THE DAILY CLIPS

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Sarah Palin to speak in Greenville

By Jim Morrill
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Posted: Wednesday, Oct. 01, 2008

Sarah Palin, Republican vice presidential candidate, speaks at a rally with Republican presidential candidate John McCain, unseen, in Columbus, Ohio, U.S., on Monday, Sept. 29, 2008. McCain returned to full-time campaigning, bringing Palin with him to the battleground state of Ohio where he went on the attack against Democratic rival Barack Obama. Photographer: Jay LaPrete/Bloomberg News

Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin will make her first Carolinas' campaign appearance Tuesday night with a rally at East Carolina University in Greenville.

Palin is scheduled to speak at the Road to Victory rally at the school's Minges Coliseum. It will be the first visit to North Carolina or South Carolina by a member of the GOP ticket since last month's convention. And, other than a recent stop in Florida, it will be the Alaska governor's first campaign stop in the Southeast.

"There's been a lot of excitement in North Carolina about the historic Republican ticket," GOP spokesman
Mario Diaz said late Wednesday night. "Gov. Palin is excited about the stop, and she looks forward to bringing her message of reform to North Carolinians."

Palin's stop will come just before running mate John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama square off for their second debate Tuesday night in Nashville. Doors at the coliseum open at 5 p.m.

Obama is scheduled to spend Sunday and Monday in Asheville getting ready for the debate. It will be his third visit in two weeks to the state.

Two polls this week showed a tight race between Obama and McCain in North Carolina.

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NORVAL ROBINSON MESSICK

Norval Robinson Messick LELAND - Norval Robinson Messick, 75, of Leland entered into joy on Monday, Sept. 29, 2008. Mr. Messick was born Feb. 25, 1933, in Spencer. He moved to Greenville in 1946, when his father accepted the position of President of East Carolina University (then East Carolina College). He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. John Decatur Messick and Magdalene Elizabeth Robinson Messick, a brother, Kenneth Messick, who died in childhood, and a brother, John Albert Messick of Wilmington. Mr. Messick graduated from Greenville High School and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at the age of 19. He served in the Korean Conflict and was stationed in Japan. Mr. Messick spent most of his adult life in San Francisco, Calif., having fallen in love with that city during his service days. There he continued to be known as "Jerry", a name chosen by a commanding officer who could not pronounce "Norval". Mr. Messick was for many years employed by The Olympic Club, both at their city location and later at The Olympic Club, Lakeside. When Mr. Messick decided to move back east, he settled on the state of Florida. He worked as the security officer in a number of retirement communities in Naples, Deerfield Beach, and Delray Beach. In 2004, Mr. Messick moved to Wilmington, and had been employed part-time by Enterprise. Mr. Messick attended St. James Parish in Wilmington. He auditioned for minor parts in several television ventures in Wilmington, and was cast as a hotel desk clerk in an episode of "One Tree Hill." Mr. Messick's gentle and kind nature was reflected in his love of dogs, and preferring the smaller breeds, he had a succession of English Bulldogs, French Bulls, and Boston Terriers, but his favorite was Panda Bear, an English Bull. He is survived by his two sisters, Helen Messick Willetts of Wilmington and Rose Messick Melvin of Raleigh; sister-in-law, Elizabeth Cox Messick of Wilmington; his nephews, Frederick Willetts III and wife, Myrna, of Wilmington, John Decatur Messick II and wife, Ashley, of Durham, and William Lyman Melvin and wife, Leeanne, of Atlanta, Ga.; his nieces, Helen Margaret Willetts of Wilmington and Elizabeth Messick Willetts of Longs, S.C., Elizabeth Messick Williams and husband, Chris, of Kenilworth, Ill., Melissa Reynolds Messick of Charlotte, and Lynn Melvin Lancaster and husband, Larry, of Raleigh; his great-nephews, John Decatur Messick II, John Christopher Williams, Alexander Lee Williams and Matthew Messick Williams; great-nieces Sarah Willetts Crews and husband, Will of Wilson, Susan Willetts Favate and husband, Sam, of Chatham, N.J., Margaret Willetts Reid and husband JC, of Greer, S.C., Stephanie Rose Willetts of Wilmington, Elizabeth Anne Williams, Hannah Louise Messick, Alexandria Messick Melvin, Alyssa Fletcher Melvin and Haley Owen Melvin; and one great-great-niece, Olivia Rose Willetts. A graveside service will be held at 12 noon, Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008 at Oleander Memorial Gardens in Wilmington with the Rev. Ronald G. Abrams of St. James Parrish officiating. The family wishes to express our gratitude to Lower Cape Fear Hospice and to the kind and loving staffs of New Hanover Regional Medical Center and Liberty Commons Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Boston Terrier Rescue of North Carolina, 5493 Forest Oaks Drive, Greensboro, NC 27406 or www.btrnc.org. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.andrewsmortuary.com Andrews Mortuary Market Street Chapel, Wilmington, NC. Arrangements by Andrews Mortuary, Wilmington.

