



ECU limits spring term capacities

Jennifer Sieg
TEC STAFF

As the end of the fall semester approaches, East Carolina University officials have worked to ensure a safe spring semester amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with hopes to see students return.

Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson said ECU plans to have students return, but at a lower density than before. He said there will continue to be single occupancy in residence halls and classrooms will be reduced to 35% capacity, which is less compared to the previous 50% classroom capacity put in place for the fall semester.

"So it's a significant reduction, further reduction in density in the classroom setting," Mitchelson said. "So that's one theme, right, in our return for the spring, reduced density."

Mitchelson said the same guidelines that were set for the fall semester will remain in place in the spring, as well as the partnerships between the university, Greenville Police Department and ECU Police Department.



Ron Mitchelson

COVID-19 tests will be mandatory prior to move-in day for any student who returns to campus, according to Mitchelson. He said there will be weekly random sample testing of approximately 10% of students who live on-campus and accessible testing for those who live off-campus and choose to do so.

"We will invite off-campus students and employees to test," Mitchelson said. "There won't be any mandated for those two groups, that's almost impossible to do anyway."

Mitchelson said ECU will continue to monitor numbers and relative factors when it comes time to return to classroom settings in the spring and adjust to what is needed accordingly.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy said she expects the spring semester to be more active with students on campus as well as more campus activities. She said she hopes to welcome students back to campus with a reduced classroom capacity and single room occupancy in dorms.

"I feel confident that students will comply with the

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COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Drink tampering is a prevalent issue within many college communities, ECU included, in large group social scenarios.

Contaminants pose risks

ECU Police, students provide advice to avoid drink tampering incidents

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

Drink tampering is a concern for colleges across the country, and although it is reported to be a less frequent issue at East Carolina University, it is important to be aware of what to look out for and of the precautions one can take to prevent a dangerous situation for students.

ECU officials received three separate reports of possible drink tampering of pre-poured drinks at the Theta Chi fraternity house, according to an Oct. 22 report. The possible contaminations occurred on Sept. 24, Sept. 26 and Sept. 30 and the university will continue to investigate these allegations, the report said.

Interfraternity Council (IFC)

President Matt Stowe said his best advice is if you see something, say something and leave if you feel something isn't quite right.

"The number one red flag would be somebody walking up to you at a party with a cup and saying, 'here, try this.' Never fall for that. If you want to be extra cautious, bring your own drink to the party so you know it won't be tampered with," Stowe said.

In regards to the recent allegations of drink tampering in Theta Chi Fraternity, Stowe said criminal behavior is out of IFC's jurisdiction. IFC mainly enforces student conduct, but does host seminars and guest speakers on important topics to the greek community, Stowe said.

"This semester we have not been able to do it (guest speakers and seminars) because of COVID-19, but we plan to do a hazing prevention week and sexual assault awareness week in

> **DRINKS** page A2

SAFETY TIPS

- Never leave a drink unattended while attending a party, or at a restaurant or club.
- If you think your drink has been tampered with notify the bartender and let the proper authorities know.
- If you have consumed a drink that has been tampered with seek medical help immediately.
- Do not accept a drink that you have not seen poured, with the exception of taking the drink directly from a server or bartender.

Uptown mural hopes to unify Pitt residents

Interactive art installment 'A City of We, a City of Me' empowers local artists



CONTRIBUTED BY CAT NORMOYLE

Local artists work to complete the mural, titled "A City of We, a City of Me," located downtown.

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

A community engagement project, an interactive mural with the slogan "A City of We, a City of Me," located at 423 Evans St., began on Oct. 23 and is scheduled to be com-

pleted before the winter months.

Cat Normoyle, an East Carolina University School of Art and Design assistant professor of graphic design, said she partnered up with the Pitt County Arts Council and Holly Garriott, executive director at Emerge Gallery and Art

Center, about a public intervention project in the Uptown Greenville area. She said ECU and the Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy (EOSA) funded the project.

"I participate in a program at ECU called the EOSA program. It's an engagement, outreach, scholarship academy program at ECU where you can also get research funds to support your research development," Normoyle said. "In my practice, I am really interested in using design as a tool to foster community engagement with different projects and I do a lot of public works type projects."

The project has been a year long process, Normoyle said. She said a focus group with people from ECU, neighborhood associations, North Carolina Civil, Tar River University Area Neighborhood Association and the student advisory board of ECU for concept development. Normoyle said she wanted a "reflection of the community as a whole."

Normoyle said once she, the different associations and Emerge decided on Uptown Greenville as the location for the project, they spoke with community leaders and presented

a few concepts of outdoor community based project ideas. She said the goal of the project is to encourage social interaction as an outcome of the work.



Cat Normoyle

"From my perspective, it felt like a really positive experience and I am excited to hopefully get the installation process moving soon and keep the momentum going," Normoyle said.

The feedback from the focus group was redefined and the interactive mural design was created, Normoyle said. She said they have worked in phases and the project was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic shut downs. The interactive mural is expected to be completed before the beginning of winter this year.

The design of the mural is intended to be youthful with bright colors with clouds and umbrellas in the backdrop. Plywood panels

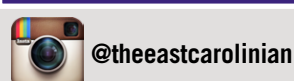
> **MURAL** page A6

ONLINE

»NEWS: Visit our website for updated election coverage and results.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA



BRIEFS

Dean of Students to host open dialogue

Today, Lynn Roeder, the dean of students at East Carolina University, will host an open dialogue with students from 10 to 11 a.m. Thoughts and concerns on the election and its outcome will be voiced via a discussion on Microsoft Teams. The link to join can be found on the Dean of Students' Engage page.

Pirates Vote to host post-election chat

Today, the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, in collaboration with Pirates Vote will host a post-election snack and discussion about the 2020 election from 3 to 4 p.m. The discussion will be a safe place for all to discuss opinions, and the link to join can be found on CLCE and Pirates Vote Engage pages.

SAB to host MYO License Plates

Today, East Carolina University's Student Activities Board will host a make-your-own license plate activity from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Students can register for the event on SAB's Engage page and pick up their plate in SAB's office. More information can be found on SAB's Engage page.

Take Back the Night returns for fifth year

Today, the Women and Gender office will host Take Back the Night, a movement against sexual violence from 7 to 8 p.m. The march will begin at the Main Campus Student Center and walk throughout East Carolina University's campus to show solidarity with survivors of sexual assault. More information can be found on the Women and Gender Office Engage page.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



CONTRIBUTED BY MARIO TAMA | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

A woman receives a flu vaccination while following COVID-19 safety precautions in order to limit the spread of both viruses over the winter season.

