



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 8.26.20

VOLUME 95, ISSUE 3

COVID-19 forces transition online



ECU students who live on campus began the move-out process this past Monday. The move-out window for all dorms ends on Aug. 30.

Residents begin to move-out

Sarah Hooper
TEC STAFF

The move-out process for East Carolina University students began on Aug. 24, two weeks after classes started on Aug. 10 due to an increase in COVID-19 cases, which has caused the university to switch to online instruction.

For many freshmen, this change may have been expected, but the speed at which it took place was not. Freshman Juliet Lavore said she expected to move out later in the semester from her Garrett Hall dorm room. That idea quickly changed, Lavore said, when the announcement

was made about online classes this past Sunday.

"My roommate and I are both moving out today. It sucks for some people. I'm moving in with my roommate off campus into her house now because I can't go home," Lavore said.

Freshman dance major James Jackson, who also lives in Garrett Hall on the west end of ECU's campus, said since there was a cluster in his hall, he had to get tested because someone he socialized with tested positive and he knows many people who tested positive.

Jackson said many of his friends

do not plan to apply to stay on campus, but a few plan to look for apartments off campus. As for the transfer to online instruction, Jackson said he is worried about his performance courses.

"I think the transfer to online classes is going to be very difficult. I'm upset about my freshman year getting cut short, but I came here expecting it to happen. Hopefully we can come back in the spring and I'll be able to finish out my freshman year," Jackson said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

Undergraduate goes virtual

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University has transitioned its fall 2020 undergraduate courses to an online delivery method today as COVID-19 clusters persist on campus, and students and faculty will start to navigate online instruction.

In an email statement, Acting Provost Grant Hayes said the decision to transition courses online was made to address the need to act in the best interest of the health and well-being of all students, faculty and staff. He said

ECU is North Carolina's leader in online education and is well-positioned to offer high quality online courses and programs.

Hayes said each college will determine the best way to transition academic experiences to an alternative delivery method.

"We recognize that this creates enormous challenges in areas like laboratory

sciences, student teaching, art studios and performance classes, and we are working to help faculty address those challenges," Hayes said.

The decision to provide block schedule course delivery for the fall 2020 semester was to provide flexibility, but Hayes said after the increase of cases on campus it became apparent that the move to online instruction was the right decision. Hayes said block schedule course delivery will continue into the



Grant Hayes

Acting Provost

Mitchelson voices virus concerns

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson spoke on East Carolina University's transition to online-only class instruction after an increase in COVID-19 cases within the community caused the university to revert back to online course delivery.

A total of 11 COVID-19 clusters have been identified at ECU as of Aug. 25 and nine clusters appeared in different residence halls across campus, one within the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and another within the football team, according to multiple alerts sent out by the university.

The total of cumulative cases reported at ECU, as of Aug. 25, remains at 392, according to the COVID-19 updates page on the ECU News Services website. The number of cases recorded include both students and employees.

Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson sent out a statement on Aug. 23 which said the decision to convert back to online instruction was not taken lightly, and he is deeply disappointed.



Ron Mitchelson

The statement said students succeed at a much higher level when they have face-to-face instruction, but unfortunately the university had seen a greater spike in cases than anticipated.

"It's critical now more than ever that we, and let me be clear, I mean all of us, administration, faculty, staff, students, come together, even while many of us are apart, to tackle yet another challenge this pandemic has brought. Let's do it with the grit and determination that I know we Pirates possess, and let's do it with patience and kindness for one another," Mitchelson said in the statement.

In his statement, Mitchelson thanked ECU staff and faculty as they have worked hard to develop and follow through with the Return of Pirate Nation plan while they additionally worked to adapt to social distancing and instruction with face masks on. Mitchelson gave thanks to those ECU students who have actively been following the necessary guidelines and protocols in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The deadline to withdraw from academic courses for the first eight-week block without financial penalty is extended to 5 p.m. Aug. 28, according to the statement. The deadline

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Howell Binkley continues to leave his mark

ECU alumnus and two-time Tony award winning lighting director dies at age 64

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

Howell Binkley, an East Carolina University alumnus and two-time Tony Award winner died of lung cancer on Aug. 14 at the age of 64, but continues to stay connected to the performing arts community within ECU as staff and students reflect on his time spent as an educator.

Binkley was a professional lighting designer and worked on many Broadway productions. He was nominated for 10 Tony awards, and won Tonys for his lighting designs in "Hamilton" and "Jersey Boys."

Director of the School of Theatre and Dance Jayme Host said she had only gotten to know Binkley within the last two years after meeting him at an ECU alumni event in New York City. She said Binkley was a "titan" in

the lighting design industry.

"He (Binkley) was so innovative and ingenuitive with how he used light to enhance productions and performance and bring life to a production on stage, whether it be theatre or dance. Truly a trailblazer," Host said. "He brought light into any room he walked into, into every collaboration that I heard about."

Host said Binkley returned to ECU in November 2019 to speak with students and share advice and expertise. She said she had invited him to be the graduation speaker for the School of Theatre and Dance this past May, but since graduation was cancelled



Jayme Host

Assistant Director



Howell Binkley, ECU alumnus and award winning lighting director, speaks to students in McGinnis Theatre last November.

due to COVID-19, Binkley sent a video to the graduating seniors.

Having only known him a short time, Host said she wished there was more she could say about Binkley.

"I really wish I had the priv-

ilege of knowing him longer, because he was deeply committed to ECU and his kindness, his energy, his passion was all just so engaging and commendable," Host said.

For several years, Binkley

invited a senior from the ECU Theatre and Dance Department to complete an internship with him for class credit. ECU alumnus Eric Norbury interned with Binkley in the fall 2013 semester.

