



VOLUME 96, ISSUE 33

CHECK OUT THE SUMMER BASEBALL TRAINING ASSIGNMENTS to A6



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 06.22.22

Steak 'n Shake to replace 1907 Grill in MCSC

Rachana Charla
TEC STAFF

In place of the 1907 Grill, chain restaurant Steak 'n Shake will be arriving to the East Carolina University Main Campus Student Center (MCSC) this fall to provide students a variety of dining options, including their famous burgers and shakes, as the 2022-2023 academic year begins.

Celia Daniels, director of ECU Dining Services, wrote in an email statement that despite the set-up of the 1907 Grill's space, Steak 'n Shake is going to "retro-fit" the space with their brand within the summer months to be ready to open at the end of July.

Steak 'n Shake will replace the 1907 Grill, which was considered pricier and not as accessible for students, Daniels wrote. The new restaurant will offer Pirate Meals, which typically include an entree, drink and a side, Daniels wrote, though fall 2022 Pirate Meals are still in development and will become available when the location opens.

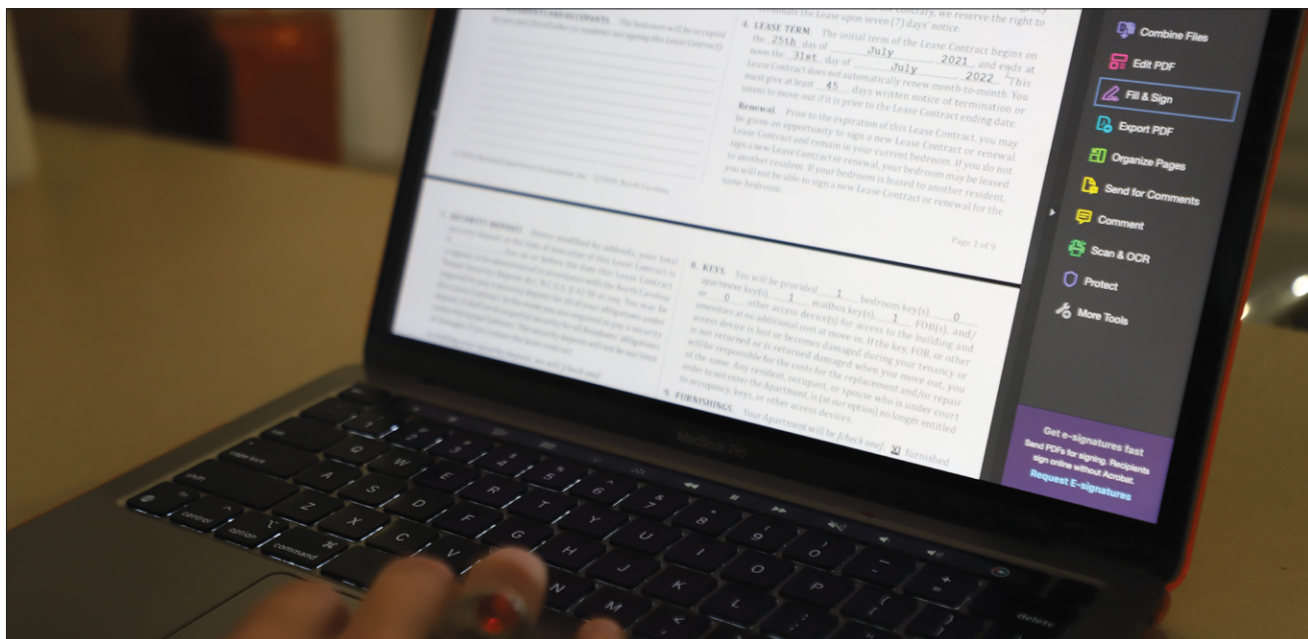
"Steak 'n Shake is famous for its steakburgers. These are cooked to order, but considered fast-food. We take that time-factor seriously. In addition, they are FAMOUS for their milkshakes. They market them as "irresistible" and they are! They offer combo meals and some specialty items. You can also just order sides, if you'd like," Daniels wrote.

The Steak 'n Shake decision comes after a spring 2022 retail analysis on ECU's campus dining locations, Daniels wrote. She wrote that the analysis found the campus had too many burger concepts that were not resonating with customers.

Steak 'n Shake has locations at over 30 college campuses, Daniels wrote. She wrote the franchise is a recognizable national brand with a price point that works for ECU students, faculty, staff and other potential customers.

Daniels wrote that the decision to bring Steak 'n Shake was made with student input. Aside from burgers and shakes, she wrote that the menu offers a grilled sandwich as a vegetarian option, as well as fries and other sides. In terms of healthy meal choices, Daniels wrote that there are various dining options available

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OLIVIA MAGISTRO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

An East Carolina University student living at The Province Greenville reads their 2021-2022 lease agreement through their online portal.

Cost of living causes concern Local economists discuss impact of inflation

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

As living costs continue to increase both statewide and nationwide, state and local economists and community members discuss the effect of supply and demand on the average North Carolinian's necessities.

Nationwide, Chair of East Carolina University's Department of Economics Haiyong Liu said 40-year-record-high inflation has created a dramatic increase in costs of living. In recent economic reports for the month of May, Liu said there has been an 8.6% increase in consumer price index (CPI) since May 2021.



Haiyong Liu

services, CPI is the measure of the average

change in prices over time.

