



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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SGA elections to open for student votes today

Staff Report

East Carolina University's Student Government Association (SGA) elections open at 8 a.m. today via the student website Engage.

There are a total of 31 individuals running for Assembly Seats. Students

can go online to the Engage website and cast their vote for elected candidates. The candidate list can be found in an email sent out to ECU's student body from SGA at 11:20 a.m. on Feb. 11. Voting will be open from 8 a.m. today until 5 p.m. on Friday on Engage.

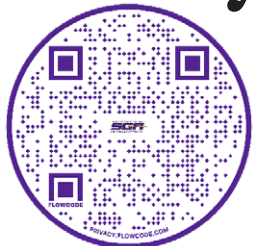
According to the SGA website, the

tabling event, "Voice your Vote", will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the ECU Main Campus Student Center.

"SGA is excited to announce the candidates running for assembly seats and executive office for the next academic year! We have a great list of individuals and a diverse pool of

candidates for you to consider voting for," according to the email from SGA to the student body which announced candidates.

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



Scan to submit your vote.



A group of East Carolina University students enjoy the weather and play a game of spikeball together on the campus mall.

HALIE MILLER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

HVAC system tests detect COVID-19

Mary Lofland
TEC STAFF

Following a study conducted over multiple months, researchers at East Carolina University and Brody School of Medicine (BSOM) found success after discovering methods to detect COVID-19 in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system air samples from residence halls.

ECU Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sinan Sousan said ECU contacted his department in late 2020 to find a way to detect COVID-19 in buildings on campus through HVAC systems. He said the university wanted to perform similar tests taken during Arizona's wastewater study that ECU adopted.

The research found that two residence halls on ECU's campus had a main source of air supply filtered from ventilation throughout various rooms within the building, Sousan said. He said although he cannot say which residence halls were used for testing, his department used the two buildings as the starter projects and attempted to detect COVID-19.

"Nobody has done this before," Sousan said. "Nobody has even thought that it's possible or it can be done."

The project started in January 2021, Sousan said, and researchers used four different air sampling methods during their experiment and found samples to prove their experiment might work. During the testing in the 2021 spring semester, he said when there was a positive case on a floor, the study detected COVID-19 in the air ducts on that floor 10 out of 14 times.

"The viruses can be transmitted and basically picked up in the air and that was highly debated at one point during the pandemic, now it's less debated," Sousan said. "No, it is airborne and yes, it can be picked up and it can be transmitted."

Previously, Sousan said they had tried to discover COVID-19 in HVAC systems but had limited supplies until Rachel Roper, a professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at BSOM, came on board the project to present new sampling methods. Now, he said ECU is currently in the process of establishing credibility and more information on the project following their accomplishments in detecting the virus.

The next step with the experiments is to find the relationship

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Positive case rates decline

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

As North Carolina sees the lowest number of COVID-19 cases since the start of 2022, East Carolina University has followed with a dramatic decrease in positive cases and updates in on-campus restrictions.

Director of Student Health Services (SHS) LaNika Wright said the number of positive cases on campus has drastically decreased, following a similar path to other COVID-19 surges seen at ECU since the start of the pandemic. Though the recent spike mirrored other variants, the increase in cases caused by the omicron variant have been greater than any other surge on ECU's campus.

In the past seven days, as of Feb. 22, there were 34 positive COVID-19 tests at ECU, as well as an estimated

positive test rate of 3%. Both statistics have decreased since the prior seven day moving average.

"We've (SHS) looked at those numbers, just as of last week I was kind of analyzing them, and our numbers, we've had more positives this semester within a month than we've ever had any semester total," Wright said.

ECU has closely followed the state in COVID-19 case trends but Wright said Pitt County has fallen behind the university in terms of a decline.

Wright said vaccinations of students and employees, combined with recent positive cases caused by the omicron surge, have created an increase in overall immunity on campus. ECU's total vaccination rate has reached 77% as of yesterday. Based on trends in 2021, Wright said the

university expects the possibility of a small increase in COVID-19 cases following spring break, but nothing like the surge in January 2022.

SHS has worked relentlessly to maintain safety on ECU's campus throughout surges like that of the omicron variant, Wright said, and she believes COVID-19 case numbers within the past month have been a testament to her staff's dedication.

"The preventative measures are the same, we're still doing surveillance testing, we're still doing vaccinations, we're still encouraging mask wearing," Wright said. "All those things that have gotten us to where we are, are working, and so we're kind of staying the course for now."

Chancellor Philip Rogers said in

SoTD's 'Pippin' musical to premiere tonight

Noelle Edwards
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's School of Theatre and Dance (SoTD) will premiere its spring show, "Pippin," at 7:30 p.m. tonight at McGinnis Theatre.

The show will be open from today to Friday with all show times beginning at 7:30 p.m. There will be matinee options available Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m., as well as a night show on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. This year in the McGinnis Theatre, the SoTD celebrates its 60th Annual Playhouse Season.

"Pippin" is about a prince named Pippin as he goes on a journey to search for his own true happiness. While on that adventure he discovers that his happiness lies within himself and the moments he experiences daily.



Michael Tahaney, head of the SoTD musical theatre program and director of "Pippin," said he is excited for

the community of Greenville and ECU to see the cast and crew's hard work. Tahaney said he chose "Pippin" as the show for this spring because it relates to young adults.

Tahaney said the show is set in 1971 but it has a lot of similarities with our world today in regards to political and social topics such as the Me Too and Black Lives Matter movements. "Pippin" is based on a book by Roger O. Hirson with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. In 2013 the Broadway show won a 2013 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival.

"It feels like this is the second time in history where there has been that much collision and confusion for young people that are excited about stepping into adulthood and the rest of their lives yet they're looking at a world that seems really confusing," Tahaney said.

He said he feels that the show addresses issues, such as racism and sexism, that young adults today are dealing with in a similar manner to young adults in the 70s.

