

The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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MISPLACED MAIL



The Neighborhood Service Organization of College Hill located at Gateway East where students who live on campus can collect their packages.

JORDIN WILLIAMS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Students report missing mail

Jennifer Flippin
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's mail system goes through various stages before reaching the hands of students, although some claim their mail has been going missing.

According to various students who live on campus, they have been having trouble with Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) recently as packages and letters have gone missing after they have been notified of delivery by the postal service.

Ashley Edwards, a freshman majoring in fashion merchandising, said a letter she was expecting to receive for over a month failed to be delivered to her.

"For my birthday in September, my aunt sent me a

check and a card, and I waited for over a month after she sent it, and it never came," Edwards said.

Edwards went to the NSO three separate times and asked about the whereabouts of the letter. However, Edwards said the NSO told her several times she had no mail when the package had already been mailed.

Another student, Hannah Hovsepian, a freshman economics major, said she has had bad experiences with the West End NSO as well.

Hovsepian has been ordering the magazines *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar* to her dorm on campus since October, and said she has not been receiving her packages. Hovsepian said she has received gift letters from those magazines,



Both College Hill and West End have respective NSO offices for students.

JORDIN WILLIAMS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

so she knows the company has the correct address.

Hovsepian said she previously had her subscription at home before coming to college and was getting the magazines normally. According to Hovsepian, the

magazines also do not come in a wrapping, which leads her to believe they are easier for them to be "taken."

According to Hovsepian, she

> MAIL page A2

Exhibit defaced at Brody by vandal

Pat Polomchak
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Police Department is reassessing the security for gallery areas across ECU's campus after an exhibit on display at Brody School of Medicine was vandalized.

An art exhibition on gun violence in the Health Sciences Student Center was vandalized early last week, according to Sephra Reyes, a graduate student who studies metals in the School of Art and Design.

Reyes is the director for selecting projects to display in all of the student centers at ECU.

Reyes said the show, titled "Enough is Enough," was set up in the downstairs portion of the student gallery in the Health Sciences Complex. She said the exhibit has been up since the first few days of December and the vandalism has been an ongoing occurrence.

"Later on in the month (of December), a student's response to the show was to print out memes in support, I assume, of the Second Amendment, and put them up next to the artwork on the wall," Reyes said. "The prints themselves were hung with magnets, and the memes, I assume they were just put (up) with tape on the wall."

Reyes said they responded by taking the memes off the wall and put them on a poster board next to the show, rather than shutting it down. She said she thinks this created an interactive exhibit and drew more attention to the show.

Reyes said the final thing that happened



Sephra Reyes

> BRODY page A2

National Signing Day brings 21 players to ECU

Daniel Roberts
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University students, fans and alumni were in for a treat yesterday as football head coach Mike Houston introduced the incoming 2019 signees.

Houston announced that 21 players will join the ECU roster on the field in the fall. The players were named with their accomplishments prior to signing with the Pirates. This gave fans and spectators hope on where the program could potentially go moving forward on top of some of the returning players coming back.

"This team is looking good," assistant coach De'Rail Sims said. "They are working hard in the weight room. Everybody is coming together as a team. That's the No. 1 deal, coming together as a family and attacking each day. They are hungry, they want to win and they are putting in the work right now to get that done."

Of the incoming players, 18 of the 21 are freshmen while the other three players are transferring from community colleges. The immediate impact of the freshman class is unknown. Assistant coach Steve Shankweiler believes that when spring training starts they will be more familiar with the players on the roster.

"Freshmen take time," Shankweiler said. "It takes time to see how they acclimate to being in college, how they acclimate to this



ECU football head coach Mike Houston announcing 21 new players on 2019 national signing day.

DANIEL THOMAS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

level of football. When you watch the video and you get to know the kids in the recruiting process, it's a group of guys that I think are more mature than I would've thought. There's some really good football players that are going to come in and have a competitive mentality. It all depends on how fast they learn, players that make mistakes do not do well for coaches."

Houston has been on the road recruiting

players from different parts of the country. Eleven of the 21 signed players are from North Carolina. Two of the freshmen chose to stay close to home in Greenville where one played at D.H. Conley High School and the other played at South Central High School.

The incoming class is comprised of two new quarterbacks, two wide receivers, one running back, one tight end, one offensive lineman, one defensive lineman, one

linebacker, one defensive back, one kicker and one player who can play multiple positions.

Houston went out and got a few three and four star recruits. Houston got kicker Patrick Nations, who according to prokicker.com was the No. 1 kicker nationally, and No. 4 kicker in the country, according to Kohl's kicking.

Houston is excited to start working with his new team, to begin coaching them and to get ready during the spring season. Houston has had assistant coach John Williams Jr. get the players in the best shape possible to enter the spring season while he was out getting recruits to sign.

"We want to get to know our current roster better and have one on one sit downs with our returning players," Houston said. "We want to get to know them as people and getting our assistant coaches with their position groups. We want to start talking our language, start teaching them our offense, defense and special teams. We want to develop our identity of what we want to try to be as a team. The most enjoyable part for us as coaches is the time we get to have with the players during spring training."

Houston and the Pirates are ready and look to kick off spring training on March 15 before taking on North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina on Aug. 31.

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

ONLINE

» NEWS: Student Government Association welcome members

» SPORTS: ECU softball season debut at Spartan Classic this weekend

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

Career fair to present opportunities for students

The 2019 Spring Part-Time Job and Internship Fair to discover employment opportunities will take place this afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Main Campus Student Center. Attendees will have the chance to network, gain a summer internship or part-time employment to help build their resumes.

Students are encouraged to bring their ECU OneCard and a copy of their resumes to the event.