"Inflation is a sentiment, is also kind of a belief, and oftentimes has this self-fulfilling sentiment to it," Liu said. "So for example, if everyone thinks the price will only go up, what do they do? They don't postpone their necessity purchases, they purchase them in bulk."

As well as this, Liu said the nation has had a tight labor market due to labor shortages in certain sectors of the economy. He said wage growth has been "modest" as prices continue to increase.

Living costs include the prices of goods and services individuals are consuming, Liu said. The COVID-19 pandemic caused many consumers to cut back on various goods and services, he said, including travel, entertainment and dining. As the case numbers decreased, Liu said economic activity has resumed alongside increasing consumer demand.

As for living costs in North Carolina, Liu said the state has always been known for its low costs and affordable housing market. Recently, he said North Carolina and Pitt County have had a low number

of housing available and a large number of buyers, causing prices to increase.

"All of a sudden we are facing this record-high price increase, and in that sense, if we are looking at the living costs right now, I think it's probably as high as we've ever seen in the past 40 years," Liu said.

There are many factors affecting the length of the inflation cycle, Liu said, which has made it hard to predict when an ease in prices might occur. He said current inflation is comparable to the late 1970's and early 1980's, which required a recession to "cool down" the economy.

"One or both things have to happen before inflation gets a bit easier. So my answer (to the length of the inflation cycle) is, I don't know," Liu said. "But at this kind of rate, I think we're talking about months, if not years. So that's kind of unfortunate."

Heba Atwa, advocacy manager and lobbyist for the North Carolina Budget and Tax Center, said costs have seen a

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OLIVIA MAGISTRO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Sheetz is expected to reopen in late Fall 2022.



OLIVIA MAGISTRO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The property is located at 1000 Charles Blvd.



OLIVIA MAGISTRO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Construction workers clear debris from the property as the company prepares for expansion.

Sheetz remodeling to expand parking, dining

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

In an effort to expand dining areas and options for customers, the convenience store company Sheetz, located at 1000 Charles Blvd., closed earlier this month for significant remodeling and is tentatively scheduled to reopen in Fall 2022.

Sheetz is a convenience store made for people on the go, according to their website, open 24/7 every day of the year.

On July 22, 2021, a request made by Sheetz for a special use permit was heard by the City of Greenville's Board of Adjustment (BOA). At the public hearing, Director of Real Estate for the southeast region for Sheetz Jamie Gerhart said the Sheetz on Charles Boulevard was built in 2007. Since then, Gerhart said customers have shown more interest in Sheetz products.

As Sheetz continues to grow and expand, Gerhart said the remodeling ensures that the store is in top shape and will include a drive thru in addition to other dining features. The number of gasoline pumps will not increase, Gerhart said, though indoor dining will be provided to accommodate 30 customers. He said there will be about 44 parking spaces and an addition of five employees. Overall, Gerhart said the project is a \$4.5 million investment.

"The (Sheetz) model continues to shift towards the ultimate convenience store and

ultimate one-stop-shop inside the store," Gerhart said at the BOA hearing.

According to a description of the property, the current site property is 1.44 acres and sits off of Charles Boulevard, Tenth Street and Forbes Street. The site has purchased the Carolina Pregnancy Center parcels in order to cover an entire city block, a total of 2.05 acres.

Public Relations Manager for Sheetz Nick Ruffner wrote in an email statement that a major remodel will take place, including indoor and outdoor seating areas to create a new dining experience for customers.



Nick Ruffner

is underway, Ruffner wrote that Sheetz employees at the Charles Boulevard location have been offered temporary employment within the company.

"Sheetz is excited to be offering our loyal customers in Greenville a new store design which will include a restaurant-style experience with self-service kiosks and additional seating both inside and outside the store," Ruffner wrote.

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

ONLINE

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

» Check out our website for a poll about SoTD's summer production of Mamma Mia!

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

BOA to hold public hearings

Tomorrow, the City of Greenville's Board of Adjustment (BOA) will meet to discuss regular agenda items, hold elections and make public announcements at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Greenville City Hall.

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.*

JUNE 16, 2022

An open investigation is being conducted and a pending juvenile petition is being obtained for Possession of Marijuana <½ oz. (x2), with one count cleared by citation at First and Evans Street at 9:38 p.m.

Possession of Marijuana Paraphernalia was declined prosecution at First and Evans Street at 9:38 p.m.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

Study abroad expands opportunities
COVID-19 travel restrictions ease, programs resume

Kristin Outland
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University staff, ambassadors and students share information and reflect upon the educational opportunities and experiences provided by ECU's Office of Global Affairs study abroad programs in light of an ease in COVID-19 restrictions.

Katie Erickson, director of Education Abroad, said study abroad programs allow students to explore other countries and engage in other cultures while working towards credits for degree completion at the same time. She said the COVID-19 pandemic placed some restrictions on current travel and future travel for various study abroad programs.

Erickson said some of these programs did face restrictions due to COVID-19 during the planning and application phase, but most countries have now lifted these restrictions. However, she said there were a few cancellations due to COVID-19 restrictions from the past, which made some programs difficult to plan.

"A few summer programs were cancelled due to previous COVID (-19) restrictions making it difficult to coordinate programs and a few programs were either cancelled or the travel locations changed due to the conflict in Ukraine," Erickson said.

There are a number of study abroad programs, Erickson said, and the ones offered during the summer are discipline-specific and taught by faculty at ECU. These faculty-led programs are considered resident credit, she said, and are advised to students who are coming in with transfer credits.

