



# FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT ECU'S FALL PROGRAMS AND WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THEM THIS SEASON.

Turn to **A7**

# The East Carolinian



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Volume 91, Issue 2

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

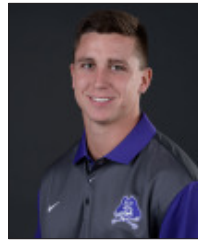
Thursday, 8.27.15

## Benkert to miss 2015-16 season

**Adam Decker**  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina head football coach Ruffin McNeill announced Wednesday afternoon that redshirt sophomore quarterback Kurt Benkert will miss the upcoming season because of a torn ligament in his right knee that he suffered at Tuesday's practice.

"Everyone in college football is affected by injuries and we are no different," McNeill stated. "I am disappointed for Kurt because



**Kurt Benkert**

he has worked so hard for this opportunity. We've got a lot of talent on this team and we'll be asking everyone to step up."

The announcement came exactly one week after Benkert was officially named ECU's starting quarterback. "You're talking about a kid who exempli-

fies what we want here in our program, off the field, work ethic," McNeill said. "It's not the things that happen to you, the deal is 90 percent how you react to them."

Benkert suffered the setback while running in the open field, and falling after attempting to cut. Benkert was carted off of the field with what was described as a non-contact injury.

Benkert was groomed and developed in the Pirate program for the last two seasons

with intentions of taking the reins after Shane Carden's graduation.

Benkert appeared in three games as a redshirt freshman last year, completing 8-of-10 passes for 58 yards. He also scored two touchdowns on five carries, including one against ECU's dismantling of North Carolina. "Its just a minor setback for a major comeback for him," McNeill stated. "No kid

> **BENKERT** page **A8**

## Former local anchor named WDBJ gunman

**Seth Gullede**  
TEC STAFF

Following the murder of a Roanoke, Virginia, news crew, a former Greenville news anchor and reporter died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.



**Vester Flanagan**

Vester Lee Flanagan, also known as Bryce Williams, was a local on-air personality for WNCT from August 2002 to November 2004.

According to the Franklin County Sheriff's office, the WDBJ-TV news crew, including Alison Parker, 24, and Adam Ward, 27, was filming live yesterday morning around 6:40, when Flanagan approached them and started shooting.

Both Parker and Ward died at the scene. The woman they were interviewing, Vicki Gardner, 62, was transported to the hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

Flanagan fled the scene before police arrived, but deputies were able to determine the vehicle he was driving, and around 11:30 a.m., Virginia State Police located Flanagan and attempted to pull him over.

Flanagan refused to stop the vehicle and fled, before running off the road into the median.

When troopers approached the vehicle, they found Flanagan suffering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Flanagan was transported by helicopter to a local hospital for treatment, where he died at approximately 1:26 p.m.

Before the shooting, ABC News in New York received a 23-page fax from someone claiming to be Bryce Williams.

Investigators are still attempting to piece together the motive of the incident.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.



MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Two North Campus Crossing residents sit on the curb while police search a building in the 4400 block of the apartment complex.

## NCC incident yields arrests

### Suspects apprehended after armed robbery at complex

**Kaitlyn Lee**  
TEC STAFF

**Kelsey Padgett**  
TEC STAFF

Two men have been arrested in connection with the armed robbery at North Campus Crossing apartment complex on Monday night.

The Greenville Police Department's Emergency Response Team was called to the scene after witnesses reported seeing the suspects run to an upstairs apartment.

The victim told officers two individuals robbed him of his cash and backpack. The suspects fired a shot at the victim and fled on foot. No one was injured.

Armored vehicles arrived on scene with SWAT team personnel.

The response team searched the 4400 block of the complex for more than two hours with assault rifles.

The main entrance of the complex was blocked off by police. Cars were not allowed to enter the area. ECU Transit buses were unable to enter the complex during the search and instead dropped students outside of the complex's gates.

Residents of North Campus expressed their confusion about the increased police presence.

Resident Taylor Sutterland, junior health service management major, said she was scared to pull into the complex, and remembered seeing undercover cop cars speed past her on her way home.

Darrius Montreal Clark Taft, 25, and Jawanza O'Kera Pittman, 23, have both been arrested and charged with a felony for robbery with dangerous weapon and felony for intent to kill.

Both suspects are being held in the Pitt County Detention Center under \$250,000 bonds.

Neither the suspects nor victim were ECU students or residents of the apartment complex.

Pittman was also served with warrants in connection with an unrelated breaking and entering case.

North Campus Crossing did not wish to comment.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.

## Annual watermelon festival to return to area

**Carlyn Legg**  
TEC STAFF

The 30th annual Winterville Watermelon Festival is set for this weekend and will feature attractions such as free live music, games, carnival rides, and contests.

This year there will be a range of musical genres as the festival tries to reach out to every demographic and offer entertainment across generations.

"You can't beat a free public event like this," said Tim Avery, chairman and founder of the Winterville Watermelon Festival. "People talk about our festival all year and each year we try to make sure there's something for everybody."

The festival will begin Thursday evening with performances by Groovetown, Bruce in the USA, and The E Street Band. The festival features artists from North Carolina and surrounding regions so audiences can see the talent that comes out of their home state.

"Thursday night is kind of the groove. 'Bruce in the USA' has been called the best tribute band to Bruce Springsteen in America," said Avery. "They've performed all over the U.S. and everyone just loves them."

On Friday evening, a Michael Jackson tribute band Who's Bad will perform on the big stage.

"The people around here love [Who's Bad] and they've performed everywhere: Japan, all over the U.S., and Australia," said Avery.

Saturday evening's music list features even more

well known artists. The festival invites big names heard on country radio that are from eastern North Carolina.

"Saturday we have Brian Mayer, who can be heard on the radio, and he's from New Bern, North Carolina," said Avery. "Then we have Chase Rice, who has been on tour with Kenny Chesney this summer playing all over the U.S. and he played football at UNC Chapel Hill."

Avery said he loves to see festival-goers come out and enjoy themselves. "This can be a busy time of the year, so we just want to see folks bring their kids, their friends and have a good time," he said.

With a staff that is solely volunteer based, the festival is humbled by the support it gets every year.

"We have an all volunteer staff of 42 people and without each and every one of them, the festival wouldn't be possible," said Avery.

The growing crowds that attend the weekend long event are family friendly and invite a wide range of audiences to participate. Food trucks, carnival rides, games, contests and free live music can be expected at the Winterville Watermelon Festival.

The Winterville Watermelon Festival is in Winterville, North Carolina located on Church Street. The festival will begin Thursday at 6 p.m. and will close for the year after the concert Saturday evening.

For questions or comments, contact arts@theeastcarolinian.com.



COURTESY OF WATERMELON FEST

Festival-goers eat watermelon at the annual Winterville Watermelon Festival.

**BRIEFS**

**Armed Robbery at The Bellamy**

At around 7:15 p.m. on Monday, three armed suspects forced their way into an apartment located in The Bellamy apartment complex and robbed the occupants of miscellaneous objects. The suspects were described as three black males ranging from 5-foot-2 to 6-foot-2 in height. The suspects fled the scene in an unknown direction and are currently at large. Anyone with information regarding the incident or suspects is encouraged to contact the Greenville Police Department.

**First China King delivery robbery suspect arrested**

The Greenville Police Department arrested 19-year-old Jeremiah Donzell Moore, and charged him for robbery in connection with the robbery of a China King delivery food driver earlier this week. On Monday at approximately 4 p.m., China King delivery driver was robbed at knife-point in the 200 block of Hollomon Street. According to the victim's report, three black males approached him while he making a delivery. He said they stole food and cash from the driver. The victim was not injured. The Greenville Police Department has said additional arrests are forthcoming.

