart, Worrell and most predominantly, Agnos.

**Markayla McInnis**  
Sports Editor



**ECU baseball vs Texas Series Prediction?** 2-1 ECU wins

**Why?** In the past, the Pirates have traveled to the Super Regional and not been able to advance but with ECU hosting the Longhorns after proving that they can come back and win at home against Coastal Carolina, they will come out on top versus Texas. Texas will put up a fight and take it to game three but the Pirates will prove they can make it past the Supers this year.



The East Carolina University baseball team celebrates with Pirate Nation after a 13-4 win against Coastal Carolina University at home on Monday. COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES

## Pirates to host Texas in Super Regional ECU remains home on the Road to Omaha

**Marakayla McInnis**  
TEC STAFF

With a win in the Greenville Regional, the No. 8 East Carolina University baseball team (45-19, 20-4 American Athletic Conference) now prepares to host the No. 9 University of Texas at Austin (45-19, 14-10 Big 12 Conference) in the Greenville Super Regional for a three-game series starting on Friday at noon.

This will be the Pirate's third straight time headed to the Super Regional and the seventh time in program history. This will be head coach Cliff Godwin's fourth appearance in the Super Regional as head coach of the Pirates. This matchup will also be the first time the Pirates and Longhorns face each other in program history.

On Monday the Pirates faced Coastal Carolina University (39-20-1, 21-8-1 Sun Belt

Conference) in the final game of the Greenville Regional where the winner took all. As the Pirates got two early runs in the first inning, they were able to keep the lead for the remainder of the game.

At the top of the ninth inning, the Chanticleers were down 13-2 and with that inning had one last chance to take the game. Senior outfielder/infielder Tyler Johnson hit a last-minute home run bringing himself and another runner home to take it to 14-3, but with three outs on the horizon, the game was called mid-ninth.

With junior right-handed pitcher Carter Spivey pitching all eight innings, he went 8-0 against the Chanticleers. With various impressive catches from senior outfielder Bryson Worrell, eight ECU players rounding the bases for 13 runs in all and a deal-sealing seventh inning bringing in eight runs, the Pirates were able to redeem themselves from the Sunday, 1-9 loss to win the Greenville Regional and secure the host spot for the Super Regional.

With Worrell's performance of four hits, four runs, four runners batted in and his work in the outfield, he was named the Greenville Regional Most Outstanding Player.

The Longhorns punched their Super Regional ticket a day before the Pirates as they defeated the United States Air Force Academy (32-29, 15-16 Mountain West Conference) 10-1 in the final game of the Austin Regional. Much like the Pirates, the Longhorns found early success in the game as they started the first inning with five early runs. The Longhorns almost finished the game in a shutout until the Falcons hit one solo home run to end the game 10-1.

Austin, Texas, was the host site of the Austin Regional as they hosted Air Force, Louisiana Tech University (43-21, 20-10 Conference USA) and Dallas Baptist University (34-24-1, 11-9-1 Missouri Valley Conference) and went 3-0 on the weekend.

Before facing the Falcons for a second time, Texas went through Louisiana Tech in the second game of Regional where they came out on top 5-2. Although the Texas team went undefeated through the Austin Regional, with ECU's higher ranking, the Longhorns will have to travel to Greenville, North Carolina, for a best of three games with the Pirates.

In the 2020-21 season, ECU hosted the Greenville Regional where they hosted Norfolk State University (15-32, 12-18 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference), the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (36-22, 17-13 Conference USA) and the University of Maryland (48-14, 18-5 Big Ten Conference) and went 3-0 on the weekend. As the Pirates traveled to the Nashville Regional and met Vanderbilt University (39-23, 14-16 Southeastern Conference) the Pirates didn't make it to game three as they went 0-2 in the first game and 1-4 in the second to end their season.

This will be Greenville's first time hosting Super Regional at Clark-LeClair Stadium as the gameplay will begin Friday at noon, and the Saturday game will begin at noon as well. If the matches are split after two games, a third game will take place on Sunday. All Greenville Super Regional games will be broadcasted on ESPN2.

Tickets for Pirate Club Members, 2022 Baseball Season Ticket Holders and Students went on sale Tuesday and general public tickets will go on sale Wednesday at 9 a.m. Tickets can be purchased at [ecupirates.com](http://ecupirates.com).

This writer can be contacted at [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).



Cliff Godwin



Carter Spivey

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## ECU heads to Oregon for NCAA Championships

**Reyna Crooms**  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University senior pole vaulter Sommer Knight will represent ECU for the second year in a row at the NCAA Outdoor Championships today through Saturday in Eugene, Oregon, at the University of Oregon on Hayward Field.

Knight previously qualified for the championships at the NCAA East Preliminary in Bloomington, Indiana, on May 25 through 28, and cleared a season-best mark of 4.31 meters to secure her spot in the championships.

Last year, Knight earned the First-Team All American honors in pole vault at the NCAA Championships in Eugene. Knight finished in third place at the 2021 Championships and achieved her personal best mark of 4.35 meters.

Throughout the season, Knight has earned high marks at meets starting at the Carolina Challenge in January 2022. Knight was able to place first at the first meet of the season and has not slowed down since then. In early February, Knight was able to come out on top again at the East Coast Invitational. Back in April, Knight cleared 4.31 meters at the Virginia Challenge and took the top spot in the

women's pole vault.

First place at the 2021 Championships was taken by Louisiana State University's senior pole vaulter Lisa Gunnarsson who cleared 4.40 meters. She is set to return to the Championships in 2022 after hitting a new personal best record of 4.65 meters in March at the Texas Relays, giving her the fourth best mark in collegiate history.

Knight was not the only athlete ECU sent to the championships in 2021. ECU alumnus thrower Ryan Davis closed out his career with East Carolina as he took 18th place in the men's hammer throw. Davis was able to record a mark of 68.79 meters.

This year, the 2022 NCAA Championships will be held in Oregon for the 14th time. The competition will be broadcasted on ESPN and more broadcast information can be found on the NCAA website. The meet will kick off today with the men's 100 at 3:30 p.m. then proceed to the men's long jump at 4:10 p.m. The finals for men's pole vault, long jump and shot put will take place at 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:40 p.m.

The women's events are set to begin on Thursday with the women's pole vault final at 6 p.m. The women's long jump final will begin at 7 p.m. and the women's shot put final will take place at 7:40 p.m.

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