



# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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ARCHIVE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Discussions at last night's City Council Workshop highlighted the impacts of students' behavior downtown and financial effects costing the city.

## City adds bike safety

**Margaret McCollum**  
TEC STAFF

May is National Bike Month and City of Greenville officials are advocating for better conditions for bikers and pedestrians around the city.

According to the League of American Bicyclist website, National Bike Month started in 1956 and is still celebrated by people all over the United States as a way to generate support for bikers and create enthusiasm for biking.

Mayor of Greenville, P.J. Connelly, said Greenville has taken various measures to ensure bike and pedestrian safety in the community.

Connelly said the city is contributing "40 percent of costs for sidewalks on all future NCDOT (North Carolina Department of Transportation) road projects currently being planned." Connelly said the city is also asking for these projects include bike lanes.

Another precautionary measure Connelly said the city has taken is the addition of rectangular rapid flashing beacons at crosswalks on Charles Boulevard, by The Bower apartment complex and beside the Boundary apartments.

Connelly said the city continues to promote safety tips for pedestrians and motorists through their communication methods, making the streets near the university area safer for pedestrians commuting around campus on foot or by bike.

"With assistance from ECU, there was an increased police presence and monitoring of crosswalks in the university area during the school year," Connelly said.

Other strategies continue to be discussed as part of the Traffic Safety Task Force, according to Connelly and the



**P.J. Connelly**

## Students cost GPD

### City Council implements Uptown task force

**Elizabeth Johnson**  
TEC STAFF

During Monday night's City Council Workshop, the Uptown Safety Task Force discussed how Greenville's nightlife is a danger to public safety and the impacts it has on the city financially.

Assistant City Manager, Ken Graves, said some of the issues downtown are disturbances from bars, public urination and trash. He said another issue involves parking lots which are where criminal activity occurs.

Graves said the task force meets every Tuesday and goes over a weekly report of what

happened the previous weekend downtown.

The Uptown Safety Task Force was created to investigate downtown Greenville's nightclubs and "hot spots" for criminal activity. Members of the task force who spoke at the workshop were Graves, GPD Police Chief Mark Holtzman, Director of Community Development Thomas Barnett and Planner II Chantae Gooby.

Holtzman said a lot of the ideas coming from this are based on what GPD sees downtown weekly. He said there are thousands of people downtown

every night and GPD has to pay officers overtime due to it.

Holtzman said around 11 p.m. every night 20 officers patrol downtown, those of which are pulled from other areas of the city.

"We're pulling them (officers) out of neighborhoods, we're pulling our gang unit down, we're pulling neighborhood officers downtown just to police our way through this and get through the night," Holtzman said.

Holtzman suggested paid parking for late night hours to recover some of the costs and

hold people accountable.

The parking system would require drivers to enter their license plate numbers, according to Holtzman. This would allow GPD to know who was in a parking deck if an incident occurred in one, he said.

Holtzman said when clubs let out around 2 a.m. everyone is forced to go in one direction. He said he contacted ECU about the number of students that ride their buses on Friday and Saturday night.

The number of students who

> **COUNCIL** page A2

> **SAFETY** page A2

## ECU loses to Wichita State

**Brendan Gillespie**  
TEC STAFF

From May 21 to May 26, East Carolina University's baseball team took on Wichita State University (26-29, 9-15 AAC) in the 2019 American Athletic Conference Tournament in Clearwater, Florida.

Unfortunately for the Pirates, they lost 6-2 despite being the No. 1 seed. The first game of the AAC tournament began yesterday at 9 a.m. with all other first round games starting shortly afterwards. ECU played after the end of the first game, where No. 4 seeded University of Connecticut (33-22, 12-12 AAC) was defeated by No. 5 seeded University of Houston (32-22, 12-12 AAC).

ECU (42-13, 20-4 AAC) is coming off of a series win against conference opponent University of Memphis (27-26, 10-14 AAC). In the series, ECU scored the first run in two of their last three games.

The tournament is double elimination, with the losing first round teams playing each other in the second round to advance. The winner of the tournament will advance to play in the NCAA tournament, which will start on June 15.

According to the bracket from the AAC, all teams that lose for the first time will get an opportunity to play again a second time. Until

> **TOURNAMENT** page A6

## Locals bring pets to park

**Margaret McCollum**  
TEC STAFF

Families, friends and their pets came out for "Pets in the Park" hosted last Saturday at the Greenville Town Common.

The event was coordinated to create support for local animals and give residents of Greenville a place to bring their dogs while enjoying food, refreshments and contests.

Many organizations had tents at the event including Tenth Street Animal Hospital, Pet Food Pantry of North Carolina and the Humane Society of Eastern North Carolina (HSENC).

Pet Food Pantry attended the event to sell merchandise to help support their cause and raise money to help pets all over eastern North Carolina.

"We feed a lot of animals so they can stay with their homeowners



MICHAELA EMORY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Greenville residents, Krystal and Brittany, brought their dog, Bandit, to Pets in the Part last Saturday.

instead of going to the shelters," Suzanne Sawyer, spay and neuter advocate and member of Pet Food Pantry, said.

Samantha Crowe, another member of Pet Food Pantry, said she

hopes people continue to spay and neuter their pets so that the number of animals in shelters decreases.

