



BENTON, HOLBA SET TO START IN WEEKEND SERIES Turn to A5

# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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>> WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE



A Greenville Fire/Rescue ambulance leaves Station 1 on the way to a call. Station 1 is located at 500 S. Greene St. in downtown.

## Firefighters urged to file safety report

Matthew Prensley  
TEC STAFF

Some Greenville Fire/Rescue firefighters say GFR's two squad trucks are dangerous because of the lack of sleep the firefighters manning those trucks get. However, experts say nothing forces GFR to address these concerns.

According to two law professors at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Virginia, United States labor laws are more friendly to employers than employees.

"They can file a complaint with OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Administration) and trigger an inspection, and they can refuse to drive the truck if the threat to health and safety is imminent," J.H. Verkerke, a law professor at the UVA School of Law, said. "But no, short of an inspection and a citation, there's no direct legal obligation for the employer to do anything."

Verkerke added in an emailed statement to The East Carolinian, the federal OSHA doesn't apply to state or local governments.

Jason Tyson, the public information officer for the North Carolina Department of Labor (NCDOL), said the state does enforce several OSHA standards related to firefighting.

Tyson said if firefighters have concerns, they should bring them to the attention of their company officer or chief of the department. Tyson added if firefighters' concerns aren't addressed, then they should file a complaint with NCDOL.

Jeffrey Hirsch, a law professor at the UNC School of Law, said North Carolina's labor laws and judiciary system are generally more favorable to employers.

"If an employee wanted to take advantage of OSHA protections, he or she would typically file a complaint with the agency (or the state agency for a state plan), which would investigate," Hirsch said. "If the complaint has merit, the agency could order the employer to remedy the issue and possibly issue fines."

Based on the concerns of GFR firefighters, Hirsch said he would recommend firefighters file an OSHA complaint.



Jason Tyson

## Stories from within

### Former firefighters express their concerns for GFR

Darby Hubbell  
TEC STAFF

Julie Estep  
TEC STAFF



Four former firefighters of Greenville Fire/Rescue sat down to explain their concerns about GFR on Tuesday. Sitting together in a display of brotherhood, they encouraged current firefighters to be honest with the outside firm evaluating GFR.

For the last two weeks, GFR has been in the middle of an evaluation by Developmental Associates. City Manager Ann Wall made the decision to bring in the outside firm after meeting with firefighters.

One of those firefighters was Matt McMahon, a former lieutenant at GFR who resigned in October with 19 years of service. McMahon decided to leave GFR after he went through a traumatic event while on a medical call.

"I was placed in a very uncomfortable situation where I was thrust on to a EMS unit with EMTs and, as a paramedic, I was sent out into the county, outside the



From left: Matt McMahon, Eddie Meeks, Jeremy Seemann and Dusty Peaden discuss GFR.

city with zero help and somebody died — and died in front of me," McMahon said.

He said because GFR doesn't have many firefighters left with the knowledge of how to handle complicated medical emergencies, he believes the patient didn't get the care they deserved.

McMahon put in his resignation following that call.

McMahon said as a decorated

firefighter, he was shocked no one in the city asked him why he was resigning so suddenly after 19 years. He added if his wife or children's lives were on the line, he would hesitate to trust GFR.

"Let's say something relevant to today's world — an active shooter. If my

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> GFR page A2

## ECU alumnus to release short film 'Deserted'

Jenna Price  
TEC STAFF

Stranded, alone and stuck in a forest injured is where East Carolina University alumnus Denver Hollingsworth's short film, "Deserted," picks up.

Hollingsworth, the director, screenwriter and producer, set his film at the end of the American Civil War. Two brothers have deserted their post, one of whom is injured, and are stuck in an abandoned cabin in the woods. The two must survive, but the question is, are the threats they seek to escape from external or internal?

"Two soldiers desert and take refuge in an abandoned cabin," Hollingsworth said. "Soon they realize it's not as safe as they originally think. The viewer begins to wonder what they are really in danger from."



Denver Hollingsworth

Hollingsworth graduated from ECU in 2015, but still continues to support his fellow students by pulling a majority of his cast and crew from ECU's School of Theatre and Dance. Donald Sutton, a senior in the SOTD, was cast as the lead in this film alongside junior Grant VanderVoort.

Sutton said the shoot was one of the best experiences he ever had. Only taking 24 hours to film, on what Sutton referred to as "the coldest day of 2017," most of the shoot took place at a cabin in Wilmington, North Carolina, which Hollingsworth's family owns. With a small crew of only eight people, it was an all around fun group that meshed well, according to both Sutton and Hollingsworth. Sutton said his character, Robert, is more than meets the eye.