Erickson said Exchange and Consortium programs, require students who participate in the program to take a full class load, but other requirements vary depending on the program or student. However, she said any type of study abroad program provides a student with valuable travel experience.

"It gives the opportunity to see the world, to see outside of North Carolina, to experience the different viewpoints that others have about Americans, and I think that helps give them (students) more of an introspective feeling," Erickson said.

Mikayla Chambers, ECU ambassador for the Office of Global Affairs, wrote in an email statement that her experience studying abroad was unlike any other experience she had and gave her the opportunity to explore different cultures, art and outdoor environments.

It also gave her a sense of independence and helped her learn how to utilize transportation services and communicate with others, Chambers wrote.

"There will be several times where we would be lost trying to go somewhere new or when we would be in the grocery store and not know what items we were buying and you would have to be willing and brave enough to ask the locals, 'Hey, can you help me?'" Chambers wrote.

As a global ambassador, Chambers wrote that she has played a role in outreach events that educate students on experiences and information within study abroad programs, how and where students could study abroad and additional resources.



Mikayla Chambers study abroad programs, how and where students could study abroad and additional resources.

The International House was very supportive and helpful in her study abroad experience and offered her a staff position within the global ambassador organization, Chambers wrote.

"I was allowed to encourage others to have that same special experience that has changed my life forever and I don't think too many organizations have that power," Chambers wrote.

Trip Brooks, a junior triple majoring in biology, chemistry and psychology, said he went to the Galapagos Island as a two-week program and recalled his overall experience as "amazing," as he had always wanted to visit the region.

The program's schedule consisted of class time in the mornings and trips around various parts of the island in the afternoons, Brooks said.

"It was a really amazing time, I loved it," Brooks said. "This was my first time (studying abroad) but I hope it's not my only time."

Studying abroad is a great opportunity to expand one's horizons, Brooks said, as the experience changes the environment one is studying in and gives them a variety of cultural perspectives.

Influenced by his peers who had studied abroad, Brooks said a lot of people he knew told him about the benefits one can receive from international experiences.

Brooks desired to visit South America and tie his education into the trip, he said, and the program to the Galapagos was a perfect fit.

"It's just a great way to kind of figure out the world is not all what you know, there's so many things that you do not know and it's important to figure out what you know and do not know, that's how we grow," Brooks said.

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



MADISON GRIFALDO | FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Many ECU study abroad programs are available to students for the upcoming academic year.

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For more information, contact Business & Marketing Administrator Tim Davis via email at smaa@ecu.edu or call 252-328-9245.

MCSC continued from A1

to students within the MCSC.

"We know that healthy eating is all about balance, Steak 'n Shake is going to be an option for students, faculty and staff," Daniels wrote, "Knowing eating is all about balance, and we leave those choices up to our customers."

Senior sociology major Briana Lewis, who works at the service desk in the MCSC, said dining options at the student center are pretty affordable and super convenient, especially when studying on campus or at work.

Even though the MCSC can be busy, Lewis said the dining options at the student center are accommodating. She said she prefers to eat at Starbucks or Au Bon Pain for something like lemonade or chocolate.

Lewis said she has never had Steak 'n Shake before and doesn't really know what to expect, but that the idea of a milkshake and fries sounded good. Lewis said she thinks the student center might get a bit busier once the new establishment opens.

"I went there (1907 Grill) a few times. It was alright. I don't have any big big opinions on it. It was just alright. I think it (Steak 'n Shake) can be a good alternative. It's pretty popular. I have heard multiple students say



Briana Lewis



JAYLIN ROBERTS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A sign announcing the arrival of Steak 'n Shake. they are excited for it," Lewis said.

Senior art major Alex Baker, who works at the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center at the ECU MCSC, said the dining options at the student center are generic and bland. She said she only eats at the student center if she has to and if she does it is normally at Raising Cane's.

Baker said her partner really likes Steak 'n Shake, so they are looking forward to eating there once it opens. She said she did not eat at the 1907 Grill mainly because she hardly saw the place open.

"I do think it's interesting. I have heard that Steak 'n Shake is like a 1950's vibe which seems cool. I feel like me and my peers whenever we eat at places, it's like 'I guess this is what's available,' it's not like 'we chose this.'"

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

COST continued from A1

sharp increase since the pandemic, Atwa said. In the south, she said food costs have gone up about 10% in the past year.

In terms of wages, Atwa said the living income standard is a measurement of what it takes for a household to "make ends meet." This is different from the federal poverty level, Atwa said, which takes measurements based on the price of groceries. Instead, she said the living income standard breaks down localized costs of vital goods and services.

For example, the North Carolina Budget and Tax Center's website said the current average living income standard for a family of one adult and child requires \$50,530 a year for the monthly costs necessities. The federal poverty level is currently \$18,310.

"There are labor costs, there are non-labor inputs, and then there's the markup, basically profit. So non-labor inputs, we're talking about supply chain issues," Atwa said. "So basically, the markup, profits, have gone up much more during this pandemic time and during this 2021-2022 spike of inflation, than

have labor costs. So basically labor costs are contributing about 8% of this (cost) increase, whereas profit margins are contributing about 54%."

Senior public health major Emily Mayhew said she's seen an increase in a number of her own living costs, including gas, groceries, rent and utilities. Mayhew's apartment complex has renovated a number of apartments, but she said she's forced to remain in her current unit due to the price increase.

Mayhew said she often chooses off-brand goods and groceries when shopping now, as well as keeps a budget and spending limit.

