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The East Carolinian

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BINTA TOURAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU officials have prepared campus for students return in the fall after an earlier end to the previous spring semester, post-Spring Break.

ECU welcomes upcoming term

University officials anticipate unprecedented semester

Jennifer Sieg
TEC STAFF

As East Carolina University students, faculty and staff return from a prolonged break away from campus due to COVID-19, university officials and professors welcome Pirates back to campus for what they hope to be a successful fall semester.

Pirates illustrate that it's possible to live with a virus successfully by caring for one another, Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson said. He said he is confident Pirates will comply with the university guidelines and expectations.

"We need to comply with these rules," Mitchelson said. "Not just because they're rules but because they're your humanity."

Students will engage in new and different ways, whether it be in different clubs and organizations or with other students and professors, Mitchelson said. He said when students come to ECU, they are able to

be active in a variety of ways.

The way students engage and interact this semester will not be the same as usual, according to Mitchelson. He said he has encouraged Student Affairs to hold events at a smaller scale and higher frequency.

The new Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building being built on 10th Street is a project Mitchelson said he is excited for, and he said more exciting announcements are expected to be announced at the warehouse district across the street from it.

"We'll have a development plan revealed, I think in October," Mitchelson said. "I'm very excited about the development plan for that space because it will be focused on things we have championed around here."

ECU students come from a wide

variety of geographical locations and it's the grittiness and resilience that comes from this variety that make Pirates unique, Mitchelson said.

There are some key resources students should keep in mind as the new semester begins, according to Mitchelson. He said Student Health Services (SHS) is an important resource to keep in mind, as well as academic services such as the Pirate Academic Success Center (PASC).

Mitchelson said this semester will bring an opportunity for students to remain focused on their academic work. He said it will allow students to reach out to advisors and professors when necessary.

"There is in fact a greater good associated with our culture and that each individual matters," Mitchelson said. "I suspect that there's a tremendous value to the individual in feeling that way."



Ron Mitchelson

COVID-19 causes stress on campus

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's students living on-campus have moved into their residence halls, and in the midst of the transition some incoming freshmen and returning students have mixed feelings about having to resume school with a pandemic circulating.

ECU graduate accounting student Raleigh Guthrie said he looks forward to returning to campus. Guthrie mentioned distance education is more difficult for him while face-to-face classes provide a better work environment.

"I've seen how college students act and I don't know how much the mask policy is going to be enforced. I know one thing I'm not looking forward to is I'm on the autism spectrum and wearing a mask is somewhat difficult for me due to sensory issues," Guthrie said. "I've been at home practicing wearing one, so when I go onto campus I can be able to hopefully wear one just fine and protect myself and others."

Guthrie said he thinks COVID-19 cases will increase soon after students return to campus because not only are classrooms and residence halls are in such close quarters, but also because he isn't sure if everyone is going to abide by the rules.



Raleigh Guthrie

If professors have a backup plan for students just in case they are sent home again it will help some students feel more at ease, according to Guthrie.

"Everything is so crazy right now, but it really is a team effort. I hope everyone is able to follow the guidelines and regulations that are put into place to help protect everyone and keep them safe," Guthrie said.

Freshman intended public health major Rutvi Sachania said she is ready for her college experience despite the coronavirus. Sachania is disappointed that her first year away from home may be different than freshmen in previous years because there may be less opportunities for her to participate in since gatherings are limited.

"The current state of the nation just adds an extra layer of unknown to worry about. On top of stressing about where my classes are, doing well in them and flourishing socially, I constantly have to think about

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SoAD plans for fall

Art department faculty discusses semester

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

With the start of classes students in the School of Art and Design (SoAD) can expect a few changes to be in place in the Jenkins Fine Arts Center due to COVID-19.

The School of Art and Design will follow the University's reopening plan, but due to the nature of the disciplines it is home to, a few additional regulations were necessary. The SoAD reopening plan outlines restricted hours to the Jenkins Fine Arts Center, sign-ups for studio and lab spaces and procedures for sanitizing shared workstations and equipment.

Director of the School of Art and Design Kate Bukoski said these restrictions, while necessary for the safety



Kate Bukoski

of students and faculty, go against the community that is typically found within the Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

"Historically, we have a culture where students spend a lot of time outside of class in studios and in classrooms working," Bukoski said. "So this coming academic year instead of having those spaces openly available and (allowing) students to use them for social purposes basically... we're scheduling those spaces outside of class."

Bukoski said, like all ECU faculty, they have virtual contingency plans in place in case of a university-wide shift to a virtual format or if a single student must quarantine during the semester.

Some professors have decided to "flip their classrooms," utilizing virtual tools from the outset of the semester, Bukoski said.

"For example, you might be taking a studio metals class, and your instructor might have prepared videos demonstrating

> SOAD page A4



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Junior quarterback Holton Ahlers runs a drill at a fall camp practice before the 2020 season.

Pirates practice in pads

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

With efforts to combat the continuous effects of COVID-19, East Carolina University's football squad has set and followed precautions, including separated practice and masks, as the team opened up for camp on July 30.

After intense camp practices for six

straight days which leave players with a daily schedule that begins at 6:30 a.m. and ends at 9:30 p.m., ECU head football coach Mike Houston said he is proud of his team.

"For doing nothing for four months and not having practiced since late last fall (or) early winter, to go six straight days, I thought they've handled it very well," Houston said. "We have obviously been very wise with what

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ONLINE

» NEWS: College of Nursing changes lectures to virtual learning

» SPORTS: AAC leaves college football untouched

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Last day for schedule adjustments approaches

Tomorrow is the last day to adjust schedules and register for other classes at 5 p.m. Classes can be added and dropped to student schedules until the deadline. These changes are only final for the first eight week block of classes.

