

ISAIAH WINSTEAD TO JOIN PIRATE FOOTBALL

to A6



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 04.20.22



VOLUME 96, ISSUE 27

House passes act to decrease cost of insulin

Mary Lofland
TEC STAFF

Following the House of Representatives' decision to pass the Affordable Insulin Now Act that would limit selected insulin costs to \$35 for insured patients, members of the East Carolina University community discuss the decision's impact on diabetic healthcare.

Staff Pharmacist at ECU's Student Health Services (SHS) Monica Jordan said historically, insulin medication has remained relatively expensive. She said she has seen patients prior to her time at SHS have to choose between paying for their bills or insulin because of the price.

Though the new bill only applies to those with diabetes, Jordan said the bill will set a precedent on how medication is priced, especially for those who depend on medication to survive. If a diabetic person doesn't take insulin, she said it may result in high blood pressure, diabetic ketoacidosis, blindness, kidney issues and lost limbs.

"When I was working in (pharmaceutical) retail around the City of Greenville, it was surprising for me not to see a patient with diabetes and we would sell out of our insulin everyday," Jordan said.

A \$35 copay is reasonable for someone who has a stable income, but for many members of the community, Jordan said even the new copay set by the act may cause financial stress.

Pharmaceutical companies hold the majority of power over the price and distribution of drugs and medicine, Jordan said. She said it costs a lot of money for a pharmaceutical company to create an idea and produce a drug because of the studies and technology.

"I get that it comes out to be expensive, but I also think that there should be some kind of regulation that says 'I know it took you a lot, but you can't charge everybody an arm and a leg for medicine that they need to survive,'" Jordan said.

The government chose to target insulin because diabetes continues to be a growing problem in America, Jordan said.

In order to make it more likely for the U.S. Senate

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As the last day of classes quickly approaches the campus, an East Carolina Univesity senior takes graduation photos at the Cupola.

Academic year concludes ECU community reflects on fall, spring terms

Mary Lofland
TEC STAFF

Members of the East Carolina University community reflect on the achievements and challenges of the 2021-2022 academic year and prepare for next fall as the semester comes to a close.

In an email statement, Chancellor Philip Rogers wrote that he enjoyed engaging with students and meeting with faculty for the first year back on campus since the COVID-19 pandemic first struck.

"One of my favorite moments was attending in-person classes on the first day of the fall semester. I loved seeing the joy on the faces of our students and faculty as they were back face-to-face in classrooms," Rogers wrote.

ECU's Brody School of Medicine and Vidant Health integrated in 2022 under a conjoined brand known as ECU Health. Rogers wrote that the launch will improve the well-being of individuals living in eastern North Carolina.

In the past year, Rogers wrote he is pleased with how the university

and its administration made an effort to emphasize student success at ECU.

"Higher education is changing by the day and we have to adapt with it and with change comes opportunities to grow and reinvent the many ways we deliver on our mission," Rogers wrote.

Now and in the future, Rogers wrote that ECU will continue to provide



Philip Rogers

resources for prospective students to seek the benefits of a university degree. Rogers wrote that as ECU has a c k n o w l e d g e d university concerns such as mental health,

budgeting plans and demographics shifts, ECU is ready to further tackle those issues in the future. Rogers wrote that in his second year as chancellor, his main focus will be ECU's growth as a university, specifically through retention of successful students and faculty.

"The next year will involve the

development of a new funding formula for public higher education in North Carolina, the design and launch of a refreshed strategic plan, the continued commitment to a robust academic and research enterprise that prioritizes innovation, and a keen eye on the ever-evolving future that we must continue to stay one step ahead on a daily basis," Rogers wrote.

Erik Kneubuehl, associate vice chancellor of Student Involvement and Leadership, said 2021-2022 was a "transformational" school year as students braced the impacts of COVID-19.

Kneubuehl said the atmosphere on campus became more relaxed and students and faculty were reengaged. He said student dialogue on campus now mostly consists of ECU Health, Barefoot on the Mall and commencement.

One of the largest improvements on campus was having a stable leader of the university following the installation of Rogers, Kneubuehl said. Within the last

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Keagen Kermode and Alex Potaro who play Romeo and Juliet rehearse before opening night of the last theater performance of the semester.

‘Romeo and Juliet’ will debut tonight

Noelle Edwards
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's School of Theatre and Dance (SoTD) will host its last theater performance of the 2021-2022 school year, "Romeo and Juliet," at 7:30 tonight through Saturday, with additional showings at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday in the McGinnis Theater.

Sophomore musical theatre and professional acting major Alex Potaro will play Juliet. Potaro said this is her first time as the lead in a performance at ECU. However, she has been an understudy in prior ECU productions such as "The Jury," "Songs for a New World" and "Pippin." She said she

enjoys both sides of being both on and off stage.

"It's a very different experience from being main cast. I really enjoy being an understudy and also being in the show," Potaro said. "I think they both have really valuable aspects. I've learned so much from being an understudy and watching them work"

Potaro said she originally really wanted to be a part of "Romeo and Juliet" but was not sure if she would be cast since she is a first year professional acting student.

She went into the auditions with an open mind about which part she would play if cast, Potaro said. She said she remembers being surprised

about the call back she received to play Juliet.

This version of "Romeo and Juliet" is different from the original play, Potaro said. She said director Gregory Funaro described it as "pre-Starbucks Seattle." Potaro said there are some parts where characters ride skateboards or bicycles.

"Gregory (Funaro) is really good about tailoring what show he picks to kind of what he thinks will benefit the students," Potaro said. "I love Greg's (Funaro) style of directing, he's been doing a great job of catering to us (the cast) but also giving us

> **ROMEO** page A5

Pirates prepare for Green Wave

Chris Long
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University baseball (22-15, 7-2 American Athletic Conference) will face Tulane University (24-12-1, 6-3 AAC) in a three-game series from Friday through Sunday in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The series follows a match against the University of North Carolina Wilmington (21-13, 6-3 Colonial Athletic Association) 6:30 p.m. yesterday in Greenville, North Carolina.