Cupola Conversations to talk hate crimes

The Division of Student Affairs is scheduled to host the second installment of Cupola Conversations for spring with an event titled "Hate Crimes" this evening from 5 to 6 p.m. in room 249 of the Main Campus Student Center. The event will feature a panel of students, faculty, staff and community members who have opinions and thoughts on what they think is needed to engage in better conversations regarding the topic of focus.

The event is open to the entire ECU community and free for all who attend.

Off Campus Student Services presents 'Living in the Grid'

Off-Campus Student Services will host an event, "Living in the Grid: Rights and Responsibilities," where students are invited to learn more about the differences between living in an apartment versus a house in the community of Greenville.

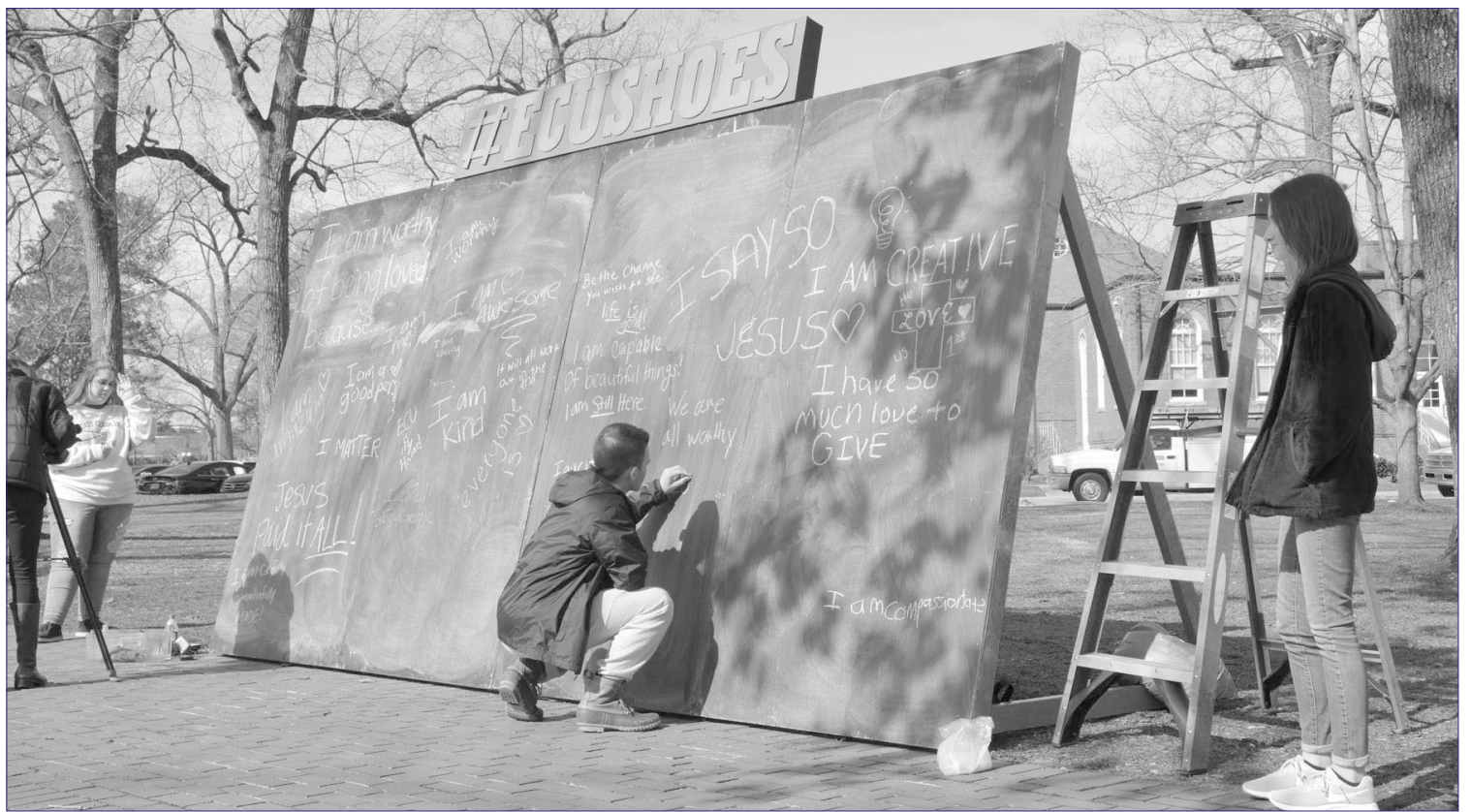
The event will take place this upcoming Monday night, between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. in Mendenhall Student Center, Great Room 1.

Lecture on Cherokee Language Revitalization

Ben Frey, an assistant professor in the Department of American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will come to ECU today to present a lecture on Cherokee Language Revitalization. The lecture is open to students and faculty, and will take place today from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Brewster Building B room 301.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



A student signs words of mental health motivation on the #ECUShoes chalkboard, which was located on the campus brickyard in front of Joyner Library.

Program steps back to ECU

S.H.O.E.S. returns to Mall for its fourth annual initiative

Zoë Lukas
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University Campus Living hopes to spark conversation and awareness for mental health around main campus with its annual event, The S.H.O.E.S. Project.

White Hall Residence Coordinator, Nate Cochran, said this is the fourth year of The S.H.O.E.S. Project, short for "Someone Honoring Others Everyday Struggles." The event will be held as a premier passport wellness event today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the ECU Mall located near the Cupola.

Cochran said The S.H.O.E.S. Project is an event dedicated to collecting shoe donations along with a story that represents a struggle, whether it be from mental health, anxiety, depression or another story which holds significant weight to themselves or a loved one. Cochran said the stories are laminated, tied to the laces of the shoes and placed throughout the campus Mall.

"The whole purpose is to show that you're not alone if you are feeling one of those struggles and if you don't feel one of those struggles you'll know that there's hundreds of your peers who do," Cochran said. "Lift each other up, be there for each other."

