



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Tuesday, 9.19.17

ECU forum to introduce candidates

Jessica Merklein
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University College Democrats, ECU Revolution, Pitt County Progressive Caucus and others will host a student engagement forum on Thursday in the Science and Technology building in room C307, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Students will meet numerous electoral candidates running for positions within the city of Greenville in this fall's November elections.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

Along with the candidates, students will hear from two keynote speakers, U.S. House candidate 5th District Jenny Marshall and Don Davis, NC State Senator, 5th District.

At the forum, students will have the chance to question democratic candidates Calvin Mercer and Uriah Ward on how they plan to bring positive change to the city of Greenville.

Zachary Pate, a senior urban and regional planning major, who is also a member of the ECU College Democrats said the importance of community politics led to the planning of this panel, which is only the first of several planned..

According to Pate, the vast majority of students do not vote in local elections, either because they are not registered to vote in Pitt County or do not see the importance of voting in local elections.



Zachary Pate

"The fact of the matter is that they live in Pitt County for nine months of the year, so they are basically residents of the city of Greenville," Pate said. "These decisions that are voted on and made at a local level directly impact your life."

Uriah Ward, who is running for the 3rd District City Council seat, said even though students may view the election as not directly affecting them, it is important for them to be involved in what changes takes place around town and campus.

ECU religious studies professor Calvin Mercer said he's running for mayor to continue the success the city of Greenville is experiencing.

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



The Pirates' starters huddle after a point scored in a match earlier this year. ECU is playing for head coach Julie Torbett's 400th win today.

GOING ON 400

Torbett, team on edge of historic milestone

Chase Carroll
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University volleyball team looks to earn head coach Julie Torbett her 400th career win during today's double header against North Carolina Central and North Carolina A&T to finish up non-conference play.

Torbett stressed to her team at the end of practice on Thursday just how important it was to keep their foot on the gas and come up with two big wins this weekend.

"Well definitely, we've had some growing pains," Torbett said after last week's close loss to Gardner-Webb. "We have a young team out there."

The Pirates will use these last two games on Tuesday to work out some of the growing pains the Pirates' young team has had so far early on this season.

The first game against NC Central will be a great opportunity for ECU to work on the passing problems they endured last weekend, as the Eagles have given up a total of 473 assists. The Eagles' opponents have also earned a solid attack percentage of .226 on the year.

The Pirates will have to contain freshman right side Da'Nesha Miller, who leads the Eagles in kills with 75.

In ECU's second game of the double-header, they will face a much tougher opponent in NC A&T. Aggies' opponents have earned just a .162 hitting percentage this season. ECU will look to break through, as they have a strong attack percentage of .218 this year and may be one of the toughest opponents the Aggies have faced all year.

The Pirates will have to look out for NC A&T sisters Alyssa and Courtney Pitt. Alyssa, a senior, leads the team in kills at 97, and freshman Courtney is not too far behind, standing at third on the team with 76.

ECU will look for continued dominant defensive play this weekend from sophomore libero Brandee Markwith. She set the all-time ECU school record for digs in a game with 40 against Gardner-Webb last weekend in the ECU Classic.

"I think it's a little inspiring (the record)," Markwith said about her coach who is coming closer to the milestone. "Going into the next games (and) in conference, and the season, we just have got to keep it up."

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ONLINE | FULL STORY



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Torbett coaches practice at Minges Coliseum.

Annual Pitt County Fair to bring new rides

Amanda Shea
TEC STAFF

The sound of music, whirring machines and laughter from family and friends will soon be abundant as the 98th annual Pitt County Fair begins today.

Phyllis Ross has been Pitt County Fair's executive for 15 years and is just one of the many people behind the scenes of one of the community's biggest events.

"We try to improve every year and we're always looking for different things to add," Ross said. "We try to involve people more in the community. It's just an ongoing thing that we try to make improvements on from year to year."

The Fair will be located at 3615 NE Greenville Blvd., and will be open through Sunday.

Ross and her husband Ken Ross have worked to bring an entertaining event to Pitt County each year since 2002, including rides and performances.

"We have some new rides, we have six in fact, we have a new act, Kids Celebration, that's really involved with kids and the family, so that should be good," Ross said. "We have Knockersball, there's something for everyone, no matter what age... We have the one man band, I always enjoy him [and] our hypnotist is very good. We have a lot of interesting things, so it's kind of hard to pick out one specific [favorite]."



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Pitt County Fair rides displayed from a previous year. The 98th annual fair opens today and will run through Sunday, located at 3615 NE Greenville Blvd.

On top of interactive games and attractions, Ross said local establishments will also be in attendance, such as Mario's Boots, the Greenville Marina and even Highway Patrol.

"Every morning you get to meet a lot of people and see a lot of interesting things, and how creative people can be and I enjoy working with the public," Ross said.

Each year, the Pitt County Fair offers an all-American idea of entertainment, while also boosting Pitt County's overall economy, said Ross.

"I think it gives the family an opportunity

to come out and be together and have fun. That's what it's all about," Ross said. "It's family oriented; it's geared towards families, and I think that's the biggest thing. I think that's how it helps because it brings in a bunch of people and it's good for the community because we have a lot of people that come from out of town, Virginia, all different places, so it's also good for the economy."

Parking is free and easily accessible for anyone in attendance. Entry fees start at \$6 with children four and under able to get in free. There is also a Mega Pass, or wristband,

offered for \$20, which works as unlimited tickets for rides.

While individuals can use credit cards to buy tickets online, they can only use cash in person. In addition, tickets bought online at pittcountyfair.org must be printed.

"Come out and enjoy the fair. If you do, print off tickets from online, they cannot use their cell phones," Ross said. "It has to be a printed ticket because we do not have anything to deal with cell phones."