Tahaney said the show is an hour and 45



NIA CRUZ | TEC STAFF

The SoTD prepares to present "Pippin," the musical for the McGinnis Theatre's 60th season.

minutes long with a 15-minute intermission. This is a very difficult show to perform, he said, due to its physical rigor in regards to dances. Tahaney said the students have

worked really hard to put this together. "I hope they (the audience) will leave the

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ONLINE

»NEWS: Students research ways to make robots more humanoid

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

G.O.L.D. Series to host COVID-19 wellness session

Tomorrow, the East Carolina University G.O.L.D. Leader Series organization will continue its leadership series with "Finding Joy in the Midst of a Pandemic" from 4 to 5 p.m. virtually on Microsoft Teams. The session will feature ECU Alumnus Georgia Childs and will discuss the impact of the pandemic on mental wellness. The series is encouraged for current and upcoming campus leaders, though all students are welcome to attend.

OGA to hold International Coffee Hour

Today, East Carolina University's Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) will host a Reel Talk screening of Passing, its February feature film, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Main Campus Student Center Room 100B. The screening is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to discuss the impact of film on issues of social disparity and society. Interested parties should register on ECU engage.

NAACP to present Black history showcase

Friday, the East Carolina University National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will celebrate Black culture at the annual Black History Month Showcase from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Hendrix Theater. The showcase will feature performances from F.A.M.E., ECU Gospel Choir and more. Performances are set to begin at 7 p.m.

ECU to honor Spring 2022 graduates

Next Tuesday, several East Carolina University organizations will honor graduating seniors at the Spring 2022 Senior Send Off from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Main Campus Student Center Commons. Vendors with information tables and other merchandise will be available for graduating seniors. Students are also encouraged to visit Dowdy Student Stores' annual Grad Fair to pick up graduation regalia and other information.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

Municipal elections date moved

Concerns raised around student votes, civic engagement

Emily Bronson
TEC STAFF

After months of delay, the North Carolina newly-rescheduled municipal elections will be held on May 17, which has raised concerns from local voting organizations and city officials.

Following the state redistricting controversy earlier this month, the NC Supreme Court recently ruled to push back the date of municipal elections and state primaries. The original date was set for next month, March 8.

The 2022 candidate filing process will now begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday in Raleigh, NC. Candidates will file for a variety of offices including city council seats, county commissioner, sheriff, House of Representatives and Senate seats.

With the postponed date, East Carolina University and Greenville, NC, city officials worry that student voters will be less likely to vote following the change of dates for voting to occur much later than originally planned.

Chair of the Pitt County Board of Elections Etsil Mason said the board has used ECU's Main Campus Student Center (MCSC) as a voting site for several election cycles now.

Pitt County's Board of Elections met last Thursday to affirm the early voting sites for the primary election in Pitt county. The same voting sites that were used for the 2020 primary election will be used again in May. These sites include Pitt County Agricultural Center, Center at Alice F. Keene Park, Community Office Building PATS Conference Room, ECU MCSC and Winterville Fire Station.

"There are five of us on the (Pitt County) Board of Elections, two Republicans and three Democrats," Mason said. "And the approval for the one-stop early voting sites according to state law has to be unanimous with the Board of Elections."

Mason said if one member disagrees on a site, the site plan then goes to the NC State Board of Elections to be voted on.

For ECU students, Mason said student voters can vote in Pitt County even if they aren't from the area. As long as they are registered to vote within Pitt County and not their hometown, they can vote at any site in the county.



Pitt County Board of Elections members meet in a conference room for a training session on Monday.

"They (ECU students) are allowed to vote in the local elections if they are registered here to vote," Mason said. "In other words, if they registered in Wake County, they can't vote in Pitt County unless they register to vote and declare Pitt County as their primary residence."

With the confusion of rescheduled dates due to state redistricting, Mason still encourages everyone to vote, especially students.

"I just encourage people to get out and vote," Mason said. "It's fun and when election day comes you can watch the returns come in and know that 'One of those votes up on that television is mine.'"

Alex Ray Dennis, assistant director of East Carolina University's Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) and faculty member over the student organization Citizen U, said he thinks the rescheduled dates could deter students from voting.

Dennis said early voting is usually two weeks before election day, but he doesn't think many people will vote during this time.

"Anytime you have so much confusion going on with maps and (voting) dates being moved with an election that already has pretty low turnout, then yes, less people will vote," Dennis said. "And the fact that it (municipal election) is going to be in May after our (ECU) students are already gone, it's hard to say but it probably will have a low turnout."

Despite students not being on campus when this election will take

place, ECU's MCSC will still be used as a voting site, Dennis said.

Within the CLCE, Dennis said it has been a challenge to get students to vote on a normal election cycle, let alone one that has been postponed and rescheduled.

"One thing I get from students all the time is 'Oh, my vote doesn't count,'" Dennis said. "And I always try to flip it back on students and say 'Your vote does matter because you matter.' This is your opportunity to voice your opinion about who you want to lead."

Dennis said students can access the voting resource Pirates Vote through the CLCE website. This resource was designed to help students navigate their voting experience and set them up to maintain that habit beyond college, Dennis said.

Another resource Dennis listed was an online portal for students to access their voting registration status and register to vote if they have not already. This online portal was made possible by ECU's partnership with the Andrew Goodman Foundation, he said.

"We (CLCE) try to create lots of resources," Dennis said. "We also have a Student Affairs course in Canvas."

Turning Point USA's ECU Chapter (TPUSA) president and senior political science major Carley Martinette said the student organization helps students register to vote all year round on campus.

As an effort to get more ECU students to vote, Martinette said these registration table days are designed to help students navigate the registration process.

"We have forms for it (voter registration)," Martinette said. "They (students) can fill it (registration form) out themselves

or we can help them fill it out."

Along with other civic engagement student organizations on campus, TPUSA's goal is to mobilize students to be more active in local politics, Martinette said.

Being a conservative activist group, Martinette said TPUSA encourages students to attend local Grand Old Party events to learn more about the party itself before making their decision at the polls.