# Two suspects arrested in mall bomb threat

**Kaitlyn Lee**  
TEC STAFF

Two Greenville men were arrested on Tuesday afternoon in connection with an unsubstantiated bomb threat at the Greenville Mall.

Suspects Matthew Jonna-Lloyd Ross, 19, and Scott Nelson Reynolds, 21, were charged with making a False Bomb Threat and Felony Conspiracy.

A bomb threat was reported at the Greenville Mall around 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

Greenville police said three caucasian males approached two separate shoppers in the mall. The males then told the shoppers there was a bomb in the building and they had a specific time to get out before the bomb would detonate

and videotaped their response. "We believe the suspects were recording their encounters with shoppers in an attempt to get a reaction and post it to social media sites," said Kristen Hunter, public information officer for the Greenville Police Department. "The phones belonging to the suspects are currently in property and evidence at the police department and will be reviewed by our forensic technicians."

Officers from the GPD arrived at the scene around 3 p.m. when the shoppers alerted mall security. GPD and ECU Police Department's bomb dogs did a sweep of the mall and no explosive devices were found. The three individuals ran out of the mall. One suspect was detained, while the other two suspects drove off in a car. Officers quickly identified the two suspects and they returned to the mall. Ross and Reynolds were interviewed by police along with another individual. Ross and Reynolds were later processed at the Pitt County Detention Center.



Scott Reynolds

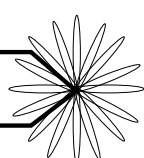


Matthew Ross

Hunter said bomb threats are not a regular occurrence that the police department deals with and many times, fake bomb threats aren't even publicized. "Law enforcement officers do not want to give the perpetrators the attention they are seeking or encourage anyone to copy their actions," said Hunter. "In this particular case, we were able to quickly identify the individuals involved and they were charged accordingly. We chose to release the information to the public with hopes that it would send a strong message to anyone considering pulling a prank similar to this. Prank or not—making a bomb threat is a felony."

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.

**ONLINE**



**Dental school begins new training program.**

*Corrections/ Clarifications*

The word "reins" was spelled incorrectly on the front page.

The front page photo inside Gateway residence hall was taken by Kyle Berry

The photo of Crave Restaurant and Bar was courtesy of visitgreenville.com

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper please contact Ryan Clancy, editor@theeastcarolinian.com

**Anna Parrish**  
TEC STAFF

Marianna Walker announced she will be stepping down as dean of the Honors College effective December 31. Walker has served as dean since July 2013.



Marianna Walker

"Dean Walker plans to return to research and her classrooms in the College of Allied Health Sciences," said Ron Mitchelson, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

for Academic Affairs.

David White, currently dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, will accept a position as an interim dean of the Honors College, which takes effect on Jan. 1, 2016.

White explained he has gained a lot of experience as a dean in the College of Engineering and Technology. He is looking forward to working with the top students of the university that add so much to the degree program.

"Dr. White is an experienced administrator, who I strongly felt could accommodate new tasks," said Mitchelson.

Since Walker was appointed dean in 2013, student applications have

increased 27 percent with 529 applications in 2013 to 773 in 2015. Fundraising for the Honors College has also exceeded \$2.9 million over the last two years.

White said he is looking forward to advancing the college's missions and staying on the path of the past deans by staying on pace. He wants to keep the honors college continuously moving.

"I support ECU and our mission about going forward 100 percent and have an opportunity to make a difference to this community," said White.

The search for a new permanent dean will begin in the upcoming months.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.

# Honors College dean steps down

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**What are the facts?**

Despite strict international sanctions and treaties, Iran has operated covert illegal nuclear facilities since the mid-1980s. In 2002, Iranian dissidents revealed to a surprised world that the Islamic Republic was building a uranium enrichment plant at Natanz, as well as a heavy water plant at Arak, the likes of which is capable of producing plutonium for nuclear bombs. In 2009, the U.S and other Western states discovered Iran constructing another secret enrichment plan—this one fortified deeply underground—known as Fordow. Notwithstanding all evidence to the contrary, Iran has insisted its nuclear program is peaceful. While Iran is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) found back in 2003 that "Iran's many failures and breaches of its obligations to comply with its NPT Safeguards Agreement...constitute non-compliance."

Indeed, in 2003 then nuclear negotiator and now president Hassan Rouhani bragged that "While we were talking with the Europeans in Teheran" about preventing Iran from enriching uranium, "we were installing equipment in parts of the [uranium conversion] facility at Isfahan."

In just the past year during the P5+1 negotiations, despite generous easing of international sanctions offered as incentive, Iran has cheated at least three times on related agreements. First, in violation of the Joint Plan of Action, which prohibited Iran from enriching uranium in new centrifuges, the IAEA in November 2014 caught the Islamic Republic using advanced, high-powered IR-5 centrifuges. Second, in February 2015, Iran was discovered to have about 300 kilograms of banned, gaseous low-enriched uranium, which can be used as reactor fuel. Third, Iran swore to the IAEA it would answer questions about the Possible Military Dimensions (PMD) of its previous nuclear programs, but to date it has mocked this commitment, revealing virtually nothing.

This consistent history of lying, cheating and weaseling out of agreements to limit its nuclear

weapons program engenders profound distrust of Iran's "agreement" to the Obama Iran Deal.

If we don't trust, can we verify? If Iran wants the \$150 billion in sanctions relief it is promised for adhering to this deal and if it has every intention of complying, why would it refuse to allow the "anytime, anywhere" inspections promised by President Obama? Yet the P5+1 abandoned strict inspection protocols, including the ability to inspect military sites, in exchange for a scheme by which Iran can delay any request to inspect other secret facilities for 24 days minimum (and possibly much longer) in a bureaucratic jungle—plenty of time to spirit away all traces of disallowed nuclear activity.

What's worse, astoundingly, neither the United States nor any of the P5+1 nations will be involved in inspecting Iranian nuclear sites. Instead, inspections will be administered by the IAEA, which has negotiated secret terms for these protocols with Iran, the wily sanctions evader, which we will never see.

But what if we actually do catch Iran cheating? Even if Iran is caught violating Iran Deal terms, the P5+1 has tied its own hands. The only penalty the P5+1 can levy against Iran is a "snapback" return to the sanctions—which could take months of negotiations among P5+1 partners. What's more, at the instant sanctions are reinstated, Iran has the right to abandon the entire agreement, flip its centrifuge switches and return to full-speed nuclear weapons development. By then it will have collected its \$150-billion reward and have little left to lose, but a nuclear arsenal to gain. With such stakes, it's certain no Western nation will want to upend the agreement for the kind of small, consistent incremental violations that have characterized so much of Iran's cheating in the past. We can also be sure that once British, French, German and Russian firms have lined up multi-billion-dollar oil and weapons contracts with Iran, they will be reluctant to kill those lucrative programs by reinstating sanctions.

“Only if the U.S. Congress defeats the Iran Deal can the international community avoid a nuclear-armed terror state—and the near certainty of a war.”

In short, if Iranians are determined to cheat, as they surely are, this deal leaves U.S. allies no means to catch them or force them to comply. Only if the U.S. Congress defeats the Iran Deal can the international community avoid a nuclear-armed terror state—and the near certainty of a Middle East or world war. Call your Senators and Representative to voice your opposition today: (202) 225-3121.

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**PIRATE RANTS**

God I missed ECU. I didn't even know.

Oh, you're mad about having to pay for printing? Welcome to every other UNC system school ten years ago!

The Gold bus to the Belk building is so slow, and there is not enough parking near the Belk building to accommodate students. Why are we treated unfairly? Get more buses or create more parking spaces! I'm tired of being late to class.

If you're the only girl in a group full of guys... we all know you always win the chubby bunny challenge.