According to Crowe, the increased amount of animals in shelters

often is because people try to breed their pets and make profit off of litter puppies, but they don't end up making money and the puppies are placed in shelter care.

Crowe said Pitt

County luckily has shelters that can accommodate these kinds of population problems, but other smaller surrounding

> **PETS** page A3

### ONLINE

» **SPORTS: ECU wins a three game series against Wichita State**

» **Check out our website for stories, photo galleries and more**

### SOCIAL MEDIA



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## BRIEFS

## Uptown Brewing Company hosts live music

Stray Local, a musical duo, will be performing live music this evening at Uptown Brewing Company from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The duo will also be running with Uptown Brewing Run Club at 6 p.m. and hosting a pop-up shop of their Run Wild activewear line.

## Stumpy's to host Summertime Throwdown

Tomorrow, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Stumpy's Hatchet House will host a "90s Summertime Throwdown" where event attendees can compete in a best 90s outfit contest, listen to 90s music and socialize with other hatchet throwers. The winner of the outfit contest will be awarded a gift certificate to Stumpy's.

The event will take place at Uptown Greenville's Stumpy's Hatchet House, located at 816 Dickinson Avenue. Those interested in attending are required to purchase a ticket for two hours of unlimited hatchet throwing. Prices range from \$15 per spectator and \$40 per participant.

## Rock the Bus Exhibition features local teachers' art

An art exhibition at Emerge Gallery and Art Center will feature artwork by Pitt County schools visual art teachers, and is intended to honor music, theater, dance and the work of the art teachers. The exhibition is open all day until May 30, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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

## Donations needed after fire

Summer Tonizzo  
TEC STAFF

Earlier this month, Greenville Fire/Rescue (GFR) responded to an apartment unit's fire at The District at Tar River's complex, which left 26 residents displaced and searching for a new place in Greenville to call home.

The fire left 11 units of the District at Tar River's F building with "sustained major damage." The cause of the fire was determined to be "accidental," and began in the kitchen due to "unattended cooking," according to a GFR press release.

As a result, one of the 26 residents displaced, Elizabeth Zocher, a senior nursing major, was affected. Zocher signed her lease with The District at Tar River apartments in January 2018.

Zocher said, when the fire began, she was sitting in her apartment with her husband, Brady, heard commotion and decided to check her security cameras.

Zocher's husband was able to go back inside and retrieve their dog, cat and binder with their medical and government records. The firefighters would not permit her husband to go back in a second time to retrieve any additional belongings while the fire burned.

"It (the fire) started in (unit) F3 and we are F8, so it was five down and the building itself didn't have fire breaks in it, it was built in the 60s, I believe, and so the attics are all connected, it's one big attic," Zocher said. "We originally



COURTESY OF ELIZABETH ZOCHER

## Remnants of The District at Tar River's apartment building, F, after the fire was contained.

thought that our apartment was going to be fine. We could see in our windows and there was no smoke, but the fire caught the insulation in the attic."

Zocher said the roof of her unit collapsed due to the fire, and they lost "everything" in the apartment.

Following the accident, one of Zocher's friends from her hometown, Jacksonville, Florida, started a GoFundMe to raise money.

Zocher said the money raised by the GoFundMe is being put toward buying new clothes, beds, pet food and additional essentials

they lost in the fire. She said every little bit helps, in reference to meeting the site's goal amount.

The Zocher's GoFundMe has not yet met its goal of \$3,500, but has so far reached \$1,135 donations raised by 28 people in 11 days, according to the webpage. Donations can be made to the family online.

In response to a call from The East Carolinian, The District at Tar River apartment management said they would not be taking interviews about the fire at this time.

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

## COUNCIL

continued from A1

used to ride the bus on Friday and Saturday night was 5,000, but has gone down to 3,000 on a weekend, according to Holtzman.

He said most people end up around Cotanche Street and Reade Circle and crowds swell up where there is a major construction project, Town Creek Culvert.

Holtzman said to find out what worked efficiently for Greenville on Halloween night, GPD collaborated with ECU to accomplish two things. One was to have buses go point to point which is from downtown to each individual apartment complex.



ELIZABETH JOHNSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

## Greenville's downtown areas brings financial trouble and effects city.

The other was to have the bus stop moved from Reade Circle to the bus stop at Mendenhall.

"Once they're back on their campus (ECU) they take a lot more ownership and responsibility in

this plan than what we have now. Right now, we have 3,000 kids that are leaving the downtown, staying in the downtown (area), they're all our responsibility, this helps spread some of that responsibility back

to the school campus," Holtzman said.

A big problem facing downtown is citizens not have adequate access to bathrooms leading to urination in public areas, Public Works Building and Grounds Superintendent Kevin Heifferon said. One solution the taskforce suggested was portable toilet trailers.

"Some of the bars don't have adequate restrooms or supplies for the restrooms and that certainly creates a problem in our public areas like our city parking lots, our alleys and our parking deck especially, the stairwells," Heifferon said.

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

## Pirate Media 1

## Now HIRING

## BUSINESS MANAGER

The Business Manager is responsible for managing and coordinating all functions of the Advertising & Marketing Agency, including sales, creative services, marketing and operations. Primary sales responsibilities are to guide Account Executives in prospecting and calling on local advertisers, achieving sales goals and meeting deadlines. Operations duties include monitoring the annual budget and insuring all office operations are running smoothly, while marketing duties include promoting Pirate Media 1 and its divisions, recruiting talent and representing The Agency across campus and beyond.

## ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

The account executive is responsible for prospecting and calling on local clients and business to advertise in all available Pirate Media 1 outlets, including but not limited to: The East Carolinian, The Hook, Rebel, Expressions, Anchors Away, and WZMB 91.3 FM

## CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

The Customer Service Representative is responsible for a variety of office-based duties, including but not limited to handling all classified ads and general assistance for account executives with regards to prospecting, strategizing and calling on local clients.

## MARKETING COORDINATOR

The Marketing Coordinator will work across all Pirate Media 1 divisions to develop, maintain and execute effective marketing campaigns that promote and benefit all of Pirate Media 1.

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Designers are responsible for creating design solutions for Pirate Media 1 that have a high visual impact. Graphic Design skills are required for a variety of products and activities, such as designing advertising for local businesses that will be placed in all Pirate Media 1 publications, creating marketing materials to help promote Pirate Media 1 products and events, laying out our newspaper The East Carolinian or one of our four magazines.

**2.25 GPA REQUIREMENT**  
**APPLY ONLINE AT**  
**WWW.ECU.EDU/HIREPIRATE/**



MICHAELA EMORY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

## Blakemore Winston, a Greenville local, rides her bike through the community one afternoon.

## SAFETY

continued from A1

Greenville Police Department (GPD).

According to Kristen Hunter, GPD Public Information Officer, the Traffic Safety Task Force is a group comprised of members from GPD, Greenville Public Works, Vidant Health, East Carolina University and NCDOT. Their mission is to improve traffic safety in the city and reduce the number of crashes and injuries resulting from crashes.

Connelly said Greenville is aware of strategies and initiatives regarding road safety and will continue to renovate the city to accommodate all commuters.

"The city of Greenville is focused on investing in bike and pedestrian safety initiatives and we will continue to look at ways to further improve the current modes of transportation available in our community," Connelly said.

Bike Pitt commissioner, Tony Parker, said Greenville can be safe for bikers and pedestrians in certain areas, but not everywhere. He said he believes the city is making astounding improvements compared to the past, but there is still work to be done.

According to Parker, there are some Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues, making it difficult for people who are not mobile to use certain sidewalks in the city.

"The areas that need improvement are some of the major arteries, and some of the

major intersections that we have," Parker said.

Parker said these issues could be solved by investing more in the city's infrastructure and raising awareness in the community.

According to Parker, people need to understand and realize that people bike and walk not just for fun, but also for crucial everyday activities. He gave examples such as getting to work, getting to school, and checking on their families.

"It's not just recreational people that are out there biking and walking, it's people who actually have no other choice," Parker said. "That's what we have to look at, if we're going to take care of our city we need to take care of those of us who can't afford to or will not drive."

The best advice Parker offered to drivers on the road in regards to protecting bikers is to try riding a bike for themselves to understand what bikers go through and to try to be aware of their surroundings.

Another precaution for drivers to take when operating a vehicle, according to Parker, is putting down their cell phone and avoid being distracted while driving to protect themselves, pedestrians and bikers.

Parker said he encourages people to try taking a bike ride on the greenway or even try biking to work.

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

# 72

PLUS  
MAP OUT YOUR WEEK

## TODAY

**Comedy Pitt Open Mic**  
Pitt Street Brewing  
Co.  
8 p.m.

## TOMORROW

**Comedy Pitt Open Mic**  
Pitt Street Brewing  
Co.  
8 p.m.

## FRIDAY

**Jessica & Thorne**  
Uptown Brewing  
Company  
8 p.m.

**Josh Branch Music**  
Pitt Brewing  
Company  
8 p.m.

## SATURDAY

**Eric Dunlow Band**  
Tiebreakers Sports  
Bar & Grill  
10 p.m.

**Graphic Design  
Portfolio Show**  
Greenville Museum  
of Art  
10 a.m.

## SUNDAY

**Crunk Witch // August  
is Ours // Voltage  
Divider**  
Trollingwood  
Taproom and Brewery  
8 p.m.

**Bombadil**  
Christy's Euro Pub  
8 p.m.

# Student debuts third album



COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

ECU student and rising artist, Owen Lester, continues to release music while continuing studies, and moves platforms from Soundcloud to Apple Music.

**Macie Tano**  
TEC STAFF

Owen Lester, an up-and-coming artist and sophomore at East Carolina University, recently released his third album, *Colors*, and his songs are now available on Apple Music.

Lester said that his main musical genre is rap, but that his style is a mix of different types of music. Lester's music can be found on Soundcloud or Apple Music, under the name "OL Juicy."

Lester resides in Winston Salem, North Carolina, when he's not in Greenville for school.

"After my last album went up, I now have 51 total songs, 3 albums, 1 EP and 17 singles. I've also

co-produced and featured on other tracks as well that weren't posted on my accounts."

According to Lester, his favorite part about producing music is seeing how his fans and supporters react to it.

Lester said he has gotten a lot of negative feedback in the past four years, but it molded him into who he is. He said he has received more praise recently, and thinks people are starting to hear his message.

"I want to inspire my listeners to be the best person they can be regardless of everyone else's expectations. Tune out the hate and keep doing you,"

Lester said.