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

ONLINE

» 'Pyewacket' film delivers subtle psychological horror

» Department of Foreign Language kicks off Hispanic Studies Film Series

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

“Try It Tuesday” to offer self defense courses

The East Carolina University Department of Campus Recreation and Wellness’s “Try It Thursday” will host a self defense class taught by expert to benefit students.

The event will be held today from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center, room 239. “Try It Tuesday” is free for students and SRC members, but space is limited so it’s advised to arrive early.

The self defense course will be taught by the ECU Martial Arts Club, with TD Gribble, a sixth degree black belt instructing the class.

ECU “Creed Connections” to discuss topic of privilege

The East Carolina University Dean of Students Office and Intercultural Affairs will host an event that will explore the topic of privilege.

The event will start at 1 p.m. on Wednesday in the Mendenhall Student Center, room 221. The Dean of Students Office and Intercultural Affairs will hold the event again on Friday at 10 a.m. to students another opportunity to attend.

The event is meant to bring student organizations, small groups or individuals together to discuss the concept of privilege. This event will also serve a Wellness Passport event and includes a “Privilege Walk” exercise.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

>>WHERE THERE’S SMOKE THERE’S FIRE

Mechanical failure halts Tower 1

Matthew Prensley
TEC STAFF

Greenville Fire/Rescue’s Tower 1, a crucial truck for students at East Carolina University, couldn’t respond to the reports of a fire on the morning of Sept. 8 at Jones Residence Hall because of a mechanical failure, according to public records obtained by The East Carolinian.

GFR was dispatched to Jones Residence Hall at approximately 8 a.m. on Friday morning for what was reported as a fire in one of the dorm rooms.

“Need a response to a refrigerator fire,” a male 911 dispatcher said over the department’s radio. “It will be at Jones Residence Hall.”

After the initial dispatch from the 911 communication center, GFR units from across the city began responding to the call, according to radio transmissions obtained by The East Carolinian through a public records request.

In the flurry of radio transmissions, the single GFR employee dedicated to Tower 1 and Rescue 1 that day, according to GFR’s running chart, told dispatch that Tower 1 couldn’t respond to the fire.

“Pitt County, Rescue 1 is in route... Tower 1 is out of service, mechanical (failure),” the GFR employee, said.

Tower 1 is the only 100-foot ladder truck in the city of Greenville. The truck is crucial to fighting fires in multi-story buildings, such as dormitories at ECU.

“In a city like Greenville, a tower or ladder truck is critically important for the purpose of lifesaving and/or firefighting,” Paul Ahearn, a former battalion chief at GFR said in The East Carolinian’s “Where There’s Smoke There’s Fire” special report.

The call started when the ECU Police Department responded to Jones Residence Hall Friday



KI COLEMAN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Tower 1 responded to Jones Residence Hall on Sept. 8 after reports of a fire forced police to evacuate the building.

morning after a resident reported smoke coming from their refrigerator, Deputy Chief of ECU Police Jason Sugg said.

“When officers arrived and checked the room, it appeared that there was smoke in the room, so the officers tripped the general fire alarm,” Sugg said in an emailed statement to The East Carolinian.

After an investigation into the incident was conducted, it was ruled a false alarm, according to GFR radio transmissions.

“Turned out it was some sort of steam leaking due to a problem with the radiator in the room,” Sugg said. “The ECU Facilities HVAC folks came and fixed the problem.”

Bill Koch, associate vice chancellor for the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at ECU, said he spoke with GFR Fire Chief Eric Griffin about the incident.

“Despite being called off, GFR arrived on scene with two fire engines and two 75 foot ladder trucks,” Koch said in an emailed statement to The East Carolinian. “Jones Hall is not considered a high rise building based on North

Carolina Building Code so the 75 foot ladder trucks met the needs for the response to this building.”

Koch said Griffin told him that Tower 1’s mechanical failure was within its starter.

“Chief Griffin confirmed that Tower 1 had a failure in its starter, which is a normal wear and tear item that can fail at any time on any of these trucks or even our own personal vehicles,” Koch said. “Based on this information, campus safety was not compromised.”

Koch said Griffin explained to him that because the engines in large fire trucks are so powerful, the starter is under a lot of pressure which can lead to failure.

“Tower 1 was checked out of service for a sudden mechanical failure. Another truck responded in Tower 1’s place to that call,” Brock Letchworth, city of Greenville public information officer said in an emailed statement to The East Carolinian. “Tower 1 was back in working shape in approximately three hours’ time, but while it was being repaired it was replaced by our reserve 110 foot aerial ladder truck.”

Since the incident at Jones Hall on Sept. 8, Tower 1 has reportedly responded to other calls for service at Scott Residence Hall and Tyler Residence Hall. However, neither the city of Greenville nor ECU

Police could confirm if Tower 1 responded to either of the calls.

In previous reporting by The East Carolinian, through documents obtained by public records requests and interviews with 25 current and former GFR employees, several issues were identified with how the department operated Tower 1.

Public records obtained by The East Carolinian showed that Tower 1 has spent a significant amount of time out of service or understaffed.

Current and former GFR employees also told The East Carolinian that Tower 1 could be at risk of mechanical failure in the “Where There’s Smoke, There’s Fire” special report.

Because Tower 1 is used less often, the truck remains stationary for long periods of time which creates the possibility for a mechanical failure to occur.

“There’s a possible risk of failure,” one current GFR employee said in The East Carolinian’s “Where There’s Smoke There’s Fire” special report. “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.”

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ONLINE | FULL STORY

ECU officials address DeVos Title IX comments

Alanna Joyner
TEC STAFF

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has put Title IX in the spotlight the last few weeks by announcing a policy change regarding the campus sexual assault and enforcement on Sept. 7, in a statement to the press.

DeVos said her goal is to reform Title IX investigations in order to be more fair to all parties involved, the victim and the accused.

“Schools have been compelled by Washington to enforce ambiguous and incredibly broad definitions of assault and harassment,” DeVos, in a statement to the press, said. “Any perceived offense can become a full-blown Title IX investigation. But if everything is harassment, then nothing is.”

