



ECU BASEBALL TO HOST WESTERN CAROLINA

Turn to A6

The East Carolinian

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Thursday, 2.15.18



From left: Jordan Koonts and Lillie Rhodes pose with the Peedee the Pirate statue on East Carolina University's main campus.

SGA ELECTIONS 2018

Ticket 1 aims to bring diverse representation to SGA

Austin Kinlaw
TEC STAFF

Stephaine Carrea
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



executive seats of the Association, focusing on groups which may not get as much attention.

Making up Ticket 1 is Jordan Koonts as the presidential candidate and Lillie Rhodes as the vice presidential candidate.

"This has been in the works for

a long time," Koonts, a junior double majoring in public relations and political science, said. "Lillie and I have been in contact for months now about what our vision is and what we thought we could bring to the table."

> TICKET 1 page A2

Ticket 2 to focus on planning, connections on campus

Austin Kinlaw
TEC STAFF

Stephaine Carrea
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



hoping to earn student votes by showing its track record of experience.

Ticket 2 consists of Harper Rhodes as the presidential candidate and Stuart Fletcher as the vice presidential candidate.

Fletcher, a senior environmental engineering major, had the idea to run

for executive ballot, but was unsure of who to partner with until the final day of filing, according to Rhodes.

"Stuart called me at two in the afternoon and said, 'Do you want run

> TICKET 2 page A2



From left: Harper Rhodes and Stuart Fletcher lean against the Cupola on the main campus of East Carolina University.

>> ST. PATRICK'S DAY ASSAULT

Chief: ECU PD would accept return of officer

Julie Estep
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Police Department officer involved in the St. Patrick's Day assault on campus in 2016 won his appeal for unlawful termination on Feb. 6, earning the right to reinstatement, a change that ECU PD said it would accept.

On the night of March 17, 2016, an altercation started at a bar downtown, which involved six people assaulting one man, and ended on ECU's campus. Ralph Whitehurst, the officer who first responded to the assault on campus, was dismissed from ECU PD on April 19, 2016.

Following an internal investigation, ECU PD determined Whitehurst violated police policies in his response to the assault and should be terminated.

In an emailed statement to The East Carolinian, current ECU PD Chief Jon Barnwell said since the court's decision is still fairly recent, the conversations that need to take place regarding Whitehurst's new role have not yet taken place.

"His return will be treated similar to an officer coming to ECU Police from another police department," Barnwell said. "We will have to make sure his training and credentials are up-to-date, and schedule any training he may have missed before he can return to active duty."



Jon Barnwell

Whitehurst appealed the university's decision that required him to present information to an administrative law judge who ruled Whitehurst was engaged in unacceptable personal conduct, but a dismissal was not the justified level of discipline.

In 2016, former ECU Police Chief Gerald Lewis, who was in charge during the incident, said Whitehurst did not gather the required information at the scene, did not canvas for any witnesses or gather information from the person who was injured.

The new decision from the state Court of Appeals requires ECU PD to reinstate Whitehurst with a demotion from his previous position as sergeant.

Barnwell said the process could take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months. Ultimately, Barnwell said the placement of Whitehurst will depend on the positions available after his training is complete and his credentials are up-to-date.

Student Government Association Vice President Ryan Smith said he sat in on a meeting with administration in 2016, just after the event happened, and heard the facts regarding the case ECU had at the time.

> ST. PATTY page A2

Organizations team up for Black History Month



Black Student Union members wear red on yesterday at Wright Plaza to promote unity.

Angel De Jesus
TEC STAFF

Anais Roller
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



In the midst of Black History Month, organizations around East Carolina University's campus are coming together to celebrate African American culture.

Organizations such as the ECU NAACP, Black Student Union and the Fashion Above Modern Expression (F.A.M.E.) Modeling Troupe have collaborated all week in preparation for the premiere of the NAACP Black History Month Showcase today at 5:30 p.m.

The showcase, which will intertwine song and dance, will premiere in Mendenhall's Hendrix Theatre. This year's theme is "Black History Through Music," and the performances featured in the showcase are based on various representations of music in African American culture. According to ECU's NAACP Vice President Symone Spaulding,

the show will be a unique experience and offer performers a chance to express their talents.

"People can expect acts that ECU hasn't seen before by singers, dancers and strong speakers," Spaulding said. "They (the audience) will definitely leave the auditorium feeling touched."

Leading up to the showcase, BSU and F.A.M.E. Modeling Troupe have teamed up to bring "Ebony Vogue," a week of fashion that brings notice to contributions made by the African American community throughout the years.

Starting Monday, students gathered at Wright Plaza at 1 p.m. dressed in a specific themes representing African American culture.

Monday was "denim day," Tuesday was "bag day," yesterday was "red day" and today is "decades day." Tomorrow is the last day, dedicated to the release of the film "Black Panther" where students will wear clothing inspired by the film and representations of

> NAACP page A4

ONLINE

» 'Vagina Monologues' informs audience of scope of femininity

» City manager allegedly said she has no intentions to change GFR leadership

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BRIEFS

East Carolina University political science organization to host discussion on civic engagement, more

Director of ECU's Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) Dennis McCunney will speak to students tomorrow about how to get involved in leadership, politics and civic engagement on campus.

