



# The East Carolinian

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Former East Carolina University Chancellor Cecil Staton, who currently has filed a lawsuit against the UNC system, in 2019.

## Cecil Staton files lawsuit

Former university chancellor sues multiple parties

Sarah Hooper  
TEC STAFF

Former East Carolina University Chancellor Cecil Staton has filed a lawsuit against Greenville lawyer Peter Romary, his law firm QVerity and former Chairman of the University of North Carolina (UNC) System Harry Smith over alleged libelous statements.

The lawsuit surfaced on Saturday and revealed multiple alleged instances of defamation against Smith and Romary. These instances of defamation include a dossier written on Staton's incompetence as chancellor at ECU, a memorandum sent from the UNC System Office and more.

Within the legal documents for Staton's suit, Exhibit A included a letter addressed to Stephen F. Austin

State University in Texas (SFASU) on June 12, 2019. The letter was sent in regards to Staton's eligibility for president, addressed from "UNC System Board of Governors (BOG)." Smith was chairman of the UNC BOG at the time.

"Mr. Cecil Staton (former ECU chancellor), called me last week and asked if he could use me as a regent reference for several positions of leadership he was seeking across the country... We mutually signed a separation agreement with Cecil that does not allow either party to publicly disparage the other, so I must maintain confidentiality," the letter addressed to SFASU said.

The lawsuit said Staton did not ask any member of the UNC-BOG to provide a reference for his SFASU position.

"Plaintiff did not contact any member of the UNC-BOG or within the UNC Administration to provide a reference for the SFASU position or any other position, plaintiff

was interested in the position and made no statement to the contrary, and did not malign SFASU or its location in Texas; ECU was in good condition financially and otherwise when the plaintiff left his position, and he was never asked to resign by the UNC-BOG," the lawsuit said.

The defamation charges purported by Staton said a vendetta between Smith and Staton arose when Staton rejected an "unethical business proposal" from Smith in September 2016. The referenced business proposal involved an offer from Smith to Staton, who was representing ECU.

The "financial scheme" would guarantee ECU a lease of hundreds of beds within an apartment complex

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## Pitt County COVID-19 cases increase

Cayla Menges  
TEC STAFF

As businesses across North Carolina reopened after Governor Roy Cooper's Phase 2 order, COVID-19 cases across Pitt County continue to increase.

Public Health Director for the Pitt County Health Department John Silvernail said the county has a 7.5% positivity rate with around a 1% asymptomatic rate, as of publication date Pitt County Health's website said Pitt county has 583 confirmed cases, 419 recovered cases and six deaths from COVID-19. Pitt County started off with a very narrow testing definition and it is now at the point where anyone can be tested for the virus, Silversnail said.

Testing is available through Vidant Health, ECU Physicians, Physician's East and several other places, according to Silvernail.

"Vidant has testing through the emergency department and they have several different platforms with turn around times from a few hours to 24 hours," Silvernail said.

Although Silvernail said he does not speak on behalf of Pitt County decision makers, he shared there has been some discussion about whether there should be a community masking ordinance put into place. He said as the health director it would not be under his power to issue that order.

East Carolina Rehab and Wellness witnessed a large spike in Pitt County COVID-19 cases with 50 positives in a two-day period in early June, according to Silvernail. He said outliers like this play a role in rolling averages for COVID-19 cases but the climb in case numbers has been gradual.

Silvernail said without a vaccine nor set treatment method for COVID-19 there is only so much a community can do to keep case numbers slow and stop the spread.

"Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) were probably less adapted to the human host and burned themselves out. This virus seems very well adapted to us and is as transmissible as Influenza and the common cold," Silvernail said.

Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Infectious Diseases division at Brody School of Medicine Paul Cook said he joined a clinical drug trial in hopes of finding a treatment for COVID-19 patients.

People in the community need to take the safety precautions related to COVID-19 more seriously, according to Cook. He said masks are not foolproof but there's no question that if people wear masks and wear them properly it will greatly reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

## Scullery opens doors

Local restaurant ready for dine-in

Yasmine Curmon-Ward  
TEC STAFF

Macie Tano  
TEC STAFF

The Scullery Coffeehouse and Creamery, located at 431 Evans St., reopened its dining area to customers yesterday after being temporarily closed due to COVID-19 restrictions as North Carolina approaches the end of Governor Roy Cooper's Phase 2 plan.

As the restaurant opened for dine-in yesterday, it enforced new restrictions on seating, and will continue to be open during regular business hours from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to Jacob Adkins, an employee at The Scullery.

The restaurant has continued business during stay-at-home orders with curbside pickup and has offered special menu items to customers.

A gofundme page, named "We

love The Scullery," was organized by Jill Camnitz to bring support to The Scullery staff members and owners. The goal was \$6,000, which was met. The gofundme was created on May 27, according to the gofundme page.

Matthew Scully and his wife Erin Scully own the restaurant which serves "fresh roasted coffee, home made ice creams, delicious food prepared with fresh locally sourced ingredients," according to its Facebook page.

The restaurant was closed for three weeks at the start of the stay-at-home order, which first began on March 30, Scully said. During Phase 2 of reopening, which started on May 22, the restaurant began to offer take-out to customers. Scully said he and the staff are prepared

> SCULLERY page A3



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Tim Bunten looking onward following a swing from the fairway in a match from the 2019 season.

## Tim Bunten places first

Joshua Nelms  
TEC STAFF

Rising senior Tim Bunten, of East Carolina University's men's golf team, earned first place at the fifth Carolinian Amateur golf tournament on June 14.

The Carolinian Amateur is 54 holes of stroke play with a cut taking place after 36 holes of play. Any male golfer who is 16

by the first round of play, is a member of a club which is a member of the Carolinas Golf Association (CGA) and has a current USGA Handicap Index\* at a member club that does not exceed 10.4 is eligible to enter for competition.

