THE DAILY CLIPS

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A shooting occurred during a party at 3277 E. 10th St. in Pirates Cove Saturday night. (Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector)

Authorities scramble to halt violence

“I will say, though, that if we put pressure on judges to keep criminals in jail it will cut down on these crimes.”

Jett Ferebbe
Manager, Treybrooke

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
Monday, December 12, 2011

The recent rash of violence at student apartment complexes left police and community leaders scrambling to find avenues to stop the bleeding, literally, that is claiming lives in the city at an alarming rate.

The Dec. 4 shooting death of Demetrius Lamar Boone, 18, of Winterville at a birthday party at Pirates Cove apartments on East 10th Street was the fifth since Oct. 29 and the seventh this year. Another man, Rayshawm Nobles, 18, was stabbed during the incident. He is recovering from his injuries, his mother said Friday.

Greenville Police Chief William Anderson initiated several plans this week to address the violence.

Apartment complexes, parties, gangs, social media and young people, as both victims and suspects, were the common factors Anderson cited most prevalently during press briefings and meetings he hosted throughout the city.

One response he has already put into action: the formation of a youth crimes and gangs task force, bringing together representatives of every law enforcement agency in Pitt County to coordinate gang information and make arrests for gang-related crimes a countywide operation.
Police information officer Sgt. Carlton Williams and Officer Aaron Lemon met privately Wednesday at Pirates Cove with apartment managers, 15 students and one parent to address concerns, answer questions and exchange ideas for stemming the problem at private student housing. ECU crime prevention representatives were also there to share crime prevention information on a number of topics, Williams said.

The apartment complex has an officer that lives on-site and the company pays an off-duty city police officer to patrol Thursday-Saturday nights, Williams said.

A company official said that, in light of recent events, the apartment complex will increase the number of off-duty officers from one to two for the next two weeks, which will bring them to the university’s holiday break, Williams said.

Company officials do not have security measures in place for large gatherings and parties, but noted that such parties are forbidden in the lease agreement and are subject to fines by the company, appropriate police actions and disciplinary actions based on the ECU student code of conduct, Williams said. The company defines a party as a gathering of 10 or more people.

The managers reminded the students of their responsibilities as tenants, Williams said. They asked them not to use social network sites to advertise gatherings because word spreads quickly and attendance numbers become too large. They recommended that students avoid underage drinking and confine legal drinking to appropriate limits, Williams said.

The managers also stressed the need to quickly report dangerous or suspicious people or activities to the Greenville Police Department. The complex is regularly patrolled by police, as are all other apartment complexes, he said.

“They are treated like any other part of the community for police activity,” Williams said. “We have entry codes for the gated communities as well. When we see signs that a party is gathering, we intervene and shut them down.”
The Greenville city attorney routinely sends notices to apartment complex managers when infractions have occurred and citations are issued to tenants, Williams said.

The university does not have a formal agreement with the privately owned off-campus apartments allowing campus police to patrol at those complexes.

ECU officials have been talking with city police about extending campus jurisdiction, and the apartment complexes are included in those talks, said Bill Koch, assistant vice chancellor for campus security.

Instant communication can save lives. It can also be a hindrance, Koch said.

“This social media thing is still new,” Koch said. “There are a lot of pitfalls associated with it. Kids are still maturing and learning how to communicate properly, so you can see how it can quickly go astray.”

Efforts in recent years by proponents, like property owner Kathy Harrington, to have the Greenville City Council adopt a crime-free rental housing policy have been repeatedly rejected by the council, but have been supported and encouraged by Chief Anderson and Koch.

The landlord said she knows other landlords do not need or want the kind of bad publicity that a homicide at their complexes would generate.

“It’s not a 100-percent cure, but it really would deter a whole lot of this crime,” Harrington said. “If encouraged by the city, rental property owners would be compliant with the program.”

“I’m hoping and guessing our new mayor (Allen Thomas) is asking questions about the program,” Koch said.

Attempts by The Daily Reflector to speak with representatives of several large apartment complexes about safety and security issues have been unsuccessful.

None of the recent violent incidents occurred at Treybrooke Apartments, but Jett Ferebee, Treybrooke’s manager, said he did not feel qualified to speak about conditions that might either prevent or invite crime to any place. Any implication by apartment proprietors that they make any efforts at all to
provide security could make the company liable if an incident occurs, he said.

“When you do that, and then something happens, you open yourself up to a lawsuit,” Ferebee said. “I will say, though, that if we put pressure on judges to keep criminals in jail it will cut down on these crimes.”

Another meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at Pirates Cove for representatives from the area property management association and the other major apartment complexes, Williams said.

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Lakeforest Elementary School teacher Terrell Bynum helps her third grade students with an analysis of a book during class Friday morning.

Schools look at teacher diversity
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, December 11, 2011

School districts across the country including Pitt County are focused on increasing minority teachers as student populations continue to diversify.

More than 83 percent of the approximately 1,500 teachers in Pitt County Schools are white, according to the 2011-12 personnel report released this month.

Meanwhile, over the years black students have become a district majority, with 48 percent last year compared to 38 percent white students.

“Our district clearly believes it is important to have a diverse faculty and staff,” said Superintendent Beverly Reep.

Through targeted recruitment efforts, special programs and grants, Pitt County Schools is working to improve its teacher diversity for a court evaluation on the system’s racial equity next year, Reep said.

Pitt is not alone, with 81 percent of North Carolina’s teachers being white, according to a teacher diversity report from the Center for American
Progress released last month. In the report, almost every state has a large gap between minority teacher and minority student numbers.

Over the next decade, the nation’s public school student body will have no one clear racial or ethnic majority, according to the report.

But the makeup of the nation’s teacher workforce has not kept up with these changing demographics.

Teachers of color are only 17 percent of the teaching force nationally, the report states, while students of color make up more than 40 percent of the country’s public school population.

“The majority of the teacher education programs at universities have a large population of female white teachers,” Delilah Jackson, assistant superintendent for human resources, said. “Black male teachers are a minority within most teacher education programs.”

In Pitt County, there are just over 300 male teachers compared to more than 1,200 female teachers.

