



# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE

Wednesday, 01.27.21

## Transportation departments adjust policies

Cayla Menges  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University Transit and ECU Parking and Transportation will continue to adapt to changes in bus route operations and parking permit sales as COVID-19 continues to impact services throughout the start of the spring 2021 semester.

Director of ECU Transit Wood Davidson said bus routes will continue to look different this semester. He said multiple bus routes which include the weekend routes to the Uptown Greenville area have been suspended.

Davidson said in the spring 2020 semester ECU administration decided to suspend the Friday and Saturday night bus routes that took students to the bars in the uptown area. Although the decision came before bars reopened, the administration knew they wanted to continue to implement that idea through the 2020-2021 school year, according to Davidson.

"So even in the context where they were allowed to open, from the university's perspective that's still not service we want to provide because we don't feel like those are environments that are conducive to stay safe in," Davidson said.

The bus routes for the spring semester run from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every weekday, which is different from their traditional hours of operation from 7 a.m. to 2 a.m., according to Davidson. He said the biggest change ECU Transit has noticed from changes in their normal operation has been a decline in freshman's awareness of the transit offered through the university.

Davidson said freshmen have not experienced a typical ECU orientation and move in, both events of which ECU's transit provided rides for prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said he received a question from a freshman about whether they were going to be charged to ride the bus, unaware of the fact it is a service with no charge.

ECU Transit will continue to offer SafeRide, a point to point van service with hours that extend until 11 p.m. for students who need transportation after the bus routes end for the night, according to Davidson. He said students often forget about SafeRide as an option to take on campus.

"I know a lot of people think a SafeRide as just being a service at night, but SafeRide on our campus really is an uber-like experience," Davidson said.

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Two ECU seniors, CJ Shaeffer and Alex Talton sit in Joyner Library and complete their academic work while they adhere to COVID-19 regulations.

## ECU updates guidelines University to focus on COVID-19 enforcement in spring

Breanna Sapp  
TEC STAFF

Faculty and staff at East Carolina University have begun COVID-19 enforcement and procedures as they continue to remind students of their responsibility to help slow the spread of COVID-19 as the spring semester continues.

Captain of ECU Police Department (ECU PD) Chris Sutton said the two key university guidelines for students to follow include the requirement to wear a face mask everywhere on campus and the large gathering restriction. Sutton said as of now, no more than 10 people are allowed to gather inside and no more than 50 are allowed outside. He said students should review the guidelines outlined by the Office of the Governor and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS).

ECU will reflect these guidelines, Sutton said, though if students advance beyond a warning, they should expect to receive a referral to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) conduct administrator. Sutton said

students who stay on campus could be removed from their hall if they violate a guideline. He said ECU PD is currently the lead agency to monitor large gatherings and plans to work with Greenville Police Department (GPD) as well.

"Fighting the COVID(-19) pandemic will not last forever, but it is a fight we face right now. We must collectively commit to following all the guidelines with diligence," Sutton said. "The current student generation is being asked

to do the most important thing they have ever been tasked with. Being responsible and accountable today, guarantees a safer and healthier tomorrow."

Leila Faranesh, associate dean of students and director of the OSRR, said students must wear face coverings in all public places on campus, especially in the residence hall common hall areas, hallways and elevators. Faranesh said students in

the residence halls are allowed to have one guest who also lives on campus.

Faranesh said students should become familiar with university expectations, as well as state orders, related to the pandemic. She said reports can be filed on the OSRR's website.

The department receives reports from police, students, faculty, staff, community members and more, according to Faranesh. She said the university continues to take directions as listed on the Return to Pirate Nation website.

"Our success in preventing the spread of COVID-19 is dependent on students complying with regulations in place to help ensure the health and safety of the ECU community. We want nothing more than to be able to gather in person with our fellow Pirates, but that can only happen if we work together to stop the spread of the virus," Faranesh said.

Freshman human services major Taylor Dixon said she thinks the university's COVID-19 enforcements are

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Wood Davidson



Chris Sutton



A former member of the ECU women's swim team participates in a previous meet. The men's swim team was among the programs cut by ECU.

## Women's sports teams return

Brendan Cavazos  
TEC STAFF

Players and coaches were thought to be affected indefinitely when four sports teams were cut in May 2020 from East Carolina University, however, in a Jan. 7 announcement from Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson, both the women's tennis and the women's swimming and diving team

were reinstated for the department to remain in compliance with Title IX.

Mitchelson said the women's teams will be the only teams reinstated for each program, with no plan to reinstate the men's counterparts. The start date for the women's teams programs is still to be determined.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented financial dis-

ruption to operations across the university and exacerbated the already significant financial challenges faced not only by our athletics department, but also the university," Mitchelson said in a Jan. 7 press conference. "Gender equity is a priority to our institution, and we will continue to

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## Campus art galleries will remain closed

Yasmine Curmon-Ward  
TEC STAFF

While East Carolina University School of Art and Design (SoAD) galleries remain closed until further notice due to the pandemic, art students are able to display their work through an online exhibit.

Kate Bukoski, director of the SoAD, said the galleries located in Jenkins Fine Arts Center are closed due to COVID-19 state mandated restrictions. She said the galleries have been closed since March 2020.

"I think I can speak for the whole of the school and that we are all disappointed to have to close the gallery, however, given the fact that we pivoted online, given the requirements of installing artwork, that was really our main concern," Bukoski said.

The last exhibit held in the Gray Gallery was the spring



> SOAD page A4

### ONLINE

»SPORTS: Women's Basketball to face the University of Central Florida

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

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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@TEC\_Newsletter

## BRIEFS

## LGBTQ Center to host anniversary ceremony

Today, the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will host a virtual ceremony from noon to 1 p.m. via WebEx to celebrate its 10th anniversary. The ceremony will have a keynote address by Marilyn Sheerer and a presentation of the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Advocacy Award to ECU's Department of Sociology. This event is free and open to the public.

## G.O.L.D series continues virtually

Today, from 6 to 7 p.m., Student Engagement will continue its G.O.L.D Leader Series where the topic of resilience will be discussed. This TED Talk will be held virtually through WebEx and individuals must sign up via Engage before the event in order to attend.