"What TPUSA does is we do our best to engage students in their civic engagement, not just voting but being involved locally," Martinette said.

Student civic engagement organizations at ECU have similar objectives, Martinette said. They work to attract students to local, state and national political issues.

Students have a voice in politics, Martinette said. She said whether they use their voice is up to them but TPUSA will guide them in doing so.

"We (ECU) do have organizations on campus like Turning Point, College Republicans, College Democrats and Young Democratic-Socialists who I believe do the same thing in getting students engaged to vote for their party," Martinette said.

ECU officials and student organizations have tools at their disposal to help students make and maintain healthy voting habits, Martinette said. However, if students aren't willing to vote, they won't and no organization or university official will change that.

"I really think it's the self motivation to want to see your community and country do better," Martinette said.

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

DECLINE continued from A1

terms of COVID-19, the spring semester has played out as expected by the university. As omicron began to surge at the beginning of January, Rogers said ECU implemented

additional measures to prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19 on campus as classes began in person. Case positivity rates reached upwards of 20% at the height of the surge, Rogers said, and within a month the data decreased to a rate of 3%.

Only 1% of on-campus isolation and quarantine space is occupied as of yesterday. Rogers said this is a great indicator of the university's ability to handle any additional surges in COVID-19 case numbers for the remainder of the semester. He said the total campus vaccination rate of 77% makes the university incredibly proud of the efforts made by students, faculty and staff to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Rogers said ECU has made vast improvements in vaccination rates and in its ability to respond to COVID-19.

"We have made extraordinary progress in our vaccination rates, in our ability to navigate the pandemic, and we are moving in the right direction," Rogers said. "I feel very optimistic about the future."

As case numbers continue to improve, Rogers said he believes the university may reach a point in the near future at which current restrictions could be reduced on campus, though this decision will be determined by ECU's COVID-19 Coordination Committee.

Following the initial surge of the omicron variant, Rogers said he has noticed a decrease



Philip Rogers

in anxiety regarding COVID-19 case numbers and an increase in university engagement. He said this does not mean the community should let its guard down, as the pandemic is still present at the university.

On Feb. 16, the co-chairs of the COVID-19 Coordination Committee, Sara Lilley and Bill Koch, sent a memorandum to the ECU community that announced a revision of its previous guidance for on-campus events and face coverings and reduced several restrictions, effective Feb. 21.

"I want our university community to know, at this moment, with very low transmission rates and low positivity and case rates, because of the great work that our faculty, staff and students leaned into as a part of this semester," Rogers said. "So, that's a win for us that we've all pulled together."

Sophia Wagner, senior music education and voice major, said though she doesn't visit campus often due to her student-teaching position, she has seen a decrease in mask mandates in Pitt County K-12 schools, where masks became optional last Tuesday.

Choir on ECU's campus has required masks throughout the pandemic, Wagner said, which is something she appreciates considering the high possibility of transmitting the virus through singing. She said she hopes ECU will keep required mask mandates in the classroom until case trends can be reevaluated in the summer.

"I feel like they might get more lenient with it coming into the next couple months, and as a Pirate Nation, moving forward, there's just a lot of decisions that need to be made just regarding the overall health of our community and of our students' best interests," Wagner said.

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

COVID continued from A1

between how the virus is contracted when sampled from the HVAC system and the extent to which infected people shed the virus, Sousan said. He said the experiment needs more funding to recruit infected people that are willing to test on a daily basis in order to see if all results from the study are accurate.

"There's a possibility the virus could deposit in the ducts even before it reaches the sampling location," Sousan said.

Roper said air samples are much cleaner to work with than sewage samples because of the difficult purification processes. She said she has spent several years researching polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing which can ultimately be used to detect a virus.

The samples needed to be concentrated to keep the virus particle intact because air dilutes, Roper said. She said the virus particle protects the genome and in order to conduct PCR testing, the genome needs to be secured.

"If we can keep the virus intact and get it into my lab and preserve it as best we can, and then figure out how to also extract it right before we do the PCR so that we would get enough of those (genomes)," Roper said.

To preserve the collected virus, Roper said she has used preventative methods like having the correct pH, temperatures, and salt concentrations for liquid collections. The virus was collected from filters and sponges into a tube while preliminary experiments were being conducted to ensure that PCR inhibitors were not on the tubes or filter, Roper said.

"You could monitor these things and you

would have your first sign if you know you could detect it in the air potentially before it spreads in the building," Roper said.

It's harder to detect the virus in the air from people who are vaccinated, have recovered from infection and people who are asymptomatic that are less likely to shed the virus, Roper said.

When COVID-19 first appeared, cruise ship operators tried to quarantine people in their rooms to isolate the virus, Roper said. She said the virus spread immensely fast and suspects it was from the air ducts.

"We have pretty good data that shows the closer the infected person is to our collection point, the more likely we are to be able to detect it," Roper said.

Senior public health major Brooke Kawas said studies like the one performed by Sousan and Roper are impactful to the community.

Kawas said the best way to reach a target audience of college students is to have simple informational infographics that advertise preventative methods for COVID-19.

Now, most people think of COVID-19 as the main infectious disease but Kawas said infectious diseases are incessant. She said it is important to be informed on ways to prevent catching a virus before it spreads.

"Public health is going within the community to prevent people before they even become infected," Kawas said. "There's primary prevention and that's getting the word out, which is what most of public health is, promoting and preventing diseases."

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



Brooke Kawas

OUR VIEW

Elections must have student voter turnout

North Carolina will host its municipal elections on May 17 where citizens are able to vote for local city council seats, county commissioner, sheriff, House of Representatives and Senate seats. Previously, the elections were set for March 8 but were pushed back due to redistricting controversies.

As elections take place after the end of the spring semester for East Carolina University, students may forget or ignore the upcoming election. College students should be aware of and participate in these elections as they affect not only the City of Greenville and Pitt County, but also the state and national government.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, encourage students to vote in the municipal elections and to have their voices heard. College students may feel as if their vote doesn't matter, however, they play a huge role in voter turnouts in elections.

