THE DAILY CLIPS

September 29, 2008

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

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The New York Times
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The Charlotte Observer
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Newsweek
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TV stars stump for Obama at ECU

BY KRISTIN DAY
The Daily Reflector

With 37 days left until Election Day, Hollywood starpower continued to shine over Greenville as two more actresses dropped by East Carolina University to encourage students to get out and vote.

Ellen Pompeo ("Grey’s Anatomy," “Old School”) and Danielle Panabaker ("Shark," "Mr. Brooks") spoke during a voter-registration drive and rally for Sen. Barack Obama in Mendenhall Student Center on Sunday afternoon.

"It’s a really, really scary time right now. And fortunately, we have a candidate like Barack Obama who can change all of that.”

Danielle Panabaker
Television Star

Panabaker opened the event and spoke about North Carolina’s worries specifically, saying manufacturing jobs have gone down approximately 30 percent and the unemployment rate is the highest it’s been in 5 years.

“We have a real opportunity to make a big difference,” Panabaker said. “The past eight years have been really tough... It’s a really, really scary time right now. And fortunately, we have a candidate like Barack Obama who can change all of that.”

Pompeo focused on Americans’ perseverance and how we can come back from crisis, once again.

“Like so many generations before us who’ve been faced with critical moments — they have their JFKs and their Martin Luther Kings and their Kennedys — and I believe we have Barack Obama for our moment,” Pompeo said. “This is our moment. And moments like this are terrible for our country, but they’re also fantastic for our country because this is when we can truly shine.

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“Every obstacle that we’ve been faced with in this country that seemed insurmountable, we’ve proven all of the skeptics wrong and we’ve risen above and we’ve overcome,” she later added. “We will overcome this time, too.”

The event was the second rally sponsored by the Obama campaign at ECU in three days. On Friday, actress Jurnee Smollett (“The Great Debaters,” “Eve’s Bayou”) also appeared urging younger voters to get involved.

“The youth are the ones who are going to be left with this country and this mess,” Pompeo said on Sunday. “They have to deal with the issues of college loans and the environment. It’s all about the future.”

“Tis my first presidential election voting and this is my generation,” Panabaker added.

“So it’s really important to me that I get my peers riled up about somebody that I believe in so passionately.”

Members of ECU for Obama and volunteers concluded the rally by spending the day recruiting voters at their doorsteps for a program called “100,000 Knocks for Barack.”

Kristin Day can be contacted at kday@coxnc.com or 329-9579.
High-tech van helping children

ECU NEWS BUREAU

Children across the region are learning the ins and outs of weather science, with a new, high-tech van at East Carolina University dubbed the RENCI ROVER.

Filled with laptops, geographic information system software and its own weather and radio stations, the ROVER (RENCI Outreach Vehicle for Education and Research) is the key element of the outreach component of ECU's Renaissance Computing Institute/Center for Coastal Systems Informatics and Modeling. It's also slated to play a role in emergency situations, providing mobile, free-standing power and communication capabilities.

The van will be on display at Thursday's RENCI@ECU's Open House scheduled for 1-3 p.m. at the Rivers Building.

Honor society hosts health care forum

Leading authorities on health care are scheduled to discuss regional health concerns and health insurance from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Brody School of Medicine auditorium.

"Hosted by the ECU chapter of the Phi Beta Phi honor society, the event will feature Henry Aaron, a senior fellow of the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C., as well as a panel of experts in Medicare and Medicaid, public health, legal insurance, pediatrics and case management."

ECU hosts Cancer Awareness Fair

A cancer awareness fair, peace.love.pirates.cure., is set for 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday on the first floor of the Bate Building.

The goal of the event, said Georgia Childs, assistant director for Peer Health at the Student Recreation Center, is to raise awareness about various types of cancer that affect young people today.

The fair is part of Cancer Awareness Week. Other activities include free breast cancer screenings at the Student Health Center and a display of artwork by Maria Modlin in Bate 1006. On Oct. 6, at 5 p.m. in Hendrix Theater, “An Evening of Survivorship” will take place. Hosted by Eta Sigma Gamma and Healthy PIRATES, this event will include presentations on breast, lung and cervical cancer.

