



The East Carolinian

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Weather affects athletic events

Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

Potential inclement weather has impacted East Carolina University's weekend athletics lineup.

Previously scheduled baseball and softball games on Friday have been cancelled and pushed to Saturday. Originally scheduled to begin a weekend series with Georgia Southern Univer-

sity, the ECU baseball team will instead play a doubleheader on Saturday, starting at noon. The second game will follow roughly 45 minutes after the first contest.

Additionally, the final game of the series will now be played at 2 p.m. on Sunday instead of the originally scheduled 1 p.m.

The Pirate Invitational, in which the ECU soft-

ball team will participate, has been reduced from nine games to six in response to the impending weather conditions. ECU is now scheduled to play the University of Massachusetts at 1:30 p.m. and the University of Pittsburgh at 4 p.m. on Saturday. The Pirates will also play Pitt at 11 a.m. on Sunday and Towson University at 2 p.m.

"Due to expected weather in the area, we made

the decision to move our scheduled home events to Saturday and Sunday," ECU Athletics Director Jon Gilbert said in a press release. "We also decided to move the first pitch of the baseball game on Sunday to 2 p.m. to allow more of our fans to attend the multiple events we have on campus."

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



Students walk out of the Main Campus Student Center where early voting for primary elections is offered to the ECU community.

ECU supports elections

Faculty expresses importance in voting for primaries

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

The primary election day for North Carolina is March 3, but East Carolina University will continue to hold an early-voting site, which started last Thursday and will continue until Feb. 29. During weekdays, individuals are able to vote from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Voting is also open Saturday 22 and 29 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 23 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Assistant director of the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE), Alex Dennis, said individuals can vote in the Main Campus Student Center (MCSC), room 125. This site was organized by the Pitt County Board of Elections. The Student Government Association and Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy sent an email to all staff and faculty to inform them of the early-voting site.

"The most important thing is that we're encouraging students to be

engaged in this process. You can't be an engaged, responsible citizen unless you're voting," Dennis said.

The early-voting site was previously held at the Willis building. This is the second time it'll be held in the MCSC. The Pirate Vote Team along with members of the CLCE have orchestrated this move to the MCSC to be more accessible to students and it will continue to be at the MCSC in future years, according to Dennis.

Any registered voter in Pitt County is welcome to vote early at the MCSC. Parking is made available in the parking garage next to the MCSC for community members, staff, faculty and students, Dennis said.

"If you wait until the primary election day to vote, you have to go to

an assigned precinct location and there are about twenty assigned precinct locations in Pitt County. So, it's easier to just vote early because you can go to any one-spot site of your choice and we want people to come to the Student Center site," Dennis said.

Dennis said voter ID is not required if an individual is registered to vote for this election. Individuals can also do same-day registration and fix, change, or update their address or any other information since the last time they voted if need be.

On the CLCE website, there is a link that allows individuals to check their registration to see if it is up to date and can also look up the ballots to decide which candidates they're voting for. Students can email vote@ecu.edu to ask any questions related to voting they may have, according to Dennis.

"You may have to show documents

> **VOTING** page A2

ECU students request more faculty diversity

Sarah Hooper
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University prides itself on diversity and inclusion of all peoples in faculty, staff and student body. However, some students feel that they do not see themselves represented in staff and faculty.

The ratio of male to female faculty is 38.4% male and 61.6% female, which is similar to most universities. While the racial and ethnic diversity of faculty is above average compared to other universities, some students feel ECU could do more to diversify staff.

In recent figures collected by ECU's Office for Equity and Diversity, ECU's percentage of minority professors has risen to 18% in faculty and 29% in staff, as of 2018.

Associate Provost for the Office of Equity and Diversity, Lakesha Alston Forbes, said she never realized how important it was to see herself reflected in mentors and faculty until she received a mentor of color years later.



Lakesha Forbes

"When I was in the College of Business, I did a fair amount of advocating for more faculty diversity and other issues within the College of Business. I encourage students to voice their concerns and also work within their student organizations to voice their opinions about faculty diversity. During my entire time at ECU, I didn't have a faculty member of color. Not one. Being a person of color, that was really important to me," Forbes said.

The Office of Equity and Diversity has multiple programs focused around increasing diversity across ECU's campus, according to Forbes. She said these programs include the Diversity and Inclusion Research and Scholarship (DIRS) Program, which is a faculty development and seed grant program that provides funding to departments with faculty who engage in research projects related to diversity, equity, inclusion and/or cultural competence.

ECU provides many resource groups for faculty to connect to the university, including the Organization of African American Faculty, Chinese Association of ECU Faculty, Staff and Friend, Organization of African American Staff, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally Faculty and

> **DIVERSITY** page A2

Classic books come to life in performance

Macie Tano
TEC STAFF

The College of Fine Arts and Communication's Storybook Theatre will be hosting a play based on classic children's books written by Beverly Cleary tomorrow night at 7 in Wright Auditorium.

Tickets are \$15 for the public and \$10 for students with a One Card, and can be purchased online, in person at the Student Center, or by calling 252-737-5444, according to Michael Crane, assistant dean of marketing and outreach for the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

According to Crane, the play, titled "Henry and Ramona," is a combination of three books Cleary wrote back in the 1970s and 1980s, which are "Henry and Beezus," "Henry and the

> **CLEARY** page A6

ECU football schedule released

Dylan Woolard
TEC STAFF

After another rough season of football in 2019 for East Carolina University, the Pirate faithfuls are yet again reminded that there just may be greener turf on the other side of Towne Bank Tower. The release of the 2020 football schedule for ECU boasts some exciting match-ups and the return of some familiar foes from season's past.

The Pirates will play four non-conference opponents and eight conference opponents. The Pirates will host two non-conference foes and four conference foes at home. There will be no neutral site games on the schedule for 2020, with the remaining games on the schedule being played on the road at respective opponent's home stadiums.

One non-conference match-up in particular should be good for long time Pirate fans. That match-up will come as the season opener against Marshall University which will take place on Sept. 15. Once considered a friendly rival of the Pirates, the Thundering Herd have not shared a field with ECU football since 2013 when Marshall defeated ECU 59-28. The series between the two schools seemed to come to an



Darius Pinnix Jr. runs through a hole created by his offensive line.

end when ECU joined the American Athletic Conference in 2014, but will be reignited in 2020.

Following the home bout with the Thundering Herd, the Pirates will face another familiar non-conference opponent in 2020 on Sept. 12, the University of South Carolina.

> **FOOTBALL** page A4

ONLINE

» **NEWS: ECU HOiST aims to create wider mental health network**

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

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BRIEFS

SGA to host 'Voice Your Vote'

Today, the Student Government Association will offer an opportunity to learn more about SGA Ticket One and Two candidates from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Main Campus Student Center Commons. There will be computers at the event if students want to cast their vote on site.

ECU to host Engineering and Technology Fair

Today, East Carolina University Career Services will host the Engineering and Technology Fair from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Greenville Convention Center. The organizations who will attend this event will be recruiting for full-time, internships, and CO-OP opportunities. Students are encouraged to make an appointment with their career counselor for a resume critique.