Throughout the first two rounds of the tournament, Bunten was neck and neck with the rest of the field and shot a score of

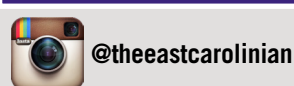
> GOLF page A6

ONLINE

»NEWS: Counseling center continues teletherapy

»OPINION: The best stories come from Minges Natatorium

SOCIAL MEDIA



## BRIEFS

## ECU celebrates Day of Giving

Today, East Carolina University will celebrate its Day of Giving with the Pirate Nation Gives event. Pirate Nation Gives is a 24-hour online fundraising event to give back to the university. Alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends are encouraged to donate to the college, fund or program of their choice. More information can be found on Pirate Nation Gives' website.

## ECU to begin second summer session

On June 25, East Carolina University will begin the second session of summer classes. All summer classes will be held online to comply with North Carolina social distancing guidelines. Classes can be accessed on Blackboard or Canvas, depending on the preference of the professor of the course. More information about classes can be found by students on PiratePort.

## Fall transfer application deadline approaches

On June 29, East Carolina University's fall transfer student application deadline will be due. Prospective students who attended a regionally accredited college or university after graduating from high school should apply for admission as a transfer applicant. For more information visit ECU's admissions website.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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



BINTA TOURAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University will prepare residence halls for students that plan to return for the fall semester. There will be staggered move-ins to limit contact.

# Student life to change come fall

## ECU residence halls and apartments prepare for early move-in

George Martin  
TEC STAFF

On-campus and off-campus housing will face challenges come the fall 2020 semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused East Carolina University to begin its fall semester a week early on Aug. 10.

Aaron Lucier, the director of housing operations, said the plan remains tentative because of the changing situation surrounding COVID-19, but there are some campus living decisions that have been made upon fall semester.

Programming within the residence halls will be limited and it will focus on more individualized content rather than group activities, according to Lucier. He said guests will only be allowed from other on-campus residence halls as well.

"Visitation will be limited to only other residence hall students. So, now it could be that it's another residence hall across the way, but still only residence hall students should be in the residence halls," Lucier said.

Cleaning will be done in the residence halls to prevent the spread of coronavirus, according to Lucier. He said elevator usage may be limited as well in order to try and limit the number of people in a confined space.

Campus Living will make suggestions on how to organize residence halls so students will sleep

facing away from each other, Lucier said.

"It's going to rely on students to be attentive and taking care of themselves and following the three W's: wear a mask, wash your hands and wait six feet apart," Lucier said.



Aaron Lucier

The move-in process will be elongated so less people are moving into residence halls at once, Lucier said. Students will be allowed to drop-off their furniture during the summer and return to campus at a later point. He said for students who are unable to drop-off their furniture, there will be specific move-in dates.

William McCartney, the associate vice chancellor for campus living, said on-campus dining will additionally be impacted by coronavirus-related restrictions.

"The need to social distance, the need to remove any aspects in our dining program of people self-serving them anything, will really change the experience that returning students are used to having from campus," McCartney said.

The dining halls will remain open in the fall, but with only half of the seating and any self-serving stations will now instead have an attendant who will serve the food, according to McCartney. He said

staffing costs will be "increased dramatically" to adhere to the changes in the dining halls.

McCartney said there will be cleaning wipes within the dining halls for those who are concerned about the table being clean. He said tables in the dining hall will be placed six feet apart in order to adhere to social distancing.

Available options may be limited in order to reduce wait-times associated with food so less people are gathering in one spot, according to McCartney.

"We want to give people as much control over protecting themselves as they feel that they want to have while we do extra cleaning, and we will be sanitizing the tables and chairs more frequently throughout the day," McCartney said.

Kelsey Carr, an employee for The Boundary at West End, said plans are being made to try and limit

the number of people moving in at once.

"We will be setting up precautions in order to accommodate social distancing and practice our CDC (Center for Disease Control) regulations just so we can keep everyone to a minimum as far as how many people we have in our property for move-in day," Carr said.

University updates concerning the coronavirus can be found on the ECU coronavirus updates page.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

## New!

## Graduate Certificate Program

## Digital Learning for Educational Leaders

A graduate certificate in digital learning, providing K-12 school leaders with opportunities to learn technology leadership supporting NC teachers on classroom implementation of the Digital Learning Competencies

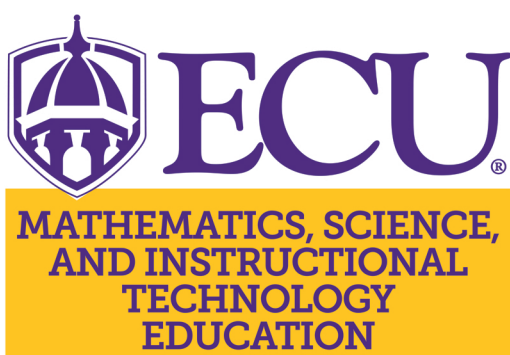
## All courses conducted entirely online

The certificate program requires candidates to complete 12 s.h. of graduate-level online course work in instructional technology

Applicants to the DLEL Certificate must currently have or be working toward a Master of School Administration (MSA), Education Specialist (EdS), or Doctor of Education (EdD) and meet graduate school standards for admission.

## Contact

Dr. Maureen Ellis  
ellism@ecu.edu  
(252) 328-1480



## STATON continued from A1

known as North Campus Crossing, according to Staton's lawsuit. Smith had proposed that ECU sophomores be required to live in the apartments he was offering, which were four miles from campus according to the lawsuit.

"Defendant Smith represented to plaintiff, as well as three trustees on the ECU-BOT, that he had 'clearance' from the UNC Office of Legal Counsel concerning the North Campus Crossing Scheme. Defendant Smith's statement was untrue, and consequently, was rejected and denied by UNC given the ethical and legal issues surrounding the scheme," the lawsuit said.

Smith allegedly wrote a libelous memorandum to the search committee of SFASU, according to the lawsuit. Staton looked to become employed by SFASU, but withdrew his name after the memorandum was sent, according to the lawsuit.

Before the memorandum to SFASU was sent, the lawsuit documents said a libelous dossier was allegedly written and distributed by Smith and Romary.

Romary said Smith is on record saying he has never hired Romary for any work. In Staton's lawsuit it said Staton believes Smith did hire Romary.