## LWCC to hold MLK Celebration

Tomorrow, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) will host "Remembering Sycamore Hill" from 4 to 5:30 p.m. as part of MLK Celebration Week. Students can sign up on ECU's Engage website. The event will honor the history of Black Americans within Greenville.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; 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

As the spring semester continues, SGA and the CRW collaborated with BetterYou, a health application students can download to help them achieve their health goals.

# SGA, CRW launch app partnership

## 'BetterYou' to assist students with physical, mental health awareness

Sarah Porter  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Student Government Association (SGA) and Campus Recreation and Wellness (CRW) have partnered with BetterYou, a digital health coach application that students can download to help them achieve their personal goals.

SGA Director of Health and Wellness Emma Goldberg said she has worked with CRW in order to successfully plan and prepare for ECU's launch of BetterYou. She said the hope has been that with SGA and CRW being two large groups at ECU, many students will want to be involved.

Goldberg said the BetterYou app not only focuses on physical health, but also mindfulness, social and educational well-being through reminder alerts sent during the week to keep students on track. The app works in the background of one's phone, Goldberg said, and students do not have to get on it everyday to upload or log their progress.

"It makes it a really easy way to stay on track with the parts of life that are really important to you, without really adding anything extra to our plates," Goldberg said. "As students, we don't really get a lot of free time, and in our free time we don't want to have to be tracking (anything)."

The university was provided with 800 free

BetterYou student licenses, and about 200 students have already signed up, according to Goldberg. She said the main goal is for all the licenses to be used, and then to expand if more students are interested.

One of the challenges Goldberg said she faced time during the BetterYou preparation process was time. She said by the time everything was ready, winter break began and students left campus, so the project had to wait.

"I know that our leadership has been really big on trying to promote (BetterYou), and trying to find fun things on social media that we can do to



Emma Goldberg

really get students engaged and involved," Goldberg said. "Overall, we're just trying to show students that we also can benefit from these resources, so it's really something for anyone."

Goldberg said the Associate Director of CRW Steven Trotter has been a huge help through the BetterYou launch process.

Trotter said aside from his position at CRW, he is the chair of the university wellbeing collective. He said Goldberg is a part of the collective as well, and when they took the idea to SGA, their leadership loved it.

"We know that for anything to be successful, it cannot be just one person or one area driving the bus, it needs to be a group effort," Trotter said. "That's the reason we took this collaborative approach on."

SGA Vice President Laura Hayes said she has assisted Goldberg as they connected to the BetterYou team and created the partnership.

At the beginning of SGA President Tucker Robbins and Hayes' term in office, Hayes said they quickly noticed the need for student support in terms of mental health.

"Prior to Tucker and I's administration, SGA put forth a great effort to put out a program called U at ECU that did not receive the attention it deserved, so we thought an app might be more effective in terms of student usage and engagement," Hayes said.

In the midst of a global pandemic, Hayes said studies have outlined the need for an increase in mental health platforms.

Hayes said she knows college can be a challenge in many different aspects for students while they deal with all the stressors associated with online learning and transitions to college and adult life. She said BetterYou can reward participants with incentives simply for their normal routine.

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

## CAMPUS continued from A1

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, ECU transit has received a decline of applications from students to become bus drivers, according to Davidson. He said the situation with the pandemic has only further impacted their number of drivers, now at around 60 drivers when they would have 120 to 140 drivers at a time.

Parking and Transportation Enforcement Supervisor Josh Puckett said the university has seen a decrease in permit sales due to the increase in online courses for the semester. He said in the fall 2020 semester when courses were transitioned online, ECU Parking and Transportation offered students and staff refunds for passes that would no longer be used.

Puckett said the university refunded over \$115,000 and the COVID-19 pandemic has caused almost a \$2 million shortfall from what is normal in permit sales. He said in March 2020 some of the staff had been furloughed until July 2021 and others had been moved to other departments to leave only three enforcement officers on duty.

"The majority of my staff, which would be the enforcement officers have been spread out between grounds, housekeeping and ITCS," Puckett said.

The hours for the Main Campus Student Center parking deck have been reduced to operate from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekly based on population density on-campus for the spring semester, according to Puckett. He said Parking and Transportation is a university needs department and changes to hours are made based on decisions from ECU administration. Puckett said he wants to remind students



ANNA ALLEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Bus schedules face changes due to the pandemic.

since the start of the spring semester parking enforcement will continue to patrol and ticket individuals who are not in their designated parking zones. He said prices for spring semester parking permits are pro-rated and aren't full priced.

ECU Parking and Transportation has designed three vehicles to help enforcement officers patrol the university's campus, according to Puckett. He said the new vehicles are equipped with License Plate Readers (LPR) cameras to read license plates as officers drive through an area.

"We have two cameras mounted on the front of these vehicles that scans every license plate and instantaneously let's us know, one if they have a permit, two if they're in the wrong zone and three how many tickets they've had in the past," Puckett said.

More information on ECU Parking and Transportation is located on its website.

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

## HEALTH continued from A1

well-prepared for this semester, especially since the country doesn't have COVID-19 under control. She said the transition to to-go-only at Todd Dining Hall and a reduction in residence hall capacities will be a different routine, though it's beneficial for the campus.

Dixon said she doesn't know how well enforcement will go on campus and said she believes students won't abide by curfew or by capacity guidelines in the residence halls.

"I hope that people will do what they're supposed to do and follow directions, even if it's not being enforced, because it's not going to get any better unless people

comply. Especially a really populated college campus. People just need to be careful, even if they aren't directly affected by it," Dixon said.

The shift to COVID-19 regulation enforcement comes as a shift from the university, which stated that in the fall 2020 semester officials would prioritize education about the virus and guidelines.

Through hybrid course structures and online events, the university continues to attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The Return of Pirate Nation acts as a resource for students who may have questions regarding the university's plans for the spring semester.

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

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**The East Carolinian**  
CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1925

Whether you want to report about sports, the arts or news, The East Carolinian has opportunities for you.

### Tryouts

Monday, Jan. 25

OR

Thursday, Jan. 28

From noon to 5 p.m.

OR

Tuesday, Jan. 26

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

OR

Wednesday, Jan. 27

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring a pencil and a bluebook.

