



GET IN THE SPIRIT:
PULL-OUT POSTER INSIDE

The East Carolinian



VOLUME 92, ISSUE 4

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Thursday, 8.31.17

Pirate football to make comeback Saturday

Tyler Gavin
TEC STAFF

The time for talking about football is just about over — the time for playing is right around the corner. Saturday is the day the East Carolina Pirates kick off their 2017 season and put everything else behind them with an opening matchup against James



Scottie Montgomery

Madison University.

All offseason, people have talked nonstop about the James Madison team, who won the national championship in the Football

Championship Subdivision after a 14-1 record last season. Many experts have the Dukes favored to win in their trip to Greenville despite being in a lower conference. But is that commendation for JMU or condemnation on ECU?

The No.1 ranked FCS team will enter Dowdy-Ficklen stadium with the same

quarterback that led the Dukes to seven wins over FCS ranked teams last season, and brought a championship back to Harrisonburg, Virginia. Bryon Schor, the defending Colonial Athletic Association

> FOOTBALL page A6

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE

Allegations of misconduct, mismanagement hit Greenville Fire/Rescue

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

For the past five months, The East Carolinian has been investigating the conditions at Greenville Fire/Rescue and has discovered a department, tasked with protecting more than 120,000 residents, that could be putting lives at risk.

Years of alleged poor leadership, disastrous decisions, harassment from superiors toward firefighters, low morale and corruption has brought GFR's staff to the breaking point.

Through a series of public records requests and interviews with a total of 25 current and former GFR employees, The East Carolinian has learned the risks residents of Greenville and students at East Carolina University face.

The alleged harassment, belittlement by Chief Eric Griffin and Deputy Chief Brock Davenport and corruption throughout the department has forced firefighters to step forward and sound the alarm of how much danger the community is under.

> FIRE page A4



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Greene Residence Hall, located in the West End neighborhood of East Carolina University's campus. Greene is one of several high-rise buildings in Greenville that could potentially be at risk.

ONLINE

» Blue Ox to host
back-to-school 'Geeky Social'

» 'Spazz Presents' makes waves
in Greenville music scene

SOCIAL MEDIA



@theeastcarolinian



Facebook.com/
theeastcarolinian



@TEC_Newspaper

BRIEFS

ECU School of Music to hold concert Friday

East Carolina University School of Music and University of South Carolina will hold a wind concert tomorrow at Fletcher Music Hall from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The concert will feature ECU's Coastal Winds and USC's wind faculty. Performances will include work from Raff, Piazzolla and USC's own composer David Gardner. The event is free and open to the public.

International House to host passport event

Lenoir Community College will host an event at the ECU International House located at 309 E. 9th St. Sept. 6 for first-time passport applicants. The event will be open to ECU students and citizens of Greenville and will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are no appointments needed. Anyone who has any questions about this event should contact Amanda Sines at 252-328-1051 or go to piratesabroad.ecu.edu

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

'Get a Clue' brings in big crowd

Alanna Joyner
TEC STAFF

For hundreds of Pirates on the East Carolina University campus, the annual Get a Clue Involvement Fair is an opportunity to discover ways to be active on campus and in the surrounding community.

The fair, brought together by the partnership of ECU's Center for Leadership & Civic Engagement and ECU's Office of Student Activities and Organizations, was held on the ECU mall yesterday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

With three months of preparation for the large-scale event and coordination with campus entities including Facilities, Parking and Transportation, Environmental Health and Safety and Disability Services, students were able to talk and meet more than 120 student organizations, 30 community partners, events and activities according to Krista Wilhelm, assistant director for organization development with ECU's division of student affairs.

Ranging from academic, cultural and political organizations, students were able to immerse themselves into the embodiment of student involvement at ECU.

"We look forward to this year every year - this event gives opportunities to recruit new people, learn about initiatives, raise awareness and network with others," Wilhelm said. "Not only will students learn about ways to get involved, they will also find information on internships and job opportunities on and off campus."

Abdul Khadri, president of ECU's Muslim Student Association, said it is one of the events on campus that he looks forward to the most year after year.

"When I was a freshman, Get a Clue gave me an opportunity to learn and explore the vast amount of opportunities that ECU had in terms of clubs, organizations and much more," Khadri said. "Every year I learn something new



ECU student Tyre Francis stands next to a table at yesterday's Get a Clue Involvement Fair on the mall. THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

that is offered at our campus."

Engaging Pioneers through Innovative Culture (E.P.I.C.), an entrepreneurship student organization that started at ECU three years ago, attended its first Get a Clue this year, according to E.P.I.C.'s Vice President of Finance, Dakota Votaw.

"We chose to promote at Get a Clue because it is a great way to connect with the student community," Votaw said. "Our organization strives to include students from all departments at ECU and wanted to provide students an opportunity to start their own business, even if they are in another department."

In addition to the numerous student organizations, nearly 40 businesses showcased their services to students including Rania Aboshie, a manager at Muscle Maker Grill, a local healthy living restaurant located on Evans Street.

Aboshie said she was at the event to promote healthy eating for students.

"We came out here because we wanted to make sure that our ECU students know that they have a healthy alternative when eating out on town," Aboshie said. "The 303 bus does drop off in front of our store so it is convenient to the students."

Students who missed the event can find contact information of organizations and community partners listed on OrgSync.com for "East Carolina University." Students can also view the event calendar for upcoming events, activities, student organization interest meetings and weekly free movies, according to Wilhelm.

"The office Student Activities and Organization is also planning additional involvement opportunities throughout the year to connect students to opportunities that may interest them," Wilhelm said.

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

ECU PD to increase safety at football games

Matthew Prenskey
TEC STAFF

Ahead of the first game of East Carolina University's 2017-18 football season, the ECU Police Department has instituted new changes to make gameday festivities easier and safer for fans.

Event Manager of ECU Police Lt. Chris Sutton said starting at this weekend's game against James Madison University, students will now have to pass through multiple checkpoints from the time they enter the stadium through gates 9-11 to when they take their seats.

"There will be ticket takers with scanners where they'll be scanning tickets and then they'll be slapping wrap bands on, which will indicate where the individual is sitting," Sutton said. "When they get to the section, there will be an event staff member that will check your wristband then they'll mark your hand with a different a color marker for each game."

Because of this new checkpoint, Sutton said students should get to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium approximately an hour ahead of kickoff.

"If everybody comes, all 9,000 plus of them come 30 minutes before the game, you can only run so much water through a water hose," Sutton said.

Sutton said this new system has been put in place to help stop different areas of the stadium from getting overcrowded as it has in previous years.

"You got to come early to get a good seat," Sutton said. "Before it's gotten too crowded and we had to move people or it got so crowded that we discouraged people from leaving because we couldn't guarantee that they could get back in."

Sutton said this weekend's game could bring between 40-45,000 fans to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. However, with the possibility of showers Saturday afternoon, he advised fans to bring ponchos and not umbrellas to the game.



ECU students watch a game in the stands of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. The first football game of the season is this Saturday at 6 p.m. against JMU. PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Sutton said umbrellas, large bags, weapons, drugs or alcohol are all banned from entering the stadium.

Besides arriving early to get into the stadium on time, Sutton explained how the tailgate system will work for the first football game.

"There will be a six hour tailgate window this coming Saturday because of the time the game starts," Sutton said. "Tailgate lots will open at noon."

Sutton said fans must hydrate and eat regularly while drinking to stay safe. Any fan who appears to be intoxicated can be turned away at the gate and not allowed to enter the game.

"You can't drink for six consecutive hours and think you're going to make it inside this stadium and see at least a full half of the football game because most bodies won't take that kind of abuse," Sutton said.

