



# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 04.07.21

VOLUME 95, ISSUE 25



ECU health workers Marion Mills and Donna Roberson work in the Croatan building to distribute COVID-19 vaccinations.

## Fall planning team to hold first session

Emily Peek  
TEC STAFF

The planning team created by Chancellor Philip Rogers to organize a safe return to campus in the fall semester will hold its first meeting today at 3 p.m., where the 16-member team will begin to strategize a plan for Pirate Nation.

The team consists of officials and experts within campus safety, campus operations, faculty department chairs and more, who will aid in the development of a safe return plan for the East Carolina University community.

With scheduled weekly meetings in place, the 16-member-team is expected to discuss what can be anticipated in the fall and address aspects of the plan to strategize a safe return to campus for Pirate Nation. The planning team meetings will continue to be held every Wednesday at 3 p.m.

Rogers said in an email statement that the planning team will consider strategic, operational and logistical needs related to a return to campus in the fall. He said aspects such as dining, athletics, classrooms and residence halls will be addressed by the team.

“We know that some public health measures such as wearing (face) masks will likely be required; however, as our campus community takes advantage of access to the COVID-19 vaccine, returning to campus with increased density is an achievable goal,” Rogers said. “I want to stress the importance of receiving the vaccine. It is not required, but it is highly encouraged since the vaccine is key to returning to campus.”



Philip Rogers

Rogers said he chose Special Assistant to the Chancellor Ron Mitchelson and Associate Provost of Institutional Planning, Assessment and Research Ying Zhou to co-chair the team because of their leadership experience, as Mitchelson served as ECU’s former interim chancellor and Zhou is responsible for ECU’s COVID-19 dashboard.

ECU’s return to campus will abide by the University of North Carolina (UNC) System and state COVID-19 guidelines, Rogers said. He said his main priority with a return to campus is student safety.

“Looking ahead to the fall semester, much of the work of the planning committee will be making sure our campus continues to be adaptive and agile in this environment so we can design events and in-person classes and events that are safe and engaging for our campus,” Rogers said. “We’ve heard from our students that they want to be on campus; I want that too and in the safest way possible.”

## NC enters Phase 5 today

All adults are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccinations

Breanna Sapp  
TEC STAFF

North Carolina began its transition into Phase 5 of the state’s COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan today, which allows all adults aged 16 and older to be qualified for a COVID-19 vaccine and will continue to expand eligibility to all of East Carolina University’s campus.

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Office of Communications Specialist Bailey Pennington wrote in an email statement on April 1 that free COVID-19 vaccines will be available to adults throughout North Carolina to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible, however, supplies will be limited. Pennington said the state aims to support both local and federal vaccine providers and to prioritize programs like the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program

As of April 5, over 3 million individuals throughout North Carolina have been partially vaccinated, Pennington said, while over 2 million people have been fully vaccinated, which amounts over 20% of the adult population.

Pennington said there were 1,054 new COVID-19 cases throughout the state as of April 5, a significant improvement since January due to measures put in place by the state, increased vaccine accessibility and improved knowledge of the virus.

“As North Carolina’s numbers continue to show improvement and vaccine distribution increases, the state has used a dimmer approach to ease restrictions safely,” Pennington said. “However, we still have work to do.”

LaNika Wright, director of ECU Student Health Services (SHS), said though the Croatan building on campus has opened regularly for vaccinations, SHS receives vaccines based on the state’s availability and is informed of the number they will receive the week previous to the allocation.

She said SHS then receives the vaccines the following Tuesday to distribute to students, faculty and staff on campus that week. Vaccine availability to college stu-

dents will be a game changer for universities across the state throughout these next few months, Wright said, and increased accessibility alongside improved COVID-19 conditions seem to put the state on the right path. Although the university remains cautious, Wright said she’s hopeful for some sense of normalcy for the fall 2021 semester.

Wright said students should visit the SHS website to view updates on vaccination appointment availability.

“My gut tells me that we’re getting there. I will say this, based off of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommendations that came out last week or the week before where they loosened restrictions on people who are vaccinated,” Wright said. “Even with little changes like that from the CDC, it kind of gives you hope that, yeah, we’re headed in the right direction.”

Assistant Director for Student Success and Conduct for Campus Living William Bullock said Campus Living urges students to get vaccinated



LaNika Wright

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## Painted Peacock celebrates renovation

Local paint-your-own pottery studio reopens after year-long closure

Kyle Arnoe  
TEC STAFF

The Painted Peacock, Paint Your Own Pottery and Creative Studio, located at 631 Red Banks Rd., reopened its doors yesterday with a celebration of seven years of innovation with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

Owner of The Painted Peacock Susan Buccì said the renovations come after a year of innovation and change. The shop, Buccì said, underwent several renovations to accommodate its guests’ expectations both off and online.

“It’s a lot, a lot of hard work went into this and so just to be able to show it off and there’s been a lot of people that came today that haven’t seen the studio in a year that are checking out the website now that its launched, and still tweaking that one, but yeah, and for them to just be like ‘wow what a difference.’ It was a great feeling and I think it was very successful overall and just really



Susan Buccì cuts the ribbon at the ceremony with the Greenville Chamber of Commerce on April 6.

pleased the direction the studio is going,” Buccì said after the event.

Buccì said the shutdown due to COVID-19 forced the business to evolve even more with a revitalization of its online presence, which included the addition of pottery to-go services and a retail line.

The renovations include a new logo, rebranding, a streamlined website and new

studio, Buccì said. Classes and events are still on hold, but will resume “when it’s more comfortable for groups to be together,” Buccì said, but The Painted Peacock has continued with its impression and hand printing services.

“The renovations now reflect more of the environment that we feel people can get

really creative in. It’s light and airy, and it was just important to create an environment that people felt comfortable and happy in,” Buccì said prior to the ceremony.

