



Compher contract renewed

Sean Finnerty
TEC STAFF

East Carolina Director of Athletics Jeff Compher agreed to a five-year contract extension. The decision was approved by the ECU Board of Trustees and announced by ECU Chancellor Cecil Staton Tuesday evening. The new contract will last until April 2023.

“Jeff Compher continues to demonstrate the kind of expertise and competitive spirit that will make



Jeff Compher

agreed to lead our athletics programs to even greater goals.”

Compher’s original five-year deal, signed when he was hired

all of our programs national powers,” Staton said in a press release. “That’s where Pirate Nation expects to be, and I’m delighted he’s

in March 2013, was scheduled to expire in 2018. Along with getting an extension, Compher’s annual base salary was raised to \$435,000, effective July 1.

During Compher’s four years at ECU, he has guided the athletics department to “significant tangible” improvements, according to the press release. Pirate student-athletes combined for a total 3.02 grade point average for the 2016-17 academic year, the

highest since calculations began in 2013-14. In addition, Compher helped create a “life skills” division within the athletic department to help student-athlete development and improve community outreach programs, according to the press release. He also negotiated a 10-year all-sport partnership with the sports brand Adidas, making it the official athletic footwear, apparel and accessory brand for ECU through the 2025-26 athletic season.

“I would like to thank Chancellor Staton and the Board of Trustees for the opportunity to continue working with our outstanding coaches, staff and student-athletes,” Compher said in the press release. “We have much to look forward to as we represent this growing and vibrant university.

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

New dean announced for Brody

Matthew Prenskey
TEC STAFF

The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University will be led by Dr. Mark Stacy following the Board of Trustees’ final decision Tuesday.

The university announced the hiring in a statement released to the public Tuesday evening.

“I am honored to join East Carolina University as the dean of the Brody School of Medicine, and I look forward to being a part of the Greenville community,” Stacy said as part of the university’s statement announcing the decision. “The institution has a great history and tremendous future, and I am excited for the opportunity to serve the faculty and students in the medical school.”

Stacy added he is excited to work with the Vidant Medical Group and Vidant Health to “achieve our common goal of providing the best healthcare possible to the people of eastern North Carolina.”



Mark Stacy

Stacy will officially join the medical program at ECU on September 1 where, along with being the dean of Brody, he will also serve as a tenured professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, according to the press release. Stacy has previously served as the vice dean for clinical research at the Duke University

> DEAN page A2



Pee Dee the Pirate and ECU Chancellor Cecil Staton at Staton’s installation week ceremony in March. Staton became chancellor on July 1, 2016.

STATON’S FIRST YEAR

Chancellor aims to bring ECU national attention

Matthew Prenskey
TEC STAFF

A year ago this Saturday, Cecil Staton joined the East Carolina University community as its 11th chancellor. From his first day, through personal and professional hurdles, Staton has continued in his mission to transform ECU into a nationally respected institution.

On July 1, 2016, Staton took over from former chancellor Steve Ballard. Early on in Staton’s tenure he explained his vision of making ECU into a nationally recognized institution. That ambitious attitude caught the eye of ECU Board of Trustees Chairman Steve Jones during the search process.

“He went through the interview process and it became very clear that Chancellor Staton was laser-focused, had high energy and had a background that we thought in

“It’s a discrete moment in time. This really could be a distinctive moment in ECU’s history.”

– Ron Mitchelson

the current climate could take East Carolina to the next level,” Jones said.

He added that Staton’s background in education, politics and business made him stand out compared to the other candidates at the time.

One difficult test for the chancellor came three months into his leadership. On October 1, 2016, a small group of the ECU Marching Pirates knelt during the playing of the national anthem to protest racial inequality across the nation. The demonstration was met with immediate backlash which became violent,

both physically and verbally from the community. Jones said during that time period, Staton remained a strong leader.

“As soon as Cecil took over, there was some rough waters with the band stuff that happened,” Jones said. “All of those kind of waters that he had to navigate he has done it with great leadership, compassion for the students, community and region.”

> STATON page A2

Friends, teammates mourn loss of former ECU football player

Matthew Prenskey
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University community is mourning the loss of former ECU football player Anthony Domonique Lennon, 24, of Suffolk, Virginia. He was beloved by coaches, teammates and friends throughout his time in high school and college.

Lennon passed away Friday following a shooting in Raleigh, according to the Raleigh Police Department.

A day after the incident, the ECU Department of Athletics released a statement expressing sadness over the loss of Lennon.

“East Carolina University, the athletics department and Pirate football program are saddened by the tragic passing of Domonique Lennon,” the statement read. “He made a positive impact on many people during his time as a student-athlete at ECU.”

Lennon played as a defensive back for the ECU football team from 2011-15, according to ECU Athletics. The ECU Department of Athletics described Lennon’s football abilities as “athletic, agile and a quick defender.”

The statement went on to describe how Lennon was respected by both his teammates and coaches.

As the news of Lennon’s death passed through the community, some of his former college teammates took to social media to express their condolences.

Zeek Bigger, a former defensive teammate of Lennon took to Twitter.

“I lost my dawg man I talked to you everyday and I was supposed to call u back last night once my phone charged bro I love you Domo,” Bigger wrote.

Former ECU quarterback Kurt Benkert also tweeted his condolences, “It’s crazy man, gone too soon. Anyone that was ever in the same locker room as



Domonique Lennon was a defensive back for ECU from 2011-15.

> LENNON page A2

ONLINE

» Brody School of Medicine receives grant from the Duke Endowment

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BRIEFS

ECU Collegiate Community to host open house

The East Carolina University Collegiate Recovery Community will continue to host open house sessions during the new student orientations throughout the summer.

