



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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Thursday, 10.11.18

State of emergency declared

Darby Hubbell
TEC STAFF

Pitt County declared a state of emergency yesterday, along with partially opening its Emergency Operations Center (EOC), as it monitors and prepares for Hurricane Michael.

A Pitt County press release said Hurricane Michael will hit

eastern North Carolina late this afternoon and continue throughout the evening. Though Hurricane Michael will be weakened when it hits Pitt County, citizens should not take the effects of the storm lightly and are encouraged to begin making emergency preparations, according to the press release.

Pitt County will be enacting

several preemptive measures before any potential impacts reach the county.

These measures



Brock Letchworth

include declaring a state of emergency, opening its EOC and the Emergency Population Shelter equipment is being prepared and located, according to the press release. Communication has also been established between Pitt County Emergency Management, all municipalities, first response agencies and the Emergency

Information Page for Pitt County.

Brock Letchworth, public information officer for the city of Greenville, said the city has not activated its EOC. He said city department heads met Tuesday afternoon and went through city preparations.

> **HURRICANE** page A3

University celebrates LGBT

Maggie Riddle
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Pat Polomchak
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



East Carolina University commemorates National Coming Out Day this year with the “Gay? Fine by Me” campaign this afternoon hosted by ECU and the LGBT Resource Office on the Mall.

According to the LGBT Resource Office website, tables will be set up near the Cupola handing out free T-shirts and most importantly, spreading love to all students.

Mark Rasdorf, associate director for the LGBT Resource Office, said the event will be held on the ECU Mall, near the Cupola, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

According to the LGBT Resource Office website, the event will celebrate LGBT pride with the “Gay? Fine by Me” campaign. Rasdorf said the campaign was started by Joseph Lee, a professor in the College of Health and Human Performance at ECU, when he was at Duke University.

“This marks the 30th year of the commemoration of National Coming Out Day,” Rasdorf said. “It was first celebrated on October 11 in 1988 to honor the march on Washington for what was then called Gay and Lesbian Rights.”

Rasdorf said he attended the march in

> **LGBT** page A3



Mark Rasdorf



Members of the 2017 ECU Homecoming Court smile and wave to spectators outside of the Alpha Delta Pi house at last year's homecoming parade.

Pirate TV to channel alumni ECU's homecoming week to kick off Monday

Taylor Mumma
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

As homecoming dawns at East Carolina University next Monday, once again current ECU students and alumni will come together for a week full of traditional events and innovative performances of all kinds.

This year's homecoming theme will be “Pirate TV.” The week will start on Oct. 15 with the Cannonball Kickoff & Involvement Fair at the Mall on main campus from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The following weekdays will include an outdoor movie screening of “Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again” next Monday, a new event called “ThinkFast Game Show” next Thursday in



The Marching Pirates make way down Fifth Street during 2017 parade.

Hendrix Theatre at 7 p.m. and a weeklong canned food drive.

One of the most anticipated events is skit night, which will be held in Minges Coliseum next

routines to the theme of “Pirate TV” all within a five-minute time limit.

The top three winners of skit night will perform at this year's Freeboot Friday homecoming pep rally, which will take place at the corner of Fifth and Evans Street in Five Points Plaza, on Oct. 19 at 5 p.m.

Nick Mudd, a sophomore marketing major and homecoming chair for IFC fraternity Alpha Sigma Phi, said he works with Alpha Sigma Phi's partnering sorority Delta Zeta to ensure everything runs “perfectly” and all participants

> **HOCOMING** page A7

Bands to rock for relief

The Avett Brothers to headline Florence benefit concert

Blessing Aghimien
TEC STAFF

With the aftermath of Hurricane Florence still present in many areas along the East Coast of the United States, several artists are set to join forces in Greenville next month to help the recovery efforts in the best way they know how — through music.

Headlined as “The Concert for Hurricane Florence Relief,” the musical event will take place on Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. in Williams Arena of Minges Coliseum and 100 percent of the proceeds made

from the benefit concert will be donated back to people affected by Hurricane Florence, according to the event's press release.

“The Concert for Hurricane Florence Relief” will be headlined by folk-rock band The Avett Brothers and will additionally feature synthpop band Future Islands and heavy metal band Valient Thorr, both of which have “connections to eastern North Carolina,” according to the benefit concert's press release.

> **CONCERT** page A7



The Avett Brothers' Scott Avett and Jacob Edwards perform.

Fire prevention month comes to Greenville

Summer Tonizzo
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Throughout the month of October, the Greenville Fire/Rescue Department is promoting fire safety and prevention by hosting interactive programs in local schools and other locations around the community.

According to Rebekah Thurston, public information officer for GFR, Fire Prevention Week is an annual event celebrated nationwide during the second week of October. However, in Greenville, Fire Prevention Week is extended and celebrated throughout the entire month of October.

“Right now we have over 70 events and other

> **GFR** page A3

BRIEFS

SAO to host Back to the Future event

East Carolina University's Student Activities and Organization will partner with Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity to host Pirates After Dark: Back to the Future tonight in the Student Recreation Center. The event will serve as a kickoff for the upcoming homecoming festivities.

The event will begin at 9 p.m. and lasts until 1:45 a.m.

Pirates Give to host Service Saturday

Pirates Give will hosts a Service Saturday on Saturday and has aimed the event toward helping the victims of Hurricane Florence. The event is open to all East Carolina University students.

Busses will begin transporting students at 7:30 a.m. from Wright Circle to New Bern where they will have the opportunity to volunteer. Students are expected to return to campus by 4:30 p.m. There are a limited number of spots to attend. Students are encouraged to RSVP

Student Affairs to host cyber awareness speaker

This afternoon Student Affairs will host a speaker from the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) to speak on internet safety. The free event will take place in Mendenhall Student Center, room 244.

The hour long Wellness Passport event will begin at noon.

The Gray Gallery to host conversation with Jessamyn

This evening the Gray Gallery will host a conversation with New York based curator, writer and co-director of the Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark, Jessamyn Fiore. The event will take place at the Jenkins Fine Arts Center located within the Gray Gallery.

This free event begins at 4 p.m. and will last until 5 p.m.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS



In the Oct. 4 edition of The East Carolinian, an inaccurate headshot of Brianna Hudson was published. This is the correct image of Brianna Hudson.

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



CONTRIBUTED BY IAN BRODIE

Ian Brodie will come to ECU's campus today to discuss the topic of fake news, which has become increasingly common on social media in recent years.

Professor talks fake news

ECU invites guest speaker to discuss the other 'F-word'

Trajan Warren
TEC STAFF

Fake news and political humor will be discussed tonight by Ian Brodie in Bate Building located on East Carolina University's main campus in a lecture series co-sponsored by the Department of English, the School of Communication and the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

According to the flyer publicized around ECU classrooms, the "Fake News and Real Funny: Navigating Political Stance in The Onion, John Oliver and George Carlin" lecture will be given by Brodie at 7 p.m. in Bate Building, room 1032.

Brodie said he is an associate professor of folklore at Cape Breton University in Sydney, Nova Scotia in Canada. Brodie said he has had correspondence with the English department and School of Communication at ECU and wanted to seize an opportunity to speak on the topic of fake news.

Brodie said as a professor of folklore, a multidisciplinary field of study concerned with the documentation and analysis of verbal, customary, musical, material and performance traditions, it is an extremely small discipline with very few folklorists at universities

and sometimes it needs more "visibility."

"Every time I have the opportunity to wave the flag a little bit, I will seize it," Brodie said.

Brodie said his area of research focuses on stand-up comedy from a folklore point of view. He added he has an interest in understanding stand-up comedy as a "professionalization" of the small talk and humorous conversation we engage in on a daily basis.

Brodie said stand-up is always directed toward an audience and involves the shared experiences and understanding that a comedian has in relation to the audience.

"Part of the stand-up toolkit is developing an audience, developing material that works outside of that shared worldview," Brodie said.