Helen Lewis, an employee of The Painted Peacock, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and held the ribbon as Buccì cut through it. Lewis said The Painted Peacock has undergone a total transformation.

Lewis said the entire studio has been repainted, the printing station has been updated, paints have been added to all the tables and the party area has been enclosed.

“I wish we had a picture of what it used to look like because it is totally different. We’re honing in on the color palette of the business like the branding, what it wants to look like, keeping it simple, paints, like bright and fun, but not like in your face, and expressive,” Lewis said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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## BRIEFS

**P-OTSA meeting to be held**

Today, the Pre-Occupational Therapy Student Association (P-OTSA) will host its April meeting through WebEx from 5 to 6 p.m. Lynn Murphy, director of admissions at East Carolina University's Occupational Therapy (OT) program, will discuss what the program is about and what it looks for in future employees. There will also be opportunities for participants to further discuss with Murphy the research and academic sides of (OT).

**G.O.L.D. series to continue virtually**

Today, The Growing Organizational Leadership Development Leader (G.O.L.D.) Series will host a weekly meeting through Microsoft Teams from 7 to 8 p.m. Emily Hammond, an ECU alumna, will share her experiences as an active leader on the university's campus. Participants should RSVP for this session through the ECU Engage website.

**Study Abroad information session to be hosted**

Today, East Carolina University's Study Abroad will host its weekly information session virtually from 4 to 5 p.m. ECU's offered study abroad programs, how to conduct research on those programs as well as financial aid and scholarships will be the topics discussed throughout the session. Participants can RSVP and join this session through the Engage website.

**Greenville City Council to hold meeting**

Tomorrow, the Greenville City Council will meet at 6 p.m. to discuss future plans for the City of Greenville which are centered around several annexations as well as ordinance requests. Individuals who want to attend this meeting can live stream the event on the GTV9 channel and the link can be found on the Greenville's City Council website.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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



KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

As final exams approach, an East Carolina University student works on a laptop in the Main Campus Student Center during the spring 2021 semester.

# Students urged to finish strong

## ECU faculty encourages campus community as final exams near

**Cayla Menges**  
TEC STAFF

As East Carolina University's 2020-2021 academic year nears its end, students are encouraged by university faculty to finish the spring 2021 semester strong as final exams for 15-week courses begin on April 29.

Associate Dean of Students Lauren Thorn said students are encouraged to plan ahead for their final exams and communicate with their professors if they have concerns about their exams. She said although final exams look different this year, it's important for students to make sure they are prepared.

Thorn said students should remain positive and utilize resources offered by ECU to alleviate struggles in their academic career.

"Having that spring break taken out, I think, was especially challenging," Thorn said.



**Lauren Thorn**

"We know there are a lot of students who don't feel they've had a good, long break for a while."

Students should remember that the changes COVID-19 caused are temporary, according to Thorn. She said as ECU prepares for the return to on-campus courses in the fall of 2021, students are encouraged to receive vaccinations prior to their return to campus.

Thorn said faculty, staff and students have continued to experience the repercussions from the COVID-19 pandemic. She said the transition to online courses in the fall 2020 semester and the addition of block-style courses were difficult to navigate for everyone.

Thorn said the implementation of the pass/fail grading option and the extended withdrawal date of April 27 provided flexibility and academic support for students. She said these options acknowledged the academic challenges students had to face.

"The block scheduling was hard and I don't want to dismiss that because it, I think, was just really hard all the way around," Thorn said.

Students interested in the withdrawal or pass/fail option should speak with their advisor, according to Thorn. She said students should make sure there are no implications to their financial aid eligibility, requirements for majors or future acceptance into programs before they decide to withdraw or pass/fail an academic course.

Although the 2020-2021 academic school year was different from previous years, Thorn said seniors should not let it diminish the celebration of their accomplishments. She said it can be easy for students to get discouraged by changes to events they look forward to, such as graduation.

Thorn said ECU appreciates students who have continued to work hard to make the year successful. She said she has seen resilience from students who continue to overcome obstacles and challenges.

"It may not feel like the same sort of expectations or even the nostalgia we think of when we think of major milestones," Thorn said. "But they are still things that are worthy of celebration and we want to find it easy to acknowledge that and to recognize how much we appreciate our students who have hung in there with us."

Director of the Pirate Academic Success Center (PASC) Elizabeth Coghill said students should be proud of challenges they've overcome throughout the academic year.

Coghill said students can utilize test review sessions for their courses' final exams through PASC. She said students must plan and prepare for exams ahead of time in an effort to be successful on their final exams.

Student tutors are prompted by professors on materials to include in test reviews which will be on the courses final exam, according to Coghill.

"There's a planning process behind these student test reviews because we recognize for students that's high stakes," Coghill said. "We want to make sure that's accurate information."

Some courses require final exams taken at a Proctoring Center or via a webcam proctor online, Coghill said. She said she encourages students to recreate their test environment if

they feel anxious about proctored exams.

Coghill said the next few weeks in the semester are important and can be the reason they pass or fail a course.

The last month of school can be hard for seniors, Coghill said, as the anticipation of graduation can shift their focus away from their courses. She said she encourages students to lean on someone if they need support.

"These next few weeks can make the difference between a B or a C, so we really want our students to almost count down the days, you know, on that calendar but to propel themselves just to finish as strong as they possibly can," Coghill said.

Students who were freshman in the fall of 2020 will face a major transition their sophomore year as courses move face-to-face in the upcoming fall, according to Coghill.

She said they haven't learned the pace of classes in-person and many may feel like freshmen again as they navigate life on-campus. Coghill said PASC will continue to work on the design of programs geared toward those who will be sophomores this fall in an effort to help them navigate any challenges they may face. She said she hopes students will utilize these programs to ease their transition.