So the Confederate flag is worse than rape and worse than child porn?

They took down Dukes of Hazzard because of a flag but you can eat subway while watching Cosby reruns

So since we are charged for all printing now, can teachers please quit making us print out 30 pages of slides for every class cause my allotted \$10 is gonna run out real fast!

To the person complaining about how printing now cost .02. Had people USED it and not ABUSED it, it would still be free.

The front page of TEC this week reported that ECU has 4,400 freshmen, but there was no source cited for this information. Is that count accurate, and if so, what is the source of this number? Thanks for keeping it factual TEC!

Left college hill, check the markets opening, the world is ending! Dow - 1000 OMG!

If you support defunding Planned Parenthood simply because of abortion services, but ignore the rape counseling, contraception services, and STI information, then you need to get educated before you make your opinions known.

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding rants can be directed to Zach Elsam at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Our view

# Gateway's classes limit experience

Gateway East and West residence halls opened their doors for the very first time last week at the top of College Hill. The residence halls are the newest buildings on campus and house 14 out of 17 of the Living and Learning Communities (LLC) at the university. In addition to housing mostly freshmen students, Gateway holds two sound-proof music rooms, study rooms, enclosed courtyard, and there is a multipurpose room that converts into three classrooms.

These classrooms are used for actual university classes, mainly COAD, but students who live in Gateway have the opportunity to take classes right there, which is a possibility unheard of before this semester. Previously, all students would have to take classes, like COAD, on main campus and most students still have to.

We as an editorial staff believe the option that Gate-

way students have to take a class in their dorm provides a disadvantage to them and their college experience. When students spend most of their time in their residence hall, they aren't able to fully experience campus. The students who are in LLCs may only have classes with other people in their community, so their chances to get to know other students are greatly reduced.

We believe that since some Gateway residents may not spend as much time on main campus as other students, the university should provide incentives for them to come and get the social interaction they could be missing out on. In addition to huge campus events such as Get a Clue and Barefoot on the Mall, the university should continue to target first year students especially in getting them to meet with each other and gain valuable college friendships.

# Hip-hop no longer just urban

NWA film silences critics in tandem with record hip-hop sales



**Kai Jones**  
TEC COLUMNIST

"Straight Outta Compton" has been one of the most buzzed about movies this year, but one of the things that lingered over the movie was the increased security that movie theatres wanted for the movie.

When the first weekend of the movie was over and the box office listed Compton at \$60.2 million without a single violent incident across the world the world finally understands that hip-hop is no longer just "urban."

CNN seemed stunned on the Monday after "Straight Outta Compton's" release weekend when there was no violence. The headline on CNN's TV news show was "Hip-Hop Film Had Long Lines, No Violence."

Movie theatres said the boost of security was because of NWA's hit "F\*\*\* The Police" during a time of police brutality, racial tensions in the movie still relevant to today, and attacks on moviegoers these past few months. Even so, CNN was reporting positively about the violence, it still seemed to many that it was another national news organization not understanding the intricacies of hip-hop.

Hip-hop is still looked at as just "urban" music, but hip-hop is now apart of pop culture. "Straight Outta Compton" has been the

**"Hip-hop is no longer built on gangsters and street credibility, but relatable lyrics and beats that appeal to listeners."**

*-Kai Jones*

No. 1 movie two weeks in a row, and the top three out of four first week album sales have been hip-hop albums.

Drake's If You're Reading This It's Too Late is 2015's current leader in digital album sales and second best overall in the United States, having sold 1,015,000 copies as of August. Kendrick Lamar's To Pimp A Butterfly had the second highest first week with 363,000. Dr.Dre's long awaited third album Compton comes in at fourth in 2015 with 295,000.

Even more than the sales, hip-hop has diversified the sound and content of popular hip-hop. In Lamar's Butterfly he explores topics of depression, the Willie Lynch theory, and dealing with life and still having self-esteem.

Hip-hop's diversification in the mainstream shows where you have artists like Kanye West, Fetty Wap, Drake, and J Cole; all very different artists with very different sounds.

Hip-hop, like everything, has increased the mainstream presence because of the internet. Urban music still exists but because of the internet many different subgenres exist.

Hip-hop is no longer built on gangsters and street credibility, but relatable lyrics and beats that appeal to listeners. Artists can range from A\$AP Rocky who raps a lot about fashion and drugs to Vince Staples, a grimy street rapper giving the realities of the ghettos of Long Beach, California.

Ultimately, the reason for this is that the listeners of hip-hop are different. Hip-hop artists are allowed to be themselves. In previous decades, hip-hop artists had to create an image of being a gangster or someone in the hood who could relate to the audience that was mainly black.

Jay-Z said in 2004 film "Fade To Black" that "Rappers are scared to be they self. N\*\*\*\*\* don't think going to accept them as themselves."

In the 2004 climate he was right, but since Kanye West's debut "The College Dropout" it seems like it's been acceptable to not be a gangster. It's time for the national media to realize that hip-hop is global, that it affects all cultures, and all genres of music.

Kai Jones is a junior communication major and a TEC columnist. To contact him email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com)

# Lessons from Hurricane Katrina



**Joseph Perez**  
TEC COLUMNIST

On the morning of August 25, 2005, Hurricane Katrina first made landfall on the coast of Florida. The next four days would, at the very least, be considered devastating for the area and its people that the storm smashed into. The ruin left by the storm was particularly detrimental to the states around the Gulf of Mexico. Many residents were forced to evacuate an area the size of Great Britain, leaving both material objects and their dreams behind them to drown.

Some who fled never returned to pick up the pieces of their old life, deciding there wasn't enough left to rebuild and setting up residence elsewhere. Others never had the chance to escape the onslaught, a confirmed 1,833 people lost their lives to this storm, and damage estimates are usually well over \$100 billion dollars.

How did this happen? This was a storm that we knew was coming; one that both our government's disaster relief forces and outside agencies tried to prepare for. The storm was bigger than initially estimated, but even beyond that fact there was a general confusion that existed between both the federal and local government, and disaster relief efforts put forth by agencies such as FEMA. America was unprepared. Our government failed to have the resources needed after such a catastrophe, such as clean water and temporary shelter; however we cannot place the blame solely on their ineptitude. American citizens were also caught off guard, most didn't know the proper routes to be taken for evacuation or where to seek shelter, and many were left trapped inside the storm without the proper resources. Where there is no food, drinking water, or shelter, chaos reigns, not society.

Ten years have passed, and in those ten years the threat of a natural disaster still looms overhead. By their very definition, natural disasters are usually difficult to predict. The next cataclysm America faces may not even give us a three day warning. A calamity like an earthquake or tsunami could strike without warning, causing uncountable damage. Infernos rage out west almost nonstop, and yet every night on the news you still see stories of average citizens who lose it all despite the fact that they have lived in a danger zone of wildfires for years. Relief agencies and the federal government alike took the criticism dished out to them after Hurricane Katrina and used it to revise plans and policies which would be implemented after a disaster. Most likely the government will be more prepared for the next tragedy, but citizens will probably not be. Many of us are content to take life one day at a time, which works great in certain situations, an apocalyptic scenario not being one of them.

Individuals should have their own plans for what to do when disaster strikes. For any type of emergency situation, people should take the initiative to plan accordingly. Know where you are going, how you will get there, and what to bring should danger arrive in any number of forms. We cannot always put our faith in the hands of the government to protect us in the event of a catastrophe. They may not always be able to aid us. Take it upon yourselves to be prepared, and be prepared for anything. In this universe of unknowns, anything can, and sometimes will, happen.

Joseph Perez is a junior majoring in parks and recreation management and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Poll results

**Did you attend Pirate Palooza?**

**Yes- 42.4%**  
**No- 57.6%**

## Poll question

**Do classes in Gateway limit the college campus experience?**

Visit [theeastcarolinian.com](http://theeastcarolinian.com) to vote.