ECU to host virtual convocation

Today, ECU will welcome the class of 2024 virtually from 4 to 4:30 p.m. Students will see classmates, learn ECU traditions and hear speeches from Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy and Athletic Director Jon Gilbert. More information can be found on Engage.

Cupola conversations resume for fall 2020

Tomorrow, ECU's Cupola Conversation series will focus on the 2020 election and civil discourse within the classroom. The virtual conversation will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. and include leaders from across campus to encourage civil discourse during election season. More information on the panelists will be added on Engage.

CLCE to host virtual open house

On Thursday, ECU's Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) will host a virtual open house to meet new students. The Instagram live will be from 3 to 4 p.m. and will feature CLCE staff as they share information on their programs and show their facilities.

ECU ambassadors to host virtual interest meeting

On Thursday, ECU Ambassadors will host a WebEx meeting for prospective members. The meeting is open to all groups of undergraduate students, and will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. The meeting password is Fall2020.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



CONTRIBUTED BY CAMILLE LEAKE

Conditions found by future Cooper Beech resident, which included a moldy dishwasher, refrigerator and a staircase which had been left uncleaned.

Apartments left unprepared

Students disheartened by move-in day conditions

Jenny Sieg
TEC STAFF

Madison Barnhill
TEC STAFF



A portion of East Carolina University students experienced move-in complications on Saturday at Copper Beech apartments in Greenville, which resulted in complaints on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. Students reported to have complications at multiple off-campus living complexes.

ECU sophomore social work major Camille Leake posted a video to Facebook which showcased her Copper Beech apartment upon her arrival. The video gained a considerable amount of attention among other ECU students and parents, many of whom additionally posted videos and photos of their experiences.

Leake said she has always known it is important to take photos before moving into a new apartment, but when she arrived she was immediately surprised by the condition it was in.

"We're supposed to have furniture, the lights did not work, AC was not on, there was no water in the toilets. The toilets had, every toilet had, a black ring in it," Leake said. "I honestly could not touch anything with my hands."

There were large numbers of people who complained to Copper Beech management throughout the move-in process on Saturday, according to Leake. She said she was told by the property manager that they would clean the carpet, but she said that wasn't the only issue.

Leake said the property manager told her in order to get out of her lease, she would have to find someone to sublease her apartment. She said she doesn't believe anyone would want to live in that apartment with the condition it is in.

Apartments and rooms should be cleaned and sanitized properly for the next residents,

especially during a pandemic, Leake said.

"That's very disrespectful because the previous person in our room could have easily had the COVID-19," Leake said. "For us to be living in there and knowing for a fact that that room had been touched since the last person had been in it is very like, disheartening."

Leake said she found a hotel room for the night and planned to go to Copper Beech the next morning to try and turn in her keys and have another civil conversation with management.

Senior biology major Janelle Jacobs tweeted on Saturday that her apartment at Copper Beech was not fit to move into. When she arrived at Copper Beech Saturday morning to pick up her keys, she said she was only given one key and was not given a parking pass or mailbox key.

"When I arrived at my apartment, first of all, the door was just covered in cobwebs, it was pretty gross, when I unlocked my door it was a hot mess (and) the carpet going up the stairs and into the living room was black and gray and the apartment (smelled) like mildew," Jacobs said.

When Jacobs' roommate called to have the carpet removed she said their apartment was further down on the list since most of the apartment complex has to get their carpets redone. She said carpet replacement was happening around the whole complex.

Jacobs said the walls downstairs looked beaten up and it looked like someone took a pen and scribbled all over them. When she went upstairs, she said, the carpet on the stairs was almost black and in the kitchen. She said the fridge looked as if something had spilled in it and was left to grow mold.

"In my bedroom, I don't even have a bed frame to put my mattress on, I have my own mattress, but I had no bed frame. I didn't even have a new mattress in my room. I had tried to call Copper when they technically first opened at 9 a.m. and nobody was answering the phone so I

left messages," Jacobs said.

Copper Beech is expected to be fully furnished upon arrival. This is included in their perks link on its website.

Jacobs said she paid almost \$800 for her rent and move-in fees altogether for the month of August. She said she will be requesting her \$390 back since her apartment was not move-in ready as well as requesting her rent back for August since she is unable to live in the apartment without a place to sleep.

Jacobs said if Copper Beech management denies to refund her, does not speak to her or if she is told to leave the leasing office she plans to get a lawyer.

"If they decide to say no (to her refund) I have no problem going to court about it," Jacobs said.

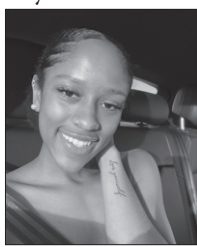
Parents stood outside of the Copper Beech clubhouse to talk to management, but Jacobs said management would not talk to anyone. She said her roommates tried to talk to management later that day but they were told everybody had a special situation.

Copper Beech had given out the wrong keys to multiple residents and Jacobs said people were standing outside of their apartment with no way to get inside. A friend of Jacobs who works in maintenance at Copper Beech sent over his own money to buy them lightbulbs for their apartment because she said they didn't have any.

Jacobs said she understands with COVID-19 if cleaning was slow and if it was a couple of apartments with these issues, but she said her issue was on behalf of the students who have no furniture and air conditioning. She said she felt the conditions the apartments were left in were unacceptable and was not going to allow it despite being a college student who needs a place to live.

The East Carolinian reached out to Copper Beech's management and front office on Aug. 9 multiple times but they were unavailable for comment. Social media posts about the move-in conditions continue to circulate.

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



Camille Leake



Janelle Jacobs

RETURN continued from A1

Nikki Nichols, a professor within the ECU School of Communication, said out of her five classes, she will only have one of them face-to-face this fall. She said she looks forward to the eight-week block sessions the most because she's taught this way at other universities in the past.

Working in shorter and concentrated time periods can create a better relationship between the teacher and the student, according to Nichols.