Though Mayhew is concerned about the economy, she's hopeful for the future and knows prices will decrease eventually.

"Sometimes with the prices of everything, they are higher, they're at their peak, or they're lower," Mayhew said. "So I mean, it really just depends. Like, there's nothing we can do about it, you know, it kind of just happens. But I will say I am a little worried."

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

EVENTS

TODAY

Jaguardini at Molly's Open Mic

Molly's Community Cafe
300 S. Evans St.
8 to 11 p.m.
(252) 227-4449

TOMORROW

Concert on the Common

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

FRIDAY

Premiere of "You Belong Here"

Main Campus Student Center
501 E. Tenth Street
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
(252) 328-4700

Saturday

Halo Home Dog Adoption Event

Halo Home
801 Dickinson Ave.
(252) 864-4256



OLIVIA MAGISTRO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The cast of Mamma Mia! from East Carolina University's School of Theater and Dance rehearse on stage in McGinnis Auditorium last Sunday.

SoTD's Mamma Mia! to premiere today

Theater productions return to summer after a decade

Rachana Charla
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's School of Theater and Dance (SoTD) will host its first summer production since 2012, showcasing Mamma Mia! in McGinnis Auditorium for the 60th Annual ECU and Loessin Playhouse Season today at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Jayne Host, director of ECU's SoTD and the producing artistic director for ECU's Summer Theater program, said Mamma Mia! is a fun and family-friendly romantic comedy that will have the audience "tapping their toes." She said the cast will feature 21 actors, 18 of whom are current ECU students or ECU alum.

"Since 2017, I have had many alumni and community members that have asked me 'When are you bringing back summer theater,' because

it was so beloved," Host said. "And it was a tradition that brought families together and they could see wonderful professional actors working with emerging professionals."

Summer theater at ECU is an old tradition that started in 1963, Host said. She said she hopes to bring the program back every other year, starting this summer.

The Summer Theater production offers all cast and crew paid professional contracts with equitable work schedules to create a professional atmosphere, Host said. She said Mamma Mia! will also feature two professional equity actors from The Actors' Equity Association. She said this experience will extend students' learning outside of the classroom to focus on their art and hone in on their craft alongside professionals in their field.

"I am so excited to be able to offer this to the community, to our current students, to our alumni. It really is like, 'Oh my gosh we did it,'" Host said. "It is an outstanding production and I am really excited to have it."

Tommi Overcash Galaska, director and choreographer for Mamma Mia! and associate professor for ECU's SoTD, said she has been part of many summer productions, including The Robber Bridegroom and Peter Pan in 1985 as a student, and Ain't Misbehavin' in 1999 as an ensemble member.

Galaska also directed Smokey Joe's Cafe for summer theater in 2004, she said. She said it is her first time directing and choreographing an entire musical theater production in under four weeks.

"We (SoTD) are hoping we get to keep it (summer theater). It is just a different experience for our students. I think it really serves them to have that opportunity," Galaska said.

The ECU Summer Theater program provides students the ability to focus on theater without the priority of classes and school during the academic year, Galaska said. She said students are hired and paid as professionals who have to audition for the roles alongside the opportunity to work alongside professionals in the industry.

Galaska said the Summer Theater program is an outstanding opportunity to gain professional experience in the industry of performing arts. She said Mamma Mia! is a great production full of laughter, love and human connection that uplifts the community and brings happiness to the audience.

"I have a wonderful group to work with. The chemistry in the room was so positive. It was truly like magic," Galaska said. "Everybody just really gets along. Everybody was eager to work and just so excited about all of it. It just really came together pretty quick."

Emily Phoebus, assistant choreographer and ensemble member, just graduated in May 2022 with a B.A. in Musical Theater. The Summer Theater program has been playful, and she said it's been fun to finally be able to be part of a production and focus fully on rehearsal without having to worry about class.

Phoebus said being both an assistant choreographer and ensemble member means she has to balance her roles and make sure everyone is on task while still having fun and learning dance numbers.

"This is a professional credit and I am getting paid for this. It's really awesome. It's really fun," Phoebus said. "And it's like the first time doing it with people I know, with a director I have worked with for four years."

Lillie Eliza Thomas plays Donna Sheridan, the main character Sophie Sheridan's mother. Thomas is one of the two equity and unionized actors with the Actors Equity Association in the production. She said being an equity actor is a benchmark for many musical theater performers to be considered successful and she is extremely grateful for her contract.

Thomas said she is also an environmental engineer who has been performing professionally since 2016. She said as a performer of color, she is oftentimes the only Black woman in the callback room for major lead roles. Thomas said blind casting and diverse casting is the future of the performing arts industry by focusing on stories and actors who do not fit "traditional"

casting roles.

Blind casting or non-traditional casting is the process of casting without considering race and ethnicity and mainly focusing on ability and talent for a character, Thomas said. She said taking the initiative to be inclusive when casting can translate into a show with depth



Lillie Eliza Thomas

that showcases stories and backgrounds that deserves a chance to shine.

"I love it (mentoring student performers) so much because I get to see what our future looks like, you know? I like being a source for them if they have any questions or they have any ideas they wanna bounce off of," Daniels said. "I can advocate for helping them find their voices, and again encouraging them if this is a dream that they want to pursue."

Sophomore musical theater and professional acting major Jaleel Battles Jr. is an ensemble member and understudy. Battles said he is aware of ECU's summer theater tradition because of educators like Galaska, so being a part of the show feels really special for him.