Prior to the game against the Seahawks, the Pirates achieved their first series sweep of the season in a weekend matchup against the University of Central Florida (21-15, 5-4 AAC). The weekend series was highlighted by double digit runs scored in all three games, lockout defense and a standout performance from senior outfielder Bryson Worrell.

The Pirates have won eight of their last 10 games with three wins against the Golden Knights, two wins against the Wichita State University (13-22, 2-7 AAC), two wins against the University of Cincinnati (16-18, 6-3 AAC) and one win against Elon University (17-18, 3-6 CAA).

Tulane enters the series in second place in the AAC, right behind the Pirates. Before facing ECU, the Green Wave will competed against the University of Southern Mississippi (27-8, 13-2 Conference USA) at 6:30 p.m. yesterday in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Green Wave won seven of their last 10 games, eight of which were in conference. Tulane dropped two of the last three games the team played, both against the University of Houston (23-13, 5-4 AAC). Each one of Tulane's games against

> **GREEN** page A6

ONLINE

» **ARTS:** CRW to promote wellness, end of semester pool parties

» **SPORTS:** ECU softball heads to Tennessee for Lady Vol Challenge

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

ECU to celebrate first-generation graduates

Tomorrow, East Carolina University's Office of Student Transitions will host the First-Gen Graduation Celebration from 4 to 5 p.m. in Room 249 of the Main Campus Student Center. The event will celebrate spring 2022 graduates who are the first in their families to graduate from college. Following a brief program, graduates will receive their cords and food will be served.

Festival to celebrate Earth Day, sustainability

Friday, several East Carolina University organizations and departments will celebrate Earth Week with an Earth Day Festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Main Campus Student Center Lawn. Various activities and tabling will take place at the festival, including voter registration, a bike repair clinic, tree planting, sustainable giveaways, and a food donation drive. Representatives from both on and off-campus organizations will be present to talk with students.

LGBTQ Center to host Lesbian Visibility Day

Tuesday, East Carolina University's Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will host a luncheon in celebration of Lesbian Visibility Day from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Room 249 of the Main Campus Student Center. The luncheon will include a student and staff panel moderated by Lisa Bodollo, assistant professor in the School of Theatre and Dance. An effort to show solidarity within the LGBTQ community, the event is intended to recognize and bring visibility to lesbians.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

UNCP, ECU begin collaboration

Pembroke students to see transfer opportunities

Kristin Outland
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University signed an agreement on April 7 with the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) for a collaboration that is expected to provide a smooth transition from UNCP undergraduate programs to ECU graduate programs through early assurance (EA) programs.

The partnership is currently working with graduate programs specifically in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, College of Fine Arts and Communication, College of Nursing and the School of Dental Medicine.

Linda Kean, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, said the collaboration focuses on informing students about ECU's graduate programs in hopes for students to transfer to the university from UNCP.

One of the things ECU is looking into revolves around developing EA programs, Kean said, that will each set aside a limited number of UNCP students for guaranteed acceptance into ECU's graduate programs.

"So, someone could apply to Pembroke knowing that they're gonna do their undergraduate in communication or art or music and then come here for graduate school," Kean said.

Peer mentorship and similar programs are currently being developed by the collaboration to connect UNCP students who might come to ECU to areas on campus, Kean said, which would allow them to adjust to the university as smoothly as possible.

Faculty and student exchanges between ECU and UNCP would ease the transition as well, Kean said, as communication between each university will promote information about research and creative activities.

Kean said each institution will have access to each other's technology resources, allowing the opportunity to collaborate virtually.

"I can imagine, for instance, an intercultural communication class being taught at both campuses and the students work together on a project, so we're at the very early stages of having these conversations," Kean said. "But that's the idea, just to get different experiences from different parts of the state and hopefully grow our graduate programs as well."

Lakesha Alston Forbes, ECU's associate provost for Equity and Diversity, said the idea for the collaboration began during the pandemic.

Forbes said the partnership's first area of focus is to establish agreements that allow students to transfer from UNCP to ECU in a



Lakesha Forbes, Grant Hayes and Zoe Locklear sign a partnership agreement between ECU and UNCP.

helpful transition and environment in which they will succeed through EA programs.

"Our first area around graduate pathways and exploring how it is that we expand graduate education among the UNCP student population," Forbes said. "That's been sort of our first area that we've started to explore."

The second area includes exploring how ECU and UNCP could work together in collaboration for research and scholarship opportunities, Forbes said, as well as through services such as summer undergraduate research programs and graduate mentors.

Forbes said the third area of focus is a shared mission focused on developing learning opportunities that will enable students to learn from each other and serve both ECU and UNCP's surrounding communities.

It is expected for at least one EA program agreement to be established by the upcoming fall, Forbes said. She said a community service initiative is expected to be in place for students by the 2022-2023 academic year.

"We want to expand access. We want UNCP students to know that there's a place here for them and that if they come here they're going to succeed," Forbes said.

Kristen Myers, chair of the Department of Sociology at ECU, said the collaboration is intended to develop an efficient pipeline between undergraduate programs at UNCP to the graduate programs at ECU.

Many students may be intimidated by the thought of attending graduate school, Myers said, but the new pathways are intended to alleviate these fears by creating an easy adjustment for students.

"Graduate programs are small. We (Department of Sociology) admit about eight students a year, so it feels like a little college, which we want people to know earlier, so it's not the kind of thrown into a deep pool with a ton of people that it might be when you go to college (undergraduate programs)," Myers said.

The UNCP and ECU Sociology and Criminal Justice programs have begun to connect with one another in an effort to educate students about their programs in advance of graduate school, Myers said.

