

# ECU BASEBALL DEFEATS DUKE FOR SECOND TIME IN 2021

turn to A6



# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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The new year was celebrated on Jan. 1, 2021 at the local bar and nightclub Stilllife in downtown Greenville, North Carolina.

## Bars reopen, students reflect

### Opinions circulate as restrictions ease

Emily Peek  
TEC STAFF

Michelle Mazzei  
TEC STAFF



Greenville, North Carolina, residents and East Carolina University students have voiced their opinions about downtown bars and nightclubs after North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper announced Executive Order No. 195 on Feb. 24, which allowed for flexibility for business operations and sales of alcohol.

Executive Order No. 195 said the spread of COVID-19, infection rates and super spreader events have been linked to bars repeatedly. The risk of the spread of COVID-19 in a bar is higher for many reasons, the order said.

“People traditionally engage in activities in bars that result in increased respiratory effort, because people traditionally mingle in bars and are in close physical contact for an extended period of time,” the order said. “People are less cautious when they drink alcoholic beverages.”

The order said North Carolina’s progress achievements in its key

COVID-19 metrics is what allows for bars to “cautiously and incrementally” reopen. The order said current occupancy limits can be safely raised to limits that minimize person-to-person contact.

“Due to the unique dangers posed by the indoor areas of bars in particular, the occupancy limits on these areas of these establishments must necessarily be less than the occupancy limits on other businesses which do not pose the same health and safety risks,” the order said.

and their ability to stay in operation. She said, as the COVID-19 vaccine has become more accessible, now is a good opportunity for bars to make money again.

Collins said she has felt safe at bars and clubs since the start of the pandemic, though she feels it is important to stay home. She said she would rather be able to go to class in-person than to a bar.

“I think it’s kind of a struggle between being a young kid but also caring about other people’s safety,” Collins said. “Honestly, it really bothers me that I can go to the bar, but I can’t go to class (in-person), like that is the one thing that bothers me.”

Collins said before the new executive order, the sale of alcohol stopped at 9 p.m., tabs were closed at 8:50 p.m. and bars would close at 10 p.m. She said bars are more packed now under Executive Order No. 195. Now, the sale of alcohol stops at 11 p.m. under the new executive order.

Senior psychology major Gaston Jackson said he would not feel com-



Drinks, face mask discarded in the Stilllife bathroom Jan. 1, 2021

Sophomore business marketing major Caty Collins said it’s important for bars to be open as the pandemic continues to impact businesses

> BARS page A2

## ECU block schedule moves ahead

Cayla Menges  
TEC STAFF

With the start of the fourth eight-week block schedule tomorrow, students at East Carolina University continue to navigate changes to course structure brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic with both eight-week courses and 16-week courses integrated into the spring 2021 term.

Director of the Pirate Academic Success Center (PASC) Elizabeth Coghill said in the fall 2020 semester when block-style courses were introduced, students had less courses to juggle at once and felt more structured. She said when the spring 2021 semester reintroduced semester-long courses alongside block-style courses, students became overwhelmed as they had to readjust to a heavier course load.

Coghill said there are students with both semester-long courses and block-style classes who must address the quick pace of their new courses while they also maintain current ones. She said students in these situations struggle with time management and delegation of tasks.

“With so few classes that are synchronous, there’s no rhythm and you have to create that yourself, you have to create that schedule,” Coghill said. “Students are either struggling to create that or when they don’t adhere to the schedule they gave themselves they don’t know how to recover from that.”

Coghill said the addition of fast pace block-style courses into a student’s semester can throw them off track. She said when students fall behind in their work, they’re hesitant to turn to their professors for guidance and assistance.

In a traditional semester, students receive structure from their scheduled in-person courses throughout the week, Coghill said, whereas now students in asynchronous courses struggle to keep up with assignments. She said some students adhere to the schedule they gave themselves and when it is disrupted they don’t know how to recover from the setbacks it may give.

Coghill said, even as a professional on campus, she struggled with how to navigate the changes block-style courses have brought. She said she’s learned what might have worked for her semester isn’t the case so she’s had to spend time to regroup and reorganize herself to stay ahead.

“My best advice for a student is to be honest with their faculty member about what’s going on,” Coghill said. “If it’s a struggle with a time management system and you don’t really have a big excuse, at least say something.”



Elizabeth Coghill

> BLOCK page A2

## SoTD returns to mainstage after yearlong pause

Yasmine Curmon-Ward  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University’s School of Theatre and Dance (SoTD) will premiere “Songs for a New World,” the first mainstage performance from McGinnis’ stage in almost a year, on March 12 and March 13 at 7 p.m. and March 14 at 2 p.m. available for audience view through a livestream.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and are available on the School of Theatre and Dance website. The student price of \$5 is available by calling the box office at 252-328-6829.

Patron Services Manager of the SoTD Stephanie Slusser said the cast consists of 10 actors who will wear masks and stand six feet apart for the performance. She said the production advisory committee chose this play specifically so the cast could perform safely.

“Students have classes in-person, studio classes for dancing and acting, (and) those classes are hard to do online. This (performance) is a part of their learning experience,” Slusser said.

Last semester, all SoTD productions

were through Zoom meetings, according to Slusser. She said now the cast practices together with as few people as possible in the room. Since the play is a song cycle, the cast does not have to interact physically.

Slusser said the SoTD will not have an audience in attendance for any performances this semester. She said a lot of the shows last semester were audio performances, so the audience was not able to see the cast.

“We are excited to actually be performing from the stage, even if we can’t have the audience there. I hope that they (the viewers) get excited about being able to see the performers again, not just the performers, the set, the lights,” Slusser said.

The set design functions as if an audience would be able to attend, according to Slusser. With this performance, the audience will be able to see the cast perform with lights and stage effects.

Director of the play Bryan Conger, an assistant professor of directing and acting, said he is excited to be back in the theatre and to work with the cast. He said he chose this play because it would be easy to translate



COURTESY OF JOHN DIXON

The cast of “Songs for a New World” rehearses for its performances set for March 12 through March 14.

into a virtual performance if the cast would not be able to perform in person.

“It’s a song cycle, songs made up by one composer, each of the songs explore a different character in sort of a moment in that person’s life. All of the characters are going through a process of change,” Conger said.

The play is relevant to where society is today, according to Conger. The stories are about difficulties and hardships everyday people face, he said.

