



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 03.17.21

VOLUME 95, ISSUE 22

ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2021

ECU hosts fundraiser event today



Taylor Johnson pours a Guinness beer while Christy's Euro Pub prepares for St. Patrick's Day celebrations and events.

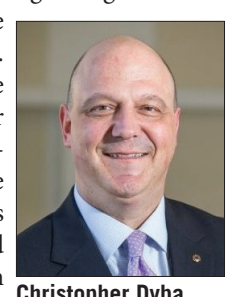
Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

Pirate Nation Gives, a 24-hour online fundraiser for East Carolina University, will celebrate its fifth annual event today, where ECU students, staff, alumni and fans can donate various dollar amounts.

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Christopher Dyba said Pirate Nation Gives is an event designed to dedicate one day to encourage others to give donations to the university's colleges and departments. He said at midnight tonight, the website to donate goes live and donors have 24 hours to place their online donations.

Dyba said although people are encouraged to support ECU year round, the event is designed to highlight the importance to give back to the university and honor ECU's Founders Day, which was on March 8. He said Pirate Nation Gives raised \$3.1 million in 2020, a considerable increase from \$805,000 in 2019.



Christopher Dyba

"That's a big old number and of course now we have to do better this year," Dyba said. "When people give to the university and we are very proud of that success, more people want to invest. I think that's what ends up happening, last year and the same thing will happen this year."

The success of Pirate Nation Gives comes from the support and engagement of the university's donors, according to Dyba. He said he believes when those who have donated share information about their contribution to Pirate Nation Gives, others want to participate and it becomes a competition amongst people to contribute money.

Dyba said the competitiveness of those who participate in the event is what "makes it fun" and helps further spread the word. He said there are several challenges on the Pirate Nation Gives website for donors to participate in, such as who can place the first donation of the day and who can place the last donation.

There are donors who wait all year for this event, Dyba said, and they often communicate with ECU's University Advancement about their donations and their pride for ECU. He said anyone who makes a donation can choose which part of ECU they would like it to support, and if they have no preference, the donation will go in a collective pot for the chancellor to later decide allocations.

"We wanted this to be fun," Dyba said. "We want you to give to our great university, we want you to have some fun and

> **GIVES** page A2

Holiday concerns surface

Chris Young
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

For this year's St. Patrick's Day celebrations, the East Carolina University Police Department (ECU PD) has stated concerns about gatherings in the midst of the pandemic, while some students believe the parties may be safe as long as they follow proper COVID-19 precautions.

ECU PD Captain Chris Sutton said the campus police department is doing all it can to keep students safe for St. Patrick's Day. He said because of how busy the holiday normally is at ECU, the same is expected, but students should continue to be responsible.

Sutton said students who are not

responsible will be faced with the ordinary punishments, a warning first, then a referral or citation. He said as long as people follow the guidelines, the community will eventually get back to normal.

"The best way to control this virus is to be responsible and follow the protocols set in place," Sutton said. "We must continue to do what we all can to protect ourselves and each other."

As the weather warms up, ECU students are more likely to attend large gatherings, according to Sutton. He

said that these gatherings can spread the virus and can result in even more mandatory quarantines, which may place a negative impact on student life.

Sutton said he had been in touch with different ECU Greek Life organizations to talk about how they could cooperate together to ensure student safety. Sutton said while some organizations didn't offer much help, most of them did.

"I have been approached by different Greek organizations to talk about our process and expectations for responsible behavior," Sutton said. "I'm happy with where we are, and hope

> **HOLIDAY** page A2



Chris Sutton

Local businesses plan festivities

Sarah Hooper
TEC STAFF

Greenville, North Carolina, restaurants are prepared for the first St. Patrick's Day celebration since the initial COVID-19 shutdown over a year ago and local businesses are prepared for socially distanced festivities.

A.J. McMurphy's Irish Pub, located at 1914 Turnbury Dr., plans to open its doors on St. Patrick's Day and operate normally, according to manager Summer Evans. Evans said the restaurant offers a mix of American cuisine and traditional Irish dishes and beers.

"We possibly will have a band but

we haven't confirmed it. Right now (as of March 12) we are planning to wear green and run our specials menu," Evans said.

A.J. McMurphy's has an outdoor patio space, Evans said, which helps with social distancing and spreading out customers. Evans said they will continue to look forward to the celebration for a sense of the normal routine and for customers to have a way to enjoy the day while they follow proper COVID-19 precautions.

"We look forward to a little bit of normalcy and people safely spending time together and enjoying a nice day,"

Evans said. Christy's Euro Pub, located at 301 S. Jarvis St, will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a special menu focused around Irish cuisine. Taylor Johnson, the general manager of Christy's Euro Pub, said in an email statement that Guinness will be the featured beer on tap. Salad and sandwiches range from



Taylor Johnson

> **FESTIVITY** page A4

Rogers takes office, discusses future goals

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

Chancellor Philip Rogers stepped into office on Monday to take the helm of Pirate Nation as he pledged to lead the university in the long-term future and succeeds former Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson.

Rogers said in a press conference on Monday he is ready to get the work done to ensure ECU is where it should be academically and personally. He said the long-term goals he has are personal to him and his family as he is focused and committed to the continuation of ECU's vision.

COVID-19 cases and fall 2021 enrollment rates, budgets and the university's financial state will be constantly monitored, according to Rogers.

"You (Greenville and ECU individuals) look back over the last 114 years at East Carolina University, we have an incredible foundation to build up, and so, you know, I think about what my legacy will be. I hope it is one that is deeply steeped in advancing and sustaining and growing our mission in a way that really allows us to be the service oriented institution that we



Chancellor Philip Rogers and his family take tour of TowneBank Tower on Dec. 17, 2020.

were designed to be," Rogers said.

The ECU community's health and safety is Rogers' top priority, he said. Rogers said the current pandemic has forced ECU to deliver course instruction in different ways, and has affected the university's financial state.

Rogers said he plans to engage all ECU students along with colleagues as he recently attended the university's latest baseball series against the University of North Carolina

Charlotte (UNCC), which took place at home the weekend of March 12 through March 14, where he engaged with various students and other Greenville community members in a safe way. He said another one of his top priorities is equality and connection with all students on a professional and personal level as he works with Student Affairs.

Rogers said he will continue to look for the

right leaders for ECU, more specifically, the university's permanent vice chancellor.

"I'm already starting in earnest to begin those conversations of thinking about how to get the right leaders in place at the right time," Rogers said.

Mitchelson, who became interim chancellor in October 2019, was thanked by Rogers as he has held the position prior to and during the pandemic. On March 10, Mitchelson said he has felt ECU's, Greenville's and the UNC System's support during his time in his position of the past 18 months.

Mitchelson said COVID-19 positive cases have decreased at the university and he hopes they will continue to decline throughout the summer and the fall of 2021.