Mark Hutchins, Lester's manager, has worked with him for almost a year. Hutchins said Lester has not had any official performances yet, but it is something in the making. Hutchins hopes Lester will be able to perform at different venues and private parties soon.

"The thing about working with him is that it really doesn't feel like work. People should listen to Owen because his music is different and always brings good vibes," Hutchins said.

Frank Byungura, a photographer, videographer and content creator, has worked with Lester on several occasions.

Byungura said he is



COURTESY OF OWEN LESTER

Lester's third album was released on Apple Music in 2019.

happy to see Lester's songs available on Apple Music, and that he is grateful to see Lester's musical journey progress. At the same time, he knows that Lester is far from being done.

"Although it's only been a year of working with Owen, the content that we

have produced together, in addition to the constant amazing content that he is putting out as an individual artist, reflects true talent that is rare in the music industry," Byungura said.

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

# Residents paint Japanese art

**Macie Tano**  
TEC STAFF

River Park North is hosting a Gyotaku painting event Saturday from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. The event is open to all ages, and pre-registration for the event is highly encouraged.

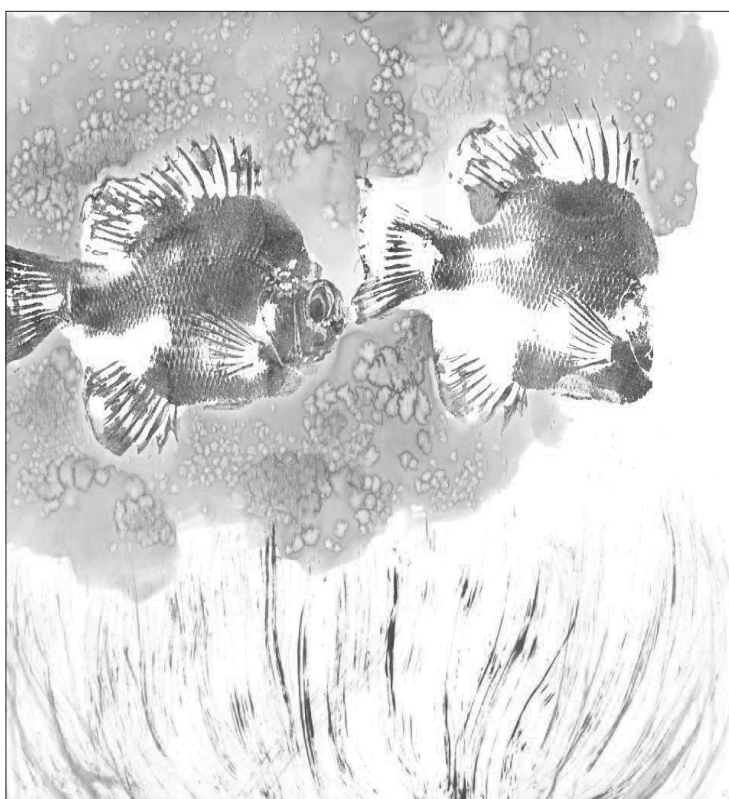
Located on 1000 Mumford Rd., the admission for the event is \$5. The discounted fee for Greenville residents is \$3, according to the event's webpage.

"Gyotaku is an art form that originated in Japan. Fish were painted with ink so their impressions could be used to make a record of the catch," Amelia Blake, S.T.E.A.M. lab coordinator at River Park North, who is running the event, said.

Participants will get the opportunity to make artwork using the Gyotaku method with washable paint and rubber models of local fish species, Blake said.

According to Blake, the program, which will be held again at the same time and location on June 8, is limited to up to 12 participants. The participant cap is due to a limited availability of supplies.

"Everyone is encouraged to



COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

**Gyotaku, a Japanese art form, used by fisherman captures impressions.**

participate. This can be a fun activity for families to enjoy together," Blake said.

According to Blake, River Park North strives to produce public programs like Gyotaku that are educational, recreational and are a positive resource for the

community. The Gyotaku painting event is a fun way for people and young children to learn about the natural world while engaging their creativity.

Alexis David, a resident of Greenville and ECU alumna, said she will be attending the event with

her grandson.

"I heard about the event through Facebook. I plan to take my two-year-old grandson to the event to get him out of the house and to have some creative fun," David said.

David has not attended a Gyotaku painting event before, but said she enjoys the environment at River Park North, especially the nature trail they have.

"From attending the event, I expect to have a fun, inexpensive afternoon with the kid and to take home some cool art," David said.

Greenville resident Daniela Loghin Long and was interested in attending with her sons.

Long said that although she has never been to the Gyotaku event, she loves River Park North, and always signs up to attend their events.

"(River Park North) are such nice people and organize the best events. We try not to miss any events geared toward kids two to four years old. We usually go open minded and we were never disappointed. They are the hardest working people I know, and my sons love their events," Long said. This writer can be contacted at arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

## PETS

continued from A1

counties don't have shelters or they have very low funding for shelters. She said residents should be aware of this problem and realize a lot of pets that go into shelters sometimes don't come out.

Residents can help with the overflow of unwanted animals by adopting from shelters, spaying and neutering their pets and donating to local organizations.

According to Shelby Jolly, assistant shelter director for the HSENC, the Humane Society partners with Curtis Media Group and comes out every year to help get as many of their dogs into forever homes as possible.

"We've had six adoptions so far," Jolly said. "We're hoping to go home with an empty car."