G.O.L.D. Leader Series to host TED Talk

Tonight, from 5 to 6, the Main Campus Student Center will host a TED talk, which is part of the G.O.L.D. Leader Series. Student Engagement will host the event and the topic of conversation will be announced at the event.

'Democracy Now!' will return to Ledonia Wright Cultural Center

Tonight, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center will host "Democracy Now!" from 6 to 7:30. This event will have a multitude of diverse voices speak about individual perspectives on global events. The conversation will center around breaking news and headlines.

Mendenhall to showcase professional application tips

Tomorrow, from 1 to 5 p.m., students will receive help on their applications for graduate school and other professional programs in the Mendenhall Student Center great rooms. The ECU Career Center will give tips towards applications, interviewing skills, resumes and other topics will be presented to those involved.

ECU to host Science Olympiad

On Saturday, East Carolina University's Center for STEM Education will be hosting its annual ECU Regional Greenville Science Olympiad tournament. The tournament will last all day beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. on ECU's Main Campus. Students are encouraged to contact ECU Ambassadors to volunteer for the event as more are always welcome.

Student Center to provide multicultural experience

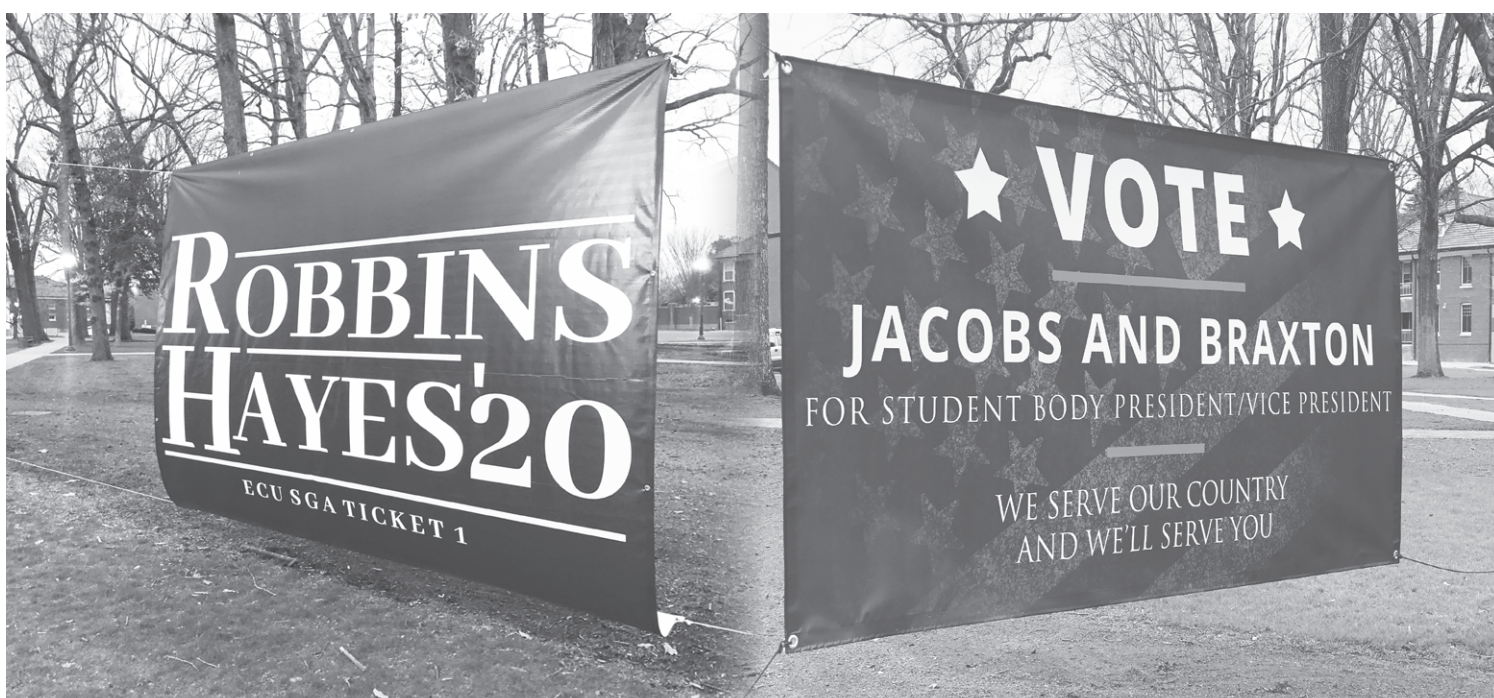
Tomorrow, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Main Campus Student Center will host a Multicultural Appreciation Day Experience (MADE). Current high school students as well as transfer students will hear from ECU students, faculty and staff about the various programs, majors, internships and campus activities that are available at the university.

CET students to be offered free business cards

Today, the College of Engineering and Technology will offer free resume reviews and business cards to its students in the Science and Technology Building room 239.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



SGA Ticket One candidates Tucker Robbins and Laura Hayes and Ticket Two candidates Janelle Jacobs and Anna Braxton display campaign banners.

SGA elections approach an end

Ticket One and Two candidates express final ideas for students

George Martin
TEC STAFF

Chloe Easton
TEC STAFF



Student Government Association elections will conclude tomorrow at 5 p.m. and both Ticket One and Two candidates hope that their platforms will resonate with students.

Ticket One candidates include Tucker Robbins for president and Laura Hayes for vice president while Ticket Two candidates include Janelle Jacobs for presidents and Anna Braxton for vice president.

Tucker Robbins said he and Laura Hayes decided to run for SGA after he found out how much influence it has on students at ECU. He said though he has served as former president and board member of Phi Gamma Delta and Hayes has held an executive position at Chi Omega, they wanted to transition their skills to support an even larger community.

"I think that with us we have kind of been proven leaders within our chapter and I feel like we kind of wanted to bring that to a different atmosphere because we are so used to being in Greek Life," Robbins said.

As for improvements on campus, Robbins and Hayes said if they were elected into office they would focus on student safety and the relationship between students and the Greenville Police Department and ECU Police. Robbins has already taken the steps toward building a relationship with the Police Community Relations Committee through meetings and hopes to continue to work with them to improve the community for students.

"We feel as if, we looked up a lot of crime



Tucker Robbins

statistics around Greenville and I feel like there are some areas that can be improved on and I feel like that starts with communication and transparency between students and the police," Robbins said.

The Ticket Two candidates, Jacobs and Braxton, hope to use their experience in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) in order to create a strong SGA government that tackles mental health issues.

Jacobs and Braxton both are enlisted in ECU's ROTC program and they say that is the main factor that brought them together to run for student body president and vice-president.

"I actually reached out to Anna (Braxton)," Jacobs said. "I was looking for a running mate and I was like what better way than to ask people in my own battalion who has very similar interests and similar backgrounds with National Guard and ROTC."

Braxton and Jacobs both agreed that the recent drama regarding the BOT showed that boundaries need to be set regarding students and faculty involved on that board. They both hope to follow policies in order to help to prevent similar events in the future.

The major platform that Ticket Two is running on is a push to improve mental health on campus.

One of their main initiatives is creating a student mental health hotline. This hotline would be staffed by student volunteers and overseen by professional counselors, and these volunteers would be responsible for talking to other students in need.

