



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 9.02.20



VOLUME 95, ISSUE 4



A student moves out of an on-campus residence hall after the decision to go online was made as cases of COVID-19 increased on campus.

ANNA ALLEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Faculty Senate recommends for Pass/Fail

Jennifer Sieg
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Faculty Senate met yesterday where it voted to approve a Pass/Fail recommendation for the fall semester, discussed funding, student compliance to university guidelines, the ongoing chancellor search, budget explanations and library resources.

The Faculty Senate introduced a report by the Admissions and Retention Committee Chairman Eli Hvastkovs. He said the committee submitted a recommendation for or against the implementation of the Pass/Fail option for the full fall semester and unanimous support came from the notion.

"This recommendation is only for undergraduates," Faculty Chair Purificación Martínez said. "If you recall, during the spring, the recommendation for Pass/Fail came first for undergraduates and then the graduate school determined on their own if that was applicable or advisable for graduate school."

The Faculty Senate voted in favor to approve the recommendation of a Pass/Fail option for fall 2020 undergraduates.

To address and comment on student compliance and enforcement with COVID-19 safety guidelines, Mitchelson displayed multiple weekend reports provided by ECU Police Department (PD).

Mitchelson said over the first few weeks of classes, he believes there has been an increased compliance and effort on behalf of students. He said there has been a new interim regulation added to the Student Code of Conduct titled Disruptive Conduct.

"Disruptive Conduct may include, but is not limited to, refusing or failing to submit appropriate identification or refusing to comply with a request from the identifiable university official, acting on behalf of the university, violating university regulations or local, state or federal orders in place to ensure the health and safety of the ECU community," Mitchelson said.

In addition to the new interim regulation of student conduct, Mitchelson said a response protocol has been put in place to bring this new regulation to the attention of those who continue to violate regulations.

To address the ongoing chancellor search, Chan-



Purificación Martínez

Potential furloughs, refunds discussed

ECU's transition online causes financial disparities

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

Students who qualify at East Carolina University will be issued refunds for housing, dining and parking while some faculty may face furloughs in the future.

Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson said students will be issued housing and dining refunds if they chose to leave campus. The refunds vary for every student since existing charges will be deducted from the total and the remaining amount will be given back to students.

Refunds are based off of the residence hall or campus neighborhood the student resided in and the number of days students lived on-campus since each hall moved out on different days, Mitchelson said.

"Given COVID-19, I think flexibility is important and illustrates that we care," Mitchelson said. "Obviously, housing and dining refunds can be used to secure other accommodations in Greenville. So students have a choice and having that choice is a good thing right now."

Mitchelson said refunds started being processed this past Sunday and take approx-

imately three to five weeks to process.

Further information and updates regarding housing and dining refunds can be found on ECU's News Services website.

Associate professors at ECU are paid out-of-state appropriation which has not been affected and some professors are under contract which means they will not get furloughed during the current school year, according to Mitchelson.

"No one wants to reduce our capacity for instruction," Mitchelson said. "No one wants to increase class size. While we cannot furlough professors under contract, I hope we are not in a position to discontinue positions next fiscal year. We will wait and see how the state budget situation unfolds this coming year."

Brian Massey, a communication professor, said it is terrible when employees get furloughed and they typically are applied to support staff like the Facilities Services employees or administrative staff which includes secretaries.

"It's unlikely that any teacher would be let go or furloughed. Faculty—teachers—typically are spared because they're the ones

doing the university's primary mission of education. It's virtually impossible," Massey said. "I'd think, to furlough a teacher during the semester. I mean, what would you do with that teacher's class?"

For faculty, the first thing to happen would be a hiring freeze which is when no new faculty is hired unless it is essential, Massey said.



Brian Massey

year contract may be furloughed or laid off, likely at the end of the semester.

"After that, there are the tenure-track faculty. They're the assistant professors, and they've got six years to prove themselves worthy of promotion to associate professor and tenure," Massey said. "In theory, ten-

There may be pay cuts if conditions get worse and fixed-term faculty might get laid off, Massey said. He said instructors who are under a one or two

> REFUNDS page A2

> FACULTY page A2

Spazz Fest returns

Outdoor festival to be hosted this weekend

Macie Tano
TEC STAFF

Spazz Presents, a nonprofit event planning organization in Greenville, will host Spazz Fest 11.5, a socially distanced outdoor music and arts festival, on Saturday from 3 to 10 p.m.

The festival will be held at a private residence and the location can be found by contacting the Spazz Presents Facebook or Instagram page, Jeff Blinder, the founder of Spazz Presents, said. Blinder said there will be a variety of music performed at Saturday's event.

"Spazz Fest 11.5 is an all day and into the evening outdoor, socially distanced event, featuring local area music makers of all genres. From indie rock to alt-country to hip-hop, we've assembled a really great, really diverse smattering of area



Jeff Blinder

acts to really show the widespread talents Greenville has on hand," Blinder said in an email statement.

There is no admission cost for the festival, Blinder said, but any funds collected will go toward charities that directly support the Greenville community. One of those charities is Shatterproof, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing the addiction crisis in the U.S., according to Blinder.

There will be a handful of local musicians and bands performing at the festival, Blinder said, including Billy Smith, Richard Benjamin, Stoney Sills, Halen Sykes, Cryptic Rites and others.

The festival was originally supposed to be an all weekend event, but, due to COVID-19, Blinder said they decided to hold a one day event with strict safety measures in place to avoid the spread of the virus.

"The event is taking place outside with plenty of room to space everyone

> SPAZZ page A6



COURTESY OF ANDREW YATES | ECUPIRATES.COM

Guard Tanyah Thompson takes the ball up the court against Southern Methodist University.

McNeil talks recruiting

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

Among all the inconveniences with concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, head coach Kim McNeill of the East Carolina University women's basketball team said recruitment of members has become especially different.

"It's been a lot of watching film, which I'm

not really good at," McNeill said. "I'd rather see a kid play in person and be able to talk to them face-to-face versus watching film and doing Zoom calls."