“It should be noted that the number of diverse candidates entering the teaching profession is small and they have many choices for employment,” Reep said.

Pitt County Schools participates in recruitment fairs throughout North Carolina, according to Jackson. Recruitment personnel are sent to several historically black colleges and universities including Elizabeth City State University, N.C. Central University and N.C. A&T State University.

“We have also increased our recruitment efforts with Shaw University, which has produced several lateral entry candidates for our schools,” Jackson said.

In addition to recruitment efforts, recent special programs like the Teacher Leadership Cohort and the Teacher Quality Partnership grant in collaboration with East Carolina University “are a few ways we are working to diversify our workforce,” Reep said. The Teacher Leadership Cohort started last year at several schools allowing strong teachers to be placed where needed most.
Awarded in 2009, the five-year $9 million Teacher Quality Partnership grant includes funding for the university and the school district to increase recruitment of male and minority teachers.

“We know we do not have as many minorities in our teacher education program as we would like,” Diana Lys, interim director of assessment for the ECU College of Education, said. “We struggle with that, and it’s not unique to ECU.”

Along with the Teacher Quality Partnership grant, the university runs a campus-based teacher recruitment plan to reach out to under-represented groups at ECU who might not have otherwise considered teaching.

The efforts are beginning to show results. “It takes time but we’re beginning to see the impact,” Lys said.

The state Teaching Fellows program is also key, according to Reep. The program, reinstated after the legislature tried to cut it this year, pays for the education of qualified teacher candidates who agree to teach in the state for four years, providing equal opportunity for those interested in teaching but lacking the means to pay for college.

“Reaching into our high school population to motivate and encourage these young folks to enter the profession is another way to recruit diverse candidates early on in the process,” Reep said.

Some say the district needs to do more.

“We think their policies and practices are vestiges of de jure segregation,” said Ozie Hall, president of the Pitt County Coalition for Educating Black Children. He says the district needs to strengthen its policies on recruiting minority teachers and make more of an effort to reach beyond ECU.

The coalition also calls for culturally responsive teaching in the school system, according to Hall.

“Culturally responsive teaching is very much misunderstood, many think it’s just adding more black history, but it means to use the culture of everyone,” Hall said. “Teachers should be equipped with a repertoire of information to
celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of all cultures and inspire positive images for all students.”

Culturally responsive teaching is for all teachers, not just white teachers, Hall added. “It doesn’t matter if the teacher is white, black, Hispanic, Asian, they should have some knowledge of the students they are dealing with,” he said.

The district has held some cultural teaching seminars, according to Hall, but has not done enough to implement the idea districtwide.

Reep said the district’s new teacher evaluation instrument “is focused on respect for a diverse learning environment which includes use of materials and elimination of stereotypes.”

Teacher demographics may not ever perfectly match student demographics, but training teachers to work with students of all races is more important, according to Farmville Middle School Principal Lionel Kato, who just finished his doctoral dissertation on diversity in school leadership.

For now, “the teacher workforce will remain predominantly white, which is not in and of itself a problem, but connections have to be made to reach out to all students,” Kato said.

Administrators allowing culturally responsive teacher training is key, according to Kato.

“The average teacher is a middle class white female,” Kato said. “That person needs experience and training to be able to understand the perspective of a low-socio-economic-status black male.”

While this approach is not specific to just race or ethnicity, “our district believes all teachers need to be in tune with their students’ needs, backgrounds and personal stories,” Reep said. “All students need to see adults in their environment who demonstrate caring and competence.”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
Marine Sgt. Nathan Harris, left, and Navy Medic Kyle Schweers and his service dog, Lucy, walk into Hendrix Theater together for the showing of "Hell and Back" a documentary that follows Harris and his wife, as the two live with the physical and mental struggles of his injuries in Afghanistan. Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011. (Aileen Devlin/The Daily Reflector)

Marine: I've been 'To Hell and Back'
By K.j. Williams
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, December 11, 2011

Marine Sgt. Nathan Harris’ third deployment in 2009 — his second Afghanistan deployment — was captured in a documentary of the Echo Company.

Cameras were installed on vehicles and equipment to record combat and other events. Later, different cameras recorded the aftermath, what happened when Harris came home after he was shot three times: once in the leg, in a hip and in the buttocks.

Today, Harris, 28, can’t walk without the aid of a cane or a walker.

On Wednesday, Harris, a native of Yadkin County, attended a screening of director Danfung Dennis’ “To Hell and Back,” with his wife and high school sweetheart, Ashley, a central figure in the home footage. The couple fielded questions from the audience after the 90-minute film was shown at East Carolina University’s Hendrix Theatre at a free event sponsored by the College of Health and Human Performance.
The college operates a psychophysiology lab and biofeedback clinic and works with Wounded Warrior Battalion-East. A clip was shown explaining the work done at the biofeedback clinic, where Marines use devices like virtual reality games to improve concentration and lessen the severity of post-traumatic stress syndrome.

“To Hell and Back,” a cinematography winner at this year’s Sundance Festival, allowed the audience of about 50 to watch through the camera lens as Marines from Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, arrived at their destination.

The audience accompanied the Marines as they fired back at Taliban fighters. The language could be salty as the Marines reacted to dangerous situations. The tension could be felt.

The documentary also showed the Marines as they attempted to befriend Afghan villagers, who expressed frustration over the fighting around them and worry for their children’s welfare.

Harris, who led the second Echo platoon, was shown commanding his men, and later he was shown at home on the couch bent over with pain after physical therapy. He has bottles of painkillers and medication. During a doctor visit, Harris is told that as he heals, he’ll slowly be weaned from those pills.

His wife helps dress him. They share kisses in the car on the way to Walmart, where Harris tries out a motorized wheelchair. “It better be fast,” he tells his wife.

The documentary cuts back and forth between Harris’ two worlds: the one before he was injured and the one he lives in now.

When he joined the Marines, Harris just wanted to “kill the enemy.”

He’s still proud to be a Marine, but he wonders about his future in the film.

“That’s over,” Harris said. “Being a grunt (infantryman) is over, and that’s all I really want to be.”
Grateful that he wasn’t shot in the chest or killed, he said: “I don’t want to whine too much.”