"Upon information and belief, defendant Romary was hired by and acted as an agent for defendant Smith at various times between 2016 and November, 2019 in order to investigate and attack defendant Smith's perceived enemies within UNC," the lawsuit documents said.

In his written statement, Romary said he did not write a dossier on Staton and has been informed that the person who did will allegedly go public with the information. Romary said in the statement he believes the person who wrote the dossier will say publicly that he and his law firm QVerity are not involved with the dossier.

In a written statement, Smith said he thinks it is widely known the dossier was put together by an ex-ECU professor, which he said he has never had any communication with.

"I had no knowledge or involvement in the dossier in any way; I had no knowledge that Cecil was in any job

interviews ever, and further would never do anything to harm Cecil in any job endeavor and I wish him nothing but success... I have never disparaged Cecil," Smith said in his statement.

In a written statement, Romary disputed claims in the legal documents that said Staton believed he was behind the anonymous email



Virginia Hardy

account John Q Public, which sent anonymous claims against ECU Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy and former Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach. In late September 2019, Gerlach was placed on administrative leave following allegations of misconduct after being photographed and filmed in downtown Greenville. In the midst of an investigation by the UNC System, Gerlach resigned from his Interim Chancellor position in October 2019.

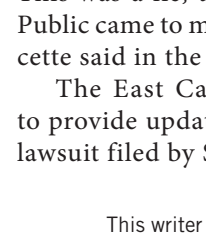
"I am NOT JohnQPublic—the lawyer for the person who is (John Q Public) wrote an article that was published in 'The Indy' and said that they are the lawyer for JohnQPublic and confirmed it is not and has never been me," Romary said in a written statement.

Triangle-based lawyer T. Greg Doucette said John Q. Public saw him for legal advice, in an article Doucette wrote referencing the Gerlach investigation of fall 2019. Romary and John Q Public were both mentioned throughout the Gerlach investigation. Romary referenced the May 2020 Indy article written by Doucette in his previous statement.

"When the Greenville Fraternal Order of Police hired Romary to get the footage, Tom Shanahan wrote a cease-and-desist letter that he promptly leaked to the media, as university leaders laughably insisted Romary ran an anonymous Gmail account 'JohnQPublicATECU.' This was a lie, too: The actual John Q. Public came to me for legal advice," Doucette said in the Indy Article.

The East Carolinian will continue to provide updates on the course of the lawsuit filed by Staton online.

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



Peter Romary



**RETAILERS AROUND THE AREA**

**Dickinson Avenue Antique Market**  
701 Dickinson Ave.  
Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday  
Closed Sunday  
252-830-1455

**Crystal Connection**  
422 E Arlington Blvd.  
#C  
Open 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday  
Closed Sunday and Monday  
252-355-8250

**Serendipity**  
696 E Arlington Blvd.  
#5837  
Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday  
Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday  
Closed Sunday  
252-565-8323

**Bicycle Post Inc.**  
215 E Arlington Blvd.  
Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday  
Closed Sunday  
252-756-3301



A few of the murals on the storefront of Emerge Gallery and Fine Arts Center, located at 404 Evans St., which were painted by artists from around the community.

# Local artists paint murals

## Emerge brings community together with storefront art

**Macie Tano**  
TEC STAFF

After the Emerge Gallery and Fine Arts Center received damage to its storefront from the protests that took place in Uptown Greenville on May 31 following the death of George Floyd, the gallery reached out to the community and asked local artists to come forward and paint murals on the plywood to cover the gallery's windows and doors. Artists from around the Greenville community worked on murals on the storefront of the gallery in the week following the protest, completing the artworks on June 12. Colorful murals cover the plywood which now sit on the windows and doors of the gallery, which it shared on its social media account.

Sarah Lazure, marketing and finance coordinator for Emerge, said eight artists worked on the murals outside of the gallery, starting on June 2.

"The staff at Emerge wanted to give Black artists and artists of color a platform to share their voice and express their thoughts. We let each artist present their own ideas for their panels. We have a variety of imagery on the panels in the front and

back of the building. Each one is an expression of the artist, showing love and peace, strength, memory, change and activism," Lazure said.

The staff at Emerge was very pleased with the outcome of the murals, Lazure said, and plans to keep the murals up until mid-July.

Lazure said she hopes to see more murals around Greenville, and believes the community can support local artists, like the ones who painted the storefront murals. She said the community can support these artists by directly buying their art and donating to causes which will financially assist them.

Paula Jordan-Mayo, an ECU alumna who graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science and Arts degree in Illustration, said she painted one of the murals outside the gallery using acrylic and wall paint.

"I painted the Martin Luther King (Jr.) one (mural). I was there (Emerge) for two days, the

first day I was there for a couple hours. I did the outline first, so that was about two hours. The next day, which was a Saturday, I was out there from 10:30 a.m. until about 5:30 (p.m.), for about seven hours," Jordan-Mayo said.

Jordan-Mayo heard about the opportunity to paint the murals after Emerge staff members reached out to her over Facebook, she said. Jordan-Mayo had been an intern at Emerge two years ago, and said she was happy to take the opportunity.

The murals on the plywood shed light on the artists' work, Jordan-Mayo said, and she believes people should come check out the art.

"I think that people should check out these murals, not only for the cause and for awareness, but because I feel like art provokes emotion. It has value and emotion you really can't describe from anything else. So, when people see these murals, and then think about what's going on, maybe it can bring them a certain emotion that everyone else is collectively feeling," Jordan-Mayo said.



**Sarah Lazure**

**ONLINE | FULL STORY**

This writer can be contacted at [arts@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:arts@theeastcarolinian.com).

# Make an Impact on the World We'll Give You the Tools

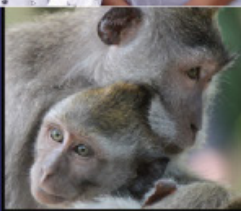
## Why Major in Anthropology?

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# Anthropology



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## SCULLERY continued from A1

for customers to come back and enjoy the dining area as safely as possible. Scully encourages guests to wear a face mask when they dine-in. He said the first day back open went well, and that business was steady.

