



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Tuesday, 8.29.19



VOLUME 94, ISSUE 4

Rental fee for rally put into athletics fund

Summer Tonizzo
TEC STAFF

The payment East Carolina University received from President Donald Trump's July campaign rally in Minges Coliseum was put toward university athletics to offset the cost of renting out the facility.

ECU received \$13,500 from Trump's campaign as payment to rent out Minges Coliseum on July 17, according to ECU Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach.

"It (the money) went to athletics because athletics runs that facility, so if it would have been the Campus Recreation facility it would have gone to Student Affairs or something like that," Gerlach said. "It's not to make money off of it, it's just for the cost of (renting out the facility)."

Gerlach said ECU was paid by the campaign within one to two days before the rally was held. He said the money was put toward athletics because the university was "trying to" make money for ECU Athletics, but rather given to the "entity who maintains the facility."

Gerlach said the money from Trump's campaign will be used for "facilities cost."

"It depends on which department is maintaining the facility, is my understanding," Gerlach said. "It's not a 'oh this is how we can raise money for athletics' or something like that. This is just mainly to offset the cost of the use of the facility."

The Trump campaign reached out to ECU in early July, the same month of the rally, to rent out Minges Coliseum, Gerlach said. After consulting legal counsel, the policies for political visits to ECU's campus were discussed, he said.

"What I asked of our legal counsel, and of other university officials, (was) 'What are our policies?'" Gerlach said. "We have ECU Use of Facilities procedures, we have the UNC System Free Speech procedures, and so forth, and we looked to precedent."

Gerlach said the rally was not an official state visit from President Trump, but his campaign. He said ECU acted as a rental facility for the campaign and followed established policies.

In the first Cupola Conversations of the fall semester,

> RALLY page A2



ECU defenders attempt to bring down a Wolfpack ball-carrier after he secured a pass during a contest between the two programs.

Pirates to face Pack

ECU will battle rival NC State on Saturday

Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's football team will travel to Raleigh to face North Carolina State University following December's loss at Carter-Finley stadium. Just days after head coach Scottie Montgomery was let go, the Pirates were defeated by the Wolfpack by a score of 58-3.

A field goal as time expired represented the only points for the Pirates and kept them from being shut-out for the first time since 1997. It did not, however, erase the fact that the Pirates' defense allowed 655 yards of total offense, the fourth most in program history, nor the disappointment throughout the roster.

"I hope that they never forget what that feels like because that could be a motivating factor," first-year head coach Mike Houston said. "They've got to forget how they played, they've got to forget the identity of that team in the past and embrace who we are and what we're trying to become."

Under a new head coach in Houston and a revamped coaching staff that includes new offensive and defensive coordinators, the Pirates will attempt to do just that. Houston's message since the beginning of camp has been centered around getting back to the basics of tackling, blocking and running and passing the football, a notion that also includes more physicality.



Mike Houston

While their defense will be returning experienced names like redshirt senior strong safety Jarius Morehead and senior cornerback Nick McCloud, they are very young on offense.

Redshirt sophomore Matt McKay is slated to start at quarterback while

sophomore Ricky Person, Jr. earned the starting role at running back. Neither of those players have ever started at the college level, a statement that holds true for NC State's left tackle and center positions.

Nevertheless, Houston and the Pirates know exactly how McKay can impact a game and that has been a source of focus this week.

"We've watched film of him from last year. The things that stand out to me are (that) he is a legitimate dual-threat guy," Houston said. "He runs well...he has a very quick release, a compact throwing motion and throws with good accuracy."

Defensively, one of the biggest points of emphasis in the Pirates' preparation from NC State has revolved around keeping McKay in the pocket.

"Really what we're looking at is a more mobile kind of guy. We know that he's a pretty consistent passer (and

> PIRATES page A3



Artist and executive director of the Greenville Theater Arts Center performs at The Magnolia Arts Center for their Seven Eleven event.

Local artist shares self love

Giana Williams
TEC STAFF

Musical artist, TRIUMPH, will host her birthday concert and perform her latest album, "Girl Next Door," Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Greenville Theater Arts Center.

Terri Campbell-Payton, also known by her stage name, TRIUMPH, is the executive director for the non-profit organization, Greenville Theater Arts Center (GTAC). GTAC was established to "educate, elevate and expand the souls of aspiring artists and creative individuals," according to GTAC website.

Campbell-Payton said she has always had an interest in music while watching

her dad work in the entertainment business during her childhood and that it had become a significant influence in her life.

"He (dad) taught me a lot," Campbell-Payton said. "But it was also just being around and seeing a lot and just going through the experiences, especially young, taught me a lot."

Campbell-Payton created the Girl Next Door Concert Experience as a way to celebrate her birthday with her loyal supporters and perform her original songs off the album.

"Girl Next Door" tells a story of a girl going through a phase of learning how to love herself, all while a guy is urging

to fall in love with her. To do so, he has to fall in love with the girl on both the outside and inside, according to Campbell-Payton.

"He has to fall in love with me and all my colors because that's what I love," Campbell-Payton said. "If you can't love me for that then there's no reason for you to be here."

Campbell-Payton said she does not like to use genres on her music and describes it as a mash-up of jazz, classical, hip-hop and R&B.