"Sometimes, you don't always need a counselor, you just need a familiar voice that understands the day to day struggles that you're going through," Jacobs said.

SGA advisor Hank Bowen said the main thing he is looking for in an SGA president and vice-president are people who understand what

students are facing.

"It's really important that the SGA president is able to talk to the administrators about what the students are experiencing, so having somebody who focuses on student needs and is willing to talk to as many students as possible is what I'm really looking for," Bowen said.

Bowen said that one of the biggest issues that the next president and vice-president could tackle is ensuring that all students have access to all the resources that they need.

Some of the resources that Bowen feels are underused include the Pirate Academic Success Center, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and the LGBTQ Center. Bowen feels that these offices are underutilized by the student body and would like to see more usage by students.



Hank Bowen

"There are so many resources and services available to students on campus but so few people know about them, and I think, while SGA doesn't provide all those resources, they are an important source of information," Bowen said.

One of the main things Bowen would like to see from SGA is the ability to work together. Even though SGA has been in the news a lot recently, he said he wants people to understand that SGA operates smoothly and that they all get along well.

Voting will end tomorrow at 5 p.m. and can be done by going to PiratePort and selecting the option called "voting," which will allow any students to participate in the election process.

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to prove where you live in Pitt County if students live off-campus to do same-day registration. If students live on campus, all they have to do is show their One Card. We're trying to make it as easy as possible for students to engage in this voting process," Dennis said.

Students will have the opportunity to vote for the Primary elections, in which major political parties decide who will run for office against the other party in November. In this case people will vote for which democratic candidate will run against Trump in the 2020 presidential election, according to Dennis.

"Voting is so important. There was a House race just last year in Virginia that came down to a tie and they flipped a coin to decide who won. One person could have changed the outcome of that vote. If you think staying at home is an option, it's not. If you think that your vote doesn't matter, it does. You need to engage in that process," Dennis said.

It's not only accessible to students, faculty and staff, but it's also accessible to the surrounding community. It lets students know this is important to ECU and it's expected that students be responsible and engaged, according to Dennis. She said people can encourage others to vote by asking their friends, family and colleagues if they voted, asking them if they want to vote together or if they need help with the process of voting.

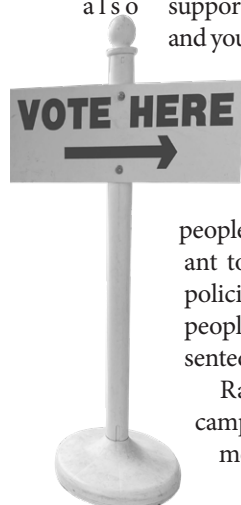
"I think a lot of people think it doesn't matter, but it does matter. Elections matter. This is your voice. This is your way to share your opinion about who you think should be running our communities and our country. It is important. Having conversations about voting is also so important. Encourage others to participate in this process," Dennis said.

Andrew Goodman Foundation ambassador Amrina Rangar said voting early makes it easier for voters, encourages more people to come out and allows for fewer crowds come March 3.

The Andrew Goodman Foundation works with campuses around the country to make young voices and votes heard. The foundation also supports voting accessibility, social justice initiatives, and youth leader development to make these voices and votes a strong force in the democracy of the country, according to the Andrew Goodman Foundation website.

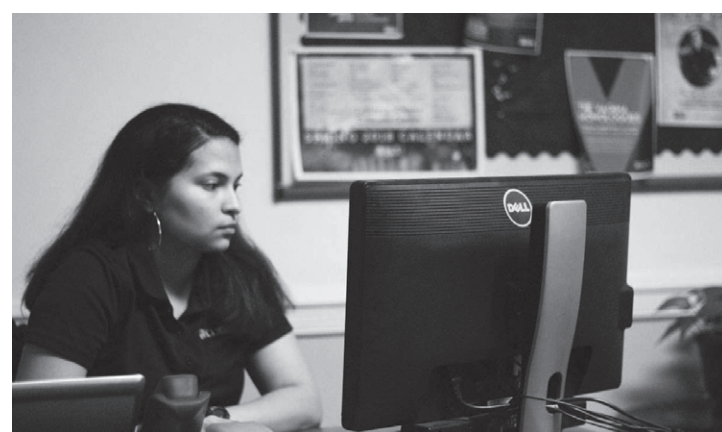
"Voting matters because change can only happen in our government if enough people exercise their right to vote on matters important to them. Our country is a democracy and its policies can only be improved with the voice of the people. The more people that vote, the better represented our democracy is," Rangar said.

Rangar hopes that by having early-voting on campus it'll encourage more students to vote and be more educated on why their vote matters.



ANDREA LOY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
A voting sign in the MCSC.

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Staff member Amy Principe works in the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

DIVERSITY continued from A1

Staff Group and the American Indian Faculty and Staff Group.

"Our office works primarily with faculty and staff. We consider diversity of faculty to be one of the top priorities in our office," Forbes said. "Although we are relatively small, we have partnered with academic units across campus to be able to help with outreach and even recruitment and retention of faculty who are underrepresented in their areas."

Junior public health major, Myles Alexander, who is a member of ECU's Black Student Union (BSU), said he sees minorities and other races as a part of ECU's faculty, but does not believe they are well represented.

Alexander has had multiple minority professors, a minority advisor and minorities in higher positions, but said he still believes there is a large gap in representation within ECU faculty.

"In order to improve diversity among ECU's faculty and staff, you must first see the disconnection between the staff and its students. It is very hard to communicate and connect with someone who doesn't even realize that there is a disconnect," Alexander said.

Sophomore marketing major Tyrell Govan, another member of ECU's BSU, commented on a lack of diversity on campus. He said after four semesters at ECU, he's only had one professor of color.

Govan said his professor of color was one of the only professors he connected with most. His supervisor at the student center is also a woman of color and Govan said he connects with her very well, and doesn't think it's coincidental that the two faculty members he connects with most are people of color.

"I do wish to see more representation and diversity on ECU's campus among the faculty and staff. I would like for ECU to consider diversity when recruiting more faculty members on campus," Govan said.

ECU's Office of Equity and Diversity can provide multiple documents with campus statistics available upon request for those interested in the diversity rate.

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

OUR VIEW

Ticket One endorsed by TEC staff

Election season for East Carolina University's Student Government Association has begun, with multiple positions up for vote. No position is more prominent than that of president and vice president.

Here at ECU, the SGA president plays a crucial role. The president gets a seat on the Board of Trustees, and acts as a voice for the students in BOT matters. Having someone students can trust in that role is absolutely vital.

In order to have a proper advocate, experience running an organization on campus would be helpful. Being a president, especially of the whole student body, is difficult, and one of the best things that can be done to prepare is to have been a president or something similar before.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, endorse Ticket One for the 2020 SGA presidential election, as Tucker Robbins' previous experience as a president in ECU's Greek Life uniquely prepares him to step in as student body president. Robbins was named Greek Life president of the year last year, which speaks to his potential as a leader.

ECU has gone through much turmoil over the last academic year, with many of the issues coming at the top. Colin Johnson has done everything he can to advocate for students even despite the scandals, and that is something that must continue if ECU is to truly serve its students.

