



VOLUME 92, ISSUE 31

SERBIAN POWER FORWARD EARNS STARTING SPOT

Turn to A6

The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Tuesday, 1.16.18



>> WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE

City officials' alleged inaction concerns firemen

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

In the opinion of both current and former firefighters at Greenville Fire/Rescue, city officials either don't care about the firefighter's concerns or want them to go away. These firefighters have based this perception on the city's alleged lack of action in addressing their concerns on how GFR is being ran and the safety risks to Greenville residents.

Lee Avery, an EMS Specialist at GFR who resigned in December after 13 years, said he hasn't received an exit interview since leaving. Because of that, he believes the city isn't interested in the concerns of firefighters.



Lee Avery

"It appears to me that if you're not going to take the time to run a proper exit interview to find out why each employee is leaving, either you are trying to avoid the issues or turn your back so it goes away," Avery said.

Avery isn't alone in his belief toward the city's reaction to the firefighters' concerns. Jeffrey Spear, a 16-year veteran of the Pitt County EMS community, expressed a similar sentiment. Spear said the firefighters he has spoken to have stopped trusting city officials and City Manager Ann Wall because of the perceived lack of action.

"They (firefighters) are interviewing for other jobs and I was told that a mass exodus is getting ready to take place because they (firefighters) thought this would be taken care of by now," Spear said. "That's the reason why they are leaving. They thought the city manager and city council would have done something by now. Since nothing has been done, they (firefighters) are getting serious about leaving."

Spear said he made an effort to try and arrange a private meeting with firefighters, both current and former, to meet with the city manager and explain their concerns. However, during a phone conversation, Spear said the city manager rejected the idea and said her door was always open.

"I told her (Wall) that her door can stay open, but nobody, because of what has happened in the past, will come to her open-door policy," Spear said. "If she wanted to find out what was going on, then she would have to come to a private meeting that wouldn't be at City Hall. But nobody is going to come to her office because they would have a bullseye on their back when they left."

There is no section of the Greenville city policy manual

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THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

From left: Marina Hobday and Kayla White sorting clothes at the RHA Health Services. Student volunteered at 18 different sites.

Pirates serve Greenville

Students spend MLK Day of Service making difference

Taylor Nishimoto
TEC STAFF

While most East Carolina University students were enjoying their day off of classes yesterday, more than 350 students volunteered across Greenville in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is an annual holiday created by President Ronald Reagan, which encourages citizens to give back to their communities through volunteering, according to Dennis McCunney, the director of the Center of Leadership and Civic Engagement.

This year, the CLCE teamed up with more than

15 student organizations on campus to coordinate the day's service, including the Honors College, Sigma Alpha Omega, the Panhellenic Council and more.

The day began with registration in Mendenhall Student Center at 9 a.m. Afterwards, several university officials spoke to volunteers in Hendrix Theatre to motivate them before they went to serve.

"This should be, probably, our largest day of service that we, ECU, has ever had," Alex Dennis, the assistant director for the CLCE, said. "We're gonna make a difference today. MLK stood for service and giving back to the community and trying to make a beloved community."

There were approximately 18 different service sites across Greenville and Pitt County, according to Dennis. He said each site had student leaders who coordinated volunteers in activities.

While the Day of Service focuses on community engagement, Dennis and the other CLCE officials urged students to use the day as an opportunity for reflection.

"One of the things I want you to think about today is what is your 'why'? Why are you here, what is your purpose and why are you serving today?" Dennis said. "So think about those things as you go out in the community and serve."

McCunney asked the students what it means to

be an active and engaged citizen and gave students several examples of ways they could extend their service and volunteering through ECU, such as the CLCE, Student Involvement and Leadership and Intercultural Affairs.

"I hope today you're going to be thinking about what it means to be a citizen of this great nation," McCunney said.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Virginia Hardy, also posed a question to the volunteers during her speech.

Hardy told a story about Michael Bonner, a second grade teacher at South Greenville Elementary

> MLK page A2

Campus Movie Fest kicks off today at ECU

Jenna Price
TEC STAFF

While the days of 16mm film movies and hand crank projectors are long gone, the creation of movies is still thriving. To honor the art of moviemaking, students at East Carolina University will have one week to construct a short film and show it in Mendenhall Student Center for all to enjoy.

The competition, hosted by Campus Movie Fest, officially kicks off today at Cynthia's Lounge from 12-5 p.m. and is open to all students, regardless of their major or film experience. Students who arrive early get first dibs on camera equipment, according to the Campus Movie Fest website for ECU. Those who wish to checkout equipment must bring two forms of I.D., including their one card.

After one week to prepare and execute their films, the cast and crew can invite their friends, family and fellow ECU students to gather for the Red Carpet Premiere on Jan. 25 for a viewing party in Hendrix Theater. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. After the premiere of these films, a panel of judges will give out awards in different categories, such as best story and best directing.

Last year ECU students Grant VanderVoort and Derek Hairston placed in the top four at ECU to move on to the national level. Their film, "ENEME," earned a Jury award, which is reserved for the top four films at the festival, and VanderVoort won the Silver Tripod for Best Performance.

Danielle Cook, the publicist for the event,



COURTESY OF CAMPUS MOVIE FEST

Grant VanderVoort plays a role in the student film "ENEME." The film was one of last year's winners.

is excited about this year's movie fest. CMF partnered with Prime Video, Amazon's internet video and on-demand service, and said it plans to make this the biggest premiere yet.

"This year we have a partnership Prime video, so that's really exciting," Cook said. "We're trying to make it the best premiere ever. We're trying to make it like a mini Oscars. We want everyone dressed to the nines."

