



The East Carolinian

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ECU provides COVID-19 relief funds

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

As COVID-19 and economic instability may continue to create financial uncertainty for East Carolina University students, has affected by the pandemic may be eligible to apply for funds allocated to ECU by the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF-III) by Sept. 19.



Associate Dean of Students Lauren Thorn said the HEERF-III is federal funding provided to higher education to support students and institutions. The funds will go directly to student funding, Thorn said, as well as to cover university materials and supplement costs created by the ongoing pandemic. East Carolina University received close to \$30 million in direct student aid, which university officials hope to distribute within the first weeks of October.

ECU has created an online form where university students can describe the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their finances, Thorn said, as many individuals and families were affected by quarantine, job losses, emergency medical bills, technological needs and more. She said the online form allows the university to assess and respond to student needs as submissions are made.

“Lots of different reasons (for the HEERF-III),” Thorn said. “But we know that just having that emergency funding where the students can tailor it to their specific needs really helps.”

ECU has also assisted students with outstanding balances due to the university, Thorn said, which allows students to register for classes efficiently, re-enroll for the academic school year and graduate. She said the HEERF-III is the third wave of federal funds provided to institutions of higher education in response to COVID-19, following the CARES Act and the HEERF-I and II.

Thorn said the university was made aware of the HEERF-III in May and since then has made student awareness of the funds a priority. Alongside the online form, Thorn said ECU mailed informational postcards about the funds, sent out mass emails and created an accessible QR code for students to scan.

The applications and funds are accessed by a

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ANNAH HOWELL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU's Parking and Transportation informs students, faculty, staff and guests of the full occupancy of the main campus parking garage.

Limited spots impact parking

Chris Young
TEC STAFF

As the in-person fall 2021 semester is in full swing at East Carolina University, parking on the university's campus has been a topic of discussion amongst students, staff, faculty and guests who've had difficulty securing a spot to park since the first day of class.

ECU Parking & Transportation Enforcement Supervisor Josh Puckett said the main concern with parking on campus has been the Main Campus Student Center's parking garage. He said ECU Parking & Transportation has had to close down the parking garage on an average of four times a day because the garage has reached the occupancy limit.

“Our (ECU Parking) main issue is trying to determine whether or not we just have a large number of students without permits trying to park or people just coming to campus for a short period of time,” Puckett said.

It is impossible to control the students through permits if they continue to choose to park in the garage, Puckett

said. He said if students choose not to buy parking permits, there is nothing ECU Parking & Transportation can do if they park at the Main Campus Student Center garage.

The main campus is limited by the number of spaces available, Puckett said. He said there isn't enough space on the university's campus to create more parking spots as a sort of overflow option to give people what they want.

“My advice for people who are frustrated would be to buy a permit for a commuter zone and use the services ECU can provide,” Puckett said. “Buying a permit is the best course of action for this problem ECU has faced.”

Junior psychology major Ben Chappell said parking on the university's main campus was a disaster throughout the first week of school. He said he is disappointed in the university because they have failed to prepare for the large number of students who returned to campus for the academic year.

Chappell said he and many other students couldn't drive to campus from their apartments because of the huge numbers of cars that already took up most of the available spots. He said he hopes ECU Parking & Transportation can work to fix this situation quickly as students have

to get to class.

“So many of us (students) couldn't find parking and after the first couple of days (of the fall semester), I just decided to ride the bus,” Chappell said. “I paid for a parking permit and at this point, I can't even use it to park on campus.”

Chappell said there needs to be some sort of overflow parking and even more parking lots available for students who commute to get to campus. He said he knows other students who have had the same troubles as him and also had to resort to taking university transit buses to get to campus.

Even the parking lots located miles away from the main campus are almost full, Chappell said. He said he doesn't understand why ECU Parking & Transportation didn't prepare for the number of students that returned to campus.

“I feel like they should've had a guess at how many students would need parking spaces,” Chappell said. “I really want to be able to park on campus and get to classes on time and I'm sure every other student feels the same way.”

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

Pirates set to storm Bank of America Stadium

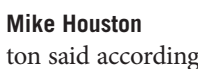
Markayla McInnis
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University football is almost back as the team will travel to Charlotte, North Carolina, to verse Appalachian State University Thursday in its season opener.

Both the Pirates and Mountaineers will play away from their home field as the teams will meet at the Bank of America Stadium, home to the National Football League's (NFL) Carolina Panthers. Kickoff will take place at 7:30 p.m. and will be broadcasted on ESPNU as well as 107.9 WNCT-FM.

ECU had its last practice scrimmage Aug. 22 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. In both preseason scrimmages, although there was no score, the defense had the edge as they were able to hold the offense to minimal drives. Head coach Mike Houston is confident that the team is ready to play App State to open the season.

“They are ready to face another opponent but it was a successful camp and scrimmages from the standpoint that we know what we have and where we are,” Houston said according to ECU Pirates. “We have



Mike Houston

places that will be our strength, but everybody is just excited to move on to our opening opponent.”

In program history, these two teams have met 31 times from 1932 to 2012. The Pirates were able to top the Mountaineers in the team's last six meetings. The last time the two met was Sept. 1, 2012, at the Kidd Brewer Stadium in Boone, North Carolina. The game ended with ECU on top 25-13. In the series, the Pirates have 12 wins and 19 losses.



Shawn Clark

The Mountaineers will come into this game after a full fall camp where the team prepared for its season. App State head coach Shawn Clark said he is excited to welcome back most of the defensive starters from the 2020-21 season, according to App State Sports. He is also confident in his offense as they have “developed chemistry” and they've been able to add players to different positions.

“It's been a fantastic camp. We're very excited on both sides of the football and special teams,” Clark said, according to App State Sports. “I'm very happy with where we are as far as fundamentals. That's something



COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

East Carolina University football head coach Mike Houston observes his team during fall practice.

we stressed in the offseason - fundamentals and getting back to what made us successful in previous years.”

Announced on Aug. 27, junior quarterback Holton Ahlers was named to the 2021-22 National Football League's (NFL) Player Association Collegiate Bowl Big Board Watch List. In his career at ECU, he has already passed the 7,000-yard mark in his 30 games played. Ahlers makes a huge impact on his team, according to Houston, as he calls Ahlers “Mr. Reliable.”

“Offensively I thought that Holtdon did

some really good things and it is always good to have your quarterback playing well,” Houston said. “I think we have a really good starting quarterback.”

After the Pirates take on the Mountaineers they will head back home to the Dowdy Ficklen Stadium for the Sept. 11 homecoming game. ECU will host the University of South Carolina Gamecocks for both teams first games. This game will be available to watch on ESPN2. 11 and will be available to watch on ESPN2.