"I think what everybody wants is a return to normalcy, as quickly as we can get there. From what I've seen from (Philip) Rogers so far, even on the social media side, it seems like we're headed back to something that looks normal," Mitchelson said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

ONLINE

»NEWS: Virtual Education Job Fair will be hosted today

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

@theeastcarolinian Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian @TEC_Newspaper

BRIEFS

G.O.L.D. series continues virtually

Today, the Growing Organizational Leadership Development (G.O.L.D.) Leader Series and the Center for Counseling and Student Development continue to host the G.O.L.D. series with "Grab a Shovel, treat the Soil: Taking Leadership to the Next Level" from 4 to 5 p.m. Throughout this virtual event, East Carolina University's Collegiate Recovery Community Coordinator, Jarmicheal Harris will discuss his TedxJHRoseHigh Talk as well as give tips about how to excel in public speaking and how to be an effective leader. Participants must RSVP and can join the online event through the Engage website.

QTPOC to host event via Zoom

Today, the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center and the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) will host a virtual Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) event from 4 to 5 p.m. ECU students who participate are able to build community and converse with others about the issues which impact students of various sexualities, races, ethnicities and genders. Students are able to RSVP and join the online event through Engage.

'7:07 Flashback Bingo' hosted via virtual format

Tomorrow, the Student Activities Board (SAB) will host "7:07 Flashback Bingo" virtually from 7:07 to 8:07 p.m. This event will include 60's, 70's and 80's music and participants will be able to play a virtual bingo game with others. Prizes will be available to only ECU student winners and will be given out via Venmo. Students must RSVP through Engage in order to receive the event's link.

Money management session will be hosted

Friday, East Carolina University's Study Abroad and the Office of Global Affairs will host a virtual "International Coffee Hour" where money management will be discussed from 3 to 4 p.m. Participants are able to learn and discuss money management tips as well as cultural etiquette. More information and the link can be found on the ECU Engage website.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



East Carolina University plans to host several in-person Spring 2021 University Commencement ceremonies with COVID-19 guidelines in place. KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

In-person commencement to occur

ECU plans for multiple spring graduation ceremonies

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

This year's Spring 2021 University Commencement ceremonies at East Carolina University will happen in-person on May 7 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium as precautions such as social distancing, required face masks and multiple ceremonies will be in place to lower the potential spread of COVID-19.

Graduates and guests are required to RSVP to the ceremonies to secure their spots at the event. The RSVP link will be active from March 5 to April 9.

Former Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson said the university's main goal is to hold an in-person graduation that additionally recognizes alumni who were presented with a virtual graduation ceremony in the fall and spring of 2020. He said the decision had been planned carefully as it was weighed against COVID-19.

"We've been watching the (COVID-19) numbers and, as you know, the numbers are looking really good, so that's part of the equation. The decline in new cases, the rapid decline in hospitalizations, our own campus success," Mitchelson said. "The governor's (Roy Cooper) executive orders have been really important in the planning process."

Mitchelson said graduation plans have been approved and reviewed by public health officials such as Pitt County Public Health Director Dr. John Silvernail. While graduation will be in-person, it will not look like previous ceremonies, Mitchelson said.

Graduation will consist of various socially distanced ceremonies to abide by the 30% capacity limit, Mitchelson said. He said it is unknown how many ceremonies will take place, but he said this information will be announced in early April.

announced in early April.

"Spacing, (face) masks, limited capacity and a safe stage, right, those are the precautions and all of that will be enforced," Mitchelson said. "We're doing an RSVP system so we know precisely who can be admitted, so that RSVP is very important to be communicated."

Mitchelson encourages guests of graduates to RSVP, as the RSVP's will determine who is allowed to attend graduation. There will be assigned seats, he said, which will allow for a specific contact tracing to happen in the instance that a guest has COVID-19.

"They can come, they won't be robbed, right, they won't be with the current set of graduates but we're going to reserve a section for them," Mitchelson said. "I think the number of guests will be determined by the governor's executive order."

Mitchelson said he is confident that graduation will remain in-person as the COVID-19 "numbers are pretty well-behaved right now."

Student Government Association (SGA) President Tucker Robbins said he advocated for an in-person graduation at several Board of Trustees (BOT) meetings to BOT members, Mitchelson and university stakeholders.

"I made sure that I made it known that I think we need to do everything we can to have some sort of in-person commencement for our graduates, especially definitely for the spring and also invite back the ones that maybe missed out on that opportunity for the fall," Robbins said.

While the details are still fluid, Robbins said students can expect a somewhat normal commencement as he is sure people will be socially distanced and masked.

Robbins said given the circumstances, he believes ECU seniors are grateful to be able to have an in-person graduation with their loved ones in attendance. He said a commencement ceremony signifies and represents many years

of hard work for those who graduate.

"For me personally, it means the world to be able to have my parents, you know, see me, you know, get that diploma in-person and walk across the stage and, you know, start the next chapter in my life," Robbins said.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy said at every graduation ceremony, there is a time for them to turn the tassels on



Virginia Hardy

their graduation hats, which indicates their status as college graduates. She said she will engage in the tassel turn with Robbins as it is an important and key occasion for graduates.

Hardy said it is important students pay attention to the commencement website, as they cannot simply show up to their ceremony. She said the ceremonies set up will be configured differently than normal.

"The stage will be configured differently to give the most bang for your (guests) buck and to be using all the screens and to have the social distancing for parents and family members who come," Hardy said. "We're going to have a smaller platform party and all of the speeches and things of that nature will be much more condensed and shortened."

ECU's colleges and departments will not be able to present separate speeches or hold personal graduations as the university does not have the resources available, Hardy said.

The past academic year and a half has been disrupted, Hardy said, so this year's in-person graduation is a major milestone to represent students' achievements.

ONLINE |
FULL STORY

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

HOLIDAY continued from A1

we can finish strong, but I have my concerns."

Sophomore accounting major Josh Toler said he believes there are ways for students to go out as long as safety is still a top priority. He said parties, if there are any, should be maintained outside to ensure people socially distance.

Toler said if students do consider going out to celebrate, or plan to go out to parties in general, they should consider if they are showing any symptoms of the virus as well as who they have been around.

"It would be hard to get everyone tested (for COVID-19) before parties," Toler said. "If you aren't feeling well, or think you may have COVID(-19), then you shouldn't go out and be around a bunch of other people."