The formal agreement for the partnership between the two universities will also allow UNCP's minority students, specifically Native American students, to diversify the population at ECU, Myers said.

"I think they have a large population of Native American students, so they have kind of a specialty group of folks, so we would love to help diversify ECU here and also we're all in the same system. They're all in the same UNC System, so it makes sense to partner up," Myers said.

The process has had a slow start, but the university hopes to have a steady number of students transfer from UNCP in the near future, Meyers said.

Myers said the partnership hopes to positively influence students' career goals and bring student service to communities.

"I know you've heard of ECU and you've heard of the Pirates, and you know the purple and gold, but here's how ECU can take a role in your personal life and help transform your career goals," Myers said. "Which then has a trickle-down effect on transforming communities."

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

CRIME LOGS

Editor's Note: The East Carolinian Crime Logs are derived from East Carolina University Police Department's (ECU PD) public crime logs accessible to all individuals. Crime Logs are done within the partnership of ECU PD and The East Carolinian, as this publication is meant to act as an additional resource for Pirate Nation. Below are listings of criminal activity that has occurred on or within proximity of main campus.

April 13, 2022

An open investigation is being conducted for Injury to Real Property at Tyler Hall at 6:15 p.m. and 8:56 p.m.

April 14, 2022

Sexual Battery, Second Degree Trespassing and Warrant Service for Other Agency were cleared by arrest at the West End Bus Stop at 6:14 p.m.

April 15, 2022

An open investigation is being conducted for Damage to Coin Operated Machine at Fletcher Hall at 9:05 a.m.

A Possession of Marijuana <1/2 oz. and Possession of Marijuana Paraphernalia were cleared by citation at PVA Ashton Woods Apartments 11:24 p.m.

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to pass the bill, Jordan said the House of Representatives is amending provisions within the bill to make the legislation bi-partisan.

"This is why voting is important because things like this couldn't come to pass unless you were voting for representatives that were thinking about the regular people," Jordan said. "Representatives that could see us in line at Walgreens paying upwards of \$400 or \$500 for medicine that we need every month."

Division Chief Professor of Medicine for the Division of Endocrinology Almond Drake said the high price of insulin is a challenge for a lot of patients depending on their type of insurance, deductibles and copays.

Even if insurance covers the medicine, Drake said it may have a large deductible or copay causing someone with a tight budget to be unable to afford a month's supply of insulin.

The Affordable Insulin Now Act will benefit

patients with both private health insurance and Medicare, Drake said.

"It's (the bill) not going to solve the problem for all patients, but every step is good that we can make toward making medicines more beneficial for patients," Drake said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 37.3 million Americans have diabetes and in North Carolina it affects generally 10 to 14% of the population, Drake said.

Drake said the bill will improve the cost and accessibility to medications. He said if diabetes is poorly controlled, a patient is more likely to die from severe heart, kidney or nerve complications and that too will result in costly medical bills.

"I think nothing is going to do the job completely until we have insurance for everybody. Universal healthcare coverage is the ultimate answer," Drake said. "I applaud the government for trying to take some action, even if it's relatively first step limited action, but

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four years, he said ECU experienced a consistent turnover of various leadership positions.

"Chancellor Rogers has not only done some great things here already in just a year, but the greatest thing he's done is that he's just been here," Kneubuehl said.

In the upcoming fall 2022 semester, Kneubuehl said he expects student organizations to expand at a significant rate since campus has returned to function at full capacity

Kneubuehl said for those about to graduate, he recommends students walk the entire campus one last time and soak in all the memories they made at ECU.

"There's a level of accomplishment, more than just attaining a college degree that you navigated. Not knowing what the next semester, let alone the next year, is going to bring and while you've done that, you've kept moving forward because now you're graduating," Kneubuehl said.

"Just rely on what you've learned, rely on your talent, rely on your family and the people around you and know that ECU always has



Eric Kneubuehl

your back."

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Virginia Hardy has worked at ECU for more than 28 years and will retire after the 2021-2022 academic year.

Although it is bittersweet, Hardy said she is prepared to retire and excited for new changes to come.

After her retirement, Hardy said she hopes to continue to consult with individuals and serve at various organizations as she said she has a skillset that is still operable for work.

"Someone asked me this when it (her retirement) was first announced about do I have any regret or any unfinished business so to speak and there's no unfinished business, there's a lot to do but there's nothing left for me to do so that's a good feeling," Hardy said.

A large change to come out of the 2021-2022 school year was having three vice chancellors set to retire including herself, Interim Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Ron Mitchelson and Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, Economic Development and Engagement Michael Van Scott, Hardy said.

Throughout her time at ECU, Hardy said she will remember the groundbreaking ribbon cutting ceremony for the Main Campus Student

it's still progress."

Senior biology major Baldwin Bell said he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in eighth grade when he was 13 years old. He said he noticed something was wrong when he felt symptoms of drowsiness, nausea and an abnormal taste in his mouth that resulted from ketones, which is a telltale sign of diabetes.

Fortunately, Bell said he had insurance when he was diagnosed but he is fearful in situations of travel or misplaced insulin because of the long procedure it takes to get a refill.

Representatives that oppose the bill have looked at it from an economic standpoint, Bell said. He said the new bill will help advocate the need for lower drug prices, so if it is taken into effect, it will not only benefit people with diabetes, but others in the future.

"I feel like a person's life should definitely take priority over the economics of our state or our nation," Bell said.

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

Center, the Aycock residence hall name change and how students have grown to hold the administration accountable.

"I want the students to continue to go forth and do great things and to do them continuously in a responsive way and be good citizens and show everybody else what an ECU education and an ECU experience can do for you," Hardy said.

Senior finance major Darian Rone said he is both excited and nervous to graduate and gain real world experience, but knows that ECU prepared him to succeed. He said he is proud that he remained dedicated to his studies.