Brodie said during his lecture, he plans to focus on the satirical newspaper, The Onion, the structure of John Oliver's television show "Last Week Tonight" and the stand-up of George Carlin. Brodie said he plans to speak on how satirical pieces of work

" I tend to view political humor for the humor part, not the politics part, but that's not the case for most people who appreciate political humor. "

-Jody Baumgartner

can be taken out of context when presented on social media platforms and influence people's opinions on politics.

Brodie said satirical pieces such as The Onion can become lost in translation.

"We all know that it (The Onion) is a satirical paper and that's the kind of thing that it does, but what happens in the age of social media is when it's sort of removed from its original source of the website and shared on people's pages and becomes mistaken for actual news," Brodie said.

Andrea Kitta, ECU associate professor in the department of English, said the line between satire and news which is actually fake, has become "blurry."

"There's some truth to some of those things," Kitta said. "They look kind of like what life is really like, even though they're not exactly real life. So they sound like things that could be true but maybe necessarily aren't."

Kitta said she feels talking about where and how people get their news is crucial. She said having a grasp on different sources of information and not dismissing political humor is important.

Kitta said understanding sources and how to find reliable information is very important.

Jody Baumgartner, professor in the political science department, said satire is "fundamentally" a form of political discourse and

a different way for people to discuss their opinions on politics. Baumgartner said he recognizes how satire is used for "speaking truth to power," even though for him it is just humor.

"I tend to view political humor for the humor part, not the politics part, but that's not the case for most people who appreciate political humor," Baumgartner said. "Viewing political humor definitely affects the way people understand politics."

Brodie said two lessons he would like those who attend the lecture to take away include why some jokes are found funny in politics and why are some not. He hopes those who attend can see humor as a serious outlet which allows people to discuss important topics.

For Brodie, the issue of fake news is relevant today because to a certain group of people, it is thought of as factual news. The people in that group may come from a source they might assume is "reliable." Brodie said fake news is important to consider because it prompts people to actively become more informed.

"It's important to consider, not simply because it's a matter of not trying to come up with some kind of rubric but actually getting the actual information that we need to be an informed citizen," Brodie said.

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

>> PLAN TO GO

WHAT: Fake News and Real Funny: Navigating Political Stance in The Onion, John Oliver and George Carlin

WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHERE: Bate Building room 1032



Andrea Kitta

Race in Our Space discusses religion

Ethan Hageman
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's Department of Student Activities and Organization continues Race in Our Space tonight with its second panel to discuss race and religion in Mendenhall Student Center.

According to Haley Creef, junior economic major, Race in Our Space will begin at 6 p.m. in MSC, room 221, as a way to approach racial issues and tensions held on ECU's campus regarding religion.

Creef said she pointed to the past success of the event as the reason why the Department of Student Affairs chose to dive deeper into the topic of religious segregation this semester and chose on discussing how race affects religious environments.

"It's (Race in Our Space) kind of been a hit with some students and we decided to keep it and this topic (race and religion) specifically we kind of just wanted to explore how race affects different religious environments and people's experiences within those different

cultures," Creef said.

Alex Dennis, assistant director in the ECU Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, said he believes this is an excellent topic to have a discussion on, due to the segregation of race still found in religion today.

Dennis said Race in Our Space is about hearing everyone's perspective and respecting someone's opinion no matter what one might choose to believe in.

"We start it as a panel discussion but it very much becomes a whole room discussion," Dennis said.

"Because we encourage audience members to ask questions of the panel, to respond to the questions we ask the panel, to share their experiences."

Junior public health and African American studies double major, Alexandria Whitted, who will be on the panel tonight, said it is important to have a dialogue about race and religion on ECU's campus because of the large amounts of diversity in which students share amongst each other.

"Everybody doesn't have the same opportunities to get, like, I guess access to funding, startup organizations or get access to specific buildings and locations," Whitted said.

Whitted said she believes although there is no racial tension, ECU and the students within the University community are still far from perfect when it comes to racial equality.

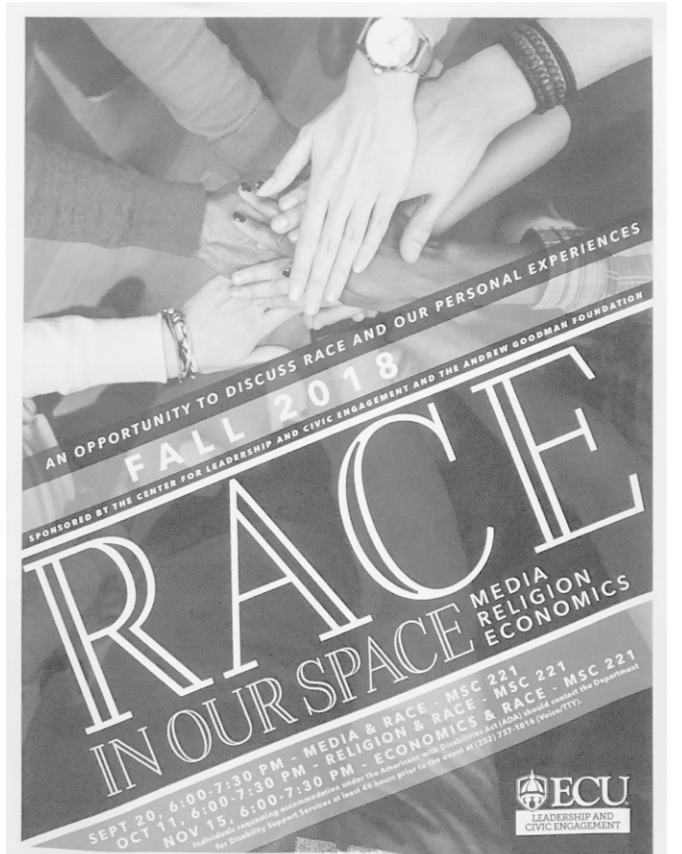
According to Whitted, churches still remain too segregated in her opinion.

Whitted said she looks at her hometown of Chadbourne, North Carolina as a "lead by example" community. She said her church leadership has taken positive steps to become more integrated and open minded with others of the community.

"It starts with your leadership, so you need, I guess, your pastors, your deacons, your church leaders, they have to first be one accord," Whitted said.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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



COURTESY OF ECU LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Race in Our Space meets for the second time to discuss religion.

HURRICANE

continued from A1

Letchworth said Greenville is going through the city in preparation of Michael and making sure the catch basins, or storm drains, are clear to help with the expected flash flooding this weekend.

Letchworth said East Carolina University students should do their best to stay off the roads and stay inside while the impacts of Michael

hit, in case of flash flooding.

“I think we are pretty well prepped and ready to go,” Letchworth said. “With us (Greenville), it’s flash flooding and it’s in some of the same areas where we generally see it.”

According to a North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NC DPS) press release, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency yesterday and waived certain transportation rules. The press release said forecasters are expecting the storm to bring strong

wind and rain to North Carolina.

The NC DPS press release said Cooper signed Executive Order No. 74, which declared a state of emergency for 66 North Carolina counties, including Pitt County.

Hurricane Michael made landfall along the Florida panhandle yesterday afternoon, though it is predicted to curve across Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, the press release said.

The NC DPS press release said tropical storm force winds began

arriving in the state last night and will continue into this morning. Winds could be strong enough to bring down trees weakened by Florence and rip tarps from roofs of Florence-damaged homes, the press release said.

Cooper said in the NC DPS press release, state emergency management officials are working with local and federal counterparts to prepare North Carolina for possible impacts from Michael. The press release said Cooper activated 150 National Guard troops, who were expected to report

for duty yesterday afternoon.

“The last thing people cleaning up from Florence need right now is more wind and rain. But this storm is coming, and we will be ready for it,” Cooper said in the NC DPS press release.

The NC DPS press release said additional storm safety tips can be found on the free ReadyNC mobile app or online at readync.org.

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

LGBT

continued from A1

Washington in 1988 and said since then, the LGBT community has used National Coming Out Day as a source of pride, as it falls in LGBT History Month.

Rasdorf, having come out himself in 1982, said the holiday is not intended for people to specifically come out on that day. Instead, National Coming Out Day is intended to serve as one cohesive symbolic day for everyone who has come out to the world.

