



# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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BINTA TOURAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University professors have anonymously started a petition concerning their lack of involvement in plans for the fall.

## ECU faculty signs petition

### University professors express concern for fall return

Jennifer Sieg  
TEC STAFF

In light of the 2020 fall plan titled "Return of Pirate Nation," a petition has circulated among East Carolina University's faculty and staff in an effort to address safety concerns in the fall.

The petition was created and titled "East Carolina University Petition to Support a Safe Reopening." As of June 26, the petition has obtained 299 faculty signatures.

The petition said the undersigned faculty at ECU affirms interest in promoting the safety of all ECU students and employees. It said there are concerns about the limited input faculty, staff and graduate employees have on decisions related to safety.

"This includes the forthcoming guidance from university administration regarding a range of pressing issues related to the provision of instruction and steps to protect the safety of all ECU students and

employees," the petition said.

Several proposals are listed throughout the petition in regards to health concerns, the event of instructors falling ill, Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, campus-provided COVID testing and weekly public status reports. The full petition can be found here.

Assistant geography professor Beth Bee said in an email statement the petition was developed in consultation with multiple faculty members from across campus, including members of faculty leadership. She said they wish to remain anonymous.



Beth Bee

"The petition should also not be seen as an affront to the efforts of the committees that have dedicated so much time to developing the existing guidelines," Bee said in her statement.

The petition does not capture all the concerns faculty, staff and students have, but it is a way to participate in a more democratic process, according to Bee. She said in her statement it's a way to push administration to include basic and simple protections which have not yet been addressed.

Bee said ECU is not the only university campus to petition for what is being asked. She said University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, UNC Charlotte, Appalachian State University, North Carolina State University and others across the country have developed similar petitions.

"Budgets are tighter than ever, but lives are also on the line," Bee said in her statement.

Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson said he read the petition and he does not find it objectionable. He said the points expressed are more

> PETITION page A2

## University sees dropped course rates

Cayla Menges  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Office of the Registrar showed a small decrease in registration numbers for both summer sessions in comparison to 2019 as the Pirate Academic Success Center (PASC) will continue to offer online resources to summer students.

University Registrar Angela Anderson said in an emailed statement enrollment had a slight decrease in both summer sessions. The first summer session had 9728 students enrolled, 261 students less than 2019. The second summer session has 44 less enrolled students than 2019 with 5836.

PASC Director Elizabeth Coghill said the tutoring center has put its focus on providing virtual services during the COVID-19 pandemic for students to utilize. She said Microsoft Teams allows students and tutors to share whiteboards, schedule appointments and chat throughout the day.

"We are providing one-on-one appointments plus study groups. Study groups were pretty popular in summer session one so we're basically providing for our stem courses. We've got biology, chemistry and physics that we are focusing our efforts on," Coghill said.



Elizabeth Coghill

Current hours for the tutoring center are Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., according to Coghill. She said the PASC will reopen its doors virtually three days after the start of ECU's fall semester on Aug. 10.

The center has a plethora of tutors available for other courses which can be scheduled through the tutor matching service, according to Coghill. She said tutors have proper equipment to be able to use Teams virtually to ensure the best success between tutor and student.

Coghill said the transition of virtual summer courses can have a negative effect on students beginning to feel disconnected from the learning environment. She said there is an importance to build a relationship with faculty during a course and work on a study strategy tailored toward that specific course.

The PASC focuses on empowerment of a student, according to Coghill. She said she has found Teams

> SUMMER page A2

## Yaba opens to public

### Local grill offers Mediterranean food

Yasmine Curmon-Ward  
TEC STAFF

Yaba Mediterranean Grill, located at 1201 Charles Blvd., officially opened on June 16 and is the sister restaurant to Bateeni Mediterranean Grill located at 1868 W Arlington Blvd. in Greenville, North Carolina.

The grill is open for dine in service and takeout, and is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. everyday, Yaba's Facebook page said. Majd Thaher, a sophomore biomedical engineering major, said he is the co-owner of Yaba Mediterranean Grill and his father, Asif Thaher, is the main owner of Bateeni Mediterranean.

Thaher said "Yaba" means father in Arabic and he calls his father yaba, so the family chose the name because they wanted something simple and easy to remember. The goal of the restaurant was to bring a cheaper eatery alternative close to campus for students with quality dishes, according

to Thaher.

"We wanted to bring something closer to campus to bring East Carolina (University) great food at a quality price," Thaher said.

Yaba has the same authentic dishes from Jerusalem as Bateeni Mediterranean Grill at a great price, Thaher said. As a student himself, he understands not having a lot of money to spend on higher quality food, he said.

Thaher said the restaurant serves Mediterranean salad, Jerusalem salad, humus, authentic shawarma and more.

"We cook the shawarma slow and slice the meat thin, that way you get an even bite and you get the juiciness and it doesn't get dry," Thaher said.

Customers are able to sit inside of the restaurant and come into the restaurant to pick up takeout, according to Thaher. He said Yaba will offer delivery soon through third party services such as DoorDash, Uber Eats

> YABA page A3



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Current pirate basketball player and junior Jayden Gardner pulls up over two Houston defenders.

## ECU reflects on win

Dylan Woolard  
TEC STAFF

After showing a slew of football games, ecupirates.com switched it up last Saturday and put on a showing of East Carolina University's 2007 victory over North Carolina State University in men's basketball.

The 2007 Pirate basketball team finished the season 11-19 and saw nearly all of it's

victories come when playing under the roof of Minges Coliseum in Greenville, North Carolina. One of those home victories came in the form of a stunner over the NC State Wolfpack. The Pirates, under the head coaching direction of Mack McCarthy at the time, welcomed a JJ Hickson-led Wolfpack team onto their home floor.