This year, Rone said he was excited to see the campus uplifted following the COVID-19 pandemic and although ECU carries a reputation as a party school, he has received a high-quality education.

"It's perfectly fine to go out and have fun, but just remember that you're paying for your education and that's what truly comes first so prioritize that," Rone said.

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

OUR VIEW

Have a great summer, good luck on exams

As the East Carolina University spring semester comes to an end, students must remain focused on end-of-year exams before beginning to enjoy the summer. Students, especially seniors, may feel more stress as they prepare for their college exams during this time of the year. It is important to utilize campus resources that will be of help as many approach final assignments and exams.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, would like to wish students the best of luck on their exams and hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer. Students should remain safe, aware and healthy during the last days of the semester.

Students should remain in contact with their support systems as they get through this stressful part of the semester. It's important to make sure mental and physical health remains a priority as various healthy coping mechanisms are available.

Students can schedule a counseling appointment with ECU Student Health Services or the Counseling Center for Student Development if needed. In terms of healthy coping mechanisms, it is also important to stay active, get proper rest, stay organized, manage time effectively and more.

Once the semester concludes, Barefoot on the Mall will be back in action on April 26 and students can release all the stress that was built up throughout the school year before exams officially begin. We encourage students to partake in this yearly tradition to make lasting memories with friends and the rest of Pirate Nation.

PIRATE RANTS

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

I would love if the dining halls actually made grilled cheese with out the panini press and one piece of cheese. Like who wants a grilled cheese that's just one piece of cheese and mostly bread like no one want that.

To everyone saying Greenville needs a Trader Joe's—you can request a location on their website. I did it, and you should too.

It'd be great if the professors would be more understanding of mental illnesses and the affect they can have on people's school work and motivation. That is all.

If a Trader Joes get built after I leave Greenville for good, I will actually cry.

Why is it that the Club Cheer team requires you to have your hair straight for the events they do?

We need to know who the keynote speaker for graduation is by now

The bowling alley in Mendenhall needs to come back. What was the logical reason for closing it for good anyway? It was fun while it lasted. :')

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.





Managing Editor Hannah Bolick and Editor-in-Chief Jennifer Sieg pose together with the Valentine's Day print edition of The East Carolinian.

» SENIOR COLUMN

A farewell reflection of four years

Jennifer Sieg
TEC COLUMNIST

Four years, 209 weeks, 1,461 days, 35,064 hours – how can it go by so fast?

As I sit here and write this column during my last few weeks as an undergraduate student, I'm in awe of how quick these past four years have gone by.

It feels like just yesterday I was a clueless freshman who was living 1,200 miles away from my small hometown in northern Wisconsin for the first time. I was in an unfamiliar place surrounded by unfamiliar faces and was completely unsure of what the future had in store for me.

Overall, the four years I have spent as an undergraduate student have given me the absolute best of opportunities, friendships and accomplishments that I could have ever asked for.

In terms of academics, I was able to study abroad in Italy for three months, make the Dean's List every semester, pursue two concentrations, receive the outstanding journalism concentration student of the year award, and graduate with a Degree with Distinction honor of Magna Cum Laude.

If you would have told me this is where I would have been four years ago, I would have absolutely not believed you for a second.

Ultimately, at the end of the day, all of these accomplishments wouldn't mean

“ Four years, 209 weeks, 1,461 days, 35,064 hours – how can it go by so fast? ”

-Jennifer Sieg

anything if I wasn't able to celebrate and experience them all with the people I have grown to care so much about.

In terms of friendships and opportunities, I had the opportunity to work at The East Carolinian (TEC) for three years and end my time here as editor-in-chief. Throughout my time at TEC I have met some amazing people, learned from the best of mentors, and gained friendships that I will forever hold close to my heart; this is what has meant the most to me these past four years.

I will soon head abroad to pursue my master's degree in London, and it is so bittersweet to be leaving this place that I have called home for such a long time. Although I will forever be thankful for everything I have experienced here as an undergraduate student, I am so excited to enter this next stage in my life and career, even if I am exceptionally nervous.

Many of us might be unsure of what the future holds, but that is OK. We never know what can happen next, yet I truly believe

everything happens for a reason. Coming from someone who was once a nervous and indecisive first-generation student with little to no short-term and long-term goals, I can promise you that everything will eventually fall into place.

It takes time, effort, countless hours, restless nights and a whole lot of tears and laughter in order to figure out who you really are and where you want to be – so be patient. If it weren't for learning how to be calm and content with all of the obstacles thrown at me on my journey of self-discovery, I wouldn't have been able to excel through it all and be where I am today.

If there is one concept that I hope you are all able to learn during your time as a college student, it is that time does not slow down for anyone. Make sure you're cherishing every moment of every day and take up every opportunity that is in front of you, even if you're slightly skeptical.

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

» SENIOR COLUMN

Notice beauty in your own story

Hannah Bolick
TEC COLUMNIST

Reading enthusiasts will know what I mean when I refer to that feeling of hollowness when you finish a good book. When you lost yourself in the story and fell in love with the main character and felt like you lived the whole plot yourself.

Only now you have let that last page slip between your fingers, and you're gently closing the book, trapping that story between the covers again. You're just staring at the wall content and warm, but a little empty and a little unsure of what to do next.

Nearing the end of my time in college feels a lot like that.

My last four years have been the most exciting epic story that is now coming to an end and I'm finding myself much more reluctant to let this last page slip through my fingers than I anticipated.

I started my time at ECU not entirely sure this is where I wanted to be and I definitely wasn't sure what I wanted to study for the next four years. Now, I can unequivocally say that ECU is absolutely and emphatically where I was meant to be. As for my course of study, I can thank this newspaper for that.

The East Carolinian (TEC) is where I fell in love with journalism and from the

“ The East Carolinian is where I fell in love with journalism. ”

-Hannah Bolick

moment I turned in my first finished story I knew I had found my passion.