“The journey of discovery and coming out is unique to each person,” Rasdorf said. “I don’t personally believe that anybody ever marks the calendar and says ‘I’m going to come out on this day.’ Each person does it when they are ready, and it is also a lifelong process.”

Rasdorf said he was involved in LGBT awareness at Appalachian State University while getting his graduate degree in clinical mental health counseling. Rasdorf said he was organizing a candlelight vigil for an epidemic of suicides within gay youth and it remains an annual tradition at ASU. Rasdorf added he then took over as the director of ECU’s LGBT Resource Office in December 2013.

Rasdorf said the main goal of the office is to create community and offer support for LGBT students struggling



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
ECU’s LGBT Resource Office takes group picture of alliance in front of the main campus fountain at last year’s event.

with identity and orientation. He said the LGBT office is dedicated to helping students succeed.

Rasdorf said a major part of the LGBT Resource Office is to promote acceptance across the entire campus and beyond into the Greenville community.

“One of our principal operating guidelines here is that we don’t ask identity questions,” Rasdorf said. “We’re here to serve all students, faculty, staff, prospective students, their families, alumni, whoever.”

Rasdorf said the resource office will occasionally receive calls from people around the Greenville area

asking for help and guidance due to the lack of resources available for the LGBT community.

Noah Lee, junior sociology major, said National Coming Out Day is a day of celebration for members of the LGBTQ community whether they have come out or not yet. He said this is a day on campus where the goal is to spread love and acceptance.

Lee said he came out when he was around the age of 13. One of the reasons Lee said this day is particularly important is because the day truly affirms what he and many others have gone through. He added the day proves they will

always have their own community.

Lee said National Coming Out Day somehow makes a lot of the work he has done, along with so many others in the LGBT community, feel like it was all worth it in the end.

“As a 13-year-old, if I had seen all of the tabling and rainbows around campus, I think I would have been a lot less scared,” Lee says.

Lee said he is glad the ECU LGBT Resource Office is able to be a “beacon of light” to show those who may not have come out yet that there is a community here at ECU for them to stand together as one.

Yajaira Chaires, a senior

microbiology major, said she feels the same way as Lee. She said National Coming Out Day is a celebration, not only of the LGBT community, but of all the allies who reside within the community as well.

“The slogan is targeting more allies, because it’s like, if I wear this shirt, it doesn’t necessarily say that I’m gay,” Chaires said. “It just says that I’m OK with you being gay.”

Chaires said the ECU LGBT Resource Office provides a safe place for her personally, and people she regards as family. She added the ECU LGBT Resource Office included other shirts, also available at the tables on the Mall, for those in the LGBT community to increase visibility and bring the community closer together. She said these shirts say the words “Out,” “Proud,” and “Equal,” to show gay, bisexual and transgender pride.

Rasdorf said for those interested, a group rainbow picture will be taken at 4 p.m. at the Cupola to commemorate the event, with everyone wearing their “Gay? Fine by Me” shirts as a sign of solidarity.

According to Rasdorf, there will be a new location for the LGBT Resource Office in the new student center, currently under construction. He said the newly renamed Dr. Jesse Peel LGBTQ Center will be the largest LGBT resource office in the UNC system.

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

GFR

continued from A1

programs planned at daycares, elementary schools and even senior centers,” Thurston said. “This month offers us a time to really focus in and make sure that we’re getting to every single person that we want to get to.”

Thurston said these fire prevention events are expected to actively promote fire safety and fire awareness across the entire community. She said, as of Tuesday, GFR has already gone to 20 to 25 events this month.

Many of the programs are geared toward kids, as the belief is that people can never learn about fire safety too early, or too late, holds true to the organization, Thurston said. Children and senior citizens are notably more likely to be at a higher risk for fire-related deaths, Thurston said, because they may not be as mobile on their own or have the correct knowledge to get themselves out safely.

“I believe we’re going to at least 80 percent of the daycares here in Greenville this month which is really exciting,” Thurston said. “We love teaching the kids. It’s so important to learn at a young age what to do if there is a fire in your home and how to call 911 if there’s an emergency.”

According to Thurston, the programs, which will mostly be demonstrated in Pitt County schools, range from activities such as kindergarten fire safety stations to puppet

shows demonstrating fire safety tactics.

Thurston said Fire Safety Stations provide young elementary school students the chance to explore five different activities where they will be given the opportunity to interact and engage in several games.

“The stations include lessons such as how to call 911, what a smoke alarm sounds like and what to do if there is a fire at your house,” according to a GFR press release.

The activities are tailored to the specific groups present and the size of the audience at the events, Thurston said.

GFR Lt. Greg Gibson has been in attendance at a number of fire prevention programs through the years as he has worked for the organization.

“It’s important to promote fire safety and prevention in schools because it’s important for kids to know what to do in case there is a fire since they can be deadly,” Gibson said. “In response to the programs, the kids I’ve seen are always very excited to learn.”

Generally, fire prevention programs provide a positive experience, Gibson said. He said the kids enjoy seeing and hearing about firefighters, fire trucks and all the “bells and whistles” which go along with the job.

Recently, Walton Academy was visited by GFR for a Fire Safety Station. Anna Little, a teacher at the academy, said the program has annually provided a wonderful learning experience for the students.



SUMMER TONIZZO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Greenville Fire/Rescue visits local elementary schools across Greenville to discuss fire safety.

“The activities are hands on and engage the students. It gives the kids a chance to interact, which in turn gives them more of a memorable experience,” Little said. “It’s extremely important to teach children how to be safe in case of a fire.”

According to Thurston, Fire Prevention Month activities are not only geared toward kids but also adults. She said there are a number of other activities throughout the month of October aimed to inform an older audience.

There will be a Healthy Aging Conference held on Tuesday at Grace Church off Charles Boulevard, according to the GFR press release.

This event will be hosted by the Pitt Aging Coalition. Firefighters will provide education on fall and fire prevention as well as have free giveaways to senior adults around the local community.

Additional upcoming events being promoted by GFR during the month of October include a special story hour event being held on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. located at Sheppard Memorial Library, according to the GFR press release.

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

WZMB 97.3 FM

LIL BABY HOMECOMING CONCERT

Enjoy music and free swag from WZMB prior to the Lil Baby Homecoming Concert.

October 16th | 6:00 PM | Outside of Wright Auditorium

the Big VAPE THEORY

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kangertech **JUUL** **Vaperz Cloud** **LOTUS**

OUR VIEW

Grade scale change requires research

East Carolina University's Student Government Association met in Rivers on Oct. 3 to confirm six nominees, one in which discussed the possibility of adding an A+ to the current grading scale. While the A+ scale is used at many major universities, some faced setbacks when adding the above and beyond grade.