According to Cochran, The S.H.O.E.S. Project committee decided on the acronym and symbol of shoes in an effort to represent the action and significance of taking a walk in someone else's shoes and to relay the message of exactly what it could be like.

For the event, Cochran said Campus Living is partnering with ECU's Center for Counseling and Student Development (CCSD), Campus Recreation and Wellness (CRW), Dining Services and ECU Transit.

Cochran said students will not only be able to read others personal stories as they walk by, but will have the immediate opportunity to speak with counselors from the counseling center. He said event attendees will have access to ECU Transit buses for students and counselors to sit in while they have private conversations and receive counseling.

"One of the things we try to hit is that people don't feel as alone," Cochran said. "That they come out with a broader understanding. We have a bunch of signs that talk about statistics and different struggles, I think it really resonates with people that they see how large the impact is."

According to Cochran, ECU created and initiated the event. He said the event has been presented at higher education conferences and has won national awards, making it well known across the country.

ECU Director of Residence Life, Waz Miller, said the project was inspired by a video called "Active Minds." She said in the video, backpacks were used to represent the number of individuals who committed suicide.

"We loved everything about it, but it was too late," Miller said. "We wanted to be proactive, so then this committee started."

According to Miller, in the past ECU Campus Living has visited Hope Middle School to spread mental health awareness to younger students. This year, ECU will be visiting D.H. Conley High School in the upcoming month(s).



Nate Cochran

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grandma," Hovsepian said.

After looking into the situation further, ECU Police Deputy Chief Jason Sugg said there is a report claiming a cell phone was delivered in Greenville to an ECU student, but the student never received the package and the phone has been reported stolen.

The NSO did not respond to multiple requests by The East Carolinian for a comment. According to its website, the NSO is an "extension of Campus Living," and a "multifaceted office that serves our residential student population."

Its website also says it provides delivery of first class U.S. mail to the NSO Monday through Friday, and accept packages from FedEx and UPS on the days those services are delivered.

In response to why packages from direct carriers may appear as delivered even though the NSO may not have reported it delivered is because notifications regarding delivery are from the Greenville Post Office. According to the NSO website, they sort items received by ECU Mail Services and then they are distributed by the NSO.

If students are expecting something and have not received it in a few days, let the NSO know so employees can search for the students package.

According to several students there are definitely things that need to be looked into further to determine the NSO's process for distributing and locating packages and letters.

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

BRODY continued from A1

to the exhibition was when someone took a print from the show and hid it behind another piece of art. She said the person also took two more prints, ripped them in half and left them on the ground.

"It's a sensitive subject, but I believe part of the gallery and school's responsibility is to create an open safe space to talk about all kinds of issues," Reyes said. "It unfortunately escalated to the point of vandalism."

Chris Sutton, ECU Police Department patrol captain, said the department will be re-assessing security at the student center on campus. He said the areas mentioned are in the process of being designated gallery areas.

"This activity and behavior is not in line with the values and mission of ECU," Sutton said. "This is counterproductive to the effort of maintaining civil discourse on our campus."

Reyes said a total of 23 people across the country made prints that were combined into one print show. She said making a print is, essentially, manually making something that a printer machine can make, and it

includes techniques such as etching and carving followed by the addition of ink.

"It was called 'Enough is Enough,' and it was a print show," Reyes said. "It's called a folio, so it was organized by non-student printers that were seeing the issues going on with gun violence and the various shootings and stuff. Their response was to put together a show."

Reyes said while the show came down last weekend, it was up for nearly two months. She said the series of incidents caused the artists involved to start seeking other venues for their artwork, since it is an important topic.

"The vandalism is an unnecessary response," Reyes said. "I think that a good reaction on our part is to show that destroying artwork does nothing, it only spurs us into further action."

Reyes said ECU Police and administration are taking several steps in order to prevent another incident like this. She said they wanted to improve signage notifying students of rules, and more transparency between the gallery and students.

Reyes said the galleries are not just for art students, any student can submit artwork to be displayed.

"It's absolutely anybody who wants to say something," Reyes said. "Just because you're not an art major, if you still have work you want to show, we welcome it."

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



Shoes line the brick pathways along the Mall to promote mental health.

In addition to presenting donated shoes and stories around campus, Miller said Pitt County Schools Health Sciences Academy student volunteers have handwritten positive messages on post-it notes to count toward their service hours. She said the encouraging post-it notes will be posted around ECU campus academic, social and residential buildings as well as transit busing.

ECU Associate Director for Student Success and Conduct, Kiya Bolds-Keene, said the purpose of the project is to bring awareness to mental health issues and to educate on the statistics and commonality of both documented and undocumented issues.

In addition, Bolds-Keene said the project is in place to offer resources and provide support to students who are in need.

Bolds-Keene said the visual aspect of shoes placed around campus, including the personal touch of the attached testimonies, creates a big impact, personalizes the event and helps students associate mental health awareness to their own daily life.

"There's a lot of studies that indicate students are coming into college already with mental health issues," Bolds-Keene said. "I think it is incredibly important that our students understand that their university, their home away from home, provides some type of support, literature, knowledge, resources regarding these issues."

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

MAIL continued from A1

confronted the NSO once when she had ordered a package through Amazon to find out why it was taking over a week for her to get an email from NSO. A representative from NSO told her to file a complaint and wait.

During Hovsepian's time at ECU, she has filed two complaints with the NSO office, which according to her, have gone unanswered, alongside complaints by her mother on her behalf.

For her birthday, Hovsepian received a letter from her grandmother, but when she went to pick it up, she says it had already been ripped through.

"It had a gift card in it, and when I got the whole letter from the NSO, when I went to pick it up, the thing was already ripped into and I was nervous, I didn't want to go up to them and call them out, I don't have any actual proof like, 'Oh those people did it,' so I just went back to my room and opened it and the gift wasn't in there," Hovsepian said.