Battles said he feels like the musical theater industry and the casting process has definitely improved but still has a long way to go. Performers of color deserve the spotlight because they often have to work harder to get the same amount of recognition, he said, especially in an industry based off of stories that may not always originally feature people of color.

"Even though the movie has a predominantly white cast, it shouldn't be rare for us to cast African-Americans in roles that were originally played by white people," Battles said. "Because at the end of the day, anybody can be a Sophie. Anybody can be a Skye. Anybody could be a Donna. But I am excited that these opportunities are open for people like me and people of color."

Senior musical theater major Madison Bode is an ensemble member and an understudy. Bode said being able to speak with and learn from her fellow castmates has been the biggest learning opportunity.

Bode said she has been able to work with equity actors who are the "end-all-be-all of musical theater" in addition to professionals who have worked in community theater, TV shows and movies. Bode said she feels incredibly lucky to be a part of a show that did a blind cast. Instead of casting based on the movie, she said casting was based on the talent which has added another dimension to the production.

"Getting to feel what a real equity show is like is so nice and really cool. Our breaks are so long. Just how fast everything is. We blocked a show in six days," Bode said. "I just think it is really cool to cast based on talent, characters and what you are good at."

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



OLIVIA MAGISTRO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Mamma Mia! cast members rehearse on stage.

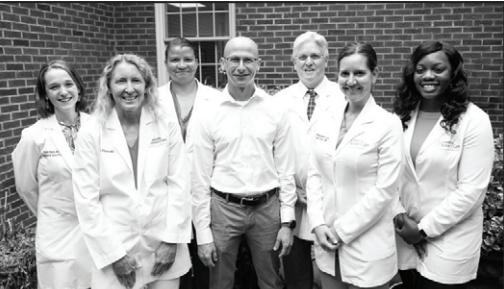
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Wednesday, Sept. 8
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OUR VIEW

It’s important to recognize Juneteenth

The African American community across the country celebrated the historical Juneteenth holiday for the second time over the week-end to recognize the freedom of over 250,000 slaves in the state of Texas in 1863.

The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in the Confederate States on Jan. 2, 1863, but the effect was not felt across the entire country. There were still pockets of slavery all over America that kept chains on the African American community. One of those main pockets was in the Confederate-controlled state of Texas.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, celebrate Juneteenth as a day of freedom and recognize the unjust pain and suffering put on the Black community. While physical freedom rings out for African Americans in this country, discrimination still exists and effects the Black community every day.

Over 250,000 slaves were being held in Texas but were given freedom by Union soldiers on June 19, 1865. Today, June 19 is recognized by African Americans throughout the nation to celebrate the freedom of African Americans.

In celebration, people typically enjoy cookouts and gatherings with friends and family, as well as go to church and pray with one another in attempt to further remove the racial discrimination against Black people in America.

While Juneteenth was just recently declared a holiday, and how now come and gone, let it be a constant reminder of the history of this country, its people and the African American communities throughout the nation.

PIRATE RANTS

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

If I have to pay for a parking permit all year, you have to pay to park, too. Welcome to the real world.

The way ECU opens the MCSC restaurants to families for orientation but not for their employees on campus...

I feel like the student center would benefit from having a CFA.. just saying.

Greenville driver's please for god's sake learn how to use your turn signals!!!

These squirrels are fearless.

If I hear another parent at orientation call us Eastern Carolina University...I am going to lose it.

There are more roaches than people in Greenville during the summer.

To the people with loud speakers at the pool, either play good music or turn it off. I'm trying to read my book!

The hours at the rec center are ridiculous.. who closes at 8.

I heard there was an old bay gold fish but I can't seem to find them anywhere.

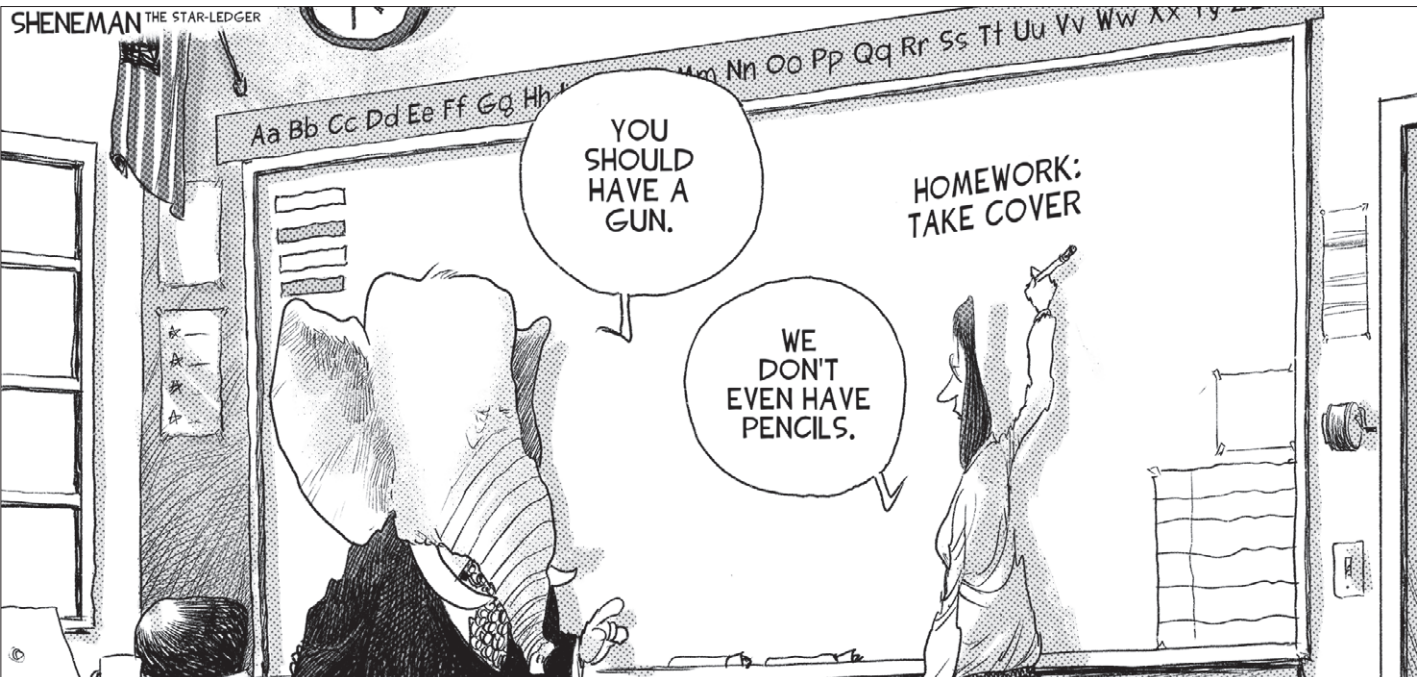
It is official. All wifi in Greenville sucks. ECU wifi? Apartment wifi?

