

# VOLLEYBALL SEES SCHEDULE CHANGE

Turn to A6

# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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Stands remain empty at Dowdy Ficklen Stadium as COVID-19 guidelines prevent fans from watching games inside the stadium.

ANNA ALLEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

## Dowdy stands to stay silent

### COVID-19 pandemic affects Pirate football culture

**Brendan Cavazos**  
TEC STAFF

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, college football continues to return to campuses across the country, and for East Carolina University, Pirate football's season opener on Sept. 26 will be played without fans in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

ECU Director of Athletics Jon Gilbert made the official announcement on Sept. 2 that the football season home opener will not have any fans in the crowd, according to ECU Pirates [ecupirates.com](http://ecupirates.com). The Pirates are set to start the season against the University of Central Florida on Sept. 26.



**John Gilbert**

"Currently, it is in the best interest to proceed without fans for our first home game after

consulting with local and state health officials. We are optimistic we will be able to host fans in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium during the 2020 season at the appropriate time."

The Pirates continue to practice and prepare for the season while there have been several pauses along the road with concerns related to the pandemic.

Toward the end of August, according to ECU Pirates, Gilbert announced that the game scheduled for Sept. 12 against Marshall University would be postponed without an officially rescheduled date. Before that, all football activities were halted on Aug. 20 as a result of several positive COVID-19 test results and were resumed the following week on Sept. 1, according to ECU Pirates.

In a press conference after the team's scrimmage on Sept. 11, head coach Mike Houston said to play without the Pirate Nation fanbase will require some adjustments.

"It's going to be different. It's going

to be foreign. It's going to be strange," Houston said. "I think especially when you factor in our fanbase, our student body, it's one of the things that's the strength of our program."

Houston said the home opener will feel similar to the scrimmages in the pre-season practices. There will be a select few people outside of the team, coaching staff and trainers who will be allowed to attend the game.

The media members allowed at the game will be limited and fan parking lots controlled by ECU will additionally be closed to the public, according to ECU Pirates.

As the season moves forward, ECU Athletics will continue to monitor the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and follow protocols to keep players and coaches safe. ECU Athletics will continue to work with local and state officials as well to determine fan capacity for the remainder of the season, according to ECU Pirates.

> OPENER page A6

## Wellness, health fair goes virtual

**Jennifer Sieg**  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University Career Services will host its first virtual Health and Wellness Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday via Handshake with prior registration required.

Career Services Director Tom Halasz said there are 27 employers registered for the fair and over 200 students are expected to participate. Halasz said there is not a deadline for registration, but it is important for students to use the opportunity given to connect with employers before the fair.

"We're excited about the number of students, you know, typically we have under 100 students attend the health fair," Halasz said. "So to have 200 students is encouraging, we're encouraged by that."

Halasz said the wellness focus is new to the fair this year, and in previous years, it was just the Health Fair. He said Career Services wanted to incorporate the additional wellness focus to include a variety of majors.

There are several organizations and businesses which will attend the fair, Halasz said. These organizations include Vidant Medical Center, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Peace Corps, University of North Carolina (UNC) Health and other large healthcare organizations located both in and outside of North Carolina.

"An interesting one is Peace Corps, which a lot of people don't think about is health or wellness related, but a lot of the work that the Peace Corps does is in fact focused on public health," Halasz said. "So that's why the Peace Corps is going to be there and I think it's a great opportunity for students to connect with."

There are both group sessions and one-on-one sessions for students to meet with employers, Halasz said. The one-on-one sessions will provide the opportunity for students and employers to ask each other individual questions, he said.

The Health and Wellness Career Fair not only offers full-time employment searches, but offers internship opportunities as well, according to Halasz. He said this gives a chance for freshman, sophomores and juniors to meet and talk with employers for other opportunities aside from full-time employment.

"This is so very important to students, whether they're



**Tom Halasz**

The one-on-one sessions will provide the opportunity for students and employers to ask each other individual questions, he said.

> CAREER page A2

## Miss ECU to be crowned Saturday

### 2020 competition will continue to use virtual format due to COVID-19 concerns

**Hannah Bolick**  
TEC STAFF

Rather than under the stage lights, the winner of the 2020 Miss East Carolina University pageant will be crowned via live stream at 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 19 on the pageant's Instagram and Facebook pages.

The pageant was originally scheduled for March 22, but was postponed to September when campus closed due to the spread of COVID-19. The event was then moved to a virtual format after the university moved undergraduate classes online on Aug. 23.

Tiffany Robertson, the current Miss ECU and President of the CrownMe organization, the group which hosts the Miss ECU pageant, is also a junior special education adapted curriculum major. She said the move to a virtual format has changed the pageant in several ways, including the elimination of the fitness and on-stage question portions of the competition.

"They (participants) sent in videos of their talent and their evening gown that were sent to the judges, and then they are

doing interviews through WebEx and then awards will be livestreamed on Facebook live and Instagram live," Robertson said.



**Tiffany Robertson**

"So, nothing is going to be in person, which I hate for the girls, but it's just the best way to keep everybody safe." The contestants have continued to prepare for the pageant since October 2019, Robertson said. After being accepted, the contestants participate in a series of workshops throughout the fall semester on topics such as time-management, confidence and resume building. Practices for the pageant begin in the spring, but took place before the spike of COVID-19.