Hovsepian said her biggest frustration is that she is continuously not getting the items she pays for and this is not just affecting her anymore, but her family as well.

"The biggest frustration lately is not only was I technically robbed, but my grandma's now affected by getting robbed by the NSO and I just feel violated. I just felt so bad even telling my



Hannah Hovsepian

ONLINE |
FULL STORY

OUR VIEW

History of blacks must unite nation

Black History Month is in its first week and various East Carolina University organizations and programs are showing their support and providing events for students to partake in.

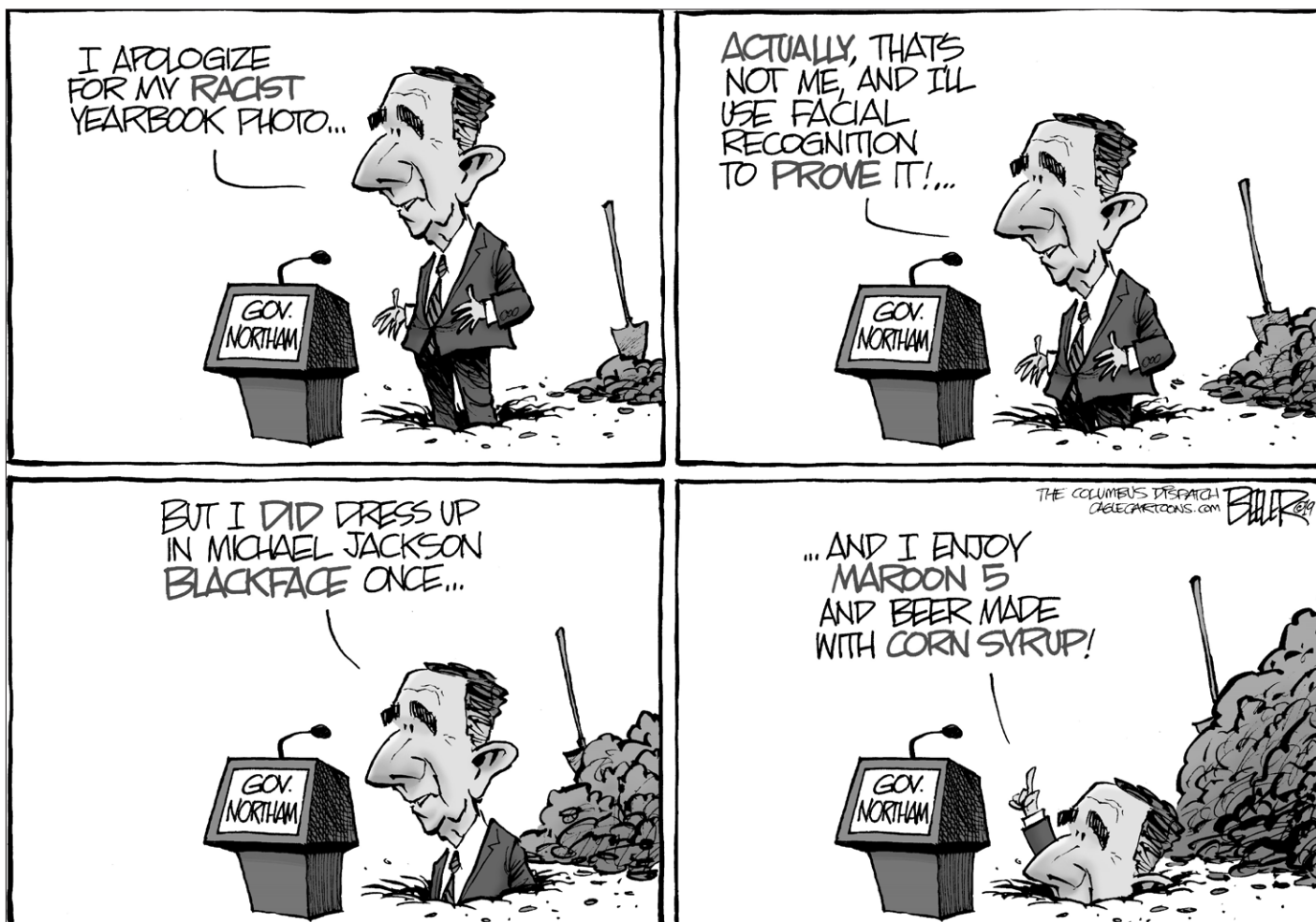
The ECU F.A.M.E. Modeling Troupe is hosting the "FAMEous February" series that will include a range of discussions on the topic of being a black in America to colorism among the black community. All of the events of this series will spread the word about minority, specifically black, events on campus.

According to Jada Boyd, a senior communication major and member of F.A.M.E. Modeling Troupe, the "FAMEous February" series of events will be a way to give the black community an opportunity to express their feelings and concerns, as well as bring an interesting discussion to the ECU community.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that Black History Month is not only African American history, but American history. The achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., Frederick Douglass and Maya Angelou, among many others, should not only be brought up just during the month of February and they should not be thought of as great black Americans, but as great Americans.

Without the foresight of black inventors, artists and civil rights leaders, the United States would be on a far different course than what we are.

These great Americans have paved the way for many African Americans after them, and should be given more than just a month of recognition for what they have contributed to society.



Letter to the Editor

Major flooding a main concern for Greenville



Calvin Mercer
GUEST COLUMNIST

Some critics apparently think I'm using stormwater to prepare for a November City Council candidacy. I'll be crystal clear - I will not be a candidate for any

City Council seat. Those concerned can forthwith attend to more productive matters. Now, stormwater.

Flooding doesn't stop at Greenville's city limits. It's a Pitt County challenge too, making city-county cooperation essential. Three points.

