



The East Carolinian

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CAYLA MENGES | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Greenville Fire/Rescue mourns the death of fellow first responder Gary Cox after a drowning in the Tar River this past weekend.

GFR mourns employee

Greenville community officials gather after tragic death

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

Greenville Fire/Rescue (GFR) held a procession yesterday morning to honor the death of one of its employees, 24-year-old Gary Cox of Greenville, who was reported to be a potential drowning victim after swimming in the Tar River Sunday.

Search efforts by GFR scanned the river for two days with the discovery of his body Tuesday morning. Chief Eric Griffin said this is a tremendous loss for the department as today was “shift one” for Cox after he started as a firefighter trainee in October 2019.

Cox leaves behind his family and girlfriend with his 25th birthday approaching next week, according to Griffin. He said Cox was a firefighter volunteer for the Red Oak Community Rural Fire Department in May 2019.

“I am thankful that we were able to find his body and able that we can help his family move to the next phase

of this very sad process,” Griffin said.

Over the course of the search process, GFR has received an outpour of support from people across the state both at local and state levels along with other fire departments, according to Griffin. He said during the procession to Vidant Medical Center the streets were lined with people and other organizations who stood in support of the loss of Cox.

Griffin said this is now a Greenville Police Department (GPD) matter, and it will continue to take over the investigation to help get answers for Cox’s family as to his cause of death. He said GFR hopes to hold a memorial to honor Cox but there has been nothing planned as of Tuesday.

East Carolina University Police



Eric Griffin

Department (ECU PD), Vidant Company Police and Red Oak Fire Department were some of those following the procession to Vidant Hospital, according to Griffin. He said he received calls and text messages from friends all the way in California sending their condolences to GFR and Cox’s family.

“We don’t have experience with this. This is not the type of experience we want but we will learn from each other and support each other,” Griffin said.

Griffin said Cox was a part of a group of rescuers with extreme cohesion and everyone was very close knit. He said Cox had made good friends with other members of GFR since his start in October and that those friendships will be cherished.

There is no further information on funeral arrangements for Gary Cox at this time.

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

ECU SHS prepares for fall semester

George Martin
TEC STAFF

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF



Student Health Services (SHS) at East Carolina University and its on-campus clinic will face challenges in the fall as it makes efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff.

Ellen Goldberg, the associate director for clinical operations, said SHS will continue to plan and prepare for the fall semester to help the campus community understand what needs to be done in order to ensure the safety of everyone at ECU.

“Really part of our current responsibility is to help the campus community understand what the current recommendations are,” Goldberg said. “Things like education, certainly in the fall it will be important for us to make the campus community aware of what the current guidelines and recommendations are to stay healthy, that is something that is certainly changing pretty much by the day.”

Goldberg said she wants to get out accurate information for the campus. She said SHS will focus primarily on helping students and the community to understand what the best practices are in order to stay safe.

If a student does contract the coronavirus, Goldberg said there is a response team that will try and track who the student has interacted with in order to try and limit the spread on-campus.

“We would look at where a student lives, who they’ve interacted with, who do we need to talk to that that student has been in contact with and how do we advise them. Do they need to quarantine? Do they need to seek medical care if they’re feeling unwell?” Goldberg said.

Testing for the virus has been ongoing during the summer, Goldberg said. As the regulations and requirements on testing have changed over time, more people are being tested and some students who are more at-risk are being prioritized for testing.

Virtual screenings and drive-through testing will be available at the main campus clinic come fall, Goldberg said.

“That helps us limit possible exposure, doing it

> HEALTH page A2

Local artist releases his first rap EP

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

Justice Kassoumi, an East Carolina University alumnus with a bachelor’s degree in anthropology, released his first EP titled “Love Us,” on May 24.

“Love Us” features six songs which have multiple layers about his self journey in relation to love, self-love and esteem issues, according to Kassoumi. He describes it as a farewell letter to being afraid to do what he wants. He said the EP fits the punk rock and rap genre.

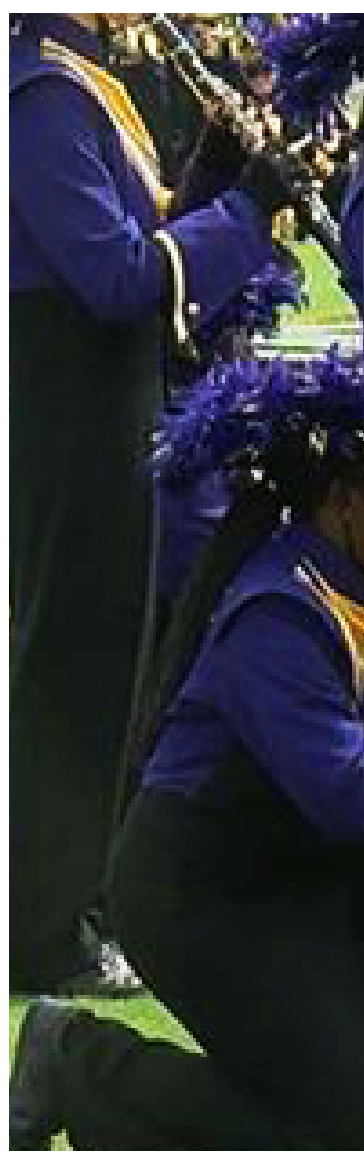
Kassoumi said his stage name, “Konsume Us,” came about when he was young and kids teased him about his last name. His friends encouraged him to use the name on stage.

He said he is inspired by a variety of things to create music and is in it for the long run.

“Breathing, feeling, existing, pain, chaos, the smile from a pretty face. All that makes me mad inspired to express those parts of society and my own self,” Kassoumi said.

Kassoumi’s target audience is anyone who wants to listen to his music. He most importantly wants listeners to listen and explore themselves. Kassoumi began to rap during his

> ARTIST page A3



MELISSA GLEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU band members take knee in 2016.