Covering some random SoundCloud rapper's concert, Yung Gravy I think was his name, with my bestie and then-chief Emily Peek will truly be the highlight of my time in college.

However, fun assignments and practical work experience aren't all that TEC has given me, we can't forget that I now pepper all my friends and family with AP Style trivia and have nightmares about the newspaper every night after production.

Every day at the paper has been an adventure and this last semester, leading with my editor-in-chief and partner in craziness Jenny

Sieg has been more fulfilling and more fun than I ever could have imagined. I simply cannot believe that I found such an incredible friend so close to the end of our time at ECU.

Let my story be a lesson that though you may not know where the journey is taking you, all the highs and lows will come together in the kaleidoscope of your memory to create a beautiful picture that is unique to you.

So although your story may not include a chapter where you become an AP Style wiz, take time to notice the little quirks this time and this place give you. Take time to admire the beauty of the story while you're still in the middle of the book.

On the shelf, I know there is another book waiting for me, just as there is for you. So while I'll happily take some time to sit in the hollow bliss of this ending, I know that there is another bright adventure awaiting me when I leave here.

Now let me dry my tears because I have one last paper to produce for you and, as always, there is plenty of work still to be done. <3

Bolick is an English and communication major and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

OUR STAFF

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

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Contact Info

The East Carolinian
Mendenhall Main Floor,
Greenville, NC, 27858-4353

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com
Newsroom: (252) 328-9238
Ads: (252) 328-9245
Fax: (252) 328-9143

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT

ECU Student Duplexes at Wyndham Circle 2 and 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Bath, Cathedral Ceilings, Newly

Decorated, Great Price, Large Deck in Back Yard for Grilling, Some Pets O.K., Great Parking Available July 1 and August 1, 2022 \$700.00 month Call fast 1-252-756-3009 or text 252-341-9789

ECU House for Rent! 3 Bedroom 1 ½ Bath, 1909 East 4th St. \$1500.00 month! Call 252-756-3009.

HOROSCOPES



Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 9 — Listen to your professional intuition. The facts you need can be found. Let someone teach you a new trick. Make an important connection.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Take your physical performance to the next level. Healthy practices, delectable meals and rest are foundational elements. Connect with nature for soul food.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 9 — A push now can get especially profitable. Listen to intuition and common sense. Money saved is money earned. Simplify. Extra preparation pays off.



Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Widen the scope of your investigation. Expand terrain. Dig into a fascinating subject. Learn through your own experience or that of another. Explore.



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 9 — Romantic possibilities abound. Beauty inspires you. Get creative to express what's in your heart. Practice your arts and talents. Weave your magic spell.



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Take charge for excellent results. Small victories build confidence that contributes to larger ones. Advance personal projects with love. Inspiration animates your actions.



Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 9 — Provide resources to a collaborative venture. Advance shared goals and plans. Take advantage of financially favorable conditions. Contribute your potatoes to the pot.



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Fill your home with love. Clean rooms and spaces. Add details like flowers, delicious flavors and fragrances. Share treats with family and pets.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Get into a peaceful groove. Good music inspires private productivity. Consider where you've been and what's ahead. Adjust plans and preparations. Recharge with nature.



Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 9 — Give support and be supported. Share and connect with your partner. Listen and learn. Follow instructions, intuition and unspoken clues. The attraction is mutual.



Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Possibilities arise in conversation. Solve a puzzle by working together. Get creative to deliver a powerful message. Write, edit and connect. Engage and share.



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 9 — Friends spice things up. Share support, consolation and laughter. Teamwork makes everything easier. Connect with your community, tribe or team. Together, you're formidable.

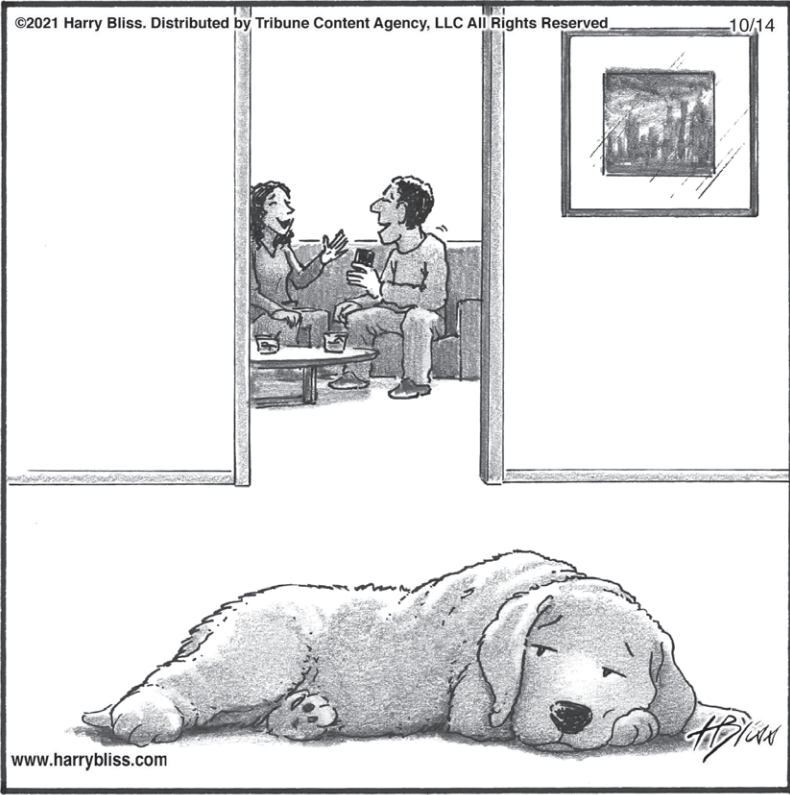
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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BLISS



CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
18			19					20	21			
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42				43	44	45	46			47		
48				49						50		
51				52						53		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