First, during storms and dangerous flooding, citizens deserve seamless coordination of emergency services at all levels - elected officials, management and on-ground staff. Several years ago we encountered some behind-the-scenes city-county turf issues. During disasters, protection of citizens and property must never play second fiddle to political gain and publicity stunts.

Second, battles against flood damage are largely won or lost between - not during - flood events through ongoing sound zoning decisions and stormwater infrastructure progress. Regular communication and cooperation facilitates this. City councilmembers



Riverwalk recieved major flooding and damage after Hurricane Matthew struck in 2016.

do well to make real efforts to build the background of relatedness with county leaders essential to intergovernmental cooperation.

The two city and county managers are wise to continue regular meetings on important issues, e.g., economic development. Stormwater and flooding merit being high on their conversation list. Communication and planning around flooding can also occur at the departmental head level. In years past, city and county elected officials held joint meetings for various purposes. Whether formal meetings are needed or not, elected officials can certainly develop relationships and push policies that jointly address flooding.

Third, state law prohibits counties from having stormwater utilities. City officials should work with county leaders to lobby our legislative delegation on this non-partisan issue. Counties should have the authority they need to take local actions on flooding.

Flooding doesn't stop at the Greenville city limits and neither should cooperation to protect lives and property.

Calvin Mercer
Greenville
The writer is the former At-large Representative on the Greenville City Council.

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Trump's rhetoric hateful

Immigrants in America are hardworking individuals



Ethan Hageman
TEC STAFF

President Donald Trump was finally able to give his second State of the Union Address on Tuesday evening after the longest U.S. government shutdown in history ended, lasting an overwhelming 35 days.

Trump's address was 80 minutes in length, making it the longest State of the Union address since President Bill Clinton's 2000 Address which reached 89 minutes.

According to NPR News, Trump's address contained more than 55 lies, many of them concerning immigration as Congress was not able to pass Trump's proposed \$5.7 billion border security bill.

I do not consider myself a liberal, I would identify myself as a centrist who sees nothing as black and white and as a journalist at The East Carolinian, I'm always seeking both sides of the story. Neither do I extremely oppose Donald Trump's agenda.

However, I have spent the past 18 years of my life in San Antonio, Texas which is less than two hours away from the U.S. and Mexico border. I grew up with many of my

friends being first generation immigrants from Mexico and Latin America and even had a few friends who lived less than five miles from the border. Trump's hateful rhetoric is not only inappropriate, but not needed at all.

There is no factual data by the U.S. government that claims illegal aliens commit more crimes than American-born citizens. The first generation immigrants I know are not murderers or rapists. Instead they are working 35 hours a week while attending school so they can pay bills for their family members. I asked a friend who recently turned 16 why he chooses to work so much while still in high school?

He asked to keep his identity anonymous in fear of his citizenship status. His response was, "I came from nothing, I can be anything I want in the U.S. through hard work, working and going to high school is nothing compared to what my parents put up with back in Mexico."

Did Trump forget his paternal grandfather, Frederick Trump immigrated from Europe in 1885? After all, aren't we all immigrants unless we have Native American blood in us? Or how about why are we attempting to spend government money on

a 16th century border protection strategy, when we are living in the 21st century. Just ask Genghis Khan and the Mongols, about how effective the wall was in China. It wasn't until China built a fortress of a wall spanning 13,000 miles that they were able to keep out unwanted invaders.

Last time I checked, Donald Trump's wall was going to be made of "steel slats," described in a "de zeen" article by architecture critic Alex Bozickovic at the Canadian newspaper The Globe and Mail as, "unfathomably stupid."

"What kind of foundations would this thing require?" Bozickovic asked. "How many tons of concrete to keep each 'slat' vertical?"

What if instead of spending \$5.7 billion on border security, we used the money to pay off student loan debt of more than 150,000 U.S. college graduates? Surely there are better ways we could be spending this money. At the end of day we are all immigrants seeking an American dream and in the words of my sixteen-year-old friend, "I can be anything I want in the U.S. through hard work."

Ethan Hageman is a freshman majoring in urban planning. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

72 HOURS

MAP OUT YOUR WEEKEND
TODAY

SOAD Graduate Student Art Exhibition
Joyner Library
4 p.m.

Love Unveiled: Valentine's Special
Unveiled Couture Bridal Boutique
4 p.m.

Ladies Night
TITLE Boxing Club
7 p.m.

Open Mic
Pitt Street Brewing Company
8 p.m.

TOMORROW

Matt Philips
StillLife
5 p.m.

Open Mic
Pitt Street Brewing Company
8 p.m.

Josh Branch
Pitt Street Brewing Company
8 p.m.

Rave Wave
Trollingwood Taproom & Brewery
8 p.m.

R.T. Johnson Band
Buccaneer Music Hall
10 p.m.

Party with Love Bucket at ECU
Buggy's Bar
10 p.m.

SATURDAY

Lamp Remixer
HALO Home
11 a.m.

Be My Valentines
South Greenville Gym
7 p.m.

ECU Symphony Orchestra
Wright Auditorium
7:30 p.m.



The ensemble of East Carolina University's production of "If/Then" rehearse a group number. The show explores how small decisions can impact one's life.

Two paths, two lives

ECU's SOTD to premiere contemporary musical

Chloe Easton
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's School of Theatre and Dance is preparing to explore the implications of life decisions in its upcoming spring musical performance of "If/Then."

With script and lyrics written by Brian Yorkey, the musical opens on Tuesday at 8 p.m. in ECU's McGinnis Theatre. The story line follows a newly divorced young woman named Elizabeth who moves back to her hometown of New York City to start anew.

According to the performance's event page, it simultaneously follows two possible life paths of Elizabeth and "paints a portrait of the lives we lead

as well as the lives that we might have led."

Director Michael Tahaney said Elizabeth constantly seems stuck throughout the performance on which decisions and life choices she should make and what their possible outcomes might be.