DeVos said acts of sexual violence or harassment were atrocious in nature.

“Every person on every campus across our nation should conduct themselves with self-respect and respect for others,” DeVos said. “But the current reality is a different story.”

DeVos added that since becoming Secretary of Education, students have told her about their experiences.

“I’ve heard from many students whose lives were impacted by sexual misconduct: students who came to campus to gain knowledge, and who instead lost something sacred,” DeVos said.

Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, along with other characteristics, at any educational institution that receives federal funding.

“Title IX basically means that schools do everything in their power to ensure that their students are successful despite any interpersonal violence they may have experienced,” Kathleen Bursky, a victims advocate at the East Carolina University’s Center for Counseling Student Development, said.

Bursky, a licensed professional counselor at ECU said under Title IX, reasonable accommodations to students are obligated by the universities so individuals can continue their education without interruption or trauma.

In regards to ECU, Virginia Hardy, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, said higher education has always known Title IX changes would happen.

“ECU and all other schools has and will be ready to adjust and adapt to any new procedures required of us,” Hardy said. “Title

IX is very serious and complex. Although there are various viewpoints, our practices put the wellbeing of all parties as well as the safety of the ECU community first.”

One new procedure in the works includes DeVos’s plan to change the “Dear Colleague” letter, which would roll back the 2011 President Barack Obama’s administration guidelines on how schools are to handle sexual assault allegations.

According to statistics found on the ECU’s Victim Services site, one in four college women will be the victim of completed or attempted sexual assault, while one in 33 men will be victims.

Hardy said ECU has held a strong commitment to handling Title IX cases even before the the Dear Colleague Letter. Despite talks of changing it, Hardy said ECU will continue to uphold its consistent, effective and thorough process.

Currently at ECU, this process consists of any sexual assault reports being brought before the Sexual Misconduct Response Team (SMRT) committee, according to Bursky.

The process involves a small group of individuals from relevant campus entities to look over all new cases and decide how to best support the student bringing forth the case, Bursky said. Both parties are interviewed, evidence is gathered and a report with the findings is written by a Title IX investigator.

Bursky said at the end, if appropriate and the responding student is found responsible, they move into a sanctioning phase. If the case does not meet the burden of proof, no sanctions are imposed, but reporting students are still extended resources.

If the federal minimum standards are lowered in the future, including the processing of sexual assault cases, Hardy said it will not require ECU to reduce what is already in place.

“Continuing forward, the safety and well being of our students is our number one priority,” Hardy said.

Bursky said the ECU Victim Advocacy will always be there to provide free and confidential counseling and advocacy to all students affected

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

EVENTS

TODAY

Pokemon - Monthly Expanded Event
Blue Ox Games
6 p.m.

To Girls Everywhere, I Am With You
Wright Auditorium
7 p.m.

Long Exposure Photography
ASAP Photo & Camera
7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Carolina Ale House
8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Slack-Lining and Snow Cones
Campus Recreation and Wellness
1 p.m.

Wine Tasting Wednesday
Firefly Wine Shop
5 p.m.

ECU Yoga Series
Student Recreation Center
5:30 p.m.

Multicultural Mirrors
Ledonia Wright Cultural Center
6 p.m.

YuGiOh! - Weekly Wednesday event
Blue Ox Games
6 p.m.

Art Means Business: Photographing your work
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
6 p.m.

Jog-N-Juice
JuiceVibes
6 p.m.

Yoga in the Park
Greenville Town Common
6 p.m.

Official D&D Adventures League
Well Played Games
7 p.m.



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

From left: Jack Bentsen, Teddy Scott and Paul Gregg perform at Crossbones Tavern Saturday night. Greenville's stop was only one of 19 on the band's tour.

Bencoolen makes return

Rock band hits career milestones while touring across states

Danielle Schmid
TEC STAFF

The sound of saxophone solos and modern, jazzy rock music filled Crossbones Tavern Saturday night as Bencoolen took the stage.

The five member group recently brought its sound to Greenville, just one stop on the band's 19-stop fall tour across the East Coast. The members aren't done performing or progressing in their careers as musicians yet, as Bencoolen is currently on the road promoting its new single, "The Crown," which will be released Sept. 30.

"This tour will be a great mix of crowds," Bass Player Ben Suarez said. "We've gone from music festivals to college towns to even military bases. We really get a great blend of people."

Suarez said the band's most surreal stop on its fall tour so far was at Hampden-Sydney College, in Hampden-Sydney, Virginia, where the members performed an intimate house party set.

"At Hampden-Sydney, we had a lot of people singing the words, which is new to us still so we're really enjoying that, you know just taking it one step at a time," Suarez said.

Recently, Bencoolen has hit some personal

milestones. Performing on two different stages at Firefly Music Festival in Delaware, the band's music reached a crowd of 700. Members of the band also played the 9:30 Club in Washington D.C., where bands such as The Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Smashing Pumpkins have also performed.



Paul Gregg

rock due to its strong vocal sound, hardcore guitar tones, and of course, what they are known for: saxophone solos.

Gregg, who grew up in Bencoolen, Singapore, said when the band was trying to think of a name he tried to think of something related to Singapore.

"I picked the name Bencoolen because I grew up there and because it was the name of a street that had a mall where I bought my first guitar," Gregg said. "There was also someone in a different mall on Bencoolen Street that sold

the most hilarious fake IDs, some were blank on the back and some said we were from New Zealand."

Bencoolen, originally started as a hobby in 2014 in Washington D.C., began touring in May of last year after the group worked on its official lineup.

"Paul saw me playing at a GWU (George Washington University) event and we started with a totally different line up just jamming the two of us as the primary songwriters," guitarist Teddy Scott said. "Over the years we've integrated a new task and these guys have been the ones who stuck around as we started recording and touring."

The up-and-coming band feeds off each others' energy. The members plan to release a music video for their upcoming single "The Crown," as well as work to expand their horizons.