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

ONLINE

»NEWS: Get A Clue set to make campus return

»SPORTS: Volleyball prepares for three-game weekend

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

CLCE to showcase 9/11 exhibit

Friday, East Carolina University's Center for Leadership & Civic Engagement (CLCE), alongside the School of Art & Design will hold an opening reception for the art exhibit "Memoirs to America" from 3 to 5 p.m. at the second floor art gallery in the Main Campus Student Center. The art exhibit is based on reflective essays written in 2001 by ECU students within the first 24 hours of the event.

Sustain ECU to hold Litter Cleanup

Today, East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine and Sustain ECU will hold a Town Creek Culvert litter cleanup from 2 to 3 p.m. Those interested should dress appropriately for picking up trash from rocks and banks of the Town Creek Culvert. Registration for the cleanup can be found on the ECU Give Pulse website.

International House to host Coffee Hour

Friday, East Carolina University's International House will host a coffee hour for those interested from 3 to 5 p.m. at the International House. The event will have coffee, tea and refreshments for attendees, alongside board games and card games to play. The coffee hour is open to ECU students, faculty, staff and volunteers.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



COURTESY OF VIDANT HEALTH

A Vidant Health employee distributes the COVID-19 vaccine to a local individual at a past vaccination clinic in the Greenville Convention Center.

Pitt County sees rise in COVID-19

Vidant healthcare workers encourage vaccination, safety precautions

Chris Young TEC STAFF

While the delta variant of COVID-19 causes another spike in Pitt County's case count and impacts emergency rooms, Vidant Health officials continue to encourage community members to get vaccinated against the virus.

Vidant Health released a COVID-19 Surge Press Conference on Youtube on Aug. 31 where speakers, President of Vidant Medical Center Brian Floyd, Vidant Health Pediatrician Matthew Ledoux, Critical Care Physician Ogugua Obi and Emergency Medicine Physician Leigh Patterson, each spoke on the current effects of COVID-19.



Matthew Ledoux

Floyd said the COVID-19 pandemic had "taken a deep toll" on the team members at Vidant Health. He said it's because the deaths and disabilities could be preventable.

"I am here today on behalf of nearly 13,000 dedicated yet emotionally exhausted team members at Vidant Health," Floyd said. "The pandemic has taken a deep toll on our team."

Dr. Patterson said Vidant has had a record number of patients seeking medical care at

the hospital. She said Vidant is seeing record numbers of children also.

There are more children arriving to the hospital with COVID-19 than at any point during the pandemic, Dr. Patterson said. She said up until now, children are being admitted on a regular basis.

"We (Vidant) are seeing record numbers of children," Dr. Patterson said. "More children than we have seen at any point in the pandemic up until now."

Dr. Patterson said the increased number of patients coming into the emergency department is a broad mix of people who are sick with COVID-19. She said there are also patients who are sick with other illnesses such as heart attacks, strokes, appendicitis and broken bones. Dr. Patterson said taking care of every patient who needs help is a challenge.

Dr. Ledoux said more children than ever before have been admitted to the intensive care unit due to the pandemic. He said Vidant is lucky and grateful to not have lost a single child yet to COVID-19.

"We (Vidant) have admitted an infant, who was just born who got infected by a family member and went on life support and almost needed to be put on heart-lung bypass," Dr. Ledoux said.

People must do what they can to help stop the pandemic so Vidant doesn't get overrun, Dr. Ledoux said. He encourages people to wear their mask, socially distance and, if they are eligible, to get the vaccine.

Every life Vidant take cares in the hospital, Dr. Obi said, and in the intensive care unit (ICU) is precious. Seeing younger patients arriving into the ICU is devastating for the Vidant staff, Dr. Obi said.

Dr. Obi said Vidant has an excellent team of physicians and nurses that are first class. She said the workers are doing all that they can to take care of critically ill patients, but the workers are exhausted.

"We're (Vidant) seeing more death in our ICU's than we have ever seen," Dr. Obi said. "The team is first-class and (Vidant) is doing everything we can to take care of our critically ill patients, but everyone is exhausted."

In an email statement, Vidant Health Manager of Public Relations Brian Wudkwyh said Vidant Health will always do

Ogugua Obi

> COVID page A3

DO THE WRITE THING AND JOIN THE EAST CAROLINIAN

WHETHER YOU WANT TO REPORT ABOUT SPORTS, ARTS OR NEWS, THE EAST CAROLINIAN HAS OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU.

TRY OUT

MON, AUG. 30 | WED, SEPT. 1 | THUR, SEPT. 2

9 A.M. TO NOON OR 2 P.M. TO 5 P.M.

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Tryouts are held in the Pirate Media 1 newsroom in Mendenhall on the main floor. Bring a pen/pencil and a bluebook. One hour is allotted for tryouts.

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FALL • 2021

The East Carolinian

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Monday, Aug. 30 OR Wednesday, Sept. 1 OR Thursday, Sept. 2

No experience needed. All majors welcome!

Pick a time between 9 a.m. to noon or 2-5 p.m.

Students must have a 2.25 GPA or higher in order to apply. Contact dovett@ecu.edu for more information on the Magazine Academy.



HALIE MILLER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU students exit the Science and Technology building on campus which houses the Department of Technology Systems, a partner in the merger with Wake Technical Community College.

ECU, Wake Tech create transfer program

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

As East Carolina University and Wake Tech Community College's (WTCC) co-locational partnership plan to launch in the spring 2022 semester, ECU and WTCC faculty are hopeful that the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology (BSIT) Associate of Applied Science (AAS) transfer program will increase learning opportunities and promote student success in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area.



Tijjani Mohammed

Tijjani Mohammed, chairperson and faculty member of ECU's Department of Technology Systems, said ECU and WTCC have had an established degree completion program for ECU's BSIT program for over two decades. Classes within six of the eight areas of concentration for the BSIT are available online, Mohammed said, though architectural design and mechanical design concentrations require a commute to ECU's campus for in-person labs.

As student demand for on-campus classes at WTCC became prevalent, Mohammed said a meeting between the two institutions led to the creation of ECU faculty-led classes on WTCC's Southern Campus. He said the transfer program was presented and approved by the University

of North Carolina System in July 2020, however, the office was not opened due to the pandemic.

"I'm just glad ECU is able to help meet the needs of these people (WTCC students) who otherwise would have been forced to go to other institutions or other programs, be forced to switch majors, lose credit, lose money, they invested time and money into their education," Mohammed said. "Being forced into something else, just because, you know, we could not meet them where they are."

Mohammed said there are over 60 AAS degrees at WTCC that can transfer into the BSIT, which allows for a number of qualified students at the college to be eligible for the program. He said the program has seen graduates from all 50 North Carolina community colleges. Students have found career opportunities and position promotion through the BSIT, Mohammed said, and the program is within the top 10 highest-paid degree programs within the state of North Carolina.

The partnership only furthers ECU's mission of student success and regional transformation, Mohammed said, and allows the university to accommodate students and promote them with an accessible higher education.

"If you look at ECU's mission statement, you know, to be a national model for student success, public service and regional

transformation. That's ECU's core mission," Mohammed said. "One of the commitments of student success is to maximize access for the qualified students."