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ONLINE

» **NEWS: Students look toward gap years in spite of COVID-19**

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BRIEFS

G.O.L.D series to host COVID-19 discussion

Today, the G.O.L.D series will host a virtual dialogue from 5 to 6 p.m. on WebEx to speak on how COVID-19 will affect student organization leaders. The chat is open to anyone in an organization who is an officer.

Autistic Students Alliance speaks on autism in media

Today, the East Carolina University Autistic Students Alliance will host a dialogue on how autism is commonly depicted in the media from 6 to 7 p.m. The discussion will focus on myths created about autism in TV shows and movies. The WebEx number is 120 930 8695 and the password is asa_virtual. The WebEx link can be found on ASA's Engage page.

Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center to host coffee house

Today, The Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ center will host a virtual coffee house from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Coffee house is a weekly educational and social gathering for ECU students to collaborate and learn about topics impacting LGBTQ students and allies. The link to join the WebEx can be found on the center's Engage page.

ECU intramural sports to host NBA 2K e-sport night

Friday, East Carolina University Intramural Sports will host its weekly e-sport competition virtually from 7 to 10 p.m. This week's game will be NBA 2K, and students can play virtually against other ECU students.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



HALIE MILLER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Students began to move out of on-campus residence halls after East Carolina University announced the switch from face-to-face instruction to online-only classes on Sunday.

VIRUS continued from A1

to withdraw from 15-week courses without financial penalty remains Sep. 4.

"ECU must show compassion for students and their need to return home. Many students may begin moving out of the residence halls as early as Monday, Aug. 24. Therefore, we ask faculty to be flexible during the move-out period, which will extend to Aug. 30," Mitchelson said in the statement.

Mitchelson said on Aug. 18, before students were notified of the conversion to online learning and of the move-out process, that he was very concerned for students and their health as well as the total number of cases and how fast they accelerate rather than the number of clusters that develop. COVID-19 clusters were expected to form on campus, according to Mitchelson.

"It's a virus that is spread by personal interaction, so it's going to cluster. It's really about the acceleration and number of the cases and whether you have the capacity to actually deal with that increase," Mitchelson said. "That's what happened at Chapel Hill. It (The spread of COVID-19) really had less to do with the number of clusters than it did with the acceleration and capacity for isolation and quarantine, and we haven't seen the kind of acceleration that Chapel Hill experienced."

Although Mitchelson said he was willing

to expand the capacity for isolation and quarantine, ECU had a limit. He said if the curve of COVID-19 cases remained flat, if the number of cases at ECU remained at an acceptable level and if ECU kept the rates steady, the university would have stayed open for face-to-face instruction.

Mitchelson said on Aug. 18 that he continued to constantly check up on the number of cases, not only at ECU, but also globally, nationally and throughout the surrounding communities of Greenville and Pitt County.

"Chapel Hill had over 100 cases in one weekend. We are not equipped for that, but if it's going to be 30 cases a week, I think we can handle it. If there's five clusters, the answer is no, ECU will not close. I will get really nervous as the chancellor if our cases start to accelerate like they did in Chapel Hill. It is our job as Pirates to do our part and get this thing flat so we can all hang out together and get back to normal," Mitchelson said prior to the closure of campus.

Students should still be responsible and continue to take the necessary safety precautions in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keep all students, staff and faculty safe, Mitchelson said. He said he is fully prepared to work hard to issue students refunds for room and board fees.

"A lot of the cases might be because of the parties we've seen," Mitchelson said prior to

the closure. "I would caution students against going to those kinds of dense settings because I think that's just asking for health issues potentially and I think it's not in their best interest to not do that. I would advise students to just delay the partying a few weeks and keep this curve nice and flat so we can stay together."

The decision of going remote was up to Mitchelson and the University of North Carolina System President Peter Hans, Mitchelson said.

ECU's administration is better equipped for COVID-19 this fall than it was in the spring of 2020, but it didn't anticipate rates spiking at this level, Mitchelson said. He said the administration continued to do everything in its power to ensure health and safety.

"I think we've all done a pretty good job so far and the vast majority of students are relatively compliant, so my hats off to them. I admire those Pirate students for their resilience, and there's only a small fraction of students who want to go party. I don't want to be too negative, and I want everybody to remember that if there's an enemy here it's the disease. We just need to stick together like glue so that we can defeat this thing," Mitchelson said prior to the closure.

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

Hotel plans approved

Construction to begin in fall 2021

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

After the Greenville City Council approved a Hilton Garden Inn Hotel for Uptown Greenville last week, the construction process is on track to start after preliminary procedures take place.

Greenville Assistant City Manager Michael Cowin said the property along Evans Street will not be purchased until the developers of the project, Greenville Ventures LLC, have performed a soil analysis and land survey due diligence on the site. The developers will use the next six months to complete these tasks.

Cowin said the developers must have a building permit from the city to start construction in 12 months of the execution of the contract. He said the clock started to tick when city council approved the project.

"Now that's an extensive period of time. My hopes and my discussion with the developer have been that there is every intention of starting construction on the project in the first quarter of 2021," Cowin said.

It will take 16 to 18 months from the start of construction, according to Cowin. He said the hotel will be a minimum of 90 rooms, standing at approximately seven stories high.

Cowin said there is no word on the relocation of the "hammock lot" which occupies the current lot for the hotel. He said the City would be open to the idea of additional pocket parks in green space within the urban setting of Uptown Greenville.

The hotel's parking spaces will be in Uptown Greenville's public parking deck along Contance Street, according to Cowin. He said those spaces will be placed toward the top floors of the deck.

"We'd like to make sure that all the parking for the general public is as close to

the ground as possible. That floor would be open for hourly parking for the general public to be able to socialize and visit our shops and restaurants in Uptown," Cowin said.

