

Doug Emhoff visits Greenville

Kamala Harris' husband speaks on Biden's administration

Sarah Hooper
TEC STAFF

Uptown Greenville housed the North Carolina for Biden, Harris campaign event yesterday afternoon where Douglas Emhoff, entertainment lawyer and husband of Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate Senator Kamala Harris, visited the city to discuss record voting numbers, the upcoming election and the future Biden, Harris administration.

Individuals were invited to attend the event to hear Emhoff's initial speech at the "Believe in Greenville N.C." mural at the corner of Dickinson Avenue and Fifth Street. Residents of University Edge and Dickinson Lofts, an East Carolina University off-campus apartment complex, stood on their balconies to observe Emhoff.

"We've gone all across this state because we know you're the only state in the country with three races on the line," Emhoff said.

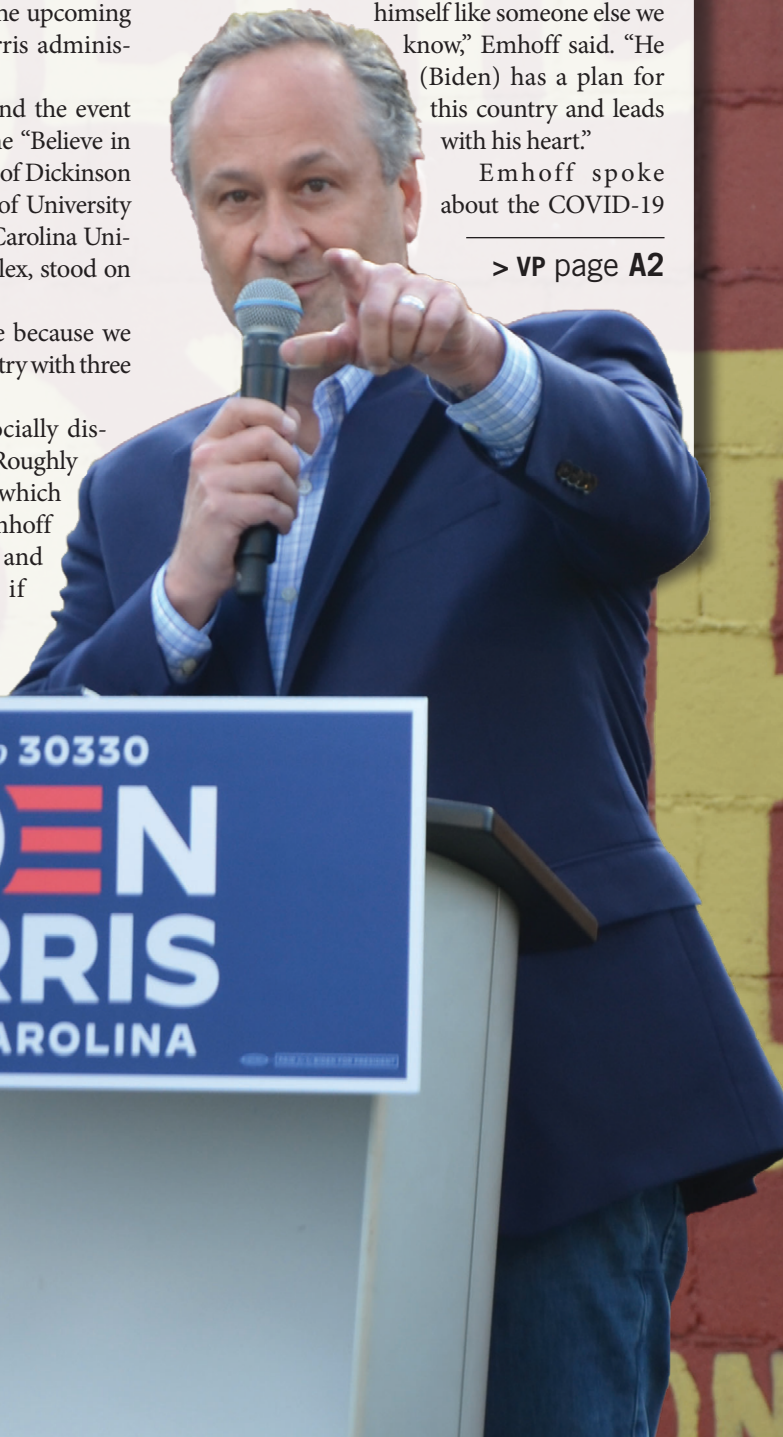
Attendees of the event were socially distanced and required to wear masks. Roughly thirty citizens attended the event, which began around 3:30 p.m., where Emhoff focused his speech around voting and what the future would look like if Democratic Presidential Candidate Joe Biden won office.

Emhoff said the Biden administration has recruited over 40,000 volunteers across North Carolina to spread the word, and don't plan to stop soon.

"He (Biden) is smart, knows what he's doing. He's got the experience, but he also cares about people, he doesn't only care about himself. Not only himself like someone else we know," Emhoff said. "He (Biden) has a plan for this country and leads with his heart."

Emhoff spoke about the COVID-19

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ECU expects new leader by spring 2021

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

The permanent chancellor position at East Carolina University has remained empty since Oct. 31, 2019, and while Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson will continue to hold the seat for the remainder of the fall 2020 semester, the Chancellor Search Committee hopes to hire a new leader before the spring semester begins.

Members of the Chancellor Search Committee were announced at a Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting in November 2019, and by December 2019, the committee was given its formal charge by the University of North Carolina (UNC) System to begin the overview of the search process.

Chair of the (BOT) and Chair of the Chancellor Search Committee Vern Davenport said the committee represents the Pirate community's interests as a whole.

"I'm very pleased with the engagement of the search committee for ECU's chancellor. I think there are 22 members who I think represent the totality of Pirate Nation," Davenport said.

The opportunity to give the committee a chance to meet in-person to properly discuss and evaluate candidates was important, according to Davenport.

While delays due to COVID-19 have affected the search's timeline, Davenport said most sessions were completed on time, face-to-face and were valuable to the search process.

"Being chancellor is an enormous job and the objectives of the university are broad and significant. We're not going to find the perfect candidate because the job, challenges and opportunities are all very big," Davenport said. "I'm looking for a perfect person who represents what we (ECU) represent and what we can deliver on and believes in what we're trying to accomplish and is committed to our university and region."

A successful candidate will have the highest integrity, be an ethical leader, build on ECU's success, serve students as well as the region, be able to engage a diverse campus, exercise good judgment, be able to manage budgets and revenues, prioritize and strengthen the student experience, advance academic excellence as well as many more other roles, according to the chancellor search website.

Davenport said he is proud of the ECU community and how it has represented the university. He said he is impressed that he and the search committee have had the chance to review several talented candidates who are excited for the opportunity at hand.

Mitchelson said he estimates there should be a new chancellor at ECU by the beginning of 2021. He said he remains

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Radio Play premieres

SoTD streams audio-only productions

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's School of Theatre and Dance (SOTD) will premiere "Blind Date," the first of four audio performances in The Radio Play series, on Oct. 23 through Oct. 25.

Stephanie Slusser, patron services manager at the SOTD, said a radio play production is new training for students because they won't be performing on a stage. The production offers students a focus on voice training since they will act everything out with their voices. She said the cast rehearsed and practiced vocal speech through Zoom.

"The number one goal for everything we do here is student training and student experiences. That was one of the main reasons we decided to do this (The Radio Play series), also with everything being online we thought this was a good



Stephanie Slusser

exercise that we could do safely and by ourselves so that a lot of people didn't have to be in the room together," Slusser said.