"I have so much more access to the same students per week, which I think can foster a better relationship between faculty and students," Nichols said.

Public speaking is the one class Nichols will be conducting face-to-face this fall. She said she has the ability to teach

49% of it online and 51% in person.

Nichols said she conducts most of her classes in Joyner East and many precautions, such as cleaning and plexiglass barriers, have been taken there to ensure classroom safety this fall for both faculty and students. She said she is confident in the university and administration for a successful semester.

"I am super confident that by the end of the semester and leading on through the spring, the students can attain their goal, education and learning maybe in a new way," Nichols said.

Junior public health major Jessie Reardon said she only has three of her



Nikki Nichols

VIRUS continued from A1

ways that I could potentially catch the coronavirus," Sachania said.

The moment students return to campus and resume their college lifestyles there will be another wave of coronavirus cases, Sachania said. A delayed return might have helped, but in order for everything to go back to normal, a vaccination has to be found, she said.

Sachania said she plans to take necessary safety precautions in order to prevent the spread of the virus.

"I have lots of concerns. If anyone doesn't have concerns, I'm concerned about them. I worry not only for my health, but my family's health too," Sachania said.

If students do not abide by the rules and regulations put into place by ECU, the semester will have to go completely online again at some point, Sachania said.

Freshman intended nursing major Iyaira Williams said she is ready to form

independent habits while remaining safe. She said the coronavirus has reshaped her first year at ECU in ways she cannot imagine and she believes college life has changed completely. She said the experience will be a lot different for all students.

"I think ECU is going above and beyond to take the necessary precautions so that we (students) can return to campus and start the fall semester with a new normal," Williams said. "I do not think delaying the return of students would decrease the spread of the virus. Instead, they are now allowing everyone to get into a routine and hopefully begin to reduce the transmission of the virus."

Williams said she wonders what ECU will do and if students will be sent home again if the number of COVID-19 cases increase in Pitt County or on



Iyaira Williams

seven classes scheduled to be on campus this fall, but she is excited to be back.

Reardon said she will work at the West End Neighborhood Service Office again this year and looks forward to more free time with the block schedule to become more involved.

"I definitely love working on campus," Reardon said. "I think it's pretty cool because you get to interact with everybody on campus pretty much."

Reardon said ECU has done a good job to take extra and necessary precautions for the semester. She said if everyone does their best to follow guidelines, ECU has a good chance to keep classes in session.

ECU students have varying numbers of online and in-person classes as the Fall term begins this week. ECU plans to pro-

vide tools and information to students who may have find the combination of classroom environments difficult to adjust for incoming freshmen, transfer students and those who are used to a traditional format of class in-person.

The university will make the transition and return to school easier by providing signs and visuals around campus, as well as more information about classes on Canvas, according to the Return to Pirate Nation plan, featured on ECU's website.

More information on campus resources and can be found on ECU's website focused on a safe return to campus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

campus. She said she understands ECU's main priority is student safety and, even though she believes there is a potential for students to be sent back home, she would like to make the best of her time at the university.

Students should take the pandemic seriously, according to Williams. She said all students should follow the guidelines that are put in place in order to reduce contamination and the spread of the COVID-19.

After the confirmation of eight students and three employees testing positive for the novel coronavirus, some question if in-person classes are the proper solution to keeping students enrolled.

In a poll conducted by the popular Twitter account, ECU Professor, results revealed that 12% of respondents have three or more classes on campus and 35%

of respondents have no classes in-person. In another poll conducted by ECU Professor, 58% of respondents believe that the first eight-week session will be moved online partway though the semester due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. The poll also showed 27% of respondents believe the second eight-week session will be moved completely online and 15% believe that both will be entirely face-to-face.

Although ECU continues to post signage encouraging proper social distancing and hygiene practices, students on Twitter still show concern that these precautions will not be enough to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

University guidelines state that students who fail to properly wear a face-covering while on-campus will face penalties including fines and ultimately separation from ECU.

