



# The East Carolinian

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KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University recently decided to implement an eight-week, block style schedule for the 2020-2021 academic year.

## ECU takes new precautions

### University to implement new block schedule for fall

George Martin  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University will shift to an eight-week block schedule during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters in order to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

Acting Provost Grant Hayes announced on May 11 in an emailed statement that ECU will shift to a block schedule which would break each semester in half.

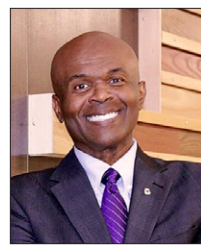
In the emailed statement, Hayes said that students will take the same number of courses throughout a semester, but the class load would be split between two eight-week blocks.

"There will be minor changes to the registration process for new registrations and for students who want to make schedule changes. Students who have already registered for classes will have their existing schedules migrated to the new format for them. It is not yet determined how classes will be

assigned to each block," Hayes said in an emailed statement.

In the emailed statement, Hayes said a faculty task force was created in order to help professors make the shift to the new block schedule.

Hayes said in his statement that the main reason for making the shift to a block schedule is to guarantee that social distancing measures can continue into the school year.



Grant Hayes

He said in the statement that he hopes this change will help battle the spread of the virus during the next two semesters.

"For students and faculty, block scheduling would minimize the number of contacts they experience during each eight-week block. They would only be exposed to individuals in two to three classes instead of individuals from four to five

different classes," Hayes said in the emailed statement.

Hayes said an additional important aspect of the new schedule is that it allows for flexibility during the pandemic, allowing the university to easily shift either remote or face-to-face learning depending on how the situation develops.

The university does plan to work with students who have unique schedules in order to guarantee they are still able to participate in the programs they want to, according to Hayes.

"We realize that there will need to be exceptions for internships and other experiential learning opportunities, and for some classes that can't convert to the block schedule," Hayes said. "We would appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to plan and monitor the impacts of COVID-19."

English professor Margaret

> SCHEDULE page A2

## ECU offers virtual resources

Jennifer Sieg  
TEC STAFF

As the beginning of summer sessions approach in a virtual format, online resources and support services will be offered through East Carolina University's Pirate Academic Success Center (PASC) as well as other campus departments.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy said although summer sessions will be conducted entirely through an online format, returning students may experience a more smooth adaptation due to the spring's unprecedented circumstances.

"Our faculty are ready, for the most part, for our summer classes, so I think it will be much easier and for our students to do that transitioning," Hardy said.

Following the spring transition to virtual services, most of the same services will be available throughout the summer sessions, according to Hardy.

Hardy said some summer services may include virtual counseling, virtual student health visits and disability support services.

"We're still trying to keep some of that going, those types of resources available, and so we'll continue to expand that as we need to," Hardy said.

Hardy said ECU works to help students the best way possible. She said if a department on campus is not available for virtual servicing, students should contact the Dean of Students Office because they will do what they can to help find the resources students may need.

Senior communication major Brooke Edes said she usually takes summer classes online. Taking online classes over the summer creates a more flexible schedule for travel, work and other activities, according to Edes.

"It's a great time to knock out electives. Most of all my electives I took online are super easy and a good way to get your credits faster or if you're behind," Edes said.

Edes said she's unable to speak for the classes that are usually supposed to be taught on campus, but she recommends students work ahead and check assignments daily.

PASC Director Elizabeth Coghill said unlim-

> PASC page A2



Virginia Hardy

## Short MLB Draft effects ECU Pirates

Daniel Shepard  
TEC STAFF

In the sports world, remnants of various leagues' seasons are making plans for a comeback. NASCAR returned this past weekend in Darlington, South Carolina and multiple media outlets have reported MLB's proposal to resume play includes a date in early July.

The sport's draft, with a regular duration of 40 rounds in a normal year, has been cut to five rounds and will only span two days, June 10 and 11, instead of the normal three.

For ECU baseball, a shortened draft potentially means less players selected from the program in 2020.

"It will leave some players on ECU's team that maybe would have been drafted that won't be drafted," ECU head baseball coach Cliff Godwin said. "Specifically at East Carolina, some of our incoming guys still have the opportunity to be drafted

> BASEBALL page A6

## DIY tutorials shared online

### Local arts center offers entertaining how-to crafts

Yasmine D. Curmon-Ward  
TEC STAFF

During the stay-at-home order, Jaycee Park Center for Arts & Crafts has kept busy by creating daily arts and craft tutorials and sewing fabric face masks for full-time recreation and parks employees.

The Jaycee Park Center for Arts & Crafts community art center, located at 2000 Cedar Lane, decided to share arts and crafts tutorials on its social media pages after realizing the need for creative rethinking for summer programming while keeping everyone safe and providing a fun experience.

While closed, the Jaycee Arts and Crafts Center shares arts and crafts tutorials on Facebook and Instagram. Since parents are homeschooling their children, Jaycee arts and crafts are providing the tutorials to provide a creative outlet for art education.

Sara Caropreso, recreation supervisor for the Jaycee Park Center for Arts and Crafts, said the primary audience is fami-

lies with young children, the audience the youth arts and crafts programs cater to.

The community arts center offers programs for youth and adults ages three and up, according to Caropreso. The programs include ballet and tap dance, drawing, pottery, painting, sewing and quilting. The center also has an active Pottery Club which provides studio space and kiln firings to members, Caropreso said.

The arts and craft center participates in many community events throughout the year including Youth Arts Festival, Paint in the Park, Greenville Gives and PirateFest, Caropreso said. She said the center hosts two annual art events at Jaycee Park, which include the Carter Williams Art Show & Fundraiser and the Holiday Art Sale.

Caropreso said she looks for activities that are simple, fun and creative, and can be done using common household items so people do not have to leave their homes to try and find materials. She said she chooses a variety of arts and crafts to appeal to a large group of people and she

shares tutorials themed around upcoming holidays and events in celebration of them.

"My main goal with the arts and crafts tutorials is to offer a creative outlet for families at home. For youth, art provides many developmental benefits, including improved motor skills, language development, decision making, cultural awareness and academic performance. For adults, art can enhance critical thinking, stimulate the imagination and offer an avenue for creative expression," Caropreso said.