Considering the general outrage expressed by many students in how they have been treated by those at the top, it is important for all students to vote in these elections so that things can begin to get back on track.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



Hygiene products needed

Campus needs feminine supplies available for students

Tano Talk



Macie Tano
TEC STAFF

Recently, I was made aware of the lack of feminine hygiene products available for women at ECU, specifically in women's restrooms. I believe that this is a problem that is affecting women on our campus that needs a better solution.

While there are feminine hygiene stations located around campus, which the Women and Gender Office (WGO) started in the past year, I don't believe this is the most efficient solution to the problem, as many students aren't aware where they are, and instead have to go to the Student Health Services (SHS) just to get these products.

Currently, there are only a handful of stations located on campus, which can be found in Bate, the WGO, the SHS, the Center for Recreation and Wellness (CRW), Laupus Library, Belk building, and the counseling center, according to the WGO.

While the WGO's initiative is a great idea, I believe it isn't enough to tackle the problem of limited hygiene products for women, which take up roughly 57% of ECU's student population, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Currently, these products aren't often available in the public restrooms on campus, as the unsupervised products can be expensive and hard to manage, as well as at risk of being damaged, the WGO reports.

While this reason is valid, as it can be hard to regulate free products to ensure there is enough for everyone, I feel as though these products need to be made more accessible to women in more locations on campus.

It's a hard idea to tackle and find a solution to, as these products can be expensive. However, the need for these products in restrooms and in more places around campus needs to be considered to a deeper extent, as these products are a necessity to women, not a luxury, and are needed in these spaces.

This lack of products in public restrooms may especially be difficult for women, both students and faculty members, who are on campus for multiple hours during the day and are unable to leave and go get these products, leaving them extremely unprepared and often unable to finish out their classes and tasks for the day.

Sure, these students and faculty members can just visit the SHS or the menstruation stations around campus. But, many times, they aren't able to access these products in time, as menstruation often comes unexpectedly, leaving them little time to

deal with it, unless they are on break from their classes or close by a station.

Not to mention the seeming abundance of free condoms on campus, which is important of course, but you would think that if the school is able to provide these for students, shouldn't they be able to provide free tampons or liners in public restrooms on campus?

ECU and the WGO providing these menstruating stations around campus is a step in the right direction for sure, but I believe there is more to be done, and that ECU should try to follow the examples of other universities around the nation, such as the University of Washington, who have started to implement this idea of providing free feminine hygiene products in the public restrooms.

Students and faculty members should be able to be comfortable on campus, not having to worry about starting their period in class and not having immediate access to hygiene products. It is a necessity that, in my opinion, should be available in all or at least almost all restrooms, because without it, a student or faculty member's education and work may be seriously hindered.

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

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Local elections bigger than federal



George Martin
TEC STAFF

It's that time again, where every street corner is littered with ads telling everyone to go out and vote in a local election. Whether it be for North Carolina House or Pitt County Sheriff, there will be signs

plastered around all of Greenville.

However, while these signs may appear at first to be an eyesore for all who sees them, they are urging the citizens of Pitt County to do their civic duty and vote. It's extremely important that East Carolina University students begin taking this duty seriously.

A survey done by the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement found that ECU registration rate fell between 2012 and 2016. The voting rate at ECU in 2016 was also below the national average for public research institutions by 5.7%.

The positions up in Pitt County in 2020 include judges, state senate, state house, state supreme court and governor.

Local and state politics arguably affect one's day-to-day lives more than the president signing a bill will. City council and other local institutions are the first line of government one has and are responsible for creating a budget for the city, determining what will happen with local tax dollars.

Even though local and state politics may seem insignificant to you as

"Local and state politics arguably affect one's day-to-day lives more than the president signing a bill will..."

-George Martin

a student in college, they are still the ones who are responsible for spending tax dollars. Last year, the city council approved making a new welcome sign for the city of Greenville, spending over \$100,000 on this project.

Everyone is brutally aware of the slow progress being made on the culvert on Reade Circle, and the ones in charge of overseeing that project are those in city council. If students are unhappy with the progress, they must participate in council meetings and let their voice be heard.

City council is also responsible for working towards more affordable housing for the residents of their district. It's crucial to elect someone who is able to recognize that the cost of housing in Greenville is rising and that the need for housing for the large student body as well as low-income populations is paramount.

However, each voter must reflect on their issues and what their principal values are and push for these values to be reflected in their local government.

It is easy to get lost in all the names that come with local politics, and while it is normally difficult to

figure out each candidate's views and concerns, it is a largely rewarding experience.

Local politics also often shape what will become national issues. Women's suffrage, minimum wage, marriage equality and environmental protection are all local policy pushes that have gained national traction and are now part of everyday conversation.

By having more students participating in local elections, the youth vote can be heard throughout the town, and possibly throughout the country. Each individual vote in local elections also carries more weight.

Overall, people should be as passionate about local politics as they are about the presidential or senate elections. It's necessary to elect officials who will reflect what you feel is important, due to local government's ability to trendset and set pace for national politics.

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

Fans show support for ECU Pirates consistently have impressive attendance at Clark-LeClair

Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

Crowd atmospheres are often the lifeblood of collegiate and professional athletic programs around the country and the world. More than just a revenue stream for franchises and universities, fans and spectators offer a source of motivation for athletes on the field of play to draw from in-game.

Lucky enough to have one of the best fan bases in collegiate sports, East Carolina University (3-1, 0-0 AAC) baseball consistently ranks at the top of conference and national attendance rankings. Just last year, the Pirates drew over 110,000 fans to their home games.

"It's hard to put into context," Corey Gloor, the Pirates' play-by-play broadcaster, said. "When you're sitting there with the headset on, you can observe it and you're never really a part of it. But then when you hear things back, if I listen to a call or watch a highlight, I can hear the ambient noise to start."

Gloor, who has been calling ECU games since 2016, is in a unique situation to be able to watch every ECU baseball game, both on the road and at Clark-LeClair Stadium.

The most recent of those games, a weekend series sweep of The College of William & Mary (0-4, 0-0 CAA), brought nearly 10,000 fans to the purple seats of CLS and the famed jungle beyond the outfield walls.

With an average of 3,258 fans for the three games, ECU welcomed an announced attendance of 3,391 for Saturday's contest, the largest crowd of the weekend. Opening Day's attendance, at a tick over 3,200 people, were treated to extra innings and an eventual walk-off base hit from junior catcher Seth Caddell.

"The adrenaline was crazy, the fans were phenomenal tonight (Friday)," redshirt senior right-handed pitcher Matt Bridges said. "It was fun, lots of fun."

Bridges, who recorded five scoreless outs on Opening Day, the latter three of which came in a tied ball game, perhaps benefitted the most from a crowd that had just witnessed the Pirates tie the contest in the bottom of the eighth inning.

Nevertheless, ECU's attendance numbers have yet to come to full vigor. A cold weekend and other athletic events around campus hampered the figures slightly. With a slew of big matchups

on the home schedule still to come, however, Clark-LeClair has yet to rock like it has in the past.

"When that place gets unleashed like it did in the Regional, there's not many places in the country in college baseball that can really compare to it," Gloor said.

ECU's Regional clinching win in 2019, a 12-3 victory over Campbell University, ranks as the fifth largest crowd to assemble at CLS with an announced attendance of 5,206 people.

