



>> WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE

GFR records show loss of experience

Matthew Prenskey
TEC STAFF

In the last five years, Greenville Fire/Rescue lost a combined 962 years of experience, as 81 firefighters left the department, according to city records. As one state fire fighting expert put it, the only way GFR could replenish its lost experience is through time and training.

According to documents obtained by The East Carolinian through public records requests and information confirmed by multiple current GFR firefighters, the 30 firefighters GFR lost in 2017 had a combined 385 years of experience at GFR.

Tim Bradley, the executive director of the North Carolina State Firefighters Association, said in an emailed statement, that it's a rhetorical question to ask how GFR could replace the experience it lost in 2017.

Bradley added GFR would have to hire 100 individuals with 38.5 years of experience each to replace the experience it lost in 2017.



Tim Bradley
However, the turnover in 2017 is a drop in the bucket compared to the losses GFR has sustained in the last five years.

GFR's TeleStaff system, staff rosters and personnel turnover documents revealed of the 81 firefighters who left GFR since 2013, 52 resigned.

City records also revealed GFR took substantial losses at the upper ranks of the department and with individuals who had high-level certifications.

Since 2013, GFR has lost six battalion chiefs, 20 EMS Specialists, seven lieutenants and four captains, according to city records. GFR also lost 36 paramedics, 19 firefighters certified in urban search and rescue (USAR) training and nine firefighters certified for swift water rescues.

Firefighters certified in USAR skills are trained to rescue individuals after major disasters, while firefighters who are certified in swift water situations are trained to rescue individuals using special techniques from rushing water emergencies.

On behalf of GFR, the city of Greenville's Public Information Officer Brock Letchworth did not give a

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Uptown Brewery bartender Nick Harmer serves Matt Brona a beer. Uptown will host the beer release of "Hoist the Colors" after the festival.

BOTTOMS UP

Jolly Skull beer, wine festival to feature unlimited samples

Emily Harvey
TEC STAFF

Sampling glasses will clink and live music will fill the Greenville Convention Center Saturday, as individuals gather to enjoy more than 150 types of beer and wine at the eighth annual Jolly Skull Beer and Wine Festival.

Located at 303 SW Greenville Blvd., the festival will take place from noon to 5 p.m. Dustin Canestorp, a veteran and founder of the Beer Army Foundation, said the event is a great opportunity for beer and wine lovers to come try a variety of samples from more than 50 American craft microbreweries and wineries, as well as enjoy music from Rural Route Performance and DJ Dog.

"It's an opportunity for somebody to come in and for one fixed cost have an opportunity to try a plethora of different beers and wines," Canestorp said. "A person comes in, they get a nice keepsake sampling glass, and they get two ounce pours and it's unlimited sampling."

The Beer Army Foundation is a nonprofit community outreach organization and proceeds from the event will go to benefit its programs and help to raise scholarship money. Canestorp said the foundation is not a veteran exclusive organization, and recipients for the scholarships may be college students, single mothers, veterans or anyone else who applies.

"We focus on education, volunteers and economic impact. We don't focus on any one subject, like women or children or veterans," Canestorp said. "Our main philosophy is about education: an educated society is a better society. Our main thing is we have a scholarship program; it's going on right now."

Canestorp said scholarships have been awarded to students at Pitt Community College and East Carolina University in the past. To date, the Beer Army Foundation has awarded 39 scholarships, and awards a minimum of 10 scholarships per year, which range in amounts from \$500, \$1,000

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PLAN TO GO

» **WHAT:** Jolly Skull 8th Annual Beer and Wine festival

» **WHERE:** Greenville Convention Center

» **WHEN:** Saturday Noon - 5 p.m.

Polar Bear Plunge to make splash at ECU today



Participants in the 2016 Polar Bear Plunge jump into the Student Recreation Center's pool. This is the 22nd Plunge at ECU.

Austin Kinlaw
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University will host its 22nd annual Polar Bear Plunge today at the Student Recreation Center on campus.

As is tradition, students will jump into the cold and icy waters of the Student Recreation Center's outdoor pool. The event is run by Student Affairs in association with Campus Recreation and Wellness.

Jon Wall, the coordinator for ECU's intramural sports, has been in charge of the Polar Bear Plunge for the past few years.

"It started with 20 people jumping to commemorate the opening of the Rec Center. Whereas now, it's close to over a thousand students," Wall said.

To participate, students must sign a waiver beginning at 5 p.m., with the event kicking off at 5:30 p.m.. Students must also bring their 1Card to enter the SRC.

Wall said many students are scared or hesitant to jump into the cold water, but are inclined to do so anyway because of the free T-shirt they receive after the jump. The first 1,000 students to take the plunge will receive the coveted polar bear T-shirt.

For the last five years, around 1,000 students participate in the plunge each year, according to Wall.

Signs for the Polar Bear Plunge are up all around campus, including a big banner in the SRC where the event is being held.

"I go to the gym a lot, I know there's a big banner in there so that's how I know about it," sophomore communication major, Kim Lofton said. "I thought, 'Why not? You might as well get to experience it while you're in college.'"

Alongside the Polar Bear Plunge, the Student Involvement Fair

> PLUNGE page A2

BRIEFS

‘Young & Sober’ to give students an open space to discuss addictions

East Carolina University’s Center for Counseling and Student Development along with the Collegiate Recovery Community will hold its first Alcoholics Anonymous meeting tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center’s Wellness Center.