"The whole show keeps playing with the idea of the multiple directions or journeys we can take in our lives depending on seemingly, sometimes small decisions that we make that kind of take us down different roads in life," Tahaney said.

According to Tahaney, in order to prepare for the production, auditions were held last fall so seniors were able to have time to focus on

the professional audition conference of Unified Professional Theatre Auditions (UPTA).

Throughout the musical, there are multiple different aspects that influence Elizabeth on what choices she makes, including characters such as Lucas, played by senior musical theatre major Drew Wells, and the character of Kate, played by senior musical theatre major

Brandi Campbell.

Campbell described the musical as being centered around the butterfly effect—a theory that one small decision can have

huge implications. She said her character Kate acts as the comedic relief.

"She is this spitfire, this

> **MUSICAL** page A5



From left: Micah Simmons, playing Josh, and Kennedy Young, playing Elizabeth, in "If/Then."

Seniors dance for diplomas

Upcoming show to highlight student choreography

Vincent Justice
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's School of Theatre and Dance will celebrate its graduating senior class with its annual Senior Choreography Dance Concert on Saturday, where students will showcase their own skills of choreography and dance.

Bailey Foust, a senior dance major and choreographer for the show, said after choosing to be a dance performance major, students have to create their own show for display. She said this is her and all of the seniors' thesis project.

"It's kind of like our thesis project. We hold auditions for the dance program, it's required for all dance majors," Foust said. "We go through a casting process, we pick our cast and then we set rehearsal times. From there, we just make our dance."

Shannon Wright, a senior dance major choreographer, light designer and concert coordinator, said there are seven choreographers displaying their thesis work.

Wright said each dance showcased can last from anywhere between seven to 11 minutes. She said in each of the pieces, the audience will be able to view a broad range of modern and contemporary dance.



A group of dancers rehearse for the 2019 Senior Choreography Dance Concert.

"We've been working on these pieces since the end of last semester. We go through a whole auditioning and casting process and it's very student-run. All seniors are choreographers and it's all students participating in the show," Wright said.

Foust said when choreographing her dance for the concert, she found her own personality was being displayed through dance.

Foust said her piece is called "With Us." She said it shows how someone will cross paths with different kinds of people and how it can impact a person's life for better or worse.

"It's about how you cross paths with a lot of people in your life, and you realize how they affect you and change you negatively or positively," Foust said.

Megan Shepherd, a senior

dance major choreographer and concert coordinator, said the show displays all of the different techniques learned throughout their time at ECU.

Shepherd said all of her hard work and time in the dance program has been leading up to this concert specifically.

"It takes 20 to 24 hours usually to choreograph a piece. Normally you'll have a month and a half of rehearsals, three days a week," Shepherd said. "It's a lot, and right now it's like crunch time and it's exciting to finally get to this point, but it's also bitter sweet because it's our senior thesis."

Shepherd said spending time in London is what inspired her to choreograph her senior solo the way she did. She said the movement style she used is represented by where she is positioned in her life.

"I'm at a really big transition in my life where after this I have no clue what's going on and what I'm doing. However, there are so many different directions that I can go in and it's a matter of deciding where I want to go," Shepherd said.

The show will be at the Burnette Studio Theatre on Saturday at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and tickets start at \$5.

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



Shannon Wright



Megan Shepherd



A group of dancers performing a traditional dance at Pitt Community College's Chinese New Year celebration in 2013. The 2019 celebration has several events planned, including traditional dances.

Celebrating the Year of the Pig

ECU, Greenville Asian organizations to share cultural event

Giana Williams
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Chinese organizations will show their diversity and cultural activities for Chinese New Year on Sunday.

ECU will host the 2019 Chinese New Year Celebration on Sunday on the second floor of the Main Campus Student Center from 2 to 6 p.m. The event will consist of three parts that include various cultural activities, performances and a buffet dinner at West End Dining Hall.

"Chinese New Year is the most important festival in our country and Chinese students often feel alone and miss home during this time," Yuanyuan Fu, a first year mathematics graduate student and president of the Chinese Student Association, said. "The celebration can make us feel happy and warm in our heart."

Chinese New Year is a celebration in many East Asian countries, especially China, usually in late January or early



Potstickers at Pitt Community College's Chinese New Year celebration in 2013.

February. It also celebrates the change of the Chinese Zodiac, which assigns an animal to a 12-year cycle— this year is the Year of the Pig. According to Ziwei Lin, ECU physics professor and

advisor of The Chinese Students and Scholars Association, people try to visit their families to spend the holiday together, creating the world's largest human migration for about 400 million people.

"Typical activities include making dumplings, watching special TV programs dedicated to the Chinese New Year, also called the Spring Festival, and the Lantern Festival about two weeks after the Chinese New Year," Lin said.

Xiaoming Zeng, professor and chair of ECU's Department of Health Services and Information Management, said first the Chinese New Year celebration only consisted of ECU's Chinese faculty getting together and having a potluck dinner. Zeng, chair of the board for the Greenville Chinese School, said it was about 11 years ago when it was decided to share this culture across campus.

The activities will begin at 2 p.m. and will include Chinese calligraphy and painting, face painting, lantern decorations and other small Chinese-themed games. The stage show will start at 3 p.m. and will include a lion dance team, a K-Pop dance group from North Carolina State University

and a group of Chinese singers from the Raleigh/Durham area singing traditional Chinese songs.



Xiaoming Zeng

Fu said he's most excited that many people in the Greenville community will come together to celebrate the Chinese New Year at the new student center. Chancellor Cecil Staton is pushing for more globalization, so learning about other countries' culture is very important for ECU, according to Zeng.

"I think we're most excited because we will be here to get together with not just Chinese in the community, but a whole tons of friends who is supporting us," Zeng said.