Sara Caropreso

There has been an increase in Jaycee Park Arts and Crafts social media following, Caropreso said, with a gaining of more than fifty new Instagram and Facebook followers over the last month. She said she hopes the increase in social media followers will

> TUTORIALS page A3

### ONLINE

» NEWS: Essential workers gallery available online

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

### SOCIAL MEDIA



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Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian



@TEC\_Newspaper

## BRIEFS

## ECU starts first summer session

Today, East Carolina University will begin its first session of summer classes. ECU decided earlier in the spring semester that all summer classes will be held online. The first session is scheduled to end on June 23.

## City council to hold recessed meeting

Today at 6 p.m., Greenville's City Council will have a virtual meeting. The meeting is the continuation of a recessed meeting that was held virtually on May 14. The meeting will be open to the public and a link can be found on the city's website.

## BOT to hold special meeting on athletics

Today at 3 p.m., East Carolina University's Board of Trustees will have a meeting. The meeting is a special session being called specifically to discuss ECU athletics. The BOT will meet virtually to accommodate social distancing measures still in place.

## Planning and Zoning Commission to meet

Tomorrow at 5 p.m., Greenville's Planning and Zoning Commission will meet virtually. The meeting will be open to the public and streamed live on Greenville's city website. The Planning and Zoning Commission will be covering upcoming plans for the city for input from the public.

## NC will begin Phase 2 of reopening

On May 22 North Carolina is scheduled to enter Phase 2 of reopening. This phase would allow for bars, restaurants, salons and barbers to reopen with a reduced capacity. This timeline is the most recent from Governor Roy Cooper, but it may be subject to change.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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

## Essential workers share experiences

## Local businesses continue to operate during global pandemic

Cayla Menges  
TEC STAFF

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper has started to reopen the state in phases while essential businesses across Greenville have remained open, keeping some employees working, while many businesses have been temporarily shut down.

Phase 1 allowed retail businesses to open at 50% capacity while restaurants continued to operate via drive-through, take out and delivery, according to Cooper in the press release.

East Carolina University alumna Elizabeth Merriam said she currently works at Walgreens Pharmacy as a pharmaceutical technician. She said business inside the store has slowed, but the pharmacy's drive-through has remained steady.

"Drive-through is definitely preferred for people picking up prescriptions. Our drive-through is a lot busier now rather than coming inside, which we prefer a lot more to limit exposure for both them and us," Merriam said.

In order to help encourage business, Walgreens has provided an extensive list of items available throughout the store that can now be sold through the drive-through, according to Merriam. She said customers can call ahead to order items via drive-through pick up.

Merriam said she has received calls asking about onsite COVID-19 testing but it is not something offered by Walgreens at this time. Masks and gloves are distributed to Walgreens employees and include people wearing fun-patterned reusable masks, according to Merriam.

Junior business administration major Jason Gilmore, who attends Pitt Community College, works at Parker's BBQ. He said he started working the week the restaurant dine-in closed in North Carolina. He said he has since moved up to cashier and food runner to help support takeout and drive-through orders.

"No one can sit down and eat, so there's not as much foot traffic coming in and out, but during lunch rush there's a good amount of construction workers, utility workers and electricians," Gilmore said.

Parker's BBQ offers pick-up through the drive-through for call-in orders at this time as well as in store pick-up, according to Gilmore. He said business has remained consistent with an influx of the family four pack deal orders which offer various entrees and sides.

Junior psychology major Jhovani Tellez said he is fortunate to have a job during the coronavirus pandemic through Brown & Wood Buick GMC. Tellez said he works as a product knowledge special-



BIANTA TOURAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Elizabeth Merriam stocks shelves at a Greenville Walgreens during her shift as an essential employee.

ist, providing customers with setting up OnStar and overall technology support in vehicles.

Car sales have slowed down, Tellez said, but there has been an increase of essential workers coming in. He said employees are provided masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and encouraged to maintain the six feet rule while working. Work has been delegated with employees due to the decrease in car sales, Tellez said.



Jhovani Tellez

"We're working more hours since COVID-19 started. Normally when we sell a lot of cars we have to fix the lot up, when we sell less cars we're doing more detail work around the dealership," Tellez said.

Senior communication major Zachary Dix said his job through Briley's Farm Market offers produce box pick-up in lieu of the traditional summertime produce stand. Briley's offers a weekly produce box with arranged pick-up times on weekends, according to Dix.

Briley's has been offering produce box pick-ups for the last month, and each week a slew of fruits and vegetables are offered, according to Dix. He said the normal produce stand runs from Memorial Day weekend until around the end of August.

"Right now it switches up, but we've got lettuce, strawberries, onions...there's usually nine to 10 items and the box varies each week you definitely get enough," Dix said.

Briley's farm offers a pumpkin patch along with corn mazes during the month of October, according to Dix. He said there has been no word yet if the coronavirus pandemic will hinder the opening of Briley's fall festivities in October.

Phase 2 of reopening North Carolina will come two to three weeks after phase 1 opened on May 8, according to Cooper in a press release. Cooper said Phase 2 will allow the opening of bars, fitness centers and personal care services. More information on Phase 2 can be found on the governor's website.

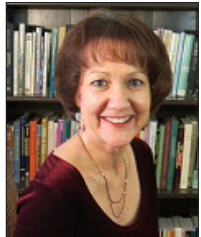
This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

## SCHEDULE continued from A1

Bauer, who is also senator on ECU's faculty senate, said that during a senate meeting, Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson told faculty that the main reason for the switch online was mostly a financial decision.

Some of the major concerns among faculty are the time crunch to get a working schedule for the eight-week blocks as well as the health threats to professors who may have autoimmune deficiencies, according to Bauer.

"We were told at the (faculty) senate meeting in April that they were thinking about it, and then we heard the next day that it was a done deal. And still, as a faculty member, I have not received an email, which I had asked about, saying 'hey let us know if you have autoimmune issues and can't teach face-to-face,'" Bauer said.



Margaret Bauer

Bauer said professors are concerned about students getting a high-quality education, but they are also worried about their own health. She cited seeing parties happening at grid housing as a reason to be wary of teaching come the fall, because these parties are not safe and allow for easy transmission of the virus.