"I mean it was big at that time because I

> HOOPS page A6

### ONLINE

»ARTS: ECU alumnus Quincy Jones works on album of original composition

»SPORTS: Pirate football looks ahead to games three and four

### SOCIAL MEDIA

@theeastcarolinian

Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian

@TEC\_Newspaper

## BRIEFS

## Umbrella Market open tonight in Uptown

Today, the Umbrella Market will open at Five Points Plaza at the corner of 5th and Evans Streets from 5 to 8 p.m. The market will offer pre-ordering options for customers that can be found on its website. More information on the Umbrella Market can be found on its Facebook page.

## 11-week summer deadline approaches

Today, East Carolina University's 11-week summer session withdrawal period ends at 5 p.m. It is the last day for undergraduate and graduate students to withdraw from term-length courses or withdraw from classes without grades. Students should speak with their advisor to be clear on financial and grade repercussions before withdrawing from a course. More information about this deadline can be found on ECU's website.

## ECU to host third town hall discussion

Today, East Carolina University will host its third virtual town hall at 3 p.m. The town hall will be open to the public to allow for more discussion of the "Return of Pirate Nation" plan released last week. More information on the live town hall can be found on ECU and Chancellor Ron Mitchelson's Twitter pages.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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



The Student Recreation Center, located on the Main Campus at East Carolina University, will be subjected to new regulations in the fall 2020 semester.

# Facility use to change in the fall

## East Carolina University plans for new building safety regulations

George Martin  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University released a plan entitled "Return of Pirate Nation" on June 22, which details how the university will operate in the fall to limit the spread of COVID-19 on campus.

Virginia Hardy, the vice chancellor of student affairs, said classes that hold over 50 students will be moved either completely or partially online and therefore the hallways in the buildings will be less full and allow for social distancing.

Hardy said it mostly comes down to students if social distancing and safety concerns are upheld throughout the school year.

"We are relying a lot on students and individuals to take some personal responsibility about maintaining that six foot distance," Hardy said.

Students who refuse to wear face masks while in classrooms will be at the discretion of the teacher. Hardy believes other students will help enforce the face mask policy on campus by urging others to take the precautionary measure.

Hardy said wearing a face mask will become one of the university's rules, and the violation of the rules could violate the student code of conduct and different sanctions may apply to students who continue to violate the rule.

"We really hope we don't get there. We hope that students will just comply," Hardy said.

Restrooms will be cleaned more frequently than in the past, according to Hardy. She said in classrooms, students will be asked to help with wiping desks down while staff will be responsible for high-touch areas like doorknobs or stairwells.

Hardy said masks will be required in all indoor spaces, and when outside on campus it depends on the judgement of the individual to



Virginia Hardy

decide if a mask is necessary or not. During a class change when there is a lot of movement masks should be worn outside, according to Hardy.

"If I'm walking around campus right now, I probably wouldn't wear (a mask), because I'm the only one walking around campus and there are one or two people but they're not anywhere close to me," Hardy said. "If you can't social distance, then you should wear a mask while outside."

Freshmen will still be required to live on-campus during the upcoming year, Hardy said. There is an exemption process that students may take so that they may not live in a residence hall and it can be found on the campus living website.

The Student Recreation Center (SRC) will be impacted in the fall by restrictions related to the coronavirus. Dana Lopez, the associate director for facilities and operation for Campus Recreation and Wellness, said the SRC currently has permission to reopen on July 27, but if the executive order is either pushed forward or backward, the gym will open on the new date.

"Machines in the weight room and the cardio deck will be spaced out more than the six feet to allow for movement around those machines, and we're going to be taking the majority of equipment from the weight room and moving that onto the basketball courts," Lopez said.

The indoor basketball courts as well as the outdoor pool will be closed for the foreseeable future, according to Lopez. She said the basketball courts will provide space for machines while the outdoor pool will be closed due to its limited size.

Lopez said there is currently no concrete plan for how to keep the equipment clean, but the university housekeeping and student staff will help clean. She said there will also be disinfectant wipes available for students who want to wipe down their machinery.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

## New! Graduate Certificate Program Digital Learning for Educational Leaders

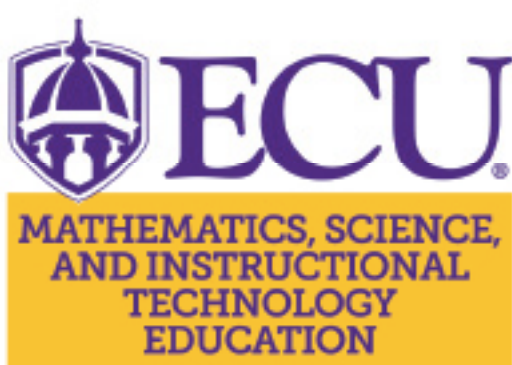
A graduate certificate in digital learning, providing K-12 school leaders with opportunities to learn technology leadership supporting NC teachers on classroom implementation of the Digital Learning Competencies

### 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



## PETITION continued from A1

than reasonable and he believes the university will continue to work to do what the petition has listed.

Mitchelson said he has received personal emails from faculty and thinks many of them feel much better after communication was put in place that followed the two town hall meetings ECU hosted.

"The feelings are strong and emotions are running high and so I think we've done some good in the last few days to sort of calm that down," Mitchelson said.

Students will return on August 10, but ECU employees will gradually return throughout the month of July and into August, according to Mitchelson. He said teleworking, if possible, is still encouraged to those who are able.