Protests spur action

ECU players and coaches speak out

Dylan Woolard
TEC STAFF

As the events of the past week have unfolded following the murder of 46-year-old George Floyd by Minneapolis, Minnesota police officers, East Carolina University coaches and former athletes have had several comments in response.

Harold Varner III, a former ECU men’s golfer from 2008 to 2011 and current PGA Tour golfer, released a statement via Twitter June 1. In the two page statement, Varner urges us all to keep an open mind.

“There are objective truths in life. I think that’s one of them,” Varner said. “But life is more nuanced than just a simple statement, and if there’s one thing that is emblematic of today’s soci-

ety, I think it’s that we constrict ourselves to single-minded thought.”

Varner is in his fifth season on tour and is one of only three African-Americans in the top 200 on the Official World Golf Ranking. Varner sits at 124 in the top 200 ranking which also includes Tiger Woods at 11 and Cameron Champ at 83.

Some ECU coaches have chimed in on the conversation including women’s basketball head coach Kim McNeill and her husband, the associate head coach Cory McNeill, who have both shared their thoughts on social media. The McNeills took to Twitter on May 31 to speak their minds while they offered perspectives on how they view the ongoing protests.

Kim McNeill mentioned the daily conversations she and her staff have with players about “what it means to be African-American women.” Cory McNeill shared his experiences with racism and prejudice as an African-American male himself.

“Here’s the thing that the people who targeted me,” Cory McNeill said. “They almost started with an insult because they didn’t know if I was Latino or black.

> BLM page A6

ONLINE

» Photo Gallery: GFR honors fallen employee

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

SOCIAL MEDIA



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@TEC_Newspaper

BRIEFS

Umbrella Market open through Phase 2

Today, the Umbrella Market will be open at Five Points Plaza from 6 to 8 p.m. Around 16 vendors are registered for the market at the time of publication. These vendors will include Southside Farms, Seven Pines Vineyard & Winery and WoodaWorks Handcrafted Customs, as well as several others. More information can be found on Umbrella Market's Facebook page or Uptown Greenville's website.

City Council scheduled to meet virtually

Tomorrow, Greenville City Council will meet at 6 p.m. This will be the second time city council will meet this week after Monday night's meeting. City Council will meet virtually and be available to the public on a live feed. Any public that would like to speak during the meeting is encouraged to register with the City Clerk. The link to live feed, as well as any additional information about the meeting can be found on Greenville's city website.

ECU presents career workshop during COVID

Tomorrow, East Carolina University's Career Services will host "Career Prep During COVID-19" at 2 p.m. This program is designed to help students learn strategies on how to develop career skills from home and online. "Career Prep During COVID-19" will be a webinar hosted by Career Advisor, Meredith Oakley, to explore different opportunities to grow your skills for careers, internships, and professionalism. Registration for the event can be found on Handshake under events. For more information or any questions visit Handshake or reach out to Oakley by email.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



CHLOE EASTON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Local Greenville residents gathered at the intersection of 10th Street and Cotanche Street on June 3 in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

ECU and city officials address protests

Greenville representatives speak on damages during demonstrations

George Martin
TEC STAFF

After a peaceful protest held in Greenville turned violent on May 31, city and East Carolina University officials will continue to work to try to show support for protesters while they advocate against violence.

ECU Police Department (PD) Captain Chris Sutton said he always wants individuals in the community to be able to use their free speech in order to express themselves.

Sutton said while there may be a police presence at protests, they are usually meant to allow protesters to continue to protest without worries of others who may interfere with the gathering.

"Unfortunately, that was not allowed to be the case on Sunday, when we had what had been peaceful demonstration turn into violent demonstration where there was certainly a high risk opportunity for people to be injured as well as a lot of property damage that occurred," Sutton said.

Additionally, Sutton said he understands property can be replaced, but the financial burden the property damage puts onto small business owners can be major, especially following the closures mandated by the state-wide lockdowns in attempts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

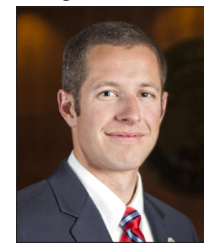
The main priority of ECU PD is safety for everyone involved in the protests, which include the officers, according to Sutton. He said during the protest, rocks, bottles and bricks were thrown at officers. No officers were injured during Sunday's protest, Sutton said, and all available officers were sent to assist the Greenville Police Department (GPD).

"I'm an advocate for peaceful demonstrations," Sutton said. "But when they become violent the message is lost and violence is never the answer and I think that we have done a pretty good job at East Carolina University at develop-

ing strong civil discourse on this campus."

There are currently talks within ECU PD on giving officers new training in order to improve their deescalation tactics, according to Sutton.

"We have a student safety committee that works with us on campus to be able to share student concerns and so, we currently have a dialogue with students to be able to help understand what their needs are so that we can better provide the service to them," Sutton said



P.J. Connelly

Mayor P.J. Connelly also encourages people to go out and peacefully protest, and said that most of the people that have been at the protests have been peaceful.

Connelly said the curfews that were enacted at the beginning of last week were done as a precautionary move to protect the people of Greenville. He also said that was why the National Guard was called into the city. He is currently unaware if the National Guard is still in the city or have left, but they had indicated to him that they were to leave soon.

There are also plans to improve the relationship between the Greenville PD and the greater community, Connelly said. During a protest, a group of protestors working with the Coalition Against Racism posted a list of demands onto the City Hall's front door and Connelly said that their demands are currently being looked at and considered.

"I think that this is going to be an ongoing process that we are going to have to continue to discuss and come up and look at different communities. Different departments have enacted policies that continue to strengthen the bond between the citizens and the police department and we have looked into several different programs that citizens have brought

up," Connelly said.

Brock Letchworth, the communications manager for the city of Greenville, said the total cost of damages done to the city after the protest is \$37,500. He said \$30,000 will go toward repairs on damaged vehicles, and \$7,500 will go to repairs on broken glass around the city.

Letchworth extended his thanks to those who participated in the community clean-up that happened the morning after the protest.

"The next morning, we had residents who came out and helped clean up the city, which was great to see," Letchworth said.