Public Information Officer Brock Letchworth said the construction process may require removal of dirt which could influence the flow of the Uptown Greenville area.

Once construction starts, the developer will utilize the Harris lot off of Fourth Street as a lay down area for materials, according to Letchworth. He said this lay down area will be temporary and will clear as materials are taken off throughout the construction process.

The hotel's brand will focus on upscale, affordable accommodations for business and leisure guests, according to the City of Greenville. The City said this will be one of 25 hotels located in North Carolina's largest cities, which will now add Greenville to the list.

The City of Greenville said the financial impact the hotel will have on the city is approximately \$1.2 million net revenue over the course of 15 years. The City of Greenville and Greenville Ventures, LLC are allowed the option to agree on a continuation date if needed, according to the City of Greenville.

The hotel will help to bolster Greenville and the surrounding area's economy as it will bring in parents and alumni of the university.

Greenville additionally has a 300 acre adventure park in development that will include a walking trail, lookout areas and other outdoor focused activities.

The nature trail portion of the adventure park will run along the Tar River and will connect with River Park North once the project is completed.

The Adventure park will utilize riverside lakes that are nearby for recreational purposes.

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



BINTA TOURAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Virtual learning will cause students to leave campus unless they have specific accommodations.

VIRTUAL continued from A1

spring 2021 semester.

Senior mechanical design major Tucker Hartley said the transition to online courses has had a negative impact on his ability to learn course materials. Hartley said as a mechanical design major, the majority of his courses up to this point are laboratory based.

One of his courses has decided to offer a virtual lab with remote access to some of the software, according to Hartley.

"By sending me online, I guess, I'm trying to say I'm not really learning much. I can do the online classes but they're hard for me to retain the material that way," Hartley said.

As a student with an off-campus meal plan through ECU, senior psychology major Jhovani Tellez said he is fearful he will not receive a refund now that dining services will be closed across campus.

Tellez said he has called Off-Campus Student Services and has had little success retrieving his meal plan refund. He said many students feel as if they are treated like "cash cows" when it comes to the financial breakdown of ECU tuition.

Tellez said he is not happy about the transition to online courses as he learns best in a classroom setting.

"I guess it's not terrible, it's just taking a little bit of time to get used to it since we were out of it for so long," Tellez said.

Associate Professor in the School of Communication Brian Massey said he has

begun the process of revamping his courses for online delivery as he had slated face-to-face courses at the start of the fall semester.

Massey said the announcement of online course delivery came out of the blue, but he expected it after the increase of clusters in residence halls across campus.

The decision to go face-to-face is a complex decision that takes into account several factors, according to Massey. He said, from an educator's standpoint, you want students

to engage in social settings and not just sit in class to learn lessons.

"You pull one string and you unravel a whole bunch of others you know, and it's a very complex thing to try

and figure out ahead of time and then dealing with it," Massey said.

As a professor, Massey said he spent two weeks over the summer preparing his courses for face-to-face delivery and must now go back to the start and do so for online delivery. He said his skill acquisition courses will be the most difficult to modify, as they thrive on face-to-face communication and instruction.

The decision to move ECU's undergraduate courses online came shortly after the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University transitioned their courses the week prior.

Further information on ECU's decision to transition all undergraduate courses online is available on ECU's website.

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Michael Cowin

OUR VIEW

ECU remote instruction is necessary

The past five months have been marred with the presence of COVID-19 and, as of Aug. 22, East Carolina University has made the decision to move all undergraduate classes completely online due to concerns about the spread of coronavirus among the community.

The switch to all online classes followed the university announcement on Saturday that there were COVID-19 clusters in five different residence halls as well as one sorority. This announcement alone nearly doubled the university's number of confirmed cases.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that the complete transition of all undergraduate classes to online instruction is the right move for the university, as well as the surrounding community.

While COVID-19 may not be the most deadly virus for those of a young age with zero underlying health conditions, people must still consider those in the surrounding community. One of the largest industries in Greenville is medical care, which means there is a higher chance to have immunocompromised people living in the community around the university.

It should be noted that ECU could have potentially continued face-to-face instruction if students had followed local and national guidelines about mass gatherings. While this news of the switch is disappointing, it was to be expected with the mass gatherings and clusters reported.

The switch to online instruction was unexpected after the social distancing guidelines were put into place by ECU administration. However, it is still important for ECU students to recognize that they are not the only ones living in this community and it has been demonstrated by some members of the student body that we are not responsible enough to continue on-campus instruction.

We believe that although the switch to online is not ideal, it is a necessary precaution and we have full belief in the professors at ECU to make distance education as rewarding as in person.

SHENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



TONIGHT AT THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION: A HEAVILY ARMED BALD EAGLE, THE FACEBOOK ALGORITHM, PUTIN'S HORSE AND RANDY, A GUY WHO DELIVERED SUSHI TO QANON.

UNC System shows true colors

Down Pat



Pat Polomchak
TEC STAFF

Two weeks. After all of the hype around East Carolina University's Return of Pirate Nation plan for combatting COVID-19, in the end we only made it two weeks before moving online for the foreseeable future.

As I write this less than two hours after the announcement was made, I am, of course, upset but not surprised. I have said in the past we would only make it two weeks since the plan was announced, not because the administration's plan was a bad one, but because there are too many variables that exist outside the administration's control.

As a student, this outcome felt inevitable. No matter how many students follow guidelines and practice social distancing measures, having that many people in the petri dishes that are residence halls during a pandemic was always going to lead us back to full online instruction.

Frankly, I'm furious. Furious at the students who refuse to comply with safety measures, at the students who walked around the grid in large groups with no masks late at night. I am furious that my senior year of marching band was wiped out by people who refuse to follow a simple mandate designed to protect everyone.