Mitchelson said ECU has purchased a large quantity of disposable masks which will be widely distributed throughout campus.

"You can expect, if you're in an academic department, you can expect the central office to have a supply of disposable masks," Mitchelson said.



Ron Mitchelson

He said there will be another town hall meeting on July 1 at 3 p.m. to address more questions and the unanswered questions from the first two on June 23 and 24. He said there are still many questions to be addressed as uncertainty for the fall remains among most.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy said Mitchelson was able to provide some response to the concerns listed in the petition during the second town hall meeting, which was directed toward ECU employees.

Hardy said for individuals who were unable to attend, the meeting was recorded and can be found on the ECU News Services website. She said questions and comments are welcome from any individual who still expresses concern.

"As we are making these plans, we are doing so with health and safety at the forefront of all of those decisions," Hardy said.

There were eight working groups who were given different focuses in developing the plan to return in the fall, according to Hardy. She said each of those groups had representation from faculty and staff.

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

## SUMMER continued from A1

is an effective application to get that point across.

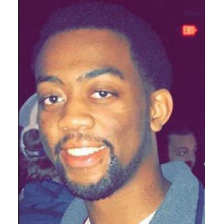
"I don't want a student to feel like all these changes will inhibit their ability to learn or lessen an experience for them. We need one-on-one exchanges that make something more personable. Students need the encouragement to make connections with faculty members," Coghill said.

Students can initially feel uncomfortable with virtual instruction, Coghill said, but tutors have helped promote a positive learning environment. She said tutors have shared with her they are able to still have meaningful conversations and get information across as they would if they were in person at the center.

Coghill said the center has struggled with getting the word out about virtual tutoring services to incoming freshmen as they had a large presence at in person orientation. She said the center hopes it can increase outreach through social media use and email newsletters.

Senior applied economics major Tyrell Killingsworth said he has taken summer courses every year with the exception of his freshman year. He said he has never used the tutoring services offered by the PASC.

"Depending on the topic of summer courses I don't mind them. It is pretty fast paced but I like getting them out of the way. I am better at teaching myself," Killingsworth said.



Tyrell Killingsworth

There are a limited number of courses offered for summer session two, according to Killingsworth. He said he's had a hard time finding courses to suit the credits he needed in the past.

For more information on online resources available to students visit ECU or PASC's websites.

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



### RETAILERS AROUND THE AREA

#### Halo Home

801 Dickinson Ave.  
Open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday  
Closed Sunday  
252-864-4256

#### Fleet Feet

709 Greenville Blvd. SE Suite 104  
Open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday  
Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday  
Closed Sunday  
252-353-3338

#### Dunham's Sports

714 Greenville Blvd. SE  
Open 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday  
Open 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saturday  
Closed Sunday  
252-353-0113

#### Jefferson's Florist

310 W 9th St.  
Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday  
Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday  
Closed Sunday  
252-355-5600



CONTRIBUTED BY MATT SZCZYGIEL

One of the electronic musicians performs his set this weekend for the online festival, ClubHouse Live, which featured 10 musicians on Friday and Saturday night.

# Festival held to aid artists

## ClubHouse Live hosts virtual musical fundraiser event

Macie Tano  
TEC STAFF

An online music festival was hosted by Special Event Services over Twitch and Youtube this weekend on June 26 and 27, featuring 10 different artists from around Greenville and other places in North Carolina, with proceeds going toward the charity Musicares.

The festival, called ClubHouse Live, was free of admission, and took place on Friday night from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Saturday night from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., according to Matt Szczygiel, who does video edits for Gray Room Sessions, a weekly show featuring local singers and songwriters shot in the Special Event Services warehouse.

Any donations toward the festival went to the festival's associated charity, Musicares, a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to musical artists at a time of need. The donations are submitted through Pure Heart Ministries, Szczygiel said. Additional proceeds will go towards the performing artists as tips.

"We see it (the ClubHouse Live music festival) as an opportunity to provide North Carolina

DJs who haven't been able to play at bars or clubs for the past few months an opportunity to share their music for tips or for a good cause," Szczygiel said.

Of the 10 performing artists, there was a variety of electronic music genres present, such as trap music, electronica and dubstep, Szczygiel said.

The festival featured music that appealed to many different types of people, Szczygiel said, and it bene-



Matt Szczygiel

fitted the artists who hadn't been able to perform in a while due to COVID-19.

"All DJs and musicians are hurting right now, so we wanted to showcase a variety. There's a little something for everyone. We also pointedly featured artists with an abundance of original content," Szczygiel said.

Szczygiel said he believes it's important to support local musicians and the music industry

at this time, because many of them have been affected due to COVID-19.

"I can't personally change the course of history, But I can do my part to bring NC (North Carolina) music back to the forefront of people's minds, maybe put a bit of change in these musicians' pockets, and spread good music and great talent in the process," Szczygiel said.

The first night of the online festival had a great response from viewers, Szczygiel said, and it had about 730 people viewing the festival on Twitch and Youtube.

Christian Mercado, a recent East Carolina University School of Communication alumnus, performed on Saturday night at 10 p.m. Mercado, who goes by the stage name Seemerc, said he heard about the festival from a few scouts around the Eastern North Carolina region, who looked for artists with original content.

"With primarily bands on their roster, ClubHouse Live was an opportunity to venture into electronic music," Mercado said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

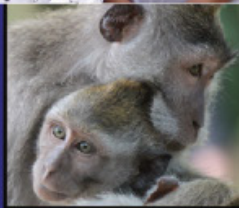
### Why Major in Anthropology?