Rebel nominated for award

ECU’s student-run literary magazine, Rebel, has been named one of eight finalists for the Associated Collegiate Press Magazine Pacemaker award in the literary magazine category.

Since 1927, the Pacemaker award has been the highest honor available to ACP members.

Rebel was nominated from among 78 entries for the award for its general excellence in 2007. ECU student Lacey Siva was editor, and graphic design faculty member Craig Malmrose was advisor.
Golden Living Center donates to Department of Family Medicine

Golden Living Centers has donated $110,801 to the Department of Family Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University to support the department's nursing home teaching project.

The department provides primary medical care for the residents of the local Golden Living facility at 527 Moye Blvd. Hal Garland, executive director of the local Golden Living Center, presented the check. The money will be used to support the instruction of family medicine residents and fellows in geriatrics and to help pay for salaries and teaching materials for the program. This year is the 27th the center has supported the teaching project.
ECU nursing college named as a Center of Excellence

The Daily Reflector

The National League for Nursing recently designated the College of Nursing at East Carolina University as a Center of Excellence.

The league presented Acting Dean Sylvia Brown with the award during its summit last weekend.

Along with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, ECU was one of six schools to receive the designation. The college was selected for creating productive environments that promote student learning and professional development, according to an ECU press release.

"In everything we do, through all interactions with patients and in our endeavors to contribute to health care quality, ECU College of Nursing seeks to exceed expectations and achieve excellence not just for the accolade of a job well done, but because the health of our constituents depends on our steadfast dedication to excellence," Brown said.

As a designee, the College of Nursing will help other schools seeking the distinction. ECU has the largest nursing program in North Carolina, with more than 1,200 students currently enrolled in its baccalaureate, master's and doctoral programs.
CBS show to spotlight speech device developed in conjunction with ECU

The Daily Reflector

The new CBS daytime show "The Doctors" will show its viewers a segment highlighting hope for people who stutter (www.thedoctorstv.com) during a segment Monday. The SpeechEasy® anti-stuttering device and its effect will be demonstrated by Mark Power, a speech language pathologist, and one of his clients who uses it.

SpeechEasy was developed in conjunction with East Carolina University and is marketed and manufactured by Janus Development Group Inc., located in Greenville. Since its introduction in 2001, it has been featured on many TV shows including Oprah, 20/20, Montel Williams, Medical Mysteries and Three Wishes.

The SpeechEasy is a discreet device small enough to fit in or behind the ear of the wearer.

Through an advanced microprocessor, using delayed auditory feedback (DAF) and frequency altered feedback (FAF), SpeechEasy is able to utilize the wearers own voice and produce a "choral effect." The choral effect occurs when a person's stutter is dramatically reduced or even eliminated when they speak or sing in unison with others.

While the choral effect has been well documented for decades, it has only recently been scientifically recreated in a small, wearable device that can be used every day.

About three out of four people who stutter will benefit from a SpeechEasy fluency device.

For more information on SpeechEasy, visit www.SpeechEasy.com or call at 877-4-FLUENCY.
ECU Board of Trustees OKs Holtz contract

The new six-year agreement provides a guaranteed compensation package of $4.07 million and with incentives and bonuses it could reach $9.5 million.

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University wants to keep head football coach Skip Holtz on the job and moved Friday to assure it.

The ECU Board of Trustees approved a new contract for Holtz, who has led the Pirates to a 3-1 record this season including victories over two nationally ranked teams.

The new six-year agreement provides a guaranteed compensation package of $4.07 million and a modified incentive and bonus structure that could reach a total of approximately $9.5 million.

"I remain genuinely appreciative and grateful to the leadership we have at East Carolina for the confidence and support they have in the direction that our program is heading," Holtz said in a Friday news release. "The level of commitment that is currently in place at ECU and the unmatched support of the Pirate Nation have allowed us to be in a competitive position at college football's highest level."

Holtz' overall record at ECU is 23-18.

The contract calls for a guaranteed base salary, marketing, radio and television total of $565,000 in 2008 with an increase to $605,000 in 2009 before $50,000 additions for the next four years.