Robertson said each award recipient receives a scholarship, which have varying total amounts. She said this year, Miss ECU will receive a scholarship of over \$1,000.

The Miss ECU pageant is more than a scholarship opportunity; the CrownMe



CONTRIBUTED BY TIFFANY ROBERTSON

Last year's Miss ECU contestants pose with Miss ECU winner Tiffany Robertson (center). organization works to make connections with and between contestants Robertson said.

"They are the most encouraging girls you will ever meet even though you are competing against them, like you're rooting for each other," Robertson said. "They are the best hype women, like they will hype you up, and it's the

most amazing thing."

Senior nutrition and dietetics major Rosi Vega, who is also a contestant in this year's pageant, said the camaraderie between the contestants is one of the most important benefits of Miss ECU. She said she met her best friend

> MISS page A3

### ONLINE

»SPORTS: Noon kickoff may affect Pirate success

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

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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## BRIEFS

## SGA to host weekly office hours

Today, East Carolina University's Student Government Association will host virtual office hours from noon to 1 p.m. via WebEx. More information about the WebEx can be found on SGA's Engage page.

## A.L.A.N.A to host study skills session

Today, The A.L.A.N.A workshop series at East Carolina University will host a session on study skills from 4 to 5 p.m. via WebEx. More information can be found on A.L.A.N.A.'s Engage page.

## ECU SAB to host 'MYO Aquariums'

Tomorrow, East Carolina University's Student Activities Board will host a virtual "Make Your Own Aquarium" event from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Students will sign up for a slotted time and pick up a gift card voucher to get a fish from a local pet store. More information can be found on SAB's Engage website.

## CLCE to host Democracy Now

Tomorrow, East Carolina University's Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement will host a discussion focused around Constitution Day from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Students can join via Microsoft Teams.

## Student Media Board to meet virtually

Tomorrow, East Carolina University's Student Media Board will have a general meeting over Zoom at 5 p.m.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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



SUMMER TONIZZO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A section of the Tar River will be incorporated into the new investment made by the city which will focus on water activities as well as trails for hiking.

# City invests in recreation grounds

## Greenville to develop acquired 163 acres of land into adventure park

Graham Emmett  
TEC STAFF

The City of Greenville purchased 163 acres of land next to U.S. Highway 264 in 2019 with the plans to make it an outdoor adventure park with walking trails and has begun to makeway for the new addition for its community.

Greenville Mayor PJ Connelly said the conversations to buy the land first came up about a year and a half ago. He said the property is close to other parks which is why it was an appealing addition for the City of Greenville.

"It was very attractive to us because it seemed like a piece of property that really cannot be developed and it also had access to the river," Connelly said.

The property cannot be developed because of it being in the Tar River flood plain, according to Connelly. He said the area experiences flooding and it is not suitable for any type of structure.

Connelly said the park project is expected to be divided into phases with plans already set to put in trails. He said the adventure park that will be next to highway 264 is hoped to open in April 2021.

"As of right now, there is a little pond that connects into the Tar River. Our plan is we want to put in a walking trail around that pond," Connelly said. "We want to have some walking trails around the property itself. We are also gonna look at doing a canoe and kayak launch." Connelly said the city hopes to have the first

phase of the project done by April 2021, which will include the primitive trails.

There are plans to connect existing parks in the area with trails, according to Connelly. He said River Park North is west of the newly acquired property and the hope is to be able to connect the two parks.

"Our hope is we'll be able to continue to make some connections into the land that we already own. River Park North is basically to the west of there," Connelly said. "We just made a 1.3 mile extension in River Park North for a walking trail. Our hope is to be able to connect the land in the near future and be able to offer some outdoor amenities for people."

Connelly said the new park will be a great attraction for people in the Greenville area. He said the new parks aren't solely for people in Greenville but for people in eastern North Carolina to come and enjoy.

Junior biology and chemistry double major Holiday Harvey lives near the new park property. Harvey said the park has potential to be a beneficial addition to the community.

"I think it would be good. If it's too close to the grid during the normal semester it could get filled with drunk people on the weekends," Harvey said. "That would be an issue but I think it would be good for the community."

Director of Recreation and Parks for the City of Greenville Gary Fenton has plans to utilize the Tar River and the surrounding

wooded areas as recreational zones. Fenton said he believes all the parks that will reside along the northern side of the river can be connected with trails.

Fenton wants to put in more boat launches for small boats and make the nearby bodies of water more accessible. The Recreation and Parks Department's focus is to introduce more people to the river.

"We did what was called the Tar River Legacy Plan. It was a big document that we put together and basically the reason for that was, how can our city better benefit from the fact that we have a river that runs right through our city," Fenton said.

The document, created six years ago, came with recommendations of properties to acquire that are specifically intended to be active recreational attractions that relate to the river, according to Fenton. For the proposed areas to acquire, the Recreation and Parks department has ideas which include fishing, boating and cable wakeboarding zones in the lakes just north of the Tar River as well as elevated trails through the wetlands, called murch canopies.

"There's a lot of possibilities of facilities, but most of them are respectful of the natural environment that is there and they make use of that environment, that lake or that river, and bring people closer to it," Fenton said.