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<https://anthropology.ecu.edu>



## YABA continued from A1

and Takeout Pros.

Thaher does not feel the Stay-at-Home Phase 2 order affected the restaurant's grand opening. He said Yaba had a soft opening on June 11 where free sandwiches were given away.

"Hello everybody! Thank you for being patient with us while preparing our grand opening for Yabas Mediterranean Grill. We here at Yabas understand the hardships going on in our community and we will like to announce and invite everyone this Thursday, June 11 starting at 11 a.m. to come on down and visit us for a free meal per guest," Yaba said on its Facebook page prior to its opening. "We look forward to meeting all friends and families this Thursday. See you then!"

Jules Khan, an ECU alumna with a Bachelor of Science in nutrition and dietetics, said she has visited the restaurant twice so far for takeout. She said the first time she went to the restaurant, she ordered falafel as an appetizer, chicken shawarma and the mint lemonade. The second time she ordered takeout, she said she ordered the beef shawarma bowl with lettuce.

"The service was great. They (employees) were really nice and the food is excellent," Khan said.

The portion sizes of their meals are generous for the price, Khan said, and the ingredients are fresh.

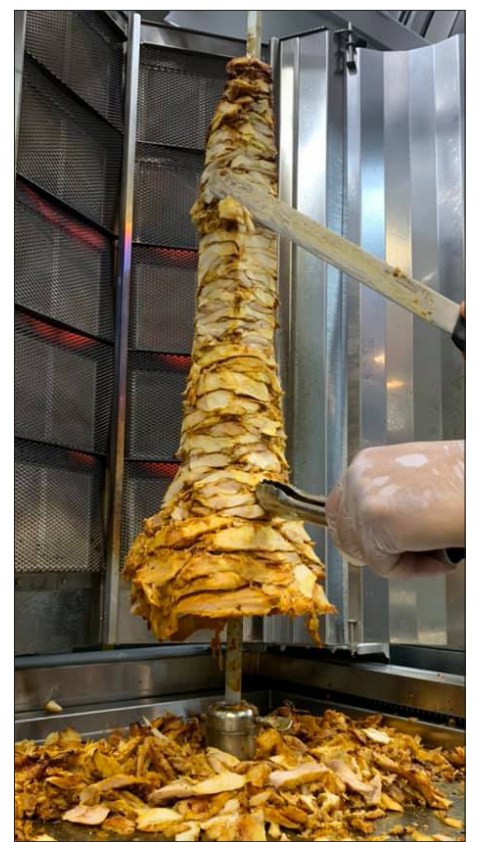
"It will feed me for lunch and dinner and it didn't even cost me 12 dollars," Khan said.

Khan said they make the mint lemonade per order and the lemonade was not too sweet or sugary. Though it may take a few minutes to make, he said the wait is worth it.

"They (Yaba staff) make it (mint lemonade) from scratch and they make it per order. You might have to wait a little bit for them to do it. They blend up handfuls of mint and everything. It is worth the five minutes or however long you have to wait for it," Khan said.

Rami Darawsheh, a Greenville native, said he went into Yaba to order takeout and ate his food outside of the restaurant.

Darawsheh said in an email statement the staff is very friendly and helpful. He ordered a chicken shawarma sandwich called the



CONTRIBUTED BY MAJD THAHER

Seasoned meat being roasted and carved at Yaba.

"Bad Mike Special" which he said was the best in Greenville.

"I would recommend Yaba to anyone looking to try something new. While being healthy, Yaba is also very filling, and I can eat it a bunch of times and not get bored of the food. This restaurant makes the best chicken shawarma in town," Darawsheh said in the email statement.

The grill also gathered some attention on Facebook as some accounts posted about the grill after it opened. One of those accounts was 252Buzz, which posts about different events and restaurants around Greenville.

"A new Greenville restaurant offers one of the world's most popular street foods to local diners in a fast casual restaurant concept. Yaba Mediterranean Grill specializes in authentic shawarma: seasoned beef or chicken stacked on a rotating vertical spit and roasted slowly on all sides. The meat cooks from the outside, and, as the spit turns, the meat is thinly carved off for serving," 252 Buzz said on its Facebook page.

For more information about Yaba, see its social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

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



Rami Darawsheh

## OUR VIEW

### Businesses can't afford to remain shut down

Governor Roy Cooper announced on Wednesday, June 24 that North Carolina will remain in Phase 2 of the Stay-At-Home Order until July 17 and face masks will now be mandatory. The decision to stay in Phase 2 was made after a concerning increase in COVID-19 cases. During Wednesday's press conference, Cooper said since May 19, the number of people hospitalized has increased by 56%.

Entering Phase 3 would have re-opened bars, gyms and other businesses that are currently closed to the public and increased capacity at restaurants and businesses that are already open. Many of these businesses that were scheduled to re-open in Phase 3 have been closed for over three months, with the first official Stay-At-Home Order put in place by Cooper on March 30.

