

Freshmen orientation begins virtually

Karen Young
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's incoming freshmen, the Class of 2025, have begun to attend their student orientation via virtual format on June 7 as the COVID-19 pandemic's effects linger and the university slowly returns to normal campus operations.

Director of the ECU Office of Student Transitions Karen Smith said student orientation will continue to provide those incoming freshmen information and help to students as well as their families.

Smith said while orientation may be virtual, freshmen in the Class of 2025 will be allowed to visit the university for in-person events, such as campus tours, in the months before the 2021-2022 academic year starts in August.

"Students have registered for a specific date and on that date, students will log in at around 11:30 a.m.," Smith said. "We will have programs that will run until 8 p.m. for students and their families."

Smith said she hopes the COVID-19 pandemic will only affect freshmen through the summer of 2021. She said she hopes the fall 2021 semester will look more normal than the past year for the entirety of the ECU community. She said the fall semester will be fully in person for all students, faculty and staff at ECU, as of date of publication.

The decision to make the Class of 2025's orientation virtual was made in April of 2021, according to Smith. She said the decision to plan the event early was made due to all the information and limitations from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's newest executive order. Student orientation will continue to run on various dates throughout June until July 1 as additional dates can be found on the ECU Orientation website.

"We'll start with a welcome from the chancellor (Philip Rogers), and we will have our faculty speaker talk about expectations," Smith said. "Then students will break out into groups with their orientation assistants, where they can answer questions, and afterward, there will be time for parents to get involved."

Smith said even though orientation was made online for all incoming ECU students, the university wants the Class of 2025 to build a connection with the ECU campus and its surrounding community.

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PRIDE MONTH



Members of the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center at East Carolina University, students and Greenville members congregate near the Student Center.

CONTRIBUTED BY CLIFF HILLIS

ECU, city celebrates unity

Markayla McInnis
TEC STAFF

Alexys Woolard
TEC STAFF

While June is Pride Month, due to a lack of students for summer on campus, the East Carolina University Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will not host any events, however, the City of Greenville will continue to celebrate Pride with events throughout the month.

Mark Rasdorf, director of the ECU Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center, said since June is Pride Month, he wants individuals to know the ECU LGBTQ Center is open year-round for anyone with questions. When students return back to campus in the fall of 2021, ECU

will still hold its National Coming Out Day events in October.

"We have hundreds of students stop by and we have free T-shirts and people from the community come by," Rasdorf said about the October activities. "It's a big event for us."

Throughout 2021, Rasdorf said the LGBTQ Center has come out with a new graphic and slogan for the October events. "Y'all means All" is the decal that will be presented on T-shirts, stickers and other apparel in October when the festival begins.

"The more visibility for the LGBTQ community on campus and off-campus helps strengthen our entire community," Rasdorf said. "We are all healthier when

there's not a real strict division."

The second Sunday of every month throughout the fall 2021 semester, Rasdorf said the Greenville community has a Drag Brunch at The Scullery, located at 431 Evans St. He said the Drag Brunch benefits the Pitt County Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Service Organization (PICASO). The Scullery, Rasdorf said, will bring the brunch back in person at 50% capacity to honor the community.

Another event, Rasdorf said, is the Pride event at Town Common. This event will be hosted by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

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Drag Brunch to see return

Kyle Arnoe
TEC STAFF

The Scullery Coffeehouse and Creamery and Pitt County AIDS Service Organization (PICASO) will host the return of the long-running Drag Brunch on June 13, a family-friendly event meant to both inspire joy and fill stomachs, benefiting those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Jessica Sanderson, founder of the Drag Brunch, who will also perform as Satine Allure on June 13, said she recalls how she sat at the bar at The Scullery seven years ago and asked owner Matt Scully if she could host the event. Scully said yes, and the Drag Brunch was born, Sanderson said.

The first goal of the Drag

Brunch, Sanderson said, is to provide emergency relief funds to those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). She

said PICASO is an organization meant to help those infected with HIV/AIDS and offer testing and educational services to Greenville community members.

"It's one of those events where if we can put a smile on your face for just five minutes, then we've done our jobs," Sanderson said. "If you've been able to escape the harsh reali-

ties and the negative experiences in your life, and you were able to just laugh, have fun and be entertained, that's what the secondary goal is."

After a friend was diagnosed with HIV in 2007, Sanderson said she went to PICASO with the idea for an event to give back to the community. The idea was Drag Brunch, and Sanderson would perform as Satine Allure, alongside co-host Paul Coleman Temple as the legendary Purina Chow, and others who Sanderson worked with to coordinate the brunch for the past seven years.

Aaron Lucire, president of the board of PICASO, said he assists

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Softball team welcomes coach Shane Winkler

Markayla McInnis
TEC STAFF

After softball head coach Courtney Oliver recently resigned on May 28, East Carolina University Director of Athletics Jon Gilbert officially announced that Shane Winkler will take over the position as the program's first male head coach.

Before Winkler, Oliver was the head coach for six softball seasons. The Pirates ended their 2020-21 season with a record of 16-3. Their season came to an end May 13 against the University of South Florida. After interest in the position, Winkler will join the Pirates as the fifth softball head coach in ECU history.



Shane Winkler

"We feel strongly that Shane is a perfect fit for ECU," Gilbert said. "He is passionate, high character, competitive, he knows how to relate and he knows how to build the program."

Winkler has been a softball coach for over 13 years and his last three years were spent at George Washington University (GWU), where he achieved a 91-43 record. At GW, he also attained the first two Atlantic 10 championships in school history. Winkler has helped 12 players earn all-conference awards and 11 players received all-region accolades.



East Carolina University's Softball team huddles on the playing field at the 2021 seasonal game against Ohio on Feb. 27.

COURTESY OF BOB GOLDBERG | ECU PIRATES

The first collegiate job Winkler had was at Danville Area Community College in 2005 where he helped the Jaguars achieve their first successful season in 12 years. In his collegiate career as head coach, he has put 352 wins under his belt.

Before Winkler put his coaching hat on, he played baseball in his collegiate years as an outfielder. He played at Illinois Central College, Purdue University and Butler University. After college, he played professionally with the Washington Wild Things, Florence Freedom and the Amarillo Dillas in the United Baseball League.

"I am beyond excited for the opportunity," Winkler said. "We are going to focus on the student-athletes and building

a strong relationship there."

When asked about his thoughts on the move and the upcoming season, Winkler was "excited" to be a part of the American Athletic Conference (AAC). He believes that it is one of the top six conferences in the country. As the team approaches the next season, Winkler plans to dominate in pitching and be aggressive in every aspect of play.