David Batts, program coordinator for the ECU and WTCC's BSIT, said the partnership gives WTCC students easy access to in-person ECU courses within the BSIT's architectural design and mechanical design concentrations on the community college's campus. He said this also provides the university an opportunity to establish an academic presence on campus.



David Batts

Students who complete the BSIT program often see success with post-graduate opportunities, Batts said, and alumni have found careers as manufacturing engineers, biotechnology instructors, solution architects and more.

Batts said increased student demand led to the agreement between the institutions, as well as regional demand from industries throughout Wake County. He said this agreement coincides with ECU's mission to serve students and the region. ECU will establish an office for the university and its admissions on WTCC's campus, Batts said, though classes within the program won't begin until the spring of 2022.

"I've been program coordinator since

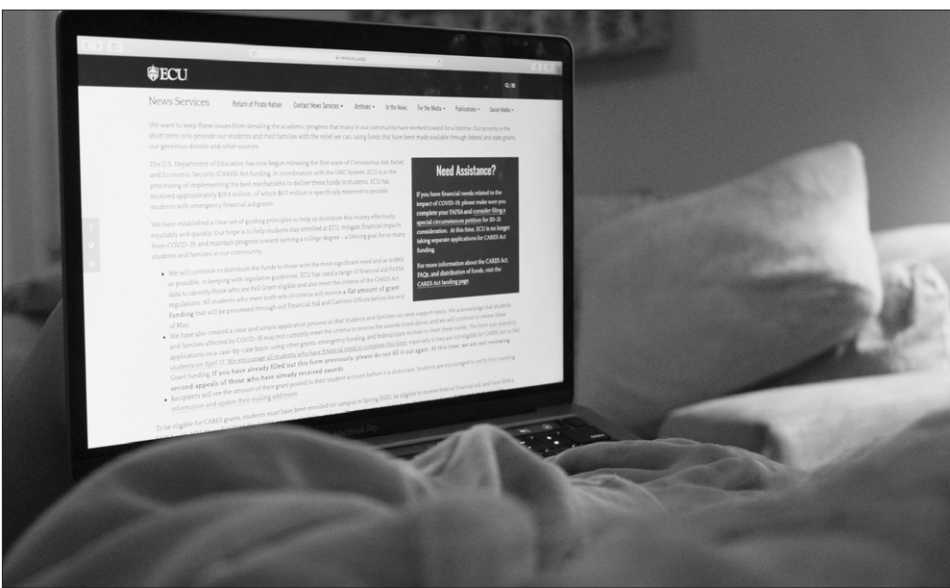
2005 and basically I've helped to remove admission barriers and modify the degree so it's more attractive for students," Batts said. "We went from under 70 students to over 700 students now."

Dean of Applied Engineering and Technologies at WTCC Lora Eddington said the partnership's goal is to provide for students and give them the opportunity to explore programs within the degree. She said the program allows WTCC students to participate in hands-on classes and learn valuable field skills without the need to commute to ECU or another institution.

Many students within the BSIT choose to attend ECU after they graduate due to its location and fit to the program, Eddington said, though access to the university's classes at WTCC will allow students to continue to keep careers in the area. She said the agreement often leads to advancements in students' careers, experience for resumes and competition within companies.

"I think the aspect of a student not having to move is a real critical point," Eddington said. "Students already have established families here in the area, or they have ties to this area (Wake County). So having a program accessible for them to continue on with a BSIT degree I think works well for that."

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MADISON GRIFALDO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A student views the information on the HEERF-III Funding on the ECU News Services website.

FUNDS continued from A1

small team of ECU financial aid officers and employees, Thorn said, and as of Aug. 26 the university has received close to 5,000 applications from students. Assessing the funds and assisting students is rewarding for the team, she said, but the process can be lengthy and she asks for students to remain patient throughout the coming months as the team works to sort through submissions.

"This is federal funding that is provided to universities across the country to assist with recovery from the pandemic and continuing to support our institutions as well as our students," Thorn said.



Melonie Bryan

Director of University Scholarships Melonie Bryan said the HEERF-III aids both ECU students and the ECU campus by splitting the funds equally between direct student aid and university needs. She said direct student aid funding from HEERF-III will be close to \$30 million.

Bryan said within ECU's online form, there is an option for further financial aid judgment available for students. She said she strongly encourages students to take advantage of this option, as financial aid is currently determined by financial circumstances from 2019.

Students can still receive HEERF-III funding as well as be eligible for additional

financial aid, Bryan said. He said further financial aid judgment gives students the opportunity to receive more assistance through university grants and the Federal Pell Grant.

"We're actually here to help the student, at the end of the day it's to help the student be successful and persist in college," Bryan said. "While of course they'd all like the money tomorrow, it is a process and there are federal guidelines we have to follow."

Michael Hook, senior construction management major, said he applied to both the HEERF-I and HEERF-II last school year. He said he received financial aid from both funds and has already submitted his application to the HEERF-III.



Michael Hook

Hook said he believes a lot of students can benefit from the financial aid and could use funds to cover student housing costs and online learning costs created by the pandemic. He said the financial funds are a great opportunity for ECU students who have struggled from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think it's (HEERF-III) been pretty accessible," Hook said. "I mean they gave multiple opportunities to give back to people who are struggling, but I think they might could do a little better advertising it."

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

COVID continued from A2

what is right for the community throughout the pandemic. Wudkwyh said keeping patients, their loved ones and team members safe and healthy is Vidant's mission.

"The science is clear, COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective," Wudkwyh said in the email statement. "Vidant is listening to our providers, scientists and experts about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines."

Wudkwyh said while the vaccine is extremely helpful, the medical center understands that religious and medical reasons should allow people to be exempt from the vaccine through requests.

Vidant is aligned with numerous organizations, including the American College of Physicians and the American Nurses Association, which support requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for healthcare workers, Wudkwyh said.

"About 90% of COVID-19 patients in Vidant hospitals are unvaccinated, making it clear we have a solution to help prevent serious illness and death from the virus," Wudkwyh said in the email statement. "We (Vidant) have also heard from community members and patients sharing that they want their providers and care teams to be vaccinated."

Wudkwyh said COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and our best hope at ending the pandemic, which has claimed more than 4 million lives globally.

As of Aug. 31, there have been 22,686 COVID-19 cases and 114 deaths in Pitt



Brian Wudkwyh

County, according to the Pitt County Health Department's website. In Pitt County, 50% of the population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 46% are fully vaccinated, according to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Pitt County resident Beverly Thompson, who is also a local nurse, said she had hoped the pandemic would have been over months ago. She said COVID-19 has put a damper on a lot of activities and events in Pitt County and she hopes everyone's lives will go back to normal soon.

"The delta variant is just another reason to go and get vaccinated," Thompson said. "As more people get vaccinated, the likelihood of the disease spreading goes down and that means we can all have our lives back."