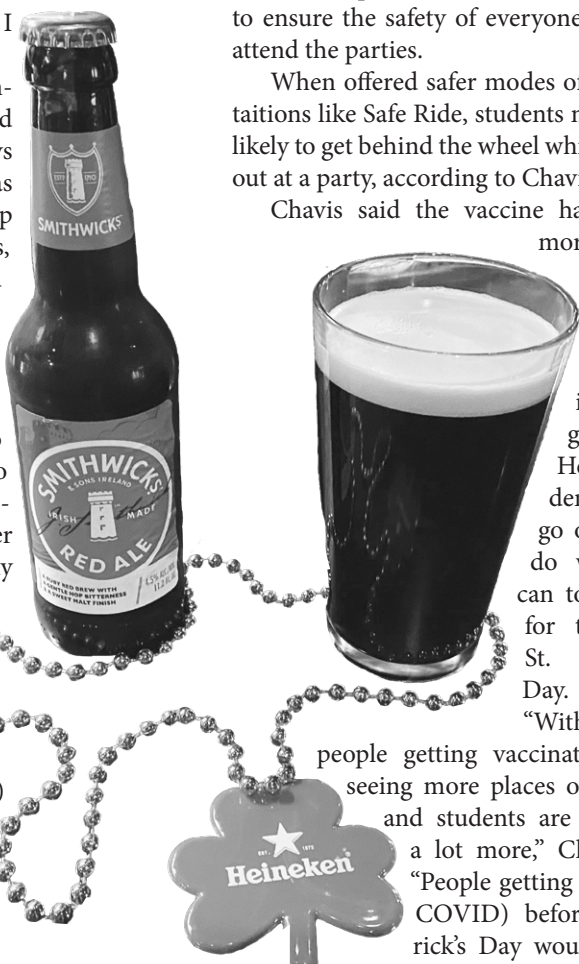
Junior business management major Shane Chavis said ECU students should be

provided with cautious and regulated modes of transportation like ECU's Safe Ride, to ensure the safety of everyone who may attend the parties.

When offered safer modes of transportation like Safe Ride, students may be less likely to get behind the wheel while they are out at a party, according to Chavis.

Chavis said the vaccine has become more accessible and this could result in larger gatherings. He said students who do go out should do what they can to stay safe for this year's St. Patrick's Day. "With more people getting vaccinated, you're seeing more places opening up and students are going out a lot more," Chavis said. "People getting tested (for COVID) before St. Patrick's Day would help to keep students and other people safe."

Chavis said the vaccine has become more accessible and this could result in larger gatherings. He said students who do go out should do what they can to stay safe for this year's St. Patrick's Day. "With more people getting vaccinated, you're seeing more places opening up and students are going out a lot more," Chavis said. "People getting tested (for COVID) before St. Patrick's Day would help to keep students and other people safe."



JENNIFER SIEG | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Irish beers served at Christy's Euro Pub.

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

GIVES continued from A1

we want you to share that fun."

Dyba said last year, the Division of University Advancement advocated for donors to gear their donations toward ECU's Student Emergency Fund, which supports university students who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. He said he encourages students to participate in the event this year as donors but understands the financial restriction many students face.

Jennifer Watson, director of annual giving at ECU and co-chair of the Pirate Nation Gives Committee, said the event's committee is made up of 40 people who represent all ends of campus. Watson said Pirate Nation Gives is a day for all of ECU to highlight the year's accomplishments and for Pirates to support ECU through university engagement.

The 2020 virtual event brought \$3.1 million in donations, Watson said, which has led to the creation of the university's goal of \$3.3 million for 2021.

Watson said students are the No. 1 focus during Pirate Nation Gives, and the day often brings major scholarship and research funding intended for ECU's various colleges and departments such as athletics. COVID-19 has created a challenge for the committee as they attempt to plan virtually, Watson said, but she is thankful to have seen in-person events like the annual Homecoming Cannonball Kickoff on March 15 and for high donor turnout.

"The one thing I would say for me and my position and as someone who does fundraising for ECU, we're very grateful for the support

that we get from Pirate Nation during Pirate Nation Gives," Watson said. "We love seeing the interaction from alumni and friends and donors through social media on that day. It's so much fun to watch people be engaged with ECU, and then the financial support that we receive as well, it's very humbling."

Executive Associate Athletic Director for External Relations and Interim Pirate Club Executive Director Ryan Robinson said ECU's Pirate Club, an ECU Athletics' foundation that raises funds for ECU student-athletes and resources, doesn't have a specific goal for Pirate Nation Gives other than for the university to see a great turn out. He said the Pirate Club spent about \$8.3 million in student-athlete scholarships in 2020, so funds raised during



Ryan Robinson

Pirate Nation Gives can hold value. Alumni and other donors at ECU continuously support the university and student body, Robinson said. "We have seen the Pirate Club continue to increase over the last three or four months, and it's understandable," Robinson said. "You got to empathize with everything that everyone's been going through. And that's why I think people will be surprised about how much money that we raised just because of East Carolina, this region, this city, this state and what it means to so many different people."

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

OUR VIEW

OGA's fair, safe choices are needed

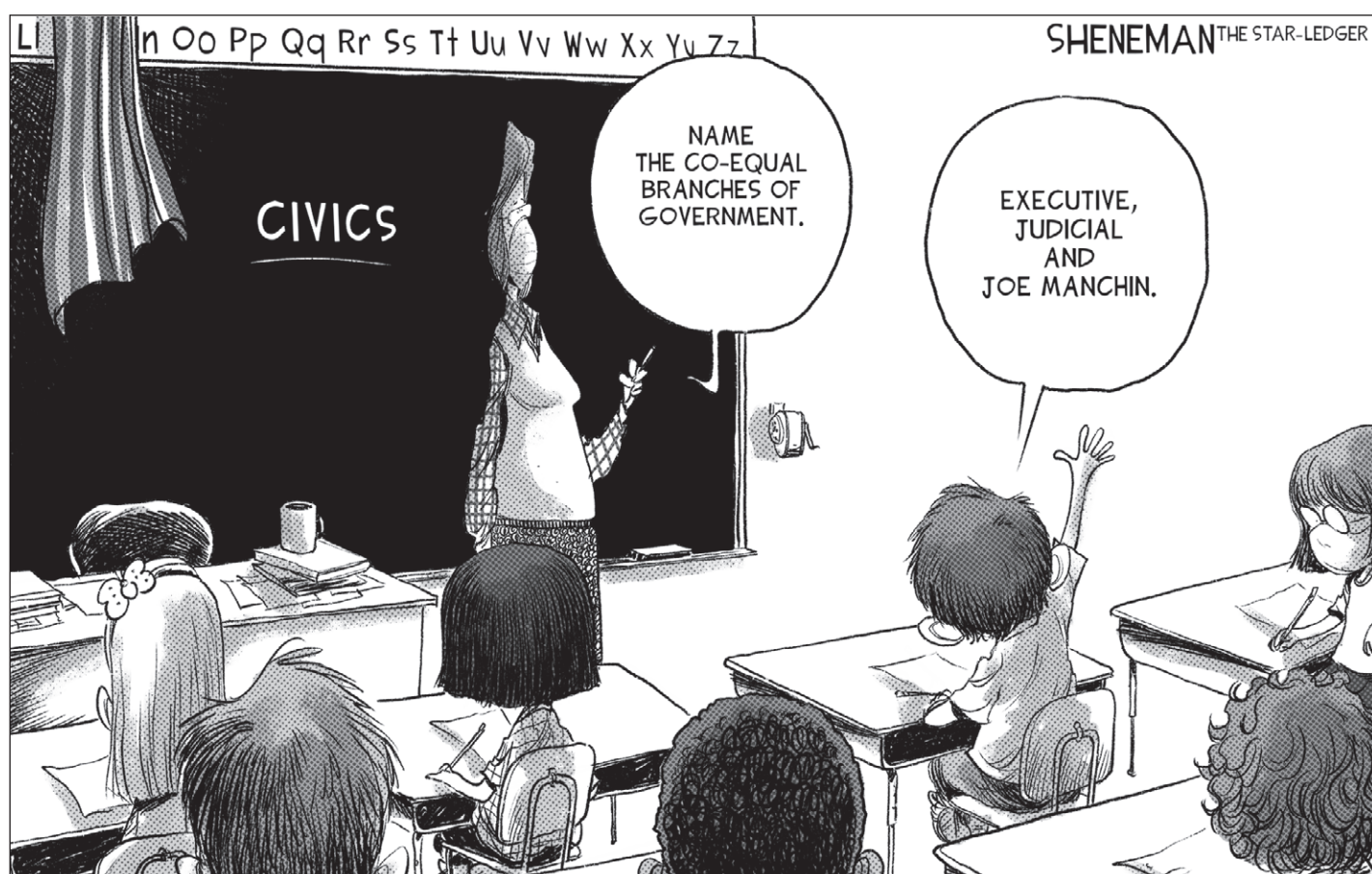
As of March 5, the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) at East Carolina University has cancelled its June 2021 study abroad programs amid COVID-19 concerns. However, the OGA remains hopeful for study abroad opportunities for the fall.