1 ___ Hanna; "NCIS: Los Angeles" role
4 Blanchett's namesakes
9 "I ___ Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"
12 Ms. Lupino
13 "Return to ___"; reality series
14 Poet Eliot's initials
15 "___ with a Plan"
16 Scenic view; panorama
17 Zambia's continent: abbr.
18 "___! You're on Candid Camera!"
20 Esther of "Good Times"
22 Actor on "NCIS: New Orleans"
26 Gale of "My Little Margie"
27 Q-U connectors
28 "How the West ___ Won"
29 "Last Man Standing" role
32 Family of actor Richard
35 Actress on "Grey's Anatomy"
39 Alley cat
40 LBJ's successor
42 Fraternity letter
43 "___ Your Voice"; film for Hilary Duff

47 "The Kids ___ Alright"
48 Wide-width shoe
49 Wading bird
50 Actor on "The A-Team"
51 Kildare & Quinn: abbr.
52 Like a bubble bath
53 Signal of distress

DOWN

1 Actor Alastair & his family
2 West & Sandler
3 ___depressive; bipolar
4 Dick ___; talk show host of past decades
5 "What Kind of Fool ___?"
6 "... ___ the season to be jolly..."
7 Suffix for bold or cold
8 "___ Tank"
9 Drags one's feet
10 ___ as a pancake
11 "The Way We ___"; Barbra Streisand film
19 Spanish article
21 "Days of ___ Lives"
23 "___ Heist"; Stiller/Affleck/Alda movie
24 Actress Sônia ___
25 "I ___"; Penn/Pfeiffer film
29 Grandma on "The Waltons"
30 Changes; alters
31 Historical period
33 Bob Newhart's age
34 ___ Lanka
36 Actor Lew
37 Reasons to study
38 Guy Williams series of old
39 Drove too fast
41 Brooklyn team
44 Not long ___; recently
45 Paul's cousin on "Mad About You"
46 Last month: abbr.

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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

5				7	4				8
9				8					
		6			1			9	
		4					1		
				2	1	6			
		8					3		
	9			3			7		
									6
7		1		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 4/13

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

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Rebel

Arts & Literature Magazine

Now accepting submissions through

April 25th

For more information, email rebel@ecu.edu

EVENTS

TODAY

ECU MFA & BFA Printmaking Exhibit
Greenville Museum of Art
802 S. Evans St.
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(252) 758-1946

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

NCLR Poetry Editor Reading Across North Carolina
Joyner Library
1000 E. 5th St.
4 to 6 p.m.
(252) 328-6851

Earth Week Film Screening
ECU MCSC
501 E. 10th St.
6 to 8:30 p.m.
(252) 737-1016

TOMORROW

Therapeutic Thursdays - Succulents
MCSC Well-Being Hub
128 E. 7th St.
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(252) 328-5770

CRW: Zip Thursdays
North Recreational Complex
3764 US- 264
4 to 7 p.m.
(252) 328-1577

Self-Defense Nights
Eakin Student Recreation Center
Room 238
7:45 p.m.
(252) 328-5770



NIA CRUZ | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU's Catherine Gardner prepares for her role as Sister Angelica in the Opera Theater's performance to take place at St. Paul Episcopal Church.

ECU opera to perform two shows

Olivia Williams
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina Opera Theater will perform two operas, “The Prodigal Son” and “Sister Angelica,” at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow and Friday at the St. Paul Episcopal Church at 401 E. 4th St. in Greenville, North Carolina.

The performances include ECU vocal studies students and some of the faculty from the program. Daniel Shirley, assistant professor of vocal studies, said the voice studies department has been preparing for the show all semester long.

“I most look forward to seeing the enjoyment and pride on the faces of our students’ family members and friends,” Shirley said.

The two pieces that will be performed at the two shows come from a religious background, Shirley said. “The Prodigal Son” was composed by Benjamin Britten and “Sister Angelica” was composed by Giacomo Puccini.

Shirley said that the ECU School of Music and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church have a close musical and community collaboration. That is one of the reasons the performances will be performed in the church.

“The sanctuary of St. Paul’s is the ideal setting for these two operas, and will be able to draw out colors and emotions that even the finest theaters in the world could not,” Shirley said.



Daniel Shirley

One of the music selections that the audience can expect to hear is “Senza Mamma” in “Sister Angelica,” Shirley said. This song is the most famous in the area and is a well-known song.

There are about 30 voice studies students that will be in the performances, Shirley said. One of those students is junior voice performance studies major Tucker Wright who will perform in “The Prodigal Son” as one of the younger sons.

“This father has two sons and basically the whole story is about me wanting something more, kind of like wanting to experience the world,” Wright said. “The crux of the story is me experiencing sin and then sort of returning home.”

Wright said that ECU faculty and students are not the only ones performing in “The Prodigal Son.” Shirley has employed kids from the Greenville community to be a part of a children’s choir in the performance.

There are parts written for children in the show. Wright said that this is his first show working with kids and that it has been a really fun experience.

“I think the youngest is like first or third grade,” Wright said. “Then some of them are as old as in middle school.”

Wright said he has had a passion for music since he was in high school. He thought that he had to be famous to have a career as a singer but once he learned that he had more options he made the decision to go into voice studies.

Wright decided to switch his major from voice education to vocal performance because he wanted to fully commit himself to music. Eventually he wants to get his master’s and still teach music one day too.

“I saw music as a passion project, but it was something that I couldn’t see as a career,” Wright said. “There is a lot more in music than just being a famous opera singer.”

Second year graduate student and vocal

pedagogy major Ivana Popovic will perform in “Sister Angelica.” This performance is an all female cast.

Popovic said she did not want to give away too much detail of the performance and risk spoiling it, but she said the story is about a woman, Sister Angelica, who joins a convent.