**No experience needed.**

**All majors welcome!**

Students must have a 2.25 GPA or higher to apply.  
Contact spellerch16@ecu.edu for more information.

(252) 328-9238  
Mendenhall, Main Floor, ECU  
Greenville, NC 27858

## OUR VIEW

### Saliva test is efficient and safe

As the COVID-19 pandemic ravages on, it is important for the East Carolina University community to take the necessary precautions and follow the guidelines and protocols put in place by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the university.

One critical way to help decrease the spread of COVID-19 is to get regularly tested if you attend large gatherings or have face-to-face contact within six feet of an individual frequently. For students, the option to take a saliva test should positively contribute to the university community.

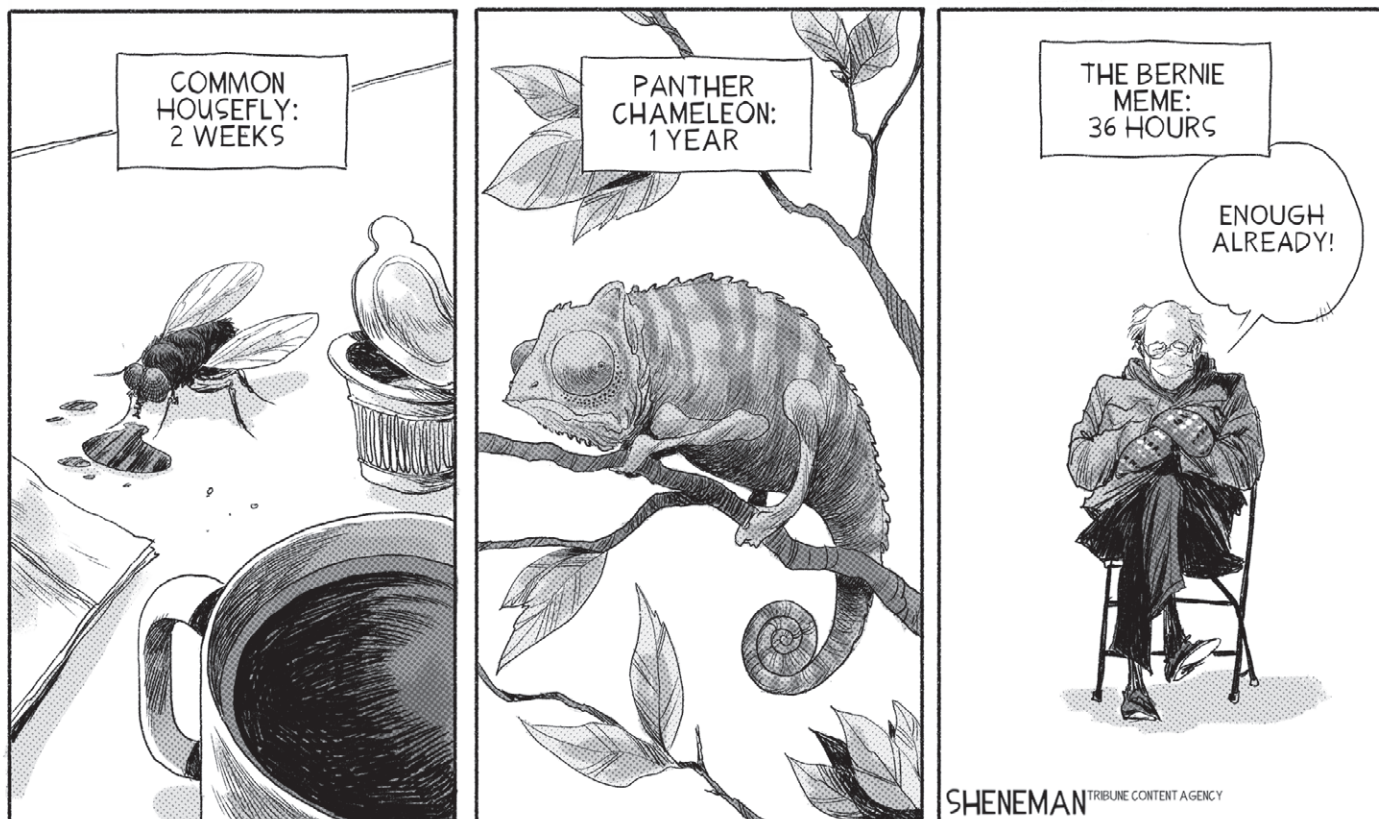
Saliva testing is noted to be more comfortable than it's counterpart, and it reduces the large number of nasal swabs used.

As a way to surveillance test the university's population, the Brody School of Medicine (BSOM) and ECU's School of Dental Medicine have developed a free saliva test which detects the virus. This saliva test will be used by the Student Health Services throughout the spring semester.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, advocate for the saliva tests as it does not require trained healthcare workers to administer and is more comfortable and easier to endure than the traditional nasopharyngeal swab test.

The BSOM received \$15 million from North Carolina's state legislature as a way to study COVID-19 in the eastern North Carolina region. A portion of these funds was used to study a new way to test the virus. Students who reside in residence halls will be tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis for one month as of Feb. 15., and approximately 25% of the spring housing population will be tested per week. The Student Health Center will also continue to swab test for COVID-19.

## NATURALLY SHORT LIFE SPANS



## Pirates will stand strong ECU continues to stay flexible amid COVID-19



Virginia Hardy  
GUEST COLUMNIST

Tensions were high all year long with racial injustice, a hostile election cycle and of course, a global pandemic that rages on. Now that the calendar has flipped to 2021, and despite all the things wrong in our world, I firmly believe we will all come out of this tougher, more confident and stronger. That's hard to believe right now, but in my gut, I believe that to be true.

In the fall, we all learned what it meant to be flexible and adapt. Like so many colleges and universities, ECU was building the plane while it was in the air. We have an amazing, comprehensive online educational environment and now it's even better. I am impressed with how our staff and faculty transitioned to a virtual world so quickly.

However, I am so impressed with how you, our ECU students, have adjusted to this new normal. You have demonstrated character and resilience and will be better

for all that you are enduring.

We have no promises given in 2021, but we have hope that a college experience that each of you have come to know and expect will return soon enough. This, however, doesn't come without help from you. Every member of Pirate Nation – students – faculty – staff – must do our part to eradicate COVID-19 on our campus.

