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AN ERODING FOUNDATION

Records show asbestos, safety issues in Mendenhall

Darby Hubbell
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University plans to renovate parts of Mendenhall Student Center, but according to multiple university records, the building is in poor condition, needs major renovations and does have several safety issues.

According to multiple university records, which are publicly available, documents obtained from the state of North Carolina through a public records request and information provided to The East Carolinian by ECU's administration, the 44-year-old building has numerous structural and safety issues.

These records indicate Mendenhall Student Center has had fire code issues for several years, contains asbestos and has long list of maintenance which has been put off.

Fire Code

Bill Bagnell, associate vice chancellor for campus operations, told The East Carolinian in a 2017 interview there were certain parts of the building which weren't up to fire code.

"There's a lot of deferred maintenance that needs to be taken care of," Bagnell said. "Old aged building utility systems, fire code corrections, some fire sprinkling that needs to be done."

According to a document titled Utilities Mendenhall Deferred Maintenance Priorities (UMDMP) report, Mendenhall currently does not have a fire sprinkler system and its fire alarm system is "obsolete."

However, Brian Taylor, chief state fire marshal of the North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal (NCOSFM), said the fire alarm being obsolete means the system is outdated and needs to be updated.

According to a 2018 NCOSFM inspection, obtained through a public records request, state inspectors recommended ECU install a fire sprinkler system, an updated fire alarm system and identified a fire code issue inside Hendrix Theater. Specifically, inspectors observed that the rear exit of Hendrix was consistently blocked with prop stage



ECU's Mendenhall Student Center was the home of Destination 360, the offices of the Student Government Association and several meeting rooms.

equipment and other items, which is against fire code, according to the report.

Taylor said there is not a requirement to fix all of these code violations immediately unless they are life safety issues.

Taylor said NCOSFM considered life safety standards to be locked or blocked exits or fire protection systems such as sprinkler systems or fire alarm systems not working. Taylor said those problems could pose immediate danger to people in a building.

"Well, we hope that they are addressed immediately, like I said, life safety issues have to be addressed," Taylor said. "We don't have a fine system set in place but if it's not safe, they cannot occupy the facilities is basically that's how we would handle the issue."

Bagnell said in an email sent on Monday that Mendenhall had "no code violations that demand immediate attention."

"There are a number of items that have been on the list for several years that indicate a need to upgrade and replace. These items met code at the time the building was constructed," Bagnell said. "Over time, the codes have changed and some items no longer meet the current code. There is no immediate requirement to make these



Destination 360 is being renovated to create a full service catering kitchen for new student center.

changes, but under our building renovation project, these will be addressed."

However, Erik Kneubuehl, associate vice chancellor of Student Involvement and Leadership said he was unaware of any fire codes being broken. He added all of Mendenhall's codes were always fixed immediately.

"I don't know of any fire codes that we

were not in compliance with, because when we find out that we are not in compliance with something, we are usually told in the same email, you need to fix it and we go out and fix it," Kneubuehl said. "We've not, not passed inspection every time. We have inspection

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>> BASEBALL

ECU defies expectations in 2018 season

Dylan Johnson
TEC STAFF

On Feb. 16 at Clark-LeClair Stadium, 3,001 East Carolina University baseball fans cheered on as its team took the field for the first time to start the new season. 556 innings, 62 games and three and a half months later, 4,700 loyal fans stood and gave a lengthy ovation to a team whose season just ended.

That final image on the Pirates' season is just the way head coach Cliff Godwin said he wants his team to be remembered after its season came to an end with a 9-7 loss to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in the Greenville regional which ECU was hosting. Godwin said he wants the team to be remembered and celebrated as the champions that they were.

"I'm proud to be the head coach at East Carolina because of the kids we have in our program," Godwin said. "This sucks. It sucks because a lot of people put a lot of hard work and effort into this program every single day, and it's tough. It's a tough pill to swallow but I just want our guys to be remembered as champions because that's what they were at the end of the day."



Sophomore outfielder Bryant Packard slides into homeplate for a run in a game for the Pirates.

ECU went into the season without the high expectations it had in the previous season. The Pirates were picked to finish fourth in the American Athletic Conference in the preseason coaches poll. It had lost nine seniors off of a team which had gone 32-28.

Despite all of that, ECU rolled to a 44-18 record and won the AAC tournament

championship in Clearwater, Florida. ECU defeated super regional teams such as Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Washington. The Pirates led the AAC in GPA for the third straight year, posting a 3.51 GPA in the fall semester and a 3.43 GPA in the spring semester. These were all parts that had

Godwin proud of not just his team's successful season, but of the players as people.

"I told them when we won the conference tournament that you can do things the right way on and off the field and have a lot of success in our program," Godwin said. "Our culture is the number one thing, and our program is the thing that means the most to me. I can lay my head down every night knowing that the kids do things the right way, they're not perfect but they do well in school, they play hard, they compete, they're good citizens in our community and make East Carolina proud."

ECU hosted its first regional since 2009 on Sunday, marking a successful season for any team that is able to host. The Pirates went into the postseason and things just didn't go its way. The Pirates were unable to defeat the University of South Carolina and were eliminated by UNCW after a five-hour delay changed the momentum of the game. The fans packed Clark-LeClair Stadium like they had done all season long, sitting through hour long

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ONLINE

» ECU baseball's Williams-Sutton drafted in fifth round by Padres

» Check out our website for more content & photo galleries

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Whirligig premiers Greek comedy

Whirligig Stage has opened its production of ancient Greek play "The Birds" by Aristophanes, adapted by Jason Coale, which will run until Sunday. Today's show begins at 6 p.m. Every other show begins at 7 p.m., except for a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday.

The play follows two travelers in search of greener pastures. To buy tickets, go to fareharbor.com. For more information, contact Whirligig Stage at (252) 689-8092.

Trollingwood Taproom & Brewery to host vinyl night

Trollingwood Taproom & Brewery and local hip-hop artist Tymelord is hosting its weekly Bring Your Own Vinyl night every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Trollington, located at 707 Dickinson Ave.

The event allows music enthusiasts to bring their favorite records and play them on the house turntables. Sign up begins at 6 p.m. There is also a vinyl raffle, with tickets costing \$2 for one, \$3 for two and \$4 for three.

Knee Deep Adventures to host kayaking class

Knee Deep Adventures will host a small group class from 9 to 11 a.m. covering the basics of kayaking on Thursday. The class will be held at the Tar River, and is aimed to help if those who have never kayaked before or just started getting into the sport.

The group's facebook page says it will go over details including different types of kayaks, safety tips, paddling skills and more. For more information on signing up, call 252-714-5836

Greenville Fire/Rescue to hold kid friendly event

Greenville Fire/Rescue is going to be at the Leroy James Farmers Market, located at 4560 County Home Rd, on Saturday to hold a kid friendly event. From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. firefighters will be at the market with a fire truck, games and handouts that include safety tips and measures for kids.

