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Governor vetoes budget plan
Staff, wire reports
Monday, June 13, 2011

RALEIGH — Democratic Gov. Beverly Perdue vetoed the North Carolina budget plan Sunday, saying the Republican-led Legislature's proposal would do “generational damage” to public education and other pillars of the state. Still, she may be unable to stop the plan if members of her party who've already defected vote to override.

Rep. Marian McLawhorn, D-Pitt, lauded the governor's decision. “I think there's some room to work and make a better spending plan,” she said, adding that a spirit of compromise seemed absent this year. “I admire her courage.” McLawhorn said it was her first time voting against a budget in 13 years as a state legislator.


Perdue's announcement in the old Capitol building made history. She's the first North Carolina chief executive to ever veto the state government budget bill. It was written by the first Republican majorities to hold both the House and Senate in 140 years. Perdue continued her criticism of GOP legislative leaders, who could still win this fiscal battle with expected override votes this week.

“I will not put my name on a plan that so blatantly ignores the values that has built this great North Carolina or the value of our people,” Perdue said.
Then she sat down in the old Senate chambers and thumped on the budget document a red-stained veto stamp handed to her by Chief of Staff Britt Cobb. The General Assembly, she said, “may be satisfied with a state in reverse, but I am not.”

Perdue had until Tuesday to sign into law the bill that spends $19.7 billion next year, veto it, or let it become law without her signature. Her veto wasn't unexpected. She's traveled the state over the past few weeks deriding the budget, saying it will devastate public education and lay off thousands of workers after what she calls decades of improvements done largely under Democratic state leadership.

She talked about her discussions with local educators, business leaders and other citizens over the past week. Perdue said she made up her mind on Friday while in Boone when a schoolteacher relayed to her that he had told a student interested in a similar career to work in another state because of all the damaging cuts to education.

“This budget results in generational damage, to tear at the very fibers that's made this state strong,” Perdue said. “Not only our schools and our universities and our community colleges are damaged, but also our communities, our environment, our public safety system and our ability to care for those who need us most.”

Republicans were all but predicting a budget victory late last week, even with the veto, since five Democrats joined GOP lawmakers in giving a two-year spending bill final approval June 4.

None of the five have yet waivered, despite an onslaught of criticism from Perdue as well as her allies, who have been running TV ads, sending mailers and holding impassioned meetings in the districts of the defectors in hopes of turning them back. Just four would have to side with Republicans in the House. The Senate Republican majority is already veto-proof.

Perdue said she was still hopeful that House members — only two of the 73 who voted for the budget need to flip — would sustain her veto. The General Assembly returns to work today. A House vote isn't likely to come until at least Tuesday.

Confident Republican legislative leaders quickly countered Perdue's criticism Sunday. House Speaker Thom Tillis, R-Mecklenburg, said in a statement he looked forward to an override vote soon. While Perdue and education leaders have said the budget will eliminate at least 13,000 public education jobs, Tillis and other GOP leaders argue the actual number of layoffs will be a small fraction of that due to attrition and vacancies while down-sizing government and ending temporary taxes.

“She has shown no leadership on this issue and no willingness to work with the Legislature, choosing instead to veto a budget that protects education and creates jobs,” Tillis said.
North Carolina governors have vetoed 15 previous bills since they received the power in 1997. But none has ever rejected the budget.

A successful override would be a painful defeat for Democrats and for Perdue, who offered a budget four months ago that would have extended most of a penny temporary increase in the sales tax set to expire June 30 to prevent the kinds of cuts she said the Republican budget plan would cause. The final budget lets the entire penny expire.

“They know that much of the damage that this budget is going to wreak on North Carolina is quite simply unnecessary,” Perdue said.

The renegade Democrats interviewed were convinced GOP leaders would never agree to anything short of the entire penny sales tax expiring, which would mean $1.1 billion in lost revenues. They say they were able to get another $300 million more for the public schools compared to earlier GOP plans and preserve more jobs.

“The Republicans and the governor were just way, way apart,” said Rep. Jim Crawford, D-Granville, the most senior legislator of the five and a former top budget-writer when Democrats were in charge. “A lot of people don't like to admit that we came to a better conclusion in the middle, but the truth is we have a much better budget than we'd have any other way.”

Other Democrats siding with Perdue praised her veto. She “placed herself squarely in the company of North Carolina's great education leaders,” said House Minority Leader Joe Hackney, D-Orange.

A successful override would build muscles of the new GOP House and Senate majorities after they lost a series of veto showdowns with Perdue earlier this year. They would enact a budget two weeks before the new fiscal year begins, the earliest date in about 30 years, according to General Assembly data.

Perdue insisted the veto wasn't about politics or power, as Senate leader Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, said in an interview after the announcement. Otherwise, Berger said, she would have tried harder to reach a consensus with the Legislature.

“How dare he. How dare he,” Perdue said. “This message has nothing whatsoever to do with power ... this is about the future of North Carolina.”

Gary D. Robertson of The Associated Press contributed to this report.
Democratic Gov. Bev Perdue vetoed the GOP-written budget Sunday at the Capitol. She denounced cuts in education and other services.

RALEIGH -- Democratic Gov. Bev Perdue on Sunday vetoed the GOP-written $19.7 billion budget, an act Republican leaders said they will quickly override.

Speaking in the Capitol's old Senate chamber, Perdue said the legislature has turned its back on schools, young children, the environment, public safety, and services for the needy.