"He's a very troubled confederate soldier," Sutton said. "He has abandoned his country, per se, and is having to deal with the consequences of that decision. Overall, he's just a very scared man. As you watch, you begin to understand why he felt like he had to



ECU students Donald Sutton and Grant VanderVoort act out a scene in the short film, "Deserted."

run. Without giving anything away, all I can say is that there are a lot of super unexpected twists and turns."

Hollingsworth said his inspiration for the film was simple. He always wanted to do a period film, particularly one set during the

Civil War, and while he wouldn't consider himself a history buff, he said he is fascinated by that period of time and is really happy how

> FILM page A6

### ONLINE

» ECU Dining hosts forum to address concerns

» B.J. Tyson to compete in Dos Equis 3-on-3 tournament

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BRIEFS

Political Science Organization to discuss LinkedIn

East Carolina University's Political Science Organization will host a meeting for ECU Career Network Services to discuss LinkedIn tonight at 5 in Bate 1020.

Jon Stowe, the career liaison for the College of Arts and Sciences, will lead the discussion on the business and employment site.

For more information on this event, visit ECU's PSO Twitter page at @psoecu or email ECU PSO at psoecu@gmail.com.

Sorority accepting snack donations for hospitalized children

The members of ECU's Pi Theta Epsilon are collecting snack donations for Vidant's Pediatric Inpatient Rehab Unit in the Health Sciences Building, room 3305, until Monday.

Items requested are granola bars, protein bars, Pop-Tarts, mac and cheese cups, pudding cups, 100-calorie packs and muffin or brownie mix. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

For more information on this event, visit ECU's Allied Health Twitter page at @ECU\_CAHS.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

GFR continued from A1

Hirsch said North Carolina is one of two states in the country which prohibit public entities, such as a local government from entering into any sort of agreement with an employee union.

Hirsch said the reason this is important to employee safety is because, in other states, institutions and unions will negotiate contracts which can include standards for safe working conditions.

"Unfortunately, with the issue you (Greenville) are dealing with, more often than not, the way you might be successful is if something terrible happens, such

FIREFIIGHTERS continued from A1

children take gunfire, is there going to be a paramedic there to help them?" McMahon said. "It's going to be one of those things where hopefully I know the person and I know the skill set that they have, and I say, 'Thank God they were working.'"

Dusty Peaden, a former Fire/Rescue 1 at GFR who resigned in 2016 with a year of service, said his concerns about GFR lie with the experience of its firefighters. Peaden said if he was involved in an emergency as a victim, he would be concerned about the level of experience the responding GFR firefighters would have.

"It's almost like playing Russian Roulette. You may get a shift that's got some people that have been here for a while, but then you may also get a truck that's got less than one years experience on it," Peaden said.

Jeremy Seemann, a former EMS Specialist at GFR who resigned in June with eight years of service, said when he would ride GFR's squad trucks, he would have to fight to stay awake. Seemann added because the trucks would run so many calls, he wouldn't get any time to sleep.

as an accident, serious injury or loss of life, and then it's discovered that the fire department ignored these warnings," Hirsch said.

Multiple current GFR firefighters said GFR's leadership is aware of their safety concerns about the squad trucks. One current GFR lieutenant, who spoke to The East Carolinian on the condition of anonymity, said City Manager Ann Wall is aware of the safety concerns.

The East Carolinian attempted to confirm with GFR and Wall if they are aware of the safety concerns regarding squad trucks. However, after multiple attempts to get any statement from Wall or the city's Public Information Officer Brock Letchworth, no emails were returned to The East Carolinian.

Two current GFR firefighters said the squad trucks' safety has been brought up at officer meetings, which lieutenants, captains, the deputy chief, fire chief and other top-level firefighters attend.

"It's been pretty heavily discussed in the officers' meetings that these guys (firefighters) are concerned about the safety of the squad members staying up all night," said a current GFR EMS Specialist, who spoke to The East Carolinian on the condition of anonymity.

After the 20th hour of a 24-hour shift, the fatigue firefighters feel is comparable to driving intoxicated, said Dr. Juan March, a professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at ECU.



Juan March

March, who was also the medical director of Pitt County for 18 years, said there's been enough research to suggest a 24-hour shift in a busy department can cause fatigue.

In a meeting with a current GFR firefighter in February, Wall discussed the idea of limiting

firefighters' time on the squad trucks from 24 to 12 hours, according to a current GFR firefighter, who spoke to The East Carolinian on the condition of anonymity.

March also said moving firefighters from a busy vehicle to a slower-paced one hasn't been well studied.

The current GFR EMS Specialist said firefighters don't usually complain about issues because they don't want to be seen as a "complainer."