Holidays may further spread

Local health officials warn of possible spike in flu and coronavirus cases

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

As Pitt County enters week 33 since the first reported positive case of COVID-19 in the county, residents are advised to continue to follow guidelines to social distance and wear masks to help prevent an increase in positive case numbers that may come with the holiday season.

Pitt County Public Health Director John Silvernail said holidays are not the time to let your guard down even when around those you're comfortable with. He said although the public health department has not identified clusters of COVID-19 cases at recent events, this does not eliminate the possibility of more positive case numbers from gatherings.

Silvernail said there has been a rise in the number of positive cases in the 25 to 49 year-old-age group within the last few weeks. He said factors such as work and school can contribute to the increase of cases as someone could have been exposed to COVID-19 and not know it.

"The clusters and outbreaks and exposures go back to somebody coming to work, coming to school if they're sick sometimes," Silvernail said.

East Carolina University's bubble of

COVID-19 positive cases in August carried the 18 to 24 age group for most positive cases, according to Silvernail. He said Halloween and the reopening of bars could contribute to a rise in case numbers, but ECU has spread its students out and has a less dense population of college students.

Pitt County's percentage of positivity has remained around 6%, according to Silvernail. He said the percentage fluctuates and there are estimated 3.2 cases per every 1,000 Pitt County residents.

Chief of the Infectious Diseases Division at the Brody School of Medicine Paul Cook said any spikes in cases are dependent on what people do, so Pitt County residents must continue to wear a mask and continue to socially distance with masks.

"If people have gatherings in the holidays and don't social distance and don't wear masks, it will go up," Cook said.

The flu shot is more important now than ever and it can help differentiate flu like symptoms from COVID-19, according to Cook. He said Vidant Medical Center's COVID-19 screening tests will test for both Influenza A and B.

Cook said he does not agree with statements that Pitt County is turning the corner and there will continue to be spikes

in COVID-19 cases. He said the pandemic will not go away anytime soon and even after the development of a vaccine there will continue to be requirements to follow state and national guidelines.

Physician Assistant for ECU Student Health Services Hannah Varney said the number of positive COVID-19 case numbers on ECU's campus have remained low over the past few weeks. She said although people may have fatigue about the pandemic, that is not an excuse to stop following guidelines.

"I stress that students and all members of our community make following the guidelines a priority so that we can hopefully return to normal sooner rather than later," Varney said.

ECU Student Health now offers an antigen test for symptomatic patients only, according to Varney. She said an antigen test can be useful in outbreak settings and for repeated screening individuals in high-risk congregate settings.

Pitt County currently has 6,372 positive COVID-19 cases as of Nov. 3. Citizens are encouraged to socially distance as cases continue to rise.

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John Silvernail



Paul Cook



Hannah Varney

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guidelines and we don't have any evidence to date that there were transmissions that took place on campus, in the classrooms, in the buildings other than within the residence halls," Hardy said.

Guidelines will remain the same as they were when ECU began the fall semester, unless the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or North Carolina releases additional guidelines to follow, according to Hardy. She said she will continue to encourage the three W's which include waiting six feet apart, wearing a mask and washing hands.

Hardy said ECU continues to work through the best ways to bring students back to campus safely. She said there are discussions of testing protocols for those who return and effective screening opportunities for those who need it.



Virginia Hardy

"We will make that option available to every student at East Carolina who wants to get tested to make sure that everything's good as they come back into Greenville and back onto the campus," Hardy said.

For those who test positive while at ECU, there will be quarantine and isolation units available on campus, according to Hardy. She said she continues to work to ensure those who do need to quarantine or isolate are taken care of, as to avoid separation and depression.

Hardy said the possibility of the return of students to the campus in the spring semester is exciting to her, but it is going to take everybody in the university to do their part and make it happen.

Freshman elementary education major Addison Sessoms said she decided to remain on-campus this year after ECU transitioned to remote instruction and will remain on-campus throughout the spring semester.



Addison Sessoms

"I enjoy still living here and yeah it's single occupancy, there's obviously not as many people that are still here," Sessoms said. Students who chose to remain on-campus for the remainder of the fall semester had to get tested for COVID-19 initially, Sessoms said. She said the tests have been administered alphabetically throughout the semester for the students who remain in the residence halls.

Sessoms said she hopes to see more activities on campus in the spring, but hopes to see people follow the safety guidelines put in place by the university.

"Until we like start wearing masks and stuff and like following social distancing and everything, then it's (COVID-19) not going to go away," Sessoms said.

In late August, ECU shifted to an all-online class delivery system and made most students living on campus return home after a spike in COVID-19 cases.

ECU has engaged in contact tracing for any positive COVID-19 case within the community. The university has worked with Pitt County Health and Human Services to track and treat any possible positive COVID-19 cases.

In the spring, the university will no longer use off-campus quarantine zones for students who live on campus and test positive for the virus. In the fall, off-campus apartment complexes, such as the Paramount 3800 housed positive patients.

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DRINKS continued from A1

the spring," Stowe said.

Chris Sutton, a captain for the ECU Police Department (ECU PD), said although drink tampering is a concern, it is not a frequent problem that the ECU PD sees in the community.

"You don't really have any way to control someone's intent or their skill to be able to commit a crime," Sutton said. "All you can try to do is prevent their opportunity so while this is not something that is the victim's fault, the victim can obviously be very aware of drinks or even food products that they accept."



Chris Sutton

If an individual does not watch somebody else open and pour their drink, they should be wary of accepting it, according to Sutton. He said people should never leave their food or drinks unattended and should have their eyes on their drinks and food at all times to ensure it does not get contaminated.

When people are at a restaurant or a bar, they can see the bartender or server pour their drinks, but Sutton said they should still be aware of their glass in case a guest has a motive to tamper drinks. He said if individuals are at a house or other residence, they shouldn't accept drinks from anyone if they did not see it being poured.

"People should be very leery of taking food products because people now put things into the food products that they're baking or cooking (with). That's something else that maybe people haven't been concerned about in the past that they need to be aware of now," Sutton said.

When friends are in groups and stick together, they put themselves in a better situation and circumstance for their drinks to not get tampered with, according to Sutton. It might be more difficult to gather in groups since restaurants, bars and clubs are restricted with the amount of people they can have inside due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

If someone has their drink tampered with,

they should notify authorities which include law enforcement or medical personnel, Sutton said. He said people may have to get evaluated since they do not know what was put into their drinks or food.

"Depending on what they consume, what their beverage has been altered with or their food source has been altered with, they could have some very dangerous adverse reactions to it aside from losing their awareness and judgment," Sutton said.

Drink tampering is something that Sutton said he takes seriously and he would encourage ECU students to also take drink tampering very seriously and be aware.