During a recent Cupola Conversation, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy said the protests were a cry of oppression.

"This is a turning point for our country in being able to figure out 'how do we dismantle this thing called racism?' We may never cure it, we may never get rid of it, but we can be actively engaged in dismantling it day by day," Hardy said.

The day after the protest, Connelly gave a statement at a press briefing where he offered his sympathies to both the peaceful protestors as well as the police.

"I do want to say that I feel like it is a very sad situation that we are here today," Connelly said in the statement. "We've had a lot of protesting that took place over the weekend that was done peacefully and that was done in a manner that allowed for people to exercise their first amendment rights, but unfortunately we had a group of individuals that wanted to make it a destructive protest."

Connelly offered a thank you to all of the law enforcement officers who helped maintain the peace during the protests in the statement. He said one of the biggest aspects of the Greenville community is that people come together and help each other which should be the focus.

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



BINTA TOURAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU Student Health Center prepares for the fall 2020 semester.

HEALTH continued from A1

through drive-through, and it also helps us preserve protective equipment when we do it that way. We are testing and we will continue to do that as tests are available, and we are able to do that. We will offer it as much as we can," Goldberg said.

There are currently worries of running out of personal protective equipment (PPE) at the clinic, which is an issue that most healthcare facilities across the nation are facing right now, Goldberg said. She said SHS was fortunate enough to have a good supply before the pandemic and it will continue to manage its usage of the PPE in order to conserve it.

Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson said while the case number on-campus will not be zero, that is not a reason to be afraid.

"Our infection cases on campus will not be zero. That's not in the cards for us," Mitchelson said. "But what's in the cards is our ability and willingness to live with it and cope with it. Once we know of an infection we want that individual to be well cared for."

If a member of ECU's community does have symptoms of coronavirus, it's important that they call the clinic instead of doing an in-person visit, Mitchelson said.

Updates on how the university will continue to handle the virus can be found on the ECU coronavirus updates page.

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

Dental school receives grant

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine will continue to use its U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant to improve telemedicine in its clinical learning centers (CLC) across rural parts of North Carolina.

Assistant Dean for Dental Education Todd Watkins said the clinical learning centers give ECU dental students the advantage of seeing and practicing with advanced dental care cases. He said students begin this part of the program their senior year for eight weeks rotating through three clinical centers.

This is the fourth year the school of dental medicine will receive a USDA grant with its largest sum received this year, according to Watkins.

"We applied for the first grant and what it did was allow us to build a room in the dental school that was a control center, and it allowed us to pay for the network and the equipment to video conference and provide teledentistry out to our eight service learning centers," Watkins said.

The dental school works as a hospital in itself with facilities who run radiology and surgical microscopes which all help facilitate the operations of each clinical learning center, Watkins said.

The \$500,000 grant will provide high-end equipment and allow clinical information and personal communication between clinical learning centers and the ECU School of Medicine in Greenville, Watkins said. He said the connectivity of the clinical learning centers to the Greenville location through teledentistry helps make students feel like a part of the school from afar.

The dental school is a four year program built on the model of sending students out into learning centers to practice on the communities they will ultimately



COURTESY OF ECU NEWS SERVICE

Dental Hygienists Jennifer Buck and Rachel Steward give a patient fluoride treatment.

serve, according to Watkins.

"We wanted our students to not only practice dentistry to be confident, but we also wanted them to see what it was to work in rural settings. Rural patients are sicker and have more complex dental care than what most students will see," Watkins said.

In 2019, ECU's dental school was recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for 2019-2022 for providing technology in clinical practice, Watkins said. He said this is the fifth time the school has won the award as the only entered dental school with the exception of a loss to Penn State University for last year's title.

The ECU School of Dental Medicine is one of 18 higher education institutions to win the Apple Distinguished School award, according to Watkins. He said not many people realize the dental school is just like medical school but with more contact hours than medical school programs.

Watkins said the school offers three residency programs in advanced general dentistry, hospital dentistry and pediatric

dentistry with limited acceptance into each. The doctorate in dental medicine is a vigorous program with little classroom style instruction and an acceptance of 52 students per class, according to Watkins.

Rising sophomore pre-doctorate in dental medicine Corey Winkler said ECU's dental school has been a leading member of expanding teledentistry. He said ECU's dental school allows students the hands-on advantage of seeing advanced cases earlier on before they go into the field.

The opportunity to work hands-on with patients starting in dental school was something he found in the dental field that did not exist in many other places in health care, according to Winkler. He said the dental school offers great programs to help shape future Dentists providing them with the learning experience they need to excel.

More information on the USDA grant for telemedicine at ECU School of Dental Medicine is located on its website.

ONLINE |
FULL STORY

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



RESTAURANTS OPEN FOR DINE-IN UNDER PHASE 2

Eat 23 Cafe

2516 E 10th St.
Open Tuesday through Sunday
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Closed on Monday
252-364-1919

Atavola Market Cafe

620 Red Banks Rd.
Open Monday through Saturday
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Open Sunday
11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
252-321-5533

Nino's Cucina Italiana

511 Red Banks Rd.
Open Monday through Thursday
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Open Saturday & Sunday
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Closed Sunday
252-689-6446

Mellow Mushroom

2020 Charles Blvd.
Open Monday through Sunday
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
252-565-8220

Parker's Barbecue

3109 S Memorial Dr.
Open Monday through Saturday
10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Open Sunday
9 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
252-756-2388

Marathon Restaurant

706 Evans St.
Open Monday through Saturday
11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Open Sunday
11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
252-752-3753

Clean Eatz

805 Red Banks Rd.
Open Monday through Friday
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Open Saturday & Sunday
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
252-689-6777

Bonefish Grill

3616 S Memorial Dr.
Open Monday through Friday
4 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Open Saturday & Sunday
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
252-754-0761



BINTA TOURAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The storefront of Emerge Gallery and Arts Center which recently opened an online store where the artists featured in the gallery can sell their artworks.