ECU students are able to vote in Greenville, North Carolina, or the surrounding areas as long as they are registered to vote within Pitt County. Although the majority of ECU students will not be in the area during the time of the elections, people who are registered to vote in the county are able to vote at the Main Campus Student Center.

We encourage students to review all of the politicians who will be on the ballot in the municipal elections and to vote for individuals they feel align to their beliefs and values. Although politics may be a touchy subject for some, each vote counts toward the future of America.

PIRATE RANTS

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

Why is the toilet paper SEE THROUGH?!!

I feel like ECU faculty and staff have a responsibility to act as good role models for the students, especially teachers. That's clearly not being done when you're standing around, shooting the breeze and openly encouraging a group of cursing students for half an hour. When you see things like that, you really can't wonder why some kids just refuse to behave or take accountability.

Smile everyone - Spring is in the air, the purple/gold game is back, and so is PirateFest! Live your best life!

The men's restroom on the first floor of Bate is a toxic wasteland. ECU, please clean your bathroom. Students, help keep it clean you animals.

Living in Legacy should not be allowed. I was sitting in the basement doing homework next thing I know ants are in my bag. I have several ant bites because of it.

Stop making students pay for parking!

Grad students are students, too!

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

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



Financial education is needed

Minority communities lack resources that teach how to budget



Juan Hernandez
GUEST COLUMNIST

As a first-generation Latino-American, there are many skills that minority communities do not get taught about toward their finances. The thought sparked me to have a conversation on the matter with my sister, and I asked her if she knew what a 401(k) was. She responded by saying, "I still have no idea what that is, dude, and I'm about to turn 28."

As technology becomes more accessible and information more readily available, one would probably wonder that it shouldn't be such an issue. According to a recent report by the St. Louis Federal Reserve, underserved groups, such as the Latino community, still lag behind in having access to the fundamental tools they need to survive in the U.S. financially.

From first-hand experience, when my parents came over from Mexico, I witnessed how they did not have the proper knowledge to navigate the already-established corporate culture of the 2000s, which to them was a complete contrast to their humble beginnings back home. With little guidance, my parents relied on absolutely anyone who promised them to help with their financial



COURTESY OF ALEXANDER MILLS | UNSPLASH

The education system in do not provide minorities proper education on finance and budgeting.

picture, but those individuals did not have their interests at heart, and thus me and my family were pushed to live with our nephews and nieces while gaining stability once again.

Coming from Mexico, my parents were never encouraged to have discussions about saving for retirement, let alone putting their money in a bank. Thus I saw how this cycle continued in our family.

The education system does not provide students with different cultural origins the tools to prepare when having to face issues of knowing how to budget your money, saving for retirement, or even investing.

However, the message is not to critique the schools for the matter, rather this has been an issue that has been institutionalized into the veins of the American system.

In a place where typically (not always) Caucasian-Americans are generationally handed the tools to handle difficult tasks such as taxes, college applications, and investments, these discussions are yet to be openly spoken about in Latino communities.

There has to be an open discussion about these matters to further prevent future generations from suffering the same predicaments as current and past generations face. Without shame, there needs to be a break within the mold to allow our communities to flourish with confidence in navigating the complex nature of financial planning for the present and future.

Hernandez is a ECU alumnus and a guest columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Book bans contradict freedom in US

Williams' World



Giana Williams
TEC COLUMNIST

Eight years ago, I sat in the back of my ninth grade English classroom and read a book titled "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury as part of our class reading. Published in 1953, the book is set in a dystopian society

in the future where books were burned to prevent citizens from thinking and questioning the world around them.

It was unknown to me at the time as a 14-year-old that I would see this book become a reality eight years later as I watch school boards across America banning books to prevent young students from being "exposed" to the realities of the society around them; the realities of racism, sexuality, or non-Christian concepts.

To watch all the books I was once forced to read in high school, which I ended

up enjoying as I got older, being banned because school systems don't want students to think for themselves is very distressing, to say the least. These state lawmakers force students to be tunnel visioned on what America "should be" to prevent students from being culturally or socially aware of the truths and realities of the country.

For a country that is notorious for being the land of the free, it's ironic how lawmakers are not letting students be free to educate themselves or at least understand topics of race and sexuality through the use of books. Simply by first banning books from being read in classrooms, then banning certain curriculums such as Critical Race Theory, or creating bills such as Florida's HB 1557 "Don't Say Gay" bill.

To be free in America has its terms and conditions. To be free in America, you have to force students to be ignorant of the issues surrounding them by banning aspects of school curriculums, which prevents students from questioning the country's flaws. Banning books is the beginning steps of

ensorship in America and also the first step of trying to control its citizens not to think independently, which contradicts the notion of America being a free country.

As more books are being banned from school systems, those books will become more accessible in local libraries, book stores, or even under your fingertips on electronic devices. What will the school board do once students understand that there are loopholes to reading the books that are being banned in their school system?

It's a tragedy to see "Fahrenheit 451" come to life 69 years later after its release and see people attempting to promote fear and hatred toward books. Banning books will eventually have consequences not only for the future of society but also for the future of our democracy.

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

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EVENTS

TODAY

Tiny Art and Prints Charming Exhibition
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
404 Evans St.
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
(252) 551-6947

The 14th Annual SoAD Graduate Student Art Exhibition
Joyner Library
1000 E. 5th St.
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
(252) 328-0382

TOMORROW

A Performance by Britt Fishel and Artists
Greenville Museum of Art
802 S. Evans St.
7:30 p.m.
(252) 758-6789

Faculty Artist: Keiko Sekino
A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall
7:30 to 9 p.m.
(252) 328-6851

FRIDAY

Big City Live
Buggy's Bar
110 E. 4th St.
9:30 to 11:30 p.m.
(252) 353-0444



CONTRIBUTED BY ALISON GRAHAM

The School of Music will host a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in Wright Auditorium, which will showcase both the symphonic and concert bands.