Pet Partners therapy teams will also be attending the market with trained therapy animals. The farmers market will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information on the event, call 252-814-1627.

Joyner Library hosts exhibit on NC parks

The third floor special collections section of Joyner Library is currently hosting an exhibit on "Building the State Park System in North Carolina". From April 13 to September 3, the display will feature books, pamphlets, and documents from the North Carolina Collection and the East Carolina Manuscript Collection.

The exhibit tells the story of the origins of the park system in the 1900's through the 1990's. The focus on the relationship to Eastern North Carolina, when federal assistance was first provided, and the expansion of the parks system in general. For more information about this exhibit, call 252-328-6601.

Mended Hearts to give cardiovascular support

The Greenville chapter of the Mended Hearts group is designed specifically to help those suffering from heart disease problems. The community support will meet on Thursday for its "Summer Break Social" and a potluck dinner in the Monroe Center, located at 2000 Venture Tower Drive. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. Members should plan on bringing a covered dish to share, and guests are welcome. For more information, call 252-714-9381.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper, please contact Matthew Penser, editor at theeastcarolinian.com.



Mendenhall Student Center opened in 1974. East Carolina University has performed several renovations to the building in the years since it opened.

MENDENHALL

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reports going back 20 years, where we passed inspections, so if there was something off there, I'm not aware of it."

ECU's first priority is life safety fixes, according to meeting minutes taken from a Feb. 28 meeting between ECU and Davis Kane Architects, the architecture firm which is working with ECU on its deferred maintenance plan for Mendenhall. The meeting minutes state Mendenhall must meet code requirements for egress, fire ratings, fire alarm and fire suppression systems.

Mendenhall is slated to have a fire suppression system installed at some point in the future, according to the Feb. 28 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes also specified the fire alarm is not addressable and will need to be replaced throughout the building, except for the catering kitchen where it is being installed by October of 2018.

Asbestos

Another potential hazard within Mendenhall is asbestos, according to ECU's Office of Environmental Health and Campus Safety.

Located on the ECU Office of Environmental Health and Safety webpage, Mendenhall is "presumed" to have asbestos in locations which the university considers "other."

Bagnell said "presumed" is directly from the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard. He said employers and building owners are required to treat installed thermal system insulation (TSI) and sprayed-on or troweled-on surfacing materials as asbestos-containing material (ACM) in buildings constructed before 1980.

According to Bagnell, these materials are designated "presumed ACM". Asphalt and vinyl flooring material installed before 1980 must also be treated as asbestos-containing (Mendenhall opened in 1974). Bagnell added employers must assume these materials contain asbestos unless they are tested by an accredited laboratory.

"So, if we have not tested material in building constructed in 1980 or earlier, then the suspect material is presumed to be asbestos-containing," Bagnell said.

Bagnell said, in an emailed response sent Tuesday evening, Mendenhall was originally constructed in 1970 and was built to meet the code requirements at that time.

"Buildings, not just those at ECU- constructed prior to 1980- are presumed to contain some asbestos materials," Bagnell said. "We have had Mendenhall surveyed for asbestos and found some 12x12 tiles and some mastic on insulation pipe in mechanical spaces in the 1970's construction."

During the catering kitchen project, ECU abated some floor tiles containing asbestos, Bagnell



Destination 360 was closed down in May in anticipation of the upcoming dining options in the new student center.

said. The asbestos took two days to remove by an accredited asbestos abatement contractor.

Asbestos abatement is the process of controlling the release of asbestos-containing materials by removing them entirely through encasement, encapsulation, or repair, according to the asbestos abatement website.

Bagnell said the removal of the remaining asbestos was identified in the survey and will then be abated sometime in the future of the building renovation project.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, asbestos has been used in a wide range of manufactured goods, but mostly in building materials (roofing shingles, ceiling and floor tiles, paper products and asbestos cement products).

According to the EPA, asbestos fibers could be released into the air by the disturbance of asbestos-containing material during product use, demolition work, building or home maintenance, repair and remodeling.

If exposed to asbestos over a long period of time, cancer can develop, according to the EPA. Because of the health risks, the EPA advises asbestos be carefully removed.

Bagnell said any asbestos identified during an inspection while planning renovations will be "abated" as part of the renovation work.

Deferred Maintenance

According to the Feb. 28 meeting minutes, Mendenhall has a number of maintenance projects which have been put off. Some of these deferred maintenance include HVAC work, plumbing, life safety, electrical, ITCS, steam and other renovations which need to be made to the building, all according to the meeting minutes.

Bagnell said the Facilities Condition Assessments, performed by the North Carolina State Construction Office in 2015, identified more \$650 million in deferred

maintenance needs for the state funded buildings on the campus.

However, specific to Mendenhall is a list of several electrical issues such as replacing existing service switchgear along with updating certain HVAC parts which were installed before 1990, according to the Utilities Mendenhall Deferred Maintenance Priorities report, which was attached to the February meeting minutes.

Within the Feb. 28 meeting minutes are a list of deferred maintenance projects within Mendenhall, which have accumulated over time and include a total project budget of \$18 million for renovations, though ECU stated in the meeting minutes there is not enough money to meet every request.

In September of 2010, the ISES Corporation, which performs building assessments, performed a facility condition analysis of almost all ECU buildings. One building in particular which was found to be deficient was Mendenhall.

Mendenhall was found among the reports with a Facilities Condition Needs Index (FCNI) rating of 0.36, putting the building into a range which is labeled in the executive summary as "below average condition" and required a "major renovation."

Future of Mendenhall

Kneubuehl said, as of now, the only work being done on Mendenhall is renovating Destination 360. The project, according to Kneubuehl, will turn D360 into a full service catering kitchen to serve the entire university, and specifically, the new student center.

"The only thing being renovated right now is the catering kitchen," Kneubuehl said. "That's the only thing being done in the next year, year in a half as on any kind of list that I know of."

Kneubuehl said in the next few years ECU will have to do other renovations throughout the building. He added ECU is

working with contractors now to get bids for the future renovations.

"Other than individual updates that we always do for pipes needing to be replaced and that kind of stuff, there's no giant plumbing renovations that's planned to be done before we move out," Kneubuehl said.

According to Kneubuehl, at some point in the next couple of years Mendenhall will have to go through renovations to bring it up to code for HVAC and "other stuff like that." He said when that happens, there's going to be a plan of temporarily moving offices throughout the retired student center.

Bagnell said the short term plan for Mendenhall includes a comprehensive deferred maintenance project which is planned for Mendenhall after the new student center is opened.

"Deferred maintenance are those building systems, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, life safety, and architectural building elements that have aged beyond their useful life and need to be replaced or modernized," Bagnell said. "Until construction begins, the building will have limited uses related to the catering kitchen, radio station, Hendrix theatre, the bowling alley, and some other limited meeting spaces. Once construction begins, most of these activities will cease as much as possible, with the exception of the catering kitchen and the radio station."