"I will not put my name on a plan that so blatantly ignores the values of North Carolina's people," she said. "I cannot support a budget that sends the message that North Carolina is moving backwards, when we have always been a state that led the nation."

This is Perdue's sixth veto of the legislative session, and the most significant. No North Carolina governor has ever vetoed a budget. The legislature has not been able to muster enough votes to override any of Perdue's vetoes so far, but this time Republican legislative leaders are confident they can do it.

Five House Democrats are voting with House Republicans, giving them enough support for an override. The Senate has more than enough Republican members to override without Democrats' help.

Rep. Jim Crawford, an Oxford Democrat who voted for the budget, said he did not know of anyone changing his mind.
"It would cause a horrible mess," he said. "Government would shut down."
The five Democrats said they decided to support the GOP-written budget to avoid a
prolonged impasse between Perdue and Republican legislators.

An override would mark a significant change in a state where Democrats have had the
upper hand in shaping state priorities and spending for most of the past century. Perdue
said she held out hope that at least two of the 73 House members who voted for the
budget will change their minds and help sustain her veto.

At the state GOP convention this month, Senate leader Phil Berger said that Perdue was
making herself "irrelevant to what's happening in North Carolina" and that her veto
wouldn't matter.

In response to questions Sunday, Perdue said her veto was not about power or relevance.

"It's about the future of the state of North Carolina," she said. "This is the wrong decision
for North Carolina. It's the wrong direction for our state. Let them say what they want to
say. But they are taking North Carolina backwards."

The veto met with support from most fellow Democrats and denunciations from
Republicans.

House Speaker Thom Tillis said in a statement that Perdue should have acted sooner. The
legislature passed the budget a little more than a week ago. She had until Tuesday to sign
or veto it.

"She has shown no leadership on this issue and no willingness to work with the
legislature, choosing instead to veto a budget that protects education and creates jobs,"
the Mecklenburg County Republican said. "We look forward to overriding the governor's
last-minute veto very soon."

The House is expected to take an override vote within a few days. The Senate would vote
next. There is no time limit, so Republicans can hold a vote when they're sure they have
enough to override.

**What she objects to**
Perdue has been campaigning against the budget for weeks, focusing mainly on education
spending.

She expanded her focus Sunday, saying that the cuts to early childhood programs Smart
Start and More at Four will hinder the educational progress of at-risk preschool children,
"leaving these kids behind before they've even started kindergarten."
She said she made up her mind to veto the budget Friday, while in Boone, when she heard a teacher tell a student interested in teaching that it would be better to plan on working in another state. The disagreement between Perdue and the GOP-led legislature has pivoted largely on whether to extend part of a temporary 1-cent sales tax increase. Perdue proposed keeping part of it, while the legislature's budget allows it to expire.

Perdue released a letter Friday signed by 27 business people and politicians, saying the proposed spending plan could keep the state from fulfilling its constitutional obligation to educate all the state's children.

A nonprofit group, N.C. Citizens for Protecting our Schools, began running television ads in support of keeping the 1-cent tax increase, and the N.C. Association of Educators sent mail to voters in districts of Democrats voting for the budget, that said Raleigh politicians are hurting schools.

**Seeing political motive**

Republicans in recent weeks have emphasized how close their education budget is to Perdue's. Berger's office distributed a document showing that the difference in education spending next year between the Perdue and GOP budgets is 1.6 percent.

In an interview, Berger, an Eden Republican, said Perdue is fighting the budget to help her poll numbers.

"She's apparently been given some political advice from a consultant that the way to bump up her poll numbers is to pick a fight with the legislature," Berger said. "She has to shore up her Democratic base. That's what it looks like she's doing."

David Parker, chairman of the state Democratic Party, said Perdue did the right thing, even if Republicans are able to turn back the veto.

"Taking a stand for something in which you believe is always risky," he said.

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A model of the Queen Anne's Revenge is on display at the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort. The sign over the exhibit states, in no uncertain terms, 'Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge 1718.'

N.C. stops equivocating: It's Blackbeard's boat

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BY JAY PRICE - Staff Writer

The state has quietly decided that the cannon-laden shipwreck just off Fort Macon is absolutely that of Blackbeard the pirate's flagship, the Queen Anne's Revenge, ending 15 years of official uncertainty.

No more caveats, not in news releases, scholarly presentations by state archaeologists or on museum exhibits about the ship like that which opens today at the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort.

"We have now changed our position, and we are quite categorically saying that it's the Queen Anne's Revenge," said Jeffrey Crow, deputy secretary for the Office of Archives and History of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, which oversees the efforts to recover and display the remains of the ship.

After so many years of historical research and the recovery and analysis of tens of thousands of artifacts, the body of evidence was overwhelming and convincing, said Crow, who had been one of the main voices urging caution against declaring a positive identification too early.
Crow said he had believed for years that it was the Queen Anne's Revenge. Professionalism as a historian, though, dictated caution, despite arguments from supporters of the recovery project that not only was the evidence good enough, but that a firm identification would make it easier to win ongoing state funding for the effort.

**Piecemeal funding**
From the beginning, archaeologists on the project have had to piece together funding from a hodgepodge of sources. The legislature has never regularly funded their work, despite the huge tourism potential of such an old wreck even if the ship wasn't Blackbeard's, and despite the risk that a large storm could damage the site, which had been covered by a protective blanket of sand for much of its history.