The CMF is extremely competitive as only the top four movies at ECU will have the opportunity to move onto nationals for the campus level. At the national level, films that win awards will then move to compete at the film festival TERMINUS. Young filmmakers who win at nationals could even have their film shown on Virgin America Flights.

TERMINUS will be held at the Hilton in Atlanta, Georgia, June 15 to 17. The festival is dedicated to empowering today's creators by providing them with the education, experience and opportunities they need to develop entertaining and impactful work, according to its website.

Those who make it to TERMINUS not only compete their films against other top college competitors, but also attend the conference in Atlanta. The conference will be hosted by professionals of the filming industry, as they will give live lectures to help teach and encourage young filmmakers. Winners at the TERMINUS festival in the past have had the opportunity to travel to the Cannes Film Festival in France for an internship.

Raghav Ravichandran is the video manager for ECU's CMF, but in the past, he's participated in the event as a student. He said he finds it extremely rewarding and nostalgic to be on this side of the spectrum.

"I've been doing this for about a year and a half, and it's just super interesting and rewarding," Ravichandran said. "I participated as a student and never thought I'd have the opportunity to work on the other side of things. Working with CMF, I get to travel the world and meet super talented filmmakers who are only students. Getting to give out awards and seeing their face, it's a super humbling experience."

CMF travels around the United States to different universities providing this opportunity for a number of students. This event began in 2001 when four students at Emory University decided they wanted to make films and also provide the opportunity for other college students to make films. Today, this is the largest college film festival in the United States.

Although the event is focused around filmmaking, Cook's number one goal for CMF is to provide students with an opportunity to share their voice.

"I want students to be able to share their story and be able to get their hands on equipment that they usually wouldn't be able to get their hands on," Cook said. "Mostly, I just want students to be able to share their stories."

For those looking for more information regarding the Campus Movie Fest, students can visit www.campusmoviefest.com/ecu.

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ONLINE

» ECU Staff Senate discusses weather policies, by-laws

» Anchorz celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Pirate Read author, professor to visit ECU

Author and Princeton University sociology professor, Matthew Desmond, will be on East Carolina University's campus today to discuss the content of his New York Times bestselling novel, 'Evicted', which was the 2017-18 Pirate Read Selection.

The Pirate Read 2018 Author Presentation is sponsored by the ECU Office of Student Transitions and will take place from 7-8:30 p.m. for free in Mendenhall Student Center's Hendrix Theater.

ECU's 2018 MLK Celebration to feature social activist

East Carolina University will host social justice activist and Women's March organizer Tamika Mallory as the guest speaker for its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration tomorrow.

After listening to Mallory speak, students are encouraged to engage in conversation of how to build campus inclusivity and incite social change. The MLK Celebration will take place at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



The Embers performing at Pantana Bob's in Greenville for Alpha Sigma Phi's annual 'Jam Out For Josh.' The Embers were one of Whitlock's favorite bands.

Fraternity organizes fundraiser

Memorial concert raises money, awareness for opioid addiction

Trish Willis
TEC STAFF

Downtown Greenville's Pantana Bob's was filled to standing room only on Sunday night, as local North Carolina band, The Embers, jammed out on stage in honor of the late Alpha Sigma Phi brother and East Carolina University student, Josh Whitlock.

Whitlock died in 2016 from an opioid overdose and since then, his fraternity brothers created an annual memorial concert to continue his legacy called 'Jam Out For Josh.'

With such a big turn out, the brothers wanted all proceeds to go toward a greater good, according to

Matt Rierson, the current president of Alpha Sigma Phi. Rierson said the fraternity chose to donate all the funds to Heart of Wilmington this year, a rehabilitation center that helps against the fight of opioid and drug addiction.

This year's 'Jam Out for Josh' had an even bigger turnout than last year's, according to Kyle Mahoney, an ECU alumnus of the class of 2014 and Whitlock's best friend.

"All Josh wanted was for everyone to have a good time and make the people around him happy," Mahoney said. "To see this event grow and be such a success keeps Josh's legacy alive."

The Embers were chosen to

perform at the concert, because it was one of Whitlock's favorite bands, according to Jordan Koons, the former president of Alpha Sigma Phi.

"Josh loved downtown and this band just the same, so this event is our way of not only remembering him, but celebrating him the way he would have wanted," Koons, a junior political science major, said.

Although several of the attendees did not know Whitlock, the brothers were still proud of the celebration of their brother, according to Rierson.

"All of the proceeds are still going somewhere meaningful and we couldn't be more proud of the

turnout," Rierson, a junior majoring in criminal justice, said. "We hope to keep doing this for many years to come."

Josh's mother, Linda, as well as his 'little,' Kevin Kuhl, who helped with the creation of the event, were in attendance.

Through devastating loss and a trying period for all involved, the brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi came together to honor someone who meant so much to them.

"There is truly no better way to keep Josh's legacy alive," Louis Warren, the faculty advisor to Alpha Sigma Phi, said.

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Brody School of Medicine to host Muslim speaker

Julie Estep
TEC STAFF

Muslim public speaker and writer Anderson Al Wazni will speak to the Brody School of Medicine at noon today at an event called, 'Pushing Past Stereotypes: Deconstructing Islamophobia and Best Practice for Muslim Patients.'

This event is sponsored by the Department of Bioethics and Interdisciplinary Studies, the Office of Diversity Affairs and the Military Medicine Interest Group.

Sheena Eagan, a teaching assistant professor with the Department of Bioethics and Interdisciplinary Studies, said she saw Wazni speak before and became inspired to bring her to ECU.

"She was amazing when I saw her presentation I thought, 'Brody med students definitely need to see her and hear this message,'" Eagan said.