"Each of them knows just how talented they are so during each solo it's really evident on each person's face and the way they perform just how excited they are to see each other play," Bencoolen's photographer Tony Lyons said.

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Madison Lawson
TEC STAFF

Editor's Note: This is part four in a 10-part series which aims to highlight 'mom and pop shops' and meal options under \$10.

Known as the oldest non-barbecue restaurant in town, Marathon has served Greenville residents authentic Greek cuisine for 38 years and counting.

Residing in a small wooden building at 706 Evans St., the restaurant poses as a great lunch spot for East Carolina students and workers in the Uptown area as it is within the central hub of the city.

Open from 11 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. on Sunday, the smells wafting out of the kitchen are various mouth-watering dishes such as fresh chicken souvlaki and lamb, roasting slowly on a rotating spear.

"The mediterranean food is delicious," customer Walter Clark said. "I've done quite a bit of traveling in my days and this is as close to real Greek food as you are going to get."

Marathon offers its customers an extensive and affordable lunch and dinner menu including subs, platters and salads. Its most popular menu items, including a steak and cheese sub for \$7.49, gyros for \$6.78 and the souvlaki platter at \$8.41, are said to not only taste great, but come at a great price as well. In addition to the authentic Greek cuisine, the restaurant offers traditional American sides such as french fries and potato salad.

Perry Kachoo, manager of the restaurant since the beginning, said the journey for Marathon hasn't always been easy. Between relocating once and the constant price changes, Kachoo said it's all a part of running a business, that nothing is ever smooth.

"We used to be where Greenville Thai was and had to relocate in 1996," Kachoo said. "We wanted

Greek restaurant Marathon serves up traditional cuisine



NICHOLAS LINDEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Marathon Restaurant sits at 706 Evans St. The local Greek restaurant is open seven days a week.

to increase the size of the restaurant and no one would accept our requests. When we moved to where we are now, the former landlord opened a restaurant with the same theme and threatened to run us out of business."

What inspired Kachoo to open up Marathon in 1979 was the lack of Greek food in suburban areas. Tired of seeing people with the same old taste palette for pizza and burgers, Kachoo went out on a limb and decided to open a mediterranean restaurant.

"In the United States, when Greek immigrants came over they were known for opening diners in major cities like New York and Detroit," Kachoo said. "In Greenville there used to be a place called the Old Town Inn that was owned by a Greek man but he served southern food, so it's quite obvious the city needed a change."

Other challenges Kachoo and the restaurant have experienced over the past couple of years have to do with money. Like most locally owned businesses, Marathon continues to struggle to compete with major corporations.

"It's why we've had to raise the prices within the last couple of years," Kachoo said. "In order for us to cook great food, that we would morally feel right serving to customers, we have to charge more since the quality is better and healthier."

Clark said he has noticed a dwindling amount of local mom and pop shops while travelling. As

Marathon is surrounded by chain restaurants, Clark said he understands why Kachoo has had to raise prices.

"I'm sure they are charging what they have to," Clark said. "I prefer locally owned businesses because they care about their customers and the food is always spot on. Corporations are buying ingredients cheaper and cheaper and these places that want to serve quality food can't keep up."

Long-time customer Cathy Holmes said the restaurant lived up to her expectations.

"One of my girlfriends is a vegetarian and she ordered the hummus one time and loved it," Holmes said. "I've never been one to venture out and try new things, but everything I've tried here has impressed me."

Kachoo added the restaurant's exterior doesn't resemble that of an upscale eatery somewhere in the city. What is more important, he said, is what is on the inside: a great authentic selection of mediterranean food that is cooked fresh everyday, food that won't make people sick.

"All that glitters is not gold," Kachoo said. "We may not be fancy but we know Greek food and I invite everyone to come in here and try it for themselves. It may not look like much, but we have something great to offer."

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

OUR VIEW

TEC outlines requests for investigation

On Aug. 31, The East Carolinian released “Where There’s Smoke, There’s Fire,” an investigative report detailing allegations of misconduct and mismanagement within Greenville Fire/Rescue.

On Wednesday, The East Carolinian is scheduled to meet with Chief Eric Griffin, GFR’s Public Information Officer Rebekah Thurston and the city of Greenville’s Public Information Officer Brock Letchworth. This makes nearly three weeks since the article’s release and The East Carolinian has just now been granted the opportunity to meet with these officials.

Needless to say, we’re ready for direct and unfiltered in-person answers. In preparation for this interview, we, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, have decided to publicly outline the steps we believe the city, GFR and the university can and should take to address the allegations at hand.