Freshman psychology major Bryson Shipman said before he came to ECU, he discussed with his parents that one should never leave a drink unattended as well as never get a drink from a communal bowl because what was put in there is unknown. He said he and the entirety of the ECU community must remain careful and safe.

Shipman said if individuals go to gatherings in groups they should have fun, but remember they are responsible for each other and should make sure everyone knows where everyone is at all times.

"You don't want something bad like getting your drink tampered with or worse. People are crazy out there and you really never know their true intent," Shipman said. "It is important if your drink does get tampered with, the first thing you should do is to tell a friend first and leave the function if you are with a friend. If not, either way you should get to a safe place and then call medical personnel."

It is important to keep friends and family updated on where one is and when they plan on being home, according to Shipman.

When attending parties, Shipman said he will bring his own drink in order to avoid others preparing the drink for him. He said this also allows for him to share with others who are at the party who may not feel comfortable with the drinks at the party.

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OUR VIEW

ReLeaf tree ceremony aids community

Climate change is an undeniably urgent issue that faces everyone on Earth. While the problems associated with climate change may seem too daunting to overcome, there are steps that individuals and communities can take to help begin healing the Earth.

ReLeaf at East Carolina University held a tree planting event near Town Creek Culvert, close to Sup Dogs, on Oct. 28 in an effort to bring trees back to urban areas in Greenville, North Carolina, as well as to stabilize the ecosystem in which they are planted. Planting trees not only contributes to the aesthetic improvement of our community but most importantly its overall environmental health.

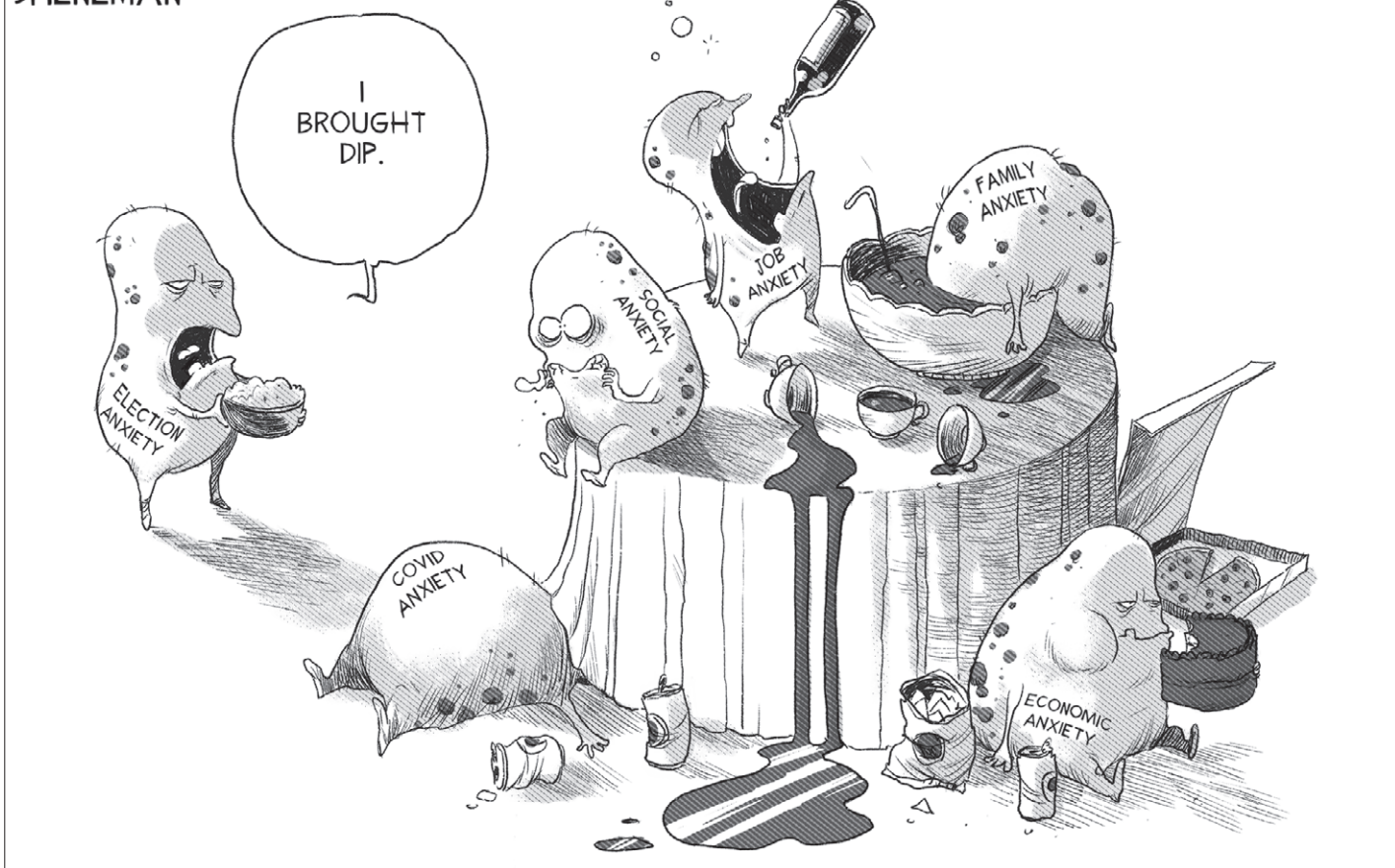
We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that these efforts to revitalize the environment and bring trees to our community are commendable and set a good example for others. Any effort to combat climate change and improve the Greenville community is an effort worth celebrating.

Although, as college students, we do not always stay in Greenville after graduation it is important for us to take care of our community while we are a part of it. We should leave this community better than when we came to it and a student led initiative to plant trees, not only on campus, but in the Greenville community, sets a positive example for other students.

It is important to remember that even in the midst of COVID-19, the environment is still in crisis. An outdoor tree planting event is a good way to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19 while continuing to do positive work for the environment.

Students should take advantage of opportunities like this one to help the environment through ReLeaf and the ECO-Pirates club as well as the ECU Office of Sustainability and any other organizations offering environmentally positive initiatives and events. Reversing humanity's harmful effects on the environment is everyone's responsibility.

SHENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



Politicians should not be hypocritical

Corruption exists in both political parties and must be regulated



El Perry
GUEST COLUMNIST

There was nothing shady or illegal about Justice Amy Coney Barrett's recent confirmation to the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). President Donald Trump was well within his rights to nominate a replacement for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg after her passing, and the Senate was well within its right to vote to confirm.