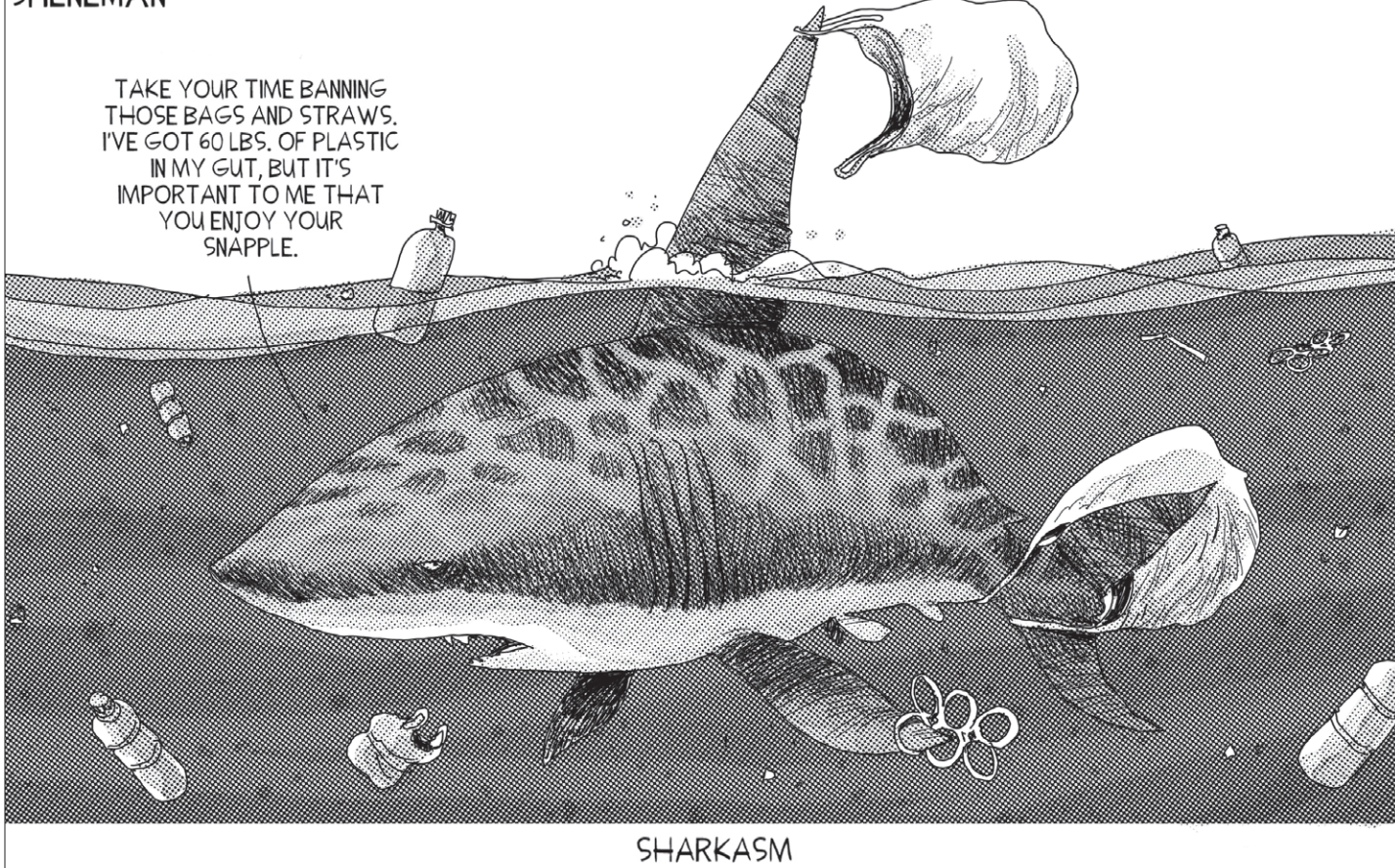
We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe adding the A+ to ECU's grade scale would help motivate and reward successful students. However, SGA, the administration and the student body should do in-depth research into the pros and cons as the proposal progresses.

According to SGA speaker of the assembly Colin Johnson, North Carolina State University has already implemented the A+ into its grading scale. He said there are both potential positives and setbacks. An A+ being the highest grade allowed would result in a 4.0 just like an A.

According to Jordan Koonts, SGA president, there's no guarantee the A+ scale will be denied or confirmed. Koonts said any change made to syllabi or grading scales are made by the Faculty Senate.

While the idea of an A+ scale seems as though it could help deserving students, ECU, Faculty Senate and SGA need to take time to decide if it's worth incorporating into our classrooms.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



SHARKASM

Politics divide people

Free the Facts provides political engagement for all



Venkatram Gopal
GUEST COLUMNIST

Stop me if you've heard this one before: six blind men encounter an elephant for the first time. They place their hands on the animal to figure out what it looks like.

Later, the men have a heated debate, each one defending their woefully incomplete view of the animal. One man felt the trunk; he argues it's a serpentine beast. Another felt the tusk and insists it's covered in a shell, and so on.

When I was in college, public policy debates were a lot like that parable. I hate to admit it, but my fellow students and I could be a lot like the blind men: arguing without a complete picture of the issues at hand.

Every generation probably looks back at their college years and feels that way. What makes the situation unique for you and me is that we're grappling with a lack of information in a time of great polarization and hyper-partisanship. That's a dangerous mix that has serious consequences for our democracy.

Between 2000 and 2016, the number of college freshman who described their political leanings as "middle of the road" dropped by nearly 10 percent. In my experience, this hardening of political views makes people more likely to simply adopt the position endorsed by their political party — and less inspired to seek out new information that might challenge their assumptions.



COURTESY OF TWITTER

Free The Facts, a political information organization, speaking at the American University.

That approach has done little to advance our national debate about important issues, and it's left young Americans feeling pessimistic about our future. According to the MTV/AP-NORC Youth Political Pulse Survey, nearly seven in 10 young Americans think our country's politics are "dysfunctional," in part because people can't come together and work out their differences.

There is one bright spot in the survey: 79 percent believe our generation would do a better job of running the country. I agree, but we will have to lead differently. Fortunately, Free The Facts wants to give us that opportunity.

The summer before my senior year, I attended an event that Free The Facts held for interns in Washington, D.C. Truth be told, I showed up for the free food, but I got involved and brought them to my campus twice because of what I learned.

Many organizations want to get students civically engaged, but most of them serve a partisan aim. Free The Facts is different. Its goal is to get America's brightest minds working on our toughest policy challenges — and through its college tour and leadership programs, the organization supports students who want to get involved, regardless of what party they vote for or which policy solution they want to pursue.

Free The Facts can come to your campus to help you learn everything you need to know about America's entitlement programs. Without the facts, we're all just blind people arguing over an elephant. That's why you should email contact@freefacts.org to see how you can get involved.

Venkatram is a scholar at Free the Facts and a guest columnist. To submit a guest column, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Serving ECU since 1925, The East Carolinian is an independent, student-run publication distributed Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year and Wednesdays during the summer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, columnists and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration at East Carolina University or the Student Media Board. Columns and reviews are the opinions of the writers; "Our View" is the opinion of The East Carolinian Board of Opinions.

As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

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Fake news requires diligence



Robbie Milton III
TEC STAFF

Robbie's Rumbles

With recent events such as Hurricane Florence and Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court, there is always someone or some bot who shares something that is

truly false or a real event that is framed to spin a story which is also false.

The most recent piece of evidence I saw of the latter version was a photo claiming to be of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, who accused Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her when they were both teenagers, standing with former United States President Bill Clinton. Clinton had his arm around her while they both smiled. However, with one search of Snopes.com, I found this photo wasn't of Dr. Ford, but a different woman.

I'm not here to talk about the Kavanaugh Senate hearings or anything else, I am just here to vent about the ignorant people who keep making and sharing information that is truly fake news.

The more people share and fabricate false items, the harder it is for real news to be shared and trusted and just furthers complications that already exist around events. The complications that

“ When people use social media as a main source to gather news and information to formulate their own views and opinions it can be dangerous. ”

come from creating and sharing things that are fake can damage all sorts of people and viewpoints.

When I say that these fabrications hurt people, I mean it can fuel convictions about different current events which lead to families and friends fighting. With this fighting can come losing great bonds, grudges being formed or even worse actual violence toward one another.

There are too many people who form their opinions or views from social media news posts because it's an easier than doing in depth researching of topics. When people use social media as a main source to gather news and information to formulate their own views and opinions, it can be dangerous. Its possibility to be dangerous is too great especially when people and even bots want to make and share content.

In general, this constant bullshit of sharing and creating fake content or fake news creates way more confusion and anger in the world and it's getting to be

too much. By this I mean the world is filled with a lot of anger and confusion and when this content adds to these natural issues then there is just a *giant* spike in issues. When this spike occurs, more events happen creating more issues. It is a chain reaction and it truly isn't needed in the world.

The reality is that people need to do more due diligence before they share any alleged news content on social media. A great resource I mentioned earlier is snopes.com, sometimes they won't have enough information on a topic to fact check it, but if the article or post is shared enough and has enough evidence to verify it as true or false it will say so. If and when people come across fake or even borderline posts on social media, they should report it so that the social media platform can work to remove the fake content.

