



The East Carolinian

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Wednesday, 7.18.18



The new student center at East Carolina University was set to open on Nov. 1, but due to outside an construction project, will now open on Jan. 7.

Student center delayed

Opening of new building set for early January

Trajan Warren
TEC STAFF

Despite earlier assurances that East Carolina University's new student center would open on Nov. 1, ECU officials are now saying the center will open in January.

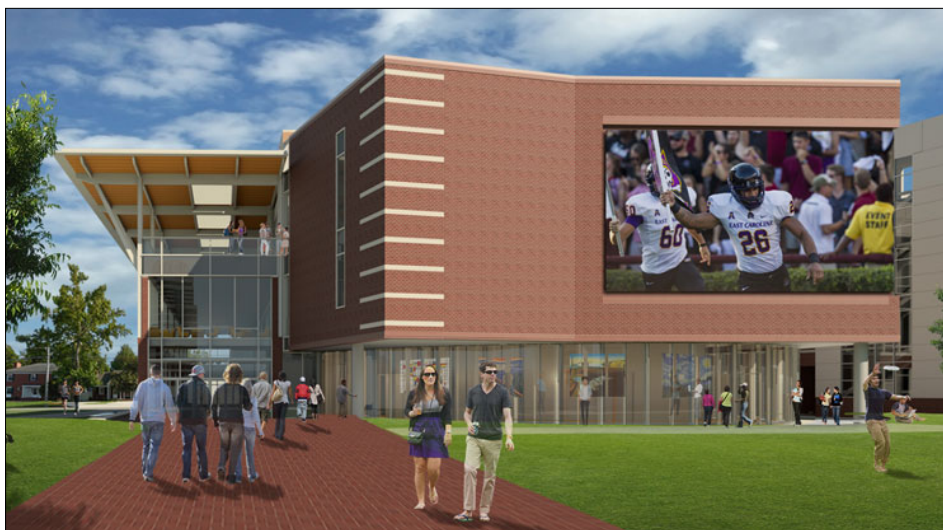
ECU's Associate Vice Chancellor Erik Kneubuehl said the building will be completed by the end of October, but the center will not be open until Jan. 7.

"We pushed it to January because then it's just a matter of dates. So it will take us two to three weeks to get ready, so now you're at Thanksgiving. Then after Thanksgiving, that's only a week and then you have finals," Kneubuehl said. "So the day everybody starts school on January 7, that Monday we are going to open the doors for the first time to all the students."

According to Kneubuehl, the opening will be pushed back until January because of the the 10th Street bypass project.

"The 10th Street project has not delayed our construction project, but has made sure that there are certain things that have to happen in the building that doesn't allow us to move in early," Kneubuehl said.

In June, Kneubuehl told The East Carolinian the student center would open on Nov. 1. The website for ECU's Student Centers



A feature of the new student center at East Carolina University will include a large jumbo screen.

still has Fall 2018 listed as the opening for the new student center.

According to Kneubuehl, in the months before the student center opens, there will be a lot of logistical planning taking place to make sure the building will run as smoothly as possible.

"Inevitably, in a building this size there will be things that don't quite work right that we can still get the contractor to come back and fix them," Kneubuehl said. "So we can do that for about a month to two months before

the doors open. So when the doors do open, it will be a wow factor."

During the years of making the new student center, Kneubuehl said there were a lot of moving parts that need to be straightened out before the project could continue.

The 220,000 square foot student center will be the new home for Dowdy Student Stores and four other retail stores.

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» WHERE'S THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE

Employee: turnover weakens GFR

Darby Hubbell
TEC STAFF

Most fire departments lose less than 10 firefighters each year, according to multiple state and national firefighting experts. In the case of the Greenville Fire/Rescue Department, since 2013, 91 employees or approximately 1009 years of service to the city of Greenville have left.

According to department personnel records, obtained through multiple public records requests, GFR has lost 91 employees since 2013, or 1009 years of experience, according the start and end date of employment for each former employee.

Gregory Cade, the Mid-Atlantic regional director of the National Fire Protection Association, a trade organization which creates protocols for GFR and other fire departments, said in an interview with The East Carolinian in January that a fire department's personnel turnover is usually very low.

"My experience has been it (personnel turnover) is certainly in the single digits and closer to zero, not 18 percent," Cade said.

In an interview with The East Carolinian in September, GFR Fire Chief Eric Griffin said GFR's turnover isn't unique to just Greenville. He added, "People are typically three-to-five year employees."

A current GFR EMS Specialist, who spoke to The East Carolinian on the condition of anonymity, said current GFR employees are choosing to walk away from Greenville's department because of the administration.

The current EMS Specialist said with this many employees leaving, it makes working within the department more challenging.

"We have a lot of new people coming in and it does make it more challenging having to learn the new people, see how much they know, help them along their processes of

> GFR page A3

ECU men's golfer returns after pro event

Austin Walker
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University men's golfer Blake Taylor has stayed busy this offseason, as the junior qualified and participated in his first PGA tour event at the Greenbrier Classic at the Old White TPC course in Glade Springs, West Virginia.

