

PIRATES IMPROVE WITH SISTERHOOD to A4



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Tuesday, 1.21.20

VOLUME 94, ISSUE 29

CELEBRATING 'THE DREAM'



CONTRIBUTED BY THE ECU CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Adriana Fontana and Meredith Olson, volunteer at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service event in 2016 along side fellow students.

Gospel choirs to celebrate King

Olan Bryant
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Gospel Choir will feature in the Balm in Gilead gospel concert to honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day tonight at 7 at the Main Campus Student Center's Black Box Theater.

The event will also include the choirs of Koinonia Christian Center and Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church of Greenville who will come together to perform at the concert.

It will be the first concert of its kind at the Black Box Theater, with the idea of paying tribute to the spiritual side of the civil rights leader. The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, as well as Student Affairs, has been heavily involved in the planning of the concert since November of last year.

King was best known as the chief spokesperson behind the nonviolent movement against segregation in the South during the Civil Rights movement until his assassination in 1968. In 1983, Ronald Reagan signed legislation to create a federal holiday in honor of King's birthday to be observed on the third Monday in January.

Shaun Simon, associate director of the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, commented on the concert and what it means to those involved.

"It's an opportunity to herald this important figure in American history and especially the African American experience," Simon said.

Simon also offered her thoughts on how the concert, and gospel music in general can be used to bring people together.

"We want a jovial atmosphere. Whether or not you're Christians, music can be a great unifier and gospel can be very motivational," Simon said.

The Cultural Center reached out to local choirs, as well as ECU's own gospel choir to participate in the concert and honor King's legacy as not only that of a spokesman for equality, but also as a Christian minister.

Jhanna Means, senior childhood development major and president of the ECU gospel choir, expressed her thoughts on the concert and what music means to her.

"We are excited to be apart of the concert, especially for

> CHOIR page A6

ECU honors MLK Day of Service kicks off celebration week

Ahren Rau
TEC STAFF

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF



The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC), along with additional sponsors, will continue to host a Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Week which started yesterday at 9 a.m. in the Main Campus Student Center (MCSC) with the annual Day of Service.

Students will have an opportunity to serve and learn about the legacy of Dr. King throughout the week and how they can continue to spread his message in their everyday lives to make society a more equitable and just place for everyone.

Associate Director of the LWCC, Shaun Simon, said typically the guest speaker and the day of service are annual events that take place during MLK Celebration week. She said there are different speakers each year.

"This week's celebration is geared towards everybody as a unifying moment," Simon said. "MLK (Day of Service) I want to say has been in effect for at least 10 years, I'm sure it's longer than that but that's as far as I know with the records I have."

The Day of Service included quite a few service opportunities for students to choose from. Simon said The Day of Service was organized by Alex Dennis and the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement.

"Every year when scheduling this week,

we co host with different committees and sponsors, including, Student Activities and Organizations, SGA, Office of Equity and Diversity, School of Communication, Honors College and off-campus student services," Simon said.

She said this is an important week for the campus and the community because it will be an important time to learn about and honor Dr. King and the work he has done for the civil rights movement and equality, not only just because of what he stood for, but also the messages he gave.

"It is an opportunity not just for ECU students, but also for the members of the

> MLK page A2

Pirate tennis to serve up spring season this week

Jess Sabin
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University men's and women's tennis teams are set to take the court for the 2020 season. Both teams enter the new year looking to improve on their finishes from last year.

Both teams saw their season end in the first round of the American Athletic Conference Championships last year. The men's team lost to Southern Methodist University 4-0 and the women's team fell to the University of Cincinnati by a score of 4-1. At the time, that Bearcats squad was ranked No. 10 in the country.

The men's team entered the tournament after coming off a solid regular season. The Pirates ended the year with a 14-7 record with an impressive 8-1 record at home. They hit a bit of a slide to end the year, losing five of their last eight matches.

"We have a lot of new faces as unfortunately last year we graduated five players which is always a lot for a smaller team," men's head coach Shawn Heinchon said. "Our top of the lineup is in tact which should really help us grow. The new guys that we do have had a great fall, they are the right fit for us, they are the right people. I think our next step kind of takes care of itself, we need to be maybe a little better one through six all the way through the lineup."

The women's team dominated the regular season going 22-3 and went a perfect 9-0 at home. After losing their first

> TENNIS page A4

SGA to host Women's March

George Martin
TEC STAFF

Students will gather for a Women's March that will feature speakers who will tackle the subjects of gender equality and the gender binary system as a whole today at 4 p.m on the lawn outside of the Main Campus Student Center.

Senior political science and communication major and the SGA's Director for Equity and Intercultural Outreach, Jahad Carter, said that the speakers at the march will focus on the broad topic of equality, as well as more nuanced issues.

"We will also talk about some more nuanced perspectives, like the struggles of black women or mothers coming to terms with their child being transgender, as well as having a more open dialogue on sexual assault from the male's perspective," Carter said.

Carter said that the main



GEORGE MARTIN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Paula Acevedo, Jahad Carter and Alisha Thomas plan the march.

takeaway that he wants for men is that the traditional aspects of masculinity, such as being sexually explicit, are not the only way to show masculinity.

Additionally, Carter wants to bring together groups from around campus and educate and open up a dialogue about the patriarchy and how it affects everyone, even if they are unaware.

"My whole purpose for doing this is owning how I've used the patriarchy to my advantage and how I could actually make it a lot better for a lot of people in this world,"

Carter said.

The main inspiration for putting on the march was his fellow SGA committee members, who are all women, according to Carter.

He said that after talking to his peers, he realized that they all face the same issues in their day to day lives and on ECU's campus.

"I really have just seen how powerful they all are, and how passionate they are to make change on this campus," Carter said.

Sophomore public health and international development

and member of the Equity and Intercultural Affairs Committee for SGA, Paula Acevedo, said that the main objective of her committee is to try and bring ECU's students together, and the Women's March is currently its main focus to do so.

Acevedo said that they want the Women's March to be a student run event where everyone can have their voices heard.

