



The East Carolinian

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The outside building of Stumpy's Hatchet House where the annual Hatchets and Hearts celebration will be held tomorrow night. LAMAR GILCHRIST | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

'Love is Love' to promote inclusivity

Ahren Rau
TEC STAFF

The Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will celebrate Valentine's Day with its "Love is Love" event today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in suite 209 of the Main Campus Student Center.

Senior Associate Director of Intercultural Affairs, Mark Rasdorf, said "Love is Love" is an event centered around providing inclusive messaging for all gender and sexual minorities. He claims the idea came from the need for an impactful event on campus in the spring.

"The idea came from students who wanted to do something in the spring semester that had a broader impact on campus such as our events like national coming out day in the fall," Rasdorf said.

This will mark the fourth year the LGBTQ Center has hosted "Love is Love," Rasdorf said, adding that this will be an event where students can share messages of inclusion and pick up a t-shirt on a day highlighting love.

Rasdorf said his primary responsibility as senior associate director is overseeing the daily operation and long term planning of the LGBTQ Center, adding that it is the largest of its kind in the University of North Carolina System.

"The LGBTQ Center serves as a resource, educational and social service on campus which of course includes faculty and staff alumni prospective students and their families," Rasdorf said.

Since its founding in 2011, Rasdorf said the Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center has become increasingly more active in fundraising and campaigning for LGBTQ advancement.

Senior anthropology and chemistry double major Eric Hickerson said he assisted the coordination of the "Love is Love" event by helping with t-shirt designs, planning, and setting up decorations.

Hickerson said the idea of "Love is Love" centered around showcasing other kinds of love on Valentine's Day, and not just the heteronormative love that dominates media.

"Love is Love as a way to make sure that all of the students, faculty and staff in the community feel involved around this holiday and make sure they know they are loved by everyone," Hickerson said.

Hickerson said he had been volunteering for the LGBTQ Center since his freshman year until



Mark Rasdorf

Cupid hits Uptown Businesses to celebrate Valentine's Day

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

On the eve of Valentine's Day, one may find themselves still without any plans for the impending holiday, but Greenville has plenty of events going on for both taken and single people.

Pitt Street Brewery will be hosting its Hoppy Valentine's Day event tomorrow night at 6. There will be a variety of sweet treats available from the Sparky's snowballs food truck, including snowballs, funnel cakes and fried Oreos. The featured drink at the event is Pitt Street's new Strawberry Milkshake IPA called Love Shack and its general manager, Brianna Long, said they think it is their "best IPA yet."

The Brewery have done this event in the past on a smaller scale but after receiving such a good turnout, its decided to add a few more

touches to the event, one of which being live music.

At 8 p.m. Lotus Sun, a band out of Fayetteville will begin its show for the night.

"We like to keep life simple. Come out and enjoy a great beer while listening to a rock and heavy blues band," Long said.

The Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge will host a special Valentine's edition of their Sip, Savor, & Create workshop at 6:30 p.m Friday at Emerge. At this event singles and couples alike will be given an opportunity to create a piece of pottery on a potter's wheel while enjoying light refreshments and any brown-bagged beer or wine they choose to bring.

Emerge programs director Paula Rountree said that this workshop became a Valentine's Day event simply because of the fortunate

timing of the holiday on the same day as its normal Sip, Savor, and Create workshops.

"That way it would allow for couples to come for date night or it could allow a couple of friends to come and just hang out for Valentine's if they needed something to do. It also gives the opportunity for an abnormal kind of date night, something you don't normally get to do for Valentine's," Rountree said.

You can register for this event and any of Emerge's workshops on their website, pittcountyarts.org under the education tab.

Stumpy's Hatchet House will be having a few different Valentine's Day-themed events, beginning tonight with a Galentine's party in honor of the pre-Valentine's Day holiday celebrating women and

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> LOVE page A2

ECU tentatively sets weekend rotation

Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

It is game week for East Carolina University baseball in Greenville, North Carolina. After what seemed like a long off-season, Feb. 14 will usher in a new season for the Pirates, head coach Cliff Godwin's sixth with the program.

"It kind of seems surreal to be honest with you," Godwin said. "Obviously we have known Feb. 14 is Opening Day but really just trying to have a good practice today (Tuesday), have a good practice tomorrow (Wednesday), have a good practice Thursday and then let Friday just happen."

A team fresh off a Regional win in its home ballpark and a subsequent Super Regional berth, new faces have been the storyline throughout the course of the fall and spring. All told, Godwin and the Pirates welcomed 18 freshman or junior college transfers to the roster after sending seven players to major league franchises last summer.

With most of that newness set to show up in the bullpen, the Pirates are poised to return an experienced, battle-tested starting rotation. At his team's media day in late-January, Godwin said if the season started tomorrow, junior right-handed



Senior right-handed pitcher Tyler Smith throws a pitch in a previous game in his career at ECU. COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

pitcher Gavin Williams would be his Opening Day starter against William & Mary.

Fast forward to now, and Williams is set to begin the season on the shelf after suffering a finger injury on his pitching hand in practice. Godwin confirmed on Tuesday that the right-hander will miss opening weekend altogether and

undergo an X-ray this week.

Unfortunately for the Pirates, the injury bug did not stop biting there. Junior left-handed pitcher Jake Kuchman, the only ECU player to throw a perfect game, has been dealing with shoulder soreness for the majority of the spring. On Sunday, the southpaw tossed an inning during

intrasquad scrimmages and is on track to throw again this coming Sunday against the Tribe.

Nevertheless, Godwin said Tuesday that his left-hander will be limited to two and at most three innings as he continues to work his way back from injury.

While injuries are never ideal, the Pirates have built in experienced depth that is slated to be put to the test. In Williams' and Kuchman's stead, junior left-handed pitcher/first baseman Alec Burleson will "most likely" get the start on Opening Day, according to Godwin.

"We've prepared him like a starter so that was the plan to prepare him like a starter through the preseason," Godwin said. "He didn't pitch in the fall just in case something like this happened and, of course, you prepare for the worst and sometimes you get it."

Burleson, who is a top two-way player in the country, has held every conceivable role for the Pirates during his tenure with the program. Last season, the southpaw pitched to a 6-2 record with a 3.28 ERA across 60.1 innings.

In 24 appearances on the mound, Burleson

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ONLINE

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BRIEFS

Health Science Campus to host Valentine's Day event

Today, the Health Sciences Campus will host an event where students can create their own bouquet of flowers from 10 p.m. to noon. This will take place in the Health Sciences Students Center's main lobby, and students are encouraged to make the free bouquets for themselves or a significant other in celebration of Valentine's Day.