Right above it, the Pirates' 4-0 win over the University of North Carolina in 2009 still holds the crown for highest attendance at 5,581 people.

During that 2009 season, the Pirates welcomed over 120,000 people to their home games, a number that ranked 12th in the nation. Just last year, ECU posted the 14th-best attendance figure in the country and the 16th-best average per game at 3,447 people.

Inside the top-30 in sheer attendance numbers each of the last five years, Cliff Godwin's Pirates have failed to disappoint on the field. Four NCAA Tournament appearances (2015, 2016, 2018, 2019) and two Regional Championships (2016, 2019), have solidified the Pirates as a force to be reckoned with on the national stage.

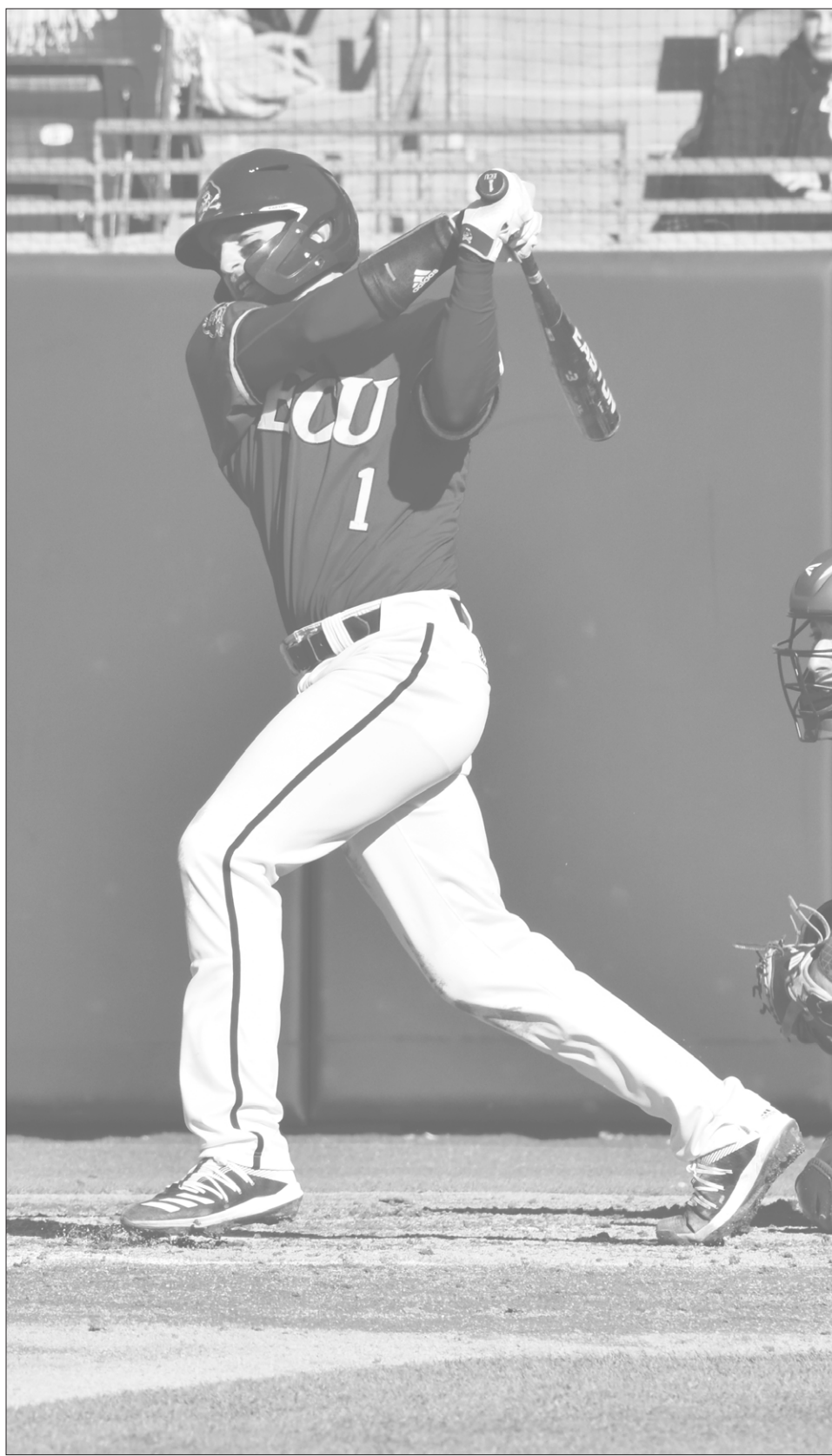
With a successful program, fans have continued flocking to Clark-LeClair. If this year's opening weekend serves as any barometer for the remainder of the season, the Pirates will once again enjoy another successful season in the filling seats department.

"When ECU fans are there and locked in to the action, whether it's an important game or a game in February mid-week, but when they're savvy baseball fans and they're excited baseball fans, it doesn't take much for Clark-LeClair to become the toughest place to play in college baseball," Gloor said.

Already with a 3-0 home record under their belts for 2020, the Pirates are well on their way to matching or besting the 28-6 home record that was posted one year ago. If that happens, there is a good chance this program returns to the Super Regional, a round that has troubled ECU in the past.

The Pirates will return to action this weekend against Georgia Southern University (3-1, 0-0 Sun Belt) after a 7-2 loss against Campbell yesterday in Buies Creek, North Carolina. First pitch against the Eagles on Saturday is scheduled for noon.

This writer can be contacted at
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Sophomore infielder Connor Norby up to bat against William & Mary on opening weekend.

ANNA ALLEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

FOOTBALL continued from A1

The Gamecocks will be the Pirates' seventh Southeastern Conference opponent since 2011 and first since losing 20-15 to the Gamecocks in 2016. Head football coach Mike Houston has some experience coaching against the Gamecocks with a 23-22 road victory during his two-year campaign as head coach with the Citadel.

After the road trip to South Carolina, the Pirates will return home to face the Norfolk State University Spartans on Sept. 19. The Spartans are the Pirates only FCS opponent this season and appear to be scheduled as a tune up game as the Pirates will turn around and get prepared for a Thursday night throwdown with the University of Central Florida Golden Knights on Sept. 24.

"Playing three games on a national stage certainly enhances our exposure and we're appreciative of the American Athletic Conference and ESPN," Houston said in a press release.

After the week off and trip to Oklahoma, the Pirates will play a quick home game on Nov. 7 against Tulane University before going on the road to the University of Cincinnati on Nov. 12. This will be the final Thursday night game of the 2020 regular season for the Pirates and while it should be one of the toughest conference games scheduled.

ONLINE |
FULL STORY

After Cincinnati, it will be on to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the Pirates where they will see the Temple University Owls on Nov. 21.

Finally, to wrap up the 2020 regular season on Nov. 28, the Pirates will host the Southern Methodist University Mustangs. The Mustangs are another team the Pirates will be looking forward to playing in the 2020 season as they saw similar success through the air against SMU last season as they did against Cincinnati.

One thing that will be very different in 2020 for the Pirates is the disappearance of the University of Connecticut. The Huskies will no longer compete in the AAC starting in the 2020-21 sports season. The Pirates will play four conference opponents from each side of the conference.