In Winkler's past experiences, he has set program records in runs, home runs, fielding percentages and other offensive categories. Winkler has coached at various schools, and

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ONLINE

»Check out our poll on The Scullery's Drag Brunch online.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

SGA to offer virtual office hours

Today, East Carolina University's Student Government Association (SGA) will offer students virtual office hours from 2 to 3 p.m. This event will be held on the WebEx platform and will give participants the opportunity to converse with SGA representatives. The link for SGA Virtual Office Hours event can be found on the ECU Engage website.

'Virtual 3D Fitness' to motivate ECU students

Today through July 29, East Carolina University Campus Recreation and Wellness, Personal Training, Fitness as well as Student Affairs will host "Virtual 3-Dimensional Fitness Session 2." Students who engage in this event will have opportunities to participate in various strength and fitness exercises. When participants register for this fitness event on the ECU Events Calendar website, they will be sent an email, which includes more detailed instructions about specific times.

'Dishing up Data' to be held via virtual format

Tomorrow, the East Carolina University Office of Faculty Excellence will hold "Dishing up Data - Integrated Post-secondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Data Center - Part 1" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Participants will have the opportunity to use the IPEDS Data Center to create a comparison group. Data collected helps universities across the U.S. Registration for the event can be found on the ECU Events Calendar 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 Police Department Officer Dan Cintron gets into his police vehicle near the Wright Fountain on the university's main campus.

ECU PD encourages safety

Click It or Ticket campaign promotes seatbelt awareness for community

Chris Young
TEC STAFF

The Click It or Ticket campaign, an initiative put in place by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper from May 24 to June 6, has increased the number of patrols as well as incentivized the use of seat belts to avoid tickets from the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and the East Carolina University Police Department (ECU PD).

Chad Edwards, ECU PD sergeant, said Click It or Ticket is Governor Cooper's Highway Safety Program's biggest campaign yet. He said the campaign was put in place to boost the usage of seat belts amongst community drivers and passengers as well as increase child safety precautions in Greenville and the state of North Carolina.

"(ECUPD) is increasing the number of patrols and officers in certain areas," Edwards said. "We're using local media to reach out to drivers and checking stations."

Edwards said almost every law enforcement agency which does traffic enforcement in the state of North Carolina is involved in Governor Cooper's campaign. He said the Click It or Ticket campaign helped decrease traffic fatalities last year of 2020 as numerous individuals have been killed in the state of North Carolina, because they didn't wear seat belts while in motor vehicles.

"We had 545 people account for 47% of all traffic fatalities in the state," Edwards said. "In Pitt County

last year, we lost 15 people in car crashes because they didn't wear seat belts, and that's 15 too many for us."

Edwards said the fines for not wearing seat belts in the Greenville community can go up to \$180. He said throughout the campaign last year, ECU PD issued 112 tickets in Pitt County.

Sergeant Marcus Bethea of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol said the NC Highway Patrol increased the number of patrols and officers for the campaign. The NC State Highway Patrol used the Click It or Ticket campaign to promote awareness to the community for the importance of wearing seat belts in the accurate way.

"Click It or Ticket serves to keep the awareness of North Carolina's seat belt laws fresh in everyone's minds," Bethea said.

Bethea said since the City of Greenville is home to ECU, the community has a diverse representation of individuals. He said because of this, Greenville is a great area to spread awareness for the Click It or Ticket campaign.

The goal is to eventually have zero fatalities on North Carolina roadways, according to Bethea. He said NC State-Highway Patrol's mission is to ensure the safety of every individual on the roadways with the promotion of proper seat belt use.

"The State Highway Patrol issued 53 seat belt citations and 10 child restraint citations in Pitt county," Bethea said.

"Statewide the State Highway Patrol issued 3,871 seat belt citations and 314 child restraint citations during the same time period."

Injury Prevention Coordinator at Vidant Medical Center Ellen Watson said the Eastern Carolina Injury Prevention Program has a long relationship with ECU PD. She said both departments serve on the Greenville Traffic Safety Task Force alongside other several safety task force organizations in the City of Greenville.

Watson said both ECU PD and the Injury Prevention Program work to develop modifications to positively impact traffic safety in Greenville. She said she has maintained a passion to prevent these unintentional injuries for 15 years.

"The mission of the Eastern Carolina Injury Prevention Program is to reduce injuries among the citizens of Eastern North Carolina," Watson said. "The hospital facilitates the tasks of the traffic safety task force."

Watson said their mission is accomplished through strong relationships with places such as the ECU PD as well as the program's participation in hands-on tasks. She said the program partners with law enforcement agencies in the community to spread awareness of traffic safety.

The Click it or Ticket campaign will promote traffic safety education and the primary importance of seatbelts, according to Watson. She said they have data to prove that seatbelts can and will prevent fatalities.

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



Chad Edwards



Marcus Bethea

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She said the goal is to make the freshmen want to come to ECU's campus and feel as if they are truly welcomed.

Incoming freshman Gracie Simmons said she hasn't heard much about the virtual student orientation for incoming freshmen, other than it has started on June 7. She said because the freshmen orientation will be completely on an online format this year, it will seem different from all previous ECU freshmen orientations which were hosted in person on the university's campus.

"We won't be face-to-face, and we can't really experience everything other students have," Simmons said. "When we get to school, we will have to wear (face) masks and probably get tested (for COVID-19) a lot, which will also be different."

Simmons said her orientation could last from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. in a virtual format. She said she would have preferred orientation to take place in person on campus, but does not mind the fact it has been made virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She said while this experience is different than what she anticipated, it will still allow her and other incoming ECU students to be introduced to life at the university.

After the process of COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, Simmons said she feels like life in college has started to return to normal. She said she is excited to be able to meet new people on campus and attend college classes in person as opposed to virtual courses which took place last year for ECU students.

"I'd like to be able to really see and meet people," Simmons said. "I want to get to know my classmates and not have to look at them through a screen."

Senior gerontology major and orientation assistant (OA) Shyla Fitzhugh said this will be the first fully virtual orientation ECU's held for incoming

students. She said all the amenities, such as orientation assistants from previous orientations will be accessible in this year's virtual meeting.

Fitzhugh said freshmen orientation is planned to be hosted through the platform Microsoft Teams. She said families and future ECU students will still have time to visit the university's campus in July.

"Orientation assistants will lead small groups for incoming students to gain insight on a smooth transition from high school to college," Fitzhugh said. "OAs also put together a video for True Life, which will allow students to receive tips about their first year at college."