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The incentive and bonus package includes $25 per season ticket sold and 5 percent of Pirate Club donations. The school sold out of season tickets this year, more than 21,000, so Holtz will receive a bonus of more than $500,000 for the ticket sales.

Holtz also may receive bonuses for student academic success, determined by Athletic Director Terry Holland with a set of guidelines.

Holtz, 44, became East Carolina’s 19th football coach on Dec. 3, 2004 and revived a program that had won just three of 25 games in the two seasons prior to his arrival.

ECU has drawn six of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium’s top 10 all-time crowds since Holtz’s arrival, which helped produce new school records last year in both average attendance at 41,537, and total attendance at 249,219.

“The contract is consistent with our desire to continue the tremendous strides our football program has made over the past four years.” Holland said. “One of the keys to our growth has been the stability of leadership, and it is our hope that this will remain in place in the future.”

Holtz agreed to tentative terms on a new deal in August before the contract was discussed and approved by the board of trustees this week.

“We’ve got something rolling here. We’re building something,” Holtz said last month. “It’s exciting to know that this can happen for a long time.”

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Officials celebrate groundbreaking for family medicine center

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University officials celebrated a long-awaited moment Friday with a groundbreaking ceremony for the Eastern Carolina Family Medicine Center.

The new $36.8 million, 117,000-square-foot center will be three times larger than the current facility with more than 60 exam rooms, a pharmacy, laboratory, geriatric center and better parking, officials say.

"The day of this groundbreaking is a day long in coming," said Bob Grezyn, chair of the ECU Board of Trustees.

ECU Trustee David Brody said the center has been needed for 15 years. He has been working to get funding for 10.

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“We have been running one of the top family medicine schools in the country out of what is the worst facility in the country,” Brody said.

The current facility serves 60,000 patients a year – more than twice the number originally intended.

Brody said the best tool officials had for lobbying legislators for funding was to take them on a tour of the current facility.

According to Brody, Marc Basnight, D-Dare, and president pro tem of the state Senate, said the facility was worse than any prison in the state.

This summer, the North Carolina General Assembly approved $36.8 million in bonds to fund the project.

Funding is also coming from the Golden LEAF Foundation, which awarded $1 million last year, and a $2.5 million gift from the estate of Frances Joyner Monk of Farmville for the geriatric center housed at the new facility.

Growing enrollment

The board also briefly discussed the ongoing issue of growth in enrollment at the university.

Trustee David Redwine said the resources and facilities committee to the board is investigating the possible purchase of the North Campus Crossing apartment complex to convert it to university housing.

Currently, 85 students are living in the complex under a program offered by the university because there is not enough room on campus for the students.

Students considered on-campus students also are living in the Bellamy apartment complex.

The university had to locate students off-campus for the first time this year due to space constraints.

This fall the university enrolled more than 4,500 freshmen, the largest freshman class in the school’s history.

Stadium expansion

Athletic Director Terry Holland updated Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium’s expansion.

“We intend to have 50,000 seats in the stadium by 2012,” he said.

The university is planning to build additional seats on the scoreboard side of the end zone, suites and a press box.

Josh Humphries can be contacted at jhumphries@coxnc.com and 329-9565.
Actress stumps for Obama at ECU

BY KRISTIN DAY
AND GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Reflector

Actress Jurnee Smollett visited ECU’s campus Friday afternoon, inspiring its students to get involved in this year’s election.

After an entrance that brought most of the room into a circle dancing around the “Great Debaters” star, Smollett jumped on a Mendenhall stage and encouraged the crowd to give its support to Sen. Barack Obama, specifically citing his plans to give a $40,000 tax break to college students and to raise the amount of the Pell Grant. She didn’t have to try hard, as no supporters of the opposition attended the rally.

But Smollett, 22, stressed the importance of staying involved with the campaign.

“Political Notes

They say between the ages of 18 and 35, they say we’re apathetic, and that we get riled up and pumped and fired up about something, and then we don’t close the deal,” Smollett said. “So this is the last leg of the race. Let’s all join together.”

Breaking the stereotype that her age group is uniformly indifferent is one of the reasons why Ashley Glover, junior communication major at ECU, likes seeing celebrities get involved in politics.