ECU Recovery is a program designed to provide educational opportunities, personal development and a social environment for students who were addicted to mind-altering substances.

Students who are interested in ECU Recovery can stop by the program at the Student Recreation Center during any orientation session between June 28 and July 19 from 4-6 p.m.

GPD ask public for help in string of recent burglaries

The Greenville Police Department and Winterville Police Department are asking members of the public for information that could solve four different commercial burglaries.

According to GPD, in the early hours of June 20, four businesses were burglarized by two male suspects. In each case, the two suspects broke a window and entered the business, taking only chips and beverages.

Police believe the burglaries at the Pizza Hut and Sam Jones BBQ in Winterville along with the Warren's Hot Dogs and Anita's Mexican Restaurant in Greenville are related.

Police ask anyone with information to contact GPD 252-329-4315, WPD 252-756-1105 or Crime Stoppers 252-758-7777 with information. Crime Stoppers is also offering up to a \$2,500 reward for information leading to an arrest.

Greenville Police ask public for information in cold case

The Greenville Police Department marked the ten year anniversary of Terry Carmon's death by asking the community for any information to solve his case.

Terry Carmon, 23, of Greenville was shot two times in the chest and arm after a dispute turned violent on June 23, 2007. Carmon was pronounced dead at the hospital.

According to GPD, investigators do have leads and suspects in the case, but no arrests have been made at this point. Investigators still believe there are witnesses to the incident with important information that haven't come forward yet.

Greenville Police ask anyone with information call Crime Stoppers 252-758-7777 or GPD Officer Richie Williams 252-916-1261.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

GPD camera program to start soon

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

As the city of Greenville continues to expand, city officials and the Greenville Police Department have opted to install new red light cameras at intersections throughout the city.

The GPD has chosen five major intersections in Greenville to post the new red light cameras, according to Michael Broadwell, a lieutenant with the Greenville Police Department. The intersections include: Charles Boulevard and 14th Street, Charles Boulevard and Fire Tower Road, Arlington Boulevard and Fire Tower Road, Arlington Boulevard and Greenville Boulevard, as well as Arlington Boulevard and South Memorial Drive.

"We've got five different intersections throughout the city, and at each intersection we will have two approaches that are monitored," Broadwell said. "So there will basically be two cameras up in five different intersections."

Locations were decided based on the amount of traffic normally seen in those areas.

The initiative is hoping to reduce fatalities and injuries associated with vehicle crashes and make Greenville into a safer community, according to Broadwell.

"It's a broad effort by both the city council and the Greenville Police Department to make our roads safer," Broadwell said.

Broadwell said Greenville is home to more than 90,000 citizens and 30,000 students on a regular basis.

"We have an extremely high crash rate in the city of Greenville and there's a lot of reasons for that," Broadwell said. "Crashes are a major issue in the city and fatalities are a major issue. We have a lot of pedestrian fatalities and vehicle crash fatalities every year."

Broadwell added red light cameras can reduce the number of car crashes due to their locations at intersections, where many



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Greenville Police red light camera program will look to limit crashes through ticketing drivers.

accidents occur.

"Studies and statistics show that the majority of crashes happen in intersections because that's where vehicles are naturally going to cross each other's paths," Broadwell said.

Broadwell explained each camera will be equipped with video, photography and radar capabilities to monitor traffic violations. As a vehicle approaches an intersection, the camera will have the ability to determine whether or not it is physically possible for the vehicle to stop in time for the red light. If not, photographs and video of the vehicle and its tag will be taken to insure the violation.

According to Broadwell, there is a key difference between being caught by the red light camera and being caught by a police officer. If an infraction is captured by the red light camera, it is a civil violation. This means a driver will be charged a \$100 fine, but will not have to go to court and points will not be added to your insurance or driving record.

Broadwell said if stopped by a police officer for failing to stop for a red light, a driver will be criminally charged. This includes a court date,

fees and the infraction will be added onto their insurance and driving record.

Broadwell said the dates for installing the red light cameras is not yet set in stone, but the department expects they will be up by the end of July or early August. After installation, there will be a thirty day period where any violations will result in warning tickets. After the thirty day adjustment period, infractions will result in full fines and actual citations, according to Broadwell.

In addition to the law enforcement officers who watch the intersections and other technology already used to observe traffic, the new red light cameras will aid GPD and the city of Greenville as they aim to lower traffic fatalities and injuries.

"This is not going to be a perfect world scenario where we put the cameras in and the crashes in the city of Greenville stop. But you know that's why you use it with other tools in the tool box," Broadwell said.

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

LENNON continued from A1

you knew what a joy you were to be around #RipDomo31."

Tripp Weaver, ECU's former grad assistant coach, wrote, "Saddened by the news of a former player, Domonique Lennon passing away. A genuine person, aspiring father and true pirate. #RIP31"

Outside of the ECU community, Bayard Mason, a hometown friend of Lennon's, was among a group of individuals who started a GoFundMe in memory of Lennon and in an

effort to begin a college fund for his son, Landon.

"This fundraiser is not just my doing, but his 2009 state championship team and the Nansmond-Suffolk Academy community as a whole," Mason said. "Domonique was part of that family and we, his old football team, wanted to make sure his family knew that Landon was part of the NSA family as well."

Mason said after the fundraiser was launched, the Nansmond-Suffolk Academy community rallied around the cause.

"Things really took off when some larger East Carolina based social media accounts shared the



Domonique Lennon

It's quite apparent how much Domonique was loved."