Fitzhugh said although freshmen orientation is held in an entirely virtual format, incoming freshmen shouldn't be afraid to ask questions they may have. She said college is a big adjustment for students, but ECU has many resources as well as people available to help these freshmen in any way they can.

Students and families will have a chance to connect with OAs in the virtual orientation, according to Fitzhugh. She said in July, students will be able to visit ECU more in person and by August, the university's campus should be fully in person.

"I prepared myself by reminding myself to be flexible and open to change," Fitzhugh said. "Each year, orientation has been so different but every year I gain so much from it, and I love my position as an OA."



Shyla Fitzhugh

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The "LOVE WINS" art fixture in the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center in the Main Campus Student Center.

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The Pride event will take place on June 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is free to the public.

Associate Director for The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Shaun Simon said she believes Pride Month is a time for those who have been silenced to let others know they are not invisible.

Simon said it is important to shed light on Pride Month to give those who feel they have been let down by the community the opportunity to be their most authentic selves, despite the criticism they may receive from others.

"To me, Pride is a time of resistance in a world that wants to erase who is different. It is a chance for those within the community to be proud of themselves," Simon said.

The best way to support someone who is a part of the LGBTQ community is to advocate for them, Simon said. When someone witnesses discrimination against the LGBTQ community, speak up and offer words of encouragement to those who need it, Simon said.

"I think of an ally as someone who speaks with words and deeds," Simon said. "They (an ally) will fight and advocate for the community and what is right."

Associate Dean of Students Lauren Thorn said the ECU community has been hard at work to show support for students who are a part of the LGBTQ community.

Thorn said Student Health Services offers

transition related care to help students who do not identify with the sex they were assigned to at birth feel comfortable in their skin. She said ECU's Center for Counseling & Student Development can also aid in the coming out process for students who have recently come out to family and friends.

"Finding those communities, spaces and groups, where they (LGBTQ community) can feel accepted, loved and integrated into and be able to be who they are," Thorn said.

For students, Thorn said if a friend or family member decides they are ready to come out and choose you to come out to, individuals should first recognize that they have made a huge step in their journey to become their true self.

When someone you suspect may be a part of the LGBTQ community hasn't come out yet, it is important to make sure they are given the chance to come out on their own, Thorn said. She said to make sure they do not feel pressured or obligated to come out and maintain a warm and friendly environment when they do.

"I think the other important thing to remember is that it is each person's individual choice and story," Thorn said. "If someone is outed without their permission or without their consent, that can be incredibly traumatic, and so we want to make sure that we give them the ability to make that choice and decision on their own."

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EVENTS

TODAY

Open Mic Comedy
Pitt Street Brewing Company
 630 S. Pitt St.
 8 p.m.
 252-227-4151

Yoga in the Park with Purple Blossom Yoga
Town Common
 100 E. 1st St.
 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 252-364-2917

TOMORROW

Concert on the Common
Town Common
 100 E. 1st St.
 5 to 9 p.m.
 252-329-4567

SATURDAY

Big Time Pays Show
Greenville Theatre Arts Center
 629 Albemarle Ave.
 7 to 11 p.m.
 252-830-0963

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

SUNDAY

Pride Drag Brunch
The Scullery
 431 Evans St.
 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 252-321-1550

Unplugged Sundays
Jaycee Park
 2000 Cedar Lane
 6:30 to 8 p.m.
 252-329-4567

SINGLE REVIEW

'Hot N Heavy' calls to disco days



George Martin
TEC STAFF

British singer and songwriter Jessica "Jessie" Ware returns with her third single "Hot N Heavy," released on June 4, from her upcoming album "What's Your Pleasure? The Platinum Pleasure Edition" where she creates a head bopping tune assisted by heavy bass and a throwback disco sound.

Surrounded by a thudding base and funky drums, Ware sensually sings about a love she had that made her "hot and heavy." She implores them to show her every way to strike a match while they're together, inviting the listener into these intimate moments with Ware. The singer continues her tradition of creating truly unique and memorable songs with this newest single. The chorus on the track serves as an ear-worm that will be stuck in your ear throughout the day.

The vocals throughout the track showcase Ware's dynamic range and showcases her breathing heavy singing style, you could almost call it a breathy track. Ware goes from a high falsetto which lends the track an airy feeling, once again calling back to the disco sound of the '70s, to a deeper voice for the verses. Ware's deeper singing doesn't disappoint, with the artist returning to her deeper singing voice for the hook to the song.

In a similar way to Dua Lipa's 2021 album "Future Nostalgia," Ware calls back to the synth-heavy sound of the '70s disco scene. Listeners will find it hard to sit still whether they're listening to "Hot N Heavy" or her other recent single "Please," released on April 28. Each of these new singles use drum kicks to their advantage, hooking the listener in and inviting you to sway



COURTESY OF JAY L. CLENDENIN | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Jessica "Jessie" Ware's newest single "Hot N Heavy" creates an infectious sound in anticipation of her album.

along with her smooth singing.

Despite Ware's strong vocals and the catchy production found on "Hot N Heavy," the track does seem to find comfort in repetition. The song relies mostly upon its hook and chorus for its runtime, which is nothing new for Ware. However, listeners who are not bothered by repetitive lyrics will not be disappointed with what they find in Ware's recent discography. Most of her songs feature relatively short verses and long choruses, which in all fairness may be a callback to catchy tracks like the 1979 "Ring My Bell" by Anita Ward.

Samuel George Lewis, otherwise known as SG Lewis, is a co-producer on "Hot N Heavy" and has worked with artists like Dua Lipa and LANY in the past, and his influence can be heard on the track. His love for bumping tracks with female vocalists is apparent, as he and Ware have formed a track that feels right at home with other tracks that you may hear on signature pop radio stations.

Similar to record producer

Pharrell Williams, who has made a well known appearance on the Ariana Grande "Sweetener" album, Lewis has a predominant presence on "Hot N Heavy." Just as Williams works in his rap funk beat into tracks on "Sweetener," Lewis is persistent to keep the pop music scene alive within the current industry rankings.

"Please," Ware's other single, has her asking her lover to show that they know how to be sweet. Throughout the track, she sings about how she wants to be with them and how she wants to be shown their more sensitive side and how she wants to be "next to you." Ware has stuck with her sound on this other single that she found on "What's Your Pleasure," synth heavy beats relying on her background vocals. The background vocals throughout "Please" make the song, with high quality production matching Ware's energy throughout the track.