Conger said the audience can always

> SOTD page A4

### ONLINE

»NEWS: Study Abroad cancels June programs, remains hopeful for fall

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

### SOCIAL MEDIA



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## BRIEFS

## A.L.A.N.A Workshop Series continues

Today, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) and the G.O.L.D series will host an in-person A.L.A.N.A Workshop Series from 4 to 5 p.m. The topic for this event, which will take place in the Main Campus Student Center Room 337 is "Surviving and Thriving" where individuals will have opportunities to learn and understand college habits in order to succeed. Individuals will also be provided with professional and academic development resources that are geared to help first-generation and/or underrepresented students.

## 'Understanding Taxes' held via virtual format

Today, ECU's Department of Accounting and the Financial Wellness Hub will host a virtual event where individuals can obtain information about the basics of taxes from 5 to 6 p.m. This WebEx event will provide information about tax information relevant to students and how taxes are calculated. A link for this event will be posted on the Engage website.

## G.O.L.D Series continues 'Interview Like a Queen'

Tomorrow, the G.O.L.D series will host a WebEx event where G.O.L.D Leader Program Graduate and Miss ECU 2019 Tiffany Robertson will discuss her various interview experiences and advice from 7 to 8 p.m. This virtual event will give individuals confidence to have successful interviews in the future. Individuals who wish to participate can RSVP through ECU's Engage website.

## City council to host virtual meeting

Tomorrow, the Greenville City Council will host a virtual meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. The meeting is set to host a public comment period, followed by new appointments, new business and public hearings. The meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom and the link can be found on the city's website.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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



Administrative Specialist Victor Burk works at his desk inside East Carolina University's Office of Student Financial Aid on campus to assist student's needs.

JENNIFER SIEG | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

## Financial aid priority deadline ends

## Students reflect on importance of FAFSA amid COVID-19

Chris Young  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The priority deadline for student financial aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) passed on March 1, and with students at East Carolina University in a primarily online environment, the question is raised as to whether or not COVID-19 has made an impact on who gets financial aid and how.

Junior history major at ECU Ian-Christian Jones said financial aid in the presence of the pandemic not only impacts college students, but everyone. He said he has received financial aid in the form of grants and student loans.

Jones said due to COVID-19, he has received more compensation in the past. He said during the pandemic, decisions on the eligibility of students who receive aid is difficult because there is no gauge to determine the variable incomes families may earn.

"I realize that it would take a lot of extra work for them (Office of Financial Aid) to figure out who's parents are wealthy as opposed to those who are living in lower income circumstances," Jones said. "I think that if you are doing distance learning it should cost less to pull that off."

In regards to college cost, Jones said FAFSA and financial aid should allow students of all financial backgrounds to attend a university. Due to COVID-19, he said more people are able to take college courses from home without the burden of extra costs, such as on-campus living.

Jones said FAFSA affects ECU students and families as well as the entire community of Greenville. Everyone involved with ECU plays a role in the widespread impact of financial aid, especially when income is unstable due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Jones.

"There is an entire economy surrounding college as a whole that FAFSA is an integral part of," Jones said. "The people who needed the aid were also those who were hit the hardest."

Director of Financial Aid Julie Poorman said March 1 is a priority deadline for students who wish to receive aid. She said in the middle of this pandemic, the earlier a student submits an application the sooner they will receive financial aid.

Poorman said students may be forced to take more classes due to the majority of those who were sent home. She said that this may make class more difficult for students who don't work well in an online environment.

"Some students do much better in a classroom environment," Poorman said. "That's a topic all across the country. Students should take classes they know they'll do well in during a crisis time."

Sophomore social work major Payton Adams said she currently benefits from the use of financial aid. She said FAFSA should do more to assist the students in this online environment because they have

limited resources.

Adams said through FAFSA, she has received compensation in the form of grants and student loans. She said she was able to submit an application for FAFSA before the priority deadline. As a result of the virus, financial aid should be more accessible, Adams said.

"Since everything is online, we (students) should be given either more (financial) aid or less tuition," Adams said. "College should be cheaper because of COVID-19, especially if you aren't on or near campus."

Students who may be in need of financial assistance due to COVID-19 should complete their FAFSA forms and consider the option to file for a special circumstances petition to be considered for 2020-2021 academic year, according to the ECU financial aid website.

The website said students can find any necessary forms and verification documents to print and fill out on the Forms and Publications page. The website said any completed forms should be placed in the locked "drop box" outside the office or scanned in.

Office of Student Financial Aid is open for walk-in visitations Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3 p.m., the website said.

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



Payton Adams



Julie Poorman

## BARS continued from A1

fortable at a bar during the pandemic and that bars cannot safely operate.

"You can't really mandate mask wearing because people have to drink and it's hard to enforce social distancing at a place that doesn't have seating normally," Jackson said. "The study I read also mentioned that since COVID(-19) is spread through typically, like, spit (and) people when they drink tend to talk louder and more, which would generate more spreading of the virus."

Jackson said large gatherings in bars and clubs, as well as parties, is the reason why students are unable to have most classes in-person for the spring 2021 semester. He said when the fall 2020 semester began, he saw videos of students on the social media platform Snapchat at parties that appeared to have 300 to 400 people in attendance and a few weeks later classes were moved online.

"I have no in-person classes, so it's pretty easy for me (to stay safe)," Jackson said. "When I go in public I just make sure I wear a mask and try to keep distance from people when I can."

Bryson Clark, an ECU alumnus, who is also a bouncer at the downtown bar Stilllife, said the bar has previously been able to hold gatherings in the outside bar area, but since Executive Order No. 195, Stilllife has been able to open the club part of the bar. He said the bar has had a steady flow of ECU students and other individuals since bars have initially reopened.

The staff at Stilllife feel safe while they work, Bryson Clark said, as they continue to take all necessary safety precautions.

"It's your own choice to come out here.

I mean, we are, you know, required to wear masks and everything, but we don't make them come inside or, you know, be close to anybody who they don't want to be close to," Bryson Clark said. "I think it's their (individuals who come to Stilllife) choice. I mean we (Stilllife staff) obviously clean inside and everything like that, so I'm pretty sure we're doing just about everything we can do for COVID(-19)."

Bryson Clark said since there is no spring break for ECU students due to the pandemic there are fewer people and shorter lines, but Stilllife is "still packed."

Freshman exercise physiology major Madison Clark said although she and her friends have not been downtown a lot this semester, when they have gone, they have felt safe in terms of COVID-19. She said the bars in the downtown area are following regulations, but are still able to obtain their incomes.