Thompson said as a nurse, she works with patients who have COVID-19 daily. She said a lot of the people with worse symptoms are unvaccinated and she hopes Greenville's residents will pay attention to that.

People just want to be able to go out and have fun like it was before the pandemic, Thompson said. She said she just wants people to be safe and cautious as another wave of COVID-19 is likely to appear in Pitt County and the whole country.

"I don't want to tell people what they should and shouldn't do," Thompson said. "If you have reservations about the vaccine, that's understandable, but many people are just trying to make the area safer for everyone else."

East Carolina University junior business major Xavier Smith said he had hoped to not have to wear a face mask on campus this semester. He said with the mandate returning for most of Pitt County, a lot of people are upset.

Smith said the vaccine was supposed to allow for people to not wear masks and he is displeased that he still needs to wear one. He said he understands the vaccine doesn't give people full immunity to the virus.

"It's definitely tough to have thought the pandemic was almost over just to be right back at square one," Smith said. "Students and community members are just trying to have the freedom to go outside to restaurants and other places."

Smith said he's excited for the pandemic to be over so everyone can go back to normal and be able to live their lives again. He said the last two years have been hard on everyone in Pitt County.

As a student, he has to be around people all day on campus and just like people with jobs in Greenville most people are tired of the masks, Smith said. He said he doesn't want people to stop wearing them, he just hopes the mandate is over soon.

"Obviously the masks are keeping us safe but I just want to be able to go to class or work without one," Smith said. "We had that freedom for a little while but it was snatched out from under us because of the delta variant."



Beverly Thompson

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

OUR VIEW

ECU takes needed action on Brewster

East Carolina University's Brewster Building continues to be under watch as concerns are raised from those who occupy the building, where several pancreatic cancer deaths and diagnoses among faculty members have occurred.

Some individuals believe the A Wing of the building may have a connection to the cancer deaths and diagnoses of several faculty members. Concerns about the building's overall safety began in 2019, resulting in an Indoor Environmental Assessment Report performed on the A Wing of Brewster in 2019, which found there were no serious health issues present.

Since then, the diagnosis and death of a faculty member whose office was in the A Wing reignited concerns about the building.

As an ongoing issue since 2019, the university needs to remain active within the investigation and keep the ECU community in the loop about efforts to address concerns and tackle the issues within Brewster.

ECU's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) requested the Brewster Building be reevaluated by The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The ECU chapter of the association requested further assessment of possible toxins within the building, a case study analysis of severe illnesses among ECU faculty and a consideration from the University of North Carolina System to put Brewster at the top of its list for replacement.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, support the AAUP's request for reevaluation of the building, as the livelihood of faculty, staff and students who occupy the building daily may be at stake.

As ECU continues its academic year, the university should be vigilant of the concerns that surround the Brewster building when it comes to the community's safety.



Vaccines should be required Universities must prioritize the community's safety

More with Michelle



Michelle Mazzei
TEC COLUMNIST

After the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of the Pfizer-BioTech COVID-19 vaccine on Aug. 23, East Carolina University as well as all universities in North Carolina should require their university

communities to obtain their COVID-19 vaccines.

In order for all universities, including ECU, in the state of North Carolina, to see some sort of normalcy post-pandemic in the fall 2021 semester, all students, faculty and staff should get vaccinated. This will help continue to stop the spread of the virus whether it be on or off campus.

Universities all across the country have had students take their academic courses completely or partially remote, wear face masks, social distance and not live the ideal traditional college experience on and off campus. I want to have in-person academic courses, not wear a face mask everywhere I go and not social distance.

When I came to ECU in 2019, the university and the world was COVID-19 free, however, throughout my second semester of my freshman year, the pandemic changed my whole college experience. Since my first year at ECU, I have mostly taken online classes remotely. I am now in my junior year, and I am worried my entire time at ECU will be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I want my normal college experience

“ I want Pirate Nation to go back to the safe and healthy community we once were, and with science and technology, we may be able to return to the university we once were. ”

-Michelle Mazzei

back. I want to attend in-person classes, especially without face masks. I want to go into restaurants, Joyner Library and all buildings on ECU's campus without COVID-19 regulations.

I am tired of being worried about the pandemic. Aren't you tired? COVID-19 has been a thought in my head for almost two years and I'm sure it has also been on everyone's mind for too long.

In January of 2021, university administration started to tally the positive COVID-19 cases for the ECU community and post the results on the ECU Return of Pirate Nation website. The university has had 1,049 cumulative students positive COVID-19 cases from January of this year, according to the website. The website said just from Aug. 22 to Aug. 28, ECU reported 168 positive COVID-19 cases. I believe this weekly number would be lower if all of the ECU community got vaccinated.

It is understandable some students or faculty members did not want to obtain their vaccines due to the fact that they were not aware of the short or long-term effects since the Pfizer-BioTech alongside the other vaccines came out throughout the summer of 2020. However, the Pfizer-Bio-Tech vaccine has now been FDA approved.

I also understand how some individuals of ECU as well as the Greenville community don't want to get their COVID-19 vaccines in general, but vaccinations keep people safe. Each student has to have several vaccines before coming on campus, so how is the COVID-19 vaccine any different?

With the FDA's approval of the Pfizer vaccine, individuals are able to have less concerns about the short and long-term effects of the COVID-19 vaccine. It may not put some at ease, but I think if the ECU community wants to see normalcy, vaccinations are essential.

Not only does the ECU administration strongly encourage the university community to get vaccinated, the UNC Systems, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper as well as the nation's leaders motivate individuals to get COVID-19 vaccines.

Some of you may not agree with me, but I believe in science. I want Pirate Nation to go back to the safe and healthy community we once were, and with science and technology, we may be able to return to the university we once were.

Michelle Mazzei is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC Columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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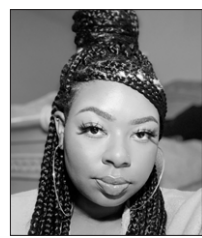
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Parking, transit issues call for change



Jala Davis
GUEST COLUMNIST

After much anticipation and thousands of young adults waiting to arrive back on ECU's campus, Aug. 23 was the return of the Pirates. ECU's campus was filled with thousands of new freshmen who were just starting their new lives away from home and returning seniors counting down the days until they start their real lives.

Although I, like many other students, was excited to be back on campus and finally get back to some sort of normal, trying to get on campus this week from my apartment was very challenging.

By the time I got on campus for my 11 a.m. class, the parking deck at the Main Campus Student Center had a sign that signified that the parking deck was full so once I got turned around, I had to frantically find parking. Thankfully, I left my apartment an hour and 15 minutes before my class started so I had a little bit of time to figure out what my next move was. Eventually I had to park in a different lot where I was stressed about getting a ticket because I didn't have a sticker for that lot.

The parking deck is probably one of the most stressful things I've had to encounter this week. If it's not the parking deck attendees saying that the parking deck is full, it's the people walking in front of your car or people not letting you get in



HALIE MILLER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

An ECU Transit bus parked at one of the university's various bus stops on its main campus.

the parking spot and there's people impatiently waiting on you to park your car. My biggest issue with the parking deck is that I don't understand the sign that says the parking deck is full if there's barely any cars going in and a lot of cars going out.