Caleb Kelly, the owner of Media Majorz and music associate of Camp-

> SELF-LOVE page A6

LGBTQ fall social to offer opportunities

Margaret McCollum
TEC STAFF

The Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will hold a fall welcome social today at 5:30 p.m. for all students, faculty or staff who are interested in coming to welcome students to the center and inform people about opportunities, events and volunteer positions.

Mark Rasdorf, senior associate director for the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center, said the first welcome social was held in 2014, and the goal of the event remains the same, despite moving the center from Brewster Building to the Main Campus Student Center in January.

"My take on things when I first got here was we needed to be doing a better job of letting people know that we existed, what we do and how to get involved," Rasdorf said. "It (the social) is an opportunity for the LGBTQ Center to welcome students to campus, share more information about who we are and what we do."

Rasdorf said the center is working to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students in general, as

> LGBTQ page A2

ONLINE

» ARTS: Brockhampton releases fifth studio album "GINGER"

» SPORTS: Women's basketball announces full schedule

SOCIAL MEDIA

@theeastcarolinian

Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian

@TEC_Newspaper

BRIEFS

CRW hosts Therapeutic Thursday with aromatherapy

Campus Recreation and Wellness will be hosting an event in front of the Wellness Center on the Health Sciences Campus today from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. where students can make Aromatherapy Rollerballs. The event will additionally be held on ECU's main campus at the Sonic Plaza of Joyner Library today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sonic Plaza at Joyner Library to serve broccoli

Campus Recreation and Wellness will provide students with free broccoli tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sonic Plaza at Joyner library while supplies last.

COB affiliates clean Jarvis Street today

ECU's College of Business faculty, staff, students and alumni will be cleaning Jarvis Street today from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

SAB will hold Stuff a Plush in the MCSC

SAB will be hosting Stuff a Plush tomorrow from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in room 125 of the Main Campus Student Center. The event will give students the opportunity to build a bear.

Late night climb scheduled in Rec Center

Tonight there will be a late night climb from 9 to 11 p.m. at the Adventure Climbing Wall in the main campus Rec Center.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

ECU PD utilizes new unit

Four officers tasked to focus on reducing campus crime

Margaret McCollum
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Police Department (ECU PD) plans to utilize a crime reduction unit to limit crimes and increase safety efforts for students and residents around the university area in Greenville.

Jason Sugg, deputy chief of police for ECU PD, said the premise of the operation is not new, however ECU PD has recently turned this unit into a long-term assignment for specific officers. He said the unit requires a longer commitment, rather than short-term attention, and the officers will focus on predominant issues on ECU's campus.

Sugg said, hypothetically, the unit would be assigned to a string of car break-ins reported around ECU's campus or if safety concerns were to arise about cars speeding and crosswalks becoming a hazard, the unit could address those issues by forming a traffic detail.

"Whatever comes up where we need a focus group to really jump in on it and give it all their attention, we take this group of officers and put them on it," Sugg said. "That's the premise behind doing this."

Sugg said, in general, the crime reduction unit will be an 18-month long assignment with four officers designated to the unit. He said the unit will be able to perform tasks more specifically than normal officers by collecting research and investigating specific suspects associated with crimes if needed.

The officers assigned will act as a focus group, according to Sugg. He said the unit will be tasked with keeping crime activity low around campus and addressing issues with more precision than usual.

"It's a focus group of officers that we can put on an issue, crime or safety-related most likely, and they can focus on it and try to deal with it and alleviate it or regulate it or whatever they need to do to get things back within an acceptable range of activity for that area," Sugg said.

Sugg said officers from the crime reduction unit were involved in an armed robbery incident that took place on Aug. 17 on ECU's campus.



JORDIN WILLIAMS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU PD squad car parked on campus near West End neighborhood residence halls White and Greene.

He said once ECU PD was made aware of the situation, officers from the unit immediately addressed the issue and apprehended the suspects involved within about three to four hours of the report.

According to an on-campus crime notification issued by ECU's Alert service, the armed robbery occurred at around 3 a.m. on Aug. 17 on College Hill Drive. The email said a handgun was present, but no one was harmed in the incident.

Sugg said although it is very unfortunate that the incident happened on ECU's campus, the robbery serves as a perfect example for the purpose of the crime reduction unit and its responsibilities.

"These officers, we had some that were working, and as soon as we found out about it we put them on it and they did a good job with that," Sugg said. "So that's an example of how we would use those officers, certainly in a serious situation, a more urgent situation."

The crime reduction unit is versatile, according to Sugg. He said the unit not only deals with immediate threats but also plans out issues that will need to be addressed in the future based on complaints received by ECU PD.

Sugg said another positive result of the crime reduction unit is officers who are on the team will gain valuable investigative techniques and unique experiences which will help them

in the future once they leave the team. Sugg said this cycle will continue, producing talented officers for years to come.

"When they come off the team and go back to a regular shift, so to speak, they're going to take those skills back with them and then, of course, the people who are replacing them on the team, the idea would be that they're going to go in and learn these things," Sugg said. "They're going to also increase their skills and knowledge and it's going to be hopefully like a revolving door."



Chris Sutton, the emergency and event management lieutenant for ECU PD, said he believes the crime reduction team will provide a dedicated team of officers.