Madison Clark said the downtown bars have been busier since the bars can now stay open later due to Executive Order No. 195. Covers, which are payments to enter some bars, have risen also due to Phase 3, according to Madison Clark.

As a freshman, Madison Clark said she wants to experience college life without a pandemic circulating, so she is glad life is "slowly but surely" getting back to normal.

As of day of publication, Stilllife Marketing Manager Justin Gilmer said he was unable to comment on COVID-19 safety precautions and Stilllife Owner Travis Hixon did not respond to interview request by a reporter with The East Carolinian.

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

## BLOCK continued from A1

Coghill said she encourages students to come onto campus to study if they live off-campus, as many students can feel secluded at home and forget the reason they're at ECU if they don't engage with the campus often. She said students can change their frame of mind to study if they eliminate distractions.

The PASC offers study skills sessions with a coach as a resource to help students create better study strategies to ensure they don't fall behind in their courses, according to Coghill. She said she encourages students to utilize this resource if they feel they have begun to fall behind or have fear they may eventually become overwhelmed.

Coghill said students who have the addition of a fourth eight-week block course will need to take time to adjust their mindset to fit the demand of a quick paced course. She said students should utilize study skills sessions to review their new syllabus and create a plan of action for the remainder of their spring semester.

"They can do it, but it's also going to demand more study time than fall did, so it's devoting that study time and really making productive plans for how you're using your study time," Coghill said.

Accounting Professor Fredrick Niswander said students need to take the time to decide if the quick pace of an eight-week course is possible for them to handle. He said the course he teaches has been slated as an eight-week course for several years within the college of business and he has found students' general response from this style course is positive.

Niswander said the best advice he can give to students who will navigate an eight-week block-style course is to keep up with the course load and ask for help from professors if they need it. He said many students fall behind because they have a problem with course content and don't ask for help soon enough and the academic course continues to progress without them.

Block-style courses are similar to the five-week summer courses offered through ECU, according to Niswander. He said if some students struggle with the pace of a summer course, a block-style course may not be the best choice for them either.

"An eight week class isn't for everybody," Niswander said. "For example, if you have taken a class in the five weeks in the summer school and found it to be too challenging to do in a short period of time, you need to think about whether you really want to take an eighth week class cause it's kind of the same thing."

As this is his first time he will teach an eight-week block-style course, Niswander said he will make himself available to students seven days of the week at any time. He said he knows problems can arise on any given day or time and students are encouraged to reach out to him whenever they need help.



Fredrick Niswander

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

## OUR VIEW

### Pass/fail will benefit students

An email announcement sent to the East Carolina University student body from Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson on March 8 revealed the option for students to utilize pass/fail grade accommodations due to the impacts of COVID-19 in the spring 2021 semester.

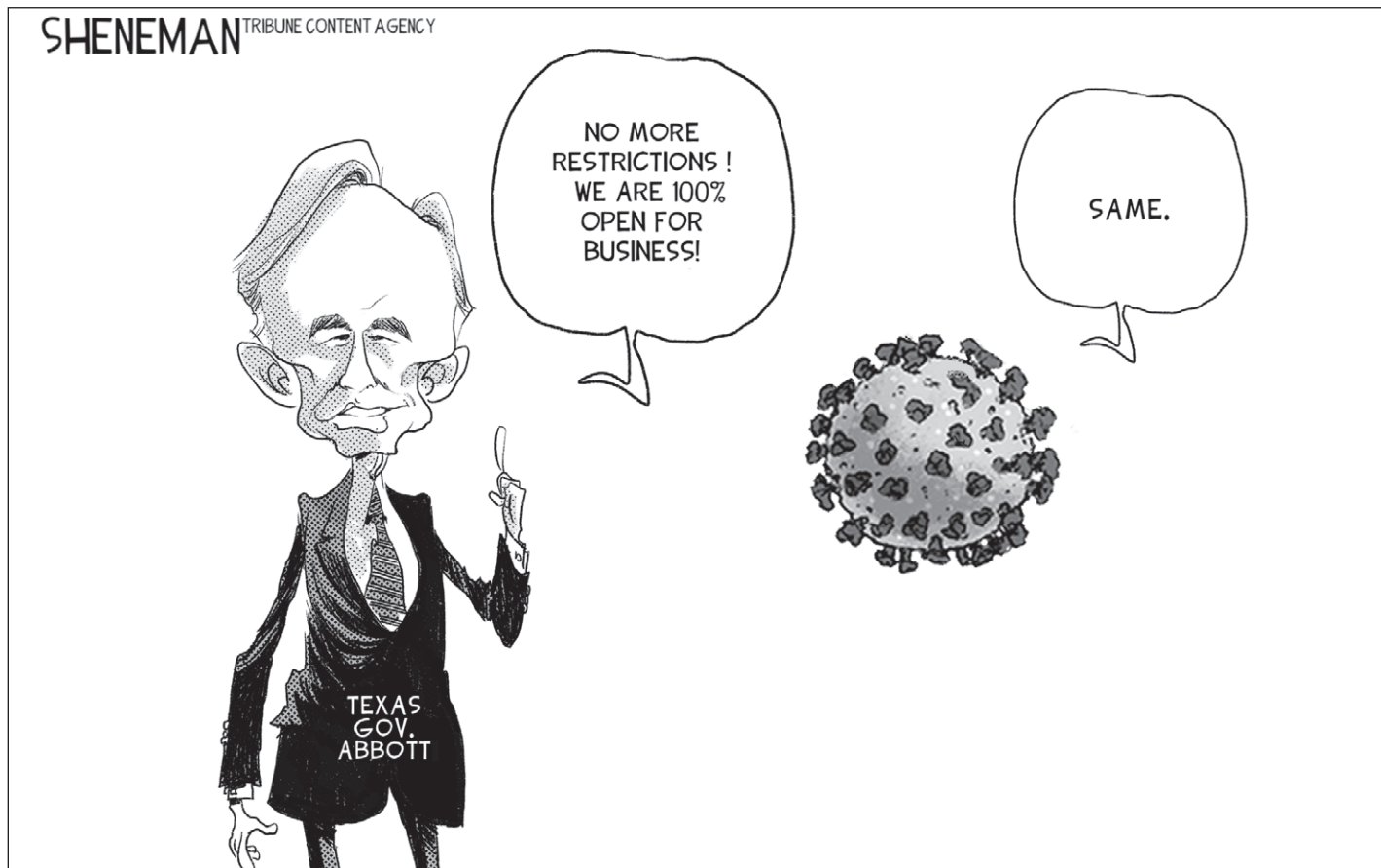
Of the two initiatives that were passed, the first pertained to the student body and was titled "Undergraduate Student Evaluation and COVID-19." This document addressed the question of the pass/fail option, which will be available for only two classes this semester from May 11 through May 26. The first initiative also will extend the withdrawal deadline until April 15 for 15-week classes.