To me it doesn't really add up. The other day I pulled up to the parking garage and it seemed like I was the only one that was trying to get in so I pulled off to the side and put my hazards on so when the sign was moved, I would just be able to go in and park. Unfortunately, I was moved because I was "impeding traffic," so I left and pulled into A lot until the sign was moved.

The next thing that I had an issue with was the bus situation. The first time I rode the bus from my car to the campus, there

weren't that many people up there, so I was comfortable. However, the second time I rode the bus my skin was crawling because there were many people on the bus all around me and in the middle of a pandemic, that wasn't the best experience, so I certainly think something needs to be done about that so that we aren't crammed together when we're supposed to be socially distant.

All in all, I think parking and riding to campus should be a lot better and there should be some changes in the way that we travel and park at school.

Jala Davis is a junior majoring in communication and a guest columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

CLASSIFIEDS

Did someone say FREE?

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Domestic projects provide satisfying results. Handle chores and clear clutter. Action gets farther than words at home. Forgive misunderstandings. Clean and redecorate. Cook delicious treats.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Have patience with miscommunications. Ignore rumors or gossip. Don't go along with an idea if you don't agree. Write and journal. Get creatively productive.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 9 — More income is possible. Action gets lucrative while words confuse, delay or distract. Simplify to minimize costs. Imagine the results. Take it step by step.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 9 — You're creative and efficient. Prioritize personal time. Others may demand quick action. Show them the big picture. Reduce distractions. Pursue interests and passions.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Indulge nostalgic reflection. Complete old projects and file away. Clear space for what's ahead. Notice the ground taken. Peaceful contemplation feeds your creativity.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Connect with friends and teammates. An obstacle, barrier or delay could be a challenge. Diplomacy may be required. Let go of preconceptions. Share the load.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 9 — Your work is attracting attention. Prioritize professional practicalities. Edit and revise. Update marketing materials. Polish presentations. Practice your elevator pitch. Dress for success.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — You're energized for your exploration, yet distractions or delays could interrupt. Simplify or reduce communications and travel. Gather information. Keep a low profile.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Handle financial tasks for your shared venture. File documents, applications and monitor statements. Send invoices. Patience and humor help with misunderstandings. Action gets results.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Generosity with patience rewards nicely. Tempers may be short. Step back and consider. Let automatic reactions subside before speaking. Bring your strength and compassion.

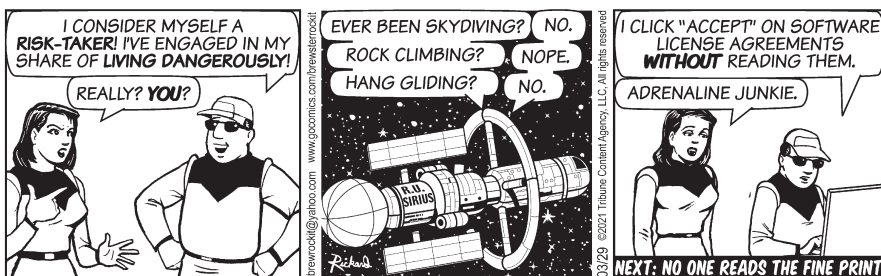
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — Slow for obstacles and tight corners. Traffic could delay the action. Ignore rumors or gossip. Don't believe everything you hear. Prioritize your health.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Relax and take it easy. Avoid traffic, crowds or noise. Enjoy beloved activities and people. Share patience. Forgive misunderstandings. Beauty feeds your spirit.

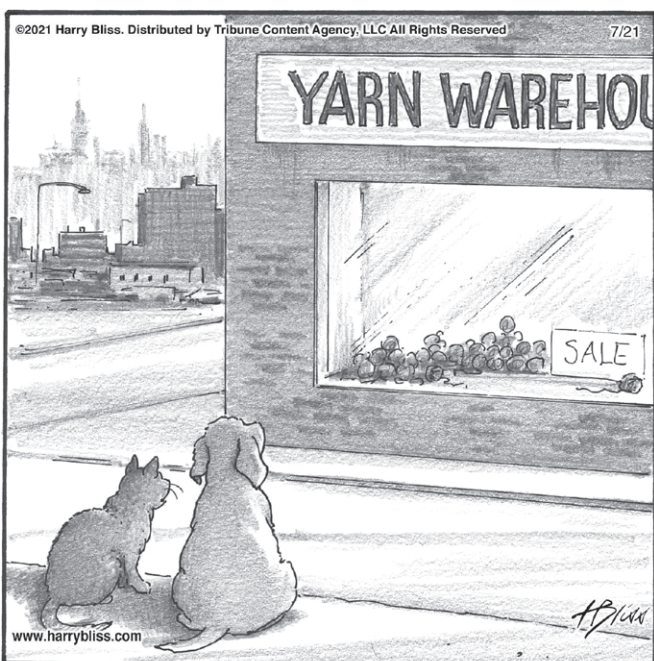
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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BLISS

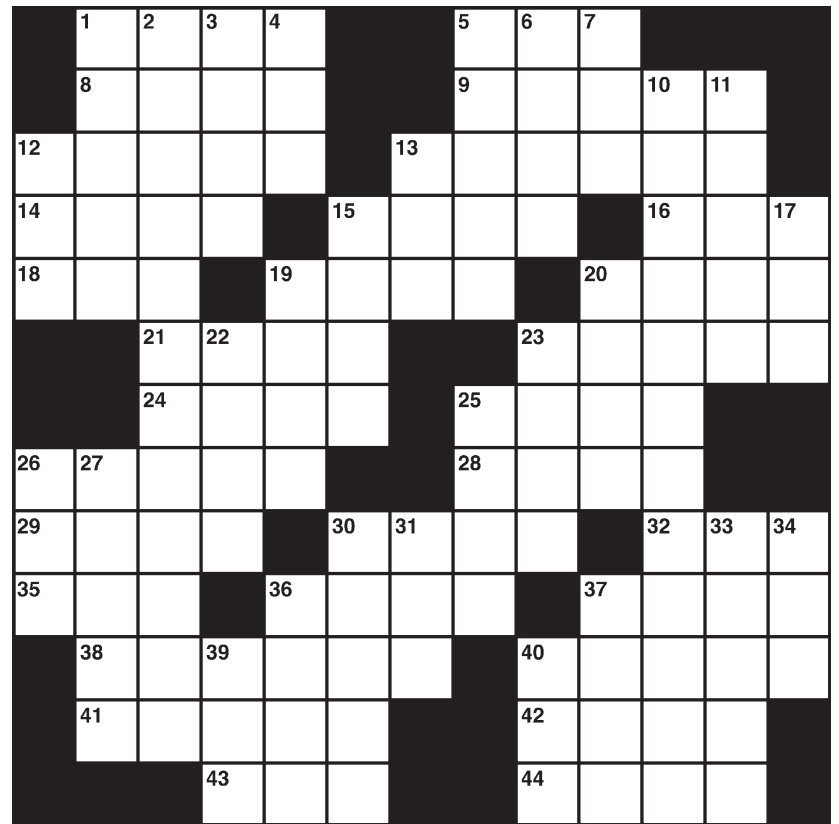


"It's my white whale."