Robbie is a senior majoring in communication. To submit a guest column, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Part Time Assistant Fleet Manager Needed. NC Driving School in Winterville, NC needs a person to Transport/clean vehicles/keep maintenance

records. 20 hours per week. Send resume to atmoore75@gmail.com

FOR RENT

Classic Carolina Homes ECU is now preleasing homes available

August 2019!! All house sizes available and all within walking distance to ECU. View homes at www.carolinahomesecu.com. Email jtant@suddenlink.net or call 252-327-4433 for list of available houses.

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Good fortune hits your family accounts, although work could interfere with playtime. Get feedback from an expert. Follow the rules closely. Chop wood, carry water.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Join forces with someone who shares a passion. Make an excellent connection. Keep your sense of humor; chaos abounds, and plans could go awry.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Balance a busy schedule with stress reduction time. Don't push too hard; something could break. Postpone unnecessary tasks. Get team support. Stay in communication.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Relax and enjoy sweet moments with beloved people. Don't try to force an issue. Stay flexible with the schedule, and it all works out.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Tend your garden, and it flowers. Fill your home with love, and enjoy the response. Expect some chaos, and cook up a feast.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- A new assignment has your attention. Creative ideas abound. Jot them down with visual displays. Organize your thoughts, and use your persuasive arts.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Keep generating positive cash flow. You can get what you need. An interesting theory may not work in practice. Stick to tested routines.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- You can do more than you thought. You're stronger and more attractive. Enjoy the confidence boost. Conserve resources and power into a personal project.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 5 -- Rest, recuperate and let your mind wander. Nature restores your spirit. Listen to birdsong. Keep your feet on the ground. Peaceful introspection rejuvenates you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Together, you can accomplish wonders. Things may not go according to plan. Abandon preconceived notions. Stay in communication with your team, and forge ahead.

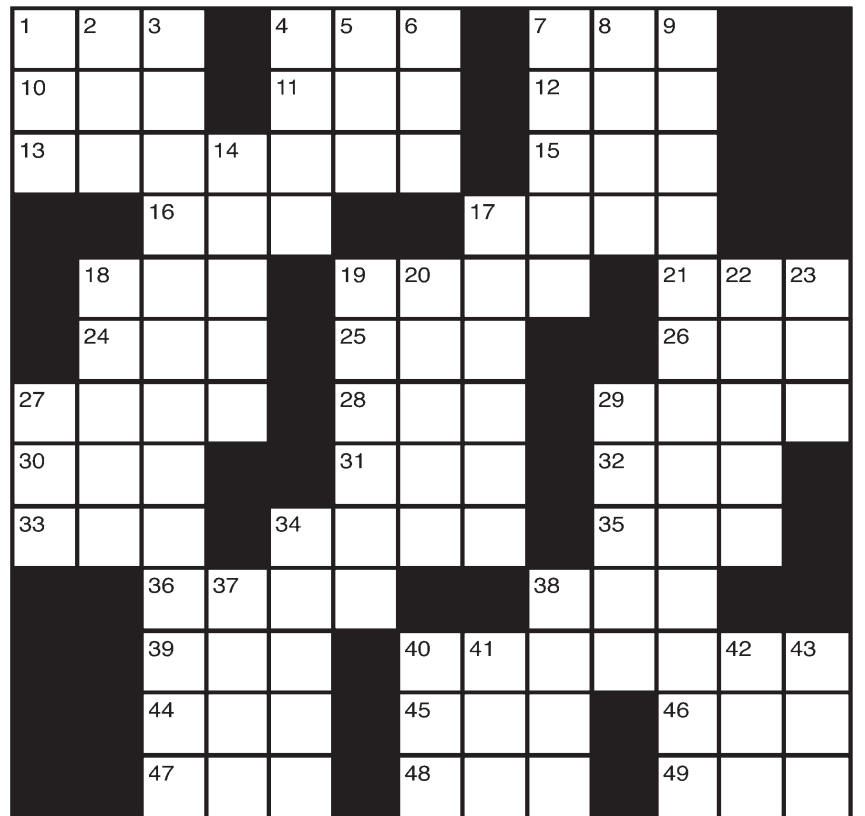
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 9 -- An opportunity for a professional prize opens up. You can get what you need. Talk to your networks. Keep costs down. Make a powerful pitch.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Study goals and destinations take focus. Grab an exciting possibility, and run with it. You get farther than expected. You may not take the expected route.

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



ACROSS

- 1 "___ & Order"
- 4 "___ & Kate Plus 8"
- 7 Reiner or Lowe
- 10 Actress Larter
- 11 Yoko ___
- 12 Mean Amin
- 13 Hamish Linklater's "The New Adventures of Old Christine" role
- 15 "It's Me or the ___"
- 16 Barnyard clucker
- 17 Sage, rosemary or thyme
- 18 Oslo's nation: abbr.
- 19 Farrow and Kirshner
- 21 "One Day ___ Time"
- 24 "Days of ___ Lives"
- 25 Hockey's Bobby
- 26 League for the New York Islanders: abbr.
- 27 "Spin ___"
- 28 Barney Fife's title: abbr.
- 29 "Rock of ___"; classic Protestant hymn
- 30 "Love ___ Many Splendored Thing"
- 31 WSW plus 180°

- 32 Wall and Easy: abbr.
- 33 Title for Cagney and Lacey: abbr.
- 34 Robert of "The Sopranos"
- 35 Revolutionary Guevara
- 36 Howard and Rifkin
- 38 Actor Morton
- 39 Crawling bug
- 40 "Grey's ___"
- 44 "___ 54, Where Are You?"
- 45 Shade tree
- 46 "Norma ___"; Sally Field movie
- 47 Record producer Brian
- 48 Caustic soap ingredient
- 49 Hither and ___

DOWN

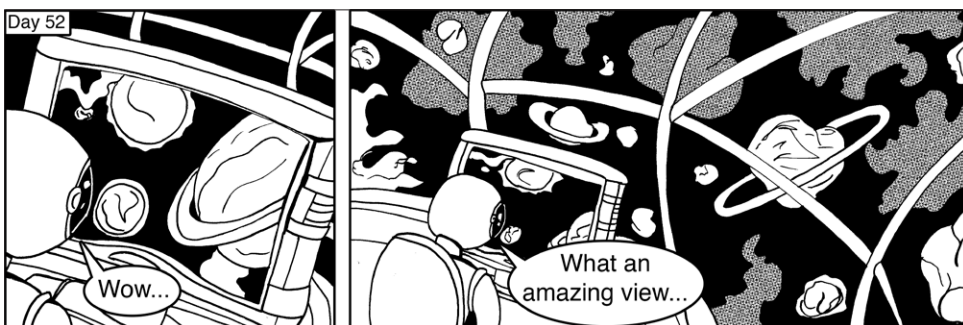
- 1 On the ___; fleeing
- 2 Chicken ___ king
- 3 Anthony LaPaglia's series
- 4 Stossel of "20/20"
- 5 "___ Life to Live"
- 6 "I'm a Big Girl ___"
- 7 Ferris wheels and carousels
- 8 Smell
- 9 "The ___"; series for Johnny Galecki
- 14 O'Quinn of "Lost"
- 17 Actress Tess
- 18 Clamor
- 19 Tyra Banks and Cameron Diaz, once
- 20 Ryan of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
- 22 "___ Boots Are Made for Walkin'"
- 23 Jolson and Molinaro
- 27 "El ___"; Charlton Heston movie
- 29 Famous English racecourse
- 34 Preface, for short
- 37 ___ even keel
- 38 "___ and the Fatman"
- 40 Large Internet provider
- 41 Negative vote
- 42 Chairman ___ Tse-tung
- 43 Craving

Solution from 10/04

L	A	W	J	O	N	R	O	B			
A	L	I	O	N	O	I	D	I			
M	A	T	T	H	E	W	D	O	G		
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COMICS