The series will continue with the final three plays "Trifles," "Florence," and "Poof," after "Blind Date" showcases. The recordings are free to stream, but have limited capacity so reservations are required. Reservations can be made online or by calling the box office at (252)-328-6829 to get ticket code access to recordings, Slusser said.

The Radio Play series represents the American journey or experience, according to Slusser. She said the cast worked with Elana Kepner, teaching instructor of acting, on their accents because each play takes place in different places in America. She said the faculty additionally assisted with recording different sound effects for the plays.

"It's a very unique kind of performance, it's not something we've done before. In the

> RADIO page A8



Sophomore center Charles Coleman and redshirt junior Ludgy Debaut practice against each other.

Pirates face short season

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

Maceo Donald
TEC STAFF

After no official word on the start of East Carolina University's basketball season amid the pandemic, American Athletic Conference (AAC) commissioner Mike Aresco announced the 2020-2021 basketball scheduling format earlier this month.

ECU teams now have a time frame to

aim for as they prepare for the start of the season. The season will hold 20 conference games with various start dates throughout the month of December, according to a press release from the AAC on Oct. 7.

In the release, there are three separate windows for the start of the season. The men's teams are set to begin from Dec. 14 through Dec. 17, Dec. 21 through Dec. 23

> BBALL page A6

ONLINE

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BRIEFS

SGA to host virtual office hours

Today, the East Carolina University Student Government Association will host virtual office hours where students can discuss issues with the executive cabinet from 10 to 11 a.m. The link to join can be found on SGA's Engage page.

Citizen U to discuss civil rights

Today, Citizen U, in partnership with East Carolina University's Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, will facilitate a discussion about rights with the ECU and Greenville police departments from 4 to 5 p.m. Sgt. Stephanie Carnevale of ECU PD and Sgt. Gary Howard of Greenville PD will lead the discussion. Links to join can be found on Citizen U's Engage page.

LGBTQ Center to host coffee house

Today, the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ center will host its weekly coffee house from 6 to 7 p.m. where students and staff will discuss issues pertinent to the LGBTQ community. The link to join can be found on its Engage page.

FMA to host virtual alumni panel

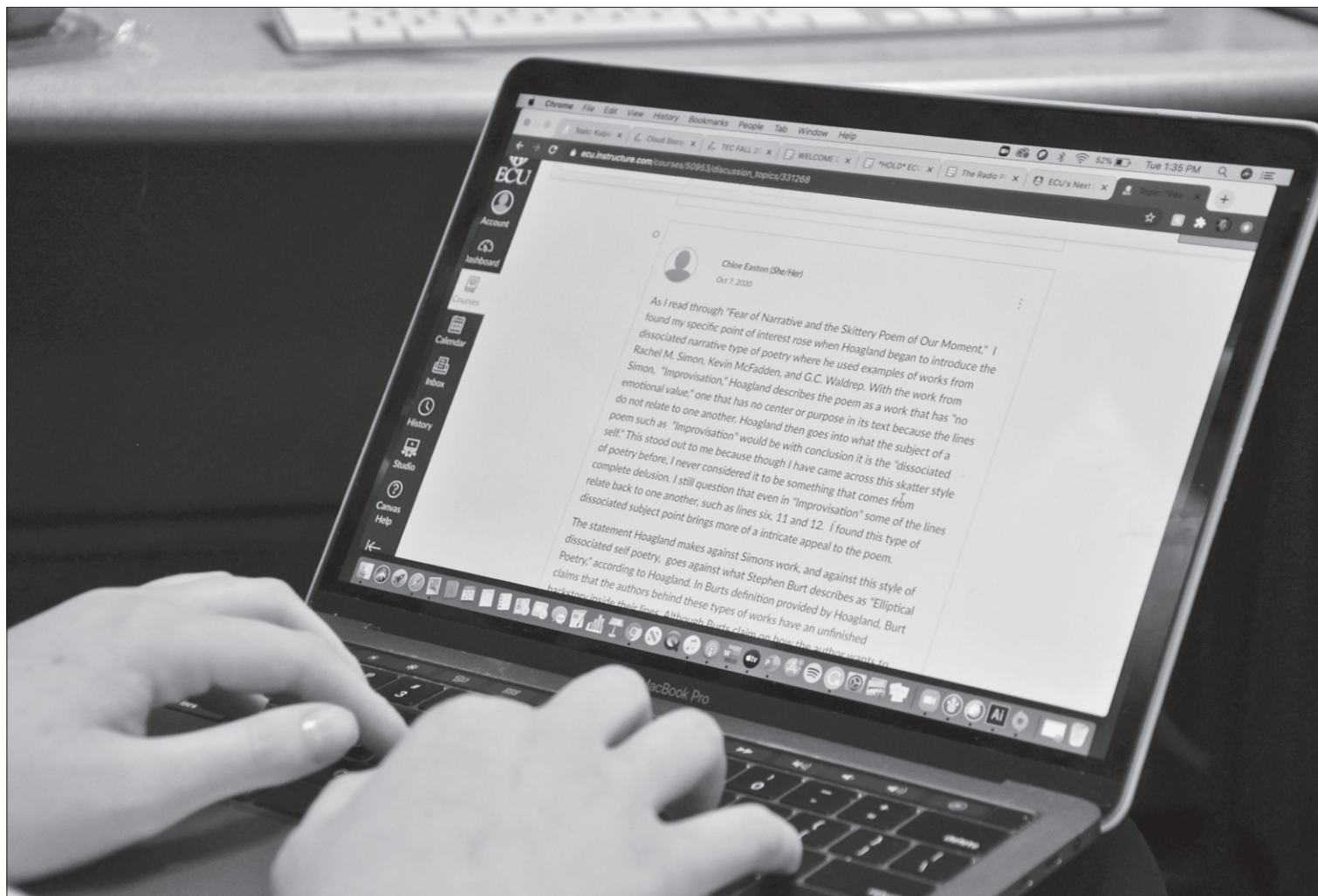
Tomorrow, the East Carolina University Financial Management Association will host a virtual panel with four ECU alum from 6 to 8 p.m. The alumni will discuss their experiences in the world of financial management. The link to join can be found on the association's Engage page.

SAB to facilitate 'MYO succulents'

Tomorrow, East Carolina University's Student Activities board will host a continuation of its "MYO" series where students can pick up a succulent kit from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Main Campus Student Center. Students must RSVP to the event via SAB's Engage page.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's online learning management system Canvas will allow students the option to display their person pronoun identity on screen.

Canvas implements pronoun option

Students, faculty utilize a system-wide opportunity which determines identity

Jennifer Sieg
TEC STAFF

Personal pronoun usage has now been introduced to Canvas, East Carolina University's learning management system, and some individuals hope to see university and system-wide implementation of personal pronoun usage in the future.

Acting Provost for Academic Success Angela Anderson said she has been a part of an ad hoc committee that was formed approximately three years ago in an effort to implement personal pronouns across ECU's campus. She said the project process was something that was not only close to her personally, but something she has worked on for multiple years.

"This is a project that is near and dear to my heart," Anderson said. "It's something that we have worked towards now for almost three years."

Anderson said she hopes to see a university system-wide implementation of personal pronoun usage. She said she wants to implement personal pronoun usage on everything that a faculty member may use to interact with students.

Currently, Canvas is the only university system personal pronouns are viewable in. Anderson said Banner Self Service and Degree Works are owned by Ellucian, a software company, and an additional new release is needed by Ellucian in order to show pronouns on the official roster.