The meeting is catered toward students by providing mutual aid fellowship among peers toward their path to sobriety. The “12-Step” meeting will be set as an open discussion.

City of Greenville to hold Croatan National Forest meet

The city of Greenville will host a day of hiking in Jaycee Park’s Croatan National Park tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m..

Participants are advised to bring their hiking shoes for a 3-mile hike.

The fee to participate in Friday’s Croatan National Forest hike is \$15, with Greenville residents receiving a discounted fee of \$12. The minimum age to participate is 12, but must include an adult chaperone.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



Mike Fox (right) serves a customer at Blackbeard Coffee Roasters. Fox is the owner of this coffeeshop and is one of the speakers at TEDxECU 2018.

TEDxECU to debut on campus

Taylor Nishimoto
TEC STAFF

The media organization, Technology, Entertainment, Design or TED, will bring its widely popular TED Talks to East Carolina University on Saturday to discuss the theme of “Horizons.”

The event, which will last from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Harvey Hall, will feature students and faculty prominently as speakers.

“The whole purpose of TEDxECU is to spread different ideas and innovations that’s happening in Greenville, so with that, we wanted a theme that would apply to that,” ECU student Brinda Sarathy, the founder of TEDxECU, said. “Horizons is supposed to be whatever the speaker interprets it to be, maybe reaching their own horizons or going past their horizons. So, each speaker sort of has their own personal story that somehow ties into that.”

When selecting speakers for TEDxECU, student organizers, which were chosen from the ECU Honors College, made sure to focus on a wide selection of speakers and topics,

according to Sarathy.

“You’re allowed to take it however you choose, we don’t want to put anyone in a clear cut squares, we don’t want everyone talking about what broadens your horizons,” ECU student Shamin Jamadar, who is the marketing coordinator for TEDxECU, said.

Jamadar said she is hopeful each speaker takes a different perspective on the theme, as each speaker has an entirely different background than the others.

The list of the speakers include Mike Fox of Blackbeard’s Coffee Roasters in Greenville on 203 E 5th St., Dr. Tim Christensen of ECU’s Department of Biology, Dr. Jamie Dewitt of the Brody School of Medicine, Nate McGlaughlin of Pitt Street Brewery and Jermaine T. McNair of NC Civil. The entire list of additional speakers can be found on the audience sign-up application. While this is the first TEDxECU, Jamadar said organizers hope to make the event an annual tradition.

There is a maximum limit of 100 people allowed in the audience, not including friends and family members of the speaker and anyone

who would like to attend this free event can fill out the audience application on TEDxECU’s Twitter page, @TEDxECU, according to Sarathy.

“It’s a great event and it’s something that Greenville has never seen,” Jamadar said. “We want to build a platform that students can talk about their accomplishments, their innovations, and their ideas, just like our guest speakers can. TED Talk is an amazing thing, everyone watches it, and it is just something that we have never done.”

Sarathy said she hopes many will sign up and attend the event, being that it is a good representation of the city of Greenville.

“A lot of people think of Greenville as this one monoculture that has very limited diversity, thoughts and innovation, so one of my motivations for starting TEDx was to show students as well as professors and local people of Greenville that there’s a lot more to offer,” Sarathy said.

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

“ Why not? You might as well get to experience it while you’re in college.”

- Kim Lofton

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will also take place on the SRC basketball courts and will feature more than 75 student organizations for students to learn about ways to engage with the campus, according to the ECU Calendar.

Coordinator for ECU Student Activities and Organizations Christopher Cooper said the involvement fair will be a great chance for students to meet with more organizations on campus.

“At the involvement fair, it’s going to

be different organizations represented,” Cooper said.

Among the groups present, there will be a number of diverse organizations in the SRC for students to meet with.

“It should be about 60 organizations across campus, including Greek life, club sports teams, Black Student Union, NAACP, et cetera,” Cooper said.

Cooper said Student Affairs will provide refreshments on the basketball courts of the SRC. There will be music and the food is courtesy of Aramark.

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comment to The East Carolinian on whether the fire department leadership was concerned by the turnover, how they plan to replace the experience which left and how long it takes for a firefighter to get a paramedic, USAR, swift water or tower driver certification.

Letchworth also said in his email the city wouldn’t be able to provide The East Carolinian with the financial costs of certifying a firefighter in paramedic, USAR, swift water or tower driving skills.

“As for the other question regarding the costs for employees to get a paramedic, USAR, Swift Water, or Driver Tower certification, GFR does not have any records responsive to that request,” Letchworth said.

Greenville Mayor P.J. Connelly said GFR’s 2017 turnover was the most eye-opening statistic he has seen in relation to the allegations surrounding GFR, adding that GFR’s turnover alarmed him. He said it’s troubling to him to have a tremendous amount of people leaving.

Connelly added, “I would hate to see that we have young workers that are out there that are not experienced and some of the older workers that are experienced are no longer showing up.”



Brock Letchworth

Don Mills, a battalion chief at GFR who retired in 1995 after 30 years of service, said it’s sad to see firefighters leave GFR.

“It’s kind of upsetting to know that you lose people with that kind of experience because you can’t replace it,” Mills said. “When you have people leave (after) seven, eight or all the way up to 20 years, they are your future leaders of the department.”