Hosted by a nonpartisan political organization on campus, the discussion will take place in Bate 1032 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Food and beverages will be served.

Political science department to debate military engagement

East Carolina University's Department of Political Science will host its third installment of the "Great Decisions" program tomorrow from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Rivers West Auditorium in the Rivers Building.

Retired Col. Robert Scott Barker, a political science teaching instructor at ECU, will be the guest speaker and is set to discuss the US' global engagement in its military. Students and faculty can attend for free. There is a \$10 fee for members of the general public.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

Annual summit to bring TLC star

Taylor Nishimoto
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University will host its third annual N.C. Civility Summit on Saturday in Mendenhall Student Center to discuss topics ranging from cancer to the environment.

The mission of the N.C. Civility Summit series is to create healthy dialogue, according to junior communication major Jon Cockerham, a marketing committee member for N.C. Civility Summit.

"The intention is to foster conversation. Often times what you'll see today is people yelling at each other and not really caring about each other's ideas," Cockerham said. "This event sort of exists to break down those boundaries."

The topics to be addressed at the event have recently been seen in headlines and are controversial in nature, such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, climate change, politics of sports and language ownership. Wanda Tyler, director of Intercultural Affairs at ECU, said the organizers of the event really wanted to find the topics that would warrant not just a strong opinion from students, but staff members as well.

"Something that was really important was



Jon Cockerham



Wanda Tyler



COURTESY OF ECU.EDU

Dr. Jennifer Arnold is this year's keynote speaker.

we wanted to be able to have topics where we could find faculty or staff facilitators to come that were experts at some of these topics," said Tyler, who's also chair for the planning committee for N.C. Civility Summit.

This year's keynote speaker at the summit will be Dr. Jennifer Arnold. Rising to mainstream attention as the star of TLC's television series "The Little Couple" along with her family, Arnold is also a physician and a cancer survivor.

Tyler said they picked Arnold as the

keynote speaker because of her work as a doctor, which could appeal to students studying medicine.

"She speaks on disability awareness, overcoming obstacles and she includes information about her life and identity as an empowered woman," Tyler said.

Tyler hopes that students can come and enjoy the day while speaking to others that have a different view point than them in order to gain a different perspective.

"If people are encouraged to be able to talk to each other around hot issues, they can maybe break down some of those walls that currently exist and be able to see the world or a topic from someone else's perspective," Tyler said.

To sign up for the ticketed event, students must register at ecu.edu/ecunited. This year's N.C. Civility Summit will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in various rooms throughout the MSC.

The summit is sponsored by various ECU departments, such as Student Involvement and Leadership, the Student Activities Board, Student Government Association, the Black Student Union and Sexuality and Gender Alliance.

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

TICKET 1 continued from A1

Both Rhodes and Koonts said they were extremely excited to begin their campaign and were especially proud of their slogan, 'A Voice for Every Pirate.'

"To us, that means not just the groups that typically get focused on during elections," Koonts said. "We really want to embody that."

One of the ways they want to accomplish this is by continuing to build a strong network. Koonts said he has already begun establishing a team with different connections across campus.

Rhodes, a junior majoring in political science with a minor in communication, said they plan to reach out to students with some live Q&A social media sessions on their Facebook

page, which can be found at facebook.com/VoteKoontsRhodes/.

"An idea that we had was just if anybody has any questions, suggestions (or) ideas, they can tweet at us directly," Koonts said. "And we'll do our best to respond and say exactly how we're going to implement their idea or how we're going (to) change what they think needs to be changed. So, it's going to be a very hands-on approach."

A large part of Ticket 1's plans for SGA is being a liaison for all groups, big or small. With two years of experience on SGA, Rhodes said smaller organizations on campus, such as the mental health awareness organization, '15,000 Pirates,' deserve more attention for the message they are trying to get across.

While networking with many groups on ECU's campus is its main goal, Ticket 1 also wants

to spread more awareness about SGA as a whole.

"There's so many organizations that know about SGA and utilize them, but for each of them, there's a dozen organizations who don't know about SGA," Koonts said.

Although he hopes to earn as many votes as possible, Koonts stressed the importance of making an informed decision.

"You don't have to vote for anybody on our ticket but inform yourself about what everybody stands for and stay true to your values," Koonts said. "If our values and theirs align, then I think we're the ticket for them."

SGA will host a debate between the two presidential tickets, moderated by The East Carolinian, today at 6 p.m. in the Science and Technology Building, room 209.

These writers can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

TICKET 2 continued from A1

as president and I'll be your vice president?" Rhodes, a sophomore business management major, said.

Rhodes said their campaign began because Fletcher felt he could bring strong ideas to SGA and ECU.

"Stuart had the idea right when filing started to run for office, but he wasn't sure about president or vice president," Rhodes said. "Stuart has more experience in SGA, he's leading an opioid epidemic committee."

Rhodes said Fletcher's experience on the Judiciary Committee of SGA will help their office create legislation to help improve the Pirate experience on campus.

Connecting to one of their platform points, Rhodes said he wants to get student organizations involved in the SGA process, whether it's through a board of student leaders or having representatives from each organization express its group's concerns at meetings.