Taylor finished the qualifier with a five under score of 66, tying for second place with Wes Homan, Logan Lagodich and Mark Silvers. Along with Homan and Lagodich, Taylor defeated Silvers in a playoff to secure the final three qualifying spots for the tournament. Although Taylor went on to miss the cut in the Greenbrier Classic, his ECU head coach Andrew Sapp knows the experience Taylor gained will help him in his third season with the Pirates.



Andrew Sapp

up because he played really solid," Sapp said. "He drove and putted the ball well, and even though he didn't make the cut, the experience he gained from playing on that level will definitely help him moving forward in our program and beyond.

Taylor enjoyed a good sophomore season with the Pirates. Taylor was named to the American Athletic Conference all-conference team and finished the season second in scoring for the Pirates with a 72.8 scoring average. He also notched two top 10 finishes this season including a season best fifth place finish at the Stitch Intercollegiate in April.

Taylor wasn't the only Pirate who has found success on the PGA tour this season, as former Pirate-turned-professional Harold Varner III, who graduated from ECU in 2012, finished tied for fifth at the Greenbrier Classic, and followed

> GOLF page A6



Junior Blake Taylor returns to ECU after competing in the the Greenbrier Classic.

ONLINE

» City of Greenville road resurfacing around ECU continues

» Check out our website for more content

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Greenville Fire/Rescue to hold safety sessions

The Greenville Fire/Rescue Department has been holding family friendly summer safety stations at multiple locations of the Sheppard Memorial Library this week. Kids will learn how to be safe in fun summer activities such as swimming and being around water, among other topics.

The first of the three events were held yesterday at the East Branch Library. Today's event will be at the Carver Branch Library and will begin at 9:45 a.m. All events are free and for more information, contact Rebekah Thurston at (252) 329-4679.

ECU program to help veterans transition to campus

East Carolina University will hold its "Veteran to Scholar Bridge Program," which is a program created to help ease the transition to campus life and coursework for veterans, on July 16-20. The class will bring together war scholars and student veterans who are beginning their studies this fall.

The classes are from 8 a.m. to noon in Bate room 2017. The topics will teach veterans how to successfully transition to ECU. Some topics will include memory and memorization, gender and war, homecomings, military folklore and representations of veterans in popular culture. For more information, contact the program director Anna Froula at (252) 328-6663.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

In a previous story published by The East Carolinian, it was stated that the Greenville City Council approved the purchase of a tiller fire truck for the Greenville Fire/Rescue Department. However, prior to the June 11 city council meeting, the tiller fire truck had been removed from the item in the agenda and wasn't approved by the city council.

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



LESLIE DZORVAKFOR | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The G.K. Transportation Center will open to the public on Aug. 8. The transit center will offer Greyhound and ECU Transit service for students at ECU.

Greenville transit center nears completion date

Darby Hubbell
TEC STAFF

The G.K. Butterfield Transportation Center is only a few weeks away from its ribbon cutting ceremony the first week of August, soon serving as a centralized hub for Greenville, North Carolina and its community members.

Will Bell, District 3 Greenville city council member, said the Greenville Transportation Activity Center (GTAC) will serve and benefit all units of transportation across the city.

"Whether that be public transit for the city, university buses, Vidant medical buses or transportation, there will be vans and such, but it's really just a reason to get everything under one roof," Bell said.

Bell said the center will provide Greenville residents a central point for pick up and drop off in the center of the city and there will be additional climate

controlled bike storage.

"It will just make transportation flow just more easily in and out of the city," Bell said.

Bell said there will be a connection bus which will take Greenville citizens to Wilson, North Carolina, to connect them with the Amtrak train station.

According to Bell, the total cost of the new transportation center was \$8.4 million. Bell said the city received a sizable grant from the state and the city only had to contribute \$800,000 toward the project.

Brock Letchworth, public information officer for the city of Greenville, said the center is named after Rep. G.K. Butterfield, who helped the city on a federal level to secure the funding which was used to pay for the center.

According to Letchworth, the physical address of the new transportation center is 600 S. Pitt Street.

Letchworth said construction is very close to being completed and the ribbon cutting ceremony will be taking place on Aug. 8 at 10

a.m. at the facility and the center will "go live" the next day.

Brian Meyerhoeffer, city council member At-large, said everything seems to be set for the Aug. 8 ribbon cutting. He said most cities that Greenville aspires to be like all have transportation centers similar to the one being built.

"I think it's a long time coming," Meyerhoeffer said. "It's a sign of our further progress as a city, our investment in our citizens, the revitalization of uptown, it's economic development."

Meyerhoeffer said the center is going to be a great addition to the community by connecting people to different parts of the city of Greenville and extending out to the entire country.

According to Meyerhoeffer, there will be shuttles connecting to the airport and buses which will connect with Amtrak railway.

"On the micro level, it's just a centralized hub for people to live around the city, whether it be ECU bus or a city bus," Meyerhoeffer said. "On the macro level, it's going

to facilitate people's movement anywhere they want to go."

Letchworth said the transportation center will be connecting with East Carolina University Transit, Greyhound, the Pitt Area Transit System and Amtrak.

"It's a centrally located, all-in-one type transportation center," Letchworth said.

Right now, according to Letchworth, the transfer station for Greenville Area Transit (GREAT) buses are a long reach and not ideal by any means for Greenville community members.