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

1 "___ Bloods"
5 "Men ___ Certain Age"
8 Actor Tamlyn
9 Harmon & Hamill
12 "The ___ of Hazzard"
13 "___ Fences"
14 Applied frosting to
15 "___ Plus 8"
16 Actor Kilmer
18 Topaz or ruby
19 Nabors & Belushi
20 "Chicago ___"
21 Mosque leader
23 "The Sixth ___"; Bruce Willis film
24 Gifts for kids
25 "Deck the halls with boughs of holly, ___..."
26 Peruvian Indians
28 Uplifting tune
29 Paula ___
30 Writer Bellow
32 Give up the single life
35 Arden or Plumb

DOWN

1 Lee or Boxleitner
2 Actor on "Blindspot"
3 "___ People"; Kathy Bates film
4 Suffix for heir or host
5 Leaves out
6 "___ the Nation"
7 Actress Joan Van ___
10 "Chicago P.D." role
11 "Dancing with the ___"
12 Use a shovel
13 Actress Dawber
15 Delaney & Kardashian
17 Actor ___ J. Cobb
19 Leno & Thomas
20 Actor Norman
22 ___ and groan; complain
23 Spinnaker or jib
25 Chimney duct
26 Suffix for vocal or civil
27 Part of USNA
30 Gilbert & Rue
31 Actor Carney
33 Charlton Heston film
34 Comment from Homer
36 ___ Moore
37 Race loser of Aesop's fable
39 Emeril's cry
40 One of the girls in "Little Women"

Solution from 08/23

B	E	T	T	Y		C	S	I						
A	C	H	O	O		A	N	N	I	E				
S	H	E	E	N		A	G	E	N	T	S			
H	O	G				D	R	E	I					
						O	C	T	E	T	G	L	E	N
						O	D	I	E		H	E	R	E
B	R	I	D	E	S		R	O	B	E	R	T		
E	A	R	P			L	E	N	O					
N	E	A	L			D	I	N	E	R				
						A	B	E	E		H	A	T	
F	A	L	C	O	N		S	T	O	N	E			
A	L	I	E	N			I	R	O	N	S			
T	E	D					R	I	D	E	S			

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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level
1 2
3 4

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

Solution from 08/23

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

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Watch for the Teco Echo newsletter coming this summer!

Get the top headlines from The East Carolinian straight to your inbox every week through our new e-newsletter, Teco Echo!



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EVERY FRIDAY

EVENTS

TODAY

Litter Cleanup
Town Creek Culvert
300 E 1st St.
2 to 3 p.m.
252-744-4190

Hostile Terrain 94

Joyner Library
1000 E 5th St.
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
252-328-9434

TOMORROW

Trail Maintenance Workday

Otter Creek Natural Area
6482 NC-43
2 to 4 p.m.
252-744-4190

Guest Artist:

Alexander Lapins

A.J Fletcher Recital Hall
Bennett Way
7:30 to 9 p.m.
252-328-6851

FRIDAY

Fresh Food Fridays

Main Campus Student Center
501 E. 10th St.
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
252-328-6387

International Coffee Hour

International House
306 Library Dr.
3 to 5 p.m.
252-328-5829

SATURDAY

Jazzsmith and Company Live

Blues Boulevard Jazz
300 River St
7:30 p.m.
864-242-2583

Whirligig Stage to return

Production company prepares for upcoming premiere

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

Whirligig Stage, a local theatrical production company, has begun production on new shows within the Greenville, North Carolina, area after closing its doors in March 2020 at its former Uptown location, with its first show “All Together Now” set to premiere on Nov. 13 at the State Theatre.

Jason Coale, co-founder of Whirligig Stage, said in an email statement that prior to COVID-19, it dealt with conflict with the City of Greenville over zoning issues regarding the types of events being held at its former location at 628 South Pitt St. He said it was “left on life support” prior to the pandemic and then was forced to close its physical stage location. He said Whirligig pivoted to virtual performances for a while then had to shut down completely so staff could find other jobs.

Whirligig stage now conducts rehearsals at the Jaycee Park Center for Arts & Crafts and will have performances at The State Theatre and other rented locations until it can secure a new storefront location, Coale said. Whirligig’s upcoming performances are all theatrical in nature in contrast to the diverse shows it once offered.

“Our offerings have changed as a result of these changes (not having a storefront location) but the quality will still be of the highest caliber around. For example it is very difficult for us to bring in comedy shows as we once had or the variety of music,” Coale said. “We offered those types of events to prevent our space from sitting unused and as a way to support the artist community, but never achieved a revenue stream for it that would be sustainable for us currently.”



Jason Coale

Coale said Whirligig Stage’s



© NonSibi Photography

CONTRIBUTED BY JASON COALE

Cast members in a past performance, “MIXTAPE” at Whirligig Stage’s former storefront location at 628 S. Pitt St.

first show after its time away is called “All Together Now!” and will feature songs from a variety of popular Broadway musicals. He said the production was created by Music Theatre International (MIT) for use by theaters around the world to fundraise for their local programs. He said organizations in 36 countries and all 50 states will perform the show during the weekend of Nov. 12 to 15. Whirligig’s production will occur on Nov. 13 and Nov. 14.

The Greenville Theatre Arts Center, A Place in the Heart Theatre Company, several local schools and other organizations will all collaborate for the show, according to Coale. He said he and the team at Whirligig are thrilled to be active in Greenville once again.

“We have a vision for Whirligig Stage. Beyond engaging productions, it is a place for the community to celebrate and grow together. The greatest thing about us has never been our facilities. It is the

people, our family of performers, artists, and audiences. Together we can build something even better than before,” Coale said.

Denise Walker, director for “All Together Now!,” said she got involved with Whirligig in 2019 and was very sad when it closed. She said she reached out and asked how she could get plugged back in with the organization after it was announced that it was returning.

“All Together Now!” is still in the planning stages, Walker said. She said the different organizations involved will likely each claim one or more different musical numbers to cast and produce, but some collaborations may be determined following auditions.

“Especially during this time of COVID(-19) and with a lot of other things that have been going on, how great is it going to be to just work with a really diverse but talented group of people,” Walker said.

Greenville resident and general manager at The Shave on Fifth,

Kathleen Scully Cannon, said her first experience with Whirligig was when she watched her niece in a production of “Newsies.” She said theater has always been a big part of her life and she thinks it is valuable for organizations like Whirligig Stage to give children a creative outlet for theatre that is outside of school.