However, once communication is established, Rhodes said he does not want the campaign to lose touch with the student body, as some candidates have in the past after taking office.

"Through this campaign, we're visiting a lot of student organizations and groups on campus and speaking to them," Rhodes said. "Campaigns in the past have done that, but then they stopped, and after their campaign you never see them again."

Rhodes said once a connection is

established, he plans to maintain a constant level of openness between himself and those organizations.

Another part of their campaign focuses on spreading awareness of amenities on campus. Ticket 2's platform online also lists mental health awareness as another key point it wants to focus on.

During the elections process, Rhodes said he wants to stay true to their core pillars, referencing their online platform, when coming in contact with the student body in order to ensure clarity during their campaign.

"There shouldn't be any questions that really surprise us," Rhodes said. "Knowing what we want to do and know where our mindset stands will help us answer any questions."

Rhodes said what makes their campaign unique is the concrete plans they have to make their goals happen.

"Until we have actual strategies and actions that we want to take, the goals are meaningless and are not backed by anything," Rhodes said. "Students are wasting their time if they put their faith in us and we can't back up what we're saying."

Ticket 2's campaign just started but Rhodes said the two have already begun engaging and are ready to continue on through to voting.

SGA will host a debate between the two presidential tickets, moderated by The East Carolinian, today at 6 p.m. in the Science and Technology Building, room 209.

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ST. PATTY continued from A1

"We met at the Chancellor's Roundtable, and basically it was a question (and) answer period of what really happened, on what the administration knew so far, what the administration's response was and that sort of thing," Smith said.

Smith said his initial reaction at the time was that the incident was a result of people drinking downtown and acting belligerent. He says he understood why people had questions when everything was playing out, as most of the information was still confidential at the time, but he had faith that ECU PD would act appropriately in handling things.

"I have the utmost confidence in ECU PD, as well as Greenville PD, in coming up with solutions to problems like these and events

" I have the utmost confidence in ECU PD, as well as Greenville PD in coming up with solutions to problems like these. "

- Ryan Smith

like this," Smith said.

Smith said he has personally gotten the chance to sit down with Barnwell since and believes he would not let someone who would be negligent on the force come back.

"I think that people have to have a degree of trust in the Greenville Police Department as well as ECU PD," Smith said. "He's very, very conscientious of students' perception and what students want."

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



ECU STUDENT MEDIA

expressions magazine

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OUR VIEW

ECU Police’s plans to work with UNC system show initiative

After announcing a rise in marijuana-related charges and a drop in alcohol-related charges in 2017, East Carolina University Police Department said it plans to reach out to other departments in the University of North Carolina system to receive help in deciding how to lower these numbers across the board.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe it is wise for ECU PD to seek help from the other public universities in the UNC System, and by doing so, we think it sets a tone of cooperation within the system.

In any organization or community, there needs to be conversation and teamwork to ensure the group is looking at the problem or issue from all sides, rather than just what is familiar. The fact that ECU PD recognizes this, shows initiative in the department.

Other departments at ECU should follow in the footsteps of ECU PD and look to the other 16 campuses in the UNC system for open dialogue and constructive criticism. Furthermore, ECU PD should make this something it regularly does, not just in regards to drug and alcohol charges, but in all areas of its work.

According to the UNC system’s website, board members, cabinet members and chancellors from all 17 campuses meet every other month for the UNC Board of Governors meeting.

These regular meetings serve as a productive way to make sure every campus in the system is on the same page. If ECU PD does not already do regular meetings, such as these, with other police departments in the UNC system, it should consider doing so.

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Counseling crucial in college

Mental health services provide resources to students



Taylor Nguyen
GUEST COLUMNIST

When it comes to our health we generally think about the physical aspects of it, but often, we don't acknowledge the emotional and mental aspects. Most people wouldn't think this is very important, but it's just as important as our physical well-being.

Our mentality and emotions are how we establish friendships, romantic relationships and even professional relationships in the workplace. They also affect how we perceive ourselves, and situations we may face in our lives. Without good mental health there will be major issues in every aspect of our lives.

An example of one of these problems could be not being able to trust people. A person who cannot trust anyone around them may be healthy on the outside, but really they aren't healthy mentally or emotionally. Another example of bad mental health can be a person who is always angry, pessimistic and unpleasant to be around in general. A person with these characteristics will more than likely have trouble establishing healthy relationships with anyone,

which can lead to social isolation and even poor self-esteem.

So, what does this have to do with mental health services you may wonder? When we think of any service relating to physical health, we always think about a doctor's office or maybe even a dental office. When it comes to services that cater to mental health, it's the same thing. But instead of a regular doctor, this kind of service involves therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists and maybe even social workers.

Now you may wonder, how do mental health services play a role in academics? The truth is, many students worldwide will experience some form of stress related to school, whether it be from an important exam that will determine whether a student will get into college or not, a major project worth half a student's grade in a class or extracurricular activities a student may be part of that is competitive. Because of situations such as this, it would be very helpful to give students the option of going to the counselor's office, especially if they feel they don't have much support from friends or family.

According to various researches, suicide is one of the three main causes of death in children and adolescents.