"This is a place where you've actually got an indoor facility that provides offices for our GREAT staff, there's also going to be a police office in there, a conference room and those are just things that help internally," Letchworth said. "Externally, it's a more convenient location for picking up all of the GREAT buses and it's much more comfortable for a waiting area and things like that."

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



Will Bell

Hardy selected as educational expert

Julie Estep
TEC STAFF

A partnership between three newspapers in North Carolina has created a series aimed to inform readers about issues the state is facing in the upcoming midterm elections this November.

People from across the state were chosen to serve as experts by the Charlotte Observer, The News and Observer and The Durham Herald to provide input in the Advocacy, Business, Education and Government sections of the project, including East Carolina University's Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy.

"What I like about it is we're not put into a box so because I'm education, they don't just ask me education questions. It's everything," Hardy said. "Because we're coming from different walks of life and different disciplines, as far as careers, it's been very interesting to see that."

Taylor Batten, editorial page editor for the Charlotte Observer, said the series is an effort to reach out to some of North Carolina's top leaders to hear what issues they believe candidates should be focusing on.

"We recruited 60, what we're calling influencers, around the state to help us inform our coverage of the midterm elections and to help steer candidates and the public toward important issues," Batten said.

Hardy serves as one of 12 people chosen in the education section and will provide her response to questions relating to politics and education throughout the next few months

leading up to the North Carolina midterm elections in November.

Batten said the selection process began in the newsrooms with editors and reporters using their prior experience and knowledge of some of North Carolina's most influential residents to create a list.

"There are a group of editors who've worked in North Carolina journalism for a long time, I mean, really several decades between us, who know a lot of people in our individuals communities and across the state so we just thought hard about who we should include," Batten said.

Batten said the newsrooms were really striving to get a diverse group of voices during the selection process.

"We didn't want to have all Republicans or all Democrats so we tried to make sure that the 60, overall as group, will reflect well North Carolina's numbers on all of those different measures," Batten said.

Others included as education experts for the series are Anita Brown-Graham, Pearl Burris-Floyd, James Coleman, Walter Dalton, Pamela Davis, Kandi Deitemeyer, Carol Folt, Mark Jewell, James H. Johnson, Clayton Wilcox and Randy Woodson.

Batten said during the summer, influencers are sent a list of questions every other week, but beginning around Labor Day, it will change to weekly. Batten said the staff writers will



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University Vice Chancellor Virginia Hardy discusses student safety and Mendenhall Student Center.

then write stories based on those responses.

"Typically, a survey has about five questions and it's about a particular issue so first it was education, this week it's been about the economy and jobs, the next one is going to be about polarization," Batten said. "We send those surveys to the influencers, they all get the same ones, they all fill them out and then we go through all 60 sets of responses."

Batten said in addition to the stories the staff will write, the newspapers will hold panel discussion events around the state to invite the influencers and the public to discuss the election. Batten said there will be one in Charlotte, Raleigh and a third undetermined location.

Hardy said she looks at each question with an eastern North Carolina lens and hopes her responses will help people around the state get a better understanding of the issues facing the area.

The first question in the series asked the influencers, "What is the single biggest challenge our leaders must confront to secure a better future for North Carolina?" Hardy's response was education. Specifically, it was ensuring students at all grade levels have the access and resources available to receive a quality education.

"It was interesting to see that people from all various disciplines were saying that one of the biggest areas that we need to be paying attention to is education," Hardy

said. "No matter what walk of life you come from and what your career or discipline is, everybody's understanding that we've got to make sure our education system in the state of North Carolina is solid."

Hardy said she encourages all students to pay attention to what the influencers are saying and listen to different perspectives to prepare themselves to be educated this November.

"It's about what's the right thing to do for the citizens of North Carolina, not what my party may say, whatever party it is, but what's the right thing to do," Hardy said. "That's what I'm hoping our readers will do and what our candidates are going to be looking at."

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

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PLUS
MAP OUT YOUR WEEK

THURSDAY

**Keith LeClair
Golf Classic**
Ironwood Golf &
Country Club
8:30 a.m.

FRIDAY

**Folk Arts Society
of Greenville
Salsa Dance**
Crave
7 p.m.

Into the Fog
Pitt Street Brewing
Company
8 p.m.

SATURDAY

**David and Cassidy
Blount**
Uptown Brewing
Company
8 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

**How I Met Your
Mother Trivia**
Pitt Street Brewing
Company
7 p.m.

TUESDAY

Bridesmaids Trivia
Uptown Brewing
Company
7 p.m.

Third Down East Flick Fest to premiere this weekend

Trajan Warren
TEC STAFF

Independent filmmakers of eastern North Carolina will be able to showcase their films to the Greenville community at the Down East Flick Fest this weekend.

The third Down East Flick Fest will be held on Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. each day at Whirligig Stage at 628 S Pitt St. in downtown Greenville.

Eighteen films will be screened throughout the two days, varying from shorts to feature length films. The films also vary in genre from horror, animation, science fiction, drama, experimental and documentary.

Celestine Davis, director of the Down East Flick Fest and the Pitt County representative of North Carolina Writers' Network, started the festival along with fellow writers in the Greenville area.