At the time of production, the fundraiser had received \$7,255 of its \$8,000 goal.

Mason, who played center with Lennon in high school, described him as a very funny individual and someone everyone enjoyed being with.

fundraiser," Mason said. "We are so thankful that everyone has donated as much as they have."

As of Monday evening, details of Lennon's funeral had not been made public yet.

Raleigh Police are still investigating the shooting. Laura Hourigan, spokesman for RPD said the department will be expanding its search across North Carolina to gather more information in the case.

If anyone has information, they're asked to call Raleigh Crime Stoppers 919-834-HELP. Texting or email options are also available to individuals at raleighcrimestoppers.org.

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

STATON continued from A1

In an email response to The East Carolinian, Staton said he has set some ambitious goals for giving students more international experiences and increasing research at the university. Another major goal for Staton is raising approximately \$500 million over the next six years to fund projects meant to heighten ECU's profile in the national spotlight.

Jones added Staton has been dedicated to some major projects the university is currently working on. One is completing the negotiations surrounding Project Unify, which is a tentative agreement between ECU and Vidant Health to merge their services at Vidant Medical Center, is an important goal for the BOT and Staton. Jones said, another goal for the BOT and Staton was to expand

the size of the Brody School of Medicine.

Phyllis Horns, vice chancellor for the health sciences, said Staton has been a strong advocate for the health sciences.

Horns said the chancellor has been very involved in the search for a new dean to head the Brody School of Medicine and increasing the research done on the health sciences campus.

Increasing the university's research profile and opening up ECU to the international community are major goals from the chancellor the institution is working on, according to Provost Ron Mitchelson.

"He really wants us to think big," Mitchelson said. "So many times at ECU we talk about being the underdog, being the overachiever, having a chip on our shoulder. (Staton) doesn't like that narrative. He really, simply wants us to think big and move forward."

Mitchelson, who also serves as ECU's senior vice chancellor, said the research goals

Staton has laid out for the university will be very beneficial not only for the students and faculty, but for the larger region around ECU. Unlike previous administrations, Mitchelson said Staton has made research one of his top expectations for ECU.

"We have an ambitious goal to double the amount of research at ECU over the next five years," Staton said.

Mitchelson added that Staton's "big-thinker" personality has changed the internal culture at ECU. That change in mentality "liberated" many individuals inside ECU's leadership, according to Mitchelson.

"It's a discrete moment in time," Mitchelson said. "This really could be a distinctive moment in ECU's history."

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

DEAN continued from A1

School of Medicine.

"We are thrilled to have a person of Dr. Stacy's caliber joining us," ECU Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Phyllis Horns said. "His personal leadership style, impeccable character and integrity are a perfect fit with Brody's mission and bright future."

Horns said the process to find the next dean of Brody was a long and rigorous national search.

Along with Horns, both ECU Chancellor Cecil Staton and Chief Executive Officer for Vidant Health Michael Waldrum said they were excited about Stacy's hiring.

"For more than 40 years, the Brody School of Medicine has fulfilled its legislated mandated to produce primary care and other physicians for rural and underserved areas of North Carolina,"

"I am excited for the opportunity to serve the faculty and students in the medical school."

— Mark Stacy

Staton said. "With the appointment of Dr. Mark Stacy as Brody's sixth dean, ECU has added a widely recognized talent who is committed to continued national leadership."

Waldrum added Stacy's leadership, knowledge and research skills will benefit the patients Vidant Health and ECU serve.

Stacy earned his medical degree from the University of Missouri. He completed his residency at Drexel University and fellowship at the Baylor College of Medicine in Texas.

Much of Stacy's professional work has focused on neurology. While at Duke, Stacy was a professor of neu-

rology and chief of the Movement Disorders Division and before that position, he served as the director of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dr. Nicholas Benson, vice dean of Brody, has been serving as interim dean since Dr. Paul Cunningham stepped down last September, according to a university statement.

"Dr. Stacy's academic success and expertise in medicine and research uniquely qualify him to lead Brody into the future and to establish ECU as America's next great national university," Staton said.

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

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OUR VIEW

Current city instability presents opportunity

The city of Greenville will be seeing a lot of new faces in its political positions within the coming months by way of retirement and new opportunities.

With three-term Greenville Mayor Allen Thomas stepping down this month to accept a position with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Greenville City Manager Barbara Lipscomb retiring with Ann Wall filling her position, the Greenville Assistant City Manager Merrill Flood and City Attorney David Holec retiring, the leadership of Greenville will be going through a short period of instability.

Greenville has been fortunate over the past few years with a dedicated mayor and other city officials who are all leaving big shoes to fill. Through hurricanes and rapid growth the leadership of the city worked diligently to make sure their residents were safe and informed.

We, the editorial staff of East Carolinian, are optimistic the change in leadership will be positive. We are excited for the opportunity that this change of staff represents and the potential the new candidates and appointees offer for the city. We hope the new city officials bring refreshing ideas to the table, but take the time to learn about the community before implementing any changes.

At this point, it's hard to tell what the future will bring, but we look forward to one that hopefully benefits all.

SHENEMAN THORPE CONTENT AGENCY



Empathy is key to humanity

'Black Mirror' highlights how perspective effects us



Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

Yout Daily Mel

A group of men and women wearing army clothes begin to set out on an assignment traveling in a van. As they arrive at a small village, they prepare to follow through with their mission. Their supervisors have trained them to find and kill monsters called "roaches" in the area. While on duty, one soldier discovers these creatures are not in fact monsters, but are actually human beings and have just been programmed to look like monsters by technology.