Cannon said she was disappointed when Whirligig Stage had to close and she enjoyed the intimate nature of Whirligig’s former storefront location. She said she is excited for its return as she believes local families are ready to return to some sense of normalcy.

“I think it was something that people were truly missing is being able to go to a show and live a story in person, instead of reading a book, which I think is something really special, so I think it brings back a sort of excitement for the community,” Cannon said.

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

ECU dance education program to end

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

Due to lack of interest, funding and an unmet graduation quota, East Carolina University will discontinue its dance education major through the School of Theatre and Dance (SoTD) when the program’s final student graduates in 2023.



Kelly Holt

Junior dance education major Kelly Holt said she was the only SoTD student pursuing the dance education major as a freshman and is currently the last one in the program. She said in 2019, SoTD officials allowed her the option to finish out the program before it was discontinued.

“It had to do with the original dance education coordinator going to a different school and funding-wise and a lot of (dance) majors wanted to concentrate in education,” Holt said. “I was the only one going into the program, everyone (past dance education majors) else was older.”

As dance education was the reason why she came to ECU, Holt said she was excited to learn that she would be able to continue to pursue her major. She said because of the circumstances, she fulfilled all of her dance education course requirements as a freshman and is currently taking the general education courses that were required of her when she was a freshman.

Holt said when she took her dance education courses with Teaching Instructor Cindy Carbone, she was the only one in the class. She said this allowed her to build her own schedule and take class when it was most convenient for her and Carbone. Carbone has not responded to an interview request from The East Carolinian as of Aug. 31.

“I liked being one-on-one because if I didn’t understand something I could easily ask her (Carbone) and just get a complete understanding with it,” Holt said.

Her passion for dance started when her mom put her in classes at the age of three and she decided to stick with it, Holt said. Along with participating in competitions throughout high school, she said she has studied ballet, jazz, modern, contemporary and lyrical dance.

Holt said she can attribute her goal of teaching dance in public schools to her high school dance teacher. When she was an upperclassman in high school, she said she discovered the dance education major and knew it was right for her.

“It’s (SoTD dance program) been great, I mean they’re very helpful with remembering that I am a dance education



DESTIN HENDRIX | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

School of Theatre and Dance to phase out its dance education program due to funding, interest level and an unmet graduation quota.

major,” Holt said. “All the professors, they’re very helpful when it comes to that. They’re very helpful when it comes to dance education just because I don’t have a lot of people to rely on.”

Holt said SoTD officials may consider bringing the dance education program back to ECU in the future, though it depends on interest level.

SoTD Academic Advisor Kelly Reddick said the circumstances necessary to bring back the dance education program consist of funding to build the program up, as well as finding students whose goals are to work as a dance instructor in a high-school setting.

“Money will come back down, not just to the university, but you have to think about our public schools,” Reddick said. “A lot of the time the first to go is the arts so if there aren’t many dance education programs and there’s not the jobs available, then we don’t need to graduate students in this field if there’s not somewhere for them to get a job.”

Reddick said a big factor in discontinuing the dance education program was that many dance students realized they’d prefer to concentrate in dance performance and choreography, as it would enable them to spend their junior and senior years in physical choreography and technique courses instead of in education courses.

Each school within the university is responsible for meeting a graduation quota, Reddick said. She said the dance education program has not graduated enough students in the past few years, which forced the school to phase it out.

As Holt’s advisor, Reddick said she and other SoTD officials will continue to ensure Holt meets all of her needed requirements and gets more one-on-one time with professors. She said though SoTD was unable to sustain the dance education program, she hopes they will be able to do so again in the future.

“I do think it is unfortunate that we have had to phase out the (dance) education program but we are meeting students where their ultimate career goals lay and many of the students who would originally come in as dance education (majors) realized that they wanted to move in the direction of performance and choreography,” Reddick said.

SoTD’s ability to support their students to ensure they meet their education requirements makes her proud, Reddick said. She said she is also proud of Holt for sticking with the dance education program even though it is being phased out.

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

Local musician produces solo album

ECU student Chris Puckett releases three-track EP 'Bass Olympics 2020'

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF

Local Greenville, North Carolina, musician and East Carolina University certificate of advanced performance student Chris Puckett released a new solo bass guitar album called "Bass Olympics 2020," on Aug. 23 via Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube.

Puckett graduated from ECU with a degree in performance studies in 2018. He said his musical style has changed over the years from having a pop influence, in an effort to cater to what he thought people liked, to creating his own style that made him remember why he loved playing guitar.

"Bass Olympics 2020" is comprised of three tracks, "Gold," "Silver" and "Bronze." Puckett said the extended play (EP) and song titles were inspired by the Tokyo 2020 Olympics as most of the songs were written in 2020 or earlier, but the album was released in 2021, just as the Tokyo 2020 Olympics took place in 2021 due to COVID-19.

"I wanted to categorize my music in a way that was simple and so I just kind of figured colors would be the best route for me because I can easily make album covers and I could just call the track you know, whatever color I want. It doesn't really have to mean anything so much," Puckett said. "I have this vision of like releasing a bunch of music and you can just see colors going down my artist page online."

Puckett said when he began writing the music for the album, he started by playing around with simple scales, sounds and intervals. He said even his mistakes were part of the process of finding the sound he was looking for and helping him learn.

A big inspiration for his musical style, Puckett said, is the album "In a Silent Way" by Miles Davis. He said his music tends to be relaxing which relates to the fact that he finds playing guitar to be a stress reliever for him.

"Playing guitar is definitely a blessing in my life. Like if I feel anxious, if I feel like I need to be creative I can just hop on my guitar, hop on my bass, just like I can actually like, I can make myself relax," Puckett said.

At 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 1 at Fletcher Music Hall room B10, Puckett will hold a free live performance which will be open to

the public. He said due to COVID-19, face masks will be required for everyone who attends the event. He said in addition to the live musical performance, he will simultaneously project colors corresponding to the different tracks onto a screen behind him

so he recorded and mixed all the tracks. He said it took around 40 hours over several months to finish producing the album.

"It's supposed to give off like a calming, relaxing, almost contemplative and almost meditative mood. Each song kind of takes

would not say Puckett's music fits into any one genre. He said people should listen to the EP because it is a unique and welcoming contrast to the fast paced digital age in which we currently live. He said "Bass Olympics 2020" gives listeners an opportunity to slow down.

Matthew Paradis, an ECU alumnus who graduated in 2017 with degrees in sociology and anthropology, said he and Puckett have known one another since middle school. He said he had always known Puckett as "the musical guy" until they started to hang out in high school and their friend group began to play music together. Then they both came to ECU and continued to make music together.

"It was funny, I was able to fit a small drum set into a suitcase and I would meet him late at night at the music school and we would just rent out one of those little rooms that had, could barely fit a piano in it and we would jam for hour," Paradis said. "We would fit a bass guitar, an electric guitar and an entire little cocktail drum set, and it was just a blast. He just continued to grow and get better and we're here today and I'm kind of like his biggest fan."