Women and Gender office to celebrate Galentine's Day

Today, the Women and Gender Office will host a Galentine's Day event in its Main Campus Student Center office from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They will provide snacks, a photo booth, Galentine's Day cards and there will be several giveaways.

CJSO to host domestic violence awareness meeting

Tonight, the Criminal Justice Student Organization will host an awareness meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 about domestic violence in Rivers 210. Ms. Reece from the Center for Family Violence Prevention will be the guest speaker and will talk to all students and staff present.

French department will host La Chandeleur celebration

Tomorrow, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. the ECU french Department and French club will host a Candlemas celebration in the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center. They will celebrate the French holiday by making Crepes for all students that come to the event.

DMD to offer sweet treats

Today, the School of Dental Medicine's DMD organization will host "DMD Valentine Sweet Treats" from noon to 1 p.m. located at Ross Hall Rotunda. The organization will offer Valentines themed desserts available for purchase from \$1 to \$3. Venmo will be accepted as payment if students do not have cash available.

SAB to provide inexpensive Valentine's gifts

Today, the Students Activity Board will host "MYO Valentine's Day Cards and Rings" from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the BlackBox theatre.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

S.H.O.E.S event returns

ECU to honor those who have faced mental health issues

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

The Center for Counseling & Student Development will host its annual S.H.O.E.S event place today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Mall to recognize those students who may struggle with mental health to remind them they are not alone.

The event itself stands for Students Honoring Others Everyday Struggles/Stories and was created to help students who struggle with stress, anxiety, depression, thoughts of self-harm or addictions.

The Director of Residence Life, Waz Miller, said herself along with collaborative efforts from the Center for Counseling & Student Development (CCSD), students from the Residence Hall Association (RHA) and campus living staff, created the event.

"We wanted to do something more proactive. We put it all together in relation to positivity and mental health," Miller said.

Miller said that this event will mark the fifth annual S.H.O.E.S event ECU has held. It got its start when the local news reported about "active minds," which focused on teenagers who have taken their own lives and their backpacks were on display with encouraging cards. They wanted to do something similar before it was too late for students at ECU.

"There will be a sea of positive post-it notes attached to more than 450 pairs of shoes. We want to raise awareness. That's the one thing about mental health. It really touches everyone on some level. It's for all genders, all races, all ages. It's all very well-orchestrated to try to reach as many people as possible," Miller said.

There will also be positive notes in the residence halls, Main Campus Student Center, dining halls and busses. The busses will have positive quotes scrolling through their screens.

The event will provide hot cocoa from campus dining, smiley face cookies and have a big purple stuffed animal bear named "Soks" that will be there for people to take pictures with him, according to Miller. WZMB will attend the event playing positive songs. There will also be a Snapchat filter and people can post positive thoughts and pictures with the hashtag #ECUSHOES.

"It's gotten really big over the years. It also lets people know that what they're feeling is normal in a way and they're not alone," Miller said.

The shoes that will be displayed for the event were donated from ECU students, faculty and other anonymous donors. Waz and her colleagues collected shoes two or three times, according to Miller.

The students at Hope Middle School wrote the positive cards for the shoes. Though the school didn't donate any shoes, it tried to match the card with the person who donated, so they have a story, positive words, or the issues the person struggled with, according to Miller.



East Carolina University students honor those who have struggled with mental health issues.

There will also be a resource table where students can take pamphlets and informational tips on any resources they may need. There will also be a CCSD staff member at the table if anyone gets upset, or needs to process, or just needs someone to talk to. There will be a transit bus near the mall area for people to go in with a counselor to just talk to one on one, Miller said.

"We wanted to do it kind of like a surprise since it is bizarre to stumble out of the dorms and see all these things are out. It really is for any ECU student or faculty or just if anyone is walking their dog through campus. The biggest expense is the shoes, but they're all donated. This reaches so many and has such an important message," Miller said.

When people are reading these stories on the shoes, it'll let them know they're not the only ones that have these feelings. They're not alone because it's something that goes on a lot of times with young adults and teenagers, according to Miller.

"There are a lot of resources and help available on campus. I think a lot of times people tend to hyper focus on the things that are going wrong in their lives. That's not their whole life. We want to provide hope and a different perspective, and the bottom line is what they're feeling is legitimate and they're not alone. There are people here who want to help," Miller said.

ECU News Services issued a press release to the public on Feb. 6 to announce the importance of the event. The press release stated S.H.O.E.S was first held in 2016 in response to students often feeling isolated or unable to manage their emotions and went on to claim an award for regional program of the year.

"It won the state and regional Program of the Year award and went on to be chosen as the Program of the Year by the National Association of College and University Residence Halls. The program was shared with other campuses at the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International conference in Rhode Island in June 2017," the

press release said.

Freshman business marketing major, Haes Shake, plans to attend this event for the first time today. He said he met Miller last semester in COAD class and when she mentioned this event, he was immediately intrigued.



Haes Shake

Shake looks forward to seeing how many people show up for this event. He said he wants to help those around him feel better and talk about anything they might be going through, especially if he shares his message and it resonates with someone.

"I think it's really cool, I can't believe that many shoes, stories, and messages will be out there. 400 is a lot. It'll be really interesting to see it visually. I think that messages around campus are so unique and everyone deserves a little positivity," Shake said.

It takes a lot of work to set a project like this up, according to Shake. He said there will be a lot of words of encouragement. A simple message or a small act of kindness can immensely change the way someone's day is going.

The event will provide those who have struggled with mental health the reassurance that they are not alone, according to Shake.

"This event is important because everyone goes through things, regardless of how big or small. This event gives people the ability to understand they aren't alone, people care for them, and it shows people are actively trying to make the world around them a better place," Shake said.

The CCSD provides students with short-term counseling, 12 sessions throughout the academic school year. The CCSD's hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. For crisis screenings, the hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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



ARCHIVED | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
PeeDee The Pirate stands tall on campus wearing the LGBTQ flag.

LOVE continued from A1

he was hired was a center assistant last year. Since then, Hickerson said he has become part of the programming committee where he now helps organize events.

Hickerson added that he was one of the 10 students selected to attend the Time to Thrive contest and is excited to learn about more ways to assist the LGBTQ community.

"Through the center I have learned to become a better person, a better student and learning to be more of an advocate for the LGBTQ community and my peers," Hickerson said.

The annual event "offers an opportunity to share an inclusive vision of love for all" and will have free t-shirts and photo opportunities, according to the Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center website.

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

ECU promotes sexual health

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are increasing at an alarming rate nationally for people between the ages of 15 to 24. With the celebration of Valentine's Day, students should be alert and careful to practice safe sex.