The City of Greenville hopes to make the Tar river more accessible, according to Fenton. He said, however, large scale plans don't come quickly or at a cheap cost.

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



PJ Connelly



Holiday Harvey

## CAREER continued from A1

looking for full-time positions or for positions to learn about different employers or different careers, is making connections," Halasz said.

College of Nursing Student Transitions Director Frances Eason said she designed a course titled College of Nursing Graduating Senior Transitions this semester which consists of five modules to prepare students for career fairs. She said she has reviewed 75 student resumes and cover letters in an effort to prepare them for the Health and Wellness Fair.

Eason said while it is unfortunate the career fair cannot be held in person this year, students still have the opportunity to meet and speak with a recruiter or potential employer.

"I think we've got a lot going on, in fact that course takes a lot of my hours here at work," Eason said. "Especially reviewing all these resumes and cover letters because I want, I want these East Carolina nursing students to present themselves as real professionals."

ECU Career Services Senior Career Counselor Crystal Waters said she wants students to understand that times continue to change and even though career fairs will be virtual, it's still best to be fully engaged.

Waters said she is excited about the new, virtual process as this career fair begins the fall semester's fairs. She said the employers committed to serve this event have open opportunities for students in all majors to include both health and wellness.

The Health and Wellness Career Fair gives students the opportunity to strengthen their interpersonal communication skills, according to Waters.

"This is the opportunity where they (students) can actually see their (employers) body language," Waters said. "They can actually see themselves on screen, they can hear their tone of voice, they can see how responsive the audience is."

The next scheduled career fair is the Job and Internship Fair on Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., followed by the Engineering and Technology Fair on Oct. 14 and the Graduate School Fair on Nov. 4. All career fair registration forms can be accessed through Handshake.

Students are recommended to meet with a career counselor before attending career fairs in order to be better prepared, according to ECU Career Services website. "This is so very important to students, whether they're looking for full-time positions or for positions to learn about different employers or different careers, is making connections," Halasz said.

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

# Gyms acclimate to Phase 2.5

Michelle Mazzei  
TEC STAFF

Harold Bloomfield  
TEC STAFF



East Carolina University's recreation centers and local Greenville fitness and physical activity centers have reopened under North Carolina's Phase 2.5 state reopening guidelines which allow them to operate at 30% capacity.

North Carolina moved into Phase 2.5 of the state's reopening plan on Sept. 4, according to the North Carolina Government website. Under this order, gathering limits have increased to 25 individuals indoors and 50 outdoors.

The Student Recreation Center (SRC) on ECU's Main Campus has since been reopened on Sept. 8, as well as the Campus Recreation and Wellness (CRW) Center at the Health Sciences Student Center.

Assistant Director for Communications and Promotions for the SRC Jenny Gregory said she is excited ECU's recreation centers have reopened. Gregory said her department has spaced out the equipment, made sure the time-slot website was properly set up and ensured the staff was well trained before it reopened.

"I don't think we're going to have this huge spike in (COVID-19) cases," Gregory said. "This is just my personal opinion; this does not reflect the Recreation and Wellness Center, but as much as we're cleaning touchpoints, as much as we're spacing out equipment, we don't have a ton of cardio, (so) I feel like we're doing what needs to be done to keep all of the people safe."

Individuals are encouraged to come in the swimwear, properly social distance, wear face masks at all times except when they're in the pool and they can use the chairs to hold belongings, Waters said. He said when individuals complete their session, staff will thoroughly disinfect touch points prior to the next appointment.

"From a facilities standpoint, my colleagues and I have been working non-stop since March to ensure we mitigated and eliminated as many risks as possible in order to provide the safest workout opportunity for our students, faculty, and staff," Waters said.

Some fitness centers in Greenville have since opened since Phase 2.5 was put into effect and continue to require guest to take the precautions necessary against COVID-19.



CONTRIBUTED BY JUSTIN WATERS

The Student Recreation Center's indoor pool will follow new guidelines.

Carissa Chapel is the owner of Title Boxing Club, located at 3700 Charles Blvd., Chapel has owned the boxing club for two and a half years.

"We didn't really skip a beat at Title, so we already had plans in place ahead of time," Chapel said.

Title Boxing Club had zoom classes and different online classes to make up for the gym being closed, according to Chapel. She said after a couple of weeks of quarantine, she did start to question how long the gym will be closed and how she can maintain keeping her staff paid.

Before Phase 2.5, the gym was able to open up on a smaller scale because of some people needing to workout because of medical needs, according to Chapel. She said the gym has social distancing rules in place to keep people safe and, other than during workouts, masks are required to be worn.

"We have always been a very clean gym, but we have taken our cleaning regulations to the next level," Chapel said.

Title Boxing Club was recently able to open back up to the public, so the staff has been taking precautions with all the people coming in, according to Chapel. She said many different classes have opened up, such as a group for people struggling with Parkinson's disease and children's groups for kids out of school due to COVID-19.

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



Crystal Waters

## OUR VIEW

### Greek Life not to blame for clusters

A list of new COVID-19 clusters was announced in an East Carolina University Alert on Sept. 10, which listed 13 Greek Life organizations with a total of 126 positive cases, however, the individuals who represent Greek Life at ECU are to blame, not the institution as a whole.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that it would be unfair to hold an entire institution accountable for the actions of certain individuals. Especially considering many of the people who contracted the virus could have gotten it from a reckless individual who infected other rule-abiding people.

