THE DAILY CLIPS

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Area leap year babies hit milestones

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

It's a simple math equation: Take your age and divide it by four.

That's the number of actual birthdays you've had if you were born on this date, Feb. 29. It's called leap day, and it only comes around every four years — created so the calendar year stays in sync with the time it takes for Earth to travel around the sun.

It may mean fewer candles, but a 40-year-old turning "10," or a 4-year-old celebrating his first birthday often causes double-takes.

These four locals are just some of the people around the world who celebrate their un-birthdays more often than their true ones.

David Tripp

Though 24 isn't a milestone for most people, it will be for David Tripp. The leap year baby graduates from East Carolina University this May.

"I like the advantage of having two days," he said of his birthday. "I can basically do it whenever I want."

Tripp is completing a double major in industrial engineering technology and mechanical design engineering. It's a toss-up for now between pursuing his master's in business administration at N.C. State and entering the workforce. Tripp said his unique birth date has drawn plenty of attention during his college years.

"When I turned 21, I tried to get beer on the 28th and got rejected," he said, laughing. He added that after some explanation, "I think she checked it outside with someone and we worked something out."

This year he'll spend the weekend on the slopes with friends, snowboarding at a ski resort in Virginia.

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Medical examiner says man died from exposure

The Daily Reflector

The man whose body was found Tuesday in a swampy area near Arlington Boulevard and Fifth Street died from exposure to the elements sometime between Saturday night and Sunday morning, an official with the North Carolina Medical Examiner's Office said Thursday. Authorities have not said why Nickolas Radeka, a retired East Carolina University professor, did not protect himself from exposure after he disappeared from his home Saturday in a red Mazda pickup truck. They also have not given a reason for his disappearance.

His body was found near his pickup truck, less than 200 yards from busy West Fifth Street and the medical district. Temperatures dipped to 34 degrees between Saturday and Sunday. On Monday morning, workers at a nearby construction site discovered Radeka's truck parked near the edge of woods adjacent to Brighton Park Apartment. Greenville police, the State Highway Patrol and other agencies, using dogs, ATVs and a helicopter, discovered Radeka's body at about 11 a.m. Tuesday, a short distance from his truck.

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MISSING

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Radeka left home at about 8 a.m. Saturday and never returned. He was reported seen between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday walking on Red Banks Road and at a nearby grocery store, police spokesman Cpl. Kip Gaskins said. At 2:47 p.m. Saturday, police responded to a missing person report from Barbara Radeka at 1036 W. Rock Spring Road, who told officers her husband was missing, Gaskins said. Radeka taught at the ECU College of Education from 1973 until his retirement in 1998. He was described on Tuesday as "a man with a good sense of humor who was always there for ECU's education students," by John Swope, the college's interim dean. "He was the kind of person every university needs," Swope said.
Nickolas Radeka

Dr. Nickolas Radeka, 71, passed away Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008. A memorial service will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel.

Dr. Radeka was a native of West Virginia and a resident of Greenville since 1972. He retired as Professor Emeritus from East Carolina University in December 1999. Teaching, for him, was not just a job but a way of life. He touched many lives, and will be missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Barbara C. Radeka; four children, Diann, Nick, Nancy, and Danette; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends tonight from 6 to 8 at Wilkerson Funeral Home.
Garrard: Reaching heights wasn’t always easy

By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector

David Garrard has accumulated a lot of diamonds in his life, but it’s the coals he stumbled on along the way that still stand out and make him appreciate all he has.

Garrard talked about his journey to professional football stardom Thursday night as part of Sportworks Ministry’s 10th annual fundraising banquet at the Greenville Convention Center. The former East Carolina great and current starting quarterback for the Jacksonville Jaguars was the keynote speaker at the event, which also featured speeches from ECU athletes as well as football coach Skip Holtz and baseball coach Billy Godwin.

But it was Garrard who most wanted to see. The East Carolina record holder for total yards (10,238), passing yards (9,028) and touchdown passes (68) enjoyed a breakout campaign last year in his sixth season with the Jaguars, finishing with the third-best quarterback rating in the NFL and leading Jacksonville to the playoffs.

Reaching those heights didn’t come easy for Garrard, a child of divorced parents who had to deal with the pain of losing his mother to breast cancer when he was a freshman in high school.