During the spring and fall 2020 semesters, the pass/fail option was offered to students as the pandemic continued. ECU Student Government Association President Tucker Robbins recently advocated for the pass/fail option to continue to be available for the 2021 spring semester.

The second initiative was titled "Faculty Evaluation and COVID-19," which said that faculty members can submit a COVID-19 impact statement to administration. Faculty are also able to use the Survey of Student Opinion and Instruction in their evaluations.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that the grade accommodations offered will be beneficial to the ECU student body during this spring 2021 semester. It is important that students feel they are receiving the best opportunity to succeed academically through the COVID-19 pandemic.

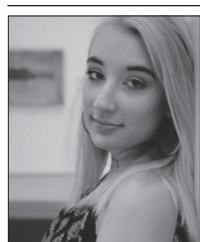
The pandemic and distance learning has caused unique situations for students, which is why we are in full support of these grade accommodations as they aid to meet the needs of all students.



## Equality should be enforced

### Women deserve recognition and respect in the workplace

#### More with Michelle



**Michelle Mazzei**  
TEC COLUMNIST

In today's society and throughout Women's History Month, it is important to recognize and highlight not only what women have done for the country, but also what women continue to do as they are essential in workplaces across the nation.

Some of the workplace precautions that have been enhanced over the last century include the access to birth control which has significantly increased since 1965, when birth control became accessible to women, according to Brookings' article entitled "The history of women's work and wages and how it created success for us all." Women should not have had access to birth control restricted from them. Women should have been able to do what they want with their own bodies. As of today, most women can get birth control through their gynecologist.

In 1974 women got the right to apply for credit without the need of a male co-signer, in 1978 the Pregnancy Discrimination Act was passed by Congress, the page said, and in 1994 the Violence Against Women Act was passed. The year of 1978 was only 43 years ago; 1994 is only 27. Men have always been able to make their own decisions even ever since before the U.S. became a nation. Women have had to fight for the rights that men have had the whole time. This is unequal and unfair.

While some women got the right to vote in 1920, I got the opportunity to vote this past election. I, just like most of the women who have voted, am grateful we



CHLOE EASTON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Participants in the 2020 Women's March which took place in Washington D.C. on Oct. 17, 2020.

have a voice. Women should have had the right to vote for longer than 100 years, just like men have. Men have not had to fight for their right to vote nor have they had to fight to be able to work.

Catalyst is a global nonprofit organization which works with female CEOs and leading companies in order to build workplaces that work for women. According to a Catalyst article, titled "Women in the Workforce," 57.4% of women were active in the workforce, compared to the men's percentage, 69.2% in 2019. This difference of percentages proves there still needs to be change within the U.S. These numbers should be the same.

A third of both American women and men say their workplace is gender-balanced and women are three times more likely as men to say it is harder for them to succeed in the workplace solely because of their gender, according to Pew Research Center's article on gender discrimination in "majority-male workplaces."

Workplaces within the nation should be gender-balanced. It is not fair to

the employees, nor to the company, if there are more men or women within the place of occupancy. Even if it is not intentional, decisions made within the company will be biased if there is more of one specific gender.

The nation has had all male presidents and the first female vice president, Kamala Harris, is currently in office.

Women should have a voice in places where decisions are being made. Women are not only essential to the general workplace, but also in a political setting for they bring a lot of skill and value.

My mom has come to me many times because of how she oftentimes feels belittled or her voice isn't being heard at her job due to the men she works with. Some of these men have made her job 100 times harder than it should be. If my mom wasn't so strong, I don't think she would be as successful as she is now.

**ONLINE | FULL STORY**

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

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## Education on foreign affairs needed

#### Hoop's Hot Scoop



**Sarah Hooper**  
TEC COLUMNIST

America has long been a major international power, being the third-largest country in the world and often the focus of international headlines. However, over the last 30 years, the interest and coverage

of international news, politics and both international and foreign affairs has declined drastically as we turn to issues happening mainly inside of our country, such as within local politics, legislation and entertainment.

This disconnect has been made more evident while discussing foreign affairs with my good friend who is from Kosovo and attends university in Hungary. After my conversation with my friend from Kosovo, I thought back to my visit to the United Kingdom, where I observed a major disconnect between American citizens and U.K. citizens. I'm ashamed to say I, along with most of my peers I have asked, do not have a comprehensive idea of what is going on internationally in Hungary right now, while my friend from Kosovo has a great understanding of the political climate and events occurring in the United States.

Why is that? One reason is the obvi-

**"In order to keep up with the drastically changing relations, laws and conflicts happening in the world, Americans must first become educated in these facets or we may be left behind."**

-Sarah Hooper

ous: Americans just are not interested in foreign affairs and international news. However, this reveals a much deeper issue within America, revealing how the lack of knowledge regarding foreign countries and how they operate can be detrimental to our understanding of other cultures and countries.

Ethnocentrism is an issue in all countries, but I personally feel as though it has risen greatly in America over the last few decades. It is evident within generations as well. My father, for instance, was always interested in foreign affairs; he can name any country and give a list of facts for it off the top of his head. He is well-traveled, which assists in this knowledge, but he also has brought up in family discussions how geography and other information was taught in schools more generally during his childhood. Perhaps it is simply a lack of education

in the subjects of language, geography and politics provided to American students that has led to disinterest of other countries.

After all, only 20% of Americans can speak in two or more languages, while Europeans boast an incredible 56%, according to an article from *The Washington Post*. We may never know the reason why Americans are simply disinterested in international news and foreign affairs. However, it is vital that Americans understand foreign affairs and international news, as it keeps us connected with the world.

In order to keep up with the drastically changing relations, laws and conflicts happening in the world, Americans must first become educated in these facets, or we may be left behind.