Since the campus was shut down and the inability to travel to other schools, McNeil said there is a limited number of options as far as how to observe players. It's a similar issue for the players as well. She said since

> BALL page A4

ONLINE

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

»Take our poll at piratemedial.com/theeastcarolinian

SOCIAL MEDIA

@theeastcarolinian

Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian

@TEC_Newspaper

BRIEFS

SGA to host virtual office hours

Today, East Carolina University's Student Government Association will hold virtual office hours over WebX between noon and 1 p.m. The meeting number is 138-291-4116 and the password is hYKxpM353Cg.

LGBTQ center to host virtual coffee house

Today, the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will host a virtual coffee house meeting at 6 p.m. These meetings seek to build community while students learn about issues to impact members of the LGBTQ+ community at ECU.

Global Affairs to hold study abroad meeting

Today, the Office of Global Affairs will host a general information session at 4 p.m. for anyone interested in traveling abroad through the university. The office will cover how to find a program, credit transfers, financial aid and more topics related to study abroad. Information on how to join can be found on the Office of Global Affairs website.

College of Business to host practice interviews

Tomorrow, the College of Business (COB) Career Center will hold mock interviews for students who want to practice and develop their interview skills between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Contact the COB Career Center for information on how to participate at cobcareers@ecu.edu.

Citizen U program to host workshop

Tomorrow, Citizen U will host a workshop that will try and help students find out where they fall on the political spectrum through quizzes and discussion at 4 p.m.. The link to join this event can be found on the organization's Engage page. Citizen U is a virtual workshop series held by the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement that will teach students how to be responsible citizens and be engaged in their community.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

Study abroad resumes in 2021

ECU Global Affairs plans for future student endeavours

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

Graham Emmett
TEC STAFF



East Carolina University's Global Affairs department will begin its process to approve proposals for potential study abroad trips for the spring semester and summer 2021 sessions despite the transition to online courses for the remainder of the fall 2020 semester.

Director of ECU Global Affairs Jon Rezek said the implementation of proposed study abroad programs will continue to change to align with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance.

Rezek said he will continue to wait for word to allow international travel again. He said the travel restriction is both domestic and international as students, faculty and staff of the university are currently not allowed to travel anywhere outside of a 50 mile radius from ECU's campus.

"We are kind of in this wait and see mode because we don't know when that will open, when the system office will allow us to travel again," Rezek said.

International travel will remain difficult as certain countries have specific travel limitations placed on incoming Americans, according to Rezek. He said some countries are ahead of the curve in terms of their guidance put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rezek said the international partner institutions ECU works with to send students to hold similar guidance when it comes to the acceptance of American students. He said the Office of Global Affairs will continue to wait for the situation to change for the institutions, international travel restrictions and the University of North Carolina System to authorize travel.

"By that time we'll know a little bit more about what the situation is around the world about the relaxation of travel restrictions," Rezek said.

The Office of Global Affairs plans to have a cut off date in spring 2021 to determine if summer programs will be carried out. If spring study abroad programs don't run, the decision day for summer study abroad programs will be March 15, 2021. Rezek said these dates are tentative as they would change in accordance to the progressions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rezek said the Office of Global Affairs will continue to look at countries on a case-by-case basis to make a decision of where programs can travel to, but they will focus their attention to the CDC for guidance. The office will continue to look at ways to develop policies for travel which may include



Jon Rezek



CHLOE EASTON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Colosseum in Rome, Italy one of the destinations available to students through Global Affairs.

the use of masks, washing hands and remaining socially distant.

"The CDC dropped their blanket travel warning, there was a level three travel warning for everywhere. They dropped that but replaced it with a country-by-country threat level. Most of those are still at a level three. I think that the only country that I'm aware of that's not a level three that our students have gone to before was New Zealand," Rezek said.

According to Jon Rezek, the global affairs office could have a decision as early as Oct. 15 whether abroad programs will happen in 2021.

Coordinator of ECU's faculty-led study abroad, Whitney Morris said her biggest concern about study abroad is if students aren't able to follow sanitation guidelines and some travel locations are not able to give its visitors proper means of cleanliness.

"Looking at the medical infrastructure is something that we want to take in consideration when deciding whether our program will run or not. To make sure that the country that students are going to has available resources that they have to PPE, they have doctors, they have their hospitals and that is going to be one of the biggest considerations I would say when we are looking at reopening study abroad," Morris said.

When deciding where to have its study abroad programs, the Office of Global Affairs will look at countries case by case to make sure proper sanitation is available. Global Affairs gets guidance from the CDC as to where they could travel.

The Center for Disease Control has a list of all countries ranked on its website ranking countries based on risk of transmitting COVID-19. The countries are ranked in three different groups: low risk, moderate risk, and high risk. According to Morris,



Whitney Morris

study abroad programs will not travel to countries that are at the third level.

"We can make our own decisions but it's also a collaboration where if the UNC (University of North Carolina) System comes out and says we can not travel then that's what ECU has to do," Morris said. "We can make the decision prior to the UNC System. If we feel like certain may not be safe for our students, we can follow our own guidelines and cancel travel at that point."

The UNC System office makes the decision if students and faculty can go abroad, but Global Affairs will then make its own decision on where to go after they get permission to travel, according to Morris.

French Professor Larkin Murphy said he will continue to promote his faculty-led study abroad program, ECU in La Rochelle. He said the foreign language immersion program, which is five weeks in La Rochelle, may face changes to how it will operate under a global pandemic.

Murphy said students would start the program in hotels and then spend the next four weeks with host families in La Rochelle, France but the state of a global pandemic raises concerns for housing, transportation and dining.

"We normally choose our hotels in the first week because of location but mostly these hotels have buffet breakfasts included in the price of the hotel," Murphy said. "Well, buffets in America are prohibited at the moment"

Murphy said he has been on the fence about the execution of this program as it pertains to the global pandemic, but he will continue to promote the trip as if it will happen until told otherwise. He said it will be one step to promote the program but there is no program if no students are on board.

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

REFUNDS continued from A1

ure-track faculty would be the next line to be let go or furloughed, but it's hard to imagine things going that double-horribly wrong."

Massey said associate and full-time professors would be next to get furloughed, but they are protected due to their contacts unless their department closes.

In a statement sent on Aug. 25, ECU Campus Living said students who have purchased meal plans will receive a prorated refund of their plans through Nov. 29.