“Throughout the story you don’t know why she joined the convent and later her sister, a princess, comes in and delivers some papers she needs to sign and finds out some difficult news,” Popovic said.

In this performance Popovic has the opportunity to work side-by-side voice faculty members Catherine Gardner and Jamie Rhode. She said that it has been a fun experience to act with her teacher and other voice faculty.

“Dr. Catherine Gardner, she’s the one that I study voice with primarily,” Popovic said. “It’s been super cool to just watch her learn and just go through the same process that we’re going through and see how a professional does it.”

Popovic said that the audience can expect to hear two different types of sounds from each performance. “Sister Angelica” has the classic elegant opera sound from the performance and will be sung in Italian. The music from “The Prodigal Son” has a darker tone and sound to it.

“‘Sister Angelica’ is truly what people think of as opera, that is the sound they expect,” Popovic said. “The Britten is just not really like that and I think that will be a little shocking to some people.”

Tickets for the performance are \$5 for students with ID and \$15 for general admission.

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

OCNA will reopen tomorrow with guided hike

Destiny Miles
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Otter Creek Natural Area (OCNA) will have its grand reopening tomorrow to encourage East Carolina University faculty, staff and students to explore for research, teaching and outdoor adventure.

ECU Sustainability Manager Chad Carwein said the woodlands of OCNA comprise approximately 70 acres, and is located one mile northwest of Falkland Street in Pitt County. From the Main Campus Student Center, it is about a 20 minute drive.

Carwein said the land was gifted to ECU back in the mid-80s and for the first 15 to 20 years, faculty brought their students out to the area to do research such as identifying plants and water quality sampling. However, the land became neglected over time, Carwein said.

“Everybody forgot about this place, even the police or environmental health and safety, the groups who do risk management for the university haven’t thought about this place,” Carwein said. “Now that we are having this grand reopening event, we are hoping it will spur use of the natural area for teaching and researching and guided recreational opportunities.”

OCNA was brought to Carwein’s attention by a biology professor and they went out there and flagged the trails to

establish where they were. Carwein said he has taken student groups out there once a month since September 2021 to re-establish the trails.

“Trying to get Otter Creek back in shape where people can come out there and hike the trails and do projects, so that’s our goal,” Carwein said. “I see opportunities for the outdoor adventure leadership program and campus rec and wellness. They could do monthly hikes for the students.”

OCNA won’t be open to the public yet but it is currently intended for only ECU students, faculty and staff for research, teaching purposes and hopefully recreational purposes, Carwein said.

The land has been forgotten about and the grand reopening will be used to spread the word about the natural area and remind people that it is available for university use.

“There are birds including hawks and owls, foxes and coyotes and neighbors next door have seen black bears in the natural area,” Carwein said.

Chair of the University Environmental Committee Susan Pearce said the Faculty Senate has a series of committees that does certain work for the university and one of the committees is the University Environmental Committee. This committee has been looking into bringing the site back to use for ECU.

Pearce and the committee have been working with Carwein by supporting and making minor decisions about OCNA. Pearce helped organize and establish rules for access and what the land can be used for.

“The area cannot be used for fishing and hunting but (can be used) for university teaching and research, along with creative activities,” Pearce said. “Biology professors can take students out there to look at the plants and art professors can take students out there to sketch and photograph.”

OCNA is something that will be valuable to the community and the biggest benefit of having OCNA reopened is having awareness of the importance of nature and preserving it for the ecological crisis that is going on right now, Pearce said.

“We look forward to making this available for the campus again,” Pearce said. “I’m really happy that ECU preserved this land instead of having it developed.”

Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Safety and Auxiliary Services Bill Koch said that Pearce and Carwein have been the driving force behind the grand reopening of OCNA and he participates with them on the University Environmental Committee as well.

“It is not open to the general public but it is open to the campus community and campus rec and wellness. There is an adventure program and there have been



CONTRIBUTED BY CHAD CARWEIN

OCNA will reopen for the ECU community tomorrow.

discussions of their interest so hopefully we can also open it up that way,” Koch said.

There will be a bus at the Main Campus Student Center waiting to take students, faculty and staff to OCNA on Thursday. The bus will say Otter Creek and will leave at 1:30 p.m. and return no later than 4 p.m.

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

ROMEO continued from A1

liberties where we feel as we see fit.”

The role of Romeo will be played by senior professional acting and musical theatre major Keagan Kermod. He said he is excited to play Romeo as it will allow him to play a more “dramatic role.”

Kermod said they will use the original script written by Shakespeare but it is still modern. He said rehearsals have been successful thus far and he specifically enjoys the knife and sword fight scenes in which he will participate.

“It being my last show here, it’s an important show for me. I am trying to treat it just as I would

any other show but there are a lot of feelings with it,” Kermod said. “It’s a ‘goodbye,’ a ‘thank you,’ it’s me showing my work. I am trying to take everything I’ve learned in the past four years and apply them as I would if it were at a professional job.”

Kermod plans to be back after he graduates at ECU in order to participate in the SoTD’s summer production of “Mamma Mia!,” which will be open to an audience at 7:30 p.m. on June 23 through June 25, with additional showings at 2 p.m. on June 25 and June 26. He said in the past month he has reflected on all that he had accomplished and those who helped him get there. Kermod said he is thankful for his time at ECU.

Junior professional acting and theatre education major Tatiana Burrus will play the role of Mercutio in “Romeo and Juliet.” She said for auditions, they were given the choice of three different Shakespearean monologues to read from and then were called back for certain roles.

Burrus said Funaro told them he wanted to take a different approach by “gender-bending” the roles. Her role of Mercutio is a male in the original play and she said the role of Benvolio will also be played by a woman.

“I was surprised because it’s a male role and I had never been called back for a role like that before, so I was very surprised but really excited,” Burrus said. “When I read over it (the script), I thought ‘this would be so cool if I could play this.’”