The positive identification may make it easier to get private money needed to raise the rest of the ship and artifacts by the target date of late 2013 - $100,000 for each of the next three years. But the decision wasn't about money, Crow said, it was about overwhelming evidence.

Finally tipping the scales, he said, was the acceptance of a paper flatly declaring the identity of the wreck by the respected scholarly journal "Historical Archaeology." The paper, written by Mark Wilde-Ramsing, a deputy state archaeologist and head of the Queen Anne's Revenge project, and Charles Ewen of the anthropology faculty at East Carolina University, is expected to be published later this year or early in 2012.

It cited key facts such as the location, historical accounts, dates on various artifacts and dates and places of origin that can be extrapolated from others with known makers or periods of manufacture.

"In summary, historical, archaeological, and scientific research conducted on (the wreck) provides a large body of evidence upon which to make a case - a case beyond reasonable doubt - that the site represents the remains of Blackbeard's flagship," the paper concludes.

As in murder trials, Wilde-Ramsing said, sometimes there isn't direct proof, but the body of circumstantial evidence is so overwhelming that a jury can convict without any doubt. Della Scott-Ireton, the associate editor of the historical journal who worked with the paper, and herself a maritime archaeologist, said it was convincing.

"They've been very conservative, and I think correctly so," Scott-Ireton said. "If they came out and made this kind of assertion too early and were proven wrong, there would be huge publicity."

**Past equivocations**
The Queen Anne's Revenge, a captured French slave ship, was part of a four-vessel pirate flotilla when it ran aground in 1718 beside the inlet leading to Beaufort and was abandoned. The wreck was found a little more than a mile off the beach in 1996 by Intersal, a private research company.
The location precisely matched historical accounts of the grounding, and the ship appeared to be the right vintage and size and was armed to an unusual degree. And from the first, the artifacts brought up fit the origins of the ship, the crew and the places it was known to have visited.

Many of the state and university researchers studying the wreckage and helping bring it ashore have privately been convinced for more than a decade that they had the right ship.

But without direct proof, such as an artifact bearing the name of the ship, and no compelling reason to rush judgment, state officials insisted that official mentions of the project use the delicate and slightly awkward qualifier "the ship believed to be" before "the Queen Anne's Revenge."

The identity of the ship seemed to grow shakier, at least in the public's mind, in 2005 when three maritime archaeologists, including the former conservator for the project, published a scholarly article arguing that the state was too eager to link the ship to Blackbeard, that the proof wasn't strong enough.

The researchers on the project kept on recovering and analyzing artifacts, thousands of them, and eventually the evidence was compelling enough, Wilde-Ramsing said.

**No doubt in exhibit**
The certainty of the Queen Anne's Revenge is evident in the new exhibit that opens today at the N.C. Maritime Museum, just a couple of miles from the wreck site.

Few pirate artifacts have ever been recovered, and even the tiny exhibit the new one replaces helped the small museum pull in more than 200,000 visitors a year. The new one, which features about 300 artifacts and displays about pirate life and the science of the recovery project, is expected to draw even more.

And for those visitors, there will be no Caveats of the Caribbean, no wavering about the origins of what they're seeing. The sign over the exhibit is as direct as a point-blank musket shot: "Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge 1718."

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Teen shoots straight on scoliosis

Vicky Respass, an ECU student and Greenville newlywed, shares her experiences with the disease in an effort to help others battling a curvature of the spine.

BY K.J. WILLIAMS
The Daily Reflector

Vicky Respass carries something unique for show-and-tell when she educates people about scoliosis and the need for early detection: a long chain constructed of hospital wristbands she’s worn.

The East Carolina University student and Greenville newlywed said she was diagnosed with scoliosis — an abnormal lateral curvature of the spine — in the sixth grade. After her back’s curvature was measured, she was outfitted for a back brace.

She has had surgery for scoliosis, and her treatment for the disease is ongoing.

Respass, 19, said she wants to educate people about the importance of early detection, an appropriate goal as June is National Scoliosis Awareness Month.

She also has reached out to younger girls with scoliosis by starting North Carolina’s first chapter of a national support group called Curvy Girls, named for the spinal curves shaped like c’s and s’s that the disease can cause. The group was founded in 2006 by Leah Stoltz, a Long Island, N.Y. teenager with the disease.

The local Curvy Girls chapter, which is geared to pre-teen and teen girls, launched in November 2010. To date, the meetings have been centered in Washington, N.C., but Respass is working to attract members throughout the area.

For Respass, there’s been no respite from the constant back pain the disease has caused. Her medical treatment includes pain management and visits to a chiropractor, along with physical therapy. Her case is more severe than most and she now has kyphosis, a twisting of the spine.

The onset of the disease is typically between the age of 10 and 15, and while it occurs in both genders, girls are eight times more likely to need treatment, according to the nonprofit National Scoliosis Foundation. The disease affects between 2 percent to 3 percent of the population, but most people won’t require treatment. In 85 percent of cases, the cause is un-
SCOLIOSIS

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known.

Respass and her mother, Laura Bortz of Beaufort County, are determined to educate people about the importance of early diagnosis for treatment.

Respass’ memories of awkwardness and embarrassment while having to wear a brace help her relate to the group’s seven members. In the group, back braces are embraced. Not everyone wears one, however. Each case is different.