"We have partnered with the Women and Gender Office and a few other organizations from around campus, and a lot of the organizations that we

reached out were really excited to do it," Acevedo said.

The speakers at the event will consist of both students and faculty, and Acevedo hopes that the march will be a uniting force on this campus for not only students, but faculty as well.

> WOMEN page A2

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BRIEFS

Autism Society to host interest meeting

Tonight at 7, the Autism Society of North Carolina Campus Chapter is having their first interest meeting in Mendenhall Room 15. The meeting will detail what the organization is about and how students can get involved.

Students encouraged to register for voting

Today from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) will host a voter registration drive in the Main Campus Student Center. Free items will be given out to those who decided to register.

Campus MovieFest invites students to informational meeting.

Tonight from 6 to 8, Campus MovieFest will host an information session in the Main Campus Student Center. The organization provides students with the proper equipment to make a short movie in a week, where students will compete for prizes and the chance for their film to be submitted to film festivals.

Chancellor committee to host listening session

Tomorrow, the East Carolina University Chancellor Search Committee will host its second student listening session from 4 to 5 p.m. at the East Carolina Heart Institute Auditorium. Students are welcome to bring any concerns and questions they have regarding the search for ECU's next leader.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

ECU PD advises safety

Campus law enforcement shares semester tips

George Martin
TEC STAFF

With the start of the spring 2020 semester, East Carolina University's Police Department will ensure Pirate Nation remain safe and advises students to follow safety tips while on campus.

Deputy Chief of Police Jason Sugg said that the safety recommendations don't change between semesters. He wants to remind students that though the semester will change, safety regulations will not.

"Some of the tips are very common sense oriented," Sugg said. "But you know, sometimes some people may have a feeling that there is a distinction between the fall and spring semesters, especially new students."

One of the basic safety tips that Sugg gave was to use a well lit and traveled path whenever going somewhere at night, either to a night class or downtown.

Sugg also said that walking around alone is something that students should be wary of, especially late at night.

"If you're at the library for example, or out socializing, have a plan



ANNA ALLEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
ECU PD officer P.T. Schermerhorn poses in front of his police vehicle.

to get back to your residence, either in a residence hall or off-campus," Sugg said.

Sugg suggested that students should use a ride sharing app like Lyft or Uber, which are effective ways to get home safely at the end of the night instead of walking back.

The Livesafe app is an important tool that students can use to ensure their safety, according to Sugg. The app allows users to monitor each other's GPS location as they walk through campus.

"If that person stops walking or starts moving in a different direction, their friend watching will be able to check on them or contact the police," Sugg said.

Chris Sutton, a lieutenant with the ECU PD, said that the officers all

feel responsible for the students, but each individual plays a role in their own safety.

Sutton also stressed that it is important to stay in groups and use ride sharing apps whenever traveling at night.

"It is important to be aware of all of your options whenever you are traveling at night or using ridesharing apps," Sutton said.

It is common to see students come back from the holiday break with controlled substances that they brought back from home. ECU PD will be looking to try and find any controlled substances that students brought with them to campus throughout the month of Jan., according to Sutton.

ECU PD's crime statistics page

shows that throughout the months of Nov. and Dec., there were 67 total drug-related arrests made by the ECU PD.

"It's not that we want to get the students in trouble, we do that because we want to try and help them put themselves in the best situation to win and succeed," Sutton said.

Freshman biology major Jasmine Fisher feels that ECU PD is doing a good job at establishing a friendly and strong presence on campus. She said that, while living on College Hill, she has never felt unsafe while walking through campus and that is largely because of the police presence.

"The blue lights throughout campus and with the police being so close by with the station being in the middle of campus really makes me feel safe whenever I am walking around," Fisher said.

Fisher said that she always tries to walk with friends whenever she goes through campus at night. While she has never been the victim of a crime herself, she said that her friend had his skateboard stolen after failing to lock it in a rack at the dining hall.

"It was sad to see that his things got stolen, but the university and ECU PD have told the students a lot that theft is the number one crime that happens on campus," Fisher said.

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

WOMEN from A1

Acevedo said that the main thing she wants to see at the march are ECU specific issues, such as the issues regarding the treatment of LGBT students on campus.

"A lot of people don't talk about what the LGBT students face, or Title IX, and a lot of people don't know their rights, so we want to get that out there," Acevedo said.

SGA is not trying to make a political statement by putting on the Women's March, and that all

viewpoints are encouraged to attend the event, according to Acevedo.

Communications professor Deborah Thomson, will attend the march as one of the many guest speakers. She said that the event is inherently political, even if SGA said that it is not.

"Any march is political, that's why people march, otherwise we are just going for a walk together," Thomson said.

Thomson plans to talk about her child, who is a transgender male, and what it meant to her being a mother of a transgender child who failed to recognize it.

Thomson's son came out as transgender when he was 15, and around that time, HB2, a law that sought to restrict the usage of bathrooms to whatever biological sex one was born with, was passed in North Carolina, according to Thomson.

She said that during this time, Thomson found her voice, since she felt that the state was oppressing her child, and that is why she has chosen to talk about transgender rights at the march.

"Women's rights are human's rights, and oppressions can intersect," Thomson said.

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MLK continued from A1

community of Greenville to come together, recognize and remember an important historical figure and what they have become as far as a symbol and how we can continue that legacy and realize that work is not done," Simon said.

Simon hopes people who attend the events during this week will have fun and find it informative. She hopes it sparks an interest or passion in people and they will continue leading others. She said for those who are only familiar with Dr. King's "I Have a Dream Speech," this week will give those people a more well-rounded view of him.

The issues that Dr. King discussed and promoted have not left society. This week will utilize Dr. King's fame to work with others to get things done, according to Simon.

"I hope people will take away a lot of information and understand a little more about who Dr. King was and how they can work to create inclusive and united ECU. Especially since we might be headed towards a turbulent election later on this year," Simon said.

ECU staff counselor and the coordinator of Outreach and Intercultural Services, Maya Pittman, led the Day of Service ceremony with a speech on the importance of servitude, supported by Martin Luther King Jr. quotes.

"The easiest way to get into a community, show love to that place, and establish connections is through service," Pittman said.