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## Events

Weekly Wine Tasting  
Jefferson's  
Thursday from 5-7 p.m.

BSU Unity Showcase  
Wright Auditorium  
Thursday at 7 p.m.

Back to School Bar Crawl  
Fitzgeralds  
Thursday at 9 p.m.  
Tickets required

Corey Hunt Band ft. Todd Allmon  
Crossbones Tavern  
Saturday at 10:30 p.m.

Yoga in the Common  
Greenville Town Commons off First  
Street  
Sunday from 4-5 p.m.

Kenneth Noland Gallery  
Greenville Museum of Art

Scenes of Eastern North Carolina  
Greenville Museum of Art  
on view until Sept. 20



Billy Craig Jr. of The Eli Craig Band leads the group in a performance. The band is set to perform at Buccaneer Music Hall this Saturday evening.

## 'Buccaneer' hosts local band

### The Eli Craig Band to perform with young artist

Carlyn Legg  
TEC STAFF

Local country stars Erin Mason and The Eli Craig Band are scheduled to perform live at Buccaneer Music Hall Saturday evening in Greenville.

The Eli Craig Band was started by Billy Craig III two years ago as a rock band and quickly transformed into a country band, when he invited his father to join as the band's lead vocalist.

"I've been performing with country bands for about 10 years now and I joined the band when my son came up with the idea and got really serious about making it big," said Billy Craig Jr., lead vocalist in the Eli Craig Band.

Craig Jr. said the band looks forward to a rowdy crowd this weekend.

"We always have fun when we go to Greenville," said Craig Jr. "We've performed live at Tie Breakers and what used to be Lucky's, but it's

always full of energy. It's a rowdier crowd than most others, but we always have fun."

The Eli Craig Band is made up of four members, all from the eastern North Carolina region. Patrick Bouquio plays bass, Chris Woolard plays drums, and Billy Craig Jr. partners with his son, Billy Craig III for vocals.

"We all have separate full time jobs, but we're always communicating," said Craig Jr. "Whether it's about our new song that's coming out, having to come up with a set list for a show, or learning a cover song, there's always something going on."

With a music video in the works, the Eli Craig Band plans to perform their new song at Saturday's show and encourages the audience to look for their upcoming video release.

"The one thing about the Buccaneer, is that it's a country bar and there's not a lot of them like that," said Craig Jr. "None of them do it like the 'Buc.'"

Enthusiastic about their performance this weekend, the lead vocalist said he is excited to come back to Greenville because he enjoys the atmosphere.

"I'm always excited to perform in Greenville. No matter where we go, everybody knows ECU," said Craig Jr. "Whether we're down in Georgia, or Florida, we meet people who know about East Carolina."

Along with the Eli Craig Band, performing Saturday night, is Erin Mason. She is a student at Appalachian State University is a Chancellor's Scholar, who spends her free time songwriting and playing piano. With classical piano training and a performance background, Mason has a steady following on social media and is an up-and-coming artist in eastern North Carolina.

Opening for the Eli Craig Band, Mason

> COUNTRY page A5

# TV REVIEW

## 'Ballers' proves to be an audience favorite



Dwayne Johnson and John Washington party together during a scene in the show.



Kai Jones  
TEC STAFF

The star-studded comedy "Ballers" wrapped up its first season Sunday evening and is already being celebrated as the most watched 30-minute series on HBO in the past six years.

The show is kind of like an NFL version of "Entourage." Stephen Levinson was an executive producer on "Entourage" and creator of "Ballers" which could explain the connection.

The show centers around Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's character, Spencer Strasmore. Strasmore, former star linebacker of the Miami Dolphins, is now a financial adviser trying to adjust to life after football. One of the biggest challenges he faces is that he has never been a financial adviser before, and he's being pressured by his bosses to monetize his NFL friendships.

Three of Strasmore's closest friendships involve Charles Greane (Omar Miller), Ricky Jerrett (John David Washington) and Vernon (Donovan W. Carter). Strasmore ends up representing Jerrett and

Vernon as their financial adviser, and most of his personal problems stem from their issues.

Greane is a former offensive lineman who is also trying to adjust to life after football and has entered a crossroad period in his life. Although he knows he needs to find a real job, but is still gripping onto the glory days of his football career, which leads him to make a comeback after a short stint as a Chevy truck dealer. Jerrett, another one of Strasmore's best friends and client, is the diva wide receiver on the Dolphins.

Vernon is a young defensive lineman who stays in Miami but plays for the Dallas Cowboys and seems to be trying to repay everyone in his life by taking care of all of his family.

The characters in "Ballers" are connected through the NFL family with Strasmore as the base connection. Strasmore knows Jerrett because of his time in the NFL, and Jerret connects Strasmore with Greane. Strasmore and Greane are always saving Jerrett from himself. Strasmore, being a former veteran in the NFL, makes him connect

> BALLERS page A5

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### >> PLAN TO GO

**WHAT:** The Eli Craig Band and Erin Mason

**WHEN:** Saturday @ 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Buccaneer Music Hall

### COUNTRY continued from A4

hopes to grow her fans base in the Greenville community. With a unique sound that is compared by critics to Sarah McLachlan, Mason is eager to be discovered by country music fans.

“Erin has a unique soft vocal tone which sets her apart from other artists,” said Graham Barnes, executive music director at Englefield Country Radio.

Erin Mason will begin the performance at 9 p.m. Doors are set to open at 7 p.m.

For questions or comments contact [arts@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:arts@theeastcarolinian.com).

### BALLERS continued from A4

to the young misguided Vernon via the NFL family. Strasmore also represents Vernon but seems to be more of a father figure to him than his financial adviser.

The show’s first season had a well-executed plot for a comedy show and featured sarcasm and plot twists that continuously caused problems for the four main characters. The writing was packed with a lot of plot development for a 30-minute show, and because of the time restraint it kept the viewer interested. When the stories were finally getting deep, the credits would roll and the viewer would be left antsy waiting for next week’s show.

One of the best parts about the show is that football is actually a part of the comedy. Greane goes to get a job at a Chevy dealership and he tells one of the salesmen he played football in the NFL and the salesman says with a smile and jubilation of meeting an NFL player, “never heard of you,” leaving Greane with body

language of awkward embarrassment.

The show’s cinematography is appropriate because it’s very luminous and radiant, which fits the setting in Miami and the glow of the glamorous NFL player’s lifestyle. Another great quality is that “Ballers” is curated very well and the music matches the scenes’ ambience.

The show also featured a few players from the NFL, most notably Victor Cruz who was able to self-deprecate enough to play himself very well. Hall Of Famers Don Shula and Larry Csonka also made appearances.

“Ballers” is not hard-hitting, but it’s a perfect late night comedy. While the show’s complications are light hearted, the show redeems itself with comedic resolutions.