Practice the 3 W's every day! Avoid any large crowds and gatherings. Hosting and/or attending large gatherings is unsafe, unwise, and illegal. Please know that we are transitioning from education to enforcement in order to help keep ECU community and the Greenville/Pitt County community safe. Stay engaged and connected with your faculty members and coursework. Take care of yourself. We also need everyone to participate in saliva surveillance testing conducted by Student Health Services starting in February. It is free to ECU students, faculty, and staff.

Let me be as clear as I can! ECU will not be able to return hosting events like Barefoot on the Mall, ECU sporting events, or even



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Virginia Hardy speaks at the grand opening of the Student Center in 2019.

Commencement if we don't each do our part to stop the spread. ECU has a culture of compliance. ECU has a culture of testing.

ECU and Greenville police officers will be enforcing the Governor's Executive Orders and the ECU Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities is prepared to issue sanctions to individuals and groups in violation of these orders. It's pretty simple. Start with you. One person doing the right thing can make a difference in our community and on our campus. Be the change agent for us to become a healthy, safe campus in 2021.

We are here for you. If you are struggling and need

help, we are here for you. ECU Student Health and the Counseling Center have telehealth options to assist. Academic advisors and faculty are here to support you academically. Everyone in Pirate Nation stands ready, willing and able to help you get through the semester ahead.

Pirates...we got this. Let's do this together and support one another every day by adhering to our community standards! I wish you a safe, healthy and happy spring semester.

Virginia Hardy is the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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

As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

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## TEC tryouts will continue this week

### Chloe's Convos



Chloe Easton  
TEC COLUMNIST

Now, more than ever, it is important for unbiased journalists to be trusted by the public eye; without journalism, this nation would be in the dark. For those who share a passion to discover the truth they must find a place to begin their journey and The East Carolinian (TEC) provides young student journalists with the tools they need to step into the work field and help our nation progress through real facts.

COVID-19 has altered the true college experience for most students, which has caused restrictions on how students may go about joining organizations and clubs on campus. Along with the resources needed to develop into a professional journalist, TEC has acted more as a home away from home rather than an organization alone. The friends I have made through this newspaper, through Pirate Media 1, are the ones who have made my experience here at East Carolina University thus far what it is today.

TEC has received multiple Best of Show awards for print publication and online content from the North Carolina College Media Association and works to cover all news, arts and entertainment and sport events relevant to the Greenville, North Carolina, and the ECU community.

**“ Along with the resources needed to develop into a professional journalist, TEC has acted more as a home away from home rather than an organization alone. ”**

-Chloe Easton

TEC additionally works to create resources to inform students such as One Vote N.C., a collaborative voters guide created to help inform students about voting and the election process. Annually, TEC hosts events prevalent to important topics in the media such as "TECTalk: Navigating the 2020 Election" and "In Living Color: Journalism in the Age of Black Lives Matter."

Over the last year TEC has worked to report on changes within ECU and the local community due to COVID-19, the 2020 election process, Black Lives Matter movement events, lawsuits within administration at ECU, changes within the visual and performing art community, sport events and a plethora of breaking news which stems out of Greenville and the university. The reporters and editors who have worked to bring these stories to life have all completed the same class within TEC which has allowed them to do so, the Candidate Program.

This semester-long program involves weekly class where Cherie Speller, the

interim director of Pirate Media 1 and advisor of TEC, teaches the basics of journalism, news reporting, media law and ethics and AP style. Here at TEC, we want our staff to be as prepared as possible and the Candidate Program will prepare those who are interested in journalism not only for the stories they will write now, but those they will craft in the future after graduation once they leave our newsroom.

Tryouts for TEC will continue today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Thursday from noon to 5 p.m. located in Mendenhall on the Main Floor. Students must have a 2.23 GPA or higher to apply, but all majors are welcome. Those who are interested will need to bring a bluebook, which can be purchased in the Dowdy Student Store, and a pencil. If you have doubts about the tryout process, I will remind you nothing feels better than to see your name in print.

Chloe Easton is a senior majoring in English and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## EVENTS

### TODAY

#### Open Mic Night

The Blackened Kraken  
123 E. Fifth Street  
8 to 11:30 p.m.  
252-215-8822

#### Karaoke Night

5th St. Distillery and Annex  
120 E. Fifth Street  
10 to 11:30 p.m.  
252-757-3034

#### Open Mic Comedy

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

### TOMORROW

#### Tapas and Jazz

Starlight Cafe  
104 W. Fifth Street  
5:30 to 10 p.m.  
252-707-9033

#### Comic Book Club

Smashed Waffles  
718 Dickinson Avenue  
7 to 9 p.m.  
252-364-2872

#### College Night at Stumpy's

Stumpy's Hatchet House  
816 Dickinson Avenue  
5 to 8 p.m.  
252-751-0300

#### Spazz Presents Open Mic

Molly's Community Cafe  
300 S. Evans St.  
6 to 9 p.m.  
252-227-4449

### FRIDAY

#### Chirba Chirba Food Truck

Pitt Street Brewing Company  
630 S Pitt St.  
6 to 9 p.m.  
252-227-4151

#### Nick and Dean @ AJ McMurphy's

AJ McMurphy's Authentic  
Irish Pub and Restaurant  
1914 Turnbury Dr.  
6 to 9 p.m.  
252-355-7956

#### Molly's Friday Round Robin

Molly's Community Cafe  
300 S. Evans St.  
5 to 9 p.m.  
252-227-4449

#### Karaoke Night

The Gamers Tomb  
1005 Hamilton Dr.  
7 to 10 p.m.  
252-364-2341

### SATURDAY

#### Quincy Jones Live at Starlight Cafe

Starlight Cafe  
104 W 5th St.  
7 to 9 p.m.  
252-707-9033

#### Black Vendor Market

Pitt Street Brewing Company  
630 S. Pitt Street  
1 to 5 p.m.  
252-227-4151

#### Tan Sanders and Halen Sykes

Molly's Community Cafe  
300 S. Evans St.  
6 to 9 p.m.  
252-227-4449



CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX DAVIS

Cellist Emanuel Gruber and pianist Catherine Garner perform while Tracy Donohue accompanies with narration of the Old Testament in January 2020.