Ware is coming off her 2020 album "What's Your Pleasure?" where she maintained a similar sound. Highlights off that

album include the titular track "What's Your Pleasure" where Ware contemplates a partner and teases them. The flowing melodies accompanied by the heavy synth creates a unique and refreshing sound for the 2021 music scene.

"Spotlight" off her recent album is a slight departure from the sound found on the rest album, giving a slower and more emotional track. Throughout "Spotlight," Ware laments the loss of time with her partner and how she wishes she could stay in their "time in the spotlight." However, even on her slower tracks, Ware continues her use of drums and synth for her sound which gives it a distinct upbeat feel despite the otherwise longing lyrics.

RATING:



4 out of 5

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

ECU alumnus opens music studio to public

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

With hopes to make Greenville, North Carolina, a hub for the entertainment scene, local independent artist Drayvon Fairley, an East Carolina University alumnus, offers a new space for creatives called 94 East the label, located at 150 East Arlington Blvd.

Fairley, who goes by the stage name Dre of the East, said he is happy and looks forward to move to a bigger studio which offers local creatives space and resources to create and share their content. He said a various amounts of hard work has gone into the label and he is excited for more future accomplishments within the new space.

"Seeing the progression, to have a home base where we (artists and team) can all come together to create a peaceful sense knowing that it's ours and if anything happens, no one can take it away

from us," Fairley said. "Before I would do events and record music in other studios, now I have my own events and things of that nature in my own space."

Engineer, artist, personal assistant, photographer and videographer positions are open within his 94 East team studio, according to Fairley.

There are applications available for those who feel like they have a service they can offer 94 East, Fairley said, and is open to sitting down with people for a consultation to add more resources and services to 94 East.

"I think it was time to expand and move my studio to a bigger place," Fairley said. "We have spaces for photography, videography and a studio. Anything creative would need to put their music or their content out, we can do that here. We have offices for consultations if artists need a place to talk with someone also."

94 East artist and host of YurpTV252

Kwasi Chabwera said Fairley has created a great opportunity for new artists and creatives. He said he is happy to see Fairley get his new studio and looks forward to what they can accomplish as a label.

Chabwera said Fairley currently has young studio engineers who work with him and said they are in good hands because Fairley is the best engineer he knows. He said new artists who come to 94 East will have quality mixed music ready to be played on the radio.

"I've seen him come up and be able to get his dream studio. It (Fairley's studio) has better sound quality, it's a better vibe," Chabwera said. "It's going to turn us (94 East the label artists) up for sure."

Studio engineer and producer Lionel Bond said he started to work with Fairly

three weeks ago and has learned a lot so far in the short amount of time he's been a part of 94 East. He said he is a new engineer and producer and makes beats for local artists.

Bond said Fairley is generous with his time and resources to help people learn and to work on their craft. He said the building culture events Fairley hosts help young rappers perform in front of an audience and become better artists.

"It brings everyone together, no matter who you are. That's what the company is all about," Bond said. "I can tell he (Fairley) loves to help people, and I can tell he loves the artists and wants to help people level up."

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

DRAG continued from A1

individuals in Pitt, Wayne and Lenoir counties in North Carolina. The Drag Brunch, Lucire said, is the fundraiser portion of the Emergency Financial Assistance program which offers financial assistance to HIV/AIDS affected individuals.

"In a normal year, we have a monthly Drag Brunch and then we also have an event twice a year, which we do with Uptown Greenville called Dickinson Avenue after Dark," Lucire said. "So we have two major fundraisers. The Drag Brunch is on every second Sunday every month, and then Dickinson Avenue after Dark, which is a craft beer and food truck event, but they haven't been happening since COVID. This is the return

of Drag Brunch."

Matthew Scully, the owner of The Scullery, said the Drag Brunch's two shows will each last about two hours. He said patrons will be served brunch, given time to socialize and then, the show would begin.

Scully said each performance varies with some comedy routines, improvisation acts and impersonations. The Drag Brunch shows are split into two shows, Scully said. One is set to begin at 10:30 a.m. and the second show at 1 p.m. While the June 13 show is sold out, the Drag Brunch will be held throughout the months of June and July with tickets available to purchase at \$22, according to Scully.

"It's a really cool opportunity for young people and for the greater com-



MICHAELA EMORY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Ebony Adams, a drag queen who participated in the 2018 Drag Brunch at The Scullery in Uptown Greenville.

munity to enjoy the performers and be together and to celebrate the LGBTQ community, and just being different and having fun," Scully said. "It's just a really cool group of people, and we love doing

it. It just provides a lot of joy and love and laughter, and it's always really cool and it's a really great cause."

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OUR VIEW

ECU lacks healthy food dining options

East Carolina University will be adding to its dining options. The 1907 Grill in the Main Campus Student Center will add breakfast items to its menu, which will be served all day. Mama Joyce's, a pizzeria, will replace Olilo, a Mediterranean restaurant, in Wright Place and is set to be finished with its renovations in August 2021.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, appreciate the variety of dining options that will be added in the fall, but there should be more healthy options for students to choose from.

Although adding a pizzeria will add some variety to campus, Olilo was one of the few dining options besides Au Bon Pain which offers a relatively healthy menu. As students, sometimes we may get tired of fast food options that are greasy or fried especially when we have a busy course or work load.

The ECU area is surrounded by various fast food restaurants which are walking distance from campus, such as McDonald's and Taco Bell, and adding another fast food dining option on campus is unnecessary. Installing another healthy restaurant on campus would be more beneficial for students. Adding another healthy restaurant will also encourage students to promote a healthier eating lifestyle while they're on campus.

We appreciate ECU listening to the concerns of students adding more food options on campus. However, the university should consider the thoughts of students who prefer to eat healthier on a daily basis or have other dietary restrictions that may refrain them from eating at restaurants that are already present. There are no present vegan or vegetarian based eating options on campus either. Students should not have to rely on only the dining hall to get a relatively healthy food option.