### RATING:

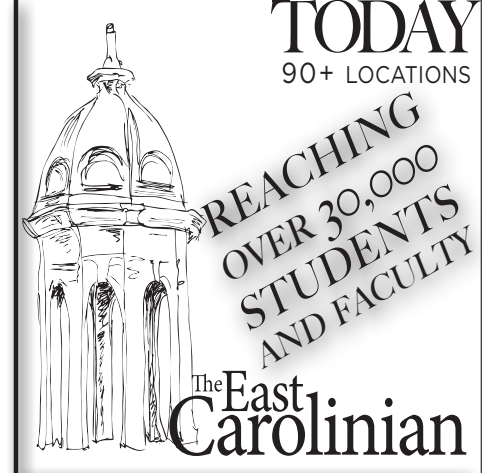


4 out of 5

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# PLATO'S

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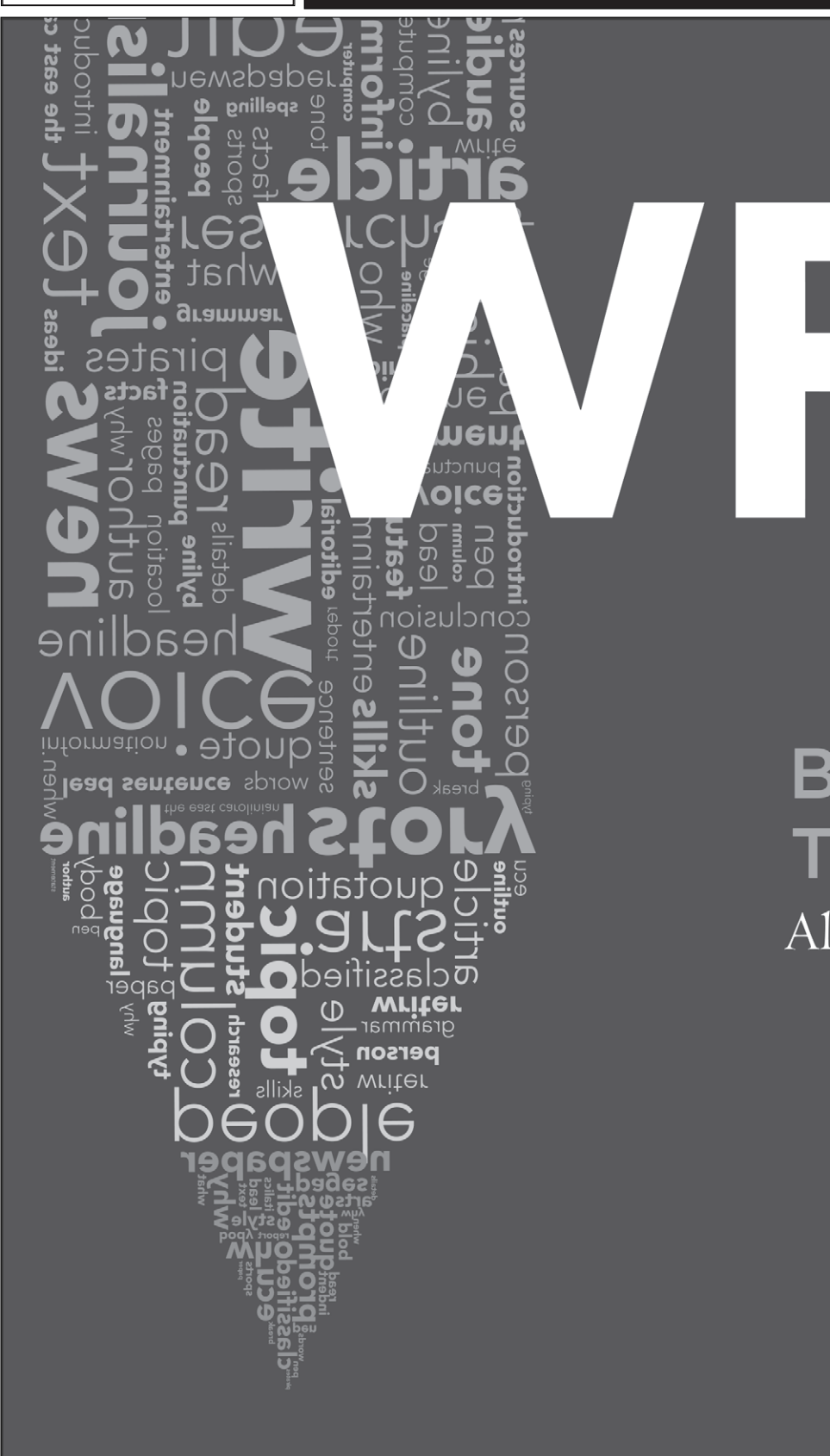
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# The East Carolinian



# Classifieds & Puzzles

theeastcarolinian.com

Thursday, 8.27.15

## HELP WANTED

Habilitation, Developmental Therapy Technicians and Certified Nursing Assistants needed in Greenville and surrounding areas to care for Intellectually/Developmentally Disabled individuals. Good pay and flexible hours available. Please apply online or in person at 903 E. Arlington Blvd Greenville, NC 27858 www.pinnhomecare.com

Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting youth soccer referees for the fall soccer program for ages 3-16. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of soccer rules and have the ability and patience to work with youth. Duties include but are not limited to: officiating games, ensuring safety of field/play, ensuring proper care of program/facility, conflict resolution, arriving to work on time and wearing referee uniform. Hours are from 8:00am to 3:30pm on Saturdays and 5:00pm - 9:00pm for some weekday games. Hours are flexible to class schedules. This program will run from September 12 - early November; trainings will begin in September. Officials will be required to

attend one mandatory new staff meeting and two mandatory training sessions prior to the start of the season. Referees will be paid \$12.00 / \$14.00 a game. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at 329-4550, Monday through Friday, 10 am until 7 pm. To apply, please visit www.greenvillenc.gov. Applications accepted until positions are filled.

Office Assistant for Greenville Law Office Needed. Excellent computer and people skills required as well as a high level of professionalism. Fax resumes to 252-752-7860. **Must Be Rising Junior, Senior or Graduate Student To Apply**

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## PUZZLES

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** **2** **3** **4**

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

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE 8/27/15

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

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FOR RELEASE AUGUST 27, 2015

## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Word seen before "or less" on supermarket signs

6 Elisabeth of "Hollow Man"

10 "American \_\_\_"

14 Musical ensemble

15 Cautious

16 Gospel trio

17 Caddy for pigeons?

19 Combustible heap

20 NBA division that includes the Bklyn. Nets

21 Very long time

22 On the agenda

24 Autograph signer's aid

26 Musical ensemble

27 Range stat.

28 Statistical aid for sheep?

31 1973 Rolling Stones ballad

34 "All in the Family" spin-off

35 Doomsday beginning?

36 "Coming Home" actor

37 Outmoded

38 Co-star of Boris in "Son of Frankenstein"

39 Latin I word

40 See 34-Down

41 Connected, in a way

42 Cantatas for cows?

44 Wine container

45 Code name

46 Longtime family-owned firearms company

50 Much

52 Undecided

53 Take flight

54 Big Bird buddy

55 Phone service for crows?

58 Sight from a slope

59 Stem-to-branch angle

60 Like some astrological charts

61 Without

62 Register compartment

63 Migratory birds

**DOWN**

1 16th-century conquest victims

2 Nail partner?

3 \_\_\_ Gay

4 NSAID, e.g.

5 Skyline highlight

6 Hogs

7 Dutch artist Frans

8 High-tech address

9 Sleeper's aid

10 Make worse

11 Market speculator

12 Storybook meanie

13 Served up a whopper

18 Sports ball brand

23 Theater ticket word

25 Word with dance or fall

26 Saving the whales, e.g.

28 Rudimentary

29 Mononymous kicker

30 Take charge of

31 Start of a big race?

32 Nautilus skipper

33 Wedding attendant

34 With 40-Across, 1911 chemistry Nobel

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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

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## Stay updated on ECU's sporting events.

Pick up a paper every Tuesday and Thursday this fall.

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## COMICS

### BEST IN SHOW

**Best In Show**

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M PACKING FOR MY TRIP TO THE NORTH POLE! I'M GOING TO MEET RACHAEL THERE!

WELL...HOW ARE YOU GONNA GET THERE?

DETAILS, DETAILS...

OK, SOMEONE CAN DRIVE BY ANYTIME NOW...

by Phil Juliano

### BREWSTER ROCKET

THE EARTH IS GAINING MASS AND IS STARING TO DRIFT OUT OF ORBIT.