## Concert to honor Holocaust victims Faculty to perform in third annual memorial event

**Kyle Arnoe**  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University professor and chamber musician Emanuel Gruber will play the cello with narration by Professor Emeritus of the School of Theatre and Dance Tracy Donohue to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day in a virtual event tonight at 7:30.

Gruber said he was born in Bucharest, Romania, and after he immigrated to Israel with his family, he studied the cello at the University of Southern California. He said he has taught music at ECU for 25 years, and he didn't have much choice in becoming a musician, as his father was a violist.

Accompanied by Psalms from the Old Testament narrated by Tracy Donohue, Gruber said he will perform a selection of music by Johann Sebastian Bach. The Holocaust Remembrance event, recorded on Jan. 1, will be held virtually due to ECU's COVID-19 policies, and will be broadcast on Jan. 27, International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

According to Gruber, Jan. 27 is the day Allied forces liberated the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and death camps. This year will mark the 76th anniversary of the liberation by the Allied forces,



Emanuel Gruber

according to the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial official website.

"Personally, I want to remember. I want people to remember the people who died, who died in this event unnecessarily, but also to remind people how atrocious it is, this idea, to kill people, just for whatever reason, for being Jews for being, I don't know, Tutsis or being in Cambodia or Rwanda, or Bosnia for reasons which are not human reasons," Gruber said.

The Holocaust Remembrance event at ECU began three years ago, Gruber said, because it was important to remember the deaths of six million Jewish people and millions of Romani, homosexuals and political enemies of the Nazi Party. He said it is important to remember that the genocide started in a country of great composers, scientists and cultural wealth, which may be relevant to the cultural climate of the America today.

Gruber said music was chosen that would help listeners reach a "transcendental space." He said the cello's soothing sound and German baroque composer Johann Sebastian Bach's compositions will give attendees a sense of support and comfort. Gruber said he chose music that accentuates the cello.

"This is a little part, in which I want to take in order to give the people kind of a little to remember this event, to contemplate this kind of an event and maybe by doing this, maybe to make us think and give us a little more humanity," Gruber said.

Donohue said she retired last September after teaching at ECU since 1983. Donohue has worked as a professional actress at the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival and the International Theatre in Vienna, Austria.

Gruber's wife selected the Psalms which Donohue will narrate for the event, she said. Donohue was contacted by Gruber to narrate the event, and she said the two worked together on the same event last year which was held live.



Tracy Donohue

"He plays so beautifully. It's fun to be on stage with musicians in that way. I'm usually on stage with other actors, to be a part of the musical world is a real privilege," Donohue said.

The Holocaust Remembrance event is an opportunity for viewers to pause and reflect on what can be learned from the Holocaust, Donohue said. She said it is a beautiful event and that she's privileged to be a part of it.

Donohue said people should not only reflect on the lessons learned from the Holocaust, but also memorialize the many lives lost. She said the lives of the six million Jewish victims and the millions of other lives lost should be commemorated.

"It's important to remember the

Holocaust so we can help prevent future genocides. At the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, we saw people with Nazi flags. We can't let people forget about the evil for which that flag stands," Donohue said.

Carol Woodruff is president of the Jewish Synagogue Congregation Bayt Shalom, located at 4351 E. 10th St. Woodruff said she has been involved with her synagogue for 20 years and it remains at the center of the Jewish activity around Greenville, North Carolina.

Woodruff said what she feels is important about this particular remembrance event is that not everyone who coordinated the event is Jewish. She said it shows people are capable of empathetic actions.

"It's very important that we keep the memory of the Holocaust alive, so that we remember what humanity can do to humanity, and use it as a cautionary tale so that we don't go down that path again, so I think that's an important reason that Holocaust memorials take place in various communities and various ways," Woodruff said.

The event will be streamed live tonight from the ECU School of Music's live concert video stream.

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



Carol Woodruff

## Musicians thrive amid pandemic

**Harold Bloomfield**  
TEC STAFF

The local hip-hop and rap music scene of Greenville, North Carolina, will continue to move forward amidst COVID-19 restrictions and precautions as artists still release albums and work to safely perform shows to satisfy their fans.

Ayeba Sopreye Eke-Spiff, also known as DJ Spiff, who is a senior public health major, is a DJ in the Greenville area. He said he started his musical career in Greenville as a freshman.

Eke-Spiff said he began as a DJ at East Carolina University from work parties and clubs and built his skills to where he is now. His mentor was a former ECU student and DJ, Blake Monger, who is also known as DJ B Wavy, who taught him much of what he knew and guided him through his start as a DJ.

"I never had any DJ experience before I came here, but I was musically inclined and he (DJ B Wavy) taught me what I knew and I have just been doing it ever since," Eke-Spiff said.

Since the pandemic began, Eke-Spiff said he has been very particular about the events he DJs

for his own safety. He said he hasn't performed at as many parties lately and has even taken time away from it.

Eke-Spiff said he wants to elevate himself and venture out of Greenville to go to areas such as Raleigh, North Carolina, and Washington, D.C. He said the move out of Greenville is his focus right now, and he won't settle for less than that.

"The impossible is probable, but how will you make it possible?" Eke-Spiff said. "And that's a quote I started to live by in my everyday life."



Ayeba Sopreye Eke-Spiff

Andrew Cheek, also known as 4themisfit, is a junior communication major at ECU and a musician who makes a variety of hip-hop music.

Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Cheek has been successful with numerous shows and has had a trip to Austin, Texas to meet different people in the music industry.

"A lot of people told me that it wouldn't be



CONTRIBUTED BY ANDREW CHEEK

Andrew Cheek performs as 4themisfit at an event.

lucrative, but I made some decent money off of it and people respect the talent that I have as well as the drive and the hard work that I put into it," Cheek said. "So I like people to tell me that it's not going to be good or it's not going to be advantageous, so that I can prove them wrong."

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

## SOAD continued from A1

2020 Mastering of Fine Arts (MSA) exhibition according to Bukoski. She said the plan is to reopen the Gray Gallery for the spring 2021 MSA exhibition.

The purpose of the MSA exhibition is for graduate students to show their masters thesis work, according to Bukoski. She said she does anticipate the installation of the Bachelor of Fine Arts Art Education exhibition in the Gray Gallery or in the Burroughs Wellcome Senior Gallery in April through early May.