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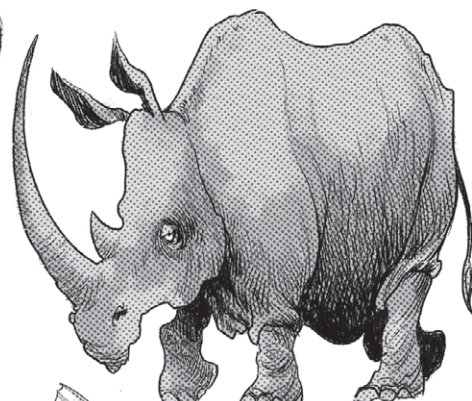
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SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER

RED PANDA



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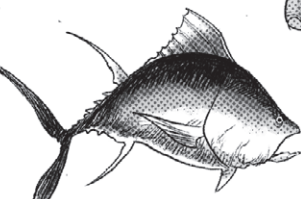
BLACK RHINO



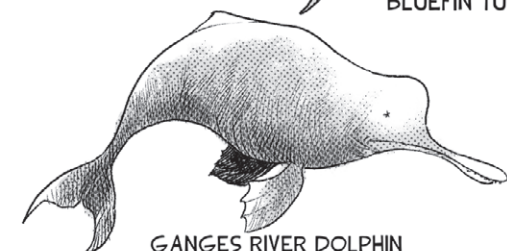
AMUR LEOPARD



AFRICAN WILD DOG



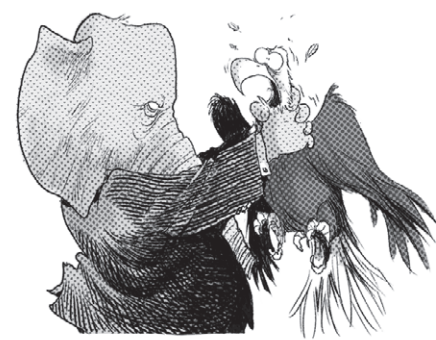
BLUEFIN TUNA



GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN



GALÁPAGOS PENGUIN



AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Letter to the editor

History of Pride should be honored

To the Editor,

June is Pride Month: a time of celebration, remembrance and advocacy. It's a moment for a historically silenced community to shout with passion. Today, we would like to share some of our culture and stories with those who are willing to hear us.

On June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club located in Greenwich Village, New York. The raid started as a typical alcohol search and seizure but turned into a riot after police assaulted and abused the transgender and lesbian patrons of the bar. A crowd had gathered outside of the Stonewall Inn while the arrests of innocent transgender men and women were taking place. It swiftly escalated after a transgender woman was hit on the head by an officer, and she shouted, "Why don't you guys do something?" The crowd started to fight and this spontaneous week-long riot is what has been called the beginning of the LGBTQ rights movement. They fought for the right to have a safe home in Stonewall Inn because they weren't welcome anywhere else.

These riots acted as a catalyst for the LGBTQ community; newspapers, LGBTQ societies, Gay Activist Alliances and many community members were fueled by the desire to be safe and seen in their own cities and towns. The Gay Liberation Front was then formed and was the first organization to proudly have "gay" in its name. This group followed the tactics of the Black Panthers, hoping to restructure American society for a better future. Police raids continued on gay bars and LGBTQ people were still being arrested for being who they are. The Stonewall Inn did not last after the riot and closed its doors in October 1969.

On the first anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots on June 28, 1970, an assembly on Christopher Street took place. This, along with other marches in Los Angeles, California, and Chicago, Illinois, were the first Pride marches to take place in the United States. The next year the marches spread even farther, reaching as far as Paris, France, Berlin, Germany, and Stockholm, Sweden. The Christopher Street Liberation Day march in New York covered 51 blocks, all the way to Central Park. Since then, the month of June has been dedicated to LGBTQ rights and pride parades like this one.

Within two years of the riots, there were gay rights groups in every major American state. Before the riots, LGBTQ people had been discounted, ignored, laughed at and had to keep their identity a secret but after this spark, many people found ways to act for the LGBTQ community and continue to exist as themselves. We take June to celebrate all the fighting, activism, blood, sweat and tears it took to be out in our communities.

It is from the brave actions of our predecessors that the modern generation is able to celebrate Pride, which has become a lasting symbol of solidarity and hope within the LGBTQ community.



COURTESY OF YVANANRAN | UNSPLASH

Demonstrators gather around and hold up the rainbow flag during a previous Pride parade.

In the month of June, we recognize the efforts and desires of those who came before us, such as the survivors and allies of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) epidemic. AIDS killed over 320,000 people from 1987 to 1998, decimating the gay male population. These men should be here today, celebrating with us. They would have been this generation's mentors, our friends and family. Our Pride is for them as much as it is for us.

The creator of the original Pride flag was inspired by rainbows shining in the sky like natural flags. He adopted eight colors for the strips, each with its own meaning: hot pink for sex, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, turquoise for art, indigo for harmony and violet for spirit. We have always been a community of bright colors, connection and passion. Every June sees a huge upsurge in art and media to celebrate our culture and the culture of others. Through hosting our own concerts and gatherings, we are enabled to provide spaces for folks to embrace their true identities. It is similarly during these times we see many others join the folds of the community and continue the legacy and traditions of what it means to celebrate who you are.

However, when you are a marginalized group, heightened visibility comes with backlash. Explicit hatred toward LGBTQ people comes up every year. They protest our events, fight against legislation that would benefit us and some go much further.

It's nothing new, but beyond all of that is a unique form of homophobia and transphobia that only pops up in regard to Pride. "Why do you need a whole month?" they ask in a tone that informs us that they don't believe we do. They cannot tell that they have answered their own question. Non-allies stay ignorant to the culture and needs of the LGBTQ community. The one time of the year those things are supposed to be promoted, we are told to tone it down. Told that we "should not shove it down people's throats," or that we are being "inappropriate" while insisting that we do not get a say in what "appropriate" means. Regardless, a lack of social context and historical knowledge does not give anyone the right to challenge our traditions. They are ours and they are

beautiful.

Of course, with Pride growing and developing throughout the years, modern complications are starting to appear. People are finding ways to use Pride against us. In recent years, alcohol companies have begun sponsoring pride and pushing the narrative that it is one big party. Their advertisements target LGBTQ people, encouraging binge drinking in a demographic that is known to be disproportionately prone to substance abuse.

The party narrative has also affected the attendance at Pride events. People who are vocally and publically homophobic have begun attending these events just because they are fun. This is particularly prominent during concerts with mainstream artists. Event organizers are forced to sell tickets to keep the numbers manageable, which only makes these events inaccessible to people who really need them. It is wrong to put a financial barrier on events meant to celebrate a demographic that holds low socioeconomic status comparative to the general population.

Turning Pride events into limited/exclusive spaces can lead to an over-correction of the issue, in the form of gatekeeping. When enough folks become concerned that we are not hitting the target demographic, suddenly an event that is meant for a whole community becomes a moment where everyone has to validate their reason for attending. This discourages allies, closeted and questioning people. It also gives various exclusionist groups an entryway to spread their ideologies.