He enjoyed a stellar career at ECU, but then had to wait five seasons to get the starting job with the Jags. He doesn’t take it for granted and Garrard made sure he recognized Sportworks and director Chuck Young for the influence they had on him back when he was in Greenville.

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GARRARD
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and on up to today.

“(God) was always sending people my way, like Chuck Young,” Garrard said. “Sportworks and Chuck Young’s ministry really gave me the foundation that I needed to be able to move forward in life. Without that, I don’t know where I’d be.”

This is the 10th year Young and his family have been welcoming Pirate student-athletes into their home for meals, fellowship and ministry. On Wednesday nights, 30-50 football players convene at the Young home to get fed and conduct Bible study.

Other members of the ECU and Pitt Community College athletic families have taken advantage of Young’s and other Sportworks members’ generosity as well.

Garrard admitted that it was the promise of a free meal that first piqued his interest in Sportworks.

“Coach (Steve) Logan was telling me, ‘Why don’t you go to Chuck’s house? He has dinner and there’ll be a little Bible study,’” Garrard said. “I said, ‘Dinner?’ If there’s one way to get college athletes, or just a college student period, to go somewhere and do something, it’s to have dinner involved.”

With his starting job with Jacksonville seemingly secure, Garrard, who beat Crohn’s disease shortly after entering the NFL, appears to be at peace. He and his wife welcomed a son last year and they’re closing on a new home.

Garrard credits his faith with helping him get where he is, but he’s been through too much to think it will be all smooth sailing the rest of the way.

“It’s great having God on your side, but you still have obstacles to go through,” Garrard said. “Those obstacles are there for you to make you a better person.”

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Story on sick time angers state workers

Last night on WNCT-TV, Annette Newell sought to “expose” North Carolina state employees abusing sick time, which only served to anger many conscientious state workers.

Most try to save as much of their sick time as possible to be applied later toward an early retirement. Unfortunately, we are not spared from catastrophic events in our lives which may call for taking extended time (accidents, sickness or deaths of family members), nor are we immune to the “illness of the week” as we go to work.

Think of this the next time you drop your child off at school with a runny nose and a dose of ibuprofen to ward off a potential fever into the care of an unsuspecting teacher. Then there is the visit to the clinic, where you are coughing and sneezing (or worse) all over the other sick patients, the nursing staff and providers. Nothing like spreading the wealth.

State employees do not get the pay seen in the private sector. They have been without a pay increase for years in times past, but were given vacation time in lieu of pay (this guarantees time, but does not pay for groceries or bills). The days of having a state job as being “primo,” ended many years ago. It is for the love of being a public servant, the enjoyment of working and our benefits that are the only drawing cards. Don’t punish all state employees for the indiscretions of a very few.

MARTINA CHRISTIE
Winterville
The Daily Reflector

"The NewMusic@ECU festival is about celebrating concert music of our lifetime," said festival founder and director Ed Jacobs.

The festival continues through Sunday with five concerts on the East Carolina University campus. Two world premieres will be featured: The East Carolina University Orchestra will perform Mark Richardson’s "Spin Cycle" on Sunday, and David Rakowski’s Clave No. 76 Etude for piano will be performed by Geoffrey Burleson on Saturday.

"If there was a theme it would be eclecticism," Jacobs said. "There is no one sound. People coming to the concerts may not like everything, but there will definitely be something they like."

Jacobs started the festival eight years ago to encourage and bring new music to our state. He is an associate professor of composition, theory, musicianship, orchestration, electronic music, 20th century harmony and 20th century history at ECU.

Today’s concerts in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall will feature NewMusic Camerata at 3 p.m. and Speculum Musicae at 8 p.m. The NewMusic Camerata also will perform at the New York Times as one of that year's best concerts. Speculum received the Laurel Leaf Award from the American Composers Alliance in 1997.

The current ensemble features 12 musicians.

New York-based pianist Geoffrey Burleson will perform a solo recital at 8 p.m. Saturday in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall.

"I met him about nine years ago when I had a piece being performed in New York," Jacobs said. "He came to ECU with another artist year ago, and we’ve been in touch."