Of course, this was a blatant display of hypocrisy from the Republicans given the events following Justice Antonin Scalia's death in 2016, which was a case of abdication of duty. However, no one was ever going to be held accountable for that, and partisan opportunism is not generally undertaken on a quid pro quo basis.

Generally, the Democrats who are arguing against Barrett right now are simply upset that their counterparts are better at politics than they are. Because if they were truly against corruption itself, then they would be questioning the legitimacy of the court proceedings on a fundamental level; looking beyond legality and toward justice.

The American collective self-perception is deeply disconcerting in its delusion. From elementary school, we are taught to revere the revolutionaries who stood up against tyranny, and our civic education. What exists of it, is brimming with ideas of national exceptionalism and unparalleled freedom and democracy.

Never mind the rise of the surveillance state, the increasingly militarized police forces unleashed on the domestic popu-



OLIVIER DOULIERY | ABACA PRESS | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Outside view of the Supreme Court of the United States building located in Washington, District of Columbia.

lation and the stagnant wages and bleak prospects for economic mobility. All ills that have become exacerbated within my short, 21-year lifespan. I'm being genuine here, never mind the idea that these are unprecedented ills when they are woven into the foundation of our country.

It makes perfect sense that it has played a major role in facilitating much modern discontent, as SCOTUS is the most anti-democratic branch of government by the design of founding fathers openly disdainful of democracy. Of course, it also tracks that figures such as former presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison receive generous praise for their foresight. They must have had the prescience to know that their naked elitism would be more palatable to high school civics teachers across the country if wrapped in a layer of wonkishness.

This game goes like this: We are a

"democracy" when it's convenient when the populism and egalitarianism coded in the word make bloody imperialist pursuits seem more romantic. But when it's time to justify archaic and convoluted voting processes that explicitly stifle the voices of the previously lauded individual, we become a "republic." This means that when your vote as a Virginian matters literally 20 times less than that of an Iowan, it's actually totally fine and good.

Accordingly, justification for the powers of the Supreme Court is rooted in the myth of legality. The idea that having a small group of unelected and unaccountable elites hand out decrees regarding our rights is acceptable because they are somehow above the normal biases of other government officials.

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ONLINE | FULL STORY

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Pandemic causes changes in mental health



Michelle Mazzei
TEC COLUMNIST

COVID-19 has been present for almost a year now and it has caused depression and substance rates to increase for individuals across the nation and with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) around the corner, it is important to shed light on mental health.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website, during the end of June, 40% of American adults reported struggling with mental health or substance abuse. The website said 31% of individuals had anxiety or symptoms of depression, 13% started or increased substance abuse, 26% experienced some sort of trauma or stressor-related disorder symptoms and 11% seriously considered suicide.

In 2017, 17.3% of American adults had at least one major depressive episode, according to the National Institute of Mental Health's website. The website said 13% of adults between the ages of 18 and 25 had a major depressive episode in 2017 compared to a 7.7% of people in the age range of 25 and 49.

I got sent home from East Carolina University in March for the remainder of the 2019-2020 fiscal year. I returned this fall only to be sent home again, so I

"Depression is a major issue, especially for young adults. With COVID-19 present, times could be difficult and challenging."

-Michelle Mazzei

am currently in Raleigh, North Carolina. This past summer was one of the hardest times of my life. I didn't get to finish the fiscal year physically with the rest of the ECU community, I couldn't see any of my ECU or some of my Raleigh friends for nearly six months and I was working over 40 hours a week at my job that I am grateful to still have. There were a lot of factors in my life during this time that really affected my mental health.

Although, I was and still am busy a lot of the time, depression and anxiety affected me greatly during those six months I was alone. I felt drained and exhausted mentally, physically and emotionally and I felt completely alone even though I was the one who distanced myself from everyone. I didn't like the person I had become, so how could other people like me? But my friends and loved ones seriously saved my life.

It is very important to constantly check on your friends and ask the difficult questions pertaining to mental

health. By doing this, you could save someone's life. You don't want it to be too late. Depression is a major issue, especially for young adults. With COVID-19 present, times could be difficult and challenging.

SAD affects roughly 10 million Americans, according to Psychology Today's website. With the winter months coming up, it is important now more than ever to make sure your friends and loved one's mental health and overall well-being is in check.

I know depression and SAD can sometimes be difficult topics to discuss, but I would prefer to have those hard conversations rather than not see someone ever again. It was hard for me to open up, but it turned out to be very beneficial for me. Talking with someone, like a professional therapist, can also be very beneficial.

Mazzei is a sophomore majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

ECU football to play host to Tulane

Pirates welcome Green Wave to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium after narrow loss

Emily Peek

FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina University (1-4, 1-3 AAC) football team will play host to Tulane University (3-4, 1-4 AAC) for its fifth conference game of the 2020 season on Nov. 7.

This week's matchup with Tulane is one that ECU head coach Mike Houston said his players seem to be prepared for based upon the kind of effort he has been seeing in recent practices.



Mike Houston

"The players have seen drastic improvement in their play week in and week out," Houston said in his weekly press conference. "You can directly attribute that to improved performance and preparation in practice. Offensively, the last couple walkthroughs we had on Friday, and Thursday and Friday of last week, had no mistakes."

The Tulane Green Wave sits directly behind the Pirates in the 2020 American Athletic Conference (AAC) standings with the Pirates being No. 9 and Tulane No. 10. The University of South Florida (1-5, 0-4 AAC) currently sits at the bottom of the standings at No. 11 and is the only conference opponent that the Pirates have beaten this season.

By the end of the 2019-2020 AAC football season, Tulane ranked No. 4 in the AAC's west division with an overall record of 7-6 and a conference record of 3-5. The Pirates finished last season as the No. 5 ranked team in the AAC's east division with an overall record of 4-8 and a conference record of 1-7.

As conference foes who exist in opposite divisions from one another, the Pirates and Green Wave don't play every year. The Pirates haven't beaten Tulane since November 2014, when they won 34-6. Since then, Tulane has beaten the Pirates 31-24 in 2017 and 24-18 in 2018.

Before hitting the road to visit the Pirates, the Green Wave faced off with Temple University (1-3, 1-3 AAC). At home against the Owls, Tulane's defense was stifling as they allowed 222 total yards of offense and allowed the Owls' offense four successful third down conversion attempts on 16 tries. The Green Wave defense is going to bring a physical brand of football to the contest on Saturday, according to Houston.

"You look at them defensively," Houston said in his weekly press conference. "It's a veteran group that plays very well together. I mentioned their traits before. They are a physical bunch. They are going to play hard, play with discipline and compete. Those same traits are there on special teams. They have a dynamic returner."