Junior public health major Madison Holt said in an email statement she has one final exam which will be proctored through a webcam, but is excited she does not have to go to a proctoring center to take the monitored test in-person. She said the transition to online courses this academic year was not difficult for her, as she had taken online courses her previous years.

"I feel like the year went pretty well for me," Holt said. "Most of my professors were very understanding and tried to help us any way they could."

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**Elizabeth Coghill**

## VACCINE continued from A1

in the coming months as COVID-19 cases remain steady on campus. St. Patrick's Day brought a small recent uptick in positive COVID-19 cases, Bullock said, however it's nothing close to a level of concern.

Campus Living plans to leave 750 beds for quarantine and isolation this fall, Bullock said, as well as continue to require students to submit a negative PCR (nasal swab) test for entry to the university and to monitor COVID-19 surveillance of those not vaccinated. He said vaccines will allow things to relax a bit more in the fall, though masks and other cautionaries may become the "new normal" for campus temporarily.

"Students are getting vaccinated and are feeling a little bit more free, but the risk is still there, and that's just something we really want to hammer home," Bullock said. "Just because you were vaccinated doesn't mean that you can't transmit (COVID-19) or anything like that. We want to make sure that mask-wearing is still something that we see, we still want the 3 W's: wash, wear, wait."

Casey Weidner, a sophomore recreational therapy major, said she got her first dose of



**William Bullock**

the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine about three weeks ago at a local Walgreens Pharmacy.

COVID-19 vaccines have been widely accessible for college students so far, Weidner said, and the university's involvement has helped this. She said she hopes her peers will take the initiative to get vaccinated in the coming months as the state increases accessibility.

Weidner believes North Carolina's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan has prioritized the population in the best way possible, and she said she's impressed by how quickly the state has distributed the COVID-19 vaccines.

"I mean, I think it's huge (that all of ECU is eligible for a vaccine) because it's herd immunity. It's backed up by science," Weidner said. "So, if anyone wants anything to ever go back to normal, I think you almost in a sense have to get vaccinated for that to happen."

The state of North Carolina continues to distribute vaccines at a fast rate, according to a North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper press release issued yesterday. The press release said as of yesterday, North Carolina has distributed over 5.2 million COVID-19 vaccine doses and 26% of adults 18 years and older have received vaccines.

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## FALL continued from A1

Mitchelson said while it may be difficult to achieve normalcy, the planning team's main goal is to return safely. He said it's important to monitor ECU and Pitt County's COVID-19 case numbers daily. As of date of publication, ECU currently stands at 35 total new cases and Pitt County stands at 83 total new cases.

The chancellor's intention to return to normalcy is important for everyone, according to Mitchelson. He said planning team groups will coordinate with respective officials within the ECU community and call in guidance from experts as needed.

"We indicated to our workers that in order to reduce density, and reduce the spread of COVID-19, that people should work remotely if possible and now we've got to reverse that, they need to think about coming back," Mitchelson said. "We will design, probably a calendar, for the return of workers to campus."

Mitchelson said employees will return to campus in a way that is sequenced and rational in order to promote safety.

The team will discuss a backup plan, while its main plan is a safe return to campus, Mitchelson said. He said it is possible that the mask mandate will continue at the start of the fall 2021 semester.

"I think the first few weeks will always be the scariest few weeks. It was last fall and it didn't work, it was this spring and it worked,"

Mitchelson said. "The opening next August, for the first couple of weeks, we have to be nervous and we have to be cautious."

Students should consider their behavior when off-campus, Mitchelson said. He said it is expected that students remain careful and smart about the ongoing pandemic.

Zhou said in an email statement that it has been a privilege to work with Mitchelson and Rogers. She said she feels honored to be a part of the contribution to the return to campus as well as participate as a member of the university's planning team.

"As Dr. Rogers stated in his letter to the ECU community, 'safety remains our priority.' The fall 2021 planning group will be inclusive, transparent and vigilant and we will follow the guidance from the UNC System and public health officials," Zhou said.

Team members will reach out to faculty, staff and students in the coming weeks for input and solutions, Zhou said. She said while she is a coordinator of the team, other members are leaders of their respective areas in the university.



**Ying Zhou**

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## OUR VIEW

### 'Safety Gals' proves importance

The Facebook group "Safety Gals" is a familiar tool to many women on East Carolina University's campus that provides a place for women to give tips and information about criminal activity they have seen or heard about in Greenville, North Carolina, and on campus.

Resources such as "Safety Gals" provide a space for candid conversation amongst peers about crime and dangerous situations women in the area may find themselves in. It provides a direct line of communication between women about these situations and eliminates the time it takes for official crime reports to be released to the public.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe there are significant safety concerns women in the ECU community face, and resources such as "Safety Gals" should be utilized to spread awareness.

Additionally, women should be aware of the volume of crimes which occur on and around campus. "Safety Gals" not only makes women aware of possible specific threats to their safety, but can make them overall more vigilant. If women were more aware of the unfortunate truth about how much violence occurs in the area they may be more careful to avoid possibly dangerous situations.

It is important for women who have been victims of crimes to know they have the support of the ECU Police Department (PD).

The East Carolinian has partnered with ECU PD to host "TECTalk: Spotlight on Safety," an event which will feature a panel discussion focused on local concerns and the importance of female safety. The event will take place through Zoom today at 3 p.m.. To participate, individuals can use this link or use the Meeting ID: 844 0956 9935 and password: Safety.

SHENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



"LOOK INTO MY SCARF. YOU ARE GETTING VERY SLEEPY. WHEN I SNAP MY FINGERS YOU WILL FORGET THE TIME I SAT SILENTLY AS THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED YOU INJECT YOURSELF WITH BLEACH."