"ECU is an inclusive institution at a time when we as a community need to make sure we come together, to make sure that everybody feels included, everybody has a voice," Anderson said.

Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center Senior Associate Director Mark Rasdorf said the option to display a personal pronoun is important to student success. He said students



Mark Rasdorf

are most successful in an environment where they

are most comfortable.

Rasdorf said anything that can be done in an effort to increase a student's comfort level in a classroom, whether it be virtual or in-person, is what ECU wants to achieve.

"The importance of this is to help increase the comfort level of our learners," Rasdorf said. "Where Canvas is concerned, that's only going to impact the classroom experience."

Faculty and staff will now have a student's personal pronoun displayed at their screens on Canvas and this will allow them to avoid asking difficult questions in front of a class during roll call, according to Rasdorf.

Rasdorf said he hopes this implementation and addition to Canvas will increase interaction comfort levels between instructors and students.

"I think most the folks that choose to teach in higher education really want to be here and foster that learning experience for students," Rasdorf said. "I think most of the faculty is really



Chandler Staten

committed to creating that respectful learning environment."

Junior hospitality management major Chandler Staten said in an email statement the personal pronoun addition to Canvas is beneficial to students because it allows others to see and acknowledge what people like to be properly called.

It is important to ask someone what their preferred pronouns are when you meet them or when you begin a conversation, according to Staten. He said he has encountered people who have been appreciative of his effort to ask rather than assume.

Staten said the option for students to add their personal pronouns in Canvas allows those who identify differently than their birth pronouns to be seen, heard and accepted. Staten said universities who offer the option to display their preferred

pronouns are moving in the right direction.

"It is within someone's personal rights to go by whatever pronouns that they prefer," Staten said.



Rosanna Pagtakhan

"Universities adding and utilizing preferred personal pronouns is something that should be done universally."

Junior recreational therapy major Rosanna Pagtakhan said she thinks personal pronoun usage is a step toward equality for human rights and it's important to recognize individuals' identities.

Pagtakhan said those who identify as something other than their biological sex should not be looked at differently or treated any less than those who use personal pronouns that match their biological sex.

"I think it (personal pronoun usage) should be completely universal. I think it should be something that's required," Pagtakhan said. "If places choose to withhold that or choose not to do it, you're stripping people of their identity, you're invalidating how they feel inside."

Pronoun usage has now been introduced to Canvas, ECU's learning management system, and some individuals hope to see university and system-wide implementation of personal pronoun usage in the future.

According to an article from The Daily Tarheel, universities within the University of North Carolina System have considered the implementation of a preferred pronouns option since 2015.

ECU will continue to show support to the LGBTQ community through the creation and identification of safe-spaces with professors and through its opportunities within departments among the university.

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

VP continued from A1

pandemic, with acknowledgement given to the essential workers who put their lives on the line everyday. Emhoff said the reason people continue to suffer from COVID-19 still is because of the failure of Donald Trump and his administration. The American people need someone who listens, hears and cares for them, according to Emhoff.

"The only way we're going to make any kind of change in this country is to vote them out on Nov. 3 so we can have real leadership for once. Joe and Kamala have a plan to get this virus under control. We're all wearing masks, aren't we? Because we're responsible. We're all social distancing because we're responsible," Emhoff said.

Biden and Harris will provide rapid-testing, free treatment, contact tracing and a safe vaccination to control coronavirus, according to Emhoff. He cited a "super-spreader" incident at the White House, which is alleged to have spread the virus amongst members of the White House staff, U.S. Congress members and others who were in attendance.

Residents of University Edge and Dickinson Lofts displayed multiple Trump flags and a flag which featured profanity against North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper. The three men who held the flags yelled in opposition to what Emhoff said through the entirety of his speech.

Emhoff spoke about how healthcare is a right, not a privilege for a select few. He said Biden will fix the economy, create millions of jobs, advance infrastructure, assist in student

debt relief and advocate for the implementation of universal broadband internet.

"We all know it's going to be close here, it always is. It will be razor thin, so every vote counts. No excuses. If we get enough of our votes early, North Carolina will decide this election on election night. We win here, game over, you all know that, right?" Emhoff said.

Ignoring science about climate change is a threat, and promised a Biden administration would focus on unity, listen to science, face systemic racism and put family, faith and community first, according to Emhoff. He said people are sick and tired of the state of politics and need real leadership.

After speaking in Uptown Greenville, Emhoff commuted to the East Carolina University Main Campus Student Center polling location to meet and speak with Greenville voters, including several ECU students. Emhoff spoke on where the students were from, and their interest in politics before leaving around 4:20 p.m.



Don Davis

Don Davis, a member of the North Carolina Senate, who is also director of the Pitt County Board of Elections, greeted Emhoff as he arrived at the initial speech site. As Davis welcomed Emhoff, he encouraged attendees to take the concerns they may have surrounding the elections and vote with those issues in mind.

"We can give her the time and effort to

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SEARCH continued from A1

optimistic about the pool of candidates that are chosen as he has not heard any negative remarks.

The candidates' names cannot be shared publicly as of now, according to Mitchelson. He said once the search committee has chosen its chancellor candidates, it will bring them to the BOT. From then on, the BOT will recommend at least two candidates to the President of University of North Carolina (UNC) System, Peter Hans, who will then present his recommendation to the UNC Board of Governors and a decision will be made.

"The (chancellor) search committee has done a really good job so far," Mitchelson said. "If the new person can't start exactly on Jan. 1, either because the search process is delayed more or because they have commitments to fulfil which is possible and they have to start later, I'm still good with that."

Mitchelson said the ECU community wants a chancellor who is easily accessible and engages all students. He said former Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach was one of the most engaged chancellors the university has ever seen.

They have planned to provide the chancellor with a roadmap by the end of June 2021, Mitchelson said.

"We've (ECU) got good people thinking about our situation and planning accordingly. Nobody, not even Dan or myself, knew how disruptive COVID-19 would be, but we've

really worked hard to create a university with a lot of discipline to sort of be cost conscious," Mitchelson said. "We've been really good about not increasing tuition, for example. I think we're into four years in a row and we won't have an increase this year."

Mitchelson said there is a solid foundation prepared for the candidate who is hired to fill the chancellor position. He said ECU plans to keep enrollment rates at a steady level despite COVID-19 and the chancellor will have the fundamentals they need to start the next enrollment cycle.

The new chancellor will cut the ribbon at the Sciences and Biotechnology Building which is scheduled to be completed by August 2021, according to Mitchelson. He said he will remain helpful to the new chancellor and their transition in any way he can.



Ron Mitchelson

Freshman intended nursing major Ashley Brooks said ECU needs a chancellor who is dedicated to all students, faculty and staff, the university as well as the surrounding community.

"I think Chancellor Mitchelson is doing the best he can, but we need someone for the long run," Brooks said. "I think he has been very smart with his decisions about COVID-19 with the pressure he is under. I would love to see student engagement, a positive attitude, and really wanting the best for ECU students and the sacrifices that come with it from a new chancellor."

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ONLINE | FULL STORY

ONLINE | FULL STORY



CONTRIBUTED BY THE PURPLE PANTRY

The Purple Pantry, a food bank associated with East Carolina University, offers students "Pirate Packs" which contain food for those who face food insecurity while they attend the university.

Community resources face high demand

Food insecurity is on the rise in eastern North Carolina due to COVID-19 pandemic

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

George Martin
TEC STAFF



The need for food assistance and shelter as food insecurities grow amid the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the eastern North Carolina region, and some community resources have continued to provide for those in need.