In middle school, Respass said she hid her back brace, wearing sweaters over it even on the hottest days.

“I felt that if you weren’t the perfect person that you wouldn’t be accepted by other people,” she said.

“I didn’t deal with it all to start with. I just kind of shut myself in my room.”

In high school, Respass became more comfortable with her disease and found support and acceptance in the theater program at Northside High School in Beaufort County.

“I found theater at the right time,” she said.

Respass’s love of acting has led her to major in theater arts at ECU. She’ll be a sophomore in the fall.

She knows what it’s like for the younger girls in the Curvy Girls group when they sometimes have to give up favorite activities due to the disease. Respass studied dance for years but realized her condition made dance an unrealistic career choice.

She’s filled that void with more acting, from local plays to public service announcements and parts in independent horror films made in North Carolina.

She became involved with Curvy Girls after she saw a public service announcement and it led her to start the chapter.

“I wanted to help other girls who were going through it,” she said.

Respass said the girls in the group work to educate the public at a booth during the Music in the Streets event in downtown Washington.

And they talk a lot.

“Of course, we’re girls so we get carried away and talk about life and boys,” she said.

Members keep up with each other’s news between meetings with texts, emails and phone calls.

Bortz said Curvy Girls also embraces the girls’ parents, offering them support, too.

“The ones that are just (starting to) deal with it, I would say their emotions are raw. ... They’re in a shock mode themselves.”

To find out more about Curvy Girls, contact Respass at CurvyGirlsNC@yahoo.com.
Mr. Thomas Eugene Minges, 56, died Thursday, June 9, 2011. The funeral service will be conducted Monday at 2 p.m. in Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church. Burial will follow in Pinewood Memorial Park.

Born in Richmond, Va., Mr. Minges was reared in Greenville and attended Greenville City Schools, and was a graduate of East Carolina University. Currently Chief Financial Officer and Chairman of the Board, he spent his entire career at Pepsi-Cola Minges Bottling Group. He was former Chairman (two-terms) of Carolina Pepsi Bottlers, a member of the N.C. Soft Drink Association and a member of the National Marketing Committee of Pepsi Cola. He served on the board of directors of the Greenville Boys and Girls Club, First Citizens Bank and Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation. He was also a charter member of the Breakfast Rotary Club, a lifetime sponsor of Ducks Unlimited, an avid supporter and fan of East Carolina University and a member of Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray Donald and Virginia Waring Minges; sister, Barbara Minges Davis; and a brother, Donald Minges.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Kay Branton Minges; daughters, Michelle Minges, of Goldsboro, Heather Minges Wiggins and husband, Brian Carey Wiggins, of Kinston, Kristen Minges Nobles and husband, Matthew David Nobles, of Greenville, and Courtney Blair Minges, of Nashville, Tenn.; grandchildren, Miller Elizabeth, Anna Claire and Landon Minges Wiggins, all of Kinston; sisters, Pat and Ginger Minges, both of Greenville; beloved family pets, Charlie, Max, Callie, and Lucy; and dear family friend, Casper Evans, of Greenville.

The family will receive friends today from 4 to 6 p.m. at Wilkerson Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to Pitt County Animal Shelter, 4550 County Home Road, Greenville, NC 27858 or to the NC Veterinary Medical Foundation, 4700 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27606.


Published in The Daily Reflector from June 11 to June 12, 2011
Minges remembered for sense of community
By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, June 11, 2011

Greenville businessman Tom Minges is being remembered today for his compassion, his love of family and his sense of community.

Minges, 56, died Thursday from an apparent heart attack. He was chairman of the board of directors and chief financial officer of Minges Bottling Group Inc., a distributor of Pepsi-Cola products.

He was one of the leaders of a successful effort to merge three Minges family-owned bottling companies into one entity in the early 2000s.

“It was a vision I give Tom an extreme amount of credit for because he knew it was the right thing to do to survive in the bottling business,” said Jeff Minges, the company's president, chief executive officer and Tom Minges' first cousin. “He was so proud we were able to put the family back together under one corporate logo.”

Minges Bottling employs 250 people and serves 14 counties in eastern North Carolina, Jeff Minges said.

“It's terrible this has happened to a 56-year-old vibrant, wonderful human being,” Jeff Minges said. “He gave so much to people, to his family and to this company.”
Jeff Minges called his cousin a “whipper snapper” with numbers who never needed a calculator.

The cousins ate lunch together on Thursday, he said. Shortly after returning to work Tom said he wasn't feeling well and was going home. He died later that afternoon.

Jeff and Tom were first cousins but Jeff said they were more like brothers. Both men started working in the bottling business in 1976.

They were being groomed to lead the businesses but in the late 1990s they saw benefits to merging into one corporation. They went to the family and in 2001 the merger was finalized, according to the Minges Bottling Group website.

“He knew and I knew we could make it happen if we were both unselfish and learned to do it together. And Tom was the most unselfish man I knew,” Jeff Minges said.

“At the end of the day we always said titles didn't matter because we worked together,” he said.

**Friends remembered Tom's generosity.**

“He was a great contributor to this community and is part of a family that has a great legacy in their community,” said Dr. Tom Irons, East Carolina University associate vice chancellor for Regional Health Services.

Irons said he will especially miss Tom's sense of humor.

When Irons served as emcee of the March of Dimes auction, Tom said he would contribute to the event if Irons wore a Pepsi hat during the auction.