"We started putting it together in 2014. It started at the Tippy Teapot, which is now Crave, as a writers' group. The festival just grew out of that," Davis said. "We did our first actual film festival in 2015 and continued in 2016. Last year, we didn't have one but we're going to make sure it stays a steady force in the Greenville region."

The film festival is free for all interested in independent filmmaking. A full schedule of the festival is available on the event's Facebook page. During the first day of the festival, seven films will be shown and there will be a special screening of "In the Pursuit of Justice" at 5:30 p.m.

"In the Pursuit of Justice" is a documentary on the false conviction and eventual release of Greg Taylor. The filmmakers behind the documentary, Gregg Jamback and Jamie Huss, will



The third Down East Flick Fest will be held at Whirligig Stage this weekend, located at 628 S. Pitt St. in Greenville.

talk about their film following the screening and take questions from the audience.

Jamback and Huss have a history with the Down East Flick Fest and took home the top prize in the first event.

"We showed a 30 minute version of this story in 2015 and won the 'Best in Fest' award," Jamback said.



Gregg Jamback

"So we have a special place in our heart for the Down East Flick Fest"

Jamback said he and Huss were interested in bring their film to a North Carolina film festival because they feel it is a "North Carolina story."

"Greenville's a nice little community and The North Carolina Innocence Inquiry

Commission process has freed a couple of people in that neck of the woods, so it seemed like a good place to go," Jamback said.

During the second night of the festival, the remaining 11 films will be shown. After the screenings, there will be a panel of seasoned filmmakers and other professionals. The title of the panel will be "Films that Win: Using Creativity and Trends to Your Advantage" which will discuss different ways filmmakers can create "winning" films.

For Davis, it is important all filmmakers come away from the festival feeling accomplished and having experiences which can help them down the road in their filmmaking careers.

"Everybody's a winner at the Down East Flick Fest. To be an official selection in a festival is a big deal for a filmmaker," Davis said.

According to Davis, of the 18

films selected for the festival, only a third of them are from eastern North Carolina with others coming from as far as Spain, France and Iran.

Davis wants to create a "more welcoming showcase for all filmmakers" and build something for other artists. She wants to use the festival as a way to provide opportunities for other filmmakers in the region and to inspire young people who think films are something that come from "far away."

"My goal, as festival director and as a part of the core group, is to encourage more local filmmakers to participate and to create more opportunity for local filmmakers," Davis said. "We're very interested in developing a filmmakers hub in eastern North Carolina."

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

STUDENT CENTER continued from A1

The student center will include view dynamic glass, which has computer lines linked to each individual pane of glass to provide the proper amount of shading, according to Kneubuehl.

The main staircase in the building will include the ECU creed and on the second floor, there will be a wall with the word "Argh" and the new pattern that Adidas created for athletics, according to Kneubuehl. The building will also have 15-18 foot letters saying "ECU" that light up facing 10th Street.

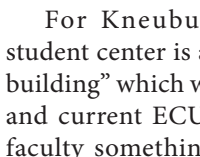
"When you're driving down 10th Street, you will see those letters lit up and there will be no mistaking you are at ECU," Kneubuehl said.

There will be three ballrooms and the floor of the main ballroom will have the "outline of the coast

of North Carolina with spots on it for all the lighthouses and an X marking where Greenville is," Kneubuehl said.

The student center will also have Pirate Vision, which is a jumbo screen "about half the size" of the one in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, according to Kneubuehl.

"We'll be able to show live TV, football games, basketball games, awards ceremonies. If you have an event out there, instead of putting a banner up we can just put your logo up on the big screen," Kneubuehl said.



Erik Kneubuehl

For Kneubuehl, the new student center is a "cutting edge building" which will give former and current ECU students and faculty something to be proud

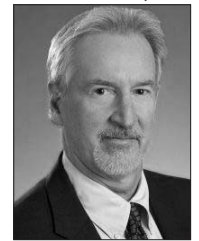
of and marvel at.

The dining options in the new student center include Raising Cane's, a fast-food chain that specializes in chicken, a French style restaurant called Au Bon Pain, a creamery and a gourmet burger bar named 1907 after the year ECU was founded. The new building will also have a full-sized Starbucks and Panda Express, relocating from Mendenhall's Destination 360 dining area.

Bill McCartney, associate vice chancellor for campus living, was in charge of the dining options for the new student center and said he wanted to provide a variety of options for students which can be more accessible.

"We decided that having one Chick-fil-A on campus was enough for us. With Chick-fil-A's corporate policy of being closed on Sundays, we felt that in the new student center we did not want one of our food service options to not be open on the weekend," McCartney said.

As for Mendenhall's future, according to McCartney, the food court is being renovated to become "a new bakery on campus, as well as



Bill McCartney

a new catering kitchen for us to provide catering all about campus." According to McCartney, the new student center will provide a well-needed upgrade from Mendenhall and will surprise students when they see it.

"I think students are going to be wowed by the new student center," McCartney said. "Mendenhall has been so outdated for so long that when students see the spaces and the things they're going to be able to do, they're going to really appreciate this addition to campus."

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

the Big VAPE THEORY

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GFR continued from A1

learning and training and making sure we keep everyone safe," the current EMS Specialist said. "So it is a bit more challenging and stressful."