“To Hell and Back” also chronicles the aftermath for his wife. She talks about the anger she sees in Harris that wasn’t there before and the change in his eyes.

“I don’t know what keeps us together,” Ashley Harris said. “I guess we love each other.”

Harris often handles his gun at home. It seems like that’s what’s familiar to him.

He recalls what happened after he was wounded

“I just looked to the sky and wondered if I was going to live or not,” Harris said.

And he told himself to breathe: “Don’t worry about it. You’re going home … keep breathing.”

After the screening, Harris balanced on his walker, explaining scenes in “To Hell and Back” and putting them into context.

“I’ve seen it a couple of times now, and each time it’s difficult to watch.,” Harris said. “And there’s things in the film that I’m not really proud of. Several people in the audience thanked Harris for offering an honest, deeply personal portrayal of his journey in “To Hell and Back.”

“Thank you for sharing your story and raising my level of awareness,” one woman said.

Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com or 252-329-9588.
My children are mostly grown now, in various stages of college and work. They have survived so far what is becoming youth’s increasingly perilous journey in our communities — a landscape of intensifying drug and gang activity, violence and crime. If this is not in your backyard yet, it will be — unless we all become more than observers, pundits or critics.

Many already are on the front lines or in harm’s way in this struggle: police officers on the beat, teachers in the classroom, store clerks and bank tellers, victims of all ages and their families — but especially vulnerable are our young people, both on campus at ECU and others in their Greenville apartment enclaves.

Last Sunday, Demetrius Lamar Boone of Winterville was found in the breezeway of one of these, the Pirates Cove complex on Greenville’s 10th Street. He had been shot, reportedly during a confrontation with members of the “Crips” youth gang who had tried to crash a party.

The boy was pronounced dead a short time later at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Demetrius was 18.

This week Greenville Police Chief William Anderson noted how this is the third violent incident stemming from a party at a largely student-populated apartment complex.

A Fort Bragg paratrooper was stabbed at a Halloween party at Pirates Place apartments on Charles Boulevard and three people were injured in a shooting a couple weeks later at The Bellamy apartments not far from Bell’s Fork. In August 2010, a 22-year-old former ECU student was shot to death across from Pirates Cove near the entrance of the Copper Beech apartment complex following a dispute that arose between groups of young people.
In the wake of Boone’s death, Anderson organized meetings among the front-line fighters in this struggle. He also has noted that in the last 20 years, 82 percent of Greenville’s homicides involved young black males.

“We’re losing absolutely too many young men to violent crime in our community, and the police department cannot be the only group actively invested in this,” he said.

Close to the front lines, not far behind the police and others, are their supervisors, their administrative leaders, managers and elected leadership. Then to the rear are the rest of us — observers, some interested, some not, some perhaps oblivious to what has the appearance today of a disintegrating segment of society.

From the meetings, some of which took place this past week, those on the front lines have begun developing strategies to contain this burgeoning problem, but they will need and have asked for the rest of us to join this fight — starting at least with heartfelt worry and concern and from that ideas and more ideas.

This process begins with acts as quietly straightforward as Chief Anderson’s visit last week to a third-grade classroom, where he read and interacted with many children who might not have had the opportunity to see such an authority figure so close-up.

Down the road, as those kids grow up, they might take with them a sense of this visit, when they saw a strong role model doing the right things for the right reasons. Such interventions, though small, have the potential to lead kids to take the right path instead of succumbing to the temptation of the wrong one.

It’s this kind of involvement that is needed from front-line combatants to supervisors, elected officials, church leaders, activists, the media and individuals reading and watching from their homes.

We’ll need all of our heads and hearts in this game if we are to win it.

Al Clark is executive editor of The Daily Reflector. Contact him at aclark@reflector.com or at 252-329-9560.
Despite its historic image as a “progressive state,” old vestiges of racial injustice still exist in North Carolina. A case in point is the General Assembly’s recent repeal of the Racial Justice Act.

Passed in 2009, the measure was designed to ensure that race was not a factor in death penalty verdicts. It did not outlaw capital punishment, but afforded persons sentenced to death the option to prove the existence of racial bias in their verdicts.

Still, should an inmate succeed in exposing prejudice, the Racial Justice Act would not provide freedom, but simply allow for a resentencing to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Hence, it is not true that the RJA would exonerate or free inmates. And it would be equally incorrect to assume that “color-blind” conditions prevail throughout our state’s system of criminal justice.

The truth is that race does matter in North Carolina’s courts. Studies reveal that prosecutors still use race in discriminatory ways to create panels of partial jurors; that peremptory challenges are used systematically to exclude qualified black jurors from service; that black capital-case offenders who murder whites are more than twice as likely to receive death sentences as those who kill other blacks; that 31 defendants on North Carolina’s death row were sentenced to death by all white juries; and that an additional 38 had juries with only one person of color.

By a 27-17 Senate vote on S.B. 9, the General Assembly joined prosecutors in a concerted effort to deny capital offenders the right to a fair trial. The new measure is a clear rollback of justice and would continue to exempt prosecutors and judges from sundry old and new misdeeds. S.B. 9, therefore, is one that Gov. Beverly Perdue should veto without delay once it reaches her desk.

DAVID C. DENNARD, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of History and
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Before leaving Saudi Arabia for North Carolina, Suleiman Al-khalifah practiced English by watching TV shows and movies.

His favorites ranged from Peter Sellers’ classic comedy “Pink Panther” to the action-packed “Wanted,” starring Angelina Jolie.

That type of learning, along with listening to the radio or watching TV newscasts, is encouraged by faculty in East Carolina University’s Language Academy in the Office of International Affairs.

Al-khalifah is a student in the academy, an intensive English as a Second Language program aimed at increasing non-native fluency while preparing students for admission into the university.

A unique feature is the academy’s collaboration with the College of Allied Health Sciences, where students attend an articulation and phonology lab Friday afternoons.

Graduate students in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders work with language academy students to improve pronunciation, understanding and communication in English.
“I think it benefits both our programs,” said Rai d’Honoré, interim director of the ECU Language Academy. “We have such tremendous resources at ECU.”