"All Purple Meal Plan holders will receive a credit for the unused All-Access portion of their meal plan," the statement said. "Additionally, any unused Pirate Meals will be credited at the rate of \$6 per meal. All unused Purple Bucks will also be credited to their student account."

Any unspent Gold Bucks will remain on the student's account for future use, but students can request a refund for their bucks, according to the statement.

For the remainder of the semester, Todd

Dining Hall will be open seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the weekends. The statement said Gold Meal Plan swipes are no longer an option for payment methods, but students can use cash, debit or credit cards or Gold Bucks.

"The safety and welfare of our campus is our top priority. During challenging times, it is important to stay connected with family, including your Pirate family. We want to make sure you are updated regarding campus operations and any significant changes related to COVID-19 as it relates to ECU," the statement said.

Director of Parking and Transportation Deb Garfi said students who leave ECU can receive a refund for their parking pass, they will receive a 90% refund for their parking permit fee and the remaining 10% will be used for administrative costs. Students who stay and need a place to park their vehicle can keep their permits or they can exchange their current permit for another one if it is more beneficial to park elsewhere.

"Students who need to keep or change their permit can contact our office. If you want a refund,

you will not need to do anything," Garfi said. "We ask that those who want to keep their permits have through next week to contact us. We will process refunds on all who do not contact us. It will be on the same debit/credit card you used to pay for your permit."

Emails have been sent out to all students who have parking permits informing them they are able to obtain refunds, Garfi said. Refunds for parking will be processed after Sep. 4 and the timing for these refunds vary per individual card issuers, according to Garfi.

Information and updates can be found on ECU's parking and transportation website and questions or concerns can be emailed to parking@ecu.edu or individuals can call 252-328-6294.

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

FACULTY continued from A1

cellor Search Committee Chairman Vern Davenport delivered multiple updates and the current status of the search.

Davenport said the committee will meet on Sep. 11 to discuss the candidate pool and said the candidate pool will remain open until they meet.

The goal is to have a new chancellor seated as ECU moves into the spring 2021 semester, according to Davenport.

"I'm really proud of the search committee that we formed and the broad constituency that it represents," Davenport said. "I'm really happy with the latitude that Chancellor Mitchelson has given us to go through this process in a very pragmatic and thoughtful way."

Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Sarah Thorndike delivered information in an effort to address questions about the current budget situation, potential budget reductions and related personnel actions.

Thorndike said the state appropriated budget is stable for the current year. She said in response to the transition to online instruction, affected areas continue to look

at ways to reduce expenses which could include further furloughs or personnel actions.

During the meeting, Mitchelson introduced two library officials to discuss library resources and funding.

Joyner Library Interim Dean Janice Lewis said ECU Libraries will not receive one-time funds from the university this year and has a current shortfall of \$700,000. She said because of this situation, ECU Libraries decided to exercise

an early determination clause with Elsevier publishing subscription.

"We are scheduled now to end our Elsevier Freedom Collection Big Deal on December 31, 2020," Lewis said.

"The license agreement itself has another year to run."

Laupus Library Director Elizabeth Ketterman said the Elsevier Big Deal is the most logical package to cut in order to balance the collections budgets. She said Laupus Library plans to continue the subscription to Clinical Key, which



Ron Mitchelson



SARAH HOOPER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The ECU Faculty Senate met January face-to-face inside the Main Campus Student Center.

provides campus wide access to the last 10 years of 562 health sciences journals and high-demand electronic books.

Ketterman said ECU Libraries will continue to review the experiences other universities, who additionally canceled the Elsevier Big Deal, have faced.

"We are happy to hear that they (other

universities) have consistently found that inter-library loan and document delivery requests and expenditures are well below the amounts that they had projected pre-cancellation," Ketterman said.

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

OUR VIEW

On-campus move-out was expected

East Carolina University students who lived on-campus wrapped up the move-out process on Aug. 30, and have been left unexpectedly on their own yet again.

The announcement that all undergraduate classes would be online for the remainder of the fall semester and students must move out of residence halls was made on Aug. 23. Since the announcement was made, on-campus residents have been scrambling to find living accommodations off-campus for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year in the midst of a growing number of COVID-19 cases.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe while it is unfortunate that so many freshmen had their year on campus cut short, it was bound to happen given the reckless disregard of some students for guidelines put into place by administration. After the announcement of clusters of COVID-19 cases at ECU, the announcement about move-out was inevitable, but still unexpected, especially so early in the semester.

On-campus residents could have remained on-campus if they had followed guidelines put into place by state and city officials. While social distancing guidelines were put into place on-campus, off-campus parties continued to happen which may have resulted in a mass spread of COVID-19. This may have contributed to on-campus residents who are now unable to complete the year as planned.

The announcement regarding move-out was necessary in response to the growing number of positive cases on and around ECU's campus. An empty college campus is by no means ideal, but is a consequence for the actions of a few individuals who went against social distancing orders.



USA witnesses two realities

America needs to recognize the racial injustices in the country



Jada Lucas
GUEST COLUMN

Yet again, we are shown the realities of two different Americas. In one version, it is perfectly acceptable to walk by police with your weapon. Not just any weapon for that matter, but your beloved AR-15.

Whether or not you own it legally isn't important either, it's also not important if you aren't of age to carry that firearm. In addition to those insignificant details, you don't even need to worry about gun ordinances for the state you are in.

If you kill two people and injure a third it's okay too, you will still be able to drive home with your mother that same night. After that, you may even get hailed as a hero for defending property that isn't yours in a state that you don't live in. That was the reality for Kyle Rittenhouse, a 17-year-old who saw fit to enact his own version of justice at a protest for Jacob Blake who experienced life in the other version of our country.

This second version isn't pretty. It isn't wrapped up in the promises of liberty and justice. In this version, you don't get to experience what it's like to not be afraid of the people who swore to protect you. Or assume that people in your neighborhood



Black Lives Matter protesters outside Greenville's Police and Fire/Rescue headquarters on May 31.

don't see you as a threat, criminal or thug. Here you don't get to enjoy what many others do.