Wazni, a North Carolina native, graduated from Smith College School for



Anderson Al Wazni

Social Work in 2014 and her research thesis on topics such as the hijab, feminism and Muslim women was published in the 2015 National Association of Social Workers Social Work Journal.

The lecture today will be a discussion on the current roles of Muslims within American society, societal biases that have manifested throughout history, the negative perceptions of Muslims and how to dismantle Islamophobia, according to the event's flyer.

Eagan said the event is open to everyone and is only going to be tailored toward the clinical occupation near the end of the presentation.

"The beginning is kind of general knowledge and I think that even if you're not going into medicine, nursing or any health profession, that even the information in the examples that she provides from the clinic are really helpful and interesting," Eagan said.

The 'Pushing Past Stereotypes' event will be held from 12-1 p.m. at Brody School of Medicine's 2W-50.

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GFR continued from A1

that addresses exit interviews or city manager investigations.

Many of Spear's comments were confirmed by multiple firefighters at GFR. A lieutenant at GFR, who spoke to The East Carolinian on the condition of anonymity, said many of the firefighters under the lieutenant's command have lost hope in the city manager because of her inactivity.

"I think that the inability or the fact that she hasn't done anything makes them think that we're right back to square one where nothing is going to happen," the GFR lieutenant said.

An EMS Specialist at GFR, who spoke to The East Carolinian on the condition of anonymity, said firefighters would get a lot of scrutiny if it gets out they went to City Hall.

"When people do go across the street with a complaint, it just gets back across the street to the fire department and then that person has a target on their back," the GFR EMS Specialist said.

Rick Smiley, a city council member representing District 4, said it's important for firefighters to explain their concerns to the city manager, especially if they expect her to address their concerns.

"Nothing I've seen from the city manager or her staff suggests that would be true," Smiley said in regard to the concerns of some firefighters about retaliation. "All of us that have managers and bosses worry about what would happen if we were to bring a complaint to our bosses, but that doesn't mean that all our

fears are well-founded."

Greenville Mayor P.J. Connelly said the city manager has been very vocal about wanting to meet with firefighters to hear their concerns.

"It's one thing to reach out to myself or other council members, but the person who ultimately makes the decision on changes in that department is the city manager," Connelly said.

The East Carolinian attempted to get a response from Wall about Spear's comment and the firefighters' concerns that their meeting with the city manager would lead to retaliation from the fire department administration, but the city of Greenville's Public Information Officer Brock Letchworth referred the newspaper back to the city's previous statements from Jan. 11.

"As previously mentioned, any employee or former employee who has a concern has an open invitation to address them with city management, which has been responsive to requests received," Letchworth said in the email from Jan. 11.

Connelly said the only way firefighter's concerns will be addressed is if they start telling their stories and describing their concerns to the city manager, who ultimately has the final say about personnel.

"I don't think they (firefighters) should be fearful. If they are fearful then there's a problem with our city," Connelly said.

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



P.J. Connelly

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ECU's Newsroom

Located on 3rd and Evans Street, Uptown Greenville, across from Pitt County Court House

MLK continued from A1

School. After a music video featuring Bonner and his students went viral, TV host Ellen Degeneres invited Bonner onto her show. Since then, Bonner has published a book telling the story of his teaching career, "Get Up or Give Up: How I Almost Gave Up On Teaching."

Hardy said the area SGES is located in is predominately African American and low income. At a community breakfast, Bonner gave a speech and told the attendees that 100 percent of SGES students are on the free lunch program.

"Michael Bonner's question to us was, 'Where will you stand?'" Hardy said. "As you think about all three of those questions, I want you to have answers for yourself. What are the answers that you have? Where will you stand? What are you going to stand for? How do you

become and remain an engaged and active citizen? And what is your why? Because all of those things will help you as you continue to determine and grow into being who you are."

While volunteering, students considered each of those questions as well as the massive legacy of Dr. King.

"His quotes and his impact on the rest of the world and the importance of service made me come out today," Courtney Rivers, a junior chemistry major and volunteer for the day, said.

At RHA Health Services, a center that cares for disabled and fragile children, volunteers were able to speak and interact with the kids, as well as help the staff clean out parts of their facility, given they don't have much time to do so since they spend most of their time with the children, according to Rivers.

"It's kind of like a reality check, one thing that I did learn is seeing some of these

kids, seeing them smiling and laughing, and being happy to wave and high five it really makes you appreciate people around you and what you have," Rivers said.

Amber Barnes, the qualified professional case manager of RHA Health Services, said ECU students should come out and volunteer to help their community, not only today, but every chance they get.

"ECU students should come out and attend events like this because it's here in the same community, it lets them know that not everybody is perfect, typically developing, or able to go to college," Barnes said.

Barnes said because ECU is home to students from across the nation, volunteering is the perfect way to give back to their Greenville community.

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OUR VIEW

City officials must look into firemen concerns

When an employee has an issue about how their organization is being ran, it's their responsibility to report it to human resources. The city of Greenville is no different, except for the fact that employees have been trying to report their concerns, but some city officials have allegedly made it difficult to do so.

Multiple firefighters described to The East Carolinian their issues with scheduling an exit interview. These employees have had various issues, such as leaving their contact information during an exit interview for the city manager to contact them but never getting any type of response, as well as never hearing back from the city manager directly.

Multiple city council members, including Greenville Mayor P.J. Connelly and City Manager Ann Wall, have encouraged firefighters to reach out to them. However, it's important city leaders realize the communication problem doesn't seem to be with the firefighters, but rather the human resources employees who have not given the city employees an opportunity to explain their concerns.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe the mayor, city council and the city manager should investigate this breakdown in communication.