This is the dystopian world I found myself in during the episode "Men Against Fire" of the Netflix original show 'Black Mirror'. When I first finished this episode, I was terrified to think about the possibility of a world where people would turn to physically harming and killing others just because they were taught to perceive them as a threat. What was scarier than the plot of this episode, was my realization that this is not just fiction. This is a reality in the world we live in today, and this has been a reality for some time.

Whether it's African Americans, Syrian refugees, women or any other minority group, people have been and are still being stereotyped in order to make it acceptable for them to be targeted by society for being different.

Instead of being a world where tolerance exists, people seem so worried about themselves. Humans are constantly trying to get ahead of one another, and many could care less about the consequences of such competition. Power, money, love, happiness—all of these desires control the choices we make every day, but one equally important word, empathy, is becoming obsolete.

Many people are losing the ability to



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

A scene in "Black Mirror" where military members in a dystopian society hunt 'roaches.'

empathize for one another, and the result is just as frightening as this episode. Racism and discrimination are still happening all the time. I see my best friend, who is mixed race, face it constantly when she goes out in public with her boyfriend, who is African American. Many people assume just because her skin is so light that she is fully white and will give her looks or whisper behind her back for being in an interracial relationship.

Without empathy, people only seem to see in black and white. There is no more gray. There is no more celebrating diversity, no more learning from each other. Everything is becoming a matter of fitting into individual ideas of what it means to be worthy. This won't go away, none of it will. Unless we gain perspective.

We are so quick to believe what we have heard over and over again that we refuse to take the time to find out if it is

even true. We need to reach out to people different than us. We need to question what we hear other people say about anyone and make our own observations.

"You see me as I am," said the girl in the episode, when the main character finally realized the injustice going on around him. It is time for us to finally start seeing people as they are, not what is convenient.

The word empathy comes from the greek word, *empathia*, meaning physical affection or passion. It is this passion the world is lacking. Where is the passion to help people? Where is the passion to grow from others? Without passion for others, we cannot obtain the success we desire for ourselves.

Melissa Glen is a junior majoring in political science and communication. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

OUR STAFF

Annah Schwartz	Editor-in-Chief
Javeria Salman	Managing Editor
Jessica Evans	Production Manager
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Paris Silver	Photo Editor
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Contact Info

The East Carolinian
Self Help Building,
Greenville, NC, 28889-4353

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

Fight against depression lifelong battle



Andy Li
TEC STAFF

Imagine you are climbing the treetops. Up and up and up, through the verdant green leaves. Birds are singing in your ears, and light is streaming down from the heavens. When you reach the top of the canopy, the wind sings around you and the sky is endless. And then you fall, down to the muddy forest floor. You can climb back up, of course, but every time, it gets harder and harder. Everytime you fall, you fall deeper in the mud, your legs get heavier, the branches seem further apart. It becomes easier, comfortable even, to stay down in the dark, in the mud and just let yourself sink.

This is depression. This is the reality of my life, and the lives of thousands of others in the world. A lot of modern day analogies compare mental health to physical health. "If you had a broken bone, no

one would say, 'Just walk it off' but people say that about depression!" While that is true, it over simplifies mental health to a dangerous degree.

Every day, I wake up and take my anti-depressants. I go outside, I work out, I talk to my friends. I keep myself on a schedule. I avoid the people and situations that are triggering for a depressive episode. And even though I do all of this, even though I'm at the top of my game, I can still spiral down out of control. Sometimes, it's not a matter of what happens to me, it's just that my brain is so ill, my brain *physically* does not work the way it's supposed to.

Depression is not like a normal disease. There is no finish line to cross where you move into a period of your life where you can forget about all the horrible things that have happened to you. The solution to depression is not, "Reach the canopy and stay there". The solution is, "Remember the canopy is still there for you." I have to be okay with the fact that my depression will

never be cured, it will only get more manageable. But in the act of managing, in the act of trying every single day, that is where peace is found. It's so cheesy and corny, but sometimes life is cheesy and corny. You have to keep on trying. It will never go away, but it will get better. It will get easier. And one day, it won't consume your life.

So for everyone who doesn't have depression, this is what I ask of you—patience. Sometimes it may seem endless; I know sometimes I'm moody and sometimes I can be despondent and tired and all the things that make up a bad friend and family member. I know. I am trying. Every day, I am trying to get better and your love and support makes it all the more easier. That's all I can do— try. And maybe one day, I'll get to spend a little more time on the treetops, laughing into the endless sky.