On a recent afternoon, students learned a slight move of the tongue is the difference between an “s” and a “sh” sound. “Can you see the difference in my lips?” asked graduate student Ashley Wittenauer as she demonstrated the sounds.

They also compared “a” and “e” sounds by pronouncing similar sounding words: bed and bad, celery and salary, leg and lag.

CSDI graduate students provide encouragement and use a variety of teaching methods, including a recorder to play back reading responses or a flip camera so students can see themselves. Students also are asked to keep a journal to write down instances when they’ve had trouble communicating.

Al-khalifah, 19, has been in the program for six months and plans to study biomedical engineering at ECU. He learned English in high school and informally by watching movies.

“The dialogue, words, vocabulary, I was addicted to American movies and music,” he said. “I was practically talking English when I came here.”

While his enunciation is already strong, the class has helped his understanding of words and how words sometimes have different meanings in different cultures. He also has learned the importance of control and tone, Al-khalifah said.

Speaking English well will help him fit in better with students his age, he said. “Sometimes if you don’t speak well, people don’t like you or accept you,” he said.

Lori Kincannon, clinical supervisor in speech-language pathology, said exposure to English speakers is important, and TV, radio and lectures provide learning opportunities. Students also are asked to practice their English in daily activities, such as making a purchase in a store or placing an order in a restaurant.
“The more exposure they have to English speakers in the community, the faster they learn the language and the variations in sounds and pronunciation between their accented English and standard American English,” Kincannon said.

The academy offers five levels of classes. Students must have an understanding of basic vocabulary to enroll in the first level. Classes meet Monday through Friday in two-hour blocks, concentrating on reading and vocabulary skills, oral communication and writing, note-taking and study skills.

“We can give them the skills they need to be able to go into college and be successful,” d’Honoré said.

Prospective international students can apply for conditional admission to ECU contingent on successful completion of the language academy and other requirements.

Beyond the regular classroom experience, d’Honoré will host a holiday tree trimming party and a lecture on Christmas in America this month. She holds a weekly lecture and film series on American life and culture. ECULA students are encouraged to participate in volunteer service.

“We hope to get the students out into the community,” she said.

For more information, visit www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/ecula/, call 737-4377 or email ecula@ecu.edu.

**Professor honored**

ECU biology professor Robert Christian was recently honored with a Distinguished Service Award from the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation during the federation’s biennial conference in Daytona Beach.

Christian served two years as the organization’s president, four years as past president and one year as president elect. He also served as a long-time CERF representative to the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

Christian championed an international CERF membership and will serve as the chief U.S. planner for the organization’s first non-U.S. meeting in Argentina. Christian is a distinguished research professor in the biology department in the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.
$800K grant to help coordinate care

A federal grant of nearly $800,000 will help ECU provide more coordinated care to patients with multiple health needs.

The five-year, $799,876 grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration will fund development of the proposed Center for Integrated Care Delivery. The center will focus on better coordination of health care, along with the inclusion of behavioral and psychosocial aspects of chronic disease management.

The project will train medical students and family medicine residents; psychology, family therapy and social work graduate students, and pharmacy and physician assistant students to work together as a team to meet patients’ needs for medical and behavioral care. Dr. Kenneth Steinweg, chair of family medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, is the principle investigator on the project.

Patients with chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes face critical behavioral choices daily in the management of their disease, and recent evidence suggests that up to 40 percent suffer from concurrent depression, anxiety and marital problems that limit their ability to care for themselves, said Dr. Doyle Cummings, a pharmacist and professor of family medicine at ECU and one of the project’s co-directors.

Dr. Dennis Russo, a psychologist and clinical professor of family medicine, is the other co-director of the project.

The grant is the second HRSA grant awarded to the Department of Family Medicine this year. The federal agency also funded a five-year, $480,739 project to place family medicine residents in underserved communities in eastern North Carolina.

Upcoming Event:

Friday: Fall commencement exercises with Dr. Thomas G. Irons delivering the featured remarks will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a concert in Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum; the program will begin at 10 a.m. Visit www.ecu.edu/commencement for more information.
An **East Carolina University** program that works to stimulate the economy in distressed portions of the state won first place for excellence in the University Economic Development Association’s national competition in Indianapolis.

The ECU Community Enhancement and Economic Transformation Initiative received the top award in the excellence in the leadership and collaboration category.

The winning initiative is a multi-tiered approach to regional transformation that includes the ECU Office of Engagement, Innovation and Economic Development’s Talent Enhancement and Capacity Building program, a partnership with the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Municipal Management and Innovation initiative. Kenny Flowers, director of community and regional engagement, presented on the programs.

The Talent Enhancement and Capacity Building program supports activities that stimulate economic transformation in distressed communities across the state, including the town of Aurora and the counties of Beaufort, Edgecombe, Hyde, Jones, Pamlico and Pitt. A recently announced $700,000 expansion by the N.C. Department of Commerce will help support an additional 15 communities.

The Municipal Management and Innovation initiative engages directly with small, limited-resource municipalities to address issues related to local administrative capacity and public service delivery. Towns served through the program include Aurora, Bayboro, Grifton, Hookerton, Pollocksville, Snow Hill and South Mills.

Both programs provide communities economic development products, technical assistance and financial resources that help increase
competitiveness and build stronger, more vibrant communities. Participating communities engage directly with the university, gaining access to a network of faculty, staff and students who help build a customized, targeted response for each community. ECU has established 29 partnerships with communities.

Flowers said the national recognition is one that the university shares with partners across the state and region.

“I believe it validates our community partners’ commitment to long-term collaboration with the university, while endorsing ECU’s broader focus on regional economic transformation,” he said. “It will certainly benefit our engagement efforts as we move forward.”