Greenville's branch of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina has cited a steady increase in the demand for food assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Branch Director George Young said the food bank has seen a 38% increase in requests for food assistance since March 16. He said Greenville's branch has distributed over 11 million pounds of food to Pitt County and five surrounding counties.

"The challenges have been we've had to be and get the public's understanding that we're sort of in a lockdown mode," Young said. "We've

never stopped operations but we have limited access to our branches, to our warehouse locations, including Greenville and New Bern."

Young said the food bank has received an influx of fresh vegetables, meat and eggs since the start of the pandemic. He said the branch has hired temporary warehousemen and additional trucks to keep up with the demand for food assistance.

Due to the restrictions put in place due to COVID-19, the Greenville branch can only allow eight to 10 volunteers per shift compared to its normal 40 to 100 volunteers, according to Young. He said volunteers are required to have their temperature checked prior to entry.

The food bank partners with several food pantry outlets including the East Carolina University Purple Pantry, according to Young. He said the pantry operates out of the ECU Main Campus Student Center and serves students who face food insecurities.

"We're very proud of our part-

nership with ECU and their Purple Pantry and students that are experiencing food insecurity can secure food from the food pantry," Young said.

Lekisha Pittman, an American Corps VISTA member, who also works with the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, said ECU's partnership with the food bank has helped provide non-perishable items and produce to ECU students. She said ECU implemented Pirate Pack distribution in March for students in need of food assistance.

The Purple Pantry offers a delivery option for Pirate Packs to student apartment complexes. It has served 344 students through Pirate Packs, according to Pittman. She said it has seen a large increase since February where it had only served 75 students within a month.



Lekisha Pittman

Ken Becker, the executive director for the Community Crossroads Center, a homeless shelter in Greenville, said the center has had to cut the number of people who stay there. He said the center helped purchase tickets for those who had residencies outside of Greenville they couldn't afford to travel to.

"We wanted to reduce the census to increase the social distancing and to keep everyone who is staying here healthy," Becker said.

When the pandemic first started and North Carolina went into lockdown, Becker said the shelter converted from only a nighttime shelter to being open all day. He said masks, visors and disinfectants are provided to those who stay in the shelter. As of date of publication, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 from within the shelter.

Becker said the shelter is at half capacity as of now, housing around 48 people a night instead of the usual 98 beds in order to allow for residents to socially distance. The

rooms have been rearranged so residents are further apart from each other when they sleep, he said.

"We have had to stop some of our programs we were doing before, all of the programs were being run by volunteers, but to avoid that interaction between resi-



Ken Becker

dents and folks from the outside we thought it would be best if we concentrate on what we do best, which is having a place where folks can come and stay," Becker said.

Housing insecurity has become a greater cause of concern due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to an article by AP News Services.

If an ECU student faces food insecurity, they are encouraged to reach out to the Purple Pantry for assistance.

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

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ECU ranked in top 20% for national student engagement

Sarah Porter
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Wall Street Journal and Times for Higher Education released its rankings for the best U.S. colleges to the public on Oct. 7 where East Carolina University was ranked in the top 20% of U.S. colleges for student engagement.

The student engagement ranking was based on four factors, according to the Wall Street Journal and Times for Higher Education website. These factors included the general engagement of students, student recommendations, the number of accredited programs at the college and the interaction between students and teachers.

The Student Activities Board (SAB) organizes events on-campus and works to promote student engagement by hosting large annual events such as Homecoming and Halloween Havoc, as well as several smaller events throughout the year. President Lilah El-Halabi, a junior computer science major, said the SAB has faced some challenges this year due to COVID-19.

"The way this year has gone, we've been putting in a lot of effort trying to find ways to get people involved on campus, and seeing that statistic just revalidates the people that kept coming to our events," El-Halabi said. "Even though it's only been a fraction of the amount of people that normally do, I can tell when looking across the U.S. and at the other UNC (University of North Carolina) schools that we've been doing an amazing job."

Some of the events the SAB has held this year include virtual bingo and trivia nights, as well as outdoor movies on the Main Campus Student Center lawn which started in October.

Although many events have been held virtually, El-Halabi said the SAB team has persisted and she is proud that the team members hard work has been recognized.

"Without the students and faculty, I don't think anything would be possible," El-Halabi said. "We work so hard to collectively come together, brainstorm, think out of the box and

advocate for what we think students would want on campus."

With the variety of events offered through the SAB, El-Halabi said she believes the organization has something to offer to everyone, as many students may decide they want to join or may hear about different organizations through their events.

Associate Director of the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) Tara Kermiet said the CLCE offers many

civic engagement and leadership development opportunities to students through community service. The Pirates Vote Initiative is also a way students can get involved and educate themselves on their civic duty.

These opportunities vary in length from one time events, to week-long immersions, or even semester-long experiences, according to Kermiet.

"Everyone within student affairs, and I would argue faculty and staff as well, want ECU to be a place where students can engage and interact with their peers as well as faculty and staff," Kermiet said. "Being recognized as a campus that is engaged and vibrant is a little pat on the back for the work that we've been doing for our students."

Kermiet said she believes students have shown resilience this year with changes in student engagement due to COVID-19. She said students are still engaging virtually through the CLCE, and they have seen a slight increase in participation.

The Main Campus Student Center has allowed for students to get more involved and participate, according to Kermiet. She said it has created a better environment for students to meet up and plan events.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

OUR VIEW

Trump's rally was irresponsible

President Donald Trump visited the Pitt-Greenville Airport on Oct. 15 as a part of his ongoing "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) rallies before Election Day on Nov 3.

After his positive COVID-19 diagnosis on Oct. 2, Trump returned to the White House three days later from his hospital visit to continue on with his presidential duties. Yet, Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests for people who are exposed or tested positive for COVID-19 to quarantine for 14 days.

At the rally, Trump spoke on issues regarding his COVID-19 diagnosis and his time spent in the hospital being treated. Trump said America has therapeutic drugs that can help fight complications associated with COVID-19.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that Trump holding a rally after his COVID-19 diagnosis and not taking the proper time to quarantine was irresponsible. Many who attended the rally wore masks in order to gain entry, but took off their masks or wore it around their neck as soon as they entered. No social distancing was enforced at the event, and a crowd of thousands attended.

Trump also denounced journalists at the rally and referred to the media as "fake news" as the crowd booed at the journalists that were present at the rally. Journalists play a big part of society in order to get the news out to Americans. It is journalists' goal to be credible and unbiased while reporting all of the facts.

Trump should've quarantined the suggested amount enforced by the CDC before he returned to his campaign route. Although Trump claimed he had overcome the virus, he could have still risked the COVID-19 exposure to the people who were present in the rally.

SHENEMAN TRIBUTE CONTENT AGENCY



2020 alters societal norms

Premature holiday decoration judgements should not be made

Williams' World



Giana Williams
TEC STAFF

It's finally the last part of the year, and a lot can agree that 2020 has been a bit of a roller coaster of unfortunate events. First a global pandemic, deaths of many well-known celebrities and it's the peak of the election year.

Besides all of that, it's now "the holy trinity" of the year, October, November and December.

Since it's the part of the year with some of the most celebrated holidays in America, I'm sure most people have already planned their seasonal decorations of the year. If they have not set up for Halloween already. Once Halloween is over, there will be a lot of judgment for having Halloween decorations up at least one week into November.

There's an unspoken rule of how long holiday decorations should be up after the holiday has ended, or when is the perfect time to decorate without being "too early." Let's be honest, some of us have judged stores who brought out Halloween decorations and candy during the middle of August or Christmas decorations around September. At this point, however, does it really matter?