The conference championship is set to be played on Dec. 5 at the highest seeded team's home stadium. While the 2020 schedule has the Pirates playing two conference opponents who were ranked in the final College Football Playoff rankings (No. 21 Cincinnati, No. 23 Navy), Dec. 5 is not an unattainable goal for the Pirates this season as they will be returning the fourth most production in the nation.

"We are looking forward to the opportunity to compete each week against a challenging schedule as we continue to build our football program," Houston said in a press release.

With one of the most talented groups returning in 2020, this season could be the page that the ECU football program has been looking to turn for a few years. The Pirates are scheduled to kick-off on Sept. 15 against Marshall.

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

Minges adds sensory room

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

On Sunday against the University of Cincinnati (17-8, 10-3 AAC), the crowd was packed with 4,082 screaming fans there to support the East Carolina University (10-17, 4-10 AAC) men's basketball team and the tough overtime battle caused a lot of excitement inside Minges Coliseum.

During the game, ECU Athletics revealed the product of its partnership with the East Carolina University College of Health and Human Performance. A sensory inclusive space, PeeDee's Sensory Room, has been built inside Minges Coliseum to accommodate specific needs of those attending ECU basketball games.

According to Director of the Medical Family Therapy Doctoral Program at East Carolina University, Jennifer Hodgson a sensory room is a space where people who are experiencing sensory overload can go to calm and feel safe.

According to Hodgson sensory overload occurs when one or more of our five senses (touch, taste, smell, sight, and sound) become overstimulated. The brain is unsure how to react with the competing information. People then report feeling stuck and unable to prioritize what sensory information it needs to focus on.

In PeeDee's Sensory Room there is an interactive sensory unit, soft gym mats, bean bag chairs, and bins full of sensory toys for a variety of ages.

"This is an exciting project and a major addition to our fan experience as we ensure that everyone attending ECU athletics events feel included, supported and welcome," ECU Athletics Director Jon Gilbert said in a press release.

This is the first part of a long-range Sensory Inclusion Project for ECU Athletics, which will continue to create the best environment for fans. Pee Dee's Sensory Room is in the Developmental Motor Lab in Room 100 and includes equipment available for all ages.

According to Gilbert in the press release, ECU Athletics is committed to making sure every guest or fan that visits their athletic venues has a comfortable and calming experience and they will continue to work to have a mobile space at our home football games in 2020 in addition to the sensory room at Minges.

Including Aces for Autism, HPP and ECU Athletics also partnered with organizations across campus such as the Autism Society, The Innovation Design Lab in the Honors College, Best Buddies and KultureCity to make Pee Dee's Sensory Room the



COURTESY OF JENNIFER HODGSON

PeeDee's Sensory Room provides interactive toys and devices for fans.

best experience for fans.

"We are grateful to Chancellor Ron Mitchelson, faculty and staff in the College of Health and Human Performance who helped make this a reality," Gilbert said.

The space will continue to add helpful equipment to expand and reach more people. ECU Athletics looks to create a more comfortable fan experience beyond just basketball, along with other sports held in Minges Coliseum. Reaching out to ECU Athletics of the ECU University Advancement Office to help support financially is important and greatly appreciated.

"PeeDee's Sensory room will give people who experience sensory overload at our ECU athletic events a place to relax and regroup so they may return to the game with their friends and families," Hodgson, said in a press release.

According to Hodgson in the press release, the sensory room will be staffed with caring, compassionate volunteers from the College of Health and Human Performance, Aces for Autism, the Autism Society, Best Buddies and across the ECU campus community.

Hodgson said in the press release that their hope is that this sensory space will encourage more families from their community to attend ECU athletic events together and see ECU as an inclusive welcoming place for everyone.

East Carolina is home to many loud and proud sports fans, but some fans need a place to decompress from sensory overload. For this Sunday's home game against Temple University (13-12, 5-7 AAC), Pee Dee's Sensory Room will be available for anyone who needs to step away from the action.

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.

Townhouses/Duplex for Rent Near ECU: 1103 E. 4th Street- 2-3 Bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse/duplex. \$1000.00 per month. 1102 Johnston Street - 2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse/duplex. \$800 per month. 802-A Forbes Street- 2 Bedroom, 1 bath duplex.

\$660.00 per month. For more information contact Wainwright Property Management 252-756-6209.

Houses for rent 2020/2021: Walk to campus. Call 910-791-3107 for more information and showings.

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Together, you're a powerful community force. Discuss a shared vision and coordinate actions. Adapt to unforeseen circumstances. Connect and hold on. Support each other.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Share a dream or vision with a strong professional team and you're unbeatable. You can adapt to unexpected circumstances. Inspire others and pull together.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Explore a subject you've been dreaming about. Discipline with planning and preparation pays off. Stick to basics and fundamentals before advancing. Discover a hidden truth.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Confirm intuition with facts and data, especially regarding family or shared finances. Changes necessitate budget revisions. You can see the way forward. Make practical moves.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Fortune follows disciplined collaborative efforts. You can see the prize that you and your partner have been working for. Strengthen foundational elements. Build bridges.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- All that physical practice is beginning to pay off. Luck shines on your dream. Take practical steps to achieve a milestone. The prize is yours.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- You can see a path to realize a long-term, heartfelt vision or dream. Go for substance over symbolism. Use your creativity. Grow what you love.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Household matters need attention. Make repairs. Consider long-range plans. Get inventive to find creative, cost-effective solutions. Find new purpose for something you already have.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- You're especially clever and creative. Write your discoveries. Edit carefully and double-source public statements. Diplomacy can resolve a challenge. Find areas of common connection.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- You can make good money. It may require making a mess or overcoming an obstacle. Things could get chaotic. Get terms in writing. Collaborate.

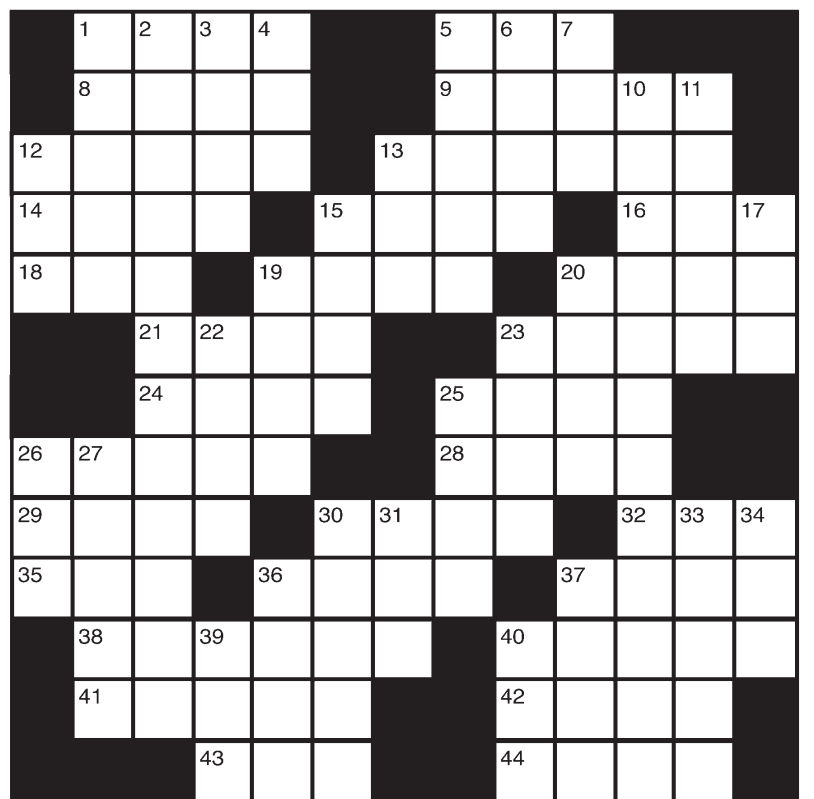
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 9 -- A personal ambition takes focus. New possibilities entice you to pursue something long-desired. Take charge for positive results. Energize a hot opportunity.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Peaceful meditation illuminates hidden thoughts, perks and motivations. An insight provides freedom from endless repetition. Envision a perfect outcome. You can choose your path.