“This award recognizes ... the university’s significant commitment to foster vibrant and livable communities as part of our mission as a national model for public service and regional transformation,” said Ted Morris, associate vice chancellor of the Office of Engagement, Innovation and Economic Development.
Gov. Bev Perdue speaks as Campbell University President Dr. Jerry Wallace, second from right, looks on during Thursday's groundbreaking ceremony for Campbell's School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Gov. Perdue says Campbell University's new medical school to create 1,100 jobs

By Gregory Phillips
Staff writer

BUIES CREEK - Gov. Bev Perdue said Thursday that the reach of Campbell University's new School of Osteopathic Medicine will extend across North Carolina as the state's population ages.

But as a governor through bruising economic times, Perdue also had short-term goals in mind at Thursday's groundbreaking for the school along U.S 421 in Harnett County.

"Right now, it's show me the money, and show me the jobs," she said.

The school should have plenty of both. A feasibility study estimated the school will have a $300 million impact on the region's economy - including 1,158 new jobs - in its first 10 years.
About 300 people gathered in the cold Thursday morning to celebrate the start of construction on what will be the state's fifth medical school and the first to open since East Carolina University's in 1977.

Although the event was complete with ceremonial shovels and hard hats, work already has begun on the site. The school is scheduled to open in August 2013 and enroll about 600 students by its fourth year.

The new 90,000-square-foot building will be named for Leon Levine, founder of the Family Dollar chain of stores and a native of Rockingham.

Campbell President Jerry Wallace, a notoriously dogged fundraiser who also is a Rockingham native, said Levine founded a scholarship at Campbell for first-generation college students. After that, Levine's representatives asked what else the university was up to.

"Of course, I saw that as an open door," Wallace said.

The medical school wasn't even an idea then, but that conversation ultimately led to a naming contribution toward the $60 million facility.

The school will be the second largest in the state behind the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It will be the only school training osteopathic doctors, who emphasize wellness and disease prevention alongside traditional methods.

By 2030, 71 of 100 counties in North Carolina will have more residents over 60 years old than under 17, the governor said.

"This shift has enormous implications," Perdue said, suggesting that the new school will need to "focus like a laser on primary family medicine."

Campbell will focus on preparing doctors to work in historically underserved rural areas. Dr. John Kauffman Jr., the new school's dean, said North Carolina ranks 35th among states for its number of primary care doctors.

"The future, however, is bright," he said.

Thursday's event saw Campbell benefactors, alumni and staff join state and local leaders in celebrating the ambition and growth of a private university that began with 16 students almost 125 years ago. Wallace said the new medical school could be the university's most significant accomplishment yet.

"As Barney would say to Andy," Wallace quipped, "this is big."

Staff writer Gregory Phillips can be reached at phillipsg@fayobserver.com or 486-3596.
At Duke, kidney transplants went well, doctors say

BY MARTHA QUILLIN - mquillin@newobserver.com

A pair of living-donor kidney transplant surgeries performed at Duke University Medical Center this week appear to have been successful, doctors say.

The operations involved two people who needed kidney transplants and two willing to give one kidney each.

"I'm sore, but I'm doing fine," said Jennifer Gommer, 39, of Holly Springs, who originally offered one of her kidneys to her mother but wasn't a match.

Her mom, Sue Gommer, was matched to Brad Dean, 43, president of the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, who had offered to give a kidney if a donor needed one because he felt it was the right thing to do.

And Jennifer's kidney went to Jeffrey Rogers, 42, a former construction worker from Robeson County.

The unusual arrangement is called a paired donation or domino transplant. The first was performed in 2001 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Duke officials had believed theirs was the first in North Carolina, but Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte did its first paired kidney transplant in June 2008. A team at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine and Pitt County Memorial Hospital expects to do a similar series of operations involving three donor-recipient pairs. A university spokesman said those surgeries are set for next week.

Good news for paired-donation surgery

The pairings with living donors allow recipients to bypass years-long waiting lists for organs from deceased donors. A kidney from a living donor also generally has a better chance of functioning properly once it's transplanted, and will usually last longer than one from a deceased donor.

In the surgeries done Monday, everything seemed to go as expected, according to Dr. Matt Ellis, head of Duke's kidney transplant program.

"Everyone is doing well," Ellis said. "They're recovering right along the course that we think they should."
Jennifer Gommer left the hospital on Tuesday. Ellis said Dean, Sue Gommer's donor, may have been released Thursday. Both kidney recipients should go home over the weekend.

Proponents of domino-transplant procedures eventually hope to see a statewide database that could make the complex matches quicker and easier, and make it possible for the surgeries to take place in different hospitals instead of in multiple operating rooms in one hospital.

Jennifer Gommer said her mother is doing well and that her new kidney began working right away.

Jennifer said she had not met Rogers, who received her kidney, while she was at Duke, but that his family had spoken to her in the hallway to thank her for her donation.

Jennifer, a pharmacist, said she planned to take some time off from work to recover and help her mother once she's home from the hospital.

In the meantime, she said, "I've got a Christmas party to go to this weekend, and I'm planning on making it."

Quillin: 919-829-8989
NCCU seeks 10% tuition increase

BY JANE STANCILL - jstancill@newsobserver.com

DURHAM N.C. Central University's trustees approved a 10 percent tuition increase for in-state undergraduates for 2012-13, plus a hike of $100 per student each year for four subsequent years. With Friday's vote, NCCU joined UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State in seeking multiyear increases in the aftermath of state budget cuts this year. The tuition proposal will move to the UNC system's Board of Governors, which is expected to consider the campus requests early next year.

NCCU undergraduates from North Carolina would pay $292 more next year, and graduate students would pay an additional $342 under the plan.

"Any increase in tuition and fees is too much for low-wealth students to have to pay," Chancellor Charlie Nelms said in a news release Friday. "We have attempted to balance our commitment to access, affordability and quality. Low cost but poor quality is not a bargain for anyone."

The money generated next year, $2.4 million, would go toward expanded course offerings, student and classroom support services and need-based financial aid, the university said. In subsequent years, the $100 surcharge would add $782,000 annually to the university's budget.

Nelms and other UNC system leaders have said repeated state budget cuts during the past few years have taken a toll on the classroom. This year, NCCU was hit with a state funding reduction of $13 million, or 14 percent.