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



Drag queen Satine Allure, the drag persona of Jon Sanderson, performing for a crowd in July, 2017.

Drag queen brunch fundraises for HIV

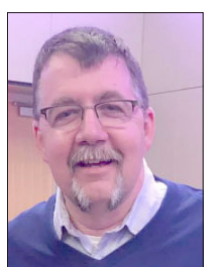
Giana Williams
TEC STAFF

At the corner of Evans Street, a group of drag queens will perform in front of welcoming crowds from near and far each month in hopes to put a smile on everyone's faces and raise money for the local AIDS organization.

Aaron Lucier is a board member at the Pitt County AIDS Service Organization, or PiCASO, and helps organize the brunch at The Scullery, located at 431 Evans St. The next drag brunch is on Sunday.

According to the organization's website, PiCASO offers free HIV testing and hosts educational events to prevent its transmission.

The brunch is typically held every second Sunday of the month. There's a \$10 donation at entry and a \$10 breakfast buffet. Doors open at 10:30 a.m., brunch



Aaron Lucier

is served at 11 a.m., and the show starts at 11:30 a.m. The Scullery is now hosting a second seating at 1:30 p.m., with a second brunch served. That show begins at 2 p.m.

Lucier said he has been attending drag shows for more than 30 years and the brunch's hostesses, drag queens Satine Allure and Purina Chow, are "wonderful performers and outstanding leaders in the community." He said the event is open to people of all ages.

"I love it when folks bring the entire family—kids and grandparents," Lucier said in an email. "We hope it is a fun time for everyone."

Brunch attendee D.J. Hall has been attending drag shows since the 70s and drives an hour every month to show her support for the brunch.

"I used to go to see drag in Baltimore some years ago and then I moved here and I didn't see it for a long time," Hall said. "But my daughter is transgender, so we used to go to the club and we see the queens there."

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

MUSICAL continued from A4

fiery women, who is so sure of herself and she believes in fate, everything she believes in fate and that everything happens for a reason," Campbell said. "She meets Elizabeth and basically I claim her as my best friend already."

Wells described his character Lucas portrayed as a housing activist in New York, who has been Elizabeth's best friend since college. Wells says the musical is a view on different kinds of perspectives



Brandi Campbell

in life and where they can take someone.

"It's about, you know, if everyday you walk down the street and think maybe if I would of gone to a different school things would of been good or things would of been even better, it's really capturing that aspect of humanity," Wells said.

Performances of "If/Then" will start Tuesday at 8 p.m. and will run until Feb. 17 at 2 p.m., with tickets starting at \$17.50 for the general public and \$10 for students and youth.

Tickets can be purchased through the performance's event page on the ECU calendar or on ECU arts under the "If/Then" performance page.

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Pirates shocked by Shockers

Daniel Roberts
TEC STAFF

Brendan Gillespie
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



Coming off a 24-point loss to the University of Connecticut, the East Carolina University men's basketball team went and got out shocked by Wichita State University last night in Minges Coliseum 65-49.

ECU (9-13, 2-8 AAC) and Wichita State (11-11, 4-6 AAC) had only matched up one time prior to yesterday's game, which dated back to last season where the then No. 5 ranked Shockers blew out the Pirates 95-60 in Minges Coliseum. Before tip off this game seemed like it would be a momentum builder for a struggling Pirate team, but turned out to be the complete opposite.

"They just outplayed us tonight," freshman forward Jayden Gardner said. "We did not come ready to play. We disappointed Dooley and ourselves. We can't play like that and come out with energy from the start."

It was a fairly even game throughout the first six minutes, as both teams battled, with several defensive stops keeping the game in close contention at 11 a piece. The



ONLINE |
FULL STORY

Freshman guard Tyler Foster scored five points in the 65-49 loss to Wichita State University at home last night.

game continued on this trajectory until Wichita State made three more three-pointers than the Pirates, something ECU has had trouble with defending this season. Freshman guard Tyler Foster made a three-pointer with less than a second left on the clock to put the Pirates within 14 points at halftime, 34-20.

Returning from the half, a reinvigorated ECU team tried to make a comeback. Sophomore guard Shawn Williams went down from an apparent injury after a struggle over a loose ball with 6:19 left in the game. Head coach Joe Dooley began putting in players off the bench, after the Shockers went up by 21.

Freshman center Rico Quinton made a wide open jumper and had a block but ECU lost in the end 65-49.

"We have to listen to Dooley and stop trying to do stuff our way," sophomore guard Isaac Fleming said. "He gives us the perfect game plan and seems like we follow it for the first 10-15 minutes of the game

and we just disappear from it. We have to follow his lead and stop being selfish."

Gardner shot efficiently from the field and the line but did not get the touches he normally does for the Pirates. Gardner finished with 11 points on 3-for-4 shooting from the field and 5-for-6 from the free throw line. Fleming was the only other Pirate to score in double figures with 11 points on 5-for-9 shooting.

"It's the mindset that we have to change," Dooley said. "When you are looking at your schedule and figure out which games you are supposed to win, that's how teams figure out how to be good. That's the mindset we have to have in protecting our home court and stealing some games on the road."

Dooley and the Pirates will be back in action on Sunday when they will travel to Tampa, Florida to take on the University of South Florida (15-6, 5-4 AAC) looking to avenge the 77-57 loss they suffered back on Jan. 26 with the game to tip off at 5:30 p.m.

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Lacrosse to kick off second season

Samantha Walsh
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University women's lacrosse team prepares for its second all-time season this year, drawing off with Winthrop University at 4 p.m. on Friday and Gardner-Webb University on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Last year was the debut season for ECU women's lacrosse, including coaches and players. The Pirates ended the season 2-15 overall with a large losing streak of eight games. The team was comprised of 16 freshman out of the 19 women on the team. Since it was a new program for ECU with plenty of young talent, the team struggled defensively, allowing for its opponents to score more than they would have liked.