“I’m excited about people coming out and campaigning and getting us excited about (the election),” Glover said.

And that’s one of the reasons Smollett’s been traveling to college campuses.

“I feel that often times, younger voters feel that their voice doesn’t matter,” Smollett said later. “And really it’s been the youth driving this cam-

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campaign, so they’ve proven the skeptics wrong.”

Smollett, who has been on the road since January, also has expressed a desire to get more African-Americans registered and says spreading the word is the best way to do so.

“This is something that goes back to Barack’s work earlier in his life,” Smollett said. “He was registering voters — African American, Caucasian voters, everyone he could reach — in Chicago during Clinton’s election.

“So he believed that everyone should have that chance to participate in the process and to use their voice. He wants to make sure that everyone who wants to be registered, is registered.”

On Sunday, the rally continues with appearances by Ellen Pompeo, who plays Meredith Grey on “Grey’s Anatomy,” and Danielle Panabaker, known for her roles in “Shark” and “Mr. Brooks,” at 11 a.m. Sunday in Mendenhall Great Room 2.

McCory is tailgating with Pirates

Republican gubernatorial candidate Pat McCrory is expected to party with the Pirates this afternoon.

Charlotte’s Mayor is scheduled to arrive at East Carolina University at about 12:30 p.m. and attend tailgating events around Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

Perdue weighs in on economy

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Beverly Perdue stopped in Greenville on her way home to New Bern on Friday and discussed the Congressional bailout proposal.

Perdue, the state’s lieutenant governor, said she listened to people express frustration with the instability in the nation’s financial institutions and the Congressional bailout proposal during meetings earlier Friday with state employees, advocates for people with developmental disabilities and a labor group.

“There is this sense of I’m being wronged by the government but then there’s this sense of really understanding that something has to be fixed to salvage the financial backbone of America,” she said.

North Carolinians can take comfort in knowing the major banks that make North Carolina their base of operations are stable, she said. However, they too are seeing drops in their stock prices; Wachovia logged a 33 percent drop on Friday.

“I think it proves everything can be rattled by an economic crisis,” she said.

Perdue said North Carolina’s economic woes began with the mass closings of textile and other manufacturers at the beginning of the decade.

“We’ve built those jobs back through education and science and technology and now we are, or we were, fundamentally healthy and on the right track,” Perdue said.

“Even in North Carolina in the last six months things have been pretty good but foreclosures have been up in the last 90 days.”

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UCLA scholars find prime number with 13 million digits

By Thomas H. Maugh II
Los Angeles Times

University of California, Los Angeles, mathematicians appear to have won a $100,000 prize from the Electronic Frontier Foundation for discovering a 13-million digit prime number that has long been sought by computer users.

While the prize money is nothing special, the bragging rights for discovering the 46th known Mersenne prime are huge.

"We're delighted," said UCLA's Edson Smith, leader of the effort. "Now we're looking for the next one, despite the odds." Those odds are thought to be about one in 150,000 that any number tested will be a Mersenne prime.

Prime numbers are those, such as three, seven and 11, that are divisible only by themselves and one. Mersenne primes, named after the 17th-century French mathematician Marin Mersenne, who discovered them, take the form 2^p minus 1, where p is also a prime number.

For the new prime, p is 43,112,609.

Thousands of people around the world have been participating in the Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search, or GIMPS, in which underused computing power is harnessed to perform the complex and tedious calculations needed to find and verify Mersenne primes. The prize is being offered for finding the first Mersenne prime with more than 10 million digits.

Since last autumn, Smith and his UCLA colleagues have harnessed the power of the 75 machines in the university’s Program in Computing/Math Computer Lab, which is used by students for computer projects. Smith, a system administrator, realized that the lab was using only a fraction of its available CPU power. Rather than let it go to waste, he and his colleagues decided to use it for the GIMPS project.

The new Mersenne prime was discovered Aug. 23 on a Dell Optiplex 745 running Windows XP. The number was verified by a different computer system running a different algorithm.