Bagnell said the long term plan is to use the building for administrative and academic meeting and office spaces, catering kitchen functions, the radio station and bowling alley.

According to Bagnell, ECU does plan to address the deferred maintenance items, fire alarm, sprinkler system, life safety systems and architectural elements under the building renovation project, which will be renovated and brought up to current codes and standards.

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

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PLUS
MAP OUT YOUR WEEK

FRIDAY

Great American Backyard Campout
River Park North
5 p.m.

World Ocean Day Movie Premiere: Blue
Rum Runner Dive Shop
7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Fluff & Puff, Humane Society of Eastern North Carolina
Barbour-Hendrick Honda Greenville
10 a.m.

Sunday in the Park
Greenville Town Common
7 p.m.

Heard it through the grapevine

Seven Pines Vineyard & Winery offers local, handpicked wines

Trajan Warren
TEC STAFF

Greenville is home to many activities, and now residents and visitors of Pitt County can add a vineyard and winery to the list of attractions.

Seven Pines Vineyard & Winery is the first and only winery in Pitt County located at 544 Seven Pines Road in Fountain, North Carolina. The vineyard and winery is co-owned by Philip Guy and his wife, Corinee Guy, who is an English professor at East Carolina University and president of Seven Pines. The business received its permits for winemaking three years ago and have not looked back.

"Homemade winemaking is a hobby of mine and our soils here at the farm grow wine grapes very well. I just decided that when I retire, I would turn my hobby into a business," Philip said.

According to Robin Ashley, the market manager of the Umbrella Market, Seven Pines Vineyard & Winery has made a name for itself within the community for the niche it has carved out. Seven Pines is a vendor in the Umbrella Market, and Ashley said the winery has been a pleasure to work with because of its ability to bring something new to the Greenville area.

"We are always supportive of a



LESLIE DZORVAKPOR | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A selection of the wines Seven Pines grows, harvests and creates in Pitt County.

local business and especially a local business that is unique," Ashley said. "Seven Pines is extremely unique for the area because they are Pitt County's only winery."

The 14 different labels of wine Seven Pines offers can be found in numerous local shops such as Jarvis Street Bottle Shop, Village Point Market or Firefly Wine

Shop. A bottle of wine from the Seven Pines Vineyard & Winery sells for anywhere from \$12 to \$18.

Seven Pines Vineyard is also "no-spray" vineyard, meaning the Guys do not use any pesticides on the grapes used for their wines.

"It's a very natural process to do production organically," Philip said. "Because we do not

spray, you can eat our grapes right off the vine in September."

Philip said he has a special way of harvesting his grapes that is rare in winemaking today - he harvests all of his grapes by hands, not with machines. Philip said he does this to ensure all grapes going into the wine are completely ripe and no grapes are picked before they are ready.

"By very carefully harvesting only the ripe grapes, we think that it makes for a better tasting wine," Philip said. "We're very happy to make some handcrafted, boutique wine."

According to Philip, the start for Seven Pines was a trying process with the vineyard taking five years to grow to the point it is now. But the future of the vineyard and winery is very clear to Philip.

"Our biggest plan for the future is to open a tasting room right in the middle of our vineyard. We have a place where we are going to have a small building and that will be our tasting room where people can come out for a traditional tasting and tours," Philip said. "People can buy wine directly from us and have a brief tour of our vines and just enjoy being out here in the countryside."

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

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Uptown Greenville hosted the Batter Up'Town Celebration last Thursday in Five Points Plaza.

Uptown Greenville celebrate baseball

Trajan Warren
TEC STAFF

Uptown Greenville was filled with excitement as well as hundreds of Greenville community members last Thursday as the Batter Up'Town Celebration unfolded at the Five Points Plaza.

The event was put together to celebrate the East Carolina University baseball team hosting a regional NCAA tournament for the first time since 2009 and looking to capture a national championship, according to City of Greenville Public Information Officer Brock Letchworth. The event took place the day before the Pirates' 16-7 victory over the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and featured live music from the band Spare Change, as well as vendors such as Uptown Brewing Company and Smashed Waffles.

"I believe that it's the first time we are hosting a baseball themed event in honor of a NCAA regional baseball tournament," Bianca Shoneman, president and CEO of Uptown Greenville said.

The City of Greenville, along with Uptown Greenville, East Carolina University and the Greenville-Pitt County Convention and Visitors Bureau, set up the Batter Up'Town Celebration. The preparation for the event was quick but the partners from this organizations managed to put together a great and inclusive event for community members of all ages, according to Letchworth.

For Letchworth, the Batter Up'Town Celebration was all about highlighting the

vibrant Uptown Greenville atmosphere to the community and visitors alike.

"Give ECU fans and fans from other schools something to do to kickstart their time here and rev up the excitement for the regional," Letchworth said. "We want this to be a great source of entertainment for the city."

Letchworth said he was in contact with people from ESPN to provide video footage of the Batter Up'Town Celebrations to show during the broadcast of the tournament games.

"The event itself will be fun but it's also a way to bring people to our uptown area and give it exposure," Letchworth said. "We want to show the strong town and gown relationship here in Greenville."

For Greenville resident Chad May, the celebration was a surprise to him but said he knows the city often organizes great events for the community, and he had to be a part of it.

"Seeing what was going I had to stop and check it out, and it's been awesome," May said.

Matt Smith, an ECU alumni who attended the event, said it was a way to showcase the strength of the Greenville community and how the city can count on community members to come out and back special events such as Batter Up'Town.

"I came to celebrate what the baseball team has accomplished, show them support and show the city support as well," Smith said. "They were gracious enough to put on something like this so I think it's our duty to come out."

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



Brock Letchworth

PulsePoint comes to Pitt County

Darby Hubbell
TEC STAFF

Pitt County is the first county in North Carolina to release the PulsePoint Cardiac Arrest Alert application, which encourages everyday people to help save lives and extend out aid to those in a cardiac crisis.

Jim McArthur, deputy director of emergency management for Pitt County said the whole idea around the app is to get more public awareness for cardiac arrest CPR.



Jim McArthur

“We have some users that are heavily interested in the whole chain of survival and making sure that from the time of an event when someone has suffered cardiac arrest to the time that fire, EMS and law enforcement responders arrive, that there is something in between,” said McArthur, who is also the county’s EMS coordinator. “That we have to do CPR or we guarantee that you die.”

McArthur said the app takes users’ location through their phone’s GPS and if there is a cardiac arrest call placed to 911, it goes into the responders computer system and alerts anyone within a one mile radius. People in a public place, will be notified through the app’s notification services, so they can assist the victim and provide CPR while emergency services arrive.

“It won’t do it for your homes, apartments, condos or whatever but if you’re on campus at a university, anywhere downtown, restaurants, movie theater, mall, shopping center, places like that, it will alert the user,” McArthur said.

According to McArthur, what the EMS community is trying to do through Pulse Point is to show users, through the app, the quickest driving or walking directions to the nearest cardiac arrest victim to then perform hands only CPR.