After Pittman finished, the Day of Service volunteers dispersed to various locations around Greenville to serve in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Alex Dennis, the Assistant Director of the Center for Leadership & Civic Engagement, organized yesterday's Day of Service, and said almost 250 students, faculty and staff signed up to volunteer around Greenville.

There were many service opportunities students chose from including, Stop Human Trafficking NOW, Boys and Girls Club, Brookdale Assisted Living, Community Crossroads Center, ECU Purple Pantry, Foodbank of Central Eastern NC, Goodwill Community Foundation, Greenville Community Garden, MacGregor Down Health and Rehabilitation, RHA Howell-Tar River and the Ronald McDonald House, according to Dennis.

Dennis along with the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, organize four main service days throughout the year; Fall Day of Service

in August, Make a Difference Day in October, this MLK Day of Service, and Earth Day of Service in April, Dennis said.

"The MLK Day of Service is a wonderful way for our students to go out and get off campus to learn a little about the community of Greenville and the needs within our community," Dennis said.

Dennis said as a part of the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, it is their mission to serve the campus and community. Service and leadership go hand in hand. One can't be a leader without serving others. Service and leadership are the heart of what this center does and as a part of this center, service opportunities are provided to all ECU students, according to Dennis.

"It is a great way for our community partners to connect with ECU students and to teach them about the services they provide and their organizations and also share how connected our community and campus really could be and should be," Dennis said.

Junior education major Avere Gregg attended the MLK Day commencement ceremony and signed up to volunteer at the Goodwill Community Foundation.

Gregg said she isn't a part of any school organizations. Gregg added that she heard about the event through an email and said she thought it was important to help.

"I don't know, when I learned about it I just thought today is a day that should be about giving back to the community," Gregg said.

While at the Goodwill Community Foundation, Gregg said she would be helping to pack school supplies together for impoverished children around Greenville and said it should be rewarding.

Today at 6 p.m. inside the MCSC, ECU students, faculty and community members will serve on a discussion panel that will discuss numerous topics in relation to civil rights. Students do not need to sign up or get tickets to attend this event.

Keynote speaker, April Ryan, who is a White House correspondent, CNN political analyst, and author will speak tomorrow from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the MCSC. The LWCC wanted someone who could speak about social justice and equality to students as well as community members, according to Simon. Students should get tickets at the Ticket Office in the MCSC, but there is no cost.

Additional information for events honoring MLK during the week can be found on the ECU events calendar. It is encouraged for students to take advantage of the opportunities provided to expand their knowledge of equal rights.

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OUR VIEW

Smoke law is poorly timed but is needed

On Dec. 20, President Donald Trump signed legislation that raised the age requirement to buy tobacco products to 21, according to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The law was passed due to people starting to smoke or use tobacco products before the age of 18 and to prevent people from getting addicted to tobacco products at a young age, according to Assistant Professor of the College of Health and Human Performance Eric Soule.

Since the legislation passed, the law has taken effect in many stores around the nation and also affected tobacco users who were under 21 years of age. Due to the law taking effect immediately after it was announced, tobacco users under the age of 21 do not have enough time to quit the drug, causing them to have to quit cold turkey.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that the federal government should've given people a longer period of time to quit knowing the side effects, but we understand the reason why the law was passed.

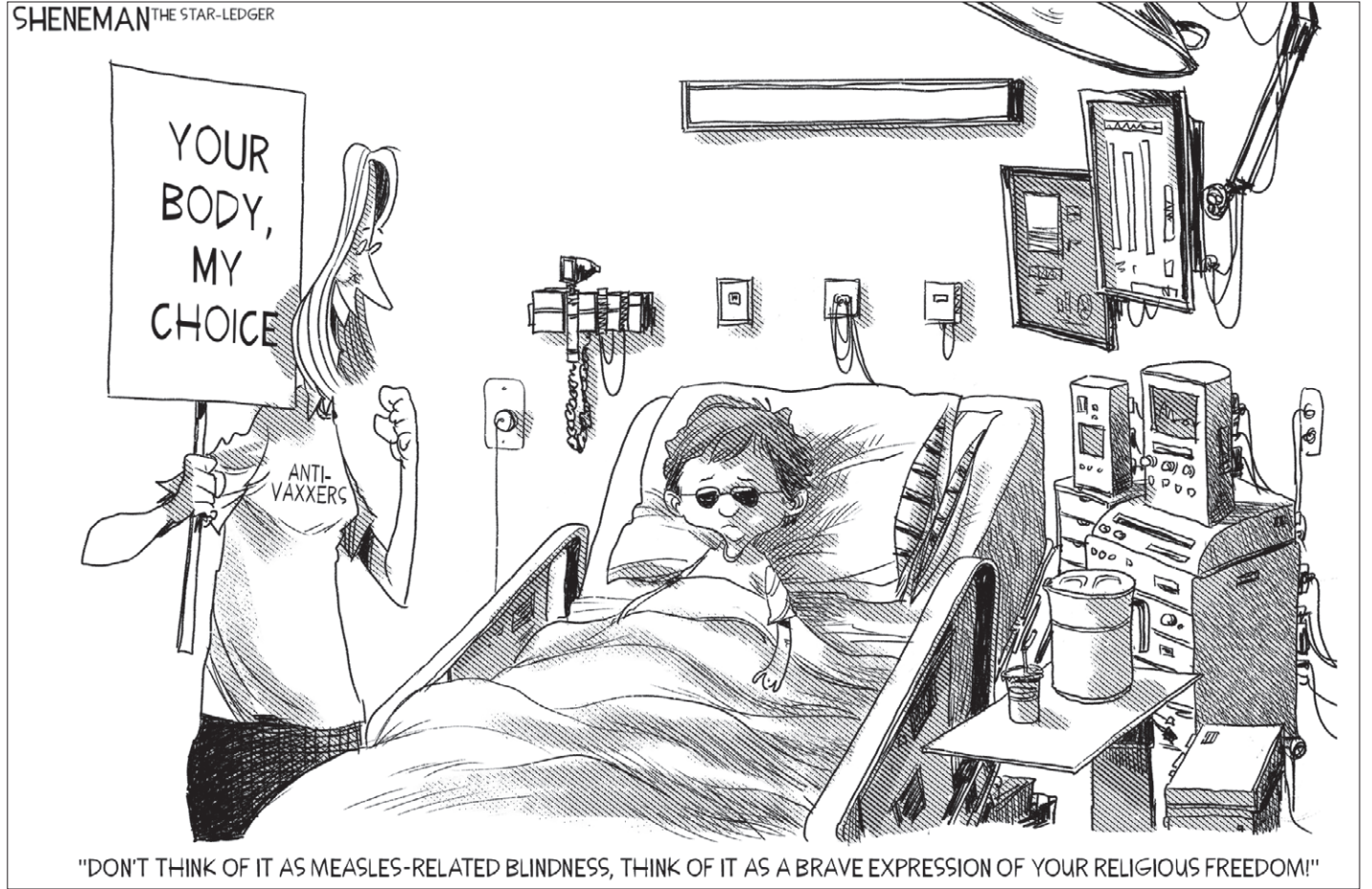
Even though the government should have given young tobacco users time to quit before passing the law effectively, the government knew the long term effects of tobacco usage at a young age and the possible threat it could cause in the long term.