Academic stress and suicide are proven to have a strong correlation in many researches and studies, especially when people feel pressured to excel academically to satisfy their families. There are various types of solutions to this growing problem including more after school tutoring, good time management, less homework, etc.

What most people do not think about though, is that counseling is one of the best options in decreasing the suicide rates worldwide. Therapists and psychologists are experts when it comes to teaching students how to manage their stress so they can perform well in school.

With the help of counseling, students will not only learn healthy ways to manage stress, but will also gain extra social support from people who can understand them in ways friends and family may not. If extra support was implemented in schools, students would be able to have access to extra resources to manage their mental and emotional health, along with gaining extra support.

Taylor Nguyen is a senior majoring in psychology and a guest columnist. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Competition is dangerous game



Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

Your Daily Mel

I was 7 years old when I first realized my competitive nature. I was in ballet class and remember the instructor going over splits. Something inside me turned on, and no matter what, I would not give up until I had the perfect set of splits, left and right. I wanted to be better than the other girls and I was willing to fight for it.

Next it was middle school. I was 12 years old and relentless—relentless when it came to getting the most Accelerated Reader points. Whether it came to dance, reading or playing Super Smash Bros Brawl with my brothers, the point is, I was always extremely competitive and it showed to pretty much everyone, much to my mother's dismay.

For the most part I have always liked this side of me. I always thought a little friendly

competition was good for the soul, it pushed me to work harder. Competition can be friendly and good for the soul, but not when it becomes someone's only motivation. Not if it becomes a matter of comparing oneself to everyone else they encounter.

I have had many jobs, and in these jobs, I have seen the problems competition can create. But who can blame us? Competition is everywhere in America. Sports, education, jobs, money, all of these things show up in society everyday and make competition seem like it is not just necessary, but a priority.

People need to get out of the mindset of being better than someone else and realize the only person they need to be is themselves. As individuals, we all have our own talents and attributes that make us unique. When we try so hard to mold ourselves to compete with others, we lose this part of ourselves.

In work environments particularly, people seem so focused on competing that it fuels their every action.

However, people should understand jobs

are not solely about getting ahead and making money. Jobs are about learning, growing and progressing in a certain field as both an individual and a team. Your job should be a place where people work together, not where people are out to get each other.

As students, it is important to acknowledge there is a time and place for comparison and competition. Seniors, who will be going out into the real world in a matter of months, need to realize people come from different backgrounds, socially and academically.

There may be someone who is better in a certain area and that's OK. There is something you are better at too. Instead of seeing your talents as another aspect to boost your own self worth, see them as something you can offer to someone else, and in return, receive someone else's talents willingly and without fear of criticism.

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

The ECU Student Media Board welcomes membership applications

Day Student Representative

The board is seeking a full-time student interested in serving as the day student representative on the Student Media Board, the 13-person board that governs Student Media (WZMB, Rebel, The East Carolinian, Expressions, Buccaneer, Hook, and The Agency.)

For applications, Contact:

Cherie Speller,
Board Secretary
252.328.9238
spellerch16@ecu.edu

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MAP OUT YOUR WEEK

TODAY

Erica Bernheim
Poetry Reading
Bate Building
2 p.m.

Hands on a Hardbody
ECU Loessin/Playhouse
8 p.m.

TOMORROW

Yoga & Art
Greenville Museum
of Art
10 a.m.

Sip, Savor and Create
Emerge Gallery & Art
Center
6:30 p.m.

Acoustic Soul Sessions
Pitt Street Brewing
Company
8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Unlimited Laser Tag
Atomic Laser Dome
7 p.m.

IBX Comedy
Improv Show
Crave
7 p.m.

Cody Braxton
Uptown Brewing
Company
8 p.m.

DNR
A.J. McMurphy's
8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

Sunday Funday
The Painted Peacock
Noon

The Mumz
Christy's Euro Pub
8 p.m.

Spring Senior
Choreography
Dance Concert
Messick Theatre
Arts Center
5 p.m.

Museum of Art welcomes yoga

Emily Harvey
TEC STAFF

As nine meditators and their yoga instructor finished up an hour-long session, the sound of “OM” echoed off the walls within an art gallery in the Greenville Museum of Art as the participants put their voices together.

Purple Blossom Yoga Studio and the Greenville Museum of Art are partnering to bring yoga to the museum each Friday in February. Tomorrow at 10 a.m., individuals will have an opportunity to participate in a free class taught by Suzanne McCartney, a yoga instructor at Purple Blossom.

Located at 802 Evans St., the museum is within walking distance from campus. Kari Carr, an anthropology graduate student at East Carolina University, said the class is a great opportunity for students who have a free Friday morning.

“It was definitely a beginner’s paced course so it’s perfect for seasoned yogis and beginners,” Carr said. “If you just want to get a taste of what yoga’s like it’s really great. Just the relaxation, being able to disconnect.”

McCartney started Purple Blossom, located at 302 Evans St., five years ago, though she recently sold it to Jess McNally. McCartney is still a yoga instructor at the studio and is teaching the classes at the museum this month.

Though some of the individuals who began the studio with McCartney have moved, she said they’ve built a strong yogi community in Greenville and are committed to sharing yoga in the area. McCartney said the studio and museum are trying to work out possibly holding a more regular class.