This year has been messy and some people may be ready to step into 2021 to see what the new year has to offer and pray that it's much better than 2020. So these "social rules" on holiday decorations should not matter right now. Personally, I wouldn't



CHRIS WALKER | CHICAGO TRIBUNE | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

The Logan Square home of Frank Lopez in Chicago, Illinois, decorated for Halloween in 2005.

mind Halloween decorations being up for the remainder of the year considering how scary 2020 was. Who is to decide on how long holiday decorations should be up?

Social rules should no longer apply to decorative situations, considering what we all went through this year. Most are too tired or stressed to worry about why some people leave Halloween decorations past the middle of November or why people still have their Christmas tree up past March. There are bigger things we should worry about besides the way people want to decorate their houses.

At this point of the year, people should just do whatever makes them feel happy. The new year is just around the corner and many have put up with so much this year, that to worry about what society says is right

or wrong is pointless. Despite not having the best year, people should not forget the responsibilities and goals that they had for themselves just because 2020 didn't go as planned.

That task that has been put on hold for several months now because of COVID-19, if possible, go do it now. People shouldn't procrastinate on the things that they should complete or want to do just because this year hasn't been the best. I completely understand a lot has happened for some people, but don't neglect responsibilities that needed to be done from last week or several months ago.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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Letter to the editor

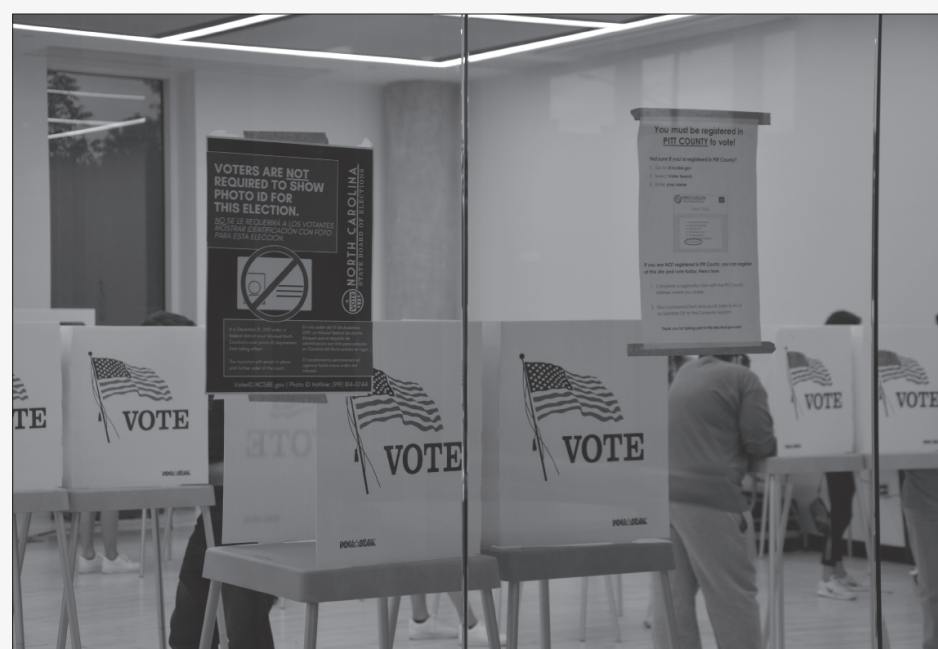
Dear Students,

The nation will decisively follow one of two paths with the results of the upcoming election: one of cynicism, hate, and vitriol or one of hope, equity, and perseverance. The election will ultimately be decided by a few key voting blocs, but there is an immense power that remains with those who typically don't vote: young people. The past four years have served as a reminder to every young person in our state and country that silence is no longer acceptable.

To the foreign student who has had to worry about whether they will be able to continue their education in our country: the Grand Old Party (GOP) has been and will be coming again for you. To the young girl who simply believes she should decide what to do with her own body: the GOP is coming for you. To the guy who's about to be kicked off their parent's health insurance and about to pay sky-high premiums while also saddled with enormous student debt: the GOP is coming for you.

To all holders of graduate assistantships: they came for you in 2018, and they will do it again. To all student LGBTQIA community members: they

Students must vote to secure rights



KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Room 125 in the Main Campus Student Center has been set up as a polling location for early voting.

came for you before, and they plan to do it again. To every student who doesn't think politics matters: You matter to the system, and they will exploit your complacency.

This election will determine what your future looks like. I issue one final plea: don't let them take that future away from you. Please vote.

Colby D. Carr
Instructor, Economics/Business Administration
Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute

EVENTS

TODAY

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

Hardscrabble Americana: The Art of Dewey Funkhouser
Greenville Museum of Art
802 S Evans St.
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
252-758-1946

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

TOMORROW

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

Fat & Skinny's Food Truck
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S Pitt St.
6 to 9 p.m.
252-227-4151

FRIDAY

John Beerman: Close to Home exhibition
City Art Gallery
511 Red Banks Rd.
6 to 8 p.m.
252-353-7000

Schwa Show
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
404 S Evans St
1 to 8 p.m.
252-551-6947

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

SATURDAY

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

Carl Kennedy Workshops
Magnolia Arts Center
1707 E 14th St.
7 a.m. to Midnight
+1 888-622-3868

SUNDAY

Pints & Poses
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S Pitt St.
3 to 4 p.m.
252-227-4151



A window cling of a piece of art called "Mind" by Jacinda Aytech posted on the window of Emerge Gallery and Art Center, located at 404 S Evans St.

Exhibition makes its way uptown

'Black Voices Matter' showcases artwork from local artists of color

Kyle Arnoe
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Black Voices Matter Exhibition, which was first featured on Oct. 2 at Uptown Greenville's virtual First Friday Art Walk, grows in scope this month as the Emerge Gallery and Art Center features artists of color around uptown businesses.

Sarah Lazure, marketing coordinator for the Emerge Gallery and Art Center and representative on the Pitt County Arts Council, said she worked to plan and enact the exhibition. Lazure said it is an extension of the gallery's prior work with Black artists.



Sarah Lazure

"The Black Voices Matter Window Exhibition grew from the original Black Voices Matter Exhibition, which featured eight artists of color who painted the wooden panels that covered our broken windows from the May 31 protest

in Uptown Greenville," Lazure said.

The exhibit, which features work by digital artists, illustrators and photographers, can be found as window clings lining the storefronts of local businesses, according to Lazure. She said to have the art outside mitigates safety concerns regarding COVID-19. She said it serves to extend the platform to artists of different mediums and provide accessibility to the public.

"We wanted to extend the platform for conversation and visibility for artists of color who did not traditionally paint. By installing the artworks large and outside, the passive viewing experience allows a larger audience to appreciate the work and see the caliber of work created by the artists," Lazure said.

Matthew Scully, owner of the Scullery, located at 431 Evans St., said Emerge reached out to local businesses seeking locations around Uptown Greenville to showcase the work in the form of vinyl window clings. Scully said he was glad to offer the space to artists in the community.

Emerge reached out primarily through email to uptown businesses, Scully said. He said the gallery additionally reached out through personal contact.

When Emerge asked if Scully would like to choose a work, he said he opted to let the gallery choose for him. The two works chosen were "Seanta" by Bryce Chapman and "Revolution" by Imani McCray.

"It's a project that they've (Emerge) put on to support Black artists just in response to everything happening on in our culture and locally as well with the Black community and being supportive of them," Scully said.

Matthew Scully

"Especially being supportive of artists and just giving them space to share their work, and to share their message with the community in a safe positive way, and so that I think was their goal."

