THE DAILY CLIPS

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Storm not expected to become hurricane before N.C. landfall

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

Tropical Storm Hanna is not expected to reach hurricane status before making landfall this weekend.

The latest predictions from forecasters say that Hanna will make landfall near Wilmington in the early hours of Saturday as a tropical storm, though it could reach minor hurricane status just before landfall.

James Wingenroth, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Newport, said Pitt County will feel the first effects of Hanna on Friday evening. The eye of the storm is expected to pass right over Greenville in the early hours of Saturday.

The storm will bring about 2-4 inches of rain, with some areas getting up to five inches. Winds are expected to be between 35-45 mph with gusts up to 60 mph, Wingenroth said.

The strongest winds will occur overnight Friday.

The storm is expected to move quickly after making landfall and reach Virginia by early afternoon, Wingenroth said.

"It is moving pretty quickly, so it will minimize our rainfall potential," he said.

Isolated tornadoes are expected late Friday and early Saturday throughout eastern North Carolina.

Agencies across the county are preparing for the rains and winds expected to come with Hanna.

Collard Festival changes

Festival organizers announced late Thursday online that a number of events have been canceled or postponed. All Friday evening rides, midway vendors and entertainment have been canceled, as have all Saturday morning events, including the Mayor's Breakfast, the golf tournament, opening ceremonies, the parade, the arts and crafts show and horseshoe and tennis tournaments.

The Collard Festival Web site says that, weather permitting, some Sat-

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REPORT ON THE STORM

The Daily Reflector will continue regular online reports about Tropical Storm Hanna through the weekend.

Residents also can report how Hanna's affected them by logging on to reflector.com's breaking news blog and clicking in the comment section.

An upload link also will allow visitors to the site to share digital pictures they take from the storm and its aftermath.

The Reflecter staff will provide regular blog updates, the latest headlines, photo, video and audio reports, so stay logged on.

OUTAGES

The Greenville Utilities Commission has set up emergency outage numbers to call and report power outages:

During the day, 752-7166

After hours call, 752-5627 or 551-1567.
HANNA
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urday afternoon and evening events will occur. In addition, if the storm has passed, the Collard Eating Contest and Collard Cooking Contest, postponed from earlier in the day, will be held, and The Breeze Band is to perform at 8 p.m.
The 5K Road Race & Fun Walk, a Saturday morning event, has been rescheduled for 7 a.m. Sept. 13.
Sunday’s Gospel Fest is to take place as scheduled.

ECU football game to go ahead as scheduled
As of Thursday afternoon, the start time of Saturday’s football game between West Virginia and East Carolina at Dowdy Ficklen Stadium was still scheduled for 4:30 p.m.
Still, Terry Holland, director of athletics, has announced the implementation of parking changes around the stadium.
All parking lots will open only three hours before kickoff to allow adequate drainage in the event of possible localized flooding. Parking lots typically open six hours ahead of a game.
In addition, tents and tow cookers will be prohibited from the lots as a courtesy to others, should there be space limitations.
ECU is encouraging fans to carpool and share rides to the game to help alleviate additional congestion.
“We want as many Pirate fans here as possible, but at the same time, we want them to exercise personal responsibility in making their decisions,” Holland said in a news release.

Operational changes also include the relocation of the softball field Lot to the Belk Lot. This means all general public parking spaces in the Belk Lot will be eliminated. No changes to the handicapped lots are anticipated.
An update on the storm’s expected effects on the game will be released by ECU officials mid-day today.

Alumni association tailgate event changed
The East Carolina University Alumni Association has moved its tailgating location.
The tailgate location for the alumni association has been moved inside to Minges Coliseum from 2-4 p.m.
Fans with alumni tailgate tickets can enter Minges through Gate 1 on the north side of the coliseum after 2 p.m.
Should the starting time be changed, the alumni tailgate will begin 2 ½ hours prior to kickoff.

PCC closing early
Pitt Community College will close all campuses at 3 p.m. today. Administrators plan to resume normal operations Monday.