Tom Brewer, the president of the Professional Firefighters and Paramedic Association of North Carolina, said, when a firefighter leaves, they take the years of training with them, leaving the fire department to invest in a completely new person.

Brewer said the fact GFR is losing paramedics makes the city’s loss even greater because it’s a paramedic level EMS department.

“Not to mention the citizens lose all that experience because these are the people who provide safety to the citizens, that’s the real loss. You can’t help but diminish it when that kind of experience walks out the door,” Brewer said.

Mills, who created and shaped many of GFR’s protocols during his time, said the poor leadership at GFR is the most disturbing part of the issue.

“My generation has done their job and when you leave you expect the next generation to make it better and improve on what you left,” Mills said. “The department was fine after I left it and it was years after I left, but I don’t know what’s happened in the last four or five years.”

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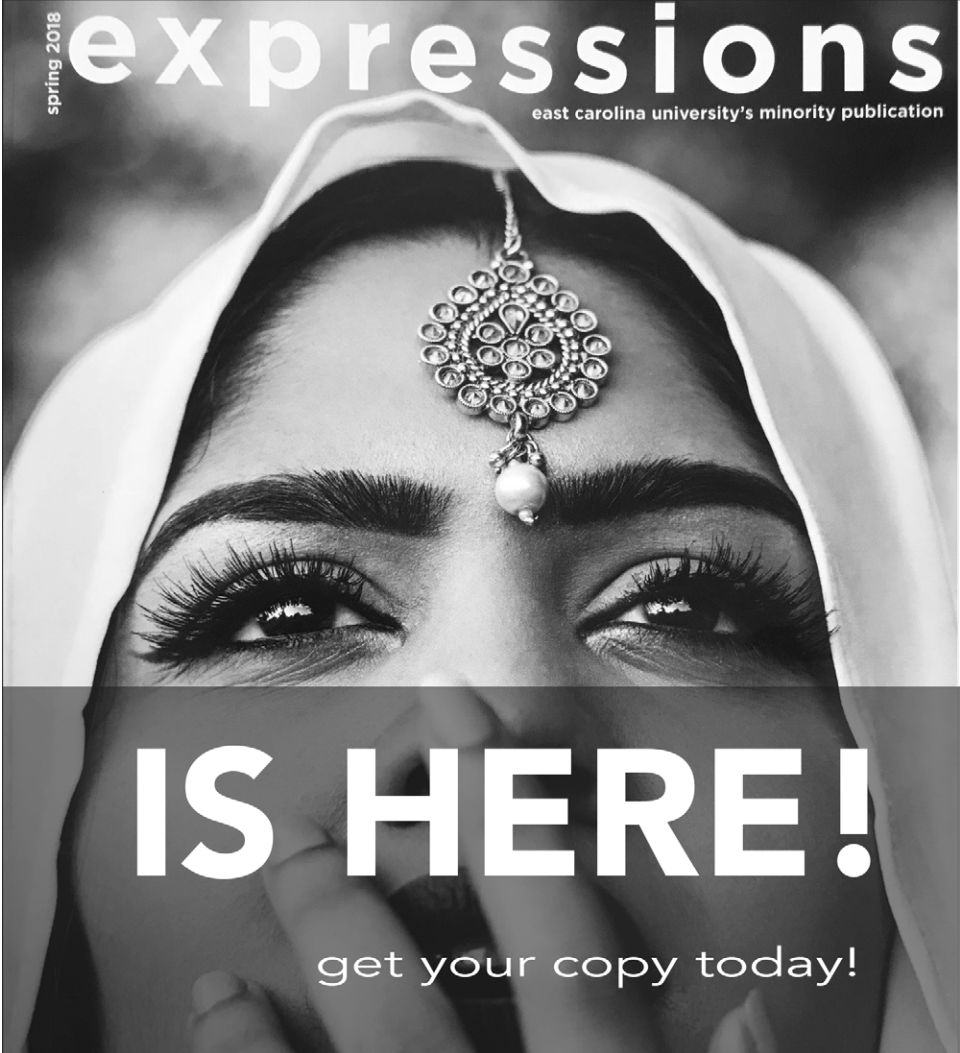
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OUR VIEW

City council should change view on vote

During Greenville’s City Council meeting on Jan. 8, the council heard from an independent planning and design company, who said Greenville has an abundance of student housing, where it voted 4-2 against doing anything about this issue.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe this was the wrong decision. Not only is the decision to not do anything about this issue a step backwards for Greenville, but it also does not match the identity the city council claims it wants Greenville to have.

City officials keep preaching on how Greenville needs to be more than just a college town, that they want to make it a place where young adults will want to stay in, even after graduation.

However, all an increase of student housing will do is push away that age demographic.

While more student living options closer to campus can be convenient for students, this will only decrease the occupancy at apartments further away, progressing the issue. Continuing to build student housing in the Uptown area will also take away space for other establishments such as restaurants and shopping places downtown, as well as other housing establishments for young adults who are not students.

We hope the city council will rethink its decision on fixing the oversaturation of student housing in Greenville. Either the council wants to make Greenville more than a college town, or it doesn’t.