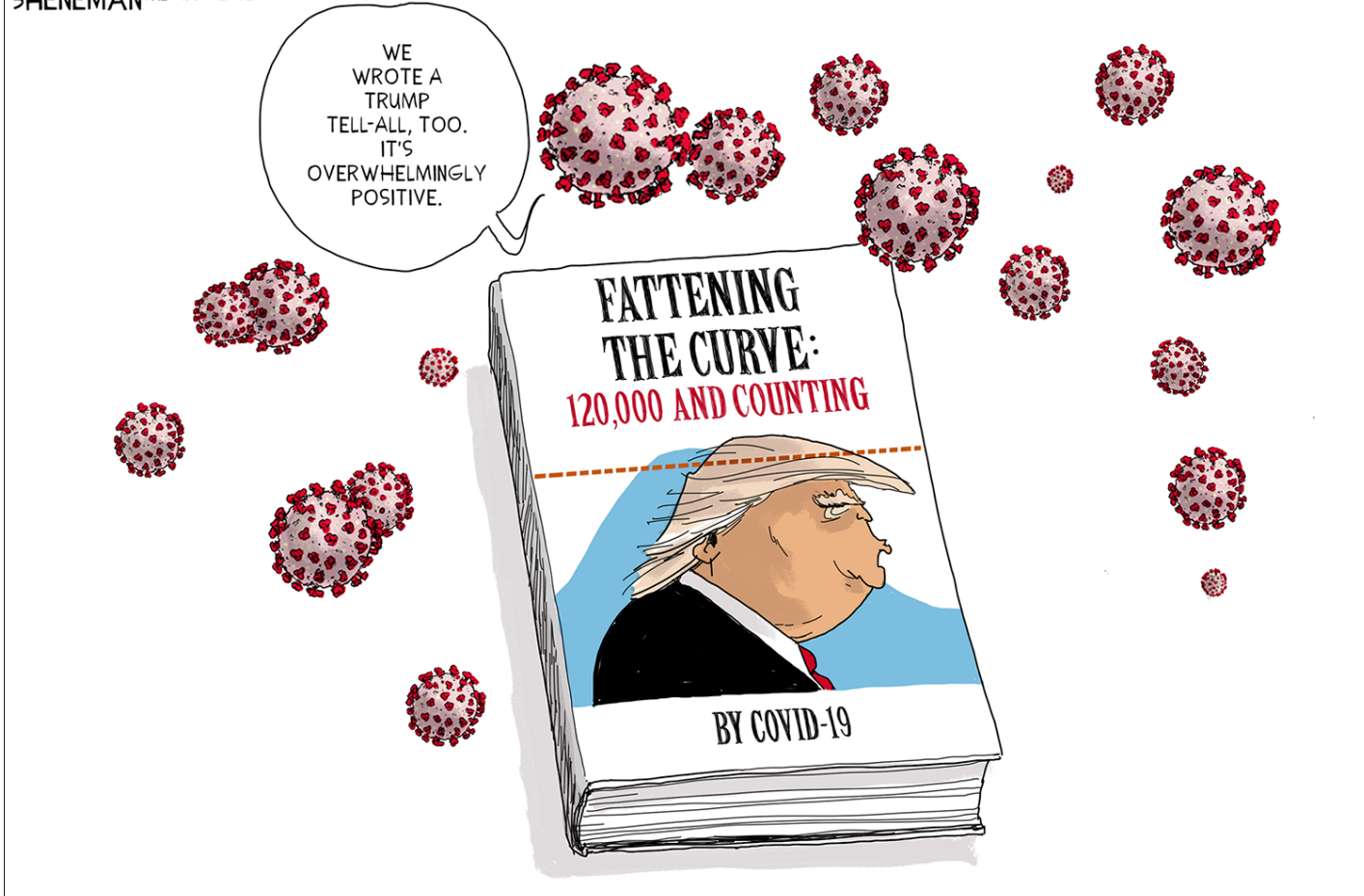
We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, support Cooper's decision to make masks mandatory and understand that keeping North Carolina in Phase 2 was necessary with the increase in diagnosed cases of COVID-19. However, we believe that keeping local businesses closed for much longer will have a significant negative impact on small business owners.

Each individual state has made its own COVID-19 safety regulations that vary without any nationwide regulations put in place. Cooper has waited longer than many states, like Virginia, to require a face mask in public places.

Greenville bar owners have grown more frustrated keeping their doors closed, while restaurants with bars have been allowed to open to partial capacity and sell alcohol. Many of these establishments are not chains, they are locally owned and can't afford to keep their doors closed for much longer without serious or even permanent consequences.

Wearing masks and social distancing is an important key to keeping case numbers low and allowing North Carolina to move forward into the re-opening process. Supporting local small businesses while following the guidelines in place is crucial during this time.

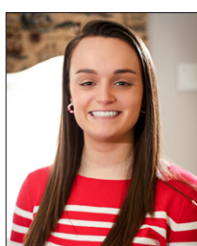
SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



## Natatorium holds best memories

### ECU failed its students by cutting successful swimming program

#### Guest Columnist



**Kayla Morton**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

I see it every day I walk into my office at work. The picture of swimmers Julien Dodu and Boleck De Pawlikowski. Exhausted in every way, yet grasping onto each other in the water raising up their fingers signaling

"No. 1," after winning their relay during an American Athletic Conference Swimming and Diving Championship.

That picture is attached to a front page newspaper article. My first front page article in my sports journalism career and for The East Carolinian (TEC) on Feb. 23, 2016. My first front page article is framed and hanging proudly four years later for everyone to see at my first professional job post-graduation all the way up in North Dakota.

Why? Because I'm damn proud to have covered such a prestigious program that is recognized by so many on a national level. Now, however, it's known in the most negative light it could ever receive.

East Carolina University recently cut both the men's and women's swim and dive programs on May 21 due to a lack of funds at the university. It cut four programs overall, but still has 16, the required number needed to remain Division I.

Athletic Director John Gilbert cited in an official press conference to members of the media during his official announcement that the deciding factor to cut the programs was because of looming facility maintenance. Excuse me?