"They will work to reduce traffic violations such as crosswalk problems and speed enforcement," Sutton said. "They will also utilize crime statistics to identify other needs that require immediate attention such as alcohol violations, narcotics enforcement and larceny prevention." Sutton said he also believed this unit was necessary in the armed robbery incident which took place on ECU's campus and their dedication shows ECU PD's commitment to safety.

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

RALLY continued from A1

"Preparing for 2020: Political Visits to Greenville," Gerlach sat as a panelist as the Trump rally was discussed by students, faculty, staff and attending community members. During the event, Gerlach said ECU would have faced a lawsuit if it had said no to allowing the campaign rally to take place.

"In my mind, it wasn't a decision about it so much as 'What is the policy that is relevant?' and 'What do we have to do to be in compliance with the policy?'" Gerlach said.

Gerlach said the rally was not ECU inviting the Trump campaign to campus. He said the event involved people asking for use of the facility, which holds thousands of people and then paying a fee for the usage.

The Trump campaign reached out to ECU for the rental of Minges Coliseum,



MARGARET MCCOLLUM | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

President Donald Trump as he stands at the podium during the July 17 campaign rally in Minges Coliseum.

Gerlach said. "We don't endorse any candidates because we're (ECU) a public entity, and we should not endorse them or any particular statements that were made," Gerlach said. "The com-

ments that I've heard the most about are the idea of sending people back and all that. We (ECU) had no, I don't think the President, I don't know if anybody had planned that, but certainly, we didn't know about that."

ECU News Services Interim Chief Communications Officer Director Jeaninne Hutson said in an emailed statement to The East Carolinian that a representative of the Trump campaign contacted the Chancellor's Office inquiring about how to rent Minges Coliseum.

The Trump campaign representative asked how to rent out the facility if it was available on the desired day and how to start the process. Hutson said the representative was directed to ECU Athletics.

"Many outside groups interested in renting Minges for an event contact athletics directly," Hutson said.

Hutson said the Trump Campaign paid \$13,500 for the rental fee of Minges Coliseum, and she said the funds from the rental fee went to the ECU Athletics general fund.

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



ROD MCCURE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center opened in January and is the workplace of the center's staff.

LGBTQ continued from A1

well as through the welcome social. He said students are invited, but faculty and staff are also welcome.

There will be guest speakers from student health, the counseling center and sister centers within Intercultural Affairs, according to Rasdorf. He said students who are new to campus or students who are just learning about the LGBTQ Center can come and socialize, which is the most important part of the event.

"The most important thing is the social aspect," Rasdorf said. "So students who just found out about the center and want to learn more about how to get involved or the programs and services that we offer can come and learn and also meet other people, particularly for students new to campus, whether they're first-year students or transfer students."

Rasdorf said the work of the center is inclusive of LGBTQ identifying people, as well as allies of the community. He said about 30 to 40 percent of students who are actively involved in the center identify as allies who become involved to help change some of the discrimination faced by LGBTQ people, but the center is open to everyone who is interested.

Rasdorf said he believes it is important for undergraduate students to receive some of the richest interactions outside of the classroom, where students can explore their interests and fulfill them.

Rasdorf said any students who are not able to attend the welcome social can come out for a variety of other events held throughout the semester, including a "Coffee House" gather-

ing on Sep. 11 at 7 p.m., "National Coming Out Day" on Oct. 11 at 10 a.m. and a "Fall Drag Show" on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. He said these are just a few of the events. There are many more opportunities throughout the year.

According to Rasdorf, students who can attend the welcome social will receive a colorful pride flag at the end of the event, and dinner will be served to those who RSVP'd.



Jessica Melowski, assistant director for the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center, said the event is a kick-off for the semester and helps people learn about the events held by the center for the rest of the year.

"If students are a first-year from high school, and they didn't have an LGBTQ center, now they can find a place where other people who identify the same way as them can be accepting," Melowski said.

Daniel Pope, a student at ECU and LGBTQ center volunteer, said he believes the welcome social is an important event for LGBTQ people and allies of the community to experience. He said it is additionally important for people to see the volunteer opportunities and upcoming events offered by the center.

"For me, the welcome social is important because it shows new students who haven't been to the center or new students to ECU all together is that we do have a community here," Pope said. "It's not just for LGBTQ people, it's also for the allies."

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

Greenville
Women's Care
A DIVISION OF PHYSICIANS EAST, P.A.

greenvillewc.com | 252.757.3131

2251 Stantonsburg Rd.
Greenville, NC 27834

f /greenvillewomenscare



Providing comprehensive obstetric and gynecologic services to women throughout eastern North Carolina.

William Brown, MD, FACOG; Amy Blumenthal, MD, FACOG; Esther Smith, MD, FACOG; Paige Fisher, MD, FACOG; Marie Rowe, MD, FACOG; David Ryan, MD, FACOG

TEC 'sports

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this weekend's football game

Daniel Roberts

Copy Editor
@dlroberts1892



Daniel Roberts NCSU 28-21. Why? NC State's offense lacks experience.

Their starting quarterback Matt McKay will start in his first college football game on Saturday. McKay will struggle offensively but the Wolfpack's defense will keep ECU at bay when they will welcome the Pirates to Carter-Finley.