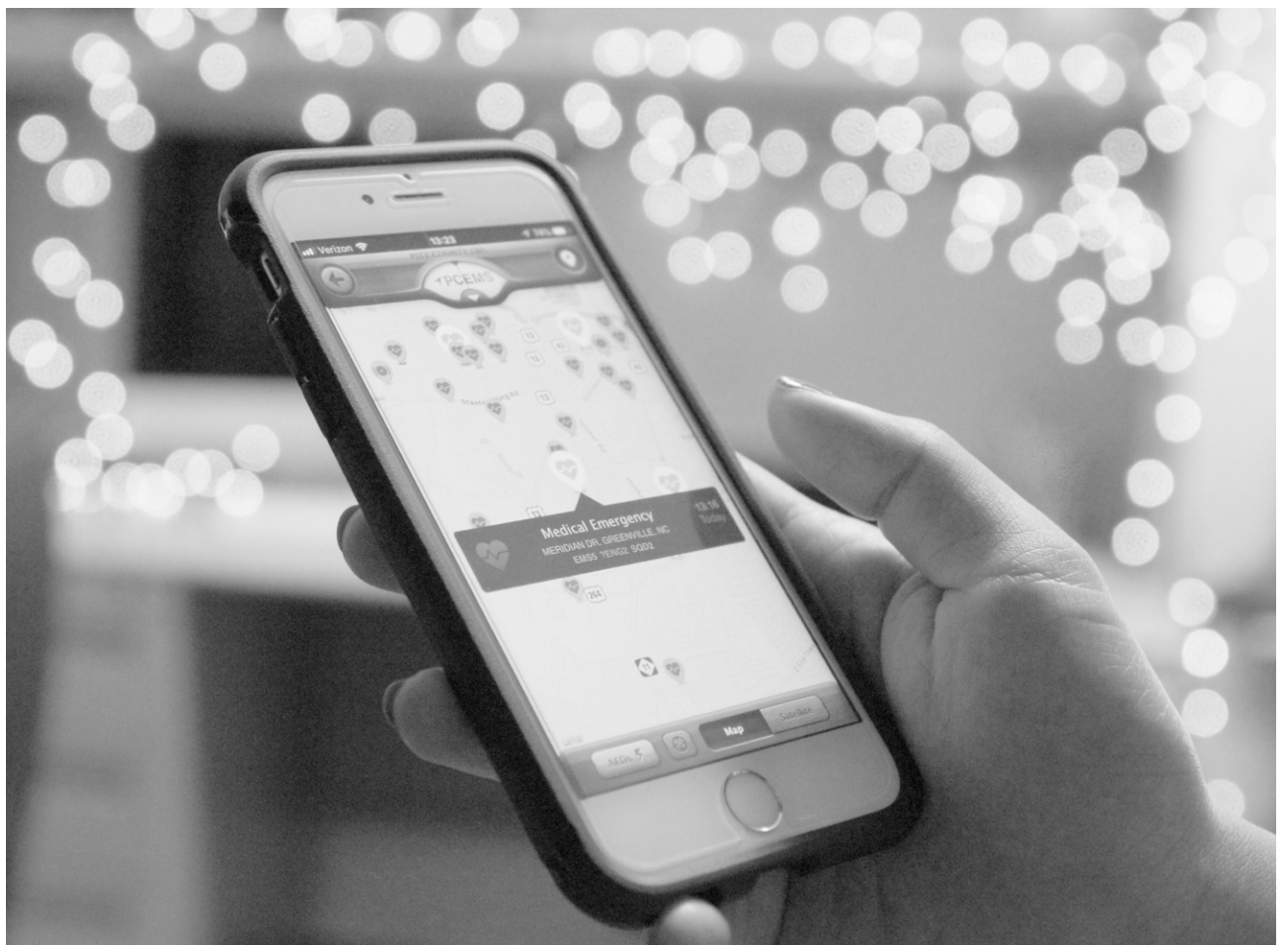
McArthur said the great thing about this app is that it will show you how to do CPR through doing chest compressions, which for emergency management, is the main goal for county members who chose to download and use Pulse Point.

“Right under the setting tab it says ‘CPR How To’ and it will give you the instructions,” McArthur said.

The overall idea for PulsePoint was created and brought to management by members of the responder community. McArthur said those who had seen and heard about the app began to ask if the county could begin doing something similar to PulsePoint to help aid the community and potential cardiac arrest victims.

The launch for the app took place during a press conference on May 23 at 10 a.m. in the Emergency Operations Center with an opening welcome given by Allen Everette, director of emergency management.

“The hope for me is that we will be able to get our community to one, learn hands on CPR, and two download the app so therefore that’s another resource



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

An East Carolina University student opens up PulsePoint Cardiac Arrest Alert. The app is available on iPhones and Androids.

that we have in our community in addition to the fire, EMS and law enforcement community,” Everette said.

Everette said with the whole community involvement helping with CPR, there will now be a greater chance of alerting the systems so they can help if they’re in the area where someone is in need of any cardiac arrest assistance.

Jimmy Hodges, deputy emergency management director of the 911 communications division, said Pitt County high school graduates are required to learn and pass a CPR training course before they receive their diplomas.

“Now when you have a senior that has CPR fresh in their mind downloads the app, they get a CPR call within a mile of them, they can go and assist and they know CPR, it’s fresh in their mind,” Hodges said.

Everette said East Carolina University has a large population and it would be great for the staff, faculty and students to download the app in case of a cardiac event on campus.

Everette said if an event happens, there will be people who can start CPR while the responding fire and EMS personnel get there.

“It’s wonderful that we have this app and we really

want to encourage two things, folks to learn hands on CPR and to download this app,” Everette said. “If someone is in need, you’ll then be notified and then you can go in while they are waiting for the fire and EMS community to respond.”

McArthur said for him personally it is exciting to be apart of a group of people who had enough forward thinking and creativity to try and bring something to Pitt County which would help change the game in how they respond as a county to people who are suffering from cardiac arrest.

“You know, most people, when somebody needs something, they drop what they are doing and try to help. It’s just kind of natural,” McArthur said.

Hodges said PulsePoint is free to download on your devices, both Android and Apple friendly, and has no ads.

Everette said the community and residents of Pitt County can take pride in the proactivity being put forward by the emergency management department and its continued effort to improve the services being put into the community.

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

Residents honor victims of gun violence

Julie Estep
TEC STAFF

Greenville residents gathered at Pitt Street Brewing last Saturday to hold a “Wear Orange” event, as part of the national ‘Wear Orange Weekend’ to honor those killed or effected by gun violence in the United States.

The Greenville Moms Demand Action group hosted the event. Claire Kempner, who organized the event, said Saturday was about bringing awareness to everyone in the community on sensible gun safety measures, as well as the issues surrounding gun violence today.

Kempner said the “Wear Orange” event has been put on every year nationwide since 2015, after the death of Hadiya Pendleton, a 15-year-old girl killed in Chicago in 2013. Pendleton had performed at President Obama’s second inauguration with her high school one week before she was killed.