THIS IS A CODE THREE ON OUR EMERGENCY SCALE!

WHAT'S OUR EMERGENCY SCALE AGAIN?

OH, RIGHT.

CODE 1 DENY  
CODE 2 IGNORE  
CODE 3 BLAME

## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) Today is a 7 -- Network and grow new connections. Rely on expert support over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Libra. Today and tomorrow are great party days. Pass along what you're learning. Listen to experience. Collaborate and share credit.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) Today is a 7 -- Anticipate changes. Begin a creative phase, with Mercury in Libra over the next three weeks. Expect more responsibility today and tomorrow, under the Aquarius Moon. Career opportunities arise. Things get interesting. Stay in rather than going out.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) Today is an 8 -- For about three weeks you're especially charming, with Mercury in Libra. Embrace cre-

ative wordplay. Your intelligence is attractive. Don't rely on an unstable source. Explore options today and tomorrow. It's getting easier to express love.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) Today is a 7 -- Today and tomorrow favor financial planning. It's getting easier to communicate at home over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Libra. Achieve family consensus on remodeling and renovation. Upgrade home communications infrastructure. Changes necessitate budget revisions.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Spend time with someone attractive. Romance and partnership flower today and tomorrow. It's getting easier to learn over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Libra. Apply logic as well as

emotion. Communicate a well-balanced perspective.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 9 -- Focus on a major improvement. Making money seems easier, with Mercury in Libra for the next three weeks. Communications and networking grow your income. Dig into a big job. Profit from meticulous service today and tomorrow.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Fun is the name of the game today and tomorrow. Passions get stimulated. You're even smarter than usual, with Mercury in Libra. Decide what you really think before speaking your mind. Listen to multiple views.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 6 -- Home and family take priority today and tomorrow.

Get into private planning over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Libra. Make household improvements and upgrades. Play with long-range plans. Learn from the competition.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- You're excellent at speaking to groups over the next few weeks, with Mercury in Libra. Crowdfund solutions. Consensus comes easier. Your popularity's increasing. Studies, research and communication outreach flow with ease today and tomorrow.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- The funding is available today and tomorrow. Get cooking! Public speaking impacts your professional status. A wealth of profitable ideas and opportunities bloom over the next three weeks

with Mercury in Libra. Share your experience and passion.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 9 -- Expand your territory over the next three weeks with Mercury in Libra. Your audience appreciates an interesting conversation. Form a new partnership. Your charisma grows under the Moon in your sign today and tomorrow. Wear your power suit.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Take two days for private meditation and peaceful productivity. Think before acting. Get your partner on board with your plan. Use the next few weeks, with Mercury in Libra, to implement financial changes. Invest wisely.

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# FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

## Soccer embraces veteran leadership

Alison Jobe  
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina soccer team is looking to move forward in the 2015 campaign with the help of four top-leading veterans who were injured during the 2014 season, and nine newcomers.

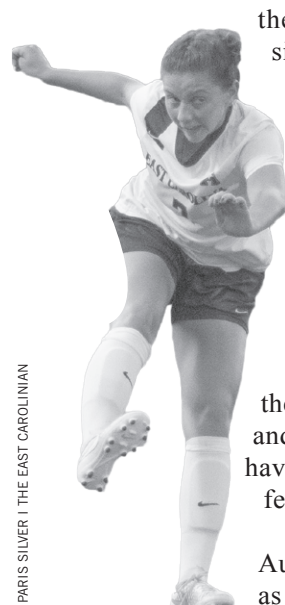
“We’re a team that wants to compete for the American Athletic Conference title. The games from this weekend showed that we have good talent. You’re always going to see a team who works hard and improves,” head coach Rob Donnenthur said.

ECU welcomed nine freshmen to start their collegiate career with the Pirates. Goalkeeper Caroline Jeffers; defenders Lindsey Tornabene, Madeleine Watson and Megan Jones; midfielders Ashley Kendrot and Ashley Jacobs; midfield/forwards Courtney Cash and Zoe Crabtree; and forward Brooke Carty join the 2015 soccer team.

ECU has returning threats as well. Forwards, senior Kendall Frey, junior Lana Spitler and redshirt senior Stephanie Seagrave are back to lead the 2015 season. Frey was one of 11 players selected to the league’s preseason all-conference team. Seagrave is back for her fifth season after cutting her 2014 season short due to an injury after just five matches.

Midfielders back for action include senior Kelsie Halsternrud, juniors Jenna Geist, Colleen Knier and Kelsey Reeves, as well as sophomores Danielle Eule and Rachel Renfrow. Geist made 20 starts and logged the third most minutes among all position players with 1,859, including every minute in 16 of the team’s 21 games.

For the goalkeepers, Sandra Baron is back to finish her collegiate career after having an injury that caused her to miss the entire conference slate last season. Baron was named the first American Athletic Conference Goalkeeper-of-the-Week for the 2015 season. Alongside Baron are sophomores Genavieve Ramirez and Division II Mount Olive College transfer, Drew Williams guarding the net.



PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

“Saundra was playing at a real high level last year when she was injured. Erika Lenns (recent graduate) stepped in and we were lucky. Saundra is a presence on the field. She plays with a lot of passion, and she can be a game changer. When you have someone like that behind you, you feel very confident,” Donnenthur said.

Returning defenders include juniors Autumn Berry and Caitlin Hite, as well as Haley Patsey, who missed all of 2014

> SOCCER page A9



MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU volleyball players celebrate in a group following a successful rally against conference foe Cincinnati last season.

## ECU volleyball hopes to climb AAC ladder

Carson Cherry  
TEC STAFF

After putting up a 15-16 record season in the team’s first season in American Athletic Conference, the East Carolina volleyball team hopes to enter this season with enough momentum to get its first winning campaign since 2006.

“I definitely think all the schools in the conference are a challenge,” said head coach Julie Torbett. “We beat all the teams at least once, except for the top four teams. All the teams in conference are getting better.”

The top four teams in the AAC last season were Central Florida, SMU, Temple, and Tulsa, respectively. UCF only lost two in-conference matches, both SMU and Temple lost five in-conference matches, and Tulsa lost six. ECU finished the conference portion of the season with a record of 6-14 — good for eighth. Torbett is looking to push the Pirates to finish better than that this season, hoping to leapfrog Tulsa in the top-four.

“I would say Tulsa is the team we would really

“We have a lot of young up and coming players that are exciting.”

-Julie Torbett

like to peg,” she said. “I think we are capable of doing that.”

The Pirates only lost one senior from last season, Zarah Cecich. However, her importance to the team can’t be overlooked as she played the challenging center position.

“She was the center, which is very important, almost like the quarterback of a football team,” said Torbett. “We will definitely miss her. We have a lot of young up and coming players that are exciting.”

The Pirates have a team that is full of experience this season. There will be six seniors on the roster for the team to rely on leadership and four freshmen entering their first season with ECU. The Pirates

> VOLLEYBALL page A9

## Golf teams faced with different challenges

Craig Moyer  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina’s men’s and women’s golf teams are striving to improve their games in hope of a successful season and look toward trips to the conference and national championships.

Both coaches know that every tournament of the season is important, but each have one or two they are focusing on especially. For Kevin Williams, the head coach for the women’s team, last year’s conference tournament was a disappointment as the team finished tied for fifth.

“We want to be playing our best golf at the end of the year and so hopefully come April, we will be better at the conference tournament than we were this past year,” Williams said.

For Press McPhaul, manning the helm of the men’s golf team, defending the title at the Rod Myers Intercollegiate event hosted by Duke is the first focal point of the season. The team goal is to make it to Eugene, Oregon, for the national championship and he feels the team is talented enough.