Most of all, though, I am furious at the way universities in general have taken advantage of young adults during this time. Allowing students to come to campus, pay tuition, housing fees and all of the money associated with college and then promptly sending them away, while also blaming these same students, is just the latest sign that colleges today are more



BINTA TOURAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU students work on school work during the first week of the fall semester at Joyner Library.

about profit margins than education.

Our first clue was the outpouring of various schools across the country talking about how much money they would lose if football season didn't happen. In my first ever column I wrote about how our school system, both public schools and higher education, focuses too much on athletics when the focus should really be on learning and the vast majority of its students, so I won't get too deep into that here.

Before ECU made the call to move courses online, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) and North Carolina State University (NCSU) both have made the decision to move undergraduate programs online, with many accounts posted on social media of students who were left lost in the wake of being told to leave campus. For some students, college is an escape from traumatic home lives, and to give those students a glimmer of hope just to dash those hopes

entirely was hard to see.

Ultimately, if these schools actually prioritized students first, they should have exercised control in the only area they could by not bringing students back at all.

Classes should have remained fully online given the increasing case numbers statewide at the time that ECU came back.

Throughout this pivotal time in history, the ugly side of many societal institutions has reared its head. College students have had a rough go of things, all starting back when we were deemed ineligible for stimulus checks if our parents claimed us on their taxes. If this pandemic has shown me anything, it is that universities truly are businesses first, and places of higher education second.

Polomchak is a senior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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Institutions have failed its students



Andy Li
GUEST COLUMNIST

goers with a kind of gusto only quarantined crazy people can manage.

However, these criticisms feel utterly superficial and, although I am sure they come from a place of genuine fear and concern about the ongoing, terrifying, never-ending pandemic, they echo a time in our nation's history when we shamed victims, not the perpetrators.

In the 1980s, the AIDS epidemic swept across the United States. It was quick, it was not well understood, and it was deadly. It also disproportionately affected LGBTQ people. Obviously, the world was terrified. The Republican administrations largely ignored the pandemic, allowing the epidemic to kill thousands of innocent people. The government dragged its feet or mocked the victims.

"We have a president who cares more about the unemployed and about pitting people against each other than he cares

about us," late AIDS activist and playwright Larry Kramer said in 1991.

However, an insidious criticism rose from the public and has cemented itself firmly in the cultural consciousness of the county, and even the LGBTQ community at large: "Why don't the gays just stop having sex?" And in the pandemic of our time, this argument has evolved into: "Why don't the college kids just stop having parties?"

It's an intoxicating argument, and one rooted in a form of common sense. We're in a pandemic, we all must play our part, and if you violate these rules, you deserve a degree of ridicule. And to an extent, I agree. But this moral theatre takes aim at victims when there is a looming goliath towering over them.

The Senate has stalled over a second stimulus package. Rather than cancel rent or protect workers or provide any kind of relief, they have decided to continue this charade of politicizing public health issues. The Post Office is under attack, new information about what spreads the virus and what doesn't seems to change daily. East Carolina University has let students back, and only moved to remote instruction as close to the deadline to withdraw for classes as possible.

Why are we shaming these 20 something for doing a very 20-something

activity when these institutions are sitting there, twiddling their thumbs like there isn't a plague going on? When misinformation is alive and well, when public institutions prove every day that the trust citizens put in them is so often betrayed, why would they not ignore their instructions?

I can get annoyed at college students partying during a pandemic, but I can also empathize. They're young, they are living through an ongoing, terrifying, never-ending pandemic. North Carolina has seen a steady drop in hospitalizations. People need community, now more than ever. They need to be happy and silly and together as safely as they can be. Shaming them for going to parties will only make these parties more secretive, making exposure more likely to be kept hidden and therefore more likely to spread.

Why not instead of taking cheap shots at young people behaving like young people, we invest in risk reduction strategies? Or better yet, why not take aim at the federal, state, university and local institutions that want to reopen and go back to normal when normal is a thing that does not exist anymore?

Li is an ECU alumnus and guest columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

» ANALYSIS

Pirate offense rebounds strong

ECU football team sees powerful performances in first two scrimmages



Jess Sabin
TEC STAFF

In East Carolina University football's first pre-season scrimmage, the defense dominated with new defensive coordinator Blake Harrell leading the way as the new look defense showcased just what it is capable of and what fans should hope to see this coming season.

The unit forced seven turnovers, five of which were interceptions. Junior transfer defensive back Robert Kennedy got two for himself while the rest of defense logged five sacks and recovered two fumbles as well. ECU's offensive unit found the endzone just one time while senior kicker Jake Verity got his fill with four field goals at 31, 22, 44 and 38 yards out, though redshirt freshman Juan Powell blocked another 44 yard attempt.

On the offensive end, the Pirates attempted a combined 46 rush attempts and tried several different names at the quarterback (QB) position. Junior Holton Ahlers, redshirt freshman Bryan Gagg and Alex Flinn, freshman Mason Garcia, Taji Hudson and Ryan Stubblefield, all took snaps at QB but combined for a lackluster 19-of-48 passing.

Stubblefield guided the Pirates offensive unit to its only touchdown of the scrimmage, connecting with junior wide receiver Cam Burnette on a 23-yard score.

The second scrimmage of the season was a completely different story. The offense



Junior defensive back Robert Kennedy on the move with the football after a turnover by the offense.

was on another level in the Pirates second go around. The Pirates' offense scored four touchdowns and added another four field goals led by a dominant Ahlers under center.

Ahlers went on a streak of 16 straight completions and finished with a stat line of 17-of-20 passing with three passing touchdowns. Ahlers connected with sophomore wide receiver C.J. Johnson on 38-yard and 12-yard scores and found sophomore wide receiver Tyler Boyd on a 10-yard strike.