The new prime is the eighth Mersenne prime discovered at UCLA. In 1952, mathematician Raphael Robinson found five of them using UCLA's Standards Western Automatic Computer. They were the 13th through 17th Mersenne primes discovered, the first ones found in more than 75 years and the first to be discovered using a digital computer. Each had a few hundred digits.

In 1961, mathematician Alexander Hurwitz discovered two more, each with more than 1,200 digits, on the university's IBM 7090 mainframe.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation is an activist group supporting individual rights on the Web. The group established a series of prizes in 1999 to promote cooperative computing on the Web.

The prize will be awarded when the new prime is published, probably next year.
NCSU prof traces 30-year remaking of state economy

Mike Walden, an economics professor at N.C. State University, still remembers interviewing for the job in February 1978.

He flew down from upstate New York, where he was in graduate school at Cornell University.

"I left several feet of snow on the ground," he recalled, and university officials "met me at the airport in short sleeves."

He was hooked — by the weather and the people he met.

In more than 30 years at N.C. State, he has become one of the foremost experts on the state's economy. And he recently wrote a book on the topic, "North Carolina in the Connected Age: Challenges and Opportunities in a Globalizing Economy" (UNC Press, $30) that will go on sale Oct. 8.

He talked with staff writer Jonathan B. Cox about the book and what he intends for readers to learn. An edited transcript follows.

Q. Why did you write the book?
A. There really hadn't been a book written, especially about the North Carolina economy and the big changes we've seen. I wanted to document those changes ... how they affected people and different regions of the state and how policies have responded.

Q. Who's the audience?
A. The audience really is anyone who's interested in the economy of North Carolina. I've written the book so you don't have to be an economist to read it. Hopefully, a lot of business people will find this interesting. Certainly, public policymakers should find it interesting.

Q. The book is more than 300 pages. How do you put something like that together?
A. This was not a book where I sat down in one day and said, 'I'm going to start writing.' This was really a project that's been an outcome of all my years here in North Carolina. Much of the information I have in the book, much of the detail, I had whether physically or in my head. It really was a matter of organizing it, doing more analysis, pulling together more information. It was a three-year process.

Q. What are the main points you hope people to take away?
A. First, the North Carolina economy has been totally remade in the span of three decades. We've gone from tobacco, textiles, furniture to technology, pharmaceuticals, food processing, financial services and vehicle parts.

This transformation, on the surface, has definitely benefited North Carolina in terms of employment, jobs, that kind of thing. When you go below the surface, there are clearly workers in the state that have been advantaged — primarily workers with college degrees who are doing much better than their counterparts 30 years ago. And there are workers who have been disadvantaged. You can say the same thing for regions of the state.

What kind of challenges do these changes present for public policy? I think K-12 education is clearly the biggest. ... [All the changes] make the jobs of our elected officials in the coming decades even more challenging.

Jonathan B. Cox
What's next for North Carolina's Big Three?

Preface: From Here to Where?

North Carolina's economy has gone through many transformations. ...

This latest transformation of the North Carolina economy is part of a larger, worldwide era I dub the Connected Age. Built on technology, trade, competition and the expanding service sector, the Connected Age has fully integrated all parts of the state into a national — indeed, international — network of interlinked commerce.

Trade and communication between North Carolina and all parts of the rest of the world are easier today than was the case between any two cities in the state during the early 20th century. Labor markets in North Carolina (and the country) are no longer insulated from those in the rest of the world.

In the Connected Age, domestic workers are increasingly engaged in one-on-one competition with their foreign counterparts, and technology even makes possible the direct transfer of jobs out of the state to other countries.

On the surface, the transformation of the North Carolina economy during the Connected Age appeared to improve the state's aggregate indicators of well-being in the last 30 years of the 20th century. Both aggregate and per capita income increased faster in North Carolina than in the nation as a whole, and the state's average income levels moved closer to the national average. The proportion of high school graduates attending college soared, and the percentage of workers with college degrees approached the national level. The fastest-growing occupational group between 1970 and 2005 was professional and scientific workers. ...