You could follow all of their orders (Charles Kinsey), you could be unarmed (Elijah McClain) or you could have your children with you (Philando Castile). You could be in your home asleep (Breonna Taylor), you could be playing outside (Tamir Rice) or jogging (Ahmaud Arbery). All of which seem like pretty innocent activities but may carry a death sentence if you are of color in America. Even if you choose to speak out against these senseless acts of

violence peacefully, you are in danger because those in power choose not to differentiate between you and a common criminal.

This is the reality of what it's like to be Black in our country, and this is the reason we protest. It's such an incredibly simple concept to understand, yet far too many willingly remain blind to our struggle. The statement and the belief that Black Lives Matter should not be a bi-partisan issue.

Lucas is a junior majoring in sociology and a guest columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

OUR STAFF

Chloe Easton	Editor-in-Chief
Summer Tonizzo	Managing Editor
Lydia Ryan	Copy Editor
George Martin	News Editor
Sarah Hooper	News Chief
Macie Tano	A&E Editor
Hannah Bolick	A&E Chief
Dylan Woolard	Sports Editor
Brendan Gillespie	Sports Chief
Pat Polomchak	Multimedia Manager
Giana Williams	Opinion Editor
Kate Francis	Visual Arts Editor
Rose Bogue	Production Manager

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

As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number. One copy of The East Carolinian is free. Each additional copy is \$1. Unauthorized removal of additional copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under North Carolina law. Violators will be prosecuted.

Contact Info

The East Carolinian
Mendenhall Main Floor,
Greenville, NC, 28889-4353
Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com
Newsroom: (252) 328-9238
Ax: (252) 328-9245
Fax: (252) 328-9143

Masks should be strictly enforced



Carson Durham
GUEST COLUMN

The situation that society is currently in is astounding and the way that people are reacting is even more unprecedented. Most, if not all, of society has never lived through a pandemic unless they lived through the Spanish Flu. As a cashier, I have seen both sides of the argument when a customer comes through my register not wearing a face covering and their reasoning behind it blows my mind.

Most of them claim that it is because they cannot breathe in the 10 to 15 minutes that they are in the store. I am required to wear a face covering for the entirety of my shift which can range from five hours to eight hours. At one point, I had an individual explain their philosophy of face coverings to me, and I was utterly dumbfounded.

He claimed that if his face covering worked, I shouldn't have to wear one and vice versa. Also, if being six feet apart from everyone worked, that no one should have to wear a mask. The amount of ignorance that he displayed blew my mind and showed me why America cannot get COVID-19 under control.

If people would take the time of day to wear a mask for the short amount of time that they spend within confined areas, such as stores, then I believe

"If people would take the time of day to wear a mask for the short amount of time that they spend within confined areas, such as stores, then I believe that the virus would not spread like it currently is."

-Carson Durham

that the virus would not spread like it currently is. Unfortunately for America, it seems as though nobody understands the concept of doing something for the betterment of the country. I also believe that the government did not handle the situation as it should have been handled.

Had the federal government responded in a more timely and effective manner, I think that the universities would not have needed to close this semester and also that we would be on our way out of this mess. Personally, I would feel so guilty if I chose to not wear a face covering, caught COVID-19 and then gave it to someone who ultimately died from it. My carelessness would be the cause of someone's death and the idea of that being the case is the reason that I chose to start wearing a face covering before it was mandated by Governor Roy Cooper.

I believe that wearing a face covering should be more heavily enforced and that businesses should be allowed to do

more in order to ensure the safety of themselves and of their customers. At the establishment I work at, cashiers are not allowed to confront customers about wearing a face covering and management is not allowed to tell customers that they must leave unless they wear a face covering. The most that management can do is offer the individuals that do not have a face covering, a disposable face mask for them to wear while in the store.

If corporations were able to do more, I feel that more people would feel safe to shop and be out in public without worrying about catching COVID-19. But, because some people feel that they are above the rest of society and are therefore not obligated to wear a face covering, America is faced with a larger problem than that of solely COVID-19.

Durham is a junior majoring in criminal justice and a guest columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

» ANALYSIS

ECU football players recognized

Pro Football Focus lists nine Pirates as preseason All-AAC members



Stryker Stubbs
TEC STAFF

Pro Football Focus released its Preseason All-American Athletic Conference team with nine East Carolina University football players listed on Aug. 22, but should there have been a greater Pirate presence?

The highest ranked player from ECU on the Pro Football Focus list is sophomore wide receiver CJ Johnson who understandably made the first team after his impressive freshman season. As one of the Pirates' leading receivers, he totaled 54 receptions with 908 total yards.

Johnson is the only Pirate listed on the first team, which seems reasonable considering some of the Pirate's struggles in 2019.

The second team boasts a much larger Pirate presence with five ECU football players listed. The most notable players on this team include redshirt sophomore wide receiver Tyler Snead and senior kicker Jake Verity.

Snead had a very solid season in 2019, having the most touchdowns with five, as well as totalling 759 total yards. Along with Snead, Verity is a seasoned veteran for ECU's special team unit and had 24 field goals with the longest being 51 yards.

Snead has a strong argument to be on the first team next year assuming he improves upon his 2020 season numbers.

The Pirates also had a couple of players listed on the third team, including Snead again as a kick returner. ECU senior punter John Young was included in the third team group as well.

The only player that has made the list both last year and this year is Aaron Ramseur. In 2019, Ramseur was listed as the first team linebacker, and has been named to the second team for this year. With his experience, Ramseur has



ECU sophomore wide receiver C.J. Johnson powers through Bulls defenders during the Pirates' 2019 matchup with the University of South Florida. COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM.

greatly helped the Pirates on the defensive side of the ball.

A player who was left off of the list was junior quarterback Holton Ahlers. Ahlers, although not listed by Pro Football Focus, had a solid 2019 season with 3,387 total yards and 21 touchdowns, according to ESPN.com.

With all of the talent within the American Athletic Conference (AAC) at quarterback such as University of Central Florida's sophomore Dillon Gabriel and Southern Methodist University's senior Shane Buechele, the quarterback list is a hard one to crack, but Holton Ahlers could be capable of making an appearance before his college tenure is over.