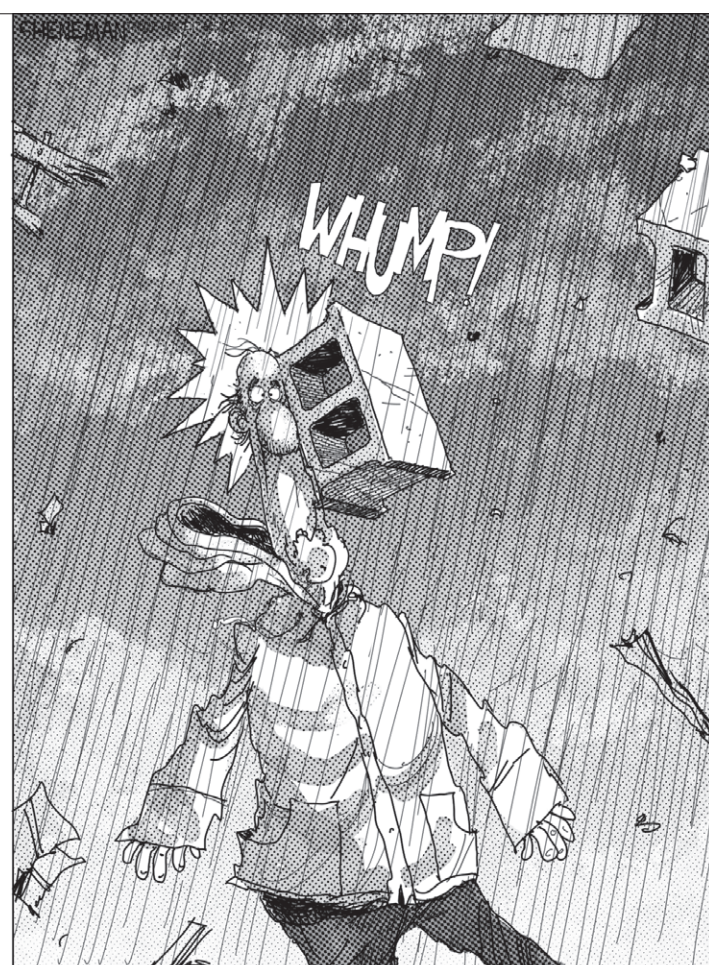
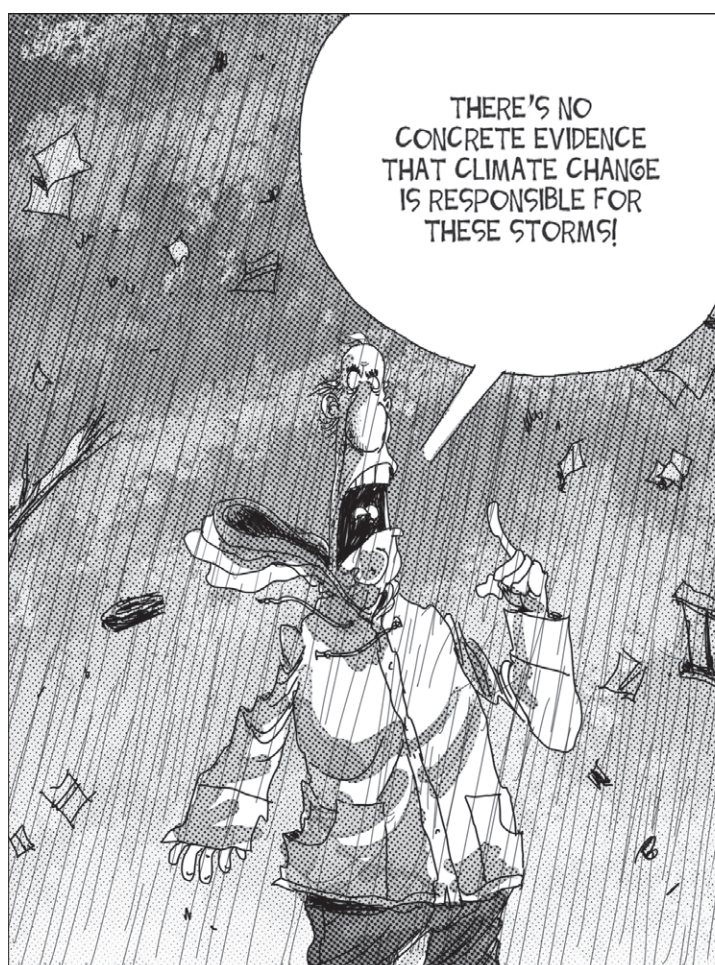
First, if Tower 1 has no issues serving the high-rise dorms of East Carolina University, prove it. We understand this run of Tower 1 will likely cost the department additional money and time, but wouldn’t the effort be worth it if that meant the worries of students, parents and citizens would be addressed in the most blatant way possible? If these allegations are, in fact, inaccurate, here is the department’s chance to set the record straight. Bring Tower 1 on campus, set it the same distance away from Greene or White Residence Hall you would if the building were actually on fire, extend the ladder to its fullest potential and then have a firefighter climb to the top as they would in an emergency.

However, this is not the only allegation GFR is under fire for. Let’s say Tower 1 does reach the top of Greene or White Hall—that still doesn’t let them off the hook or address the allegations of misconduct or mismanagement within the department. Since Sept. 1, 265 people have signed a petition on change.org seeking the removal of Chief Griffin and Deputy Chief Brock Davenport. The citizens who’ve signed this petition, those who have expressed their concerns anonymously and all those anxiously awaiting the city’s next move, deserve to have these allegations investigated thoroughly.

So as our second request, The East Carolinian would like an independent, outside investigation of the department appointed to ensure the investigation is conducted with complete objectivity. The lives of those in Greenville and ECU are too valuable to allow department politics and the possibility of influence to change the outcome of this investigation.

Finally, we expect city officials, GFR officials, ECU officials and city candidates to have total transparency with the public and the press as these allegations are investigated.

As students of ECU and citizens of the city of Greenville, this is not a report we take lightly. We felt it was crucial to raise these safety concerns to the public, while working tirelessly to ensure fairness and accuracy. We fully intend on seeing this story through to the end.



Letter to the Editor

>> WHERE THERE’S SMOKE THERE’S FIRE

The city of Greenville’s Public Information Officer responds to TEC report

Hello. We have legitimate concerns about the approach that Matthew Prensky is taking in his Fire/Rescue reporting. On more than one occasion now, Matthew (copied on this email) has omitted or intentionally redacted information provided to him in an effort to spin his article in a negative light toward the Greenville Fire/Rescue Department. I mentioned this to Matthew once when he did it with a statement I provided and it was corrected (albeit after the initial publication). It has come to my attention that Matthew did it once again in his most recent article by failing to fully

disclose exactly what medical personnel was at the ECU home opener (clearly written on the documents he obtained). Due to these examples and additional examples of spin in the GFR articles, we have no reason to believe that his approach will change.

The City would love to be able to respond to Matthew’s inquiries, but we just don’t see the purpose if we’re not going to get accurate and fair coverage. As a result, we would like to have the opportunity to either provide an editorial from the Fire/Rescue Chief responding to some of the inaccurate coverage or get the assurance that

any future responses from the City regarding Fire/Rescue be printed in their entirety (in Q & A format if necessary). Otherwise, there will likely be no further comment from the City regarding Fire/Rescue issues if Matthew Prensky is reporting.