In an emailed statement from Tim Bradley in January, the executive director of the North Carolina State Firefighters Association, Bradley said in cases where fire departments have an issue with maintaining firefighters, they generally bring in an outside consultant to study the problem and make recommendations.

Bradley added, "This would only occur if the city believes there is an issue with retention." On March 16, Ann Wall, the city manager for Greenville, hired Developmental Associates, an outside firm based out of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to evaluate GFR and its employee structure.

GFR employees and the city of Greenville are still waiting on the release of the evaluation, which is set to be released "around the end of July or early August," according to an email Wall sent to firefighters.

According to a second current EMS Specialist, who spoke to The East Carolinian on the condition of anonymity, people are leaving GFR because they are tired of the way they are being treated. The second current EMS Specialist said there are so many little things

constantly coming out that continue to beat down the moral of firefighters.

"It's not for money, that people are leaving, it's not because they hate the job and they want to do something different, they are going to take the same career path at other places for lesser pay," the second EMS specialist said. "They are taking anything they can, anywhere they can, whenever they can to get away from Greenville."

The second EMS Specialist said there are multiple issues when people leave GFR, one of those being losing years of experience. They added many of the employees who have recently left, have been employees who have been at GFR for a long time such as fire engine drivers, paramedics or officers.

The second EMS Specialist said they believe a large number of people will leave GFR if Wall fails to do something, but the employees want to give her a chance to get the department back where it needs to be.

"We've been waiting a very long time for some help and we probably got a little hope when she came in and said something was being done, there was a little glimmer of hope, and so we are still kind of hanging on to that until we see what happens," the second EMS Specialist said.

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

ONLINE |
FULL STORY

OUR VIEW

Greek life task force shows need for balance

East Carolina University Chancellor Cecil Staton formed a task force last Wednesday to investigate ECU's Greek life community after the ECU's Alpha Phi sorority was suspended by its international organization on July 7.

Alpha Phi completes a list of 12 fraternities and sororities which have been suspended or closed throughout the past two years. These organizations include Phi Kappa Tau, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Delta Chi and Lambda Psi among others. Several of these fraternities were closed due to alcohol, hazing, endangerment and policy violations, according to ECU's Greek life website.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe it is important to hold Greek life accountable, but it is equally important to celebrate the good it does for ECU and the Greenville community.

ECU's Greek life requires community outreach, volunteering and philanthropy, according to its website. Each organization holds various fundraisers which raise thousands of dollars for notable charities each year. Greek life promotes academic excellence by requiring its students to maintain a certain GPA. While certain fraternities and sororities may act irresponsibly, it is important to remember that they are simply a very small piece of a very large picture.

So for those within the Greek life community, remember institutions must be held accountable for their actions for the sake of integrity. And for those outside of Greek life, take a step back and remember the good Greek life accomplishes for ECU and Greenville as a whole.

SHENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



Rappers glorify drug culture



Danielle Schmid
TEC STAFF

Dani's Good Vibes

For teens to think drugs such as heroin, crack or cocaine aren't harmful raises concern. With the United States on the verge of a mental health crisis among

teens, this mentality on drugs comes from social media and a new wave of alternative rappers.

According to dosomething.org, "about 50 percent of high school seniors do not think it's harmful to try crack or cocaine once or twice and 40 percent believe it's not harmful to use heroin once or twice."

The lyrics these alternative rappers bring are not helping the cause. Some of these rappers are addicts and talk about these drugs as if they're candy.

Back in the day when I was in high school, four years ago, the rap game was on a completely different level for many reasons. During my senior year of high school the top rappers were Nicki Minaj, Rick Ross, Big Sean, Drake, Schoolboy Q and even YG.

These top rappers brought real life issues to the stage. Nicki talked about having multiple personalities, Drake talked about his female issues, Rick Ross grunted a lot and Big Sean let everyone know who he didn't mess with.

Top rappers among teens these days are artists such as Lil Pump, 6ix9ine, Lil

Xan, Trippie Redd and Lil Uzi Vert. All rappers who talk about depression, drugs, sex, suicide and occasionally other things. Now I understand rappers and musicians have always brought up these topics, but rappers today revolve entire songs about suicide and drugs.

According to a study at Vanderbilt University, "the rates of children hospitalized for suicidal thoughts or attempts had doubled since 2008 and the problem seems to spike in the fall."

I realize this has to do with many factors including their argument that school is contributing to these numbers. However, to think it's coming from the music they listen to doesn't sound to far off to me.

The way rap artists discuss suicide or depression today is portrayed as something so casual. It's gotten to the point where you can't even be an alternative rapper if you don't have anxiety or if you're not depressed.

For instance Lil Uzi Vert not only says stuff like, "push me to the edge all my friends are dead," in his song, "XO TOUR Llif3," but he jumps from an elevated surface more than 20 feet high at every concert.

Now Lil Uzi Vert has already went public with his mental health and drug addictions and that is commendable, but it's still an unhealthy relationship between these artists and their fans.

You'd think if fans really cared about an artist they'd know when that artist has hit a low point. These artists have to be thinking, "Do my fans really care about me?" for that reason alone.