“So on her 18th birthday, her friends and family got together and decided to celebrate her birthday,” Kempner said. “They wanted to highlight the everyday gun violence. 96 Americans die every day in this country from gun violence, and women, children and people of color are disproportionately affected.”

Kempner said the reason Pendleton’s case sparked the “Wear Orange” movement is because it highlighted the everyday gun violence that does not get as much coverage and public support.

“It’s a quick story and then it’s gone,” Kempner said. “Whereas school shootings and mass shootings are on the news for days.”

Kempner is also the leader for Pitt County’s Moms Demand Action group, which she said is made up of a variety of community members from all political backgrounds, including some gun owners, who all have the same goal in preventing future gun violence.



LESLIE DZORVAKPOR | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Members of the Greenville community and Moms Demand Actions gather to honor the victims of gun violence on Saturday.

Kempner said the group supports the Second Amendment and some of their other goals involve working toward better educating the public on how to be safer gun owners, and specifically, how to avoid situations where children may end up around unsecured weapons.

“One thing that Moms Demand Action does is the ‘Be Smart Program’, that educates adults on how to secure weapons,” Kempner said. “Because those are really so preventable. The accidental deaths, accidental shootings, and teen suicides by guns.”

Kempner said the Moms Demand Action groups have around four and a half million supporters across the country, and while Saturday was Greenville’s first “Wear Orange”

event, some bigger cities in the state held events all throughout the weekend.

Kris Rixon, ECU alumni and current candidate for North Carolina House of Representatives for District 9, attended the event to speak with members of the community and share his message.

“I’m actually one of the designated gun sense candidates for Moms Demand Action,” Rixon said. “I’m running for the North Carolina House of Representatives and I believe in better gun safety measures.”

Rixon participated in the “Gun Violence: A Search for Answers” panel on Nov. 9 as part of East Carolina University’s monthly “Cupola Conversations”, speaking at the time as the president of ECU’s

Young Democratic Socialists club. But, Rixon added he does not believe much has changed in the gun safety conversations since then.

“I think we focus too much on the stigma of mental health, or that’s what a lot of conservatives do,” Rixon said. “We don’t actually talk about domestic violence being a strong indicator of gun violence, which was what I tried to talk about then. How directly related gun violence and domestic violence are.”

Rixon said he still supports the Second Amendment and does not support banning guns. However, issues of domestic violence are an example of what Rixon said falls into the everyday gun violence that movements such as the “Wear Orange”

events try to address.

Rixon is running against incumbent Greg Murphy for NC House District 9, which makes up most of Eastern Pitt County. Rixon said from what he has seen of Murphy’s views on the current gun laws, he has not been too difficult on them, and believes Murphy’s party should do more working toward supporting safer gun measures.

“I am supportive overall of 14 day waiting periods for gun sales, and stricter background checks,” Rixon said. “If you’re currently in court for domestic abuse or you’ve been convicted of domestic abuse, you should not be able to own a gun.”

Rixon said people who say the issues of mass shootings and gun violence in the U.S are not a gun issue are wrong. He added the importance of citizens informing and educating themselves on mass shootings and all gun violence.

Kempner said she went around to more than 30 local business owners and groups to partner with and promote the Wear Orange cause by passing out orange ribbons throughout the weekend. Some of those businesses in the Uptown area include Blackbeard Coffee, Coastal Fog, Christy’s Euro Pub, Fire American Tavern and The Scullery.

“There are ways to help, there are ways to feel like you’re preventing gun violence,” Kempner said. “We support the Second Amendment, none of us are trying to work to change any amendments, we just want to keep people safe.”

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



Kris Rixon

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OUR VIEW

Club sports deserve attention

At East Carolina University, most of the attention for athletics is directed toward the official teams of the university. While much of this praise is deserved, most notably with ECU baseball's hosting of the Greenville regional on Sunday, the summer allows Pirate Nation to appreciate student club athletes.

We, the editorial staff of the East Carolinian, believe club sports should be getting more recognition for their accomplishments, such as ECU club baseball's third straight appearance in the national championship.

The ECU Campus Recreation and Wellness website lists more than 40 club sports teams available. ECU's club baseball team was ranked number one in the country toward the end of its season. This year's trip to the National Club Baseball Association World Series was its fifth in a row and the club lost by just one run in its run at a second straight national championship. The club baseball team also produced Tanner Duncan, a pitcher who is now with the Houston Astros organization in the minor leagues.

The ECU club softball team had five players on the National Club Softball Association South Atlantic All-Region Team. The ECU men's and women's club soccer teams won the championships in their division tournaments. The women's club soccer team also won a service award of \$500 from ECU Campus Recreation and Wellness.

While ECU's NCAA Division I sports get the most coverage and praise, and rightfully so, it is also important to acknowledge the work club student athletes do, both on the field, as well as off the field.

ENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



Music creates discussion

Artists talking about addiction ends stigma



Danielle Schmid
TEC STAFF

Dani's Good Vibes

Lately, more and more artist discuss addiction in their song lyrics. Not only do some express their overuse of drugs, but they discuss how concerned they are with their friend's habits as well.

While these songs make hits, these artist are crying out for help and we're doing nothing. 21 year old artist, Lil Peep, died tragically on Nov. 15 due to unsafe drug use. While the artist was under the impression he was sold Xanax, he was actually sold fentanyl which caused him to overdose and die on his tour bus after a show. Since this incident, artists all over the world have been expressing their concerns for addiction and concerns of where their drugs are coming from.

To me, this not only shows how genuinely concerned artist are about their own drug use, but it shows these artists are really just like us. Lil Peep's death made these artists realize they aren't invincible. For example after his death, Lil Uzi Vert, Gucci Mane, Smokepurpp and many other artist pledged sobriety.

Even Juicy J showed concern in "Powerglid" when he said, "R.I.P. Lil Peep gotta show down on them Xans." Especially

as students, we need to understand addiction and take it more seriously. ECU's Phi Kappa Tau fraternity for instance- they were caught with more than 2,000 Xanax bars. As students, I think we all turned this into a joke, wondering how they got it, where they were making it or even where they were hiding all of it. Really though, we should have been wondering who was taking all of the Xanax. The fraternity may have been selling drugs and we as students and friends of people who are buying these drugs need to realize when special occasion drug use turns into addiction. We need to know when our friends need help and we need to know how to help them.

Realizing the signs of addiction should begin in health classes as a student. At a young age we should be educated on what drugs are and what they will do to you. If children actually understood the damage of drug use and what drugs can potentially do to you, I truly believe less people would use drugs. Really, I know first hand this would help because growing up my dad educated me on the danger of Xanax. I've been offered the drug, and other drugs, but because I know exactly what Xanax can potentially do to me I'm completely unattracted to it. Some may think, notice I said some, that saying no is easy in this situation but when you don't know the effects and dangers of a drug you're more

than likely to say yes to trying it. If people are aware of the dangers it may at least save a couple lives and in reality that is all I want.