16.2% of 12th graders are more likely to use E-Cigarettes than cigarettes. 66% of teenagers stated that it's only flavoring in their E-Cigarettes with not knowing what's inside and nicotine coming in second and third.

Although seven out of 10 teenagers are exposed to E-Cigarette advertisements, 30.7% of users are more likely to start smoking within six months according to drugabuse.gov.

If the government had delayed passing this law, vaping would have reached an all-time high in the future and potentially cause more people to turn to cigarettes, thus causing more health concerns in America.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



Capitalism fuels racism

Historically the free market spurs discrimination



Alec Fortune
GUEST COLUMNIST

In the 1600s, European powers were transitioning economically to early capitalism while also exploring and colonizing the world. This exploration allowed for great opportunities for trade, resource extraction, and exploitation. Combined with the emerging capitalist system, it created great potential for profit to flow to tiny elite that controlled land, trade routes, industries, and military forces. Hungry for gold and fame, European explorers landed in Africa, America, and the Caribbean, finding in the latter highly valuable crops: sugar, tobacco, cotton--and in the former a source of labor: slaves. This was the beginning of the Triangle Trade.

Slave ships filled with gold and trade goods left Europe for Africa where they purchased slaves. They sold these slaves at a profit in Caribbean colonies like Haiti or American plantations where the slaves would be worked to death to produce vast quantities of valuable cash crops. The coffee, sugar, and spices would be returned to Europe to be sold at an enormous profit, which would be invested into more slaves so the cycle could continue.

In the early days of the transatlantic triangle trade, the concept of "racism" wasn't exactly how it is in modern times, but the

idea still existed. European explorers and traders were certainly exploiting, enslaving, and killing people to help turn a profit, but a hatred based on skin color was not their sole motivation; money mattered most to them.

Over time, the profitability of the triangle trade came to be threatened by moral misgivings over the intense exploitation taking place. A Haitian sugar slave might be worked to death in only seven harsh years. So, it became necessary to invent justifications for why these African slaves could be exploited to protect highly profitable industries. There were many myths and justifications dreamed up through this era: Paternalism, the Curse of Ham, and stereotypes of black people as lazy, unintelligent, or violent. The stereotypes that exist today are the result of this period and were created to protect the profits of the slave trade.

The slave trade ended in the 19th century, but American slavery continued until the Civil War, remaining hugely profitable. The value of all the slaves held in America in 1860 would be worth trillions in today's dollars. Therefore, racism remained necessary to protect that value and profit. After the Civil War, racism remained a useful tool to keep former slaves down, and crucially, to keep white people from working together with slaves to form a working-class movement. Such a unified movement terrified and still terrifies the

US's economic elites. Perpetuating racism keeps poor whites hating poor(er) black people instead of the small group of people stealing from everyone else.

When a poor rural farmer identifies more with a New York billionaire than a Mexican-immigrant laborer, that is the power of racism at work protecting capital. Though both previously mentioned people share the same class position and class interests, the poor rural farmer has been inculcated into a system of hatred based upon the spurious theory of biological race. This harms everyone except for the New York billionaire who exploits both workers' labor to accumulate wealth. As long as capitalism persists in America, we will not be able to reckon with our racist culture because to admit the truth about racism would fatally undermine capitalism.

Racism is a product of historical and economic circumstances under capitalism. Here today, the history of capitalism is so bound up with the history of racism that they can no longer be separated. Race remains such a powerful tool to divide people that capitalism will always seize upon it. Racism cannot be truly defeated until capitalism is overthrown.

Fortune is a history graduate candidate at ECU and a guest columnist. To submit an article, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Attention needed for parking



Pat Polomchak
TEC STAFF

I treated last week the same as any week. I got up an hour before class began, took a shower, took my dog out, got ready for my day, and left my apartment with 20 minutes to spare.

What I did not account for, however, was spending those 20 minutes circling around campus and the overall Greenville area looking for a parking spot that would not get me ticketed or towed. This happened not once, but twice in the span of the first week of classes.

This is not the first time an East Carolina University student has had to miss or be late to a class due to the lack of adequate parking on campus. I had multiple friends tell me last semester about times it happened to them, as well as experiencing it once or twice for myself.

The second time is arguably my fault. I probably should have planned extra time to account for walking distance. I do have an off-campus friend who lets me park at her house when necessary, but that only works when I actually have time to park.

However, I would argue that the bigger problem is how little parking is available to off-campus students in the first place, and with how expensive parking passes are.

First, it should be mentioned that part of the problem is the growth of the university. I love having more people attend, as student body size can have a huge impact on state funding and I just like seeing my school grow.

Right now, if I were to buy a parking pass, I would either have to neglect my rent, my electric bill or food for the month. Even the cheapest passes are nearly twice my electric bill, and are only good for parking all the way at the football stadium. The 610 Minges bus does admittedly make it not so bad, but the fact remains that many students can't afford a pass.