The current GFR EMS Specialist added he believed GFR Fire Chief Eric Griffin knew about the squad concerns.

"The old adage of the fire department is you don't admit mistakes unless you're ready to fix it and he (Griffin) knows we don't have the means to be able to fix it," said the current GFR EMS Specialist.

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

Seemann said he worried his exhaustion would get his partner or city residents hurt if he fell asleep at the wheel and crashed.

Seemann said situations similar to his are the reasons many firefighters are leaving the department. McMahon said he's unhappy seeing firefighters he's worked with for the last 20 years leave because of poor leadership.

"It's unacceptable what's occurring right now and it's unacceptable that the news, media and other agencies that have governing authority and accountability over the city of Greenville have not addressed it," McMahon said.

The East Carolinian contacted the city of Greenville to schedule a video interview with Wall. However, in an emailed statement to The East Carolinian, the city's Public Information Officer Brock Letchworth declined the request.

However, McMahon said the truth will come out eventually, despite the concerns allegedly not being reported on by local media.

"The fact that small town politics has played such a part in this problem...we appreciate that the East Carolinian has been the

only honest, fact gathering agency out of this whole entire thing and has put themselves in a very uncomfortable position," McMahon said. "The local news media (and) the newspaper propaganda have completely ignored this and I just want to say it is disgraceful what they have done to us in turning their back on all of us that have worked so hard to protect their property and their lives and when we needed them to shed light on this, they turned their backs on us."

Peaden said GFR firefighters should take the opportunity to speak to Developmental Associates while it's evaluating the fire department. He added now is the perfect time for firefighters to make their concerns known.

Peaden said the current GFR firefighters should stand together in a sign of brotherhood to make their concerns about the fire department known.

"We have done all we can do, we have exhausted all our efforts. That's the only way you're going to get positive change and now is the time to do it," Peaden said.

Matthew Prensky contributed to this article.

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

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## OUR VIEW

### Advocacy belongs to all ages

The city of Greenville marched on Saturday alongside cities nationwide in the March For Our Lives, a demonstration organized by the survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting on Feb. 14 in Parkland, Florida, where 17 people were killed. More than 100 people were present at the Greenville march to protest gun violence.

Since the march, criticism has been directed at the arguments of the protestors. The Greenville sister march was mostly led by high school students from schools such as D.H. Conley, South Central and others; many East Carolina University students were also in attendance to voice their opinions about gun control reform — all of which were met with some level of criticism online. On a national level, the survivors of the Parkland shooting, particularly Emma Gonzales and David Hogg, have been victims of personal attacks on social media and major news networks, such as Fox News, because of their age and perceived naivete.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe young people should be encouraged to speak openly about their beliefs, regardless of whether you agree with them or not. These high schoolers are the future of America and should be allowed a chance to speak without fear of public humiliation from adults.

Because they are so young, these students will inevitably get some facts incorrect in their arguments. However, there is a way to correct them that does not include shaming victims for exercising their First Amendment rights. If these children are the future of America, it is our duty to correct and guide them to become adults who use facts wisely and aren't afraid of speaking up for what is right.

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## Tattoo discrimination outdated

### Body ink doesn't deserve bad reputation in career fields



**Danielle Schmid**  
TEC STAFF

Being an aspiring female music journalist, the least of my worries is not getting hired because of tattoos. However, others my age in fields such as engineering, chemistry, education and even other fields of journalism face discrimination everyday because of the ink on their bodies.

While tattoos have become less of a concern in the job industry, people with ink still face judgement everyday when interviewing for jobs. According to USA Today, 76 percent of respondents feel tattoos and piercings hurt an applicant's chance of being hired.

Now, I understand some people may consider tattoos to be a quality of a "bad boy," and I also understand tattoos are a little intimidating sometimes, but for a person to not get a tattoo on their arm because of their fear of not getting a job — that's just unethical.

According to Support Tattoos and Piercings at Work, the job industry with the highest amount of workers with ink is the military. When thinking about that statistic, it makes sense considering many men in uniform have tattoos to compliment those guns also known as muscles. However, that

**"Don't brush someone who is well qualified for a position off just because they have some ink on their body."**

statistic also stood out to me considering the same people who won't hire someone because of a tattoo are most likely the same people who support the troops.

That's just an assumption, but it's a fair assumption. I realize it's aggressive, but I grew up learning to not judge a book by its cover. If employers are going to turn me away because of some ink, then I probably wasn't meant to be with that company anyway.

The reason I feel so strongly about this is because in those moments of wanting, getting, then seeing the tattoos I have, they've literally become part of me and I can't picture myself without them.