ONE AND ONLY

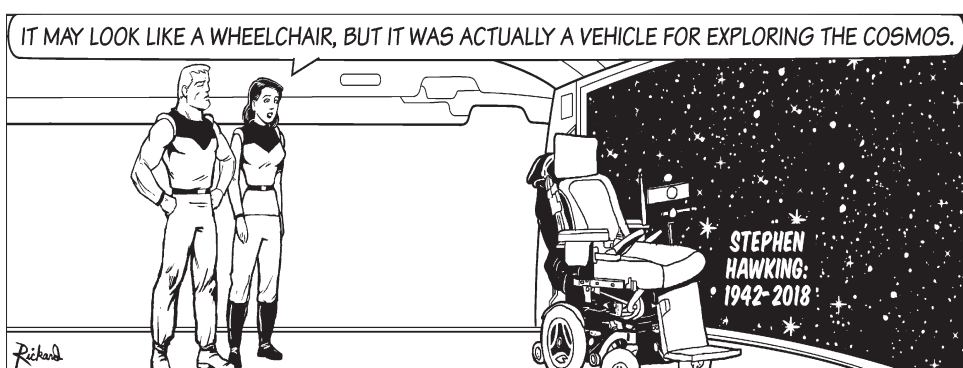


BRIAN JUDGE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

BEST IN SHOW



BREWSTER ROCKIT



SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level:



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

Solution from 10/04

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

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

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TODAY

Aerial Yoga Class
Purple Blossom
Yoga Studio
6 p.m.

Music Bingo
Uptown Brewing
Company
7 p.m.

TOMORROW

Free Friday Floats
ECU Adventure
Center
4 p.m.

MJQ at Freeboot Friday
Five Points Plaza
5 p.m.

**African American
Music Series**
Emerge Gallery and
Art Center
7 p.m.

Jordy Searcy
2403 Slay Dr
7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Coffee Club Run
Blackbeard Coffee
Roasters
7 a.m.

Wingski's Food Truck
Pitt Street
Brewing Company
5 p.m.

**David Dixon
Live Music**
Pitt Street
Brewing Company
8 p.m.

SUNDAY

**Hang Gliding
Day Trip**
ECU Adventure
Center
11 a.m.

Beer and Yoga
Pitt Street
Brewing Company
1:30 p.m.

Jazz in the Park
Greenville Toyota
Amphitheater
3 p.m.

Fall play to debut tonight

Chauncey Scarlet Gilliam
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's School of Theatre and Dance will present the opening night of *Peter and the Starcatcher*, a production which combines grown-up theatricality and a feel-good message, tonight for attendees of all ages.

The play tells a backstory of the character Peter Pan and is based on the 2004 children's novel, *Peter and the Starcatchers*, which was written by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson. The play provides a backstory for original characters such as Peter Pan, Mrs. Darling, Tinker Bell and Hook. It also serves as a prequel to J. M. Barrie's "Peter and Wendy."

Billed as "a play with music," *Peter and the Starcatcher* is different from the majority of theater productions put on by ECU in the past, according to senior theatre arts major Kelly Toland.

"In musicals, there's so much more music. In our show, we maybe only have a few big moments where it's like, 'Oh, people are singing right now,'" said Toland, who was cast in "Peter and The Starcatcher" as the female lead character, Molly Aster.

The amount of musical numbers is not the only difference *Peter and the Starcatcher* holds when compared to other productions, for this play is also structured differently by set design and overall plot.

"I think a play with music is a really good way to describe it (*Peter and the Starcatcher*). This play takes little elements from a whole bunch of different things which is why it works so well," Toland said. "I think it (the play) requires the audience and the actors to work with their imagination."

Aside from the combination of different theatrical elements in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, interacting



From left: Joseph Webster and Wain Richardson exchange lines on McGinnis' stage at yesterday's dress rehearsal. DJ CURRY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

with the audience is central to the performance, according to cast members of this year's fall play. In the opinion of several cast members, including senior theatre arts major Matt Donahue, creating a sense that the audience is involved in the production is one of the most exciting parts of the *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

"My favorite part of this production is that it's a special kind of show. We break the fourth wall a ton," Donahue, who plays supporting character Smee, said. "I really feel like people are going to be a part of the production with us."

The messages of the show celebrate the values of having hope and holding bravery, according to the play's director, Patricia Clark. She added throughout the show, these messages will play out in a variety of ways, ranging from the subtle to the obvious.

"It's a wonderful story for

everybody. There's a great line in the show (which states), 'To have faith is to have wings, and so that's really a message for everyone (to take in) — to have faith in everything,' Clark, who is also a professor in the ECU SOTD, said. "It's ('Peter and the Starcatcher') a beautiful story about hope and dedicating yourself to friendship, love and belief in humanity."

While preparing for the debut of *Peter and the Starcatcher*, the cast and crew of the show were faced with an unwanted natural disruption in the form of Hurricane Florence, which interrupted the cast and crew's practice schedule and show date, which was initially supposed to run from Sept. 25 to Sept. 29.

Despite bringing setbacks for the production, senior theatre arts major Drew Wells said the unexpected pause came with a silver lining.

"Coming back (to campus),

it was like looking at it with fresh eyes. When I read the show or when we're on stage doing the show, every night, there's something new I pick up on," Wells, who plays the titular role of Peter Pan, said. "On the surface, it's very simple, very straightforward (and) it's a lot of fun, but if you're pay attention there's all kinds of little tie-ins."

Performances of *Peter and the Starcatcher* will be held at 8 p.m. in McGinnis Theatre's Loessin Playhouse starting tonight through Saturday and matinee showings of the play will be held on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Tickets for the play are \$10 for students and \$15 for any non-students. To purchase tickets, visit ecuarts.com, call 252-328-4788 or stop by the box offices in Mendenhall and Messick Buildings.

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

ALBUM REVIEW

American Horror Story delivers

"AHS: Apocalypse" effectively fuses fear and the future



Anais Roller
TEC STAFF

The anthology horror television series "American Horror Story" returned to FX for its

eighth season early this month. This season, "AHS: Apocalypse," is a combination of previous seasons such as season one's "Murder House" and season three's "Coven," and tells a thrilling tale about how good and evil finally meet.

"AHS: Apocalypse" begins as an ordinary day in Los Angeles, California, but is quickly set into motion as mobile alerts go off on several of the characters' phones saying they're under attack by nuclear bombs and World War Three is about to begin.

Several characters flee to a sanctuary where they are destined to live, while others are randomly chosen to stay there due to their DNA. To everyone's understanding, the characters in the sanctuary are the last ones standing while the rest of the human population is wiped out or infected by nuclear debris.

Once at the shelter, the characters must abide by specific rules given out by Wilhelmina Venable (Sarah Paulson) and Miriam Mead (Kathy Bates), who run the bunker. The rules consist of strict guidelines such as eating extremely rationed portions of food, wearing purple to mark one's lower status and no physical interactions between any of the chosen survivor. Breaking of any of such rules may result in death, heightening the severity and strictness of the rules the



ONLINE | FULL STORY

COURTESY OF FOX NETWORK

"AHS: Apocalypse," the eighth season of AHS, aired on FX on Sept. 12.

characters must abide by.

Before the end of episode one, viewers are led to believe the survivors are in good hands until it is revealed to the audience that all the rules are made up and are just a part of Wilhelmina and Miriam's master plan. However, the arrival of an unexpected guest at the end of the episode one causes a turn of events.

Michael Landon's arrival to the bunker has offset the dynamic of the house once he announces he has come from the cooperative to choose who is worthy enough to go with him to the better, safe haven. He tells the survivors he will be analyzing them and meeting with them personally before making a final decision. To prove themselves to Landon, characters begin betraying family members or throwing themselves at him to show their worthiness.

In Landon's one-on-one with

every character, he forces each of them to tap into the suppressed side of their minds. Landon also knows certain things about every person that they choose to not acknowledge. For example, in a specific one-on-one with servant character Mallory, he tries to force her to talk about the side of her she chooses to hide, but it backfires.