Against Temple, Tulsa linebacker Nick Anderson posted a career high of 14 tackles and defensive lineman Jeffery Johnson posted his fourth sack of the season. Tulane's defense had a total of three sacks and nine tackles for loss.

Last week for the Pirates, ECU traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Oct. 30 after an away game followed by a bye-week to battle the University of Tulsa (3-1, 3-0 AAC). After a narrow 34-30 loss, including a controversial call late in the game, the Pirates are looking forward to playing Tulane rather than dwelling on the loss, to Tulsa according to Houston.

"You can't go back, you got to move forward, we got to get ready for Tulane," Houston said in



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Sophomore Tyler Snead escapes a Tulane defender in 2018's matchup with the Green Wave.

the post-game press conference after the loss to Tulsa.

Against Tulsa, ECU junior quarterback Holton Ahlers had 330 passing yards with three passing touchdowns. The Pirates true freshman running back Rahjai Harris had his third straight 100-yard rushing performance with 118 rushing yards and scored a single touchdown on a four yard pass from Ahlers. The Pirates' offense had, however, total three turnovers in the loss.

On the defensive side of the ball, ECU sophomore linebacker Jireh Wilson led the way with a total of nine tackles and a forced fumble. Wilson's performance against the Golden Hurricane is something that he expects from himself every

week, according to Houston.

"I think Jireh's worked so hard to improve himself and he's developing into one of the better players, I think in this league," Houston said. "He has very high expectations for himself and he'll continue to push himself to get better every week."

ECU held its second student ticket lottery for Saturday's game against Tulane, which ran from Oct. 28 to 30. Masks and social distancing are required once inside Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Students are able to enter the lottery on the official ECU Pirates website.

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

Jayden Gardner prepares for winter season

Maceo Donald

TEC STAFF

Jayden Gardner is a 6 feet, 7 inches tall all-conference forward for the East Carolina University men's basketball team who intends to show tremendous improvements on the court, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year has been that more challenging than he expected.

Like most other athletic programs, the ECU men's basketball team has had to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and all of the protocols that come with it. Just recently, AAC commissioner Mike Aresco announced potential start dates for the upcoming 2020-2021 season.

Gardner said it has been challenging to prepare to play this season because of COVID-19, but that has not nor will stop him or the Pirates from working hard to get ready for the year.

"It's a grind and it's a grind everywhere,"

Gardner said. "But you've just got to embrace it. If you really love basketball you have to put the dedication and time in no matter what's going on in your situation."

Although preparing for the season has been challenging, Gardner said he thinks that the Pirates will be able to compete at a higher level earlier in the season. He said the team as a whole is healthier, more confident and will have new players stepping into a lot of minutes this season. Gardner said he believes the Pirates will be able to catch teams off guard and earn some unexpected wins.

As a freshman, Gardner averaged 16.3 points per game and 8.5 rebounds per game. Gardner holds American Athletic Conference (AAC) freshman records for points per game, single-season free throws made and attempted, most points in a game (35), rebounds (20) and 30-point games in a season. These numbers earned Gardner recognition as the AAC

Freshman-of-the-Year and AAC all-conference awards for the 2018-2019 season.

After Gardner's stellar freshman campaign, he backed up that performance with another



Jayden Gardner

exceptional season. Gardner led the AAC in scoring with 19.7 points per game and ranked third in rebounding with 9.2 rebounds per game. Gardner was announced as the AAC Player-of-the-Year and became one of three players in conference history to finish top five in the league in scoring and rebounding in the same season.

The AAC announced that Gardner was unanimously selected to the 2020-21 preseason AAC first-team all-conference team on Oct. 28. These selections are made by the conference's 11 head coaches.

Although Gardner has had two great seasons for the Pirates, he said he still wants to improve his game and generate confidence for the team.

"Expanding, getting to places that I know that I can raise up and make shots," Gardner said. "Instoing that confidence in others, my leadership abilities have grown and I just want to keep being a voice and keep getting better."

The Pirates and Gardner will return to play this December when ECU and the rest of the AAC play a shortened 20 game slate made up of just conference games. An official start date for the Pirates' first game has yet to be announced, but there have been several windows for start dates announced for AAC affiliated schools to choose from.

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

» ANALYSIS

Tulsa was formidable, but ECU's toughest foe may be ahead



Jess Sabin

TEC STAFF

East Carolina University football has had some tough challenges to face so far this season, and while the Pirates haven't won much they have shown that they can compete and as they face some strong teams ahead its questionable how their fate will turn out.

With the 2020 college football season nearing its midpoint, who and what each team is, has become clearer as teams make statement wins and show their true colors, which makes it easier for analysts to predict which teams will win on game day. And from what has been shown so far the toughest team on ECU's schedule will be the University of Cincinnati (5-0, 3-0 AAC).

In the coming weeks, ECU will play Tulane University (2-4 0-4 AAC), the University of Cincinnati (4-0 2-0 AAC), Temple University (1-2 1-2 AAC), and Southern Methodist University (5-1 2-1 AAC).

In a press conference prior to the Pirates' 34-30 road loss to the University of Tulsa, ECU's head football coach Mike Houston said that the team's upcoming matchup against Tulsa was going to be one of its toughest if not the toughest matchup of the 2020-2021 season.

"Exciting matchup this week. Tulsa, we all got a chance to see them on Friday night against South Florida," Houston said. "It was enjoyable to sit and watch the game, but still take away the same things I expected going



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Sophomore wide receiver C.J. Johnson makes a catch in last season's contest with Cincinnati.

into that game and that's we're facing one of the better teams, if not the best team, on our schedule."

This statement may have come as a shock as the upcoming matchups the Pirates faced two nationally-ranked opponents in Cincinnati and SMU ranked No. 7 and No. 22 respectively.

However, when looking at who each team has played, Houston's statement might not be as far-fetched as it may seem at face value. Tulsa had played just three games so far in this COVID-19 riddled season and two of its opponents were tough teams.

In their season opener Tulsa played and lost to No. 6 ranked Oklahoma State University (4-0, 3-0 Big 12), but the Golden Hurricanes lost just 16-7. Tulsa's defense was able to hold the Cowboys to just one offensive touchdown and just 292 total offensive yards.

Tulsa was able to hold OSU's junior running back Chubba Hubbard to just 93 yards on 27 carries for a mere 3.4 yards per carry. Hubbard is currently ranked as the second best running back prospect in the upcoming 2021 NFL draft and is the 63rd overall prospect in the country, according to Pro Football Focus.

Tulsa's two wins prior to its third against the Pirates came against the University of Central Florida (3-2, 2-2 AAC) and the University of South Florida (1-5 0-4 AAC).