The people that respect us enough to listen to these concerns are not the people responsible. As always, it is up to the LGBTQ community and our allies to find equitable solutions. We will. Our community is resilient, and our Pride is inevitable. We will celebrate over the conflicts and distractions because they never leave. Pride carries weight to us; it is an act of defiance, a trophy for embracing our truth and a living account of our history all in one word.

Sincerely,

Summer student staff of the
Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center

CLASSIFIEDS

Did someone say FREE?

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



HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Communications channels flow with greater ease. Practice diplomacy, especially in a tense situation. Avoid gossip or arguments. Discuss practicalities to reinforce support structures.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Friends are your true wealth. They make your life richer. Connect over common passion or cause. Deepen bonds. Contribute as you can. Pay it forward.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 9 — Connect with your partner at a deeper level by sharing support. You can see what's most important. Provide a stabilizing influence. Weave your branches together.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 9 — Profitable markets are developing, and you're well placed. Harvest the fruit you've been tending. Continue nurturing seeds and saplings. Feed roots and shoots.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 9 — Exciting professional opportunities are worth pursuing. With each successful project completed, your status rises. Discipline matters. Gain strength from the past. Provide excellence.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Regular practice grows physical strength, endurance and skills. Keep your objective in mind. Maintain tranquility. Focus on technique. Slow and steady wins the race.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 9 — Follow the higher path, when you reach a fork in the road. Align words and actions to a deeper purpose. Personal integrity leads to happiness.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Studies reveal valuable treasures. A satisfying prize is within reach. Do the homework and preparation to excel. Grow and develop talents and skills.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — Share precious moments with the ones you love. Play games and music. Get out in nature for extra points. Savor delicious flavors, vistas and company.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 7 — You're preparing to burst from your cocoon. Reimagine long-held dreams and update. Adapt plans for current circumstances. Consider traditions, rituals and deeper meaning.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Prepare and coordinate for an abundant harvest together. Manage budgets to conserve resources. Choose expenditures carefully. Put the pieces in place. Water, tend and nurture.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Home and family hold your attention. Domestic improvements provide satisfying results. Enjoy culinary arts, connection with kids, and projects involving design for functionality and beauty.

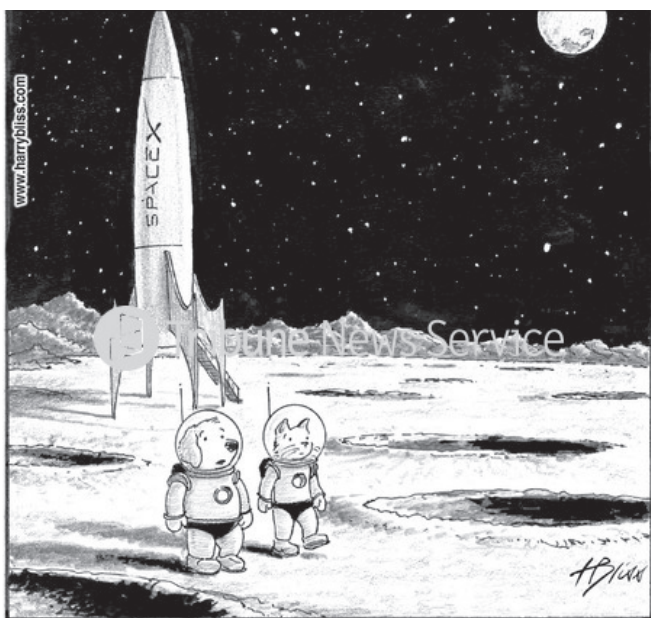
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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BLISS

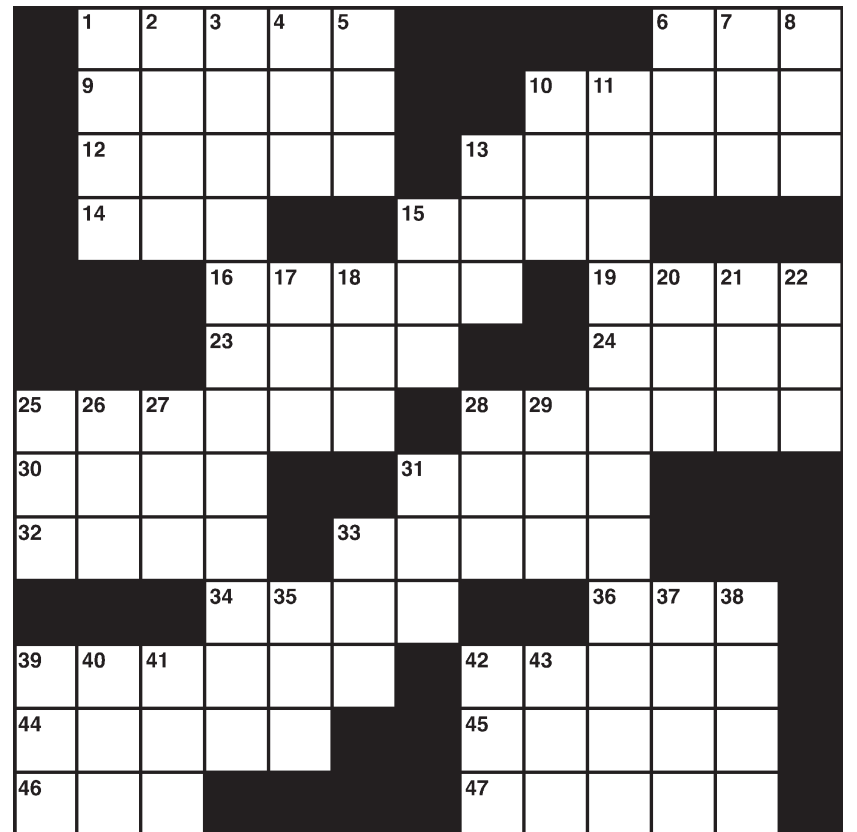


"Something very big buried a lot of bones here."