Paula Jordan-Mayo, a local

artist and East Carolina University alumna, has pieces "Sis Becky's Pickaninny," and "Aun' Peggy," featured in the exhibition. She said she selected pieces that had a story to tell. Jordan-Mayo said she had worked with Emerge prior to the exhibit.

Jordan-Mayo said she has stayed local after her graduation from ECU in 2018. She said she works for commissions and aspires to work as a comic book artist. She said she typically works in Photoshop, sketching and drawing digital illustrations.

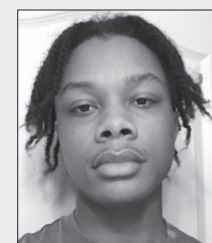
"I had never seen her (Aun' Peggy) blown her up that big. When I saw that picture I was at work and I screamed. My eyes weren't dry, I was crying, I went immediately after work, I went straight to Jack Brown's," Jordan-Mayo said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

FOOD REVIEW

King's Deli offers fresh sandwiches



Harold Bloomfield
TEC STAFF

The deli opened for business on Sept. 26, and it specializes in sandwiches made from house-roasted meats, local produce, fine cheeses and fresh bread, according to its Facebook page. It is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is located within walking distance of campus, only a couple of doors down the street from Sup Dogs.

The scenery of the restaurant is a modern take on a deli, and upon entry a customer sees the counter to the right where sandwiches are made and a couple of tables to the left. Paintings are hung up on both sides and plants can be seen throughout the restaurant. The deli has a lot of color and because of the glass storefront, it is lit by natural sunlight making the inside of King's Deli delightful to look at.

King's Deli, located at 201 E 5th St., serves an array of flavorful sandwiches and sides, and has a modern but pleasant aesthetic while it's just a short walk from East Carolina University's Main Campus.

The restaurant features a patio, where customers can choose to sit and dine, filled with large, flourishing plants and metal animal sculptures. The patio is tucked away behind the building but feels like a small garden with its bright green picnic tables. It houses a stage, according to the owner, Kelly Boutilier, where live performances are held. She said live performances began on Sept. 18.

Kings Deli has a variety of sandwiches, salads, sweets and the very appropriately named "Big Ass Pickle," to choose from. One of the restaurant menu favorites is the banana pudding, which all the staff members said was amazing.

In the deli you order your food at the counter and it is brought to you when it is done. The staff were all kind and nice to talk to, but due to the quick-service format, I did not get as many interactions with the staff as you would a waiter during my visit.

The menu items there feel a little overpriced, with sandwiches being anywhere from \$9.50 to \$12 which feels a little steep for sandwiches that aren't super portion-heavy to begin with. The price comes from the ingredients which are fresh, but

they still do not justify the price.

I ordered the Mambo Italiano which had mortadella, salami, provolone, pepper relish, mayo, arugula and ciabatta. The sandwich had a classic Italian taste and had a lot of flavor. I wish it had a little more sauce but any other complaints would just be nitpicking; all around it was a solid sandwich.

I also ordered the banana pudding which as previously stated was recommended by the employees of King's Deli. The pudding was amazing, the texture was smooth, it had an interesting, delicious flavor and smelled sugary sweet.

King's Deli has a lot of potential as a new business in Uptown Greenville. It has a great layout, full of vibrant colors and lively plants both on the inside and outside. The restaurant also had delectable food that, while a bit overpriced, is still an enjoyable meal.

RATING:

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
4.5 out of 5

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

RADIO continued from A1

mid-20th century this was a very popular type of performance, some audience members have said it's nostalgic," Slusser said.

Theatre students had to audition for their parts, according to Slusser. She said she was able to hear a few rehearsals and they were fun to listen in on because the actors had to use their voices more since they were not able to use facial expressions or body language to act scenes out.

Bryan Conger, assistant professor of directing and acting, is the director of all four radio plays. He said all four plays will entertain the listeners. Conger said the process of production started in April. He said the actors involved have put in hours of work, and the process has been fun.

"I think we are all looking for things to do during this pandemic. With the loss of

live theatre and concerts, this is a great way to get the feel of that and to support fellow ECU students," Conger said.

The Radio Play Series is a great form of storytelling and it allows artists to be creative in their work, according to Conger. He said the students have enjoyed working in the different format the series calls for.

Conger said he wants people to enjoy the series and said each story is different so there is something for everyone. He said Blind Date is about a young woman in the late 20s, that is set up on a blind date by her aunt.

"(The radio plays are) A great way of doing a throwback to the time when people listened to radio and were not attached to computers and phones," Conger said.



Bryan Conger

Gabrielle Goodman, a senior theatre major, said she plays the character Delores Henry in "Blind Date" and Mrs. Peters in "Trifle." Goodman said the cast had to do a lot of table reads and discuss how their characters feel in each scene to get their voices just right.

While working remotely, Goodman said she was able to spend more working with the script. She said she hopes the audience can listen to the radio plays and escape the problems going on in the world.

"I am really excited for people to experience this new platform of storytelling. This could be a new way for actors to do theatre in a COVID-19 free environment," Goodman said.

Damaris Tooley, senior professional acting major, said she plays the character Mama in "Florence," plays Florence in "Poof!" and plays Mrs. Hale in "Trifle." She

said the production process has been just as busy as if they were at work in-person with rehearsals six days a week.

The rehearsals and process to record remotely has had its challenges, but it has helped her in the long run for her career as an actor, Tooley said. She said she now has experience on and off the stage. For the last few weeks of rehearsals, the cast did not see each other because they wanted to focus on just hearing each other's voices, according to Tooley.


"I am really excited for people to listen to them (the plays). I want people to treat it like a movie, turn off the lights, get some popcorn, turn it on and just listen to it, kind of distract from what is going on, an outlet, and know that the theatre is still going," Tooley said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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.



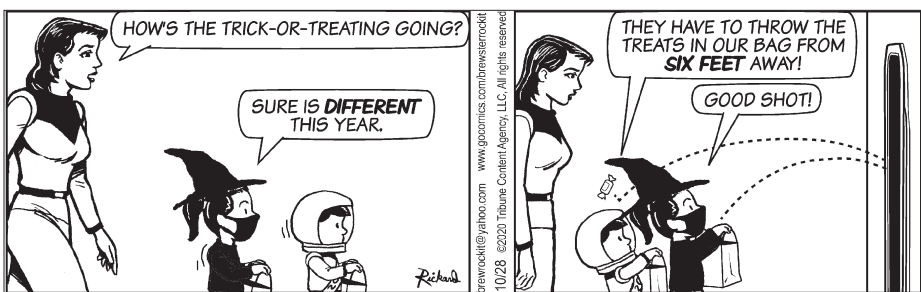
HOROSCOPES

- Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — A lucky career break unfolds. Take advantage of an opportunity. Walk through the open door. Smile, and say “thank you.” Embrace creativity. Follow a dream.
- Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Physical work and exercise win satisfying results. Grow your capabilities through steady practice. Get coaching from someone you admire. Grab a lucky break.
- Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Tap a golden opportunity. Build and grow a profitable venture. You’re making a good impression. Money saved is money earned. Keep your eye on the prize.
- Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Take advantage of favorable conditions to get out. Exploration expands your sense of space. Make long-distance connections without going anywhere. You’re creating something new.
- Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Follow your heart, especially today. Discuss passions with someone interesting. An attraction is mutual. Give in to fun, romance and playful banter. Love feeds you.
- Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Talk about what you love with friends and family. Discuss possibilities and discover personal opportunities in conversation. Learn new tricks and expand your view.
- Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is an 8 — Discuss shared finances to strategize for growth. Consider new opportunities as previously closed doors open. Refine plans to adapt. Find lucrative solutions.
- Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Make repairs and do household chores. Home improvements made today have lasting benefit. Share love and connection with family. Enjoy domestic arts and comforts.
- Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 6 — Get into a pensive phase. Plan and organize. Choose the direction with best potential. Wait for better conditions to launch. Plot your course.
- Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Brainstorm with your partner and come up with surprising new possibilities. Imagine a long-term vision worth pulling for. Support each other with kindness.
- Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 9 — You’re especially brilliant. Learn new creative tricks. Get the word out and it can spread. Imagine fantastic outcomes. Ask for what you want.
- Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Connect with friends and share what’s in your heart. Listen and bear witness for each other. A sense of community lifts you. New doors open.