The original plan for the Gray Gallery was for it to be a study area after undergraduate classes transitioned to online. Computers and desks were put in the space but the space was not being used, according to Bukoski. She said graduate students currently continue to install their MSA exhibits in the Gray Gallery.

"With the MSA (Mastering of Fine Arts) Exhibition we feel like we have some good protocols in place, but also the MSA students are doing all of their own installations in the gallery," Bukoski said.

Maria Modlin, Gray Gallery preparator, said

a lot of art majors did not come back to campus this semester. She said a lot of the students are home while they work to adjust to online classes due to the transition last semester.

Modlin said there are a few art classes such as ceramics, sculpture and metal classes which are difficult to teach online. Modlin said she wants students to be able to hang up their artwork so they could see how it looks on the wall, but due to safety precautions that is not possible at this time.

**ONLINE | FULL STORY**

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

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Creative or romantic expression could seem restricted. Slow to manage an unexpected twist. Keep practicing your game. Communication leads to solutions. Connect and share.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Take extra care of yourself. You are unique, magnificent and beloved. You're also going through a personal metamorphosis or transformation. Prepare to stretch new wings.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — Travel may entice yet conditions are still evolving. Educational pursuits reward your investigative efforts. Anticipate changes. Adapt and shift your view for new discoveries.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Domestic dreams may not match the reality. You can see what's missing. Come up with a plan to address a structural repair or upgrade.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Notice dreams, visions and intuitive hunches. Consider and revise plans for a shift in conditions. Avoid travel or expense and keep a low profile.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Manage joint resources around a financial change. Read and research measurements and statistics. Review the situation and adapt plans. Collaborate for shared gain.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — A creative barrier redirects your attention. Monitor the situation for developments. Patiently communicate, especially with changes. Connect, coordinate and share the news.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Revise a team strategy to adapt to an evolving situation. Shifting conditions require an appropriate response. Support others to consider circumstances from another view.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Support your partner and be supported around a twist in plans. Guard patience around a change in status quo. New circumstances require adaptation.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Budget and estimate the funds necessary. Keep plans practical and focus on short-term needs to adapt to recent changes. Consider options and opportunities.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Focus on professional priorities. An industrial or market shift requires adaptation. One door closes while another opens. Consider opportunities and options. Monitor the pulse.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Maintain routines and practices to prioritize health and safety. Slow around sharp corners. Patience pays off with high dividends. Guard energy and recharge.

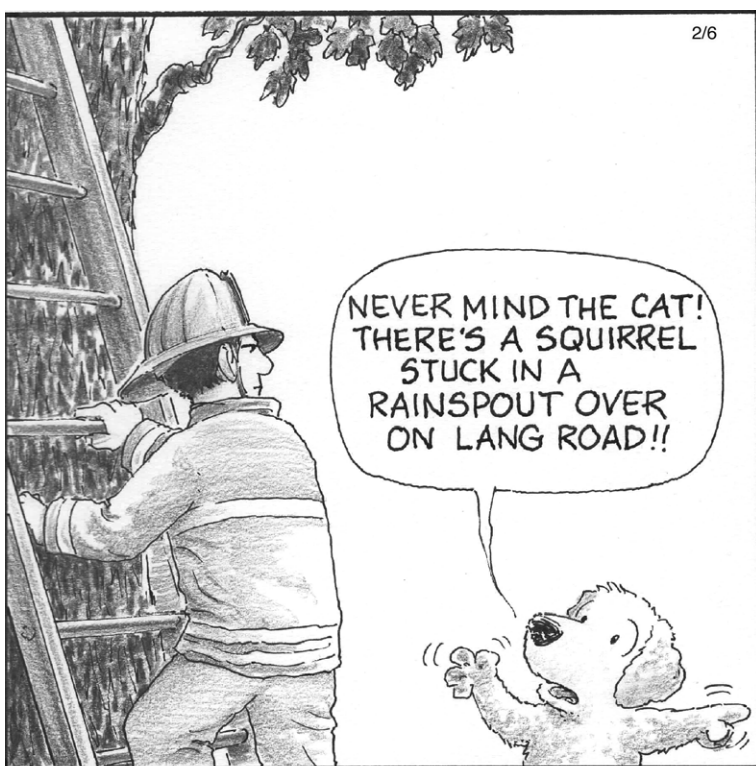
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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKIT



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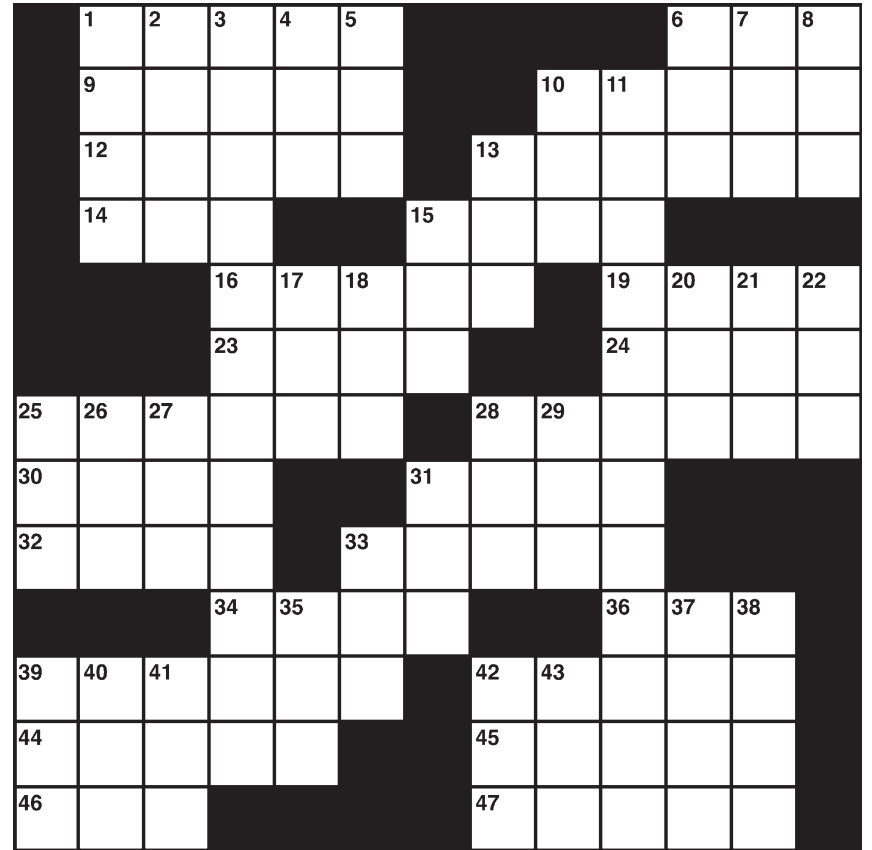


