THE DAILY CLIPS

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East Carolina remembers Holocaust victims

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University commemorated the victims of the Holocaust with a series of events Thursday.

The day began at 6 a.m. with "Unto Every Person is a Name," a public recitation of the names of victims and the death camps where they were murdered. The long list took most of the day to read.

Volunteers stood on the steps in front of Joyner Library reading the names as students passed by, many stopping to listen for a moment before continuing on their way.

The international project, now in its 18th year, was held at ECU for a fourth consecutive year. Jessica Gagne, service-learning coordinator, introduced the project at ECU in 2004 and continues to serve as coordinator.

"Unto Every Person is a Name" provides a venue to educate our community not about the six million — but about the personal stories of men, women and children who perished during the Holocaust, restoring their identities, and thereby acknowledging that we cannot remain indifferent to contemporary injustice," Gagne said.

The Holocaust was presented on a personal level when death camp survivor Giselle Abramson shared her experiences with a group of about 40 in the afternoon.

Abramson was a young girl when the Nazis invaded Poland, where she was born. Her family escaped the camps for a time, but ultimately was split up by circumstance and she ended up in Majdanek, a death camp in Poland.

She told the audience how each passing day after the German invasion came with more rules for Jews and fewer freedoms. She said she can still remember the chills associated with the announcements Nazis would post all over the town declaring new curfews and rules.

"I have not come to terms with announcements," Abramson, who is in her 80s, said.

"Whenever I see an announcement, I am back in Poland."

The rule that all Jews had to wear yellow patches with the Star of David left her feeling particularly dehumanized, she said.

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"We were no longer human beings, we were yellow patches. And you can cut up a yellow patch," she said.

She described being taken to a ghetto and nearly starving. She discussed, sneaking out of the ghetto to barter for food and witnessing a massacre in the countryside.

After she was taken to the concentration camp, she was assigned a number that served as her name to the German officers who addressed her. She said people often ask her what her number was.

"Please don't ask me," she said.

"I don't have a number. My name is Giselle Abramson."

The day of commemoration continued when the School of Theatre and Dance presented The Sholem Asch Radio Hour, a Reader's Theatre adaptation of two stories by the famed Yid-

dish novelist and playwright.

Tracy Donohoe, associate professor in the School of Theatre and Dance selected, adapted, and directed the production.

"I was drawn to these two pieces because they are action driven and emotionally alive. They lend themselves well to dramatization," Donohoe said.

"They make you ask questions. When do you fight to live? When do you choose to die? Do you have a right to choose that? It's beautiful to watch the characters reveal their faith and courage when tested by the horrors of the Holocaust."

After dark, the campus mall was filled with hundreds of memorial luminaries honoring those who died in the Holocaust. Each luminaria had the name and age of a victim.

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Our Views

City shine

Greenville set for weekend excitement

Saturday's weather forecast may predict thunderstorms, but it is unlikely even a downpour will dampen spirits in Greenville this weekend. With a number of activities taking place, it promises to be an exciting two days for residents and visitors alike.

Some like to claim that Greenville has little to offer. It is often heard there is "nothing to do" here. But weekends like this prove those opinions are quite incorrect and that opportunities abound for those who choose to seek them.

Last year's PirateFest sought to unite a number of key city celebrations under one common weekend. The success of that endeavor prompted this year's event to be bigger and better, offering something for everyone.

East Carolina University fans will enjoy the 25th annual Purple and Gold Pigskin Pirate Pig-Out, the party surrounding the spring football game. With plenty of eastern-style pork barbecue on hand, the Pig-Out is a cherished tradition for the East Carolina faithful.

But the PirateFest reach extends beyond Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. The city's annual International Festival will take place Saturday on the Town Common. The Uptown Art Walk invited people to enjoy 20 businesses tonight, one day before the Uptown Arts Festival brings live music, an open-air marketplace and Pirate entertainers to the heart of the city.

Add to the maelstrom a Saturday visit by former President Bill Clinton, reminding citizens of the important primary election next month, and the weekend is virtually bursting with activities for people of every stripe.

The city boasts plenty of entertainment options each day, but not so abundant as this weekend. But since Greenville enjoys precious few opportunities to show its best face, this should be a time to let the city shine.
Council delays sign decision

By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector

The Greenville City Council delayed making a decision Thursday about the style signage it would use to direct travelers because one of its members was absent.

Councilwoman Rose Glover missed the meeting due to illness. Because she initially raised the issue of using a tobacco leaf in the signage, then said Monday she was reconsidering her request, other council members wanted the decision delayed so she could be involved in the debate.

CITY Planner Carl Rees said the signage was recommended because it raises the city's identity amid a growing medical complex and university.