He said police officers and medical officials from Greenville Fire/Rescue and Vidant Medical Center will be stationed throughout the stadium to help fans. Sutton said if an individual is having a medical emergency, fans should get the attention of a police officer or member of the event staff.

"The number one responsibility and goal for all involved is to make sure that this is the safest environment possible," Sutton said. "That is a significant part of the role that we play in making sure this is a hardened target."

In the first game of last year's season,

members of ECU Police, the Pitt County Sheriff's Office and Greenville Police Department took part in the Running Man Challenge during the second quarter. However, Sutton said no department has made any concrete plans to dance at this weekend's game.

"We have talked, just a little bit about it, but we're not going to it this Saturday," Sutton said. "When we do it, we want there to be plenty of folks here to enjoy it or laugh."

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

Hidden Branches Condo
Book today!

Comfort and affordability!
Only \$99 a night
2 bedrooms
2.5 baths
Full amenities
Only 10 minutes from campus

airbnb.com

Unfortunately college students often find themselves in a bind

SHARP BAIL BONDING

We would like to get and keep you out as fast and cheap as possible

Give us a call!
Trista's Cell: 252-227-1336
Toll Free: 1-877-684-1437

24 Hour
7 Day service
Financing available

P.O. Box 1336
Greenville, NC 27835
Accept Major Credit Cards

www.sharpbail.com | sharpbail@gmail.com

Aug. 31-Sept. 2

GET READY FOR PIRATE™ GAME TIME!

20% OFF adidas™
including adidas ECU Pirate Jerseys!

ECU DOWDY STUDENT STORES
WRIGHT BUILDING

FREE game day button with purchase while supplies last!
Extended hours Sat., Sept. 2, 9am-5pm, with relaxed campus parking near the store.

In-store only. Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Prior purchases, special orders, and purchases of gift cards excluded. No other discounts apply.

OUR VIEW

Special report aims to deliver truth to city

In today's issue of The East Carolinian, the newspaper released an extensive investigation into Greenville Fire/Rescue, detailing just how much danger students and city residents are facing.

The idea was presented to the leadership team of The East Carolinian in April and since then, we as a publication, have worked tirelessly to confirm the facts, tell the truth and protect the innocent.

One spark, one medical call or one mistake by GFR's leadership could lead to the death of an innocent bystander, caught up in a tragedy they didn't deserve to be in. As our staff worked through countless nights, the sound of sirens rang in the distance and the glow of red flashing lights, were an ever present reminder of how close the city was to a disaster.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, stand by the investigative work published in this newspaper. As a publication, our duty is to report the facts, tell the truth and warn our community of any danger.

No individual should be injured or perish in a fire that could have been extinguished. A family shouldn't lose a loved one that could have been saved. Yet, in the past five months, The East Carolinian has heard dozens of harrowing accounts of just how close the city has come to mourning the loss of an innocent life.

The East Carolinian doesn't stand for that and neither should the students of East Carolina University or residents of the city of Greenville.

OUR STAFF

Annah Schwartz	Editor-in-Chief
Javeria Salman	Managing Editor
Andy Li	Copy Editor
Matthew Prensley	News Editor
Melissa Glen	News Chief
Emily Harvey	A&E Editor
Jose Hernandez	A&E Chief
Kayla Morton	Sports Editor
Aaron Jackson	Sports Chief
Blessing Aghimien	Opinion Editor
Tori Poole	Multimedia Manager
Mattia Mitchell	Social Media Manager
Garrison Cooke	Visual Arts Editor
Paris Silver	Visual Arts Chief
Jessica Evans	Design Chief
Matthew Havelis	Business Manager

Serving ECU since 1925, The East Carolinian is an independent, student-run publication distributed Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year and Wednesdays during the summer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, columnists and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration at East Carolina University or the Student Media Board. Columns and reviews are the opinions of the writers; "Our View" is the opinion of The East Carolinian Board of Opinions.

As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

One copy of The East Carolinian is free. Each additional copy is \$1. Unauthorized removal of additional copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under North Carolina law. Violators will be prosecuted.

Contact Info

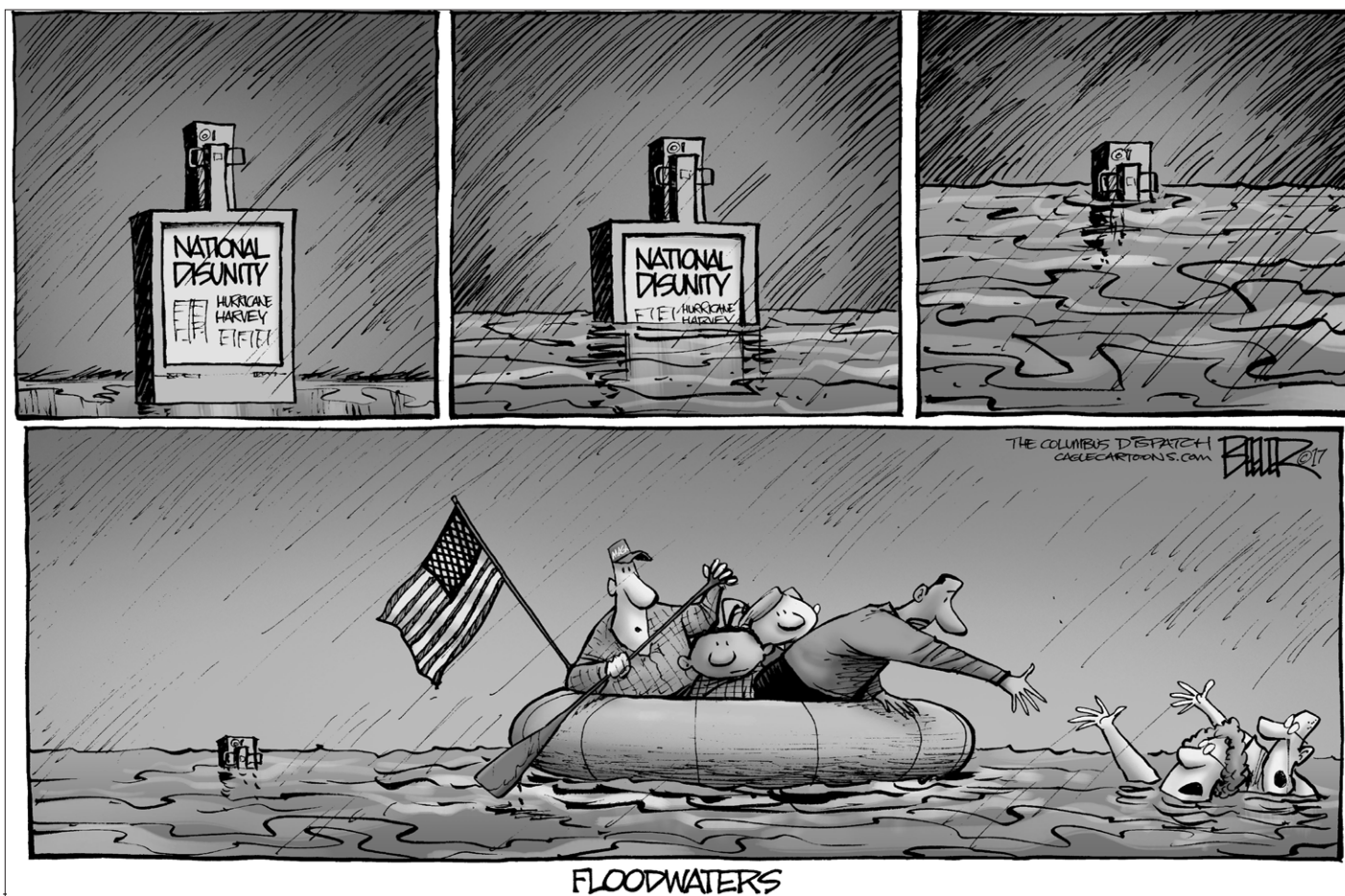
The East Carolinian
Self Help Building,
Greenville, NC, 28889-4353

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143



Men's mental health important

Expressing emotions necessary, stigma needs to be addressed



Robbie's Rumbles

Since my freshman year of high school, I've battled with depression and heard everything there is to hear about it: men don't deal with that

type of stuff, men are tougher than that, depression is simply just feeling sad. Not only did I hear these things, I often heard jokes about depression and suicide. The reality is that these things almost led to my demise, but I chose to fight the system.