Sophomore business major Colton Robbins said he is concerned about coming to campus come fall. He said his main concern falls under being in close corners with other individuals while the virus is spreading.

"Sitting in a small room where tons of people have been sitting is just not something that I really want to be doing while there's a potentially lethal virus going around," Robbins said.

Residence hall living would be dangerous, Robbins said, with a large number of people living in a confined space and sharing amenities. He said he feels that it's only a matter of if, not when, multiple students at the university contract the virus.

Updates on how ECU is handling the pandemic can be found on the coronavirus updates page hosted by the university.

Additional schedule changes can be found on the ECU events calendar website.

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



KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University will offer virtual resources for students during all summer sessions while face-to-face meeting is halted.

## PASC continued from A1

ited face-to-face tutoring is usually offered to students after class in person, but services for this summer will be completely virtual. She said tutors will be delivering services through Microsoft Teams, a video based communication software.

"The reason why we picked Teams was that it's an easy connection for the student and the tutor. Teams has both a whiteboard that can be shared, which is important, and it also has a what's called OneNote," Coghill said.

OneNote is important because it allows the tutor to take notes during the session and then send it to the student at the end, according to Coghill. She said the services through Teams will be available starting today and will be free to all ECU students.

Coghill said all classes are important and services are offered to many, but PASC has targeted specific sci-

ence related classes such as biology, physics and chemistry. A list of these courses and service schedules can also be found on the PASC website.

"We'll be sending emails right to the students that are enrolled in classes, in those particular classes,"



Elizabeth Coghill

Coghill said. "And we selected the highest demand STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) courses because they're the ones that we've seen every summer cause the most difficulty."

Coghill said there will also be professional staff and resources available to students enrolled in other classes as well. She said the staff will assist students in time management, study skills and project creations.

There will be a tutor matching service which will allow ECU stu-

dents to receive \$200 worth of free tutoring from the tutors who weren't hired this summer due to funding, according to Coghill. She said in order to use this free service, students must use their ECU credentials and look for the tutors marked with a PASC badge. Coghill said if students have trouble or need help finding specific tutors through the matching service, they can call the PASC for assistance.

"We're maintaining a preferred list for students so they can always call us and ask us for specific names to look for on tutor matching service," Coghill said.

PASC has also created a video with more information and instruction on specific Microsoft Teams services, which can be found on the website.

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



## RESTAURANT TAKEOUT

### Sup Dogs

213 E 5th St.  
Open Monday - Sunday  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Takeout and delivery

### Jack Brown's Beer and Burger Joint

805 Dickinson Ave.  
Open Monday - Sunday  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Takeout and delivery

### Tiebreakers

1920 Smythewyck Dr.  
Open Monday - Sunday  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Takeout and delivery

### Winslow's Tavern

120 W 5th St.  
Open Monday - Sunday  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Takeout and delivery

### Bonefish Grill

3616 S Memorial Dr.  
Open Monday - Sunday  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Takeout

### Villa Verde

2601 E 10th St  
Open Monday -  
Wednesday 11 a.m. to  
9 p.m.  
Open Thursday -  
Saturday 11 a.m. to  
10 p.m.  
Takeout and delivery

### Chili's Bar and Grill

3050 S Evans St.  
Open Sunday -  
Thursday 11 a.m. to  
10 p.m.  
Open Friday - Saturday  
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Takeout and Delivery

### Logan's Roadhouse

603 SE Greenville  
Blvd SE  
Open Sunday -  
Thursday 11 a.m. to 8  
p.m.

### Takeout and delivery Kickback Jacks

420 Redbanks Rd.  
Open Sunday -  
Thursday 11 a.m. to  
11 p.m.  
Open Friday - Saturday  
11 a.m. to midnight  
Takeout

### Basil's

1675 E Firetower Rd.  
Open Sunday 11 a.m.  
to 9 p.m.  
Open Tuesday -  
Thursday 11 a.m. to 9  
p.m.  
Open Friday - Saturday  
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Takeout

### Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen

901 Criswell Dr.  
Open Monday - Sunday  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Takeout



CONTRIBUTED BY ALEXIS JUDY

One of Alexis Judy's three residential designs that she submitted for the 2020 Sherwin-Williams Student Design challenge, titled "Mountain House Hideaway".

# Student recognized for design work

## Designer acknowledged in Sherwin-Williams 2020 competition

Macie Tano  
TEC STAFF

An East Carolina University student was recognized in the 2020 Sherwin-Williams Student Design Challenge as a "fan favorite" for her work in the residential design category.

Junior interior design major Alexis Judy submitted her designs titled "Mountain House Hideaway" to the student design challenge after hearing about it from one of her professors last fall.

Judy said she originally looked into the challenge as an independent study for the design program, but chose not to pursue it as a study for fall semester due to the competition not opening until February of this year. However, she said she decided to work on her own design during Spring Break and submit it.

"Over Spring Break, I worked on my design submittals which included three design pictures, a design statement and filling out a form that listed the Sherwin-Williams colors that I chose to use. I decided to enter to not only get my name and designs out there, but to also represent the interior design program at ECU," Judy said.



Alexis Judy

The design competition, which opened on Feb. 1 and concluded on Thursday, Judy said, is a competition which recognizes student designers across the nation in a residential and a commercial category. She said the students had to use at least three Sherwin-Williams paint colors in their designs.

"With the competition now in its 10 year, we have high expectations for submissions, and they delivered. Each year, we are blown away by the depth of creativity these students show," Sue Wadden, director of color marketing at Sherwin-Williams, said in a press release. "Their work demonstrates that the power of design is real and incredibly relevant. Sherwin-Williams applauds our next generation that will face both new challenges and new opportunities."

The competition recognized first, second and third place winners for both categories, according to the press release. The press release said first place winners received a cash prize of \$2,500 and the opportunity to be featured in Sherwin-Williams STIR e-newsletter.

In addition, the winners' schools were awarded \$1,000 to be used toward design programs. The second place winners received \$1000, the third place winners received \$500 and the fan favorites received a \$100 Sherwin-Williams gift card, the press release said.