City of Greenville getting ready
The City of Greenville is preparing for heavy rain and winds that are coming with

Hanna this weekend.
“We are getting crews ready and equipment ready so we can mobilize Friday night,” said City Manager Wayne Bowers.
City tree-cutting crews are preparing for downed trees and crews are preparing to clear debris.
Traffic signal crews will be dispatched to get signals up and running as soon as it is safe, Bowers said.
The police and fire departments are preparing for more emergency calls. The police department is bringing in more officers to handle traffic around downed trees, Bowers said.
During high winds, with expected gusts around 60 mph, the city will not have staff directing traffic, Bowers said.
Bowers said motorists should treat intersections like a four-way stop even if signals are down.
“When the wind dies down [we] will put officers at key intersections,” he said.
Bowers said city crews also are preparing for potential flooding. “We know the places where we historically have flooding.” Bowers said.
Crews are making sure that storm drains are clear and the drainage system will work properly.
“The storm system will be operating at capacity, but with too much rain it still won’t be able to take it,” he said.
City officials will barricade some streets that normally flood during high rain periods.

County not opening shelters yet
Pitt County Emergency Management is monitoring the storm and, by Thursday afternoon, had made no plans to activate its Emergency Operations Center or to open shelters, a release said.
The county determines when shelters are necessary and would operate them for the first 12 hours. The shelters would then be operated by the Pitt County Chapter of the American Red Cross until

The Red Cross held two training sessions Thursday for more than 40 volunteers who may be needed to respond to the storm.

Greenville Utilities preparing for outages
With 45 mph winds, Hanna is expected to knock down trees and cause power outages in Pitt County.
Sue Hatch, spokeswoman for the Greenville Utilities Commission, said the company is following an emergency management plan that it updates every year to prepare for Hanna’s arrival.
GUC is preparing to mobilize all employees to respond to power outages.
“We are going to prepare for the worst and hope for the best,” Hatch said. “We spent the day making sure the trucks were fueled, checking maps and updating phone numbers.”

The company has seen high winds like the ones expected with Hanna knock out power in the past, she said.

Freeboot Friday canceled
Uptown Greenville has canceled the year’s first Freeboot Friday event originally scheduled for tonight.
Denise Walsh, executive director of Uptown Greenville, said the weather is going to be too bad to hold the event.
“We just met, and looking at the weather and the predicted wind, we thought it was better not to bring people out,” Walsh said.
She said the rain location planned for the event relied on tents at Ham’s Brew House, and the city has banned tents until further notice due to the expected high winds.
“We thought it was a better decision to cancel it, unfortunately,” Walsh said.
The next Freeboot Friday is set for Sept. 26, with the Canadian band Clumsy Lover headlining, at the corner of...
Our Views

Sunny skies

Confidence high for ECU home opener

Excitement may be an annual companion when the East Carolina University football team takes the field for its first home game. But this year, that energy is accompanied by a renewed sense of confidence that dreams annually dashed will be realized.

The Pirates welcome No. 8-ranked West Virginia University to Greenville for the contest, and a national television audience will see if East Carolina can turn two upsets to start the year. Expect an electric atmosphere in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, and another tremendous opportunity to show the community’s energy and hospitality.

Dark clouds are expected to welcome East Carolina to the field on Saturday, but they are actual rather than proverbial for once. With Tropical Storm Hanna threatening to dampen the festivities, the Pirates enter the game with a 1-0 record. They defeated the 17th-ranked Virginia Tech Hokies in Charlotte on Aug. 30, 27-22, in a game that many pundits predicted would be an upset.

That win saw the Pirates playing a talented brand of football. A strong defensive performance was complimented by the efficient play of quarterback Patrick Pinkney and the outstanding special teams unit. A punt-block, usually a staple of the Hokies’ play, was the decisive blow, with East Carolina turning the trick to capture the winning margin.

A victory earned in such fashion has given the purple-and-gold faithful a rare feeling of confidence entering the weekend. The win in Charlotte was the second consecutive over a ranked team, following on the heels of the December Hawaii Bowl triumph over No. 24 Boise State University. A win over West Virginia would add a third notch to that belt.