We cannot assume the fraternities and sororities involved in the clusters were not following social distancing guidelines or weren't wearing a face mask at the time of exposure, and we cannot put the blame on all of them. Nevertheless, those individuals who did contribute to the spike in cases among Greek Life should've been cautious of their whereabouts and the people they were around.

Around the time of the cluster announcement, some Greek Life organizations were getting ready for rush week. Due to COVID-19 precautions, the institution has made changes by having its rush week virtually. We appreciate that Greek Life has taken this route to follow social distancing guidelines to reduce close contact.

We appreciate Greek Life organizations holding remote and virtual rush events this semester given the current circumstances, but we also encourage all Greek Life members to be cautious moving forward and protect the people around them. Additionally, Greek Life should work toward acknowledging the actions made by specific individuals within its organization to help take proper precautions against COVID-19.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



INDOOR DINING RETURNS

## Racism must end for unity

### Protests for equality should not be a political argument

#### Williams' World

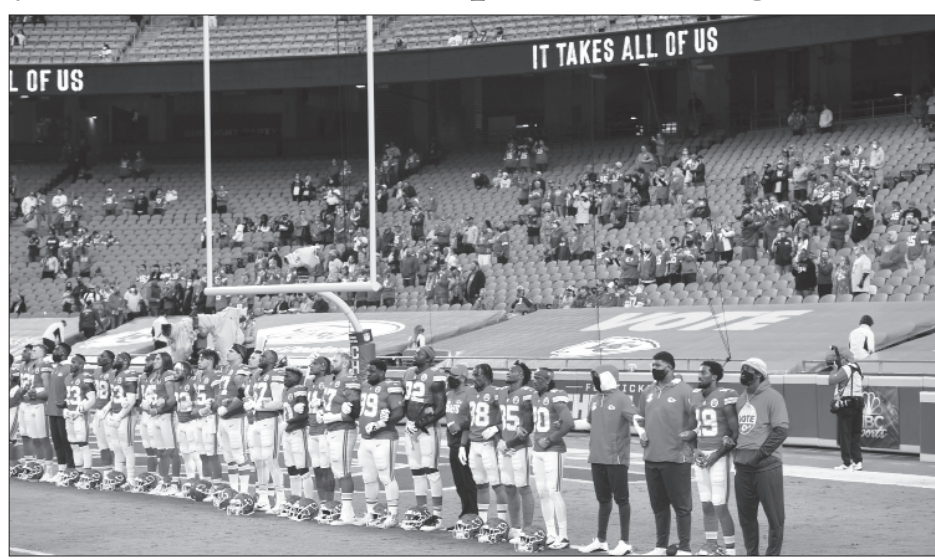


Giana Williams  
TEC COLUMN

I want to acknowledge the giant elephant in the room, which is that Americans are ever so slightly hypocritical about how they want the country to go about protesting things they believe in. Some may be upset with what I have to say but this needs to be heard.

First and foremost, part of our first amendment right states that we have the right to peacefully assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances. In 2016, Colin Kaepernick peacefully knelt during the national anthem in response to the racial injustices, police brutality and systemic oppression that Black people have been facing for years in America. Kaepernick knelt because it was his first amendment right to protest, but some football fans were angry because he "disrespected the country" or yet, a polyester flag that you can get from anywhere for about \$13.

Next, Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests then took it to the streets where 93% of those protests were peaceful marches around cities and towns. Yet, some Americans didn't like that and tried to call the BLM protestors a "terrorist group." Terrorism is the unlawful use of force and vio-



Kansas City Chiefs football team lock arms for a moment of unity during the pregame ceremonies on Sept. 10.

lence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives according to the FBI website.

The BLM protests were never forceful or violent unless authorities had intervened by using tear gas, rubber bullets or pepper spray. The protestors were using their first amendment right to protest against racism and did not intimidate anyone besides racists who think the world is fine the way it is now. Protesting for equality should not be a "political argument." Equality, regardless

of race, gender, sexual orientation and more, is a basic human right.

On Sept. 10, the Kansas City Chiefs and Houston Texans locked arms with each other before their football game during a moment of unity against the racism that's happening in this country. Yet, they were booed for acknowledging a problem that's happening throughout the nation.

At this point, what is considered an acceptable protest for Americans?

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

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## OUR STAFF

- Chloe Easton Editor-in-Chief
- Summer Tonizzo Managing Editor
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### Contact Info

The East Carolinian  
Mendenhall Main Floor,  
Greenville, NC, 28889-4353

Email: [editor@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:editor@theeastcarolinian.com)

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

## Sustainability efforts remain essential



Will Shingleton  
GUEST COLUMN

Being a college student during the days of COVID-19 is undoubtedly stressful, and being someone who cares about the environment makes it even harder. Sustainability was a growing topic at East Carolina

University, set to be on the forefront of conversation across campus this year. Instead, most of this progress seems to have halted in its tracks.