The difference between artists then and now is in the past we knew that rappers were doing drugs but they never really discussed it so the need to try drugs wasn't really there. They kind of just hinted at it. Today's young rappers glorify and down play drugs such as cocaine, molly, ecstasy, Xanax and anything in between.

For instance, in the 17-year-old rapper, Lil Pump's, single, "Drug Addict," he brings lyrics such as, "whole gang full of drug addicts, take a lot of shit forget what happens," and "take a lot of drugs don't think twice, I do this everyday and all night."

These lyrics are concerning for Lil Pump, a minor, and the younger crowd listening to him. And I know I listen to these artists and so do many of my friends, but for these artists to be ramming these ideas into teens heads is terrifying.

To conclude, this is not meant to bash these artists or say they're the only reason for teen's mental health problems. I'm really just trying to raise concern for them and their listeners. A lot of people in this alternative rap crowd, whether it be artists or fans, tend to get caught up in the wrong things and then are unable to get out of these unhealthy stigmas that the industry has created. We need to start letting them know we are for them. Even if it is just an Instagram comment saying you're there for them. We got to start somewhere.

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

OUR STAFF

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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

Johansson shows pop culture activism



Andy Li
TEC STAFF

Andy Candid-Li

Following a huge backlash against her casting as a transgender man, actress Scarlett Johansson announced her departure from the film "Rub & Tug" Friday.

"Our cultural understanding of transgender people continues to advance, and I've learned a lot from the community since making my first statement about my casting and realize it was insensitive," Johansson said in a statement.

Although Johansson's departure is a victory for the LGBT community, it highlights a growing concern in today's society: pop culture social justice—specifically, celebrity feminism.

When Johansson's miscasting as a trans man was announced, and when she was cast as a Japanese character in "Ghost in the Shell," the social media backlash had an almost *betrayed* feeling to it. "She's one of us," social justice activists seemed to say as they furiously tweeted. And she is. Johansson has been vocal about the wage gap in Hollywood and the sexist tropes her character in the Avengers films has been forced to comply with. At the 2017 Women's March, Johansson took the stage in Washington, D.C. and demanded President Donald Trump support all women, specifically through Planned Parenthood. So, if she is such a champion for civil rights, how could she make two blindingly offensive "mistakes"? Because she *isn't* a champion. She is a



Actress Scarlett Johansson on the red carpet.

celebrity who has made public statements supporting human decency. She's not a civil rights activist. She said pretty words about how we should treat everyone equally. That isn't social justice, it's the bare minimum of compassion.

Johansson's feminism is reminiscent of another pop culture social activist: comedian Aziz Ansari. While on "The Late Show with David Letterman," Ansari "came out" as a feminist.

"Here's the thing," Ansari said. "If you look up feminist in the dictionary, it just means someone who believes men and

women have equal rights, yeah?"

Cue BuzzFeed articles and Twitter threads dedicated to the world's new #WokeBae who completely understood the complexities of feminism. And all Ansari had to do was identify with this movement was spout out a definition that describes the absolute lowest bar a human being could be asked to reach.

Compare these two to a celebrity who has committed herself to social movements. Musician Beyoncé Knowles has been known for celebrating girl-power since her days in Destiny's Child, but embraced the label of feminist with her song "Flawless," featuring excerpts from Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TED Talk. She performed at a Hillary Clinton campaign rally. She created "Lemonade," one of the most politically charged and vibrant celebration of black excellence. While touring with that album, she displayed the names of victims of police brutality. She and her husband, Jay-Z, donated \$1.5 million to Black Lives Matter. Through her organization, Beygood, she raises money for girls going to school in low-income countries, creates scholarships for black women and raises money for hurricane victims.

So. Look at Johansson's and Ansari's words, and then look at Knowles' actions. In today's political climate, there is no room for a pop culture feminist, no place for a celebrity social activist. Women, the LGBT community and people of color need activists who favor action over tweets.

Andy is a senior majoring in communication and political science. He can be contacted at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Collaborate with a partner. Support each other through tricky waters. Discover a structural problem. Avoid arguments. Get expert advice. Listen to another view.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Communications may not go as planned. Stick to basics. Keep your word. Integrity provides workability. Clean messes as they occur. Persistence and determination fulfill an intention.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- You can work things out between friends. Get help cleaning a mess. Keep your cool with a breakdown. Listen to all considerations, and generate solutions together.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Something you try doesn't work. Avoid assumptions. Reduce force, and use gentle pressure. Guard your health. Wait for better conditions. Patiently oil the machinery.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Financial breakdowns or obstacles take focus. Adapt plans to ongoing changes. Keep bringing home the bacon. Maintain patience and a sense of humor.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Follow instructions carefully at work. Keep equipment in repair. Structural problems could interrupt things. Keep your temper, and handle basic priorities. Take charge.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Postpone chores and relax. Things may not go as expected, especially with romance and family. Stay flexible. Prioritize practical basics. Make a beautiful mess.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Carve out time for yourself. Polish your personal presentation. Try a new style or look. Clean and repair closets and clothing. Recharge your batteries.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 6 -- Academic studies, education and travels may not go as imagined. It could get chaotic or awkward. Navigate a disagreement or misunderstanding. Proceed with caution.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Domestic chaos swirls. Authorize improvements and repairs. It may get worse before it gets better. Choose for long-lasting quality within your budget. Apply elbow grease.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 5 -- Maintain a mystery. Cloak yourself in privacy. Consider recent changes, and make new plans. Neither lend nor borrow. You're especially sensitive and intuitive.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Resolve a challenge with shared finances. Investigate best strategies. Prepare your report to make sense of the numbers. Get advice from a trusted elder.