The men’s team is made up of 11 golfers, six of whom are seniors, and each bring different values to a team that underclassmen can not provide as long as they can stay focused on their game.

“They are older, more experienced, more mature. They have seen more; they have more experience to call upon and they should be able to make really good decisions,” McPhaul said.

However McPhaul said seniors can be distracted easily because as the year goes on they tend to think about what is next.



COURTESY OF ECU MEDIA RELATIONS

ECU redshirt junior Al Dickens prepares for a putt opportunity.

The women’s team has a different dilemma on its hands as it brings in two new faces to the team this season in freshmen Catherine Ashworth and Kate Law. Despite their inexperience, the freshmen are already being looked upon as major players on the team.

“We think they can help us, without question on the team dynamic side of things, but golf-wise we want those two freshman to get upperclassmen to achieve greater things,” Williams said.

Williams hopes the two freshmen will push the upperclass-

men to improve and lower their scores, but also feels they both have great chances to succeed themselves and possibly start if they overtake the upperclassmen.

“We feel both of them have a great chance to start and play because of their skill sets,” Williams said.

Both coaches agree the path to success is a day-by-day process and takes a lot of time as well as commitment and even though golf is an individual sport, it takes a team effort.

“My expectations are for us to work hard every day and do what we can to find a way to get better every day and I trust that will lead us to our objective,” McPhaul said.

Both teams are hoping the return of starters from last season will help lead them to success this upcoming season. The men’s team did not lose a single golfer from last year’s roster and the women’s team only lost one off their roster: Katie Kirk.

“We have a lot of players back from last year. Katie was the only starter we graduated, so we have three seniors who started the majority of the time last year,” Williams said.

Success hasn’t been hard to find for the women’s team until recently. In fact, the team had its streak of seven straight NCAA championship appearances end last year and also have not won a conference tournament since 2006.

“Our motto this year is going to be ‘It is time to start another streak’ and hopefully we get back to the NCAA’s to start a new streak this year,” Williams said.

For questions or comments, contact sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

### TAKEAWAYS

#### FOOTBALL

ECU starting quarterback Kurt Benkert suffered a torn ligament in practice on Tuesday, effectively ending his season.

#### SOCCER

The Pirates (1-0-1) will play William & Mary and George Washington this weekend.

#### MEN’S TENNIS

Former ECU tennis standout Joran Vliegen won his first ever professional match earlier this month.

#### SOCCER

Goalkeeper Sandra Baron was named the AAC Goalkeeper of the Week after recording two shutouts.

#### SWIMMING & DIVING

Ballie Monahan was named to the 2015 AAC Scholar-Athlete Excellence Award Winners list.

#### VOLLEYBALL

ECU opens its season on the road against Savannah State this Sunday.

### ONLINE



Follow us on Twitter, @TEC\_Sports for ECU sports coverage.



www.theeastcarolinian.com

# BENKERT continued from A1

work stronger and work harder at getting back than him.”

The injury could allow Benkert to receive a medical redshirt, allowing him to stay in the program for three more seasons, potentially making him a sixth year senior.

Benkert will likely be sidelined for six to nine months, as is common with the injury.

Coincidentally, junior backup Cody Keith returned to practice for the first time in two weeks on Tuesday after rehabbing an injured ankle. Keith will now battle with junior Blake Kemp and freshman John Jacobs for the starting role.

“As coaches, we plan on situations at all positions and all scenarios and I’m not going to unveil our plan to you today,” McNeill said. “We’ve got our guys that are ready to step up where needed and continue to fill whatever duties are asked of them.”

This season is Kemp’s first as an active ECU player as he redshirted his initial season. Kemp is a junior college transfer from Mesa Community College in Arizona, where he led them to a pair of bowl games. He completed 229-of-352 passes for 2,961 yards and 27 touchdowns as a sophomore.

Keith has minimal experience as he has proved to be injury prone during his ECU career.

Jacobs is a long shot to win the job, as he is a freshman that hasn’t been with the program long. There was some optimism however when Jacobs committed as he was reportedly timed running a 4.47 40-yard dash.

Senior free safety Domonique Lennon expressed confidence when asked about the backup quarterbacks.

“We believe in Blake too,” Lennon said. “Blake is a smart quarterback. He has a good arm as well...Blake is really smart, he knows how to read the defense.”

A decision on Benkert’s replacement is expected soon as the opening game against Towson is nine days away.

For questions or comments, contact [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).



**>>ONLINE**  
Football players react to new offensive coordinator



COURTESY OF ECU MEDIA RELATIONS

ECU senior center C. J. Struyk (50) snaps the ball to quarterback Kurt Benkert (6) in practice.

# Experienced O-line leads Pirate offense

**Tyler Kelbaugh**  
TEC STAFF

With its season opener against Towson just over a week away, the East Carolina football team is looking towards its offensive line for help in continuing the offensive dominance the team has become known for.

After the Pirates’ final scrimmage last Saturday, teammates raved about the job the blockers up front did. The line, consisting of seniors Ike Harris, C.J. Struyk, Dontae Levingston, Quincy McKinney, and junior J.T. Boyd, kept the pocket clean. The veteran group also impacted the running game, opening up a hole that senior running back Chris Hairston blasted through en-route to a 57-yard touchdown.

“They’re doing their job, getting their blocks, and doing what they’re supposed to do,” said Hairston. “They started out slow, but you see them coming together, just like this offense as a whole.”

Offensive line coach Brad Davis was not so profuse in his praise for the experienced group. He said this group has not proven itself capable of dominating defenses consistently and has a lot of improving to do in the next few weeks.

“We haven’t proven we’re effective yet,” said Davis. “We’ve got to go out there and block somebody else and show what we can do. We haven’t done it yet consistently.”

Although the Pirates’ o-line is filled with experienced players with the unit having 71 starts combined, Davis says that experience does not give his bunch the upper-hand against teams filled with less tenured players.

“You could have a group full of seniors or a group full of freshman,” said Davis. “It comes down to guys taking advantage of the opportunities that they have everyday and improving.

We’ve done that some days, but not consistently. I feel confident that the guys we have out there on Sept. 5 will compete their butts off, but we haven’t proven it yet.”

With the news breaking on Wednesday that Kurt Benkert, the newly named starting quarterback, suffered a torn ACL and will miss the 2015 season, the offensive line’s job has become even more important. “What matters is that guys are out their blocking their butts off,” said Davis. “We need guys to run and get physical. It could be me behind them. What I expect is guys to go out there and do their job.”

However, Levingston, the senior right tackle, didn’t echo that same sentiment.

“It motivates us more. We want to work harder because we know [the quarterback] hasn’t been through this before,” said Levingston. “We want to keep him upright and calm, because if we can keep him calm he can make plays.”

In fact, some of his comments on the season seemed far more optimistic than those of his coach.

“We were a little rusty at the start of camp, but we’re starting to work together as a unit,” said Levingston. “Experience obviously counts because we’ve all been out on the field. It’s nothing new. It’s not a shock. I can see the progress we’ve made since last year.”

While Davis and Levingston seem to differ on ideology, both men are determined to improve on the strong job the line did last season. ECU put up over 7,000 yards of offense, and with new offensive coordinator Dave Nichol’s focus on improving the ground attack, the battle on the line will be even more crucial to ECU’s success.