Greenville has suspended the majority of its recycling efforts. Those blue disposable masks are littered across every busy street in town. Sustainability issues may be on the back burner, but the problems haven't gone away. There is still plenty we can all do to live safely and also sustainably.

The human race and the COVID-19 virus have a very ironic parallel. COVID-19 has been so successful because it multiplies rapidly and quickly spreads throughout the host. It causes short-term damage that can range from very mild to severe, however the long-term effects are unknown.

Coronavirus rapidly spread across the globe and caused an abrupt shift in our societal system. This terrible event was not surprising to the many scientists who have been predicting a global pandemic for decades. If you reread those statements, this time in the context of humans and their impact on earth, they still hold true.

**"I believe everyone has a responsibility in keeping the earth safe in the same way they are responsible for keeping their family members safe during the pandemic. It's simply a matter of thinking beyond yourself and taking an initiative,"**

-Will Shingleton

Continuing with that parallel, I believe everyone has a responsibility in keeping the earth safe in the same way they are responsible for keeping their family members safe during the pandemic. It's simply a matter of thinking beyond yourself and taking an initiative. No, this doesn't mean you should drop everything and go buy a metal straw and a compost bin. Just take a few moments out of your day to do something good for the planet.

A small change every day leads to a big impact. Next time you see that cup on the sidewalk, carry it with you to the trash. If your mask falls out of your pocket, take the time to pick it up before you continue on your way. I promise you that doing something good beyond yourself will brighten your day, which is something we all need in a time like this.

Many of us are already taking steps forward in sustainable practices without even realizing. We're driving less since all of our lectures are online and eating at home more often. Employees and

employees are learning that they can be just as productive without meeting in the office every day. Cities across the country are seeing reductions in emissions. These are all positives we can use as motivation to continue going forward once we've returned to a sense of normalcy. But for now, there is still plenty to do.

I encourage everyone reading this to try and do more for the place we call home. No matter your political opinions, there's a multitude of reasons why we would want a cleaner, more sustainable environment to live in. There are groups on campus who continue to work towards these goals, even during the pandemic. Consider joining or volunteering for the sustainability clubs on campus: the ECO-Pirates, and ReLeaf. Do your own research and connect with the ECU Sustainability Office.

Shingleton is a junior majoring in environmental health and a guest columnist. To contact him, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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EVENTS

TODAY

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

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

TOMORROW

**Tapas and Jazz**  
**Starlight Cafe**  
 104 W 5th St.  
 5:30 to 10 p.m.  
 252-707-9033

**Jefferson's Wine Tasting**  
**Jefferson's**  
 Virtual  
 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
 252-355-5600

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

**Paints and Pints**  
**Pitt Street Brewing Company**  
 630 S Pitt St.  
 1 to 3 p.m.  
 252-227-4151

# Doggie Jams postponed

## Sup Dogs' annual festival rescheduled for April of 2021

**Macie Tano**  
TEC STAFF

**Hannah Bolick**  
TEC STAFF



Sup Dogs' announced on its social media pages on Sept. 8 that its annual Doggie Jams event has been moved to April 17, 2021 due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

The event is still set to feature performances by Shaquille O'Neal, also known as DJ Diesel, and Bryen O'Boyle, also known by the stage name of Just the Tip. According to Sup Dog's Facebook post, tickets for the original date will be honored for the new date.

Bret Olivero, owner of Sup Dogs, said this was the second time Doggie Jams had to be rescheduled. The event was originally rescheduled for Oct. 24, but he said it was decided last week to postpone the event until next year due to COVID-19.

"There is no way to have a music event with thousands of people in a month and a half, I just think that's not in the cards right now. So, I reached out to Shaq and asked him if he was able to reschedule the event and we decided on April 17 of 2021," Olivero said.

Tickets for Doggie Jams are \$30 and can be purchased through Sup Dogs' website, Olivero said. Those who purchased tickets for the original April 4 and Oct. 24 dates will be able to use their



**Bret Olivero**

tickets for the April 17, 2021 Doggie Jams event. Anyone who purchased a ticket and won't be able to attend the new date can also request a refund through the website, he said.

Around 3,000 tickets have been purchased for the Doggie Jams event as of Sept. 9, according to Olivero, and the max capacity for the event is 5,000. He said the event sells out every year, and he doesn't expect the rescheduled date to be different.

"Shaq and Just The Tip both are just excited to get back to doing live events," Olivero said. "I think everyone realizes that this fall there won't be any major music events here in the United States, so I know from talking to Shaq's people



The storefront of Sup Dogs, which had to reschedule its annual Doggie Jams festival for April 17, 2021.

that everyone is excited to get back to doing awesome events with large amounts of people."

While Olivero believes Doggie Jams will be able to happen on April 17, he said Sup Dogs will continue to monitor COVID-19, and make adjustments if necessary. The safety of students and attendees is the most important aspect and he is optimistic that Doggie Jams will be able to happen on the new date.

Although he is disappointed that Doggie Jams had to be moved a second time, Olivero said he is happy that Doggie Jams will continue to be a spring event.

"Doggie Jams has always been a spring event, so, you know, Doggie Jams, awesome weather, sort of the end of the semester, that is what it's all about. I'm actually glad Doggie Jams is going to remain a spring event, and it's the weekend after Pirate Fest," Olivero said. "It should be an awesome weekend, one of the last weekends of the semester that all of ECU can come out and celebrate."