As Tom Brewer, the president of the Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Association of North Carolina said, organizations will have issues, but not addressing the issue is no way of rectifying the problem.

The city manager, mayor and city council should identify the problem and reassure the city employees that their concerns will be heard and addressed in an appropriate amount of time.

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Nuclear threat not going away



Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

Your Daily Mel

Imagine receiving one text and having your life change in a matter of seconds. You pick up your phone and read 14 words, 14 words that could very well be the last words you read. Before you know it, you are scattering around the room trying to take anything you care about with you, as you run out the door hoping to find the smallest bit of shelter or safety.

This is exactly what was running through the minds of most people in Hawaii, who received a false missile alert on Saturday— a false alert, which should not even have to be a real fear in people's minds.

Across the state of Hawaii, every smartphone owner, along with some people outside of the state, received an alert Saturday at exactly 8:07 a.m. local time, reading "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL," according to a number of screenshots uploaded onto social media.

It wasn't until 38 minutes later people were notified this alert was a mistake, according to The New York Times. This was 38 minutes people had to wait to get the truth, 38 minutes for people to find out they would not have to say goodbye to

everything they love. This has to end.

The worst part is: even though this threat may have been non-existent this time, the threat of a nuclear war with North Korea is still very much alive, and our so-called president could care less.

While numerous public officials tweeted after this incident, letting people know the alert was false, President Donald Trump stayed silent about the subject on Twitter.

He didn't apologize for the mistake. He didn't reach out to the people it affected. No, his first tweet after the incident wasn't even about nuclear weapons at all but was another rant about "Fake News."

Trump is so worried about "Fake News" that he can't even acknowledge a fake nuclear weapon alert that wreaked chaos among an American community. The only response the world got was a quick comment from a White House official that said, "The President has been briefed on the state of Hawaii's emergency management exercise. This was purely a state exercise."

This message had no feeling, no sense of responsibility for what had happened. It's disappointing time and time again to hear someone who is supposed to be responsible for the country act with such lack of class to put it simply.

Before this false alert, our president was more than occupied by North Korea's missiles, as he didn't think twice before tweeting a message taunting North Korea's Supreme Leader, Kim Jong Un on Jan. 3.

"North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un just stated that the 'Nuclear Button is on his desk at all times.' Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works," the tweet read.

Not only did Trump publicly insult a world leader, but he also doesn't seem worried about the repercussions his words could have on the nuclear tension between the two countries.

Does he not realize these are actual people's lives at stake, or does he just not care? Where is the concern for our well being? Where is the diplomatic manners he is supposed to exhibit?

Joking about how his "big red button" is bigger and more powerful, oh please give me a break. Who cares? Where's the real reassurance? American citizens deserve your attention on this issue. We deserve actual plans and an actual president, not a four-year-old fighting about whose toy is the best.

Trump needs to take the threat of a nuclear attack seriously. The people of Hawaii may have only had to fear their death for 38 minutes, but the whole world will have to fear it every day Trump is in office unless he makes a serious change in his attitude towards North Korea.

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

Logan Paul stains Youtube's platform



Blessing Aghimien
TEC STAFF

Bless The Press

In the new normal of the digital age, there seems to be a newfound line between virality and humanity—a line that Youtuber Logan Paul seems to cross without consequence.

From his not-so-humble beginnings on Vine to his transition into daily vlogging on YouTube, Paul has transformed into one of the biggest and fastest growing creators on the platform. With his more than 15 million subscriber count, Paul has made a career off of childish behavior, with millions tuning in daily to see what he has in store that is, until Jan. 1.

On New Year's Day, Paul decided to post a vlog about his trip to Japan. While many clips from the vlog struck people the wrong way, such as when he is filmed sticking a dead fish in the faces of strangers, only one controversial clip stood out among news outlets and flooded national headlines— his venture into the Aokigahara forest, a forest at the foot of Mt. Fuji that has become the location of more than 247 suicides as of 2010 and is otherwise known as the "suicide forest," according to to the Huffington Post.

In the video, Paul and his posse are walking through the Aokigahara, when they stumble upon the corpse of a man hanging

from a tree. Instead of not including the clip or blacking out the corpse, Paul decided to laugh and filmed the body from several angles, only lightly pixelating the head of the man and including his dead body in the thumbnail when he posted it.

The video received more than six million views and 337,000 dislikes before it was taken down by Paul himself. Many were surprised it took this much attention before it gained national traction, and even then YouTube didn't take immediate action.

In an effort to preserve the small amount of dignity he has left, take two of Paul's slapdash response saga was issued via YouTube. The lighting was dim, his tone was lowered an octave and the thumbnail featured a more sullen version of his typically boisterous self. "I'm so sorry about this," Paul said in the somber apology video. "This was supposed to be a fun vlog."

No, Paul, I'm sorry. I'm sorry that you have been forever branded as an imbecile of the internet due to your countless mistakes and I'm sorry your brain cells have been so drenched in desensitvity and monetization that common sense seems to have left the building. In reference to his video apology, I say take two, because Paul's first apology contained words such as "#LoGang4Life" and "I didn't do it for views. I get views."

YouTube didn't respond to the controversy surrounding the suicide video until Jan. 10 on Twitter. "We expect more

of the creators who build their community on @YouTube as we're sure you do too," the statement read. "The channel violated our community guidelines, we acted accordingly, and we are looking at further consequences."

In addition to the response via Twitter, YouTube made the move to pull Paul's channel from Google Preferred and to put his movie "The Thinning 2" "on hold." Such a response would be appropriate and worthy of praise, if it wasn't so delayed in time.