The dark clouds that once shrouded the program appear to have dissipated, with stability provided by the leadership of Head Coach Skip Holtz and his staff. Finally there is excitement in the Pirates’ direction and the belief that the team can challenge for the Conference USA title annually.

That’s the long-term goal, of course, while this weekend is focused on the Mountaineers and the season’s first home game. Greenville and Pitt County are fortunate to have this opportunity once again, to show their best face on a national stage and to welcome fans from far and wide for this special event. After all, East Carolina only has five home games this year, so each one is precious.

East Carolina’s strong start and a tough opponent promise to make this year’s home opener a tremendous experience for the university and the community. Let’s hope the game goes in the Pirates’ favor, and that the light of fortune chases away those storm clouds for good.
Some ECU students get a taste of college via computer

BY BROCK LETCHWORTH
The Daily Reflector

Students in some East Carolina University classes have discovered a way to dress the part of their favorite scientists, historic literary figures and personalities or don business attire for class presentations, all while lounging in their homes.

East Carolina is one of a handful of universities in the North Carolina system in which students and faculty are using an online program, called "Second Life," to enhance communication and academic experiences.

Used mostly by distance education courses, Second Life is a three-dimensional virtual world created by its residents. It offers chances to visit locations and interact with people worldwide through a virtual persona known as an avatar.

Sharon Collins, project manager for East Carolina's Academic Outreach department, says nearly 20 members of the university's faculty are using the technology, while interest continues to grow among others.

"The Second Life environment is made to be open and really flexible, and the possibilities in it are amazing," Collins said. "With a lot of space issues as we grow, we're going to have to take classes to the next level of an online environment."

"It just gets harder because of budget concerns to have the physical space for classes. This program offers communication, real-time interaction and a social presence which students have not been able to get online before. Every day I have other faculty members e-mail me and say they want to be a part of this. It is very exciting."

The Academic Outreach department designed East Carolina's Second Life campus and the university opened it in October 2007.

The 3-D model of the campus, or island, contains replicas of several facilities on the actual grounds, such as the Wright Building and Hanagan Building. It also combines some facilities, such as the Joynor and Laupus Libraries, and includes structures iconic to the university, such as the cupola and clock tower.

Buildings from the main and health sciences campuses are included on the same island.

Visitors can tour the virtual campus at any time and learn more about
virtuAl
Continued from B1

Courses. Professors grant access to class sessions and have the ability to eject anyone at their discretion, Collins said.

Elizabeth Hodge, assistant professor in the College of Education, says she has used the virtual program with several of her classes. She said it helps students in myriad ways depending on the curriculum. Some may find it easier to participate in group projects or discussions through an avatar, while others enhance their understanding of different cultures or businesses by visiting their virtual locations.

"People speak a lot more freely than they do when they are face to face with someone," Hodge said. "And there are so many opportunities for them that aren't as easy to come by outside of the virtual world."

Hodge said she is anxious for the day when all faculty embrace virtual reality as a viable teaching and support method.

Some faculty already hold office hours in Second Life. Others use it to attend conferences online and chat with counterparts worldwide.

Yolanda Hollingsworth, distance education coordinator for Joyner Library, says she believes the educational platform, sometimes known as "edutainment," is broadening its appeal in academic environments because of the simulation of real life.

"Learning how to create an avatar, navigating spaces, 24-7 availability of resources and meeting many interesting people ranging from local to all over the world is profound," Hollingsworth said. "Many have found this new educational tool fun, exciting and incredibly useful for multi-communication needs in an academic environment."

Brock Letchworth can be contacted at 329-9574 or bletchworth@coxnc.com.
Parking lot changes on tap for ECU

The Daily Reflector

While Saturday’s football game between East Carolina and West Virginia was still scheduled for a 4:30 p.m. kickoff as of Thursday afternoon, the university did announce the implementation of parking operational changes for Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium and its adjacent areas.