The city's redevelopment commission has been reviewing the signage choices, Rees said. Following its April 1 meeting, the commission recommended using signage with blue and green colors, the same as the city's flag. The letter G would be used as the graphic element, with its bar replaced by a tobacco leaf.

In February, Glover sup-

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ported using a tobacco leaf, noting the city grew because of its once-thriving tobacco market. During Monday's council meeting, Glover said she was reconsidering because many find the tobacco leaf symbol controversial.

Several individuals spoke in favor of the tobacco-leaf symbol at Thursday's meeting.

Brenda Highsmith said the leaf image is eye-catching, can be seen from a distance and it a symbol of Greenville's history.

Highsmith pointed out that pirates were, criminals but no one believes its use as the university's mascot has caused young people to go astray.

Fredrick Soli asked the council not to fall prey to the argument that a tobacco symbol implies the city encourages smoking. He said the number of non-smoking institutions, such as the hospital, show the city recognizes tobacco's ill effects.

"Tobacco opened Greenville to the world and the world to Greenville," Soli said.

Don Edwards, a longtime advocate of redeveloping the downtown area, didn't comment on the tobacco image itself, but asked the council to keep in mind the signage will define the community.

Councilman Bryant Kittrell asked if the redevelopment commission could be heard from again. Councilman Max Joyner Jr. noted the commission didn't initially recommend signage using a tobacco leaf. Rees said the commission was divided over the symbol.

Councilman Calvin Mercer said he didn't want the commission to think it should redesign the signage's graphics again.

"Sometimes there is an issue that faces a city that people feel passionate about that the council has to make a decision," he said.

In other business, the council:
- Directed the city attorney to create an ordinance forming a neighborhood advisory board.
- Unanimously approved separate ordinances requiring the repair or demolition of houses at 1915 McClellen St. and 1910 S. Park St.
- Unanimously approved the annexation of 23.142 acres of Grove Point located on the east side of Allen Road and south of its intersection with Briarcliff Drive.
- Unanimously approved request to rezone several pieces of property located along Signature Drive. One request, from Rosewood Farms, changed zoning along Blue Hill Drive to high density multi-family residential. The other request, from Lake Kristi Properties changed zoning along Ball's Chapel Road to general commercial.

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Parades, pirates, art and athletics — Greenville is hosting it all this weekend

The Daily Reflector

It's going to be one big party in Greenville this weekend with PirateFest. Kicking off the weekend of pirate fun will be an ArtWalk from 6-9 p.m. today and the continuation of the 25th annual Purple/Gold Pigskin Pigout. Free shuttle service will be provided from noon-6 p.m. Saturday from the Pigskin Pig-Out to downtown Greenville. Stops include: the Town Common at First and Cotanche streets; Fifth and Evans streets; Gold Lot outside Minges and the Belt Building. Also, Greenville Area Transit (GREAT) is offering a Free Ride Day on Saturday for all routes. Historical bus tours led by local artist and historian Roger Kammerer will be held at 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday, each lasting approximately one hour and leaving from the corner of Fifth and Evans streets.

PirateFest

Blackbeard's Marketplace (at First and Evans streets) will be chock full of handmade crafts, manufactured goods and food galore. But beware. A sword fight is sure to break out at some time and place during the day. Rowing pirate entertainers will share their music, storytelling, sword-play and dress. Pirates from House of Cadarn, The Moody Crewe and The Shadow Players Stage Combat Group will entertain the festival-goers.

A parade of pirates will be held at 11 a.m. at the corner of Fifth and Evans streets and will follow the Wake & District Pipe Band along Evans Street to the Town Common. A pirate costume contest will be held at 1:20 p.m. at the Buccaneer Bash main stage (corner of Fourth and Evans streets). Prizes will be awarded to the top three pirates, as determined by the judges.

There will be a Pirate Alumni 5K and 1-mile Fun Run at 9 a.m. beginning at Reade Circle.

The entry fee is $25 and registration will be held from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

ArtWalk

An Uptown Greenville ArtWalk will be held from 6-9 p.m. today. There are 13 stops in downtown Greenville including Mossie ~ Clothing, 204 E. Fifth St.; University Art & Graphics, 516 S. Cotanche St.; University Frame & Art Shop, Evans Street entrance of U.B.E.; Greenville Museum of Art, 802 S. Evans St.; Greenville City Hall, 200 W. Fifth St.; Starlight Cafe, 104 W. Fifth St.; Ripple City Artworks, 424 S. Evans St.; Acasica's Tipsy Teapot, 409 S. Evans St.; The Art Room, 403 S. Evans St.; Fourth Street Wine Shop, 330 Evans St.; Jefferson's, 330 Evans St.; and Blackwood's Salon & Spa, 304 S. Evans St.