I struggle to understand how exactly the platform "acted accordingly." By its lack of age-gating the video? By its idle approach to the negative response the video received when it was up?

Paul is watched by millions of children and young adults, some who may be dealing with suicidal thoughts or mental issues. As triggering as the word 'suicide' can be, the image itself is more dangerous to feature. By its tone-deaf response, YouTube has earned every single ounce of backlash received.

YouTube had a chance to better its reputation in terms of bridging the gap between creator and corporation. That chance is now long gone, as this incident will forever stand as a stain on the platform, showing the Youtube community that cash cows such as Logan can break the rules however they please.

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



Grid Grub food truck offers a southern comfort menu to students on campus. Food trucks are set to fill the void of Mendenhall in March.

Food trucks take ECU

Grid Grub, Street Eats bring new taste to campus

Emily Harvey
TEC STAFF

The smell of tacos and southern comfort food entered the air, passing among students walking on campus and drawing them in, enticing them to grab a bite to eat at East Carolina University's newest food trucks.

Grid Grub, which offers a variety of southern food, and Street Eats, which offers a variety of tacos, are both currently located at Wright Plaza on ECU's main campus. The trucks will also be parked at the landing pad near Joyner Library around March and will split their time between the two locations. In addition, Steak and Shake will also be offered as a third food truck option.

Currently, Grid Grub is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, offering breakfast all day, and Street Eats is open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, as the renovations for eateries on campus begin in anticipation of the new student center on main campus, the trucks' times will expand into the afternoon and evening, according to John Stancil, the location manager for the food trucks.

The student center is predicted to open in October 2018 and will have a Raising Cane's, sweets shop, Panda Express, Starbucks, an Au Bon Pain, which serves sandwiches and soups, as well as another sit down restaurant. While waiting for these to open, The Galley and

Destination360 in Mendenhall Student Center will be undergoing renovations, making the food trucks a convenient stop for students.

"Grid Grub is supposed to be a southern style twist. It's our own feel, our own vibe, but it's very southern idealistic. It's got biscuits, brisket, fresh Kielbasa sausage; we don't fry anything," Stancil said. "We batter it, bread it and then put it on the grill."

Grid Grub lunch entrees are under \$6 and breakfast entrees are under \$5. Stancil said the second truck, Street Eats, is ECU's taco truck which features chicken, beef, fried fish and pork offered in either a flour or corn tortilla. Two tacos are served for \$4.99, with extra meat being an additional \$2. The Mango Lime Chili Salad is also \$4.99.

Kimberly Jones, one of the supervisors of the food trucks, said she has enjoyed the process of beginning and working on the trucks.

"Food trucks have been nothing but fun and excitement," Jones said. "It's been a lot of hard work, but it's a new concept and we've been able to play around with some things and experiment with some different dishes that we wouldn't normally have at



Kimberly Jones

the dining hall. It's been a lot of fun for me."

Stancil said students can pay with Pirate Bucks, credit cards, debit cards and cash. Stancil also added the menus are flexible, so different items can be added based on customer feedback and requests.

"Today we've added on french toast, cheddar biscuits, brisket mac, and then over here we've done our chili today and we're probably going to come out with some new ideas tomorrow," Stancil said. "Everything that we've created is (by) our own chefs, our own location managers; they all came up with everything, the menus, the ideas."

David Lynn, a junior design and production major, ordered an open brisket sandwich from Grid Grub. He said his meal was better than some other places he's eaten on campus.

"It was good," Lynn said. "It was filling and it was really well made."

Lynn said this was his first time ordering from either of the food trucks, but he definitely plans on returning.

"We've gotten a lot of great feedback, a lot of comments just saying how fresh the food is, how the quality of food here on the trucks is actually a lot better than some of their other options, which is always something I love," Stancil said. "It's different, it's a new style, but it's something they don't get every single day."

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

>> FASHION COLUMN

Winter style standouts to watch for



Angel De Jesus
TEC STAFF

Angel the Dapper

Winter is in full force, which means no time for looking good, right? Wrong. There are plenty of trends that include denim, coats, joggers, boots and other winter accessories that can turn a gloomy winter day as

bright as fresh snow.

Nothing is more of a standout than shoes. It's the first thing someone notices when seeing an outfit, which is why boots are a must. Believe it or not, there are more boots out there than L.L. Bean boots and Uggs. Doc Martens are a good alternative and are boots that people in Greenville do not usually wear. They are immensely comfortable and a nice pair of black or brown Docs will go great with just about every winter look.

When it comes down to pants, dark denims are a good pick because of their versatility when it comes to casual and classy looks. Neutral colored joggers work for casual looks and are great for those lazy, just got out of bed days. They are lowkey, but with the right outfit, can be a great presentable look.

Now back to denim, it's not just the pants that matter. Denim jackets are in, however be careful not to go overboard and look like a Levi's advertisement when wearing jeans. Denim jackets with khaki pants go hand in hand. They are also great for a more rebellious look with black pants and boots but it does come at a price. Denim is not the best for harsh winter days but fashion over function right?

With all of the dark colors present in winter looks, it may seem impossible to stand out. Well there are some ways around this dilemma. Wear bright colored tees or button-downs under jackets to give subtle hints of color. A soft pink button-down under a dark blue or black jacket can really take an outfit and make it standout without looking like a highlighter.

Scarves are a great accessory for anyone looking to add to an outfit and for comfort with windy days. Experimenting with different scarves is ideal. Dark colored scarves make sense with most outfits but colorful ones that may grab attention to an otherwise dull look can give a sense of wit.

Flannels are never going to go out of style because they are so comfortable and just make sense. Red, blue, green, whatever color flannel works. They add color to otherwise dark winter looks and are great for casual, gritty or rugged looks one may go for.

So don't let the winter blues get you down when it comes to your look, embrace the cold.

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

Shoe shop set to tie together art, fashion

Angel De Jesus
TEC STAFF

Greenville's art and fashion scene has been growing together and at times, has even come together to create works worth marveling at by Greenville citizens.

The upcoming sneaker boutique "Art and Sole," plans on showcasing this very sentiment of collaboration in a unique way that will allow customers to "stand out" and appreciate the hard work that goes into designing shoes.

Brothers Miles and Marco Brown are the creative minds behind "Art and Sole," a high-end sneaker boutique in Uptown Greenville that plans on opening at 415 Evans St. on Feb. 17. The boutique will not only feature sneakers and apparel, but will also hopefully serve as a place for artists in the Greenville area that showcases their art work around the store. This will allow customers to see local art of all kinds such as paintings, sculptures and other works while they shop for sneakers.

"Our store is basically a sneaker boutique that'll show local art as well," Miles said. "There is nothing like this in North Carolina and if you go to other sneaker spots, they all look the same."

Hailing from Kinston, North Carolina, the brothers won \$10,000 in the 2017 Greenville Small Business Plan Competition, which is a competition put on by the city of Greenville to those who want to start a small business in the area. Using their earnings, they wanted to bring something new to the Greenville area. Since they are from the Pitt County area, they decided to open "Art and Sole" as a away to give back to the community, by using their passion for art in a way that educates people.



Miles Brown



DANIELLE SCHMID | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Art and Sole storefront, which is set to open on Feb 17. Owners Miles and Marco Brown dedicate the store to display local artwork and creations.

"Me and my brother love art and sneakers," Miles said. "We go to Raleigh's art museum and see things there that get us inspired."

Near every sneaker display, there will be a small description of the sneaker as well as a few sentences of information on those who designed it. The Browns believe this will educate customers in the way a museum does with paintings and sculptures and Marco said they want to shed light on the creators of these works of art.

"My goal here is to really educate the customer," Marco said. "People that are not in tune with sneakers will pay \$200 or \$300 for a pair of Jordans, but don't know who designed that sneaker."

Some of the merchandise that "Art and

Sole" will include range from companies like Supreme, Civil Regime, Aglit Italy Laces and the freshest sneakers on the market such as Yeezys. Ways for customers to make their sneakers "stand out" will be present, including the option to add leather, multicolored or even fur laces to sneakers to make them more unique than the average shoe.

Other than wanting to be the one of the premier fashion stores in Greenville, the Browns want "Art and Sole" to be a hub for artists and creativity.

"I have no problem with hanging up art around the store," Marco said. "I want to go to



Marco Brown

ECU, to PCC and to high schools and show the work the artists have made in the store. Art is another way of communication and sneakers are art."

Sneaker-heads and hypebeasts alike are excited for the opening of "Art and Sole." Local vlogger and men's fashion Youtuber, Jordan McKeithan, is one who is all about the collaboration of fashion and art.

"That is so dope, I will definitely be visiting it," McKeithan said. "Count me in; a store like this is right up my ally and sounds awesome."

More information can be found on Facebook at "Art&Sole" and on Instagram at "art8sole."

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

HOROSCOPES



Aries
(March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Complete projects and launch a new professional phase, with this New Moon in Capricorn. Accept new responsibilities with your next endeavor. Your future looks bright.



Leo
(July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Embrace healthy lifestyle practices under this New Moon. Nurture yourself before caring for others. New energy floods your work, health and vitality.



Sagittarius
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Surpass old limitations and barriers in your relationship with money, with this New Moon. Step into new levels of prosperity. Create new possibilities.



Taurus
(April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- A new door opens to education, travels and exploration, with this Capricorn New Moon. Discover new possibilities to expand your horizons. Study with a master.



Virgo
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- This New Moon in Capricorn sparks a family, fun and passion phase. A romantic relationship transforms. It's all for love and love for all.



Capricorn
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Take charge. Grow and develop your talents, capacities and skills to new levels. You're personally energized and empowered with this New Moon in your sign.



Gemini
(May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- A lucrative phase dawns under this Capricorn New Moon. Find creative ways to grow your family's nest egg. Launch a profitable initiative together.



Libra
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- A new domestic phase arises with this Capricorn New Moon. Wrap your love around home and family. Create something wonderful together.



Aquarius
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- Insights, breakthroughs and revelations sparkle under this Capricorn New Moon. Consider things from a spiritual perspective. Learn from the past, and invent new futures that inspire.



Cancer
(June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Collaboration blooms anew. Begin a new direction in partnership under this Capricorn New Moon. Support each other through changes or transformations. Start another chapter.



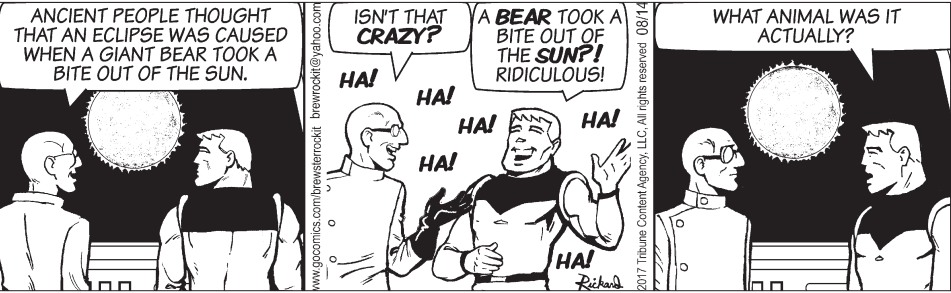
Scorpio
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Miracles and breakthroughs arise in conversation under this Capricorn New Moon. Adapt communications to a new story. Share gratitude and appreciation.



Pisces
(Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Begin a new phase of friendship, teamwork and community under this New Moon. Take a group endeavor to new heights. Collaborate on a shared vision.

COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BEST IN SHOW



ONE AND ONLY



BRIAN JUDGE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
			18	19					20			
21	22	23				24	25					
26				27	28	29			30	31	32	
33				34					35			
36				37					38			
			39				40	41				
42	43	44			45	46	47					
48					49				50	51	52	53
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

ACROSS

1 Comic Martha
5 Will Smith title role
8 Cher film
12 Plumb and Arden
13 Russian space station
14 Johnson of "Laugh-In"
15 "Empty ____"
16 John's Yoko
17 Meg or Irene
18 Buddy of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
20 Dykstra and Deighton
21 "Touched by an Angel" star
24 ____ Na Na
26 McBain and McMahon
27 Jane Curtin sitcom, "Kate & ____"
30 "Spin City" network
33 FX series, "____/Tuck"
34 Donna and Robert
35 Arthur of "The Golden Girls"
36 Bo Derek movie
37 "America's Funniest Home Videos" host
38 "____ Masterson"
39 Jiffy
40 Buck of "Hee Haw"

DOWN

1 "____ & Stimpy"
2 Caesar's hail
3 Jon Anderson's group
4 ____ Park, CO
5 Cookie guy
6 "What's My ____?"
7 Raymond Burr dramatic series
8 Gibbs of "The Jeffersons"
9 Gross of "Coupe de Ville"
10 Kyle's "South Park" friend
11 Berry and Norton
19 "Married...with Children" co-star
21 1996 Tony Award winning play
22 "Sopranos" star Falco
23 "Baseball Tonight" stn.
25 "Ben-Hur" star Charlton
28 Cloris who played Phyllis
29 Segment of a journey
30 Cugat's singer Lane
31 "Freebie and the ____"
32 "The Truth about ____ and Dogs"
39 Comic Soupy
41 Comic Sykes
42 Boleyn or Bancroft
43 Connery or Penn
44 Mambo king Puente
46 Turturro of "The Sopranos"
47 "____ Bridges"
51 Ripken of the Orioles
52 "____ Got a Secret!"
53 "____ and the City"

SUDOKU

SUDOKU THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

Level:

1

2

3

4

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

Solution from Thursday

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

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Heather Macy Show
Thursdays 7-8 pm
w/ Nick Bequette and John McCornick
@ Fire Tavern 113 E 5th St. Greenville, NC
Tune in @ WZMB 91.3 FM Greenville!



fire
american tavern

Serbian phenom thrives at ECU



East Carolina's forward Dimitri Spasojevic attacks the basket during a game.

Daniel Roberts
TEC STAFF

Athletes from all over the world go to universities to study, learn or compete on a collegiate level, including one player on East Carolina University men's basketball team from Serbia, who is already making an impact on ECU and Greenville.

Dimitri Spasojevic, a native of Vrsac, Serbia, said coming to play college basketball has been a big adjustment for him because of the difference in the competitive level of play, as well as the overall system of the game. He was able to adjust to ECU's style and was able to earn the starting power forward spot as a freshman.

"The quality of basketball itself is the same. The only difference between playing here and back home is that it is more physical (and) is faster," Spasojevic said. "It was hard to adjust through the first 10 practices; I was trying to figure out how to adjust to that, and find my spot on the team, and I think that I have done a good job of adjusting up to this point."

Spasojevic attended Gimnazija Čačak High School, where he played for numerous club teams in Belgrade and Vrsac, Serbia. He played for Club Vrsac Swisslion during the 2016-17 campaign and was a member of the Serbian under-18 and under-20 national teams, which competed in Group A of the European Championships. His team played other national teams including teams from France, Spain, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, Latvia and Germany. The Serbian team finished in fifth place that year, going 6-3 overall that summer in the



Dimitri Spasojevic

European Championships.

Spasojevic took his talents from Serbia to the U.S. when he committed to ECU in the summer of 2017, looking to be a part of the basketball program and help turn it around. He said he sees a lot of potential in the locker room across the whole roster.

"My dream was just to come and play college basketball," Spasojevic said. "I met assistant coach Ken Potosnak and they saw my highlights. They called me and I was like, 'Yeah, I want to go on a visit', so (former) coach Jeff Lebo showed me some videos of how they play and their style of play, which I really liked."

Spasojevic has made an impact at ECU as its starting power forward. He has had four games where he scored at least 10 points up to this point with the first coming against Central Connecticut State University back on Nov. 17, where he registered 13 points on 6-for-9 shooting from the field, but just 1-for-6 from the free throw line. The second was in the overtime victory against the University of North Carolina at Wilmington where he logged 10 points on 5-for-8 shooting from the field on Nov. 30. The third was on Dec. 21 when he scored his career-high 16 points against Grambling State University and the last was on Jan. 6 when he scored 12 points on 5-for-7 from the field against the University of Connecticut.

Spasojevic has had four games where he grabbed at least six rebounds, with his best rebounding effort coming in ECU's first road game of the season against Rutgers University where he snagged his career-best 13 rebounds.

"He can score for us, and he is a great passer," junior forward Kentrell Barkley said. "He knows a lot about the game and I consider

him a pro already. He has made some professional moves, he can dig people under the basket and score over the top. I enjoy him as a teammate and he has a lot of potential as a player."