## Educational issues need focus

### The US school system requires adjustments for student success

#### Tano Talk



Macie Tano  
TEC COLUMNIST

As my time at East Carolina University as a student nears its end, I have to reflect on the education I have received and my thoughts on the United States education system.

While I have received a great education during my time at ECU, I believe there are many pitfalls in the U.S. education system that need to be addressed.

Each year, we see large numbers of dropouts in the U.S. In fact, 33% of students dropout of college every year, according to Admissionsly. Along with that, 57% of enrolled college students take more than six years to graduate. I believe these rates would be lower if the U.S. focused on the education system more.

There are a multitude of reasons why the college dropout rate is so high and why students are taking longer than usual to finish their schooling. The first major issue in the U.S. education system is the deficits in government funding for public schools.

According to Public School Review, more than 90% of K-12 schools have funding that comes from state and local governments which is largely generated from sales and income taxes. That funding has unfortunately not increased with the schools' needs, and in turn are receiving inadequate funding. Less funding for these schools can contribute to the higher rates of drop-outs and poor education for students.

The decrease of teacher salaries is another reason why the U.S. education



COURTESY OF DREAMSTIME | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

The U.S. needs to focus on its education system more in order for students to succeed.

system is failing. The average salary for teachers in the U.S. dropped by nearly 5% between the 2009-2010 school year and the 2018-2019 school year, according to Public School Review. In order for the U.S. education system to thrive teachers deserve proper salaries.

Something else I personally find problematic with the U.S. education system, particularly for colleges, is the extra time and money spent on classes that have nothing to do with a student's major or minor. Sure, elective classes can be interesting, but what is the point of them if they are not benefitting the student in their major or minor studies?

Since the pandemic hit, education and communication between students and teachers continued virtually. While it is an innovative approach to teaching during the pandemic, many teachers and students are not properly equipped in using these new technologies, leading to students falling behind in school.

Since education has continued virtually, there has been a lack of communica-

tion between teachers and students. This is a problem I have personally dealt with, as I have had professors that didn't know how to properly work Canvas, and have additionally had professors who barely communicated or didn't communicate with me about my classwork. Without proper training in these technologies, communication between teachers and

ONLINE | FULL STORY

students will continue to lack, and students will fall behind in their classes.

Overall, I am beyond grateful for the education I have received over the years, as I know this opportunity unfortunately isn't available for everybody. However, I believe there are many issues that need to be addressed in the U.S. education system. Low teacher salaries, inadequate government funding, lack of focus on major and minor studies, technological and communication issues are only the tip of the iceberg.

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

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## Vaccines should not be feared

"I encourage those who are hesitant to become vaccinated to do a great deal of research before finalizing their decision of not receiving it."

-Emily Peek



Emily Peek  
TEC COLUMNIST

It is important to take advantage of the accessibility of COVID-19 vaccinations across the nation while they are being distributed in an effort to return to normalcy at a faster rate. While hesitation

surrounding the vaccine can be attributed to the short amount of time taken for production, there was a global cooperation of experts who partnered together to test and produce the vaccine at a fast rate.

The first COVID-19 vaccines to be distributed aside from clinical trials was in December 2020, and up until March, I didn't think I would be able to get the vaccine for many months to come. Now, in April 2021, there are multiple locations available for vaccines, and a large number of people are eligible to receive their doses.

While I understand why many are hesitant to get the vaccine I strongly believe it is important for people everywhere to get vaccinated.

I have seen the argument that since the flu vaccine took a few years to produce, the COVID-19 vaccine cannot be safe because the production took less than a year. In the midst of the global pandemic, researchers, scientists, experts and

professionals from all over the world came together to cooperate in combating the virus and producing the vaccine.

On April 2, I got my first dose of the Pfizer vaccine at the Greenville Convention Center. I made my appointment the day before and experienced no difficulties or confusion. I have never been one to be afraid of needles or shots, though I was nervous about the side effects after hearing about other peoples' experiences.

My arm was sore for a few days, but other than that, I felt completely fine. I have also never had COVID-19, which I know can increase the intensity of side effects from the vaccine. This goes along with the argument that people who experience side effects will be more protected from the virus than those that don't, which is not how vaccines work.

It is my understanding that the first

dose of the vaccine introduces, or reintroduces, COVID-19 antibodies into the body in an effort to build up immunity to the virus so that the second dose can alert the body that the antibodies need to stay.

Mass vaccination across the country will allow for the spread of the virus to be contained and under control at a faster rate. Experts have expressed the idea that social distancing, masks and the presence of the vaccine could be around for many more years if enough of the population decides against receiving the vaccine.

I encourage those who are hesitant to become vaccinated to do a great deal of research, as well as listen to the professionals who tested and produced the vaccine, before finalizing their decision of not receiving it.

Emily Peek 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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## TEC 'sports

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

### Stephen Babich

Track and field reporter

@stephenbabich1



#### Track and Field at the Gamecock Invitational on April 10

**Who wins?** Niejel Wilkins will finish in the top 5 in the

triple jump

**Why?** Wilkins has the fourth best jump in ECU's history of 15.31 meters. Wilkins came in second in the triple jump as he recorded a distance of 15.25 meters at the Darius Dixon Invitational, which was on Feb. 12 and Feb. 13 and was the last meet of the indoor season. Therefore, Wilkins will have a lot of momentum on his side.

### Cade Carlson

Women's basketball reporter



#### ECU softball vs. UNCW on April 7

**Who wins?** ECU by a score of 9-5

**Why?** The Pirates have had time to

prepare for the game since they had a game postponed against Campbell. On the other hand, University of North Carolina at Wilmington will be coming off of a double header. ECU's preparation time should help the team win the game.