All parking lots will open three hours before kickoff to allow adequate drainage in the event of possible localized flooding caused by Tropical Storm Hanna. In addition, tents and tow cookers will be prohib-

PARKING

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ited from entering the lots due to space limitations. Fans are also encouraged to carpool and share rides to the game to help alleviate additional congestion.

“We want as many Pirate fans here as possible, but at the same time, we want them to exercise personal responsibility in making their decisions,” Director of Athletics Terry Holland said in a release. “We will need the help of all fans who attend the game. I want to encourage everyone to figure out ways of getting here that might be a little different than normal in order to help others whose parking spaces might be affected.”

Operational changes related to parking include the relocation of the Softball Field Lot to the Belk Lot. There will not be any anticipated changes to any handicapped lots.

According to the release, ECU officials will announce an update on any changes caused by Hanna midday today.

— ECU Media Relations
Artwork donated to NCCU museum

Collection's value nearly $200,000

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — Earlier this year, an Atlantic Beach couple lent several paintings by noted African-American artist A.B. Jackson to the art museum at N.C. Central University.

With the exhibition's end came a surprise: The couple, Mary Jo and Dick Bell, donated the paintings and others — 14 in all — to the museum.

The collection is valued at nearly $200,000 and is the largest gift the museum has ever received.

"We're ecstatic," said Kenneth Rodgers, the museum's director. "It is an amazing gift that fills several voids in our collection."

The late artist's collection of watercolors, prints and drawings focus on the lives of everyday African-Americans. One work is from Jackson's "Porch People" series, a depiction of ordinary folks sitting on their front porches.

"He mined an area of Afro-American that very few artists examined," Rodgers said.

The Bells have long been avid collectors of North Carolina art and in the 1960s owned a gallery in Water Garden, a mixed-use complex in Raleigh that Bell, a landscape architect, designed. In retirement, the Bells have looked for ways to share their art collection.

"We've been fortunate to be able to collect so much art," Dick Bell said in a news release. "Now we're happy to disseminate it — to share the work of such great artists as A.B. Jackson."

Jackson earned two art degrees from Yale in the mid-1950s. He taught art for 10 years at Norfolk State before joining Old Dominion University as a full professor and the school's first black faculty member. He died in 1981 at the age of 55.

Portions of the Jackson collection will be shown next in November, Rodgers said.
NCSU will lead energy smart-grid project

RALEIGH - N.C. State University was selected by the National Science Foundation to lead a $28.5 million research initiative to transform the nation's century-old power transmission system into a "smart grid" network that will be able to store energy from solar power, wind farms and other alternative resources.

The Engineering Research Center for Future Renewable Electric Energy Delivery and Management Systems will be headquartered at N.C. State's Centennial Campus and involve universities, industry and laboratories in 28 states and nine countries.

More than 65 utility companies and other businesses have committed to joining the project. Participants include Progress Energy of Raleigh and Duke Energy of Charlotte.

Alex Huang, N.C. State's Progress Energy distinguished professor of electrical and computer engineering, will be the center's director.

The project will work on technology to enable households and businesses to generate and store electricity from alternative resources and sell the excess power to electric utilities.
Tough scheduling helps Pirates prosper

By A.J. Carr

There's an easier path to football success than the one East Carolina has chosen.

The Pirates could schedule four inferior nonconference opponents and pad their win-loss record.

But that's not the preferred course of coach Skip Holtz or athletic director Terry Holland, who has lined up brand-name regional opponents for the next eight years.

Boom or bust, Holland has pitched the Pirates against BCS conference schools Virginia Tech, West Virginia, N.C. State and Virginia this year.

Between now and 2016, the Pirates are set to play Virginia Tech (7 times), N.C. State (6 times), South Carolina (5 times), North Carolina (3 times), West Virginia (twice) and Virginia (once).

Extending the series with West Virginia also is a possibility.

Holland considers those matchups as "BCS Bowl games" for East Carolina and its fans.

"We are excited to play that level of competition," Holtz said before his Pirates beat Virginia Tech in last week's season-opener. "That's where we aspire to be and I think the only way we can get there is if we line up and play [them]."