Published in The Daily Reflector on 10/2/2008
Police catch pirate snatchers

The Daily Reflector

Greenville police caught and arrested three men Saturday while the men were trying to steal a painted pirate statue from the steps of city hall on Fifth Street, a department spokesman said Wednesday.

Jeremy Duncan Bennett, 25, of Clayton, George Raymond Ayers, 31, of Greenville and Adam Loren Baker, 25, of Nashville were charged with felony larceny and held at the Pitt County Detention Center on $5,000 bond, said Cpl. Kip Gaskins.

Officers were standing at the corner of Fifth and Washington streets at 2:33 a.m. when witnesses walked up to them and reported seeing three men trying to steal the statue, Gaskins said.

The men had removed the statue from its base and were walking off with it when the officers approached them, Gaskins said.

The trio dropped the statue and began to walk away before officers stopped them, Gaskins said.

Saturday's theft of the city's pirate, which sits in clear view of police headquarters, was the second in five months.

It was ripped from the sidewalk in May, sustaining damage to its underside, hat and elbow before being abandoned and retrieved two blocks away. It was repaired and bolted back to the sidewalk.

No arrests were made in connection with the May theft.

Saturday's incident caused only minor damage, Gaskins said.

The city's 6-foot, 60-pound pirate is one of 16 created by local artists as part of a community art project and unveiled during April's Piratefest.

They are scheduled to be auctioned next year, with proceeds to benefit the East Carolina University Alumni Association.
Public Forum

Don’t trust ECU to Hollywood’s ‘reality’

I would hope with all the education that the students of East Carolina University are getting, that they would be mindful of the lack of actual knowledge that Hollywood actors and actresses have of U.S. Sen. Barack Obama’s platform.

Talking points do not a presidential candidate make. Just as you would not seek out the opinion of a plumber on the prospects of heart surgery, I would not expect a university-educated individual to take the opinions of a Hollywood starlet into consideration in contemplating something as important as election of our president.

Voicing an opinion is a basic right in our country; however, as typically unversed as actors and actresses tend to be on subjects deeper than the talking points, these starlets’ opinions should not be one’s basis for a vote.

As a country, we can only hope that ECU is not educating a bunch of mind-numbed robots following the steady drumbeats of people caught up in the bright lights and greasepaint of the make-believe world opinions that these people falsely see as valid or realistic.

NANETTE RYAN
Greenville
Recruiting teachers is priority No. 1 for cadet program

BY BROCK LETCHWORTH

The Daily Reflector

Cindi Rigsbee says she touches the future every time she steps in front of a class at Gravely Hill Middle School in Efland.

On Wednesday, she tried to persuade others to do the same.

The state’s reigning teacher of the year was the keynote speaker during East Carolina University’s Teacher Cadet Day. Rigsbee shared with hundreds of high school students some of the moments that inspired her to enter the profession and incidents that have assured her she made the right choice.

From stories she told about the bond she formed with her own first-grade teacher to the relationships she currently has with students, Rigsbee kept the crowd laughing, and occasionally crying, during her speech.