Judy said she submitted her residential designs which included a home library and a kitchen. Judy said she chose to design a home library because of her passion for books and libraries. Add she felt that designing a library, which she hadn't seen designed before in the competition, showed her individuality. Additionally, Judy said she was happy to receive the "Facebook Fan Favorite" award for her designs in the residential category and have her work recognized by others.

"It has always been a dream of mine to have my work seen by so many, and I feel like this is just the start of it. I was also proud to represent my hometown which is Monroe, NC, but also ECU because I love being a Pirate. Winning fan favorite would not have been possible without God, the support of my county, and Pirate Nation who helped me achieve this," Judy said.

According to Judy, she plans on pursuing a career in design in the future and hopes to own her own interior design firm after she graduates from ECU. She said she wants to make designs for overlooked residential places, such as homeless shelters and nursing homes, making them more hospitable for the residents.

This writer can be contacted at  
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# Local artist contributes to arts relief fund

Yasmine Curmon-Ward  
TEC STAFF

While the state is under social distancing restrictions, East Carolina University alumnus Sim Asher, who is also the communications and events coordinator of the Greenville Museum of Art, continues to make and sell his artwork while contributing to the arts relief effort which helps support local artists during COVID-19.

Asher, who is employed full-time by the Greenville Museum of Art, said he has had more flexibility in his schedule, is able to gain more commission work for customers and sells his paintings in Greenville and surrounding towns.

His artistic inspirations come from many different sources, including those close to him and things he does in his daily routine, according to Asher.

"Whether it's a family member, a friend, a movie or what I ate for dinner, some daily factor will play a role in how I am feeling when approaching a new project. The key is knowing how to transcend those feelings into visual interpretation. I consider myself a mixed-media artist. I still very much practice the art of photography, utilizing traditional film practices along with digital image making," Asher said.

Born in Lumberton, North Carolina, Asher said he moved to Greenville with his mother, father and two older brothers at the age of four-years-old. He said that being creative stuck with him throughout his life and though he played sports as a child, he felt more challenged when making or constructing something.

Asher said he enjoys painting and working heavily with mixed media application as well as experimenting with various matte and gloss mediums and painting types. He also works with different brands to see how far he can control the manipulations of color, text, dimensions, materials and composition.

When he is not practicing photography, Asher said he works freelance jobs for more commercial and documentary style photography. He said his goal for his artwork is to continue creating art and sharing it with anyone who's willing to take a look.

Asher said he has contributed his artwork to several exhibitions and venues in Greenville, such as the Wellington B. Gray Gallery, Burroughs-Welcome Gallery, Emerge Gallery & Art Center, Uptown Art Supply, Art Avenue,

PCC Goess Center, Starlight Cafe, Uptown Greenville Office, Tippy Teapot, Trollingwood Taproom & Brewery, Uptown Greenville Umbrella Market and Moxie POP.

Asher said he has been featured in local publications such as *Greenville Magazine*, *Impressions Magazine*, *Rebel Literary Arts*, *the Greenville Times Magazine*, *Mixer Magazine* and online features with all of the above, also including the Convention at the Visitor's Bureau.

Samantha Eubanks, a junior pursuing her Masters degree in environmental educator/MAEd science education, recently purchased artwork from Asher, who delivered the art and installed hardware to help her hang the piece.

Eubanks said she appreciates her artwork from Asher and that he offers great accommodations to his customers during this time.

"He (Asher) was incredibly easy to work with and more than generous with his accommodations. Sim creates beautiful art and encourages customer participation in the process," Eubanks said.

Local artists are in financial trouble because of the COVID-19 pandemic, so artists need the support of the community even more, according to Asher.

"Artists rely heavily on the support of their communities. If you're unable to purchase local artwork, the best thing you can do is share the artwork of artists through word of mouth and social media. Sharing goes a long way," Asher said.

With his commissions, Asher supports local artists by promoting the arts relief fund, sponsored by the Pitt County Arts Council, and designing and campaigning a fundraiser through the online selling of photographic prints from his website. He donates a percentage of the funds raised to the arts relief fund to help artists who are facing financial hardships to make ends meet or to run their businesses.

Asher's work can be found on his website which solely features art photography. He will be rebranding the website over the summer and it will include art from photography, painting, mixed media and furniture projects. His art is also featured on Instagram page @simagery.

This writer can be contacted at  
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## TUTORIAL continued from A1

translate to increased participation in the arts programs and summer camps when the center is able to open back up.

"Art is for everyone. I believe we can all benefit from adding creativity into our daily lives. Art can be an escape from the stresses in our lives. Art can provide creative expression that is sometimes hard to put into words. Like daily exercise keeps individuals physically fit, I believe that artistic expression benefits mental health and a general sense of well-being," Caropreso said.

Samantha Parsells Strathy, local art teacher and

mother of two boys, a 7-year-old and 2-year-old, said she found the arts and crafts tutorials on Facebook. She said art comes naturally to her and her sons. She said they love to create, and they look forward to the next project each day.

"The tutorials are quite helpful for ideas, and are an easy way to show the instruction to the children while completing it hands on with them. The kids see the final project and get excited that they can make that too. Seeing the steps I think makes it easier for the kids to realize they can do the final result," Strathy said.

While city officials and recreation and parks staff continue to monitor the information presented by

Governor Roy Cooper, the North Carolina Health and Human Services department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Jaycee Park Center for Arts and Crafts plans to resume operations with a departmental phased approach that follows government and safety guidelines to ensure the safety of art instructor staff and youth and adult participants, according to Caropreso.

The center plans to offer arts and crafts programs in the summer, Caropreso said, but details are still being finalized. For more information visit their website.

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## OUR VIEW

### Online resources can help with classes

Today marks the start of summer classes at East Carolina University. This time usually allows most students the option to complete the remainder of general education courses needed to graduate or to get ahead in their required classes to complete their majors. Due to concerns around the coronavirus, classes will be held virtually to maintain the social distancing order.

Since classes will be held virtually during summer sessions, we know it may be a struggle for some students who learn better with face-to-face instruction. Students may not be aware of resources available for them to use to help them complete their classes during remote learning.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, wish all the students taking summer courses the best of luck, and we encourage them to utilize the resources available from ECU to help them succeed in their classes. ECU offers many virtual resources to help with online learning such as The University Writing Center, Pirate Academic Success Center, Joyner Library and multiple others which can be found on ECU's News Service website.