Brendan Gillespie

Sports Editor
@gillguy14

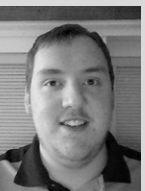


ECU 21-17 Why? Although it seems overly optimistic of me, I do believe ECU has a chance to

defeat NC State. State's loss of experienced players at center, quarterback and other positions may have enough of an opportunity for ECU to capitalize on. With that in mind, if ECU gets a lead at half, can it hold onto the lead without giving up big yards defensively? We'll see.

Daniel Shepard

Sports Chief
@cubscrazy17



NCSU 20-7. Why? While NC State won nine games last season, their offense is largely void of

experience. Matt McKay will be making his first collegiate start on Saturday and could keep the Pirates in the game if he commits some turnovers. In the end though, the Wolfpack's defense will be too strong for Holton Ahlers and ECU's offense.

Jess Sabin

Football Reporter
@jess_sabin



NCSU wins 31-14. Why? This game is going to be played at the Wolfpack's home field which

already gives them an advantage. On top of that this will be ECU's almost entirely new coaching staff's first game for the Pirates. While this looks to be an up year, they simply don't have the fire-power to deal with NC State.

Volleyball set to begin



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Junior Shelby Martin and sophomore Natalie Tyson celebrate with their teammates after the Pirates scored a point during the 2018-2019 season.

Anna Felber

TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University volleyball team has a long season ahead of them this fall as they will play a total of 31 matches, 13 of which are at home.

This Friday, the Pirates were slated to travel to Puerto Rico for their first tournament to start the season. Due to Hurricane Dorian, ECU will not travel to the tournament.

They were supposed to play over the course of two days taking on the University of Providence, George Mason University and the University of Evansville. Due to print deadlines on Wednesday, the updated schedule was not yet released to the public. The East Carolinian will update online as soon as the information is released.

Providence and ECU last played each other in 2017. The Friars took the Pirates in a clean sweep winning three matches to zero, making this a potentially tough game for the Pirates to start off their season. The next day of the tournament, ECU will take on George Mason.

Like the Friars, the Patriots' last matchup with them was a clean sweep back in 2011. Evansville will be the last game of the tournament and neither of these teams have ever faced each other in a match.

Looking into the rest of the volleyball season, the Pirates will then travel to the University of North Florida for their next tournament on the first weekend of September. They will open up by playing the home team

whom they also lost to 3-0 back in 2006. Mercer University will be their next match-up of the tournament following their game against UNF.

Mercer and ECU haven't faced each other in recent years, which will be a new challenge for the Pirates to face. Wake Forest is their last opponent of the weekend. The Pirates lost to Wake Forest in both 2008 and 2010 with an end result of 3-0 in both matches.

Their first non-tournament

These will be the Pirates' first home games of the season. The last match against George Washington University was back in 2007 with ECU sweeping them three sets to zero. The next day will be their match against Norfolk State. ECU has seen Norfolk twice, once in 2009 and once in 2011.

ECU beat them in both of those matches 3-0. Their last game of the tourney against USC Upstate is a recent familiar opponent. The Pirates played

close one, however, as it was 2-3 in favor of Gardner-Webb in 2017. Alabama A&M is a new opponent for the Pirates, and they will face them in Boiling Springs, North Carolina.

Moving into the next week, they will move back home to take on Campbell University. These two teams last played each other in 2016 and it was a tight match, but the Pirates were able to pull through 3-2. ECU will then start their conference play in the same week, starting with the University of Cincinnati. The Bearcats have an 8-3 record against ECU, defeating them in their previous match-up last year by a score of 3-0.

The Pirates will then be away again against conference opponent the University of Tulsa. ECU has 19 losses against Tulsa and only two wins. Their last match in 2018 the Pirates lost 3-1. They will then come back home in the same week to face the University of South Florida. Last year, ECU had a hard 3-2 loss against USF and only has four wins in their 11 total matches.

Moving into their next week of conference play, they will match up against the University of Central Florida. UCF swept the Pirates last year three sets to zero, but in their 26 times that they have met, ECU has won 10 to UCF's 16.

Temple University will be the following game of the week. The Pirates beat the Owls last year three sets to one.

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



ONLINE | FULL STORY

COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Shelby Martin sets the ball for another Pirate player to spike the ball.

game is against North Carolina State University on Sept. 10. These two teams have faced each other four times from 2004 to 2011. In 2011, in their most recent match-up with NCSU, ECU lost 3-0. The Pirates have lost three out of the four games they have recently played against the Wolfpack.

The following weekend will be the Pirate Invitational, where they will be at home to take on George Washington, Norfolk State University and the University of South Carolina Upstate.

them last year beating them three sets to zero.

Following that, ECU will play again at home against North Carolina Central University and then away at Gardner-Webb University and Alabama A&M University. The Pirates played Central last year, beating them 3-1 and have beaten them in all of their past matches as well, stretching back to 2008.

They also played GWU last year beating them 3-0 running their overall record against them to 3-1. Their loss to GWU was a



DANIEL SHEPARD | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Head coach Mike Houston addresses the news media during a press conference on Tuesday.

PIRATES continued from A1

thrower," senior defensive lineman Alex Turner said. "But he likes to scramble quite a bit so we just got to work on making sure we're good on having him contained."