### Brendan Cavazos

Sports Chief

@bcvaz\_xi



#### ECU soccer vs. Memphis on April 11

**Who wins?** ECU wins 3-1

**Why?** ECU comes off a 4-0 shutout win

against the University of Tulsa. Even though the University of Memphis only has two losses on the season, the Pirates should be able to ride the momentum of their previous match into this game. This will be the final game of the Pirates' season, which provides even more reason for ECU to come out on top.

### Jess Sabin

Baseball reporter

@Jess\_Sabin



#### ECU baseball vs. Memphis on April 9 through April 11

**Who wins?** ECU wins series 3-1

**Why?** ECU has

won its last five games in a row while Memphis has lost its last three straight. Overall this season, ECU has shown to be the far better team and this will show during the series, however, ECU has shown vulnerability throughout the season and Memphis will be able to steal a game.



COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

Junior infielder Ashleigh Inae looks to throw the ball from infield during the team's three-game sweep of Ohio University earlier this season.

## Softball travels to UNCW

### Pirates prepare for non-conference game against Seahawks

Cade Carlson  
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University softball team (10-16, 1-3 American Athletic Conference) will have a non-conference matchup against the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) Seahawks (7-15, 4-2 Colonial Athletic Association) today at 5 p.m. in Wilmington, North Carolina, and the game can be seen on Flosoftball.

The Pirates recently lost three of four games in a series against the Wichita State University Shockers (24-5, 7-1 AAC) from March 26 through March 28 in Wichita, Kansas. ECU lost by a score of 16-1 on March 26, 7-4 on March 27 and 10-2 on March 28.



Olivia Narron

The Pirates' one win in the series came by a score of 8-4 on March 28. In that game, ECU had 11 hits, seven runs batted in and a total of two home runs.

In the matchup history between ECU and

UNCW, the Pirates hold an advantage in the all-time series as they are up 19-8. However, UNCW has won six out of its last 10 matchups against the Pirates.

The last time the two teams met, ECU was able to pick up a victory by a score of 6-4 on March 13, 2018, at the Max R. Joyner Family Stadium in Greenville, North Carolina.

This season, the Seahawks have a team batting average of .250 as they have 141 total hits in 564 at bats. In addition, UNCW has scored 78 runs through 22 games and they have batted in 61 of those runs.

The Pirates have been led by their upperclassmen this season in senior utility player Rachel McCollum and senior outfielder Olivia Narron. McCollum has led ECU at the plate this season, as she has a batting average of .370 and she has 27 total hits in 73 at bats. Meanwhile, Narron leads the team in total runs scored with 19 of her own and she is first on the team in hits with 29 total.

At the plate, the Seahawks have hit a total of six home runs and they have a team slugging percentage of .324 on the year. UNCW has an on base percentage of .320 and the

team has had 426 putouts this season.

Thus far in the season, the Pirates have a team batting average of .276 as they have 187 total hits in 678 at bats. In addition, ECU has scored 116 runs this season through 26 games and 101 of those runs have been batted in.

The Pirates have also hit a total of 23 home runs and they have a team slugging percentage of .414. ECU as a team gets on base at a percentage of .370 and the team has been walked 81 times so far this season.

After the Pirates face off with the Seahawks, they will have a four-game AAC series against the No. 22 University of Central Florida Golden Knights (24-6, 4-0 AAC) from Friday through Sunday in Greenville, North Carolina. The first two games of the series on Friday will start at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and they can be streamed on ESPN+.

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

## WEEKEND ROUNDUPS

### Pirate soccer dominates over Tulsa on Senior Day

Markayla McInnis  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina University (3-4-2, 3-2-2 American Athletic Conference) women's soccer team hosted its senior day and was able to defeat the University of Tulsa Hurricanes (1-6, 1-6 AAC) 4-0 on April 3.

Overall, ECU had four goals on 20 shots compared to the Hurricanes' nine shot attempts. The teams had a combined 26 fouls and ECU managed to save six goals while Tulsa saved seven. ECU head coach Jason Hamilton said the Pirates hope to get a win next week so they can advance to the tournament after the regular season ends.

As part of the senior night festivities, senior forward Cashlin Copley, midfielder Madie Knaggs, forward Mikala Rhody and forward Erin Mikalsen were honored in their last home game as Pirates.

The Pirates' regular season comes to an end with their last game against the University of Memphis (7-2, 5-1 AAC) on April 11 at 2 p.m. in Memphis, Tennessee. The game will be available to stream on ESPN+.

### Lacrosse drops both games against Gators

Brendan Cavazos  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's lacrosse team (3-9, 1-5 American Athletic Conference) lost both matches against the University of Florida (9-2, 6-0 Southeastern Conference) in a two-game series over the weekend with final scores of 20-9 and 19-7 on April 1 and April 3, respectively.

Senior attacker Ally Stanton and senior midfielder Nicole LeGar both led the Pirates with three goals each on April 1. Stanton added two assists and LeGar added one of her own. Junior attacker Megan Tryniski, senior attacker Megan Pallozzi and junior midfielder Caroline Inderlied added a goal to the effort as well.

On April 3, Stanton and Pallozzi again led the team with two goals each. Sophomore attacker Frances Kimel, senior attacker Brittany Borchers and Tryniski each added a goal as well.

ECU will look to bounce back in a two-game series against conference opponent Temple University (6-3, 2-2 AAC) on April 16 and April 18. The game will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### Track and field competes in Bill Carson Invitational

Stephen Babich  
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University women's track and field team came in first in 16 events while the men's team came in first in 11 events on April 3 at the Bill Carson Invitational at Bate Foundation Track and Field facility in Greenville, North Carolina.

On the women's team, freshman sprinter Alyssa Sandy came in first in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 14.17 seconds. On the men's team, freshman jumper Nate Williams finished in first in the triple jump with a distance of 14.03 meters. The full list of first place finishers for the Pirates can be found on ECUPIrates.com.