The trustees also voted to increase annual fees for dining, housing, health services, athletics, education and technology, and student activities by amounts averaging about 6 percent. In the current year at NCCU, tuition and required fees are $4,720 for in-state undergraduates and $15,293 for out-of-state students. That does not include costs for room, food and books.

Stancill: 919-829-4559
Fedora's 7-year contract worth $1.7M a year

BY ANDREW CARTER - acarter@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL – The University of North Carolina's hiring of Larry Fedora as its head football coach was approved by the university's board of trustees during a meeting Friday.

Here's a quick look at details for Fedora's contract:

Fedora and North Carolina agreed on a 7-year deal. Five-year deals are usually standard for a new coach, but Fedora received an extra two because UNC placed itself on two years of probation amid the NCAA investigation into impermissible benefits and academic fraud within the football program.

Fedora's base salary will be $350,000 per year. He'll also receive an additional annual compensation of $1,350,000. That adds up to a total package of $1.7 million per year.

That number does not include Fedora's media and apparel contracts, which he is expected to sign with outside sources.

Fedora will receive a one-time payment of $400,000 on or before Jan. 31, 2012.

He'll also be given an annual expense allowance of $30,000.

Bonuses: There are several. Let's start with the achievement bonuses. Fedora will receive a bonus of one-twelfth of his base salary ($350,000) for the following: winning the ACC Coastal Division; winning the ACC championship game; appearing in a non-BCS bowl game; for coaching a team with an APR that equals or exceeds 960.

He will receive a bonus of two-twelfths of his salary for appearing in a BCS bowl game. Fedora would receive $200,000 for coaching the Tar Heels to an appearance in the BCS national title game.

There are also retention bonuses that will go into effect in 2015. If Fedora is still UNC's coach on Jan. 15, 2015, he would receive a bonus of $100,000. If he's still North Carolina's coach one year later, on Jan. 15, 2016, he would receive a bonus of $200,000. The bonus would increase incrementally by
$50,000 for the duration of the contract. So if Fedora is North Carolina's coach on Jan. 15, 2019, he would receive a bonus of $350,000.

Va. Tech gunman described by Radford classmate as a ‘typical college kid’

By Justin Jouvenal and Jenna Johnson

RADFORD, VA. — Brittany Perry, a senior at Radford University, saw her friend Ross Ashley regularly in the past few weeks. The two used to work together as stagehands at the university’s Bondurant Auditorium, and he’d walk her home after late-night productions.

Perry said nothing had seemed amiss with Ashley. No drugs. No money problems. No mental-health issues that he spoke about.

“It seemed like he had his head straight,” Perry said.

On Monday, she waved at him as she headed to class. Days later, police said, Ashley, a 22-year-old part-time student, flashed a gun to steal a white Mercedes-Benz sport-utility vehicle from a woman at a real estate company that managed his apartment building. On Thursday, they said, he abandoned that SUV at nearby Virginia Tech, fatally shot a campus police officer and then killed himself.

The violent turn shocked Ashley’s friends, who said they had seen no signs he was troubled or angry.

“I never would have expected this. I mean, he was a nice guy,” said Garrett Manion, 21, a senior geology major at Radford who lived with Ashley last year. “I didn’t believe it at first.”
Police, who are still searching for a motive in the attacks, identified Ashley as the gunman who shot Tech Officer Deriek W. Crouse, 39, as he sat in an unmarked squad car in a campus parking lot. The shooting prompted a nearly four-hour-long lockdown at Tech and drudged up painful memories of April 16, 2007, when a student gunman killed 32 people and himself in the worst campus massacre in history.

Police have said they had not found any connection between Crouse and Ashley, and they think Ashley acted alone. Virginia State Police continued to work on the case through the weekend but are not expected to announce any new information until next week, said spokeswoman Corrine Geller.

Ashley graduated from Spotsylvania High School in 2007, where he played football and won academic awards. He enrolled at the University of Virginia’s Wise County campus for the 2007-08 school year, then transferred to Radford, a small public school nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains about 15 miles south of Virginia Tech. Ashley was a senior business management major who enrolled in two classes this semester, according to a school spokeswoman.

Ashley looked like an average college student, Manion said, with his hair buzzed short and a wardrobe mostly composed of sweatpants and sweatshirts. He skateboarded, watched TV with his roommates and worked behind the scenes for theater productions.

Perry said Ashley liked Jay-Z and Motown, favored baseball caps and liked to work out at the gym.

Jade Jackson, who said she was Ashley’s resident adviser at Radford last year, said he got in trouble for breaking a chair in his dorm room, skateboarding in the hallways and smoking. But at his core, he seemed like a nice guy.

“Yes, he was occasionally in trouble, but he never seemed depressed. He never seemed to be having a hard time,” Jade Jackson said.

Doug Mead, the technical director for the Department of Student Activities at Bondurant Auditorium, hired Ashley to work on the stage crew at the auditorium more than a year ago. Ashley would help set up lighting and other elements for shows.

“He was a pretty typical college kid. He wasn’t a standout worker, but he wasn’t the worst I ever had,” Mead said. “It was a complete and utter shock what happened.”
Mead said Ashley did not seem troubled and did not have a reputation as a partier. The students that worked on his crew said Ashley was not a heavy drinker or drug user.

Ashley was supposed to work for Mead again this year, but he missed a mandatory meeting and Mead never heard from him again. He assumed Ashley no longer wanted the job.

This school year, Ashley lived off-campus in his own apartment in a gray three-story building in the heart of downtown Radford. Several of his neighbors said Ashley mostly kept to himself and was soft-spoken.

“He wasn’t out of the ordinary,” said Paul Stinnett. “He didn’t stick out.”

Staff writer Jenna Johnson reported from Washington.
Citadel deals with fallout from sex abuse claim

By BRUCE SMITH - Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C.—At The Citadel, a storied bastion of Southern heritage, a barracks plaque enshrines a quote from Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee: "Duty is the sublimest word in the English language."

Now the state military college is doing some very public soul searching over whether the school indeed did its duty by nine young boys in the Charleston area who say they were abused by a man who once was a counselor at the school's summer camp.