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

**ONLINE | FULL STORY**

## EVENTS

### TODAY

#### Open Mic Night

The Blackened Kraken  
123 E. 5th Street  
7 to 11 p.m.  
252-215-8822

#### Karaoke Night

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

#### Spazz Presents: Open Mic with JT Ackerman

#### Karaoke Night

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

### TOMORROW

#### Tapas and Jazz

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

#### Comic Book Club

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

#### College Night

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

#### Make Your Own Diffusers

Student Activities Board  
Main Campus Student Center  
Room 249  
6 to 9 p.m.

### FRIDAY

#### African American Music Series

Emerge Gallery and Art Center  
404 Evans St.  
7 to 11 p.m.  
252-551-6947

#### Patrick Reed, William Seymour and McKenzie Shelton Live

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

### SATURDAY

#### Jamaal Cody Live

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

#### Pitt Street Monthly Market

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

### SUNDAY

#### Pints and Poses

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

#### Kyle Dills Live

Buccaneer Music Hall  
2120 E. Firetower Rd.  
1 to 4 p.m.  
252-756-5505

#### Pitt Street Madness: Selection Sunday



CONTRIBUTED BY JADA SANCHEZ

A member of A Moment of Magic, dressed as a fictional princess, speaks to a group of small children at a "Wonder Wheels" visit to abide by COVID-19 protocols.

## A Moment of Magic spreads joy

### Students transform into fictional characters despite virus

**Kyle Arnoe**  
TEC STAFF

Though the members of East Carolina University's A Moment of Magic chapter appear to be everyday college students, they have secret identities where they are heroes and heroines who work to bring joy to pediatric patients who may need some magic in their lives.

Bridget McLemore, a senior elementary education major, said she is the president and founder of ECU's A Moment of Magic chapter. She said she founded the chapter in March 2019 after she learned of the organization from a friend. McLemore said the national collegiate organization works to brighten the lives of children by

bringing their favorite heroes and princesses to life.



**Bridget McLemore**

to connect characters with pediatric hospital patients since they can't meet with patients in-person as they normally do, due to COVID-19.

"We dress as famous storybook characters, super heroes, princesses and all types of other characters really, and we visit medically vulnerable children," McLemore said.

"Our main focus is pediatric cancer, because we're also big advocates of, you know, making more funding, more research for pediatric cancer."

The organization also visits children with autism, down syndrome or those who come from low income families, McLemore said, as well as those who may be in hospital care.

Jada Sanchez, sophomore public health and hispanic studies double major, is the president-elect of ECU's A Moment of Magic and said she plays the character Bea the Fearless. Sanchez said her own chronic illness, and sympathy for the children the organization helps, led her to join the club.

Sanchez said her original character, Bea the Fearless, is a sunshine superhero created by a patient of the foundation who passed away in 2018. Sanchez said all of the original characters are created by patients with whom the foundation works with.

**ONLINE | FULL STORY**

"I was super nervous, but once I heard, well, like I interacted with Leia and her sister and her mom, and we were driving away I heard one of the kids say: 'Bye Bea!' and like that really solidified, like yeah I meant to do this, yes, this is what I want to do," Sanchez said.

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

## MOVIE REVIEW

### 'Moxie' falls short of its full potential



**Hannah Bolick**  
TEC STAFF

"Moxie," released by Netflix on March 3 and directed by Amy Pohler, was an inspiring coming-of-age story that exposes some important truths about the treatment of young women in high schools, but relies too heavily on exaggerated scenarios and overused tropes.

The film follows the story of Vivian, played by Hadley Robinson, as she witnesses the injustices of the treatment of women in her school. Inspired by her mother Lisa's, played by Amy Pohler, rebellious past, she anonymously creates a zine, a short, creative publication, called "Moxie."

From the zine, a group of girls form a feminist organization which also goes by "Moxie," and begins to stand up to the culture of oppression of women in the school. The girls gain confidence and the group gains numbers, but they are time and time again beaten down by school officials.

The film sheds a needed light on the fact that women are still unfairly treated in schools today. Harrassment, rape and general sexism are not artifacts of the past. They are present, prevalent issues that women, even those in high school, encounter all too often, and this movie hits on several major topics to which many women can relate.

Additionally, the cast was refreshingly diverse without feeling forced. The girls were all friends and the fact that they were

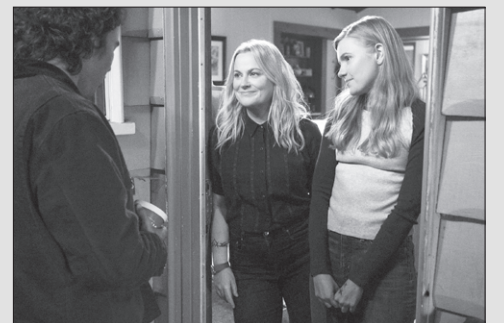
of a variety of races was of no consequence. It was not a topic of conversation in the film, it just was and that is truly how it should be. Diversity in a cast should not be a schtick, it should be a given and it was treated as such in this film.

While it was a story that sparked inspiration, there were several parts that seemed exaggerated. For instance, there is a list made by an anonymous group that publishes a huge list of inappropriate superlatives like "biggest nerd," and much, much worse. The existence of such a list is unrealistic; people may spread rumors about others but there would never be an extensive, organized list.

The exaggerations take away from the power of the story and cheapen its message. They could have used realistic situations with the same takeaways and the plot would have been more impactful. There were some undeniably important messages in the movie but they could be overshadowed by some of the outlandish scenarios.

Additionally, "Moxie" employs the "star football player can do no wrong" trope, which is extremely overdone. There is a culture to favor mens' feelings and comfort, but in my experience, there is not one golden boy in a high school who was able to misbehave, talk back to teachers and bully and harrass people without any consequences.

An aspect of the movie that seemed to be more realistic, and a positive example for everyone, was the character Seth, played by Nico Hiraga. He was a supportive ally



COURTESY OF COLLEEN HAYES | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE  
**Pohler (Lisa) and Robinson (Vivian) star in "Moxie."**

throughout the whole movie.

One night, due to a myriad of circumstances unrelated to Seth, Vivian yelled and screamed at him over dinner one night in front of her mom and her mom's boyfriend.

Although the movie is about strong, empowered women, this does not absolve Vivian of her obligation to treat her boyfriend with the same respect that he would be expected to give her.

"Moxie" had such high potential to teach lessons and present a powerful story about women taking a stand for themselves but lost a little of its impact because it relied too heavily on unnecessarily unrealistic situations and overused character types.