According to The Fix, a website focused on addiction and recovery, a radio station in Seattle, Washington called KEXP created a series, "Music Heals," which brings artists together to discuss their addictions and sobriety. This radio station has normalized drug use and made it more accepting to have a problem by giving artist such as Macklemore, Peter Dinklage from R.E.M and Jeff Ament from Pearl Jam a chance to open up and discuss their struggles with addiction and how they managed to become sober.

Overall, people need to realize the signs of addiction and stop looking down on people who are strong enough to realize they need help. If someone's strong enough to check themselves into rehab we should be proud of them for wanting to better themselves and become clean. If your friend comes to you with this issue, respect them and don't look down on them. If you need help don't be afraid to reach out. This is your life and you deserve to live it without fear, especially when you're trying to better yourself. Contact the East Carolina University Collegiate Recovery Community at 252-328-6661 for support and counseling.

Danielle is a senior majoring in communication. She can be contacted at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

OUR STAFF

- Matthew Prenskey** Editor-in-Chief
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Contact Info

The East Carolinian
Self Help Building,
Greenville, NC, 28889-4353

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

Women in politics bring change



Blessing Aghimien
TEC STAFF

Bless The Press

From the Women's March to the #MeToo movement, the world has seen a culture shift when it comes to women demanding respect from those in charge. Now, hundreds of women across the country are embarking on a new challenge — becoming in charge themselves.

May marks the halfway point to the 2018 midterm elections, which will take place on Nov. 6. At least 575 women have declared their intentions to run for the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate or governor, which is more than any other midterm year in history, according to a May 2018 report from the Center for American Women and Politics.

Since the beginning of our nation's democracy, public office has been dominated by older, white males. 70 percent of the country's population is made of women and people of color, and yet 71 percent of seats in Congress are held by white men, according to a 2018 Pew Research Center report. How is it possible for those on Capitol Hill to be called "representatives" when the vast majority of Americans are absent from representation?

This year, constituents are not just seeing female candidates on the ballot. They are seeing millennial women on the ballot. They are seeing women of color run for office. They are seeing LGBTQ+ women running for office. This is not a move to be

politically correct, but rather, a move that is politically necessary.

Taking the place of the baby boomers as the nation's highest living adult generation, millennials are aging into the political scene, bringing new and diverse perspectives to a government which has been stuck in its ways for decades. Some Democratic female primary candidates, such as 29-year-old Sara Jacobs, have campaigned using her generational difference to her advantage. If elected, Jacobs would be the youngest woman ever elected to Congress.

"I think that a lot of what we're asking of women politicians is to speak like men, when I actually think we should be running campaigns like women," Jacobs said in a 2018 interview with Cosmopolitan Magazine. "Our system is broken and needs to change, and that starts by changing the face of power in this country."

In addition to younger women, women of color have also risen to the scene of politics in this election cycle. Of the 1,878 women state legislators serving nationwide, 454 (or 24.2 percent) are women of color, according to the Rutgers' Center of American Women and Politics. Communities of color are most likely to be impacted by inequitable societal factors, such as housing, education and the criminal justice system. With a platform that draws from her own experience of struggling for a better life, Stacey Abrams has used past disadvantages to advocate for the underrepresented in the state of Georgia.

"I know that the governor has the ability to affect the lives of millions of Georgians. To advance the issues of healthcare and access of education, to protect women's

rights and to make certain that civil rights are available to all," Abrams, who is the first black woman in American history to win a nomination for governor, said in a CNN interview last Thursday.

Even long before Trump's infamous escalator ride to announce his controversial run for president, American women have too often seen and lived out the consequences of male-enforced policy. From women's reproductive rights to equal pay, male lawmakers in the country are guilty of voting for legislation that they will never face the consequences of. This is America's normal, but many of these women now running for office are here to make that normal new.

The challenge of change has long been evident in our democracy. Partisan politics has run deep on both sides. Senators and representatives have grown comfortable in their seats on Capitol Hill, with some having been there for decades. Change is overdue in our country, and for the sake of progress, Americans must be desperate for it.

As time goes on, our nation has evolved. We've seen it evolve with revolution, as seen with the rise of female faces leading movements such as #NeverAgain and #BlackLivesMatter. We've seen it evolve with rebellion, as seen with the breaking of silence against sexual harassment. We now must see it in representation, as we come to accept the crashing pink wave of women who are fighting to close the diversity gap in American politics.

Blessing is a junior majoring in communication. She can be contacted at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 6 -- Deception is revealed. Soothe doubts with facts. If it goes against your grain, turn it down. Keep confidences. Your past work speaks well for you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Your team can see your blind spots. Listen to trusted allies and learn.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Unexpected tasks can interfere with the responsibilities you already have. Patiently wait out a chaotic rush. Discover a fallacy or dispelled illusion.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 6 -- The first stage in realizing a dream is noticing everywhere it's missing. Visualize perfection, and outline requirements. Every epic journey unfolds step by step.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Financial breakdowns could arise. Keep receipts and statements. Sort facts from fiction. Avoid misunderstandings or arguments over money. Keep a low profile.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Let go of a preconception, especially one that impacts your partner. An illusion evaporates in broad daylight. Maintain patience. Keep your tone respectful.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Defer gratification. Don't fund a fantasy; stick to stable ground. Wait for better visibility before leaping. Proceed with caution, or risk breakage.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Enjoy the comfort of familiar routines and activities with beloved people. Indulge your creativity and passion. Use charm, humor and sex appeal for extra persuasion.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Domestic joys have your attention. Find creative ways to beautify your home and nurture your family. Give away unnecessary stuff. Try new flavors, sounds and sensations.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- A creative project unfolds. Actions speak louder than words. Don't reveal it until it's ready. Keep secrets and surprises. Research, edit and polish first.

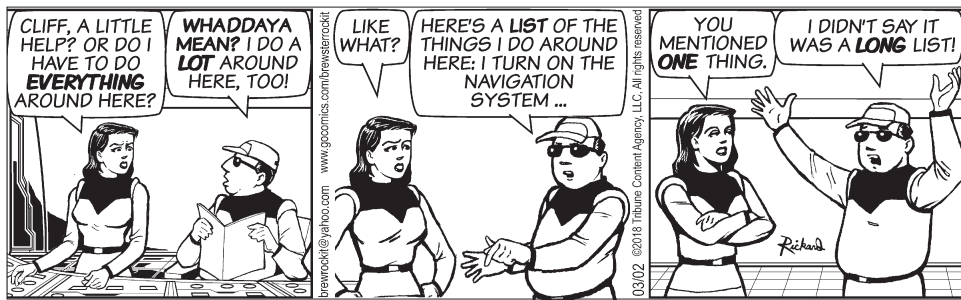
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- A communications breakdown would thwart a profitable intention. Avoid a conflict with authority. Old assumptions get challenged.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Remember your objective as conflicting interests obscure your view. Look for the hidden story. Pay attention to your dreams. Relax, and consider your desired result.