Buechele has been consistently top of college football and was second in all of college

football with 34 total touchdowns. Compared to ECU's Ahlers, Buechele had over 10 more touchdowns, but only had around 600 more passing yards. With a couple more years of experience, Ahlers could be capable of making a push to lead the AAC.

A player that could be higher is sophomore cornerback Jaquan McMillian, who was listed as an honorable mention. McMillian was a stand-out player for the Pirates defense and started most games at the No. 1 cornerback position.

He could've been named to the second or third team, but considering McMillian's youth, he could definitely climb up the list with more experience.

Lastly, a less deserving player than others within this list is junior quarterback Desmond

Ridder from the University of Cincinnati. Ridder finished the 2019 season with 2,164 total yards and 18 touchdowns, according to ESPN.com. ECU's Ahlers had over 1,000 more yards than Ridder, as well as three more touchdowns. The only statistic that Ridder is on top is the win column, which could explain why he was ranked higher than Ahlers.

The Pirates' nine selections is a great improvement from 2018, where the Pirates in comparison only had four selections. Considering the Pirates' growth in the past couple years, anticipate seeing an increase in ECU football players on this list in the years to come.

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

BALL continued from A1

they cannot visit campus, it is more difficult to find a fit.

The team video coordinator Andrew Yates has been making videos of the campus and practice facilities to send to recruits, according to McNeill.

"It (COVID-19) has made it very different," McNeill said. "Does it affect us one way or the other? I can't really say that because we have gotten four commitments, which is obviously a very good position for us to be at this time of the year with the signing period not being until November. I'm extremely excited about that."

McNeill said out of the four commits, only one of them has been on ECU's campus. The rest have been treated with videos and Zoom meetings during the pandemic. He said the commits are currently only verbal commitments and cannot be named as a result.

To add on to the already difficult factors of the pandemic, schedules have continued to change and each varies by location. McNeill said she does not foresee the team hitting the court until January.

However, highschool teams have varying schedules that may not be the same as the Pirates. According to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA), the basketball regular season will be from Jan. 4 to Feb. 19 with a limit of 14 games on the year. Typically, the high school season spans



Kim McNeill

from mid-October to early March according to past NCHSAA calendars. "I think the new age of recruiting is just going to be off of film," McNeill said. "We receive so many different films and videos everyday through email. Kids are still playing AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) and what they are doing is live streaming them. So we are having to pay a fee to be able to watch them play on a live stream. Some of the quality is better than others."

The current roster for the Pirates has met and the players continue to practice with safety in mind. According to McNeill, the full team was able to return to campus at the end of July. Practice has been in small groups with little contact in order to insure safety. She said she loves the energy in the gym and it is "completely different from last year."

McNeill pointed out the new depth and talent on the squad for this season. The



ECU guard Lashonda Monk takes a jumper. COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM.

Pirates will continue to work hard through the struggles of the pandemic, and she is impressed with the team's effort.

"(Athletic Director) Jon Gilbert and his administration has done an unbelievable job in a tough time," McNeill said. "The thing that they have always put first is the health and safety of the student-athletes."

Gilbert's recent decisions to pause football activities comes in consultation with medical staff, according to a press release from ecupirates.com.

"We will continue to monitor all of our student-athletes on campus and take all the necessary actions to follow all safety protocols established at the local, state and national levels," Gilbert said in the press release.



Jon Gilbert

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

» ANALYSIS

From court to clay

Maceo Donald
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University men's basketball team held an in-team slow-pitch softball Home Run Derby on Aug. 22 in Max R. Joyner Family Stadium to help change up its normal routine.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought significant challenges to collegiate athletics in the United States as student-athletes are challenged daily to prepare to compete and follow the necessary guidelines to stay safe. Exactly how to do that is unclear. Athletes are required to follow the same COVID-19 safety regulations as the general public.

In an attempt to find creative and safe ways to pass the time, many athletes turn to what they know best in sports. This is no different for the East Carolina University men's basketball team. With a little extra downtime on their hands, the Pirate basketball players took their talents to the softball diamond on Aug. 22.

The Pirates held an in-team slow-pitch softball Home Run Derby in Max R. Joyner Family Stadium. According to Associate Director of Athletics Media Relations Jody Jones, this was an attempt to switch things up and give the team something fun to do outside of basketball. The Pirates participate in a variety of team building activities throughout the year, but this was their first time holding a home run derby.

The coaches beat the players 7-5 in the derby. Head coach Joe Dooley led the way for the coaches with two home runs, along with assistant coach George Wright-Easy and video coordinator Adam Owens who additionally hit a pair of home runs and strength coach Vinnie Calautti additionally recorded one home run.

The Pirate players rose to the occasion as well. They followed with two home runs from senior guard Ian Jones, a pair from sophomore center Charles Coleman and senior guard J.J. Miles got one out of the park for himself as well. Jones became the standout in the players dugout. Before choosing to pursue collegiate basketball, he played high school baseball at Harnett Central in Angier, North Carolina. In his varsity career he tallied a .219 batting average, with 30 hits and 14 RBIs.

Even while playing softball, the team made sure that it followed the social distancing guidelines. During the derby, the players, coaches



Senior ECU guard J.J. Miles tosses to the plate. COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM.

and staff were all wearing masks and stayed six feet apart.

"They've (ECU men's basketball players) done a really good job," head coach Joe Dooley said. "They've been very conscientious and done a good job of following the protocols."

In the midst of all of this uncertainty, isolation and constant change to their protocol and daily life, it is safe to wonder how these athletes are staying sane during these difficult times.

For college athletes this has been an extreme change of pace because, typically, their lives are anything but stagnant. They live a life where they have a number of scheduled practices and meetings, travel regularly for games, have interviews with the media and sometimes perform community service. This means they are rarely alone because they constantly have someone around them for team activities.

According to a survey released on Aug. 14 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, out of almost 10,000 adults it was found that 42% reported a mental health issue related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of that percentage, another 26% reported anxiety and 24% reported depression. These numbers have more than tripled compared to this time last year.


Activities like this can be good for mental health, especially when you have the support of a team behind you and the tools necessary to be safe.

Whether it is mental health or the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that the health and safety of the team is what's most important. Even though times are tough right now, it is likely that the team will continue to have fun while remaining safe.