Burleson recently released a CD and has performed throughout Europe and North America, and is equally active as a recitalist, concerto soloist, chamber musician and jazz performer.

His numerous solo appearances include prominent venues like the Église St-Merri in Paris, New York’s Carnegie Recital Hall, the American Academy in Rome, Athen’s Mitropoulos Hall and Mexico City’s National Museum of Art.

Burleson is coordinator of piano studies at Hunter College in New York and is also a core member of several prominent chamber groups and ensembles, including The New York Art Ensemble, the Boston Musica Viva, and the Pittsburgh Collective.

3 p.m. Saturday.
A camerata is a gathering of writers and musicians who meet to discuss and experiment with art, including music.

"The camerata is our faculty and students," Jacobs said. "In one case it will be 27 people on stage for one piece and then there will be other pieces that have a quintet or a duet. It’s our in-house NewMusic group."

Since Speculum Musicae’s formation in 1971, the contemporary chamber ensemble has been recognized for its immaculately prepared and passionately performed shows. The Boston Globe has called them “New York's most important new music group,” and its 1999 tribute concert to Elliott Carter was cited by
Duke cancer therapy keeps prostate on the job

BY JEAN P. FISHER
STAFF WRITER

Doctors at Duke University Medical Center are now treating some early-stage prostate cancers with a targeted approach that appears to let more men retain bladder control and remain sexually active.

Focused prostate therapy, much like lumpectomy for breast cancer, aims only at the part of the gland that has cancer, avoiding nerve damage and trauma that can cause impotence and incontinence.

One approach involves injecting the diseased part of the prostate with freezing gas. No surgical cuts are needed and patients can typically return to regular activities in a few days. Duke is one of a handful of medical centers in the nation that does the procedure outside research studies.

"I really believe this is the new wave of the future," said Robert Bryant Sr. of Clayton, who had focused cryosurgery at Duke last Friday. Scores of visiting prostate specialists view Bryant's procedure via a video feed to a nearby lecture hall. The experts were in Durham for an international workshop at Duke devoted to focal therapy for prostate cancer.

The prostate is a small gland beneath the bladder and wrapped around the urethra. It makes the fluid that carries sperm as it is ejaculated.

Treating only part of the

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Less radical choices

Dr. Thomas Polascik, a Duke urologic oncologist and specialist in focal cryosurgery, said most men want less radical treatment options with fewer side effects and said cancer specialists must try to provide them.

All men with prostate cancer aren't good candidates for focal therapy. Men with cancer throughout the prostate gland could not benefit from it, Polascik said. But a study done at Duke suggests that about one in five men have cancer on only one side of the gland, and Polascik said those men could benefit.

Polascik thinks many patients will find the less-invasive option an acceptable compromise between radical therapy and doing nothing.

Bryant, the Clayton man, was diagnosed this summer at age 73. He said more than one oncologist suggested that doing nothing might be best. He said he was told his cancer was inoperable. Radiation was not an option because of an additional medical problem. Bryant, determined to find another option, found out about focal cryosurgery last month when he became a patient at Duke.

"I had a couple of doctors tell me, 'You've had a good long life,'" Bryant said. "I couldn't get with that mind-set."

Prostate is controversial among cancer specialists. The standard of care is to attack the disease, even when it is considered early stage and low risk. Typically, a surgeon removes the entire gland. As an alternative, the cancer is bombarded with hormones and radiation that destroy the prostate.

Doctors think such an aggressive approach is one reason more than 99 percent of prostate cancer patients are alive five years after diagnosis. Both advocates and critics of focused therapy say techniques that treat only part of the prostate may not be as effective.

"Before there's a bandwagon to them, I think they need to be studied," said Dr. Raj Pruthi, director of urologic oncology at UNC Hospitals' Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. He said Lineberger doesn't do any focused therapy for prostate cancer now, but will soon begin a clinical trial. Doctors from UNC-Chapel Hill attended the Duke workshop.

Ten percent to 25 percent of men with prostate cancer have bladder control problems two years after surgery or radiation therapy, according to research compiled by the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Impotence is even more common; up to 80 percent of men report problems after surgery or radiation. Some men's symptoms get better in time, other patients are never the same.