During the Cleveland State game this season on Nov. 20, Spasojevic had the opportunity to play one of his childhood friends from Serbia, center Stefan Kenic. The game was emotional for Spasojevic as he had not spoken to anyone from Serbia besides his family in three months.

It is one thing for a guy to come to a school and get guaranteed playing time in their first year, but to come and secure a starting spot is another thing. Spasojevic said his motivated mentality has helped him do as well as he has done thus far and in the end earn that starting spot. That mentality has gained the trust of the coaching staff, including interim head coach Michael Perry.

"He is a guy that is here early and leaves late," Perry said. "He is always working on his skill level, he comes in and watches film, and is a student of the game. When you have that type of work ethic both on and off the floor good things happen for you. You actually progress quickly during the course of the season. That's why we trusted him because we knew things would come to him quickly."

Spasojevic will be in action Wednesday as the team gets ready to face the University of South Florida, where ECU will try to beat the Bulls for the second time this season.



Michael Perry

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

ecu.edu/plungeintopurple #PLUNGE2018

PLUNGE INTO PURPLE 2018

plungeintopurple @ECUTransitions

Don't just be a student, be a pirate!
Take full advantage of every opportunity offered at ECU.

Calendar of Events

Winter Welcome Back
January 8 • 4:00PM - 7:00PM • SRC

Hot Chocolate and Coffee Giveaway
January 9 • 8:30am - 10:00am • Brewster and Wright Place

ECU Women's Basketball vs. Tulsa
January 10 • 7:00pm • Minges Coliseum

SAB Winter Concert
January 11 • 7:00pm • Wright Auditorium

ECU Men's Basketball vs. Wichita State
January 11 • 9:00pm • Minges Coliseum

ECU Swimming & Diving Meet vs. USC
January 13 • 1:00pm • Minges Natatorium

ECU Men's Basketball vs. Houston
January 14 • 2:00pm • Minges Coliseum

MLK Day of Service
January 15 • 8:00am - 4:00pm • Great Rooms, MSC

Pirate Read Author Matthew Desmond
January 16 • 7:00pm - 8:30pm • Wright Auditorium

MLK Jr. Celebration - Tamika Mallory
January 17 • 7:00pm • Wright Auditorium

Polar Bear Plunge & Involvement Fair
January 18 • 5:30PM • SRC

Winter Warm-up Basketball Tournament
January 19 • 5:00pm - 11:00pm • SRC

ECU Women's Basketball "Play4Kay" game vs. Houston
January 20 • 5:00pm • Minges Coliseum

For more information on events, please go to **www.ecu.edu/plungeintopurple**

Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the Department for Disability Support Services at least 48 hours prior to the event at (252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY).

STUDENT TRANSITIONS

>> ANALYSIS

Women's basketball struggles midseason

Robert Romero
TEC STAFF

After East Carolina University's women's basketball team went 1-4 to start the season, the Pirates turned things around winning seven of their eight remaining non-conference games and it seems the primary reasons for their success has been team chemistry and the rise of freshman guard Ariyana Williams.

During the Pirates four-game losing streak, the biggest problem was the team's struggles from three-point territory, as it shot a combined 25.6 percent from that distance. In the final two games of that losing streak, Williams had her then-career best game as a Pirate, averaging 13 points on 38.8 percent from the field and an impressive 44.5 percent from three point range.

With Williams' exceptional play, head coach Heather Macy decided to insert her into the starting lineup to help the struggling Pirates and so far, the move has worked to perfection. The Pirates went on to win five straight games, and seven of their next eight, while Williams averaged 27 minutes and 15.3 points on 36.8 percent from the field, 34.4 percent from three point range and 88 percent from the free throw line.

Although ECU's teams' three point percentage only increased up to 27 percent (36-for-133), Williams is very important to the Pirates' three point shooting. Over that eight game stretch, Williams shot 22-for-64 from three point range, while the rest of the team only shot 20 percent (14-for-69) from behind the arc.

Williams was responsible for 61.1 percent of the three pointers made during that eight game stretch and this is why Macy consistently drew up plays for Williams in crunch-time situations, which resulted in her taking and often making a clutch three point field goal.

Of course not all of the credit goes to Williams for the Pirates' success during this stretch, as point guard Alex Frazier is

figuring out her teammates' favorite spots on the court, dishing out 5.3 assists per game.

Senior center Thais Oliveira is also playing exceptional basketball in this eight game stretch, averaging 12.6 points on 59.7 percent shooting from the field, 7.5 rebounds, 1.25 steals and 1.88 blocks per game, including a game against Kennesaw State University, where she recorded 22 points on a perfect 9-for-9 shooting from the field to go along with nine rebounds and three blocked shots.

The Pirates struggled mightily in close games earlier in the year, losing their first four games by single digits. But ECU was able to learn from its mistakes quicker than expected and is starting to come through in clutch situations, according to Macy.

"Well they say if you lose and you learn then it's worth double the money and our team was able to learn and process and grow really rapidly in the month of November," Macy said. "With the way that the schedule has worked out and the close games and performing really well in the clutch."

With their eight game stretch, the Pirates were able to improve their record to 8-5 before the start of American Athletic Conference play. However, ECU has more challenges to take on, as it is 1-4 in AAC play, including embarrassing defeats to No.1 University of Connecticut and Memphis University with scores of 96-35 and 72-36 respectively.

Macy said she loves the intensity and competitiveness ECU is playing with in AAC play, but understands that in order to be successful, the Pirates have to do a better job executing plays and taking care of the ball if they are going to be a legitimate conference team. The next matchup for ECU comes Jan. 20 at home when it hosts the University of Houston at 5 p.m.

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

Heather Macy

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