Physician Assistant at Student Health, Hannah Varney, said most STDs are bacterial infections and if left untreated, they can lead to significant health consequences, such as infertility or inflammatory infections. Some can even go to the brain and cause neurological damage.

The best way to prevent an STD from occurring is abstinence, but that is not always the case for some, according to Varney. She said the second-best way is using condoms.

She said over the past couple years, people are straying away from condoms and aren't having sex safely which could be a factor as to why the rates are higher.

"There are a lot of factors that could explain why STDs are on the rise, but I think the biggest thing is just not using condoms. If you can identify an STD, you can treat them or manage them so that people are overall healthy," Varney said.

Nationally, chlamydia is the most common STD, according to Varney. She said North Carolina rates sixth in the nation for chlamydia and ninth in the nation for gonorrhea.

A lot of people think they can only get STDs from vaginal intercourse. However, it can also be transmitted by some type of sexual contact like oral sex. She said one can't get an STD from a bathroom or by sharing a towel, which is a common misconception.

"That's the biggest misconception. People aren't using barrier methods or protection with all types of intercourse," Varney said.

Additionally, Varney shared that chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis are all treated with antibiotics and once they're treated those will go away. She said viral infections, like Herpes, HPV, HIV or genital warts are worse because those can be managed, but they

are not curable. Those specific infections also have psychological impacts, but it's harder not only physically, but mentally as well, according to Varney.

For those STDs that can be treated by antibiotics, it is recommended that there should be no sexual contact for at least a week. Typically, within a week it can be treated, but more than one STD can be transmitted at the same time if there is any sexual contact, Varney said.

She recommends knowing your partner or partners and getting tested prior to being sexually active, as well as the use of protection. Getting tested regularly is also one of the best preventions.

As health providers, it's their job to consider all options and rule things out. Varney said when she has people coming in thinking they have a urinary tract infection or another issue, the door is always opened for that conversation about STD testing.

Student Health has a Fast-Track Clinic in which people can go in just to get tested. She said they don't have to show any symptoms to receive the test and if the student has insurance through ECU, the fee is covered. Those who have outside insurance tend to be covered for the test as well, Varney said.

Varney said when an appointment is made, the student will be put on the schedule, and they'll see a nurse when they come to the appointment. It's a really quick appointment and they can get any testing they request. Student Health usually can get results for gonorrhea and chlamydia within twenty-four hours, which she said is a lot faster than other places.

"It is an easy process and easy access and we are becoming a network with many more insurance companies every day, so it makes it a little easier for students. Sometimes students don't want to put it on their insurance, so they have the option to pay out of pocket," Varney said.

If students go to Student Health's pharmacy, they can get 10 condoms for around \$2. There's even a paper where students can just circle what they want so they don't even have to talk to anyone when they go in, according to Varney.

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

OUR VIEW

Black history exists beyond just February

Black History Month is the time to recognize the history and culture of African Americans in the United States.

East Carolina University is hosting several events during this month that will celebrate achievements of black Americans.

One of these will be the Diversity Dialogue Series on Feb. 17 from 3 to 4 p.m. hosted by the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center. The series is a monthly occurrence that focuses on topics related to diversity and social justice.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that while Black History Month is important to celebrate every February, the accomplishments of the black community need more appreciation all year round.

Black History Month began in 1912 where it was just a week of celebration in February. The date was initially chosen to coincide with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, but was later changed to an entire month of celebration, and has remained as so.

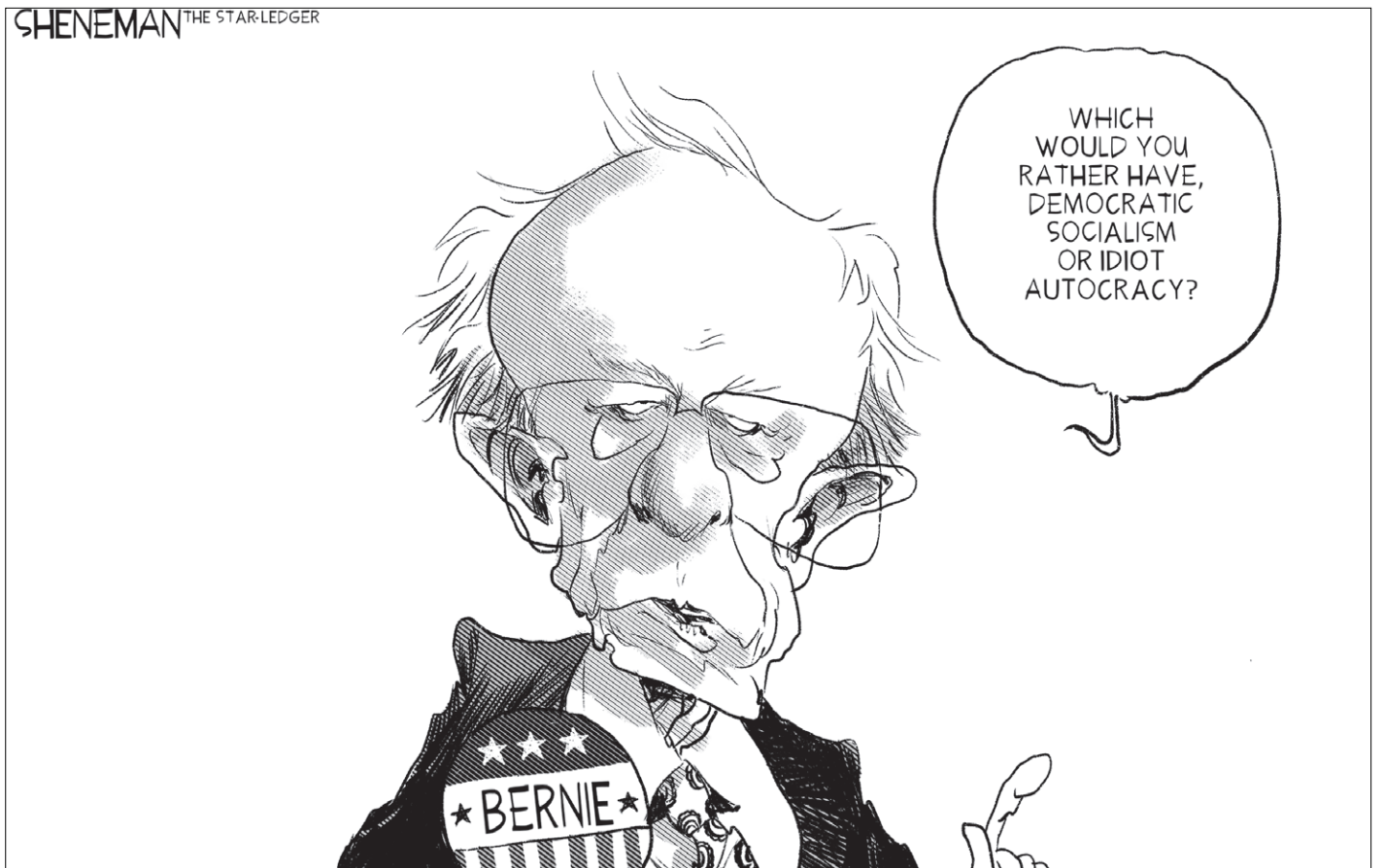
While it may be nice to dedicate an entire month to focus on the accomplishments and effects that black people have had on this country as well as improvements of culture and society as a whole, it should be recognized year round. There are so many things this country has thanks to the ingenuity and knowledge of the black community.