#### RATING:



3.5 out of 5

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

## SOTD continued from A1

expect a quality performance and exceptional storytelling from an ECU theatre performance. He said the cast consists of students from all classes and theatrical backgrounds.

Brenna Carleton, a senior musical theatre major and featured dancer, said this production experience is different due to COVID-19 restrictions, but she is happy to see her castmates and everyone involved. She said the cast adjusted well to the safety protocols in the rehearsals.

"I think the world is changing through the pandemic and we can either choose to stay in

our ways and not perform, or we can adapt and grow. I think conditioning ourselves to work under any circumstances such as this, is what



**Brenna Carleton**

makes us the performers that we are," Carleton said.

The SoTD faculty and staff have "gone above and beyond" to make sure the cast and crew are safe for production and she said the cast and crew are tested for COVID-19 frequently, make sure to wear masks and socially distance to follow COVID-19 protocol.

Carleton said the play consists of songs that

express humanity and the hardships that people go through. The arts will always be there to uplift and give them an escape from difficult times, she said. She said she wants the audience to know they are still performing.

"I am grateful to the faculty, staff and my fellow castmates who have all rolled with the punches, and that we have been able to keep pushing forward to keep theatre and the arts alive despite the setbacks that we've faced this past year," Carleton said.

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

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Did someone say FREE?

Looking for a roommate or a sublease?  
Got something for sale?  
ECU students can submit a classified for **FREE!**  
Contact [smaa@ecu.edu](mailto:smaa@ecu.edu) for more information.



## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Stay polite and helpful with others, even when they're not. Appearances can deceive. Each has their story. Advance a shared dream through collaboration.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Balance work and family responsibilities. Explore new workspace options. Adapt to shifting professional circumstances. An old dream seems newly possible. Imagine the potential.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is an 8 — Adapt studies and research to explore virtually. Avoid risky travel conditions. You can advance a long-held dream. Investigate a fascinating subject. Learn valuable tricks.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Contribute to a shared financial effort. Collaborate around an unexpected expense. Focus on fundraising and investments, filing documents and forms, taxes and invoices.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Strategize with your partner to work out a way around an obstacle. An old ambition or dream offers new potential. Discuss possibilities together.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Physical action gets results. Prioritize health and wellness. Slow to avoid accidents. Disciplined practices support with complications or changes. Collaborate with a great coach.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Breathe deeply and focus on what you love. Avoid risk or hassle. You can see clearly what's important. Savor simple pleasures at home with family.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Share family support. Adapt to a domestic breakdown. Make a repair or upgrade that provides lasting improvement. Plant seedlings and tend your garden.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Carefully edit your message. Diplomacy helps you communicate around a misunderstanding. Listen to all considerations. Let others know they've been heard. Solve an intellectual puzzle.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — Focus on the numbers. Monitor and mind the gap. Tap into another funding source or a profitable project. New evidence threatens complacency. You've got this.

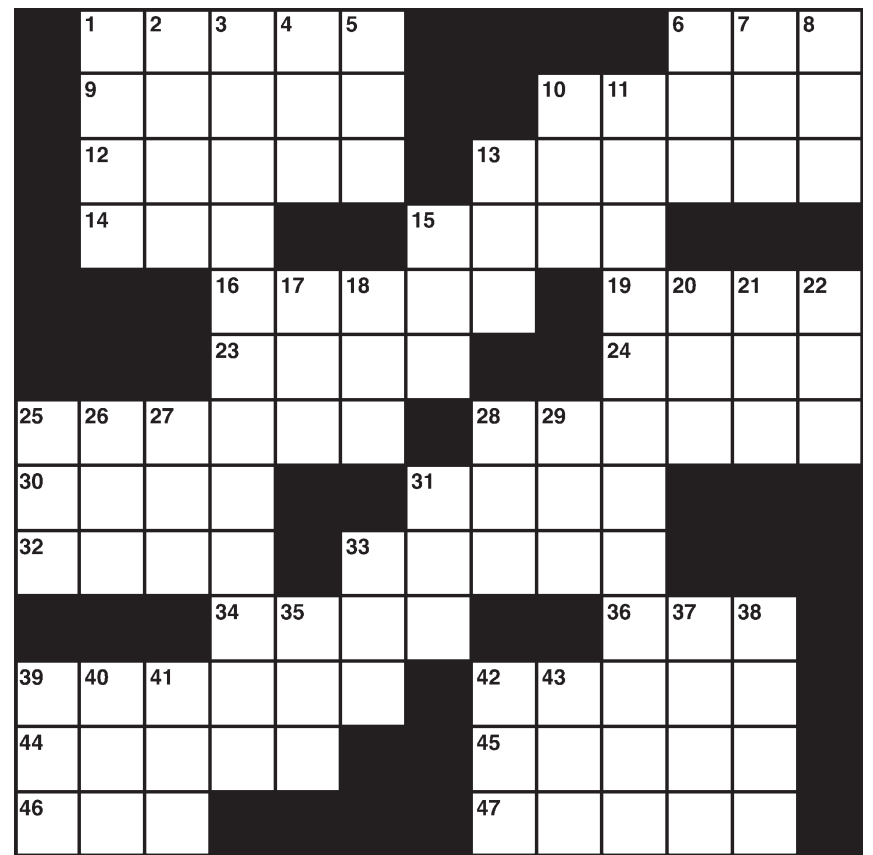
**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — Take charge of your destiny. You're ready to make positive changes, despite complications. You're getting stronger. Consider what's most important. Invent inspiring possibilities.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — Plan your moves to advance a dream. Listen to intuition. Keep strengthening structures and supports, despite risky travel conditions. Play it safe and easy.