Thank you for your understanding.

Brock Letchworth
PIO/Communications Manager
Public Information Office
City of Greenville, North Carolina

Fellowship encourages unity



Michelle Elmore
GUEST COLUMNIST

Students do not have to take a human diversity class at East Carolina University to recognize the racial divide in the United States. This division between Americans has been a major item of controversy following the 2016 presidential election.

People are subsequently drawn to their political parties, religions and personal world views, neglecting to remember that many diverse people stand behind those values, too. As a non-affiliated party member, I see it all day long and all around me. It may be time to pick up the eating utensils, put down our preconceived notions and enjoy learning something new for a change. At least in those circumstances, we can leave with a full belly and hopefully an open mind.

Ethnocentrism in our country, which is the ridiculous belief that one race or culture is superior to others, is in need of expiration. Color-blind racism is only going to cultivate a new generation of chaotic people, and I am in support of a more organized chaos. I have read and watched videos on two efforts, “Solution Sundays” and “Make America Dinner Again.” Each attempt addresses the issues “two by two,” in the fact that it begins with two people.

I found it interesting that each group of two, is completely polar opposite in terms of gender and political party. “Solution Sundays” is made of two male Republican Senators who have been hard at work learning about what brings us together over a delicious meal. “Make America Dinner Again” includes two friends aiming to come together and discuss voting with opposing voters, while they also eat their hearts out.

For close to two years, Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma and Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina have created an open environment inviting the promotion of racial unity. “Solution Sunday” as a meal, is a little different than that of the usual family-style meal. When questioned about the new initiative, Scott said, “This is not a program or a website, and it is not about politics or legislation. It is an old-fashioned meal, bringing people together, as we all share life.”

Justine Lee and Tria Chang of San Francisco, California also shared a straightforward hope and have put this into motion with an effort known as “Make America Dinner Again.” Their aspiration is to initiate “face to face interactions creating more humanity and connections” with those of diverse backgrounds, cultures and political parties to help bridge the divide.

People generally gather at home in their own comfort zones, in their neighborhoods, with people “like them.” The idea of bringing people of all racial backgrounds

and cultures together to share a meal is worthy of awe and affirmation. There are big things that divide us, and the election has left us more divided than ever. The healing that we need could be in the form of a nice warm conversation at mealtime.

By engaging with different people explaining different approaches and intentions, they are finding that diverse people are motivated to learn something. They have established a safe place to ask questions, free from yelling or bashing, as often seen with the social media platforms we all engage on. Such disengagement gives a hunger to learn from each other, which in turn gives a noble meaning to those taking part in these dinners.

While these groups are not inspired by the other, they both stem from deep rooted desires to close a gap in the country. It takes a small flame to start a fire, and we can all watch it burn as we pass the torch. A type of necessary healing can happen over mealtime, and bipartisan efforts such as “Solution Sunday” or “Make America Dinner Again” can incite the racial unity that America needs. Inviting someone of another race over as a guest for a Sunday meal is such a humble notion. Meals will warm the heart and body, and it does force us to communicate and open up to each other.

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CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

The East Carolina University Police Department gives notice that certain items of unclaimed property have been in possession of the police department for over 180 days. These items were found, confiscated or seized during lawful investigations and included various types of property such as but not limited to scooters, skateboards, documents, duffel bags/book bags, suitcases, keys, wallets/purses, electronics, car stereo equipment, clothing, power/hand tools, home décor, home improvement items, U.S. currency and bicycles. Some matters concern property in which the case has been disposed of in the judicial system and the property is no longer considered

evidence in this matter. Persons who may be entitled thereof are required by law to make such a claim within (30) days of this notice. Owners may contact the ECU Police Department at (252) 737-2626 or (252) 328-6787 or in person at 609 East 10th Street, Greenville, NC. A description of the property along with the serial number or reasonable proof of ownership will need to be provided in order to claim property. After (30) days, the property will be administratively forfeited and disposed of according to law. Property items of value that remain unclaimed will be turned over for auction to Property.room.com, all bicycles not claimed will be donated to non-profit charities and all remaining items will be destroyed. References: N.C.G.S. 15-11.1, N.C.G.S. 15-12 through 15-16 First Date of Notice: September 19, 2017 Last Date of Claim: October

19, 2017

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CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
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ACROSS

- 1 Fudd of cartoons
- 6 Disseminate
- 9 Pa Clampett
- 12 "___ It to Beaver"
- 13 "Falcon Crest" co-star Alicia
- 14 Poetic piece
- 15 Clay of "American Idol"
- 16 "Hannah ___"
- 18 West or Murray
- 19 Ernie of the links
- 21 Logue of "Grounded for Life"
- 22 Benaderet of "Petticoat Junction"
- 23 Rather of "48 Hours"
- 24 Old game show, "___ Hunt"
- 28 "The ___ of Living Dangerously"
- 32 Raymond of "Ironside"
- 33 Cleric's title: abbr.
- 34 Mouseketeer Jimmie
- 35 Bancroft of "The Graduate"
- 36 Ice Cube movie
- 38 One of Ted's stations
- 40 At present
- 41 Ralph of "The Waltons"
- 44 Silverstone or Cross
- 45 Building wing