The invention of the traffic light, the creation of popular music genres, the invention of the Super Soaker that is considered a staple in American households and so many other things would not exist if it were not for African Americans.

The United States would not have made it to the moon if it were not for the African American women that helped do the mathematical equations necessary to calculate various launch angles needed for the expedition that would have several astronauts circle the moon and make it back to Earth in one piece.

While this month is one that needs to be observed, every day should celebrate Black History.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



Sexual assault lingers

The lives of rape victims are changed forever

Anonymous
GUEST COLUMNIST

It's amazingly profound the effect one person can have on you. All of my trust was put in them and they used it to their advantage to hide all of the secrets from my young mind. They can tell you how much they love you but when it begins to plague you with nightmares that begins the red flags that damage a person.

Love is respect, not abuse. Love is listening to the words "stop" or "no." Love is consent and isn't using that person when they're drunk or you think they're unconscious. My story will have an everlasting effect on me and isn't one that can be erased. I lost my trust in people and forgot how to love because that love was abused when it should have never been.

When rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse or inappropriate touching is mentioned some people deny or don't believe the victim while others brush it off. I was lucky enough to have a support system that has held me up these past few months when I was relapsing into my darkest times. I sought out therapy and consulted doctors about medication so I could begin to rebuild myself.

Everyone says when you're ready you

"Love is respect, not abuse. Love is listening to the words "stop" or "no." Love is consent and isn't using that person when they're drunk or you think they're unconscious. My story will have an everlasting effect on me and isn't one that can be erased. I lost my trust in people and forgot how to love because that love was abused when it should have never been."

can speak up to whomever you trust. Last year, I was ready to tell my support system what happened and while it broke everyone I told I still had some of them who chose to stay by me. Looking back I wish I had told them sooner, because if I had the damage wouldn't have been as severe as it had become.

As a victim there are "stages" that you might go through: shock, denial, depression/guilt, anxiety and acceptance of self. I kept cycling through these stages and I have not yet reached re-acceptance. I thought I had when I kept it all in the dark, but that

wasn't allowing me to heal properly.

While it may take years to restore how I used to be, I'm using my time in college to rediscover myself and socialize outside of my comfort zone. The further I push my boundaries the clearer I see my future outside of fear and anxiety.

There are several resources on campus I have looked into and while none of them fit me in the moment, I believe when I'm ready I'll be using them to the full extent that I can.

To submit a column, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Contact Info

The East Carolinian
Mendenhall 114,
E 5th St. Greenville, NC, 27858-4353

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

Suburbs have overtaken U.S.



Craig Malmrose
GUEST COLUMNIST

In 1947, William Levitt of Levitt & Sons began construction of a neighborhood in Hempstead, New York, which was created for veterans who had returned from World War II with

the reward of the GI Bill. The houses were small, economical and modern in design, and most included a white picket fence and the latest appliances. Working in concert with the banks, Levitt guaranteed buyers they could own the houses for less than they paid in rent. When sales began, 1,400 houses were sold during the first three hours.

While this was the first of many, the Levittown model spread quickly across the nation, and numerous acres of farmland were consumed for housing developments and then strip malls. People fled the crime, noise and filth in major cities, and occupied new, treeless neighborhoods just as quickly as the paint on the houses was dry. Suburbia, as we now know it, was born.

But by 1963, Pete Seeger recorded a timely song called "Little Boxes" in which he criticized the generic, cookie-cutter nature of this new frontier. Some of the lyrics from that song are as follows: "Little boxes all the same — There's a blue one and a green one and a yellow one — And they're all made out of ticky-tacky — And they all look just the same."

"Ticky-tacky" was, of course, a reference to the cheap material and prefabricated, assembly line production used to build the "little boxes" that were



Aerial photo of homes in Granada Hills, California, an example of American suburban sprawl.

exhausting the American landscape. And since at least the 1950s, we've been forced to tolerate this visual blight along the roadside that obliterates the otherwise scenic panorama.

However, by the 1980s, suburbia had metastasized into an assemblage of large, ugly, incongruous geometry. The "McMansion" had made its debut on the already cluttered landscape, and every middle-class citizen with a bank account had to have one. Lest we never forget the prophetic, mid-century adage, "Keeping up with the Joneses."

In an article written by culture columnist Thomas Frank, he explains the reasons McMansions came into vogue in the 1980s: "The McMansion exists to separate and then celebrate the people who are wealthier than everybody else; this is the transcendent theme on which its crazy, discordant architectural features come harmon-

ically together. This form of development wants nothing to do with the superficial community-mindedness of the postwar suburb, and the reason the giant house looks the way it does is to inform you of this. Have the security guard slam the gates, please, and the rest of the world be damned."

As I drive home this evening and I survey the neighborhoods in our midst, I'll treat myself to the mediocrity and ever-decreasing sensitivity that's become pervasive in American culture. "Affliction," "canker" and "eyesore" are words that quickly spring to mind when I take in the endless panorama of hideous, misshapen dwelling units. But then, this is now The American Way.

Malmrose is a professor at ECU and a guest columnist.

To submit an article, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

ECU softball ready for homestand

Pirates kicks off 10-game home swing with weekend tournament

Lydia Ryan
TEC STAFF

After kicking off the season last weekend in South Carolina with two wins and three losses, the East Carolina University softball team (2-3, 0-0 AAC) will host the first half of its 10-game homestand tomorrow at the ECU Softball Stadium with the beginning of the Pirate Clash.

The Pirate Clash will host three rival teams of Hampton University (1-0, 0-0 Big South), George Washington University (0-5, 0-0 A10) and DePaul University (2-3, 0-0 Big East) in a total of ten scheduled games.