On the offensive side of things, ECU has its own dual-threat quarterback in sophomore Holton Ahlers. In 2018, Ahlers led the Pirates in rushing (592) and passing yards (1,785), racking up 2,377 all-purpose yards for an average of 237.7 per contest.

This season, the Pirates will return 99 percent of their passing yards from last year, split between Ahlers and junior Reid Herring.

Unfortunately for Ahlers, his top target from last year, Trevon Brown, is no longer

with the program after amassing 1,123 receiving yards and nine touchdowns in 2018. That leaves senior Deondre Farrier, junior Mydreon Vines and sophomore Blake Proehl as the starting receivers for the opener.

Combined, they logged 856 yards on 71 receptions in 2018, making them a fairly inexperienced group despite their class status. That being said, that group earned starting roles through standout preseason camps and hard work.

"If you look at them, it's all guys that are a little bit older. Blake Proehl is a redshirt sophomore, but he's been in the program for a couple of years now," Houston said. "But I think those guys that are slated as the starters, were the ones that were the most consistent throughout preseason camp."

ECU has not found much success against the Wolfpack historically, notching a 13-17 record since 1970. More recently, however, the Pirates have won three of the last four meetings and eight of 13 dating back to 1987 despite posting an 8-15 record against NCSU in Raleigh.

Records aside, when the Pirates take the field, the feeling of last December will be fresh in the minds of the veteran players.

"We want revenge, it's just that simple, we want revenge," senior offensive lineman Branden Pena said. "I know there's going to be a lot of ECU fans there. It's going to be hostile, it's going to be tough, it's going to be loud, but we're ready for it."

Asked for what he thinks will make the Pirates successful on Saturday, Coach Houston kept it simple saying, "If we do the things that good football teams do." That includes cutting down turnovers, being crisp on special teams, limiting big penalties and generally avoiding sloppy play on both sides of the ball.

Playing NC State is a tall task, but the Pirates are as prepared as any team can be for a season opener. On Saturday at noon, we will see if that preparation was enough to be victorious or if ECU once again falls to the Wolfpack.

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

OUR VIEW

E-bikes provide transport

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, appreciate Gotcha Bikes' efforts to provide East Carolina University students with efficient and reliable modes of transportation in replacement of LimeBikes. Expected to make an appearance on move-in day, Gotcha Bikes will now be around campus starting the first week in September with improved hardware updates.

Although the addition of the parking garage improved transportation methods on campus, not all students have the privilege of owning a car while taking classes full-time. The buses only run to certain locations around Greenville and if a student lives close, but not close enough, they will have to walk to class. With the addition of Gotcha Bikes, those who do not have the ability to drive or take the bus to campus will have more options.

Hubs will be located appropriately around campus and with the use of an educational email, students will be able to ride for a monthly price of \$6.99. The student discount offered will ultimately lead to an overall cheaper price than LimeBikes. Instead of spending two dollars per ride, students will be able to ride every ride for entire month for this set price.

The addition of Gotcha Bikes will not only provide a faster and cheaper mode of transportation for ECU students, but will replace the lost of the beloved LimeBikes after the end of their contract ended this past year. This will further encourage students to attend their classes that may be on opposite ends of campus from each other, as well as visit other buildings on campus, such as Joyner Library.

OUR STAFF

Jenna Price	Editor-in-Chief
Trajan Warren	Managing Editor
Daniel Roberts	Copy Editor
Summer Tonizzo	News Editor
Elizabeth Johnson	News Chief
Chloe Easton	A&E Editor
Giana Williams	A&E Chief
Brendan Gillespie	Sports Editor
Daniel Shepard	Sports Chief
Pat Polomchak	Multimedia Manager
Michaela Emory	Visual Arts Editor
Erin Flynn	Production Manager

Serving ECU since 1925, The East Carolinian is an independent, student-run publication distributed Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year and Wednesdays during the summer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, columnists and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration at East Carolina University or the Student Media Board. Columns and reviews are the opinions of the writers; "Our View" is the opinion of The East Carolinian Board of Opinions.