Tenth Street Animal Hospital, Firetower Animal Clinic and Animal Hospital of Pitt County comes out



MICHAELA EMORY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Humane Society of Eastern North Carolina (HSENC) informed residents about supporting local animal shelters.

to help the community and raise awareness for adopting pets in the Greenville area, according to Ryan

Nosay, an employee with Tenth Street Animal Hospital.

Nosay said she hopes students

utilize their student discounts, and that their caring vets are available to treat all kinds of animals, including

dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits and more.

Multiple apartment complexes set up tents at the event as well, including 33 East, The District at Tar River and University Park.

"We want everyone to know we are pet-friendly and we want everyone to know it's going to be a good area to set up shop for," Kaila Kearney, employee with 33 East, said.

33 East and many other vendors at the event handed out dog-themed trinkets and souvenirs for visitors who approached their tents.

Attendees could also take part in various contests, including a barking contest to see who's dog could bark the most for a prize.

Residents walking their dogs around cooled down with Kona Ice, while their furry companions took a dip in the water at the cool down station.

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

## OUR VIEW

# Bridge eases traffic for city

The City of Greenville is moving forward to implement changes to make the streets and sidewalks more biker and pedestrian friendly, which would positively impact the ECU community by making it safer for students, faculty and staff.

The month of May is National Bike Month throughout the United States, and Greenville took action by participating in the Ride of Silence event last Wednesday, May 15, which took place in Uptown.

The event was dedicated to honoring bikers who lost their lives or were injured while riding a bike, and it additionally advocated for safer roadways for individuals who choose to commute by means of cycling and walking.

Participants in the event, which included Greenville Mayor, P.J. Connelly, followed a set course throughout the city and rode in silence.

Several streets in Greenville, such as narrow sections of Evans Street which force cars and cyclists together in a dangerous manner, need to be topics of importance to city officials and subjects to improvements.

A significant amount of ECU students prefer to walk from their cars to campus, which holds a potential danger to their safety if transportation improvements aren't made to make pedestrian conditions safer. Many students choose to ride bikes to classes and around campus, and similar threats to safety, which are impacting pedestrians have the potential to affect cyclists as well.

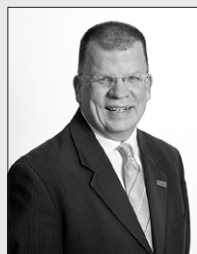
With the attention on bike and pedestrian safety throughout the month of May and focus to better roadways, we the editorial staff of The East Carolinian believe the City of Greenville is taking steps to ensure safer travels in the community.

Greenville is contributing to future North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) road projects by contributing money to include sidewalks and bike lanes, according to Connelly. He said various measures are being taken to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.



## Letter to the Editor

## Thoughts from the interim chancellor



**Dan Gerlach**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

Two months ago, I did not know that I would be serving as interim chancellor at East Carolina University. I was president of the Golden LEAF Foundation in Rocky Mount, where I enjoyed the opportunity to provide resources and insight to help rural communities in North Carolina transform economically. While there is much work to be done there, it was a good gig.

Throughout my 25 years in North Carolina I have come to love and respect East Carolina University. So when Dr. Bill Roper, the interim president of the entire public university system in North Carolina, asked me to take on the challenge of serving this institution during a time of transition, I agreed to do so.

I respect ECU because we pride ourselves on our historic mission of bringing people into higher education, not keeping them out. We graduate a greater percentage of our students in four years than similar universities do in five years, saving taxpayers and student families \$21,000 by moving them to graduation faster. Our wide range of programs attracts a wide diversity of faculty, students and staff to meet the needs of eastern North Carolina and beyond. We all feel a sense of ownership and pride in athletics and the arts that we share with our community and our region.

Do I want to be part of that? You bet I do.

Much has been written about financial challenges, enrollment numbers, and decisions that many might second guess. But our university and the region in which we live have been challenged before and will continue to be. It's about building a team – made up of all of us – to answer those challenges.

Frankly, I don't want students to enroll at East Carolina because the institution needs their tuition check and the state

**“We need to make our case more strongly not only to high school seniors, but also to community college transfer students, people who started but did not finish college, and scholars capable and interested in graduate education.”**



**Dan Gerlach, interim chancellor of ECU, sitting at his desk in the Chancellor's office.**

support that follows. I want them to enroll because North Carolina needs an estimated 2 million MORE people to obtain some college degree or certificate past the high school level by 2030. I want them to enroll because East Carolina offers high-quality education provided by dedicated and talented faculty and staff who prepare them to be more successful and productive than they otherwise would have been. I want them to enroll because Greenville, with a revitalized Uptown just steps from our campus, is a great place to be part of a college community.

We need to make our case more strongly not only to high school seniors, but also to community college transfer students, people who started but did not finish college, and scholars capable and interested in graduate education. Initiatives are underway to do this, but nothing sells our university like our students.

So here's what I ask of you: be our witness. Tell prospective students why you came here and why it's a great choice. I'm paid to advocate for ECU, but you're our customers and therefore your testimony matters.

We have financial challenges, but they cannot intimidate us. Since 1990, I've worked on state budgets as a legislative staffer, as a lead budget negotiator for the state's governor, and as head of a billion dollar foundation. We will work to protect the quality of education at good value for our students. Period.