I should not be paying \$50 as a student to go to the REC during the summer.

Canes is my stomach's arch nemesis.

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

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



Comfort will make a king fall
Don’t hang onto something because it’s familiar

“ Do not be afraid to say goodbye to that which is not good for you. After all, comfort is dangerous. ”
- Chris Long



Chris Long
TEC COLUMNIST

Sometimes goodbyes suck and it’s difficult to move on, but it is impossible to grow if you become comfortable in familiarity.

One of the most important things that I have learned recently is to not hang on to something just because it is comfortable or familiar. American artist Andy Mineo dedicated an album to this idea called Comfortable.

In the title track, Comfortable, Mineo claims that, “Comfort is the thing that will make a king fall.”

The line is directly derived from the Biblical story of King David and Bathsheba, but also speaks as a wider truth throughout human history. The same can be seen in the lives of Henry VII, Richard II and beyond. Comfort can ruin lives, cause kings and nations to fall and keep people from reaching their full potential.

Following the 2021 National Football League season, New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton retired, citing fatigue as his reason to step away from the game. For 16 seasons, Payton donned the black and gold for New Orleans to lead the way as one of the best head coaches in football.

However, towards the end of his coaching career, there was a distinct change. Coach Payton lost his edge and regressed both as a talent scout and recruiter. For the final three seasons of former quarterback Drew Brees’s playing career, Payton had failed year in and year out to bring in established talent to make a pretty deep playoff push.

Outside factors considered, coach Payton was not as great as he once was and at least part of the issue is that both sides became comfortable. Coach Payton became comfortable in his role and both his ability to coach and the New Orleans Saints became comfortable with Payton at the helm.

In the first offseason without Payton, new head coach Dennis Allen was able to sign established veterans, such as safeties Tyrann Mathieu, Marcus Maye, wide receiver Jarvis Landry and quarterback Andy Dalton as well as draft in positions of need with wide receiver Chris Olave and

offensive lineman Trevor Pennington.

In one offseason, the Saints fixed much of what the team needed all thanks to change. I am not telling you not to hang on to anyone or anything, but like Mineo said, comfort is the thing that will make a king fall.

Much in the same way, we grow comfortable and settle in our own lives with everyday things. What is a man who lives every day in the same way? To me, that is no way to live. I would not be comfortable with such comfort.

Make uncomfortability your comfort. Get out of your comfort zone. Why miss out on that which is great to settle for that which is sufficient? Do not be afraid to say goodbye to that which is not good for you. After all, comfort is dangerous. Comfort is the thing that will make a king fall.

Long is a senior majoring in English
To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Executive orders are needed post-Roe

St. Louis Post-Dispatch Editorial Board
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

The Biden administration reportedly is considering using executive orders to protect women whose right to abortion may soon be eliminated in Republican states like Missouri, if and when the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade. Presidential over-use of these unilateral orders has long been a legitimate concern, but if ever an issue cried out for this kind of intervention, it’s this one. Most Americans continue to support some level of abortion rights, but are close to being overruled by a radical political minority.

The draft Supreme Court opinion that leaked in early May indicates the court’s conservatives will soon eliminate the constitutional right to abortion that has protected women for almost 50 years. In Missouri and other red states, laws are already in place that will automatically go into effect with Roe’s demise, outlawing abortion from the moment of conception in almost all cases and returning women to the second-class-citizen status they endured pre-Roe.

The best solution to this coming dystopia would be a federal law setting minimum abortion rights nationwide. But that’s a political impossibility even in a Democrat-

controlled Senate, because of the filibuster. Biden couldn’t do that by executive order, but there are safety-net policies he might be able to create that could at least mitigate the worst injustices that some legislative extremists in Missouri and elsewhere are anxious to impose on women.