Paradis said he knew that Puckett had been working on this album for some time and described the album as "the essence of what Chris (Puckett) is." He said Puckett has experimented and tried to find his sound and he thinks he has succeeded with this album. He said the album shows that the right person can prove bass guitar to be a very versatile instrument.

The album is very emotional and causes the listener to become more relaxed with each track, Paradis said. He said it was especially interesting to him that not only is Puckett a talented musician, but that he was able to infuse so much emotion into an album composed of solo bass tracks.

"I think he is a great guy, I think he's immensely talented, there is no doubt in my mind that he will go far," Paradis said.

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



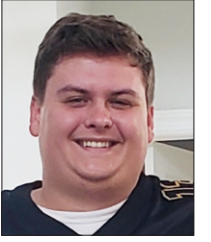
Local musician Chris Puckett recently released a solo bass guitar album, "Bass Olympics 2020."

while he plays.

Maximilian Mallett, an ECU alumnus who graduated in 2018 with a BA in political science, said he and Puckett met in spring of 2014 during a jazz chamber music class in which he played alto saxophone. Mallett said he was the recording engineer for the album

you through like a, without trying to sound like too cliché or anything, it kinda takes you through like a little journey," Mallett said.

Puckett is a versatile musician, according to Mallett, and he has played both upright bass and bass guitar. He said Puckett "dabbles" in different areas of music and he



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TEC 'sports

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this week's football matchup

Markayla McInnis

Sports reporter

@m3_mcinnis



ECU vs App State on Thursday 9/2

Score Prediction?

App wins 35-28

Why? I think it's just going to be

close the whole time. I think it's going to be touchdown after touchdown, going back and forth, but I'm hopeful that we (ECU) come out on top but I'm not sure with the roster App State has.

Brendan Cavazos

Sports editor

@bcvaz_xi



ECU vs App State on Thursday 9/2

Score Prediction?

ECU wins 28-21

Why? I think it's going to be more

of a defensive battle, though. I think it's going to be a lot of things on the ground just because it's the first game. You're not going to see a lot of gun-slinging, shooting for big touchdowns, until later in the game.

Max Lukas

News and sports reporter with WZMB



ECU vs App State on Thursday 9/2

Score Prediction?

ECU wins 28-21

Why? I think it's going to come down

to the pass. I do think ECU will be running it a lot, but I think towards the end of the game, if ECU does pass the ball more, I think Holton has a little bit more of an upside than the App State team.



COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

Graduate student defense Kim Sanford controls and looks to clear the ball in the game against the Virginia Military Institute on Aug. 22.

Soccer wins at High Point

ECU came out victorious in tightly contested road game

Reyna Crooms
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University soccer team (2-2-0, 0-0-0 American Athletic Conference) traveled to High Point, North Carolina, on Aug. 29 where it won against the High Point Panthers (0-3-1, 0-0-0 Big South Conference) with a final score of 2-1.

"We are extremely proud of the ladies and their fight today," head coach Jason Hamilton said, according to ECU Pirates. "That was an extremely hot day and being on the turf made it seem a lot hotter than it was. They are a very hard team to play against and will have a lot of success this season."



Jason Hamilton

From the Pirates, graduate student forward Tory Riggs made the first goal of the game, assisted by McWhirter. Riggs shot the ball across the field, landing it in the High Point goal. The Panthers bounced back after its first goal and scored on ECU 15 minutes into the first half.

The pressure mounted on both teams as High Point forward player Skyler Prillaman shot the ball into the Pirate penalty area, which landed the ball in the goal resulting in a score of 1-1 at the end of the first half.

"We had a great start to the game, creating some good looks at goal and scoring early," Hamilton said, according to ECU Pirates. "I think we kind of took our foot off the gas a little after that first goal and allowed them to get back into the game."

The force of the Pirates paid off as senior defense Maycie McDougal scored the first goal of her East Carolina career and the game-winning goal for the purple and gold in the 82nd minute of the game. The shot came off of McWhirter's assist as McDougal saw her chance when the ball went into the penalty area.

"We wanted to go in tied or ahead at halftime, knowing that we have a very deep bench. Credit to High Point, they made some very good adjustments in the second half, but our ladies dug deep and fought hard," Hamilton said, according to ECU Pirates.

After the game-winning shot, the Pirates continued on in the last few minutes of the game. Freshman defense player Peyton Godbey Riggs attempted to make a goal, but both shots resulted in saves from the High Point goalkeeper.

Next, East Carolina will take on the Campbell University Camels (1-1-1, 0-0-0 Big South Conference) on Thursday at 7:05 p.m. The last time the Pirates faced the Camels was Sept. 6, 2018, which resulted in a win for the Pirates. The game will take place in Greenville in the Johnson Stadium and will be broadcast by ESPN.

Campbell recently won against Mount St. Mary's University (1-3-0, 0-0-0 Northeastern Conference 1-4) on Aug. 29. The Big South Conference also named Campbell soccer player junior midfielder Elyssa Nowowieski co-offensive player of the week, according to Gocamels.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

Volleyball looks to three-game weekend

Markayla McInnis
TEC STAFF

This weekend, the East Carolina University volleyball team (0-0-0, 0-0-0 American Athletic Conference) will take on Wofford College (1-2-0, 0-0-0 Southern Conference) on Friday and North Carolina State University (0-3-0, 0-0-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (3-0-0, 0-0-0 ACC) on Saturday.

While this should be the Pirates second game of the season, its Aug. 27 game versus Liberty University (0-0-0, 0-0-0 Atlantic Sun Conference) was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns within the Pirate program. Wofford College had its first two games on Aug. 27 where it ended with one loss and one win. The team continued their weekend of action

on Aug. 28 where it traveled to Boca Raton, Florida, to play a match against Florida Atlantic University (2-1-0, 0-0-0 Conference USA). Wofford managed to get in a few good frames, but overall lost 3-1 to Florida.

The Wolves lost its first two games. On Aug. 28, NC State played the University of Tennessee Knoxville (3-0-0, 0-0-0 Southeastern Conference). Before it takes on the Pirates Saturday, the team will play Wofford College on Friday at home.

The Tarheels currently sit undefeated with its first three wins. Prior to the match against ECU, UNC will have to battle Colorado State University (0-1-0, 0-0-0) Friday and Wofford on Saturday at 12 p.m. before it takes on the Pirates at 7 p.m.

Matches will begin Friday at 1 p.m. The Saturday matches will have live stats available on ECU Pirates.

The Pirates first game at home will be part of the Pirate Invitational hosted by ECU on Sept. 17 at the Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum. During that weekend, the Pirates will face Gardner Webb University (2-1-0, 0-0-0 Big South) at 1:30 p.m. and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (2-0-0, 0-0-0 Western Athletic Conference) at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 17. On Sept. 18, ECU will close out the tournament against Appalachian State University (2-1-0, 0-0-0 Sun Belt Conference) at 3 p.m.

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



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