Emerge uploads virtual store

Local gallery provides online shopping amid pandemic

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

Emerge Gallery and Arts Center, located at 404 Evans St., opened an online store for artists to sell their artwork to create another outlet for local artists to generate income during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Marketing and Finance Coordinator of Emerge Gallery and Arts Center Sarah Lazure said Emerge has been closed since the beginning of March. She said many artists who sell their artwork at Emerge applied and received funds from the Emerge Arts Relief Fund.

Lazure said there are about 30 artists who they currently work with and rotate their collections. The artists vary from East Carolina University alumni, local art teachers and hobbyists to full-time production artists.

"We are constantly striving to increase the diversity of our artists as well as the types of artworks. We are always looking for new artists to apply to sell their work and review applications on a regular basis," Lazure said.

The artwork showcased on the online store are pieces that are currently in the gallery and artwork from artists who make different kinds of jewelry, pottery, glass, wooden items, paintings and sculptures, according to Lazure.

Emerge will continue to promote its online store through email blasts and on its social media accounts, Lazure said.

The staff hopes to reopen the Emerge within limited hours mid-July but will continue to wait to hear instructions from the state government for plans for the phase of reopening that applies to the art gallery, according to Lazure.



Paula Rountree

Paula Rountree, program director of Emerge Gallery and Arts Center, said in an emailed statement the staff wanted to provide a way for people to shop local and support local artists. She said customers who are interested in purchasing art from the online store can email Lazure and a PayPal invoice will be sent to the customer and then she will schedule a contactless pickup.

"We have a wide variety of mediums showcased in the sales gallery: ceramics, paintings, jewelry, textiles, sculptures, and more," Rountree said in the statement.

Artists who want to sell their items through the online store can apply on the Emerge website. Rountree said the gallery always looks for

new pieces to add to the website.

Kerry Guan, a second-year metal design graduate student at ECU, sells her jewelry through the Emerge online store. Guan said she uses 3D print resin and adds pearl or silver to create wearable jewelry.

"I think Emerge online store is a great opportunity to let people know my work, and I am honored to be part of Emerge online store and it gives (me) more motivation to create more artworks. Also, I think Emerge online store is an awesome platform to emerge artists who are still in school or just graduated," Guan said.

Susan Reynolds, a local North Carolinian artist, sells her jewelry through the Emerge online store. She said she makes jewelry from precious stones, vintage glass and cicada wings.

"Emerge was my first gallery to sell in. I was very flattered and thrilled to be in my first art gallery. It is so generous that not only has the staff started an online store but plugged the artist on their own sites," Reynolds said.

More information about the online store is located on the Emerge Gallery and Arts Center website.

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

ALBUM REVIEW

'Channels' effectively depicts emotions



Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

Local independent artist Drayvon Fairley, who is also an East Carolina University alum known as Dreoftheeast, released his new album "Channels" on June 1.

The album was recorded in his home studio and was co-produced by Joshua Roberts.

The album is brilliant. The title "Channels" effectively describes the 12 original songs which describe different emotions and feelings that listeners can easily relate to. The album flows well with the ups and downs of emotions that life brings with catchy lyrics.

With transitions after each track, the album sound compares to the changing of channels on a TV. The sound quality is crisp and clean. Fairley's singing and rapping is clear which is appreciated and makes the connection easier for listeners to understand the music.

Fairley does not disappoint with this album. He is consistent in his transparency and versatile music style. The tone of the album is realistic and raw. He expresses himself and talks about what he is going through and what he plans on working toward.

This artist is not afraid to talk about real situations and the struggles that come with the grind. His music is respectable and honest while also melodic and upbeat which gives the album a

timeless feel.

No matter where someone is in their life they can relate to the different vibes of "Channels." The album is constructed well with highs and lows that flow seamlessly to make the album an easy listen. Listeners can better understand Fairley through his music with each track because each song has substance and reliability.

The intro summarizes what is going on in Fairley's life and creates anticipation for the rest of the album. Fairley mentions the love he has for his sister in a few of the songs, the struggles of romantic relationships and his work ethic on the album.

The aggressive, in-your-face track "Foreal" starts the climax of the album followed by "Stack it up" featuring Jacobs Simmons, ECU Junior communication major, also known as Spiffy Jake, which are both songs that are nice to ride to workout to. Fairley also has features from North Carolina artist HunnitBeanz on "Flashing Lights" and "OTWV."

Track seven "Time" features R&B singer and songwriter Aisha Nicole, who is based out of Charlotte, North Carolina. Nicole's voice is beautiful and unique, a perfect match to Fairley's rap lyrics. The song is about the struggles of maintaining a romantic relationship while working toward your dreams. It is not easy to always make time for the people that are special in someone's life. People can easily relate to the feeling of not wanting to be someone's distract-



CONTRIBUTED BY DRAYVON FAIRLEY

Drayvon "Dre of the East" Fairley's "Channels" album cover.

tion so they can go after what they want.

"Rain" is the best song on the album, the song skillfully samples R&B group SWV's song "Rain." The song is about grinding and working hard for where you want to go and getting through the struggles of life.

The overall impression of the album is that it showcases skillful writing and relatable topics for young adults. The slower songs are serious and have a message as well as the upbeat songs.

RATING:
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
5 out of 5

This writer can be contacted at
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ARTIST continued from A1

senior year of high school and has had a passion for it ever since because he is able to express the thoughts through it, according to Kassoumi.

Grammy award winning artist Kid Cudi, is someone Kassoumi said he looks up to, and is also someone he considers to be his idol. He said late rappers Jahseh Dwayne Ricardo Onfroy known as XXXTentacion, Jarad Anthony Higgins known as Juice Wrld and many other indie and punk artists are also artists he draws inspiration from.

Kassoumi has the support of family and friends, and he has a good team by his side that drives his motivation. He said he is a part of a business and movement called Family Before Everything in Greenville, North Carolina that group energy. He is also a part of a group called TRiP MUSiK that used to be a part of the Greenville, North Carolina art scene, according to Kassoumi.