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 — Slow down. Enjoy peace and quiet. Observe what's going on and listen to intuition. Let go of old fears. Stick to your priorities. Make plans.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Collaborate with shared financial ventures. Provide leadership. Invest in home and family. You're learning valuable tricks. Find hidden treasure. You can get what's needed.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Find creative ways to reorganize space to serve your family's changing needs. Make domestic repairs and upgrades. Innovate new ways to use what you have.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Find new ways to connect with friends, teams and communities. Strengthen connections for shared vitality. Discover what you need in your own closet.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Share the load. Avoid surprises; keep promises and bargains. Practice makes perfect. You're especially persuasive. Use your charm and intuition. Support and be supported.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Review facts and data. Sift for relevant clues. Follow a bright idea. Compare your experience and observations with an opposing view. Keep an open mind.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — Focus your career toward a new possibility. Don't count chickens before they're hatched; stay frugal as you pursue new directions. Listen to valuable suggestions.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Protect and support health and wellness. Stay well rested, fed and hydrated. Love energizes you. Physical practice leads to growing skill. Balance work with play.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — Discover a profitable market niche or hot opportunity. Adjust to changing conditions. Stay practical with expenditures. Barter, collaborate and bargain. Connect and support each other.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Your education and journey change direction. Adjust plans to adapt. Focus your exploration toward big questions, inquiries and investigations. Research something you love.

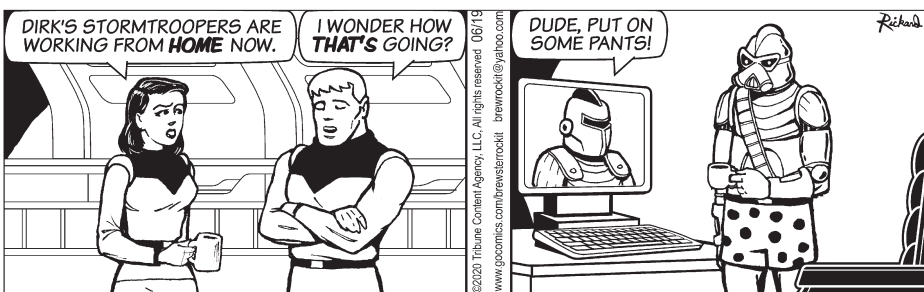
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Follow your heart. Go for love, beauty and fun with those you love. Creativity abounds. Tried and true methods work best. Try new applications.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 9 — Pamper yourself. Prioritize time for self-care and nurturing. Notice curiosities and insights. Introspection leads to personal growth and inspiration. Dream a little dream.

(c)2017 BY NANCY BLACK. DISTRIBUTED BY TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



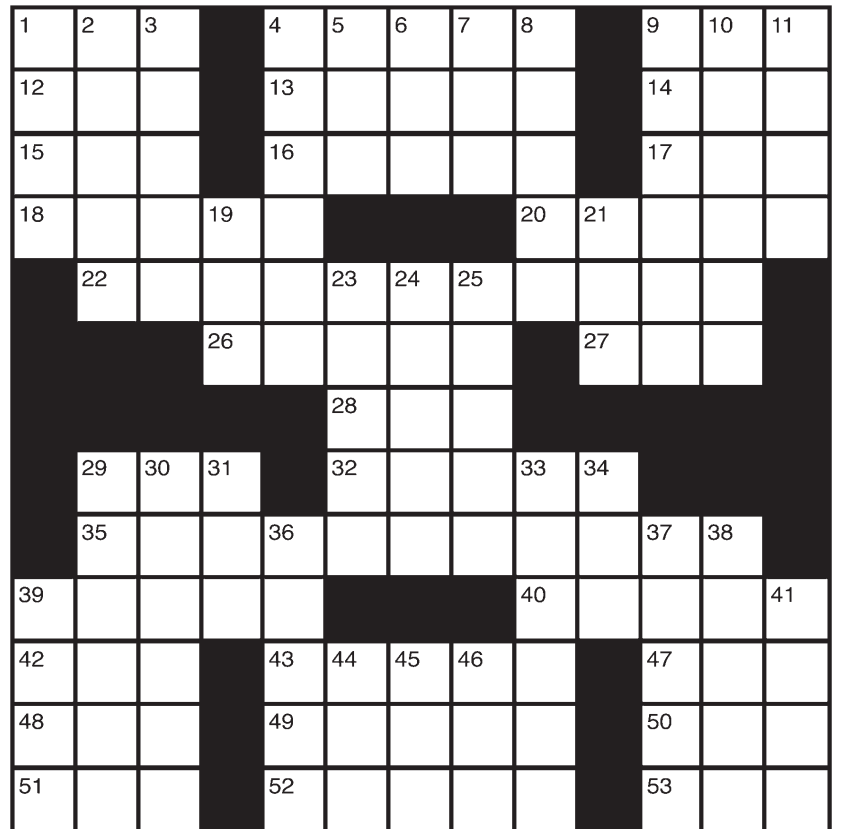
BLISS



CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- "Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof"
- "Star Wars" filmmaker George ___
- "Sesame Street" network
- Cauldron
- "The World ___ Enough"; 007 movie
- Diving bird
- "Please Don't ___ the Daisies"
- Sri ___
- Presurgical scan, for short
- ___ con carne; spicy stew
- "Falcon ___"; prime-time soap opera
- Actor on "NCIS: New Orleans"
- "Close Encounters of the ___ Kind"
- Cochlea's place
- Word attached to fly or about
- Pig's home
- Bottled water brand
- 2018 sci-fi series
- Trigger or Mister Ed
- Lions' dens
- "___ Life to Live"
- "Every Which Way But ___"; Clint Eastwood film