To Landon's surprise, Mallory isn't just an ordinary servant and is more powerful than he thinks she is. When she chooses to not give in to his manipulation, she unleashes a powerful force which she didn't even know she had. Mallory sets a fire and pushes Landon away from her, resulting in him revealing his true identity as the antichrist.

This moment is when viewers begin to accept that season one's "Murder House" and season three's "Coven" come full circle. Some fans believe Landon is the

evil baby born during "Murder House" and that Mallory is a witch returning from "Coven."

At the end of episode three of "AHS: Apocalypse," the survivors are tricked into eating the forbidden fruit at what they believe to be a fun Halloween party. In a matter of moments, everyone who consumed the forbidden fruit falls to their death and Wilhelmina and Miriam set out for their last target — Landon.

Miriam's decision to shoot Wilhelmina, who she once believed she was programed to, causes a series of unanswered questions for the audience. Meanwhile downstairs, the witches make a return and resurrect three of the poisoned women for the sake of calling them back to their true destiny.

This season of "American Horror Story" is definitely worth a watch. The combination between two popular seasons makes it the more interesting as viewers get to watch the two different storylines come full circle.

However, while "AHS: Apocalypse" can be a great watch, it may still be very confusing for those who haven't seen the previous seasons to enjoy it. The only solution to the confusion may be to continue watching the season for more clarity and still, clarity isn't a guarantee after watching it in its entirety.

RATING:



4.5 out of 5

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



COURTESY OF TWITTER

From left: Noah Lee, Mia Willis, Mel Llanos, Elishah Byrd and Maya Williams posing for a photo posted on Word of Mouth's Twitter. Word of Mouth is the only poetry-based student organization at ECU.

Poets leave mark on campus

Chloe Easton

FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's very own student-led spoken word organization, Word of Mouth, is providing a safe, judgment-free zone where students can come and express themselves through the art form of poetry.

The organization of poets, writers, lyricists and emcees hold weekly meetings which not only inform members of well known and upcoming poetic artists, but also gives them the chance to perform and practice their own poetic works.

Upon entering each meeting, students can find an atmosphere where members of the organization are ready to show their support toward fellow student poets, according to executive members of the organization.

Co-president of Word of Mouth, Noah Lee, said the organization started because students were craving an organization with a welcoming environment and where they had

the ability to share their art among others. "Word of Mouth is a way to unload (for me), I have (a) support system and I have formed the best relationships with the best people," Lee said.



Noah Lee

Janessa Days, the social media manager for Word of Mouth, said the accepting environment of the poetry organization constantly strives to give members the feeling that what they are doing is important, even if the world around them doesn't make it seem that way.

"Honestly, I don't know if I would still be alive without poetry," Days said. "I needed a way to express myself and Word of Mouth was it."

College Union Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPSI), the largest collegiate-level poetry

slam in the world, is an opportunity for student poets to showcase their art and develop their writing and performance skills, according to the CUPSI official website. Since 2008, Word of Mouth has attended the CUPSI to compete for top honors against collegiate slam teams from all across the United States. Recent competitions have sent the team around the country to compete in states such as Virginia, Illinois, Texas and Colorado.

"(The CUPSI) is an emotional experience where you are not only able to do something you love, but you also get to visit a new city and do all the tourist attractions in-between," Days said.

The CUPSI, according to Days, has also been a place where members have been able to meet and perform in front of their favorite poets and other well-established poets from across the country.

Word of Mouth will hold an upcoming poetry slam event later this month to

encourage others to join its organization and to select members to join its competing team for the upcoming CUPSI competition in April 2019.

"We're (Word of Mouth) is always accepting of new members," Nykasia King, the co-president of Word of Mouth, said. "We would love for more students to come out and get into the poetry scene."

In order to join the organization or find out more information on Word of Mouth and how you can compete in this year's CUPSI, King said she encourages students to attend Word of Mouth's weekly meetings on Sundays in Bate room 1018 at 4 p.m.



Janessa Days

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

HOMECOMING

continued from A1

in their skit "do the best they possibly can." Mudd said with his experience of dancing in last year's skit performance, he is very excited to see how his team and the others will do in this year's competition.

The students of Alpha Sigma Phi and Delta Zeta have been working two to three days a week to make sure their performance brings home the title as this year's skit champion, according to Mudd.

"Working with Delta Zeta has been very fun and entertaining," Mudd said. "(Having) everyone meeting new people and interacting through something we put on for the school really gives everyone a sense of school spirit."

Following the Oct. 19 Freeboot Friday pep rally will be the Homecoming Parade, which is set to take place next Saturday at 9 a.m. at Five Point Plaza on Fifth and Evans Street. For the parade, participating organizations will debut "Pirate TV" themed floats to the Greenville community and their competition, only to be judged by a small panel of members from the homecoming committee.

The week will come to a close during halftime at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, where this year's ECU homecoming king and queen will be crowned and the winning organization of the Spirit Cup will be announced.

Voted on by the student community, there were 19 women and 14 men eligible for

the homecoming crown. More than 1,400 votes were collected through PiratePort starting on Oct. 3, according to members of the 2018 ECU Homecoming Committee, with the voting poll closing to students yesterday night at 11:59 p.m.

"This is my first time voting for homecoming queen and king ever, being that we never had something like this at my high school," Tierra Grant, a sophomore intended nursing major and sorority member of Kappa Delta, said. "I loved how we, as a sorority, got to nominate the candidates we wanted. It made the process more fair and not too much like a popularity contest."

Sydney McLeod, a senior marketing major, was elected as the chair of the ECU Homecoming Committee in April. In order to

make this year's homecoming "a memorable one," McLeod said she has been working very hard to plan events and festivities for the ECU and greater Greenville community.

"Homecoming is about taking the time to look around and realize what a great Pirate community we have here," McLeod said.

Along with her own work ethic, McLeod added the members of the ECU Homecoming Committee have been working very hard to make this year's homecoming week "one to remember." Made up of more than 30 students, the ECU Homecoming Committee is

divided into five subcommittees — Cannonball, Banner and Skit, Parade, Canned Food Drive and Marketing — and meets weekly to discuss planning strategies for the homecoming events to which they are assigned.

"We have all been giving it 110 percent since the school year has kicked off and I am confident that it will all be worth it when we see everyone having fun at all of our events," McLeod said.

For more general information about this year's homecoming week and the full schedule of upcoming homecoming events, visit the ECU Homecoming 2018 webpage or follow ECU Homecoming on Twitter and Instagram.

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

CONCERT

continued from A1

"We are honored by the opportunity to contribute to our friends and neighbors affected by Hurricane Florence," Seth Avett, one of the lead singers and founding members of The Avett Brothers, said in a press release announcing the event. "We hope this performance not only provides some financial relief for victims of the storm but also is an occasion to celebrate the resilience of the people of North Carolina."

Formed in 2000, The Avett Brothers are made up of sibling founding members Seth and Scott Avett, along with Bob Crawford and Joe Kwon. The band combines genres such as bluegrass, country, punk, folk, rock and roll, indie rock, honky tonk and ragtime to produce a "novel, unique sound of their own," according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

The band has been nominated for three

Grammy awards and has released nine studio albums together. The Avett Brothers' latest album, *True Sadness*, was released in 2016 and debuted No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 200 chart.

When it comes to the headlining band's ties to the greater eastern region of North Carolina, The Avett Brothers originated in Concord and often tours in cities across the state. As for its Greenville ties, Scott is an alumnus of East Carolina University, where the musician earned his bachelor of science degree in communication in 1999 and a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting the following year.

After finding out about "The Concert for Hurricane Florence Relief" via the events page on Facebook, ECU student Lauren Thornsby said she was excited to attend, especially because she has been a long time

fan of The Avett Brothers.

"The Avett Brothers are such a talented group of people and I can't wait to see them live," Thornsby, a junior marketing major, said. "It's awesome to know that they're a band who hasn't forgotten where they came from, even after making it big."

Hurricane Florence officially made landfall near Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina on Sept. 14. It weakened from a Category 4 storm to a Category 1 storm at landfall, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.