With the right artist, tattoos can express anything you want. They can mean the world to someone or they could be just another tattoo. Either way, that piece of art becomes a part of someone's body.

The good news is, tattoos in the workplace are slowly becoming more of a norm. Most work fields involving art really have no choice but to make the change and

start turning their heads to the issue.

Considering the fact that 42 percent of adults in the United States have at least one tattoo, according to Support Tattoos and Piercings at Work, we as a society should realize the issue concerning tattoos in the workplace is outdated.

According to CBS News, many well-known places such as Lush, Google, Forever 21, Whole Foods, Ticketmaster and Anthropologie are tattoo-friendly companies. These trend-setting companies are not only paving the way to a tattooed workforce, but they're focusing on relevant reasons of why or why not to hire someone.

It's your body for a reason and you should be able to put whatever you want on your body, whenever you want. Our generation faces enough issues when it comes to getting jobs. Don't brush someone who is well qualified for a position off just because they have some ink on their body.

Danielle Schmid is senior is majoring in communication. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

## 'Love Simon' offers hope for change



**Andy Li**  
TEC STAFF

### Andy Candid-Li

The first major studio film featuring a gay teenage romance, "Love, Simon," directed by Greg Berlanti, was released in the United States on March 16 to rave reviews. The film tells the coming out story of Simon Spier, who must balance staying in the closet, his friends and his curiosity in a pen-pal relationship with another gay boy at his high school.

In her speech as Simon's mom, Jennifer Garner's character says, now that Simon has come out of the closet, "You get to exhale now, Simon. You get to be more 'you' than you have been in, in a very long time." As Simon's dad, Josh Duhamel's character tells Simon he loves him and there is not a single thing he would change about him. And cue the movie theater tears.

My coming out experience was very, very different. A week after my seventeenth birthday, where my first love sang a love song that made me extremely confused, I came out to my dad as bisexual (HAHA. Dad, if you're reading this, psych, I'm gay. Shocking). My dad, an evangelical pastor, said what I knew he believed about homosexuality, but took the time to tell me that he loved me deeply as his son.

Cute, right? Cut to like... a week later. My dad had an uncomfortable conversation (for me) in the living room about how he was concerned for my soul now that I was on a "hell-bound race." At the time, and still today, I took it as a testament to my father's character. I saw a man who 100 percent believed his son was committing a sin worthy of damnation, who reaffirmed his unconditional love for said son, and expressed his sincere and kind concern for his son's eternal soul. I love my dad endlessly, but this moment is one that makes my heart swell with affection for him.

I'm not alone in this. According to the True Colors Fund, an organization fighting to stop homelessness among LGBT teens, more than half of teenagers had a negative reaction from family members when they came out. Of the LGBT homeless, almost 80 percent were forced out of their homes or had to run away to escape imminent danger. According to a study done by the Human Rights Campaign, 42 percent of LGBT youth report living in an environment that is hostile towards them.

But when I watched "Love, Simon," my tears came from not only the touching dialogue, but from a sense of sympathy. It was cathartic to see parents express their love for their son including his gayness, not in spite of it. It's painful to know your parents see you as something broken,

something wicked that something Divine, upper case D, has called them to love like He loves them. It's somewhat grand and beautiful, but I wish my parents would love me. All of me. Gayness and all.

Let me make this clear: I love my parents and I know they love me. They adopted me out of darkness and showered me with love and compassion that I did not deserve. But stupidly, selfishly, I wish — and I know several of my gay friends wish — I could experience the all-encompassing love a straight child feels. I want to not think about how bringing home a boyfriend would hurt my parents' hearts, or worry about how they'll feel about my wedding or if they'll be ashamed of any children I have. These are fears generated by my own consciousness, not by my parents' actions, but "Love, Simon" made me jealous of a situation where these fears would never be a part of my life.

So, for all of my LGBT friends who had less than ideal coming out experiences, watch "Love, Simon." Watch a young man be enveloped in love by his friends and family with no strings attached. It might not be the coming-out experience I had, but it's the one we can work toward, and that's good enough for me.

