THE DAILY CLIPS

December 24, 2010

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

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
    The New York Times
    The Wall Street Journal
    USA Today
    The Charlotte Observer
    The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
    Newsweek
    U.S. News & World Report
    Business Week
    Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback David Garrard, who enjoyed a record-setting collegiate career at East Carolina, and his wife, Mary, have committed $250,000 as a Leadership Gift Donor in the Pirate Club's “Step Up To The Highest Level Campaign,” aimed towards athletic facility additions and expansion.

The public phase of the $15 million capital campaign, an initiative to provide private funding for a practice facility utilized by the ECU men's and women's basketball programs, was officially announced in early November. The Garrards, along with 29 other top donors who have committed from $100,000 to $2 million, were recently introduced during halftime of the Pirates’ contest against Navy at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

“As former student-athletes at East Carolina University, Mary and I believe that it is important to give back to our university to help perpetuate the experience we both enjoyed during our college years,” David Garrard said. “We are proud of all the athletic facility improvements which have been constructed or are being constructed on ECU’s campus, from the recent end zone expansion of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium bringing its seating capacity to 50,000 seats, to new venues for softball, soccer and track. We are proud of our East Carolina University experience and equally proud of efforts to give all Pirate student-athletes the opportunity to practice and play in first-class venues.

“Further, we thank God that we have been blessed, and as a result are in a position to make a leadership commitment to this important campaign.”
Zak McLamb, left, and Jeff Ferber haul a Coke machine up the stairs at the Whichard Building Annex Monday afternoon on East Carolina University's campus. McLamb said he and Ferber, both Coca-Cola Bottling Company employees, were placing an average of 10 machines a day on campus.

Coke wins ECU pouring rights
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, December 23, 2010

East Carolina University is switching from a Pepsi campus to a Coke campus, school officials announced Wednesday. University officials in November awarded exclusive pouring rights to Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated after reviewing proposals from Coke and other distributors.

The contract gives Coke the exclusive right to sell its products on campus for a period of 10 years beginning Jan. 1, 2011. It replaces the previous contract with Minges Bottling Group, a Pepsi-Cola company, which had been in place since 1998.

The Minges family is a longtime ECU supporter. The university's coliseum bears the family's name. The East Carolina University Board of Trustees was advised of the award at its November meeting.

State requirements to separately request proposals for soft drinks, juice, and bottled water complicated the process, said Scott Buck, associate vice chancellor for administration and finance—business services. Coca-Cola's combined bids totaled $10.5 million for the 10-year period.

“We have enjoyed a positive working relationship with Pepsi and the Minges Bottling Group and have a tremendous respect for the Minges family and their ties to East Carolina and the region,” Buck said. “This new contract represents the beginning of a new relationship, and we are extremely pleased with the generous commitment that Coke has made to ECU.”

ECU followed the trend of most other universities in the 1990s of awarding an exclusive contract to a beverage provider in order to generate revenue for the school. Canned,
bottled, and fountain drinks sold or distributed on campus, in university dining halls, cafes and convenience shops, as well as at all athletic concessions, special events, and vending machines are covered under the contract.

The university will allocate the revenue from the new contract to academic merit scholarships, athletic scholarships and leadership and educational projects. The athletics department will receive funding for capital projects. A percentage will go to an endowment fund for academic scholarships, an endowment fund for grants-in-aid to student-athletes. And a portion will go to continue funding a staff-faculty textbook loan program and faculty-student leadership programs.

The contract goes into effect Jan. 1 but vending machines are being installed now. “We expect a smooth transition as campus facilities and equipment are changed from one provider to the other,” said Lee. “Students, staff and faculty will see the changes when they return for the spring semester after the holidays.”

One thing that will not immediately change is the price. Under the new contract, vending prices will remain the same for most products for at least three years. After that time, pricing will be evaluated, and any decisions to adjust prices will be made jointly.

Representatives of the local Coca-Cola bottler said they are excited to be back on ECU’s campus. Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated has corporate offices in Charlotte and has exclusive rights on several college campuses, including N.C. State, West Virginia, Clemson and the University of South Carolina.

Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated carries a number of different popular brands in almost every category. Coke's lineup includes traditional soft drinks such as Coke, Diet Coke, Coke Zero, Cherry Coke, Sprite, Sprite Zero, Mello Yello, Dr. Pepper, Diet Dr. Pepper, Fanta Orange and Grape, Seagram's Ginger Ale, Nestea, Hi-C, and Sundrop. Additionally, Coke will be offering juice products, such as Minute Maid, Fuze, V8 Splash and V8 Fusion blends, as well as bottled water products that include Dasani, Vitaminwater, and Smartwater.

Coke will also carry Powerade, Full Throttle and NOS in the isotonic and energy drink categories.

While not all types of beverages will be offered at every venue, the product assortment will be adjusted based on product sales and customer preference in specific areas.

For more information, visit http://www.ecu.edu/vending/coke.cfm
East Carolina University is in the process of purchasing an adjacent apartment complex to make way for more athletic parking. “Nothing is done yet, but we are in discussions to purchase Stratford Arms Apartments,” university spokesman John Durham said.

Plans call for the site to be converted into parking for the athletic facilities directly across from the complex on Charles Boulevard, including Dowdy-Ficklen and Clark-LeClair stadiums.

A price has not been set, Durham said. The ECU Real Estate Foundation, an arm of the ECU Foundation, would purchase the site and the university would reimburse the organization at a later time.

The owners of Stratford Arms could not be reached for comment. The estimated market value of the site is more than $3 million, according to public parcel information available online from Pitt County.

The 12-acre site is listed as having 15 buildings and was constructed in 1965. There are several levels of approval for this kind of purchase, Durham said. While few developments are expected in the next couple weeks due to the holidays, the issue will likely be on the agenda at the next trustee meeting scheduled for February.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or (252) 329-9567.
Dave Lebo lends experience to Conley
By Ronnie Woodward
The Daily Reflector
Friday, December 24, 2010

Dave Lebo isn't your typical high school assistant basketball coach.

He's not in his 20s or 30s. He's 66 to be exact. Lebo also doesn't keep stats or hold a clipboard during games.

And unlike most high school assistant coaches, he's already won four state championships as a head coach and is a member of a hall of fame for his coaching accomplishments.

Lebo, the father of first-year East Carolina men's basketball coach Jeff Lebo, is volunteering with the D.H. Conley boys' basketball team this season. Lebo's goal while on the Viking coaching staff is to spread his wealth of basketball knowledge to the Conley youngsters.

He has more than 40 years of coaching experience and is most recognized for his work at Carlisle (Pa.) High School, where he compiled a 365-149 record while coaching all but two years from 1977-98. Lebo also coached at East Pennsboro High in Enola, Pa., from 1970-77, spent 12 years as an assistant for his son at the Division I collegiate level and was a head coach at Division III Elizabethtown College in Kentucky for a season.

“There isn't much I haven't seen or been through in basketball,” said Lebo, who was the 1988 National Coach of the Year at the prep level.
Lebo, who was inducted into the South Central Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 2007, went 118-11 at Carlisle from 1985-88, winning four straight state titles. Jeff Lebo was on his first state championship team in 1985.

“He's really good at the small things when it comes to running plays,” Conley post player Adam Vos said about his new coach. “With one play specifically, I am kind of inclined to turn one way but he taught me to swoop around where I can seal off the defender and have an open look at the basket.”

Jeff Lebo, whether purposely or not, served as a facilitator between his dad and DHC head coach Rob Maloney. While speaking at a high school coaching clinic in Greensboro during the summer, Jeff mentioned that his dad had moved to the area and his services were available.
Maloney, a coaching veteran himself, didn't hesitate. “I got in touch with Jeff and a phone call led to a meeting, and here we are,” Maloney said.

Lebo admits that coaching at D.H. Conley is not what he envisioned himself doing at this time last year.

The Lebo duo coached at Auburn from 2004-2010. Jeff was fired by the Tigers on March 12 and hired by the Pirates on March 22.

“It's kind of hard when you're coaching against Kentucky one day and Rose High School or West Craven the next,” said Dave Lebo, who paused for a couple of seconds before uttering West Craven, possibly revealing his newness with the area. “But it's been fun. Basketball is my passion.”

Maloney originally asked Lebo to be a paid assistant, but he declined the money and offered to be a volunteer instead. He has been at all of Conley's practices and games. Although he enjoyed coaching at the collegiate level, Lebo said he prefers coaching high-schoolers.