The biggest frustration, to me, is the fact that we need to pay to park at all. I'm sure there's a reason for the parking pass system, but from the perspective of a student, I am already paying thousands of dollars every semester to attend, and yet I have to shell out an additional couple hundred every year just so I can park at the university I pay for?

I moved off campus because paying rent in an apartment is less expensive than paying for a dorm and a meal plan which I did not really use. I find it odd that the Parking and Transportation website only allows off-campus students to purchase C passes.

You would think those of us off campus would need the closer parking lots more, while those living on campus typically use their cars less and therefore would not need the closer spots. That logic certainly seems to be employed in the case of only allowing D passes for freshmen. What makes on-campus upperclassmen any different?

There are exceptions, of course. I agree that faculty and staff should get priority access to closer parking, as well as RAs. And obviously the parking garage has helped immensely since opening. However, on the days I mentioned above, there was not a single parking spot available in the garage by 9:10 a.m.

I can think of a few things I would do to improve the way things are, from realistic to unrealistic. Starting with the more fanciful solutions, I would prefer to see a few key parking lots reserved for the special cases I pointed out. Keeping D lot as the freshman lot is fine as well. However, from there I don't think parking lots should be broken up into categories. Just let everyone buy the same pass, and then it is first-come, first-serve for spots on any given day.

More realistically, I would like to see ECU build another parking deck before adding on to the Millennial Campus. The Biotech building that is currently under construction is certainly a good, high-profile addition to campus, but if it effectively brings more students to ECU the way administration surely wants it to, we simply don't have the infrastructure in place to support how many commuters that will likely produce.

To be clear, I don't claim to have all the answers to this question. I am not an expert in the logistics of ECU's parking situation. However, I think it is ridiculous that a student attending a university should be penalized because they can't afford a parking pass and the university doesn't have enough parking spaces available within reasonable walking distance to campus. If administration can find a solution to this problem, it would go a long way towards improving the experience of the student body.

Polomchak is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Pirates improve with sisterhood

Despite many injuries, ECU uses their bond to keep pushing forward

Anna Felber
TEC STAFF

Being a player on the East Carolina University (3-13, 0-3 AAC) women's basketball team comes with its ups and downs, but the ladies always keep themselves motivated through their team chemistry and support.

When off the court, the players remain a tight knit group with hard-working practices that are still able to be fun. The coaching staff is able to work with the team through pressing them to be the best they can be while still being able to make the practice enjoyable.



Katerina Tsineke

"What I enjoy the most about practices is the energy we bring up and seeing each other's faces and making sure we give everything we got," freshman guard Katerina Tsineke said.

Tsineke said that one of the most important aspects of a team is having good team chemistry, and the East Carolina women's basketball team displays that through its bonds not only with each other, but also with its coaches.

What is heavily pushed by the coaching staff is to "play for your sister," which means to see your teammate as your family so that you want to do your best in practices and win games for your teammates, not for yourself.

"Wanting it for each other really drives us," junior guard Lashonda Monk said. "Our coaches say every day, 'look next to you and play for your sister.' So wanting to make her better and wanting



Junior Lashonda Monk drives the basketball against UNC Charlotte earlier in the 2019-2020 season.

to get a win for her really drives our motivation."

The team even remains close off the court. They sometimes will go out for dinner together or will have breakfast.

Monk believes it is important they stay close off the court as well so that they continue to have a strong family-like bond.

With only eight healthy players out of

the 13 on the roster, it is important for them to keep a "sisterhood" mentality. Without the motivation from each other and even from their injured teammates, it would make sense for the team to want to give up, but it doesn't. They keep fighting and pushing for each other.

"With this team, we're still fighting. We're very young, so you got some kids getting some valuable minutes early that probably if we had a full roster, wouldn't be playing as much. But they're fighting," head coach Kim McNeill said according to ECUPIRATES.COM. "We're coming to practice every day trying to get better, not holding our heads down, not focusing on the past because we can't control the past all we can control is what's ahead of us."



With such a strong bond, the team still pushes through even with all of their unlucky breaks. Without the positive attitudes of the coaching staff and the "play for her" motivation, it would be hard for any team to keep their head up.

The East Carolina women's basketball team will have its next game away in Tulsa, Oklahoma where they will take on the University of Tulsa (5-12, 0-4 AAC) in another American Athletic Conference matchup. Tip-off between the Pirates and Golden Hurricane is scheduled for Tuesday at 8 p.m.

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



Senior Lisa Hofbauer in a singles tennis match during fall.

TENNIS continued from A1

two games of the season, the Pirates went undefeated until the AAC Championships.

ECU's men's team is coming into this season with just three upperclassmen. Senior Javier Renones is the lone senior. One year below him are the last two upperclassmen, juniors Wisse Jonker and Agustin Tamagnone.

"Our expectations for ourselves are very high," Renones said. "We have some new guys who have a lot of energy and want to compete, we also have one transfer and a couple juniors and we are very excited to have them and in my opinion we have a better team than last year."



Javier Renones

The women's team has more experience overall with six upperclassmen. Two seniors in Lisa Hofbauer, who was an AAC All-Conference selection last season, and Nastja Rettich and four juniors in Ho Chiao Hsia, Victoria Dixon, Alisa Dickersen, and Sofia Anthony lead the way. Nevertheless their combined experience, the upcoming campaign could prove to be a tough one for ECU women's tennis.

"Without question, this is the most challenging schedule we have ever put together," director of tennis/women's head coach Tom Morris said according to ECUPIRATES.COM. "I believe for our program to improve, we must play better competition. We play two teams ranked in the top-10 in the first month, but more importantly we have a schedule where every match will be a difficult match. We will have to play very well, to continue to improve and to stay healthy for this to be a good season."

In its first match of the spring season, the women's team will be traveling to Raleigh, North Carolina to play North Carolina State University Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. as of publication. In the two teams match history, the Pirates sport an 0-9 record dating back to the 2005-06 season.