Students should also contact their professors for help if they have any questions or are confused with the learning material presented to them. A lot of professors will kindly help guide you through their course as they are also adjusting to teaching online. Faculty understands taking classes online is not for everyone. Even if your professors seem intimidating, don't be afraid to ask them for help because it's their job to not only instruct you but to aid you in your success.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



## Self-quarantine was needed

### Canceled plans create stress-free lifestyle



**Ashley Goodwin**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

With everyone in their homes self-quarantining, there are all kinds of suggestions for what to do while stuck in the house. Pick up a hobby, keep a routine, make yourself a schedule, allot

certain times in the day for work, play, self-care, etc. The list goes on and on. But for me, I have found that the best thing to do every day is to not plan to do anything.

I wake up every day to no alarms, unless you count whining dogs jumping on you as an alarm clock, and no plan for the day. I may get up right away and eat, brush my teeth, and start working on some college coursework online. I may lie in bed for a while on my phone before I decide to get dressed and play hide and seek with

my younger cousins who live with me. While I shelter-in-place, I've just been going with the flow.

I tried making myself a routine to follow but because I was the person who was telling me what I had to do, I didn't want to do it. It's not like I was going to punish myself if I didn't wake up at 9 a.m. on the dot and instantly start on my history notes. If this virus has taught us anything, it's that we can't plan every aspect of our lives. In early March, I was sitting in class with my friends planning a trip to an amusement park on Easter Sunday. I planned to actually come back to school after spring break. I planned to attend my sister's college graduation in May. I planned to be a camp counselor this summer. But the universe had other plans, so I am no longer planning out every single day of my life anymore. It's the best way I know how to deal with all these new changes.

While having all of these plans fall through made me feel really hopeless and small for a bit, I have to admit it hasn't been all bad. It slowed my life down, but after a few weeks of a slow-paced life, I found that this was actually kind of well-needed. Without having things to do and places to go to every day, my stress levels have gone down a significant amount. I feel more relaxed. Having all my plans suddenly gone has also really helped me learn how to just go with the flow. I can't control everything, and that's okay. Feeling like I needed to control every aspect of my life was a very tiring and fruitless mindset. Now, I just focus on the things I know I can do and worry less about those I can't.

Ashley Goodwin is a sophomore at ECU and a guest columnist. To contact her/him, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## COVID-19 is not a joking matter

### Williams' World



**Giana Williams**  
TEC STAFF

While I was scrolling on my Facebook page on Wednesday afternoon, I stumbled across a post by someone stating that a Walmart Supercenter has an employee or employees that are confirmed to have COVID-19, but their manager is telling them to keep it a secret. I don't know if this rumor is entirely true, however, I've seen multiple posts discussing the same topic and rumor they had heard.

It is a desperate time for a lot of business owners and managers when it comes to having enough employees to cover all grounds of the stores. They have to make sure the customers are following the correct social distancing protocol and all surface areas in the store are clean, but this brings so much concern for not only myself but other people as well.

If there's weight to the rumor, this manager has put other employees at risk for allowing those tested positive to continue working. This may put customers at risk by allowing this to happen. This rumor makes me question if there are other businesses and stores that are doing something similar to this and believe there is nothing wrong with their actions. It's honestly tiring at this point that not a lot of people are taking this seriously, or rather trying to downplay it, but I'm not entirely surprised.

The United States is in the lead with at least 1.4 million confirmed total cases followed by Russia with over 262,000 total cases. It's been

**“ You want to be able to go out and see your family and friends without running into any risks, but the pandemic is not going to slow down until everyone follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's directions promptly, even when you are going out. ”**

over two months since everything hit the fan for the US, and we have barely reached a steady decline of confirmed cases compared to some of the other countries, according to Google News. On top of all of this, some states are slowly starting to open up a few businesses again which could potentially spike the number of confirmed cases once again.

I understand your frustration with all of this. The economy and the job market is deteriorating because of the pandemic and being quarantined is getting tiring. You want to be able to go out and see your family and friends without running into any risks, but the pandemic is not going to slow down until everyone follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's directions promptly, even when you are going out.

If you have access to a face mask, wear it every time you go out even though it's uncomfortable and constantly fogging up your glasses. Wear gloves if needed or carry around sanitizer or wipes wherever you go. Most stores do provide wipes before entering, so take a couple of those if you need to and wipe down any of the baskets or carts before using them.

When you go to stores, pay attention to the signs on the ground. Stores such as Walmart and Marshalls, to name a few, have placed signs on the ground to direct one-way traffic when going down aisles to refrain customers from running into each other on both ends. A lot of stores also placed spots in the checkout lines so customers can still maintain a six-foot distance between one another. Even if the stores do not have these guides, set an example for others and practice social distancing on your own accord.

It sucks that you have to read yet another reminder of what you should do during this pandemic, but it's been two months and I still witness people not following these guidelines. It's getting frustrating. If you want to see the number of cases decrease and have quarantine end soon so we can go back to our regular lifestyle, with caution, please use common sense and follow the guidelines. Hopefully in the next few months, we will be able to flatten the curve of the pandemic and everything will go back to normal.