DOWN

- 1 Broncos' kicker Jason
- 2 "Star Wars" princess
- 3 "___ Room for Daddy"
- 4 Arden or Plumb
- 5 Taylor and Adoree
- 6 Neill and Waterston
- 7 John's Yoko
- 8 Comic Sykes
- 9 "I Married ___"
- 10 Mrs. Babish of "Laverne and Shirley"
- 11 "Let's Make a ___"
- 17 "Leave It to Beaver" co-star
- 20 Dern and Branigan
- 22 Robert Blake crime drama
- 23 "From Here to Eternity" co-star
- 24 TV listings abbr.
- 25 "Logan's ___"
- 26 European eagle
- 27 "___ & Stimpny"
- 29 Very long period
- 30 Say more
- 31 Nutrition letters
- 37 "Baa Baa Black Sheep" star
- 39 Dog of a movie
- 41 Michael Dorn's Klingon
- 42 2005 A.L. MVP
- 43 Old-time panelist Chase
- 44 Keeshan and Barker
- 45 Raines or Fitzgerald
- 46 Jennifer of "Star Trek: Voyager"
- 47 Berman and Cariou
- 49 E-mail address symbol
- 51 Corrida cheer

Solution from Thursday

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Embrace healthy lifestyle practices with this Virgo New Moon. New energy floods your work, health and vitality. Profit from creativity with Venus in Virgo too.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 9 -- You're especially lucky in love, with Venus in Virgo for a month. This New Moon (also in Virgo) sparks a family, fun and passion phase.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- A new domestic phase unfolds with this New Moon (and Venus) in Virgo. Wrap your love around home and family. Create something beautiful together.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Breakthroughs arise in conversation under the Virgo New Moon. Follow your heart this month, with Venus also in Virgo. Talk about what you love.

Leo (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Release old limitations in your relationship with money under tonight's Virgo New Moon. New prosperity develops with Venus entering Virgo for a profitable month.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- This month, with Venus and the New Moon in your sign, you're especially irresistible. Take advantage, and ask for your heart's desire.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Insights, breakthroughs and revelations sparkle under this Virgo New Moon. Follow a dream, with Venus also in Virgo this month. Spiritual practices soothe.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- You're especially popular this month, with Venus and the New Moon in Virgo. Social activities benefit your career. Use your megaphone for a good cause.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Profitable professional advances arise naturally, with the New Moon and Venus in Virgo this month. Put your love into your work and it sells like hotcakes.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Chart your itinerary. Open a new door for education, travels and exploration, with Venus and the New Moon in Virgo. Venture forth.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 9 -- Family accounts grow this month, with Venus in Virgo. Increase your assets and savings. A lucrative phase dawns under this New Moon.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Use your feminine magnetism. Partnership flowers this month, with Venus and the New Moon in Virgo. Support each other. Begin a new chapter.

COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BEST IN SHOW



ONE AND ONLY



BRIAN JUDGE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

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Solution from Thursday

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1	9	3	7	6	8	5	4	2
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6	8	2	3	5	4	7	9	1
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East Carolina University's starting running back, Tyshon Dye, carries the ball into two defenders, in ECU's loss to Virginia Tech 64-17. THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Hokies pummel Pirates

Tyler Gavin
TEC STAFF

It was a totally different East Carolina University football program that took the field Saturday against Virginia Tech. Reinvigorated by two crushing losses, the reassignment of former defensive coordinator Kenwick Thompson, and the energy from family weekend, the Pirates looked poised to pull off a major upset and jump-start their season—at least, for a quarter.

ECU has been notorious for getting off to woefully slow starts this season, scoring just three combined points in the first halves of their first two games. However, the Pirates jumped on the Hokies from the very first snap.

Led by Gardner Minshew, after Thomas Sirk was ruled out just prior to kickoff for failing concussion protocol. The Pirates drove 75 yards and scored their very first first-half touchdown of the season.

After VT tied the game, ECU did it again, scoring a 76-yard touchdown when Minshew hit a wide-open Trevon Brown, who dashed to the endzone and reestablished the lead. Finally, the Pirates closed out a stellar first quarter with a defensive stop and a field goal to extend the lead to 17-7 and were in complete control of the game. But, once the whistle blew to start the second quarter, the

Pirates' game plan began to fall apart. "We were going to win, we were up and we were rolling," Minshew said. "Then we just stopped hitting and stopped making the plays."

Over the remaining three quarters, Minshew and the offense were no longer able to move the ball at all while the Hokies pushed down the gas pedal and sped their way to 3-0. VT scored on four consecutive possessions while the Pirates only gained four yards in the second quarter and the teams went into halftime with VT on top 23-17.

Unfortunately for the Pirates, the Hokies lead would only expand to another mortifying margin after halftime. The Hokies scored five unanswered touchdowns in the third quarter before pulling their starters with the game out of question. By the end of the game, VT poured on 57 consecutive points after the Pirates speedy start, scoring on nine consecutive possessions and 10 out of 11.

"I thought that we came out really aggressive. I think our defense bent a little bit early but didn't break and we stayed close in the game," head coach Scottie Montgomery said. "Then in the second half when we came out, we didn't come out with any energy whatsoever. It was almost like we played a full game."

The most meaningful takeaway from the Pirates third-straight loss is

the statement it made on where the program is. Montgomery's loss total has quadrupled his wins, sitting on a 3-12 record in his first year and a half coaching ECU.

It's still premature to give up on the Pirates' entire season. The Pirates have faced three ranked teams to open up the season. James Madison is ranked No. 1 in the Football Championship Subdivision, and were the underdogs in all three. Before the season started, USA Today ranked the Pirates non-conference schedule the toughest in college football. Tyshon Dye, the Pirates' emerging running back, knows this team still has the potential for success.

"It's disappointing, but at the end of the day that's a great team," Dye said. "But everything that we want is still in front of us. We just have to stay positive going into conference play."

The University of Connecticut is first up for ECU in its conference play due to the rescheduling of the American Athletic Conference because of Hurricane Irma. Instead of having the bye-week the players expected, which is now scheduled for Oct. 28, the Pirates will play at noon on Sunday in Pratt & Whitney Stadium. The Huskies lost to Virginia last week and are currently 1-1.

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

Men's golf shows progress

Robbie Milton III
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's men's golf team traveled to Durham, North Carolina to compete in the Rod Myers Invitational on Saturday and Sunday at Duke University Golf Club, where they ultimately finished eighth.