Hurricane Florence's slow pace throughout the Tar Heel state created significant damage, with record-breaking amounts of heavy rainfall, areas of flash flooding, numerous power outages, evacuation orders and the demolishments of homes, businesses, trees and more. As of yesterday, three weeks after the storm made landfall, the North Carolina death toll rose to 40, according to the state's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.



Seth Avett

ECU student Brock Stewart, who currently resides in Wilmington, said he saw the magnitude of Hurricane Florence "firsthand." The sophomore construction management major added he encourages the Greenville community to attend and contribute to the Concert for Hurricane Florence Relief for the cause rather than for the celebrity headliner.

"I like The Avett Brothers and Future Islands personally, but this event is bigger than the musical acts performing there," Stewart said. "The music is a great bonus, but I just hope people who attend the benefit concert are more proud that their money will be going toward a forgotten cause."

Tickets for the general public are set to go on sale today, with upper level tickets seats costing \$65 and lower level tickets seats costing \$75. Tickets can be purchased by phone by calling 800-DIAL-ECU (800-342-5328) or online at the official ECU Tickets' website.

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

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TINA GARRETT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina University football team practices in preparation for its game against the University of Houston. The Pirates are coming off a poor loss to AAC opponent, Temple University, 49-6.

>> FOOTBALL

Defense looks for consistency

Dylan Johnson
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University defense has been much-improved this year as opposed to last season, but the Pirate defense was shredded in a 49-6 loss against Temple University last weekend.

Defensive coordinator David Blackwell, the architect of the defensive turnaround this season, was fired up and angered by the performance against Temple. He expects his players to feel the same.

"Absolutely, they better be mad, because I'm mad as hell," Blackwell said. "They better have seen it all week, because that's not the expectation. Ten out of 17 on third down? The amount of yards and points we gave up? Not the expectation. Period. I don't care who we are playing. I don't care if you roll out the New England Patriots, we don't expect to give up those points and yards."

The Pirates allowed the Owls to convert 10 third downs on 17 attempts. This was a common theme which came up from head coach Scottie Montgomery, Blackwell and the

players. Junior defensive tackle Alex Turner agreed with Blackwell when pinpointing exactly what he felt hurt the Pirates the most.

"The biggest thing that stood out was we didn't get off on third downs," Turner said. "They completed 10-of-17 (third downs) and that's just something we hadn't been doing the past couple of weeks, and something we need to do in this game."

Montgomery said ECU has been looking at its third down defense this week and evaluating where it can make some changes.

"I think on third down, as I look at it with self-scouting, we may have gotten a little stagnant on some of the things we're doing on third down," Montgomery said. "And then we needed some adjustments. We've got to use the next 48 hours to make sure we get rid of some of those tendencies in those third down situations."



Scottie Montgomery

ECU has allowed 84 points in the last two games after allowing an average of 22 points per game through the first three games. The first three weeks placed an expectation for the improved defense to continue to perform at that level, but the last two games have more closely resembled the 207 Pirates who gave up 45 points per game.

Blackwell is not prepared to relax off of expecting the Pirate defense to play more like it did in the first three weeks, and not the last two.

"Our standards are our standards and I'm not lowering mine. I know our fans aren't lowering theirs. Coach Mo's not lowering his. That was unacceptable last week. It starts with me and trickles down from there. It's on us to get it done," Blackwell said.

Houston defeated the Pirates 52-27 last season. So far this year, Houston is averaging 50 points per game and is coming to Greenville favored by 15.5 points over ECU. Don't try telling Blackwell that ECU is a long-shot against Houston.

"I don't talk about staying in the contest. I

expect to win this game," Blackwell said. "I don't ever talk about staying in a contest. I don't ever go in thinking that way. We're going to challenge these guys. We're going to come out, we're going to compete, play hard and be aggressive."

Blackwell, an ECU alum, knows the fan base has a similar passion for its football team. That passion extends to an expectation to win games, an expectation Blackwell shares too. With the University of Houston coming to Greenville for a 7 p.m. kickoff at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Blackwell and the Pirates are ready to meet that expectation.

"We've got a passionate fan base here. People expect to win and I expect to win," Blackwell said. "I am never going to coach somebody where I go into the game not expecting to win the football game and not thinking we can win the football game. Our players are going to come out, play their tails off and we're going to compete and I don't care who's lined up over there. We're going to play."

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Volleyball looks to extend win streak

Samantha Walsh
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University volleyball team is traveling the country to take on Wichita State University and the University of Tulsa this weekend.

The first game against Wichita State (8-8, 3-2 AAC) will be held on Friday at 8 p.m. in Wichita, Kansas. The Pirates (12-4, 4-1 AAC) have only faced the Shockers twice all time and lost in both matchups.

"We are working hard as a team to improve our game with each point, but we are definitely trying

to bring home two wins," junior middle blocker Toya Osuegbu said.

As the Pirates compete Friday, Charles Koch Arena can be packed with around 3,000 to 4,000 fans in Wichita State's stadium. Head coach Julie Torbett is hoping her players will feed off having a fun environment and a loud crowd with a lot of energy. The team is excited to take them on and



Julie Torbett

glad they have the opportunity.

"I think going in with four (conference) wins, we know we are able to win against good teams and we've played some good teams already and we've been lucky enough to win," sophomore outside hitter Sydney Kleinman said. "I think having the four wins already really helps us and I think it helps them take us more seriously."

The second game of the weekend will be held Sunday at 2 p.m. in Tulsa, Oklahoma as the Pirates take on Tulsa (12-5, 4-1 AAC). In the past, the Pirates had

a 16-match winning streak against the Hurricanes until they broke the streak when Tulsa won 3-0 in Reynolds Center last season on Oct. 28, 2017. ECU leads the series by a 17-2 count, but the teams' split the season series in 2017.

Tulsa is undefeated at home and will be a big competitor for the Pirates as they have to adjust their mindsets from playing with big crowds at Wichita on Friday to smaller crowds and being tied with Tulsa on Sunday.

"They are two totally different environments, but the courts have

the same dimensions, the net is the same height so we just have to be prepared every time when we play," Torbett said.

The team is going to implement these strategies for their game Friday and re-evaluate at practice on Saturday to prepare for their game on Sunday. The Pirates will look at what they need to do to correct past mistakes, but are looking forward to their weekend on the road.

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Soccer game versus UConn moved

Austin Walker
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University women's soccer team has postponed its game against the University of Connecticut in preparation of Hurricane Michael. The game, which was originally scheduled for today at 7 p.m., has been moved to Sunday, Oct. 28.

The 7-5-2 Pirates will now turn their attention to their match against Temple University on Sunday at 1 p.m., and will look to get back in the win column as the regular season winds down. The match against Temple will be on ECU's Salute to Service Day, and the first 100 fans who get to the stadium will receive a free hat upon entry. Military and first responders can also receive up to four free tickets at the ticket window with identification.

Jason Hamilton



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Senior forward Courtney Cash kicks the ball downfield for the Pirates in the middle of the season.

Head coach Jason Hamilton is grateful for the extra days of preparation for the team's next match, but knows having the last two games of the season in one weekend will make it tougher for his team down the road.

"We're happy with the extra days of practice and preparation before we play

Temple," Hamilton said. "But, now we're looking at a much more difficult last weekend with a Friday then Sunday game. Hopefully these few extra days will help anyone who is a little bruised and banged up get healthy so we will be 100 percent against Temple."

As the team heads into its final three

games of the season, they will look to get back some of the success they enjoyed in their pre-conference schedule, where the team went 5-1-2 compared to a 2-4 record in American Athletic Conference play so far this season.

While the final three matches of the season will be a challenge, the Pirates do have the advantage of playing all three at home. Coach Hamilton is happy his team will finish out the season at home, but knows there are no easy games in conference play in a tough conference.

"It's always a little advantage when you get to play at home, sleep in your own bed, and not have to travel," Hamilton said. "But, our conference is so tough, it doesn't matter who or where you play, you have to be on your best game all of the time. Right now we're just focusing on Temple and what we need to do to get back to the conference tournament."

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