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

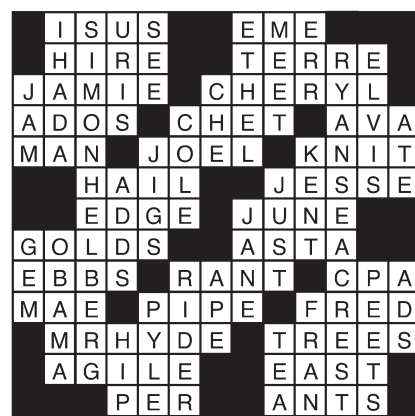
- Jon Cryer's role on "Two and a Half Men"
- "Sanford and ..."
- Like a poor excuse
- "Your Wagon"; Lee Marvin musical
- Yearned
- Actress Monica
- "... for All Seasons"; Best Picture Oscar winner
- Cougars and Jaguars
- Chen of "Fresh Off the Boat"
- Money left for the waiter
- "Mr. Candid Camera"
- "Queen of Jazz"
- As blind as ...
- Person
- Actress Russo
- Blister or boil
- Actress Miles and her namesakes
- LL ... J of "NCIS: Los Angeles"
- Actress Moran
- Pierre's state: abbr.
- Bradley and O'Neill

- "... Death"; Brad Garrett sitcom
- Ugandan tyrant Idi ...
- Make a tiny cut
- Glenn and Eric
- NBC's morning show
- "Barbara"; soap opera of the past
- Sher of "The Middle"
- Cochlea's place
- In a ...; stunned

DOWN

- Actor ... Ballard
- Actress on "Once Upon a Time"
- Sherman Hemsley series
- "... and Stacey"
- Polo or soccer
- Cheerios ingredients
- Word attached to wit or pick
- Nicholas Gonzalez's role on "The Good Doctor"
- "The flowers that bloom in the spring, ..."
- Mr. Sajak
- Skillet
- As ... as a button
- Fabray, to friends
- Groupies
- Italy's currency
- Actor Orson ...
- Captain in "Peter Pan"
- Read over quickly
- Dr. Dolittle, for one
- Sevareid and Stonestreet
- Make a smudge worse
- Prefix for respect or robe
- Television journalist Sawyer
- "Austin Powers: The ... Who Shagged Me"; Mike Myers film
- Dog on "The Thin Man"
- Scotch and ...; bar order
- "... Life to Live"
- Role on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"

Solution from 2/18

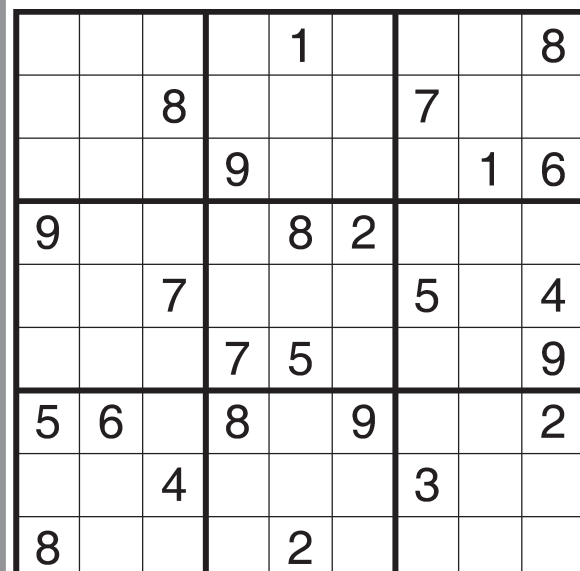


SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level
1 2
3 4



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

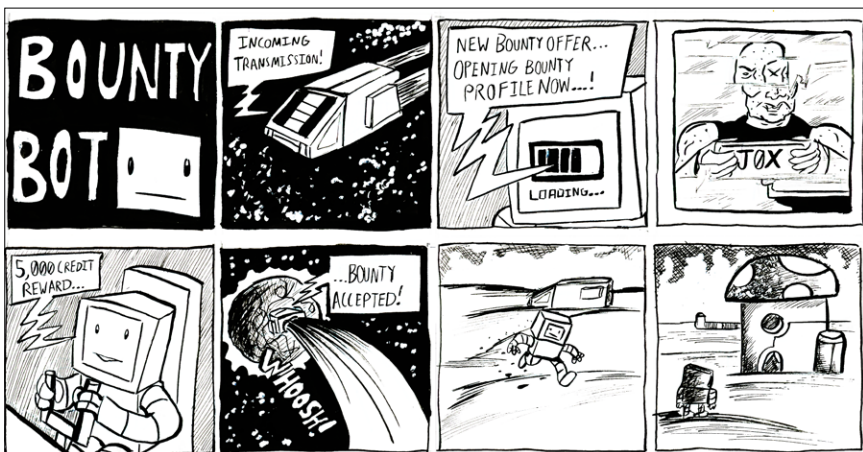
Solution from 2/18

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

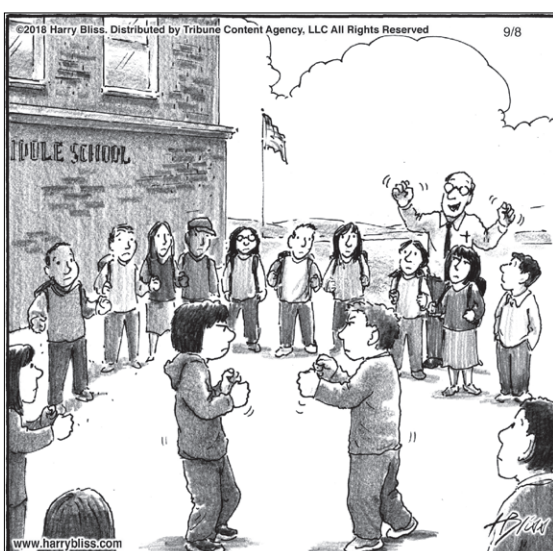
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COMICS

BOUNTY BOT BY BRIAN JUDGE



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72 HOURS

MAP OUT YOUR WEEKEND

TODAY

ECU Faculty Performance
A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.

The Oakwood School Presents
"A Midsummer Night's Dream"
Monk Hall Auditorium
7 p.m.

Art is Good Medicine: Mixed Media Painting
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
6 p.m.