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NFL wrong in nomination
Michael Bennett should not be awarded for race-baiting



Kayla Morton
TEC STAFF

Kayla’s Kicker

The Walter Payton Man of the Year Award is given each year by the NFL to a player who is recognized off the field regarding charity work. However, this year, the NFL failed by allowing

the race-baiting Seattle Seahawks defensive end, Michael Bennett, to make the list. Bennett released a public statement on Sept. 6 via Twitter, claiming to be racially profiled and a victim of excessive force by officers in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department on Aug. 26.

In his one-page letter, the 6-foot-4-inch, 274 pound Bennett claimed, “A police officer ordered me to get on the ground. As I laid on the ground, complying with his demands to not move, he placed his gun near my head and warned me that if I moved he would blow my fucking head off,” Bennett wrote. He later added, “Terrified and confused by what was taking place, a second officer came over and forcefully jammed his knee into my back, making it difficult for me to breathe. They then clinched the handcuffs on my wrist so tight that my fingers went numb.”

The following Wednesday Las Vegas police undersheriff Kevin McMahon spoke in a press conference regarding the incident. McMahon said the LVMPD were responding to an active shooter call and saw Bennett “crouched down behind a gaming machine.” McMahon also said the officers, who are both minorities as well, saw Bennett run from the scene and because of those two actions being the only information they had

at the time, believed that Bennett might have been involved in the reported shooting.

That being said, LVMPD followed protocol and only detained Bennett for 10 minutes once the claim of a shooter was disproved. McMahon concluded his press conference with arguably the most important part of the incident.

“Mr. Bennett at the scene had the incident explained to him by a supervisor and he said that he understood and that he had no problem with what the officer did, just the one that he claimed pointed a gun at his head,” McMahon said.

This was investigated and proved false thanks to LVMPD releasing the videos of the incident showing the officers replied to the call and executed the training without question. Although a gun was out from an officer it was not pointed toward Bennett as he claimed. This was the case in more than 800 released videos.

The unidentified officer who detained Bennett, according to a Sports Illustrated article, said “We don’t have time to figure everything out, so that’s why this happened. I believe you 100 percent you didn’t do anything.”

Apparently Bennett decided to leave that out of his report.

Nominees this year for the Man of the Year award, include repeat nominees such as Carolina Panthers tight end Greg Olsen, who sponsors Reception for Research and Arizona Cardinals cornerback Patrick Peterson for the Foundation For Success. There are other big NFL names that also make the list such as Lorenzo Alexander, now linebacker for the Buffalo Bills, Green Bay outside linebacker Clay

Matthews III and defensive end J.J. Watt for the Houston Texans. What do all of these athletes have in common? They all support some sort of charity.

What charity is Michael Bennett representing? None until weeks after he was nominated. He was nominated, according to an official statement from the Seahawks announcing his nomination, for being “passionate and engaged in our community, advocating for some of the most vulnerable people who don’t have a voice or platform.”

Yes, you read that correctly. A man that arguably made one of the worst false accusations presented publicly to society is nominated for being a voice to minority communities who do not have a platform.

However, this fake incident further causes a problem between minorities and their feelings of police departments being against them. As sports radio show host Clay Travis put it, Bennett is no more than a “race-baiting liar,” in which, I 100 percent agree.

No public apology from Bennett. No public apology from Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll or NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who both spoke publicly supporting Bennett in his “tough time.” No penalty for Bennett’s actions.

What else should there be a ‘no’ of? No more Michael Bennett-esque cases causing more divisions and wedges between people in society. No more inaccurate nominations for awards representing the best of people in the world. No more divisive lies or agendas.

Kayla Morton is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Trump’s words misrepresent



Akosa Akpom
GUEST COLUMNIST

From the beginning of his campaign to roughly what has been a year now after his inauguration, President Donald Trump has not ceased to use his words as an instrument to disseminate hate and strife throughout the United States of America.

One day after another, Trump makes headlines with some nonsensical comment that accentuates his unprofessional and impetuous personality. Just when you think you’ve heard the worst from him, he now allegedly refers to Haiti and African countries as “shithole countries.”

Before I even make a remark to that statement there is one thing that must be kept in mind: is it worse that the leader of our country allegedly made this comment or the fact that we are not surprised that he might have said this? That question alone portrays Trump’s impulsive and injudicious character.

As a first-generation Nigerian-American, I was brought up to be proud of my heritage and embrace every aspect of it. I come from a hardworking family who has earned everything they have ever gained. My mother and father always taught me to be the best in all my endeavors and to never settle for second place. If you are Haitian or from any African country, I am sure you can attest to this: because of our upbringing, our people have not only made an impact in our respective countries, but we have also made an impact in the United States.

Many of our people are doctors, lawyers, teachers, entertainers and politicians here in the U.S. According to the United States Census Bureau, the U.S. imported more than 852 million dollars worth of goods from African countries in 2017 and more than 30 billion dollars worth of goods from Haiti in 2017, which included oil, apparel, and food items. That damn sure is an abundance of importations from such “shithole countries.”

One thing I would like to ask Trump is what makes a country a “shithole country?” because some aspects of the United States

are pretty shitty. With the largest economy, the U.S. still has more than eight million unemployed citizens and the U.S. is ranked last in healthcare amongst developing countries. After hundreds of years, the U.S. still battles with issues such as racism and bigotry. On top of all that, if Trump believes that this country solely belongs to his people (white America,) he should pick up a history book and read up on how America was created.