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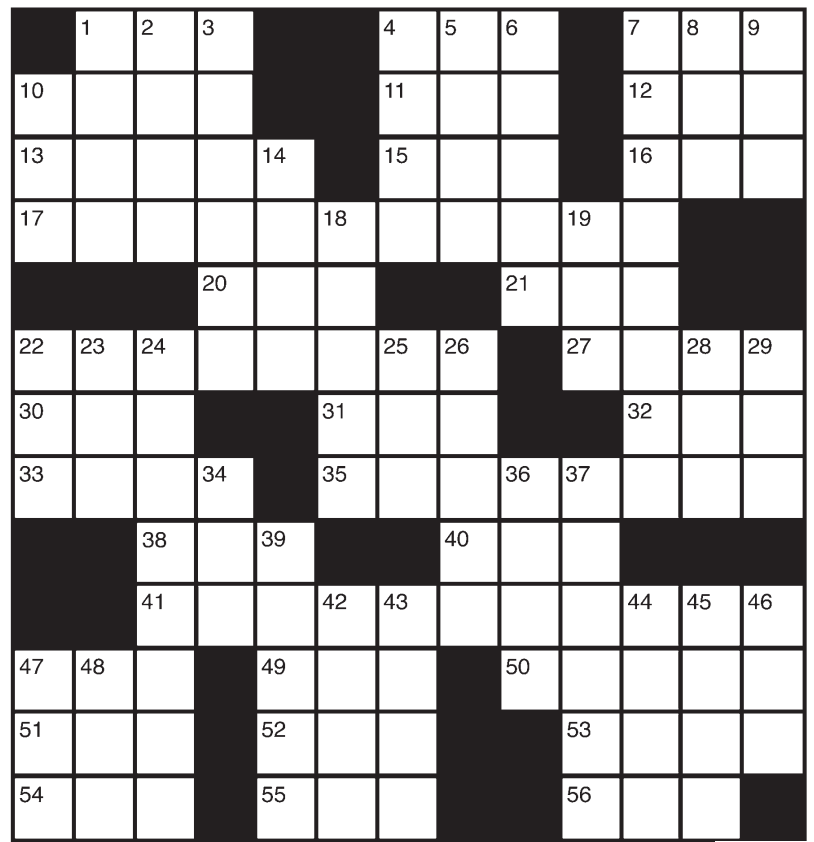
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CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



- ACROSS**
- 1 "Major ___"
 - 4 Allen or Gibson
 - 7 "My ___ Dads"
 - 10 Actress Skye
 - 11 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
 - 12 "It ___ to Be You"; 1993 sitcom
 - 13 Angela's mother on "Who's the Boss?" and others
 - 15 Sixty secs.
 - 16 "Hawaiian ___" (1959-63)
 - 17 Animated series
 - 20 Refrain syllable
 - 21 Mickey Rooney's first wife
 - 22 "___ Father" (1957-62)
 - 27 "Unhappily ___ After"
 - 30 "Love ___ Rooftop"
 - 31 Role on "Mad About You"
 - 32 "8 Heads ___ Duffel Bag"; 1997 George Hamilton movie
 - 33 Emeril's exclamations
 - 35 "Make Room ___" (1953-65)
 - 38 ___ soup
 - 40 Andorra's continent: abbr.
 - 41 "___ Best" (1954-60)
 - 47 Crime drama series
- DOWN**
- 1 Unhappy destiny
 - 2 Francis or Murray
 - 3 Scarcity
 - 4 Vicki Lawrence's title role on her 1983-90 sitcom
 - 5 Role on "The Waltons"
 - 6 Role on "Becker"
 - 7 "___ Frost Show" (1969-72)
 - 8 "Caitlin's ___" (2000-02)
 - 9 "___ to Billy Joe"
 - 10 "___ Big Girl Now"
 - 14 Father
 - 18 Setting for "7th Heaven": abbr.
 - 19 "Ocean ___" (2002-03)
 - 22 ___ Hope
 - 23 Santa ___ winds
 - 24 "___ Tales"; 1997 Kim Murphy film
 - 25 Mexican gold
 - 26 Less common
 - 28 "Land's ___"; Fred Dryer series
 - 29 Mr. Charles
 - 34 "___ Hunt"; Lloyd Bridges series
 - 36 Patty ___
 - 37 Actor James
 - 39 "The ___"; 1983-87 adventure series
 - 42 "Evil ___ Face"; 1996 TV movie
 - 43 ___ Close
 - 44 Televangelist Roberts
 - 45 Underhanded
 - 46 "Off to ___ the Wizard" (1967-68)
 - 47 Actor McBride
 - 48 "Desk ___"; Tracy/Hepburn movie

Solution from 5/30



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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

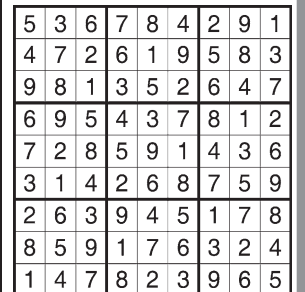
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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>> BASKETBALL

ECU adds six 2018 commits

Chase Carroll
TEC STAFF

Following a poor 10-20 season for the East Carolina University men's basketball team, the Pirates have added new head coach Joe Dooley to the mix, and are looking to build the team through solid recruiting.

The Pirates hope the six commitments they have received from the 2018 high school class can help elevate them from the bottom of the American Athletic Conference into a contender.

The biggest recruit for the Pirates, literally, is 7 foot 2 inch center Milan Stakic from Bosnia, who played for Believe Prep Academy in Athens, Tennessee. Stakic is the 67th best center in the class of 2018, according to *scout.com*, and ECU will hope he and fellow European, Serbian sophomore forward Dimitri Spasojevic, can develop into a formidable frontcourt duo. Stakic first came to America in 2016 weighing 282 pounds according to multiple reports, but worked hard to shed weight, and is now listed at 240 pounds.

Along with a signed letter of intent from Stakic, ECU also received one from his teammate, 6'3" combo guard Tae Hardy, also of Believe Prep Academy. Hardy attended Miller Grove High School in Lithonia, Georgia before prepping, and showed potential on his way to earning Georgia 5-A First-Team All-State honors his senior year.

ECU's 2018 recruiting class is full of scoring potential, starting with 6 foot 5 inch shooting guard Tyler Foster from Mount Zion Prep in Baltimore, Maryland. Before

prepping, Foster played his high school basketball for Middle-West High School where he averaged 20.3 points per game during his senior year. Foster originally committed to Georgetown University in June 2015, but de-committed after Georgetown struggled in the 2016 season, losing its final six games.



Tyler Foster

“The only thing I did to end up here was put the work in #ecu22,” Foster posted on Twitter.