Freshman running back Keaton Mitchell showcased what he is capable of as a part

of this Pirate offense, breaking away for a 94-yard touchdown to add onto the offensive showcase.

Despite the offensive onslaught there were some standout defensive performances. Senior linebacker Bruce Bivens recorded six tackles for loss and a sack and sophomore defensive back Shawn Dourseau forced the only turnover of the scrimmage with an interception.

Last season was a struggle under now second year ECU head coach Mike Houston. The Pirates finished with a 4-8 record and

went 1-7 in American Athletic Conference (AAC) play.

Offensively, the Pirates finished last year scoring 321 points all season which came out to 26.8 points per game which was 78th of 130 in the country. The Pirates' running game was a struggle all last year. The entire unit averaged just 3.8 yards a carry and leading rusher sophomore Demetrius Mauney amassed just 446 yards on 125 carries which came out to a mere 3.6 yards per carry.

The passing game was slightly better with starting QB Holton Ahlers passing for 3387 yards, 21 TDs to just 10 interceptions. However, almost a third of his passing yards and almost half of his passing touchdowns came from just two games.

Against the University of Cincinnati, who was then ranked number 17 in the country, Ahlers threw for 535 yards and 4 touchdowns the following week against Southern Methodist University he threw for 498 yards and 6 touchdowns. In these two games combined he threw for 1033 of his 3387 passing yards and 10 of his 21 touchdowns.

With significant improvement from players like Ahlers and Johnson in the second scrimmage after getting some footing after their struggles in the first, both special teams showed good performance in each scrimmage and the defense showed improvement as the Pirates look to trend in the right direction.

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

Godwin ready to build with new recruits

Dylan Woolard
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University baseball head coach Cliff Godwin announced the addition of 13 new members to the ECU baseball team on Aug. 14 after an offseason plagued by complications due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 13 new student-athletes will come to Greenville, North Carolina by way of the 2020-2021 ECU baseball recruitment class. The class is made up of three infielders, three outfielders, three pitchers, three two-way players and a single catcher.

"Our main goal now is to cultivate our culture with our entire team," ECU's head baseball coach Cliff Godwin said in the initial press release from ecupirates.com.

Godwin's idea to create a culture within the Pirate baseball program is something he has mentioned before on Twitter, as he has made references to the team as being a family in a tweet on Aug. 20 when he announced the commitment of two unnamed recruits.

"Number one, we go out and watch guys and you have to have the talent to help us win a national championship," Godwin said. "Then we're gonna talk to your coaches,



Connor Norby turns two at Clark-LeClair Stadium.

obviously talk to the kid and yes, talk to the parents, but just get the best evaluation of a person's makeup before we say 'just because you throw 90' that we're gonna take you."

Godwin said a recruit's commitment to working hard in other avenues, not directly related to baseball is a trait he and the rest of the Pirate coaching staff look at when recruiting.

Whether it be hard work in the weight room, classroom or on themselves as individ-

uals, Godwin said the Pirate culture is about more than just baseball alone.

"We've had a 3.41 team GPA or higher for the past three years and had a 3.61 in the spring so that's all important," Godwin said. "Even though we couldn't be with them this summer it's going through our Pirates mission, we have a mission, a motto, a vision and a Pirates paragraphs. Just to educate them on what our standards are, what our expectation level is and really just controlling what you can control and having an elite mindset."

The Pirate coaching staff was unable to see the new class of student-athletes this summer, but Godwin said it didn't stop them from educating them on what is expected as Pirate baseball players.

"Even with the freshman, starting on June 1 when the NCAA allowed us to incorporate our freshmen into our guys that were returning, every Wednesday we had a zoom call that was culture based, it was a mental game. It was talking about what they need to do in the weight room while they're on," Godwin said.

It wasn't the same as having all of the players together face-to-face, Godwin said, but it was the best that he and his staff could do.

In this year's Major League Baseball draft that was cut to just five rounds from its typical 40 rounds plus compensatory picks, the Pirates saw junior Alec Burleson drafted in the second round to the St. Louis Cardinals and member of the 2020-2021 recruiting class, Koen Moreno selected by the Chicago Cubs in the fifth round. Both players opted to



Cliff Godwin

move forward with their opportunities to play professional baseball. "The best way to describe it is if they've been honest with us through the process and 'this is the amount of money I would like to get for me to forgo East Carolina University and the college experience and playing baseball at East Carolina' if they're honest through the entire process as the Morenos where this year, look, wish them the best of luck, hope it works out for them," Godwin said in reference to losing recruits to the MLB draft.

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

» ANALYSIS

The Pirates may be the sleeper in the AAC



Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University men's basketball team is expected to improve from its position in the American Athletic Conference (AAC) this season after it finished near the end of the pack last season with a record of 11-20.

The Pirates may be able to move up a few spots from last year within the AAC, according to College Hoops Today. With the number of returning players, a few new faces and the offensive powerhouse of the Pirates in junior forward Jayden Gardner, the team has little excuse not to move up in the conference under the leadership of head coach Joe Dooley.

"A lot of it depends on health, but I do like the pieces we have," Dooley said. "We are a year older, more mature. I think there's a better familiarity. They've also been through the league and have a much better understanding of what it takes to be successful in the American."



Joe Dooley

There are a total of 14 players from last year who will return for the Pirates this season and nine of them averaged over 15 minutes per game. The guard position will be especially deep with senior guard Tyrie Jackson, junior guard Tremont Robinson-White and sophomore guard Tristen Newton.