“If you decide to become a teacher, not only do you have the opportunity to be that person who touches someone’s life, you have the responsibility to be that person,” Rigsbee said.

Juniors and seniors from teacher cadet programs in more than a dozen high schools attended the event which provided them with details about the teaching profession and introduced them to some of the university’s programs.

Following Rigsbee’s speech, the students attended a brief program fair offered by the ECU College of

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TEACHER

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Education and several informational sessions focusing on math and science, diversity, the university’s educational programs and leadership. They ended the day with a tour of the campus.

Wednesday’s event was organized by the College of Education’s Office of Professional Development and Student Outreach.

“Our first goal is for these students to become teachers,” said Diana Lys, lead coordinator for the Office of Professional Development and Student Outreach. “But we would also like to have them come here for their education.”

College of Education Dean Linda Patriarca said East Carolina is the state’s largest producer of teachers and the university’s teacher education graduates have the highest employment rate in North Carolina.

“North Carolina wants you, and the kids of North Carolina need you,” Patriarca told the crowd.

North Carolina’s Teacher Cadet program is a high school curriculum for students interested in teaching. Its curriculum is designed to promote a better understanding and create interest in those who may consider teaching as a profession.

This program is housed in the North Carolina Association of Educators Foundation and funded by the state legislature. Lys said East Carolina is a partner with nearly 20 high schools that offer the program.

Contact Brock Letchworth at bletchworth@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9574.
Wolfpack official: No ECU-N.C. State game next season

The Daily Reflector

N.C. State senior men's athletics director David Horning told a Raleigh TV station Wednesday that the Wolfpack would not play East Carolina in football in 2009.

Horning told WRAL that the Wolfpack's entire slate for next year would be released soon but that it doesn't include a game with the Pirates.

ECU director of athletics Terry Holland was out of town Wednesday and unavailable for comment.

An apparent conflict over future games between the two schools was unearthed last week when N.C. State AD Lee Fowler appeared on a Raleigh sports talk radio show that suggested ECU wanted to dial back the number of times it played the Wolfpack.

Holland issued a statement on Sept. 24 saying that, "the bottom line is that ECU and N.C. State have a signed contract to play in Greenville in 2009, 2012 and 2016 and in Raleigh in 2008, 2010, and 2013. Until there is a different scheduled game mutually agreeable to both teams, ECU is prepared to continue honoring that contract and expects N.C. State to do the same."

In the release, Holland also stated that last spring, "ECU specifically asked about moving the 2009 game scheduled for Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium to the 2010 season. We wanted the local rivalry game with N.C. State in 2010 when we expect to have completed our East End Zone project that could add between 5,000 and 7,000 seats to our stadium."

Holland also said ECU would do whatever it could to make the home-and-home series with both N.C. State and North Carolina materialize in the future.

On Sept. 25, Holland released a letter dated June 18 addressed to Fowler and North Carolina AD Dick Baddour, and an accompanying statement reiterating ECU's position. The letter spelled out six agreed dates between ECU and the two ACC schools, including games against the Tar Heels in 2009, '12 and '15, and games against the Wolfpack in 2010, '13 and '16.

"N.C. State felt the changes would be beneficial to their program and asked to be able to begin scheduling on the assumption that the three institutions would eventually make a written commitment to the general principles," Holland stated in a release accompanying the letter. "It has always been my view that this recommendation was a three-way proposal requiring a commitment from all three institutions.

"If N.C. State has scheduled games based on the verbal agreement, then ECU will certainly honor the verbal agreement but ECU is also prepared to honor the previous written contract which technically is legally-binding until it is replaced by a new contract."
Study traces origin of AIDS virus to 100 years ago

Growth of African cities gave virus a foothold

BY MALCOLM RITTER
The Associated Press

New York

The AIDS virus has been circulating among people for about 100 years, decades longer than scientists had thought, a new study suggests.

Genetic analysis pushes the estimated origin of HIV back to between 1884 and 1924, with a more focused estimate at 1908.