An opening reception for senior shows by Adam Egenolf and Susan McMurray will be held at Emerge Gallery and Art Center: The Art Room Studio-Gallery, 403 S. Evans St., will hold its grand opening with a senior show, "From Moon Goddess to Virgin Mary," for masters of fine arts textile student Patricia Monnett Hayes, and photographs, "Celebrating the Sacred," by Henry Sürhut.

Buccaneer Bash main stage schedule:
- 11:30 a.m. See You Tuesday
- 12:30 p.m. Lightnin' Wells
- 1:20 p.m. Pirate Costume Contest
- 1:30 p.m. Barefoot Wade
- 2:30 p.m. Daniel Paris
- 3:30 p.m. Stretch
- 4:45 p.m. Blount Harvey
- 6:15 p.m. Jah Creation

Uptown Arts Festival

The Uptown Greenville Arts Festival will feature North Carolina artists, arts organizations and Uptown Greenville restaurants. Fine arts and crafts will be for sale and on display along Evans Street between Fifth and First streets from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday: Area arts organizations will also have booths, as well as demonstrations and children's arts activities. There will be live music throughout the day, as well as a beer and wine garden.

International Festival

For a dozen years, thousands of people have come together to celebrate the diversity that makes Greenville the jewel of North Carolina. This open-air festival takes place on the Town Common all day Saturday and features music, food and attractions from nations around the world. A large cultural pavilion will feature costumes, games and crafts from the native lands of many people who call Greenville home.

25th annual Purple/Gold Pigskin Pig-Out

Located at ECU's Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, the 25th annual Pigskin Pig-Out will offer live entertainment, southern barbecue, carnival rides, fireworks and Pirate football.

Today
- 1:30 p.m.: Site open for pig cookers
- 6 p.m.: ECU vs. Marshall baseball game (Tickets $6 for adults, $3 for children)
- 7 p.m.: Bands perform on the Daily Reflector Stage
- 9 p.m.: Fireworks display
- 9:15 p.m.: Parade of Pigs

Saturday
- 8 a.m.: Pig cooking contest judging
- 10 a.m.: Contest awards ceremony
- 11 a.m.: Barbecue tent opens
- 12:30 p.m.: PeeDee the Pirate birthday celebration
- 2:30 p.m.: Purple/Gold spring football game (Tickets $5)
- 6 p.m.: Baseball vs. Marshall (Tickets $6 for adults, $3 for children)

Sunday
- 1 p.m.: Baseball vs. Marshall (Tickets $6 for adults, $3 for children)
Preparations begin for festivals

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

The Pigskin Pig-Out had what Lee Workman refers to as "humble beginnings": fewer than 15 pig cookers, employees dressed as clowns, a bikini contest with two entrants, and tug-of-war between a circus elephant and East Carolina University football players.

Saturday, 25 years later, the event still will center around the purple/gold spring football game — minus one elephant — but it's grown to include bands, a golf tournament, fireworks, a carnival and a limit of 40 pig cookers.

"We wanted a family-oriented event that drove people to our football program," said Workman, assistant athletic director overseeing special projects who has been involved with the Pig-Out for 24 years.

"Used to be, you might get a couple hundred people if you threw the gates open. But we found a way to sell tickets, serve barbecue and get thousands of people in. We pioneered that."

Still growing, Workman's department joined forces with the International Festival and Spring Uptown Art Walk coordinators to form PirateFest just last year.

"We wanted to help the city develop a signature festival," said Carolyn Thompson, festival co-chair, of its creation.

Using ECU's centennial celebration as a starting point, she said, organizers centered events around celebrating local history.

That sentiment remains in the performances of roving pirate entertainers and historical bus tours.

"It requires a lot of heads, a lot of man hours," she said, of the event. "If you can devote your Saturday to the festival, you can hit almost all of it."

Thompson said they were very pleased with first year's effort, but this year brings new events, more unique vendors and more music — See You Tuesday, Daniel Parish, Blount Harvey, and Jah Creation are only a few of performers who have signed on.

The arts will be further highlighted through Uptown Arts Festival, offering arts and crafts for sale, children's activities and demonstrations. And a free shuttle will connects the area spanning the Town Common to the ECU athletic fields.

Just as the Pig-Out has grown exponentially, so will PirateFest, Workman said.

"I think that again, with all of the community working together, it can become a great city festival weekend."

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Shots near community center prompt lockdown

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

Shots fired about 1 p.m. today near a Fifth Street community center prompted a lockdown of the facility, and Greenville police detained three people for questioning after they recovered a handgun and ammunition, a spokesman said. Two were released later in the day.