CROSSWORD

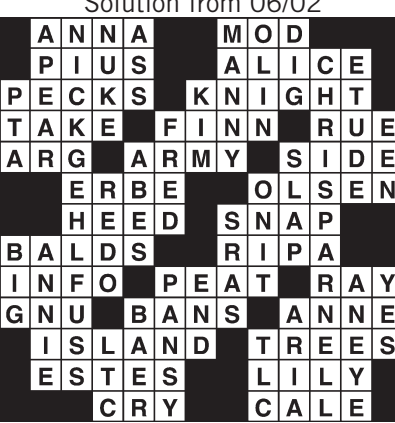
THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 Spader of "The Blacklist"
 - 6 "___ Brother"
 - 9 Popeye's love
 - 10 Stan's son on "American Dad!"
 - 12 VP Spiro ___
 - 13 "___ of the Apes"
 - 14 Fabray, to friends
 - 15 Actor & singer Donahue
 - 16 Where to find Florence
 - 19 ___-back; relaxed
 - 23 Stoltz or Stonestreet
 - 24 "___ Upon a Time"
 - 25 "___ Camera"
 - 28 "___ Miller"
 - 30 Sharif or Epps
 - 31 ___ Pearson; "This Is Us" role
 - 32 Oscar-winning Leslie Caron film
 - 33 Singer Page
 - 34 "The ___"; talk show for Whoopi & others
 - 36 Capture
 - 39 Actor Eddie
 - 42 "The ___ Reed Show"
 - 44 "Little House on the Prairie" role
- DOWN**
- 1 Rivers or Collins
 - 2 Seaweed
 - 3 Actress on "Speechless"
 - 4 "Last Man Standing" role
 - 5 Make clothing
 - 6 Cartwright or Matlock
 - 7 "___ Got a Secret"
 - 8 "How to ___ Away with Murder"
 - 10 ___-pitch softball
 - 11 Actor on "Chicago Fire"
 - 13 Use a crowbar
 - 15 "Return to Amish" network
 - 17 Prefix for cycle or pod
 - 18 Assistance
 - 20 Sothorn or Jillian
 - 21 "___ Age: Continental Drift"; animated film
 - 22 Susan of "L.A. Law"
 - 25 Gear tooth
 - 26 "What Kind of Fool ___?"
 - 27 Henpeck
 - 28 "___ Masterson"; old western series
 - 29 Play a role
 - 31 Mandible
 - 33 "___ Sematary"; Fred Gwynne movie
 - 35 Paul's cousin on "Mad About You"
 - 37 Actress Heche
 - 38 Max of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
 - 39 ___ MacGraw
 - 40 "___ Vegas"
 - 41 "None ___ the Brave"; Sinatra movie
 - 42 "___ You Hear About the Morgans?"; Hugh Grant film
 - 43 Hockey great Bobby



Solution from 06/02

SUDOKU

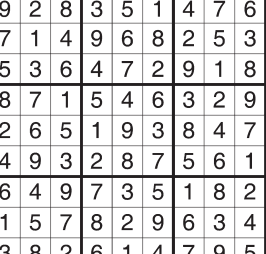
SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group



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 06/02



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The Pirates volleyball lineup comes together to celebrate a score in their match against the University of North Carolina on February 28 where ECU went on to win the game 3-0. COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

AAC conducts virtual annual conference

Several changes discussed, new rules to effect American volleyball set in place

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

As East Carolina University is a member of the American Athletic Conference (AAC), several representatives of the conference held annual meetings virtually from June 1 through June 3 to discuss the success that the conference has seen since its founding in 2013.

In 2020, the AAC saw the University of Cincinnati participate in the New Year's Six bowls against the University of Georgia. The AAC was also represented in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) basketball tournament by the University of Houston, who reached the Final Four, while the University of Memphis basketball team won the National Invitation Tournament.

Commissioner Mike Aresco said he was pleased with how well the AAC performed following the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a press release from the AAC.

"I could not be happier with the direction of the conference and the unity and camaraderie of our schools," Aresco said. "We emerged from a trying and challenging year having competed safely during the pandemic and having enjoyed continued competitive success."

Aresco also stressed the importance of safety, reiterating that the health of the student-athletes was the top priority of the AAC. He went on to add that racial equality and mental health awareness were also points of focus during the meetings.

Aresco praised the athletes and others for their hard work and dedication throughout the year, while also discussing how the AAC plans to move forward in Division I football.

"I applaud our student-athletes, coaches, staff and administrators for their outstanding efforts in dealing successfully with the many challenges they faced this year," Aresco said.

"This conference continues to perform at the highest level, and a major upcoming initiative, which we discussed at our meetings, will be to improve our position in the College Football Playoff if indeed expansion of the playoff is seriously considered."

The AAC also discussed a few topics regarding women's volleyball. Video replay challenges will now be allowed for all home facilities. There will also be an adjusted sched-

uling format, which will include a 20-match double-round-robin conference schedule in the regular season. The No.1 seed will be the recipient of the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Championship, as the AAC will no longer have a volleyball conference championship starting in 2021.

Several other topics were discussed during the meetings, including respect to autonomy group membership, non-conference scheduling models in men's and women's basketball and the conference's leadership position concerning the well-being of student-athletes.

The AAC Medical Advisory Group was created for problems that surround COVID-19 and will continue to address such issues in the fall semester of 2021. According to the AAC press release, the Medical Advisory Group will partner with the AAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's (SAAC) mental health campaign Powerful Minds to support student-athletes.

Associate Dean of the School of Sport, Tourism and Hospitality Management at the University of Temple and the Chair of the American's faculty athletics representatives Jeremy Jordan reported on behalf of the AAC's academic consortium. He said over \$230,000

were funded toward research projects, and \$1,500 will be given to each institutional SAAC to go towards the Powerful Minds campaign on each campus in the conference.

Other representatives provided updates on topics in the world of college sports. NCAA President Mark Emmert discussed the state of name, image and likeness legislation at the state, federal and national office level.

The NCAA Senior Vice-President for Inclusion, Education and Community Engagement Derrick Gragg discussed efforts toward diversity and inclusion and the roles of student-athletes play in a number of national issues.

To end the meeting, the AAC appointed several individuals to different positions in the conference's committees. ECU Chancellor Philip Rodgers will join the Board of Directors Audit Committee, effective as of June 4, and ECU Athletics Director Jon Gilbert was appointed Athletic Directors Executive Committee through 2023. Gilbert will also chair the Finance Committee through 2022.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

ECU wins Greenville Regional, set to face Commodores

Stephen Babich
TEC STAFF

The No.13 ranked East Carolina University Pirates baseball team won the Greenville Regional after three games, which took place from June 4 through June 6 at Clark-LeClair Stadium in Greenville, North Carolina.

The Pirates defeated the Norfolk State University Spartans (25-28, 18-10 Mid Eastern Athletic Conference), followed by a win against the University of North Carolina Charlotte 49ers (40-21, 24-8 Conference USA). Then, ECU took down the University of Maryland Terrapins (30-17, 28-16 Big Ten Conference) to win the Greenville Regional, which makes this the third regional victory in four years for the Pirates.