SoM bands to perform in concert

Noelle Edwards
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University School of Music (SoM) will hold a concert for both the symphonic and concert bands of ECU from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday in Wright Auditorium.

Director of the ECU concert band Jay Juchniewicz said he is excited for the concert because both bands have been hard at work in preparation.

He said the concert band is open to anyone who wants to play, they just ask those who wish to participate have previous experience in a band. Juchniewicz said the band currently has 47 members, the majority being non-music majors.

"The idea is that you can major in anything but then in the afternoons you're able to come and keep playing your instrument and keep making music in a stress-free, non-competitive environment," Juchniewicz said.

Juchniewicz said there are three bands in the school of music, which are the concert band, the

wind ensemble and the symphonic band. He said both the symphonic band and the wind ensemble have required auditions and are typically made up of music majors. The concert band plans to have three pieces of music for the concert on Thursday.

Director of the symphonic band and athletic bands director Joe Busuito is also the director for the Marching Pirates and the Pep band. Busuito said he encourages ECU students to join regardless of their major.

"We want the very best players populating these ensembles," Busuito said. "They're not just artistic ensembles that operate here but there are musical ambassadors and representatives for the school of music and the university."

The symphonic band has prepared four pieces for the concert on Thursday and will perform after the concert band. Busuito said that this program is more personal than he typically likes to plan. The pieces all tie into his time as a teacher at Oxford High School in Oxford, Michigan, and the school shooting that took place there on Nov. 30, 2021.

"It was something that hit me profoundly, it was a place that I knew and people that I knew," Busuito said. "It's not just the tragedy of the loss of life but it's the effect that this has on everyone else who was in the building and it's something that has bothered me a lot."

Freshman music education major Alison Graham said she is glad she's in the symphonic band and that it has been a great experience thus far. Graham currently plays the trumpet for the symphonic band and participated in band during high school as well.

"A big reason I want to do as much as possible is because my senior year of high school everything was canceled so it's cool to be able to do it all over again," Graham said.

Graham said she enjoys being a member of both the symphonic band and Marching Pirates because she is constantly surrounded by people who share as deep of a love for music as she does.



Joe Busuito



Jay Juchniewicz

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

SPRING 2022 ON-AIR SCHEDULE

MONDAY

Greta: Is this thing on? 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
S-Roc: Roc's Take 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Garrett: Around the Horn 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
DJ Chi & DJ Kera: The breakdown 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
DJ Tiffani B: Brunch at Tiffani's 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Adam: Plus Money 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
DJ Chantel: Authentic Vibes 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
A5: Cricket's Kitchen 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

DJ CJ: Morning Phase 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
DJ Mad Max: Instant Replay 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
DJ Honey: The Sweet Hour 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
DJ Will Ham: Word of the day 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
DJ Honey: The Sweet Hour 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
DJ C: This week on the gridiron 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
DJ Jersey: The Izzy Show 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Greta: Is this thing on? 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
DJ Chantel: Authentic Vibes 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Greta: Is this thing on? 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
S-Roc: Roc's Take 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
DJ Honey: The Sweet Hour 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
DJ Chi & DJ Kera: The breakdown 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
DJ Tiffani B: Brunch at Tiffani's 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Adam: Plus Money 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Marye Amanda: The Songwriter Series 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
DJ Chantel: Authentic Vibes 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
A5: Cricket's Kitchen 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

THURSDAY

DJ C: Music Legends Revisited 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Greta: Is this thing on? 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
DJ Honey: The Sweet Hour 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
DJ Filthy Falls: The Rap/Rock/alt show 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
DJ C: Tales from the ring, court, and field 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
DJ Jersey: The Izzy Show 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Greta: Is this thing on? 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
DJ Chantel: Authentic Vibes 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

DJ Chantel: Authentic Vibes 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Joeanna: Full plate 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Garrett: Around the Horn 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Anthony: Inside the lines 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
DJ Atomic: The Radioactive Corner 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Adam: Plus Money 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
DJ CJ: Luminol 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

PIPPIN continued from A1

theater thinking about what matters to them and how they might actually assess what is important in being a citizen of the world," Tahaney said. "I think that the show will hopefully shake people up to think about what matters to me and what is worth fighting for."

Auditions were conducted by Tahaney, Tommi Galaska, the show's choreographer and ECU faculty member, and Jacob Kerzner, ECU faculty member and music director. Tahaney said auditions are always open to all ECU community members.

Andrew Goins, who plays the character Pippin, was originally in the School of Music but transferred to the SoTD after his freshman year at ECU. Therefore, he is a sophomore in the musical theatre and professional acting program here at ECU, but a junior overall. Tahaney said Goins was the perfect choice for this role due to his flexibility as an actor.

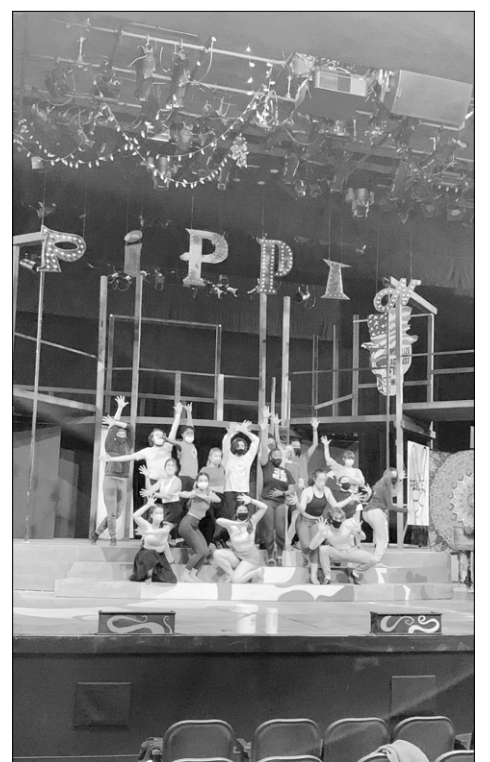
"He's got a beautiful voice and he's growing into a stronger actor everyday. He does a great job with this lead in the show. He brings a genuine quality to him which is what I think I needed for 'Pippin,'" Tahaney said. "He just feels very genuine to me and I think it was the quality about him that attracted me to saying he needs to be the one to play this character."