Senior accounting major Anastasia Douds said she purchased a ticket for Doggie Jams before the original date. Douds said she looks forward to attending the rescheduled date.

Douds said she made the decision to attend the rescheduled event because she believes that Sup Dogs will make the best decision in regards to student safety, event attendees and Sup Dogs staff members.

"I have not attended Doggie Jams before, but I've seen from my friends what it is like. It gives off the vibes of a super energetic EDM (electronic dance music) festival. Everyone seems to be really hype and having a good time the whole time," Douds said. "Doggie Jams is an ECU staple and every student should experience it at least one time. It's something everyone knows about and a bond that only students here share."

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

# Southern comfort takes on fine dining

**Macie Tano**  
TEC STAFF

**Hannah Bolick**  
TEC STAFF



A new, casual fine dining restaurant, SoCo, located at 304 S Greene St. and co-owned by husband and wife duo Jeremy Law and Kimberly Kulers, opened its doors to the public on Aug. 28 and will continue to provide the Greenville community with an unique experience.

Law and Kulers previously owned a restaurant by the same name in Wilson, North Carolina, for 10 years on their farm, Kulers, an ECU alumna, said. The couple then decided to move their restaurant's location to Uptown Greenville.

Kulers said the decision to open up SoCo in Greenville was because they wanted to have the restaurant in an urban setting where they could serve more people.

"We sold the farm, the restaurant and our home and everything and moved to Greenville so we could become part of the Greenville community. I went to ECU and graduated in 2000 so it's kind of cool to see how much Greenville has changed and has grown, and we wanted to be a part of that," Kulers said.

As for the food, Kulers said SoCo specializes in upscale southern comfort food, hence the name "SoCo." The food is prepared by Law, who is also the chef. Kulers said the restaurant currently only offers a four-course tasting menu, which is \$50 and changes every three weeks.

SoCo additionally offers wine pairings, she said.

The location of the restaurant is in the 125-year-old Jones Lee House that was slated for demolition, Kulers said. Law and Kulers purchased the house because it was "charming," and had it renovated and moved to its S Greene St. location.

The restaurant will continue to take required precautions against COVID-19, and will require guests wear face masks, use hand sanitizer stations, sit at spaced tables six feet apart from one another that have been disinfected after each use by the staff.

"Unfortunately, we're a small restaurant to begin with, so I know it's a little frustrating for people," Kulers said. "We're having people make reservations right now because otherwise we couldn't control the flow of people, so we decided it was best to do reservations, so we can control how many people are around each other at one time."

Kulers said the restaurant has had good feedback from customers, as they are given a chance to try food they wouldn't usually try. She said customers usually seem to enjoy the wine pairings.

COVID-19 did affect the opening of the restaurant, Kulers said, as they were not able to get all the materials needed to properly open



**Kimberly Kulers**



SoCo opened on Aug. 28 in Uptown Greenville.

the restaurant.

"There were some things we couldn't get because of the pandemic," Kulers said. "The flooring was delayed, our walk-in cooler was delayed, there were a lot of delays because of the virus. We still opened as soon as we could at half capacity."

Although SoCo currently does not have any deals for East Carolina University students, Kulers said she would like to see students come in and celebrate special occasions at the restaurant in the future.

The main goal for the restaurant is to be able to open at full capacity eventually, as well

as have brunch service on Sundays and have a room for parties, according to Kulers. She said she hopes to see more customers come out to try SoCo soon.

"I think it's a good place for people to come and get out of their houses and feel safe about dining out and have a somewhat normal dining experience. The staff is wearing face shields so that people can see our facial expressions," Kulers said. "We're trying to keep it as normal as possible, but I don't know anywhere else in Greenville that you can get a food experience that is like one you'd get in Europe or a big city."

Brandon Qualls, owner of upscale restaurant Ford + Shep, located at 718 Dickinson Ave., said he is happy to see SoCo join the neighborhood. He said he had actually looked at the house SoCo is located in himself as a possible place for a restaurant prior to finding his current location.

Having known Law for years prior to SoCo's move to Uptown Greenville, Qualls said he had the chance to eat at the restaurant's original farm location in Wilson.

"Honestly, it just kind of strengthens the growth of our city and then people want to be a part of it, so we're, you know, excited to have them uptown with us," Qualls said. "You know, the more people we can bring uptown with us the better it is for everybody in the community as a whole."

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

## MISS continued from A1

friend through the pageant.

With the move to a virtual format, Vega said she believes the "crowning moment" will be the most difficult aspect of the pages to replicate. The contestants won't be in the same place physically for the crowning but will tune in to the livestreams to hear the results.

"The winner is not going to be with Tiffany (Robertson), the current Miss ECU, to get crowned and like, yeah you'll probably get the reaction, but you are not able to catch the moment where the old Miss ECU crowns the new one," Vega said. "I feel like there's a special significance behind it and it's really upsetting that that won't be able to happen this year."

Each contestant has a platform they would base their community service efforts on if they win. Vega said as a survivor of ulcerative colitis,

her platform is to spread awareness of the condition and to empower women through whatever adversity they may face in their lives.