DOWN

- 11/11 honoree
- Marvin or Majors
- Western actor Lash ___
- Greek letter
- Suffix for host or heir
- Difficult to climb
- VP Rockefeller's monogram
- Intl. alliance
- Webster and Wyle
- Upper room
- Frasier's ex
- "McFarland, ___"; Kevin Costner movie
- Network for Wolf Blitzer
- Satisfactory, for short
- Robert ___ of "Unsolved Mysteries"
- Victoria Principal's role on "Dallas"
- College treasurer
- Short one-act play
- "A ___ Like Love"; Amanda Peet movie
- Ms. McClanahan
- "Crouching ___, Hidden Dragon"; Chinese action film
- "The Real Housewives" network
- ___ Ababa, Ethiopia
- Oliver and Sharon
- "___ Company"
- "Say ___ to the Dress"
- ___ at the switch; inattentive
- Long or Peebles
- Prison rooms
- Best Actor Oscar-winner David ___
- Actress Garbo
- "Rabbit ___"; Nicole Kidman film
- "___ Trek: Discovery"
- Cereal grain
- Miner's discovery
- Johnny Cash's "A Boy Named ___"

Solution from 8/26

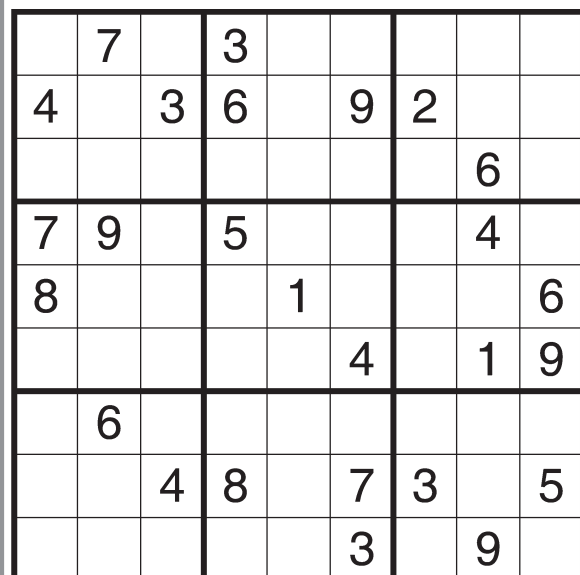


SUDOKU

SUDOKU

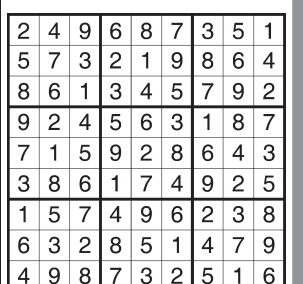
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



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

Solution from 8/26

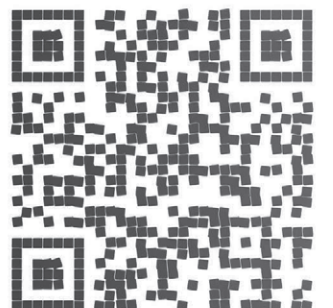


© 2019 The Mepham Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

Get your fill of news, sports, music, arts and events on the NEW Pirate Media 1 website at PirateMedia1.com.

Pirate Media

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



EVENTS

Performing arts move online

SOTD and School of Music transition to remote instruction

TODAY

Open Mic Night
The Blackened Kraken
 123 E 5th St.
 7 to 10 p.m.
 252-215-8822

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

TOMORROW

College Night
Stumpy's Hatchet House
 816 Dickinson Ave.
 5 to 10 p.m.
 252-751-0300

Jefferson's Wine Tasting
Jeffersons
 310 W 9th St.
 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 252-758-5600

Comic Book Club
Smashed Waffles
 718 Dickinson Ave.
 7 to 9 p.m.
 252-364-2872

General Knowledge Trivia
Uptown Brewing Company
 418 Evans St.
 7 to 10 p.m.
 252-689-6487

FRIDAY

First Friday Art Walk
Uptown District
 Virtual
 5 to 8 p.m.
 252-561-8400

September Exhibition
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
 Virtual
 5 to 8 p.m.
 252-551-6947

SATURDAY

Anita's Taqueria Food Truck
Pitt Street Brewing Company
 630 S Pitt St.
 6 to 10 p.m.
 252-227-4151

IBX Improv Comedy Show
Whirligig Stage
 628 S Pitt St.
 7 to 9 p.m.
 252-689-8092

SUNDAY

Cigar Sunday
Pitt Street Brewing Company
 630 S Pitt St.
 3 to 5 p.m.
 252-227-4151

Guided Paddle on the Tar River
Old Sparta to Falkland
Knee Deep Adventures
 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 252-714-5836

Hannah Bolick
 TEC STAFF

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
 FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



The School of Theatre and Dance (SoTD) and the School of Music made changes to its instructional plans following ECU's announcement on Aug. 23 that undergraduate classes will be moved online due to COVID-19.

Chris Ulfers, director of the School of Music, said he and his staff knew that classes moving to an online format was a possibility, so they were prepared for the switch. He said he believes that students are still "going to get the education they deserve."

Some of the classes in the School of Music are still allowed to meet in person, according to Ulfers. He said this will apply mainly to private lessons, as they are considered "experiential learning" courses. However, even these classes will only proceed face-to-face if both the student and instructor are comfortable with the arrangement.

"Students who have left campus are not being asked to come back to campus or anything like that. You (professors) can set up an online camera and you (professors) can teach the same stuff online as well as face-to-face," Ulfers said.

There will be no traditional performances for the remainder of the semester, Ulfers said, but there will be a few faculty recitals which will be streamed with no in-person audience. He said senior recitals will be completed if at all possible, but will not be streamed and will abide by the governor's gathering restrictions.

Ulfers said a major difference between this semester's move to online instruction and last semester's is that this time, there is not a Shelter-in-Place order in effect, so ECU's campus remains open. That means students will be able to come into the Fletcher Music Center and utilize practice rooms and equipment that they wouldn't have access to at home.



Chris Ulfers

"We have a little more flexibility with students being able to remain on campus, students being able to come to the school to practice," Ulfers said. "One of the big things our students had a lot of problems with last spring were because of the shelter in place order, they had to practice in their apartments, and in their homes and things like that."

Ulfers said the ensembles in the School of Music have been presented with a particular challenge since online meeting software like Zoom or WebEx often have lags in connection that make rehearsing together using these tools impractical. However,



CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN DIXON

School of Theatre and Dance student Allegra Persico rehearses on stage for the 2019 Fall Dance.

he said they will continue to look into other online tools made specifically for the purpose of allowing musicians to play together remotely.