As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

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

Contact Info

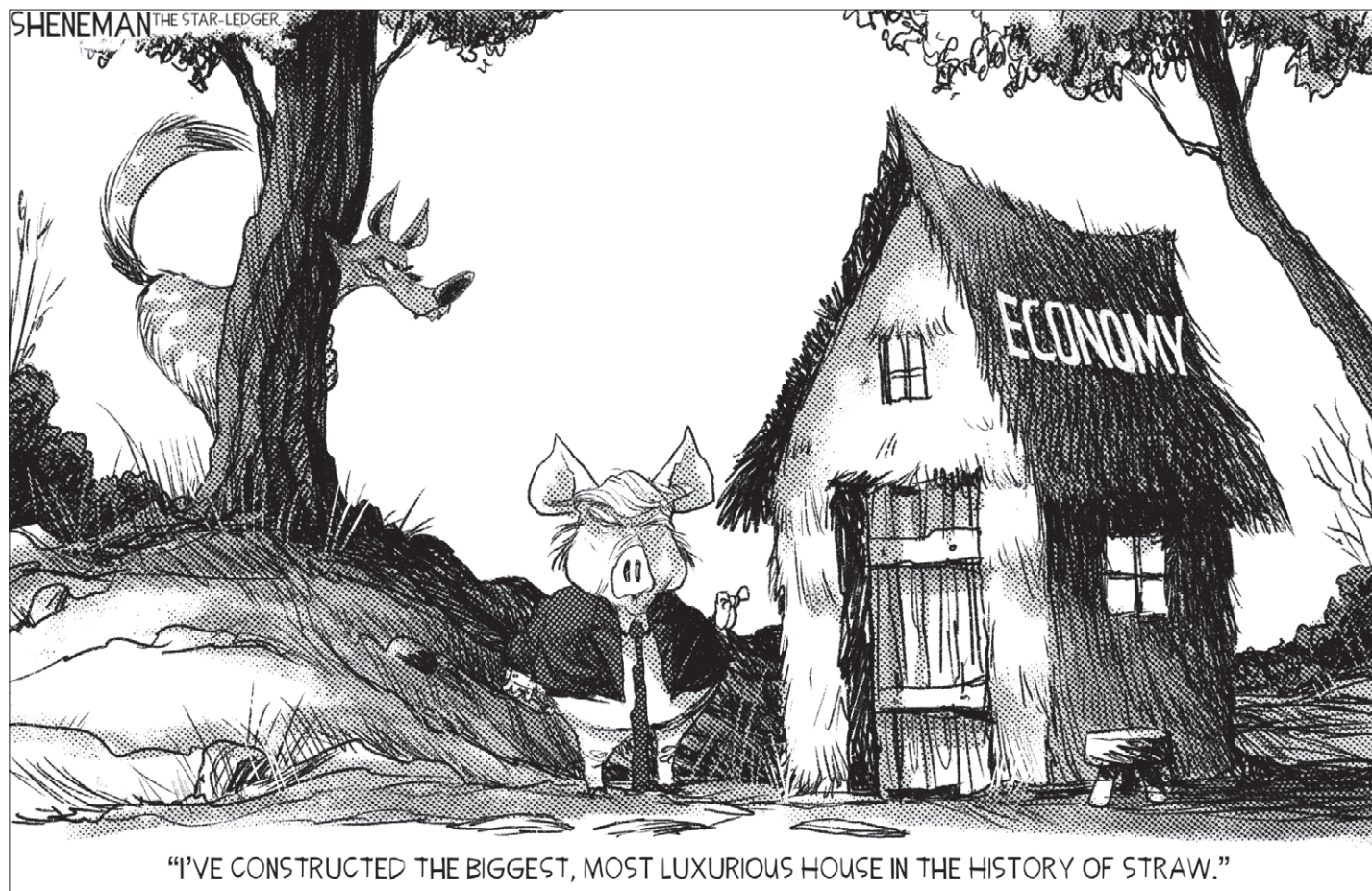
The East Carolinian
Self Help Building,
Greenville, NC, 28889-4353

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143



LGBTQ acceptance needed

Member of ECU's LGBTQ community seeks protection



Erin Bunch
GUEST COLUMNIST

Speaking against injustice is seldom a pleasant endeavor. The difficulty is amplified when the speaker and the victim are one and the same. Nonetheless, I derive empowerment from the countless people before me who chose to defy the status quo with bold cries for social change. With my words, I can only hope that I might empower the disenfranchised, rebuke the voices of hatred, and motivate the apathy stricken.

My name is Erin Bunch, and I am a third year student at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine. I also happen to be a transgender woman (pronouns: she/her/hers). Overall, I'm grateful that most of my peers and professors treat me with nothing but the utmost respect. Unfortunately, lapses exist for certain persons and in certain situations.

Most frequent (and benign) are instances of misgendering (e.g. being referred with "he" instead of she). More maliciously, my gender identity has been the subject of various jokes and insensitive/disrespectful comments. Two recent examples come to mind. While entering the women's locker room in Vidant Medical Center, I was soundly greeted with an exclamation of "that is a man!" In another instance, while discreetly correcting an instance of being misgendered, I was embarrassed in front of several people as said person loudly stated that they "knew what was going on" and that they could "see (my) boobs and Adam's apple." In both instances, others were present, and nobody spoke up on my behalf.

As a student, these situations have proven difficult to navigate. Far too often, I've resigned myself to inaction, feeling paralyzed by fears of indifference and

retaliation. On the rare occasions where I found the courage to broach my concerns (names/titles intentionally omitted), I regularly encountered either placation of my experiences or direction to yet another person/office. Such responses yielded an implied attitude: that the problem is mine alone and that I'm expected to solve it by myself.

On a positive note, over the past few weeks, I was finally able to recruit active advocates for my behalf. Specific thanks go out to the following Brody offices: Office of Diversity Affairs, Office of Student Affairs and Office of Student Development and Academic Counseling.

Current protections for LGBTQ students at ECU are primarily contingent on the acceptance displayed by most members of our community. However, when this first line of defense fails, the affected student will likely turn to ECU's Nondiscrimination Policy, which is based on the same policy enacted by the UNC Board of Governors.

While this policy yields contentment beneath its umbrella for relevant voices of social justices, I perceive it to suffer from a fatal flaw. In ECU's policy, it states that "(ECU) is committed to equality of opportunity and prohibits unlawful discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity." This begs the question: what actions are deemed "unlawful" towards LGBTQ students?