Rounding out the guards in ECU's 2018 recruiting class is 6 foot 2 inch point guard Deshaun Wade from The Miller School of Albemarle in Charlottesville, Virginia. Wade originally committed to play for the Pirates under former head coach Jeff Lebo, but was granted his release from the program following the hiring of Joe Dooley. Dooley, however, was still interested and re-offered him. After receiving offers from Eastern Kentucky University, as well as one from a 2018 NCAA tournament team, Radford University. After going through all of his options, Wade decided playing for ECU and Dooley was still his best option.

“Once again I want to thank God for his many blessings. It was a tough decision, harder than the one before, but with the help of my family, I've decided to re-commit to East Carolina University and Coach Dooley's new coaching staff,” Wade said on Twitter. “I want to thank

Coach Dooley for his patience and allowing me to weigh my options and also want to thank every coach who's recruited me. Go Pirates.”

The Pirates added more size along with Stakic, as they also added two big forwards in 6 foot 10 inch Rico Quinton from Dyer County High School in Newbern, Tennessee and 6 foot 7 inch Jayden Gardner from Heritage High School in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Quinton's height as well as his ability to rebound, shoot from midrange and block shots will likely make him versatile enough to play either center or forward. Quinton nearly averaged a double-double his junior year with 19 points per game, eight rebounds per game and 3.5 blocks per game.

Gardner entered a Heritage High School basketball program which had an all-time record of 26-70 before he arrived, and immediately helped to change the culture of the program en route to state championship appearance after going 25-5 on the year. Gardner averaged double-doubles in both his junior and senior seasons, putting together an impressive 22.8 points and 15.2 rebounds his junior year, and 24.3 points and 13.9 rebounds his senior season, upping his point total from the year before.

With six commits in the 2018 class, Joe Dooley has one scholarship remaining, and it will be interesting to see whether it will be used on yet another guard, or a big man this late into the 2018 recruiting cycle.

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



Recruit Jayden Gardner blocking a shot for his high school team in Wake Forest. COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

Club baseball falls in title game



Logan Walden throws a pitch during practice. The Pirates ended their season last Tuesday. COURTESY OF TWITTER

Austin Walker
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University club baseball team ended its season last Tuesday, losing to Pennsylvania State University 8-7 in the National Championship game. It was the third straight year appearing in the national championship game for the Pirates, as the team won last season, beating the University of Central Florida 1-0 and falling to the University of Nevada 7-4 in 2016.

The Pirates opened the tournament with an 8-7 loss to Penn State on May 25, forcing the team to win three straight games to make the championship game, which they did. The Pirates defeated Florida State University 7-5 on May 26, Iowa State University 12-1 on May 28 and Grand Canyon University 6-2 on May 30 to set up the rematch with Penn State in the championship game on May 31.

Even though his team did not come out of the championship game victorious, head coach Ben Fox said he is proud of the heart the team showed as it battled through five games in seven days.

“I saw a lot of heart from my guys in this tournament,” Fox said. “We made it a little tougher on ourselves than we could have, but the guys really showed a lot of heart and dedication. At the end of the day, we had an opportunity to win at the end of the championship game, and even though it didn't go our way this time, as a coach I can't ask for much more from these guys.”

The Pirates had a hard road to the club baseball world series this season after losing

22 players from last year's championship team and only returning eight players to this year's team. However, the team excelled, winning the Mid-Atlantic South Conference for the fifth straight season. The team compiled a 24-4 record, going 14-1 in conference games and 18-0 at home.

The team's excellent record and outstanding play this season earned the Pirates their fifth straight trip to the club baseball world series in Holly Springs, North Carolina, where the team was given the two seed. Fox said he is happy with how the young players stepped in with such little experience.

“We had a lot of young guys step up into some big roles for us,” Fox said. “A lot of these guys have never been in a moment like this, and for them to play the way they did really shows how they have grown this season.”

Although the Pirates did not bring home the national championship this year, the young team exceeded expectations, and showed it will be a force in the next few seasons. Although the loss is still fresh, Fox said the Pirates won't let it distract them, and are already looking forward to trying again next season.

“A lot of the guys are already talking about being here again next year,” Fox said. “I might have to take a few days to reset my mental focus, but well be back out there soon. We want to do everything we can to be in the national championship every year, and I know we can do it.”

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

BASEBALL continued from A1

long delays and poor weather to do so.

Those fans rallied around the success of the ECU baseball team in a time which they are searching for something to cheer for in Pirate athletics. The football team has gone 3-9 in back-to-back seasons and the basketball team has been below average for years despite now having optimism with newly hired head coach Joe Dooley. The hope is Dooley will make the basketball program as successful as it has been since, well, he was here as head coach in the 1990's.

All of that gave ECU even more reasons for fans to come around a baseball team which has gone 154-91-1 in the four seasons Godwin has been head coach. After not getting the end result the fans wanted, Godwin felt for the fans but was pleased with the weekend nonetheless.

“I know it hurts for the fans because the

fans have been waiting for just something to be successful at East Carolina the past couple of years,” Godwin said. “Our kids gave it everything they had but didn't play well enough to win when it mattered at the end. I'm happy for Greenville though, and East Carolina because we got the chance to host a regional. I thought it was an electric atmosphere here and it will help us moving forward in our program.”

The Pirates had a lot of individual success this season which contributed to the overall team success. Bryant Packard had a breakout season in his sophomore campaign, batting .410 and breaking the single season record in ECU history for consecutive games with a hit. Packard would go on to win AAC Player-of-the-Year and be named to two All-American teams.

There were several more players who all had impacts during an over-achieving season. Four Pirate players were named to the AAC all-tournament team, and two more players were named to the Greenville all-regional team.

Alec Burleson was named the AAC rookie pitcher of the year, which precludes a different reason to look favorably at the ECU baseball program; not only did it have a great season, but it is set up for success for years to come.

This team graduates four seniors; Andrew Henrickson, Ryan Ross, Davis Kirkpatrick and West Covington. That's an excellent defensive outfielder and three of ECU's more important bullpen arms from this season. That will hurt, but the players coming back are promising. 11 players will be seniors next season, and seven of them played big roles on this season's AAC championship team. This season's sophomore class, especially players such as Packard, Brickhouse, Agnos, Benton, Smith and Washer who's a redshirt, will be huge for the team going forward.

“The sophomore class has obviously been a vital part of our success those guys will definitely learn from the experiences they had this year and continue to get better,” Godwin said.

It's been no secret Godwin and all of ECU baseball's goal is to go to the college world series in Omaha, Nebraska. Godwin said he plans to retire Keith LeClair's number 23 once the team does go to the college world series, and despite the great team success from this season, he said the team did not reach its ultimate goal and “are going to get a little bit better.”

“Anytime you lose, it gives you some motivation,” shortstop Turner Brown said. “We're not gonna change anything next year that we did this year because it works. So we're just going to go out next fall and do the same thing we did, work hard but it gives us a motivation and that's were competitors for.”

Without doubt, Godwin, the players and all of ECU and its fans would want next season to end with a standing ovation from its fans with just one difference, with it coming after a trip to the College World Series.

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