## CROSSWORD

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



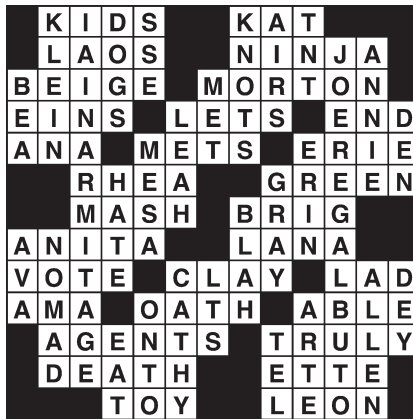
Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Touched by an \_\_\_"
  - 6 "Fresh \_\_\_ the Boat"
  - 9 Bart's mom
  - 10 Video game company that made Pong
  - 12 Spitting \_\_\_; close look-alike
  - 13 \_\_\_ Kutcher
  - 14 Current calendar pg.
  - 15 Actress Sommer
  - 16 Role on "I Love Lucy"
  - 19 Actor Richard
  - 23 Jethro Bodine's portrayer
  - 24 Middle East nation
  - 25 Desi Arnaz Sr. & Gloria Estefan
  - 28 "\_\_\_ the Horn"; ESPN series
  - 30 Sharif or Epps
  - 31 \_\_\_ in; wearing
  - 32 Early "Tonight Show" host
  - 33 Disney's "Lady and the \_\_\_"
  - 34 Follow orders
  - 36 Fleur-de-\_\_\_
  - 39 Paul Reubens' character
  - 42 On \_\_\_; done spontaneously
  - 44 Ascended

- 45 Nelson or Schroder
- 46 "Last \_\_\_ Standing"
- 47 "\_\_\_ Who's Coming to Dinner"; Sidney Poitier film

- DOWN**
- 1 Surrounded by
  - 2 "My \_\_\_ Is Earl"
  - 3 Role on "Salvation"
  - 4 "The \_\_\_ and I"; Fred MacMurray movie
  - 5 Marvin or Majors
  - 6 Cereal grain
  - 7 To and \_\_\_
  - 8 Ice-T's "Law & Order: SVU" role
  - 10 "\_\_\_ This Old House"; PBS program
  - 11 Series for Ted Danson
  - 13 "Up \_\_\_ Night"
  - 15 Suffix for puppet or auction
  - 17 Sunbather's reward
  - 18 "\_\_\_ Just Not That Into You"; Jennifer Aniston film
  - 20 Large awkward bird
  - 21 Galloped
  - 22 "This Is the \_\_\_"; James Franco movie
  - 25 Robert's job on "Everybody Loves Raymond"
  - 26 Ms. Thurman
  - 27 Sheep's cry
  - 28 Montgomery's state: abbr.
  - 29 Male animal
  - 31 "Boys Don't \_\_\_"; Hilary Swank film
  - 33 Brian \_\_\_ of "Chicago Med"
  - 35 Mayberry resident
  - 37 Annoys
  - 38 "The \_\_\_ the limit!"
  - 39 Actress Dawber
  - 40 Historical age
  - 41 Geological period
  - 42 Setting for "Evita": abbr.
  - 43 Actress Lucy

Solution from 03/03



## SUDOKU

### SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



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

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)

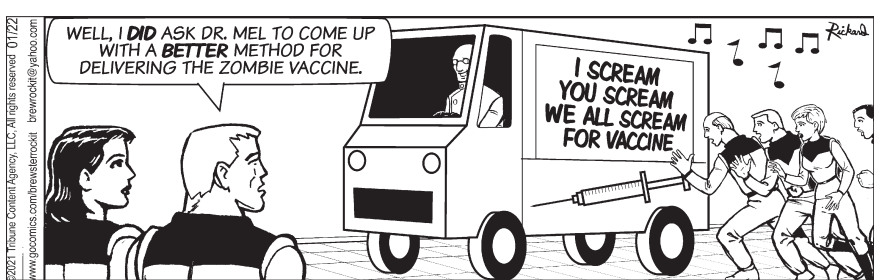
Solution from 03/03

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

### BREWSTER ROCKIT



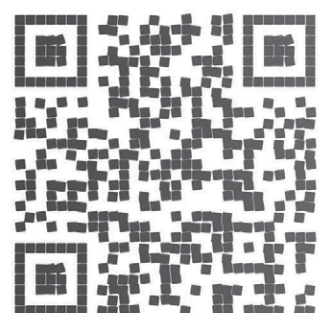
### BLISS



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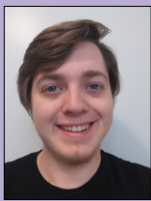
## TEC 'sports

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

**Pat Polomchak**

Sports Editor

@pattywhaKK



**Men's basketball vs. the University of Cincinnati on March 11**  
**Who wins?** UCF beats ECU 80-68

**Why?** UCF is ranked No. 6 in the AAC, five spots higher than No. 11 ECU, for good reason. ECU has had some good moments this season, but the team simply doesn't have the firepower to compete in the AAC tournament.

**Brendan Cavazos**

Sports Chief

@bcvaz\_xi

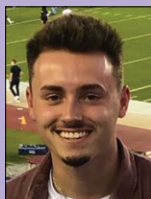


**Soccer vs UCF on March 14**  
**Who wins?** UCF beats ECU 3-2  
**Why?** ECU has yet to score more than

a single goal in a game this season. In their first game, UCF defeated Temple 3-0 on Feb. 14, while Pirates tied with Temple 1-1 on Feb. 28. Both teams are on losing streaks, but UCF has shown more scoring ability so far this season.

**Cade Carlson**

Women's basketball reporter



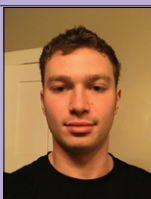
**UGA Classic on March 12-14**  
**Who wins?** ECU goes 3-1  
**Why?** The Pirates and Georgia have

only lost two games this season. However, North Dakota currently has a losing record. The Pirates will split with Georgia and sweep North Dakota as ECU's strength of schedule favors them.

**Jess Sabin**

Baseball reporter

@Jess\_Sabin



**Baseball vs. UNC Charlotte on March 12-14**  
**Who wins?** ECU sweeps UNCC 3-0  
**Why?** Charlotte has

yet to play a team on ECU's level and comes off a series against Western Carolina which they lost 2-1. ECU comes off the LeClair Classic in which they swept Appalachian State. ECU should get another sweep.

**Stephen Babich**

Track and field reporter

@stephenbabich1



**ECU Volleyball vs. Temple on March 12-13**  
**Who wins?** Temple sweeps the Pirates  
**Why?** The Pirates

come off back-to-back losses against the UCF Knights. ECU has failed to gain any kind of momentum this season and it's very unlikely that they will against a team who has more than triple the amount of wins ECU has so far.



COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

The ECU baseball team huddles on the field in Clark-Leclair Stadium during the team's first matchup with Duke University on Feb. 23.

## Pirates defeat Duke 11-5

### Baseball team pummels Blue Devils for second time of season

**Jess Sabin**  
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University baseball team (10-2, 0-0 American Athletic Conference) won its second matchup of the season against Duke University (6-6, 3-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) 11-5 yesterday.