"We had a good day, it was steady but never got busy, which was nice because it gave us an opportunity to really get things right and to get comfortable in a new system. I'm trying to make it grow gradually so we can really get comfortable before we get too busy. Hopefully this weekend will be nice and busy," Scully said.

The Scullery didn't advertise that it was open on the original reopening date to have an opportunity to get its new system in place before the restaurant got too busy, but Scully said it plans on advertising soon.

Scully said the restaurant is following new health and safety guidelines and has a new system for its employees to minimize contact and keep things running smoothly.

"We have new job assignments, making sure that everything is getting taken care of," Scully said. "Whereas before it was more of a teamwork effort as we had a lot of servers working together, now we have more of a system where someone is specifically handling sanitation and bussing, someone is just handling food delivery and someone is handling the register to keep the contact opportunities minimized and keep things flowing. It went really well."

The restaurant set up sanitizing stations for guests when they come into the dining area, Scully said. He said he will have employees working just to make sure that everything is sanitized at least once every hour.

Scully said the staff will have guests wait in their cars until a table is open and has been cleaned after each guest to ensure a safe distance between them. He said the bathrooms will be cleaned after each guest as well.

Old windows were installed at the bar and registers as a barrier between the guests and the cashiers, Scully said.

"Right now, we are able to help pay people to stay home. We don't have a paid leave program like a lot of businesses do, but I am just trying my best to take care of people to encourage them to stay home when they are sick," Scully said.

Jim McConnell, an East Carolina University alumnus, said in an email statement that he thinks most businesses and organizations are in a tough position and he thinks there is really no "right time" to reopen.



CONTRIBUTED BY MATTHEW SCULLERY  
**An ice cream sign outside of the Scullery.**

"The Scullery was proactive right from the beginning trying to help channel their unused food supplies to people in the community who needed it and I believe they have the best interests of their patrons and the Uptown Greenville community at heart. They've made adaptations to their physical space and practices and I wish them the best," McConnell said in the email statement.

Karrington Russell, an ECU alumna with a Bachelor of Science in fashion merchandising, said the Scullery has been her favorite food spot since she was in college. Russell said she loved the atmosphere, and the coffees and milkshakes are unique.



**Karrington Russell**

Russell said she believes that The Scullery secured a specific and special niche in Greenville, North Carolina.

"Customers are ready to welcome their food with open arms," Russell said in an email statement. "COVID affected this community deeply and I'm excited to see places and people working to get back to normal. I'm thrilled to be able to drink my coffee there again and enjoy sitting in the center of Uptown."

More information about The Scullery reopening can be found on its Facebook page.

This writer can be contacted at [arts@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:arts@theeastcarolinian.com).

## OUR VIEW

# LGBTQ employee protection needed

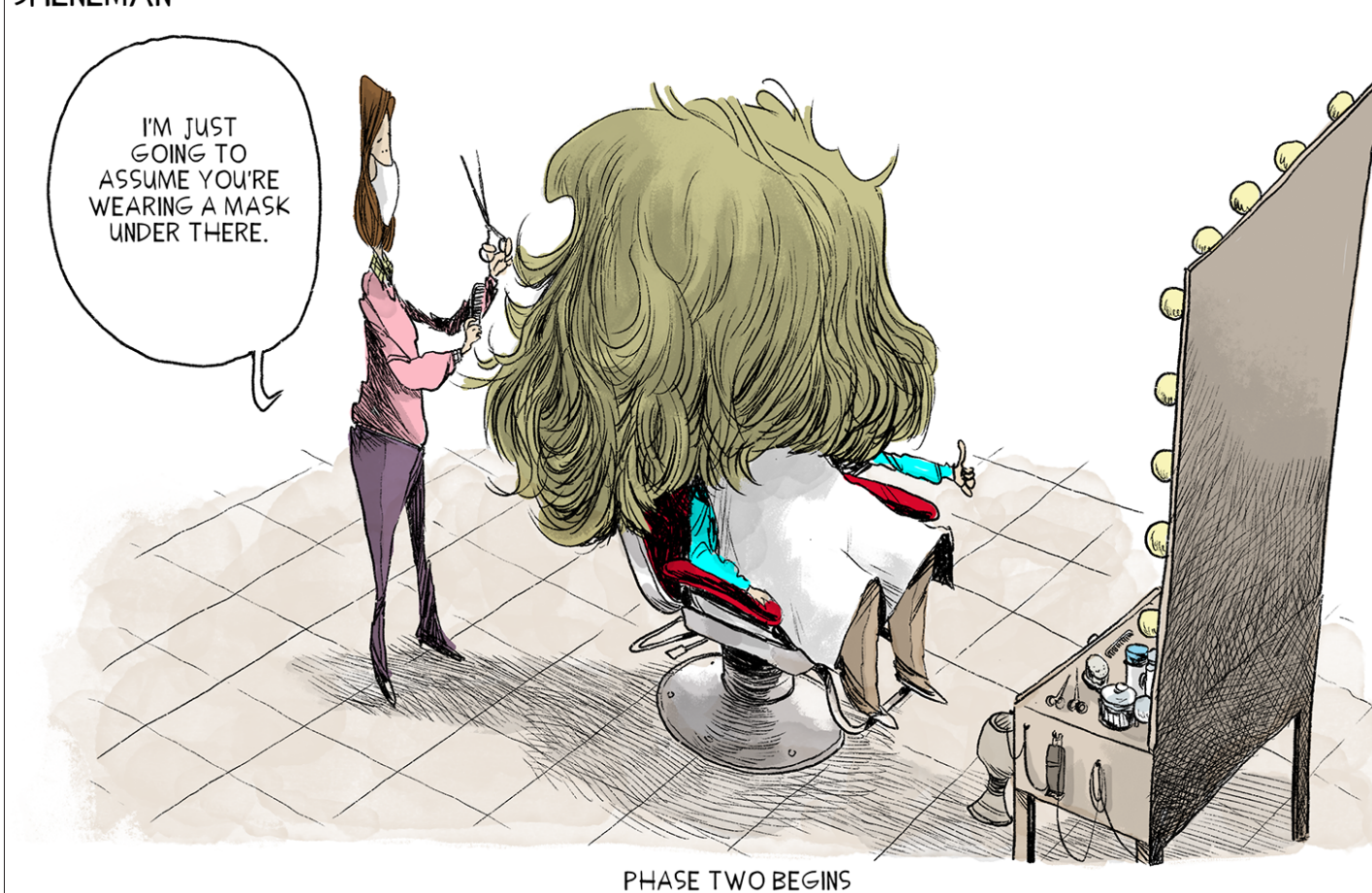
The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruled on June 15 that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects workers in the LGBTQ community. The 6-3 ruling went against President Donald Trump's administration, which argued that Title VII discrimination based on sex does not extend to sexual orientation and gender identity.