The New York Times reports the administration is laying groundwork to challenge any attempt by states to prevent women from traveling to other states to obtain the abortion services their own states will soon ban. That kind of Big Brother scenario isn’t some paranoid fantasy. Missouri legislators this year considered proposals to punish doctors in other states based on Missouri law, and even to censor information Missouri women could receive online about abortion services. Once the ability of states to outlaw abortion is no longer just speculative, expect these folks to double down on those kinds of Kafkaesque ideas.

The administration is also looking at ways to ensure that women in red states can still obtain mail-order, FDA-approved drugs that can terminate early-stage pregnancies — another avenue that red states are seeking to close. Among the actions Biden could take is to declare a state of emergency (based on the



COURTESY OF KENT NISHIMURA | UNSPLASH

Isaac Parham holds a “Never Again” hanger.

expected flood of patients to abortion clinics that border abortion-ban states), which in turn could protect the licenses of doctors who provide telemedicine services to women in those states.

Other ideas, like turning U.S. military bases into abortion rights oases (they’re technically outside the legal jurisdiction of the states in which they’re located) would be unlikely to withstand legal challenges. But the administration should do whatever it legally can to restore some of the protection for half of America’s population that a handful of robed ideologues are about to rip away.

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The East Carolinian
Mendenhall Main Floor,
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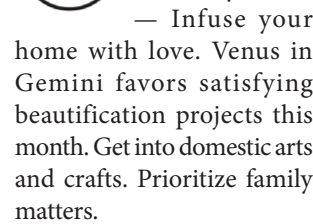
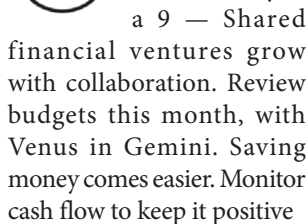
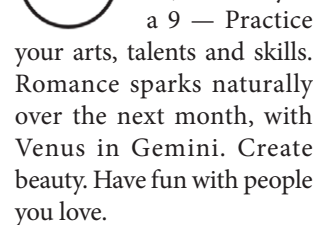
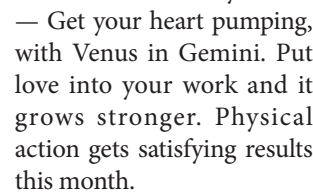
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BREWSTER ROCKIT



BLISS



by Jacqueline E. Mathews

	1	2	3	4	5					6	7	8
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12							13					
14						15						
			16	17	18				19	20	21	22
			23						24			
25	26	27					28	29				
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			34	35					36	37	38	
39	40	41					42	43				
44							45					
46							47					

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Lee or Alexander
- 6 "___ Amsterdam"
- 9 Actress Procter
- 10 ___ Verdugo
- 12 "We're off ___ the Wizard..."
- 13 Blue Muppet
- 14 Very fast plane, for short
- 15 Media mogul Griffin
- 16 "The Main ___", Streisand/O'Neal
movie
- 19 "Resident ___", Milla Jovovich
horror film
- 23 City near Lake Tahoe
- 24 Japanese rice drink
- 25 Actress Jacqueline
- 28 Oscar-winner Matlin
- 30 Jai ___
- 31 Actress Glaudini
- 32 Rubies & jades
- 33 Macho
- 34 "Family ___" (1982-89)
- 36 "Last ___ Standing"
- 39 ___ Joy of "CSI: NY"

Solution from 6/15

	O	P	I	E			A	L	L			
	P	O	N	Y			S	I	G	H	T	
L	E	O	N	E			T	H	E	C	A	R
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B	A	H		T	O	M	S		O	N	O	S
		P	A	W	N				T	R	A	P
		E	B	A	Y			M	A	S	H	
A	C	R	E	S				A	M	O	K	
T	A	F	T			G	Y	R	O		H	E
A	T	E		G	R	E	G		G	O	L	D
	E	C	H	O	E	S			R	A	U	L
S	T	O	N	E					E	Z	R	A
		P	E	R					D	A	Y	S

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7/18/21

- 42 Bullwinkle, for one
44 "Hearts ____"; John Ritter sitcom
45 Actress Potts
46 Series for Catherine Bell
47 Role on "M*A*S*H"

DOWN

- 1 New York team
- 2 John of "Good Times"
- 3 Series for the Mowry twins
- 4 "Grand ___ Opry"
- 5 "Bill ___, the Science Guy"
- 6 Setting for "Bonanza": abbr.
- 7 90 degrees from NNW
- 8 "World ___ Z"; Brad Pitt movie
- 10 Miscalculate
- 11 "Everybody ___"
- 13 "How to ___ Away with Murder"
- 15 L-P connection
- 17 Pop singer Bobby
- 18 Suffix for differ or exist
- 20 Actor Kilmer
- 21 Storekeeper on "The Waltons"
- 22 Marvin or Majors
- 25 Word attached to hand or wind
- 26 Suffix for infant or text
- 27 Role on "Cheers"
- 28 Night we watch "All Rise": abbr.
- 29 "___ My Children" (1970-2011)
- 31 "___ Vegas"
- 33 "How I ___ Your Mother"
- 35 Wrath
- 37 Oman's continent
- 38 ___-do-well; loafer
- 39 Role on "The Big Bang Theory"
- 40 "Men ___ Certain Age"
- 41 "___ Brother"
- 42 Spoil
- 43 "Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof"

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES *By The Mephram Group*

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

Level

1	2
3	4

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

Solution from 6/15

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

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BASEBALL
SUMMER
ASSIGNMENTS

The East Carolina University baseball team just finished a historic season and 21 players have now been assigned to different leagues and teams for summer training. Here are the assignments:

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE

Jacob Jenkins-Cowart (OF): Burlington Sock Puppets
Ryan McCrystal (C): Burlington Sock Puppets

CAL RIPKEN LEAGUE

Merritt Beeker (LHP): Bethesda Big Train
CJ Boyd (INF): Alexandria Aces
Jordan Little (RHP): Bethesda Big Train
Luke Nowak (OF): Bethesda Big Train
Erik Ritchie (LHP): Bethesda Big Train
Jaden Winter (RHP): Cropdusters Baseball

CAPE COD LEAGUE

Josh Moylan (1B): Bourne Braves
Carson Whisenhunt (LHP): Chatham Anglers

COASTAL PLAINS LEAGUE

Danny Beal (RHP): Asheboro Zookeepers
Joey Berini (INF): Holly Springs Salamanders
Bradley Wilson (RHP): Wilmington Sharks
Justin Wilcoxon (C): Asheboro Zookeepers

NEW ENGLAND COLLEGIATE
BASEBALL LEAGUE

Josh Grosz (RHP): Newport Gulls
Alec Makarewicz (3B): Newport Gulls
Joey Rezek (OF): Sanford Mainers

VALLEY LEAGUE

Cam Clonch (INF): Strasburg Express
Carter Cunningham (OF): Charlottesville Tom Sox
Wyatt Lunsford-Shenkman (RHP): Charlottesville Tom Sox
Trey Yesavage (RHP): Charlottesville Tom Sox



The East Carolina University Jolly Roger flies in the sky over Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, home of the ECU Pirates' football team.

Change is on the horizon for the AAC

Chris Long
TEC STAFF

The American Athletic Conference (AAC) will be having some new faces coming and going from the league in the next couple seasons, with three teams leaving and six joining between 2022 and 2023.

Among the schools leaving the conference, all three will be joining the Big 12 Conference in the summer of 2023. The University of Central Florida, the University of Houston and the University of Cincinnati will all exit the conference earlier than originally scheduled following a buyout agreement with the conference

The 18 million dollar settlement, compounded with the 10 million dollar conference exit fee, allowed the schools that were originally slated to leave the conference no sooner than July 1, 2024, to join the Big 12 on July 1, 2023.

“Sad to see them go,” ECU women’s basketball head coach Kim McNeill said. “It definitely opens the door for some teams to move up.”

With the three schools exiting the conference, the AAC leaned into Conference USA to recoup members of the division. Of the six teams joining the American, all of them are former members of Conference USA. The University of Alabama at Birmingham, the

University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), Rice University, Florida Atlantic University, the University of North Texas and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte are all joining the conference.

The rebuild of the conference is not the first time that the AAC has taken members from Conference USA. In 2013, East Carolina University, Tulane University and the University of Tulsa joined the newly established AAC following its first season as a league.

“The American Conference doesn’t get enough credit,” McNeill said. “I don’t think we get enough credit for as much talent as we have in this league and the amount of great coaches that we have.”

The addition of the six new schools creates a full 14 school league and gives ECU something that it has never had before, an in-state rival. UNC Charlotte will be the second school in North Carolina to join the American since its inception in 2013 with ECU being the first.

In the school’s history, UNCC has had documented rivalries with Davidson University, Appalachian State University and Cincinnati. Between 1995 and 2005, Charlotte upset Cincinnati’s men’s basketball teams, ranked No. 3, No. 8, No. 18 and No. 20 in the country. In more recent years, the basketball

rivalry carried into Davidson with the App State rivalry being created through football.

In each conference that Charlotte has participated in, there has been one school that heated up tensions. Coach McNeill said she believes that the same will be true with ECU.

“I’m excited for them to come in so that we can create that rivalry even more,” McNeill said. “It also gives us an opportunity to have a bus trip in conference instead of flying all the time so I am excited for that rival.”

All schools joining the program except UTSA will be integrating into the American in 2022, joining one or two sport programs before every school becomes full members in 2023. The six former Conference USA schools will join the teams retained by the AAC.

The conference’s founding members in the University of Memphis, Southern Methodist University, University of South Florida and Temple University will remain with the program as well as the programs that joined later including ECU, Tulane and Tulsa.

Kim McNeill

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

SUMMER 22
ON-AIR SCHEDULE

WZMB 91.3 FM GREENVILLE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
DJ KAT: "WHAT'S GOING ON?" 11-12AM	FOLK/SONG INDIE/ALT	DJ KAT: "WHAT'S GOING ON?" 11-12AM	FOLK/SONG INDIE/ALT	FOLK/SONG INDIE/ALT
DJ JARRETT: "ANYTHING GOES" 12-1PM	DJ SMURPH: "HOOLIGANS HEADSPACE" 12-1PM	DJ JARRETT: "ANYTHING GOES" 12-1PM	DJ SMURPH: "HOOLIGANS HEADSPACE" 12-1PM	DJ JARRETT: "ANYTHING GOES" 12-1PM
DJ APOLLO & DJ MKULTRA: "THE SEPTIC TANK" 1-3PM	DJ JUAN: "I GUESS SOMEONES LISTENING" 1-2PM	INDIE/ALT EDM/POP	DJ JUAN: "I GUESS SOMEONES LISTENING" 1-2PM	INDIE/ALT
DJ LIV: "BRAIN DUMP" 4-5PM	EDM/POP ROCK	DJ LIV: "BRAIN DUMP" 4-5PM	EDM/POP ROCK	EDM/POP ROCK