The OGA evaluates programs abroad four months ahead of the date of ECU's programs, according to Jon Rezek, assistant vice chancellor of the OGA. He said the current worldwide situation is at a three or four and is considered high-risk.

The OGA's July programs will be evaluated come April, according to Rezek. He said the OGA will continue to monitor the worldwide COVID-19 situation and remains hopeful for study abroad programs for the fall semester as cases begin to decline and COVID-19 vaccination distribution continues throughout the U.S.

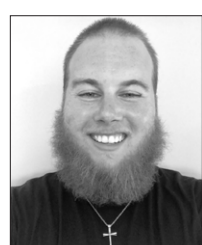
We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that, while we are saddened to see the programs go, the OGA's decision to cancel the June 2021 study abroad programs was right. With the current COVID-19 situation worldwide, it is important for the OGA to remain cautious. We are hopeful that the study abroad programs will be able to resume for the fall 2021 semester.

Coordinator of Faculty-led Programs at the OGA Whitney Morris said she believes the COVID-19 vaccine accessibility along with the improvement of case numbers will allow for the study abroad programs to resume in the fall 2021 or spring 2022 semesters. We are hopeful with the continuous national distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations and the decline in cases that the global situation will improve. We additionally appreciate the OGA's continuous efforts to provide a global experience with its virtual Global Understanding exchange program.



Group chat rules are unjust

Academic integrity violations increase due to COVID-19



Dylan Woolard
GUEST COLUMNIST

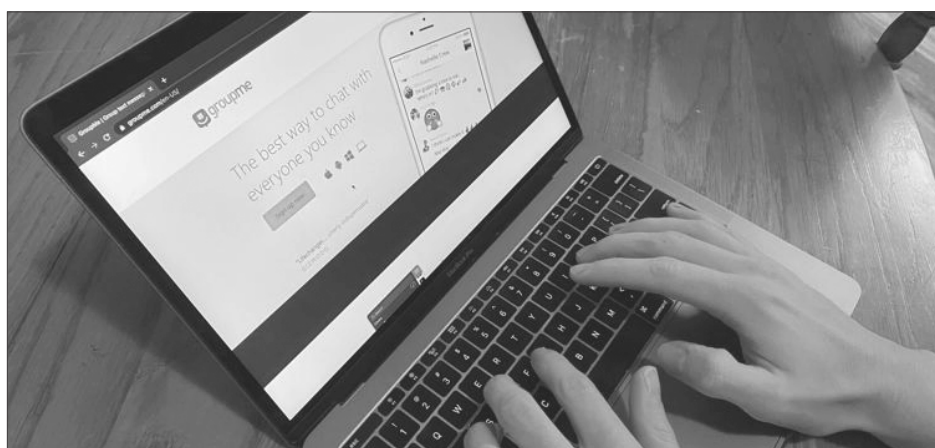
East Carolina University's Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) has seen a rise in academic integrity violations and professors seem to be on high alert for students using group chats as a

means of cheating.

I have no doubt that students are using group chats to cheat, as I've been in group chats where students openly violate academic integrity standards. However, I can't say I fault the cheating students or that I would ever be willing to turn them in.

The rise in violations are the sad result of a COVID-19 afflicted school year, and I believe professors need to slow it down a little bit. Yes, we have all been dealing with the same pandemic and by now we should probably have a few more things figured out, but lockdown browsers and online proctored exams are not the answer in my eyes.

When students take an exam with a lockdown browser or have a proctor watch them online, from my personal experience, it makes them nervous and doesn't help those who struggle with test-taking anxiety. The process students have to go through when using an online proctor can feel like an invasion of pri-



JENNIFER SIEG | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A student logs into GroupMe, which is one way students can communicate about classes.

vacy, and it makes me feel guilty when I'm doing nothing wrong.

I'm not saying we, as students, should be allowed to cheat, but a little bit of extra help sure would be nice considering what we have experienced in the spring and fall 2020 semesters sudden transitions to online instruction.

A lot of the ECU administration's moves have been unprecedented, albeit an unprecedented event put these actions in motion, but it has done serious damage to my ability and opportunity to take full advantage of my education here.

I chose to come to ECU so I could experience all that its campus and classrooms had to offer and instead, a very large portion of my time here is being spent learning how to adjust to online

instruction and dodging spiteful professors aiming to catch cheaters, or violations of academic integrity, by creating a very restrictive learning environment.

College is already pretty hard, and COVID-19 didn't do anything but make it harder, and the cheaters have made the situation much worse. This is not a simple or easy time to be a college student, and I believe professors and members of ECU administration need to maintain an open line of communication in order to help guide everyone out of the era of mostly online instruction that was forced upon us.

Dylan Woolard is a junior majoring in communication and a guest columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

OUR STAFF

Chloe Easton	Editor-in-Chief
Summer Tonizzo	Managing Editor
George Martin	Copy Editor
Jennifer Sieg	News Editor
Michelle Mazzei	News Chief
Hannah Bolick	A&E Editor
Sarah Hooper	A&E Chief
Pat Polomchak	Sports Editor
Brendan Cavazos	Sports Chief
Giana Williams	Multimedia Manager
Macie Tano	Opinion Editor
Kate Francis	Visual Arts Director
Rose Bogue	Production Manager

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.

One copy of The East Carolinian is free. Each additional copy is \$1. Unauthorized removal of additional copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under North Carolina law. Violators will be prosecuted.

Contact Info

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

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

Students deserve a proper break

Tano Talk



Macie Tano
TEC COLUMNIST

East Carolina University students were granted a single day without classes on March 10. This was considered a "wellness day" and was supposed to take the place of the university's usual allotted time for spring break. Classes continued on March 11, and that was the only break ECU students got for the spring 2021 semester.