Two new freshmen have additionally been added to the roster: guard Noah Farrakhan from The Patrick School and center Derrick "Fifi" Quansah from Hargrave Military Academy. Barring any kind of injury, ECU should have plenty of depth to compete with any team in its way.

The guard rotation seemed to change every few games based on which player was the hottest or which of them was the healthiest and could play the most minutes. During the Pirates' hottest streak last season of four wins in a row, Robinson-White and Jackson started for all four wins.

Newton averaged 11 points for the season and was the team's assist leader. He beat the record for assists by a freshman, finishing with 114. He started for a total of 19 games last season and played in every contest, according to ECUPirates.com. The only guard ahead of Newton in starts is sophomore guard Brandon Suggs who started in 22 games total.



Junior forward Jayden Gardner drives the lane.

With several capable guards surrounding Gardner, the chances of ECU moving up in ranks are high. A majority of the losses last season seemed to come from the inability to share the scoring load as a unit.

Too many times, there would be a 25-point game from the star followed up by a 10-point game from the next teammate. If there was ever a game that Gardner did not lead the team in scoring, there was no chance for victory for the Pirates.

Gardner's game speaks for itself, and his stats scream even louder. He was the best player in the AAC last season, averaging 19.7 points and 9.2 rebounds, according to ECU

Pirates. He finished the season with 13 double-double games. His play earned him AAC Player-of-the-Year.

An extra year of experience does not make up for a truly disappointing record of 11-20, but it does give the team some room to grow. Unfortunately, that growth in the past has been slow. In 2017-2018, the Pirates finished the season 10-20. The year following was no better at 10-21. There is much improvement needed, but the time to move up in the AAC is now.

Last season, the University of Houston led the conference and was the clear powerhouse, finishing 23-8. While the top of the conference may be a stretch of the imagination for the Pirates, marking the date against Houston as a victory could be key in gaining more ground within the AAC.

The Pirates have enough pieces to win at least 15 games this season, and with some luck, they could win more. It is still early in the year to put a lid on the talent of this team, however, they have set the floor for themselves and should make it a point to improve by several games.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Did someone say FREE?

Looking for a roommate or a sublease? Got something for sale? ECU students can submit a classified for **FREE!** Contact smaa@ecu.edu for more information.



HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Plan an educational escapade. Stick to practical options and destinations. Travel routes could have blockages or delays. Avoid expensive or risky ideas.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Let go of a romantic preconception. Fantasies dissolve upon inspection. Breakdowns could cause delays. Stick with simple fun in familiar surroundings. Prioritize family.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Avoid a personal conflict of interests. Wait for developments before issuing public statements. Don't believe everything you hear. You don't have the full story.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Don't go along with plans if you don't agree. Stand for your own interests, respectfully. Coordinate a stable budget with a backup to minimize risks.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Home and family take priority. Postpone buying stuff you don't need. Fantasies don't match real life. Nurture each other and relax. Cook up something interesting.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — Avoid risky propositions and anticipate breakdowns. Lay low to keep things simple. Privacy soothes and restores your energy. Review plans to conserve resources.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — Discuss bad news with your partner. Don't argue over spilled milk. Support each other through a disappointment or change. Negotiate to refine plans.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Stay connected. Communication and transportation breakdowns delay or confuse. Monitor your accounts to coordinate the message. Sift data for facts. Share your observations.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Community revelations shift the game. Stick to stable options. Inspire by example, despite uncertainty or doubt. Wait for better conditions to advance a shared goal.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Misinformation, delays and uncertainties affect your health and work plans. Study the latest news. Avoid hidden dangers. Rest and recharge. Maintain physical practices.

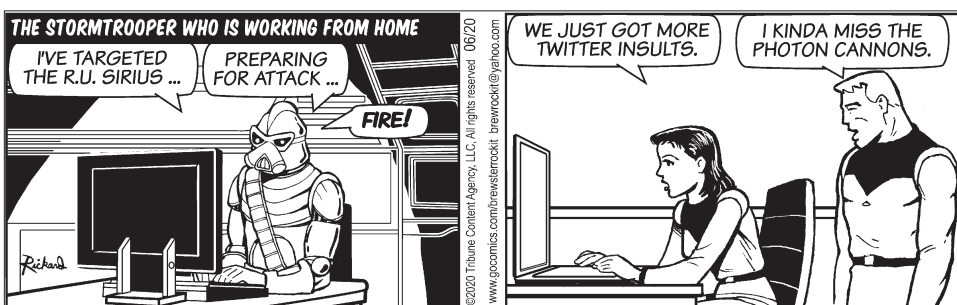
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Don't throw your money around. Aim for stability despite volatile conditions. Revelations alter the status quo. Prioritize practical expenses. Monitor the news. Maintain momentum.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — A professional challenge has your attention. Don't rely upon vague promises or ephemeral fantasies. Stick to reliable clients, markets and techniques, adapted for new circumstances.

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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