In the first game on June 4, ECU defeated Norfolk State 8-5. Freshman pitcher A.J. Wilson got his first win of the season and recorded two strikeouts. Sophomore infielder Thomas Francisco led the team in RBIs with three. In runs, Francisco, along with sophomore infielder Connor Norby, had two apiece, which led the team.

Freshman pitcher Zach Agnos and freshman first baseman Josh Moylan both led the team in hits with two each. Agnos and Moylan also had one RBI each.

On June 5, the Pirates defeated the 49ers 7-5. Redshirt senior pitcher Matt Bridges picked up his fifth win of the season in relief. Bridges recorded three strikeouts and one hit.

Norby and junior outfielder Bryson Worrell led the team in runs with two each. Furthermore, Norby and freshman outfielder/infielder Alec Makarewicz both led the team in hits with two each. Sophomore outfielder Lane Hoover led in RBIs with two.



Zach Agnos

ECU got off to a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first when Makarewicz hit an RBI single which allowed Norby to score. Charlotte then responded by scoring four runs in the top of the fourth. Moylan hit a RBI groundball in the bottom of the fourth which allowed a score and cut the deficit to two, making it a 4-2 game at the end of the fourth.

Neither ECU or Charlotte scored again until the seventh inning, when the 49ers got one run in the top of the seventh after sophomore catcher Aaron McKeithan hit a solo home run, extending the 49ers lead to 5-2.

After that, junior catcher Seth Cadell hit a ground ball, which allowed Bryson Worrell to score. Then, freshman pinch hitter Joey Berini hit an RBI single which allowed Hoover to cross home which then cut the deficit to one making the score 5-4.

The Pirates would go on to score three more runs in the bottom of the eighth. Charlotte could not respond and ECU would win 7-5.

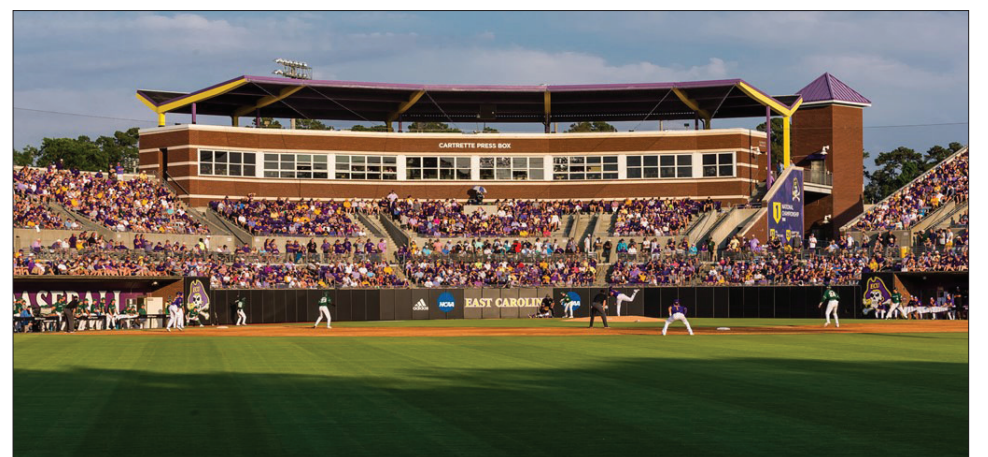
In the third and final game of the Greenville Regional on June 6, the Pirates defeated the Maryland Terrapins 9-6 after a two and a half hour rain delay, which allowed ECU to capture its third regional win in four years. Head Coach Cliff Godwin showed his excitement for his players after this accomplishment.

"These guys that decided to come back, Tyler Smith, Cam Colmore and Matt Bridges, we wouldn't be here today without what they've done on that field but more importantly, what they've done in that locker room on a day to day basis," Godwin said.

The Pirates scored two runs in the top of the first to get out to a 2-0 lead. Then,



Cliff Godwin



Fans gather inside Clark-LeClair stadium for the sold out game against UNC Charlotte on June 6. COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

freshman infielder Matthew Shaw hit a solo home run for Maryland to make it a 2-1 game. Cadell then hit a solo home run in the top of the second to make it a 3-1 game.

In the top of the third inning, Agnos hit a sacrifice fly which allowed Francisco to score from third. The Terrapins responded in the bottom of the inning when Shaw hit his second solo home run of the game, cutting the deficit to two.

Two Pirate batters were hit in the top of the fourth, which allowed Cadell to score after the second walk when the bases were loaded. Maryland scored two more runs in the bottom of the fourth to make it a 5-4 game.

With a 6-4 lead in the top of the eighth inning, Agnos hit a RBI double which allowed two runs to score for the Pirates. Junior infielder Maxwell Costes hit a two run home run in the bottom of the eighth, which made the score 8-6 with ECU still in the lead.

Finally, Francisco hit a sacrifice fly ball which allowed Cadell to score in the top of the ninth. Maryland could not respond and ECU claimed the Greenville regional title.

"There haven't been many that have won two regionals and Colmore and Bridges

might be the first ECU players ever to win three regionals," Godwin said. "This team has been the most battle tested team under my watch because they've been through injuries, COVID protocols and four game weekends. Our fans were awesome the past three nights and it was really special to host a regional in front of our home crowd when we couldn't have any games at capacity during the regular season."

For the Greenville regional all-tournament team honors, Norby (second base), Agnos (third base), Worrell (outfield), Hoover (outfield) and Bridges (pitcher) all won all tournament team honors for the Pirates. Bridges also won most outstanding player.

The Pirates will play in Super Regionals at Nashville, Tennessee, against Vanderbilt University Commodores (43-15, 19-10 Southeastern Conference) on June 11 at noon. The second game will be June 12 at noon and if the Pirates move on, the third game will be June 13 at 3 p.m.

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

COACH continued from A1

during the offseasons, has also been a part of the National Pro Fastpitch where he has helped coach National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) champions, Olympians and All-American pitchers such as Jennie

Finch.

"Jennie Finch mentioned Shane during the search," Gilbert said. "She played for Shane (Winkler) in Chicago and thought he was great."

Winkler plans for the Pirates to have success right away, not with five-year plans for the future. During the search for a coach,

Gilbert was interested in Winkler because of the vision and plan he had for the softball program. Winkler believes the team has everything they need to be successful.

When it comes to recruiting, Winkler plans to recruit from all over the country and will not leave any area overlooked. He plans to look throughout the Carolinas first

to keep the top players here.

"We're going to have to go coast to coast to be able to compete," Winkler said. "My phone's been ringing off the hook from players and coaches wanting to play here."

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