South Florida currently sits as the worst team in the AAC right behind Tulane, but UCF, while not the team they were just two years ago when they went undefeated and declared themselves the National Champions after beating the University of Auburn in the Peach Bowl, UCF has shown to be a decent team so far this season. So a victory against the Golden Knights is still nothing to underestimate.

UCF beat ECU earlier in the year by a comfortable margin of 23 points with the final score being 51-28. Tulsa was able to beat UCF by eight in a game that ended 34-26.

Comparatively the Cincinnati Bearcats while being ranked in the top 10 in the country haven't had that same level of competition and it could be argued that they are only ranked as high as they are because many teams didn't begin to play until much later.

Despite not having played a team of OSU's caliber the Bearcats are the clear best team in the AAC and thus the best team on ECU's schedule. The consistent dominance has backed up their national ranking. Though people may argue they don't deserve to be in the top ten they have proven themselves thus far.

This writer can be contacted at sports@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 a 7 — Romantic plans could get delayed or blocked. Handle practical matters. Avoid provoking jealousies, misunderstandings or controversy.

Ignore rumors or gossip. Relax after managing what's needed.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Focus on household matters. Make repairs and handle breakdowns. Do what needs to be done to navigate a family challenge. Reward helpers with something delicious.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is an 8 — Don't get distracted by a heckler. Focus on the job at hand. Don't react without thinking. Consequences could last. Edit your words carefully. Get creative.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Others demand quick action. Confirm intuition with data. Handle financial responsibilities and avoid discussion. Stay practical and imagine holding the prize you seek.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — You're getting stronger. Advance a personal project quietly. Don't believe everything you hear. Stay flexible with changes. If at first you don't succeed, try again.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Step back from chaos, confusion or overstimulation. Find a quiet place for peaceful productivity. Let the controversies rage on without you. Rest and recharge.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Advance a team project without fuss or extra meetings. Distractions abound and tempers could get short. Avoid financial discussions. Keep a low profile.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Take care of business. Handle practical details to keep the ball in play. A test or challenge has your focus. Budget carefully. You're gaining influence.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — Travel may seem inviting, yet roadblocks abound. Don't throw your money around. Avoid confusion or hassle by planning carefully. Study your options. Find clever alternatives.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Focus on the job at hand. Anticipate resistance and avoid financial conversations. Misunderstandings arise easily. Manage obligations and responsibilities without antagonizing anyone. Prioritize collaboration.

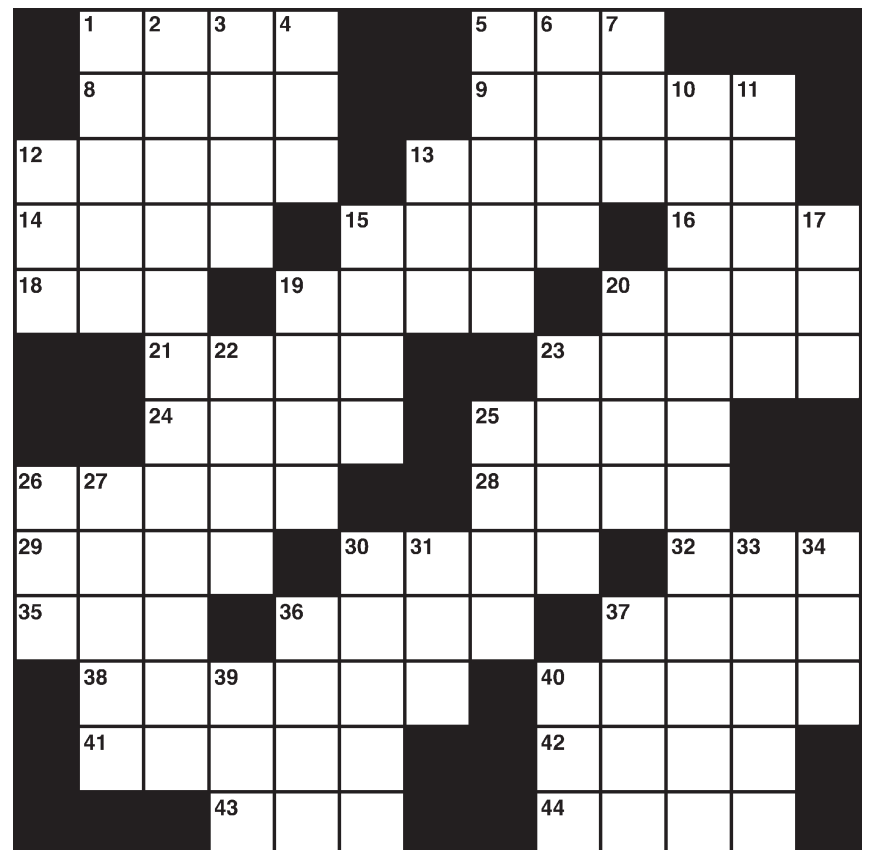
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — The person yelling loudest isn't always right. Determining blame misses the point. Focus on shared commitments, interests and love. Cool down and start over.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Prioritize health, vitality and wellness, despite challenges. Keep a low profile and avoid controversy. Focus on work, fitness and relaxation. Let stress go.

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

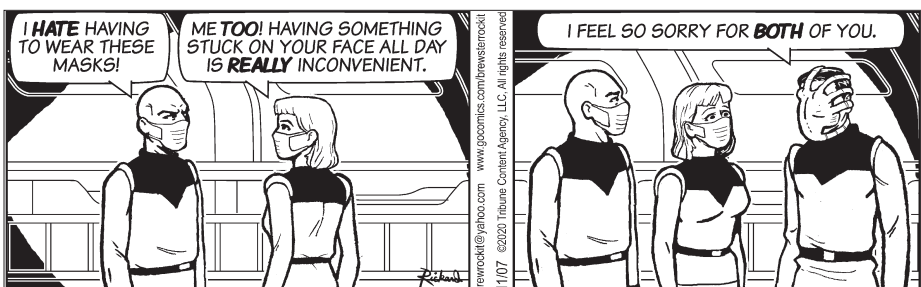
- ACROSS**
- 1 "___ Is Us"
 - 5 Actress Dawber
 - 8 Make over
 - 9 "Get ___"; Don Adams series
 - 12 Nat King and Old King
 - 13 Andy, Opie or Bee
 - 14 Elmer Fudd's nemesis
 - 15 Hooters
 - 16 "___ Brother"
 - 18 Sault ___. Marie
 - 19 "Make ___ for Daddy"
 - 20 Fork prong
 - 21 Tide type
 - 23 Bert's buddy
 - 24 Saloons
 - 25 Lion's hideaway
 - 26 Allen or Martin
 - 28 Therefore
 - 29 "Spenser: For ___"; Robert Ulrich series
 - 30 "The Parent ___"; film for Lindsay Lohan
 - 32 A-E connection
 - 35 Brain wave test
 - 36 "General Hospital," for one
- DOWN**
- 1 Freshwater fish
 - 2 Marg of "CSI"
 - 3 "Beware the ___ of March"
 - 4 Cry of distress
 - 5 ___ 23: "The Lord is my shepherd..."
 - 6 Grant and Roloff
 - 7 Prefix for function or content
 - 10 "Good Morning America" co-anchor
 - 11 Singer & guitarist Lopez
 - 12 "Code Black" network
 - 13 "___ and a Half Men"
 - 15 Fumbler's word
 - 17 "___ whiz!"
 - 19 "The ___ Breed"; James Stewart film
 - 20 High school math class
 - 22 Roof overhang
 - 23 "The Life and Legend of Wyatt ___"
 - 25 "Quantum ___"
 - 26 "Murder, ___ Wrote"
 - 27 Actress & model Cheryl
 - 30 Upper body
 - 31 "Everybody Loves Raymond" role
 - 33 Gives a hoot
 - 34 Parched
 - 36 Puncture
 - 37 "Where Eagles ___"; Clint Eastwood film
 - 39 Ultimate degree
 - 40 "The Cat in the ___"; Mike Myers movie