While it is understandable why the break may have been taken away to prevent the spread of COVID-19, what's not understandable is how students are supposed to remain studious and focused during the semester when something they were probably looking forward to got taken away.

I myself was surprised when I originally saw the academic calendar, and I know from talking to other students, they were as well. Whether they planned on going on a trip or just going home to see their family, many students depended on this usual break period for a small relief from their classes and school work.

Many students I have talked to have expressed how stressed they feel this semester with their classes and the workload they have. Most of these students also have part-time jobs that they work at along with their school work. Not to mention, the online platform of the classes seem to have made the semester more difficult for some.

"Overall, I believe the decision to not add a spring break period to the academic calendar should have been rethought. Students need a break from their classes and one day wasn't enough."

- Macie Tano

I believe a break period would have been beneficial to students as it would allow for them to destress.

Breaks are essential to students and their learning. Breaks aren't just a time for students to travel and party, but a time to relax and recharge. One important benefit of having a break is that it improves attentiveness in classes. According to a 2014 study published on Science Direct, longer instruction times lead to fewer students paying attention. Without a break, it may be more difficult for students to focus on multiple classes at a time.

Another benefit of having breaks is the release of student stress. College students are stressed. Plain and simple. Like I previously mentioned, along with juggling a handful of classes, many students also have jobs, which can add extra stress in their lives. More than 20% of college students said they have experienced extreme stress five to six times a year, according to The American Institute of Stress.

Having breaks in the semester has been shown to also improve student performance. Students have higher

productivity and performance levels when they have semester breaks, according to OnlineSchools.org. I believe that having a regular spring break would have allowed for better student success in their classes upon returning back to school. In my opinion, only having one day off isn't sufficient enough to promote academic growth in classes.

Overall, I believe the decision to not add a spring break period to the academic calendar should have been rethought. Students need a break from their classes, and one day isn't enough. Students need a proper break in order to destress, recharge and perform better in their classes. Many students also use this time to go home and see their families, which they may not have time to do during the semester with their classes and work. Not to mention, the hardworking faculty members who also deserve a break away from their work. Hopefully, ECU will rethink this decision for breaks in the coming semesters.

Macie Tano is a senior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

EVENTS

TODAY

Open Mic with JT Ackerman

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

Open Mic Night

The Blackened Kraken
123 E. 5th Street
8 to 11:30 p.m.
252-215-8822

TOMORROW

Tapas and Jazz

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

Good Medicine: Polymer Clay in the Kitchen

Emerge Gallery and Art Center
Emerge Gallery Website
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
252-551-6947

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

Pitt Street Run Club

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

FRIDAY

Brian Burke and John Williams Live

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

Umami Food Truck

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

Afreyed Knot Live

A.J. McMurphy's
8 to 11 p.m.
1914 Turnbury Dr.
252-355-7956

SATURDAY

Cooper Greer Live

The Blackened Kraken
123 E. 5th Street
8 to 11:30 p.m.
252-215-8822

Spring Sidewalk Sale

Greenville Museum of Art
802 Evans St.
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
252-758-1946

John G. on the Patio

A.J. McMurphy's
8 to 11 p.m.
1914 Turnbury Dr.
252-355-7956

Pitt Street Madness: Round 1

Pitt Street Brewing Company
12 to 11 p.m.
630 S. Pitt Street
(252) 227-4151



East Carolina University's Cannonball Kickoff event took place on the Main Campus Student Center lawn to begin Homecoming week, which took place on Monday.

Cannonball Kickoff sees success

East Carolina University students, faculty and alumni celebrate homecoming

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's "Home Sweet Homecoming" Cannonball Kickoff signaled the start of the 2021 homecoming celebrations for students, faculty and alumni on-campus and virtually on Monday.

The Cannonball Kickoff event took place on the Main Campus Student Center lawn from 4 to 7 p.m. ECU students, the ECU Marching Pirates, ECU's dance team and Chancellor Philip Rogers were in attendance.

Rogers said he is excited to be at ECU and step into his role as chancellor. He said homecoming is a time for students and alumni to come together to celebrate the friendships and relationships they have built at the university.

"This truly is for me, personally, for my family and I know for all of you a Home Sweet Homecoming. It really does feel good to be back home in Greenville, North Carolina," Rogers said.



Philip Rogers

At the end of his speech, Rogers gave thanks to a few people in attendance for their presence on-campus and their participation in the Cannonball Kickoff. He specifically thanked Student Government Association President Tucker Robbins and Board of Trustees Chair Vern Davenport.

Rogers said it brings him joy to see everyone on-campus and to feel the energy at the event.

As his speech ended, Rogers let students, faculty, alumni and

stakeholders of ECU know he is committed to the university.

The ECU dance team and ECU Marching Pirates performed the classic "Boogie Wonderland" by Earth, Wind and Fire, and other selections of music. The ECU Marching Pirates additionally performed the ECU Alma Mater, "Hail to Thy Name So Fair."

The new recognition program "Captain of the Ship," which celebrates the diversity of the ECU student body and replaces the traditional Homecoming King and Queen, voting began on March 16 through Engage. The candidates have been narrowed down from 20 to 10 individuals who are in the running for the title. The winners will be announced at the homecoming parade on Saturday at 10 a.m.

ECU freshman nursing major Caroline Morgan said this was the first Cannonball Kickoff event that

she has been to. She said seeing the dance team perform in-person for the first time was enjoyable.

"It was really fun. It was cool. We got to take a selfie with the chancellor. I am really excited for a new chancellor, and I am excited to see what he's going to do. It's cool to see (Cannonball Kickoff)," Morgan said.

Biochemistry major Amber Fox said this was a great first cannonball experience for her.

"I absolutely love it," Fox said. "We got to meet the chancellor and take a selfie with him. It's really cool to be experiencing life out here (on-campus)."



Amber Fox

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

AWARDS SHOW REVIEW

Grammys entertain, allow reflection



Sarah Hooper
TEC STAFF

The 2021 Grammy Awards, hosted by television personality Trevor Noah on Sunday, was a night which showcased the best in new music talent, made striking social commentary and yet overlooked some of the most popular genres of music.

The night began with an opening performance by English singer-songwriter Harry Styles, which set the tone for the rest of the awards ceremony. Styles' Gucci green boa and peppy rock performance was an excellent choice to open the show in a quirky way.

Other performances included Albanian-English performer Dua Lipa's disco-filled medley performance of songs from her album, "Future Nostalgia." Charlotte, North Carolina rapper DaBaby's (Jonathan Lyndale Kirk) performance of his smash hit, "Rockstar" with Compton, California rapper Roddy Rich (Rodrick Wayne Moore, Jr.) was reminiscent of a fever dream as a choir of elderly singers sang the chorus behind him. Atlanta rapper Lil Baby's performance of his song "The Bigger Picture," which he released shortly after George Floyd's death in May 2020, was a striking visual performance and social commentary on the Black Lives Matter movement and police brutality.