Goins also played Anton Schill, the lead in the SoTD's fall show, "The Visit." Goins said even though he's been through this process before, he still gets all the emotions that one would expect, nervousness, excitement, etc.

"We basically put the whole show together in less than a month because we needed it ready at the beginning of February so that we could get costumes ready," Goins said. "It's been super rewarding to have that fast pace in the beginning and do it to all line up the way we hoped."

Goins said in order to prepare for opening night, he has been drinking two gallons of water everyday to stay hydrated for the dances and vocals he will complete once the show starts.

The show is very audience heavy when it comes to interactivity so Goins said he hopes the audience remains attentive and active throughout the entirety of the show. He wants those who come to be able to take away the message of "don't take anything for



NIA CRUZ | TEC STAFF

Cast of "Pippin" prepares for opening night.

granted." Goins said he relates to his character Pippin because he is unsure of what his future plans will be, just like the character.

"I'm so excited to be a part of this incredible production," Goins said. "Everyone has been working insanely hard for this show from cast, crew, costumes, tech, directors and assistant directors have all been putting everything into this show and it has made the process so rewarding to do."

Sophomore theatre for youth major Lindsay Jenkins is a volunteer for "Pippin" and helped build the platform the performers will stand on for the show. She said that all theatre majors are required to take theater tech classes and that's how she came to be a volunteer for the show.

Jenkins said she has enjoyed both being a crew member and an audience member because when the different crews work on tasks, they don't get to see what other crews have completed until premiere night.

"You see your hard work, you see the work that everybody else has done and you see them (performers) change form into these characters and tell stories that have a lot of meaning with them, it's just incredible," Jenkins said.

The cost for the general public is \$18. ECU faculty, staff and students can purchase tickets at a discounted rate of \$10. Tickets can be purchased on the SoTD website, by emailing theatre@arts.ecu.edu or by calling the box office at (252) 328-6829.

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



Andrew Goins

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ACTIVITY

Comic Book & Toy Show: Sat, Mar 5. 10a - 4p. Free Admission! American Legion, 403 St. Andrews Dr, Greenville.

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Advance your exploration cautiously. Prioritize practicalities. Reinforce structural supports. Keep communication channels open. Direct attention toward a beloved subject. Research reveals unimagined treasure.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 9 — Collaboration produces solid results. Invest in the dream you're working on. Repay a favor. Accept contributions willingly. Together, you're building something of lasting value.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 9 — Strategize with your partner to determine best options. Talk over different ideas. Take action for what you love, and dreams can come true.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Communication and preparation energize your work. Watch for hidden dangers. Pitfalls line the path. Learn from someone experienced. Step carefully and enjoy the scenery.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Compassion eases your heart and inspires creativity. Perform acts of kindness. Talk with people you love. Express your dreams and desires. Make bold declarations.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 9 — Use your imagination at home. Sort through treasures and possessions. Discover something cherished but forgotten. Domestic improvements made now can realize a dream.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Share a message of love. Express a possibility that moves your heart. Invite participation and contribution. Connect and collaborate. Communication inspires meaningful action.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 9 — Quick action can increase your income. Don't try to force anything. Slide around to the next opportunity. Let passion animate your efforts. Accept a gift.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 9 — Focus on personal priorities. Talk about potential changes. Lay plans and prepare. Realize a dream step by step. Dress for success. Rise a level.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Rest and consider options. Don't push your luck on risky business. Preparation and planning pay extra. Envision and plot steps to realize an inspiring dream.

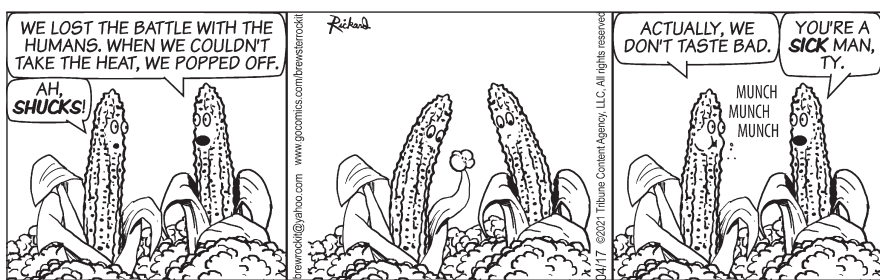
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Get farther with help from friends. Unite behind an inspiring possibility. Teamwork gets satisfying results. Advance a shared dream with all your heart.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 9 — Invest in your career. Put in the preparation for professional success. Get a boost from the competition. Send out a scout. Learn new tricks.

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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