Solution from 10/28

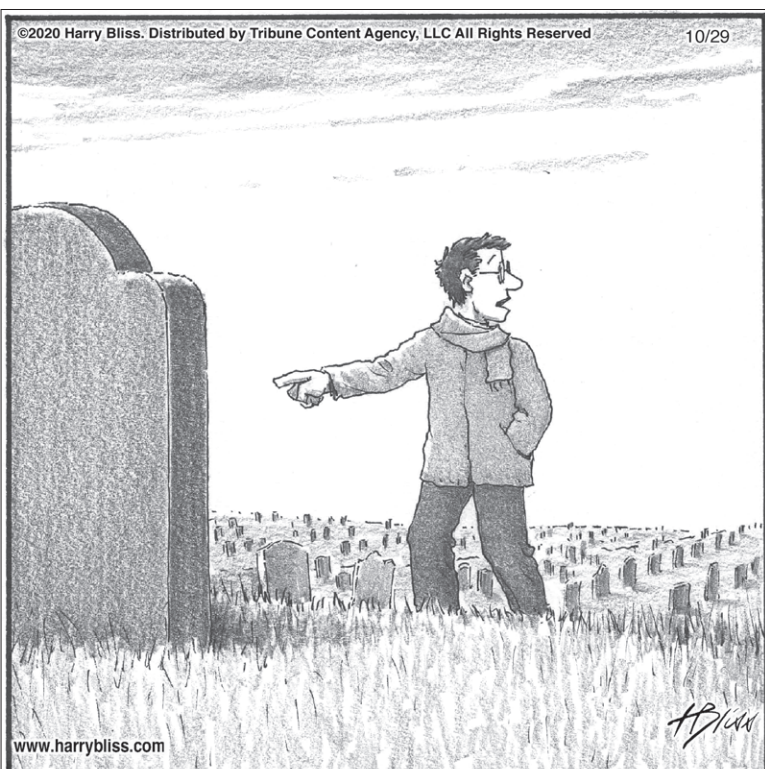
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E	G	R	M	A	R	I	A	R	E	N
W	E	S	S	T	E	R	N	S	R	S

COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BLISS



"I found Mother. She's right where we left her."

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



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

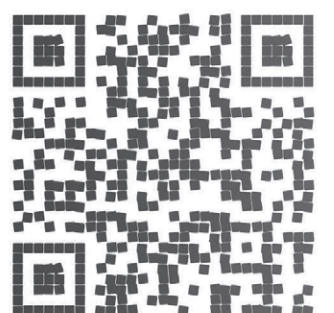
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution from 10/28

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

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Pirate Media

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

EVENTS

TODAY

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

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

Bites on the Bridge
Town Common
 105 E 1st St.
 5 to 9 p.m.
 252-329-2489

TOMORROW

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

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

The Radio Play
Series: Florence
ECU School of Theatre and Dance
 Virtual
 Available through Sunday
 252-328-6390

Healing Through Art:
Mental Health Awareness
Exhibit Take 2
Greenville Museum of Art
 802 S Evans St.
 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 252-758-1946

SATURDAY

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

Joy Soup Kitchen
Food Drive
Pitt Street Brewing Company
 630 S Pitt St.
 Nov. 2 at 5 p.m.
 to Nov. 16 at Midnight
 252-227-4151

SUNDAY

Cigar Sunday
Pitt Street Brewing Company
 630 S Pitt St.
 3 to 5 p.m.
 252-227-3151

Molly's to host themed dinner

Local businesses collaborate for a murder mystery event

Harold Bloomfield
 TEC STAFF

Molly's Community Cafe, located at 300 Evans St., and The Gamers Tomb game store, located at 1005 Hamilton Dr., will collaborate to host their first "Murder Mystery Night" on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the event can be purchased at either Molly's Community Cafe or The Gamers Tomb for \$50 each with light appetizers, dinner and dessert included, according to The Gamers Tomb's Facebook page. The event will take place in Molly's dining area.

Jimmy Williams is the co-owner of Molly's Community Cafe and will be part of the serving staff for the "Murder Mystery Night" dinner. He said The Gamers Tomb asked to do a pop-up dinner with Molly's and he was more than happy to accept the offer.

"We have been, you know trying to promote doing pop up dinners for various people and we are pretty excited about the fact that this will be kind of a interactive thing that is different than any of the other dinners that we had; this is going to be kind of a different little event that actually gets people kind of included and active," Williams said.

Molly's does regular pop-up dinners where it collaborates with other chefs and rather than a murder mystery, its regular pop-up dinners would

usually just include a special chef serving food from a different menu, according to Williams. He said since he knows one of the owners of The Gamers Tomb personally, they may plan to do events with them in the future if this one goes well.

Williams said Molly's will do its best to adhere to safety precautions due to COVID-19. He said there will be sanitization stations available and customers will be required to wear masks while they move around the cafe.

"This is one of the things we really want to do. We want to partner with other businesses and other chefs and do as many pop up dinners to kind of give the community an opportunity of very varied experiences," Williams said.

Leslie Spain is the co-owner of The Gamers Tomb store. She will help run the "Murder Mystery Night" at Molly's Community Cafe. Spain said she enjoys murder mysteries and has been a participant in many before hosting her own.

Spain said the mystery scenario will be about a director who has opened a new film and is murdered at a party that he throws. She said the goal of the night is to find out who committed the murder and exactly how they did it.

