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# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 7.5.17

## ECU given high marks for speech

Mary Katherine Karcher  
TEC STAFF

As of June 27, East Carolina University has earned a “green light” rating for free speech after changing four campus policies to meet the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education’s (FIRE) criteria.

ECU administrators revised the four policies in accordance with FIRE’s recommendations after Craig Malmrose, professor in the School of Art and Design, implored the university revise its “yellow light” speech codes.

According to FIRE’s Spotlight on ECU, policies that were updated to reach FIRE’s standards include two harassment policies, an internet usage policy and advertised commitments to free speech policy.

Student Government Association president, La’Quon Rogers, said it’s important for academic institutions to support and maintain opportunities for free speech.

“Free speech is something, as an academic institution, we pride ourselves with,” Rogers said. “I think it’s a major effort for this institution to make sure that our policies are reflecting our stance for free speech.”

ECU is the fourth North Carolina university in the past two months to achieve this rating. ECU will join 32 other colleges and universities that have earned a green light rating due to policies that “do not imperil student and faculty expression,” according to FIRE’s Spotlight database.

“The mission of FIRE is to defend and sustain individual rights at America’s colleges and universities,” according to FIRE’s website. “These rights include freedom of speech, legal equality, due process, religious liberty, and sanctity of conscience.”

According to a press release sent out from ECU News Services, there are now six academic institutions with a “green light” rating, making North Carolina the state with the highest number of schools that meet these standards. UNC schools that have also recently matched FIRE’s standard include UNC Charlotte, UNC Greensboro and North Carolina Central University. Duke University and UNC Chapel Hill had previously earned a green light rating

> GREENLIGHT page A2



PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A young girl sits and watches the fireworks at the Greenville Town Common. The Fourth of July fireworks began at approximately 9:15 p.m.

## GREENVILLE CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

Emily Harvey  
TEC STAFF

As a light breeze blew through the air and musicians performed on stage, both the grassy areas and the streets around the Town Common were filled with individuals ready to celebrate Independence Day with music, food and fireworks.

With the Greenville Jaycees in charge of the event, Fourth of July committee participant Jessica Jenkins, a Greenville Jaycees member, said she and the other members were expecting a couple thousand people to attend the event at the Town Common last night.

“I am most looking forward to the main attraction, the fireworks themselves, but beyond that, we have a great street magician attending who I’m looking forward to seeing in action and lots of live music for everyone to enjoy,” Jenkins said.

Food and vendors opened at 2 p.m., music played from 3-8:30 p.m. and fireworks began at approximately 9:15 p.m., according to the Greenville Jaycees website.

ECU alumna Makani Dollinger said she’s been in Greenville for the last two Fourth of July’s and has come to the Town Common every time.

“The music and the fireworks have been



MELISSA GLEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Nulook employee Christine Smith sells tickets to the bouncy house customers at the Town Common.

ONLINE | FOURTH OF JULY PHOTO GALLERY

great,” Dollinger said, adding that she and her friend both live in apartments nearby and walk their dogs over. “I’ve watched Greenville transform from not as much of a close knit community, to more of a close knit community and it’s been really fun.”

Winterville resident Susan Johnson has also participated in the Fourth of July festivities at the Town Common in years past. She says she enjoys catching up with friends she hasn’t seen in awhile and

watching the fireworks.

“I think too many times we’re all locked behind the phones and the ipads and the kids are doing their thing and the parents are doing their thing,” Johnson said. “This is something the family can do together. I’ve been bringing my kids since they were little and here she’s 15, my oldest one’s 22... This is something you can do as they’re growing.”

> FOURTH OF JULY page A3

## Joyner clock tower to get makeover



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

New sculptures for the clock tower located next to Joyner Library sit, waiting to be installed.

Hope Benton  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

New sculptures are set to replace the four iconic sculptures of the clock tower in front of Joyner Library at East Carolina University.

The pieces that will be put in are a sleepyhead, cowboy boots and a hat, a cuckoo and a spiky-haired black sheep, and will replace the sculptures of the joker, horns, canon and rooster that have been a fixture for the past 18 years. All of the new pieces were created by students in ECU professor Hanna Jubran’s sculpture class.

The creator of the cuckoo bird, ECU alumna Mairin Gwyn, said a lot of thought went into the designs and each student had to make several versions of their sculptures before they got the final products.

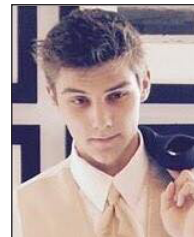
Graduate student and creator of the cowboy boots and hat sculpture, Chris Morgan said the need for new sculptures

> CLOCK page A2

## Community remembers ECU student

Mary Katherine Karcher  
TEC STAFF

Members of East Carolina University’s School of Theatre and Dance continue to mourn the death of ECU student Chayce Thompson, 19, who passed away on June 23.



Chayce Thompson

A funeral service was held for Thompson June 29 at Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe, North Carolina. “My sincerest condolences go out to his family and friends,” said Mary Jane Gaddis, director of development for the College of Fine Arts and Communication in a statement informing the ECU community last week. “If you had the

> CHAYCE page A2

### ONLINE

» Luke Combs debut album hits home for listeners

» Student-athletes, former teammates share memories of Dominique Lennon

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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## BRIEFS

## ECU hires former student as associate dean at Brody

East Carolina University announced Monday that Dr. Russ Price, a former Brody School of Medicine graduate, will serve as associate dean for research and graduate studies for the medical program.

Price previously served as the associate vice chair of research for the department of medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. Price described this opportunity as a homecoming because he received his doctorate in biochemistry from ECU.

While serving as an associate dean, Price will additionally be a professor in the department of biochemistry and molecular biology.

Price will take over the position from Dr. Jeff Smith, who served as the interim while the university searched for a permanent hire. Price will begin his new job with Brody on August 16.

## Space Photography Gallery on display at Joyner Library

East Carolina University professor and artist Tim Christensen currently has a photography exhibition on display in Joyner Library to educate the public about the universe.

Christensen's exhibit is currently on display at the Janice Hardison Faulkner Gallery in Joyner Library. The exhibit will be on display through July 15.

The goal of the gallery is to get visitors interested in the universe by showing them pictures of space, galaxies and planetary objects according to the event page.

## ECU to host series of events for North Carolina Suzuki Institute

East Carolina University is preparing to host the North Carolina Suzuki Institute (NCSI), an organization which educates the public about the teachings of Shinichi Suzuki.

The NCSI education sessions start Friday through July 14. The event is meeting in the A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall from 7-8 a.m. each day.

NCSI has been educating the public about the philosophy and teachings of Suzuki for the past 30 years. According to the association's about page, Suzuki used language techniques to teach children how to play musical instruments like the violin.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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

Pholicious now open  
Restaurant to serve healthy food options

Cookie Brower  
TEC STAFF

New social hangout and restaurant, Pholicious, opened in downtown Greenville at The Boundary Thursday.

For owner Jason Tran, this is the opening of his second Pholicious in eastern North Carolina.

"This is a Vietnamese Surprise Noodle shop," Tran said. "The food we serve is ranked the third healthiest by Whole Foods. It is because our foods contain ginger and other detox ingredients that help the body."

The current menu offers a wide variety of options, from fruit smoothies to subs, soups and rice. Prices of food range between \$4 and \$8.

Part of Tran's motivation in opening a Pholicious in Greenville, stemmed from wanting to give students a healthy and delicious, yet fun hangout spot.

"The right food gives them the right foundation to be healthy," Tran said.

Kylie Jacobs, a resident of The Boundary and ECU marketing major, said she enjoys the authentic taste the food provides.

"It honestly opened my eyes to different cultures and the many different ways each culture heals and enhances the body through food and nutrients," she said. "Not only was it good, but good for me. And you just can't beat that."

Fellow Boundary resident and ECU sociology major,



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN  
The storefront of Pholicious, which opened Thursday at The Boundary.

Kania Ingram, said she was most excited for the accessibility of the location.

"It was a really nice, short walk," she said. "No matter the weather, it is so small, you just don't mind it."

The ultimate mission behind Tran's businesses began with a childhood dream. Since he was child, Tran said he wanted to open orphanages across the world and educate the children on business skills that would help them make it in life once they reached adulthood.

"I started with no money... just a passion," Tran said. "I feel that in order to properly teach children how to do this, I must do it myself. I am putting myself as an example that it can be done. Currently, 10 percent

of sales go to the ministry. I hope to boost this number as time goes on."

Tran said he wants to teach students to never give up because failure makes a person stronger. He said his drive started from reading the Bible and explained that within one year of reading Proverbs and John, he started his business. He added the Bible taught him love and he believes the use of love in everything brings success in life.

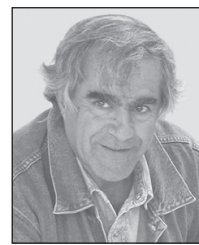
"I believe that everything you do is all about your character," Tran said. "I want to encourage students to never give up, be passionate and help other people. When you do things, you shouldn't look in your pocket."

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

## CLOCK continued from A1

came after the old ones had aged significantly after nearly two decades of use.

"The idea to switch the sculptures came from the fact that the old sculptures were in need of refurbishing due to exposure to the elements, and then the decision was made by Jubran to have a competition for four new sculptures," Morgan said.



Hanna Jubran

Gwyn said she felt honored her work was chosen.

"It's always really nice to be an artist and to have institutions display your artwork," Gwyn said. "Anytime you get a project that is specific regarding what they want, it's fun. Plus, it's fun that they reached out to students."

Morgan said students from several classes designed the sculptures. The selection of which sculptures would be used was decided by professor in the School of Art and Design, Carl Twarog, who is responsible for keeping the clock tower in working order, in collaboration with Jubran.

"They kind of looked at all of the pieces and they picked the ones that would be put up for this year and then the other pieces would be put up in following years," Gwyn said.

Morgan said her piece is called "High Noon." "The cowboy boots and hat are a painted aluminum sculpture which was cast in the ECU foundry," Morgan said.



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The clock tower outside of Joyner Library at ECU will be refurbished with four new sculptures.

Morgan explained the sculpture references to the quick-draw duels at high noon when the sun is highest in the sky.

"As soon as we have the capability, hopefully by the fall of 2017, I will make a recording which will feature the sound of hooves approaching, then a nice, loud 'yee-haw,'" Morgan said.

Gwyn said she originally wanted to do noon, but her piece could be used at dusk or noon.

"We started off by choosing the time,

and then I took out a sheet of paper and wrote at least 400 words that reminded me of noon," Gwyn said. "I also thought about this grandfather clock in my grandparents' house, which is perfect."

Students walking by will be able to see the new sculptures at dawn, noon, dusk and midnight on the ECU campus this coming year.

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

## CHAYCE continued from A1

opportunity to work or take classes with Chayce you know he was a wonderful person with a bright smile and vibrancy to light up a room. We were honored to have him as part of our family, and he will be greatly missed."

Gaddis said the department has set up a scholarship fund in Thompson's memory at ECU. Individuals can contact Gaddis about the scholarship fund at (252) 328-1268 or gaddism@ecu.edu.

According to the press release, Thompson had just completed his freshman year at ECU and was studying business administration and theater arts. Thompson was active in the performing arts and was a member of the Excel Honor Society at ECU. He was also a member of ECU College of Fine Arts and Communication Honor Society and the ECU College of Business Honor Society.

"Chayce was such a delight to have in class and in rehearsals," SOTD Professor Natalie Stewart said. "He was so dedicated, joyful, positive and very warm. His calm dedication and smile pervaded all he did. He will be deeply missed by all of us."

Several of Thompson's peers from the School of Theatre and Dance shared the experiences they had with Thompson during the depart-

"He had this infectious youthful energy about him."

— Nicholas Lease

ment's production of "Lend Me a Tenor."

"He came to rehearsal every day with a smile and huge amount of energy," said Cynita Lew, a student who worked in stage management for "Lend Me a Tenor." "He was excited to learn and worked extremely hard. I was excited for his future and sharing stories of our summers. His passing hit those of us in 'Lend Me a Tenor' hard and he will be missed."

Although Thompson was only at ECU for a year, he made lasting impressions with those he worked and studied with.

"He had this infectious youthful energy about him," said Nicholas Lease, a senior in the School of Theatre and Dance. "Chayce knew when to have fun and he knew when it was time to crack down and focus on the tasks at hand. Chayce was a one of a kind member of our SOTD community and he certainly earned his place in our Messick family. Once a pirate always a pirate."

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

GREAT WOLF PRESENTS

**Tattoo Folk Art**

July 7th  
6PM - 9PM

**MOXIE POP**  
106 E. 4TH ST.  
GREENVILLE NC 27858

LEIF HANSEN, NICKY PARRISH & KARELYN CORCORAN  
"PORTRAYING THE TRADITIONAL FOLK ART OF TATTOO"

# 72

PLUS  
MAP OUT YOUR WEEK

## TODAY

### Umbrella Market

Five Points Plaza  
5 p.m.

### YuGiOh! - Weekly Wednesday event

Blue Ox Games  
6 p.m.

### Magic the Gathering Booster Draft

Blue Ox Games  
7 p.m.

## THURSDAY

### Sam Adams Brewery of the Month Kickoff Party

Mellow Mushroom  
6 p.m.

### Thursday Night Musiv At Kasturi

Kasturi Indian Cuisine  
7 p.m.

### Guided Meditation Class

Sage & Stone  
Restorative Health  
7:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY

### First Friday ArtWalk

Uptown Greenville  
5 p.m.

### Restorative Soundbath with Mary Glackmeyer

Purple Blossom Yoga  
Studio  
6 p.m.

## SATURDAY

### Boxing for Brews

Uptown Brewing  
Company  
3 p.m.

### IBX July Show

Crave  
7 p.m.

### Busdriver and others live

Trollingwood  
9 p.m.

## SUNDAY

### Sunday in the Park: David Dixon Band

Town Common  
7 p.m.

### Crystal Bright & The Silver Hands

Christy's Euro Pub  
7 p.m.



J'KEYAH HULL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Hotel Louise and Belk building in downtown Washington, North Carolina was the focus for O'Halloran's students who sought to revive the building.

# ECU students plan hotel design

Hope Benton  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Every semester Robert O'Halloran does a hands on project with the students in his Hospitality Management 4650 Financial Management class. This spring semester, he assigned them a project which allowed them to think through the design and layout of a hotel that is now being considered by the city of



Robert  
O'Halloran

The project consisted of looking at supply and demand, the business side of things and deciding what style the hotel should be. It finished

with 20-minute presentations in front of O'Halloran, the Washington City Council and Chamber of Commerce.

The final design from the students was a 60-room boutique style hotel with a possible rooftop bar. O'Halloran said if they have something Washington based that is nice for people doing business and construction in the area, then people would prefer to stay there instead of always going to New Bern.

Students from O'Halloran's class said the experience gave them real world training.

"I was able to gain extensive knowledge that I thought I would not learn until I was in the field getting hands on experience," hospitality management major Zachary Dettlinger said. "It was interesting to see how a team can put together all the pieces to complete this semester-long project."

Washington locals are also excited to see what the future holds for the plans of this project.

"We're very excited about the potential and possibility of a destination boutique hotel, for what

it could provide to our performance venue," executive director at Arts of the Pamlico Debra Torrence said. "There are very few places where people can stay and it's critically important to the development of our performance venue that there be lodging close by."

Mayor Pro-Tem of Washington, Virginia Finnerty, who also owns a bed and breakfast in Washington, said she is excited about the possibility of this project.

"People are surprised that I'm excited since I do own a bed and breakfast, but they don't understand that that would bring more people and more people is always good," Finnerty said. "It would definitely be the catalyst for downtown Washington to have lodging on the river."

O'Halloran said the class spent three hours on Monday evenings at the hotel during the semester. While there, the class dedicated time to see where they should be at during the project and issues that could come up.

"Sometimes issues would come up where they couldn't access such

and such person and I would try and help them with that," O'Halloran said. "They also got to a discovery stage where they realized things weren't going to work, and they'd realize it wasn't about what they think but what data tells them. It allowed them to figure out what numbers they need and how to crunch them."

O'Halloran explained he tries to do a project every semester with his students. He said live projects are better for students because it gives them real world experience. O'Halloran said he also likes to include the community when working on projects by organizing events.

"I think it's a learning experience, it's always interesting for students to interview people in the community, local hotel operators and people from the city," O'Halloran said. "This project allowed the students to go into the buildings to visualize the space, count rooms and to decide if there was good meeting or function space and gave them ideas to play with."

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

# Local wedding shop aims to expand market

Hope Benton  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

When in Greenville, most individuals don't think about finding a variety of designer wedding dresses, but Unveiled Couture hopes to change that.

Unveiled Couture opened its doors in Uptown Greenville on October 22, 2016.

When co-owners of Unveiled Couture, Ashley-Nicole Russell and Cassidy Johnson were shopping around for their wedding dresses, there were none to be found in Greenville that suited what they were looking for.

"In 2014, we floated this idea of a wedding dress shop, and when we got dresses for our weddings there was no place to get any in Greenville, so we thought there is such a need and we love it," Russell said.

They have also worked with many East Carolina University students since opening.

"We hired all of the bridal stylists, majority of which are fashion merchandise majors at ECU," Johnson said. "They help us with the daily running of the business and take care of our brides. When looking for models we first ask the girls to reach out and see if anyone is interested. We try to utilize the students because they need experience."

ECU alumna Ariana Niehaus has modeled for Unveiled Couture in the past. She found out about it through her roommate who was an employee of Unveiled Couture at the time.

"The shoot showcased a dress



CONTRIBUTED BY MAGNOLIA PHOTOGRAPHY

Local Greenville residents, Ashley Nicole Russell and Cassidy Johnson open wedding shop to give more choices.

from the Pronovias line, as well as exhibited a lesser known fact that the Greenville Museum of Art can be a wedding venue, which as a recent graduate from the School of Art and Design at ECU, I thought was awesome," Niehaus said. "I have had wonderful experiences and was thrilled that I was even asked to model."

Russell said opening in Uptown was important to them because they spend a majority of their time there, as well as the fact

that the downtown is growing and they want to support it.

"Unveiled Couture brings a unique new experience to bridal shopping and planning in Uptown, and in all of Greenville," Niehaus said. "I don't know any other place in Greenville that can quite tailor to your every need as a bride."

Niehaus also said from personal experience of working with the owners, that they are wonderfully inclusive with different aspects of Uptown, including collaborating with local businesses, museums and local photographers. She believed that was an important part of being a business located in Uptown.

Johnson said they believe cus-



Cassidy Johnson

tomers service is the most important thing to them and their business. "Brides get personal and private appointments, they get the store for an hour and a half, to bring their entourage and try on dresses without having to see other brides trying dresses on," Johnson said. "They get our full attention to get what they want of their appointment. We try to make it special."

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

# FOURTH OF JULY

continued from A1

Jenkins said this is the 46th year the Greenville Jaycees have put on the Fourth of July celebration.

"We figure, since it seems to be a tradition, we'll probably get a spot of rain the day of," Jenkins said. "But nothing that will derail the plans. It's a rain or shine event."

Despite the rain, which began during the early evening, the fireworks were set off as planned.

Aces for Autism, a nonprofit, was the philanthropy chosen by the Greenville Jaycees to be at the July Fourth event at the

Town Common, according to Jessica Garcia, Aces for Autism clinical director and board certified behavior analyst in Greenville, North Carolina.

"The Jaycees has been wonderful in choosing us as their philanthropy so all proceeds for today's events actually go to Aces for Autism," Garcia said. "We are a nonprofit so we're able to help serve Eastern Carolina through the fundraising that we receive through these events. We're definitely really honored and blessed by it all."

Next to their booth, Aces for Autism board of directors President Kyle Robinson sat in a

dunking booth.

"For the generosity of a dollar-a-ball, they get to dunk our president," Garcia said. "He's been dunked a couple times and everyone's having a really good time."

Winterville resident Rebecca Whitehurst, originally from Plymouth, North Carolina, said even though this is her first time at the Town Common for July Fourth, the event is not only nice for Greenville and Winterville residents, but also residents that live in surrounding areas.

"I originate from a smaller town and they didn't do this kind of thing so it was nice to get in the car and come over and be able to

see the fireworks and that kind of thing," Whitehurst said.

Whitehurst added on the Fourth of July she normally gets together with family and they cook out and watch fireworks, but she thinks it is important to remember to be thankful for the ability to do all of those things in the United States.

"My husband is a former marine so I'm thankful for their service, for friends and family, and the ability to be able to do this without having to worry about all the hardships that other people do," Whitehurst said.

This writer can be contacted at  
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## OUR VIEW

### New camera installation on red lights to benefit city

Greenville city officials and the Greenville Police Department have decided to install red light cameras at intersections throughout the city. Five major intersections have been chosen to post the new red light cameras due to the amount of traffic normally seen in those areas, according to Michael Broadwell, a lieutenant with the GPD. 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.

The installation of the cameras is part of an initiative to reduce fatalities and injuries associated with vehicles crashes, according to Broadwell.

We, the editorial staff of the East Carolinian, believe these cameras will benefit the city and hold drivers more accountable for their actions on the road. It is not feasible to have police officers stationed at intersections, waiting to ticket drivers who recklessly run red lights, so the cameras are needed. The cameras will act as deterrents to running red lights, as drivers will know a fine will come in the mail if they are caught on camera.

Red light cameras have their detractors but studies show they are effective. A 2016 study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety showed that cities with active red-light camera programs experienced 21 percent fewer fatal red light running crashes and 14 percent fewer fatal crashes of all types at signalized intersections.

While it may be annoying to receive a fine in the mail after thinking you got away with running a red light, we believe it is for the city's greater good to have these cameras.

## OUR STAFF

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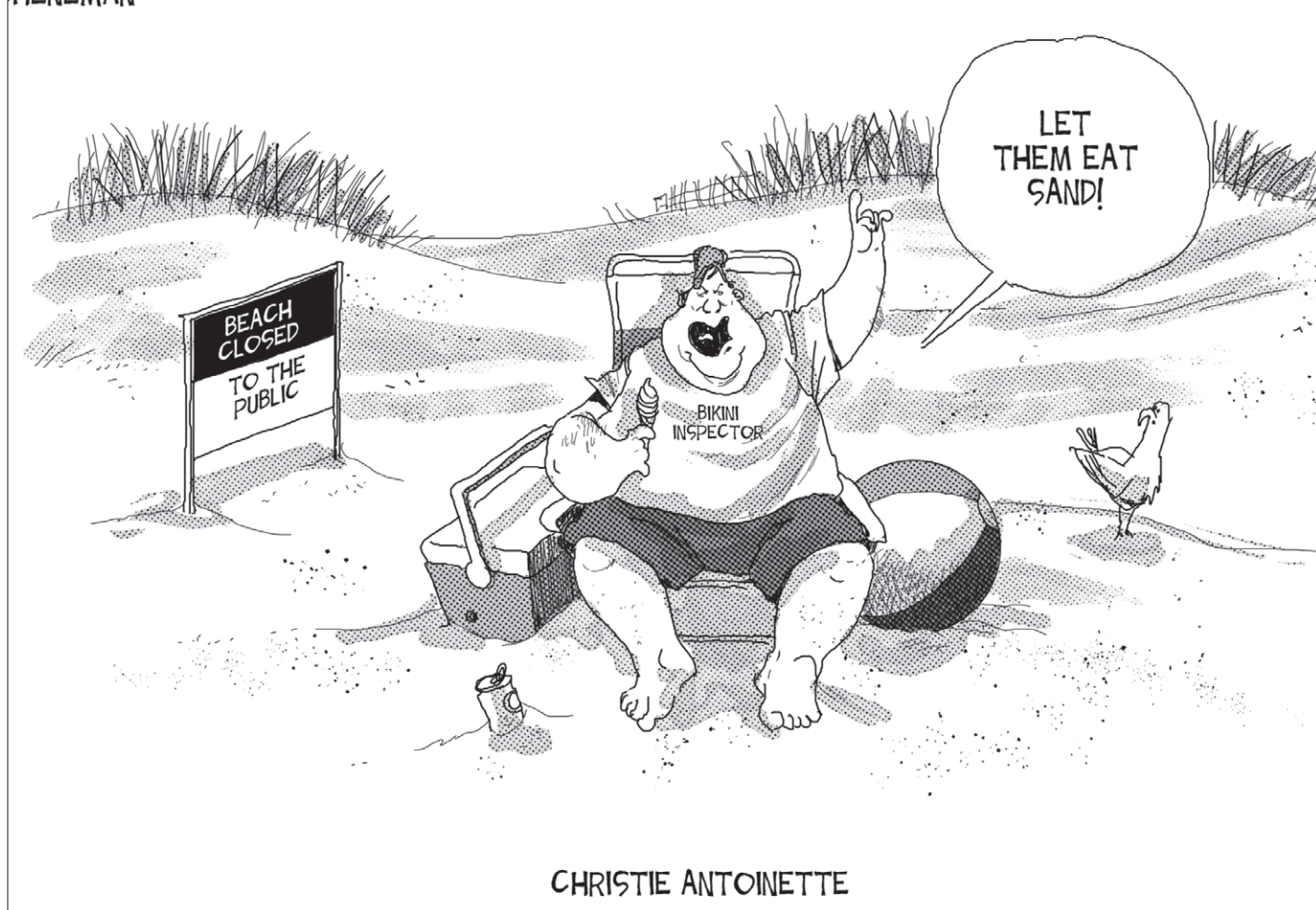
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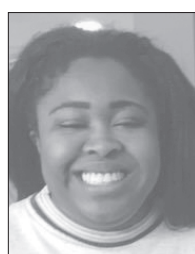
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HENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



CHRISTIE ANTOINETTE

## Schools need to address violence



**Blessing Aghimien**  
TEC STAFF

### Bless The Press

It all started with an English assignment. I took an AP class in hopes of bettering my chances to get into the college of my choosing. Little did I know, I wouldn't just leave with a GPA boost- I would leave

with a newfound passion for social reform.

The assignment was an in-depth research paper and presentation on a social justice topic that was relevant in our nation at the moment. The majority of my peers chose broad topics that captivated their interest within a matter of seconds. As for me? I needed 48 hours.

I have never been a student to do the typical or expected when it came to school projects. My worst nightmare would be having my assignment be a replica of one of my peers'. Call me an overachiever, but there's nothing that irks me more than sticking to something that isn't a challenge or doesn't consume me in a way that would make me eager to work.

While my peers sat around me immersed in what Twitter had to offer or the breaking news of who cheated on who at prom, I was mesmerized by the truth. The harsh, heart wrenching truth that school violence offered consumed me. I needed to know more. So for the next eight weeks, I immersed myself in the hidden truths about violence in places of learning. I listened to the horrific 911 calls. I spoke to survivors of school shootings. I watched the archived news coverage of tragedies I wanted to forget. And while it was rewarding to earn an A on the assignment and to receive audible approval of my classmates, it was even more worthwhile to leave with the drive of make this issue more aware to those like and unlike me.

School violence is a broad issue that's often clouded in misconception. More often than not, the term "school violence" is equated to "school shootings" when that is simply not the case. School violence is something that occurs in schools on a regular basis, almost to the point where it's seen as normalized or inevitable. Bullying. Fighting. Gang violence. Weapon use. Electronic aggression. All of them are examples of violent behaviors that contribute to the full scope of school violence's broad definition.

While controversial, we've all beared witness to it. Names such as Sandy Hook and Columbine stick out in our memory like needles in a haystack when another school joins the list. But when the mental lens zooms in, we can get a closer look of the times that may stand out in our minds where school violence has impacted us on a local, school-wide scale.

Students, maybe it was that big fight that broke out in the cafeteria. You know, the one where you may have pulled out your phone to record before getting an administrator for help? Parents, maybe it was that dreaded call that you received from the principal telling you that your child was subject to bullying...or subjected someone else to such bullying. Teachers, maybe it was that sit-down conversation you had to have with your class due to the rise of gang colors worn in the hallways. This is not a you, me or I problem. This is a "we" problem that only we can fix, and we can start that by beginning with ourselves.

Don't ridicule or trivialize such a matter. We've all seen and heard the jokes at the expense of others in reference to such a tragic and serious issue. People deeming others that may dress different than them as fitting the 'school shooter' profile. Those who say "don't come to school tomorrow" to incite laughter amongst a crowd. Such humor is unhealthy and counterproductive. School violence is no myth, and forms of ignorant

humor does nothing but further diminish the fight against it.

Speak up about what is seen. Do more than make a hashtag go viral. Do more than just read the headlines on television. Start or join an organization to fight against violent acts in our nation's schools. Educate yourself and research the causes and past instances of school violence to well round yourself on the severity of such an issue. Make your fight into legislation. Those men and women on Capitol Hill and in your state are there for one reason: to represent you. Your wants. Your needs. Being anti-school violence should be a bipartisan effort. Violence knows no party or place, and violent acts should have no place in our world let alone our classroom and hallways.

We can debate in terms of finding common ground instead of for the sake of winning. School violence is a complex issue that will require a complex solution. Talk about the risk behaviors, the signs, the causes, where, when and why. There's not one right answer to every question, and that's okay. Don't just debate about the role of guns, but try and incorporate the role of mental illness or bullying and harassment. Debate with hopes of learning something new. Debate with those of different perspectives than you. Debate with well-rounded research and factual evidence. Debate with the intent of progress and reform.

Many of us have first hand been victims, witnesses, and/or perpetrators of school violence. I write to you today not just from the perspective of a witness or of a victim, but from the perspective of someone who want to make a small change in this big world we share. For you, it doesn't have to start with another statistic or headline or even an English assignment. It starts with a will to change. The question left for you now is: does change come tomorrow, today, or a headline too late?

Blessing Aghimien is a sophomore majoring in communication. To contact this writer, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Men face emotional double standard



**Matthew Prenskey**  
TEC STAFF

### Don't Mind Matt

Being a man in today's world is more difficult than it should be. Movies, television shows and commonly known gender stereotypes tell men to act a certain way, but the problem is it creates the falsehood that men shouldn't express their feelings.

I am a white, grown man who is attracted to women, loves sports and will shoot a gun if needed. None of those details about my personality should matter, yet I feel the need to automatically defend myself because of this irrational belief that men can't talk about their feelings.

Growing up, I had male friends who fit perfectly into the gender stereotype of what a man should be. They were big, tall, athletic dudes who loved sports and girls, but were incapable of expressing their opinions when it came to feelings.

In fairness to my gender, not all men are like that. Some men are capable of expressing their feelings, or "being sensitive", as

many of my male friends described me.

The problem with this gender-stereotypical, ultra-masculinity gun show is that some men don't express their feelings in order to avoid looking weak. Furthermore, men from a young age learn that expressing feelings, pain or hardship is wrong, which in of itself is wrong. Lastly, men should love others, but that expression of affection can't be dependent on superficial details.

First, the gender stereotypes are wrong. From a young age, a lot of men play sports. However, the problem with playing sports is most men are taught to hold in feelings.

In a conversation with a friend, he told me he always wanted to be more expressive about his feelings. He told me that growing up expressing feelings like pain was discouraged because hockey players should be "brave".

That conversation left a mark on me. It made perfect sense that as a child, men are taught to bottle up their feelings like a dam stemming the flow of a river. My friend told me he went through a lot of internal pain and never told anyone because of that twisted, illogical male stereotype.

Like my friend, as a child I was taught

by my patriarch that expressing feelings was forbidden. As a result, a great deal of the emotional pain I endured in school was a secret from everyone around me.

The horrible part about that story is more men than just me go through that exact problem.

Finally, men should be more comfortable expressing feelings like love. Men need to be comfortable taking the chance that even if denied, being "sensitive" isn't wrong. Expressing one's feelings doesn't make a man weak, it makes them strong for being confident enough to take a chance.

I love my friends, family and significant other because that is truly the best word to describe my relationships with them. I am a man stating comfortably and confidently that as a male I can easily express my feelings.

Most of us will wake up tomorrow just the same as we did today. However, on the off chance something happens telling your loved ones just how much they mean to you won't make you weak. It will make you a stronger man than most.

Matthew Prenskey is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact writer, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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## CROSSWORD

# THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
18			19					20	21			
	22				23	24	25					
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	35			36						37	38	
39								40				41
42				43	44	45	46			47		
48				49						50		
51				52						53		

### ACROSS

- 1 \_\_\_ Hanna; role on "NCIS: Los Angeles"
- 4 Tooth parts
- 9 "Last \_\_\_ Standing"
- 12 Suffix for treat or expert
- 13 Former talk show hostess
- 14 \_\_\_ Wong of "American Housewife"
- 15 Modern crime lab evidence
- 16 Northeasternmost U.S. state
- 17 Shade of brown
- 18 Spine-chilling
- 20 Mickey or Mighty
- 22 Actor on "Fresh Off the Boat"
- 26 Neighbor of Lebanon
- 27 Actress Leoni
- 28 Pacino and Roker
- 29 Mineral spring
- 32 Struggles to breathe
- 35 Former anchor on "The Today Show"
- 39 Actress \_\_\_ Jessica Parker
- 40 "A Day at the \_\_\_"; Marx Brothers movie
- 42 Feasted

- 43 Most famous relater of fables
- 47 Ending for Paul or Max
- 48 "The \_\_\_ & Stimp Show"
- 49 "Santa Fe \_\_\_"; Errol Flynn western
- 50 Greek letter
- 51 Carney or Linkletter
- 52 "\_\_\_ Eye"; Shia LaBeouf movie
- 53 OPQ followers

### DOWN

- 1 "Master and Commander: The Far \_\_\_ of the World"
- 2 Lou Grant's portrayer
- 3 Late actress/comedian Anne \_\_\_
- 4 "The Smothers Brothers \_\_\_ Hour"
- 5 Take \_\_\_ collection; pass the hat
- 6 \_\_\_ Lanka
- 7 "Peter \_\_\_"
- 8 One of the original Three Stooges
- 9 Actor Victor \_\_\_
- 10 Setting for "Northern Exposure"
- 11 "Star Trek: Deep Space \_\_\_"
- 19 \_\_\_ and outs; intricate details
- 21 Cereal grain
- 23 In \_\_\_; furious
- 24 Shade of purple
- 25 Cowboy's rope
- 29 Peggy Fleming or Michelle Kwan
- 30 "The \_\_\_ Trap"; movie for Lindsay Lohan and Dennis Quaid
- 31 "One Day \_\_\_ Time"
- 33 "The Color \_\_\_"; film for Whoopi
- 34 Mrs. in Madrid
- 36 "10 Things \_\_\_ About You"
- 37 Like a more frigid winter day
- 38 Pennies
- 39 Gilbert or Rue
- 41 Chair or bench
- 44 Historical period
- 45 Droop
- 46 Jed Clampett's discovery

### Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

E	M	M	A		O	K	A						
R	O	G	E	R	H	I	N	D	U	S			
S	T	U	S		S	M	O	G		L	I	U	
T	E	E		L	I	O	N		N	I	A	S	
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I	R	A	T	E		G	E	R	E				
Y	E	S					H	O	S	S			

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## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Talk about love, with Mercury in Leo. Creative writing can be fun. Discuss passions, enthusiasms and loves. Let someone know what's in your heart.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- The next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo, are especially good for family meetings and discussions. Strengthen communications and foundations. Enjoy creative domestic projects.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- A dream opportunity arises. For the next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo, it's easier to learn and express. Communications channels are wide open.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo, profit through communications. Don't be tempted to spend it all. Stash nuts for winter.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- You're especially clever and strong over three weeks, with Mercury in your sign. Study and learn. Avoid risk. Remember your manners. Whistle your own tune.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 5 -- Write about your dreams, with Mercury in Leo. Find catharsis and clarity through journaling. Creativity thrives this month. Fact and fantasy can clash; stay grounded.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Teamwork gets the word out over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo. Shared communications and networking produces results. Collaborate for a good cause.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Discover professional opportunities through your communication networks, with Mercury in Leo. Brainstorm lucrative projects and ventures. A rise in influence is possible.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Teach and learn, with Mercury in Leo over the next three weeks. Expand your investigation. Long distance networking pays off. Work behind the scenes.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Don't overextend. Inventory your shared resources and assets over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo. Communications lead to profit. Collaborate for growth.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- Communication between partners produces fruitful results, with Mercury in Leo over the next three weeks. Learn from experts. Share wisdom, inspiration and resources.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo, you're especially clever and creative at work. It's getting more interesting. Genius sparks in a conversation.

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## SUDOKU

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

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

### Level:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

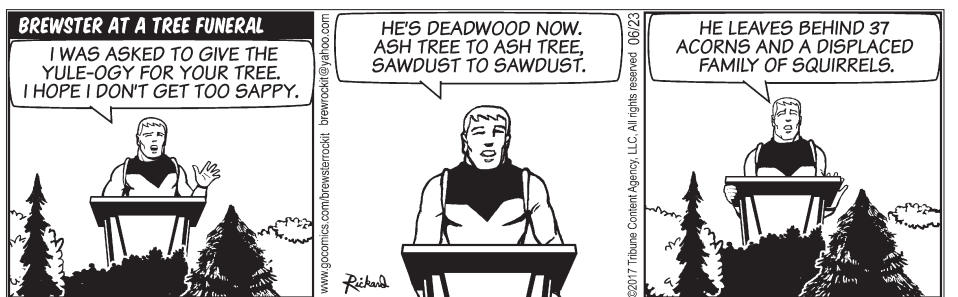
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

### Solution from last week

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

## COMICS

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>> COLUMN

## Compher still has more to prove



Sean Finnerty  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina Director of Athletics Jeff Compher received a five-year contract extension after the deal was approved by

the University Board of Trustees on June 27. The deal, which lasts until April 2023, also raised Compher's annual base salary to \$435,000 from the original contract's \$415,000 annual salary.

The contract extension doesn't come as a total surprise, as Compher does have a list of accomplishments from his first four years serving as Director of Athletics. According to the school's press release announcing the contract extension, Compher negotiated a 10-year all-sport partnership with Adidas that the SportsBusiness Journal reported had a value of \$16 million. The deal with Adidas is an improvement over the school's previous deal with Nike because it provides uniforms for every varsity athlete, unlike Nike, that only provided \$133,000 a year, leaving ECU to purchase the additional uniforms it needed at Nike's wholesale price. The deal with Adidas frees up \$840,000 that was typically spent on gear under the contract with Nike.

Along with getting the Adidas deal, Compher helped make improvements to the athletic department, including academic achievement, according to the press release. ECU student-athletes combined for a total 3.02 annual grade point average for the 2016-

17 academic year, which is the highest since calculations began in 2013-14, an accomplishment that shouldn't be taken lightly.

Compher also selected Cliff Godwin as ECU's baseball coach for his first head coaching hire. In his three years running the baseball program, Godwin had led the Pirates to a pair of NCAA Regional berths, a Super Regional appearance and an American Athletic Conference Tournament title.

But it hasn't been all smooth sailing for Compher. On Dec. 4, 2015, he made the decision to give football Head Coach Ruffin McNeil the axe. It was a decision that surprised many and led some to question Compher. McNeil, an ECU alumnus, was well-liked, led the ECU to its first 10-win season since 1991 and bookended that successful year with 8-5 seasons and bowl trips.

It is true the Pirates were coming off a 5-7 season when McNeil was given the boot, but in his defense, ECU was trying to replace two of the best players in school history in wide receiver Justin Hardy and quarterback Shane Carden, dealing with new projected starting quarterback Kurt Benkert going down with a season-ending injury before taking a snap and losing its offensive coordinator, Lincoln Riley, to Oklahoma. That is a lot to overcome for a program such as ECU, that doesn't have the resources of Alabama or Ohio State University, so firing a coach such as McNeil who had accomplished what he had, was a bit of a head scratcher.

During the press conference the day of McNeil's release, Compher



Director of Athletics Jeff Compher received a five-year extension on his contract. Compher is set to hold the position until 2023.

**“ If the football program's trajectory doesn't start pointing up under Montgomery, Compher won't be receiving any more contract extensions. ”**

gave his reasoning for the firing. “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.

Then on Dec. 13, 2015, ECU announced the hiring of Scottie

Montgomery as the new football coach. He was a younger coach who was hungry and full of energy. There was much anticipation as the season began, but enthusiasm waned as the losses piled up. Montgomery's first season as coach ended with a 3-9 record, which probably isn't the trajectory Compher was aiming for.

Now, it is way too early to

make judgments on Montgomery as a coach. He needs more time to implement his system and bring in his own recruits to match his system. But with the firing of McNeil and hiring of Montgomery, Compher's legacy as Director of Athletics is tied to the success of Montgomery. ECU can have the best sport apparel deal in the country but it won't matter because at the end of the day, the athletic department's success is judged off of wins and losses, especially with the football team. So if the football program's trajectory doesn't start pointing up under Montgomery, Compher won't be receiving any more contract extensions.

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

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