The director of track and field and cross country teams Curt Kraft said he was proud of both the men's and women's teams. He expressed excitement about hosting the meet with friends and family in the crowd to cheer on the athletes, and said the team got better over the course of the meet.

The Pirates will compete in the Gamecock Invitational in Columbia, South Carolina, throughout the day on Saturday.

These writers can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

## Men's basketball faces transfer portal attrition

Stephen Babich  
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University men's basketball team has had six of its key players enter the transfer portal, within the time frame of March 22 to March 31, for the 2021-2022 season.

As th team consisted of 16 total players in the 2020-2021 season, nearly half of the team has entered the transfer portal.

The players include freshman guard Noah Farrakhan, sophomore center/Jordan Charles Coleman, junior forward Jayden Gardner, junior guard Miles James, senior guard Bitumba Baruti and senior center Edra Luster. Head basketball coach Joe Dooley said

he wishes the players who entered the transfer portal well.

"We're very appreciative of the contributions of each individual to our program and wish them well in their endeavors," Dooley said in a statement. "We're excited about the future of Pirate basketball with those who will be returning along with the addition of several newcomers."

Out of the 2020-2021 starting lineup, junior guard Tremont Robinson-White, sophomore guard Tristen Newton and redshirt junior Ludgy Debaut are the only starters from the 2020-2021 season that will remain on the

team for the 2021-22 season as of now.

Gardner received All-American Athletic Conference first team honors for the 2020-2021 season. Prior to the start of the season, Gardner was named to the Erving Award

Watch List in 2020 for the 2020-21 season. According to NCAA.com, the award is given to the best small forward in the nation. For the 2019-2020 season, Gardner was named to the All American Athletic Conference second team.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

This writer can be contacted at sports@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 [smas@ecu.edu](mailto:smas@ecu.edu) for more information.



## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Lead with heart. Good fortune flows through social networks and community efforts. Notice dreams and intuition. Adapt plans for new opportunities. Recharge to help others.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Coordinate for shared support. You and your partner are a powerful team. Lucrative possibilities are worth exploring. Strategize for growth. Collaboration could spark into romance.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Creativity abounds. Articulate the mission or vision of your project. Animate your ideas with illustrations, graphics or images. Issue statements and commentary. Domestic comforts inspire.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Your work is gaining respect. You can get whatever you need. Collaborate with friends, allies and associates. Advance professionally with help from friends.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 9 — Practice makes perfect. Maintain healthy routines for steady improvement. Nurture yourself with good food, exercise and rest. Go for a walk with your sweetheart.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — Profits follow the groundwork you've laid. Your disciplined efforts are paying off. Profits flow through communication channels. Refine your marketing pitch. Get the word out.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is an 8 — Explorations yield satisfying results. Apply what you're learning to advance professional goals. Research reveals dreamy opportunities. Consider potential career doors and choose which to open.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Romance and fun take priority. Enjoy time with family. Play games, sports and music. Practice your favorite hobbies. Exercise in nature scores extra points.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — Self-discipline reaps satisfying reward. Pursue a personal passion and take advantage of a lucky break. Dress for success. The doors that open offer profit potential.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Collaborate with shared finances. Discipline and luck form a lucrative blend. Explore opportunities with profit potential. You can learn what you need to know.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Domestic arts, crafts and organization projects satisfy. It could even get fun. Clean, beautify and prepare the space. Collaborate with someone sweet and share delicious results.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Consider where you've been and what's ahead. Adapt plans for circumstances. Rest and prepare for your next performance. Imagine what could be possible.

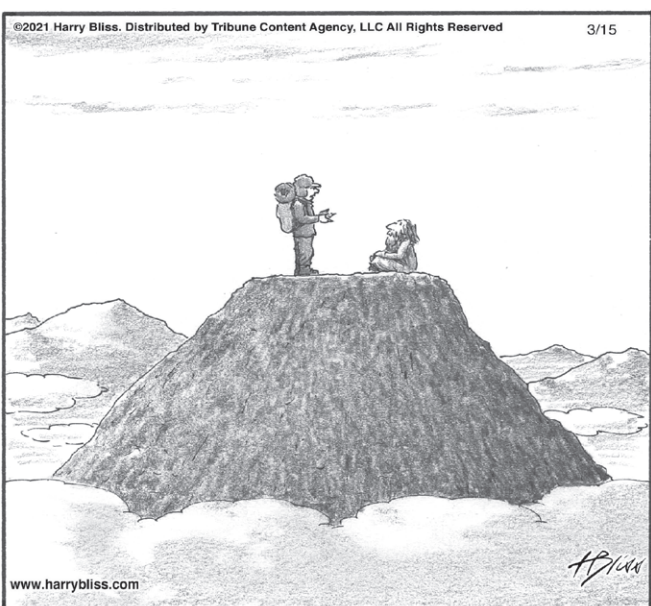
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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKIT



### BLISS

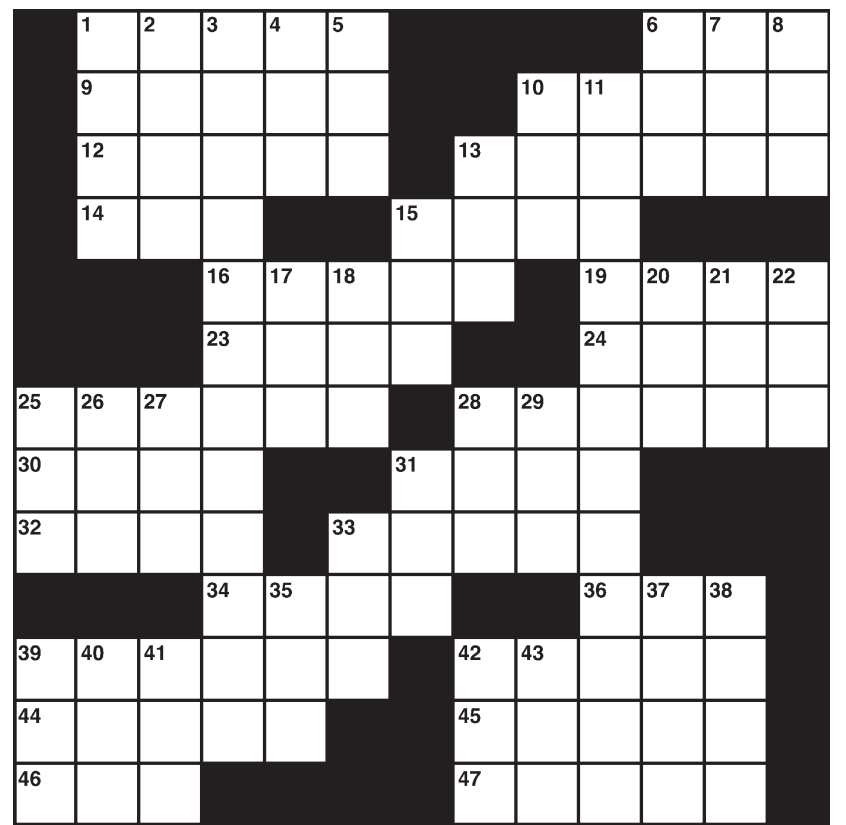


"I hate shopping, but I want to look cool."

## CROSSWORD

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Wheel of Fortune" player's purchase
  - 6 Bruce or Brandon
  - 9 "Hearts \_\_\_"; John Ritter sitcom
  - 10 Ryan Gosling/Carey Mulligan film
  - 12 Richard Dysart legal drama series
  - 13 "Leave It to \_\_\_"
  - 14 Long-running NBC weekend series
  - 15 "The \_\_\_ Campbell Goodtime Hour"
  - 16 Traditional nun's attire
  - 19 Nuts
  - 23 Alda or Thicke
  - 24 DaCosta of "Chicago Med"
  - 25 Melina Kanakaredes' "CSI: NY" role
  - 28 "Family \_\_\_"; Brian Keith sitcom
  - 30 Houses for "Gilligan's Island" castaways
  - 31 "Dr. \_\_\_"; psychologist's series
  - 32 "In the \_\_\_ of the Night"
  - 33 Actress \_\_\_ Katic
  - 34 Singer Fitzgerald
  - 36 Space; opening
  - 39 Peanut butter buyer's choice
- DOWN**
- 42 \_\_\_ Field
  - 44 "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" role
  - 45 "Let's Make \_\_\_"
  - 46 Hither and \_\_\_; in many directions
  - 47 Code inventor
  - 1 Kilmer & his namesakes
  - 2 "300: Rise \_\_\_ Empire"; fantasy war film
  - 3 "Chicago Med" role
  - 4 Historical period
  - 5 Actor Ayres
  - 6 Actress Ullmann
  - 7 Role on "Last Man Standing"
  - 8 Suffix for auction or puppet
  - 10 Billy \_\_\_ Williams
  - 11 Actor on "Chicago Fire"
  - 13 Sandwich letters
  - 15 Clear liquor
  - 17 "\_\_\_ in the Family"
  - 18 Cry from the flock
  - 20 Battery size
  - 21 Fictional newsmagazine series on "Murphy Brown"
  - 22 Street paver's goo
  - 25 "Be quiet!"
  - 26 Night we watch "New Amsterdam"; abbr.
  - 27 Letter from Greece
  - 28 \_\_\_ moment; instant of realization
  - 29 Ice-T's role on "Law & Order: SVU"
  - 31 "Harper Valley \_\_\_"
  - 33 Devious
  - 35 Author Alcott's monogram
  - 37 "Woe is me!"
  - 38 "Gomer \_\_\_: USMC"
  - 39 "Boys Don't \_\_\_"; Hilary Swank film
  - 40 Fraternity letter
  - 41 Very long time
  - 42 Role on "Cheers"
  - 43 "Much \_\_\_ About Nothing"

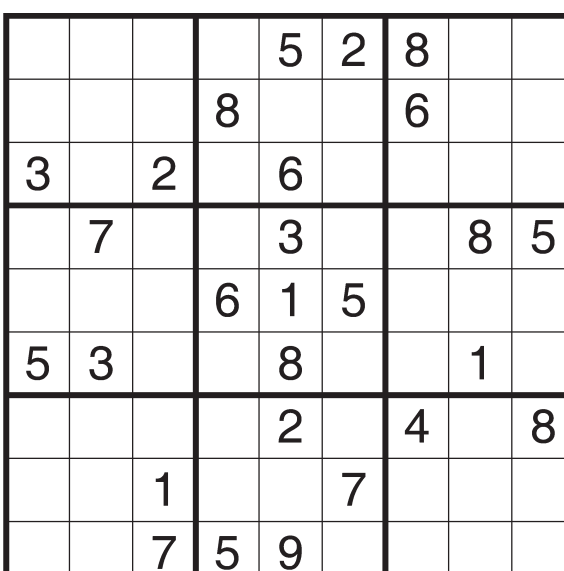


## SUDOKU

### SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level  
1 2  
3 4



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

Solution from 03/31

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

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



## EVENTS

### TODAY

#### Culture Fest

Main Campus Student Center Lawn  
1000 E. Fifth St.  
5 to 7 p.m.  
252-328-6495

#### Spring Break Art Camp

Emerge Gallery and Art Center  
404 Evans St.  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
252-551-6947

### TOMORROW

#### Pitt Street Run Club

Pitt Street Brewing Company  
630 S. Pitt St.  
6:15 to 9 p.m.  
252-227-4151

#### Uptown Brewing Pub Run

Uptown Brewing Company  
418 Evans St.  
6:15 to 7:15 p.m.  
252-689-6487



COURTESY OF JOHN DIXON

The East Carolina University School of Theatre and Dance pre-recorded its spring dance concert this year, which will premiere virtually on Friday.