At the same time, questions have arisen about how the new North Carolina economy has affected North Carolinians of different skill and income levels.
The good-paying jobs in technology, pharmaceuticals, and financial services require significant formal education beyond high school. Yet the tens of thousands of workers released from the Big Three (tobacco, textiles, and furniture) rarely have more than high school diplomas. Without retraining, they most likely can find employment only in lower-paying service jobs.

This progression of events in Connected Age North Carolina raises several critical questions. Will the state's traditional Big Three industries continue to decline and eventually completely disappear, or can their competitiveness be restored, albeit at a smaller stable level? What common strategies must the Big Three pursue to regain their economic footing?

With an increasingly integrated world economy, will the technology sector in particular soon follow the path of the Big Three, or do its economic characteristics differ so fundamentally that the industry will survive in the new world? Or will the technology sector endure only in a dramatically different form?

And how will the impacts of the economic transformation change? Will the state's economic divides between skilled and unskilled households, growing and declining industries, and robust and struggling regions continue and widen, or will they close?

Are workers lacking college degrees doomed to a declining standard of living and do some college-educated workers face the same fate?

Some people say that new industries will ride to North Carolina's rescue — industries such as biotechnology, nanotechnology (the science of small scale), advanced telecommunications and perhaps industries related to the development of space. How viable are these industries, and what role will they play in North Carolina's economic future?

Finally, what is the proper role of government in these issues? Does the state government have the proper mix of taxing and spending policies for the 21st century economy?

More fundamentally, to what extent can state and local governments guide economic development? Can the state pick industry winners and lure those companies to the state, or should government's role in economic development be more passive?
This book explores the progress, pitfalls and prospects for the North Carolina economy in the Connected Age. ...

The starting date for the modern North Carolina economy is set at 1970 for two reasons. First, 1970 represents the beginning of the twilight for the state's traditional industries — in particular, for tobacco and textiles. The structure of the tobacco industry was fundamentally changed by the issuance of the surgeon general's 1964 report, and the downward trend in per capita cigarette consumption consequently began during the 1970s. Textile employment in the state peaked in 1973; improvements in manufacturing productivity and foreign imports subsequently began to whittle away at the industry's jobs.

Second, 1970 is a threshold year for the development of the new North Carolina economy. It began the first decade after passage of the national Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts, which reduced the stigma of racial tension in the South and made business location in the region more acceptable.

During the 1970s, energy costs became a bigger factor in business location, a development that benefited the South, with its shorter winters.

Finally, North Carolina's technology industry blossomed after the opening of the Research Triangle Park in the 1960s.

Perhaps the single best word to describe the early 21st century is "anxiety" — anxiety regarding international terrorism, anxiety regarding the loss of jobs to foreign countries and its impact on the U.S. standard of living and anxiety regarding an unknown future in a rapidly changing world.

In North Carolina, the industries that sustained the state for more than 50 years are now crumbling, and the industries that have replaced them appear shaky in many ways. This book may not relieve this anxiety or accurately predict the future, but knowing what has happened and why and knowing the forces that are shaping the modern North Carolina economy may in some small way help to guide the future path.
Holtz deal OK'd

Six-year deal could total $9.5 million

From Staff Reports
Comment on this story

Skip Holtz has lifted East Carolina's football program into the national spotlight, and the university is rewarding him with a contract that could total $9.5 million.

The ECU Board of Trustees officially approved a six-year agreement Friday that will guarantee the Pirates' coach $4.07 million, or $678,333 per year.

With incentives and bonuses, the amount could reach $9.5 million, or $1.5 million per year through 2013. That doesn't mean other schools still won't come after the popular coach, who has guided the Pirates to a 3-1 record that includes victories over Virginia Tech and West Virginia en route to a No. 23 national ranking.

If he should take another job, Holtz would have to pay ECU $100,000 in a buy-out clause. In recent times, Holtz has said he and his family "love" living in Greenville.

"The contract is consistent with our desire to continue the tremendous strides has football program has made over the past four years," athletic director Terry Holland said in a statement. "One of the keys to our growth has been the stability of leadership ..."

Holtz, 44, inherited a program in 2005 that had won three games and lost 20 the two previous seasons. He quickly rebuilt the Pirates, leading ECU to bowl games in 2006 and '07.

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