Depression is more than just being sad. It is a state which can be caused by a chemical imbalance or just the individual's mind and emotions. Society doesn't always acknowledge depression, especially pertaining to men. According to the American Psychological Association, the suicide rate among American men is about four times higher than among women. Men are also more likely than women to succeed in committing suicide.

It is truly absurd that this is a world in which men still cannot show emotion. Emotions are a part of every human being and to tell a man or boy they cannot show emotion is, without a doubt, one of the worst things that society perpetuates. Depression isn't something to take light heartedly, because millions suffer from this illness. It takes too many lives.

This perpetuation of the tough-guy stigma is destroying the lives of individuals and their families. This stigma

“ Men and boys don't have to hold in their emotions. The best thing to do is to let them out, no matter who you are— your age, race, ethnicity or gender. As a man, the stronger thing to do is to express your emotions. ”

pushes those in need to act irrationally and sometimes attempt and complete the act of suicide. The impact on the individual can cause more aching and lead to a creation of different issues such as anxiety. The families get impacted by the change in the individual and the possible loss of the individual.

Men and boys don't have to hold in their emotions. The best thing to do is to let them out, no matter who you are— your age, race, ethnicity or gender. As a man, the stronger thing to do is to express your emotions.

Society needs to buckle down and stop the perpetuation of this stigma and outlook of depression in men. There needs to be more voices to help counter the stigma that society presents and propagates. Men and boys need to know there isn't anything wrong with being a human and displaying emotions. There needs to be a revival in society to help those suffering from this disease. There are already sources for the suffering, but they aren't necessarily the easiest to access. Social media can be a form of getting help through different

pages that look to aid those hurting, but professional help, such as counseling, is by far the best option to take.

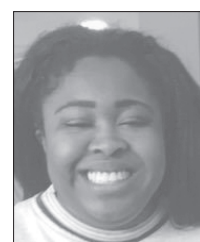
As East Carolina University students, there are great sources for help at the Center for Counseling and Student Development, the counselors there are great to talk to and get advice from.

Men and boys need to find their voice. Not the tough-guy voice, but the voice that stems from discomfort. This voice needs to be brought to the surface and heard by those around them. Those hurting need to reach out to others and those who are not in pain need to help by listening, not judgment.

Judgement is what helps perpetuate the stigma around male depression, therefore there is no room for judgement in society. Without the prolonging of the stigma, more men would seek help and less would end up dead by their own volition.

Robbie Milton III is a junior majoring in communication. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Siblings shouldn't be compared



Bless The Press

No two individuals are the same. Regardless of DNA, physical features or surname. Every fingerprint is customized to each person on the planet, sealing their identity during the entirety of their lives and beyond.

As the oldest of three children, I've always felt as though I've had to set the standard for my two younger siblings. Whether I was earning my way to section leader in chorus or dedicating study nights to remain on the honor roll, I always did my best to make my last name respected in the halls of my high school well after graduation. It wasn't long before I found out that my overachieving status would soon stand a disservice to the closest person in my life: my 14-year-old sister, Glory.

The essays turned in by my sister to my ninth grade English teacher were never good enough because my name wasn't on it. Every note my sister sang to my choral instructor could have been higher or less breathier than the notes that I once sang. For her, high school soon became a battle of the bloodlines, and for the first time in life, I felt as if those four

years of academia were all for naught.

Even in higher education, comparisons of siblings can be well and evident. Student athletes often follow suit after family members, which may lead to stats and work ethic being left to coaches to judge upon. Stand-out work leaves lasting impressions on professors, which in turn may leave underperforming siblings of past students in the shadow of their related counterparts.

Despite the inevitability of difference among humans, it's still innate to confuse one another with someone else. In life, many situations will arise where one will be compared to another. More often than not, that situation of comparison will take place in a classroom setting, and such a situation can be negligent if left unaddressed.

In schools, teachers may have had the opportunity of teaching not only the parent of a child, but the siblings as well. While confusing names is pretty much inevitable, the comparison of family members may arise as well.

Every student learns at their own pace with different subjects. While one student may have the highest reading scores, they may struggle on their multiplication tables. Another may excel when it comes to science experiments, but not exceed expectations when it comes to writing comprehension. No student, regardless of age, gender, or

creed, deserves to have their progress compared with a relative. Your bloodline should not define your learning complex.

Just as some parents may be reprimanded for comparing their children, the same should go for teachers. They have to be willing to differentiate their students from each other, regardless of relation. Teachers are one of the most prominent influencers in a student's life. A child being held to the standard of their sibling can lead to more significant issues in the future such as low self esteem, academic underachievement, and anger issues. The life of a student deserves more than the respect of a carbon copy, set in advance by the siblings that preceded them in age.

In the classroom, students have every right to be heard and treated as individuals. Free from bias. Free from ill treatment. Free from disregard or disadvantage.

An educator's words and actions can have a lasting impact on a student, and depending on how positive or negative the impact may be, a student's journey toward higher education could diminish. The future of the next world changers are in the hands of educators at this very moment, and not one can be afforded to be lost in a generational gap.

Blessing Aghimien is a sophomore majoring in communication. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

"IF THERE WAS A HIGH-RISE FIRE, THAT PLACE IS F***ED"

Chris LaPorta, Former EMS Specialist

FIRE continued from A1

High-rises at risk

If a structure fire were to occur in a multi-story building, such as a dormitory at East Carolina University, new information obtained by The East Carolinian has revealed individuals in the city of Greenville would be at a greater risk of injury or death because of the mismanagement surrounding a crucial ladder truck at Greenville Fire/Rescue.

Tower 1, a 100-foot ladder truck at GFR, is unique because of its reach and ability to spray water from high angles into burning buildings. However, in recent years, GFR has understaffed or taken Tower 1 out of service, which has left high-rise structures at serious risk, according to documents obtained by The East Carolinian through public records requests.

Most days, Tower 1 doesn't respond to many calls because of how specialized the truck is. Since GFR has been understaffed for multiple years, the department has dedicated employees to other fire trucks that see more calls, according to the GFR running chart, which depicts how many employees are staffed for a specific vehicle in the department, that was obtained through a public records request.

Having employees dedicated to other fire trucks creates a dangerous situation because if a multi-story structure fire starts in Greenville, the lack of staffing on Tower 1 would severely hinder the department's response.

For dormitories, such as Greene Hall, White Hall or other structures more than five stories, a ladder truck such as Tower 1 at GFR is the only resource that can fight fires and rescue victims from upper levels, Tony Smart, a former battalion chief at GFR said. One current GFR employee said the stairwells in ECU's residence halls are safe spaces for students to get away from fires.

"On the Tower, you're really only going to be able to reach the seventh floor and possibly only the sixth floor, depending upon how far away from the building you are," Smart said.