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

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## CROSSWORD

# THE TV CROSSWORD

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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1 Actor Ayres  
4 Gilbert of "Roseanne"  
8 Petty of "A League of Their Own"  
12 Approximately: suff.  
13 Falcons' kicker Jason  
14 "Beneath the Planet of the \_\_\_"  
15 Michael J. Fox sitcom  
17 "Star Trek: \_\_\_ Space Nine"  
18 World War II beachhead site  
19 Actress Jessica  
20 Data of "Star Trek: Voyager"  
24 Big letters in broadcasting  
27 "\_\_\_ Murder"  
31 McKellen and McShane  
33 "Beany \_\_\_ Cecil"  
34 "The World According to \_\_\_"  
35 Platters classic, "The Great \_\_\_"  
38 Comic/actress DeLaria  
39 Stritch and May  
41 Comic Chase  
44 Singer Brooks  
48 "The \_\_\_ Ranger"  
49 Ed of "Hill Street Blues"  
52 "Once \_\_\_ a Mattress"

**DOWN**  
1 Wheelchel of "The Facts of Life"  
2 "Baseball Tonight" stn.  
3 Matthew Laborteaux series, "\_\_\_ Kids"  
4 Stewart Granger movie, "Any \_\_\_ Now"  
5 Actress MacGraw  
6 Chris George series, "The \_\_\_ Patrol"  
7 "Judging \_\_\_"  
8 1962 canine film  
9 "\_\_\_ House"  
10 Robert of "The Brady Bunch"  
11 Culp/Cosby series  
16 Long or Peeples  
19 Costner movie, "\_\_\_ Cup"  
21 Rigg or Ross  
22 "CHiPs" co-star Oakes  
23 City in Utah  
24 Torn or Taylor  
25 "My Mother the \_\_\_"  
26 Sue \_\_\_ Langdon  
28 Actor Mineo  
29 Wrath  
30 Health resort  
32 Singer Cat  
36 Ron of "The Aquanauts"  
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43 "The Dukes of Hazzard" spinoff  
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49 Diner owner on "Alice"  
50 Architecture critic Huxtable  
51 Stimp's pal

**Solution from Tuesday**

B	A	T		O	P	I	E		A	L	D	A	
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## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Maintain health and fitness routines despite a busy schedule. Encourage others to participate, and delegate what you can. Underscore your statements with feeling.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Relax, and play the game. Stick to fundamental rules and strategies. Compile the data so it makes sense. Fantasies prove flimsy. Seek out simple solutions.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Authorize home improvements. Keep domestic routines and practices. Do laundry and wash dishes; ignored chores can accumulate. Don't bend the rules.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Write and express your message. Dig deeper into a favorite subject. Read the background story to distill a summary. Make a persuasive case. Invite participation.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Get into a lucrative venture. Profit from your labors and stash your prizes. Education overcomes old fears. Take advantage of a lucky break.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Follow personal priorities and enthusiasms. Do what you love, and it feeds your spirit. Dress for success. Practice and share your talents

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 5 -- Rest and review plans for upcoming action. Take a refreshing pause. Recharge batteries. Restore health and energy levels. Process news and emotions. Rituals soothe.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- You have more friends than you realized. Parties, gatherings and social events provide fun and business connections simultaneously. Go for substance over symbolism.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Your good work reflects you well. Your influence is rising. Check the fine print on contracts and agreements before signing. No gambling. Follow rules closely.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Your studies and travels present new views. Draw logical conclusions and express them powerfully. Your experience and the structures you've built give you the edge.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- It's easier to manage your money when you're clear what you have and what's expected. A windfall is always nice. Steady discipline pays higher dividends.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Together, pursue a shared dream. Reality may clash with fantasy. Things may not look as imagined. Don't count chickens until they're hatched. Stay in action.

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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKIT



### BEST IN SHOW



### ONE AND ONLY

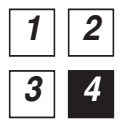


## SUDOKU

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level:



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

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

Solution from Tuesday

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

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## TEC 'sports

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this weekend's baseball game

### Aaron Jackson

Sports Editor

@aaronjthewriter



Who? ECU wins series 2-1, 1-1 against UNCW and Wofford  
Why? The No. 16 ECU baseball picked up its first AAC series win over UCF. I expect pitching and hitting to be great against No. 18 Wichita State, and I believe it carries over to the midweek games, but ECU drops one game to UNCW.

### Chase Carroll

Sports Chief

@ChaseCarroll\_

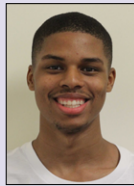


Who? ECU wins series 2-1, 2-0 against UNCW and Wofford  
Why? I made the mistake of choosing ECU to lose to both UNC and UCF in series earlier in the season. I will not make the mistake of choosing against them again. The Pirates take the series over Wichita State and handle UNCW as well as Wofford during the week.

### Daniel Roberts

Baseball Reporter

@dantheman1892



Who? ECU sweeps 3-0, 2-0 against UNCW and Wofford  
Why? ECU has proven it can win series against ranked opponents. WSU has not played a game in the AAC, and facing ECU in its first-ever conference game will be tough. ECU's starters will be lights-out and the Pirates will prevail 5-0 in the stretch.