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OUR VIEW

TEC staff encourages safe return

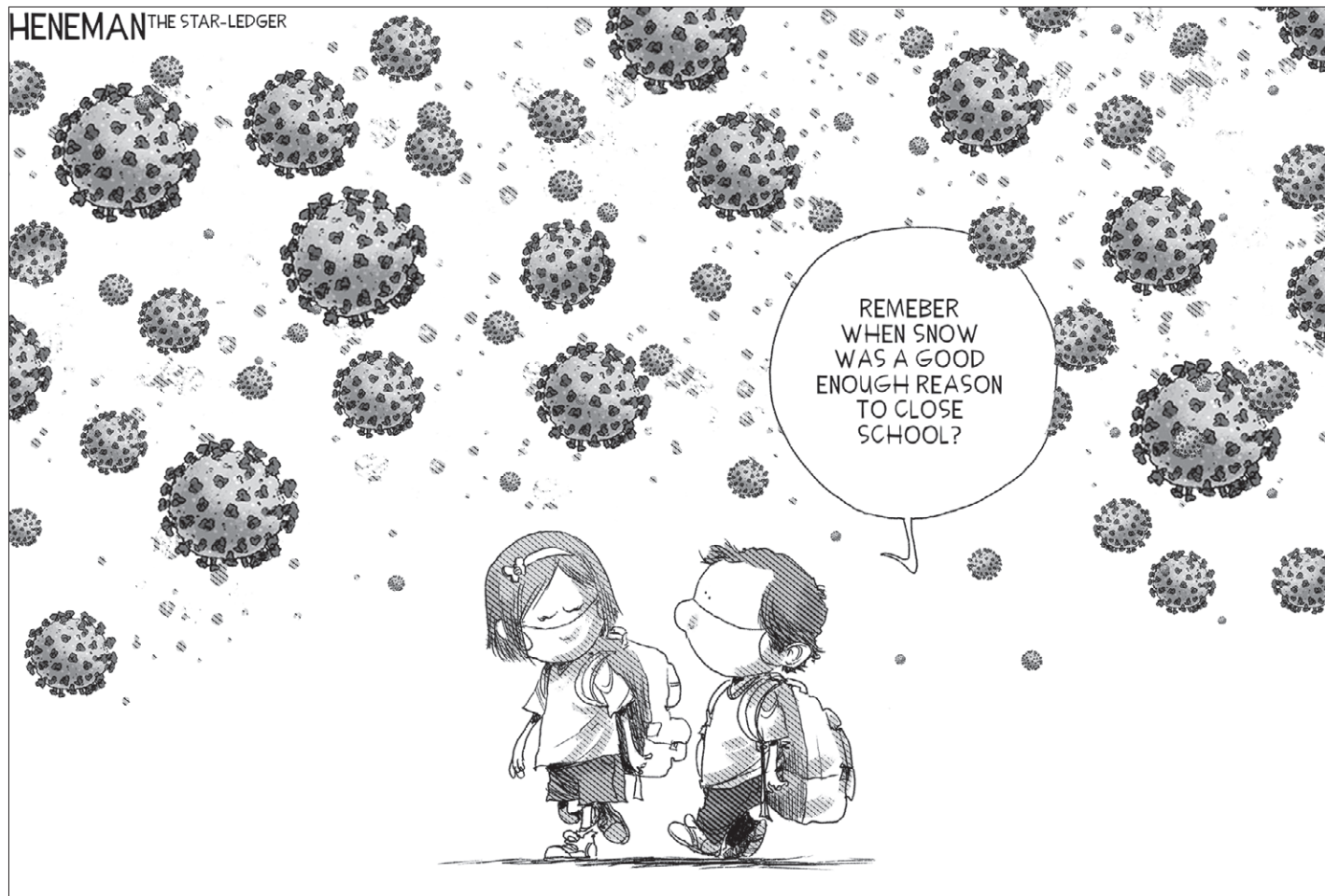
To the freshmen class, welcome home to East Carolina University. We are excited about your arrival and we hope the next four or more years treat you well. We know your first year of college will be nothing that you dreamed of due to the COVID-19 situation, but ECU will do everything it can to make sure you are comfortable and safe on campus.

ECU will offer opportunities on campus so you are able to meet new people safely and has many services that are happy to cater to your needs if you ever run into trouble or problems during your time here. Please do take advantage of these opportunities as much as you can.

Welcome back home to campus to all of the returning students. We know the past few months were a lot to take in due to the sudden switch to online learning because of COVID-19, but we are glad to see you back on campus again. This year will be different than normal due to the new rules and guidelines in place to limit close contact with each other. It will take some time to get used to, but try your best as ECU faculty members are also adjusting to the changes.

We, the editorial staff of the East Carolinian, understand this school year will be different than what was expected but we encourage all ECU students and staff members to do their best to follow the social distancing rules and safety guidelines to ensure that we have a successful school year.

Individuals who disregard the university's guidelines, such as wearing face covering and gathering in large groups, can face consequences within the Student Code of Conduct. The actions you make determines the quality of this school year. Please be mindful of the rules and your peers but still make it a great school year. Welcome to Pirate Nation and we hope for a good but safe school year.



EIC welcomes Pirates



Welcome home Pirates!
I would like to introduce myself as the Editor-In-Chief of The East Carolinian (TEC), the student run newspaper for East Carolina University.

Chloe Easton
TEC STAFF

For those who made the return to campus and those who recently joined Pirate Nation, I know this semester will look differently than ones in the past. However, TEC is here to provide you with the most up to date information for you to remain safe and informed while on campus.

Going into my senior year and as I look back at my time spent here at ECU, I reflect on the opportunities and experiences it has provided me that made me into the person I am today. When I first stepped on campus, I will admit I felt out of place. The transition is not always easy, but the best advice I can give to you as you return is to find a group or organization to be involved with. Pirate Media 1 has provided me with not only a plethora of experiences within student journalism, but a family here at ECU.

“Keep in mind when things do get tough, there is always good to come. So, don’t stress over the changes you may face during your time here at ECU.”

-Chloe Easton

As you attend your classes and events around campus please remember the health and safety of others. The guidelines put in place by ECU are meant to keep all students, faculty and their friends and families safe. Wear a face mask, social distance and wash your hands often. Remember there will be a fine from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for students who do not follow guidelines.

The time you spend while in college will not always be the easiest. Your major will probably change a few times, you may drop a difficult class, you may change your perspective on life or even change those in your close circle. Don't get me wrong, you will also grow to find your passion, take some of your favorite courses, find

your path and meet some of your best friends. Keep in mind when things do get tough, there is always good to come. So, don't stress over the changes you may face during your time here at ECU.

TEC and myself are committed to serve Pirate Nation as the most reliable and informative news source, especially during this time, to help keep our community safe and informed. From coverage of city to campus events, TEC will continue to provide new students and those returning with the information they need.

Stay safe and have a great year!

Easton is a senior majoring in English and a TEC columnist.
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Students should remain mindful

Williams' World



Giana Williams
TEC STAFF

Yesterday kicked off the new school year, yet a different one which me, and I'm sure other East Carolina University students, are used to. At one moment we all had the time of our lives doing normal college life activities, the next minute everything was online and we were instructed to stay at least six feet apart from each other and to not participate in activities with large crowds, which is the majority of most college activities.

To be honest, I wasn't too thrilled when I heard ECU will allow students back on campus for classes considering the COVID-19 numbers were continuing to rise in the U.S., but I understand that ECU and the rest of the University of North Carolina (UNC) System were in a tough situation when it came to making this decision since some universities couldn't afford to allow students to continue with online classes.