“To more experienced yogis (the class is) just a chance to do yoga in this beautiful, beautiful space,” McCartney said. “For new folks, I hope free classes give them the opportunity to try yoga if they haven’t and just to experiment, see what it’s like. I try to teach more of a style for beginners that makes yoga accessible for all people, no matter what your body shape or type.”

Ned Puchner, the executive director of the Greenville Museum of Art, said the yoga classes came about after the exhibition that was on view in the art gallery, titled “Jupiter Optimus Maximus.” The multimedia exhibition is the result of a five-year collaboration between three artists from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, according to Puchner.



Emily Harvey | The East Carolinian
Purple Blossom Yoga instructor Suzanne McCartney lunges calmly inside the Greenville Museum of Art.

William Fields, Robert Ruckman and Samuel Allen Taylor researched a belief system called Hermetics, which is a pantheistic belief system that has a history dating back to 3,000 B.C. Puchner said the artists worked for five years to create 12 works, which are featured in the gallery. Each work is incorporated by a mixed media drawing, a painting and a composition or sound signature.

“They are each psychic portraits of a different force within Jupiter, which is a intelligence that is central to the belief system of Hermetics,” Puchner said. “We’re trying to always do new things to reach new audiences within Greenville and Pitt County. And, given the belief system, the wide ranging or broad belief system within Hermetics...we felt that we could feature yoga as one element within that.”

He added the exhibition seemed to align well with a yoga session.

“The exhibition tries to create a space that inspires awe and there’s a certain spirituality to it,” Puchner said.

Puchner said the yoga classes are something the museum wanted to offer and try out while gauging participation to determine if the class should continue. He said if there is a consistent interest for the next two classes in February the museum staff will discuss it.

Puchner said he wants to make sure the classes pair well with what is on the walls at the

time, adding the works on display now draw yoga participants deeper into the session.

“I think it broadens the experience that our viewers have of art in general,” Puchner said. “If we think about art as expanding the perspective we have on the world, our community, on others, on other cultures, including the experience of yoga on top of that, I think that only deepens the level of engagement visitors have with the artwork that we have on display.”

As individuals gathered their mats up after class, Carr said her morning had been “absolutely wonderful.” She added it’s a fantastic opportunity for anyone, but especially for students, to take advantage of.

Though it was Carr’s first time attending a yoga class at the museum, she takes classes at Purple Blossom. She said her experience at the yoga class in the art gallery on Friday was unique due to the environment.

“I think this is such a great program. Having the difference in environment, and the art work and the energy. It’s always nice at the studio, but it was very nice this morning,” Carr said. “Yoga is always a way for me to connect to something greater than the self and I just love the environment and I’m so glad everyone came out this morning.”

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

MUSICAL REVIEW

'Hands on a Hardbody' entertains



Ashley Konarski | The East Carolinian
From left: Seniors Aubrey Moya-Mendéz and Caitlyn Leach star as Cindy and Frankie.

“Hands on a Hardbody” allows audience members into the intimate lives of a ragtag group of competitors, which despite a few emotional fumbles, makes for an entertaining and heartfelt night in Messick Theatre.

The show begins at 8 every night until Feb. 20, except for Sunday, which will offer a matinee at 2 p.m. in addition to the evening performance.

This realistic musical will make you laugh at times, and the music will certainly keep you entertained. However, there are also highly emotional moments in the show, giving this otherwise superficial competition a deeper meaning.

The set, which includes the prized red truck at the center, rustic details and string lights, was incredible and drew me in. It looked exactly like what I imagine a 90s Nissan dealership in Texas looks like.

This ensemble of strongly personified characters are all portrayed excellently by the actors who were cast perfectly. The real highlight of this show is the music though. To my surprise, almost every cast member got a fair share

in the spotlight.

The real show stealer of this production is senior musical theatre major Jessica Blair Rogers. Every song and word she delivers as the gospel music-obsessed Norma is spot on. Her best performance of the whole show is “Joy of the Lord.”

Another stand out performance comes from junior musical theatre and professional acting major Matt Donahue, who plays the cocky cowboy Benny Perkins. Donahue portrays an excellent villain but doesn’t sacrifice the necessary depth of the character to achieve that. Every song and dance he hits straight on, but his stand out numbers are “Hunt with Big Dogs” and “God Answered my Prayers.”

Two more show favorites are junior musical theatre major Drew Wells and senior Casey Scarboro, who majors in musical theatre,

professional acting and political science. They play the hilarious redneck couple Don and Janis, winning over the audience with their performance of “If She Don’t Sleep.”

Though most musical numbers are jammed with energy and character growth, it’s the conversation in between that really seems to drag. Also, the opening song lacks in energy, making it take a while for me to really feel the excitement for the contest and its winner.

It’s a shame we didn’t get more of Jean Christian Barry, as he delivered an incredible performance and had great energy on stage. The show could’ve used the energy Barry produces to carry it through those dull moments in between songs, but he falls out of the competition early, and isn’t seen again until the very end.

Though the characters of

Benny and Norma are relatable and easy to connect to, the only other character the audience could develop a relationship with was J.D. Drew since he has a lot of stage time and is a constant protagonist throughout the show. Drew is played by ECU junior Blake West.