The star of the night was Houston-based female rapper and powerhouse performer Megan Thee Stallion (Megan Pete), who swept all categories she was nominated for, except for record of the year, which was given to Los Angeles based duo Billie Eilish and Eilish's brother, Finneas O'Connell. Megan's performance of "Body" and "W.A.P." with fellow female rapper Cardi B (Belcalis Marlenis Almánzar) stole the show at the Grammys.

One of the more heartwarming parts of the awards show was the inclusion of workers at music venues, which remain closed due to COVID-19. These workers were invited to present awards and highlight the rich histories behind their venues, which included the Station Inn in Nashville, the Troubadour and the Hotel Cafe in Los Angeles, California and the Apollo Theater in Harlem, New York.

The "In Memoriam" portion of the Grammys was incredibly touching, with performances by Bruno Mars (Peter Gene Hernandez), Anderson .Paak (Brandon Paak Anderson), Lionel Richie, Brandi Carlile, Chris Martin and Brittany Howard.

Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak's performance from their new album, "Silk Sonic," was an exceptional display of early 2000s R&B mixed with James Brown-esque vocals. Their performance left the audience wanting more, and was reminiscent of Bruno's Super Bowl Halftime Performance in 2014.

Best R&B Performance for "Black Parade,"



Meg Thee Stallion accepts her award with Beyoncé.

Best Rap Performance for "Savage" with Meg Thee Stallion and Best Music Video for "Brown Skin Girl" made Houston-based performer Beyoncé (Beyoncé Knowles Carter) the most decorated woman in Grammys history, with 28 Grammys to her name.

Beyoncé's win, while well deserved, seemed like the academy was overcompensating for snubbing her in the past in larger categories such as album of the year for her 2016 album "Lemonade."

Overall, the awards ceremony was excellent and entertaining to watch.

RATING:



3.5 out of 5

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

FESTIVITY continued from A1

\$7 to \$15, according to Christy's website.

Johnson said from 4 to 7 p.m. on March 17, Christy's will have live music in the parking lot with two local performers, Rebekah Todd and William Seymour. Patrons are required to wear face masks when not eating, and the restaurant has sanitation stations, according to Johnson.

"Fortunately, several of our staff members have also been vaccinated or at least had their first dose. Our hope is that after a year, our staff and patrons can finally celebrate together with a socially distanced, outdoor St. Patrick's Day

party. We look forward to this event every year and are so excited to see everyone! Sláinte!" Johnson said.

Briana Long, the general manager of Pitt Street Brewing Company located at 630 S. Pitt St, said Pitt Street's celebrations will be spread out over four days, from today through Sunday. She said the brewery will feature Irish beers on tap and special green beer for the holiday event.

"(On) St. Patrick's Day itself we will have a beer release and our Irish red ale on special for those four days. We'll also have green beer for those four days as well, starting on March 17. We will also re-release our 'Dapple Dog Dry Stout,'" Long said.

Pitt Street Brewing Company will not allow more than 15% of its capacity inside during St. Patrick's Day, as COVID-19 protocol states. The "Dapple Dog Dry Stout" will be \$6 a pint, and the Irish Red Ale special will be \$4 a pint.

"We're excited. It's the one year anniversary of COVID-19. We want something to celebrate the holiday that's fun and you can get out and hopefully enjoy a beer safely. We have it spread out over the weekend so it's any of four days that you feel comfortable coming to the brewery," Long 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 for more information.



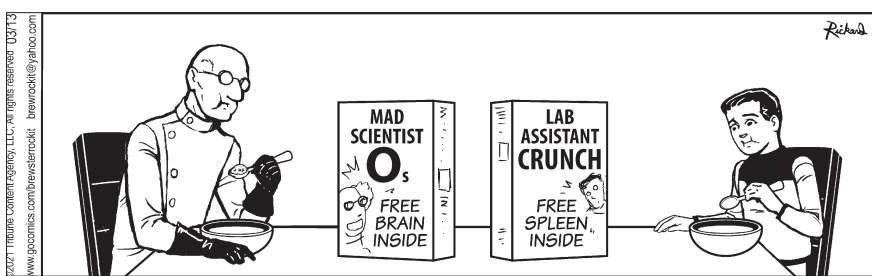
HOROSCOPES

- Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — You may discover a financial barrier or structural problem. Review the data. Get experienced support when needed. Stay frugal while building back stronger.
- Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Enjoy an unusual assignment. Push to keep your deadlines and agreements. Reliable communication and support grow your professional reputation. Your work reflects you well.
- Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Focus on work and health. Stick to simple activities, foods and routines. You can see what's not working. Reduce risk. Keep maintaining safe practices.
- Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 9 — Despite misgivings, you're on to something. A surprising personal development inspires action. Avoid risk. Wait for better conditions. Plan and organize. Polish your public image.
- Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — A change could seem abrupt. Avoid risk or unstable travel conditions. Explore from your own backyard. Learn valuable skills and tricks. Pivot to adapt.
- Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — Discover spontaneous fun and even romance. Relax and wait for developments. Keep a positive mindset. Find unexpected beauty. Love is your reward.
- Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 6 — Patiently persist. Keep nurturing yourself and others. Share acts of kindness. Unplug and recharge. Enjoy natural connection and privacy. Enjoy your cozy cocoon.
- Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Discover a brilliant financial solution. Contribute to advance a shared venture. File documents and send invoices. You can find the resources needed. Collaboration pays.
- Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Focus on domestic priorities. Slow to avoid breakage. Clean messes and make repairs. Your home is your family's sanctuary; upgrade the comfort level.
- Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 7 — An unexpected barrier to a team goal requires adaptation. You can see what doesn't work. Adjust and make corrections. Encourage friends and allies.
- Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Creative collaboration sparks. Speculate on potential solutions and try the most likely. Share ideas, resources and perspectives. Connect around a challenge with your partner.
- Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Adapt to surprising news. Listen and learn. Clarify misunderstandings. Defend your position calmly. You get farther with honey than vinegar. Express from your heart.

(c)2017 BY NANCY BLACK. DISTRIBUTED BY TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BLISS