Another question still stands. Regardless of what Trump said, how do we retaliate to those words? The best way to combat his comment is to simply continue to be the best individuals we can be in society. We should continue to strive to be leaders in our respective areas, mayors in our cities, presidents in our schools. Having more of our people in higher places will inevitably make our united voices that much more powerful. We have the power to be the change we want to see. “The journey of 1,000 miles starts with one step.”

Akosa Akpom is an alumnus of East Carolina University and a guest columnist. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Local rapper digs deep

Alex Taylor kicks off career in music on YouTube



Nicolette Giambalvo
TEC STAFF

Pitt Community College student by day and amateur rapper by night, sophomore Alex Taylor is striving to be a big fish in the small pond that is Greenville, North Carolina.

Seeking a platform where his voice can be heard, Taylor turned to YouTube, where he has already accumulated thousands of views in just four years.

Taylor's first song on his channel, "Long Live Vonte," which has reached more than 3,000 views, was a tribute to his friend Wilson who passed away in his hometown. Taylor collaborated with another rapper in the area who was also affected by the death.

"I think this song was really special and touched a lot of people which is exactly how we intended it to be," Taylor said. "It definitely holds a significant place in my heart and I hope it does for my viewers as well."

Taylor considers himself an 'underground rapper,' but also enjoys singing pop songs.

As early as 13, Taylor started writing songs inspired

by life, death, tragedy, depression and poverty. The rapper said he feels most inspired when he is writing songs to "blow off steam."

He also said although he is inspired by negative events that happen in his life and others, he likes to write about the beauty of life. Taylor said he enjoys writing about aspects that others can relate to such as love, family and relationships.

The rapper said he has had a very loyal, supportive fan base. He added one of his friends in particular, Cheyenne Barbs, has seen his music grow and develop since the beginning. Barbs knew Taylor before he began dabbling in music and said she saw his love for the art before he started writing and recording.

"Alex stands out from other rap artists you hear on the radio because of his passion to speak to his audience through his lyrics," Barbs said. "He raps about subjects that matter and that other people can relate to, not just money, girls and cars."

Since Taylor writes from

inspiration and said he often uses Christ as an influence during the process, he has a hard time appreciating the lyrics of the rap artists that are currently taking over the Billboard charts.

When it comes to popular rappers, such as Kodak Black, spitting phrases that seem to only revolve around sex, money and drugs, Taylor said their focus completely differs from his.

"I think if you're rapping about something it should have a true core meaning," Taylor said. "But at the same time I'm also a believer in just kicking back and having a good a** time."

However, Taylor said he gives credit to these types of rap artists because although their lyrics may stray from what he considers a true meaning, he said he has heard them all spit some respectable verses. When it comes to his future as a rapper, he said he is optimistic and confident in his raps and someday hopes it could take him somewhere.

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

CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX TAYLOR
Alex Taylor pops his collar. The student rapper is currently working on new music to debut on his YouTube channel.

Student prepares for final ECU show

Jenna Price
TEC STAFF

From "Sense and Sensibility" and "Velvet Over Steel," to East Carolina University's upcoming musical "Hands on a Hardbody" that kicks off Feb. 15, Jane Simmons, a senior actress in the School of Theater and Dance, finishes off her fourth and final year with one last, bittersweet performance.

Simmons will be in the upcoming "Hands on a Hardbody," a musical about a contest that involves people putting their hands on a truck, and the last person to remove their hand wins the truck. Playing the role of Heather, a contestant in the Hands on a Hardbody contest, Simmons said this particular role has been so much fun and that she can't wait to see where the creative process takes her.

"The show is based on a documentary of the same title made in the 90s, so many characters are based on real people," Simmons said. "Heather is a little bit of a mix between a few contestants in the documentary and a little bit



Jane Simmons

made up for the musical. I don't want to give any big plot points away, but I will say that some don't play as fairly as others."

Having recently starred in ECU Alumna Lisette Glodowski's original production, "Velvet Over Steel" during winter break, Simmons said she hopes to continue working on original shows and possibly even producing. After



CONTRIBUTED BY JANE SIMMONS
Jane Simmons, a senior musical theatre student, plays as Marianne Dashwood in "Sense and Sensibility" last year.

graduation she hopes to work at a Rep Theatre where she would have the opportunity to perform weekly or to work as a producing intern.

"Junior year, I had the opportunity to be in 'Lend Me A Tenor' and it was so much fun," Simmons said. "You just get to run around for two hours and everything is so fun and fast paced. The comedy was so sharp."

Since coming to ECU, Simmons said she's had some incredible opportunities. When she's not reciting the various lines in rehearsals, she has taken up the role of a producing artistic director with the 5th Street Players.

"I started (with 5th street players) at the end of sophomore year," Simmons said. "It's been great. It's all about bringing different

artistic opportunities to ECU."

The 5th Street Players are a nonprofit student-led organization on campus that aims to bring diversity and educational opportunities to performers, according to its Facebook page.

Donald Sutton, a senior acting major at ECU, has had the opportunity to work with Simmons on multiple occasions and considers her to be family. Sutton describes her as always on top of her game and even called her a "theater artist."

"She never stops working, be it as the head of our student-run theatre organization 5th Street Players or as Judy in 'Velvet Over Steel,'" Sutton said. "To put it plain and simple, she's wonderful all-

around and great to be around as an actor and a leader as well as a friend."

For Simmons, performing is way for her to entertain and express herself through the refined, yet sometimes silly, characters she plays. She said she hopes that when people watch her on stage they not only forget their troubles for a little while, but they also take away lessons about humanity.

"It really depends on the show (and) what the audience will take away," Simmons said. "Mostly, I want to teach the audience a lesson and entertain."

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BEER continued from A1

and \$2,500.

"Go on our website at beerarmy.org and then go to the very bottom in the footer and click on the link that says scholarships," Canestorp said. "It's free to apply, it's really quick and it's easy; it's probably the most liberal scholarship application process in the world."

Tickets for the Jolly Skull Beer and Wine Festival can be bought by visiting beerarmy.org. The VIP ticket is \$50, the general admission ticket is \$35 and the designated driver ticket is \$15. Donations can be made to the Beer Army Foundation online as well.

"We sell the majority of our tickets 96 hours leading up to the event," Canestorp said. "I can already tell from our ticket sales trend right now that we're definitely higher than we have been in the past."

After the Jolly Skull Beer and Wine Festival, Uptown Brewing Company will have a beer release for its new ale, Hoist the Colors. Nick Harmer, the bartender manager at Uptown Brewing Company, said the release will begin around 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

"The best part about it is we're donating all the proceeds of this particular batch to the Beer Army Foundation," Harmer said. "We'll have a food truck as well. Chef Gary from the Beer Army Burger Company will bring a special

menu, different from what he'll have at the beer fest earlier that day. So, the same guy who will be serving food at beer fest that day will be serving different food here at Uptown that night."

Benjamin Self, the brewmaster at Uptown Brewing Company, said the brewery, in addition to releasing Hoist the Colors at the beer release after the festival, will pour two of its beers at the festival. Self said The Russian Imperial Stout and IPA will be available to sample on Saturday.

"We look forward to this festival every year and are happy we get to play a larger part with a special charity beer release afterwards," Self said.

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

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MAP OUT YOUR WEEK

TODAY

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The Painted Peacock
6 p.m.

Billy Smith
Trollingwood Brewery
8 p.m.

TOMORROW

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Opening
City Art Gallery
6 p.m.

Sip, Savor & Create:
Potters Wheel
Emerge Gallery
6:30 p.m.

Cooper Greer
The Blackened Kraken
9 p.m.

SATURDAY

Pop-Up Market
Artisans Decorative
Accessories & Fine
Gifts
11 a.m.

Purple Blossom's 5th
Birthday
Purple Blossom Yoga
Studio
6 p.m.

Drag Show & Dinner
Crave
6:30 p.m.

Spazz Presents: Adrian
& Meredith
Pitt Street Brewing
Company
8 p.m.

Greenmill Run
Fire American Tavern
9 p.m.

SUNDAY

Doddering Divas' Duets
Music House
3 p.m.

RUNinyasa: Yoga for
Runners
Purple Blossom Yoga
Studio
8 p.m.

Mandy Mears
Christy's Euro Pub
8 p.m.

HOROSCOPES



Aries
(March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Don't take action yet. Finish preparations before launching. Your social life is a whirl this month, with Venus in Aquarius. Enjoy peaceful privacy.



Leo
(July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Navigate changes with your partner. Silly arguments spark easily. Compromise for solutions. Let the little stuff go. Treat each other and yourselves with compassion.



Sagittarius
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Edit your words carefully before hitting "send." You don't have to tell everything to everyone. Consider consequences, ramifications and differing views.



Taurus
(April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Craft professional plans, and put wheels in motion later. Take charge of where you're going and strategize for success. Hold your temper. Wait for developments.



Virgo
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Passions may be in high gear; look before you leap! Avoid automatic outbursts or expensive temptations. Stay cool. Figure out a good landing spot.



Capricorn
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- A project with lucrative potential could hit a roadblock or delay. Coordination between you and your partner works it out. Keep secrets. Wait patiently.



Gemini
(May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Stay flexible with travel plans. Have a backup option to relieve worry or frustration, and avoid an expensive mess. Let sleeping dogs lie.



Libra
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Resist the temptation to throw your money around. Tempers may be temporarily short; avoid stepping on anyone's sensitivities. Let your heart guide you.



Aquarius
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- You're especially confident and strong. Avoid steamrolling quieter folk. Your personal values could get tested. Slow down and listen. Provide thoughtful leadership.



Cancer
(June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Find simple ways to save money for your family. Grow your emergency fund. You can conserve resources without discomfort. Stay home instead of going out.



Scorpio
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 6 -- Proceed with caution in a domestic dispute. Stay objective in a tense situation. It's OK to disagree. Withhold judgment or sharp words. Wait for developments.



Pisces
(Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Contemplate your moves before making them. Avoid controversy or drama. Find somewhere peaceful to hide out and plan. Impulsiveness could get expensive. Relax.

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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



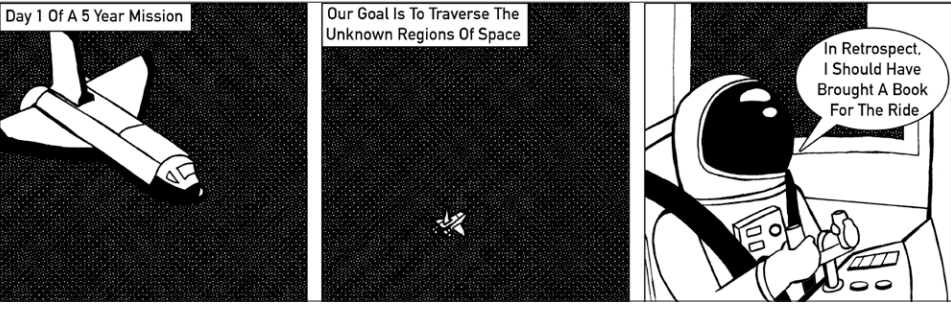
BEST IN SHOW



BLISS



ONE AND ONLY



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					60				61			

ACROSS

- 1 Little of impersonations
5 Damage
8 "___ the Fockers"
12 Eric of Monty Python
13 "Bells ___ Ringing"
14 Model Macpherson
15 "___ of Duty"
16 Kurosawa film
17 Bonet of "A Different World"
18 "Green Acres" star Eddie
20 "___ My Dust"
22 "___ Tac Dough"
24 Sally Field movie, "___ Rae"
28 Caesar's Coca
32 "I ___ of Jeannie"
33 Chip's cartoon companion
34 Retirement letters
36 "Auntie ___"
37 One of the Pointer Sisters
39 Lansbury and Cartwright
41 Sam or J.C. of golf
42 "Blame It on ___"
43 Horsley of "Matt Houston"
45 John of "Full House"
50 Petty of "A League of Their Own"

Solution from Tuesday

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

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- 53 Carney of "The Honeymooners"
55 Pebbles' prehistoric pet
56 "South Park" cafeteria crooner
57 Kanga's kid
58 Sitcom co-starring Clifton Davis
59 "Lonesome ___"
60 Writing implement
61 "Driving ___ Daisy"

DOWN

- 1 Hayworth or Rudner
2 "American ___"
3 "The Breakfast ___"
4 "From ___ to Eternity"
5 Sheen and Short
6 Football coach Parseghian
7 Russo of "Tin Cup"
8 The Velvet Fog
9 Wallach of "The Magnificent Seven"
10 Ernie of the links
11 "___ and Sympathy"
19 AAA suggestion
21 "Beany ___ Cecil"
23 Chavez or Romero
25 "The ___ McCoys"
26 Vicki Lawrence TV character
27 Leon of "Father of the Bride"
28 Lupino and Tarbell
29 The Johnny ___ Singers
30 "Rolie Polie ___"
31 Chris Elliott series
35 Jennifer of "Friends"
38 Fruity beverage
40 "I've ___ You Babe"
44 Western series, "Wyatt ___"
46 Arkin or Sandler
47 Rogers of "Austin Powers..."
48 "The Defiant ___"
49 "My Three ___"
50 Plasma alternative, briefly
51 I get it!
52 Cleric's title: abbr.
54 "Sheila" singer Tommy

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

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

Level:

1	2
3	4

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

Solution from Tuesday

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

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Buccaneers

Buccaneer Yearbook Pick up Mendenhall Basement
Mondays and Wednesdays: 5pm-8pm
Thursdays: 4pm-7pm

Men’s hoops defeats USF

Staff Report
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University men’s basketball team defeated the University of South Florida 90-52 for its second victory over the Bulls this season and its second win in the American Athletic Conference.

ECU (8-10, 2-5 AAC) ran away with the game in the rematch against USF (7-12, 0-6 AAC), after winning the first matchup Jan. 1, 67-65. Tonight’s victory for the Pirates keeps them one spot ahead of the Bulls who currently sit at the bottom of the AAC. ECU also saw guard Shawn Williams explode for a career-high 22-point performance off the bench.

The Pirates jumped out to a 26-point lead going into the half, 44-18. ECU saw Williams excell in the first half, shooting 66 percent from the field and 60 percent from the three-point line in the half. Williams also led the way in scoring with 11 points at the break while guards Isaac Fleming and B.J. Tyson trailed with six points each.

After securing a huge lead in the first half, the Pirates never looked back, going on to finish the game with a shooting percentage of 61.4 and a three-point percentage of 57.9. ECU saw starters Fleming, Tyson, forward Dimitri Spasojevic, forward Kentrell Barkley and center Jabari Craig, along



ONLINE |
FULL STORY

Redshirt freshman guard Shawn Williams handles ball in a game for ECU.

with Williams, combine for 71 points to lead the Pirates to the blowout victory. Williams led the shooting efforts, going 8-for-12 from the field and 6-for-9 from outside the arc.

ECU will travel to the University of Cincinnati to face the No. 12 Bearcats in its next AAC matchup Saturday at 4 p.m.

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

Football introduces new coach

Staff Report
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University football team welcomed another new coaching staff member on Wednesday, as head coach Scottie Montgomery announced the addition of Don Mahoney as the new offensive line coach.

Mahoney, who has coached teams to 10 total bowl appearances in his career, comes to Greenville after serving as Concord University’s assistant head coach, offensive coordinator and line mentor during the 2017-18 season.

“Don’s wealth of experience and expertise is synonymous with a foundation we need to have in place on the offensive side of the ball here,” Montgomery said in a press release. “His background features a strong association of development and depth, two qualities which are crucial to the growth, balance and success of our unit.”

The Pirates will look for Mahoney to improve the running game, which averaged just 108.1 rush yards per game in 2017 and to replicate the success he had while serving as offensive line coach at the University of Tennessee from 2013-16.