### Robert Romero

Baseball Reporter

@RobertRomero97



Who? ECU sweeps 3-0, 2-0 against UNCW and Wofford  
Why? Wichita State will struggle playing in the AAC for the first time. ECU's series win versus UCF was a huge telling point of how confident this team is and I expect that to continue in the WSU series and in the midweek games.

### Tyler Gavin

Copy Editor

@tygavin13



Who? ECU sweeps 3-0, 2-0 against UNCW and Wofford  
Why? The Pirates are hitting a stride and Wichita State just isn't ready. The Shockers are

talented, especially with pitching, but ECU's lineup is too talented to have bad at-bats. I expect close games all weekend, but after a sweep, ECU will crush UNCW and Wofford, validating its ever-climbing national ranking.

## ONLINE

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East Carolina University right handed pitchers Chris Holba (left) and Trey Benton (right) will each start in the three-game series with Wichita State.

>> BASEBALL

# Pitchers start season hot

Robert Romero  
TEC STAFF

The combination of right handed pitchers sophomore Trey Benton and junior Chris Holba has been a deadly 1-2 punch in the starting weekend rotation for the East Carolina University baseball team, elevating the Pirates to legitimate NCAA contenders.

No. 16 ECU is 18-5 on the season in large part due to the duo of Benton and Holba, who combine for a 9-2 record in 12 games started, a 1.90 ERA in 71 innings pitched and 75 strikeouts. According to head coach Cliff Godwin, pitching through tough situations in previous years was a huge learning curve in their growth as players and it's paid off immensely so far this season.

"They got experience from all the good and bad stuff that happened, and they've used the adversity to learn from that," Godwin said. "I think they really focused on one pitch at a time, so when they throw a bad pitch, they can flip the switch and get back into the next one as opposed to when they were younger, when one bad pitch would lead to another bad pitch and so on."

Benton's 6-foot-4-inch frame is a unique attribute for a pitcher of his caliber, but his height can work against him when the command of his pitches isn't precise, an issue he had to overcome with his fastball last season. To work on his game, Benton spent most of

the offseason working with pitching coach Dan Roszel, sophomore right hander Tyler Smith and Holba on controlling his pitches, improving the movement of his fastball and developing his sinker.

As a result, Benton has taken his game to another level through his first six starts, posting a 4-2 record with a 2.43 ERA over 34 innings, leading the team in strikeouts (39) and fewest walks of the starters (3).

As helpful as developing new pitches has been, Benton thinks his competitive mindset has been the biggest factor for his strong start. He is more of a team player this year than last, when he was always looking for the strikeout, compared to now when he's trusting the defense behind him.

"I'm more of a competitor this year and I think it's because I have a better approach on the mound," Benton said. "Our pitching staff has a lot of accountability in it, especially when each guy has a chance to pitch on the weekend. We have a lot of talent and I think pushing each other everyday helps a lot."

As opposed to Benton has been the Friday night starter since Opening Day, Holba's dominant start may come as a surprise to some people, considering he only started in just seven games over the last two seasons.

To get an idea of how hot he's been, Holba is 5-0 with a team-best 1.32 ERA among starters just ahead of sophomore pitcher Smith (1.37). He pitched his first 25.2 innings of the season without allowing a single earned run, before giving up his first in the seventh inning of game three against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on March 10.

The biggest difference for Holba this year is the control over his body. Holba said he spent a huge portion of the offseason working with assistant strength and conditioning coach Brandon Golden in the weight room, and doing a lot more yoga to help his body control and delivery.

Both Benton and Holba have given credit to the entire ECU baseball program for their success, but particularly to the players who swing the bat and play defense behind them.

It's difficult in any sport to maintain a high level of play over the course of an entire season, but with Benton and Holba starting for the Pirates, the two will have the chance to add to their 9-2 record. The two starters will look to continue their hot start this weekend when ECU hosts a dangerous Wichita State University team for the first time in history since the Shocker's move to the AAC this past year. First pitch of game one is set for today at 6:30 p.m.

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

>> COLUMN

# Men's tennis close to 20-win season



Austin Walker  
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University men's tennis team (18-3) is on a roll recently, boasting a 10-game win streak, with the opportunity for a historic season within its grasp.

The team has five tough matches remaining before the American Athletic Conference Championship, but are peaking at the right time. With its last loss happening more than a month ago, the team should have the confidence and experience needed to win.

The team extended its winning streak to double digits on Saturday, a 4-1 victory over Georgia Southern University (11-10), who defeated the Pirates 5-2 last season. The victory showed the level of improvement

the Pirates have achieved this spring, as GSU, the University of Richmond and Winthrop University make up a list of teams the Pirates have gotten revenge on this season. The Pirates have already surpassed their win total of 16 from last season and have the chance to set a record for wins under head coach Shawn Heinchon. In 2009-10, the Pirates won 19 matches.

The Pirates' great record can be partly attributed to the team's stellar play at home. ECU is undefeated, 10-0, at home. With four of its final five matches being played in Greenville, a 20-win season is a real possibility for the Pirates.

In its next three matches, ECU will face the College of William and Mary (9-7), the College of Charleston (6-8) and Coastal Carolina University (6-10), who all defeated the Pirates last season. The team will need to play its best tennis from top to bottom if

it wants to continue its win streak and finish the season on a high note.

Two other major factors of ECU's success this season are found in the team's doubles play and the contribution from the Pirates' freshmen and sophomores. The Pirates have excelled in the doubles point so far this season, going 15-4.

As for the underclassman, freshman Wisse Jonker and sophomore Javier Renones have excelled. Jonker boasts a record of 16-1 in singles matches this season, while Renones is undefeated, going 16-0 in his singles matches. They have also excelled when playing together in doubles matches, going 16-1.

The team is on the verge of securing its first 20-win season, they have should have the confidence and talent to succeed.

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

>> FOOTBALL

# ECU players to participate in Pro Day

Dylan Johnson  
TEC STAFF

In front of about 35 scouts, coaches and personnel from the NFL, Canadian Football League (CFL) and other organizations, the East Carolina University football program will host its annual Pro Day today for 20 players who were seniors on the 2017 team.

The soon to be graduates will be tested both inside the Murphy Center and at the Cliff Moore Practice Facility on Hight field.

Inside the Murphy Center, players will begin with physical measurements before being tested on vertical jump, broad jump and bench press. On Hight field, players will participate in the 40-yard dash, shuttle drill and position specific drills.

Those participating include wide receivers Jimmy Williams, Quay Johnson



Davon Grayson

back Korrin Wiggins.

Starting with Sirk, who played 11 games at quarterback for ECU last season after transferring from Duke University, the potential talent threw for 1,655 yards and nine touchdowns while splitting time with former ECU quarterback Gardner Minshew. Sirk also moved to tight end down the stretch of the season and

and Davon Grayson, linebacker Jordan Williams, defensive ends Kiante' Anderson and Randall Anderson, tight end Stephen Baggett, running back Tyshon Dye, quarterback turned tight end Thomas Sirk and defensive

showed flashes of potential as a receiver and blocker.

Grayson, Johnson, and Jimmy Williams are three notable receivers from ECU's offense last season. They finished second, third and fourth in receiving yards and receptions. Grayson was also second in touchdown catches while Johnson and Williams were tied for third.

Rounding out the defensive notable players that will participate are Wiggins and Jordan Williams. Wiggins led the Pirates in tackles (96) last season, while Williams was second (89).

A full list of the 20 players participating in the Pro Day can be found on theeastcarolinian.com.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

# 72

MAP OUT YOUR WEEKEND

## TODAY

**March Wine Tasting**  
Dickinson Avenue  
Public House  
5:30 p.m.

## TOMORROW

**The Southern Belles**  
Crossbones Tavern  
9 p.m.

## SATURDAY

**Hip Hop Yoga**  
YogiVibes  
1 p.m.

## DRINK THROWDOWN

# Sup Crush offers great taste for price



Emily Harvey  
TEC STAFF

As downtown Greenville continues to expand, the drink options become more and more

plentiful for students at East Carolina University and Greenville citizens alike.

Located at 431 Evans St., The Scullery Coffee House and Creamery offers a variety of white and red wines, wine mixers and North Carolina beers. Of the specialty drinks, “The Scullery Mimosa,” made with Prosecco and fresh squeezed orange juice, is priced at \$7. It was delicious. Though I had to be weary of the orange-peel shavings surrounding the top of the glass, the mimosa was perfect.

Although, in my mind, \$7 is a little pricey for one drink, this amount seems to be fairly average across restaurants in Uptown Greenville.

The Scullery’s mimosa essentially tastes like sparkling orange juice with a twist, which is extremely satisfying.

Although Winslow’s Tavern



DANIELLE SCHMID | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

**ECU senior Madi Beeson squeezes an orange over a cup for a Sup Crush.**

does not have a specialty drinks section, the bartender told me one of the most popular cocktails is the “Airhead,” which is priced at \$7 and made with raspberry vodka, peach schnapps, X-Rated Liqueur, sour and Sprite.

True to the name, the incredibly sweet drink tasted exactly like a blue raspberry airhead, minus the color. It was overwhelmingly sweet. Though the glass it came in was fairly small, I almost couldn’t finish it since I felt my arteries constricting and my heart slowing down.

Thankfully the sugar coma was short lived, but I would not order this drink again. The

bartender did let me know the Tavern is known for its beer selection and many customers come in for drinks on tap.

Located at 120 West 5th St., Winslow’s does offer drink specials throughout the weekend, with \$1.50 domestic bottles on Thursdays and \$3 selected pints on Fridays and Saturdays. Winslow’s closes out the week with a couple drinks to help relax and prepare for the new week with \$3.50 bloody marys, screwdrivers and mimosas on Sunday.

Last, but definitely not least, I made a stop by Sup Dogs for its “Grapefruit Sup Crush.” With six specialty “Sup Cocktails” to

choose from, the restaurant and bar provides customers with a variety of options, starting with a “Sups Hard Lemonade” priced at \$4.50, “Premium Frozen Margarita,” “Orange Sup Crush” and “Sup Swirl” all priced at \$5 and the “Grapefruit Sup Crush” priced at \$5.50.

The “Grapefruit Sup Crush” was served in the famous 17-ounce Sup Dogs cup. Made with half a ruby red grapefruit, Finlandia grapefruit infused vodka and a splash of Sierra Mist, the refreshing drink was the perfect addition to my Sup Dogs Combo meal that afternoon.

I’m a sucker for grapefruit, grapefruit seltzer waters, etc., so this drink did not disappoint. Not too sweet and not too strong — I think I found my new favorite summer drink.

Though the Airhead cocktail at Winslow’s Deli was far from my perfect drink, the Scullery Mimosa served as a refreshing beverage with either breakfast or lunch, though a tad pricey, and the Sup Dogs Grapefruit Sup Crush won my heart with the perfect mix of flavor and taste.

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

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JORDIN WILLIAMS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Sojourner's Whole Earth Provisions is located at 414 Evans St. Tomorrow is the store's ninth birthday.

# Sojourner's to celebrate nine-year anniversary

Angel De Jesus  
TEC STAFF

With Greenville growing in so many ways, both economically and artistically, it has also grown in a spiritual sense as well.

Michelle “Heron” Jenkins is an East Carolina University interior design alumna and the owner of Sojourner’s Whole Earth Provisions. Jenkins said her store is welcoming to all who want to learn or take part in magick — the art of bringing about change through natural forces according to Urban Dictionary — as well as alternative healing, astrology, tarot readings and other aspects of spirituality.

Located at 414 Evans St., Sojourner’s has served Greenville residents for nine years, and to celebrate its ninth birthday, the venue will host a party tomorrow night from 7 to 11.

At this celebration, there will be free food provided by Gather Uptown, 30 percent off of store items, music from DJ Lipbone and card readings. Jenkins said the party is family friendly and everyone, including newcomers, is invited to join in the celebration.

Jenkins said she sees Sojourner’s as a place for those who do not have a place in mainstream society.

“I see it as a place for those sort of off the beaten path,” Jenkins said.

Kate Black, a 22 year old new to Greenville, said she can attest to being someone who is on her own path. As a transwoman from a family who shunned her, Black said she uses various crystals such as Amethyst, Chakra sets and other means to cope with her internal healing.

“I only moved not long ago and have heard of Sojourner’s after a friend recommended it, but I never had the chance to go there,” Black said. “I think I will probably attend the celebration they are having just to meet like-minded people and get out for once.”

According to Jenkins, her and her friends who lived in Greenville could not find items they wanted. Whether it was natural parenting supplies, cloth diapers, herbs or magickal supplies, there was very little, if any, in the area.

Jenkins said her store focuses on providing materials for self-help. The materials she sells in her store are for teaching others how to take natural materials, such as crystals, oils, incense, cannabinoids and herbs, and learn to use them in ways that work for them.

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

## FILM continued from A1

the portrayal of the era came across.

Currently in post-production, the short film is expected to finish in the next two months, with no set release date yet. Two trailers have been released so far, and Hollingsworth said he can already tell it is going to be a great finished product and primed for film festivals.

Hollingsworth hopes when audiences see his film they are entertained and feel transported back to the 1860s. Inspired by the film “The Others,” he said he often finds inspiration in thrillers.

Cinematographer of the film Stephen Brian said working with Hollingsworth was one of the best professional experiences he ever had. Creatively, Hollingsworth came in with a very clear vision of what he wanted, according to Brian.

“Denver is one of the most organized people I’ve met,” Brian said. “He came in with a very clear list of shots that he wanted to get, and it made the process that much smoother to work with him. We got some great shots, and everything I’ve seen so far has looked really good.”

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