When I was at the Golden LEAF Foundation, the organization sponsored scholarships, leadership development and paid internships for students from rural counties to go to college. ECU led all North

Carolina public and private colleges in the number of scholars. I have personally watched the growth of many students who I met when they were seniors in high school through their college graduation.

No other university has the same level of impact on a student as ECU does. None. This place is special. Let us work together to make it more so.

In just a week on the job, I've been witness to many instances of East Carolina excellence, such as the newest class of Pirate Nurses studying for their NCLEX (licensing) exam as they aim to best last year's mark of 99 percent passage rate. I've met with engineering and technology faculty leaders as companies come to them demanding well-trained workers for jobs already waiting. I've welcomed home our baseball team from Wichita, where they claimed the conference regular season championship.

I look forward to meeting many more Pirates in the weeks to come and experiencing many more instances of East Carolina excellence, and it will be my job to expand these stories and that impact into more communities, reaching more students.

Gerlach is the interim chancellor. To submit a letter to the editor, email [editor@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:editor@theeastcarolinian.com).

## OUR STAFF

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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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## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Pursue a professional dream. Long-term gains come by taking one step at a time. Follow plans and rules methodically. Unexpected developments offer new opportunities.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Good news could benefit your work and health. Go for a physical goal. Maintain your practices and routines despite interruptions or distractions. Outsmart the competition.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- An unexpected development impacts your cash flow. Extra caution is needed. Make repairs or adjustments. Investigate options before spending. Adapt for a positive balance.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Your travels and investigations reveal unexpected treasure. Follow a dream or vision for far-reaching impact. Slow and steady does it.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Grab a chance to realize a romantic dream. Discipline is required. Play by the rules. Make changes for the better. Share your heart.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Fall into a lucky break or startling insight. Pursue a personal dream and get farther than expected. Rely on experienced friends for support.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Take advantage of an unplanned opportunity for shared financial gain. Handle insurance or legal matters. Discipline pays off directly. Pursue deals, sales and marketing.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Invest in domestic efficiency. Discuss fantasies, and prioritize practicalities. You and another are bonded by a shared dream. Clean, sort and organize. Celebrate results together.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 6 -- Meditate on the possibilities ahead. Unexpected opportunities arise. Draw upon hidden resources. Routine strengthens your abilities. Enjoy peaceful reflection. Take a walk outside.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Coordinate efforts with your partner. Your self-discipline is contagious. Reduce waste and clutter. Discover small efficiencies that add up. Share special moments together.

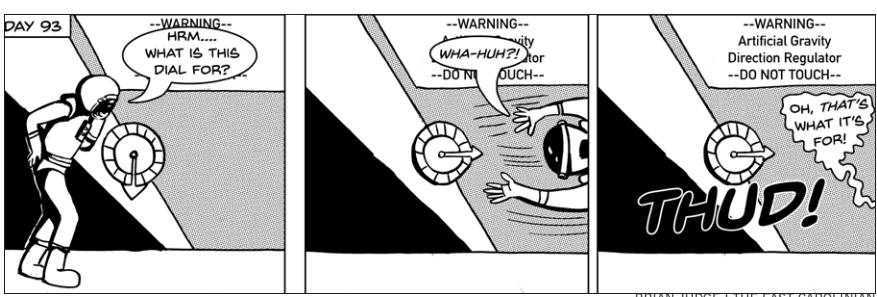
**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- You can solve a puzzle. The rewards are long-lasting. An old dream seems newly possible. Reaffirm a commitment. Get feedback from an experienced friend.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Get help building a dream. Throw your support alongside others who share your commitment and purpose. Realize a vision through coordinated teamwork.