Because fire trucks can't be parked within 20 feet of a burning building due to safety concerns for the firefighters and their equipment, it limits where a department can place a fire truck, Smart said.

"I'm not aware of that," Bill Koch, associate vice chancellor of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at ECU, said yesterday afternoon, in regards to the mismanagement of Tower 1. "My office contacted Greenville Fire/Rescue and Chief Griffin said that that is not true. If the truck is needed for an emergency at ECU, then the truck can get to ECU."

Aaron Lucier, director of Housing Operations at ECU, said the allegations about Tower 1 against GFR were false and referred The East Carolinian to GFR.

After multiple attempts to get any comment from GFR, no call or email was returned to The East Carolinian by any official in the department regarding any part of this story.

Compared to GFR's other vehicles, the ladder truck is used significantly less often, according to current and former GFR employees, the majority of which left the department voluntarily and spoke to The East Carolinian on the condition of anonymity due to possible retaliation.

"There's a possible risk of failure," one current GFR employee said. "You're not going to find (equipment failure) until it's going to be called into service when there's a large structure fire, when it's going to be needed the most."

Because of how much time Tower 1 sits unused, any failure of its components could cause even more delays at a time when it's needed, one current GFR employee said.

Timing is very important because fires with sufficient access to oxygen and flammable material can double in size approximately every 60 seconds, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Current GFR employees said it could take Tower 1 approximately 10-20 minutes to respond to a structure fire in Greenville. Many of the issues related to Tower 1 are because of the years of staff shortages within the department. Former and current GFR employees said, in recent years staff shortages have forced Tower 1 to be understaffed or left out of service completely.

Between July 1, 2016 and July 1 of this year, Tower 1 sat out of service 44 percent of the time, according to the GFR running chart. In that timespan, only twice did GFR staff Tower 1 with five employees as the NFPA advises.



Eric Griffin

These staff shortages are partly caused by the high staff turnover in the department. Since 2013, 72 employees have left GFR, according to department staff rosters from 2007-17. The majority of the individuals that have left were employees with more than 10 years of experience at the department, former and current GFR employees said.

"What we're losing now is officers, paramedics and drivers," a current GFR employee said. "We're losing three things that are really important to the department."

Since Tower 1 is such a specialized ladder truck, it requires years of experience and high level certifications to operate, current GFR employees said. Because of that, it isn't possible to hire new employees and immediately assign them to the ladder truck.

Former and current GFR employees said the department's upper management, specifically Fire Chief Eric Griffin and Deputy Chief Brock Davenport are to blame.

"The biggest reason is just poor management," Matt Cox, a former lieutenant at GFR said. "Griffin, as a chief, is very unappreciative of the people and walks around saying, 'If you don't like your job, McDonald's is hiring.'"

Brock Davenport

Current GFR employees said due to a shorthanded staff, Griffin announced in July that one department employee would be dedicated to the ladder truck on each shift. However, this change won't significantly improve Tower 1's response time.



Engine 3, Tower 1 and Rescue 1 sit in the engine bay at Greenville Fire/Rescue Station 1 Tuesday evening. Tower 1 is a 100-foot ladder truck tasked with saving individuals from high-rise buildings.

"It's like throwing one person into brain surgery and saying we're going to make you do everything," a current GFR employee said.

If Tower 1 is in service but only staffed by one individual, it can only respond in "routine traffic," which means it can't use lights or sirens to get through traffic quicker, current GFR employees said. Because of that and the risk a single driver faces navigating the tight streets of downtown Greenville, Tower 1 will not get to a multi-story structure fire quickly.

The university invested a significant amount of money into the purchase of Tower 1. The city of Greenville purchased Tower 1 in 2011. ECU and Vidant Health, then called Pitt County Memorial Hospital, agreed to pay for a portion of the \$936,285 price tag, according to official documents from the city of Greenville, ECU News Services and Vidant Health. Both ECU and Vidant agreed to pay \$234,071.25, leaving the city to cover the remaining \$468,142.50, according to purchasing records from the city of Greenville. ECU paid its 25 percent share of the ladder truck in three incremental payments to the city starting on October 24, 2011, according to an email statement to The East Carolinian from ECU News Services in July.

"Why do you spend a million plus dollars on a piece of apparatus when you don't staff it and there's a delay getting it to a structure where it's badly needed?" Paul Ahearn, a former battalion chief at GFR, said.

Lack of training endangers community

Both current and former employees at GFR have sounded the alarm, warning that the lack of consistent live fire training done by the department could lead to disaster.

Former and current GFR employees said because of the lack of live fire and high rise training, both firefighters and residents could be in life-threatening danger.

"It's just a matter of time before somebody dies or we have a half-a-million-dollar truck wrecked because they're forcing people who don't know how to drive," one current GFR employee said.

The GFR employee added the department doesn't train firefighters in live fire situations as they did in past years.

Many current and former GFR employees said Chief Griffin has made comments on numerous occasions telling employees he refuses to send firefighters into burning buildings.

"Griffin's opinion about fire is let the building burn down. They can replace it, but we're not going to do anything extraordinary to cause there to be less damage, and we aren't going to put firefighters in buildings," Ahearn, the former battalion chief, said.

One current GFR employee said he was alarmed by Griffin's comments during his first day in the department.

"My first day of employment they had a meeting with everybody that got hired and one of the first things that came out of Griffin's mouth was 'I hope y'all aren't here to be firefighters cause I don't care if every building burns down, if I had my way we wouldn't put anybody inside. We wouldn't put any fire out, we'd just let it burn down,'" the current GFR employee said.

Many former and current GFR employees said, because of the lack of fire training the department could be seriously unprepared in the event of a serious fire.

"They just started doing high-rise fire training this year," Chris LaPorta, a former Emergency Medical Service (EMS) specialist at GFR said. "If there was a high-rise fire, that place is fucked. The training, knowledge, experience and command presence isn't there at GFR. It would be like a chicken running around without a head."

GFR is unique compared to other fire departments because it serves as both an EMS and fire department to the residents of Greenville. Current GFR employees said they don't perform live fire training because Griffin views the department as an EMS service, rather than a fire department.

"Instead of getting hurt or killed, Griffin would much rather have the building burn to the ground," one current GFR employee said. "He doesn't care about that as long as nobody gets in there and gets hurt or killed."

Like LaPorta, current GFR employees said they understood Griffin's effort to protect their safety. However, one current GFR employee raised the notion that firefighters "risk a lot to save a lot and risk a little to save a little."

"We all want to go home," LaPorta said. "We know what we signed up for and the risks associated with what we've signed up for."

The department could be at risk of a major tragedy, Ahearn said, due to the lack of experience among employees, inconsistent training and poor leadership at GFR.

"They're in a position, God forbid — they're one incident away from a major disaster which would include injuring and/or killing firefighters and civilians," Ahearn said. "That's scary. That has happened to fire departments around the country. The wake-up call is when they lose firefighters."

GFR short staff risks patient, paramedic health

GFR promised both the state of North Carolina and the citizens of Greenville paramedic-level emergency medical technician (EMT) care, but upon further examination by The East Carolinian of multiple documents, that standard is now creating dangerous situations for paramedics and patients.

Many of the individuals leaving GFR are paramedics, one current GFR employee said. The new employees coming into the department are EMT basics, which can't fulfill the duties being left by the paramedics.

"We have so many new people that we don't have enough paramedics like we need," a current GFR employee said.

In order to provide paramedic-level EMS care, GFR crafted a system of ambulances and squad vehicles to respond to medical emergencies, former and current GFR employees said. The system acts in tiers by having an ambulance respond first, with paramedics in a squad truck following behind.