Junior outfielder Bryson Worrell came up to bat at the top of the second inning with two outs and hit a single, which turned into a double due to a fielding error by the Blue Devils. The following at bat saw freshman first baseman Josh Moylan hit a double to left center which allowed Worrell to score.

Down 4-0 entering the bottom of the second, Duke responded in kind. Junior outfielder R.J. Schreck led off the inning with a single before graduate student infielder Erikson

Nichols popped out and senior infielder Chris Crabtree grounded out in the ensuing at bats. With two outs, graduate student outfielder Chase Cheek tripled down the right field line to score Schreck.

In the top of the third inning, junior catcher Seth Caddell made it a 5-3 game with a homerun for ECU. Duke responded with a run of their own as graduate student outfielder Peter Matt was able to score on a fielder's choice to make it 5-4.

Duke struck again in the fourth inning. With Murray on first and Hoyle on second, senior catcher Michael Rothenburg hit a double to score Hoyle and tied the game at 5-5, but this would be the last run the Blue Devils scored.

Sophomore infielder Thomas Francisco was

able to score at the top of the sixth to take a 9-5 lead. Despite Worrell and Caddell both getting on base following Makarewicz's ground out, a fielder's choice from a hit by Moylan ended the inning. The Pirates added another two runs in the eighth to further extend their late lead.

Sophomore infielder Connor Norby led ECU offense. In his team high six at bats, Norby amassed a team high four RBIs on two hits, which included a home run, while he also scored one run himself.

The Pirates will face a three-game series against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (8-3, 0-0 Conference USA) at home on March 12 through March 14.

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

**ONLINE | FULL STORY**

## Basketball prepares for tournament

**Pat Polomchak**  
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University men's basketball team (8-10, 2-10 American Athletic Conference) is set to face the University of Central Florida (8-10, 10-11 AAC) in the Pirates' first game of the 2020-2021 AAC Championship tournament tomorrow at 7 p.m. in Fort Worth, Texas.

According to the AAC's website, the Pirates enter the tournament as the lowest ranked team in the conference, the No. 11 seed. UCF, on the other hand, comes into the game ranked at No. 6.

ECU comes off an up and down regular season, which featured a fast start with an undefeated non-conference record early in the season. However, the start of conference play brought with it struggles against tougher competition as the Pirates finished with just two wins against AAC opponents this year.

The Pirates dealt with a myriad of COVID-19 issues this season. The team had to pause all basketball activities twice over the course of the regular season due to outbreaks of the virus within the team, once on Jan. 14 and once on Feb. 10.

As a result, ECU had a total of eight games postponed indefinitely this season, all of which would have been against conference opponents. Additionally, the two pauses

caused the Pirates to miss out on valuable practice time, especially during a five-game run of postponements from Feb. 11 to Feb. 27.

Despite the extended time off throughout the season, ECU managed to defeat a top-ranked team this season. The Pirates defeated the University of Houston (21-3, 14-3 AAC), which was ranked No. 5 in the country at the time, by a score of 82-73 on Feb. 3, just before the second COVID-19 outbreak within ECU's program.

The win marked the first time in program history that ECU had defeated an opponent which was ranked in the top five in AP polls. It also stood as ECU's last win of the season, as the team lost all four of the remaining games on the schedule that were not postponed.

The Pirates have stayed competitive in games against higher-ranked teams this season due to the performance of junior forward Jayden Gardner. He has led ECU in several statistical categories this season, which include points scored, points per game, field goal completion percentage (for players with a minimum of 100 attempts), total rebounds and minutes played per game, according to ECUPIrates.com. Gardner only attempted six

three point shots all season, and he converted on three of those for a percentage of .500.

Gardner's average of 18.3 points per game was a team high by a large margin. Only

senior guard J.J. Miles joined Gardner with a double-digit average in points scored, but Miles only averaged 10.1 points per game this season.

ECU played ECU in its final game of the regular season on March 4. The Knights came away with a win in that game, but the game was close throughout and UCF only managed to win by a 64-60 margin.

ECU was led in that game by Gardner and sophomore guard Tristen Newton, who scored 18 points apiece. Gardner added two assists and seven total rebounds to his stat line, while Newton picked up five assists, four rebounds, a block and a steal in the contest.

The Knights were led in the March 4 game by freshman forward Isaiah Adams, who compiled 15 points to go along with three assists and six rebounds. Three other players topped double digits in points scored, as senior guard Darius Perry and sophomore guard Darin Greene Jr. each scored 14 and senior center Avery Diggs scored 10.

According to the AAC website, the tournament features a single-elimination bracket, and the winner earns an automatic bid in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament. The entire tournament can be viewed on ESPNU.

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

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### » ANALYSIS

## Soccer must kick it up a notch



**Brendan Cavazos**  
TEC STAFF

The first game of the season was a 1-0 loss against Old Dominion University (1-4-1, 0-2-0 Conference USA) on Feb. 4 followed by the team's first and only win in overtime against the University of Houston (2-1-1, 0-1-0 AAC) with a final score of 1-0 on Feb. 13.

The Pirates suffered their largest loss of the season on Feb. 20 to Virginia Commonwealth University (3-2-1, 0-0-0 Atlantic 10 Conference) with a final score of 3-1. Against Temple University (2-2-1, 0-2-1 AAC) on Feb. 28, both teams were deadlocked at one goal each, which resulted in a double overtime tie at 1-1. The most recent game for the Pirates was on March 7, which was a loss to the University of South Florida (3-0-

It is the middle of the season for the East Carolina University women's soccer team (1-3-1, 1-1-1 American Athletic Conference), and with five games down and five left, ECU has seen adversity.



COURTESY OF HOUSTON MCCULLOUGH | ECUPIRATES

Redshirt junior midfielder Grace Doran dribbles the ball upfield against the Houston Cougars. 1, 2-0-1 AAC).

The Pirates have not been able to score more than one goal in any of their five games this season. While the opponent does not run away with the score whenever the Pirates are on the field, the defense can only do so much when the offense cannot put the ball in the goal. In fact, there have only been three goals in total this season scored by the ECU offense.

The Pirates need to win as they look

forward to the second half of the season. Offensively, the team needs to commit to getting points on the board while keeping up a strong defensive presence.

The Pirates will head to Orlando, Florida, on March 14 to play the University of Central Florida (2-2, 2-2 AAC). Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

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

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