ECU ultimately chose to cut a program

because it couldn't afford to keep up with maintenance, while some sports at the university can't even afford or maintain a facility on their own. Yes, some sports at ECU must rent facilities to even hold practices.

Yet, I never once got a seat in the swimming and diving facility no matter how early I went because they always sold out and had consistent support. I eventually had to get an official press pass so I could stand on the deck in order to have a view of what I covered to keep my job.

While the program has won four AAC Championships in the last six years, its success hasn't just been recent. The men's team started in the 1953-54 season and just four years later brought the Pirates their first national win of any sport at the institution in 1957. The program also made ECU history, featuring the first openly gay male athlete in the institution's 113 years.

His name is Alex Clark and he is one of the most wonderful people I have ever met. Clark's diving story, which naturally goes along with his ambitious decision to officially come out, was a story that erupted across campus and was and still is known to most all Pirates. Clark and his article currently hangs next to Dodu and De Pawlikowski's article. Both appeared on TEC's front-page approximately one month apart.

The positive attention surrounding swimming and diving as of late jump-started a surge of wanted (and needed) coverage of ECU sports. These stories need to be told to add to the legacy of what it means to be a Pirate. I took it upon myself to see that the change was put in motion.

After the Clark feature, more and more athletes and more and more programs would reach out to the TEC staff with stories. It not

only grew our following at TEC, but it gave the further meaning of why people became and would become Pirates.

I had the pleasure of hiring eight candidates to the TEC staff as the sports editor to work in sports alone in the fall of 2017. We had a reporter for both the men's and women's side of every sport offered at ECU and then some.

We always had more stories than could ever fit in the sports sections and had constant circulation online. The swimming and diving success that lead to more stories and exposure started this entire needed movement for the university.

This opportunity allowed for more writers like former sports editor Daniel Roberts and current sports editor Dylan Woolard the shot at their dreams of becoming sports journalists. I hired both of them. They covered swimming and diving with the same enthusiasm, if not more, than the people lucky enough to cover football or baseball.

The best sports stories in ECU history come out of Minges Pool and I will die on that hill defending that statement. The swimming and diving program started a revelation in Pirate Nation and it can't be stopped now.

Alumni, current swimmers and people like me have already raised \$501,880 as of June 7 with a change.com petition and donor pledges to keep what's far more than a legacy in a pool alive. ECU failed its students and every Pirate that has set foot on the campus by cutting the program that unites the university more than any other.

Morton is a guest columnist. To contact her, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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<b>Rose Bogue</b>	Production Manager

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## Compher caused ECU athlelectics failures



**Dylan Woolard**  
TEC COLUMNIST

East Carolina University Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson 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.

It seems that when a new administration replaces its former, the blame game ensues. This appears to be the case with ECU's current athletic administration. Former athletic director Jeff Compher was quite the target even when he held the position, but since his departure, it seems the current administration has begun to uncover some truths about Compher and his nearsighted faults.

To start, the firing of former ECU football head coach Ruffin McNeill was a meek attempt at setting a tone when he took over for former athletic director Terry Holland in March of 2013. If anything, firing McNeill was the greatest mistake Compher made during his tenure as athletic director.

McNeill posted an overall record of 42-34 as ECU's head coach, a far better record than his successor, Scottie Montgomery, managed. Montgomery served as the ECU football head

**"It's no doubt that the decision to step away from several sports programs was a hard one, but it's a shame nonetheless."**

coach during the 2016, 2017 and 2018 football seasons and amassed an overall record of 9-26. To Montgomery's credit, East Carolina was his first time acting as head coach at the Division I level.

Regardless of Compher's decisions in firing and hiring football coaches, his decision to build Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium's TowneBank Tower may have been his worst. Compher's administration had projected TowneBank Tower to amass a revenue of \$42.7 million over a 30 year period. The current administration's projections claim that TowneBank Tower will amass \$6 million in revenue loss over the same 30 year period.

The university's buyout of Compher has also proven to be a debt builder as Compher's \$1,262,500 buyout is still set to be paid out through April 2023.

East Carolina's former athletic director aside, current athletic director John Gilbert has been doing everything in his power to keep ECU Athletics' head above water. It's a shame that the culmination of Compher's failures

led Gilbert to make the decision to cut four athletics programs, but the decision had to be made.

Gilbert and Mitchelson's decision to cut four sports that have proven to be fairly successful over the years is what is troubling. ECU men's swimming and diving just won the AAC championship in 2019 and head coach Matthew Jabs was voted AAC Coach of the Year.

ECU women's tennis wasn't far removed from a 22-3 overall record in the 2018 season and had only just seen former head coach Tom Morris walk away from a 22-year career before it received news that it would no longer be a part of ECU's athletics future.

It's no doubt that the decision to step away from several sports programs was a hard one, but it's a shame nonetheless.

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

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## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Your emotions may want to explore and travel, yet your actions and words center around domestic concerns. A brilliant idea sparks. Do the research.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Prioritize fun, romance and family. Play and practice your special arts. Natural settings inspire and heal. A sudden move changes the game. Notice hidden beauty.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 9 — Step into leadership. Take care of business. Find new ways to work smarter. Use your wits. You're especially strong and creative. Handle practical work.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — You're especially interested in stability, especially regarding family finances. Get advice from a respected elder. Review data from another view for new possibilities.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Your heart's at home. Friends want to connect. Align words and actions to contribute to a shared project from your own castle. Find workable solutions.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — Rest and recharge. Consider current events and their impact. Discuss developments with your partner. Find solutions in conversation. Peaceful meditation relaxes and soothes.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 9 — Collaborate and brainstorm. Creativity with innovative and potentially lucrative solutions arises in conversation. Conclude agreements privately. Measure advancement. Make adjustments. Work together.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Dive into a new assignment. Creativity energizes the conversation. Do the homework to get the results you want. Listen to intuition and your team.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Friends are there for you. Connect and share resources. Listen for what is wanted and needed. Physical action gets satisfying results. Discuss moves in advance.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Physical action gets results. Personal discipline with healthy practices grows strength, endurance and performance levels. Push and take satisfying ground. Get your heart pumping.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 9 — Rake in gold coins. Study new markets and opportunities. Make long-distance connections. Broaden your horizons through a wider conversation. Push to advance a profitable venture.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Professional opportunities arise in conversation. Balance work with play for health and happiness. Take action toward love, fun and romance. Talk about your dream career.