As authorities prepare to prosecute ex-counselor Louis ReVille for crimes allegedly committed after he left the school, the Citadel's president has acknowledged that the college should have contacted police in 2007 when a former camper told Citadel officials he had been abused by ReVille five years earlier. Instead, the college conducted its own internal investigation - which a school attorney hoped at the time would prevent a criminal investigation or a lawsuit, according to emails - but did not tell police.

The college has hired an outside firm to review how it handled the complaint and has also asked state Attorney General Alan Wilson to appoint a special counsel to investigate how the accusation was handled.

"At the time we took what we thought were the necessary steps. It's now clear we should have done more," the Citadel's president, retired Lt. Gen. John Rosa, said last week.

The school's response to the abuse allegation "is unfortunately pretty typical," said Ron Hughes, a psychologist and social worker who is president of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

He said whether it be Penn State, where former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky allegedly assaulted children over the span of 15 years, or the abuse scandal in the Catholic Church, many organizations think they can avoid publicity and conduct internal investigations of a complicated issue. That's always a mistake, he said, adding that attorneys or administrators are just not equipped to investigate sex abuse allegations.

He said they have a bias toward believing and supporting their own staff. In addition, organizations tend to underestimate the psychological
sophistication of sex offenders and overestimate the ability of attorneys or other staffers to conduct complex child abuse investigations.

ReVille, 32, a Citadel graduate, is charged with molesting nine youngsters when he was a teacher and coach in Charleston area schools, recreation programs and churches after leaving the Citadel. He was arrested in October and authorities say additional charges are expected.

When news of the arrest broke, The Citadel did not release information about ReVille's time as a counselor. But then there was an about-face at the college whose cadets live by the code that a cadet doesn't lie, cheat or steal or tolerate those who do.

They later acknowledged that ReVille reportedly lured campers into his room with Chinese food and pizza where he showed pornographic videos and the counselor and campers masturbated together.

That allegation came the year after the college closed its summer camp, which once hosted as many as 500 children a year.

The camp was closed after the Citadel reached a $3.8 million settlement with five campers who alleged they had been sexually abused by Marine Capt. Michael Arpaio, a counselor between 1995 and 2001. Arpaio pleaded guilty to multiple charges in 2003 following a military court-martial and served 15 months at the Charleston Naval Brig.

Rosa said the 2007 accuser and his family stressed the importance of privacy, that ReVille was an award-winning cadet and denied the allegation.

"When the family did not pursue the matter, we did not either," Rosa said. "We should have."

Instead the college, which famously fought for years in the 1990s to keep women out of its then all-male Corps of Cadets, had its own attorney do an internal investigation, according to documents released last month.

"I am hopeful that, by conducting an investigation on behalf of the school, no 'formal' investigation - criminal or civil - will occur," said a May 8, 2007, e-mail from Mark Brandenburg, the college's general counsel. "Of course, I cannot guarantee that, as I have no control over what the complainant does."

The college has not made Brandenburg available for interviews.

Hughes, the psychologist and abuse expert, said that when an institution tries investigating itself in a case like this, "There's a naivete about their capacity to handle and a lack of understanding of the dynamics of that kind of abuse.
The expectation is if you confront the person and do it behind the scenes you protect the organization," he said.

"It might be they can stop the abuse of the particular child who brings the complaint but in the dynamics of pedophilia, it's the other 20 victims in the future that need protecting."

Pedophiles can be sophisticated and manipulative and can easily "deceive the children, the parents and the institution," Hughes said. "Dissembling is a basic part of how they do their activity."

ReVille is in jail with bond set at $1.4 million. His attorney said at a bond hearing that his client is "extremely remorseful" for the pain he has caused, denied the 2007 allegation.

The 2007 victim is the son of a Citadel graduate, and did not go to the police. In a redacted deposition, the victim said he didn't want any trouble for The Citadel but that the incident had "put him in a hole" and added, "I do expect some sort of compensation."

The request for compensation doesn't mean the allegation is false, said Christine James-Brown, the president and CEO of the Child Welfare League of America.

"That does not in any way negate the need for us to respond to any type of suspicion," she said. "There are hundreds of other children who have been compromised and are not looking for compensation."

She said that each year in the United States there are about 70,000 substantiated cases of child sexual abuse with thousands more unreported.
December 9, 2011

**With Lobbying Blitz, For-Profit Colleges Diluted New Rules**

Associated Press Photo

Cass R. Sunstein, the White House official who oversees rulemaking, described the industry’s aggressive efforts regarding for-profit schools as “extreme.”

By ERIC LICHTBLAUF

WASHINGTON — Last year, the Obama administration vowed to stop for-profit colleges from luring students with false promises. In an opening volley that shook the $30 billion industry, officials proposed new restrictions to cut off the huge flow of federal aid to unfit programs.

But after a ferocious response that administration officials called one of the most intense they had seen, the Education Department produced a much-weakened final plan that almost certainly will have far less impact as it goes into effect next year.

The story of how the for-profit colleges survived the threat of a major federal crackdown offers a case study in Washington power brokering. Rattled by the administration’s tough talk, the colleges spent more than $16 million on an all-star list of prominent figures, particularly Democrats with close ties to the White House, to plot strategy, mend their battered image and plead their case.

Anita Dunn, a close friend of President Obama and his former White House communications director, worked with Kaplan University, one of the embattled school networks. Jamie Rubin, a major fund-raising bundler for the president’s re-election campaign, met with administration officials about ATI, a college network based in Dallas, in which Mr. Rubin’s private-equity firm has a stake.
A who’s who of Democratic lobbyists — including Richard A. Gephardt, the former House majority leader; John Breaux, the former Louisiana senator; and Tony Podesta, whose brother, John, ran Mr. Obama’s transition team — were hired to buttonhole officials.

And politically well-connected investors, including Donald E. Graham, chief executive of the Washington Post Company, which owns Kaplan, and John Sperling, founder of the University of Phoenix and a longtime friend of the House minority leader, Nancy Pelosi, made impassioned appeals.

In all, industry advocates met more than two dozen times with White House and Education Department officials, including senior officials like Education Secretary Arne Duncan, records show, even as Mr. Obama has vowed to reduce the “outsized” influence of lobbyists and special interests in Washington.