"You are going to have a card that will tell you all of your back story, it's going to tell you what your name is, how you know the director, why you were invited and everybody there has a reason to murder him, so it's going to tell you that reason and you're going to get a second card that tells you if you are guilty or not guilty," Spain said.



Molly's Cafe, located at 300 Evans St., will host a themed dinner on Saturday.

One of the things that will make the mystery exciting is the fact that everybody has a type of motive, according to Spain. She said she finds it thrilling to work together to solve the mystery.

Spain said it is great seeing how people react and if they keep a clear head. She said she loves the mystery aspect of the event seeing whether or not the person who is picked is innocent.

"According to how this one turns out we will try to do them (murder mystery dinners) at least once a month. Some months we might not do it because, you know, holidays and stuff like that or even during the summer when a lot of the students are not in town we may not do it as often just because we will not have our customer base," Spain said.

The target audience or customer

base of the murder mystery would be anyone who loves a good mystery, Spain said. She said it can be anybody whether they are a teenager, an adult or even someone considered elderly, but it is important for them to love a good mystery and want to solve it.

Spain said she plans to follow safety precautions because of COVID-19. Adding to the earlier points made by Williams, she said all tables will be six feet apart and the limit of the event will be 10 people to assure that there is plenty of space for people to spread out.

"The goal is probably just to bring people together and it's always good to meet new people and just to have fun," Spain said. "That's the goal for anything that we do at the The Gamers Tomb is to have fun."

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

GMOA holds 'Pet Portrait Palooza'

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
 TEC STAFF

The Greenville Museum of Art continues to host its virtual "Pet Portrait Palooza" event on Facebook, in partnership with the Humane Society of Eastern Carolina (HSEC), which began on Nov. 1 at 9 a.m. and will end on Nov. 6 at 5 p.m.

Sim Asher, communications and events coordinator of the Greenville Museum of Art (GMOA), said GMOA wants to continue to engage with its followers and the public. The idea for the event came about during an event committee meeting made up of the Board of Trustees and staff of GMOA.

"We are pleased to have found a fun, creative and loving way for supporters to cherish the memory of our furry friends while helping the entities that provide so much for the community," Asher said in an email statement.

Miki Ragsdale, event chairperson of GMOA, was inspired by a similar event held by the Wisconsin Humane Society, according to Asher. Ragsdale said the Wisconsin Humane Society had great feedback about the event and encouraged GMOA to have their own version of the event, according to Asher.

All portraits will be drawn by artists from the Greenville, North Carolina community and Raleigh-Durham area, according to Asher. He said the portraits are designed to be done quickly to meet the short deadline.

"In short, the public has their chance to donate \$20 or \$50 in order to submit a digital photograph of their pets, any pet (not limited to only dogs and cats). From there, a pool of volunteer drawers or professional artists will draw these pets (two pet limit per photographic entry)," Asher said.

GMOA welcomes professional or hobbyist artists who like to sketch or draw, to volunteer for this event, according to Asher. He said volunteers can contact him through email to participate.



The GMOA continues to host fundraiser this week.

The "Pet Portrait Palooza" event is to serve as the primary fall season fundraiser for GMOA and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the HSEC, Asher said.

"We like the idea that this play on art and animals is an effortless marriage and we have many professional and personal ties to the HSEC through our affiliates, staff and Board of Trustees. We are excited to be partnering with them. It's an added bonus knowing we can give back to them once this event has concluded," Asher said.

Trista Reis Porter, executive director at GMOA, said GMOA uses its network of artists and volunteers to create silly portraits of pets. She said they wanted to do an event around the holidays so that people could give the portraits as gifts.

Porter said people could make a donation on their website and comment a photo of their pet on a Facebook post about the portrait palooza. She said GMOA will respond to the comment with a portrait of their pet.

"We thought it was a fun idea that we came up with to do a primary virtual fundraiser and help benefit the museum to get people looking and coming to the museum to see what we are doing, and to get more involved," Porter said.

A \$20 portrait will be done by a staff member, volunteer or trustee of GMOA and the \$50 portrait will be done by a professional artist. Porter said the portraits done by volunteers are meant to be silly drawings that can be completed quickly.

There are a limited number of professional artists' portraits, according to Porter. She said she will probably get a portrait done by a volunteer or staff member of her two cats, Lister and Cassidy, if she can find a photo of them together.

"It seemed like a natural fit to involve the Humane Society. They have a pretty large group of supporters and pet lovers, so we thought it would be a good idea to merge our networks and be able to reach their supporters and donors to get them to learn about the museum and the kind of work that we are doing," Porter said.

Rebecca Ives, contributing professional artist for the "Pet Portrait Palooza" and alumna of ECU the School of Art and Design, said she has a long-standing relationship with GMOA. She said she has donated a variety of pieces to GMOA's fundraiser auctions in the past like local scenes of interest, including a barn and floral art pieces.

Ives said Porter knew she has a cat sanctuary, Lucky Feral Cat Home and that she paints pet portraits to fund the sanctuary. Ives' cat sanctuary provides a safe and permanent home for feral cats and reduces the population of cats in her neighborhood.

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

MURAL continued from A1

and swing seats will be installed to the wall, so people can actually sit on the swings to look as if they are sitting inside the clouds of the mural, according to Normoyle.

"The upper-deck signage incorporates the slogan, 'A City of We, a City of Me.' The clouds with newspaper text incorporate Greenville's unique story through a collage-style aesthetic," Normoyle said in an email invitation for volunteers.

Normoyle and Emerge Gallery and Art Center staff chose 423 Evans St. for the community engagement project because they wanted an area with a lot of visibility, Normoyle said. She said she and Emerge wanted a greenspace instead of only a wall near the street because they knew they wanted it to be interactive.

Normoyle said there was a great turn out of volunteers who primed and painted the backdrop of the mural on Oct. 23 and 24. She said

people who are affiliated with the Pitt County Arts Council came out and helped.

"It was a great turn out for a community engagement project. I think we got a lot of great feedback on the process of it and people are excited to see it get installed," Normoyle said.

Raymond Henderson, a local artist and ECU School of Art and Design alumnus, said Emerge reached out to him to participate in the project. There was a great turn out of volunteers, according to Henderson. He said he helped with painting the clouds, umbrellas and background scenery within the project.

"It's going to be really nice, especially with it sitting right in front of Uptown. So people can come out and take photos with it and people can actually sit inside the mural. I think it's going to make great photographs," Henderson said.

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



Volunteer artists paint different panels of the interactive mural that is located at 423 Evans St.

CONTRIBUTED BY CAT NORMOYLE