Giana Williams is a junior majoring in communications and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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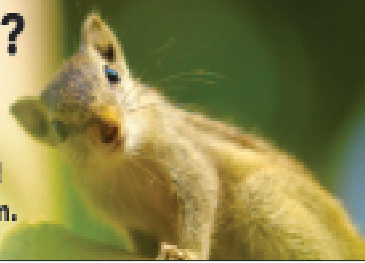
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## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- An intensely creative moment flowers naturally. Romance blossoms through communication. Upgrade your branding and revamp your cards. Try a new style. Express yourself.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- You'd rather play than work. Find escapes and explorations. You're learning valuable new tricks. Study and research the background story. Make plans for future adventures.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Find creative ways to express your heart. Send love letters and home-baked treats. Connect and share a common passion. Spend time with people you adore.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- You can solve a puzzle. Settle into a quiet spot without distractions. Consider the road ahead and make plans. Envision the perfect scenario. Prepare.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Study ways to increase shared resources. Fundraising efforts require planning and coordination. Review budgets and negotiate favorable terms. Manage legal, insurance and financial affairs.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Home draws you in like a magnet. Reorganize your spaces to suit current needs. Adapt your environment with your family. Gardening, cooking and pets delight.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Community efforts grow with organization and communication. Coordinate actions for efficiency. Follow the plan. Provide motivation. Teamwork pays off. Share acknowledgment. Strengthen foundations.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Collaborate for a common prize. Disciplined efforts can win. Coordinate plans, resources and roles. Determine who will do what. It could get romantic.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- Edit and refine your proposal. Present a persuasive case. Lay meticulous plans and revise to suit. You're making a great impression on someone important.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Accept new responsibilities. Discipline with planning and preparation pay nice dividends. You can get what you need. Be careful and thorough to advance.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Focus on your work. Prioritize health and fitness. Physical action earns satisfying results. Practice for strength and endurance. Nurture yourself with good food, fun and rest.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Everything seems possible. Take focused action and get farther than expected. Grab an opportunity and ride it to a new level. Get team support when necessary.

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## COMICS

### BEST IN SHOW



### BLISS

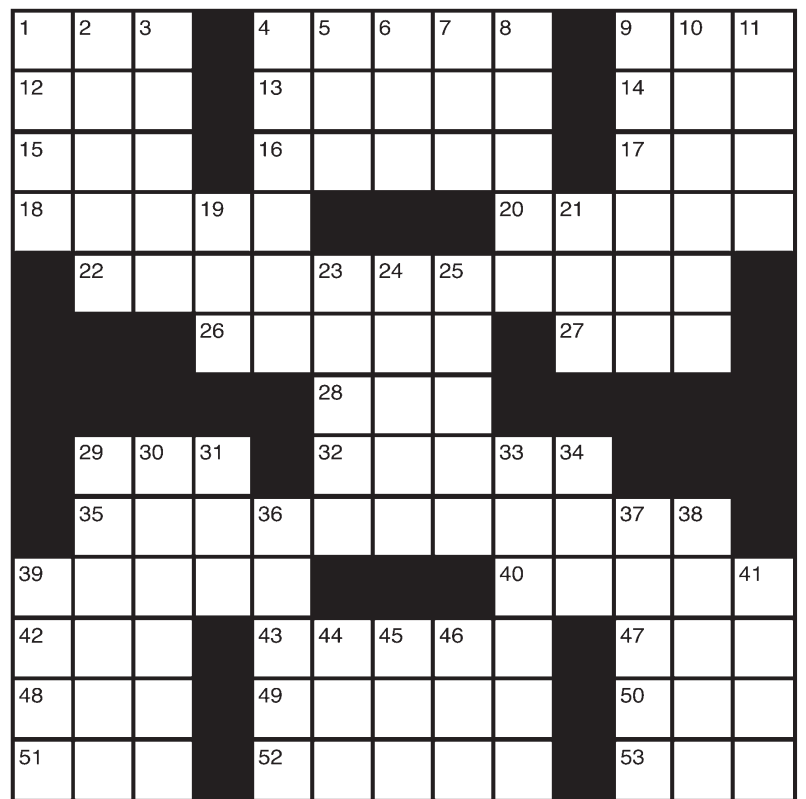


"See this shiny part? That's bling."

## CROSSWORD

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

#### ACROSS

- 1 "Olympus \_\_ Fallen"; Gerard Butler/Morgan Freeman movie
- 4 \_\_ Spader of "The Blacklist"
- 9 Series for Ted Danson, once
- 12 Toronto's prov.
- 13 "The \_\_ Winfrey Show"
- 14 Tupperware cover
- 15 " \_\_ Life to Live"
- 16 Like leisure suits and lava lamps
- 17 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
- 18 Actress Sally
- 20 Katz and his namesakes
- 22 Alvin Olinsky's portrayal on "Chicago P.D."
- 26 Derisive smile
- 27 Initials for poet Eliot
- 28 Where to find Lincoln: abbr.
- 29 Pig's home
- 32 Salesman's pitch
- 35 "The Young and \_\_"
- 39 "After \_\_"; sci-fi film for Will and Jaden Smith
- 40 "Cagney & \_\_"
- 42 Biol. or chem.
- 43 Popeye's love

Solution to 3/24



- 47 Maya Rudolph's role on "Up All Night"
- 48 Chest muscle, for short
- 49 Sofa
- 50 Alejandro \_\_ of "The Flying Nun"
- 51 "Bill \_\_ the Science Guy"
- 52 Helps in crime
- 53 Historical period

#### DOWN

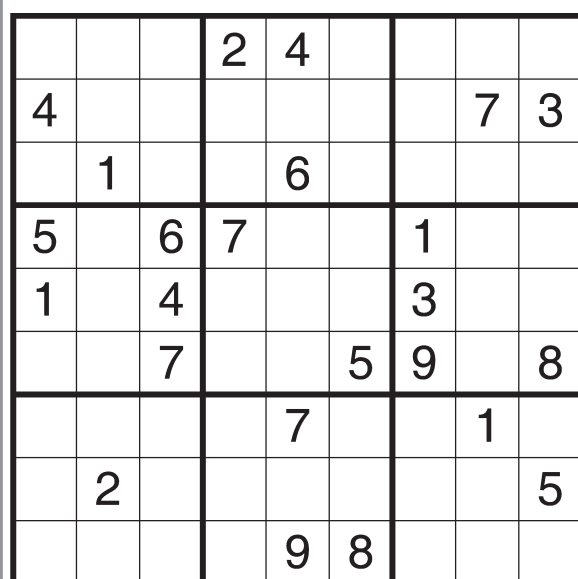
- 1 Mister Ed's foot
- 2 Actress Potts
- 3 "Man of \_\_"; movie for Henry Cavill
- 4 Jeremy Suarez's role on "The Bernie Mac Show"
- 5 King Kong, for one
- 6 Actor on "The A-Team"
- 7 In one \_\_ and out the other
- 8 "Just \_\_ Me!"
- 9 Barton and Bow
- 10 "CSI: NY" actor
- 11 Lupino and others
- 19 Fleur-de-\_\_
- 21 "How I \_\_ Your Mother"
- 23 "The Sixth \_\_"; Bruce Willis movie
- 24 "Playing for \_\_"; movie for Dennis Quaid and Uma Thurman
- 25 Planet's path
- 29 "Ned and \_\_"
- 30 Once more than twice
- 31 "Are We There \_\_?"; movie for Nia Long and Ice Cube
- 33 Burstyn and Pompeo
- 34 Michele of "The Mayor"
- 36 Valerie Harper role
- 37 Frighten
- 38 Cut off
- 39 "Around the Horn" network
- 41 \_\_ DaCosta of "Chicago Med"
- 44 Word following ad or women's
- 45 " \_\_ Got a Secret"
- 46 Dyer's tub