The result was a plan, completed in June, that imposes new regulations on for-profit schools to ensure they adequately train their students for work, but does so on a much less ambitious scale than the administration first intended, relaxing the initial standards for determining which schools would be stripped of federal financing.

“The haranguing had zero effect,” said Cass R. Sunstein, the White House official who oversees rule making. Rather, he and other administration officials said they listened to what they viewed as reasonable arguments and decided to narrow the scope of the original plan.

But Robert Shireman, a former Education Department official who helped shape that original plan, said the intense politics surrounding the issue played a part in “watering down” the final result.

“From early on, the industry was going to friends inside and out of the administration and saying, ‘They’re out to get us,’ and creating the impression that these regulations were unfair or irrational,” said Mr. Shireman, who left the department before the plan was finished.

“They decided to raise holy hell,” he said in an interview.

Many colleges saw the federal government’s attacks as “Armageddon for the industry,” said Avy Stein, a partner at a private equity fund that owns a network of schools called Education Corporation of America.

The industry was on the defensive after a series of federal investigations portrayed it as rife with abuse. They found that recruiters would lure students — often members of minorities, veterans, the homeless and low-income people — with promises of quick degrees and post-graduation jobs but often leave them poorly prepared and burdened with staggering federal loans.

In response to the rising concerns, 18 months ago the Obama administration proposed its tough restrictions linking tens of billions of dollars in federal student aid to formulas measuring students’ debt levels and income after graduation. Colleges whose students were not earning enough money to start paying back their loans would be in danger of losing federal aid altogether.
The proposal was aimed at ensuring that the for-profit schools were providing “gainful employment” in a wide range of vocational fields they taught, like medical testing, massage therapy, business management and cosmetology. The joke in Washington, however, was that the industry effort to defeat the plan mainly ensured “gainful employment” for the capital’s Democratic lobbyists and political consultants.

In a coordinated approach that also included Capitol Hill protests, petition drives, newspaper ads and more, industry advocates stressed that jobs that would be lost if the institutions were put out of business. They questioned why nonprofit schools were untouched. And they accused the administration of highlighting some abuses to stigmatize an industry that educates second-chance students shunned by traditional academia.

“It was a demonization of our sector,” said Penny Lee, who leads an industry coalition and has extensive ties to Democratic politics as a former senior aide to Senator Harry Reid of Nevada.

The industry’s mobilization helped produce a record 90,000 public comments to the Education Department — overwhelmingly negative — on the proposed changes.

The battle got so testy that Senator Tom Harkin, the Iowa Democrat who has led Congressional hearings into the colleges, got into a heated exchange with Mr. Stein, the Education Corporation investor.

The senator said that during a hallway conversation after lunch in the Senate dining room, Mr. Stein promised to “make life rough for me” if Mr. Harkin kept up his attacks.

“I took it as a threat — it was one of the most blatant comments ever made to me in my years in the Senate,” Mr. Harkin said.

Mr. Stein, a frequent Democratic donor who had bought the lunch with the senator at a charity auction, would not discuss the details of the conversation. But he said Mr. Harkin’s account was “totally incorrect,” adding: “Under no circumstances would I ever threaten a U.S. senator.”

Officials at the White House and the Education Department described the industry’s aggressive efforts as unusual even by Washington standards. Mr. Sunstein, the White House official, characterized the intensity as “extreme.”

That response reflected the enormous financial stakes for an industry that has become big business in the last decade, with online schools and traditional campuses offering degrees to about three million students. Schools receive as much as 90 percent of their revenues from federal aid.

Once small, local operations, many of the colleges are now multistate networks owned by Wall Street firms looking for big profits. Consumer groups sought tougher restrictions, but found themselves outmatched. Pauline Abernathy, vice president with the nonprofit Institute for College Access and Success and an industry critic, said: “We always knew that we couldn’t compete with the colleges in terms of money or lobbyists, but we thought we had the facts on our side.”
The colleges pushed back at critics, finding errors, for instance, in conclusions from a Government Accountability Office investigation last year, forcing the office to revise some of its statements about industry practices.

Schools also questioned the motives of a key witness at Mr. Harkin’s hearings, the noted hedge-fund trader Steve Eisman, who blasted the colleges’ sky-high profit margins and likened them to subprime mortgage lenders. After Mr. Eisman acknowledged he held financial positions in the industry, the colleges charged that he stood to make millions by battering their reputations and short-selling their stocks.

Ms. Dunn, the former White House aide hired by Kaplan, played a key role in helping shape the colleges’ message.

In an interview, she said she worked to refute media reports casting the abuse problems as industrywide and to show they were limited to “a few bad actors.”

While some people in the industry pushed to see the regulations killed altogether, she said that most executives realized that there were going to be regulations they had to live with” and aimed to blunt the impact. While Ms. Dunn visited the White House about 80 times since leaving the administration, she said she was careful to avoid talking to former colleagues about the issue because she is not a lobbyist and such contact would violate the ethics policies put in place by Mr. Obama regarding lobbying by former advisers.

Tony Podesta, who met last May with White House officials and sent lobbyists at his firm to other meetings, faced no such restrictions. “The administration realized they had overdone it,” he said, “and, wisely in my view, they took a second look.”

In the end, Mr. Duncan and his department, after working for months with White House budget, economic and domestic policy officials, decided that the initial criteria for determining how effectively schools prepared students for jobs simply went too far.

The original framework “would have unnecessarily eliminated many, many good schools along with the bad,” said Justin Hamilton, an Education Department spokesman.

The final standards leave a maximum of 5 percent of schools facing financial sanctions at the start; the original plan would have meant penalties against an estimated 16 percent.

The rules also pushed back the penalties to 2015 from 2012, while requiring schools to disclose more data about loans, defaults and job placement.

Donald Heller, a Penn State education professor who studied the plan, said the industry did largely what it set out to do.

“This was the beachhead the colleges were going to defend, and they were somewhat successful in that they got the regulations weakened,” he said. “The Department of Education really bent to the lobbying push.”

Barclay Walsh contributed research for this article.