The Volunteers averaged over 200 rushing yards per game during Mahoney’s last two years coaching the team, finishing both years with 9-4 records and two consecutive bowl wins over Northwestern University in the Outback Bowl (2015) and the University of Nebraska in the Music City Bowl (2016).

Mahoney’s years of experience allow him to get the most out of the lineman he coaches, shown by his 2013 offensive line while at Tennessee, which saw all five of his starters make NFL rosters.

Before joining the Volunteers’ staff, Mahoney spent three years as the offensive line coach at the University of Cincinnati from 2010-12. His time coaching the Bearcats produced five All-Big East selections, including future Pro-Bowl lineman for the Philadelphia Eagles, Jack Kelce.

The 2011 Bearcats also averaged 385 yards per game behind Mahoney’s line, leading the team to a league title and a win in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl over Vanderbilt University. This will also be an advantage for the Pirates now that the Bearcats and ECU are both in the American Athletic Conference.

Mahoney joins a growing list of new faces on Montgomery’s staff, and with his years of experience coaching the offensive line, the Pirates will expect success running the ball next season.



Don Mahoney

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ECU tennis to host NCCU

Samantha Walsh
TEC STAFF
Austin Walker
TEC STAFF



East Carolina University’s tennis teams enter the new year with high hopes today and tomorrow, after a historic fall season that saw juniors Celia Ruiz and Ronny Georgi both excel respectively for their teams.

Ruiz became the first player in ECU women’s program history to earn an At-Large bid to the Oracle ITA National Championships in California among other accomplishments, while her sophomore teammate Lisa Hofbauer made history leading up to the spring season. The two became the first doubles team in program history to earn a seed at the ITA Carolina Regional during the 2017 fall campaign.

The women’s tennis head coach, Tom Morris, who is in his 20th year with the program, is excited about the future of his team and expressed confidence in its readiness for the start of the spring season against NCCU.

“I think we have a very talented group of players and



ECU junior Celia Ruiz works on forehand in practice prior to the start of the women’s spring season Thursday.

I am excited to see what they will accomplish this season,” Morris said. “We haven’t been able to do much over the break because of NCAA guidelines, but I think this team has the right mindset and will be ready for the season.”

On the flip side, the men’s tennis team will be back in action tomorrow at 2 p.m. against NCCU for its first match of

the spring season. Head coach Shawn Heinchon believes his men’s team can start off the new season right.

“For one reason or another we’ve had a little more success in January and February than we have later in the spring,” Heinchon said. “So ultimately we would like it the whole spring, but we’re really just trying to get ourselves in the spot where we can be successful

on Friday.”

The women’s team begins its year today at Next Level Training Center in Greenville at 3 p.m., while the men will battle the University of North Carolina Central at the ECU Indoor Tennis Facility tomorrow at 2 p.m. for their first matches of the spring season.

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Women’s basketball to face Houston Cougars

Robert Romero
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University’s women’s basketball team will look for its second American Athletic Conference win of the season, when it takes on the University of Houston this Saturday in Minges Coliseum at 5 p.m.

ECU (9-9, 1-4 AAC) enters the game coming off its 65-51 road loss Saturday against Southern Methodist University (7-10, 1-3 AAC). There are a multitude of reasons for its struggles in AAC play, but what seems to stick out the most are the Pirates’ poor shooting percentages. ECU is shooting just 31.6 percent from the field and a poor 13.8 percent from three point range against AAC opponents through five games.

Head coach Heather Macy said the Pirates have to score more efficiently and sustain the work ethic they’ve displayed all season if they want to give themselves a chance to win these conference games.

“Our shooting percentages have to increase and there will be an individual accountability that will be addressed with that,” Macy said. “I don’t think winning and losing has impacted our work, which is huge, and if we continue to sustain that, I think winning will happen at a more consistent rate.”

The Pirates struggles are also due to the increased level of competition in the AAC compared to their non-conference games. Examples of this include their 96-35 loss to No.1 University of Connecticut (16-0, 5-0 AAC), who is the best team in college basketball, as well as their 66-54 loss against



East Carolina University’s starting center Thais Oliveira drives through the University of South Carolina Upstate defenders to attempt a layup in 66-53 win.

the University of Cincinnati (11-7, 3-2 AAC), which is ranked top four in the AAC in points scored (68.8) and points allowed per game (61.7).

ECU has had a week off to prepare for Houston since its previous game against SMU, and according to senior forward Mickayla Sanders, the Pirates have taken advantage of the bye week by polishing their offense and establishing their character as a basketball team.

“We want to work on our offense and our

identity as East Carolina’s women’s basketball team and that’s being the best conditioned team in the conference and working hard together,” Sanders said.

The Pirates will hope their practice and work ethic will translate on the court as they have a difficult task ahead of them against the Cougars, who enter Saturday’s game ranked third in the AAC with a 15-5, 4-2 AAC record.

Senior center Thais Oliveira said it’s very important for the Pirates to get off to a good start because how good they start sets the tone of how they play for the rest of the game.

ONLINE |
FULL STORY

“I think in the first two or three minutes we need to have a good rhythm,” Oliveira said. “So far against the teams we are losing to, we don’t score on first few possessions and we get down because we have to defend and they keep running up the score. Regardless of the team we have to focus on making shots and being discipline on defense.”

Women’s basketball gets back into action Saturday as the team will host Houston at 5 p.m. in Minges Coliseum.

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