“I still have that hat. I love it,” Irons said.

Tom was liked by all and his leadership benefitted many people, said Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood Jr., director of the East Carolina Heart Institute and senior associate vice chancellor for ECU Health Sciences.

“I have known Tom Minges since 1984, when we moved to Greenville to begin our heart surgery program,” Chitwood said. “His radiant smile and warm personality will be missed by the entire community and eastern North Carolina in general.”

Education was important to Tom Minges.

“Tom felt strongly about higher education. He also realized the recent downturn in the economy made it difficult for many students to afford a higher education,” Jeff Minges said. “He was a strong proponent of leveraging some of our initiatives for 2011 toward a scholarship program for the eight community colleges Minges Bottling Group serviced.”

An ECU alumnus, Tom supported the school and its athletics program, especially the football team. His father, Dr. Ray Minges, served as the team physician in the 1960s.

Tom's passing leaves a void in the Minges family, the community and the business, his cousin said.
“I realized I have lost my best friend. I know he loved me and I loved him and we wanted the best for each other and pulled for each other. There was never any jealousy because it was about winning as a family,” Jeff Minges said.

“Tom would want the business to move forward and every day that I go to work I will work a little harder because of him and what he did to give us something special. “He leaves a huge legacy as a giver, not a taker,” he said.

Minges is survived by his wife of 37 years, Kay Branton Minges, four daughters, three grandchildren and two sisters.

The funeral service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday in Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church. Burial will follow in Pinewood Memorial Park. Wilkerson Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of the arrangements.

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com or at 252-329-9570.
Sara Elizabeth Adams White, 73, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at her home, surrounded by her family. The funeral service will be held Monday at 11 a.m. in the Chapel at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Pallbearers will be Dudley Wilson Pou, Cameron Dudley Pou, William "Traye" Ernest Fuqua III, William Alexander Fuqua, Tilden Alexander White and John Trotter Thomason. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery.

Sara, a native of Pitt County, was born Jan. 19, 1938, in Greenville to the late Virginia Penelope Jones Adams and John Hutchinson Adams Jr. She graduated from Greenville High School, attended Salem College in Winston-Salem and graduated from East Carolina College (ECU) in 1959 with a Bachelor of Arts in Primary Education. On Nov. 28, 1959, Sara married Charles Alexander White Jr. of Greenville.

A member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sara served as a children's Sunday school teacher and parent volunteer for Episcopal Young Churchmen (youth group) for several years. She was a past member of the Board for Friends of East Carolina School of Music, Lynndale Garden Club, English Speaking Union and Greenville Service League. Sara enjoyed her memberships in The Greenville Museum of Art, The Greenville Senior German Club and Chicora Book Club. She was a life member of the Pitt County Historical Society and The Lenoir-Pitt Committee of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of North America.

Affectionately known as "Ahmama" by her grandchildren, Sara and her husband, Charley, gathered their family at their beach home in Atlantic Beach for summers and special occasions. Sara's love for the ocean and the beach was passed along to her children and grandchildren. Her favorite closing on cards and letters was always written "With oceans of love and a kiss on each wave."

In addition to her parents, Sara was preceded in death by her first grandchild, Breland Adams Pou. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Charles "Charley" Alexander White Jr.; daughter, Virginia Adams White Pou and her husband, Dudley Wilson Pou, of Greenville; daughter, Sara Elizabeth White Fuqua and her husband, William "Traye" Ernest Fuqua III of Greenville, S.C.; son, Charles "Charley" Alexander White III of Asheville; six grandchildren, Sara Morgan Pou, Cameron Dudley Pou, Cary Virginia Pou, William Alexander Fuqua, John Staton Fuqua and Samuel Borden Fuqua. She is also survived by her brother, John Hutchinson Adams III of Daphne, Ala.; nephew, John Hutchinson Adams IV and family of Mobile, Ala.; niece, Elizabeth Adams McShane and family of Elberta, Ala.; and special cousins, Jane Westbrook Thomason and Anne Moye Mayo and their families.
The family will receive friends at Wilkerson Funeral Home on Sunday from 5-7 p.m. and at other times at the home, 103 Lord Ashley Drive, Greenville.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that memorial contributions be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 401 East 4th St., Greenville, N.C. 27858, Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University, 161 Fort Washington Ave, Suite 645, New York, N.Y. 10032 and/or The American Cancer Society, 930-B Wellness Dr., Greenville, N.C. 27858.


Published in The Daily Reflector on June 11, 2011
Denise Donica teaches occupational therapy at ECU's College of Allied Health Sciences. She says summer is a great time for school children to develop and practice hand-writing skills.

ECU Notes: Practice your cursive
ECU News Services
Sunday, June 12, 2011

Summer is a good time for children who are struggling with handwriting to improve their skills, an East Carolina University expert said.

The break from learning course content gives children time to focus on the actual mechanics of handwriting, said Dr. Denise Donica, assistant professor of occupational therapy in the College of Allied Health Sciences and certified handwriting specialist. Donica offered some suggestions for parents during the school break:

Encourage writing throughout the summer — lists, greeting cards, writing messages, keeping a diary, etc.

Encourage craft, assembly and construction play to improve fine motor skills versus activities just requiring the push of a button.

Seek out an occupational therapist if there are concerns about a child's handwriting skills.