This disconnect from some of the characters causes a few of what are meant to be the more emotional numbers to fall short. “Stronger,” with its moving story about retired marine Chris Alvaro, portrayed by junior Alex Fernandez, doesn’t quite hit the spot with its deliverance. Though his deliverance is great musically, it lacks in emotion. The same lackluster conveyance could be said about other emotional numbers in the show.

All in all, the two-hour show is worth the \$10 student ticket. It’s entertaining and well cast but can improve on its energy in between musical numbers. However, the show in its totality is pretty entertaining.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/tickets/

RATING:

★★★★☆

4 out of 5

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

NAACP continued from A1

fashion in African American culture.

BSU Ambassador and F.A.M.E. choreographer Geoffrey Whitley said the week is all about expression.

“This is a way for us to represent black culture and our heritage,” Whitley said. “It’s to show

students different parts of African American culture and (its) influence throughout history.”

BSU’s goal is to provide a voice for black students, which can sometimes be muffled on a predominately white campus, Whitley said. By sponsoring civil discourse platforms and promoting African American culture for the student body, such as its annual AIDS benefit showcase, BSU has aimed to put its mission

statement into action at ECU since 1998.

The collaboration with F.A.M.E. gives the student body a way to celebrate and appreciate accomplishments that Whitley believes often go overlooked.

Those who plan on going to the NAACP showcase are looking forward to what the show has in store. ECU kinesiology major Brittany Purcell believes events which honor heritage are

important because remembering the past is vital for a culture to move forward.

“Just acknowledging what came before, whether in music or in the culture, in general, is important,” Purcell said. “I think events like these are important to gain representation in a positive way.”

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

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rented by March find your house now so don't miss out. Go to **PIRATEPLACES.COM** today.

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SERVICE ADS:

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Struggling with writing? Let me help! ECU tutoring/teaching experience. No hour too early or late. \$10/hr. Text Jo Anna @ (252) 558-8475.

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) --Today is a 9 -- Begin a transformative phase in friendship, social networks and community, with this New Moon Solar Eclipse. Take a group endeavor to new heights.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Collaboration blooms anew. Begin a new direction in partnership under this Aquarius Solar Eclipse. Support each other through changes or transformations. Start another chapter.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Miracles and breakthroughs arise in conversation under this Aquarius New Moon Eclipse. Adapt communications to a new story. Share gratitude and appreciation.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Complete old projects and begin a new professional phase, with this New Moon Eclipse in Aquarius. Accept new responsibilities as you prepare your next endeavor.

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

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Surpass old limitations and barriers in your relationship with money, with this Eclipse. Step into new levels of prosperity. Begin a new six-month phase.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Open a new door for education, travels and exploration, with this Aquarius Eclipse. Discover new possibilities. Study with a master.

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 a 9 -- A new personal phase dawns with this New Moon Solar Eclipse in your sign. Take charge. Develop your talents, capacities and skills to new levels.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 9 -- A lucrative phase dawns under this Aquarius New Moon Eclipse. Find creative ways to grow your family's nest egg. Launch a profitable initiative together.

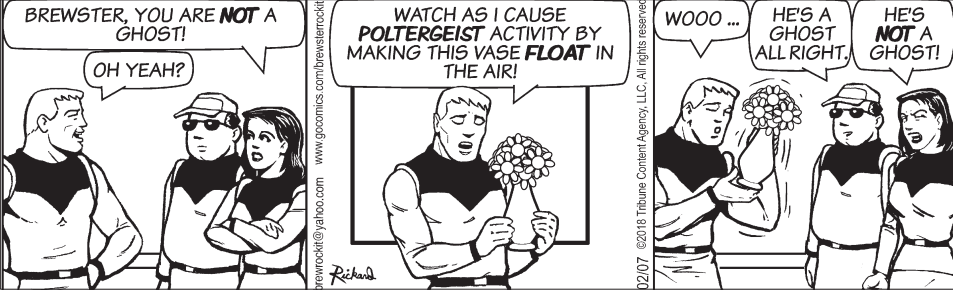
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- A new domestic phase arises with this Aquarius Solar Eclipse. Wrap your love around home and family. Create something wonderful together.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Insights, breakthroughs and revelations sparkle under this Aquarius New Moon Eclipse. Discover something about the past. Begin a new philosophical, spiritual and mindful phase.

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COMICS

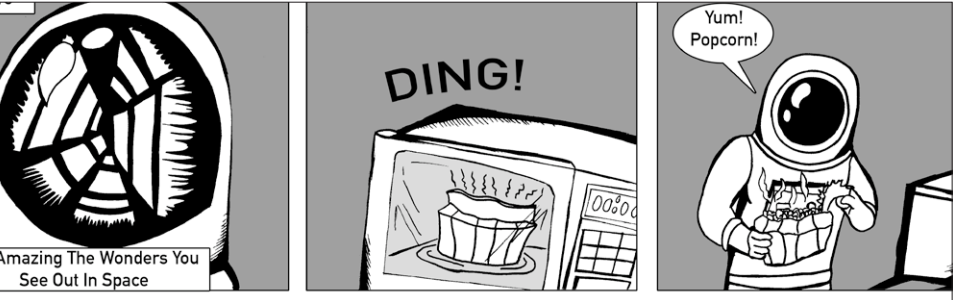
BREWSTER ROCKIT



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
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15				16					17			
18				19					20			
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41	42	43			44	45				46	47	48
49					50					51		
52					53					54		
55					56					57		