"The squad truck runs about 20-30 calls a day because they're chasing all the ambulances," said Jeremy Seemann, a former EMS specialist, who left GFR June 15. "(After) a 24-hour shift, all I did on my first day off was sleep."

Seemann said, because of the call volume of the squad trucks in Greenville, paramedics can't take any breaks or naps in order to stay refreshed during their shift, as expected.

"I mean, there were times where I thought I was going to get in an accident because I was just so tired," Seemann said. "I was still trying to wake up from sleeping while going to a call and that's

“ You go to work everyday and you absolutely fear you might not have a job at the end of the day. ”

- Chris LaPorta

not usually too bad, but when I was running months on end without a break, it was just tiring."

That exhaustion could endanger patient care because driving while sleep deprived is comparable to being drunk behind the wheel, a current GFR employee said.

The chase system and staff shortages at GFR have also created a danger to patients. Because of the staff shortages, GFR is forced to fill ambulances with basic or intermediate level EMTs, who lack the certifications to give certain drugs or perform medical procedures.

"You have some trucks riding around town with two basics on it with a year of combined service together," one current GFR employee said. "If I'm having a heart attack, I don't want two guys showing up who can't even give the drugs that are on the truck."

Between July 2016 and July of this year, most residents of Greenville who called 911 for a medical emergency interacting with an ambulance staffed by EMTs who couldn't give important drugs or perform life-saving procedures in dire situations, according to the GFR running chart.

Current GFR employees also said the department's leadership has told employees to delay transporting patients to the hospital until a squad truck or fire engine arrives.

"It was a verbal understanding," LaPorta, the former EMS specialist, said. "They will not put anything down in writing because then they have a paper trail. It has been verbalized on multiple occasions that 'I don't care what level you are, you will wait for that truck.'"

On average, the delay in transporting patients is just a couple minutes, but the potential for a more significant delay is possible.

"Now you're having maybe an intermediate and a basic level EMT on the ambulance, or sometimes two basics on an ambulance, and they'll get there a few minutes maybe before the squad truck gets there," Seemann said. "A lot can happen in that few minutes."

GFR, PCC pass failed students through fire academy

The academic integrity of Pitt Community College and GFR has come into question after new information obtained by The East Carolinian has revealed both parties allowed failing students to graduate from their joint fire academy.

For several years now, GFR has partnered with PCC in order to conduct its academy and train new employees. However, former and current GFR employees said students who failed, even some who violated city and PCC policies, were allowed to graduate from the academy.

"I have sat in the classroom and (Griffin) came in and told all of the students, 'Do not worry about passing the tests, it doesn't matter how many tests you fail, you're still gonna have a job at the end of this,'" Joe Graff, a member of GFR's Academy 10, said.

Graff explained that individuals in the academy failed multiple tests, but when they were given a second opportunity, their grades would jump significantly.

"Going in and they get a 50 percent and they're able to retake the test and they come out smiling because they just received a 90 on their tests," Graff said. "Especially with only a day or two in between taking and redoing the test."

Graff's comments matched up with others at GFR, both past and present, who described the academy as "lax and easy."

"Rest assured Pitt Community College takes every step to ensure the integrity and quality of its educational programming," Rob Goldberg, media relations director of PCC, said in an emailed statement to The East Carolinian.

A former EMS specialist at GFR, Brian Pasko said Griffin's been controlling PCC for years. "Threatening to do this and threatening to do that. There's a lot of money brought in for these students to be in these classes and the individuals at Greenville Fire/Rescue," Pasko said. "That's a lot of money given to Pitt Community College."

Many of the instructors who teach the Fire/EMS Academy also serve at GFR and were asked to teach by the department's leadership. Former and current GFR employees said, because the instructors weren't responsible for grading, they were unable to stop inadequately trained cadets from passing the academy.

"The instructors, I have a special place in my heart for them because they're some of the most passionate that I've ever seen in any field," one GFR employee said. "These guys have put their lives on hold to gain that knowledge that they have and then to want to transfer that knowledge through all the adversity and the punishment they take is pretty amazing."

“ If I do my job, I’m going to get pulled into the office, and if I don’t, I’m going to get pulled into the office. ”

- Current GFR employee

Both the city of Greenville and PCC declined The East Carolinian's public records request in regards to documentation proving each student in Academy 10 passed the academy.

"The information within this request goes beyond the 'directory information' PCC is allowed by Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to release," said Rick Owens, vice president of Administrative Services at PCC. "More specifically the courses attended, tests scores, final grades, infractions or disciplinary action taken by Greenville Fire/Rescue and the course roster are part of the student educational record protected by FERPA."

Aside from the uncertainty surrounding the academic integrity of GFR and PCC, two members of Academy 10 were also caught buying alcohol while on duty in April of this year, Scott Salter, a former lieutenant at GFR, said.

On April 5, Academy 10 was at Nash Community College completing some training, according to Salter. He said once the training was finished, the group of cadets stopped at a gas station down the road from the community college.

After parking at a Sheetz gas station, two cadets crossed the two lane road and walked into a small store, according to Salter.

The two cadets walked to the alcoholic beverage section of the refrigerated drink aisle and grabbed what appeared to be a 25 oz. can of Bud Light along with a Clubtails Screwdriver Cocktail, according to the store's security footage.

After they purchased the alcohol, the two returned to the PCC van with the other cadets and drove back to Greenville, Salter said.

Both the city of Greenville and PCC have policies against drinking or possessing alcohol while at work or in school-owned property.

According to the city's employee policy manual, if an individual is found "engaging in prohibited activity will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment."

After the incident, an employee who was another occupant in the van that day reported the violation to GFR officials.

"The individuals were caught red-handed buying alcohol, they were drinking while in a PCC van on the way back from training when we were up in Rocky Mount," Graff said. "It was brought to the higher ups' attention. They supposedly had a two to three hour investigation and came back and said there was insufficient evidence."

The East Carolinian has obtained video footage from the convenience store that supports Salter and Graff's account of the incident. The East Carolinian has chosen not to release the video footage to withhold the accused's identities.

Neither of the cadets who purchased the alcohol were suspended or fired for their actions, according to documents from the city of Greenville. But, the city records do show the individual who reported the violation to GFR officials was suspended for a week, eight days after the incident.

GFR culture

On the surface, GFR seems like any other fire department: professional and competent. But those with firsthand knowledge of the department describe a much more toxic environment.

Former and current GFR employees said the department is filled with fear of reporting grievances, bullying or intimidation by Chief Griffin and rigged promotional processes.

"They have us scared to speak up," one GFR employee said. "They have us scared to stick up for ourselves so no, I have not filed a complaint with human resources. I think it's just, you don't know who to trust or who you can talk to with the city to be honest with you."

The fear among GFR employees is the department's leadership, mainly Griffin and Deputy Chief Davenport, will retaliate against any individual who files a complaint against them.

Another worry among the firefighters at GFR is that Human Resources will not investigate the complaint or unfairly side with the department's leadership, regardless of facts, current GFR employees said. Combined with the possibility of retaliation, most employees choose to keep quiet.

GFR employees said many of the grievances they would like to file relate to the department's use of discipline in unjustified situations. The employees don't fear fighting fires or saving patients lives, but rather getting reprimanded or fired without a justified cause.

"You go to work every day and you absolutely fear you might not have a job at the end of the day," LaPorta, a former EMS specialist, said. "It's reprimand whenever and look for things to reprimand for. People are leaving because of that. They legitimately fear that they're not going to have a job at the end of their shift."