## CROSSWORD

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

#### ACROSS

- "The Bernie \_\_\_ Show"
- Thicke and Rickman
- Role on "Roseanne"
- Eddie's costar on "Green Acres"
- Of the kidneys
- Dined
- Natalie Cole's dad
- "\_\_\_ McPhee"; Emma Thompson family film
- Role on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
- "\_\_\_ Buck"; John Candy movie
- Jennifer Garner drama series
- Longest-running American sitcom
- Magazine edition
- "Avengers: \_\_\_ of Ultron"; Robert Downey Jr. film
- Neighbor of Syria: abbr.
- "\_\_\_ This Old House"
- Nolte and others
- Chris Harrison's reality series
- Glow
- Minstrels' harps
- Edison's monogram

- Nagging pains
- Billy \_\_\_ Williams
- "Up \_\_\_ Night"
- Word in the name of a U.S. state
- Suffix for legal or computer
- "Mayberry \_\_\_"
- Actress Spacek
- Skelton or Barber

#### DOWN

- Waiter's offering
- \_\_\_-garde; art innovators
- "\_\_\_ Me If You Can"; Leonardo DiCaprio film
- James of "Gunsmoke"
- \_\_\_ Michele
- Actress \_\_\_-Margret Fabray, to friends
- As \_\_\_ a fox
- "The \_\_\_ Game"; Jim Lange game show of old
- Relaxed
- Sparks and Beatty
- Garland
- Hawaii's Mauna \_\_\_
- \_\_\_ snit; feels resentful
- "The Sound of \_\_\_"
- Popular sport fish
- Flown \_\_\_-staff; like flags after a national tragedy
- "Agents of \_\_\_"
- Actor Berry
- \_\_\_ Grammer
- Stallone, to friends
- "Bad News \_\_\_"
- "Law & \_\_\_"
- Actress on "Touched by an Angel"
- "\_\_\_ Trek: Voyager"
- "\_\_\_ of Chucky"; Jennifer Tilly horror film
- Actor \_\_\_ McBride
- Singer Don and his family
- Asner and Begley

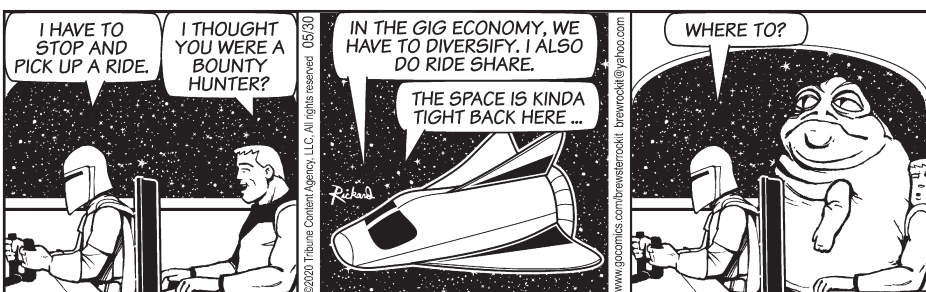
Solution from 6/24

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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKIT



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## SUDOKU

### SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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#### 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 6/24

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

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» ANALYSIS

# Trio of Pirates to make mark

## ECU wide receivers lined up to put on a show in 2020 season



**Dylan Woolard**  
TEC STAFF

Many Pirate fans would argue East Carolina University football to be "Wide Receiver U." Whether it's true or not, the Pirates have been the stepping stone for a number of college wide receivers to make their way to the NFL and have produced two NCAA all-time receptions leaders in former wide receivers Zay Jones and Justin Hardy.

ECU may have been the vessel for Hardy's and Jones' success, but the two Pirate legends are hardly the only successful wide receiver prospects to come out of ECU. A number of Pirate football players and wide receivers specifically have proven their worth and made their way to the NFL.

As far as the wide receivers group is concerned, the Pirates are currently responsible for three NFL wide receivers in Dwayne Harris, Hardy and Jones. All three former Pirate wide receivers put up historic numbers while playing at ECU, not dissimilar to the group that the Pirates currently have in junior Blake Proehl and sophomores Tyler Snead and C.J. Johnson.

Snead and Johnson served as the Pirates' top two receiving threats last season and were also two of the roster's youngest players being underclassmen. Regardless of age or class, the pairing of Johnson and Snead in the Pirate offense was a duo that will hopefully prove to be useful for the next two seasons to come.

Johnson was a teammate of junior quarterback Holton Ahlers when the pair were in high school together at D.H. Conley High School in Greenville, North Carolina. The kind of chemistry between Johnson and Ahlers is rare in college



ECU junior wide receiver Blake Proehl leaving Tulsa defenders behind in their 2019 matchup.

athletics and especially between a college quarterback and wide receiver. The pair just know what is expected of one another and Johnson knows where his quarterback needs him to be.