Even though I'm excited to be back on campus and being able to see my friends, coworkers and favorite professors again, I am still slightly worried for many reasons. I know ECU is doing everything it can to make sure the campus is safe for students and staff members and making a lot of changes to reduce the risk of potentially spreading COVID-19. But let us be very logical here, do you really think every student on campus is going to follow the new guidelines ECU has put in place?

There are violations for students who refuse to wear face coverings to class but we all know it's going to be that one person who just refuses because it "takes away their freedom." Most of us have seen it on social media and we also saw on the news how people actually



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ECU letters sit outside of the Main Campus Student Center which is located on 501 E 10th St.

protested in front of courthouses because they didn't want to wear a mask. It's sad that we may potentially come across at least one of these people on campus but it just might happen.

Also, some people struggle more than others with understanding why face coverings are important. COVID-19 can affect people in different ways, so not everyone will show symptoms of COVID-19. But asymptomatic people can potentially carry the virus just as much as those who were confirmed as positive. So people who don't wear face coverings may not know they have the virus but could potentially spread it to others without knowing, which could cause the cases to increase even more.

The number of new COVID-19 cases nationwide is dropping each day, but it does not mean the pandemic is completely over. North Carolina is still in Phase 2 because some people are not doing their part to social distance and wear face coverings as they should. We plead for the pandemic to end so

everything can go back to normal but some are not following basic instructions that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has given us.

I'm not saying I don't have faith in my ECU peers to follow directions, but we all have to be prepared for those individuals who may cost us our time being on campus. As we proceed this semester, I plead to all ECU students and staff to do your part and follow all the instructions ECU has given us to take care of our Pirate family.

Set your pride aside for just a few hours of your day and wear a face mask and social distance as much as you can. If you want to make the 2020-2021 school year a good one, we have to set an example for others and show them how Pirate Nation can unite as one to overcome the pandemic while being on campus.

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

EVENTS

TODAY

Tabletop Tuesday

Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S Pitt St.
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
252-227-4151

Open Mic Night

Christy's Euro Pub
301 S Jarvis St.
7:30 to 11:30 p.m.
252-758-2774

TOMORROW

Live Music Wednesdays

Dickinson Avenue Public House
703 Dickinson Ave.
7 to 10 p.m.
252-689-6388

THURSDAY

General Knowledge Trivia

Uptown Brewing Company
418 Evans St.
7 p.m. to midnight
252-689-6487

FRIDAY

Carolina Chicken & Waffles Food Truck

Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S Pitt St.
6 to 10 p.m.
252-227-4151



Drastic Measures, ECU's co-ed a cappella group who will be accept audition videos until Saturday, performs at the RJR A Cappella Jam for Hope Invitational in January. CONTRIBUTED BY BLESSING AGHIMIEN

A capella hosts auditions

Drastic Measures gets ready to welcome new members

Joshua Nelms
TEC STAFF

With the fall semester underway, Drastic Measures, East Carolina University's co-ed a cappella group, will continue to prepare to hold fall auditions, with audition videos being accepted up until Saturday Aug. 15 and callbacks Aug. 17 through 20.

President of Drastic Measures, junior music education major Rachael Morris, said due to COVID-19 this semester's auditions will be done through video submissions. Students can submit their video to the group's Instagram, Facebook or send it in an email.

Morris said there is no specific major needed to join and beatboxers are additionally welcomed to audition. Other information needed is the student's grade point average (GPA) and class schedule.

"In our Instagram bio, we have a google form for people to fill out. The information includes things like your GPA and other things that Student Works needs to know in order to participate. We also have school schedules so we know who is busy at what times," Morris said.

The group wants the members to be on a good academic standing before joining, Morris

said, so a GPA minimum of 2.5 is required.

Morris said group dues are also required for students. Dues are \$25 a semester and the money goes toward shirts as well as equipment.

The group's schedule is made to be not overwhelming for students and easy to balance school work as well as practices, according to Morris.

"Practices are Monday and Thursday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. We usually do one or two concerts a semester and they usually are on a Saturday. Unfortunately, we won't be doing concerts this semester due to COVID-19. We plan on doing an Instagram live or Facebook live concert," Morris said.



Rachael Morris

Due to COVID-19, Morris said the group will still try to figure out the best and safest way to practice.

Morris said the group has been in contact with the university on locations for holding practices. The last resort for practice is to have practices over video calls.

"Our current plan is to meet in a parking lot and socially distance, and check temperatures

beforehand," Morris said. "If that doesn't work out, then we are going to have to do online rehearsals."

Morris said Drastic Measures will continue to look for more men to get involved with the group in order to get the right balance.

Students who do not get in one semester should try again the next semester. Morris said she encourages students to audition again and reaches out personally to several students before each new semester.

"I always reach out to past people who have auditioned with an email right before auditions begin saying something like 'hey I would love for you to audition again, so even if you don't make it this semester there is always next semester,'" Morris said.

Drastic Measures member and junior music education major Deonna Brown said everyone in the group was friendly when she joined and the group was a nice escape from the stresses of the semester.

The group works well at being flexible with students' schedules, Brown said.

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

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SOAD continued from A1

a particular technique that you're required to watch prior to attending class, so that during that time you spend in class you have more opportunities to interact with the instructor to answer questions and solve problems," Bukoski said.

Maria Modlin, who serves as the curatorial technician for all the galleries in Jenkins Fine Arts Center, said students should not expect the galleries in Jenkins to be functional in person when they return this fall. She said the Gray Gallery will be used as a study or rest space for students during the day for the foreseeable future.

Although the physical gallery spaces may remain empty, she said virtual exhibitions will continue to be utilized to showcase artwork that would have gone in the galleries prior to COVID-19 regulations. The first is to be a juried undergraduate exhibition tentatively set to be online in October. Modlin said that people don't realize that it can be more time consuming to put up a virtual exhibition than a traditional one.