The SCOTUS ruling was just days after the Trump administration overturned the Obama-era regulation which prohibited discrimination in health care services for transgender patients on June 13. This action took place a day after the four-year anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting, a well-known LGBTQ club in Orlando, Florida which left 50 people killed, including perpetrator Omar Mateen, and 53 injured on June 12, 2016.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, support the Supreme Court's decision to protect LGBTQ workers and believe that a person's sexual orientation or gender identity does not define their work ethic. However, we do not agree with the Trump administration's actions to take away health care rights for transgender people, especially during Pride Month and around the anniversary of one of the deadliest incidents in the United States.

We also would like to show our support to everyone in the LGBTQ community during Pride Month. We recognize that East Carolina University is home to staff and students of all races, religions, genders and sexual orientations and we share our appreciation for each and every one of them who are part of the LGBTQ community.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



PHASE TWO BEGINS

# LGBTQ students need support

## Minority community still needs help to access basic needs

### Letter to the Editor



Jesse R. Peel  
GUEST COLUMNIST

I grew up just 25 miles from East Carolina University in Everett, North Carolina. I was a sissy and a socially awkward kid but I had no clue about "gay" or "queer." I struggled for many years with my sexuality and, after lots of therapy, I finally came out four years after Stonewall.

I reveled in the gay party scene in my new hometown of Atlanta, Georgia. Then the AIDS epidemic rolled in and our community began to mobilize to take care of our sick and dying brothers. For a decade we buried a generation of our community – most of my friends, a lot of my patients and several colleagues.

But out of this horror we emerged stronger and more determined than ever that we would have an equal place at the table. I began to experience renewed hope, developed new friends and celebrated Pride each June. We helped elect our first African-American president, who openly supported our

LGBTQ community, and we celebrated the 2015 Supreme Court ruling for marriage equality.

The world was changing with a new generation of young people. Last week, in the midst of a global pandemic and the nation wracked with anti-racist protests, the Supreme Court issued a surprising 6-3 ruling affirming that the Civil Rights Act protects LGBTQ persons from discrimination in employment. What wonderful news during this Pride Month!

Some 20 years ago I became involved with East Carolina's emerging diversity initiative under the leadership of Chancellor Steve Ballard and Provost Marilyn Sheerer. I was surprised and delighted to find here a group of people who are as passionate about social justice and diversity as I am.

Nine years ago we opened the LGBTQ Resource Office and I was asked to be a part of that effort. Soon, students were swarming to our tiny suite of offices over in Brewster. They were clearly thirsty for a safe harbor, a place where they could feel safe and where they were affirmed as the persons they were born to be.

The Resource Office was a huge

success and we were soon begging for additional space. With the new Student Center, the university took a huge leap and in January 2019 we opened the largest LGBTQ Center in the entire UNC (University of North Carolina) System. With this magnificent new platform, the LGBTQ Center has become a formidable force for change, not only on our campus and in our community but in the entire region as well. We are going to have a huge impact on this big red state!

I am so proud of this generation of students and I am confident that they will build a world quite different from the one I knew as I grew up and struggled here. Yet there is so much work left to be done, especially for our transgender community who need support, access to healthcare, employment and housing.

I applaud those brave folks who fought back in New York 51 years ago and who ignited the LGBTQ rights movement which we are celebrating this month. I am proud to be a part of this Pirate Nation and I look forward to being with you again in the fall – COVID-19 permitting.

Peel is a philanthropist and guest columnist. To contact him, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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Serving ECU since 1925, The East Carolinian is an independent, student-run publication distributed Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year and Wednesdays during the summer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, columnists and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration at East Carolina University or the Student Media Board. Columns and reviews are the opinions of the writers; "Our View" is the opinion of The East Carolinian Board of Opinions.

As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

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# Press freedom remains important now

### Down Pat



Pat Polomchak  
TEC COLUMNIST

It's no secret that the year 2020 has thrown punch after punch as we go about our daily lives. First, it was Australia burning. Then a pandemic broke out and halted most of society, with everything moving online. Now, an act of violence once again has people protesting, demanding change to the system currently in place.

There is a lot of unrest right now, and it can be hard to see what will happen next. Something that I saw online on May 29 during the Minneapolis protests, though, has me incredibly worried. What I refer to is the video which went viral on social media where a CNN reporter is arrested with no explanation by a Minneapolis police officer. Since then, there have been numerous reports of other members of the media being attacked at protests for simply doing their jobs.

In the video, CNN reporter Omar Jimenez identified himself as a reporter along with his camera crew. He then began to describe the scene to the camera, only to have one of the nearby officers arrest him with no explanation despite Jimenez asking to know why.

As someone who works in media, this was a chilling scene to witness. Jimenez was willing to cooperate with what the officers wanted him to do,

**“ Journalists and the media, in general, hold the government accountable and inform the people of what is happening in the world around them, and to silence that voice would be incredibly dangerous. ”**

evidenced by the reporter repeatedly asking where the police wanted them to stand, only to wind up being restrained and walked away from his crew.

When things like the situation in Minneapolis are happening, it is more important than ever for the United States to maintain its freedom of the press. Journalists and the media, in general, hold the government accountable and inform the people of what is happening in the world around them, and to silence that voice would be incredibly dangerous.