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## COMICS

### ONE AND ONLY

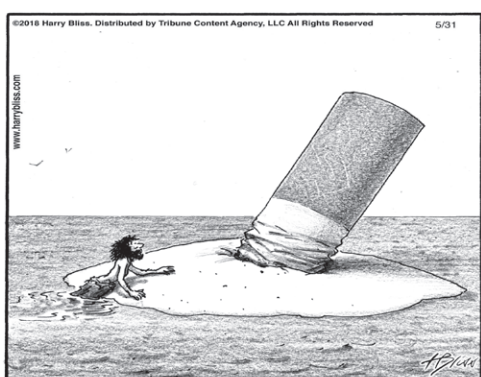


BRIAN JUDGE/THE EAST CAROLINIAN

### BEST IN SHOW



### BLISS



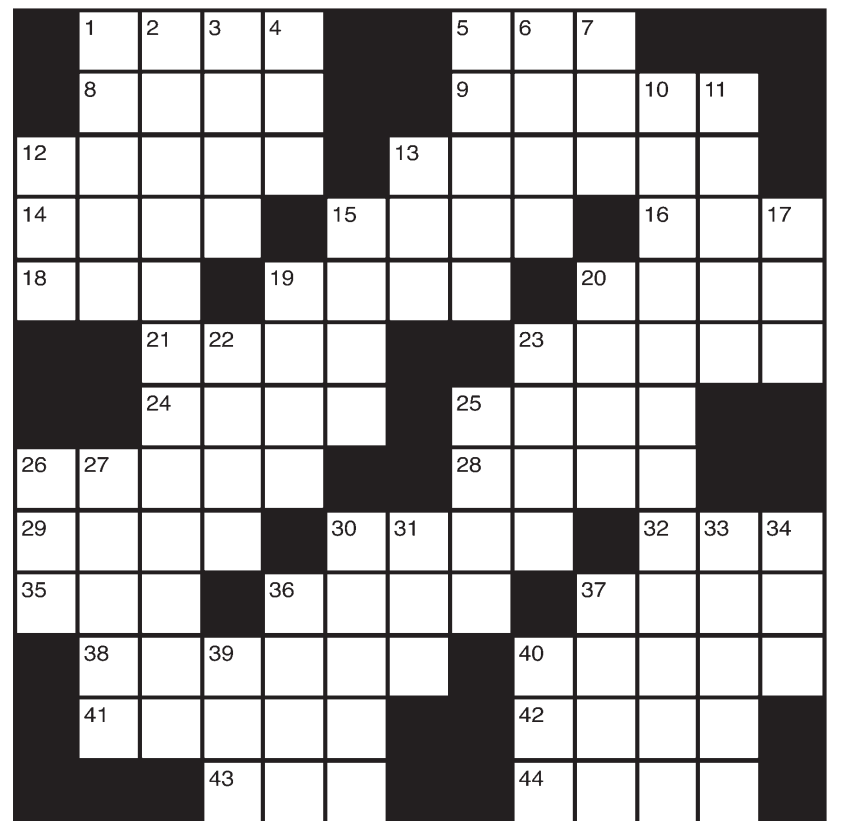
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5/21

## CROSSWORD

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



- ACROSS**
- Actress \_\_ Blanchett
  - "Sanford and \_\_"
  - \_\_ even keel; stable
  - Pitfalls
  - David McCallum and Sean Connery, for example
  - Actor \_\_ De Niro
  - Tiny amount
  - Rather and Aykroyd
  - Actor McKellen
  - Cry from the bleachers
  - "The Newlywed \_\_"
  - Unit of farmland
  - Auction lover's site
  - "Falcon \_\_"
  - Charles and Liotta
  - Bangkok resident
  - "Deal or No Deal" host
  - Dinner for Mister Ed, perhaps
  - Ending for peek or bug
  - \_\_ tea
  - Dusting cloth
  - Setting for "Hogan's Heroes": abbr.
  - Married Spanish ladies: abbr.
- DOWN**
- Warm, chocolatey drink
  - Daytime serial of past decades
  - Casual farewell
  - Junior naval rank: abbr.
  - Phillips, once of "Dateline NBC"
  - Spheres; globes
  - No, in Edinburgh
  - "The \_\_"; Drew Carey's game show
  - "Dancing with the \_\_"
  - "To \_\_, with Love"; movie for Sidney Poitier
  - St. Louis football player
  - "\_\_ of Our Lives"
  - Ping-Pong table divider
  - Singer Marvin \_\_
  - Smell \_\_; suspect trickery
  - Scott of "Joanie Loves Chachi"
  - Actor \_\_ Everett
  - Foot digits
  - Broom-Hilda of the comics, for example
  - Plump, and then some
  - Actress \_\_ Ryan of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
  - "\_\_ 54, Where Are You?"
  - \_\_ for; is heartbroken over the loss of
  - "\_\_ Smart"
  - "\_\_ of Echoes"; Kevin Bacon movie
  - MasterCard alternative
  - Reverent wonder
  - In one \_\_ and out the other

Solution from 5/13

B	I	G		B	O	N	O	S		S	I	D											
E	D	U		I	W	A	S	A		I	N	A											
A	L	A		O	N	E	O	F		N	F	L											
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## SUDOKU

### SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

Level:



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

Solution from 5/13

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

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## Tigers at No. 1, ECU must keep up

**Brendan Gillespie**  
TEC STAFF

The University of Memphis has done something they have never achieved in school history. They now have the No. 1 ranked men's basketball recruiting class in the country for the 2019-2020 season.

All schedules for the 2019 season have yet to be announced, but East Carolina University (10-21, 3-15 AAC) will play each American Athletic Conference team at least once during the regular season. If Memphis is slated to play in Minges Arena, they will without a doubt be a handful to deal with. If the Tigers can win 22 games last season without their talented recruits for the 2019 season, they can achieve even more this season.

Head coach Penny Hardaway came into the program for the 2018-2019 season, and during his first season faced criticism from fans. The Tigers lost to the University of Houston (33-4, 16-2 AAC) in the AAC tournament, and failed to make the NCAA tournament.

They went on to play in the NIT tournament and defeated the University of San Diego (21-15, 7-9 WCC), but fell short again by losing to Creighton University (20-15, 9-9 Big East) in the second round.

Only being the head coach for one season, Hardaway's first recruiting class is coming in this season and they certainly have some major talent headed into the season.

This incoming recruiting class has the likes of No. 1 overall prospect James Wiseman, five-star forward David Jeffries, four-star recruits Lester Quinones and Rejean Ellis, and Malcolm Dandridge.

Memphis also has No. 2 ranked grad transfer Rayjon Tucker, and homegrown four-star prospect Damian Baugh. Rounding up the already packed list is five-

star forward Precious Achiuwa, who just committed to the program on Friday.

Their star-studded roster did not come without a cost, however. Five-star forward Trendon Watford was another recruit for Memphis who was expected to sign. Due to there no longer being any scholarship money left for the 2019 class, Watford ended up signing with Louisiana State University (28-7, 16-2 SEC).