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## CROSSWORD

# THE TV CROSSWORD

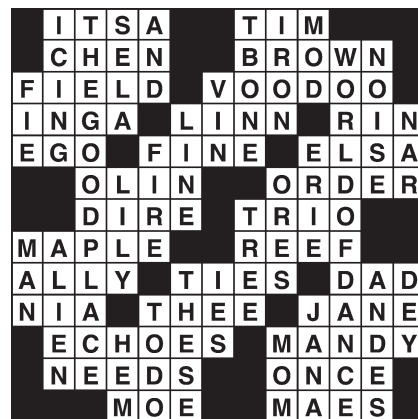
by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fonda or Falk
  - 6 Drink like Fido
  - 9 Fibromyalgia symptoms
  - 10 "Siskel & \_\_\_"
  - 12 Actor & comedian Martin
  - 13 "Out of \_\_\_"; Meryl Streep/Robert Redford film
  - 14 Selleck or Bergeron
  - 15 Oscar-winning Leslie Caron movie
  - 16 "Touched by an \_\_\_"
  - 19 "The King \_\_\_"; Yul Brynner film
  - 23 Set \_\_\_; leave shore
  - 24 "High \_\_\_"; Gary Cooper classic
  - 25 "\_\_\_ at the Opera"; Marx Brothers movie
  - 28 Mitchell or McArdle
  - 30 \_\_\_ Moore
  - 31 Actor Morales
  - 32 Q-Tip, for one
  - 33 Spend foolishly
  - 34 Chair or stool
  - 36 Role on "How I Met Your Mother"
  - 39 "Blue \_\_\_"
- DOWN**
- 42 Actress Debi
  - 44 "\_\_\_ for Lambs"; Tom Cruise/Meryl Streep film
  - 45 Aspirin alternative
  - 46 Recipe amt.
  - 47 Extend one's subscription
  - 1 "X-Men: Days of Future \_\_\_"
  - 2 Resound
  - 3 Actor on "Criminal Minds"
  - 4 Suffix for puppet or profit
  - 5 Q-U connection
  - 6 Accessory for Don Ho
  - 7 "Joan of \_\_\_"; Ingrid Bergman film
  - 8 "Harper Valley \_\_\_"
  - 10 File drawer, perhaps
  - 11 "NCIS" actor
  - 13 Have a bug
  - 15 Become firm
  - 17 Slangy refusal
  - 18 "\_\_\_ Along, Little Dogies"
  - 20 And not
  - 21 Fawn's mother
  - 22 "Message \_\_\_ Bottle"; Kevin Costner movie
  - 25 Commercials
  - 26 "\_\_\_ Amsterdam"
  - 27 "\_\_\_ Big Girl Now"
  - 28 Burro
  - 29 Natalie Cole's dad
  - 31 "Please Don't \_\_\_ the Daisies"
  - 33 "How the West \_\_\_ Won"
  - 35 Sullivan and Bradley
  - 37 Roof overhang
  - 38 "The Price Is Right" host
  - 39 Sandwich letters
  - 40 Fleur-de-\_\_\_
  - 41 "Alley \_\_\_"
  - 42 4 months from now: abbr.
  - 43 Pub order

Solution from 01/19

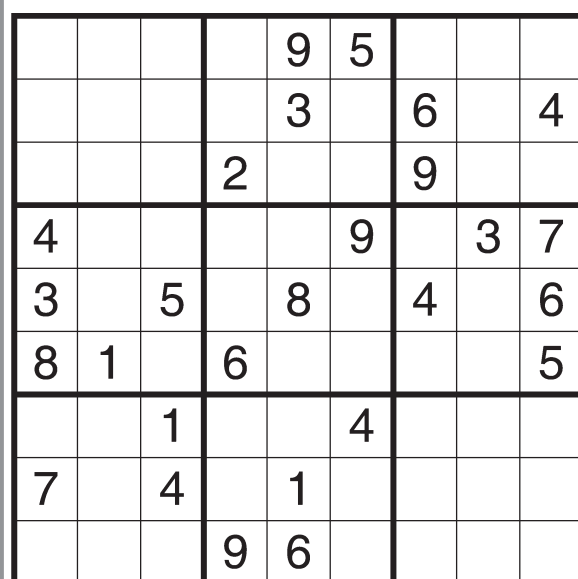


## SUDOKU

# SUDOKU

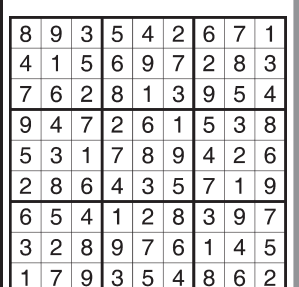
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



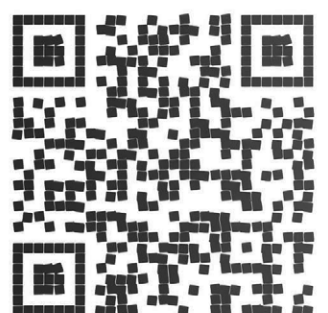
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk)

Solution from 01/19



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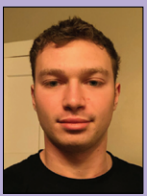
# TEC 'sports

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this week's athletic contests

**Jess Sabin**

Men's basketball reporter

@jess\_sabin

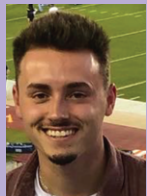


**Men's Basketball vs. UCF on Jan. 27**  
**Who wins?** UCF beats ECU 68-55.  
**Why?**

The Pirates have not been able to practice regularly, and those who returned from COVID-19 protocol have missed even more practices.