On the men's side, they will be staying home for their first match of the spring season. North Carolina Central University will be visiting for the opener on Jan. 24 at 2:30 p.m. ECU has won all four of the matchups between the two programs.

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

'We did some things we haven't done in a while': ECU now 8-10

Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

The high of success was fun while it lasted for Joe Dooley and East Carolina University's (8-10, 2-3 AAC) men's basketball team. Not long after the buzzer sounds on the Pirates' second consecutive blowout loss, this time to the University of Cincinnati (11-7, 4-2 AAC) by a score of 82-57, Dooley was on the IMG Network postgame show with Jeff Charles sounding drained after 40 minutes of lackluster play.

"We did some things we haven't done in a while," Dooley told Charles. The pressure did bother us, especially early. We had to call a timeout on the first possession. It's also hard to simulate until you've seen it, I don't think some of these younger guys understand what it's really like."

If the 11 newcomers did not know what it was like prior to Sunday, they know now. In the Pirates' 25-point loss they turned the ball over 19 times, including 11 in the second half alone. At the forefront were two underclassmen in sophomore forward Jayden Gardner and freshman center/forward Charles Coleman who combined for nearly half of ECU's turnovers on the evening.

Pressured from the beginning by a Cincinnati defense that entered Sunday inside the top-100 nationally in scoring defense, perhaps it was to be expected for a young team like ECU to struggle. Throw in 11,000 hostile fans in an environment that is already tough to win in and it becomes the perfect recipe for the type of loss the Pirates suffered.

Nevertheless Sunday continued to shine a light on ECU's most glaring weakness, the complete inability to shoot with consistency. One season after the Pirates finished dead last in the American Athletic Conference in three-point percentage at 28.4%, that number has somehow trended in the wrong direction through 18 games of this campaign.

Following back-to-back contests in which the Pirates shot a combined 16.3% (8-of-49) from long-range, ECU is now shooting threes at a

28.2% clip. That is once again the worst number in the conference, and it is not particularly close.

To put things into perspective, of the four ECU players who have made at least 10 three-point field goals this season, freshman forward/guard Brandon Suggs owns the best percentage at 32.4% (11-of-34).

Previously at the top of those rankings, junior guard Tyrie Jackson has been a catalyst for the Pirates' struggles over the last two games. An 0-of-12 performance



Joe Dooley

from long-range against the University of Tulsa (12-6, 4-1 AAC) on Wednesday was backed up with an 0-of-2 effort from the junior on Sunday, making him zero for his last 14 from three-point range.

Still second on the team in made threes with 19, Jackson is now shooting 27.9% from distance and under 38% from the field overall.

While Jackson has been singled out as an example, the entirety of ECU's roster has crashed back down to earth over the last week.

Riding high after winning six of seven from Dec. 14 to Jan. 11 to get back to .500 on the season, the Pirates were held to under 60 points on back-to-back occasions since. Shooting over 45% during their successful run, ECU scored nearly 71 points per game while holding opponents to just over 65 points and 37% shooting from the field.

In all eight of the Pirates' wins this season they have kept opponents under 40% shooting, something they accomplished in four consecutive games spanning two weeks in December.

Since, however, ECU's shooting, defense and overall feel for the game has seemingly slipped while the schedule continues to stiffen.

"I think our poise today was bad," Dooley said after Sunday's loss. "We got a little rattled, we had some foul trouble. Once again, missing open shots, I think, affected us. Then we became hesitant, we need to obvi-

ously keep working on that."

More so than just from long-range, the Pirates are generally struggling to make baskets. On Sunday alone, they missed 13 shots classified as lay-ups while at the same time allowing Cincinnati eight dunks and multiple high-percentage shots over the course of 40 minutes.

In all, Cincinnati shot 45.5% from the field as ECU's last two opponents have managed a 44.5% shooting clip. Conversely, in their last duo of games, the Pirates have barely broken 31% from the field while averaging 16 turnovers per game.

While it is nearly impossible to compare this year's squad to last due to the roster turnover, one striking similarity is beginning to take shape.

At the 16-game mark last season, Dooley's Pirates were 8-8 to match this year's team. Getting there on back-to-back losses after an 8-6 start, ECU dropped games No. 17 and 18 by 11 and 44 points respectively.

That 8-10 team went on to post a 2-11 record for the remainder of the 2018-2019 season and finished 10-21 overall and 3-15 in the AAC.

As stated above it is dangerous to compare teams, especially in ECU's case. Nevertheless through 18 games this year's squad offers very similar statistics to what its predecessor posted last season.

Everything from shooting percentage to three-point percentage to scoring offense and even the amount of inexperience present on the roster offer foreshadowing into what we could see from the Pirates down the stretch.

Of course that could change, but only if Dooley and his coaching staff can figure out what ails this roster.

"There's a number of things we'll have to take off the tape and hopefully show these guys quickly," Dooley said.

The Pirates will be back in action on Wednesday against Southern Methodist University (13-4, 3-2 AAC). Tip-off between the Pirates and Mustangs is scheduled for 8 p.m. from Dallas, Texas.

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

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Make use of a team advantage. Watch for an opportunity and run with it. A lovely prize is within view. Advance through community connections.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- You and your partner find a spontaneous opportunity to advance your collaboration. Listen to your heart. Give an extra push to make the deadline.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Connect, network and share. Tactful communication allows for mutual support. Use your wits to solve a problem. Do the homework. Good news comes from afar.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Your work is making a good impression on someone important. Polish and prepare. Social connections benefit your venture. Share the latest and network.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Take a leap ahead. You're energized. Practice physical routines and take them to the next level. Benefit from the work you've been doing.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- A lucrative opportunity is worth chasing, as long as your heart's involved. Help bring a brilliant idea to light. Passion inspires sales and marketing.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Get out and go when conditions are good. Tread lightly along the trail. Mix business and pleasure. Explore fresh terrain. Keep things simple.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- You're especially creative and charming. Enjoy the company of people you love, respect and admire. Discover a mutual enchantment and investigate further.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 9 -- You're growing stronger. Energize a personal ambition, dream or wish. What would it take? Look for a lucky break and find one. Make your move.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Expect the unexpected, especially with shared finances. Provide motivation for powerful action. Present options and predictable outcomes. Make a lucrative decision together.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Apply your creative talents to come up with domestic solutions. Consider color and mood, texture and lighting, as you plan practical functional improvements.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Choose private over public settings. Recharge in peaceful surroundings. Realizations, wonderings and epiphanies inspire. You can see the road to a dream realized.