"Defensive, I think coming back we have all returners which is huge and not every unit can say that," sophomore defender Jordyn Cox said. "So I think just building on that and just not looking back, looking forward so just adding on hopefully by the time we get of the AAC championship well just be ready to go."

This season all of the Pirates defensive players have returned for year two, adding freshmen CeCe Bartley, Cassidy Slavik and Hillary Hardig to the defense team. Cox is a key player for the Pirates as last year she played in all 17 games, starting 16 of them, caused five turnovers and collected 14 ground balls all season.

"I think our defense is a key component for this year for us," head coach Amanda Barnes-Moore said. "And that we are probably most veteran there. It's not true in the traditional sense of the term veteran for us being a team predominantly being a team of sophomores and freshmen. I think it can be a point of strength for us that we are looking forward to seeing in action."

The team is looking forward to building on the foundation they laid last year and this preseason. They are competitive and want to focus more on winning, not competing against each other, staying together and at the same time don't want to beat themselves up doing so.

The offensive players do not have a full return rate, but have added two freshmen to the attack roster and five to the midfield roster. Sophomore midfielder Megan Pallozzi is a major position player for the Pirates, dominating the field last year with 25 goals, eight free position goals, with 35 draw controls. Pallozzi became the first ever ECU player to be honored by the American Athletic Conference, being named the conference's Preseason All-Conference Team.

"We have a year under our belt and that was different from last year," Pallozzi said. "I think building on what we learned last year and playing collegiality is a lot faster. I think this year we are able to settle with each other more, we already know each other and we are learning each others tendencies and think that's a step up from last year."

Going into the weekend Cox and Pallozzi will lead the team at home against Winthrop and Gardner-Webb. Last season the Pirates were defeated by the Eagles 9-17 in their second game in program history, going 3-8 in the first half. The Pirates came back in the second half, closing the point gap but not enough to take the lead, ending the game in a loss. Winthrop's 2018 season record was 14-6 compared to ECU's 2-15.

One of the two victories the Pirates experienced last season was against Gardner-Webb in a close battle that ended 15-14, where Cox collected three ground balls. Pallozzi scored four goals and the Pirates were able to get to the net to shoot seven more times than the Runnin Bulldogs, ending the season not far from the Pirates at 3-14.

"I think last season our primary focus and goal was to get better each day and to, whether that be at practice or game to game, I think this year for us it's been all about competing," Barnes-Moore said. "We want to compete. We want to win. It's ok for us to put more of an emphasis on that right now because we need to increase the expectations for this program each and every year."

The maturity and leadership was something the team admitted they lacked last year, saying they didn't have anyone to step up and direct how things should go. Now with the returners and new players, Barnes-Moore believes the freshmen bring competitive spirit, hustle and a push to the returners to step it up.

The team is excited to take on Winthrop and Gardner-Webb, hoping to start the season off on the right foot Friday continuing into Sunday. The Pirates have an even bigger drive to compete to win this season and with its roster, they should be able to do so.

"Well I hope they go well. I hope we compete. I hope we have great support from Pirate Nation. I hope we come out hard and ready to go," Barnes-Moore said.



Megan Pallozzi



Jordyn Cox

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ONLINE |
FULL STORY

Sophomore guard Lashonda Monk had 12 points and three steals in the 118-55 loss to UConn.

Pirates blown out by No. 5 UConn

Mikey Carrillo
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University women's basketball team lost 118-55 to fifth ranked University of Connecticut last night in Hartford, Connecticut.

It was the Pirates' (11-11, 2-7 AAC) first game played this season against a ranked opponent. The Huskies, (10-2, 9-0 AAC) who are first positioned in the American Athletic Conference standings, were on an eight game league winning streak before the game.

The game started with sophomore guard Lashonda Monk scoring a layup in the first possession. UConn would end the first quarter with 41 points, including 14 rebounds, 15 assists, nine steals and 66 percent shooting. ECU finished with 13 points, including 13 boards, five assists and 17 turnovers with 6-20 shooting.

The team started the second quarter strong for the first minutes of it, as it would go on a 5-2 run, up until the Huskies adjusted and dominated the rest of the half, as they would end the first 20 minutes of the game with a 70-25 lead.

The Pirates struggled defending the paint, as UConn would score 46 points in the paint, 29 fastbreak points and 22 points off of 17 ECU turnovers.

"UConn did a really good job in their press in just forcing us into areas that we didn't wanna be in, and we didn't make the short passes that we usually make," Mealing said.

ECU played its best basketball during the third quarter of the game, as it would end up scoring 20 points, with 50 percent shooting, 10 rebounds and six assists. The Huskies still managed to put up 28 points, with 10-17

shooting, ending the quarter with 98 points through 30 minutes of play.

The team kept on fighting throughout the fourth quarter, one in which it scored 10 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and had two assists, but that did not stop the Huskies.

The Pirates gave up 118 points and 45 rebounds as they let their opponent have 35 assists, 20 steals, nine blocks, 62 points in the paint, 11 three-pointers and 31 fastbreak points. While on the offensive side, the Pirates shot 33 percent from the field, had 24 points in the paint and had 26 turnovers.

The team struggled to guard 6'2" Samuelson who finished with a season-high 31 points through three quarters of play.

ECU was led by Monk, who scored 12 points to go along with three steals, and junior guard Raven Johnson who finished with 14 points and grabbed five rebounds.

"No matter what the score is our team is gonna play hard and their gonna work hard, they want to win and they're gonna have those winning ways about them. So diving on the floor, taking charges, that's just part of the game for us," Mealing said.

The Pirates will host the University of Memphis on Saturday at 1 p.m in Minges Coliseum looking to take care of homecourt before they go on a two game road trip.



Nicole Mealing

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