"When you're creating an online exhibit or an online presentation, not only are you essentially sort of preparing it for an exhibit you also are using photoshop and everything else, but you also have to create the web pages, you also have to decide if it's going to be pop up images, if you're going to have a stagnant webpage, how everything is going to interlock together," Modlin said. "You're essentially creating yet another website to go with a current website."

While there may be marked changes outside of the classroom, Professor of Art Education Alice Arnold said there will be little change in the way she teaches her classes as long as they continue to be allowed to meet face-to-face.

In the event that classes become fully virtual Arnold said she feels prepared to continue instruction remotely.

"ECU has been very proactive, very forthcoming, very proactive in training us this summer, training the faculty and giving us many, many opportunities to take classes," Arnold said. "So now we're all, I think we're all a little bit more prepared to teach our classes this fall."



Maria Modlin



HANNAH ROBBINS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Flower Vases by River Rodriguez at Gray Gallery.

Although the new regulations concerning COVID-19 have presented many challenges, Arnold said she has made the most of them by taking classes on how to use Canvas during previous semesters and this past summer. She said the necessity of creating virtual contingencies can be seen as "an opportunity" to learn about virtual teaching.

Arnold said that in face of the uncertainty that COVID-19 has created, one should try to make the best of the tough situations that they are put in.

"When you're thrown lemons, you have to learn how to make lemonade. And so, you take a situation that is a challenge, it's also a crisis, and you say 'okay, how can I learn from this? How can I evolve through the crisis?'" Arnold said. "How can I adapt to this new world?"

More information on the School of Art and Design can be found on its website.

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

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Plan and prepare to increase income. Launch your initiative later. Lay the foundations to realize a dream. Consider hidden dangers. Choose what's best for family.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Consider professional opportunities and options. Recent changes may have reshuffled markets and conditions. Look for new avenues to advance a long-term dream.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — Prioritize your health and work, despite challenges. Take care of yourself. You won't need to defer gratification forever. Keep things simple and safe.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Expect energy surges. A barrier blocks your path, so take care. You can see what wasn't working. Work with someone who sees your blind spots.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Don't dash off yet. Wait for better conditions to set forth. Obstacles block the road. Study, research and investigate. Find creative new ways to explore.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 5 — Relax and focus on your breathing, slow and deep, in and out. Reduce stress as you can. Adjust to changes and listen to your heart.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 6 — Hide away from noise and chaos. Settle into a peaceful spot to rest and plan. Consider long-term aspirations and dreams. Craft your vision statement.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Fact and fantasy clash, especially with shared finances. Avoid arguments or breakage by slowing. Clarify and seek better tactics. You're bonded by a shared dream.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 6 — Delays or miscommunications could complicate a household matter. Resist the temptation to bite someone. Go for a walk and bark instead. Try again later.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Connect with your team to advance shared long-term dreams, despite obstacles and challenges. Get rid of excess baggage. Avoid distractions or risk mistakes. Upgrade technology.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Stay receptive. Compromise is required to navigate challenges together. Avoid automatic reactions. Reinforce shared bonds. Invent possibilities with your partner. Make plans and schedule.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — Misinformation, conflict and controversy abound. Take extra care with promises, bargains and deadlines. Speak truth or stay quiet. Keep your word. Monitor news for changes.

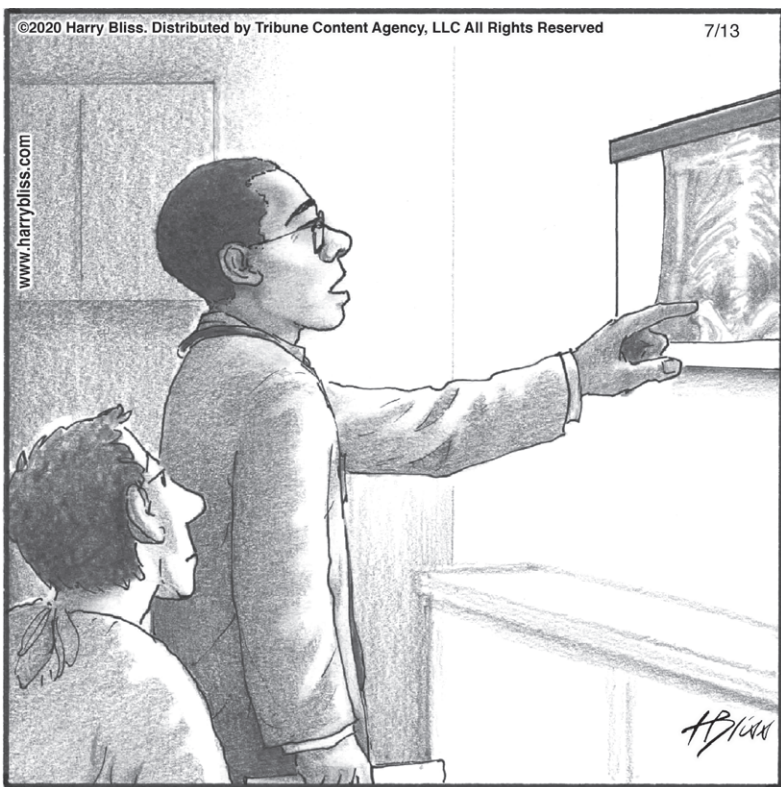
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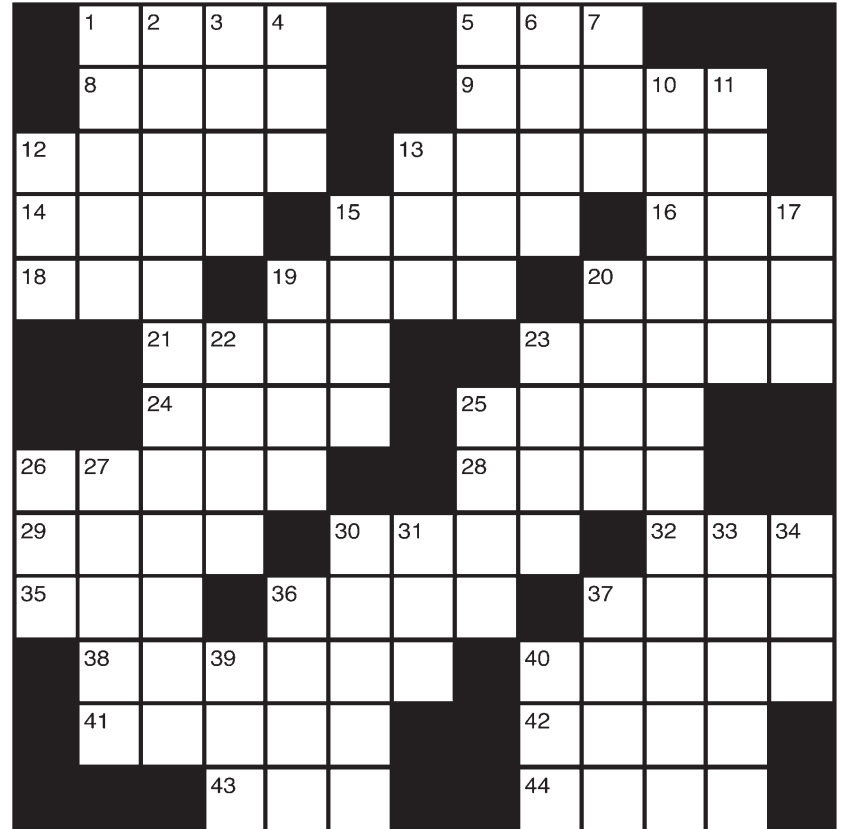