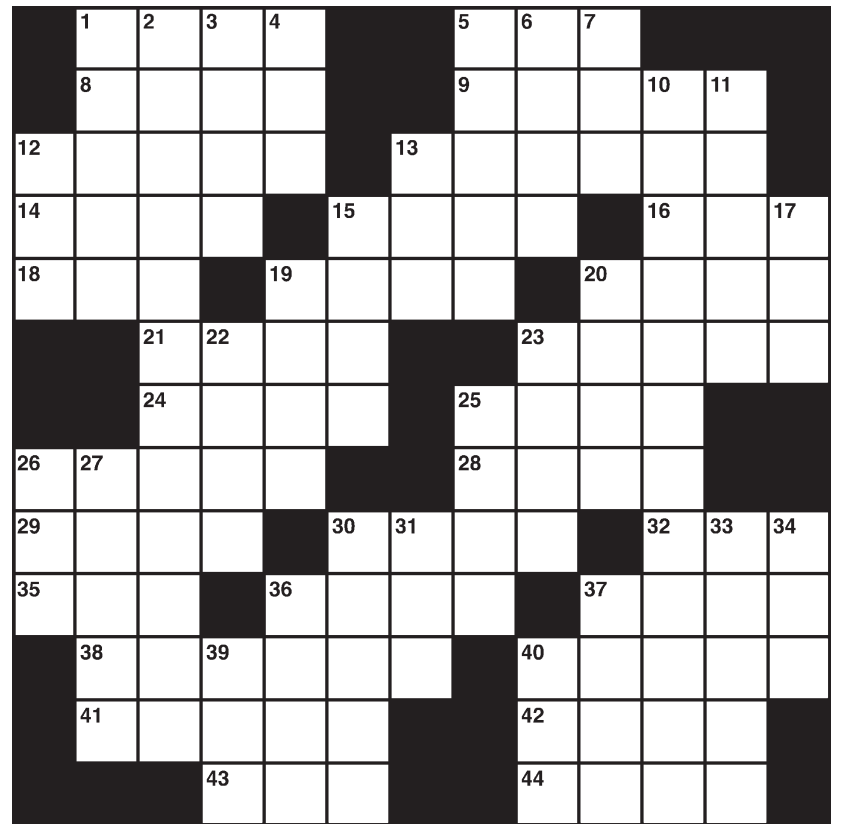
BLISS



CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

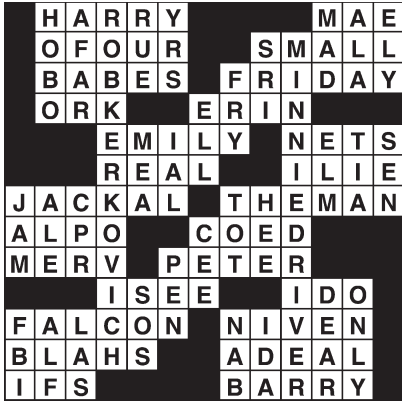


Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Ladd or Thicke
- 5 "The Kids ___ Alright"
- 8 "What's My ___?"
- 9 "Teenage Mutant ___ Turtles"
- 12 Hair color
- 13 "___ at Black Rock"; Spencer Tracy film
- 14 "Yours, ___ & Ours"; Dennis Quaid movie
- 15 Actress Lange
- 16 "Boys Don't ___"; film for Hilary Swank
- 18 "___ Willie Winkie"
- 19 Comic actress Martha ___
- 20 ___-Ball; classic arcade game
- 21 Bert of "The Wizard of Oz"
- 23 ___ nova; '50s/'60s dance
- 24 Smell to high heaven
- 25 Woody Guthrie's boy
- 26 Actress Kelly
- 28 Spinks or Uris
- 29 Gas station chain
- 30 "___ Willy"; film about a whale
- 32 "Avengers: ___ of Ultron"

Solution from 2/16



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DOWN

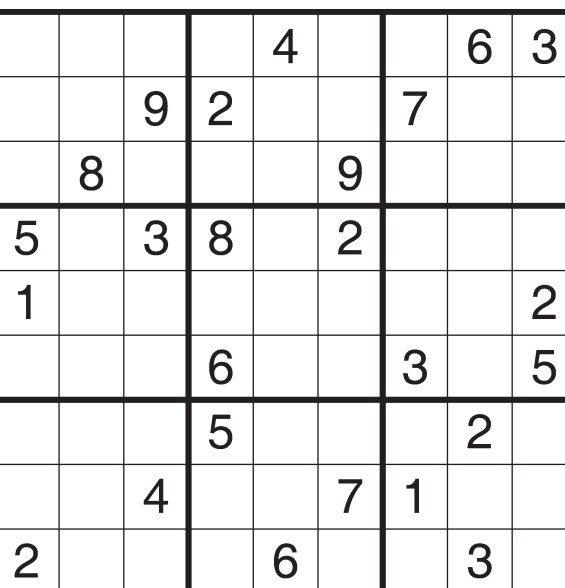
- 1 "Kate & ___"
- 2 "American Idol" judge
- 3 Actress Meara
- 4 "___ and Stacey"
- 5 As hairy as ___
- 6 "Ticket to ___"; Beatles hit
- 7 "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's ___"
- 10 Role on "Grey's Anatomy"
- 11 Actor Lew ___
- 12 German auto
- 13 "___ Meets World"
- 15 "___! The Herald Angels Sing"
- 17 ___ or nay; voting choices
- 19 Carla's portrayer on "Cheers"
- 20 "___: A Star Wars Story"; Woody Harrelson film
- 22 Prefix for space or dynamics
- 23 "Desperate Housewives" role
- 25 Guinness or Baldwin
- 26 "___ with a Plan"
- 27 Grad exams, often
- 30 "___ Off the Boat"
- 31 "The Adventures of ___ Tin Tin"
- 33 Wilder & Hackman
- 34 Suffix for lion or heir
- 36 Poet ___ St. Vincent Millay
- 37 Mosque leader
- 39 VP Rockefeller's initials
- 40 "Men ___ Certain Age"

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

Level



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

Solution from 2/16

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

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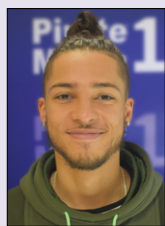
TEC 'spertZ

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

Brendan Cavazos

Sports Editor

@bcvaz_xi



ECU vs USF
on Wednesday, Feb. 23
Score Prediction?

ECU wins 72-60
Why? This will be the second time

the Pirates face the Bulls this season after defeating them on Feb. 17. ECU will be the favorite in this matchup, which has not been the case for most of the season. However, the Pirates need to remain focused as the season winds down to only three games left.

Chris Long

Sports Reporter

@notchrislong



ECU vs USF
on Wednesday, Feb. 23
Score Prediction?

ECU wins 65-58
Why? The Bulls have solidified themselves

as the bottom of the barrel of the AAC. Their two in-conference wins came against a Temple team that had only one 3-pointer, and a battered UCF team who got beat out of spite more so than talent. The Pirates are a team looking to finish the season strong though inconsistency.