There is a reason the founding fathers of our country included freedom of the press as part of the Bill of Rights, and in the very first amendment for that matter. The press is supposed to act as a check against the government by the people, just like any other checks and balances as written in the Constitution.

Throughout history, nearly every dictator who has risen to power has stayed there by controlling what can and cannot be said in the media. Information is one of the most

powerful weapons available, and fascist regimes have always warped the facts in their favor and turned their media into propaganda peddlers.

I'm sure some people are thinking, "It's just one reporter and he was even released! It's not that big of a deal." But, it's a slippery slope. Normalization happens slowly, over time, in increments. Disregarding something because it seems to be an isolated incident and because it was resolved is one step along the way. Now a precedent has been set.

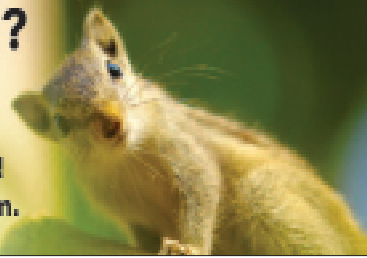
The good news is that the press hasn't been censored en masse as of now. The people of the United States have the right to have a voice, and that often comes in the form of reporters asking elected officials tough questions. It is crucial that this freedom is maintained because, in order to effect positive change and improve the world, people need to know what is happening first.

Polomchak is a senior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Did someone say FREE?

Looking for a roommate or a sublease?  
Got something for sale?  
ECU students can submit a classified for **FREE!**  
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## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Relax and find your sense of humor. Unexpected news keeps you off balance; stay flexible and light on your feet. Rest and wait for developments.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Focus on personal responsibilities and obligations first. Reject a far-fetched scheme in favor of a practical solution. Pamper yourself with hot water and relaxation.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Your discipline is admirable. Do the homework and refer to accumulated data. Resolve details and confirm reservations before advancing. You're learning fast.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Home and family have your attention. Clean up a mess. Unscheduled breakdowns require adaptation. Take care of practical demands and obligations. Enjoy domestic comforts.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Choose private over public engagements. Changes occur at the top, and they affect you personally. Reflect on plans and revise to adapt to new circumstances.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — Put in extra work to keep your shared financial venture afloat. Patch any leaks. Collaborate to navigate tricky waters. Anticipate resistance, and conserve resources.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 9 — Get lost in a good story. Navigate unexpected plot twists and turns. Creative projects flourish despite potential for technical breakdowns. Back up hard drives.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 9 — Contribute to a community effort. Avoid a conflict of interest or risk an awkward moment. Find new ways to connect and collaborate. Coordinate practical logistics.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Remember what's important, especially with your partner. The person yelling the loudest isn't always right. Allow extra leeway for extenuating circumstances. Stay cool.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 9 — Listen and learn. Financial conditions keep changing. Revise plans, again. Check intuition with hard data. Things may not go as planned. Favor saving over impulsive spending.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 9 — Professional changes affect your industry and market. Don't test the limits now. Find creative ways to adapt. Strengthen foundational elements. Pivot to new directions.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 9 — Physical activity clears your mind. Take private time for exercise and meditation. Slow to avoid accident or injury. Stretch and notice the present moment.

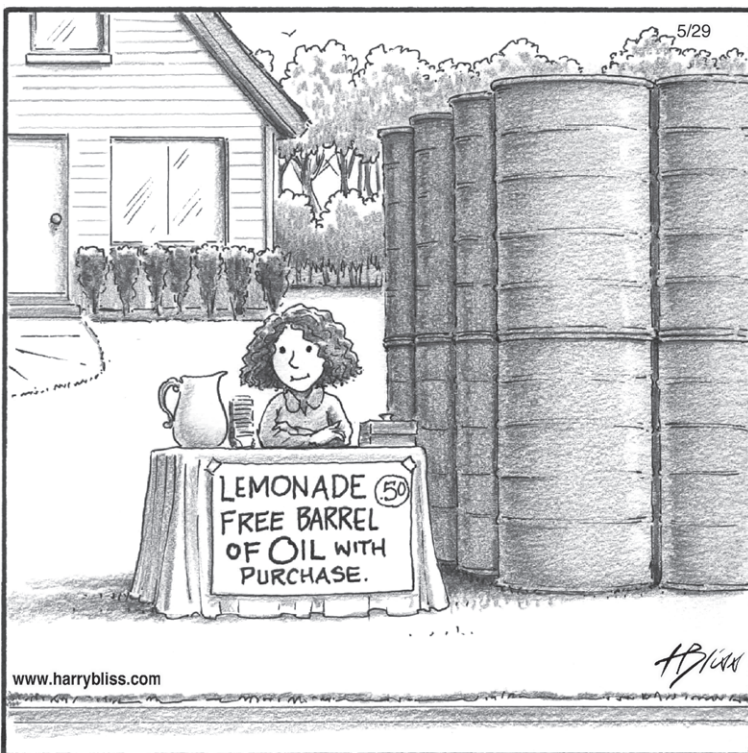
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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKIT



### BLISS

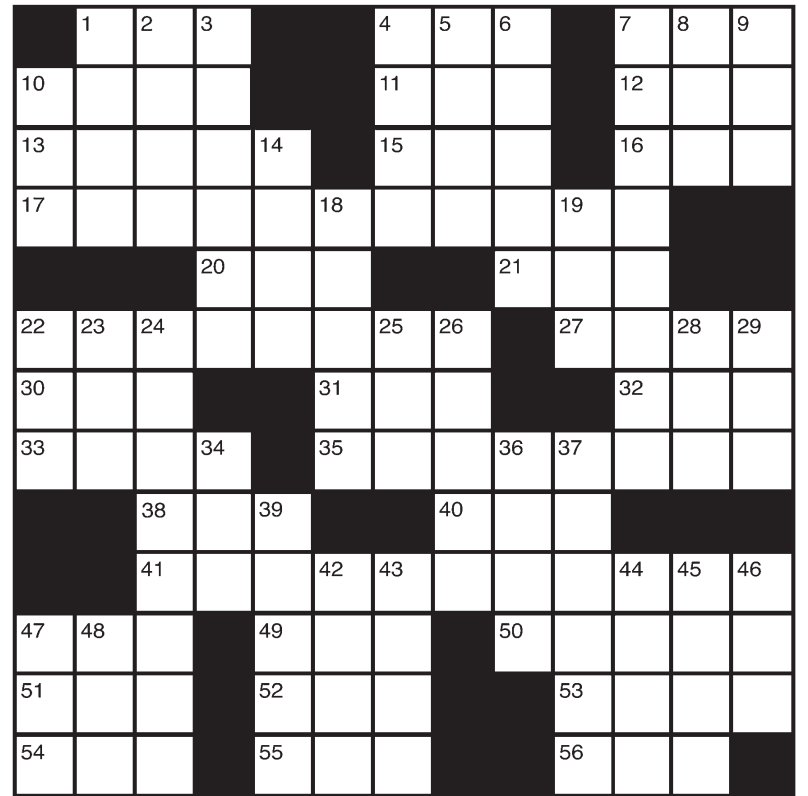


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## CROSSWORD

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- "American \_\_\_!"
  - Mom on "Big People, Little World"
  - Rather or Aykroyd
  - "Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fa, \_\_\_."
  - Michele of "The Mayor"
  - Actor Marienthal
  - \_\_\_ on; continuously
  - Baby's eating accessory
  - Montgomery's state; abbr.
  - Actor on "Young Sheldon"
  - Suffix for Japan or Nepal
  - Part of speech; abbr.
  - Kaplan and Byrne
  - Chimney flue residue
  - Rower's need
  - Cheerleader's cry
  - "Game of Thrones" network
  - Kojak's first name
  - Actress Powers
  - Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
  - Scottish actor Alastair \_\_\_
  - Role on "Kevin Can Wait"
  - Series for Eric Szmanda
  - Slangy refusal
- DOWN**
- Comedian Carvey
  - Alda or Arkin
  - Fred Astaire or Ben Vereen
  - Actress Jessica \_\_\_
  - Israel's Golda
  - "\_\_\_ Dabba Dool!"
  - Sitcom for Judd Hirsch
  - "\_\_\_ in the Family"
  - Peeples or Long
  - Texter's laugh
  - Ricky Ricardo's portrayer
  - Norm's drinks on "Cheers"
  - Sullivan and Bradley
  - "America's \_\_\_ Talent"
  - Ooh and \_\_\_; express delight
  - "\_\_\_ Bad"; AMC crime drama series
  - Caesar's language; abbr.
  - "\_\_\_ Lady"; Tom Jones top hit
  - Geisha's sash
  - Foot digit
  - "\_\_\_ Life to Live"
  - Desert fruits
  - Actress Peet
  - Paquin and Faris
  - Evans or Robertson
  - Carla's portrayer on "Cheers"
  - Yogi or Smokey
  - "The \_\_\_ Show with Stephen Colbert"
  - \_\_\_ out a living; get by
  - Actor Gulager
  - Pot scrubber's pad

Solution from 6/17



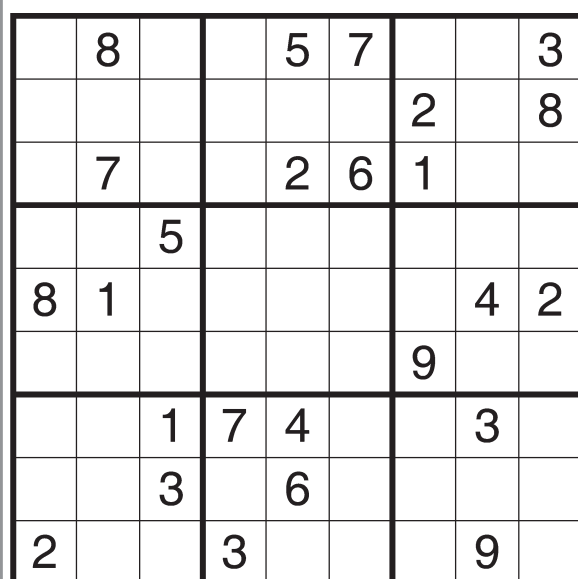
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## SUDOKU

### SUDOKU

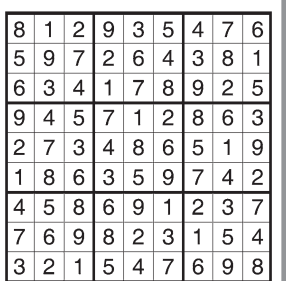
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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 6/17



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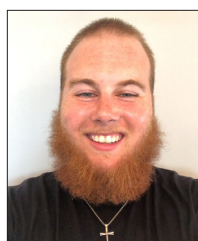




» ANALYSIS

## Pirates will kick off 2020 in big way

### ECU football slated to play a pair of tough foes early this season



**Dylan Woolard**  
TEC STAFF

With the 2020 college football season approaching, East Carolina University's football team has begun its off-season preparation in the wake of ECU's start of phase one for its student-athlete return plan.

The Pirate football squad, in its second season led by head coach Mike Houston, will start its 2020 campaign with a slew of non-conference opponents. Not unlike last season or any season of the last decade, the Pirates will play a relatively regional non-conference schedule as they pull opponents from surrounding states. The first two games of the 2020 slate should be highlighted and should get Pirate fans up and ready for college football's return.

To start, the Pirates will host Marshall University on Aug. 29 as a part of college football's week zero schedule. The return of the former Conference USA (C-USA) rival is more than just a revival of the history on the field, but will also serve as a remembrance of the infamous plane crash that took the lives of 37 Marshall football players 50 years ago.

The last time the Pirates and the Thundering Herd crossed paths was in 2013, when ECU travelled to Huntington, West Virginia and the Pirates took a 59-28 throttling from the Herd squad. In that seven year span, ECU has parted ways with two head football coaches, two athletic directors and has run the gamut as it pertains to finding stability at the quarterback position.