"I don't think it's as much challenges as it is opportunities to get better," senior catcher Abigail Umphlett said. "I think playing back-to-back you are going to see some fatigue, but I think our practices have set us up to be able to succeed. So I think that will be one thing, just getting used to having back-to-back games and just bringing the stamina and being able to play well both games."

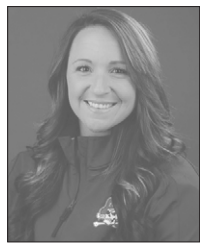
The weekend will kick off with a match up between Hampton and George Washington at 10 a.m. on Friday. This game will be immediately followed by George Washington facing DePaul at 12:30 p.m. The Pirates will make their first appearance in the first half of their double header at 3 p.m. when they take on Hampton.

ECU has not faced Hampton in softball since the 2010 campaign where they won the only two games the teams have played against each other. The Pirates were able to completely shut out Hampton in both games. The first finishing with a 9-0 final score and the second one having a final score of 12-0.

With only one game under their belt for the 2020 season, it is hard to get a good gauge on what Hampton has to offer. Hampton defeated North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (0-1, 0-0 MEAC) in its first game of the season 15-4.

Even longer since they have met, ECU will take on DePaul at 5 p.m. on Friday. DePaul and East Carolina have not been on the same field since 2005. Both teams faced each other three times in the 2005 match up and DePaul came out on top winning two of those three games.

"DePaul is gonna be a really tough game for us. We are gonna take care of business with Hampton first and then DePaul is an NCAA tournament team," head coach Courtney Oliver said. "Every game is important. We don't treat any game different than the other.



I always tell the team to make sure that you don't play to the name on the chest. You play everybody the same and we respect the game."

DePaul, similar to ECU, comes into the Pirate Clash with a 2-3 non-conference record. With sophomore Gabby O'Riley going to bat with a .333 average so far this season and junior Natalie Halvorson primarily on the mound with 10 strikeouts and an 8.25 earned run average.

On Saturday the tournament will pick up again at 10 a.m. with



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Senior infielder Kendra Ziemba prepares to step up to the plate at a previous game in her career at East Carolina University.

George Washington and Hampton meeting on the field. Followed shortly after with Hampton taking on DePaul at 12:30 p.m. The Pirates will finish off the day with back-to-back games against first George Washington and then DePaul again.

ECU faced George Washington the last time in 2008. They only played one game and the Pirates won with a 6-1 final score, almost shutting them out completely.

George Washington currently has four pitchers on their roster including sophomore pitcher Megan Osterhaus who will be entering the game with three shutouts, 12 base on balls and 17 runs. Senior Jenna Cone stands out batting for George Washington. Going to bat 14 times this season with an average of .357 and five hits.

With the season early the Pirates are seeing a lot of depth from their roster. After starting the season with two wins against Campbell University (1-4, 0-0 Big South) and losses against three other teams in the Kickin' Chicken Classic, the Pirates are looking forward to a ten game homestand.

The biggest difference in our team this year is we have so much more pitching than we usually have," senior outfielder Olivia Narron said. "So that is a plus. We have a lot of different tools, plenty of outfielders, lots of speed, lots of power hitters, so that's the main things I would say about our team this year."

Freshman right handed pitcher Logyn Estes picked up her first collegiate win in the circle and first home run against Campbell last Sunday and pitched nine innings throughout the weekend. Junior right handed pitcher Erin Poepping pitched 12 innings during last

weekend's tournament, making appearances in three games, and struck out 11 batters.

Junior Chadley Garner stands out thus far this season as a strong hitter, walking away from last weekend with .400 batting average and three runs scored. Redshirt senior utility player Rachel McCollum (five) and Narron (four) led the team in scoring runs and junior infielder Ashleigh Inae led the team in on base percentages with .529.

ECU also has an advantage of having more upperclassmen on the roster than they have had in several seasons. With seven juniors and six seniors filling out the 23 player roster. This allows

for more leadership and experience on the collegiate field that the team had been lacking in previous seasons.

"Ashleigh Inae is a great leader out on the field, always talking," Umphlett said. "Then we have some fifth years, Tate (McClellan) and Rachel (McCollum), great experience. I think as a whole the underclassmen look up to them and the rest of the leaders on the team. It has been good and that has helped out a lot too with the chemistry."

The Pirates will begin their 10-game homestand tomorrow at 3 p.m. at ECU Softball Stadium. They will play at 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday and at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday.

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

BASEBALL continued from A1

started nine times and saved a team-high five games while racking up 68 strikeouts and holding opposing batters to a .246 batting average.

"I've been in a lot of roles here," Bursleson said. "Out of the bullpen, closing, starting, it's nothing new for me. There's obviously some nerves because it's Opening Day but there's no more nerves because I've done it before. Just going to go out there and give my team the best chance to win."

Behind Bursleson, the Pirates have lined up senior right-handed pitcher Tyler Smith. While last year did not transpire in a favorable way for Smith, he is back for his fourth and final collegiate season and looking to once again become a solid contributor for ECU.

"I feel like Tyler Smith has really matured a ton since last year," Godwin said. "He's never been an immature kid, but external factors like draft and putting external pressure on yourself I think affected him last year."

In his first draft eligible season, the right-hander posted a 5.57 ERA across 74.1 innings despite working to a 7-1 record. His .293 opponent batting average came as a result of allowing 86 hits, as he relied heavily on being a contact-oriented pitcher.

This off-season, however, new Pirate pitching coach Jason Dietrich has worked with Smith on his breaking ball which, according to Godwin, has transformed into more of a swing-and-miss pitch.



After losing Jake Agnos to the New York Yankees in the fourth round of the Major League Baseball first year player draft last summer, there was a void to be filled. Second in the American Athletic Conference in ERA and first in both innings pitched and strikeouts, Agnos was a work-horse, helping guide ECU to a 47-18 record.

Now gone, it will be up to Bursleson to set the tone on Friday night and Smith and Kuchmaner to maintain that tone throughout the weekend. For the sinker-balling Smith, getting the baseball on the ground will be key for a guy who allowed 17 doubles in 2019.

When Williams returns, the hope is his command issues will be under control. Across 49.1 innings last year, the right-hander walked 23 guys despite striking out 56 and holding batters to a .225 batting average. With added command, there is little doubt Williams can rack up the punch outs, but it will be important for him to keep his pitch count down in order to work deep into ball games.

Just a day away from Opening Day, excitement levels around Pirate baseball are steadily rising despite injuries that will hamper the team in the early-going.

"I'm sure they're super excited not to practice anymore and actually play somebody different," Godwin said. "That's the neat thing about practice is you go out there and prepare yourself."