Regardless of previous experience together, the pair has proven to be stellar when on the field at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Johnson was the Pirates' top receiver during the 2019 season with 908 yards on the year. Johnson will improve on such numbers and return to the Pirates in the 2020 season as the best receiver on the roster.

The idea that Johnson will return to the Pirates as their best receiver is in no way a slight against Snead, who was the Pirates second leading receiver last season. Snead was the lead return man on both

kick and punt returns, but also showed off his abilities at the receiver position, putting up 759 yards through the air.

A combination like Snead and Johnson would be enough on most college football rosters, but in ECU's case, the presence of a third option or threat is certainly accepted and welcomed in the position of Proehl. Proehl comes from a family of college and professional football players, having both a father and a brother play college and professional football in their respected careers.

Proehl is perhaps the third receiver on the Pirate roster that is worthy of a 1,000 yard season, but will never see one in college because he has to share the field with two other 1,000 yard worthy teammates at the same position. Proehl is similar

to Johnson in that both share a size that can't often be matched in college football. Proehl, however, lacks the kind of raw athleticism that Johnson and Snead exhibit where Snead may lack the other two's size.

No matter the public's or Pirate fans' opinions of the receiving group that currently exists at ECU, this is one of the best groups of wide receivers that Pirate Nation has seen in 10 years. This group is going to put on a show in the 2020 season and will dominate opposing secondaries, just like they did the University of Cincinnati and Southern Methodist University in 2019.

Johnson, Snead and Proehl will begin to make their marks as ECU wide receivers in the 2020 season, just as Pirate receivers before them have done so. The trio will be comparable to receivers of ECU football's past like Lance Lewis, Terrance Copper, Hardy, Jones and Harris.

Where the group was not blessed with athleticism, they were infused with overwhelming size and raw talent and where they were less than fortunate in the fields of size such as Snead, they possess an uncanny ability to make things happen at other positions of the field such as return man.

ECU's group of receivers and especially Johnson, Snead and Proehl will excite and give opposing secondaries fits. There is no reason for the Pirates' offense to not make jumps in the passing game and prove to be one of the better passing offenses in the country. ECU football was built on the backs of talented quarterbacks and receivers and will continue to be led by such talented players at those positions.

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

## HOOPS continued from A1

felt like that was the direction when I joined in 2006 with coach Stokes (Ricky Stokes), he wanted to recruit the state and play against the in-state big dogs," former ECU basketball player John Fields said.

Fields, a sophomore forward from Fayetteville, North Carolina, was the leading rebounder for the Pirates and for the night in the matchup with the Wolfpack and was one of nine Pirate players from the state of North Carolina.

"It was a brotherhood, everybody coming from the state. I knew Sam (Hinnant) and Corey (Farmer) when I was growing up, hearing about them up in Charlotte. Me and Brandon (Evans) played against each other in Fayetteville before he moved to Tennessee so you can count him too," Fields said. "It was just a tight-knit bunch."

Fields came away with 11 rebounds and seven points over 28 minutes of play. The only Pirate hooper to spend more time on the floor that night was the leading scorer for the Pirates and the game, junior guard Sam Hinnant. Hinnant came away with 30 points in 34 minutes of play and was rather efficient from the field, scoring on 10 of his 13 attempts and finishing 4-6 from the free throw line.

The Wolfpack squad was far more efficient than the Pirates at the free throw line as NC State shot 76% from the line and the Pirates finished the night at just 60% from the stripe. The Pirates more than made up for it at the three point line though, as they shot 55% from deep in comparison to the Wolfpack's meek 31%.

"Just in the first half we saw Sam had that look in his eye," Fields said. "I had to do my job against JJ Hickson in the post because he was a man child at that point. It was just a total team effort, Sam went bonkers, Corey made some big plays at the end of the game and I feel like everybody did their job and the outcome was just electric."

Fields managed to keep Hickson quiet that night as Hickson only managed 15 points and eight boards. The one and done star went on to be drafted 19th overall to the Cleveland Cavaliers in that year's NBA draft. Hickson played a number of years in the NBA and his

longest stint with any one team was his first three seasons with the Cavaliers.

"You knew when you banged around with him, he was a one and done guy," Fields said. "It was a good battle and at the beginning of the game they went up like 13-4 against us and then we went to a couple of matchup zones and we just slowed him down and then Sam just went bonkers."

The Pirates finished off the Wolfpack 75-69 that night behind the pair of performances from Hinnant and Fields as well as on the backs of the 7,623 fans that were in attendance that night.

Former Pirate basketball player James Legan was a junior on the 2007 Pirate squad and he spoke to the environment from that night and how the fans played their role.

"You look at that man, it's just everything you really dreamed about to play in front of a crowd that size," Legan said. "You can't really put it into words and I could barely hear myself scream and talk. We were trying to talk on defense and we could barely hear each other, it was like we were whispering on the floor."

Legan and Fields both have been playing professional basketball for several years now in different leagues. The pair are both currently working on playing their 10th seasons professionally and Legan attributes some of his professional success to what he learned as a Pirate at ECU.

"I'm nine years in the game right now and next year will make the tenth," Legan said. "We learned how to fit into different teams early on in our careers, me moving from Texas all the way to East Carolina and pretty much taking minutes from players that were already there. You got to have some type of fight in you to do that and I think anywhere I go in this world, I'll have that fight and be able to will myself onto the court."

Legan said the guys in that locker room that season are his "brothers for life" and was able to say that because of what they experienced together as members of Pirate Nation while playing basketball in Greenville, North Carolina.

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**John Fields**



**James Legan**