“See this right here?
That is the racist bone in your body.”

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 LeBlanc of “Man with a Plan”
- 5 “Murder, __ Wrote”
- 8 Sharif or Epps
- 9 Part of USMC
- 12 “__ Which Way But Loose”
- 13 “Who Do You Think __?”
- 14 Former Italian currency
- 15 Actor on “M*A*S*H”
- 16 “__ Got a Secret”
- 18 Accessory for Don Ho
- 19 Drama series set at a high school
- 20 Actor on “Law & Order: SVU”
- 21 Rob Reiner’s dad
- 23 Sports building
- 24 Cain’s brother
- 25 Kennedy or Rogers
- 26 __ Zellweger
- 28 Word of distress
- 29 MacGraw & Larter
- 30 Broadcasts
- 32 Cartoon chihuahua
- 35 “Chicago __”
- 36 Actor Benedict
- 37 Hayworth or Moreno

- 38 “__ for Sergeants”
- 40 “In the Heat of the __”
- 41 Linda Lavin series
- 42 Prolonged pain
- 43 __ out a living; get by
- 44 Of the entire country: abbr.

DOWN

- 1 “The Lego __”; animated film
- 2 Series for Ryan Seacrest
- 3 “Gone with the Wind” estate
- 4 “__ a Little Tenderness”; Three Dog Night hit
- 5 Make points
- 6 “The Red Skelton __”
- 7 Historical period
- 10 “The __”; long-running game show
- 11 “The Magnificent __”; Denzel Washington film
- 12 Building wing
- 13 Potato’s cousin
- 15 “The __ Guy”; Lee Majors series
- 17 Greek letter
- 19 “Live __ or Die Hard”; Bruce Willis movie
- 20 “__ la Douce”; Shirley MacLaine film
- 22 Lincoln and Vigoda
- 23 Has a bug
- 25 Hamill or Harmon
- 26 Male animal
- 27 __ Verdugo
- 30 Actress Teegarden
- 31 Wrath
- 33 Role on “I Love Lucy”
- 34 Natalie Cole’s dad
- 36 Van Dyke or Van Patten
- 37 Costa __
- 39 “The __ That Binds”; Daryl Hannah movie
- 40 Fabray, to friends

Solution from 7/29

O	F	A	S	A	R	A	H	J	A	Y
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F	D	R	E	D	E	N	S	A	P	E

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

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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

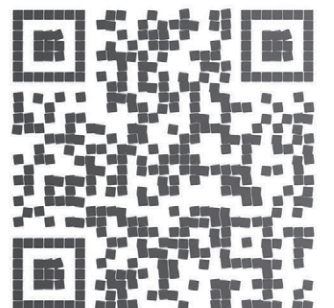
Solution from 7/29

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		8		3	6			

2	6	5	3	4	7	8	1	9
9	8	4	6	1	5	7	2	3
7	1	3	9	2	8	5	4	6
1	4	8	2	5	6	9	3	7
5	2	9	7	3	1	4	6	8
3	7	6	4	8	9	1	5	2
6	3	1	8	9	4	2	7	5
8	5	2	1	7	3	6	9	4
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Coach Weaver readies for 2020 Pirate cross country team runs through COVID-19 in offseason

Brendan Gillespie
TEC STAFF

Jess Sabin
TEC STAFF



Like many collegiate teams in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), East Carolina University's cross country team is slated to start its season in the coming weeks.

Unlike a normal year, however, the current COVID-19 pandemic has left the status of the coming season in the air. Regardless of the extenuating circumstances that the virus may present, head coach Josey Weaver said he is ready for the season to begin.

"It's uncharted territory for sure," Weaver said. "We've had a good summer of training and we're hopeful to get a season."

The American Athletic Conference (AAC) has not given the team a blueprint of how the season will look and the conference, as well as the NCAA, have not informed ECU if the season will be cancelled or not, according to Weaver.

Regardless of the uncertainty, Weaver said many ECU runners have trained all summer in hopes that the season will begin.

"We have been socially distancing right now over the summer and planning and training as though we are going to have a cross country season," Weaver said.