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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



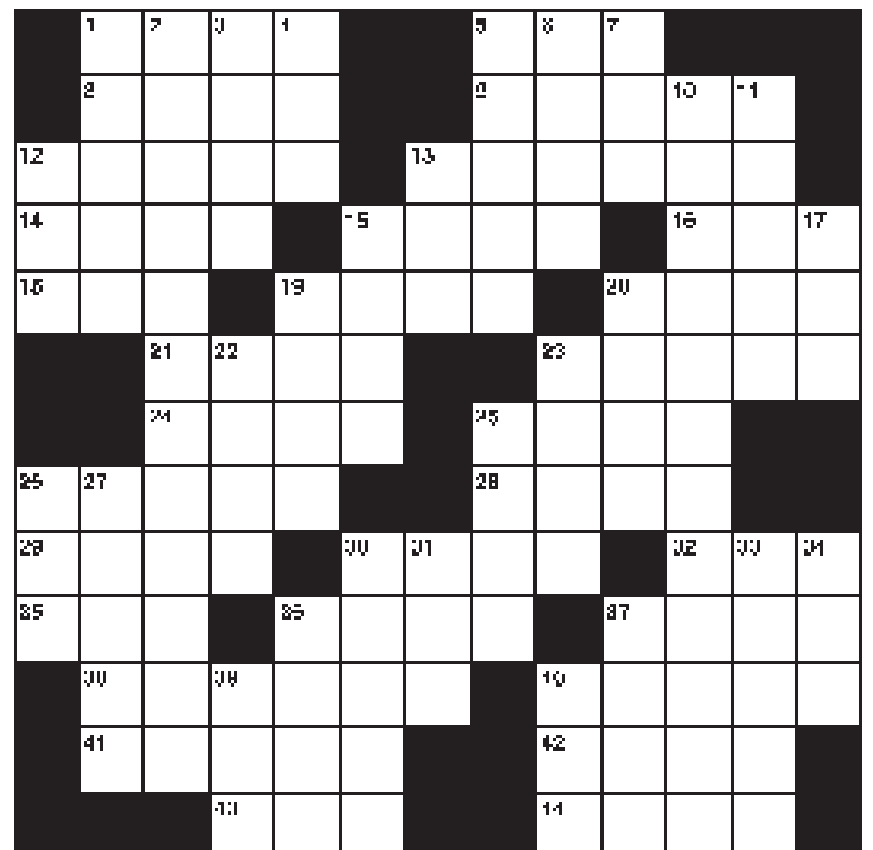
BLISS



CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Matthews



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

- ACROSS**
- 1 "The ___ Doctor"
 - 5 "3rd Flock from the ___"
 - 8 *Seaweed*
 - 9 Fable on "Cheese"
 - 12 Lesser of two ___; better of imperfect choices
 - 13 Singer & performer Eddie ___
 - 14 "Something's Gotta ___"; Jack Nicholson film
 - 15 ___ Gilbert
 - 16 Curved edge
 - 18 "___ Life to Live"
 - 19 "Chicago ___"
 - 20 "___ Trick: Voyager"
 - 21 Actress Peckham
 - 23 "2 Broke Girls" costar
 - 24 Steiner's place
 - 25 Storm or Gordon
 - 26 "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal ___"
 - 28 "Quantum ___"
 - 29 ___ Fock
 - 30 Genkus
 - 32 Humpty Dumpty, for one
- DOWN**
- 1 Actor MacLeod
 - 2 "Spilling Up Together" actor
 - 3 FRT with
 - 4 Public prosecutors, for short
 - 5 Frighten
 - 6 Arm bone
 - 7 Word attached to will or plot
 - 10 2019 legal drama series
 - 11 Tuot; character in "Robin Hood"
 - 12 Bragger's problem
 - 13 "___ 84, Where Are You?"
 - 15 Selling for "The King and I"
 - 17 "___ Doubleme"; Robin Williams film
 - 19 Norman of "The Sopranos"
 - 20 ___ Weed
 - 22 ___ up; delayed
 - 23 Singer Joan
 - 25 Indecently smooth
 - 26 ___ Lanka
 - 27 Actress Deborah & her kin
 - 30 Desire
 - 31 "Game of Thrones" network
 - 33 "___ Anatomy"
 - 34 Selling for "Hogan's Heroes"; abbr.
 - 36 ___ Jute
 - 37 Actor Nicolo
 - 39 Home for a Stodge
 - 40 Tavern

Solution from 10/14

C	U	E	A	R				J	I	M						
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G	P	I	S					H	I	P	F	N	O			
D	O	F						D	E	S	K	S				

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



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

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 10/14

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

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Verity becomes all-time leading scorer

Senior kicker moves up to first for points in ECU football history

Jess Sabin
TEC STAFF

Stephen Babich
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



Senior kicker Jake Verity has now added the all-time leading scorer title at East Carolina University to his list of accolades, as he is also a multi-time All-American Athletic Conference (AAC) award winner and Lou Groza award runner up.

So far in 2020, the Pirates stand at 1-3 overall and 1-2 in AAC games. While much of the team has had some struggles to start the year, Verity is not one of them, and head coach Mike Houston said they are very happy to have him on the team.

"I'm glad he's (Verity) here, glad he plays for my team, it didn't take long to see the talent that he had and it was in the middle of the preseason last year where you really started to grasp just how good he could be and obviously had a great season for us last year," Houston said.

Verity didn't start immediately as a true freshman in 2016. Verity only played in two games, first at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and then for the American Athletic Conference opener against the University of Central Florida. As he went 5-5 on extra points and 1-2 for field goals totaling eight points.

In his second season, Verity got the chance to play much more, where he went an impressive



Jake Verity

35-36 on extra points and a solid 16-25 on field goals. He converted at least one point after touchdown (PAT) in all 12 games with a high of six against the University of Cincinnati in the final home game of the season. In key games against the University of Connecticut and the University of South Florida, he went 5-5 and 4-4 respectively.

In straight games against the University



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

East Carolina kicker Jake Verity approaches a kick for a field goal attempt in a previous game.

of Central Florida, Brigham Young University (BYU), the University of Houston, and Tulane University he went 3-3 on PATs. He registered three double-digit scoring performances in the season. 15 against BYU, 12 against Cincinnati and 11 against Connecticut.

"I think he (Verity) has a great talent and I think he'll have a chance to kick after college," Houston said. "I don't get to make those decisions, but I think he's got that kind of talent. He has a really good head on his shoulders too. I'm thankful he's on our program, he's been a mentor to our young specialists this fall, and I hope it

comes down to him on Saturday."