LaPorta said he left the department in July due to the harassment and demeaning workplace created by the department's leadership.

"That was the mindset employees would go with, just because of the attitude the bosses had," LaPorta said. "It was a very demeaning attitude Griffin held toward pretty much everyone unless you were in his little circle."

Current employees at GFR said Griffin and Davenport keep the department in fear. Among the firefighters, the constant threat of punishment for any behavior Griffin or Davenport don't agree with has left the department's morale very low.

"When you're an officer within the department and every time you go sit down for an officer's meeting, you're always told you're weak, you're nothing, you're useless, pretty much you're pieces of shit," LaPorta said.

Another major complaint among many of the former and current GFR employees is how Griffin uses the promotional process to elevate individuals who he likes, but in some cases, aren't qualified for the position.

"It's been known for a long time if you help Griffin out, tests will be fudged and results will be kept secret," Brian Oliver, a former GFR employee, said. "Guys who are deserving, and if all things are being equal, should be getting promoted correctly, are getting passed over by not helping Griffin do shady stuff."

The current way Griffin and Davenport are conducting promotional processes has zero validity, one current GFR employee said. Griffin has told the department on multiple occasions that he operates outside the traditional promotional and educational process to promote individuals.

In terms of discipline, both former and current GFR employees said Griffin will treat individuals differently based on how much they "kiss up to him."

"I love my job, I just don't love the people I work for because I feel like I'm walking on eggshells every day," one current GFR employee said. "If I do my job, I'm going to get pulled into the office, and if I don't, I'm going to get pulled into the office."

>>ANALYSIS

Football Report Card

Sean Finnerty
TEC STAFF

Offense

B-

Positives: The offense's biggest strength is the fact it has depth at multiple positions. Offensive Coordinator Tony Petersen has said he feels he has two starting quarterbacks in Gardner Minshew and Thomas Sirk. Gardner earned the starting job thanks to his familiarity with the team's offensive system and personnel, as well as limiting turnovers in camp, which were a problem last season. If Sirk is called into action, there won't be much of a drop off, if any.

At the running back position, the Pirates look to lean on Derrell Scott, who transferred from the University of Tennessee, after the 2014 season, and is a shifty, speedy runner, while Tyshon Dye, a graduate transfer from Clemson, is a more powerful runner. They both are expected to see time on the field and their contrasting styles of running should keep opposing defenses guessing.

While the receiving corps no longer has Zay Jones in its ranks, it is still a talented and deep group. The receivers are led by senior Jimmy Williams, Davon Grayson, Deondre Farrier and Quay Johnson are all expected to help carry the load, while Trevon Brown, is being looked at to be a red zone threat.

Negatives: Lack of experience on the offensive line might turn out to be a major weakness for the Pirates, with three of the linemen having never started a game for ECU before. Team captain Garrett McGhin and Brandon Smith, both returning starters from last year, will be leaned on heavily to help guide their inexperienced linemates.

Defense

D+

Positives: The depth of the defensive line looks to play in favor for the Pirates this season. ECU tallied only eight sacks last year, but the likes of Demage Bailey, Kendall Futtrell, Kiante Anderson, Gaelin Elmore, Jalen Price, Randall Anderson and Chandon Hickerson are looking to improve on that number.

The Pirates also have strong senior leadership at the linebacker position. Jordan Williams, last year's leading tackler, and Ray Tillman, who racked up 18 tackles against Navy in 2016, are both entering their fourth season and are expected to get ample playing time once again.

Negatives: One of the defense's biggest weaknesses is the fact they don't create many turnovers. Last year, they forced opposing offenses into turning the ball over only eight times, picking off five passes and scooping up three fumbles. The Pirates hope the addition of graduate transfer safety Korrin Wiggins will help lead to more turnovers, but the Durham, North Carolina native recorded only four interceptions in his three seasons at Clemson.

Last year, ECU's defense was also susceptible to giving up big plays in the running game, reflected by the fact opposing offenses averaged 5.4 yards per rush and 228.5 rushing yards per game against the Pirates. The coaching staff made it a point to work on limiting explosive play in camp, specifically by improving the secondary's tackling, but it is now time to see if that work paid off.

I see ECU improving a bit on last year and finishing the 2017 season with a 5-7 record.

FOOTBALL

continued from A1

Offensive Player of the Year and 2016-17 James Madison Athletics Male Athlete of the Year, enters his senior season atop almost every FCS award list and possesses the potential to beat the Pirates through the air. The same year, he threw for 3,002 yards, and excelled on the ground, where he rushed for 569 yards and 10 touchdowns.

"He's a better quarterback outside the tackles, he's phenomenal outside the tackles," ECU defensive backs coach Brandon Lynch said. "With throwing the ball deep, his receivers do a great job coming back and making plays for him. We're going to have our hands full."



Brandon Lynch

Even though the Dukes are experienced at the quarterback position, it doesn't offset their struggles playing in the Football Bowl Subdivision, which the Pirates are a part of. Despite going 4-0 in games decided by 10 points or fewer last season, the Dukes looked overwhelmed in their only FBS game, a loss to North Carolina, getting run out of Chapel Hill 56-27. In total, Saturday marks JMU's 26th contest against a member of the FBS and in such games, the Dukes hold a 5-20 record. More recently, JMU has played a FBS team in each of the past 10 seasons, going 2-8 in that span.

The Dukes' most considerable challenge this year won't be any opponent on the schedule, but instead replacing their five leading receivers, three linemen, two leading tacklers and leading rusher. While JMU has a deep depth chart, playing inexperienced players will bode well for the Pirates on Saturday, who return plenty of starters. Now, Mike Houston, who is in his second year as the head coach at James Madison, has to restore this team unlike coaching the veteran team he has last year. Houston did recruit the predecessor to tailback Khalid Abdullah last season however, convincing Marcus Marshall to transfer from Georgia Tech after leading the Yellow Jackets in rushing the



Kenwick Thompson

past two seasons. Expect JMU to come out looking to score enough points to walk out of Greenville with a win.

"They're a prolific offense," Kenwick Thompson, ECU's defensive coordinator, said. "They're used to scoring points. They're used to winning. There's a lot of expectations over there, so they do a good job at (winning)."

While JMU is fighting to replace some key pieces, the defensive backs who anchor their 4-2-5 defense are all returning with more experience under their belt. Led by Raven Greene, who had six interceptions last season, which was tied-most in the FCS, the Dukes will feature two seniors and two juniors in their defensive backfield. Something that should strike fear in the hearts of Pirates' fans after they threw 12 interceptions in 2016.

This Saturday's forecast, which beyond just some rain, is calling for a lot of points between the Pirates and the Dukes. Both teams have a lot to prove this season, with ECU and Montgomery looking to bounce back after a disappointing 2016 and JMU and Houston trying to prove things last season weren't just a fluke. One thing is for sure, Saturday's game is going to reveal a lot about where both programs are headed.

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

Pirates soccer look to stay undefeated

Robert Romero
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's soccer team will look to add another win to its 3-0 start to the season when they take on the Campbell Camels on the road tonight at 4 p.m.

This is the first time ECU has started 3-0 since the 2009 season, and they have not begun a season 4-0 in almost two decades. Head Coach Rob Donnenthur and his team are happy about the position they are currently in, but Donnenthur understands the focus still needs to be on getting better- not only as individuals, but as a team.

"Obviously we're happy we won all three games, but in the end, we need to keep getting better," Donnenthur said. "Our game on Sunday was a gut check kind of game being our first Sunday game, but I thought we defended real well overall and I think the team is getting some confidence. In the end, we need to understand that we still have a lot of games to play and the team that continues to improve will be the ones to rise to the top."