Junior criminal justice major at ECU Aristo Colon "ACSTUD" is a shift manager at Zumiez, where he used to work with Kassoumi. Colon and Kassoumi met while working at Zumiez and they connected by sharing their music with each other.

"I absolutely adore his music. Konsume and I have similar vibes and it carries over into our music. So it really connects with me. He loves to experiment with new sounds and never falls into a specific genre of music and I love it," Colon said.

While the music may come off like pop music at first, Colon said the songs reveal a deeper meaning with a different type of sound later on.

"At first look his music comes off as a melodic/pop rap, but the more you listen and go deeper it's definitely his own sound and he owns it!" Colon said.

Though he works with many producers, Kassoumi said the main producer he works with and the producer he worked with for "Love Us" was producer and former DJ Fade-away.

Kassoumi said he has collaborated with local artists such as Drayvon Fairley known as Dreoftheeast, Aristo Colon known as "ACSTUD" and Poetic Vibes. He has also collaborated with artists from his hometown of Lumberton, North Carolina in the group N.C Artlilsixfoot.

The most memorable performance Kassoumi said he has had first live band show hosted by the business and movement "Family Before Everything." He said he remembers performing in front of Chicago rapper Taylor Bennett when Bennett visited ECU in 2018.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kassoumi released a single titled "What I Tell Myself" with a lyric video on his YouTube channel and worked on and released "Love Us".

Kassoumi's music can be found on his Instagram page, Spotify and all major music platforms.

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

OUR VIEW

ECU sport cuts were a poor choice

East Carolina University Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson and Athletic Director Jon Gilbert announced on May 21 that four programs would be cut from ECU's 20 team lineup. The four programs affected were both men's and women's tennis and both men's and women's swimming and diving.

ECU will continue to look at \$4.9 million in long term savings after cutting the four sports to move forward to help cut down on the \$7.5 million deficit, which jumped to \$10.2 million when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Regardless, programs like swim and dive and tennis were strong programs within the pool of ECU sports that they were once a part of.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that while the numbers are in favor of the decision made, cutting four of ECU's most successful athletics programs was a mistake. Men's swimming and diving at ECU just won the American Athletic Conference championship for the 2020 season. Women's tennis is only a year removed from a 22-3 record during the 2018-19 season.

It's clear the athletes, coaches and programs affected by the decisions made did everything in their power to maintain their presence as ECU Pirates and as members of the ECU athletics community. Even with that being said decisions have been made, ECU still qualifies for Division I play in football as 16 varsity programs still remain at ECU. Current student-athletes who are affected by the decisions made will also have their scholarships honored, according to Gilbert.

While many positives still remain at the end of this, we believe there were other options on the table that may have resulted in a different outcome. At the very least, ECU may have been able to keep some of it's most decorated programs.

SHENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



Athletic cuts will hurt ECU University will lose respect due to swimming and tennis cuts

Letter to the Editor



Ryan Winter
GUEST COLUMNIST

I was shocked to find the removal of the East Carolina University tennis and swimming teams going into the new academic year. I was under the impression that the extra \$50 to our tuition, tacked on to students' athletic fees, would help solve the deficit that ECU is facing. However, now as students, we are paying more for less.

The withdrawal of ECU sponsorship for these teams is a step backward for the university. These actions foster a lack of confidence in the athletic department. Instead of nurturing and developing our programs, we have decided to strip them down for parts. As a student, I want ECU to grow, not become stagnant.

Although swimming and tennis do not bring the same revenue as football and baseball, both provide ECU with respect and achievement. The men's and women's swimming and diving teams boast a win rate

of over 70% for the 2019-2020 season. For the past four seasons, both teams have worked hard and have achieved a ratio of over 50%.

When we look at ECU's men's and women's tennis teams, we find the same results. Excluding the spring 2020 season, as it was not fully played, both teams achieved a season win rate of over 50%. Looking at their records, the teams have represented ECU well and have exhibited our competitive spirit as Pirates, it is a shame that they must be disbanded.

The students on these teams came to ECU to participate in their sports. Although ECU is honoring the scholarships of these students, they can no longer compete in an official NCAA league at ECU. If I were an athlete on these teams, I would feel robbed of an opportunity to play and develop at an intense competitive level.

Without an incentive to stay, I would be compelled to leave ECU for a different college. Furthermore, these programs have attracted many athletes to ECU, whether it be students looking to walk onto the team or through scholarships and without the programs, future athletes will be less inclined to choose ECU as their university.

Given the recent budget deficit and the emergence of COVID-19, it is understandable why some sports needed to be unfortunately disbanded. If we do not have the money to properly support our teams, then we must cut them. However, the decision to disband these sports will have a negative effect on ECU athletics for the years to come.

For me, my trust in our athletic department has greatly diminished. The Student Pirate Club membership bought to support our athletics has less incentive for me. If ECU mismanages its athletic funds, to the point some sports teams must be retired, then I would rather not donate my money.

Through the termination of these teams, ECU has lost trust, respect, and potential students. It is heartbreaking to watch a school you have looked up to your entire life go through tough times. However, I hope that in the future, when ECU resolves its current budget crisis, we can re-establish our swimming and tennis teams and let them showcase some of our famous pirate pride.

Winter is a junior majoring in English and a guest columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Uptown protest brings back memories

Letter to the Editor



Brian Massey
GUEST COLUMNIST

Pictures in your head can shape what you (think) you know of happenings near and far. Walter Lippmann wrote that in his 1922 book, "Public Opinion." He meant that at times, our memories of news stories, what people said, our past experiences and more will drive how we think and act in present time.

Imagine your inner self saying, "That thing you're seeing at the protest march in front of you just now, we saw something like it before in the news years ago. Saw it yesterday; Aunt Zelda had a lot to say about it." I imagine a lot of that was going on Uptown Greenville on May's last Sunday. At one moment or another all of us there were acting from scripts written by the recent and old pictures in our heads. For better and for worse.

The protest march that Sunday was over by the time I got to the Greenville Town Common. People were ambling up First Street and into the parking lot behind ECU's Willis Building. Police officers stood on the sidewalk and beside their parked cars. They looked friendly, approachable.