**Cade Carlson**

Women's basketball reporter



**ECU Women's Basketball vs. UCF on Jan. 27**  
**Who wins?** UCF defeats ECU 67-64..  
**Why?** The Pirates suffered a loss to UCF earlier this season by a score of 58-51. UCF is currently on a two-game win streak and they are ranked No. 2 in the American Athletic Conference standings.



COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

Junior guard Tremont Robinson-White dodges a defender and goes up for a basket during ECU's recent loss to the University of Tulsa.

## Men's basketball to face UCF

### Pirates set to play Knights on the road in Orlando, Florida

**Maceo Donald**  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's men's basketball team (7-4, 1-4 American Athletic Conference) is scheduled to face off against the University of Central Florida (3-6, 1-5 AAC) today at Additional Financial Arena in Orlando, Florida, at 7 p.m. streamed on ESPN+. This marks the first time this season the teams will play after all team-related activities were paused on Jan. 14, due to COVID-19 protocols.

The Pirates started the season with a 5-0 record with impressive wins against the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (7-6, 1-3 Colonial Athletic Association), the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (7-7, 3-3 Conference USA) and North Carolina Wesleyan College (13-13, 9-8 USA South Athletic Conference).

Although the Pirates were off to a hot start, they dropped a game to Southern Methodist University (8-2, 4-2 AAC) in a 70-55 blowout on Dec. 16, 2020, and have lost two straight games since the cancellation of their Wichita State University (8-4, 4-2 AAC) game that was scheduled for Dec. 30, 2020.

After the Pirates' coronavirus-induced hiatus, ECU returned to action against the University of Memphis (8-5, 4-2 AAC) in Greenville, North Carolina, on Jan. 25. The Tigers handed the Pirates their worst loss of the season in a 80-53 blowout.

According to ECUPirates.com, the Pirates had not played for over two weeks because of COVID-19 concerns and were still affected by the virus in this matchup. The Pirates were limited in play this game as they only had eight scholarship players available due to COVID-19 protocols and head coach Joe Dooley's inability to be in attendance.

The Knights started the season on the right foot, earning a 3-1 record in their first four games. On Dec. 19, 2020, the Knights upset No. 15 Florida State University (9-2, 5-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) in an 86-74 win. However, the Knights have been on a four-game losing streak since their win against the University of Cincinnati (3-7, 1-4 AAC) on Dec. 22, 2020.

The last time these teams faced each other was March 8, 2020, right before AAC Commissioner Mark Aresco announced the tournament would be canceled immediately

due to the COVID-19 outbreaks in the United States. The Knights defeated the Pirates in a 94-62 blowout in Orlando, Florida.

During this game the Pirates shot only 22.2% from deep and 66.7% from the free throw line. These numbers are lower than their season averages in both categories from last season. The Pirates had the lead only once in the game which was during the first four minutes of the contest.

On the other hand, the Knights had one of their best nights shooting the ball of the entire season. The Knights shot 54.1% on their field goals, 51.7% from the three point line and made 76.5% of their free throws. Freshman guard Darin Green Jr. and redshirt senior guard Matt Milon both made four or more three-pointers and made over half of the three-pointers they took.

The Pirates' next game will be at home in Minges Coliseum against the University of Tulsa. The game is set for a noon tipoff on Jan. 30, and will be available to stream on ESPN+.

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

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Wednesday Jan. 27  
From 9a.m. to 4 p.m.

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## RETURN continued from A1

take all the necessary steps to be compliant with Title IX."

When the sports programs were cut in May 2020, 68 student-athletes and nine coaches were impacted, according to ECUPirates.com. Some athletes transferred to other universities to continue their athletic aspirations, according to a report by SwimSwam.com. Former ECU women's tennis player Lisa Hofbauer was able to transfer to The Ohio State University, where she will spend her senior season, according to the team's roster.

Kevin Woodhull-Smith, former assistant coach for the ECU swimming and diving team, was among the coaching staff who lost their jobs when the sport was cut in May 2020. He now holds the position of head coach for the Barton College men's and women's swim and dive team.

"I think it's great that they (ECU) brought back both teams," Woodhull-Smith said. "It was hard last year when we heard the announcement that they were gone. It's a difficult thing in college sports right now, but glad for the whole program, for ECU, and everyone that can come back."

Woodhull-Smith spent eight years on the ECU swim and dive coaching staff, with the final three years as the assistant head coach. He said the men's and women's teams were successful both in the water and in the classroom. Now, he looks to continue his career in a new environment with the Bulldogs.

Prior to the programs' elimination, senior marketing major Victoria Dixon spent three years as a player on the women's tennis team. Dixon did not choose to transfer in her final semester and decided to stay at ECU, and the impact of the university's decision still stays with her. Even with the reinstatement, Dixon will not rejoin the team prior to her graduation in May.

"You (student-athletes) really relate college to your sport whenever you commit to go to a school," Dixon said. "Like ECU isn't

the same school to me without tennis. Just driving by the athletic campus, that used to be a big part of my life, and now I feel very disconnected from that."

Dixon spoke about how difficult it was to find a school to transfer to as a senior in the middle of the summer. With teams already having full squads, it was hard to get positive responses on such late notice. Dixon said after she made several phone calls to other universities in the weeks that followed the program's elimination, she decided the best decision was to stay put and prepare for her



Victoria Dixon

senior year of college as just a student.

According to ECUPirates.com, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the ECU Athletic Department financially, which caused ECU Athletics Director Jon Gilbert and Mitchelson to make the decisions to cut programs. Dixon said if it wasn't for tennis she would not have attended ECU, so she is grateful for the return of the sport, despite its elimination in May 2020.

"I'm happy that they have decided to do what is right," Dixon said. "I understand that the financial implications are not great, but at the end of the day it's discrimination, and I don't want my school to be remembered like that."

In a press conference on Jan. 7, Gilbert said the financial struggles within ECU Athletics remain the same as they were in May.

"I think both our staff and our coaches have done an excellent job of savings," Gilbert said at the Jan. 7 press conference. "I think between all the decisions that were made in the month of May (2020), certainly the salary reductions, furloughs, operational budget savings, I believe to date we have saved north of \$9 million in savings."

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

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