It's been no secret that ECU's success in all three wins has come from the defensive end. In the three games the Pirates have played, they have only allowed three total goals and outshot their opponent on shots on goal 24-8.

The Pirates' offense has been pretty balanced throughout the season, with multiple players scoring or assisting for the team's



Daria Draovitch collides with Towson's goaltender on Sunday. ECU plays away at Campbell tonight.

points. However, forward/midfielders, Annah Lindberg and Cashlin Copley, have stood out on the field as critical pieces for the offense. Lindberg scored both goals in ECU's 2-1 victory against Davidson, her first multi-goal game of her career, and Copley scored the only goal in its 1-0 victory over Towson.

Campbell poses a threat to ECU because the Camels have a different system

of the play that will make the Pirates change their gameplan, and according to Donnenthur, the Camels pride themselves on playing very hard at home.

"Campbell is always a difficult place to play. It's a different system of play and we know they're team that will battle," Donnenthur said. "We have to be prepared not to be complacent and understand that we have to win games because nothing

is handed to you. And I think our team understands how hard it is to win a game and the effort that it takes to do that."

Campbell has begun its season 2-1, and are coming off a 9-0 win over Chicago State last Sunday. The Camels are averaging 3.33 goals per match while allowing just 0.33. This matchup will test the Pirates' solid defense, as well as the athleticism of the offense to see if they can convert their speed and plays into goals.

ECU's physicality on both ends of the field have no doubt been a key to its success, but the team's mental toughness has been glossed over in its 3-0 start.

According to Donnenthur, midfielder Jenna Geist suffered a broken nose in her game against Davidson but was still taking headers and airballs in Sunday's game against Towson. Defender Jayda Hylton-Pelaia has had to deal with an entire new backfield this year. So it would be understandable if they needed time to get comfortable with each other, but Hylton-Pelaia has been an exceptional defensive anchor in this perfect start to the season.

Although this isn't the longest winning streak Pirates fans have witnessed in the program's history to begin the season, the upcoming games look promising for the club as the team chemistry continues to strengthen.

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

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19)
Today is an 8
The next two days bring professional opportunities. Look for the heart of the matter. Talk about love, with Mercury in Leo for three weeks.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today is an 8 --
Focus on your health and work for a few days. Whistle your own tune, with Mercury in your sign for three weeks. Self-expression comes naturally.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Today is a 9 --
Healthy practices energize your work over the next few days. Long-distance communications and travels develop over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
Today is a 7 -- Plan or take a trip today and tomorrow. Strengthen family communications over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo. Get creative with domestic solutions.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Today is an 8 --
Romance and fun take priority today and tomorrow. Mercury enters Leo, for three weeks, favoring spiritual connection and meditation. Investigate mysteries and hidden beauty.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Today is a 9 --
Lucrative opportunities arise over the next few days. Long-distance communications and travels develop over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Leo. Explore new territory.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
Today is a 9 --
Discuss shared finances with your partner over the next two days. It's easier to learn, express and get your message out, with Mercury in Leo.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today is an 8 --
The next two days are good for making domestic changes. Social engagement thrives, with Mercury in Leo for three weeks. Connect with friends.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today is an 8 --
Power and confidence come naturally over the next few days. Collaborative conversations build bridges, with Mercury in Leo. Create partnership over the next three weeks.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
Today is a 9 -- Rely on your partner's strength through tomorrow, and provide yours. Profit through communications and networking, with Mercury in Leo for three weeks. Buy and sell.

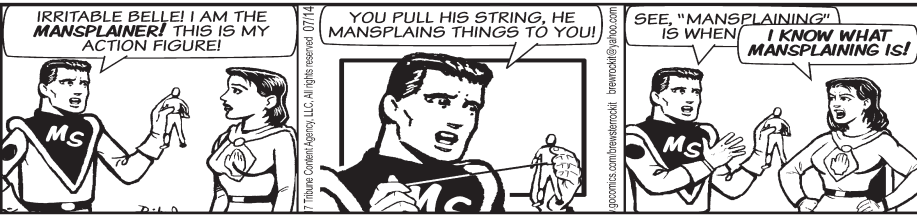
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Today is a 9 --
You're especially clever today and tomorrow. Brainstorm lucrative professional projects, with Mercury in Leo. Career advancement comes through powerful communications over the next three weeks.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
Today is an 8 -- Teamwork gets the job done. Discuss health and fitness over three weeks, with Mercury in Leo. Get expert feedback. All for one, and one for all.

(c)2017 BY NANCY BLACK. DISTRIBUTED BY TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

COMICS

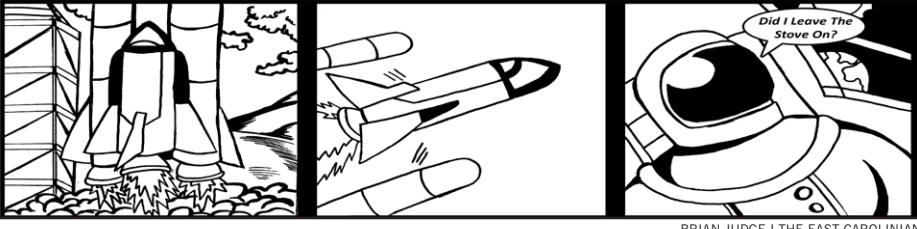
BREWSTER ROCKIT



BEST IN SHOW



ONE AND ONLY



SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

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

Level:



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

Solution from Tuesday

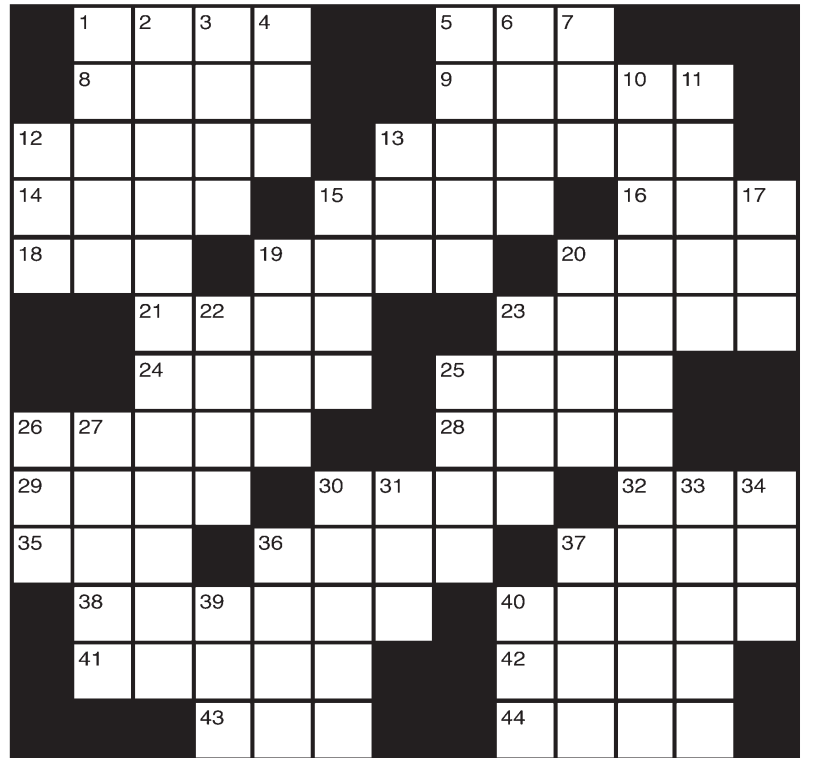
7	6	3	8	4	1	2	5	9
9	4	2	7	3	5	1	8	6
8	5	1	6	9	2	3	7	4
5	3	6	9	1	8	4	2	7
2	1	7	4	6	3	5	9	8
4	8	9	5	2	7	6	1	3
6	2	5	3	7	9	8	4	1
1	9	4	2	8	6	7	3	5
3	7	8	1	5	4	9	6	2