The Pirates shot a combined score of 873 which was 9-over par, while first place finisher No. 5 Wake Forest University, shot an 835 which was 29-under par. The Duke University Golf Club, which is a par-72, and covers 7,154 yards, was in top condition, with 29 people and six teams finishing under par. Head coach Andrew Sapp saw the potential for the team this year and was pleased with the first round, but noticed the team struggled and fell back in two of the rounds they played.

"We definitely had some good things happen," Sapp said. "Overall, I feel like we need to improve our consistency."

The field consisted of teams from all over the country including Duke, Liberty, Princeton and as far as Oregon. ECU started the tournament off tying East Tennessee State University for third overall by shooting a combined score of 288.

However, they took eighth place during the second and third rounds shooting scores of 292 and 293 respectively. Sapp credited the field, citing its strong teams and top individuals he was glad to face.

"It was good to face some teams who we will not see very often such as Oregon and Vanderbilt," Sapp said.

Leading the Pirates was sophomore Patrick Stephenson, who finished in 14th place, shooting a 213 which was 3-under par.

Stephenson opened the tournament shooting a 69 3-under par, followed by a 1-under par in the second round. He ultimately had his worst round during the final day as he shot 1-over par. This 54-hole score was a career low for Stephenson however, and Sapp was happy with Stephenson's first ever collegiate event finish.

"Hopefully this week helps lead him to even greater things," Sapp said. "This was a nice step for him to sure."

The next Pirate on the scoreboard was senior Tim Conover who tied for 26th,



Andrew Sapp

senior Jackson Spires, who finished tying for 40th and shooting 7-over par with a score of 223.

Sophomore Blake Taylor shot a 224 putting him tied for 50th and finishing 8-over par. However, the highlight for Taylor was the eagle he recorded on the par-5 seventh hole in the final round on Sunday. His eagle being in the final round matched with his improvement in each round of the weekend. The final Pirate was sophomore Chris Akers who finished in 62 shooting 11-over par with a score of 227.

Standout performers from the Invitational, other than ECU golfers, were Wake Forest's Will Zalatoris and Oregon's Norman Xiong who were given co-individual honors as both shot 12-under par for a score of 204 through three rounds. Along with having an athlete earning co-individual honors, the Demon Deacons stood out claiming their third straight

title at this tournament.

The Pirates will continue their season on October 2 and 3 at the Wolfpack Intercollegiate in Raleigh, North Carolina. The match will take place at the Lonnie Poole Golf Course at North Carolina State University. Sapp said he is ready to get



Chris Akers

back to work Tuesday at their practice facility and work on the team's short game in order to the team qualified for the next event.

"I feel that with improved wedge play we could have saved five shots a man for the tournament," Sapp said. "And that is the difference between finishing eighth and fourth."

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ECU hoops schedule set

Staff Report

The East Carolina University Athletic Department released the basketball schedules for both the men's and women's teams for the upcoming winter campaigns.

The American Athletic Conference added a powerhouse in Wichita State last spring, which could prove to be a problem to both teams. Wichita State has proven to be a dominant team while earning bids to the March Madness tournament six times in the past 10 years.

The ECU women's team will begin their season with three of their first four games at home, while having 16 total for the season. Last season, the women went 11-19, 2-14 AAC and had eight of those wins come at home.

The best matchups for the women will come from playing the University of Connecticut, who went undefeated all the way until falling to Mississippi State on a buzzer beater. Temple University and South Florida will also prove to be tough tests for the Lady Pirates, because when ECU played Temple, it got outscored by 64 points in the two meetings. With South Florida, the team got outscored by 41 points in those outings.

For the men (15-18, 6-12 AAC), they will have 10 of their first 11 games at home while having 19 of their 29 total regular season games played inside Minges Coliseum. The men will have great matchups throughout the season, especially against Southern Methodist University, Memphis University, Wichita State, Cincinnati and UConn.

Wichita State's basketball team went 31-5, 17-1 MVC (Missouri Valley Conference), while SMU went 30-4, 17-1 AAC, while Cincinnati went 29-5, 16-2 AAC.

The women begin play on Nov. 10 against the University of South Carolina Upstate, while the men open up against Coppin State University on Nov. 12.

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

Staton talks ECU Football

Staff Report

Chancellor Cecil Staton addressed East Carolina University's Board of Trustees Friday before Saturday's Virginia Tech and spoke about student athletes.

Following the end of the meeting, Staton's remarks were released in an official statement to the ECU community on the recent struggles of the football program and his support for the team.

"Let there be no doubt; we're going to get back to our winning ways in football," Staton said. "I can assure you, no one wants to win more than they and their coaches do, on the field and in the classroom."

In wake of ECU's recent loss to VT, 64-17, many fans within the ECU community are starting to become uneasy. The football program is at risk of having one of their worst starts to a season since 2011. Many fans took to social media to voice their discontent.

"We'll get through whatever challenges the year brings, and our fans know that. I'm pleased that they are sticking with our long-term vision, whatever comes our way," Staton said. "I hope you will join me in loving them and appreciating them for their dedication and determination. They are undaunted, and I urge all of us to remain undaunted, as well."

Staton said he doesn't want fans to berate athletes at the school. The solution offered by Staton and his wife was to wrap "our arms around our student athletes and love them."

In the statement, Staton said ECU must remain strong in order to show the team the fans have their back.

"We want to be competitive on the field of competition. All of us do," Staton said. "We also want the best for our athletes, whether it's on the field, in the classroom or in life after college, let's be sure they know we're supporting them."

Whether it's a win or a loss, Staton does not want the support of the football team to falter as the season goes on.

"They are family, after all. They are friends. They are Pirates. And we are Pirate Nation... Go Pirates" Staton said.

The football teams will play the first American Athletic Conference game of the season on Sunday when it faces off against the University of Connecticut at noon.

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

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