Andy Li is a junior majoring in communication and political science. To contact writer, email, opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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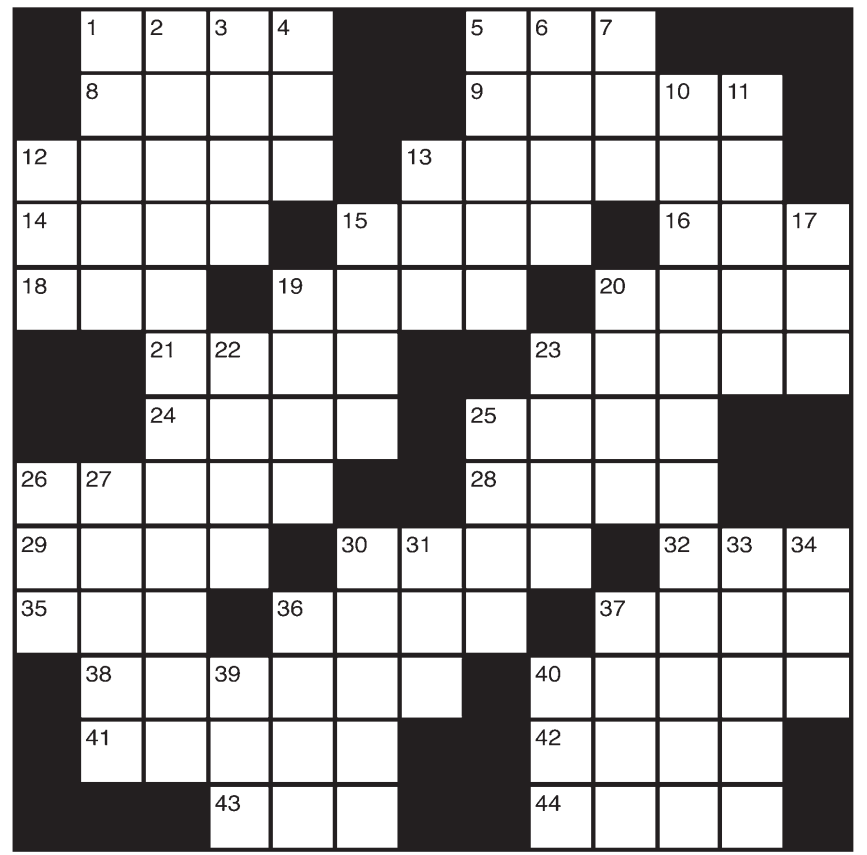
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CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



ACROSS

- 1 Samms or Thompson
- 5 Masi ___ of "Hawaii Five-0"
- 8 Kennedy or Rogers
- 9 "Teenage Mutant ___ Turtles"
- 12 Film critic Ebert
- 13 Gandhi and a billion others
- 14 Erwin of old TV & his namesakes
- 15 Air pollution
- 16 Lucy ___ of "Elementary"
- 18 Brian ___ of "Chicago Med"
- 19 "The ___ King"; blockbuster animated film about Simba
- 20 Long and Peebles
- 21 Slender
- 23 Ultrasounds and MRIs
- 24 Kermit, for one
- 25 Gregory Peck's role in "Moby Dick"
- 26 "___ the Loneliest Number"; hit song for Three Dog Night
- 28 Jeff Bridges' brother
- 29 Give a heads-up to
- 30 "My ___ Lady"; Audrey Hepburn movie
- 32 Refrain syllable

DOWN

- 1 Overdo the role
- 2 Actor on "NCIS: Los Angeles"
- 3 Bovary and Butterfly; abbr.
- 4 "Up in the ___"; film for George Clooney
- 5 "The ___ Movie"; Len Cariou film
- 6 "The ___ of Queens"
- 7 "Sanford ___ Son"
- 10 Actress on "American Housewife"
- 11 From China or Japan
- 12 OPQ followers
- 13 Kaiser or Aetna; abbr.
- 15 "___ Along with Mitch"
- 17 Ship letters
- 19 Neighbor of Thailand
- 20 College sports assn.
- 22 Actress Moran
- 23 Eden ___ of "The Middle"
- 25 Lover of an Irish Rose
- 26 "A League of Their ___"; Tom Hanks movie
- 27 Wynonna's mom
- 30 "Angels with Dirty ___"; film for James Cagney
- 31 Tavern order
- 33 Uncle Ben's products
- 34 Inquire
- 36 Role on "Man with a Plan"
- 37 Sandwich cookie
- 39 Anti's vote
- 40 President Harding's monogram

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

B	O	B	T	E	R	I	S	D	A	N	
U	P	A	A	R	E	N	T	O	R	E	
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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Get physically involved in a project. Productive results reward practical efforts. Words and actions come together harmoniously. Inspire and motivate others.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Get moving on a personal priority today and tomorrow. Synchronize words with action. Energize the conversation. Persuade others from your heart. You're growing stronger.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Play full out. Get involved in a larger conversation. You're generating a fascinating buzz, and someone finds that particularly attractive. Blend talk with action.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Romance is a distinct possibility over the next few days, if you can avoid squabbling. Miscommunications frustrate the situation. Find sweetness with patience.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Lay low and rest through tomorrow. Make plans and connections for an upcoming project. Think about how you'd like things to go. Make reservations and appointments.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Check your map and your schedule for changes. Travel conditions look excellent over the next few days. Communication channels and traffic flow clearly.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Today is a 7 -- Fix up your place today and tomorrow. Persuade participation. Coordinate efforts with your family to make common improvements. Talk and action come together.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Watch for opportunities at the top. Team projects go well today and tomorrow. Coordinate a group conversation and manage who will do what.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- Grab that low-hanging fruit. A fat harvest is within reach through tomorrow if you go for it. Join forces with another to get the funding.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- You are stirred to take practical action. Avoid controversy or expense. Speak out respectfully. Stand for your community. Move quickly for best results.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Your work and health seem energized over the next few days. Get your plans into motion. Communications, shipping and travels flow with velocity.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Romance kindles from simple sparks over the next few days. Fall into a seductive conversation. Talk about what you'd like to do.

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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

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

Level:

- 1 2
- 3 4

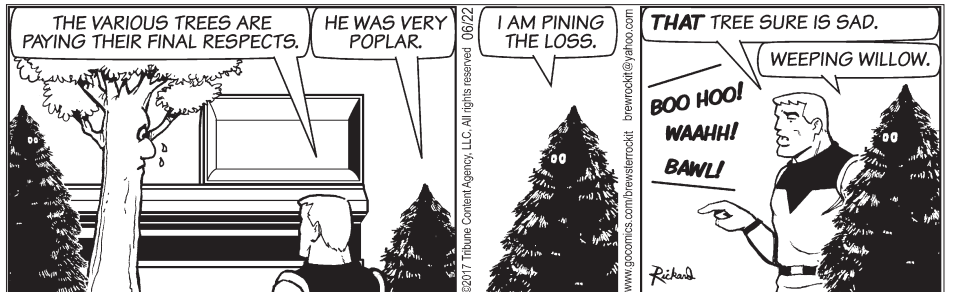
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Solution from last week

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

COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKET



BEST IN SHOW



PAINT IT GOLD

Advertise all season with ECU's Spirit Poster Series!