Recent studies show that men treated with focal cryosurgery fare considerably better. Up to 90 percent of men who have just one side of the prostate frozen are potent after treatment. Incontinence troubles about 10 percent. No long-term data are available about rates of cancer recurrence.

Pruthi said doctors and patients who are concerned about complications should keep in mind that there is already one approach with no side effects: doing nothing. Prostate cancer typically grows so slowly that men with early-stage disease sometimes forgo treatment and monitor their cancer. Older patients are often told they may die with prostate cancer, but not from it.
UNC-CH's list stands at 20

Members of a UNC-Chapel Hill search committee have interviewed about 20 candidates for the university's top job.

"We're very pleased with that pool, and I think it bodes well for the rest of the process," said Nelson Schwab, the search committee's chairman, Thursday in brief remarks before the committee went behind closed doors to discuss those candidates.

The committee is looking for a replacement for James Moeser, who has been UNC-CH's chancellor since 2000. The university hopes to have Moeser's successor in place by July 1. Bill Funk, a headhunter assisting in the search, credited the search committee for spending the time to interview that many candidates.

"This is the way all searches should be done," Funk said, adding that universities often hold face-to-face interviews with only about eight finalists.

The committee has not publicly identified any candidates.
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Adds Five Members to Its Advisory Panel

02-27-2008

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. - The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has named Lee Carol Giduz, Executive Director of the Caldwell Arts Council; Virginia Hardy, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University; Jeffrey L. Smith, litigation paralegal at Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.; Andrew Spainhour, General Counsel of Replacements, Ltd.; and David Woronoff, publisher of The Pilot newspaper in Southern Pines to its advisory panel.

Each member serves a three-year term. In its advisory role, the advisory panel helps the Foundation better understand issues affecting North Carolina and opportunities for more effective grantmaking. It also helps identify major new initiatives of the Foundation.

Giduz is Executive Director of the Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir. She is currently an executive committee member of the North Carolina Arts Council Board of Directors and treasurer for Western Art Agencies of North Carolina. Giduz received a B.A. with honors in Public Policy from Davidson College in 1980.

Hardy, who is also serving as the Interim Chief Diversity Officer for East Carolina University, is responsible for leading the academic enterprise of the school of medicine. She is a member of the Brody Council, the Chancellor's Executive Council, Pitt/Greenville Chamber of Commerce and the AAMC Coordinating Committee. In 2000, she was invited to membership in the Women's Forum of North Carolina. She is also a William C. Friday Fellow of the Wildacres Leadership Initiative where she is the incoming chair of the board. Hardy received a B.A. in education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1993, she received an M.A. degree in counselor education from East Carolina University. In 2001, she received a Ph.D. in counselor education from North Carolina State University.

A resident of Winston-Salem, Smith is a litigation paralegal at Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. He is active in community relations in Winston-Salem where he owns SCNTriad Event Communications and writes Smitty's Notes, a resource for community activities. He is an advisory panel member for the North Carolina Center for Design Innovation and a board member of the Millennium Fund. Smith graduated from Elon College in 1986 with a B.A. in public administration.

As General Counsel at Replacements, Ltd., Spainhour is responsible for managing the company's legal and community affairs departments. He is currently a director on the Boards of the Triad Stage, Friends of the Greensboro Public Library and Legal Aid of North Carolina - Greensboro Office. In addition, he is a co-chair of the Access to Justice Campaign for Legal Aid of North Carolina. A native of Concord, Spainhour graduated from Davidson College and the University of North Carolina School of Law.

Woronoff has been publisher of The Pilot newspaper in Southern Pines for 12 years. He is currently a board member of the North Carolina Press Association (NCPA) and in 2007 served as president of the NCPA community newspaper division. Woronoff received a B.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, headquartered in Winston-Salem, was established in 1936 as a memorial to the youngest child of R.J. Reynolds and Katharine Smith Reynolds. During its history, it has made grants of more than $414 million to projects in all 100 counties in North Carolina. Although it makes grants to a wide range of projects, it now gives special attention to five focus areas - community economic development, the environment, democracy and civic engagement, pre-collegiate education, and social justice and equity. The deadlines for grant applications are February 1 for consideration in May and August 1 for consideration in November. More information is available at the Foundation’s web site, www.zsr.org.

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