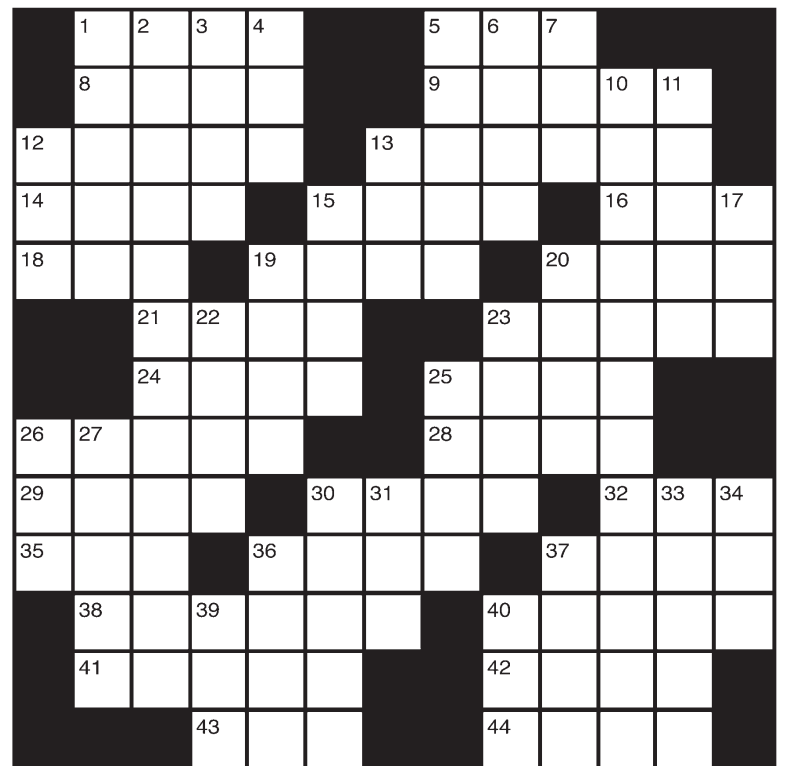
BLISS



CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 "Man with a ___"
- 5 "___ Big Girl Now"
- 8 Puerto ___
- 9 "Teenage Mutant ___ Turtles"
- 12 Morley of "60 Minutes"
- 13 Roseanne, Dan, Darlene or D.J.
- 14 "The Crazy ___"; Robin Williams series
- 15 "___ Along with Mitch"
- 16 "Bill ___, the Science Guy"
- 18 Enjoy a snow sport
- 19 "___ Black"
- 20 "Star Wars: Episode IV - ___ Hope"; Mark Hamill film
- 21 "High ___"; Gary Cooper classic
- 23 "The Paper ___"; John Houseman series
- 24 O'Brien & Sajak
- 25 Snowman in Disney's "Frozen"
- 26 Actor and director Lee
- 28 Actress Mazar
- 29 Pub orders
- 30 "Killing ___ Softly"; Brad Pitt film
- 32 Sault ___ Marie
- 35 "The Bernie ___ Show"

- 36 "___ the Boss?"
- 37 Nagging pain
- 38 Jethro, to Jed Clampett
- 40 Role on "I Love Lucy"
- 41 Rob or Will
- 42 Malicious look
- 43 Consumed
- 44 Parisian mom

DOWN

- 1 Practical joke
- 2 Series for Colin Hanks
- 3 Highest cards
- 4 And not
- 5 ___ ear and out the other
- 6 ___-Na Wen
- 7 Actress ___-Margret
- 10 "Splitting Up Together" star
- 11 Actor Gross and others
- 12 Distress signal
- 13 "El ___"; Charlton Heston classic
- 15 "My Three ___"
- 17 Lamb's mother
- 19 ___ de Pablo, once of "NCIS"
- 20 Gregory Peck's role in "Moby Dick"
- 22 Shade trees
- 23 Red Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
- 25 Elegant poems
- 26 Role on "Cheers"
- 27 "Snakes on a ___"; Samuel L. Jackson thriller
- 30 One of ___ days; eventually
- 31 "___ to Get Away with Murder"
- 33 "___ Will Be Blood"; Daniel Day-Lewis film
- 34 Snakelike fish
- 36 Sharpen
- 37 To ___; exactly
- 39 "Harper Valley ___"
- 40 "A Nightmare on ___ Street"; Johnny Depp movie

Solution from 8/19



SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



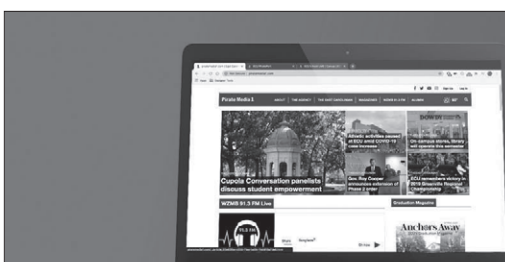
				8				
5	7	3				8	6	
8				4		7		2
	2	4			3			
				5			6	
				1		9	2	
1		7		9				8
	3	2					7	9
				3				

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 8/19

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

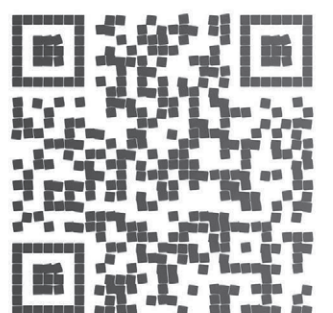
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The East Carolinian - WZMB 91.3 - Anchor's Away
The Agency - Expressions - The Hook - Rebel



EVENTS

TODAY

Open Mic Night
Blackened Kraken
 123 E 5th St.
 7 to 11:30 p.m.
 252-215-8822

Open Mic Comedy
Pitt Street Brewing Company
 630 S Pitt St.
 7:30 to 10 p.m.
 252-227-4151

TOMORROW

Tapas and Jazz
Starlight Cafe
 5:30 to 10 p.m.
 252-707-9033

College Night at
Stumpy's
Stumpy's Hatchet House
 816 Dickinson Ave.
 5 to 8 p.m.
 252-751-0300

FRIDAY

Pickin' on Pitt Street
Whirligig Stage
 628 S Pitt St.
 8 to 10 p.m.
 252-689-8092

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

Local dining remains steady

Uptown restaurants receive support despite COVID-19

Harold Bloomfield
 TEC STAFF

Restaurants in the Greenville area continue to push forward through the pandemic to serve the public, despite the changes COVID-19 has presented them with.