Previously, scientists had estimated the origin at around 1930. AIDS wasn't recognized formally until 1981 when it got the attention of public health officials in the United States.

The new result is "not a monumental shift, but it means the virus was circulating under our radar even longer than we knew," says Michael Worobey of the University of Arizona, an author of the new work.

The results appear in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature. Researchers note that the newly calculated dates fall during the rise of cities in Africa, and they suggest urban development may have promoted HIV's initial establishment and early spread.

Scientists say HIV descended from a chimpanzee virus that jumped to humans in Africa, probably when people butchered chimps. Many individuals were probably infected that way, but so few other people caught the virus, that it failed to get a lasting foothold, researchers say.

But the growth of African cities may have changed that by putting lots of people close together and promoting prostitution, Worobey suggested.

"Cities are kind of ideal for a virus like HIV," providing more chances for infected people to pass the virus to others, he said.

Perhaps a person infected with the AIDS virus in a rural area went to what is now Kinshasa, Congo, "and now you've got the spark arriving in the tinderbox," Worobey said.

Key to the new work was the discovery of an HIV sample taken from a woman in Kinshasa in 1960. It was only the second such sample to be found from before 1976; the other was from 1959, also from Kinshasa.

Researchers took advantage of the fact that HIV mutates rapidly. So two strains from a common ancestor quickly become less and less alike in their genetic material over time. That allows scientists to "run the clock backward" by calculating how long it would take for various strains to become as different as they are observed to be. That would indicate when they both sprang from their most recent common ancestor.

The new work used genetic data from the two old HIV samples plus more than 100 modern samples to create a family tree going back to these samples' last common ancestor. Researchers got various answers under various approaches for when that ancestor virus appeared, but the 1884-to-1924 bracket is probably the most reliable, Worobey said.

The new work is "clearly an improvement" over the previous estimate of around 1930, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland. His institute helped pay for the work.

Fauci described the advance as "a fine-tuning."

Experts say it's no surprise that HIV circulated in humans for about 70 years before being recognized. An infection usually takes years to produce obvious symptoms, a lag that can mask the role of the virus, and it would have infected relatively few Africans early in its spread, they said.
Playing safe

Recent deaths of North Carolina high school football players signal the need for closer medical supervision.

Yes, it's a tough sport. And yes, some risk is always involved. High school football players know it, and so do their parents. Safety is on everyone's mind, and toward that end, equipment at all levels of the sport is better and there is more awareness of conditioning and the possibility of injury than in times past.

Still, the recent deaths of three high school players in North Carolina, including a player from Greenville's J.H. Rose High School who died the day after a game on Sept. 19, underline a need for stricter standards of oversight. The News & Observer's Tim Stevens and Roger van der Horst reported on the issue Sunday.

Jaquan Waller, 16, suffered a mild concussion at a practice on Sept. 17. Then, after being tackled in that Sept. 19 game, he suffered severe swelling of the brain. He died the next day. The medical examiner in the case determined that Waller had died as a result of "second impact syndrome," a rare condition prompted by two minor head injuries that happen within a short time span. An expert from UNC-Chapel Hill's Department of Exercise and Sport Science told The N&O that a player should never go into a football game three days after a concussion.

The death of Waller is being investigated by Pitt County schools, and officials are thus not discussing it in detail. But it is known that a teaching assistant who is not a licensed athletic trainer was the one who evaluated Waller's condition after his injury at the practice.

About half the state's 460 high schools have access to a licensed trainer, but they are not required to have one. Others use people certified in first aid and CPR who have taken injury prevention and management courses. Certified trainers, however, must have four-year degrees in sports medicine or athletic training, certification from a national organization, protocols approved by a physician and continuing education.

Certainly one lesson to be learned from the deaths of Waller and the other players is that all schools must have licensed trainers. In these cases, it appears that coaches showed caution, and those charged with supervising the players did what they believed were the right things in the context of their training. And all three deaths vary in possible causes. But common sense dictates that having a licensed trainer on the premises is a safety step that must be taken.

There are some difficulties in finding trainers, and of course the expense is a factor — Pitt County officials said, for example, that they could hire trainers full-time only if they also teach.

But protecting the health and safety of athletes in a strenuous contact sport must become a priority. Dr. Kevin Guskiecz, the UNC-CH expert, says that every school should have a trainer and that athletes should undergo what he called "baseline" testing before the start of a season.

That ought to be the one and only acceptable standard for North Carolina's high schools. And if need be, state legislators should write it into law and provide the money for the necessary hirings.
Computer ‘eyes’ pass cancer test

Machines inspect mammograms

BY STEPHANIE NANO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A computer is as good as a second pair of eyes for helping a radiologist spot breast cancer on a mammogram, one of the largest and most rigorous tests of computer-aided detection found.

Like spell-checkers looking for mistakes, the computers flag suspicious areas on X-rays for a closer look by a radiologist. Mammograms are used to screen women for early signs of breast cancer, but the tests aren’t perfect. In the U.S., the X-rays are read by a single radiologist, and cancers are sometimes missed.

Computer-aided detection, or CAD, was developed to help radiologists pick up more cancers. Approved a decade ago, these computer programs are now used for about a third of the nation’s mammograms. But the value and accuracy of the technology have continued to be debated.

Now, British researchers are reporting results from a randomized study of 31,000 women. Mammograms in Britain are routinely checked by two radiologists or technicians, which is thought to be better than a single review. Researchers wanted to know whether a single expert aided by a computer could do as well as two pairs of eyes.

They found that computer-aided detection spotted nearly the same number of cancers, 198 out of 227, compared with 199 for the two readers.

In places like the United States, “where single reading is standard practice, computer-aided detection has the potential to improve cancer-detection rates to the level achieved by double reading,” the researchers said. Their findings were published online Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine.

The study was done at three centers in England that do a large number of routine mammograms. Most of the women in the study were assigned to have their mammograms reviewed twice — once by a pair of experts and a second time by a single reviewer aided by a computer.

“What we demonstrated was that one reader using CAD could pick up as many cancers as the two readers could,” said radiologist Fiona J. Gilbert of the University of Aberdeen, lead author of the study.

IN THE U.S.

The U.S. government recommends mammograms every year or two starting at age 40. Experts said there aren’t enough radiologists to give mammograms two readings, and insurers don’t pay for a second look. Medicare does pay an additional $15 for computer-aided detection.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NCSU students reject fee increase

School wanted to hike athletics charge

BY KEN TYSIAC
STAFF WRITER

Fifty-seven percent of N.C. State students participating in a non-binding vote rejected a requested increase of $25.50 in the school’s yearly intercollegiate athletics fee.

Student Senate president Greg Doucette revealed the results after a total of 3,400 students voted on requested fee increases Monday and Tuesday.

Athletics officials are asking for an increase that would add about $500,000 per year to its operating budget. The athletics fee currently is $134.

Twenty-four percent of the students voted for the $25.50 increase, and 19 percent voted for an increase of $12.25.

In an e-mail, Doucette explained that the 57 percent rejection was an improvement for the athletic department after a 74 percent rejection a year ago.

“I think students don’t want to pay more money as a matter of principle, but they like athletics a lot more this year as a result of the student-requested changes they’ve made to things like ticketing procedure,” Doucette wrote.

Seventy-two percent of the students rejected a $30 increase in the current $66 athletics debt fee. The increase would be used to improve facilities for soccer, track and baseball as well as constructing a new football field at Carter-Finley Stadium.

A sampling of student votes on other fee increases:

- Fifty-one percent rejected an education and technology increase of $20.

- Sixty-one percent rejected a student center operations increase of $26.82.

- Forty-five percent rejected a recreational sports increase of $10.24.

The students’ vote provides the fee advisory committee with a gauge of campus opinion. The committee will recommend fees to chancellor James Oblinger.

If Oblinger accepts the recommendations, he can forward them to the board of trustees and the UNC system Board of Governors for approval.