## SUDOKU

### SUDOKU

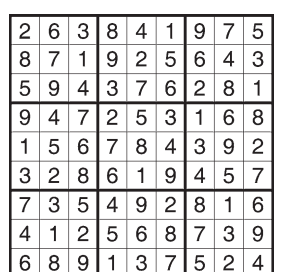
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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](http://sudoku.org.uk)

Solution from 3/24



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## MLB draft prospect Gavin Williams expected to ride development into professional baseball

Daniel Shepard  
TEC STAFF

Junior right-handed pitcher Gavin Williams is no stranger to the cheers from the crowd when the scoreboard located in the centerfield of Clark-LeClair Stadium flashes 97 or 98 MPH after his fastball pops the catcher's mitt.

For three years, Williams has been displaying his mid- to upper-90s fastball velocity in East Carolina University purple and gold. A product of Cape Fear High School in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Williams rode his electric fastball to post a 3.74 ERA in 65 innings during his first two seasons at ECU, a number that included a 1.15 mark in 15.2 frames as a freshman.

With hefty strikeout numbers during that time (65), the right-hander has struggled in the free pass department as he has allowed 30 in his first two years as a Pirate, a number that prompts work in that area.

"He's got a really good arm," ECU head baseball coach Cliff Godwin said. "The thing that he's improved the most is his fastball command. We got to see it as a coaching staff in the fall, and Gavin and his teammates got to see it. His fastball command this year was way better than it's ever been."

Unfortunately for Williams, he did not get to showcase that improved command in what figures to be his final collegiate season before beginning his professional baseball career. Needing a solid season to cement his draft stock in the eyes of major league franchises, Williams instead missed the majority of a shortened 2020 season after suffering a finger injury during intra-squad spring scrimmages.

Limited to just three innings of work as a junior, he struck out five batters while walking two, giving up two hits and failing to allow an

earned run. Despite that small sample size during game action, Williams' progress as a pitcher did not go unnoticed by his coaching staff as he worked back from injury.

"If he was trying to go away, he was throwing the ball away," Godwin said in relation to Williams' command improvements. "If he was trying to go in, he was throwing the ball in and still throwing the baseball in the mid- to upper-90s and obviously can hit 100 (MPH). He was able to throw the ball where he wanted to which is a huge asset to his great arm."

Baseball America has the 6'6" Williams at No. 81 in its top 500 draft prospects list less than a month before the shortened five round event is to take place. The highest rank of any draft eligible Pirate, the scouting report on Williams identifies concerns over his pitch command with runners on base.

To combat the mental toll of having runners on base in critical situations, Williams, and the entire ECU pitching staff, participates in shadow bullpen sessions which take place without a baseball being thrown.

"Put yourself into a game-like situation if you can do it mentally," Godwin said. "That's what we do with all of our guys from our pitching staff. They do shadow pens three to four times a week, just putting themselves in a positive rhythm and then also into maybe an adverse situation where there's bases loaded no outs, one out and then see themselves mentally being able to actually get through those jams."

Despite Williams' limited action in 2020, Godwin said the right-hander's secondary offerings were looking sharp. Baseball America touts the junior's ability to spin a breaking ball but questions the consistency of the offering while describing his changeup as above average.

Williams' curveball was much more consistent this year as he worked to throw it harder and more consistently in the strike zone, according to



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Junior right-handed pitcher Gavin Williams on the mound earlier in his collegiate career.

Godwin. Aside from the curveball and changeup, however, Williams worked to develop another pitch with pitching coach Jason Dietrich.

"He was developing a new pitch with coach Dietrich which was a work in progress, but he showed flashes of it being really good which was a slider/cutter," Godwin said. "Gavin Williams' best days are definitely in front of him. I think he's just tapping the surface on how good he can be."

Tapping into that potential comes with off-the-field things as well.

Quiet by nature according to Godwin, Williams had started to get comfortable in the role of mentor for the younger pitchers on the Pirates' staff.

Having started ECU's regional clinching game over Campbell University last year, Williams can offer his fellow members of the pitching staff advice that can often be hard to come by.

"He talks to his teammates and the thing that he did better this year than he ever had

done before was really helping younger players, and talking with them about his experiences that he's had in the past, what went well, what didn't go well," Godwin said. "When you're 6'6", 250 pounds and throw the ball that hard, obviously people want to listen because they want to do some of the things that you can do."

Williams' physical stature and live arm has placed him in a position to be drafted by a major league franchise on either June 10 or 11. While some teams may be scared away by his meager 68 career innings at ECU, there is a strong chance a club likes him enough to add him to the Pirates in the Draft page of the ECU baseball media guide.

With two potentially plus pitches in his fastball and curveball, Williams remaining a starter at the next level will hinge on the development of a third and possibly fourth offering.

"His goal is to be a starter," Godwin said. "Well, to be a starter he needs to have at least three pitches. So he needs to continue to be consistent with three to four pitches so he can put himself in the situation to be able to start games."

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



Cliff Godwin



Jason Dietrich

### » ANALYSIS

## New transfers roll-in for 2020 season

Brendan Cavazos  
TEC STAFF

Recruiting this offseason for East Carolina University football has proven to be strong as the Pirates have welcomed multiple promising transfers in an effort to improve for the 2020 season. After going 4-8 in the 2019 season, head coach Mike Houston and the Pirates are gearing up for a stronger outing with the addition of a handful of power five conference transfers.