Theater professor Jill Matarelli Carlson said that the move will allow instructors to "innovate" and use their "creative skills" to modify their instruction so that students can learn in the safest manner possible during the pandemic.

"While we, of course, miss the camaraderie of in-person instruction; being online allows us to make use of technology and work 'on camera' techniques that are typically reserved for film classes," Matarelli Carlson said in an email statement.

In the midst of the challenges COVID-19 has presented, Matarelli Carlson said she has been encouraged by the way people have united in support of one another.

"I'm so proud of our students and their amazing ability to adapt to these changes. After all this, there won't be too much the professional world can throw at them that they won't be able to take in stride," Matarelli Carlson said.

SoTD Director Jayme Klinger-Host said prior to the move to online, the SoTD faculty developed a more specific guide for their department based on the university's Return of Pirate Nation guidelines, Governor Roy Cooper's rulings, and the CDC's (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) current recommended best practices.

Some theatre and dance students are on the Fall 1 and Fall 2 schedule, according to Klinger-Host. She said students taking technical classes remain on the 15-week schedule.

"We are continuing to make great art and to train our students and move forward with our art making. So we are just privileged to do that face to face at this time," Klinger-Host said prior to the transition to online instruction.

More information on the SOTD can be found on its website and Instagram and Twitter. More information on The School of Music can be found on its website and on its Instagram.

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

SAB events affected by COVID-19

Harold Bloomfield
 TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Student Activities Board's (SAB) plans for the fall semester have changed due COVID-19 clusters and classes being moved online on Aug. 23.

SAB President Lilah El-Halabi said COVID-19 has limited SAB by making it so that a lot of in-person events are out of the question. She said she continues to try to execute the events that they are allowed to have safely.

"We (SAB) are definitely trying to find alternative ways to get students interactive events," El-Halabi said.

A problem from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic was awareness of the virtual events and to get people interested in them, according to El-Halabi. She said lately, she has seen good attendance and has run out of items SAB was giving out when students came and picked them up or had them delivered in certain events.

El-Halabi said students being sent home has put

a hold on certain events. A "Grab-and-Go" event was one where SAB would hand students items to keep. This type of event is most affected by students being sent off-campus because it leaves little-to-no one to participate, according to El-Halabi.

"There are a lot of opportunities coming out later in the fall where there will be plenty of cooperation and interactive events," El-Halabi said.

There will be some type of Halloween Havoc and a fall concert, whether it be virtually or in person, El-Halabi said.

Miriam Harb, a junior computer science major, is the chairman of SAB's Features Committee. She said the Features Committee is a new SAB committee that values culture and community on campus.

Harb said she has not been able to have any of her events so far due to COVID-19. She said she has been meeting with her advisor and has been getting new information whenever they meet.

"We don't have enough students on campus now to do any in person events and we obviously want to keep everyone safe, because that is the priority, but then again, we are still learning new things about COVID-19," Harb said.

Even though her committee has not had any

events, the events she has been involved in have gone pretty well, according to Harb. She said SAB has had to work around new information they are given regarding event restrictions.

Nyasia Warren, a senior family and community service major, is the entertainment chair of SAB. She said COVID-19 has made interaction with students very limited, with many events having to be completely cancelled when COVID-19 first started.

"COVID-19 has affected SAB by limiting our face-to-face events, causing us to do only virtual grab and go events," Warren said.

SAB had already held virtual events before the move to online instruction, so its programs will most likely be the same, Warren said.

COVID-19 cases continue to rise, so SAB will adjust accordingly, Warren said. She said SAB will go along with the information they are given to know exactly what they will be able to do in the future.

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

SPAZZ continued from A1

appropriately. In addition, we are making the event mask required and we'll be providing multiple sanitation stations throughout the grounds. The performance area is spaced off away from where folks will be given designated spots as well," Blinder said.

Spazz Fest is an annual event, according to Blinder. The original plan for this year's festival (Spazz Fest 11) was in March, but it got cancelled due to COVID-19. Saturday's festival is Spazz Fest 11.5 as it is a continuation of the festival series, he said.

The purpose of the festival is to provide local musicians with an outlet to perform, as well as provide members of the Greenville community with a live music performance that they may have not had in a while due to COVID-19, Blinder said.

"The goal of Spazz Fest 11.5 is to allow the gift of live music in an adjusted & safe manner.

It's a whole new world for music makers and music appreciators and we can work together in facilitating an appropriate way to have this live interaction happen again," Blinder said. "It just needs to be done right and with everyone's well being in mind."

There will be a 25 person limit at a time at the festival to adhere to North Carolina's requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Blinder said. Festival goers are also encouraged to sign up in advance by reaching out to Spazz Presents through Facebook and Instagram.

Blinder said he believes people should come out to the festival to experience a community based event with a variety of music and art. He said there are a lot of talented artists in Greenville right now who have not been able to share their work due to COVID-19 and those who come Saturday will get to experience that.

"It's (Spazz Fest 11.5) a way to give folks a little nudge that, although things are weird and we all

feel cut off from each other, we're in this together. Creativity and expression are thriving behind the scenes and when restrictions do get lifted, there's gonna be an unprecedented release of music and art," Blinder said. "With that, (there is) a whole new respect for the importance of community and connection. We just have to weather this storm."



Parker Millar

Millar said he will work at a booth for Galactic North Records, a music record company that sells records and VHS tapes, that hopes to open a location in Greenville.

For food, there will be a veggie grill at Galactic North Record's booth, Millar said. The food, along with the records and VHS tapes will all be

\$1 each. Festival goers are also required to wear face masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the festival, he said.

Millar said he has performed at the annual Spazz Fest multiple times before and even had his first gig at the festival in 2016. He said he has become someone who helps put on the festival with Blinder each year.

"Spazz Fest has been hugely influential in keeping the Greenville music scene alive. It brings new and original artists to Greenville to play for us and bring us a good time. Spazz Fest is huge. You know, you perform at it, but there's also certain people that do what needs to be done during the festival to have it, and I've kind of become one of those people for Jeff and Spazz Fest," Millar said.

More information on Spazz Fest 11.5 and Spazz Presents can be found on its Facebook and Instagram pages.

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