At the state level, per 2017's HB 142 (i.e. the reluctant compromise that repealed HB 2, also known as the "bathroom bill"), a moratorium remains in effect until December 2020 that prevents all local jurisdictions from passing nondiscriminatory ordinances for LGBTQ persons.

At the federal level, the only relevant provision is Title IX, a subsection of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. In short, Title IX prohibits, "on the basis of

sex," discrimination within educational institutions receiving federal funding. For clarity, ECU falls within the jurisdiction of Title IX.

In 2016, the Obama Administration announced that it would begin invoking Title IX policy with regards to discrimination against LGBTQ students. However, in 2017, the Trump Administration narrowed this scope, restricting LGBTQ discrimination to that "based on a student's failure to conform to stereotyped notions of masculinity and femininity."

Additionally, the current administration specifically withdrew active support regarding the usage of appropriate restrooms/locker rooms by gender diverse persons. These changes seemingly omit sexually diverse individuals from Title IX protections. As for gender diverse persons, their protections under Title IX are uncertain at best.

Based on my personal experiences and my research of relevant policies, I believe that the LGBTQ community at ECU remains significantly vulnerable to acts of discrimination, with emphasis placed on acts verbal in nature. I opted to share my own negative experiences as a student, such that they might serve as testimony to this vulnerability.

Although we are strong and resilient, we continue to suffer under the noxious cloud of stigma, which stifles our cries for equal treatment. To those within ECU's administration who value our success and well-being, I implore you to hear these concerns and to take concrete action.

If you choose to relegate this matter as being somebody else's responsibility, then your inaction ultimately serves as an affirmation of things remaining as they are.

Erin Bunch is a medical student at Brody School of Medicine. To submit a guest column, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Emotional safety is necessary



Ashley Cleland
GUEST COLUMNIST

In light of the recent Cupola Conversation panel discussion about political candidate visits to campus, several students and colleagues have shared experiences of feeling unsafe and discussed what safety really means. When people talk about "feeling safe," they are more frequently referring to emotional safety.

People may be familiar with emotional safety in terms of intimate partnerships and relationships, but not communities or institutions of higher education. What does this mean for ECU specifically? How can we practice emotional safety?

First, communities are made, sustained, or broken by the quality of their relationships. Faculty and staff build relationships with each other, with the Greenville community, and most importantly, with students. Trust and emotional safety are key to creating a community where we can all thrive.

Secondly, I am trained in trauma-informed practice, the impact of ACEs (adverse childhood experiences) on learning, and I have worked extensively with folks from a variety of walks of life while serving in my role as an Associate Director of Intercultural Affairs. People with my experiences and education understand emotional safety quite differently. According to the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health, emotional safety "means feeling accepted; it is the sense that one is safe from emotional attack or harm."

Several of my students are all too familiar with the scars caused by emotional abuse, manipulation, and micro-aggressions. I've witnessed firsthand the way our most marginalized students scan faculty/staff and leaders, making a mental database of who is "safe." It's highly unlikely these students fear physical violence from these.

They seek out community where they feel safe from "emotional attack or harm." And for so many of my students,

ECU is exactly that. It is the safest place they've ever been. It is the place where they feel accepted, seen, and celebrated for their true selves.

Given the way many of these students see ECU, it is understandable that some of the participants and behavior exhibited in the recent political rally felt unsafe. In particular, the now infamous "send her back" chant perpetuated by rally attendees hangs in the air as a good example of something that isn't physically unsafe, but certainly lacks emotional safety for our international student population and other marginalized groups.

I understand that some may view an "emotionally safe" university as one where we wouldn't challenge ideas. That's not the case. Emotional safety and discomfort are not mutually exclusive. In fact, discomfort that leads to learning and productive discourse occurs in environments where we are emotionally safe.

Ashley Cleland is the Associate Director for the Women and Gender Office. To submit a guest column, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

EVENTS

TODAY

Mims Distributing August Wine Tasting
Dickinson Avenue Public House
5:30 p.m.

Market on the Square
Downtown Winterville
4:00 p.m.

Ladies Night
Halo Home
5:00 p.m.

TOMORROW

Kyle Dills Live
Buccaneer Music Hall
9:00 a.m.

Sup Yoga with Moxie Yoga
Port Terminal Boat Ramp
9:00 a.m.

SATURDAY

Unaka Prong Live Music
Pitt Street Brewing Company
8:00 p.m.

Josh Branch Live
Winslow's Tavern, Deli, & Market
8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

Sunday Sereis Mckenzie Shelton
Pitt Street Brewing Company
4:00 p.m.

Brushes & Brews
Uptown Brewing Company
3:00 p.m.

MONDAY

Open Mic Night
Trollingwood Taproom & Brewery
7:00 p.m.



Greenville native modern country music band Rural Route Romance sings along with the crowd for a full house performance at Buggy's Bar this past April. COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

R3X makes country comeback

Devin Raines
TEC STAFF

Greenville native band, Rural Route Romance, will perform Saturday at 10:30 p.m. hosted at Buggy's Bar and will kick off the first show of the fall 2019 concert season.