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COMICS

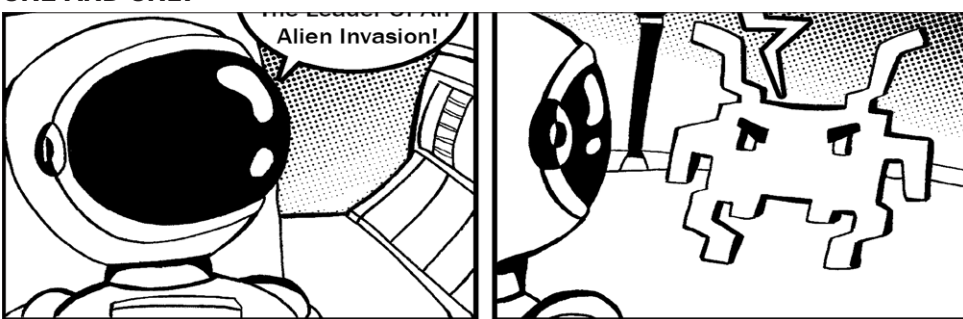
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BEST IN SHOW



ONE AND ONLY

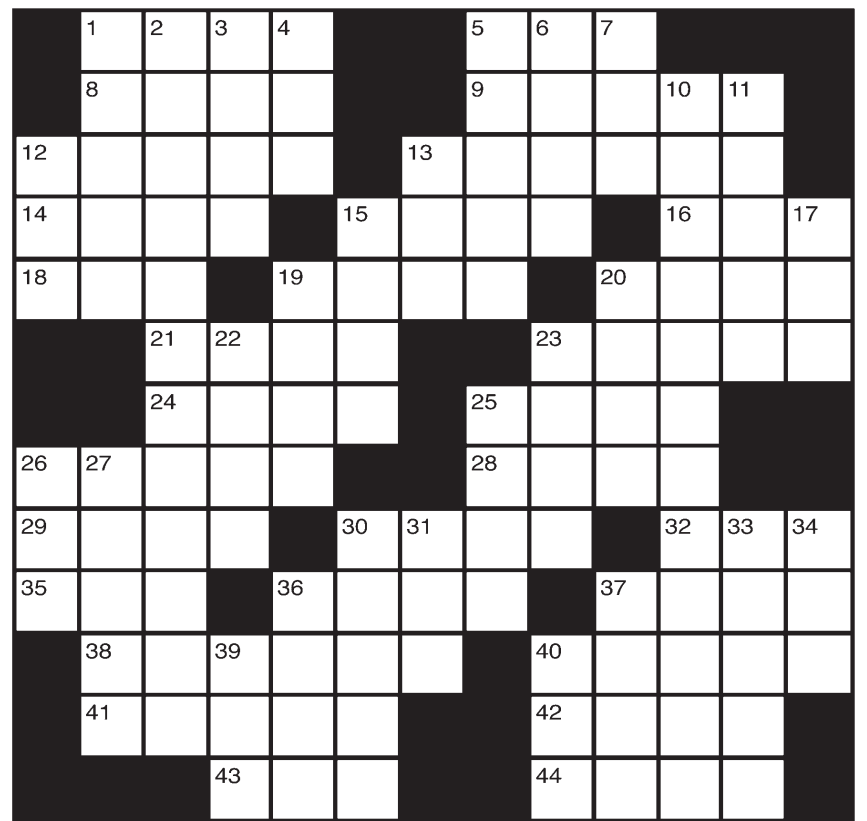


BRIAN JUDGE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



- ACROSS**
- Det. ___ Munch; role on "Law & Order: SVU"
 - Arnold or Bosley
 - "___ Off Place"; Reese Witherspoon film
 - Assists in crime
 - "The ___ Man"; Charlton Heston movie
 - Actor Ted
 - McCain and Byrd: abbr.
 - Actor Nicolas
 - Historical period
 - President Grant's monogram
 - Ma with a cello
 - Baseball statistics, for short
 - "The ___ Ant Show"
 - Summons with a pager
 - ___ dancer; discotheque entertainer
 - "A ___ in Her Ear"
 - "If ___ Would Leave You"; song from "Camelot"
 - Little girl of old cartoons
 - Actress Kennedy
 - Ron Howard role

- Network that airs "Jon & Kate Plus 8"
- Take advantage of
- Perched on
- Wedding cake section
- "Jake ___ Fatman"
- "___ the Vampire Slayer"
- Nevada or Nebraska
- Touch on
- Spoil
- Depend