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COMICS

ONE AND ONLY BY BRIAN JUDGE



BLISS

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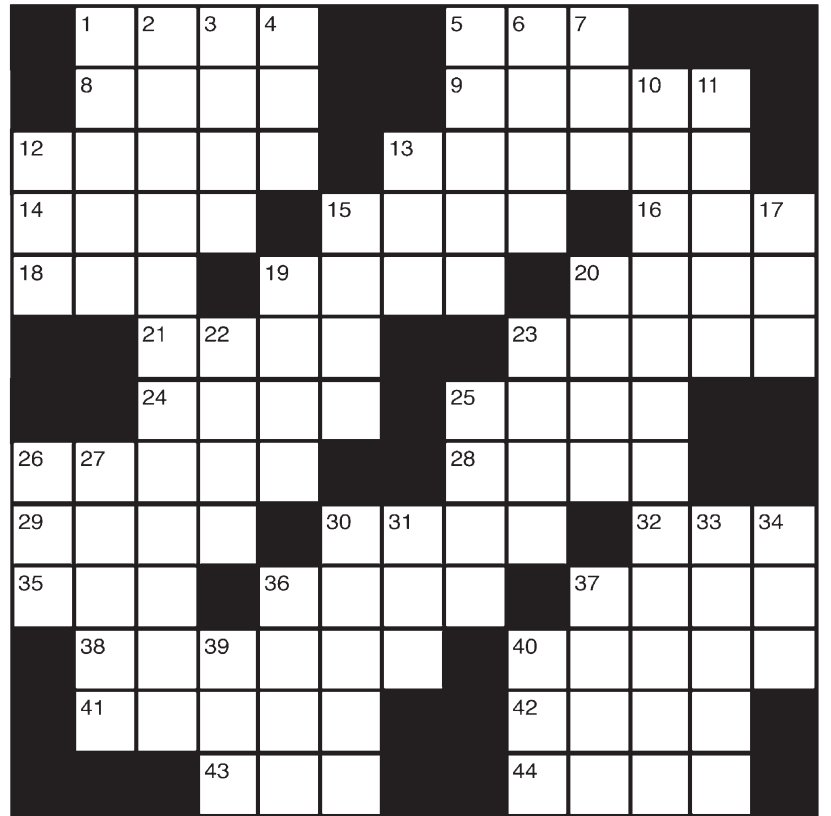
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CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 “__ ’70s Show”
- 5 Rather or Aykroyd
- 8 __ d’oeuvres; appetizers
- 9 October birthstones
- 12 Star of “The Apprentice”
- 13 Laura of “Are You There, Chelsea?”
- 14 “Don’t __ with the Zohan”; Adam Sandler movie
- 15 “__ & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman”
- 16 Suffix for fact or habit
- 18 Average grade
- 19 Series whose theme song is “Bad Boys”
- 20 Robert De __
- 21 Cure
- 23 Ferrer and Feliciano
- 24 Arm bone
- 25 James __; 007
- 26 Singer __ Joplin
- 28 __ about; approximately
- 29 Painting and sculpturing
- 30 “Happy __”
- 32 Diminish; lessen

- 35 One of The Three Stooges
- 36 Cleaning cloths
- 37 “__ Breckinridge”
- 38 Japanese detective of 1930s films
- 40 Morley of “60 Minutes”
- 41 Brush __; disregard
- 42 “Sometimes you feel like __, sometimes you don’t..”
- 43 Donkey
- 44 Matthew Fox drama series

DOWN

- 1 “My __ Sons”
- 2 HGTV reality series featuring prospective home buyers
- 3 Weapons
- 4 1/3 of a tablespoon: abbr.
- 5 __ Roberts of “Everybody Loves Raymond”
- 6 “Rise of the Planet of the __”
- 7 Siesta
- 10 Actress Julia __
- 11 Hidden trap
- 12 HBO competitor
- 13 Herman Munster, to Eddie
- 15 Actress Glaudivini
- 17 “NCIS: __ Angeles”
- 19 Fires, slangily
- 20 “__, Nanette”
- 22 Whitney and Wallach
- 23 Stewart and Cryer
- 25 “__ Don’t Cry”; Hilary Swank film
- 26 “Space __”; Michael Jordan movie
- 27 Fragrance
- 30 Goes out with
- 31 Long __; in the distant past
- 33 Actress Butler
- 34 Saloon
- 36 Serling and Steiger
- 37 __ War; thoroughbred champion
- 39 Actress Farrow
- 40 Actor Mineo

Solution from 01/16

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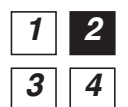
SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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						8		4
	8						5	1
				9	4	2		
		9	8					6

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 01/16



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

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EVENTS

TODAY

Game of Throne Trivia
Uptown Brewing Company
7 p.m.

January Wine Dinner
Ford + Shep
6:30 p.m.

Table Top Tuesday
Pitt Street Brewing Company
6:30 p.m.

TOMORROW

Art Means Business
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
6 p.m.

**Coachman Creation Present:
Beers & Bottle Painting**
Jack Brown's Beer and Burger Joint
7 p.m.

Fleet Feet Pub Run
Uptown Brewing Company
6:15 p.m.

THURSDAY

**Country Vintner January
Wine Tasting**
Dickinson Avenue Public House
5:30 p.m.

**NC New Music Initiative:
Wavefield Ensemble**
A.J. Fletcher Music Center
7:30 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED BY MICHAEL WEGNER

Tribute band, Cosmic Charlie, who will be performing at The State Theater's anniversary show this Saturday, performing at the Lincoln Theatre in Raleigh.