Senior forward Vance Jackson pulls up from the corner for a 3-point shot attempt against Southern Methodist University on Feb. 12.

Basketball to rematch USF Bulls

Chris Long
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University men's basketball (13-13, 4-10 American Athletic Conference) looks to wind down regular season conference play against the University of South Florida (7-19, 2-12 AAC) at 7 p.m. tonight in Greenville, North Carolina.

This match is the second of two regular season games the Pirates will play against the Bulls this season. The previous game was at 7 p.m. on Feb. 17 in Tampa, Florida, at which the Pirates won 65-57 in regulation.

In that game, senior forward Vance Jackson led the Pirates in scoring with 16 points on 5-12 shooting in 33 minutes of play. Redshirt junior Ludgy Debaut was the defensive anchor for ECU with 10 rebounds and a block with 6 points on two for three shooting. Sophomore guard Tristen Newton ended the game with a double-double with 14 points and 10 assists. Five different Pirates ended the game with a steal.

Collectively, ECU shot 42.31% from the field with 20-44 shooting. The Pirates created 9 points off of turnovers, 11 off of

fast breaks and 26 in the paint. The score does not tell the whole story however, as the lead changed seven times before the final buzzer. In the final 35 seconds of the game, the Pirates converted all six free throws to ice the Bulls.

On the season, ECU is led in scoring by Newton who averages 17.2 points per game on 34.4 minutes per game. Jackson averages 13.3 points per game, six rebounds and an assist on 40.1% from the field. As a team, the Pirates are 41% from the field, 33.3% from the 3-point line and 75.2% from the free throw line.

USF currently sits at the bottom of the AAC with its only in-conference wins coming against Temple University (15-9, 8-5 AAC) and the University of Central Florida (16-9, 8-7 AAC). The first conference win was a 24-point victory against UCF on Jan. 15, USF's alumni night. The war on the 1-4 rivalry game was the last time the Bulls would win before facing the Owls five games later. USF is currently on a five-game losing streak.

The last game for the Pirates was a loss against UCF off of a 3-point buzzer beater. The heartbreaker is the second game for

ECU lost off of a buzzer beater, with the first coming at the hands of Temple on Jan. 8. Both games saw a 3-pointer end to regulation time from a tied game.

Newton led ECU in scoring against UCF with 19 points on 6-13 shooting. Debaut was once again effective defensively,

leading the team in rebounds with nine rebounds and a block. Four Pirates scored double digit points. Despite the scoring output, ECU was only able to shoot 6-23 from the 3-point line for 26%. However, the Pirates were able to shoot 40% from the field on 22-54 shooting.

Following the USF rematch, the Pirates will face Tulsa University (9-16, 3-11 AAC) for their last home game of the season at 4 p.m. on Saturday in Minges Coliseum. The game will be available for streaming on ESPN+ and can be listened to at 107.9 WNCT-FM.

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

ECU softball gears up for Pirate Invitational

Reyna Crooms
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University softball (4-6, 0-0 American Athletic Conference) will compete in the Pirate Invitational Friday through Sunday in Greenville, North Carolina, at Max R. Joyner Family Stadium.

The team will go head to head against Villanova University (3-7, 0-0 Big East Conference), Fairleigh Dickinson University (1-4, 0-0 North Eastern Conference) and Gardner-Webb University (5-4, 0-0 Big South Conference) throughout the weekend.

Pirate softball will enter the Invitational after a recent win against Wagner University (0-5, 0-0 Northeast Conference) 6-2. The Pirate Invitational weekend will kick off with an early morning game on Friday between Gardner-Webb and Villanova. The game will start at 10 a.m., and later on in the day, Gardner-Webb will face Fairleigh Dickinson at 12:30 p.m.

The Pirates will make their Invitational debut later in the afternoon as they take on Villanova at 3 p.m. Villanova was ranked in the top 30 schools in the

NCAA division in 2021. Villanova also holds one of America's top 25 college players in pitcher/utility player graduate student Paige Rauch. Head coach of Pirate softball Shane Winkler said the team is excited and working toward consistency inside of the pitching circle and batter's box.

"We want to treat every single game like it's a conference championship game, if we do that then we will be prepared to compete for that game in May. We got to make sure we just worry about what is right in front of us and for us, it's tomorrow's games and we treat those like it's the biggest game of the year," Winkler said in an interview on Feb. 17.

The Pirates last competed against Villanova on March 4, 2016. The purple and gold came up short 3-7 and have not seen the Wildcats since then. At 5:30 p.m. the Pirates will compete against Fairleigh Dickinson for the last game of the day.

The Pirate Invitational will open up with East Carolina's second game of the weekend. The Pirates will face Gardner-Webb at 3 p.m. on Saturday. The Pirates last played against the Gardner-Webb Bulldogs over 15 years ago on Feb. 9, 2007. ECU came out on top with a final score of 8-0. Winkler said "consistency is the biggest key" for the remainder of the season as the team uses each game to prepare for the American Athletic Conference Championships in May.

"Every day has been setting us up to prepare to get better and better throughout the year. Everyone talks about wanting to be able to play your best ball at the end of the season, we want to make sure we are just focused on one day at a time. We want to be the best team we can be each day," Winkler said.

After a game against Gardner-Webb



Sophomore righ handed pitcher Logyn Estes.

on Saturday, ECU will play against Fairleigh Dickinson again at 5:30 p.m. The final day will open up with a game between Fairleigh Dickinson and Villanova at 10 a.m. on Saturday then conclude with a matchup of ECU vs. Gardner Webb at 12:30 p.m. Winkler said all five pitchers will be rotated throughout the weekend and the staff will use as many players as needed for the team's success.

After a long weekend in Greenville, the Pirates will head to Elon, North Carolina, to compete in the Elon Cardinal Invitational from March 4 through March 6. The team will return home to Max R. Joyner Family Stadium to go up against the University of North Carolina (6-4, 0-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) on March 9 at 5 p.m.

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

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