Having not seen each other since East Carolina joined the American Athletic Conference (AAC) and left Marshall



ECU senior running back Darius Pinnix Jr. fights off defenders in 2019 home matchup against Gardner-Webb.

behind in C-USA in 2014, the Pirates may have attained an advantage. Many would consider the AAC to offer a recruiting boost in comparison to C-USA. The Pirates should offer a level of talent that Marshall can't match on the field.

An area of the field that the Pirates could struggle with against the Thundering Herd is their defensive front. With Jalen Price and Alex Turner both using up their final years of eligibility last season, the Pirates will be introducing new talent to the position and were already allowing an absurd number of yards on the ground last season. Marshall's ground attack was stellar last year, averaging 193.4 rush yards per game. The Pirates allowed 207.8.

The Pirates will return with an offense that put up excellent numbers late last season. Marshall allowed an average of 25 points per game last season, which should play greatly in favor of ECU's offense which averaged 26.8 points per game.

Pirate fans should also expect that 26.8 mark to hover around 30 this season as the offense will return junior quarterback Holton Ahlers, junior wide receiver Blake Proehl and sophomore wide receivers C.J. Johnson and Tyler Snead.

Expect this football game to be reminiscent of the squad's 2012 double overtime matchup when the Pirates won 65-59 on the back of a clutch performance by former quarterback Shane Carden. Ahlers and the Pirate offense will outduel the Thundering Herd in a premier matchup as one of the earliest games for the 2020 season.

After a victory against Marshall the Pirates will ride the high horse to Columbia, South Carolina on Sept. 12 where they'll take on a less than impressive University of South Carolina Gamecocks team. Yes, they did take down a very talented top five ranked University of Georgia last season, but that was a fluke if

anything. Rainy conditions tend to be the great equalizer in football and the Gamecocks matchup with the Bulldogs last season was plagued by it.

Unfortunately for the Pirates, South Carolina will have been at home against Coastal Carolina University the week before they come to town. This will allow for the Gamecocks to be rested and prepared for the Pirates after likely dismantling a fairly new Division 1 competitor in the Chanticleers.

Don't expect the Gamecocks to appear flawless, though, as last season's squad only won four games, the bulk of which came in the form of three wins earned during conference play in the South Eastern Conference (SEC). The Pirate offense is far above average and will prove that statement to be true this season, but much like the rain, an SEC defense tends to be a great equalizer.

South Carolina only allowed 23 passing touchdowns in the 2019 season. For reference, the national champion Louisiana State University Tigers only allowed 20 touchdowns through the air last season.

A quality defense that matches up well with the Pirates' offense will shut down a great deal of the production on the offensive side of the ball for the Pirates. Expect one of the worst performances from the Pirates and Ahlers in a low scoring loss to the Gamecocks.

Losses happen, the 2020 Pirate football squad will not go from 4-8 to 12-0 overnight. Regardless, this Pirate squad will show great improvement and Pirate fans will take notice over the course of the first two matchups of the season.

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## GOLF continued from A1

72 in the first round followed by a 68 in the second round.

Bunten entered the final round in a three-way tie for first on the leaderboard, but was able to pull ahead with his strong putting performance. Bunten's strong outing behind his putter featured an eagle and nine birdies. One of those birdies came on the final hole to secure him the victory.

ECU's men's golf head coach Andrew Sapp said he was extremely proud of how Bunten performed at the Carolinian Amateur and said that this win was very big for Bunten.

"Tim played phenomenal. He just kinda blitzed everyone in the field and pulled out the victory. Tim dislocated his shoulder back at the tournament in Puerto Rico, so for him to go out and win here is very good for him. It takes a lot of guts coming down the stretch and he showed he has what it takes," Sapp said.

Bunten finished the final round with a score of 67. This put his final score for the tournament at 207, 9-under-par.

Bunten's ECU teammate, senior Patrick Stephenson, finished the tournament in second place at 3-under-par. Through the first round of play, Stephenson shot 70, a score of 71 in round two and 73 in round three for a total score of 213. Stephenson was the lone second place finisher in the tournament as there was a five man tie for third place at 2-under-par and a total score of 214 for the tournament.

After Bunten secured the win, Coach Sapp mentioned how inspiring it was for him and all of his teammates at ECU.

"Success is contagious, after Tim won, one of his teammates came up and told me that seeing Tim win gave him motivation and made him believe that he could next time. This tournament is a great start before the season," Sapp said.

Coach Sapp mentioned how despite losing some of the spring season due to the cancellation caused by COVID-19, the team has still been able to play and practice at home and will be ready for the fall.

Sapp said nothing is better than real competition against real opponents and that's what the Carolinian Amateur really offered his Pirate golfers.

"We did not lose the ability to play golf.



ECU senior Patrick Stephenson eyes his shot.

Golf can be played at home courses (and) technique can still be worked on. One thing we missed was competition against talented teams, but we should be ready for the fall season," Sapp said

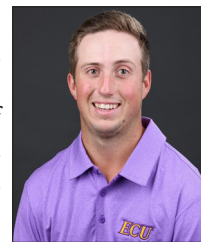
Bunten's win and Stephenson's runner-up finish come after the Pirates' 2019-2020 golf season saw its second half cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pirates missed out on the one tournament of the season where the team would have played host in the ECU Intercollegiate at Brook Valley on March 16 and 17.

The remaining regular season events for the Pirates would have been played in-state, the first of which at the Irish Creek Intercollegiate hosted by the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Charlotte in Kannapolis, North Carolina on April 4 and 5.

The final regular season event scheduled was the Stitch Intercollegiate hosted by North Carolina State University in Cary, North Carolina.

The American Athletic Conference Championships were set to be played April 26-28 in Palm Harbor, Florida followed by the NCAA Regional on May 18 through 20 with a destination that had yet to be determined. The NCAA Championships would have been held May 29 through June 3 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

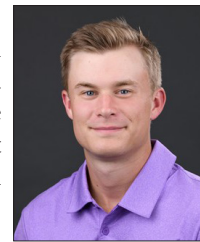
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Patrick Stephenson



Andrew Sapp



Tim Bunten