Verity's third season saw him finally take off for the Pirates going 19-21 on field goals and 27-28 on extra points with his only miss being a blocked point after touchdown (PAT) against Old Dominion University in 2018. His 90.5 field goal percentage that season was a school record, beating out Robert Lee's 89.5% set back in 2005. This was the season of Verity's first All-Conference honors selection.

In 2019, Verity won All-Conference honors and he was also the runner up for the Lou Groza award. The Lou Groza Award is given to the

best kicker in the country. The 2019 season saw Verity score his most points in a season, where he had 105 points for the Pirates. Verity went 24-29 on field goals and a perfect 33-33 with his extra points.

Verity set a new program record for consecutive field goals made with 13 beginning on Oct. 3, 2019 against Temple University and ended on Nov. 23, 2019 against Connecticut. Among AAC players that season he finished first in field goals per game, first in kick scoring, fourth in field goal percentage, fifth in total points scored and sixth in points per game. He matched a career best this season with four field goals in one game which Verity did against William and Mary.

So far this season, Verity is 6-7 on field goals and 11-12 with his PATs. Already with 29 points he has been one of, if not the most consistent player on the Pirates' team, something Houston said he was impressed with.

"He did not have the training he typically would have coming into the season," Houston said. "For him to be able to perform at a high level, and he's had some issues where he has not been at full strength, but he's continuing to perform at a very, very high level so I think everyone is excited for him, proud of him, and fortunate enough to share the moment with him."

So far this season, Verity is 6-7 on field goals and 11-12 with his PATs. Already with 29 points, he has been one of, if not the most consistent player on the Pirates team and that play was rewarded as he just won AAC Special Teams player of the week. If the Pirates are going to have more success this year, Verity will likely be a key piece of that going forward.



Mike Houston

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

BBALL continued from A1

and Dec. 28 through Dec. 31.

"This format provides a sensible and fair path for all of our men's and women's basketball teams in what will be a challenging upcoming season," Aresco said. "It allows each of our teams to play a consistent number of conference games and will ensure that they are competing against teams that are utilizing our strong health and safety protocols."

Aresco said in the announcement the men's and women's AAC conference



Mike Aresco

championship will be hosted in the same city for the first time in conference history. The championships will be held at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth, Texas. The women's championship is scheduled for March 8 to March 11, while the men's will be March 11 to March 14.

ECU men's basketball head coach Joe Dooley said at a media conference that the Pirates' start date for the 2020-2021 season is still up in the air.

"We have a lot of tentative things (dates)," Dooley said. "We have to make sure that they comply with the American Athletic Conference as far as the testing protocol. We have a tentative schedule...but this can all get flipped upside down in a second, so we also have to have some alternative plans."

Dooley said there are several possible outcomes of what the final schedule could look like. In case of an outbreak, Dooley said that the team needs to stay prepared for sudden changes that could come at any time.

Junior forward Jayden Gardner said at a media conference dealing with COVID-19 all offseason has made for new challenges, but believes he and his teammates are adjusted and ready to play ball.



Jayden Gardner

"This offseason has been a challenge. It's been a lot of on and off just due to COVID-19 but I think everyone's adjusted," Gardner said. "We heard that we probably weren't going to play, but now we're playing. We just got to be ready to go."

Gardner acknowledged that the team members take a constant risk with their decision to play this season, but he said as long as they follow protocol, the focus should be on winning. Even with the possibility of a condensed schedule, Gardner said the winning mindset needs to stay

consistent throughout the entire team.

Although conference games for the women's teams are not scheduled to start until Dec. 14, the ECU women's basketball team is scheduled for a game on Nov. 25. Head coach Kim McNeill said that situations can change at any moment.

"Things are changing on a daily basis," McNeill said. "We actually lost a game today. Dealing with coronavirus, travel and the testing and all of that, it's going to be interesting to see how it all goes down."

The team practices weekly with two days off a week, according to McNeill. She said the team is not just participants in shoot arounds and individual workouts but full practices. McNeill said the Pirates are doing competitive drills against each other like five-on-five, half-court defense and working their full court press.

McNeill said the team limited contact with people from outside the program so it could protect the players and staff from COVID-19 related issues.

"Things are just so different, we are trying to stay within our bubble, so we didn't



Kim McNeill

get any practice guys this year," McNeill said. "We just wanted to keep it in our bubble and keep our players away from as many outsiders as possible."

Although the Pirates are not allowed to invite any practice players this year, the team was approved to use some staff members to help out during practices, according to McNeill.

Like many other athletic teams across the country, the Pirates were nervous about even having the chance to play this season. McNeill said she likes to keep the team optimistic, while simultaneously teaching the girls to take advantage of the opportunities that they do have.

"I tell the girls everyday that we gotta take it day by day and take advantage of what we have in front of us," McNeill said. "You just never know with the numbers rising the way they are, with things changing. Right now we are set to hopefully play 25 games, who knows if we'll get through 25. Who knows just like you've seen in the NFL and in college football games are getting cancelled on a weekly basis. Right now we're just focused on what's in front of us."

McNeill said the women's basketball team is COVID-19 free and if the team members continue to take the proper precautions it is likely the trend will continue.

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

» ANALYSIS

Players must maintain focus early



Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

However, it is a strong possibility the Pirates will be faced with a shorter season compared to what they are used to.

The official basketball schedule has not been released yet for men's or women's, but the outline of the conference schedule has been made by the AAC. AAC Commissioner Mike Aresco announced in a press release on Oct. 7 that the conference schedule will contain 20 games in addition to however many games are scheduled by the university.

In comparison to previous years, the Pirates will look to play two more conference games than usual. Last season, the team finished 5-13 against conference opponents. In 2019, they finished 3-15.

In a press conference on Oct. 15, head coach Joe Dooley said the rest of the schedule is still tentative with several possible final outcomes. COVID-19 continues to have an effect on sports teams around the country, both at the professional and collegiate level. Dooley said he continues to tell his team to stay ready as the season could have several changes going forward.

With the possibility of a condensed schedule, the Pirates may have less time for adjustment at the start of the season.

The focus will need to be to win early and consistently. With the team's scoring leader forward Jayden Gardner entering his junior year, the expectation of the Pirates is to win games with consistency this season.

The 2019-2020 regular season began with some promise for the Pirates. The team went 6-3 through the first nine games, including a four-game winning streak which was the longest string of wins the Pirates created all year. However, as the rest of the season continued, it became very difficult for the Pirates to create another win streak.

In the event of game cancellations or postponements, ECU will need to approach each game with more urgency. This season is important for the Pirates for several reasons,



ANNA ALLEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Senior guard J.J. Miles shoots behind the arc.

and it also shows a lot of potential for a winning season. It is certainly not a conference championship or bust for the team this season, but the leap forward needs to be significant in comparison to last year.

As Gardner enters his third year, it is time for his unique scoring ability to be paired with his years of experience as a leader. The star talent has been the first scoring option since he came to the university and has fulfilled his role almost perfectly. After leading the AAC in scoring with 19.7 points per game last season, there is not a lot left to ask of Gardner. The only way to improve is to pair the high scoring with strong wins for the Pirates.

Additionally, the Pirates have acquired an athletic point guard in freshman Noah Farakhan. Dooley said that Farakhan has shown a special kind of athleticism in practice. His role will likely play a large part as the Pirates look to win games.

Several players have their first year of college basketball under their belt as they look toward this season. Sophomore guards Tristen Newton and Brandon Suggs along with sophomore center Charles Coleman played significant minutes last season and will likely produce a similar amount this season.

As the Pirates continue to prepare for the season, changes to the schedule will come often, but staying focused on winning is key during the turbulence caused by COVID-19.

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

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