In addition to teaching ECU occupational therapy graduate students, Donica researches handwriting instruction, reviews tools used, assesses teacher views on writing instruction, and measures the efficacy of handwriting instruction.

“Helping children succeed in school is our ultimate goal,” she said.

Some states are phasing in handwriting instruction for teachers, but others are pushing it out, she said. Donica is preparing a journal article on the findings from a survey last year of 505 teachers across North Carolina.

“Teachers are saying they aren't being trained in college to teach handwriting,” she said. There are two primary forms of handwriting: print or manuscript and cursive.
Multiple studies show that poor handwriting can lower grades on children's assignments, even if they know the content. In addition, students taking timed tests, such as the SAT, may be able to get more thoughts down in a shorter amount of time through cursive writing.

“But if you can't read it, it's a zero,” she said.

Students as young as kindergarten age often begin journaling but typically concentrate more on the story rather than the actual writing of letters and words, Donica said. Handwriting remains an important skill even in the digital age, she said. She compares it to math.

“We have calculators, computers, but you still have to know how to add or tell time,” she said. “Those are basic concepts. It's the same with handwriting.”

Before joining ECU, Donica was an occupational therapist in the Indiana public school system and in outpatient pediatric rehabilitation, where she assisted children with fine motor and visual motor challenges, which often show up in handwriting.

She received bachelor's degrees in psychology, criminal justice and occupational therapy from Indiana University and a master's degree and a doctorate in occupational therapy from the University of Indianapolis. She is a certified trainer in Handwriting Without Tears, a curriculum that uses hands-on methods to teach children how to write legibly and fluidly.

Dr. Carol Lust, associate professor of occupational therapy, said Donica has been a valuable addition to ECU.

“The energy, dedication and enthusiasm Denise puts into her work is commendable,” Lust said. “The research she is doing in handwriting will add important evidence to our profession in the area of pediatrics.”

Donica's doctoral topic was on the history of handwriting instruction and how occupational therapists became involved in the 1970s through specialized education plans in the public schools. Students struggling with written communication often were referred to an occupational therapist to improve fine motor skills.

“Up until 1922, in the United States, everyone wrote in cursive,” she said. “If you think of the Declaration of Independence or other historical documents, they are all in cursive.”

A woman attending a conference in England in the 1920s learned about print and brought it back to the United States. Two years later, she denounced it, Donica said.

“We teach print, and we teach cursive, but there is this push and pull. The literature supports both,” Donica said.
Kindergarten is an ideal time to teach print or manuscript to a typically-developing child, based on Donica's research. There are precursors to readiness such as recognizing shapes, letters, coloring and being able to trace letters. By first and second grade, students are mastering skills and should have a basic understanding of letters and writing. Third grade typically is when cursive writing is taught.

A mature handwriting grasp is called a “tripod,” described as the gold standard, with the thumb and index finger opposite one another on the pencil or pen.

“When you're writing, you're really just using the first three fingers,” Donica said. “The last two fingers are often used as a stabilizer.”

Keyboarding and texting use different visual and fine motor skills and muscle control than handwriting, she said. Keyboarding uses all the digits; texting mainly involves thumbs or index fingers, similar to playing video games.

This summer, Donica's graduate students will assist Winnie Miller, an occupational therapy practitioner in the pediatric outpatient rehabilitation unit at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, in helping children with handwriting skills.

“The students enjoy it,” Donica said.

**New chair for Health Education, Promotion**

After a national search, Dr. Tim Kelley has been appointed chairman of the Department of Health Education and Promotion.

Kelley, who came to ECU in 2008, is a professor of environmental health sciences and has served as interim chairman since last year. During his academic career, Kelley has taught courses ranging from human anatomy and physiology, advanced microbiology, waste management practices to food protection, and sanitation and water quality and treatment.

Kelley has held appointments at Valdosta State University in Georgia and Illinois State University. He has authored or co-authored more than 30 peer-reviewed and invited articles and book chapters.

“I am eager to serve as chair and look forward to working with great students, faculty, staff and administrators,” Kelley said.

Dr. Glen Gilbert stated, “As an accomplished faculty member in the department, Tim Kelley brings valuable campus experience to this role. His commitment is genuine and visible.”

Among his professional affiliations, Kelley serves as editor-in-chief of Environmental Health Insights and has received many honors and awards including the 12th annual Illinois Governor's Pollution Prevention Award.
Kelley earned his doctorate in ecology in 1992, his master's degree in science education in 1987, and his bachelor's degree in environmental health science in 1980, all from the University of Georgia.

His research interests focus on environmental microbiology and chemistry as applied to waste management practices.

**Science teacher recruitment event**

ECU faculty met with faculty from 14 community colleges Tuesday to discuss ways to encourage more individuals to pursue a career in science education.

Science education faculty shared ideas and information to help community college faculty advise students interested in a science education career. Assistance with transfers to ECU also were part of the conversation.

Dr. Linda Patriarca, dean of the College of Education, encouraged the collaboration. “As an employee of a community college, you are strategically placed to find individuals who show promise but may not have thought about science or science teaching,” she said.

The event served as a kickoff for a new teacher initiative through which faculty from the College of Education's Department of Mathematics, Science and Instructional Technology Education work with community college faculty with the ultimate goal of filling public school classrooms with highly qualified science teachers.