“If I could come out here nine hours a day and just coach basketball, I would love that,” he said. “I've been (coaching) in high school for most of my life and I tell people all the time that if you want to be a big influence on a young person, coach at a high school.”
As for the fact that he's roughly twice the age of most assistants at the prep level, Lebo said he doesn't mind — or at least doesn't notice.

“If people say stuff, I don't notice,” he said. “I just look at myself as a monumental resource for Rob.”

Contact Ronnie Woodward at rwoodward@reflector.com or (252) 329-9592
In tough times, Perdue loses budget director

Gov. Bev Perdue is losing her budget director as she prepares for the worst budget crisis since the Great Depression.

Charles Perusse has been named vice president for finance of the 17-campus University of North Carolina system by President-elect Tom Ross. The appointment is effective no later than March 1, giving Perusse time to prepare Perdue's budget recommendations to the legislature.

His departure had been rumored for weeks.

He will be overseeing UNC's $7.4 billion budget, rather than the state's $21 billion budget.

Perusse will see his salary rise from $153,000 annually as state budget officer to $230,000 per year as UNC vice president.

Chrissy Pearson, spokeswoman for Gov. Bev Perdue, said Perusse's departure was at his initiation and that the governor neither asked for nor wanted his resignation. Perusse declined to be interviewed. But he issued a statement through the Governor's Office calling it "a very difficult decision" and praising his staff. "I will stay on for several more weeks as we finish preparing the governor's budget; it is important for me to do that," Perusse said.

He said the opportunity of working for UNC was a challenge he could not pass up.

Tweet: It's Hackney
The official news couldn't beat the tweets out of the closed-door Democratic House caucus meeting Tuesday. The group elected Rep. Joe Hackney of Orange County minority leader.

Hackney was House speaker for two terms. Democrats lost the House last month, so Hackney will hand the gavel to speaker-in-waiting Thom Tillis, a Mecklenburg County Republican.

Newly elected member Marcus Brandon of Greensboro and Rep. Tricia Cotham of Charlotte delivered the news of Hackney's election on their Twitter pages.
The official word on Hackney: He was elected unanimously, and after the caucus said quality education, job creation and fair redistricting would be caucus priorities. "We know what kind of North Carolina the people of this state have come to expect," Hackney said in a statement. "They want us to protect education at all levels. They want us to protect investment in job creation programs and they want a chance to fairly elect the people who represent them.

"We will join with Republicans when they are on the right path, but we will vigorously oppose any efforts to undermine progress in these areas."

**Tougher donations law**

Last month, Dome reported that Wake County District Attorney Colon Willoughby called on legislators to get tougher with big-money political donors who seek to circumvent the $4,000 limit on donations by giving employees or family members cash to give to a campaign.

As of Dec. 1, giving in excess of $10,000 is now a felony. The penalty, long a low-level misdemeanor, was toughened as part of the sweeping ethics bill passed by legislators last summer.

The change was made following the outcry over the case of Rusty Carter, a Wilmington businessman and major Democratic fundraiser convicted of illegally funneling more than $150,000 to candidates that included Gov. Bev Perdue and Senate leader Marc Basnight.

In a deal with prosecutors that allowed him to avoid jail time, Carter pleaded guilty this year to a misdemeanor and agreed to pay a $5,000 fine.

Under the newly enacted law, N.C.G.S. § 163-278.27 (a2), a person who intentionally violates the $4,000 cap per election is guilty of a Class I felony and could face from four to 10 months in prison, depending on his or her criminal record.

UPDATE: The lawyer for Fred Hobbs said the change will not affect the potential criminal case against his client because the former state senator's illegal donations came before the harsher penalty became law.

"You can't make criminal laws retroactive," said Michael Weisel, Hobbs' lawyer. "He faces whatever penalties may be imposed under the previous statute, which are misdemeanors."

The State Board of Elections voted unanimously J Dec. 8 to fine Hobbs $150,000 for illegal campaign contributions to Perdue, Basnight, former Gov. Mike Easley and former Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker. Hobbs, a Democrat, used employees of his Southern Pines engineering firm to send at least $148,000 in illegal contributions to the campaigns.

Staff writers Rob Christensen, Lynn Bonner and Michael Biesecker contributed to this report. rob.christensen@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4532