Officers converged at West Fifth and White streets in response to a report that shots were fired in the area. They had received information that two black males wearing black shirts and jeans were seen fleeing the area, police spokesman Sgt. Kenneth Laws said.

Officials at the Lucille Gerham Intergenerational Center in west Greenville secured the building that houses the Little Willie Center after hearing shots nearby. Laws said, and officers from the East Carolina University Police Department and the Greenville Police department came to the scene to provide security.

More than a dozen students and teachers assumed defensive postures on the floor, according to ECU Chief of Police Scott Shelton, who was at the scene. After the area was declared safe, members of the group were escorted to their cars by the police and left quickly.

No injuries were reported.
While patrolling the area, officers

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found and detained two men who matched the description of the suspects at 598 Contentnea St. Officers then searched the area around the home and found a .22 caliber handgun, Laws said.

Police filled a plastic bag with bullets recovered from the street, the area in front of the house and an area around it.

Further investigation revealed that the weapon or ammunition could not be connected to the shooting or to the men being held. Officers determined that the men were not involved with the fired weapons and released them pending further investigation, Laws said.

New ECU police chief Scott Shelton was satisfied that his officers handled the situation properly.

"My officers did what they were trained to do, and I'm happy with the quick response," Shelton said.

Shelton responded to the security questions raised by the gunfire in the west Greenville locale by saying that it could happen anywhere at any time.

ECU police are constantly assessing the security needs of every building his students and teachers use, he said.

"We'll look at this situation and determine if it is as safe as it can be. We constantly ask ourselves what we can do to improve the safety and security of our buildings and staff at all of our locations," Shelton said.

During their investigation at the Contentnea Street scene, the officers did find a man wanted by the Department of Corrections for federal indictments on undisclosed charges. Dormel D'Vone Phillips, 33, was taken to the Pitt County Detention Center, Laws said.

Police don't believe a connection exists between anyone at the Little Willie Center and the gunfire.

Michael Garrett, a longtime neighborhood resident and outreach assistant at the Gorham Center, saw the incident as a dangerous sign of escalating crime and violence in west Greenville.

"The fact that this occurred in the daytime really causes me concern. Last year's shooting (of 20-year-old Kenneth Andrews) is not that (surprising) given the number of guns in this neighborhood. We've become a little jaded and it doesn't hold our attention like it should," Garrett said.

Still unsure of who was shooting, or why, police are continuing their investigation into the incident.

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Most Va. Tech victims' families settle with state for $11 million

BY SUE LINDSEY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROANOKE, Va. — Most families of victims of the mass shootings at Virginia Tech have agreed to a $11 million state settlement that will compensate families who lost loved ones, pay survivors' medical costs and avoid a court battle over whether anyone besides the gunman was to blame.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine said Thursday that a "substantial majority" of families of victims of the Virginia Tech shootings agreed to the settlement.

Peter Grenier and Douglas Fierberg, who represent 21 families, said the settlement was worth more than $11 million, but neither they nor the governor would discuss its terms until final papers are drawn in a few days.

Grenier and Fierberg said seriously injured victims "will be well-compensated and have their health-care needs taken care of forever" and that families who lost loved ones would be "similarly compensated and cared for."

Kaine called the agreement "very positive" but noted that families who have not agreed to it could still sue. Notice must be filed by April 16.

Seung-Hui Cho, a mentally disturbed student, killed 32 people and wounded two dozen others at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, before committing suicide. Forty families had previously filed notice with the state that they might sue.

Cho killed two people in a dormitory, then killed 30 more than two hours later in a classroom building before taking his own life.

University officials have been criticized for waiting about two hours before informing students and employees about the first shootings, which police initially thought were an act of domestic violence.
Arts school wants new name

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The N.C. School of the Arts wants a name change.

The residential arts school in Winston-Salem, a member of the UNC system, wants to be known as the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

The school, which trains artists for careers in filmmaking, music, dance, design and production and drama, is often confused with magnet schools, and some people think it is a high school, school officials say. Its students range from middle school to graduate school level.

The name change, which will be considered in May by the UNC system Board of Governors, would change nothing about the way the school operates or how it is funded.

The last UNC system campus to change its name was UNC-Pembroke several years ago, formerly Pembroke State University.

"They thought the recognition associated with the [UNC] name would be good for the university," said Jeff Davies, chief of staff for Erskine Bowles, the UNC system's president. "I think that's part of the logic with this proposal."

School officials say the name change will help in fundraising and recruitment. It was the first publicly funded residential institution of its kind in the nation when founded in 1965. It became a part of the UNC system in 1972.