The following community colleges were represented: Bladen Community, Cape Fear Community, Carteret Community, Craven Community College, Central Carolina Community College, College of the Albemarle, Edgecombe Community, James Sprunt Community College, Lenoir Community College, Pitt Community, Sampson Community College, Vance Granville Community, Wake Technical Community College, and Wilson Community College.

Additional information about science education opportunities may be found at: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/msite/Science/index.cfm.
Jon Day discusses plans to rezone property on Tenth Street Tuesday night at the Greenville City Hall.
(Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector)

Editorial: Zoning balance a moving target
Sunday, June 12, 2011

For Greenville, the tentative balance between economic development and neighborhood protection has rarely been more apparent than in decisions regarding the future of the N.C. 33 East corridor. The City Council's approval of two rezoning requests on Thursday show four members of that body eager to advance the first at the possible expense of the second.

This is the council that citizens have elected, one that shrugged off the dissent of several individuals and neighborhood associations in the interest of commerce and potential job creation. But citizens should recognize that these decisions, once made, cannot be reversed and consider if that approach remains the most prudent course for this growing city to pursue.

The latest census figures confirmed predictions that the city continues to grow at a breakneck pace. Greenville's population jumped nearly 40 percent between 2000 and 2010, extending a rate of double-digit growth stretching more than four decades. With East Carolina University drawing more students each year and the city's emergence as a center for regional commerce, there is no expectation that such growth will abate soon. Greenville is certainly fortunate to be a destination for new residents. Accommodating them, however, has proven somewhat complicated. Historically, the city's leadership has failed to take a long-term approach to development and allowed construction to progress in haphazard fashion. A drive along Greenville Boulevard confirms the folly of that approach, with congestion caused by an excessive concentration of businesses, too many curb cuts and a lack of open space.
The institution of a citywide land-use plan — the product of considerable input by citizens and officials — has provided a reliable framework for growth. However, the Horizons document serves as a blueprint for smart planning and future growth, one amendable as the City Council sees fit. It is only as strong as a majority of the council — reflecting voters' opinion — allows it to be.

There is no evidence that the rezoning requests approved by the council on Thursday will create the same conditions along N.C. 33 East, which serves as an entrance for the city. More realistically, previous decisions allowing existing commercial development there, including that involving a large retailer, assured the corridor of significantly more traffic and congestion.

But this latest debate reminds citizens of the weight carried by each municipal election. Decisions at the polls matter both in the short-term actions the council makes and in those decisions that promise to affect this community in the future.
Beau's Buddies Cancer Fund has an updated website, www.beausbuddies.com, redesigned by InTandem Inc. of Greenville.

InTandem unveils new design for Beau’s Buddies website
Monday, June 13, 2011
WORKWEEK


Beau's Buddies Cancer Fund is a charitable organization with a mission of enriching the lives of cancer patients in eastern North Carolina. Named for Hugh Parham “Beau” Stanley III, who died from complications of high-risk, Stage III neuroblastoma when he was 2 years old, the Beau's Buddies organization is run by volunteers who recognize how difficult the fight against cancer can be.

Support from the local community has allowed Beau's Buddies to give out more than $120,000 since its inception in 2008. This includes monies for chemotherapy chairs, DVD players and movies, laptops, camp scholarships, hand-held game systems, gas and food cards, social work funds, and capital improvements at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

Working in conjunction with board member Dr. John Gibbs, a three-time cancer survivor, InTandem's design focuses on upcoming events, stories of courage, how to get involved and a link to make donations in memory or honor of someone.

Visitors to the site are greeted with an updated version of the original logo created by board member Debbie Hudson. The organization's motto, “Friends Helping Friends,” continues building upon its theme with multiple opportunities presented online.

The website launch coincides with the announcement of one of the organization's largest events, the first David Garrard Golf Classic. Garrard, a quarterback for the Jacksonville
Jaguars who played at East Carolina University, is coming to Greenville for the inaugural event. Joining forces with his charitable organization, The David Garrard Foundation, the golf tournament is slated for June 27 at the Greenville Country Club, with a dinner and auction event at the Hilton Greenville on June 26.

A list of celebrities attending, items featured in the auction and ticket information is at www.beausbuddies.com.

InTandem Inc. specializes in branding, marketing research and public relations.
N.C. STATE UNIVERSITY
Fred Gould is the ninth current NCSU faculty member elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

NCSU entomologist is building a better insect
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BY JAY PRICE - Staff Writer

RALEIGH -- Fred Gould started out like the rest of us, playing no more than a minor role in evolution. Now, though, he speeds it up, slows it down and changes its direction to create weapons in some of mankind's most epic battles against insects.

Gould, the William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor of Entomology at N.C. State University, has become a leader in the emerging field of genetically engineering insects to prevent transmission of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever and to reduce pests' toll on crops. At stake are millions of lives and billions of dollars in health care costs and farmers' income.

Gould, 62, was just elected to the National Academy of Sciences. For scientists, that's the equivalent of being elected to both the baseball Hall of Fame and the All-Star team at once, said Anthony James, a molecular biologist at the University of California at Irvine, himself a member of the academy.

Gould is the ninth current NCSU faculty member elected to the academy, which has about 2,100 members.

Not only is it an honor for a body of work, but it makes you part of a highly respected advisory group on science to the federal government, said James, who works with Gould as the principal investigator of a research project that is modifying mosquitoes to fight their transmission of dengue fever.
What Gould brings to science is not just the requisite high-octane brainpower, but also rigor and an urge to think beyond the basic problem at hand and look at the larger picture, James said. "He has an excellent analytical mind, and the kind of intensity you like that comes from really caring about what he's doing," James said. "And of course he has really great ideas."