Former Appalachian State University defensive end Chris Willis announced his transfer to East Carolina on Saturday night after having spent four seasons as a member of the mountaineer football team. Willis is the first in a long line of transfers the Pirates will be receiving from other programs this upcoming season.

Willis redshirted in 2016, but played in 12 games in 2017 where he racked up 15 tackles and his first career sack. In 2018, Willis saw the field in 13 games and started the last six of the season. Over the course of the 2018 season, Willis made 24 total tackles, three sacks and a single fumble recovery. Unfortunately, Willis did suffer an injury in 2019 that left him on the sideline and unable to play. Willis will come to ECU with one year of eligibility remaining.

Offensive guard Avery Jones announced Friday afternoon that he will transfer from the University of North Carolina to ECU, according to Hoist the Colours. Jones will come to ECU with three years of eligibility left after deciding to redshirt during his freshman year in 2018. In 2019, Jones only played one game and decided to transfer at the end of the season.

The Pirates' offensive line will look much different in the 2020 season. Multiple lineman have left the team for various reasons. Cortez Herrin was the starting left guard for the Pirates before being removed from the team. John Spellacy was the starting center before being deemed medically ineligible. Finally, former starting right tackle Matt Morgan decided to leave the game of football with two years of eligibility left.

Jones will likely be fighting for a starting spot in the



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Head coach Mike Houston receives questions at press conference.

midst of ECU's vulnerable offensive line. With the rest of the offseason still at hand, the Pirates will likely be targeting more linemen to add to the 2020 roster.

Running back from the University of Arkansas Chase Hayden declared on May 12 that he will transfer to ECU to continue his collegiate football career. Hayden has two years of eligibility left to play for Houston and the Pirate football team. Over his three years at Arkansas, Hayden posted fair numbers, most of which came during his freshman year in 2017, during which he ran for a total 326 rushing yards, according to Hoist the Colours.

An impressive performance of 102 yards and a touchdown earned Hayden the SEC Freshman of the Week during his first year. He only played in seven games as an injury kept him out for the remainder of the season.

Hayden played all 12 games during his sophomore season, and managed to rank third on the team in rushing with 251 yards. He also added 61 receiving yards on 11 catches, according to Rivals. The highlight of his season came when the Razorbacks played Vanderbilt University. Hayden had 70 rushing yards in that game and ran a 38-yard touchdown.

During his junior season, Hayden played three games before making the decision to redshirt in 2019. This move

saved him a year of eligibility, leaving him two years with the Pirates. Hayden rushed for just 39 yards in the three games he played.

With the addition of Hayden to the Pirate roster, there will be more depth at the running back position. The newest addition to ECU's recruiting class will be ready to play for the Pirates at the start of the 2020 season.

Another recent commitment from the SEC is Nigel Knott. Knott is a cornerback from the University of Alabama who announced his transfer to ECU on May 7. He has two years left of eligibility after deciding to redshirt his freshman year.

The list of stats for Knott is short due to injuries, however his talent was nationally recognized at the highschool level. He was the No. 8 ranked cornerback in the nation and a 4-star recruit, according to BamaOnline.

Knott did not see the field much during his first season in 2017. He only played one game against the University of Mississippi and finished the season with no stats accrued. In 2018, he finished the year with a single tackle against the University of Arkansas. In 2019, Knott suffered an injury and was ruled medically ineligible to play for the rest of the season.

At a glance, Knott has barely seen the field in his collegiate career, however his talent can not be denied due to his national ranking. The Pirates are in need of this kind of talent on the defensive side of the ball, and if he can stay healthy, Knott should prove to be a solid addition to the 2020 roster.

Another addition to the Pirates' offensive line is offensive tackle Justin Chase from North Carolina State University, who announced that he would transfer on April 11. Chase was with the Wolfpack for four years, according to ACCsports. He has one year left of eligibility and will spend it as a member of the Pirates' O-line.



Nigel Knott

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

### BASEBALL continued from A1

but maybe they don't get drafted and they do make it to school. Maybe if it was 10 rounds, they don't make it to school."

In recent years, Pirate baseball has had a number of players selected outside of the top five rounds that would have found themselves undrafted free agents in this year's circumstanced. Just last year, five of the seven ECU baseball players taken in the MLB draft were selected after the fifth round, including names like Spencer Brickhouse, Trey Benton and Evan Voliva.

This time around the Pirates have a handful of potential draft picks, both on the current roster and high school commits. Koen Moreno, Josh Moylan and Robert Ready headline the crop of 2021 ECU commits that are ranked in Baseball America's top 500 draft prospect rankings a month before the event is set to take place.

"If they're drafted in the top five rounds, then they will most

likely sign and move on and if they don't, then they'll have an opportunity to come back and play for us," Godwin said. "I think the two guys it really affects the most are Alec Burleson and Gavin Williams."

Burleson and Williams were in different places baseball-wise when the season was canceled. Picking up where his All-American season ended last year, Burleson slashed .375/.440/.547 with three home runs and 12 RBI in 2020. Across 64 at-bats, the junior only struck out three times while posting a 4.24 ERA in 23.1 innings pitched (four starts) on the mound.

Williams suffered a finger injury in a spring intra-squad scrimmage. Slated to be something of a backup for the 6'6" righty, Williams pitched in only two games, amassing just three innings before COVID-19 interjected.

Every player selected in the five round event will receive

\$100,000 of their signing bonus with 50% of the remaining amount deferred until 2021 and the other half deferred until 2022. Undrafted free agents will be capped at a \$20,000 signing bonus, a far cry from the \$125,000 UDFAs have earned in the past.

Burleson and Williams hope to hear their name called in June while guys like junior outfielder Bryson Worrel and junior left-handed pitcher Jake Kuchmaner have a shot to sign as undrafted free agents.

"They're excited about the opportunity," Godwin said. "Everybody's dream is to play in the major leagues. By being drafted that high, you're one step closer to being in the major leagues. Now, there's still a lot of work that still has to go into it. We just try to tell them to take it day-by-day, be prepared that if your name is called you're ready to go out and do whatever the organization asks of you."

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Alec Burleson