Spirit Posters will be inserted in the East Carolinian every Thursday prior to home football games

Contact smas@ecu.edu for more information

Deadline August 18th, 2017





Thomas Sirk drops back to throw while at Duke. He is expected to compete with Gardner Minshew for the starting quarterback position.

Ex-Blue Devil comes aboard

Graduate transfer gives ECU football more depth

Aaron Jackson
TEC STAFF

With the 2017 college football season approaching, East Carolina University may have made the biggest strategic move in the conference with the recent signing of former Duke University quarterback Thomas Sirk.

Sirk transferred to ECU as a fifth year graduate student. He will be finishing his college career with one of the coaches he started off with, ECU Head Coach Scottie Montgomery, who served as Duke's associate head coach, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach from 2013-15.

"When we found out that he was going to be leaving Duke as a graduate transfer with the depth we had at quarterback, we knew we could use a guy like that," ECU offensive coordinator and quarterback coach Tony Peterson said. "His relationship with Montgomery helped the process."

In transitioning to a new school, team and atmosphere, Sirk credits his teammates and coaches for helping him adjust to the program.

"The receivers and the entire team invite me to events and I think you have to build that rapport on and off the field," Sirk said. "As a quarterback, I think it's important to build that relationship with everyone on the team. Whether people look up to you or not, people will always look up to a quarterback."

While Sirk will face the challenges of learning the team's playbook and system,

Peterson isn't too concerned, saying Sirk, who earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in liberal arts while at Duke, is more than intelligent enough to learn quickly.

"Anytime you are switching schools, you have to learn the new terminology, how we call our plays, how we signal, and all the little things we do. He is a very smart guy, I think he will pick it up fine," Peterson said.

Peterson added Sirk is "doing a great job with the playbook" so far and should have the whole thing down by the time camp begins in late July.

Since signing the papers to become a part of the ECU football program, Sirk has been motivated to play. He said he takes pride in Bill Belichick's quote, "Do your job well," and Sirk accepts this challenge by giving his all every time he steps on to the field.

"You have to carry the game-like mentality to practice. You have to practice like it's a game to be the best," Sirk said. "As a quarterback, there will be days when you don't feel like going out there, but you know that you have to go out there and do your job, and you have to push the guys and you have to continue to play your role."

The biggest challenge for Sirk will be having to take the starting role away from junior quarterback Gardner Minshew, who earned the position after last season, according to coach Peterson.

"It's gonna be a battle between

Thomas and Gardner and right now Gardner is our starter. He is going into the season with the mindset that he is the starting quarterback and he is going to keep the job," Peterson said. "Whereas, when Thomas came to the program, we promised him the opportunity to compete for the job. He is going into the camp with the idea that he is going to battle for the position and win it and I love that attitude."

Part of playing the quarterback position is being a leader and both Minshew and Sirk have led their teams in some way, form or fashion with their professionalism towards the sport. Sirk said his goal is to help the team grow.

"I will come in with college football experience and going to a bowl game," Sirk said. "I can do anything to work with the receivers and I could also help some of the other quarterbacks that are younger than I am, like Reid Herring or Kingsley Ifedi."

With all of the experience he has gained from playing at Duke and his resilience from coming back after an injury, Sirk said he cannot wait to play again.

"I'm excited just to get back and play the game; it's my love and the most important thing to me. I have worked so hard coming back from injuries and rehab," Sirk said. "I will do it for the pride of East Carolina and for the pride of the fan base, all to have a great year so we can win a conference championship."

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

>> COLUMN

ECU football needs change to reach goal



Robbie Milton III
TEC STAFF

East Carolina's football program, like every other athletic program at ECU, wants to win a conference championship, and if possible, a national championship.

In hopes of winning an American Athletic Conference championship, ECU fired its former head football coach, Ruffin McNeill,

on December 4, 2015 because McNeill's coaching wasn't going in that direction, according to statements made by ECU's Director of Athletics Jeff Compher during the press conference the day of the firing.

"However, after observing and evaluating the [head coach] position for three seasons, we came to the conclusion that our football team was not meeting competitive expectations, and--in my opinion--the trajectory of the program was not going in the right direction," Compher said in the Dec. 4 press briefing.

While the university wants to win both conference and national championships, I, however, don't think the football program will be winning a championship anytime soon. I believe this because of the offensive system the Pirates run under current head coach Scottie Montgomery, along with the relatively weak defense it has to help support it.

The Pirates run a spread offense, which is theoretically a great system for the passing attack. ECU doesn't rely on deep passes to move the ball, but instead throws a lot of screens. Screens have the possibility to blow open defenses, but if you don't change your play calling, teams will beat you.

The Pirates' passing attack was ranked sixth in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) Ranking on CBS Sports last season. In ECU's air game, it completed 359 of 554 attempts for 4,016 yards with 26 touchdowns, while its rushing attack only had 1,598 yards and 13 touchdowns.

These statistics are great, however the Pirates only won three games last season, one of them against a conference opponent, while seven of their losses came against conference foes.