Hannah Dixon, a pageant contestant and junior elementary education major, said her platform would stem from her major. She said she would serve children in need and continue to be a good role model to young women if

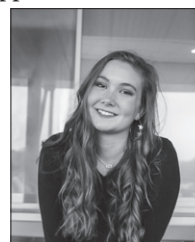


**Hannah Dixon**

she took the crown. She said she has found there are many benefits to being in the Miss ECU pageant. "I feel like I can talk to people so much easier. I'm more confident in myself and my ability," Dixon said. "I really just think it's not so much you know the money you get from the scholarships or all of that, it's really just personal growth that you get out of it. I think that's the most important thing."

Dixon said, under the current circumstances, she thinks the transition to a virtual format was the best choice to keep everyone safe. She said she is disappointed to see the pageant happen virtually, but will continue to try to remain positive.

Miss ECU Contestant Hailee Austin, who is also a junior hospitality management major, said she first heard about the pageant when she was a senior in high school. Both her parents are ECU alumni, and she said if she won the crown it could be her opportunity to leave her mark on the university.



**Hailee Austin**

"Coming onto campus, it sounds stupid, but I kind of was like, I want to leave a legacy, like, I want to do something that people are like, 'oh yeah, Hailee Austin did that.' I think getting

involved with Miss ECU, if I were to win, would give me the platform to do that," Austin said.

The aspect of the Miss ECU pageant Austin said she appreciated most is the relationships she was able to form with the other contestants. She said they all come from such a wide variety of backgrounds and majors.


For her platform, Austin said she would focus on mental health awareness and plan to work with ECU's Center for Counseling and Student Development to improve its programs and student accessibility.

"My biggest thing is working with the counseling center in order to bring better resources on campus for students battling mental health, I'm one of those people and I think that counseling center is a great place but I think there's a lot of things they could work on to make it more accessible to students," Austin said.

This writer can be contacted at arts@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](mailto:smaa@ecu.edu) for more information.



## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — Choose stability over illusion, especially regarding physical health, fitness and work. Adopt a philosophical or spiritual view. Routines and rituals soothe and satisfy.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Plant seeds for lucrative ventures. Long-term gain can come from investment, care and tending over time. Stick to fundamental priorities. Market, bargain and trade.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Someone important is paying attention to your work. Polish your presentation and keep producing results. Run a reality check and stay in action.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Things may not match the romantic fantasy. Love flowers and grows despite frills or fancy ambiance. Family comes first. Share appreciation and gratitude.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 9 — As you gain strength, you gain options. Make time for fresh air and exercise. Pursue passion projects. Take extra care of yourself. Recharge.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Investigate and research. Long-term benefits grow on the framework you create. Build strong bones. Explore options and possibilities. Imagine perfection and advance step by step.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is an 8 — Stick close to home. Modify the space to suit what you need. Long-term improvements can come together with simple ingredients. Share home-cooked goodness.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 6 — Fantasies dissipate. You can see the gap between where you are and want to be. Make plans and organize. Envision new possibilities.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Join forces for common good. Partnerships developed now can grow and deepen. Share your vision, inspiration and goals, talents and expertise. Collaboration flowers.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Study, practice and document your observations. You're learning skills with long-term benefit. Don't fund a fantasy. Piece together a puzzle to discover valuable solutions.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Connect with friends for shared support. Share resources, information and tools. The best things in life are free. Collaborate on practical priorities for common good.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Strategize carefully with your partner and team before making financial decisions. Avoid impulsive moves. Long-term gain is possible. Find the best plan.

## CROSSWORD

# THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

**ACROSS**

- 1 "Men \_\_\_ Certain Age"
- 4 "Full \_\_\_ Jacket"; Matthew Modine war film
- 9 Find a sum
- 12 Actor Wheaton
- 13 Sports building
- 14 And not
- 15 Actor Wallach
- 16 Of the kidneys
- 17 Large antelope
- 18 Eliminate insects from
- 20 Regions
- 22 "America's Got Talent" judge
- 26 Ring-shaped island
- 27 "Major \_\_\_"
- 28 Texter's giggle
- 29 Biol. or zool.
- 32 "The Postman Always Rings \_\_\_"; Jack Nicholson film
- 35 Harriet's hubby on a classic sitcom
- 39 "\_\_\_ Acres"
- 40 "Sesame Street" character
- 42 \_\_\_ room; place for a pool table
- 43 Actor Lorenzo
- 47 180 degrees from WSW
- 48 Bit of soot
- 49 Ralph's wife on "The Honeymooners"
- 50 Curry or Cusack
- 51 Wall and Easy: abbr.
- 52 Mae and Adam
- 53 "Bill \_\_\_ the Science Guy"