On Feb. 14 at 4 p.m. against the Tribe, fans and spectators will see if that preparation has readied this team for another season.

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

Boxing brings family vibe

Anna Felber
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University club boxing team said it is one of the many different extracurricular activities that students can take part in, but unlike some, this club takes a lot of hard work and requires a substantial time commitment.

The club boxing team is similar to most club teams in the way that they have tryouts for people who are interested in joining. Junior Caleb Walters said that the difference with boxing is that unlike most club teams, it is all-gender inclusive and the tryout is not based on experience or talent, but on work ethic and motivation.

"You just have to work hard and want to box," Walters said. "Obviously if you have a negative attitude or are just trying to come in here and learn how to fight, that's not what we're about."

That being said, Walters and the other leaders of the club assure that all members are encouraged to do the best work they can and try their absolute hardest. They said it is very important to the team that they not only push themselves but each other as a team as well.

According to Walters, although some may see boxing as a violent sport, it is also a great way to get in shape. He said they make safety a priority and makes sure that each member learns proper techniques to be efficient in their workout but keep them and opponents safe. Boxing itself has become a fun and popular way for people to add variety to their workout routines.

"We're not here to hurt people," junior Ruben Valdez, the president of the boxing club, said. "Even though boxing is a contact sport, we are not in the business of getting concussions, we are in the business of teaching people how to box safely."

Valdez said he thinks a big part of their club dynamic is that they are not just a team, they are a "family." He said no one ever feels less than or below the person next to them and no matter who is stronger or who is more agile, they all get along and work together for the benefit of each other.

"One thing we are really trying to foster right now is the feeling of a family, like a crew, rather than just a club and people you go to school with," Valdez said.

It is also mandatory to make practices, which are Monday through Thursday 7 to 9 p.m. inside of the Student Recreation Center in room 238 and court No. 6. Having a two-hour long practice at the end of a long day may not seem like something to be interested in,



ANNA FELBER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Two club boxing members practice sparring at a club meeting.

but Walters said it is a good way to blow off some steam after a day of hitting the books.

In the past years, the team participated in "Smokers" at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where they would match up with military boxers. Walters said that the club is looking forward to getting more involved with other universities, specifically North Carolina State University.

Walters explained that joining the team does not mean that everyone gets a chance in an actual ring style fight. Most of the members are not ready yet and are just learning for the first time, so most of the matches are done by the more experienced boxers, but it is something they hope to see changed in the near future.

"Most people come into the club with zero experience," Walters said. "It is pretty much a class to learn all the fundamentals of boxing. So, if you are interested in learning it, just come by and talk to someone."

The club boxing team is an all inclusive club that is devoted to hard work. If interested in learning more, they can be reached at Boxing-club@ecu.edu for more information.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT

Apartments for Rent Near ECU: 400/402 Lewis Street Apartments, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Water/sewer included. \$450 per month. For more information contact Wainwright Property Management 252-756-6209.

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Stick to practical priorities with shared finances. Ignore chaos, confusion and distractions. Secure the ground taken. Consider what's predictably ahead and make plans.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Don't make assumptions about your partner. If you want to know something, ask. Keep an open mind. You can get the inside story.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- The workload may seem intense. Focus carefully on the job at hand to reduce technical error. Stay in communication. Keep your own score.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Romance could flower, despite unexpected changes. Look for opportunities for fun and find them. Enjoy excellent company. Talk about love and other mysteries.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Try a gentle approach with domestic matters. Someone in your family could use extra loving. List the problems to solve. Together, you get farther.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Dig into unexpected revelations. New facts dispel old fears. Study the latest developments. Present your findings to your network. Share what you're uncovering.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Compute expenses and monitor in real time to avoid unpleasant surprises. Changes could disrupt the schedule. Double-check the numbers. Choose for best value.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Use your power responsibly. Hold yourself to high standards. Keep your promises, standards and word. Integrity makes things work. Monitor where it's missing and replace.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Step back and let a controversy sail on by. Clear out clutter. Clean your room. Offer advice only if asked. Plan for what's ahead.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Join forces with friends for greater impact. Don't make assumptions or expensive promises. Confer with allies to get the inside scoop. Inspire others to succeed.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- A professional goal is within sight. Focus and winning is a distinct possibility. Get your team on your side. Prepare for a test.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- A travel or study opportunity is worth investigating. Find out what's involved. Look for answers to tough questions. Contribute to a greater cause.