Gould, an energetic man who favors T-shirts, flannel shirts and jeans, and often rides a bike to work, almost didn't go into science. His father, a dentist in New York City, wanted him to be a doctor, and Gould was accepted into medical school. Instead, he did some counterculture wandering, driving a cab, picking grapes, driving a bus for a psychiatric hospital. Even after graduate school he was living in a bread truck for a while.

Fast-track evolution
His doctorate is in ecology and evolutionary biology, and he came to NCSU in 1977 as a postdoctoral student to work on what he called "applied evolutionary biology," using it to improve the sustainability of agriculture.

It was often science in slow motion.

"We were working on how to use classically bred plants to resist a specific pathogen or insect pest," Gould said. "Plant breeders would spend 14 years breeding a (plant species) that was resistant to a particular insect, and then in four years the insect adapted to it and the plant breeders would start all over again."

Then came the revolution in genetic engineering, as scientists developed techniques to manipulate genes to get desired characteristics. Instead of years of breeding plants, scientists could add a gene from a bacterium to crops to make them more resistant to insects.

Suddenly his work and that of the scientists and students working with him had all kinds of new ramifications, and new varieties of plants and insects could be created quickly.

His role with James' project includes creating sophisticated mathematical models that predict the likely results of releasing into the wild modified versions of the mosquito that transmits dengue fever. The models indicate things such as the optimal numbers of mosquitoes to release and over what period of time.

Breaking down walls
Gould also embodies a kind of evolution at NCSU, which has started retooling itself in ways that blur what - in higher education and research - have often been hard boundaries between different scientific disciplines.

In a few days, Gould will move his office for the first time in 34 years, joining two rising stars to form a new, cross-disciplinary program that reflects NCSU's recognition that he has found an important overlap between entomology and evolutionary science.
University leaders announced earlier this year that they would reorganize some departments and schools to adjust to the ever-changing world of science and technology. Gould was already ahead of them. He had persuaded Johnny C. Wynne, the dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, to approve the new program and the hiring of two key faculty members to join him in it.

"He's a visionary," Wynne said.

**At the forefront**
New faculty and programs might seem out of step with the current climate in higher education, what with the state poised to cut its allocation to the public university system for the fourth consecutive year. But both new scientists brought grants with them, Wynne said, and are expected to attract more research funding.

More to the point, they will help NCSU stay at the leading edge of an emerging branch of science that holds vast promise for improving crops and public health.

That kind of thinking is crucial now because of the increasing complexity that technological advances have brought to science in recent years, James said. Such overlaps in expertise have to be part of sophisticated, multi-disciplinary projects such as creating new varieties of insects to fight disease.

"The way academics was set up, it was all about demonstrating individual competency in a field," he said. "The problems we are working on now, though, are so big and complex that very few people would have the expertise to do everything, so you have to be able to bring collaborators together who are less about working for themselves and more about working on this bigger problem."

**A passion to dance**
Gould brings the same sort of intensity to his pastimes that he does to his science, said Meg Lewis of Durham, a friend who met him about two years ago at an event organized by the Triangle Swing Dance Society.

He is passionate about dancing generally, and swing dancing in particular. Even in dancing, though, mere technical competence isn't enough, said Lewis, who describes Gould as having a "go beyond" quality. He knows there is more to the whole idea, the big picture of dancing.

"He's not just good, he's fun and sparkly and interactive as a dance partner," she said.

Both share an interest in art, particularly early modern work. And while she has formal training in art and he doesn't, that doesn't prevent him from going far beyond simply enjoyed the beauty of a painting by, say, Joan Miró.
In a museum, he's always trying to infer meaning from the work he's looking at, the motivation for it, the political and social attitudes at play and whatever else can be gleaned from the experience, she said.

"This is someone who loves to investigate, and to seek insight in other things, other people and himself," she said.

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Baseball fans packed Clark-LeClair Stadium in Greenville Wednesday night to watch the game against UNC.

**IMPACT tourney coming to East Carolina**

The Daily Reflector  
Saturday, June 11, 2011

In a rare turn of events, some of the winning happening in Chapel Hill lately has turned into a win for Greenville.

The University of North Carolina baseball team is hosting Stanford in the NCAA Chapel Hill Super Regional this weekend, and that means IMPACT Baseball's summer showcase — originally slated to be at UNC's Boshamer Stadium — has been moved to East Carolina's Clark-LeClair Stadium.

IMPACT Baseball is devoted to providing exposure to scholastic players in the Carolinas and Virginia, and the organization's summer showcase set for Monday and Tuesday will be no different.

Players converging on Pitt County for the two-day event will first check in at D.H. Conley High School at 8:30 a.m., followed by a 9 o'clock workout, but all games will be played at Clark-LeClair.

On Monday, games will be played at 1:45, 4 and 6 p.m., while Tuesday's matchups are set for 9:30 a.m., noon and 2:30 p.m.

Teams will be assigned by today, according to IMPACT Baseball's Web page, and players include some of Pitt County's prep standouts. Because of the chance of needing Monday as a rain makeup day for the Chapel Hill Super Regional, IMPACT contacted ECU and got the green light to move its showcase east.