Although the overall status of the season may still be open-ended, the AAC announced its plan for fall athletics. For cross country and several other sports, the conference decided to reduce the number of meets. It recommended teams within the AAC play games against intraconference opponents, according to ECUPirates.com.

Teams can schedule non-conference games, but need to adhere to the medical guidelines set by the AAC. Mike Aresco,



A group of ECU runners amidst opposing runners during a competition from the 2019 season. COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM.

AAC Commissioner, made a statement which was included in the plan, regarding the importance of keeping student-athletes safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The health and safety of our student-athletes is our top priority as we face the challenges of the current global pandemic," said Aresco. "With the guidance and advice of our Medical Advisory Group, which has done an outstanding job developing health and safety protocols, we have developed a collaborative and comprehensive plan that will allow us safely and reasonably to play our fall sports."

This year's team is on the younger side, with no runners who will be graduating

after the season, and only two members that are seniors, according to Weaver.

Weaver said he was concerned about recruiting during this pandemic, especially because of the AAC preventing in-person recruiting visits. The Pirates have had no issues finding new talent, however.

ECU has had four females and one male commit to the program in the month of July alone, something that has never happened during Weaver's coaching career.

"We're sitting at a really good spot," Weaver said. "We brought in two of the top girls in North Carolina, we added a third North Carolina girl and we added

another girl from Virginia."

Weaver said the schedule itself has barely been affected by COVID-19, with the cancellation of The Paul Short Invitational. This was a result of the Patriot League Athletic Conference cancelling all fall sports, the conference that would normally host the invitational.

ECU plans to race six times this season, with a seventh meet being the national championship if any Pirates were to qualify.

"Currently, our schedule is really intact, Weaver said. "We're really fortunate right now, until we know more at least from the American or NCAA."

Senior runner Matthew Russell is one of those two seniors on the team and mentioned how drastically different training has been over the summer for the impending cross country season.

"It's definitely been very different than usual," Russell said. "Outdoor track got cancelled and the normal track we normally follow with our training got thrown off, so once summer came around and we settled into it, it all started falling back into place."

Russell said on top of limiting the number of cross country runners that run together, ECU athletics has also started to require them to wear masks in any indoor building and at practices where they are in close proximity.

Many runners have been training together, but not before ensuring they are coronavirus free, according to Russell.

"There are a few people that stayed here this summer, so (we have been) running with them, making sure we get our negative tests back and slowly adding to the group once people find out their test results," Russell said.

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

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FOOTBALL continued from A1

we've done and have not done the volume that we would usually do this time of year, but at the same time we increase it just a little bit every day."

As head coach, Houston said he is focused on having the entire roster on the same page in case any players test positive. He said, especially on the offensive line, that everyone needs to know every position and he believes depth is especially important this year for the sake of the season.

Houston said the team has progressed slowly through its practices for COVID-19 prevention purposes, adding extra steps while keeping caution in mind. Starting with just helmets and working their way up, every day has been a step toward the right direction, he said. With the addition of full pads, Houston sees it as an eyeopener.

"Now that you've incorporated live contact into everything you're doing and so certainly that changes a lot of dynamics," Houston said. "You see a lot of players that are really, really good in helmets, and you start incorporating contact and it changes. You also see some guys that maybe don't stand out in helmets that are much better players once you start incorporating in the contact."

Houston gave a few freshmen on the defensive line some recognition after seeing the new group in action this week. He mentioned Jason Romero, Xavier McIver, Jason Shuford and Elijah Morris, speaking about the freshmen's size and skill on the field. He said he believes this group of freshmen will be solid for the team in the future.

As far as COVID-19, the team continues to follow protocol to keep players and coaches safe, according to Houston. He said whenever players are not wearing helmets, they are wearing their mask.

In preparation for the regular season, the players box will be expanded to each 10-yard line according to Houston. The spacing of players on the sidelines is a focal point to keep the team safe. With the guidelines put in place, the team will continue to practice and plans to play a live scrimmage on Saturday.

Senior inside linebacker Aaron Ramseur suffered an injury last season against

the University of South Florida on Oct. 26, but Houston said his progress is going smoothly. He said Ramseur is eager to get back to full practice and to be cleared for contact.

"He's (Ramseur) something else," Houston said. "We all are being smart (by) bringing him along. We had him in a red jersey which means no contact...we were doing a short yardage drill yesterday, and he goes and he gets a purple jersey from one of the other kids and sneaks into the drill."

Houston said there is a lot of competition surrounding the young running backs. The Pirates were thin at the running back position last year after an early injury to junior running back Darrius Pinnix Jr., but with the group of freshmen who have arrived on the team, there will be a great deal of depth at the position. There are a total of eight backs on the 2020 roster in comparison to last year's six on the 2019 roster.

"You look at the room as a whole (and) there's a lot of competition going on there," Houston said. "Very pleased with the young backs, Keaton Mitchell and Rahjai Harris. They've been very solid every day. Certainly, (Demetrius) Mauney, and (Darrius) Pinnix, and (Chase) Hayden all have experience. I think they're all different, but they all give us something a little bit different in the run and the pass game."

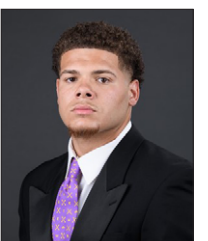
Houston said the Pirates went full speed for the first time this season during Saturday's scrimmage. He said there is still a lot up in the air as far as starting positions and everyone will be competing for a spot this weekend, which attests to the amount of depth on the team.

Regarding the regular season, the plan is still to start the season on Aug. 29 when the Pirates will face Marshall University at home, according to the 2020 schedule. However, the Pirates have already lost two games scheduled for Sep. 12 and 19. ECU's week three and four matchups at the University of South Carolina and then vs Norfolk State University have been cancelled as a result of outside conferences moving away from non-conference play.

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



Aaron Ramseur



Darrius Pinnix Jr.



Mike Houston