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COMICS

THE RING BY BRIAN JUDGE



BLISS

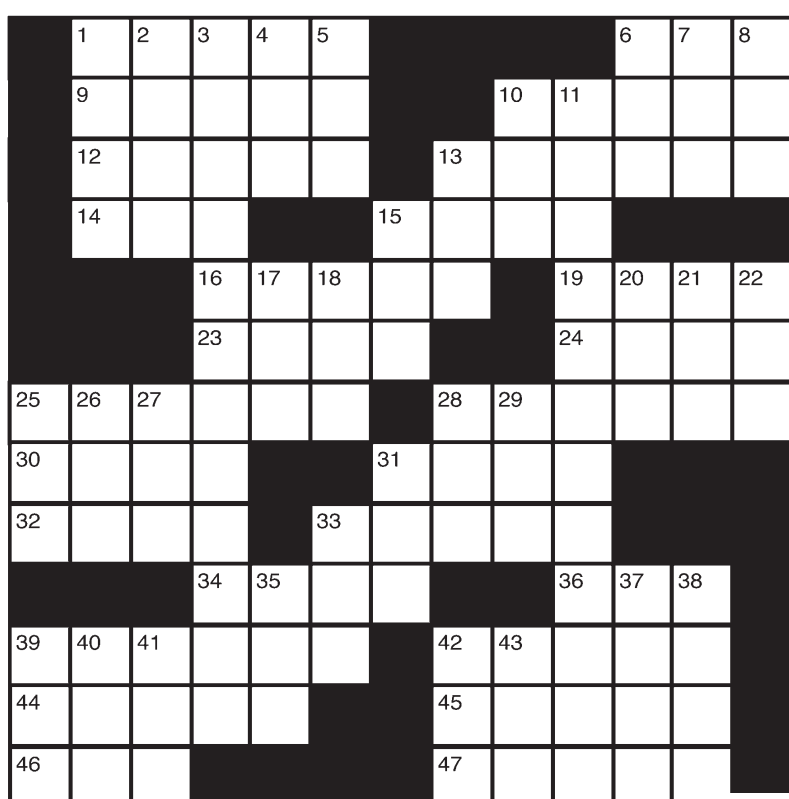


CROSSWORD

FOR RELEASE MARCH 18, 2018

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

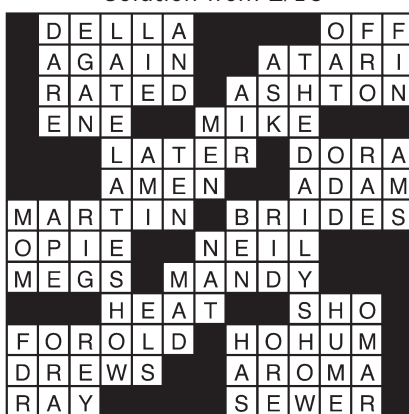
- Actor ___ Lee Jones
- Series for Allison Janney
- Airport in Chicago
- "___ of a Woman"; Al Pacino film
- 12 Skirts for Twiggy
- Prime-time soap opera that ran for 14 seasons
- Piglet's mother
- "Baby ___"; movie for Tina Fey
- "___ to Be You"; short-lived Faye Dunaway/Robert Ulrich sitcom
- "The Big ___ with Donny Deutsch"
- "Now and ___"; Demi Moore film
- Deli loaves
- "___ Knows Best"
- Sitcom set at a Boston bar
- Opera solo
- "Dallas Buyers ___"; Matthew McConaughey movie
- Short-time office worker sent out by an agency
- More factual
- Disney's "___ and the Tramp"
- Yoko ___
- Sarandon and Lucci

- "___ & Martin's Laugh-In"
- "The ___ and the Ecstasy"
- Bert's buddy
- "___ Wants to Be a Millionaire"
- Banana casings

DOWN

- Smothers and Hanks
- "The Prize Winner of Defiance, ___"; Woody Harrelson movie
- Sitcom for Liza Snyder
- Diagnostic scan, for short
- "Say ___ to the Dress"
- Alice's boss
- "Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof"
- McKinley and Rainier: abbr.
- Elliott or Waterston
- Role on "The Good Doctor"
- "American ___!"
- "Last ___ Standing"
- "Wisdom of ___ Crowd"
- "Death Becomes ___"; film for Meryl Streep
- Actor on "Touched by an Angel"
- Suffix for puppet or auction
- Pack animal
- "My Big ___ Greek Wedding"
- "Who Do You Think You ___?"
- Conway or Allen
- Actor ___ Gulager
- Color
- "Boys Don't ___"; Hilary Swank movie
- Six-pointers, for short
- "___ Which Way You Can"; film for Clint Eastwood
- Tack
- "The Crazy ___"; Robin Williams series
- Cary Elwes horror movie
- Exclamation of disgust
- Jack ___ of "Barney Miller"
- Paul Ryan or Nancy Pelosi: abbr.
- Miner's discovery

Solution from 2/10



SUDOKU

SUDOKU

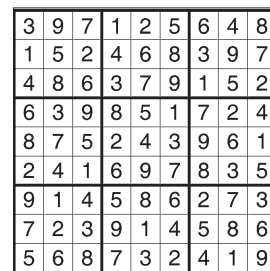
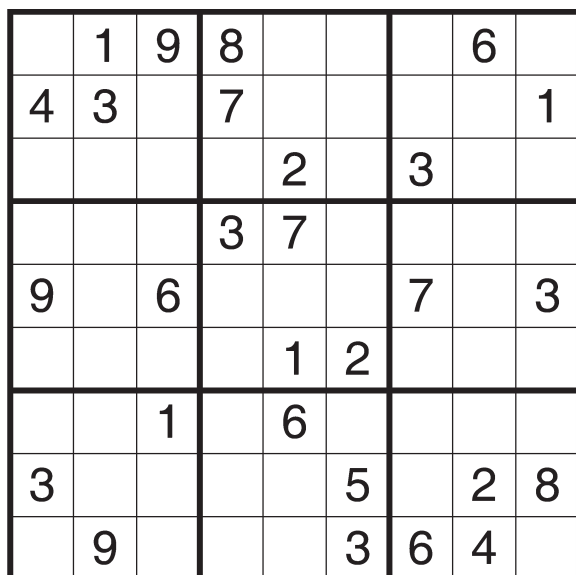
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



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

Solution from 2/10



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12 HOURS

MAP OUT YOUR WEEKEND

TODAY

Shred Your Ex
Carolina Ale House
11 a.m.

Galentines (Singles) Class
The Keynote Dance Studio
7 p.m.

Live Music at Jack Browns
Jack Brown's Beer & Burger Joint Greenville
7 p.m.

TOMORROW

Lotus Sun- Live Music
Pitt Street Brewing Company
8 p.m.

Akademie fur alte Musik Berlin
Wright Auditorium
7 p.m.

African American Music Series: Mike Friend
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Vegan Soul Food by Lotus Land
Pitt Street Brewing Company
6 p.m.

Wannabees Live
AJ McMurphy's
8 p.m.

Keaton and Umberger Gala Art Auction and Sale
Jenkins Fine Arts Center
6 p.m.

SUNDAY

Yoga + Mimosas
The Y Fitness Studio
1 p.m.

The 10th Heat to Defeat ALS Chili Cook Off
Christy's Euro Pub
3 p.m.

252 to celebrate local music

Rock bands come together to show off talent at Uptown

Olan Bryant
TEC STAFF

Local music acts will come together to celebrate their roots at the Love Your City showcase which will take place at the State Theater in Greenville tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.

The showcase will feature five musical groups from the local area in a celebration of talent organized by the nonprofit booking agency, Spazz Presents. The intent is to highlight the diversity of music in Greenville and the surrounding area.

Groups involved in the showcase include August is Ours, The New Aquarians, Plain Jane and Rivals. The bands offer their own unique take on the alternative and indie rock genres.

Jeff Blinder, operator of Spazz Presents, offered his view on the showcase representing the area and the music scene within it.

"It's a nice diverse mix of different genres, made up of a lot of local people. It should be a nice representation of what's out there," Blinder said.

Blinder, who has been booking musical acts in Greenville for 15 years, is excited to have the opportunity to book acts to perform at a big place like the State Theater for the first time and having this access is a big deal.

According to Blinder, he approached the State Theater with ideas for incorporating local talent with the venue, which ultimately led to the Love Your City showcase. He also



CONTRIBUTED BY NICK VINES

Nick Vines, frontman of indie rock band, Rivals, performing at a DIY concert.

made note of the buzz surrounding the showcase from the local community since its announcement.

"There's a good buzz in the air. This could make a difference because it showcases the venue and the talent. It shows that they have a lot in Greenville to be proud of," Blinder said.

While the community is enjoying its fair share of excitement, the bands involved in the showcase are eager to perform and show their talent.