Lead singer, Kaleb "KC" Skirko, forefront member of Rural Route Romance (R3X), said the band is currently traveling around and performing wherever they can. Skirko said the band is known for cover music, but has released original music in the past.

"Right now, we play a lot of covers, but we do have some original music," Skirko said. "We've got one song out right now, it's called 'All In.' We released that about a year and a half ago. Within a couple of weeks

or a month it was climbing the New Music Weekly charts."

During the bands performance back in August at Buggy's, the line was wrapped almost all the way around the block. The bar itself was at maximum capacity, only letting some enter the building when others had left, according to Skirko.

"That would probably be our main goal of playing there (Buggy's Bar), is to cater to the younger crowd that's going to sit there and download our music, and be there to cheer us on, and to learn the lyrics and sing along with us," Skirko said.

Bass player and manager of R3X, Ryal Watkins, is also one of the forefront members who helped create the band. Having found Skirko from a high school talent show video, he

brought the singer in to complete the group.

"We do play some other places in the area, but that's (Buggy's Bar) kind of like, in our opinion, the main, one of the main if not the main, live venues downtown," Watkins said. "You know, to play for the younger students, that's the right place to be."

Watkins said one of the best things about playing in Greenville is the ability to play for a wide range of audience.

The band prides itself on being up to date on modern music, and being able to take on a variety of requests. A person can come out to see the performance and have a good time for not a whole lot of effort, according to Watkins.

Judd Crumpler, one of the owners

of Buggy's Bar, said Buggy's hosts a wide array of events. He said he discovered R3X when some of the members played at Buggy's before starting the group.

Crumpler helps book the bands and live events by the semester. He said he starts looking for events to line up for the fall semester as early as June or July.

"Basically what I'm looking for is some party bands, kind of, some country music that plays the pop country kind of stuff," Crumpler said.

Both Skirko and Watkins advise people to arrive early in order to gain admittance into the bar. Admittance is \$10 for those over 18, and \$5 for those over 21.

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

Athletes participate in Pub Run

Olan Bryant
TEC STAFF

Local athletes turned out in numbers at the weekly Beer Exchange Pub Run hosted by Uptown Brewing Company. The run was sponsored by Fleet Feet of Greenville, a locally owned running store that specializes in athletic footwear.

The Pub Run started in October 2017 when the Greenville branch of Fleet Feet was opened and operated by local Chris Loignon. Loignon said he wanted to create an event to help reach out to the community and "gain some momentum."

"At the time, there were only two breweries in the Uptown area, and we wanted something to get people over the hump during the week," Loignon said.

On average, Loignon said anywhere between 15 to 75 people show up for the event depending

on the time of year. Loignon explained a range from college students to older adults attend the runs and enjoy the community that comes with it.

"People tell me they look forward to the Pub Runs for sure. I think the running community here has grown a bit. For us, it's about supporting local businesses and getting people running."

Uptown Brewing Company manager, Nick Harmer, has been a positive enforcement about the Pub Runs.

"It's been a positive impact all around, from the increase in business on an otherwise laid back Wednesday to the relationships we've made with the people who attend the run that come back and see us," Harmer said.

ECU's faculty members have been involved past runs, and have been surprised at the enthusiasm from the local running community. ECU

professor of ecology, Mike McCoy, said the support that the run has received is bigger than he expected.

"I try and do the run as often as I can. Running is one of my biggest hobbies, and the community here is bigger than I thought, especially the distance running community," McCoy said.

Information on how you can be apart of next Wednesdays Pub Run can be found on the Fleet Feets Sports Greenville website. Routes range anywhere between two to four miles, no entry fee is required.



Mike McCoy

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

the Big VAPE THEORY
EST. 2014
HAPPY LABOR DAY
Kratom Supplier Disposable Devices Pod Devices & Salt Nic Liquids Trusted CBD
(252) 689-6021
info@thebigvapetheory.com
2800 E 10th St #102, Greenville, NC 27858

SELF-LOVE continued from A1

bell-Payton, describes Campbell-Payton's music as "a vibe" and that she is unapologetically her in a world full of followers.

"Knowing that she produces, writes and often records herself, I feel like it gives her the ability to capture her essence and not let her message be tampered with," Kelly said.

Kelly said the concert will be "an experience unlike any other" and a "breath of fresh air" especially around Uptown Greenville where the options for entertainment are limited.

Robert Mayfield said he has been good friends with Campbell-Payton since 2011 and enjoys the style of music she makes and how different and original the sound is.

"I have been to her show and I've heard good reactions from the audience," Mayfield said. "She's a great performer and I know she will go far with her music."

Campbell-Payton said the goal of the concert is to be able to give back to the Greenville community and give the proceeds of the concert towards the renovation of the Old Roxy theater on Albemarle Ave where GTAC is located.

"I think I do see myself making music professionally, but I mostly want to be cre-



Terri Campbell-Payton poses for the camera. COURTESY OF INSTAGRAM

ative and try to create as much as possible," Campbell-Payton said.

The Girl Next Door Live Concert Experience will feature a surprise special guest artist with doors opening at 7 p.m. Admission is free of charge with an age requirement of 21 and up. More information can be found on the Greenville Theater Art Centers website at www.gtacnc.org.

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