ACROSS

- 1 Medicines approval grp.
- 4 Bernard of "Reliable Sources"
- 8 Midler film, "Drowning ___"
- 12 "Above the ___"
- 13 Dr. Frankenstein's assistant
- 14 Arkin of "Chicago Hope"
- 15 "___ to Billie Joe"
- 16 Turner of "Peyton Place"
- 17 "Star Trek: Deep Space ___"
- 18 Alan Young sitcom
- 20 Jagger or Jones
- 21 "Atlas Shrugged" author Rand
- 22 Bruce of "The Green Hornet"
- 24 Teller's partner
- 27 Host of "The Twilight Zone"
- 31 Org. of Safin and Nadal
- 32 Donahue and Aikman
- 34 "___ Close for Comfort"
- 35 "My Favorite ___"
- 37 Claude Akins series
- 38 Blow away
- 39 Soviet spy grp.
- 41 Nat "King" ___
- 44 Sitcom starring Judd Hirsch
- 49 Sheriff Taylor's kid

Solution from Tuesday

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

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- 50 Raines or Fitzgerald
- 51 Golfer's gadget
- 52 1996 Tony Award winning play
- 53 Baldwin of "30 Rock"
- 54 IRS concern
- 55 Griffith or Williams
- 56 Waggoner of "Wonder Woman"
- 57 Mel of the Giants

DOWN

- 1 "___ Here to Eternity"
- 2 Conn of "Grease"
- 3 Leon of "Father of the Bride"
- 4 "Man of La Mancha" Tony Award winner
- 5 Storch role on "F Troop"
- 6 "The ___ Ranger"
- 7 Ed of "Sixty Minutes"
- 8 Howie of "St. Elsewhere"
- 9 Garfield's pal
- 10 Anna Sten movie
- 11 Sitcom co-starring Clifton Davis
- 19 Author of "The Joy Luck Club"
- 23 Hosp. sections
- 24 "The Office" receptionist
- 25 JFK data
- 26 Radio equivalent of PBS
- 27 "Harrigan and ___"
- 28 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
- 29 San Francisco hill
- 30 Sticky stuff
- 32 Yucatan uncle
- 33 1986 Schwarzenegger movie
- 36 Sylvester's tormenter
- 37 JFK's follower
- 39 Superman's name on Krypton
- 40 "___ Under Fire"
- 41 Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"
- 42 Peter Fonda film, "___ Season"
- 43 The Swedish Nightingale
- 45 ___ May Clampett
- 46 Director Preminger
- 47 Turner/Hurt movie, "Body ___"
- 48 "Star Trek: The ___ Generation"

SUDOKU



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

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

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Save the Date!

Senior Portraits
February 19th - 28th



Baseball set for season debut

Robert Romero
TEC STAFF

Opening weekend for East Carolina baseball is upon us, as the Pirates begin the season tomorrow at 4 p.m. at Lewis Field inside Clark-Leclair Stadium for a three-game series against Western Carolina University.

The Pirates will see sophomore right-handed pitcher Trey Benton take the mound on Opening Day, followed by sophomore left-hander Jake Agnos on Saturday and junior right-handed pitcher Chris Holba on Sunday.

Benton is coming off a strong freshman season where he was an All-Conference candidate after posting a 4.18 earned run average (ERA), striking out a team-high 79 batters while walking just 19. According to sophomore first baseman Spencer Brickhouse, Benton has improved his attitude immensely and thinks he will make a huge impact on the mound tomorrow.

“Mentally, Trey has become a lot stronger,” Brickhouse said. “He’s accepted his role as a starter and he’s going to be very aggressive and very good when he takes the mound Friday. I’m looking forward to play ball behind him.”

This opening series will say a lot about the Pirates’ mindset. On Media Day, head coach Cliff Godwin emphasized that losing the American Athletic Conference Championship game last season was the best



Sophomore right-handed pitcher Trey Benton follows through after throwing a pitch for the Pirates.

thing to happen to the team in a season he described as “a learning experience.”

Godwin wants his team to have a process-oriented mentality and play with an edge like it has something to prove this season. Agnos, who was also an All-Conference candidate, wants to echo Godwin’s message on Saturday afternoon by doing whatever he can to put the

team in a good spot after he leaves the mound.

“I just want to go out there and give my team a chance to win,” Agnos said. “I want the guys to know when I’m on the mound that I got a chip on my shoulder and I want them to feed off of it by having a lot of energy, play hard, and, at the end of the day, win.”

Godwin also hasn’t made any final

decisions on his lineups or batting orders for the series, but ensures the lineups will be different on a day-to-day basis, getting different players experience.

“We’ve got a lot of tough choices as a coaching staff because we have a lot of good hitters,” Godwin said. “It will definitely be a different lineup on Saturday than it will be Friday, as well as on Sunday, because Jake Washer and Seth Caddell are both going to catch.”