ECU doesn't automatically qualify for a BCS bowl and it would probably take a 12-0 or 13-0 record to "maybe" get invited to one of the five BCS bowls, Holland said.

"We say, let's schedule our own BCS [bowls] and keep them regional, so our fans can participate," he said. "We think it is great for our fans, and we know it's a great thing for the coaches and players. It has had a tremendous impact on recruiting, a tremendous impact on our visibility, not only as an athletic program, but the university."

The way Holland sees it, beating a Virginia Tech or West Virginia brings more prestige to the program than "winning 10 or 11 games" against lesser opposition.

While East Carolina hasn't shied away from playing tough outside opposition, taking on too many nonconference heavyweights can knock a team out of bowl consideration and put a coach's job in jeopardy.

A wise, successful basketball coach once pointed out that scheduling ranked second to recruiting on his most important list, and his approach can include football as well.

North Carolina athletic director Dick Baddour is cognizant of that philosophy.

"We enjoy having programs with traditionally strong football come in and play; our fans like that," Baddour said. "We also want to be careful we don't overschedule, that our team has a chance to be successful in every way."

The Tar Heels opened last week against McNeese State and escaped with a 35-27 victory.

Carolina's other nonconference games are against Rutgers (Sept. 11), Connecticut (Oct. 4) and Notre Dame (Oct. 11).

"We are looking for a balanced schedule," Baddour said. "We also like to schedule nonconference opponents that help us be successful in recruiting. Each school has to sort out what is best for it."

For example, Duke beat Football Championship Subdivision James Madison in its opener and will play Northwestern, Navy and Vanderbilt in its other three nonleague games. That's a realistic approach for a program that has long been down and trying to build under new coach David Cutcliffe.

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Some colleges overbook freshman class

Swollen rolls force creative work-arounds

By Mary Beth Marklein
USA TODAY

Colleges experiencing larger-than-expected freshman enrollments are scrambling to relieve overcrowding in dorms, classrooms, cafeterias and elsewhere.

Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina closed its freshman admissions in July and asked faculty to teach extra courses after projecting the freshman class would break its 2005 record of 1,083 by hundreds.

Mariott College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., which expects to enroll 89 more freshmen than its target of 950, gave laptops to 1,000 tuition break to 168 students who agreed to live three to a room instead of two.

Central Oregon Community College in Bend anticipates a 13% jump in first-time students when classes start Sept. 22. It plans to run bus service to a church about a mile away that is letting the school use 134 parking spaces.

An overall increase in freshmen was expected, in part because the number of high school graduates rose this year. Also, lower-tuition public institutions traditionally attract more students during a weak economy.

Yet the huge spikes some colleges are reporting as classes begin suggest how hard it is "to hit the nail right on the head" when planning for enrollments, says Barmak Nassirian of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. He is tracking enrollment patterns at the group's 2,000 member colleges.

Schools typically set enrollment goals years in advance, then adjust as the admissions cycle runs its course.

Not all schools were caught by surprise this year. California's Pomona College is "literally one student over our original plan," admissions dean Bruce Poch says.

At Ohio's University of Dayton, though, the freshman class is up 12% over last year. It typically sees a drop-off, once classes start, in out-of-state students who made spring deposits.

"That didn't happen" this year, says Sundar Kumarasamy, vice president for enrollment management. The school expects to pass its target by about 220 students — three-fourths of them from out of state. It added at least 60 sections of introductory courses and hired two full-time faculty members to ease the crush.

How other schools are dealing with increases:

- The University of Missouri in Columbia, which last week welcomed about 785 more freshmen than last year, a 16% increase, relieved pressure on fast-filling introductory Spanish sections by encouraging students to explore less popular languages, like Chinese.

- Connecticut's University of New Haven, which passed its freshman target by about 450 students, or 57%, is offering extra vacation days or $50 gas gift cards to faculty who park farther from campus or use mass transit.

- Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, N.C., which saw record enrollments of freshman and transfer students when classes started Aug. 25, is urging faculty and staff who have flexible schedules to avoid the cafeteria during peak lunch hours so students aren't late to classes.

- St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, where freshman enrollments are up by 250 more than expected, has added staff and increased hours of operation at the campus health and counseling centers.

- A few states freeze in-state tuition, 10D
Shock to heart may also mean trouble

A lifesaving shock from an implanted heart defibrillator provides relief that a crisis was avoided, but new research suggests it can also be a sign more trouble is ahead. A study found heart failure patients were far more likely to die within four years after their defibrillator zapped the heart into beating normally than those who got no shock. The findings are in today's New England Journal of Medicine, with another study that concluded that having an implanted defibrillator doesn't appear to diminish quality of life. The devices, about the size of a stopwatch, are designed to correct dangerously high or erratic heartbeats.

Experimental breast test shows promise

A radioactive tracer that "lights up" cancer hiding inside dense breasts showed promise in its first big test against mammograms, revealing more tumors and giving fewer false alarms, doctors reported Wednesday. The experimental method -- molecular breast imaging, or MBI -- would not replace mammograms for women at average risk of the disease. But it might become an additional tool for higher-risk women with a lot of dense tissue that makes tumors hard to spot on mammograms, and it could be done at less cost than an MRI, or magnetic resonance imaging. About one-fourth of women 40 and older have dense breasts. "MBI is a promising technology" that is already in advanced testing, says Carrie Hruska, a biomedical engineer at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., which has been working on it for six years.
Tuitions freeze across the USA

But the fix may be temporary while other costs rise

By Noah Grunberg
USA TODAY

Several colleges and universities in Texas, Ohio, Maryland and New York are freezing 2008-2009 tuitions at last year's levels in an effort to make college more affordable for the nation's middle class.

In the 13-campus Texas Tech system, chancellor Kent Hance says the decision to keep in-state undergrad tuition at $4,310 stems in part from a five-year decline in students with annual family incomes of between $40,000 and $80,000.

"We wanted to send a strong message that we're committed to keeping costs down," he says. Low-income students are eligible for financial aid and affluent families can afford more, so "the squeeze is really in the middle."

In Ohio, all public two- and four-year schools will keep last year's undergrad tuitions. The 64-campus State University of New York (SUNY) system will hold at $4,350 for in-state undergraduates, continuing a freeze begun in 2003. And Maryland's 13-campus university system has frozen in-state undergrad tuition for the third consecutive year.

But in some systems where there are tuition freezes for in-state undergrads, other costs are still increasing. At Ohio State University, for example, room-and-board charges are increasing by 5.8%, and tuition for out-of-state residents and grad students is increasing by 5%.

These moves come as college costs continue to rise across the country. The Florida Board of Governors voted this year to raise tuition by 6% at all public universities. Students in the 10-campus University of California system face a 7.4% hike.

"Tuition is rising faster than the average prices in the economy, but that's been the case for years," says Sandy Baum, a policy analyst at the College Board and an economics professor at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Tuition freezes often prove to be only temporary fixes, Baum says. She notes that although the SUNY system kept in-state tuition constant at $3,400 from 1995 to 2002, it jumped almost 28%, to $4,350, in 2003.

"Tuition freezes make college cheaper for a while, but they don't change the long-run costs," Baum says.

Several universities in Illinois, Georgia and elsewhere are taking another tack to make costs more predictable. Since 2006, the university system of Georgia has been guaranteeing that entering freshmen will face no increases for four years. Freshmen enrolling at Georgia research universities this fall will pay $2,428 a semester. Tuitions went up 8% in Georgia over last year's levels. At the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, a similar policy fixes tuition for this year's freshman class at $10,915 a year for four years. Tuition increased 10% this year over last year.

These policies make it easier for families to budget, but education researcher Diane Dean of Illinois State University-Normal says they can have a negative effect in the long run. "We may be creating the equivalent of academic rent control, by having today's entering students pay more to make up for the discounts enjoyed by those who entered three or four years ago," she says.