**DOWN**

- 1 Had unpaid bills
- 2 "The Rockford \_\_\_"
- 3 Excuse
- 4 Actress Kidder
- 5 Prior to
- 6 "\_\_\_ Days in the Valley"; recent Kyra Sedgwick series
- 7 Actress Ortiz
- 8 Legal series for Richard Dysart
- 9 Actress Lansbury
- 10 Trump or Sutherland
- 11 Actress Joanne & others
- 19 \_\_\_ Thurman
- 21 "The Hunt for \_\_\_ October"; Sean Connery film
- 23 Actor Nick
- 24 Chuckles or Bozo
- 25 Laurel's partner, familiarly
- 29 Most resentful
- 30 Prague residents
- 31 Suffix for vocal or vital
- 33 Glenn and Eric
- 34 Curvy letter
- 36 "Mothers-\_\_\_"; Kaye Ballard sitcom
- 37 "The Deep End of the \_\_\_"; Michelle Pfeiffer film
- 38 Position for Fran Fine
- 39 "Mardi \_\_\_"; Pat Boone movie
- 41 Actress Russo
- 44 Tavern order
- 45 Prefix for placed or matched
- 46 "Sister \_\_\_"; film for Whoopi

Solution from 9/09

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R	E	E	D		E	R	I	C	S			
F	I	N	N	S	M	A	G	N	U	M		
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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKIT



## BLISS



## SUDOKU

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level  
**1** **2**  
**3** **4**

	4	1					6					
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	6		8		5	7	2					
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk)

Solution from 9/09

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

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 The Agency - Expressions - The Hook - Rebel



**OPENER** continued from A1



COURTESY OF ECUIRATES.COM.

**Pirate junior quarterback Holton Ahlers rolls out.**

However, other colleges are also moving forward with football and making extreme changes to either 2020 schedules or capacity limits. The University of Michigan has been mulling over the idea of playing college football in Michigan Stadium (The Big House) since July 15 according to a release from mgoblue.com.

The Pirates and Wolverines do differ on the overall approach to the 2020 season as ECU is still in favor of hosting season ticket holders whenever deemed appropriate. Michigan does not plan to sell football season tickets this season and home games will be sold on a single-game basis.

The plan at ECU has long been to have fans and to allow season ticket holders into home contests, but Wolverine fans have been told since July tickets will be sold on a single-game basis.

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

# Delays caused by virus

## Volleyball faces challenges with schedule change

**Stryker Stubbs**  
TEC STAFF

The American Athletic Conference (AAC) has officially moved the 2020 women's volleyball season to the spring of 2021, which affects the entire conference as well as East Carolina University's team.

The Pirates' volleyball team has faced many changes within the past year, which includes the addition of head coach Adler Augustin, who came to the Pirates from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Augustin said the team always hopes and wants to play. He said the team was a little disappointed about the transition, but understands of the reasons.

Augustin said the team recruits during the spring months, so it will continue to recruit in the midst of the 2021 volleyball season.

"The challenge will be more so on the staff. Usually, we recruit in the spring and recruiting will stay the same so now we have to coach our team and still find time to recruit," Augustin said.

Along with Augustin, the Pirates have additionally brought in assistant coach Arturo Rivera from Wake Forest University. Rivera spent time as an assistant coach at Harvard University and volunteer assistant at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, according to ecupirates.com.

The Pirates' volleyball program has had several changes throughout the last few months. The team added two transfers to the roster this past offseason: senior Camryn Allen and senior Alisi Motu'apuaka.

The Pirate volleyball team finished the 2019 season at 19 wins and 11 losses. With 19 wins in the season, only six of those were against AAC opponents. Their 2019 record is still an improvement from 2018, where the Pirates only won 13 games and lost 16. This season, the Pirates won five conference games against AAC opponents, according to ECUirates.com.



COURTESY OF ECUIRATES.COM.

**An ECU volleyball player finishes overtop of two Wichita State players attempting a block.**

Moving the season to the spring could potentially have some benefits for ECU, as Coach Augustin said there are benefits to the postponement of the season.

"I think the benefit is that we get to train before we play," Augustin said. "Now, we came off the summer, we have a whole semester to get stuff moving in the right direction again, especially for freshmen."

Augustin said the team will have more time to understand the system, familiarize themselves with college life, studies and volleyball.

After previous head coach Julie Torbett was not re-signed after her contract ran out,

Augustin was hired. She guided ECU volleyball for seven years, and won 109 games as head coach, according to ECUirates.com. Torbett has since gone to Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she will assume the role of head coach.

The new head coach Augustin joins a Pirate volleyball team which has steadily improved in the past couple years. On the current roster, the Pirates have six seniors, which could provide the necessary experience and leadership to continue to improve in 2021.

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

## In Living Color: Journalism in the Age of Black Lives Matter

**A virtual panel with those watching and reporting from the front lines**

**What is the role of the media in the time of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Jacob Blake?** Join us as we explore the relationship between the media and marginalized communities. Exploring both the coverage and experiences of people of color, this discussion will examine, from both a personal and professional lens of media insiders, the relationship between the press and social activism.

**Thursday, Sept. 24**  
**3 p.m.**  
Connect via Webex  
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**Pirate Media 1** **LEDONIA WRIGHT CULTURAL CENTER**

## EXPRESSIONS LEGACY

**DUE 9/21**

**SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN**

Expressions is ECU's literary arts publication that exists as an outlet to address the **experiences, concerns, and perspectives of minority students.** We are seeking student writing, photography, and illustrations.

All submissions should tell the story of the people or events that have guided your life, and/or the **legacy** you would like to leave for future generations.

Email your submission to [expressions@ecu.edu](mailto:expressions@ecu.edu) by **September 21** to be considered. Please include your name and the title of your work. Anonymous entries are accepted.