Cosmic Charlie Returns

Local theater to celebrate one-year anniversary

Macie Tano
TEC STAFF

A Grateful Dead tribute band, Cosmic Charlie, will celebrate the one-year anniversary of The State Theater this Saturday at the theater with doors opening at 8 p.m.

Cosmic Charlie, who played for The State Theater's opening night last year, is based out of Athens, Georgia and performs music from The Grateful Dead along with original music, according to Michael Wegner, singer and guitarist for Cosmic Charlie.



Michael Wegner

"We play the music of the Grateful Dead, which of course consists of a lot of genres, rock, blues, jazz, bluegrass and Americana. We are all involved with other musical projects, several of which include original music," Wegner said.

Besides Wegner, the band consists of David Domizi who sings and plays bass, Nathan Hale and Kane Stanley on the drums, John Miley who sings and plays guitar and Martin Pell who sings and plays the keyboard according to Wegner.

The band was formed back in 1999. The band members, who were in separate bands at the time, gathered together to perform one night for a Grate-

ful Dead tribute, Wegner said.

"We never intended to be a band, it was originally just supposed to be one show. We all played in different local bands, but we decided to get together for a one-night tribute to the Grateful Dead, to celebrate Jerry Garcia's birthday. That concert turned out to be a lot of fun, so we decided to keep doing it. At this point we've played about 800 shows," Wegner said.

Since then, the band has performed at various locations around the United States, mainly performing in the Southeast, Wegner said.

Wegner said his favorite part of performing with Cosmic Charlie is performing the Grateful Dead's music and being creative with his band members.

"We literally make it up as we go, at least when it comes to the jam sections. So we get the chance to be creative every night, rather than just recreate songs note-for-note. The Dead were known for never playing a song the same way twice," Wegner said.

Wegner said he is looking forward to seeing the turnout for the one year anniversary performance this year.

Mark Thompson, the co-owner of The State Theater, said that Cosmic Charlie had a generous turnout last year during the opening night celebration, and he is looking forward to seeing the theater's progress.

"We are excited to hit the milestone for a year. We are constantly making changes to change the venue a little bit here and there. It has been a fun year so far, so we are looking forward to year two," Thompson said.

Thompson believes that the show will go well, and believes that people that come out will have a good time.

Noah Ray, junior sports studies major, attended the opening night concert last year when Cosmic Charlie performed and is planning to attend the anniversary concert this Saturday.



Noah Ray

"It was a fantastic show, Cosmic Charlie brought the music of the Grateful Dead back to life from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s back to 2020. It was very upbeat and an overall great time at The State Theatre," Ray said.

The admission for the concert is \$12 for standing general admission, and \$20 for balcony seating, and tickets can be purchased through The State Theater's website.

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

Tattoo shop revitalizes punk scene in Greenville

Giana Williams
TEC STAFF

Great Wolf Tattoo and Backdoor Upstairs will come together to host a concert at Great Wolf Tattoo on Saturday at 8:30 p.m. with a \$5 entrance at the door.

Great Wolf host shows to give Greenville a platform to perform metal and hardcore music but is often limited because of the lack of metal venues around the town according to Samantha Strano, a body piercer at Great Wolf.

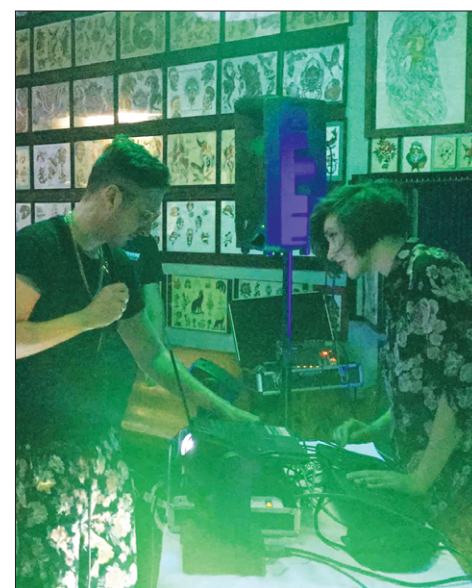
"The only actual goal we have by hosting these bands and shows is to just give them a space and hopefully make a difference in this town to show that there's more to Greenville than what they offer," Strano said.

When picking bands to perform at Great Wolf, Strano said that they normally look for local bands or any touring band that will be close in the Greenville area and book them for the night and give anyone an opportunity to come out and perform.

"The shows are always a good time, between the music and just the people who come to watch. Every kind of music deserves a chance and we're just trying to give the community a venue to play," Strano said.

The bands performing in the concert will include Pathogenesis from North Carolina's triangle area, Voltage Divider from Greenville and The Wind In The Trees from Baltimore, Maryland.

The Wind In The Trees is currently on their first tour promoting their full-length album titled "A gift of bricks from the sky" which was released in 2019 according to guitarist, Dave Gill. Gill said the band's performance is a spectacle, very wild and all over the stage and describes the music



CONTRIBUTED BY BACKDOOR UPSTAIRS

Crunk Witch gets ready to perform at Great Wolf.

as grindcore, which is really noisy, screaming, angry music.

"We're basically just really loud and our music is very chaotic. We really just trying to be as loud as possible," Gill said.

Gill said the band has a friend named Daris King, a worker for Backdoor Upstairs, who helped booked them a show in Greenville as one of their tour stops. The band's goal is to try and perform in front of as many new faces as possible during their tour.

"We're excited to see friends on the way down there (Greenville) and we're always interested in playing in tattoo shops like a preview place for us," Gill said.

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

CHOIR continued from A1

such a great cause. I believe that music speaks to a part in all of us. Everyone can find some joy in it," Means said.

Music such as African American spirituals and gospel played an important role in the civil rights movement. Songs such as "We Shall Overcome" provided hope and reflected people's feelings towards the events happening around them.

For those performing, the concert is not only a celebration of King's legacy. It is also a

time to remember the struggles that he and others endured in the name of civil rights.

Imani Samuel, sophomore public health major and historian for the ECU gospel choir, offered his thoughts on the importance of the music of the Civil Rights era.

"Gospel music gave individuals hope and helped them not give up even when it seemed like there was nothing left for them to do," Samuel said.

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



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