## SoTD to host dance recital

### Seniors' final performance to mark end of spring season

**Yasmine Curmon-Ward**  
TEC STAFF

Senior dance students within the East Carolina University School of Theatre and Dance (SoTD) have prepared for their recital of the season as the ECU/Loessin Playhouse Spring Dance 2021 performance will premiere on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 2 p.m.

Tickets for the concert are avail-

able for purchase at theatredance.ecu.edu or through the box office at 252-328-6829. A link is sent by email to watch the concert.

Artistic Director of the ECU/Loessin Playhouse and Director of SoTD Jayme Klinger Host said the dance department continues to follow COVID-19 safety protocols.

"It is because of the diligence of our faculty and exceptional students that we've been able to comply

with COVID-19 regulations and still move forward with our training and our ability to stage a production for our community and our patrons," Host said.

Senior dance students are allowed to have two family members attend the concert, Host said.

Senior dance performance and choreography major Liza Eller is the student choreographer for the

spring 2021 recital.

"This experience has helped me so much because choreography is really where my passion lies and just going through this and getting to work with the stage managers, the lighting designers, concert coordinators and everyone involved," Eller said.

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

**ONLINE | FULL STORY**

## TECTalk

### Spotlight on Safety

Wednesday April 7 at 3 p.m.



As a rising number of female students within the East Carolina University community continue to experience targeted crime on and around campus, join The East Carolinian and the ECU Police Department for a discussion centered around the importance of female safety in our community. This event will shed light on the unfortunate experiences women continue to face in the area, as well as work to find a solution for Pirate safety. Members of the panel will include Deputy Chief of Police Jason Sugg, Sergeant Stephanie Carnevale, Master Police Officer Kim Bell and Captain Chris Sutton.

Meeting ID: 844 0956 9935

Passcode: Safety

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84409569935?pwd=b3hZeitRYzhiUVhzR05JRnZoNjhNZz09>

## State Theatre to reopen

**Reyna Crooms**  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The State Theatre in Greenville, North Carolina, will reopen tomorrow at 8 p.m. and the theater's staff will continue to collaborate with local artists and promoters to get back to regularly scheduled performances after a year of closure due to COVID-19.

Mark Thompson, co-owner of the State Theatre and the Lincoln Theatre, located in Raleigh, North Carolina, said he will continue to ensure the theater follows COVID-19 safety protocols. He said the theater will operate as a restaurant and performance venue with limited capacity, and everyone will be required to wear a face mask.

The theater will be opened at 15% capacity, according to the State Theatre's website. Tickets can be purchased in advance online. Thompson said patrons can buy a "pod," a table that guests can purchase for a group of people. Guests must arrive with their group and sit in the designated "pod" throughout the time spent in the theater.

The guests will be required to wear a face mask at all times while in the building, Thompson said, and can only be removed while eating or drinking. He said he looks forward to the return of the energy and music back within the space of the theater.

"Just hearing live music again, just getting the energy of the music and getting the business back open, looking forward to it," Thompson said.

The State Theatre has shows planned almost every Friday and Saturday for the rest of April, Thompson said. He said the show tomorrow will be an in-person performance by Led Zeppelin tribute band Zoso.

The pandemic caused the theater to lose "hundreds of thousands of dollars," which was not an easy loss, Thompson said.

"It was not easy having to continue to pay all your bills with zero money coming in, so that was a difficult task," Thompson said.

Jeff Blinder, a promoter and event coordinator in the Greenville area, said he coordinated his first event with the State Theatre in February 2020 and kept in touch with the State Theatre while it was closed.

He said he works with local artists and musicians through the entertainment company he founded, Spazz Presents. Blinder said he will continue to prepare for an event, "Spazz Fest Presents: August Is Ours w/ Versatility, Eclectic 252 & William Seymour," on April 17 at 7 p.m. at the State Theatre. He said he encourages his artists to perform at the State Theatre because it is one of the biggest venues his artists can play at in Greenville.

"The love for the music right now, for people creating music live, there's not much of that happening right now," Blinder said. "There's a few places trying, but right now that room the State Theatre is opening for music, it is a room that is there straight for the music experience."



HANNAH BOLICK | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The State Theatre will reopen its doors tomorrow.

In comparison to other locations that give artists a chance to perform, Blinder said the State Theatre is "meant for musicians." He said other venues are built to have musicians play in the background, while the State Theatre puts focus on the actual music.

Artists and musicians have had a difficult time both emotionally and financially during the pandemic, Blinder said.

"It's been a whole year and I've worked with a lot of artists and musicians over this time frame, and it's really difficult because a lot of them struggle with life," Blinder said. "They're good with music; they're not good with life."

Graduate student in the department of recreational sciences at East Carolina University Ben Cashion said he attended four shows at the State Theatre before COVID-19 and plans to attend more. He said he plans to attend the "Spazz Fest" event on April 17.

Cashion plans to buy two "pods" for his group of eight people. He said he has been vaccinated for COVID-19 and thinks as long as people wear face masks, the environment in the performance venue will be safe.

"Seeing all the people and just being able to hear live music, we just haven't had it and once you sit down to a concert or to a show you realize how much you missed it over the last year," Cashion said.

The State Theatre has revitalized the area of Uptown Greenville in which it is located, Cashion said. He said it was very well built for musical performances, with a slanted floor so all patrons have a ideal view of the stage. He said he believes it is "the best" live music venue in all of Greenville.

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

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