(c) 2017 The Mephams Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- Meara or Murray
- Elly May Clampett's pa
- Jagger
- Durance of "Smallville"
- Daughter of Desi Arnaz Sr.
- Gabor's costar on "Green Acres"
- Invites
- "The ___"; Anderson Cooper game show
- Anger
- Oldest daughter in "Little Women"
- Mrs. Herman Munster
- Bewildered
- One of John-Boy's sisters
- Change slightly
- "The Parent ___"
- Jai ___; fast-paced sport
- Beauty parlor
- Actor Rex ___
- Fissure; split
- Suspenders alternative
- In the past
- Dallas univ.
- Whip severely

- Actress Cannon
- ___ de corps; camaraderie
- Eric ___; role on "NCIS: Los Angeles"
- Rob or Will
- Annapolis acad.
- Commercials
- Uses a shovel

DOWN

- Make laugh
- Actor on "Chicago Med"
- Series for Rocky Carroll
- ___ out a living; get by
- Bread spread
- Actress Kathryn
- "___ Hard"; Bruce Willis movie
- Role on "Grey's Anatomy"
- "___ Grows in Brooklyn"; film for Dorothy McGuire
- On the ___; fleeing
- E-mail provider for millions
- "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless ___"; movie for Jim Carrey
- Word with wax or muffs
- "The ___ King"; blockbuster animated film
- Role on "Two and a Half Men"
- Underground plant part
- Landed
- Daughter on "Everybody Loves Raymond"
- Yrbk. section
- Teegarden of "Friday Night Lights"
- Great happiness
- "Please Don't ___ the Daisies"
- Celebrations
- "___ Life to Live"
- MacMurray or Savage
- Ricky Ricardo's portrayer
- "Harper Valley ___"
- Son on "Father Knows Best"

Solution to Tuesday's Puzzle

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

(c) 2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

72 PLUS

MAP OUT YOUR WEEK

TODAY

Magic the Gathering-
Blue Ox Games
1 p.m.

Silent Night Day with
Mother Earth
Basil's
5 p.m.

Spazz Presents -
Evan Taylor Jones
Band
Fire Tavern
9 p.m.

FRIDAY

Freeboot Friday
Five Points Plaza
5 p.m.

Beyond Bricks and
Mortar Exhibit
Emerge Gallery
5 p.m.

Tap Takeover
Winslow's Deli
7 p.m.

Josh Branch Live
Trollingwood
Brewery
8 p.m.

Coalescent Live
AJ McMurphy's
9 p.m.

After Funk Live
Crossbones Tavern
9 p.m.

SATURDAY

Pokemon - Free
League Play
Blue Ox Games
11 a.m.

Rock The Arts
Supporting GAPS
Starlight Cafe
8 p.m.

David Liebe Hart
Trollingwood
Brewery
8 p.m.

Carolina Sky
Buck Wild Tavern
9 p.m.

Back to School
Geeky Social
Blue Ox Games
9 p.m.



ECU students participate in a dance at the Unity Showcase at Wright Auditorium last night. The showcase is an annual event held by Black Student Union.

Showcase signifies unity

Alanna Joyner
TEC STAFF

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF



Walking near the Wright Auditorium might have seemed livelier than ever last night, as music reverberated throughout the walls of the 90-year-old building during the annual Unity Showcase. The event, which was hosted by East Carolina University's Black Student Union, included an array of acts by numerous student organizations, troupes, sororities and fraternities who converged on stage with an electrifying energy that continued to carry on after each act.

The event not only consisted of entertainment, but it highlighted

a discussion on issues regarding unifying all communities, especially on the ECU campus. "Tonight was really a night about bringing all of us together," Kyle Davis, a junior biology major, said. "There was no hate or judgement. Everyone just had fun and enjoyed every part of who we are as well as the talents that were displayed." From the start of the showcase, beginning with a poem relaying the importance of unity, to the unified singing and laughter during the intermissions, there was not a moment of separation.

For Tiona Rushing, a senior psychology major, this unique environment is part of the reason she has been coming to this event for the past four years.

"It's somewhere where I can relax and just be around other people—different people who are from different social groups," Rushing said. "It's very warm, and I always meet new people. Everyone is just always happy and it's a no judgement zone."

One of the students attending was junior Geoffrey Whitley, who was also a performer in the event. Whitley, a communication and fashion merchandising major, was on stage representing ECU's Fashion Above Modern Expression modeling troupe.

Whitley said he would like to see more people get involved with BSU, following the event.

"It's for everybody. It's diverse. It's for every race, every culture," Whitley said.

For Whitley, this event is also a place for people who love performing to be free and do what they do best—perform.

"I've been performing since I was little. I've always done theater, so it feels great to just be on stage and do what I like to do," Whitley said.

He said he believes the event is crucial to bringing change on campus and is a step in the right direction of where ECU needs to go now.

"We need to unify all the organizations together to bring us closer, and also with everything going on it shows that (as) different races, ethnicities and sexual orientations, we can all come together and do what we love," Whitley said.

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

Freeboot Friday to make return to Greenville

Lauren Sura
TEC STAFF

Purple and gold will fill the streets tomorrow as Uptown Greenville will host its 18th annual Freeboot Friday series.

The musical showcase features a variety of genres, according to Meredith Hawke, the events and branding coordinator for Uptown Greenville. Sponsored by Wells Fargo, the event is open to community members from 5-8 p.m. at Five Points Plaza.



"It began as a celebration for East Carolina University football games," Hawke said. "Throughout the years, the event has seen immense growth, becoming the official pep rally for home ECU football games."

This year's first Freeboot Friday, titled "Pirate Club", will host a line of musicians and speakers to pump up the pirate community for the first home football game for the East Carolina Pirates on Saturday against James Madison University.

"The music and the atmosphere are both great, not to mention the food and the people as well," senior cyber security major Nick Schaut, who has worked at Freeboot Friday the past four years, said.

The evening will open with a performance from Noelle Smith, followed by a welcoming from Mayor Kandi Smith and a speech from head coach Scottie Montgomery, according to a press release from Uptown Greenville. Dub Addis, a Reggae band, will perform following Montgomery's speech. Head soccer coach Rob Donnenworth is also set to speak, followed by a performance from the ECU Marching Pirates and a final show from Dub Addis, according to the press release.

In correlation with the ECU home football games, Uptown Greenville will host six Freeboot Friday events on Sept. 1, Sept. 15, Sept. 29, Oct. 6, Oct. 20 and Nov. 10.

On game day, there will also be a free Sup Dogs game day shuttle to and from the stadium, said Bret Oliverio, the owner of Sup Dogs.

"Sup Dogs is all about fun," Oliverio said. "Any time we can help tie in ECU football, tailgates and downtown Greenville, we are happy to do it. The community always supports Sup Dogs; we are happy to give people a free and safe way to and from."

The shuttle will run three hours prior, during and two hours post games for each home game, including Thursday game days. The shuttle stops at Five Points Plaza, Sup Dogs and the top of College Hill.

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

20%

STUDENT DISCOUNT

© 2017 Moe's Franchisor, LLC

WELCOME TO
MOE'S
southwest grill

610-B RED BANKS RD
GREENVILLE, NC 27858

Must show valid student ID.