Burrus said she feels as though Mercutio is one of the most well-written characters in Shakespeare. She said she relates to him in that he is very loyal, however, she said she is very different in other ways.

She has a mix of emotions as the semester comes to an end since she will be a senior next year. Burrus said she feels that “Romeo and Juliet” is a great show to end the semester on.

“It’s bittersweet because it’s a great show to go out on. It’s been a lot of fun and I am really excited since it’s going to be my senior year next year which is kind of crazy to think about,” Burrus said.

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

TEC'spertZ

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this week's events

Max Lukas

News and Sports Reporter with WZMB

Baseball vs Tulane

April 22 through April 24

Score Prediction? 2-1 ECU

Why? It will be a challenge for the Pirates as they will be back on the road. The winner of this series will be which team can focus on the game and not the outside distractions.

Anthony Bove

Host of Inside the Lines with WZMB

Baseball vs Tulane

April 22 through April 24

Score Prediction? 2-1 ECU

Why? After an unbelievable performance on the road last weekend at UFC, this team is definitely feeling good about themselves and their chances of taking care of business this upcoming weekend at Tulane.



Incoming graduate student transfer wide receiver Isaiah Winstead during his official visit with the East Carolina University Pirates' football team.

Isaiah Winstead to join Pirates

Chris Long
TEC STAFF

In sports, the offseason is a time to recharge and retool. One of the most important parts of the offseason is honing the talent that is already present but what is equally important is bringing in new talent. The East Carolina University football team currently has 11 recruits enrolled onto the roster from the 2022 portal. The recruiting class, as it stands, is ranked 95th nationally. Graduate student transfer wide receiver Isaiah Winstead is leading the charge this offseason on players brought in by the Pirates' coaching staff. Winstead is coming to ECU after two seasons with the University of Toledo. In his six games played during the shortened 2020 season, Winstead caught 25 passes for 429 yards and three touchdowns. His average of 71.5 yards per game put him on watch with his team and opponents alike. Continuing his progression through the 2022 season, Winston played 13 games. In those 13 games, he caught 38 passes for 532 yards and a touchdown. In both seasons,

his longest catch was for 55 yards. Before playing in Toledo, Winstead was originally signed to Norfolk State University in 2018. With the Spartans, he caught 54 passes for 633 yards and five touchdowns. When Winstead entered the transfer portal, he was recruited by schools on every level. In the end, the Pirates won out. "The coaches there just made me feel like I was home," Winstead said. "From the recruiting coordinators to the head coach. They want me to be the number one receiver and offered much more opportunities." ECU is looking to fill the void of WR1 following former wide receiver Tyler Snead's decision to declare for the National Football League draft. The Pirates will retain sophomore wide receiver C.J. Johnson headed into the new season but will look for other options. "I felt as though they had my best interest out of all the other schools and with it being my last year, I had to go to a place I could trust," Winstead said.

Winstead committed on scholarship to ECU following his visit when he met with the team and head coach Mike Houston. "(Houston) talked to me like he was confident in my abilities and my ability to help the team. That was something special," Winstead said. "He wasn't second guessing anything and talked like he knew what he was talking about. That was something that caught my eye too." Houston was not the only person Winstead connected with, however. Winstead said the other reason he joined the Pirates was because of junior quarterback Holton Ahlers. "I got a strong relationship with the quarterback (Ahlers). He's really the number one reason I committed. We talk frequently," Winstead said. "A few of the players from Richmond I know. I got a chance to meet all the other people on offense as well on my official visit."

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

PATHWAY TO FREEDOM:
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SYMPOSIUM

MAY 21, 2022

The Underground Railroad refers to the efforts of enslaved African Americans to escape bondage. Wherever slavery existed, there were efforts to escape: many were carefully planned, some were opportunistic. The routes varied and included escape by both land and sea. Through the symposium, we will deepen our understanding of this remarkable and courageous movement by those bound by a system defined by denying agency. Join us for this symposium and luncheon with scholars to explore the Underground Railroad both nationally and regionally. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. \$5.00 +TAX; INCLUDES LUNCH. CALL 252 639-3524, OR PURCHASE AT NC HISTORY CENTER.

8:00AM TO 5:00PM

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GREEN continued from A1

the Cougars was close. Both the second and third games of that series were decided by one run, ending in an 11-10 victory for the Green Wave as well as a 10-9 loss. Tulane's offensive prowess has been on display all season with the most prominent example coming against Southeastern Louisiana University (16-20, 7-5 Southland Conference). In the dominant win, the Green Wave outscored Southeastern Louisiana by a score of 23-1. In both the third and fifth innings, Tulane scored eight runs while continuing to score for the rest of the innings. The Green Wave has not been held scoreless all season, whereas the Pirates have had three games where they were unable to put runs on the board. Those three scoreless games came in the series against Wichita State on April 10, the home loss versus North Carolina State University (23-11, 10-7 Atlantic Coastal Conference) on March 29, and the second game against the University of North Carolina (22-14, 8-10 ACC) on Feb. 26. ECU should be riding the momentum of the weekend sweep against UCF from Thursday through Saturday. In the three-game series, the Pirates outscored the Golden Knights 32 runs to eight. This was the highest volume of runs for ECU in a single series on the season. Since 2003, the record between the two teams is nearly even with the Pirates having a slight edge. In 19 years of play, ECU has 31 wins against the Green Wave to their 29. The Pirates won three of the last four games, all in 2021, and 10 of the last 12 dating back to 2017. Following the series against Tulane University, the Pirates will travel to Raleigh, North Carolina, to compete against the Wolfpack for the second time this season at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. The game will be available to listen to at 94.3 The Game FM. After facing NC State, the Pirates will return home to Greenville, North Carolina, to play a three-game series against Cincinnati from April 29 to May 1.

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

the BIG VAPE THEORY

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