Tandi Wilson is the co-owner of Christy's Euro Pub (301 S Jarvis St.) alongside her husband, Jacob Wilson. Tandi Wilson additionally owns Dickinson Avenue Public House (703 Dickinson Ave.) and Jarvis Street Bottle Shop (211 S Jarvis St.).

COVID-19 affected Tandi Wilson's businesses harshly. She said she had to completely shut down Dickinson Avenue Public House and was only able to do takeout at the start of the COVID-19 outbreak.

"(We) started doing delivery. The community rallied behind us, but in the long term it wasn't working as a business model. We struggled with the decision, but we closed Christy's (Euro Pub) as well until the Governor lifted the restrictions and moved us into Phase 2," Tandi Wilson said in an email statement.

Since Phase 2, Christy's Euro Pub has reopened and worked within the parameters set by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, according to Tandi Wilson. The restaurant is only allowed to hold 50% capacity, Tandi Wilson said, and having to police customers who are unhappy with regulations that are being set, such as wearing masks while walking around, continues to be a struggle.

Plans quickly had to be made on how Christy's Euro Pub would be run in the time being, Tandi Wilson said. She said she has learned throughout this process that business has changed on a regular basis.

"Every day is a struggle opening our doors for service, with the constant thought in the back of my mind, what if someone tests positive today, or what if we pass it onto a customer, but I also know that I need to be there for my staff, not only for their safety but for their employment," Tandi Wilson said.

Andrew Kirchner, owner of the Blackened Kraken (123 E 5th St.), has owned and operated the restaurant for the last five years.

Kirchner said he has been surprised with how good the business of his restaurant has



The Blackened Kraken, a local Cajun restaurant located at 123 E 5th St., continues to operate at 50% capacity.

been during Phase 2. The Blackened Kraken was completely shut down around March, according to Kirchner.

"Originally we did not have a plan in place on how we were going to do take-out orders so we did have to temporarily shut down until they let restaurants operate again at 50% capacity," Kirchner said.



Andrew Kirchner

Not being able to seat as many people as he would like is a struggle his business faces, Kirchner said. He said staffing has been an issue, as some employees chose not to return to work after the initial shut down.

Kirchner said the move into Phase 2 was a "game changer" with how he operates the restaurant now as opposed to how it is usually run. The Blackened Kraken continues to focus more on take-out orders instead of dine-in, which has been hard to get used to, according to Kirchner.

Sophomore social work major Verlexia Tillman said she is used to eating out because

she doesn't like to cook, but COVID-19 has switched the way she eats, according to Tillman.

"I spend a lot of money on Doordash because of how most restaurants only do take-out now," Tillman said.

Delivery seems like the best option now in order to social distance while still being able to eat from where you want, Tillman said.



Verlexia Tillman

She said small or family-owned local restaurants are a good option so they can continue to be supported.

From what she has seen, Tillman said restaurants have been doing a fair job while they continue to remain safe and while they enforce regulations for the safety of the community.

"If restaurants stay clean and do what they need to do to be able to serve food while keeping people safe then we should be good," Tillman said.

This writer can be contacted at
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BINKLEY continued from A1

Binkley in the fall 2013 semester. He said his specific duties varied, but he assisted Binkley on the lighting design of three different shows in Seattle, Washington; Hartford, Connecticut and in New York City.

During the time he worked with Binkley on the Broadway show "After Midnight," Norbury said he had to be more "hands-off" because of certain union restrictions in New York, but he was still able to gain something from the time he spent in observation.

"The main learning experience was just being in the room, seeing how Howell and his team conducted themselves during a tech process, seeing what a Broadway tech process was like, and just kind of experiencing that life altogether," Norbury said.

The internship was a "trial-by-fire," according to Norbury. He said he and Binkley didn't really know each other until he arrived for his first day on the job and they had to jump into work without easing into the process. He said he shadowed Binkley and asked questions when necessary.

Norbury said the internship occurred during a time when he was apprehensive about graduating and wasn't really sure what to do with his theatre degree. He said Binkley's example and mentorship was instrumental to bolster his courage to pursue a career in theatre.

"I think it was the most life changing and inspiring moment that I've had in fairly recent history," Norbury said. "He gave me the confidence to go forward and pursue a career in the thing that I knew I wanted to but didn't necessarily have the confidence to go out and do."

Norbury said even after his internship ended, Binkley stayed in touch and let Norbury stay on his couch for visits.

ECU alumna Brandi Pick interned with Binkley in the Spring 2015 semester. She said she spent most of her time working with Binkley on the Broadway musical "Allegiance." Like Norbury, she said she spent a lot of time shadowing Binkley and his team.

"Basically, if the lighting team was at the theatre, so was I. And we were always there. It was amazing, exhausting and a bit of a dream come true," Pick said in an email statement.

Even in the midst of a theatre full



Norbury and Binkley at the 'After Midnight' premiere.

of anxious people preparing for a show, Pick said Binkley always stayed calm and "worked with such ease." She said he would always make sure she was not confused and took time to explain things if necessary.

"Howell had this really special way of making every person in the room feel important. He often invited me to sit next to him during rehearsals," Pick said. "He would talk to me about the choices he made on stage, quiz me about art and theatre history, talk about his life, and banter with me and the rest of the team."

Pick said Binkley's work was why she "fell in love with Lighting Design." She said she learned a lot about lighting design and Broadway from Binkley, but also about life in general.

Binkley kept in touch with Pick after her internship, and she said he would come to see shows she had designed when he was in the area and got to know her family. She said he "cheered her on" as much as her parents and was always eager to hear about what she worked on at the time.

"He called when he knew I was struggling with making big decisions, when a show was coming up or I just didn't seem okay. He would leave me voicemails saying such inspiring things, tell me that he was proud of what I was doing and constantly encourage me to keep going," Pick said.

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