I stopped about half a block down from the parking lot's Third Street edge. Young people there were milling about, chatting. Others were stretched out along the sidewalk at Third. It all felt at ease, like the pictures in my head of the outside of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium after a home game.

A young man who'd been a student of mine came up with a friend in tow. We were chatting when without warning, a tremendous boom tore open the air. A flash grenade

"That Sunday at the Willis parking lot, it showed me news pictures I saw in the turbulent '60s. Police wailing on Civil Rights marchers and Vietnam War protesters."

spewing sparks skittered into the people nearest Third. One fellow jumped over it as it tumbled between his legs. People scattered. People shrieked in high-pitched startled tones. Pink smoke appeared.

A phalanx of Greenville police in body armor and helmets and holding batons marched up the parking lot from First and toward Third. "This is an illegal assembly," the squad's leader shouted. Voices near me cried out, "What'd we do?" "Why are they doing this?" So, dear reader, what pictures are playing in your head just now? I'm 64, and the gallery of my mind's eye has accumulated a lot.

That Sunday at the Willis parking lot, it showed me news pictures I saw in the turbulent '60s. Police wailing on Civil Rights marchers and Vietnam War protesters. It showed me the government oppression I saw for myself in Central America in the '80s. It showed me police action in Ferguson and Minneapolis.

It showed me all that and more in an instant. And driven by those pictures, I (thought) I saw a riot-squad line of police about to mow down young people who could've been students in my classroom. My kids.

I had a "dad" moment: I had to save my kids from impending danger. I put myself between them and the police baton line, thinking that if I got the squad's attention on

me, my kids would be safe. Naïve, yes. Smart, maybe not. But there it is. Pictures in my head. That night I got no sleep. All I'd just seen and felt and experienced, all the emotion, played on a loop in my head.

Over the next few days, I read and watched news stories of Sunday's events. I went back to Uptown and talked with merchants, workers and a couple of police officers. I learned that a lot of bad things happened that night not far from the Willis lot—and outside of my awareness.

I don't know what pictures were in the heads of the officers in the phalanx marching through the lot. I now imagine they too at that moment felt a need to protect the kids by rushing them out of harm's way.

So, here's the point: Lippmann wrote of the "pictures in our heads" as a metaphor for stereotypes that can drive how we think and act. Stereotypes are powerful things, but we're more powerful than them. We have the capacity to learn, to grow—to change.

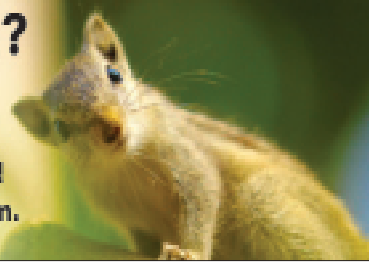
The chaos of our time is really an invitation to change for the better. It calls us to open our minds, to listen, to be self-reflective. It calls us to a hard and wonderful journey of new possibilities and new understandings. Will you answer the call?

Massey is a communication professor at ECU and a guest columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Adapt to an unexpected team change. Handle basic responsibilities to support your shared endeavor. Experience proves especially useful. Others appreciate your efforts. Collaborate.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Together you can manage this challenge. Your discipline is admirable. Put aside the small stuff and focus on shared priorities. Love is your superpower.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — Keep communication channels flowing despite breakdowns or delays. Others appreciate your steady efforts. Follow rules, directions and instructions carefully. Take notes. Research for solutions.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Take charge to navigate an unscheduled change at work. A professional opportunity is worth pursuing. Develop options that move your heart. Strengthen infrastructure.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Prioritize physical health and vitality. Follow rules and guidelines carefully. Get support when needed. Slow to avoid accidents. Meditate to reduce stress or anxiety. Recharge.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Stay in action. Despite obstacles, you can generate positive cash flow. Keep fulfilling obligations and performing services. Get terms in writing. Get support when needed.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — Watch for a pitfall with your investigation. Stay flexible and look sharp. Expand your understanding of a subject you love. Indulge your intellectual curiosity.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 6 — Romantic ideals don't always match reality. A challenge affects your inner circle. Things could get awkward. Maintain a sense of humor. Relax and unwind.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — Use your confidence to propel a personal project. Determination and perseverance get through. Avoid risky business or expensive distractions. Take action for what you love.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — A financial obstacle confronts a shared venture. Gather basic information. Find creative ways to conserve resources. Check intuition with data. Collaborate to adapt.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Focus on household matters. Order supplies and materials. Budget carefully. Delays and obstacles could hinder a home improvement project. Find creative solutions using stuff you have.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — Contemplate your next moves. Revise long-term plans for current realities. Routine provides strength. Peaceful privacy feeds your spirit. Assess this interesting moment. Keep a diary.

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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKET



BLISS

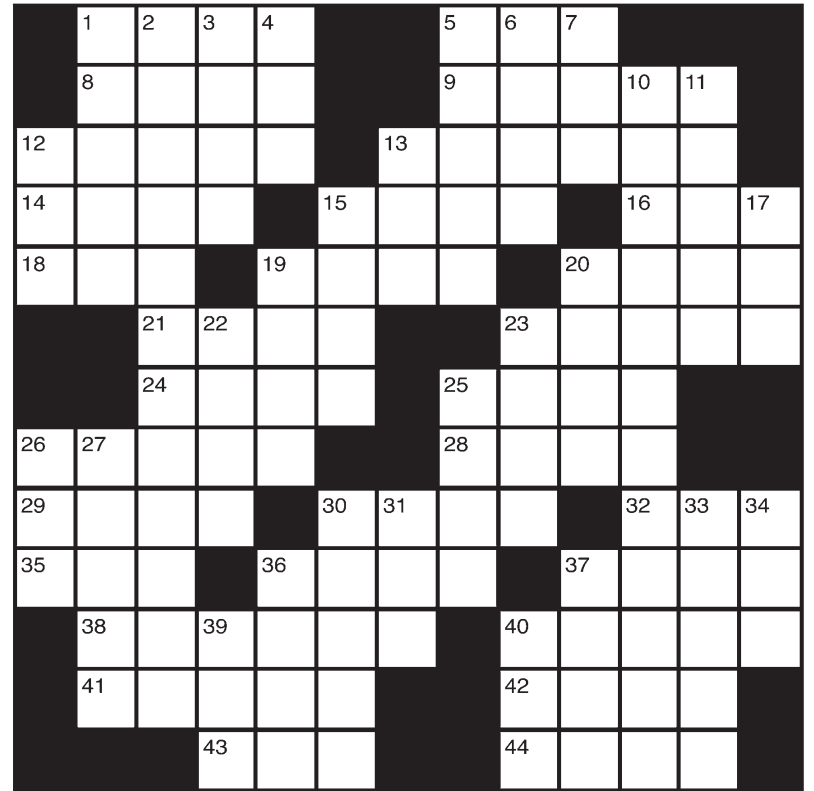


"First, let me say how much I appreciate your 6-foot social distancing."

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

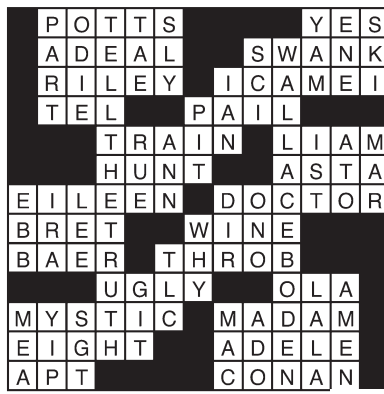
- Peter Krause's "Parenthood" role
- Mickey Rooney's first wife
- Actress Turner
- "American ___ Warrior"
- Mork's love
- "___ Montana"
- Rental car agency
- "___ Improvement"
- One of the Kardashian sisters
- Billy ___ Williams
- Actress Blanchett
- Lapdog, for short
- When doubled, a Jim Carrey movie
- "Designing ___"
- "___ Poets Society"; movie for Robin Williams
- Gilbert, for one
- Charo's birthplace
- Actor Brad
- Kojak's first name
- "I ___ on Your Grave"; horror movie for Sarah Butler
- Recipe amt.
- Long-haired ox

- Actor Orson ___
- "The Prize Winner of Defiance, ___"; Woody Harrelson movie
- Cowell and Helberg
- "Falcon ___"
- Thompson and Samms
- "ABC World ___ Tonight with David Mui"
- Suffix for Japan or Nepal
- Too inquisitive

DOWN

- "Wanted: Dead or ___"
- Actor, once, on "Hawaii Five-O"
- No ifs, ___ or buts
- Melinda ___; Ming-Na Wen's role
- "I Got ___"; hit song for Jim Croce
- Grape bearer
- Sothorn or Jillian
- Actor on "Wisdom of the Crowd"
- "Take ___!"; cry to a pest
- "___ About You"
- "___ in Cleveland"
- "48 Hours: ___ Evidence"
- "___ Behaving Badly"
- Actor James ___
- "___ Charles"; daytime serial of old
- End of the "Old MacDonald" refrain
- "___ Until Dark"; Audrey Hepburn/Alan Arkin movie
- "___ City"
- Pippen
- ___ out; get rid of gradually
- "The Sixth ___"; Bruce Willis thriller
- Faux ___; social blunder
- Ms. Spacek
- Cauldron
- Dangerous vipers
- Nabisco treat
- Sra. in Soissons
- Network for Wolf Blitzer

Solution from 6/3



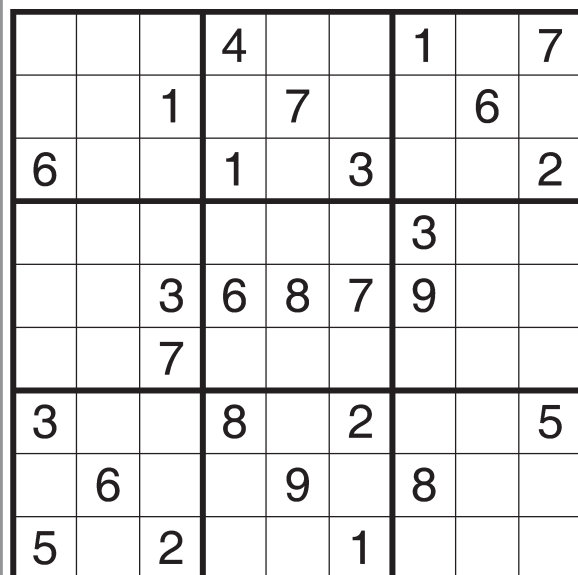
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SUDOKU

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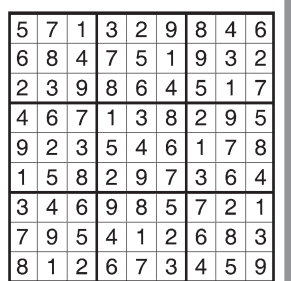
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



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

Solution from 6/3






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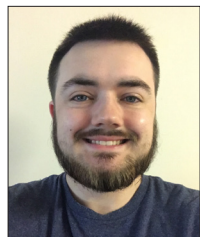
» ANALYSIS



Former Pirate football players Kendall Futrell and Alex Turner pictured huddling alongside other members of the Pirate football team during a timeout taken in a contest from the 2019 season. COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

ECU's front four set to improve

Pirates' defensive line works toward big year in 2020 season



Joshua Nelms
TEC STAFF

The old saying goes, "defense wins championships." Defensive linemen are the first line of defense for any football team and this season, East Carolina University football is set to stiffen up and put forth a defensive line that will help to slow down the opposing team's rushing attack.

The ECU football team will look to have that strong presence upfront this season, according to defensive tackles coach Roy Tesh and defensive end coach Byron Thweatt.

Coach Tesh spoke highly about new recruits who are set to come in and play defensive tackle like J'Vian McCray. Tesh said the new group plus the guys returning from last season will mix well and will be great for the position. However, Tesh said since the COVID-19 outbreak, he and the rest of the coaching staff have not been able to see the players which makes for a difficult situation when they have new players coming in.