DOWN

- "The King of Queens" actor
- "Rules ___"
- Broom-Hilda and others
- Org. once headed by Charlton Heston
- "Takes Two to ___"
- Off-Broadway award
- Ms. Ryan
- "The Bold and ___"
- "77 Sunset ___"
- School in Columbus, for short
- Bandleader Kyser
- Perry ___
- Contemptible fellow
- Boo Boo's buddy
- Film holder
- Ms. Spelling
- "NYPD ___"
- "The ___ Wilson Show"
- World's second-largest bird
- Passport endorsements
- "We've Got Each ___"
- Poet who wrote "The Raven"
- "Waiting for ___"; play by Clifford Odets
- "Boys Don't ___"; Hilary Swank movie
- "___ boy!"
- Word with inner or test
- Hoover or Aswan
- Cheers, for one

Solution from 7/11

J	O	E	E	V	E	R	W	E	E	K		
O	R	K	R	I	T	E	I	L	I	E		
H	E	E	A	C	C	O	R	D	I	N	G	
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A	T	T	Y	C	A	L	F	M	A	N		

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham 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

Solution from 7/11

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

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

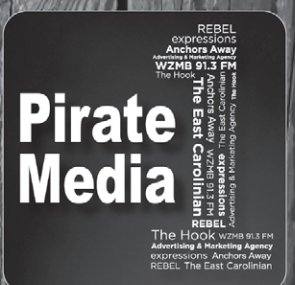
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► ANALYSIS

ECU defense can improve



Dylan Johnson
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University had one of the worst defenses in the country in 2017, finishing

at or near the bottom in almost every single statistical category.

Just about the entire defense was a mess for ECU in 2017, but there is optimism around the group going into 2018. The hiring of new defensive coordinator David Blackwell has brought excitement, and everything he has said and done so far has increased that excitement.

After a disastrous defensive effort a year ago which contributed to a 3-9 season, it can only get better for the Pirate defense.

The defensive line struggled mightily in 2017. The Pirates managed 11 sacks

as a team last season which was last in the American Athletic Conference. Kiante Anderson had four and a half of those 11 sacks by himself, but he's now gone after graduating. Tyree Owens was second with one and a half sacks, but was removed from the roster in March. His return to the team isn't ruled out, but as of now, it leaves ECU with two players who recorded a sack in 2017.

The linebacker position was led in 2017 by Jordan Williams, Aaron Ramseur and Canon Gibbs. Williams was second on the team in tackles, while Ramseur lead the team with two interceptions. Williams has graduated, but Ramseur will be a sophomore and will have to lead the linebacker core next season.

The secondary has a lot of room to improve after a rough 2017 season. ECU finished tied for eighth in the AAC in interceptions a year ago with seven.



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Pirate defensive line faces off against the University of Cincinnati.

Korrin Wiggins, who was the team's leading tackler and also recorded an interception, is gone now, but fortunately, ECU returns Tim Irwin, Devon Sutton and Colby Gore to try and help shore up the secondary. If the group can stay healthy, it can definitely perform better in 2018.

Perhaps the biggest impact of all will be Blackwell. Blackwell has been bringing in a new culture on the defense. During spring practices, Blackwell was right there running alongside his defense during drills. He has talked a lot about how if ECU is to

change its reputation on the field, it's up to them to make it happen themselves. That kind of dedication and energy has looked good so far, and has created promise for next season.

There are potential breakout players on the defense and Blackwell has brought new energy and attitude.

The only way to know if it will translate to the field will be to wait for the season, but Pirate fans will surely flood Dowdy Ficklen Stadium to find out.

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

► COLUMN

Coach Mo must win in third year



Chase Carroll
TEC STAFF

Following yet another 3-9 season for the East Carolina University football team in 2017, head coach Scottie Montgomery made a bold prediction: the Pirates will reach

the postseason in 2018.

"I haven't made a whole lot of guarantees since I got here, but we'll be a better football team, and we are going to play in the postseason next year,"

Montgomery said following a 70-13 beat down at the hands of American Athletic Conference opponent University of Memphis.

While the timing of that comment is humorous, Montgomery sees the writing on the wall. If he does not fulfill his prediction, it's time to end the Montgomery era.

He will have his work cut out for him, as the defense under Montgomery in 2017 was at or near the bottom of nearly every single statistical category, and Montgomery also lost his top two quarterbacks from a year ago.

It is encouraging to hear Montgomery be so confident in his team, but in year three, it is time for some results. Let's hope Montgomery's prediction is true, but if not, this program needs to come back to relevance, and if changes are necessary, they must be done.

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

ONLINE | FULL COLUMN

GOLF continued from A1

with another great showing this weekend at the John Deere Classic with a sixth-place finish. The back-to-back top 10 finishes have brought a lot of attention to Varner and have cemented him as a hot new face on the tour.

The success of Taylor and Varner has positive effects on their careers, but it also brings something to the program at ECU, according to

Sapp. Sapp said he sees the success of his players on the next level as a confidence booster and recruiting tool for the Pirates.

"This really helps Blake's teammates who are seeing a guy they play and practice with (on a) daily basis succeed on the PGA level, and it helps give them the confidence to strive for that kind of success too," Sapp said. "Blake's play coupled with the play Harold has been doing is huge for the program, because when we are out here recruiting players, we can show them that

our program is giving the golfing experience that helps guys make it to the next level."

Expectations will be high as Taylor returns to the Pirates for his junior season and looks to build on his past success with the team. As the Pirates prepare for their fall season, the play and success of Taylor and Varner should offer the team inspiration and confidence as they look to build on the success of last season.

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

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