This incredibly talented class will be a force to reckon with and a team that ECU will have to take on at least once during the season.

Although it appears daunting to have to take on this team, the Pirates are more than able to put up a fight.

Though over five ECU players have entered the NCAA transfer portal, head coach Joe Dooley sees this as an opportunity to improve his team, rather than focusing on what the team is losing.

"I learned years ago in recruiting, don't just figure out who's helping you, try to figure out who's hurting you," said Dooley via press conference.

The Pirates have added transfer students Tyrie Jackson from Northwest Florida State (28-5, 10-2 NJCAA) and Tremont Robinson from Garden City Community College (13-18, 8-13). Jackson and Robinson are both guards, who signed last November. Along with those two, Logan Curtis also signed with the Pirates, who is a 6-foot-4-inch guard from Calvert Hall College High School.

This added depth should prove beneficial, as all three players are expected to compliment more experienced and proven players like junior guard Shaun Williams and sophomore forward Jayden Gardner.

Both players have proven their skills



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Precious Achiuwa is the latest addition to an already packed 2019 draft class for the Tigers.

with ECU, and have accolades to back it up. Williams won the AAC Rookie of the Year during the 2017-2018 season. Gardner achieved a unanimous pick to the AAC All-Freshman team during this past season, and was averaging 16.3 points and 8.5 rebounds per game.

Within the AAC, The University of Cincinnati, University of Central Florida (24-9, 13-5 AAC), Temple University (23-

10, 13-5 AAC) and Houston all made the 2019 NCAA tournament. Wichita State University (22-15, 10-8 AAC) and Memphis both made the NIT tournament as well.

Heading into this coming basketball season, ECU will have tough AAC competition, but will certainly have the players and coaching staff to compete.

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

## ECU baseball seniors' atypical graduation

**Brendan Gillespie**  
TEC STAFF

Several East Carolina baseball seniors walked to accept their diplomas from Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach. However, instead of walking across the stage with their fellow classmates, they were walking across the baseball field last Friday.

The ECU baseball team (42-13, 20-4 AAC) was playing in a three game away series against the University of Cincinnati (26-29, 13-11 AAC), unfortunately the same day that ECU graduation was taking place.

ECU's commencement ceremony for students began on Friday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. and much to the dismay of the seniors on the baseball team, was in the middle of their double header that day. The two game sequence began at 2:30 p.m. with the start of the first game, and then the second game began at 6:15 p.m..

According to Executive Associate Athletics Director Ryan Robinson, Athletic Director John



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Senior pitcher Sam Lanier accepts his diploma from Interim Chancellor Gerlach, AD John Gilbert and Cliff Godwin

Gilbert and Gerlach wanted to do something about this.

Not wanting the seniors to feel

left out, Gerlach sprung into action, and immediately contacted Gilbert's office. From there, they began to

coordinate their busy schedules to something nice for the student athletes that have dedicated so much

of their time throughout the season.

Both Gerlach and Gilbert officiated the makeshift ceremony, with nine seniors walking across Lewis field at Clark-Leclair Stadium to collect their diplomas. They had every intention to do something admirable that both the parents and students would appreciate.

"Thank you Cliff Godwin and ECU Athletics for letting me be apart of ECU baseball's senior night on Friday," Gerlach tweeted. "This team's work ethic and toughness is unmatched and I want Pirate Nation to cheer them on as they head to the American Baseball championships this week."

ECU and their nine seniors won the AAC regular season title, and went on to clinch the No. 1 seed in the AAC Tournament. The Pirates will face off against No. 5 seeded University of Houston (32-33, 12-12 AAC) in their second game of the tournament, today at 3 p.m.

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

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## TOURNAMENT

continued from A1

teams reach the semifinals, they will get another chance to play in the bracket.

Junior pitcher Jake Agnos is coming off of a historic season with the Pirates. For the fourth time this season, Agnos has won the AAC Pitcher of the Week award. Not only that, he also won the 2019 AAC Pitcher of the Year award.

Agnos is a pitcher that has 31 consecutive scoreless innings while pitching, and 124 total strikeouts on the season. He is clearly been a struggle for opposing teams to deal with, especially those in the conference.

Additionally, junior catcher Jake Washer has been an asset for the Pirates the past few games. He batted in four runs and went 3-4 during the first game in their previous series against Memphis.

Sophomore pitcher Alec Burleson is another ECU player to be mindful of, as his ability to pitch and also hit the ball have given many teams issues this season. In his last outing against Memphis, Burleson hit 3-5 with three RBI's and crossed home plate three times as well.

Regardless of the plethora of valuable players ECU has, there are other players

and teams in the tournament that viewers should keep an eye on.

Wichita State University is the No. 8 seed in the tournament and surprised ECU in the first round.

Senior pitcher Clayton McGinness is on a hot streak, coming off of a win against the University of South Florida (26-27, 8-16 AAC) where he only allowed five hits. McGinness accomplished the same feat against ECU when they faced off earlier in the season, and is starting against the Pirates on Tuesday.

Senior first baseman Mason O'Brien has gotten a hit in 10 of his last 11 games, and has gotten on base in all 11 games. Three of his four homeruns this season were during that 11 game span. Needless to say, O'Brien and McGinness could prove difficult for ECU to handle and could very well pull off a first round upset.

After their loss to Wichita, ECU will go on to play Houston today at 3 p.m.

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

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