"I don't know much about them as play-

ers, I know they are very young. Before the break we only had running drills together, no football drills. How the season will go for us all depends on when we can get back together as a team and practice," Tesh said.

Since the team cannot meet with each other, Tesh said the team does their best to stay in contact with each other.

"The biggest thing is communication with the guys. However, it is also important for us as coaches to communicate with each other as well as the players talking to each other," Tesh said.

Tesh said the team has been using Face-Time and Zoom as ways to communicate and discuss and learn the fundamentals of football. He said that it may not be the ideal way, but it will help the team have a mental sharpness.

Coach Thweatt said the defensive end position only has two new recruits this season, Kareem Stinson and Henry Garrison, and as a whole his squad is young.

Despite their age Thweatt said he believes the virtual practices and Zoom meetings will help the players learn what they need to do so when they get to the field they will be ready.

"If they can apply the things that they learn to the field then we will be a pretty good defense," Thweatt said.

Thweatt said he has strong expectations for his players this season, saying that they may not have a lot of game experience, but once they apply what they learn this offseason then they can be a top level team. Tesh and Thweatt will continue to help their players learn and improve their game to get ready for this upcoming season.

Both coaches know that field experience is important, but they both believe that their players can and will adapt and will apply what they learn. If they can do that, Tesh and Thweatt said they both think that this ECU defensive line will have a great season.

I think this season the defensive line

will be very exciting, I believe they can be a menace to the opposing team's offensive line. The line may not produce right away since they have little experience, but I think they will show great improvement when it comes to stopping the run this season.

The Pirates had a hard time stopping the run game last season, which is now a big focus moving forward.

Redshirt sophomore D'Angelo Mckinnie and redshirt freshman Keziah Everett are two players that may have a chance to make an impact in the 2020 season. These two bring size to a defensive front that allowed 207.8 yards per game and 5.1 yards per carry. Mckinnie stands 6'4" and weighs 277 pounds while Everett comes in at 6'1" and weighs 343 pounds.

The Pirates finished the 2019 season with a record of 4-8. Tesh and Thweatt and their defensive line believe they can help improve that record in the coming 2020 campaign and it all starts with their season opener against Marshall University on Aug. 29.

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

BLM continued from A1

I guess did it make it worse either way from their point of view and what they were trying to insinuate? For me it didn't make a difference whether you thought I was black or whether you thought I was Latino, first and foremost you should have thought of me as a human being."

The current administration at ECU has spoken out about the same topics and events and has been largely in favor of coaches and athletes alike speaking out. Student Body President Tucker Robbins and Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson each issued statements to students of the university on June 1 that were heavily in favor of students taking roles in social justice and activism.

Kim McNeill said the administration's backing is appreciated, but she is still disappointed that these are issues we still deal with today.

"Obviously it means a lot, I guess for me, going beyond the administration," Kim McNeill said. "The fact that more black lives had to be killed in order for us to bring as much attention to it as it has now. We shouldn't be at that point because we should be having daily conversations anyway."

Kim McNeill also mentioned the open door policy she has with her players and staff in an effort to maximize these necessary conversations.

"We have to be comfortable with having uncomfortable conversations because that's the only way we're going to make progress and not to sugar coat things. We talk to our young ladies all the time," Kim McNeill said.

There was a time at ECU when the conversations being had were not as in favor of the kind of change and social justice many are seeking today. On Oct. 1, 2016, several members of the ECU marching band chose to take a knee while playing the national anthem as a form of protest when the Pirates hosted the University of Central Florida.

ONLINE | FULL STORY



Kim McNeill

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



ECU volleyball's Bri Wood spiking atop two Camel defenders with AAC logo in the background during a match against Campbell on Sept. 15, 2019. COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

AAC considers schedule change

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

Collegiate athletics have taken a financial hit as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic which caused the cancellation of multiple collegiate postseason events. Multiple methods will continue to be taken in consideration to cut costs by East Carolina University's athletics department.

The American Athletic Conference (AAC) is currently considering a regional scheduling format for Olympic sports, according to the Orlando Sentinel. Track and field, wrestling, volleyball and swimming are all known as Olympic sports at the collegiate level.

"We're trying to figure out a regional way to schedule Olympic sports down the road," AAC commissioner Mike Aresco said, according to the Orlando Sentinel. "We've had some discussions about it, not extensive yet. It's something that's gaining traction and something we're going to investigate."

During the pandemic, the cancellation of major events like the NCAA Tournament in basketball and the College World Series in

baseball have come about.

The Mid-American Conference or MAC will go without postseason tournaments in baseball, softball, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's tennis, field hockey and women's lacrosse, according to USA Today. With decisions like these made elsewhere, it should be less of a surprise that the AAC will consider regional scheduling for Olympic sports.

ECU recently cut four sports, which has been a common theme among AAC teams, such as the University of Cincinnati cutting its men's soccer program. While not a member of the AAC, but an in-state competitor, Appalachian State University also cut ties with three of its sports programs in men's soccer, men's tennis and men's indoor track and field.

"Temple doesn't have to go to Wichita for a particular kind of sport or they don't have to go to Tulsa or Houston," Aresco said, according to Orlando Sentinel. "Same thing with UCF (University of Central Florida). Maybe they don't have to go to Tulsa or Memphis. Maybe they can play more regionally, and they can

play teams that have programs that are strong in areas that we're strong in and we also can save money on travel."

Regional scheduling would allow Olympic sports to create their own regular season schedule. With this scheduling, Aresco said



Mike Aresco

he hopes to keep conference games an important factor during the season. "If we did this regional scheduling, we could preserve the championships and seed people based on how they did in their regular seasons," Aresco said, according to Orlando Sentinel. "The regular seasons, you would have flexibility. Down the road, could we tweak our championships? We just don't know yet."

The regional scheduling adjustment will not be implemented until the 2021-2022 season if it is deemed necessary, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

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