He added infielders Nick Barber and Brady Lloyd are “both going to play second base so, for sure, those two guys will be in the lineup at different times.”

Junior outfielder Dwayna Williams-Sutton is particularly excited for Opening Day after a rough season last year dealing with hand injuries. Williams-Sutton appeared in just 32 games but still finished fifth on the team in batting average (.286) and fourth on the team in homeruns (7).

According to Williams-Sutton, the fans should look forward to the Catamounts coming to Greenville. The last matchup between the schools ended in a walk-off victory for the Pirates 5-4 on March 4.

“You can’t take them lightly just like any other opponent,” William-Sutton said. “They have a really good pitching staff and we have really good hitters so it will definitely be a good game.”

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

>>WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

ECU wins fifth-straight at home

Aaron Jackson
TEC STAFF

Robert Romero
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University’s women’s basketball team revenged its embarrassing 72-36 loss to Memphis University back on Jan. 6 last night by defeating the Tigers 75-62 at Minges Coliseum for the team’s fifth-straight home victory.

After a devastating 41-point loss to American Athletic Conference opponent, the University of South Florida, ECU (14-11, 6-6 AAC) bounced back against the conference’s bottom-team, Memphis (7-17, 2-9 AAC).

At the half, following offensive struggles from both teams, ECU went into the locker room up one, 32-31. Freshman guard Necole Hope picked up the slack, leading the way for ECU with 15 points on 6-for-19 shooting from the field, 3-for-9 from three-point range.

One factor that led to the Pirates’ victory was the rebounding difference. The Pirates had 42 rebounds to the Tigers 35, with ECU’s senior center Thais Oliveira securing 11 boards. ECU won on the offensive glass 22-8, giving ECU extra possessions on nearly one third of its possessions throughout the game.

“Those offensive rebounds were hugely important,” Macy said. “When they’re in the zone it’s really hard to box out and I thought we really rebounded hard. I’m really proud (of) how we did that, as well as value the ball and capitalize at the free throw line.”

ECU (27-for-75) made only one more shot than Memphis (26-for-54), despite the Tigers shooting a higher percentage from the field, 48-36. The Tigers struggled from outside the arc however, going 1-for-9 from the three-point line. Hope (3-for-9) and freshman guard Ariyanna Williams (3-for-10) both hit three three-pointers for ECU, providing the spark the Pirates needed to propel them past the Tigers.

“Even when I was missing shots in the first half, my team still believed in me to shoot the ball and make it,” Hope said. “That gave me



Sophomore forward Dominique Claytor gathers her dribble in a game for East Carolina University.

confidence to not down myself and keep my energy up to continue to shoot.”

The contest ended with the Pirates stretching their second half 10-point lead into a 13-point victory over the Tigers.

ECU next faces the University of Houston (19-7, 8-4 AAC) on Saturday as the Pirates

start a two-game road trip which ends against Tulsa University (9-16, 3-9 AAC) Feb. 20 in Oklahoma.

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

ECU softball to host Pirate Clash

Samantha Walsh
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University softball team will kick off its first home series in the third annual Pirate Clash Invitational, hosting Towson University, Saint Joseph’s University and the University of Maryland Baltimore County, starting tomorrow.

The Pirates will face Towson at 3 p.m. to open play in the ECU Softball Stadium.

Up next are games with St. Joseph’s at 5:30, then a rematch to open play on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. ECU’s only game against UMBC is scheduled for 5:30 to end its second day of play.

Another rematch, with Towson, will close the Invitational on Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m. ECU will enter the Invitational without any experience against these teams.

“Towson always puts together a really good team. St. Joe’s has a new head coach (Erin Brooks). I’m sure she’s going to get them up and ready to play, she’s had a lot of success in her past,” head coach Courtney



Redshirt sophomore third baseman Tate McClellan makes contact with the ball in an at-bat for East Carolina University in a game at the ECU softball stadium.

Oliver said. “UMBC has a coach (Heather Gelbard) that’s also very experienced so I’m expecting really good games this weekend.”

According to Oliver, after working hard all pre-season, the team is ready for its first home series. Senior infielder Karlie Smith says she is not expecting their opponents to take any of the games lightly, therefore neither will the Pirates.

Smith said the goal for the Pirates this weekend will be to protect their house. Since ECU

has not had any matchups with these teams in the past, the Pirates will need to keep a keen eye on the first matchup of the day between UMBC and Towson.

“We definitely scout their pitching and work in practice to prepare as much as possible,” Smith said. “But, when it comes to the actual game, you just go out there and play confidently while making adjustments throughout the game.”

With up to five starting freshman and two starting sophomores who didn’t see much

playing time year, ECU’s team is very young, which could be seen in its games this past weekend at the Feldsberg tournament in Miami, Florida. ECU lost to both Hofstra (4-0) and St. John’s University (9-1) in games worse than they could have been, due to an abundance of Pirate mistakes.

Against St. John’s, the Pirates gave

up three unearned runs out of a total nine, showing the inability to prevent errors from turning into runs.

According to Oliver, the team learned a lot from the weekend’s games.

“We made mistakes that most experienced players don’t make,” Oliver said. “I’m pretty confident that this staff can make these adjustments for this weekend.”

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



Courtney Oliver



Karlie Smith