TOMORROW

Salsa Night
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
7 p.m.

Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival
ECU School of Music
7:30 p.m.

Tiny Art Show & Prints Charming
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
10 a.m.

Dare To Be Squared
Whirligig Stage
7 p.m.

SATURDAY

The Jerk Truck Food Truck
Pitt Street Brewing Company
Noon

Good Morning Bedlam Concert
Whirligig Stage
8 p.m.

Tyler Hammond Concert
Buggy's Bar
10 p.m.

SUNDAY

Barking Buddies
AR Workshop
2 p.m.

22nd Annual Eastern Carolina Bridal Expo
Greenville Convention Center
1 p.m.

Restorative Yin Yoga
The Y Fitness Studio
7 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED BY JERRY FINLEY

80's tribute band, The Breakfast Club, which consists of Matt Burns, Jerry Finley, Davay Ray and Tony Williams, will be performing tomorrow at the State Theatre

Journey back to the 1980's

Tribute band hopes to bring together audience of all ages

Hannah True
TEC STAFF

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



The Breakfast Club, an '80s tribute band, will be playing tomorrow at the State Theatre at 9 p.m. Anyone is welcome, tickets will be sold at the door and students will even receive a discounted rate.

Jerry Finley started the band back in 1993 and has taken on a range of positions in the band. For the last 12 years, he has been the keyboardist and one of the lead vocalists. The original band he played with, Two Pound Planet, called it quits after accruing some debts.

To repay them Finley and a few other of the band's members created The Breakfast Club to play at small gigs in order to repay those debts. Finley

recalls how he thought of the idea of the tribute band by watching an ad on TV for an '80s music compilation CD at 3 a.m.

"The next day I told the guys what had happened and that we should be the first and only cover band (at the time) to play nothing but '80s music covers, as close to the record as possible, with vintage clothing and instruments," Finley said.

Finley explained he had never seen the idea of a tribute band. That being said, he said he was met with resistance from club owners and agents. The band has been coming to Greenville since 1995 and has been attracting a range of audiences, Finley explained.

"Back then it was almost entirely ECU students. Our target demographic has gotten a little older since then, but surprisingly, we are starting to draw

more 18 to 25-year-olds. Maybe their parents did a good job raising them, playing their generation's music in the minivan on the way to soccer practice or dance rehearsal. So Greenville is a natural choice," Finley said.

Co-owner of the State Theatre, Mark Thompson, explains that the band attracts so many fans of different ages that he can ensure ECU students will enjoy the show.

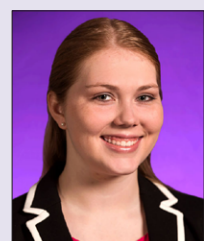
"I think the ECU students will love this band and we even offer a student discount for this show. The regular tickets are \$12 and the student tickets are only \$7," Thompson said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

REVIEW

'Ghost: The Musical' does movie justice



Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

Adaptations tend to be risky more times than not. When you hear that a favorite book of yours is being made into a movie, you cringe in anticipation of the plot points that will be erased, corners cut out and context lost. As such, "Ghost: The Musical" invited fears of a rash of convenient plot changes and cheesy musical numbers that betray the tender, emotional story that was the 1990 movie.

Luckily, these fears were not realized. The show did exactly what director Michael Tahaney said he hoped it would, embody the spirit of the original cast (the iconic performances of Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore, and Whoopie Goldberg) without being an exact copy of them.

Keagan Kermode, sophomore musical theatre major who played Sam Wheat, had the impossible job playing a ghost. Even when he wasn't speaking, his frustration and desperation was palpable. You could see on his face and with his body language how much it pained him to be able to see Molly and not be able to touch her, to see she was in danger and not be able to save her. His emotion was captivating throughout the entire show.

Karley Kornegay, senior musical theatre major who played Molly Jensen, also gave an emotionally stunning performance. Her chemistry with Kermode, even when her character wasn't able to see

his, was definitely a large part of what made this show such a success. Her strong vocals, even during some of the most emotional scenes, exemplified her maturity and professionalism as a performer.

Nazmokeem Harvey, sophomore theatre arts major, absolutely nailed it with his portrayal of Oda Mae. It is hard to believe anyone could match the iconic, sassy, performance of Whoopie Goldberg, but Harvey brought his own version of her spunk and attitude to the show. He was funny, energetic, and from his voice, (singing and otherwise) to his costumes and his mannerisms, he completely embodied the sassy psychic, experiencing her own power for the first time.

This show had a lot of challenges to overcome because of the limitations of a stage. The tech elements such as a rotating platform and a multi-level stage allowed for quick scene changes as one would see in a movie. Lighting and sound elements brought to life the movements of the ghosts, indicating when they were passing through an object versus hitting them.

The scenes in which the "demons" that take away bad characters when they die were a little cheesy. People dressed in stretchy black bags squirmed around and awkwardly pulled characters off the stage into a haze of fog. While these scenes in the musical were indeed a little weak, admittedly they match the laughable nature of these scenes from the movie in which 2D semi-transparent apparitions grab characters and slowly shrink until they disappear.



ANDREA LOY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Cast members in 'Ghost: The Musical' rehearse a scene.

Finally, the most impressive aspect of the show was how the characters were all able to act like Kermode (as Sam) was not there. He talks to people on stage and they pretend like they don't hear him, and continue their conversations flawlessly. It really sealed the illusion they were trying to create of Sam being a ghost, invisible to the real world.

RATING:



5 out of 5

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

CLEARY continued from A1

Clubhouse" and "Henry and the Paper Route." The main character of the play, Henry Huggins, played by freshman professional acting major Bobby Moreno, is trying to prove his responsibility to his fellow neighbors by taking over the paper route, Crane said.

"Henry goes about trying to prove his responsibility in a couple ways that go wrong with some help from his neighbor friends and younger sister and he gets some help from the dog. So, he gets this help that doesn't lead him to success, but of course he learns some life lessons along the way," Crane said.



Haley Sanders is a sophomore professional acting and musical theatre major Skylar Smith, and Ramona Quimby, played by junior professional acting and theatre for youth major, Haley Sanders, Crane said.

Sanders said that she has enjoyed exploring her role as Ramona Quimby, a five-year-old neighbor of Henry's and Beezus' little sister, who serves as the neighborhood nuisance.

"Ramona is that iconic character from 'Ramona and Beezus,' and everybody thinks that she's such a pest. She is always meddling in everything and she's very rambunctious. So, it's been interesting trying to figure out her motivation," Sanders said.

Sanders said the play is not only for children but also for ECU students and adults who may have read Cleary's work and want to see it performed live for the first time.

Stage manager Kathryn Poulsen, a freshman majoring in stage management, said that the auditions for the play started two months ago in December, right before winter break.

Poulsen said that she believes that the idea of friendship is a huge proponent that can be seen throughout the production.

"I think the show reminds everybody what friendship means. There's a scene about Beezus and Henry and how Henry kind of loses their friendship, but Henry remembers how grateful he is to have Beezus as a friend. This story to me is a lot about friendship and how people in your neighborhood are like a close-knit family," Poulsen said.

For more information on tomorrow night's show visit the event's page on the School of Art and Communication's website or call 252-737-5444.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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