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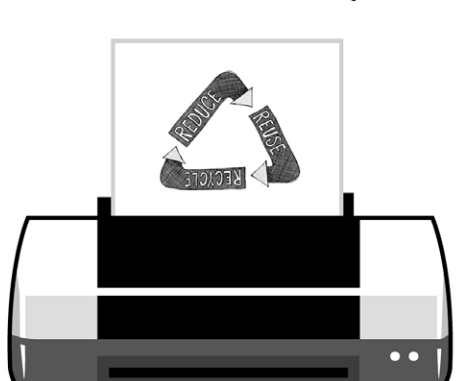
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East Carolina University  
STUDENT MEDIA

# Pirate tennis aims for national stage

**Kai Jones**  
TEC STAFF

Tom Morris and Shawn Heinchon, head coaches of the men's and women's tennis teams, have been with the school for over a decade and are going into this season with different challenges.

Heinchon plans to develop his young team and start a new foundation for the powerhouse he hopes to build. Morris is looking if he can take the tennis program that he has built from the ground and lay another brick into becoming the national powerhouse he wants.

The men's team is made up of five freshman, a sophomore, a junior and two seniors. Heinchon said men's tennis has a lot talent and a lot of uncertainty, especially with so many new players.

"The good part is we have kind of a new sense of energy, kind of a renewed sense of purpose," said Heinchon. "The bad part of it is having so many new guys. There could be a little more of an adjustment period. But we're looking forward to that challenge."

Heinchon said the veterans' leadership is invaluable. He said leadership is the most important thing for his smaller roster. Heinchon last year dealt with the loss of superstar Joran Vliegen, and this year he will have to replace Collin Roller. Roller and Vliegen are the only two players in ECU's



Sophomore Kasey Countee practices his forehand swing at the tennis complex behind Minges Coliseum.

men's tennis program to ever play in the NCAA tournament.

However, Heinchon said the advantage of the younger team is that he has the opportunity to have his core together for four years.

"If we do this right, we could be off to the races," said Heinchon about his younger team. "A lot of times with new individuals, they don't know any better. They don't have any built in baggage as far as good wins or bad losses."

Heinchon's team last year had a roller coaster of a season. The team started off 1-5, rolled off eight wins in nine contests, but then finished 2-7 for a record of 11-13. Heinchon thinks the new energy along with veteran experience will lead to a more consistent year.

For Morris, it's a much different story, as he returns eight players from last season. Five of his 10 players on the women's team are upperclassmen. Morris is looking for leadership from some of his more experienced play-

ers, and is hoping his freshmen can contribute.

"Our senior leadership, and our upper-classmen leadership is going to be important," said Morris. "We have two freshmen and certainly they will be key, and if they can come in and make an impact in the lineup that will make a big difference in our competitiveness this year."

Nicole LaDuca and Katie Hoch are both seniors, and Morris said they both had a good season last year. Michelle Castro is a junior and Morris said she is a player to watch as he hopes she develop her game even more.

While Morris has most of his team back, he wants to see competitiveness from the entire squad.

"We will look to all of our players to improve, and to work hard to play in the top six, and make a difference to the team this year," said Morris.

Last year his team went 9-2 to begin the season, but then went 3-10 to close out the season at .500. However, Morris is optimistic and thinks this team is ahead of where they have been going into fall than in previous years. Morris said he is excited to see the direction the team goes this season.

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## SOCCER continued from A7

with an injury that occurred during preseason. Senior Jackie Cajigal is also back after her leadership that tied the single-season program record with 11 shutouts last year.

"We have a steady group of about 20 players who are healthy and ready to play, our players need to be really ready for their chance when they come in and take advantage of it," Donnenwirth said.

The Pirates will play 10 road matches and nine home during the regular season. ECU will take on in-state rival UNC-Wilmington Sept. 17 at home, after their tie in the 2014 campaign. The team will host 2014 regular-season champion

UCF on Oct. 1 also at Johnson Soccer Stadium.

"All of our conference games, our stakes are raised. William and Mary is 2-0, they had huge games this past weekend winning against Georgetown who is 25th in the country. We always look forward to playing Wilmington since they're such a rival," Donnenwirth said. "When you're done with the game you should feel exhausted, so just that mindset of working the team every single time."

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## VOLLEYBALL continued from A7

have certain players to step up for the defensive and offensive sides of the team.

In terms of defense, Torbett will rely on either Erika Figueroa or Lauren Bewick. Figueroa is a 5-foot-5-inch senior defensive specialist and Bewick is a 5-foot-5-inch senior defensive specialist. Figueroa tied a school record last season with 34 digs in one match against UConn. Bewick notched 18 digs in her season-high game against Tulane. Bewick spent her first two collegiate years at Campbell University before transferring to ECU for her junior year.

"Defensively we have quite the battle," said Torbett. "They are both clutch defensive players for us."

For the offense, the Pirates will likely look for 6-foot senior middle hitter Kierra Lee-Dunson to bring in the points. Lee-Dunson also has her twin sister on the team, senior opposite Sierra Lee-Dunson. Kierra Lee-Dunson put up

62 sets in 17 games also with 121 kills. Kierra Lee-Dunson missed a significant portion of last season when she broke her finger during a match. The injury and break was severe enough that pins were put in her finger but the Pirates will have her leadership and skill back in the team this season to give them the push for a winning season.

"If you break it the right way you can't continue to play," said Torbett. "She's very anxious and hungry to get back on the court and be able to compete after that injury."

The Pirates start their season with an non-conference match against the Savannah State University Tigers away from home on Sunday, August 30.

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# Swimming/diving used to winning ways

Allison Sant' Anna  
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina men's and women's swim and dive teams each had a successful season in the 2014-2015 school year. In fact, the winning goes far beyond last season and for the upcoming campaign, it's all about building on that success.

"We're pretty spoiled here. Our guys have had 32 consecutive non-losing seasons; the girls have had around 25. We are used to winning," said head swim coach Rick Kobe.

The conference and the women finished third last season. To top off that success, the men also won their ninth championship becoming the American Athletic Conference swimming champions. They were then ranked 18th in the country.

"The guys team last year was the best ever in the history of East Carolina swimming," said coach Kobe.

With 10 of the top swimmers graduating, some of which include Rokas Cepulis, Nikola Simic, Jeffrey Mead, Andre Smedstad and Lauren Chew, both teams have fresh faces ready to step up. The swim and dive teams have recruited new talent, totaling 17 new athletes.

On the men's side, there are 11 new freshmen and transfers. Of those include freshmen

Eli Avart, Kelley Barnhill, Zach Darden, Trey Pofahl, Jon Roach, Victor Santos and Tristan Taylor. The transfers include Pierce Bradshaw, Zach Duval, Will Hicks, and John Myhre.

The new crop of women's swimmers consist of freshmen Zoe Feingold, Lauren Hensley, Alex Kreager, McKenzie Street and transfers Liz Baertlein and Logan Graumann.

The swimmers and divers are coming from many different parts of the country including North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Florida, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and outside the country as Victor Santos is from Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Being that Pirate swim and dive is not a walk-on team, the recruiting staff draws from a much larger pool of athletes with a positive mind set.

"We don't have a walk-on program, everyone is recruited. We don't really have two or three [athletes] that we are excited about; we are excited about all of them," said Kobe, "To win a championship and be good it takes a little bit of everybody."

The Pirates intend to be as successful this year as they were in the 2014-2015 season. Amongst the team, records were broken and a number of fast times were set.



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Pirate senior swimmer Megan Sellers surfaces and takes a breath after an event last season.

Cepulis swam a record time of 1:55.88 in the 200 meter breaststroke, the fastest time among all NCAA Division I swimmers during that season. He then broke that record swimming a 1:54.59. His production won't be easy to replace.

In the same event, Vendela Norrman set both the ECU varsity record with a time of 2:13.87.

Anastasia Amoiroglou swam the 50 yard freestyle in a time of 23.41, one of the

fastest times of the season.

Along with those fast times, the Pirates had 10 NCAA qualifiers.

"If we are going to win again we will need to get better and step up," said Kobe. "Can we be that good again? Yes, but it will take some good hard work."

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