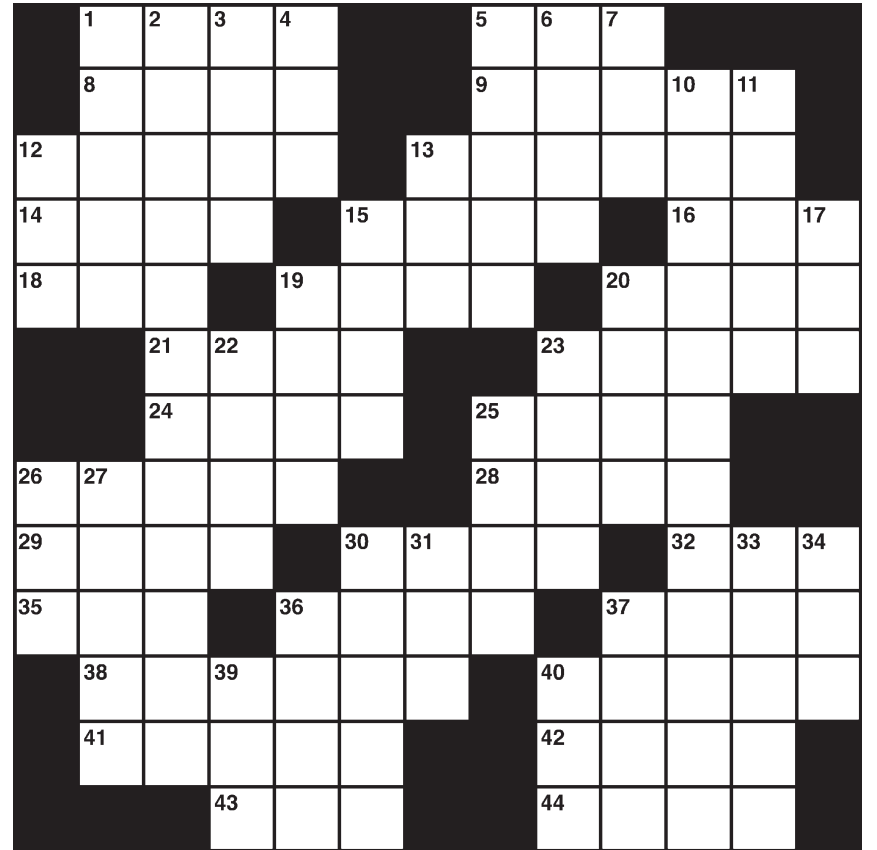


"All this online learning sort of makes you miss the head lice days, huh?"

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 "The ___ Doctor"
 - 5 Felix or Stimp
 - 8 Red Muppet
 - 9 Actor Ballard
 - 12 Moran & Gray
 - 13 John or Jason
 - 14 1 of the 12 Tribes of Israel
 - 15 Johnny Carson's successor
 - 16 "NCIS: ___ Angeles"
 - 18 180 degrees from NNW
 - 19 "___ Black"
 - 20 "Yours, ___ & Ours"; Dennis Quaid/Rene Russo film
 - 21 Greek letters
 - 23 ___ Lee Soffer of "Chicago P.D."
 - 24 Actress Helen
 - 25 Club member fees
 - 26 "___ 66"; series of the '60s
 - 28 Singer Paul
 - 29 Cutlass or Alero
 - 30 Series for Tony Shalhoub
 - 32 Howard or Paul
 - 35 Takes too much, for short
- DOWN**
- 36 Voigt & Cryer
 - 37 Crazy
 - 38 "The \$___ Pyramid"
 - 40 "To Tell the ___"
 - 41 "___ the Dragon"; Bruce Lee movie
 - 42 Suffix for annoy or perform
 - 43 Poet Eliot's monogram
 - 44 ___ Reese; "Person of Interest" role
 - 1 Actor Richard & his kin
 - 2 "Splitting Up Together" actor
 - 3 Prefix for potent or bus
 - 4 Uno, ___, tres...
 - 5 Actor Sir Michael ___
 - 6 Singing voice
 - 7 ___ for tat
 - 10 Actress on "The Big Bang Theory"
 - 11 Actor Jeremy
 - 12 Golfer Ernie
 - 13 "The ___ Skelton Hour"
 - 15 Series for Matthew Fox
 - 17 "We're off to ___ the Wizard..."
 - 19 Ice cream scoop holder
 - 20 Submissive; docile
 - 22 Homes for "Gilligan's Island" castaways
 - 23 Garbage
 - 25 Rather & Aykroyd
 - 26 One of Winnie the Pooh's pals
 - 27 Nostalgic song
 - 30 Mary Tyler or Dudley
 - 31 Beatle wife
 - 33 Frequently
 - 34 Ultimate degree
 - 36 Montana and Mantegna
 - 37 First James Bond movie
 - 39 Mel the Giant
 - 40 India's ___ Mahal

Solution from 03/10

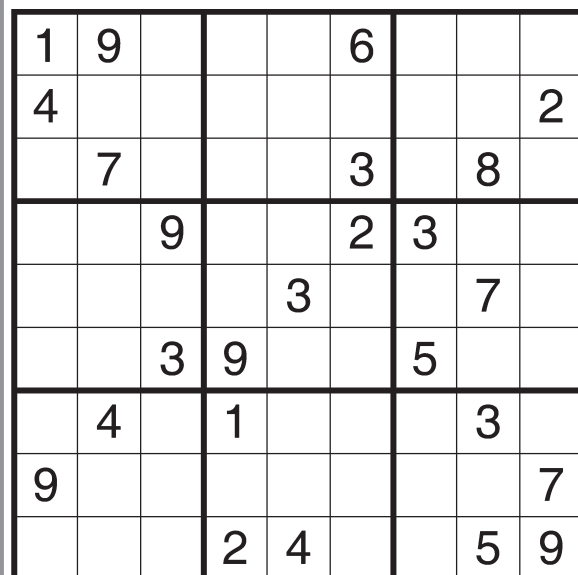


SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level

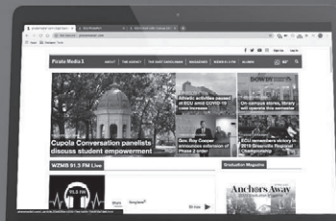


Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk

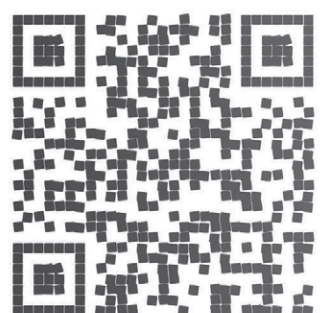
Solution from 03/10

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

© 2019 The Mepham Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.



Get your fill of news, sports, music, arts and events on the NEW Pirate Media 1 website at PirateMedia1.com.



Pirate Media

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

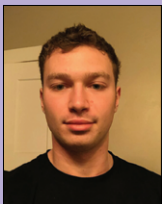
TEC 'sports

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

Jess Sabin

Baseball reporter

@Jess_Sabin



ECU vs. Illinois State on March 19 through March 21
Who Wins? ECU sweeps 3-0
Why? ECU has

gotten off to a strong start and has shown to be a very well rounded team as both its offense and defense have been hot right out the gate. Illinois currently sits at below .500 on the season and the talent gap between the two teams will be too much for Illinois State to overcome.

Pat Polomchak

Sports Editor

@pattywhaKK



Soccer vs. SMU on March 21
Who wins? ECU wins 1-0
Why? Southern Methodist University

has yet to play a game this season due to a series of postponements under COVID-19 protocols, and is set to finally open its season today against Temple at 7 p.m. ECU, on the other hand, has had an up and down season which has featured draws on two occasions. ECU takes this one simply because they have more experience this year, but the Pirates still fail to score more than one point.