Here is where I believe lies the problem. The key to winning championships in college football includes an effective running game. When I think of national champions, I think of effective Heisman Trophy winning running backs such as Derrick Henry and Mark Ingram of the University of Alabama. East Carolina's passing game, though effective, doesn't score enough to counteract its opponents' offensive attack that beats the weaker defense of ECU.

ECU has a fast paced air attack that can put points on the board without much time coming off the clock, but scoring quickly can be the downfall of the team. It leaves more time for the other team to beat down the defense with a slower paced offense. Therefore, the Pirates' clock management needs work to help increase their chances of winning because the Pirates' air attack that scores so rapidly, leaves their opponents with a lot of time on the clock to outscore them. A way to help fix this is for the Pirates to beef up their offensive line to run the ball effectively. Not only does ECU need to strengthen the offensive line, but the Pirates need to go under center more, so it isn't as obvious when it's a running play instead of a pass.

The Pirates mostly used the shotgun and pistol formations, and while both can be effective, a team can become predictable if it doesn't change up its formations enough. Becoming easily anticipated usually creates more losses in a season, especially when the offense doesn't have a dominant defense to counteract against opposing offenses.

While the Pirates have been effective throwing from shotgun and the pistol, they don't necessarily set themselves for a potent run game. Although, shotgun can help with runs outside the tackle box, it doesn't allow the running back to gain much speed for runs straight up the gut. Straight downhill running creates opportunities to gain more yards per carry than running off the edge.

The major takeaway from this is the Pirates need to become a less predictable offense by using a more well-rounded system that keeps opposing defenses on its heels. By doing so, the Pirates' offense will be more in control, as long as its execution is above average and fast. ECU also needs to run the ball more to help decrease that predictability and to better manage the game clock to help their chances of winning more games and possibly a championship.

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

>>TRACK AND FIELD

ECU reloads with new talent

Robbie Milton III
TEC STAFF

East Carolina's track and field team has signed eight student athletes for the 2017-18 school year, five of which are on the women's team and three on the men's, as they continue on their quests to win a conference championship.

"The freshmen we've signed, along with these transfers, I feel like have been a great addition to both the men's and women's sides," track and field Head Coach Curt Kraft said. "But I feel that this recruiting class is going to at least make up for what we lost."

Three of these student athletes are college transfers from throughout the state of North Carolina, while another transferred from a school in Texas. Two come from the Atlantic Coast Conference, including distance runner Bakri Abushouk from North Carolina State University, who holds NC State's school record in the 2,000 meter steeplechase. The other ACC transfer is hurdles runner Hunter Roberts from Wake Forest University, who earned all-conference honors each year of her high school career.

The third transfer from the state of North Carolina is distance runner Sarah Hamon from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, while distance runner Deric Martinez transferred from South Plains Community College in Levelland, Texas.

Kraft said these transfers do well both in and out of the classroom.

"All four of them are very good athletes and all four of them are very accomplished athletes in their respective schools and are going to have an impact

on our program," Kraft said.

The remaining four student athletes that signed with ECU are coming from high school and just beginning their college careers. Two of these athletes come from Virginia, Brooke Stith from Norfolk and Jada Terrell from Chesapeake. Both Stith and Terrell competed in the jumps discipline, while Stith also sprinted and Terrell competed in the hurdles. Stith won both the long jump and triple jump at the Virginia High School League Group 5A State Championships, while Terrell won the 100 meter hurdles at the 2017 VHSL Group 6A State Championships with her team Western Branch High School winning its fourth consecutive state title.

Kraft has high expectations for Stith and Terrell in their first year at ECU.

"Jada Terrell and Brooke Stith are going to be big time impact people as freshman on our team next year," Kraft said.

Another North Carolina native joining ECU is distance runner Matthew Russell from Cary, North Carolina, who finished 12th in the 3200 meter race at the 2017 North Carolina High School Athletic Association 4A Mideast Regional meet. The final athlete that signed with the Pirates is pole vaulter Sommer Knight from St. George, South Carolina. Knight set the South Carolina high school state record, clearing 13 feet in the pole vault at the South Carolina High School League AA State Championship.

Overall, Kraft said this recruiting class, plus the returning athletes, could possibly help the women's team earn a conference championship and help the men's team move up. However, the men's team has powerhouses such as Houston and Uni-



Brooke Stith competes at a track meet.

versity of Connecticut to compete against, making it more difficult for the men to earn a conference championship.

This recruiting class for the Pirates brings both young, new talent and veteran athletes that can help lead on and off the field. These eight athletes look to help improve the Pirates men's and women's teams who finished in the middle of the American Athletic Conference and sent 13 athletes to the NCAA Regional Preliminary rounds. This class will also have to help fill in for the 15 senior athletes on women's team and six on the men's who graduated this past year.

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

EASTERN NC CELEBRATIONS

GREENVILLE

Jaycee's Independence Day Celebration

Town Common
Tuesday, July 4
2 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.
Fireworks to begin at
approximately
9 p.m.

RALEIGH

The 'Works

Fayetteville Street
Tuesday, July 4
12 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Fireworks to begin at
approximately 9:15 p.m.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Fireworks at The Beach

Atlantic Circle, 115
Atlantic Blvd
Tuesday, July 4
9 p.m.

BEAUFORT

July 4th Fireworks

Gallants Channel, 172
West Beaufort Road
Tuesday, July 4
6 p.m. - 9p.m.

JACKSONVILLE

Jacksonville Fourth of July Freedom Festival

Onslow Pines Park
Tuesday, July 4
6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Fireworks to begin at
approximately
9 p.m.

NEW BERN

Independence Night at North Carolina History Center

North Carolina History
Center at Tryon Palace,
529 South Front Street
Tuesday, July 4
4:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.
Fireworks to begin at
approximately 9:15 p.m.

SOUTHPORT

4th of July Festival

Moore and Howe
Streets,
Southport Waterfront
Tuesday, July 4
10 A.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Fireworks to begin at
approximately 9:15 p.m.

Town common to host annual celebration



Sparklers on the Town Common, where locals will celebrate Fourth of July Tuesday.

Hope Benton
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Community, food, music and fireworks will all be found at the Fourth of July celebration put on by the Greenville Jaycees and city of Greenville Tuesday.

Continuing a tradition dating back 46 years, the Greenville Jaycees will host the Independence Day Celebration in Greenville Town Common. The event begins at 2 p.m. and is followed by fireworks at 9 p.m.

"We'll have live music on stage, which will be amazing," Jaycees member Jessica Jenkins said. "We have a talented lineup of performers. We've got NuLook Bounce Party coming with a huge setup, so be sure to bring the kids. The Fourth of July Celebration truly has something for everyone; it's a great family event."

The first music performance of the day will begin at 3 p.m. with Mason Jar Bonfire, a band from Kinston, North Carolina, according to the Greenville Jaycees' website. At 5 p.m., fellow Kinston artist Roman Sams will perform in the Amphitheater. The final performance of the evening will begin at 7 p.m. and feature Greenville-bred band, Built for Comfort.

The afternoon's festivities will also include a beer garden, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Jenkins also said part of the proceeds from the event will go to support Aces for Autism, which is located in Greenville and is a not for profit treatment and educational center.

Jenkins said her favorite part of the event is being able to say she worked to make something great for her community.

"I was coming out to the Greenville Independence Day Celebration when I was young and being a part of it now means a lot," Jenkins said. "I hope everyone comes out, brings their families and enjoys spending time out mingling with the community."

For the event, the streets between First and Third Street and between Reade Circle and Greene Street will be closed off. Community members can find parking in the area on the city of Greenville Parking and Parking Citations website, but there will be handicapped parking at the Town Common east parking area, according to the Greenville Jaycees' website.

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

Firework, pet safety tips for holiday

Emily Harvey
TEC STAFF

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

With Fourth of July quickly approaching, Greenville Fire/Rescue is offering advice to anyone who plans to celebrate with fireworks.

Rebekah Thurston, public information officer with GFR said a major concern of the department around this time of year is burn prevention.

"People don't realize how hot fireworks get, sometimes they might not go off like they're supposed to and people will re-approach them, where they may go off closer to them," Thurston said. "We really urge people to be mindful when using fireworks, even sparklers reach high temperatures."

Thurston outlined three major points to remember when handling fireworks and sparklers: to always have a bucket of water on site, to wait before approaching the firework if it doesn't go off right

away and to keep in mind that fireworks are dangerous and children should always be supervised.

North Carolina firefighter Jonathan March, an East Carolina University senior majoring in biology, said he and other firefighters have seen kids get hurt because of fireworks and sparklers.

"I recommend not to let them use fireworks at all, but if it does come to it, make sure that they're really strict and the parents are really close by helping them and under the supervision they should be," March said.

March added he's seen both kids and adults who try to use very high grade fireworks, which are illegal in the state of North Carolina.

"Depending on where you are, take note of what area and what state you're in to know their laws and what you can and cannot have," March said.

Individuals using fireworks should be aware of what they are doing and where they are, according to March. He said individuals should spray water down in the area where they will

be using fireworks. If the ground is wet, the chance of a fire starting because of a stray spark is less likely, March said.

March also recommends having a garden hose nearby when lighting fireworks in case an accident occurs. If a spark does light a fire, he said people should immediately call 911 or their local fire department.

"...That's not just fireworks, there are a lot of problems when it comes to people grilling out, barbecuing," March added. "They'll leave their gas or grill unattended and then something could end up becoming detrimental and the fire catching onto the grass."

Pets, especially dogs, are another aspect of Fourth of July for individuals to be mindful of. ECU senior Ellie Garner said last year she stayed home with her dog and turned the volume on the TV up to distract him from the fireworks and other loud noises outside.

"He did get a little nervous but I just kept playing with him, petting him, and he got through

the night just fine," Garner said.

Junior marketing major Taylor Moore said she also plans on staying home with her dog this year, but added some individuals use anxiety vests to calm their animals.

"They sell thunder vests that you can put around your dog to make them feel safe," Moore said. "They fit kinda snug and are supposed to feel like a big hug."

March said one of the most important things to keep in mind, as far as safety on July Fourth, is just being smart.

"I've seen people burned, just people being stupid, not using their common sense," March said. "I've also seen people think 'oh it's really dry out, it's really windy, well let me shoot these fireworks up in the air' and then when they come down the sparks and the ashes will ignite something else on fire and that'll cause a field fire which can cause a structure fire, which can lead to many other problems."

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

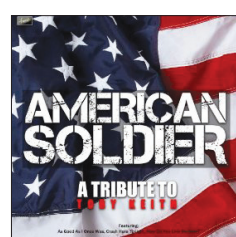
PATRIOTIC PLAYLIST



"Made it in America"
Jay Z and Kanye



"American Pie"
Don McLean



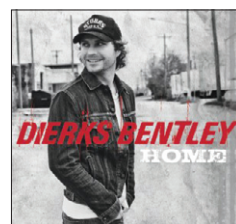
"American Soldier"
Toby Keith



"America"
Simon and Garfunkel



"Volunteers"
Jefferson Airplane



"Home"
Dierks Bentley

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