Rivals, an indie rock group formed in August by longtime friends Nick Vines and Nathan Wilmot, have been performing shows in both Greenville and Chapel Hill. Vines

explained the backstory behind the band and what makes the process of making music enjoyable.

"Growing up we would just mess around, playing music for fun and it just turned into something we both had a drive to do more than anything. We enjoy the process of everything that's included in making music and the ability to share something you've created with people," Vines said.

Vines also offered his opinion on the local music scene and how exciting it is to perform in a venue like the State Theater.

"It's always exciting for the scene when a venue this well known in the

community hosts an event that showcases non cover bands and encourages the public to actually experience local bands pushing their own music," Vines said.

According to Vines, Rivals has also collaborated with fellow rock group The New Aquarian, who will also be performing in the showcase.

Parker Millar, the slide guitarist for the New Aquarian, commented on how Spazz Presents has been influential in the Greenville music scene.

"Jeff has been bringing quality acts to Greenville for over a decade and the State Theatre is the venue that should be hosting the bands Spazz Presents brings in," Millar said.

Millar also spoke on what events such as the Love Your City showcase can do for the local venues.

"Establishing that the local music scene has a viable draw at a large venue will hopefully pave the way for local acts to be sourced as openers for national acts that come through town," Millar said.

Tickets for "Love Your City: A 252 Music Celebration" cost \$10 and can be purchased on etix.com. For more information on the concert, visit the Love Your City event page on Facebook.

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

ECU student jumpstarts makeup career

Macie Tano
TEC STAFF

An East Carolina University student has been working as a makeup artist for the past four years, doing makeup for ECU students and clients in the surrounding area, while releasing her own lip gloss line as well.

Ryann Carter, a sophomore business management major, started doing makeup during her sophomore year of high school while working at a salon in her hometown of Greensboro, North Carolina. She began working with clients in the Greenville area last year.

"I used to work in a salon in Greensboro. There was a guy there that did drag makeup and I would go to some of his shows. He asked me, 'Why don't you try to learn how to do my drag makeup?' I started doing his drag makeup for his shows. That's kind of how I got into it," Carter said.

Carter charges \$40 for a full face of glam makeup, which includes false lashes, \$30 for soft glam makeup, which is a full face of natural makeup with false lashes included, and \$20 for natural makeup, with a \$5 upcharge for false lashes, according to her website.

According to Carter, a lot of the clients she works with are from bridal parties in Morehead City as well as ECU students for special events. The number of clients she works with on a weekly basis depends on the type of event.



Ryann Carter

Along with being a makeup artist, Carter also sells her own lip gloss, called The Carter Collection, having released her first line last November. She is currently working to release a new line as well.

"I just started doing that (selling lip gloss). What I want to do when I'm older is I want to have a makeup line. My lip gloss is 100% natural, cruelty-free. All the ingredients are good for you," Carter said.

Carter primarily works alone doing makeup and working on her lip gloss brand, but said that her boyfriend, Brandon Francis, has helped her release and distribute her products.

"My boyfriend honestly helps me a lot. When my last line came out, he helped me fill the bottles, so he's helpful in that aspect. I don't really have anyone else helping me," Carter said.

Francis, a sophomore hospitality management major, said that he helps Carter come up with new ideas for her makeup line, while helping her set up her website, where clients can book appointments with her and purchase her products. He said he is impressed with Carter's progress on her social media.

"I've seen her page grow tremendously in the past couple months. I remember when she had about 50 followers, and now she has almost 400 followers in a matter of months. I've seen her grow with her lip gloss. She's a very independent and strong woman, and she's already thinking about new products. The sky's the limit for her," Francis said.

Carter believes people should come to her for her to do their makeup because she consistently uses quality products on her clients.

"I do not cheap people out. I use as much product as I can. I know what I'm doing. My product quality is good. I tend to use very high-end makeup. I think people come back to me because they know the quality of work will always be good," Carter said.

Shyla Fitzhugh, a client of Carter, recently got her makeup done for her birthday celebration. She is looking forward to going to her again in the future.

Fitzhugh said she found out about Carter from seeing her Instagram page, @thecartercollection, where Carter posts about her lip gloss brand, as well as pictures and videos of her doing her clients' makeup.

Fitzhugh said she was impressed with her makeup when she got it done, and got many compliments from her friends. She also appreciated Carter's prices.

"When I got my makeup done, it really popped. It was so nice. It looked natural, but at the same time, it was a nice bold look. She has good prices, she's a professional person, and she does a good job," Fitzhugh said.

For more information on Carter and her makeup line, visit her Instagram @thecartercollection, or her website.

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

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VAPERGATE

CUPID continued from A1

holiday celebrating women and their female friends. Stumpy's is offering 50% off throwing for ladies for the duration of their open hours tonight with the coupon code LADIES50.

Tomorrow, everyone is invited back, including singles, couples, and groups, for a 10% discount on throwing in honor of Valentine's day at their Hatchets and Hearts celebration with the coupon code VDAY10. Assistant Manager, Bryton Abrahams, said that while going out for dinner on Valentine's day is great, having an experience together is so much better.

"When you think back, you're not going to remember that one time you went and got burgers at Jack Brown's for Valentine's Day," Abrahams said. "You're going to remember when you went axe-throwing for the first time on Valentine's day. Experiences really create a moment, something that's very memorable."

Pits can be reserved on their website at www.stumpyshh.com.

For singles and couples who aren't really

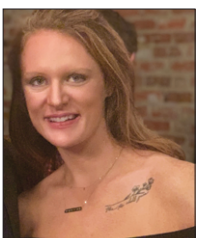
into the traditional hype of Valentine's Day, Tapped is having an Anti-Valentine's Day Party tomorrow night

at 6. There will be a whole host of attractions including a beer and donut pairing with Duck Donuts, Chirba Chirba food truck, tarot card readings and themed beers.

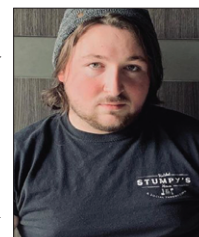
Owner and general manager, Jennifer Spengeman, said she got the idea for an anti-Valentines Day theme by listening to customers who had come in on Valentine's Days past noticing a lack of events in the area outside of the traditional Valentine's Day dinner.

"(We were) just trying to find something fun and different to do in Greenville for people who just don't want to deal with the waits or don't want to have to celebrate in the way Hallmark has basically decided we're supposed to," Spengeman said.

For more information on these Valentine's Day events or for more options for the holiday around the Greenville area, visit the Greenville, NC event page, email info@visitgreenvillenc.com, or call 252-329-4200.



Jennifer Spengeman



Bryton Abrahams

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