Brendan Cavazos

Sports Chief

@bcvaz_xi

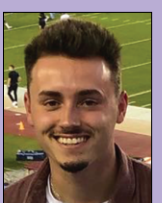


Lacrosse vs. ODU on March 19 and March 21
Who wins? ECU will go 2-0
Why? ECU and Old

Dominion University have won games by double digits this season, but they both have also been on the losing end by double digits as well. As the Pirates head into the first games of conference play, they will be fired up to start off 2-0 in the AAC. ODU has one more loss than ECU with a record of 2-5. The Pirates are at 2-4 currently, which means one team will secure its third win of the year.

Cade Carlson

Women's basketball reporter



Softball series vs. JMU on March 19 through March 21
Who wins? ECU will go 2-1
Why? It is hard to

judge how the Pirates will stack up against James Madison University since the Dukes will have only played six games to ECU's 19. Simply put, ECU's game experience in the early season should give the team the upper hand in this series.

PIRATES PACK A PITCH



Freshman right-handed pitcher Bradley Wilson follows through on a pitch from the mound in Clark-Leclair Stadium in Greenville, North Carolina.



Freshman right-handed pitcher/infielder Austin St. Laurent.



Freshman first baseman/right-handed pitcher C.J. Boyd prepares to pitch the ball.

ECU baseball will face UNCW

No. 9 Pirates prepare to take on the Seahawks in Wilmington

Stephen Babich
TEC STAFF

The No. 9 East Carolina University Pirates baseball team (13-2, 0-0 American Athletic Conference) will face the University of North Carolina (UNC) Wilmington Seahawks (10-3, 0-0 Colonial Athletic Association) on March 17 at 6 p.m. at Brooks Field in Wilmington, North Carolina, and the game will be available to stream on Flo-sports.

The Pirates completed a series sweep against the UNC Charlotte 49ers (8-6, 0-0 Conference USA) on March 12 through March 14 at Clark-LeClair Stadium in Greenville, North Carolina. Meanwhile, the Seahawks had a sweep of their own on March 12 through March 14 against the Appalachian State Mountaineers (6-8, 0-0 Sun Belt Conference).

In the first game of the series against Charlotte, the Pirates won 7-4. According to ECU Pirates.com, junior pitcher Jake Kuchmaner had a career high 10 strikeouts. Kuchmaner also earned his second win of the year, after he allowed two earned runs.

The game was tied at two runs until the bottom of the fourth inning when junior catcher Ben Newton hit an RBI single, which allowed sophomore Ryder Giles and freshman Josh Moylan to score.

ECU was able to score two more runs

in the bottom of the fifth. The Pirates then got one more run in the bottom of the seventh, which made the score 7-4 in favor of ECU. This score stood until the end of the game and the Pirates came away with a victory.

To continue the series, in the second game against the 49ers, ECU won 3-1. Freshman pitcher Carson Whisenhunt recorded seven scoreless innings and had nine strikeouts. This was Whisenhunt's third win of the season and he allowed three hits and two walks.

Whisenhunt said it felt great to put together a game with seven scoreless innings and nine strikeouts.

"At that point, my arm speed was working really well for me," Whisenhunt said. "Just doing my best to keep it (the ball) in the zone and make them (the 49ers) swing and miss."

Sophomore infielder Connor Norby led the Pirates with three hits in the game. Norby hit his fifth home run of the season in the bottom of the seventh inning, which allowed Giles to score as well and gave the Pirates a 3-0 lead.

Sophomore catcher Aaron McKeithan hit a home run for the 49ers in the top of the ninth inning. His home run stood as the only run UNCC scored in the game, which resulted in a final score of 3-1 in

ECU's favor.

In the third and final game of the series, the Pirates again won 3-1. ECU's redshirt senior pitcher Matt Bridges earned his second win of the season in relief, only allowing one hit.

According to Charlotte49ers, the 49ers scored early in the first inning when junior catcher/outfielder Craig Keuchel scored off an attempt from sophomore catcher Aaron McKeithan. This ended up to be the 49ers' only run of the game.

The Pirates scored one run in the second and third inning each. Moylan hit a home run in the sixth inning, which sealed the win for ECU.

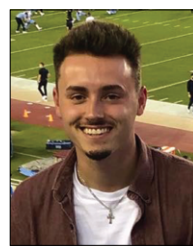
According to UNCWsports, in the Seahawks' final game against the Mountaineers, the Seahawks won 7-1. Redshirt sophomore Brooks Baldwin recorded three hits and two runs. The Seahawks built a 7-0 lead up until the top of the ninth inning, when senior outfielder Alex Leshock recorded an RBI single.

After they play the 49ers, the Pirates will face the Illinois State Redbirds (5-9, 0-0 Missouri Valley Conference) on March 19, March 20 and March 21 at Clark-LeClair Stadium in Greenville, North Carolina.

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

» ANALYSIS

Women's basketball persevered



Cade Carlson
TEC STAFF

When the East Carolina University women's basketball team's (8-14, 6-10 American Athletic Conference) 2019-2020 season was cut short due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was unclear what the

next step for the program would be. With no warning and no postseason to play, uncertain times were ahead for the Pirates.

Head coach Kim McNeill said the COVID-19 pandemic played a heavy role in how ECU went about its preparation for the 2020-2021 season.

"It (the COVID-19 pandemic) was just very, very stressful and it didn't allow us to have a postseason," McNeill said. "You know after last year it didn't really allow us to have a summer. It didn't allow us to have a traditional non-conference schedule."

When ECU entered the COVID-19 impacted 2020-2021 season, it was picked to finish No. 9 in the AAC preseason ranks. In addition, senior guard Lashonda Monk, the reigning AAC Defensive Player of the Year (DPOY) at the time, was named a preseason all-AAC first team selection.

Due to the fact that the Pirates wanted to plan their non-conference schedule in an effort to keep their players safe, they put together a non-traditional out of conference schedule. The five non-conference games featured contests with the Tow-



Freshman guard Alexsia Rose aims for a shot on basket at the Pirates' game against VCU.

son University Tigers, the University of Virginia (UVA) Cavaliers, the University of Georgia Bulldogs, the Duke University Blue Devils and the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Rams.

McNeill said she was proud of how disciplined her team was this season in how they handled what was asked of them with the COVID-19 precautions and protocols put in place.

"I don't know how many other teams in the country can say that they went the whole season with zero cases (of COVID-19)," McNeill said. "That displayed huge sacrifice, huge discipline and I think that first and foremost the ladies should be applauded for that."

ECU went 2-3 in its non-conference schedule, with three games against Power Five opponents, as they were able to secure wins against UVA and VCU. The Pirates

rattled off three straight victories to start AAC play against the Southern Methodist University Mustangs (0-6, 0-2 AAC), the University of Cincinnati Bearcats (8-16, 6-12 AAC), and the Tulane University Green Wave (17-8, 12-6 AAC). This gave ECU a 5-3 overall record as it went into winter break.

After winter break, the Pirates would lose seven straight AAC matchups in the month of January. However, ECU wanted to put themselves in a position to have success toward the end of the season when it mattered most. The Pirates went 3-3 in their final six matchups of the 2020-2021 season, and they finished at No. 6 in the AAC ranks which gave them a first round bye in the AAC Tournament.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY