THE DAILY CLIPS

January 18, 2012

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by East Carolina University News Services:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
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Pope Gregory XIII chairs the commission for reforming the Julian calendar in 1582. Painting by G. Dagli Orti, De Agostini/Getty Images

New Calendar Would Add Extra Week to December
Leap could be "adult winter break with pay," economist quips.

John Roach for National Geographic News
Wish you'd had an extra holiday week this year? If a proposed permanent calendar is adopted in the next few years, you'll get one at the end of 2017. This "leap week" would occur every five or six years under the proposed Hanke-Henry Permanent Calendar.
The occasional extra December week would keep the months in tune with the seasons in a calendar that would otherwise stay the same year after year after year.
Without the addition of the extra week every five or six years, this 364-day calendar on a planet that circles its sun once every 365.2422 days would eventually put Christmas in the middle of the summer due to Earth's seasonal drift.
The periodic addition of an extra week would fix this, said Steve Hanke, an economics professor at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.
With the new calendar, Christmas and New Year's Day would always fall on a Sunday; U.S. tax day, April 15, would always fall on Sunday; and the Fourth of July would always fall on a Wednesday.

The calendar is broken up into four quarters, with three months each. The first two months are 30 days and the third is 31 days, adding up to a 91-day period. Four of these 91-day quarters make up a 364-day year of 52 weeks.

"You're getting regularity and even numbers when you are dividing" up the year, said Hanke, who developed the calendar with colleague Richard Conn Henry, a Johns Hopkins astronomer.

That "ends up being very important for things like making contracts; prescriptions for a druggist; interest-rate calculations; and any kind of financial instrument, whether it is a mortgage, a bond, a swap, or a fancy derivative."

**Leap Week's "Slight Monkey Wrench"**

A leap week does throw "a slight monkey wrench" into the financial instruments the proposed calendar aims to fix, said Hanke, who laid out the argument in January in an article in the Indonesian magazine Globe Asia.

That's because that extra week every five to six years may complicate some financial matters, for example a 30-year mortgage.

But those small problems might be easier to deal with than the system of conventions used around the world to account for the imperfect quarters and extra days in the current Gregorian calendar.

For example, to make things easy, the 30/360 convention widely used to set interest payments on bonds and mortgages divides the calendar into 12 even months of 30 days each.

The result, however, is lost revenue, since the world operates with a calendar of 365 days, Hanke noted. The world bond market, for example, misses U.S. $130 billion in interest payments a year. "That's the annual GDP of Hungary or Kuwait," he said.

The permanent calendar would do away with the 30/360 convention but still force accountants to account for the extra week every five or six years.

**Calendar Fix Respects Sabbath**

Though other strategies have been offered to improve the calendar, Hanke and team's fix is among the few that respects days set aside for religious worship.
Other prominent attempts at calendar reform, such as that of George Eastman of Eastman Kodak fame, would've simplified matters with a calendar of 13 months, each with 28 days. To account for seasonal drift, Eastman proposed the addition of an occasional, unnamed eighth day.

Yet such a proposal doesn't respect a religious day of rest—and thus the reform failed, according to Hanke.

"We've gotten around the problem," he said.

**Calendar Reform Lacks Power**

Richard McCarty, a philosopher and calendar-reform expert at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, said the Henry-Hanke Permanent Calendar "makes some sense."

Particularly appealing is the ease of scheduling for businesses and institutions such as universities, where semester start and end dates, for example, change every year, McCarty said.

But he also thinks the proposal "doesn't stand any chance at being adopted."

For one, there isn't much of a demand for calendar reform. The movement lacks eminent leaders such as Julius Caesar, who pushed through the Julian calendar in 46 B.C., and Pope Gregory XIII, who replaced the Julian calendar with our Gregorian calendar in 1582.

"These were very powerful people," McCarty said. "They had the ability to get the rest of the world to go along with them. Nobody has that power now."

But Hanke hopes his proposed calendar will go viral.

"The key thing here is spontaneity," he said. Ideas can randomly catch on "when you are doing science and present ideas."

"**Adult Winter Break**"

Another key obstacle is what to do with the leap week—or mini-month.

"People will have a hard time figuring out how that month relates to the rest of the months, how that relates in terms of paychecks and rents, and so on. That's going to be a puzzle," East Carolina's McCarty said.

Indeed, there would be a painful adjustment period, but at least everyone would be in the same boat, Hanke pointed out. In addition, the benefits to the economy in the long-term would be well worth the trouble, he said.

His advice? Take the extra week and relax.

"Think about it as an adult winter break—with pay."
The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was more than just a man with a dream, and Americans must do more to make his vision a reality, according to nationally known economist and author Julianne Malveaux, who spoke at East Carolina University on Tuesday night.

Malveaux said in her speech, “Visualizing the Dream,” given in honor of Martin Luther King Day at the East Carolina Heart Institute. Malveaux has written for national publications like USA Today and hosted TV programs on CNN and PBS as well as serving as president of Bennett College.

“I hate when people try to sanitize Dr. King,” Malveaux said. “Don’t write this man down as a man who just dreamed. He was passionate about eradicating poverty.”

Not many people know that in the famous “I Have a Dream” speech King gave in 1963, he also said, “in a sense we’ve come to the nation’s capital to cash a check.” He and his followers wanted to claim the equality promised to all men in America by the founding fathers, Malveaux said.

“Dr. King said he had a dream that one day his little girls would be judged not on the color of their skin but by the content of their character, but does the job market judge us that way?” Malveaux asked.
While the overall unemployment rate has gone down slightly, the black unemployment rate has risen to almost 30 percent, according to Malveaux. One in six Americans is poor, and “that should not be acceptable,” she said.

“Dr. King talked about capitalism in scathing terms, he talked about restructuring all of American society,” Malveaux said. “Today the top one percent own 42 percent of the wealth. This is why we have Occupy movements in cities across the nation.”

The news is not all negative, Malveaux said.

“There are no longer signs that say ‘White’ or ‘Colored,’ but the question is no longer can we ride the bus, it’s can we own the bus company or zone the routes?” Malveaux said.

The dream has not changed, Malveaux said.

“We’ve made progress but not enough,” she said. “We have to have the audacity he had to do more.”

All people are tied “in a single garment of destiny,” Malveaux quoted King, and so must work together to close the social and economic gap.

Malveaux urged the audience to go learn more about Dr. King.

“Don’t just read ‘I Have a Dream,’ she said. “Go read ‘Where do we go from here?’”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567 or on Twitter @JackieDrakeGDR.
Spotlight falls on music therapists

BY JAY PRICE - jprice@newsobserver.com

DURHAM They can calm anxious Alzheimer's patients and help preteen cancer victims forget that fifth needle of the day - or the fact that they haven't seen their friends and classmates in months.

Music therapists are even credited with helping U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona learn to speak again by helping rewire her bullet-damaged brain.

The profession still has a low profile, but it's rising after the publicity surrounding Giffords' case and a nationwide push to create state licensing for music therapists.

The licensing has been approved in three states and is under consideration in a dozen more, including North Carolina. Rep. Verla Insko, a Democrat from
Chapel Hill, introduced a bill last year to create a licensing board and believes it has a good chance of passing this spring.

There are about 160 music therapists in the state, including some who work in the children's wings of Triangle hospitals and in rest homes and psychiatric wards and in hospice work. The training is rigorous.

But despite mounting scientific evidence of the effectiveness of their work and a growing legion of admirers among doctors, nurses and patients, music therapists are still struggling to educate people about the serious nature of their work. The proposed licensing standards would require a four-year degree from an accredited program, at least 1,200 hours of clinical training and an exam administered by a national certification board.

Just the chance to make presentations to legislators about the profession felt like a victory of sorts, said Lauren DiMaio, a music therapist from Asheville who heads the committee of the N.C. Music Therapy Association that's trying to get licensing approved.

"My hope is that it passes, of course, but if nothing else, at least we're pleased with all the educating we have been doing," she said.

"People are beginning to get a better understanding of what we do."

There's not much educating required once you see a music therapist work, said Newell Price of Greensboro, whose son Dylan, 14, is 13 months into on-again, off-again treatment at UNC's N.C. Children's Hospital for a rare and aggressive form of leukemia.

He was diagnosed Jan. 1, 2011. Not long afterward, music therapist Elizabeth Fawcett walked into his room and started talking with him about music. He told her he had hoped to start learning guitar in 2011.

And that's what he did, with her help.

Throughout a hard year of illness, recovery and illness again, she became the part of his week that he knew he could look forward to, Newell Price said.

When the chemotherapy made even his hands hurt, Dylan would reluctantly tell her that he couldn't do his guitar lesson. Instead, they would work on a song they wrote together.

"The guitar gave him purpose," Newell Price said. "It was fun, but it was a lot more than just having fun.

"He wasn't in control of many things, but it gave him something he had control over, something he could look forward to every day, something he
could show her progress on, and even something that he could accomplish and show to his friends."

Dylan received a bone marrow transplant late last year and so far is cancer-free. He's still playing the guitar and amazing his friends, though he'll have to live in Chapel Hill awhile for follow-up visits to the hospital.

**Improving behavior**

Fawcett splits her time between pediatric patients - most with cancer - and the psychiatric ward, where she does morning programs for patients who mainly suffer from Alzheimer's.

UNC bumped her to full-time this summer after it became clear that the sessions for psychiatric patients were noticeably improving their behavior and quality of life.

She is the rare music therapist in the area who is considered officially part of the hospital staff. She also runs a private practice one day a week.

In part because the profession is still relatively young, many music therapists have to piece together incomes from several sources.

At Duke University Health System, music therapist Tray Batson works as a part-time contractor funded by grants and donations. He also is a music teacher at two area schools and has a band, Baron von Rumblebuss, that has cut two albums of children's music.

Batson said he would love to become part of the staff at the medical center, not just for the steadier pay, but also because he could gain full access to patient records, which would allow him to better design their therapy.

Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg, chief of Duke's Division of Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation, feels so strongly about the effects of Batson's work that she helps raise the $23,000 a year to pay him. Sometimes parents are so happy with the effects on their children that they donate.

When Batson starts working with an apprehensive kid who is getting a painful procedure, he makes music a kind of drug, Kurtzberg said.

"It essentially distances them from whatever procedure they're about to get," she said. "He's really remarkable, because he can judge what kind of music is going to work, and it essentially becomes a form of sedation.

"Whatever we have him involved in always works more smoothly," she said.
Degrees offered

Appalachian State University, East Carolina University and Queens College in Charlotte offer degrees in music therapy. There are now about 150 students at those schools, DiMaio said, and by helping make the work more viable the state could keep more of them in North Carolina.

DiMaio said it was important for the state to set standards and prevent those without training from claiming they offer proper therapy.

In Asheville, she said, one musician advertised therapeutic services and indicated that because she wasn't a fully trained music therapist, she was cheaper.

Also in Asheville, a local man is claiming that he can heal cancer through his music therapy, DiMaio said.

"It's Asheville, and there are all these interesting people around here who want to play music for people, and that's great, and I'm glad, but it's not music therapy," she said.

Last spring the bill was endorsed by the legislative Joint Committee on New Licensing and went to the House health committee.

Insko said it had bipartisan support in the joint committee and that there was no reason it shouldn't pass this session, especially since costs associated with the three-person board that would license and regulate the therapists would be covered by license fees.

"You have people going around presenting themselves as music therapists and charging people for it, and it's really the responsibility of the state to protect the public by setting a standard so that when our people are provided with what is supposed to be a therapeutic service, that's what they get," Insko said.

Newell Price said there was no doubt in his mind that's exactly what music provides when it comes from therapists like Elizabeth Fawcett

"The kids don't even have to be interested in music like Dylan," he said. "Just walking around, I've seen her with other kids, singing or playing, and it just puts a smile on their face. And this is a place where it's hard to find smiles sometimes."

Price: 919-829-4526
ECU student charged in sorority break-ins

By Kristin Zachary, The Daily Reflector

An East Carolina University student has been charged in connection with break-ins at four sorority houses near campus.

Greenville police spokesman Lt. Carlton Williams said Anthony Joseph Bertaux, 21, turned himself in Sunday night after detectives obtained warrants for his arrest.

He was charged with four felony counts of first-degree burglary for incidents on East Fifth Street on Jan. 10 and Jan. 11, Williams said.

The names of the three houses involved on Jan. 10 were not available from the police department. Bertaux allegedly broke into the Delta Zeta sorority house at 801 E. Fifth St. on Jan. 11.

Another ECU student, Michael James Ferguson, 19, was arrested at 4:17 a.m. on Jan. 11 in connection with that break-in.

He was charged with felony first-degree attempted burglary and consuming alcohol by a 19- or 20-year-old.

Ferguson was located near the sorority shortly after the incident by officers from ECU and the Greenville police departments, Williams said. He was taken to the Pitt County Detention Center.

His court date is Jan. 26 for both charges.

Williams said police on Friday still were trying to locate Bertaux.

Upon turning himself in Sunday night, Bertaux was taken to the detention center and placed under a $25,000 bond.

Contact Kristin Zachary at kzachary@reflector.com and 252-329-9566.
Poverty is a familiar feature of the holiday season, with the annual appeals to "give to the needy" or "consider those less fortunate." However, we rarely stop to think about what it actually means to be poor.

The federal government provides a useful starting point by publishing annual "poverty lines" for every family size. If a family's income is below the poverty line for its size, the family is considered poor for the purposes of federal support programs.

There are two connected problems with these poverty lines as a way to actually define poverty. The first is that they seem arbitrary. The federal government calculates poverty lines as three times the cost of food for a year in 1965, adjusted for inflation each year since. There's no clear reason to believe that definition would include the kinds of poverty we see around us.

The second problem with the federal poverty lines is that they are too low. The poverty line for a family of four in 2011 was $22,314, but we can easily imagine families struggling to get by at incomes above that.

One reason we know the government poverty lines are too low is the work of our local food pantries. These organizations often provide help to people who are well above the poverty lines. They don't do this because they are wasteful, but because they recognize that the families they work with often struggle to meet basic needs despite having incomes above the federal poverty lines.

We recommend adopting these organizations' definitions of poverty for government policy as well. Grass-roots organizations' familiarity with communities and families fighting poverty gives them a more accurate impression of what the definition of poverty might be, definitely more accurate than one based on the cost of food in 1965.

According to research, food pantries and similar organizations' definitions of poverty are around 180 percent of the poverty line, that is, considerably higher.
Through some basic analysis of census data, we can see what adopting the 180 percent line as the definition of poverty in North Carolina would have meant over the last nine years.

In every year since 2003, the number of North Carolinians under a 180 percent line hovers around 35 percent of the population, while the number of people falling below current poverty standards averages about 15 percent.

That is, the current poverty definitions show that approximately one in six people in North Carolina are in poverty. Using the more accurate 180 percent line would increase that proportion to one in three.

Those families who are above the current poverty lines but below the 180 percent line are much less likely to be eligible for most kinds of public support programs. The government's arbitrary definitions do not count them as poor, even though they may struggle to keep food on their tables.

Recent trends indicate acute challenges for both government and nonprofit social safety nets to continue providing service even at their current levels. The numbers of people under both lines have increased over the last several years because the general population has increased. More disturbingly, from 2009 to 2011 the percent of the population under the lower poverty line has increased relative to the 180 percent line.

The percentage of families in the worst situation is rising. More people are worse off than ever before.

This means that as food pantries see increased numbers of people, a greater proportion are in more desperate circumstances. More people will be eligible for government benefits, but as too many families know, government benefits can run out before the end of the month.

The first step in dealing with poverty is understanding its true scope. In the eyes of your local church, food pantry or charity providing emergency cash to pay the power bill, about 3 million North Carolinians would qualify for help. Not all of them seek help, but this is a much more realistic measure of potential need in our state.

If the opposite of concern is indifference, then we are as far from genuine concern over poverty as we can be. For there is no greater mark of indifference than to be uncounted.

Ben Chambers is a graduate student at the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill. Sharon Paynter is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at East Carolina University. Professor Maureen Berner of the UNC School of Government assisted with this article.
Coastal Studies Institute staff and board members, guests and community leaders enjoyed the view from the deep-water canal adjacent to the Marine Operations Building during a tour of the CSI campus construction site. (Neel Keller | Sentinel)

Coastal Studies campus to open in August

BY NEEL KELLER | SENTINEL STAFF

A two-day joint orientation meeting of the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) Foundation and Administrative Boards of Directors was held on Jan. 12 and 13 in Manteo and the Walter B. Jones Center for the Sounds in Columbia.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide the boards and the community with an overview of past and future CSI programs and an update on the CSI Skyco campus currently under construction.

The $32.5 million campus, progressing on schedule and slated to open in August, is expected to become a world-class facility in coastal research and education.

CSI Director Nancy White said that the institute has the three-fold mission of providing northeastern N.C. with a facility for "applied, mission-based, place-based research and education," focusing specifically on coastal
processes, estuarine ecology and coastal sustainability on the Outer Banks and other areas of coastal marine sciences not being addressed by other facilities in the state and providing public service and public education to northeastern N.C.

Planning began in the 1990s and the institute was established in 2002 as a partnership between North Carolina State University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, UNC Wilmington, East Carolina University and Elizabeth City State University. It was envisioned as a cutting edge research facility that would facilitate inter-disciplinary and inter-university collaboration free of the customary paperwork and funding red tape.

The original proposed site was on land donated by Dare County located next to the Dare County Regional Airport. When land was offered by the owners of property in the Skyco community, it was decided that this site would be more appropriate with its much larger area, water access and proximity to Oregon Inlet.

The land was purchased by the state in 2009 for $8.25 million. The design contract for the campus was awarded to lead architects Pearce, Brinkley, Cease and Lee, with construction management by Whiting-Turner. The 213-acre campus contains several different coastal ecosystems, including marshes, scrub wetlands, forested wetlands and sound waters.

Sustainable Design Specialist Robert McClendon is incorporating a wide array of sustainable elements in the design and construction of the campus and will seek LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. "Green" elements will include local and recycled content building materials, an innovative wastewater treatment system, created wetlands, bioretention areas, rainwater harvesting cisterns, a geothermal heating and cooling system and passive solar orientation and design to optimize seasonal heating and cooling.

Following the introductory remarks, board members, guests and community leaders including Dare County Manager Bobby Outten and Commissioner Richard Johnson took a tour of the construction site, located on N.C. Highway 345 north of Wanchese. Sporting orange hardhats, the tour participants gathered close to staff to hear details about the three levels of the Research and Education Building amidst the sounds of saws, hammers
and motorized construction equipment.

The Research Building will contain 60,000 square feet of classrooms, research and teaching laboratories and an auditorium. Residential buildings, which will be funded separately, will provide 15,000 square feet of short term housing for students and visiting scientists. The Marine Operations Building (15,000 square feet) will house and launch equipment, vehicles and vessels used in the institute's field research operations. A marina will provide berths and services for up to 10 vessels used for field research and education programming.

Students at the institute will include graduate and undergraduates from the five partner universities, students from grades K through 12 participating in field trips, day, overnight and residential programs, as well as a variety of teachers, scientists and professionals.

Nathan Richards, associate professor in the Maritime Studies Program at ECU and director of the CSI Maritime Heritage Program, described last fall's projects in collaboration with the Pocosin Arts Folk School in Columbia and ninth and tenth grade students from Columbia High School. The projects focused on locating and studying shipwrecks in the Scuppernong River and nearby waterways.

"The Scuppernong River Maritime Heritage Project was a great opportunity for us to merge research, teaching and outreach in collaboration with the community," said Richards, explaining that he was able to combine his Advanced Methods in Maritime Archaeology class with a project to begin a resources inventory database that would identify more systematically and exhaustively the more than 6,000 shipwrecks located on the coast and in the rivers and sounds of northeastern N.C.

Combining the project with a community educational outreach provided 40 Columbia High School students with hands-on experience in the use of side-scan sonar, magnetometry and other technologies used in underwater archaeology.

Other CSI projects that have partnered with local communities have included the Wave Energy Converter project in partnership with Jennette's Pier, the Albemarle Green Building Seminar and Expo co-hosted by the Dare County College of the Albemarle, First Flight High School's
championship entries in regional, national and international Remotely Operated Vehicle competitions, constructed wetland projects with Manteo High School and Elizabeth City Middle School and alternative energy/wind turbine projects with Hatteras Island schools, First Flight schools and the J.P. Knapp School in Currituck.

CSI Education Programs Coordinator John McCoard and his production team also have filmed documentaries on many local projects, contributing to the creation of a community legacy of partnership in coastal research.

CSI Administrative Board Chairman Mike Kelly, speaking to the board at the conclusion of the second day of orientation meetings and presentations, expressed his gratitude to Dare County for being "nothing but 120 percent cooperative with everything that's come along and everything that we've done." He added his appreciation of former NC Senator Marc Basnight's work in support of the project, noting, "This is a long-term economic development project for North Carolina. So if you happen to run into Senator Basnight, be sure to say thank you."

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Letter: Health care focus of symposium

Kudos to the organizers of the Health Care Reform Symposium held at the East Carolina Heart Institute on Jan. 13. Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, and Dr. David Herman, president of University Health Systems, collaborated to sponsor this daylong symposium. The problems of health care in eastern North Carolina were highlighted by Dr. Tom Irons, who pointed out that more than 25 percent of people in Pitt County are living in poverty. Irons, Cunningham and Herman all agreed that disparity was at the root of the problems of health care delivery in our region.

Several leaders in the health care field spoke at the symposium. The theme was clear: health care reform (the Accountable Care Act) is the law, and the law will require changes in the way we deal with health care in our region. Quality, not quantity, will be the new buzz word. There will be more transparency; there will be more accountability; and there will be consequences, based on patient outcomes. Health care systems that take good care of patients at lower costs will be rewarded (higher tier payments) more than those systems that have worse outcomes and cost more money. This makes sense, and is a major improvement over the current fee-for-service system.

Health care reform is sorely needed in eastern North Carolina. The ACA, with all of its imperfections, is a major step in the right direction. More North Carolinians will have access to health care. As a result, there should be less use of expensive services such as emergency department visits for the uninsured. The emphasis on quality should help control the spiraling costs of health care. Collaboration between ECU and UHS will be critical to the success of this effort.

PAUL COOK, M.D.

Greenville
A new sign marking the direction of the Pitt-Greenville Airport and the Town Common informs motorist traveling along N. Greene Street on Tuesday. (Rhett Butler/ The Daily Reflector)

**Signs point the way to city’s attractions**

By Michael Abramowitz, The Daily Reflector

Some attentive motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians traveling around parts of Greenville have noticed an array of bright, new attention grabbers along city roadways, just as city planners said they had hoped.

Dozens of blue, green and white signs pointing the way to city parks, recreation areas, and business and cultural attractions are part of a larger “wayfinding project,” according to City Development Director Merrill Flood.

The colorful and informative signs are among the first chosen by the Redevelopment Commission after it adopted the city’s redevelopment plan in 2002, Flood said.

“It’s based on the idea that as a growing city we need to point out places of interest and other facilities to residents and visitors — places like City Hall, the Pitt County Courthouse, the East Carolina University campus, the
medical district and various parking areas,” Flood said. “People need a way to catch their attention, answer their questions and direct them.”

The project’s first phase is backed by a $577,630 allotment from the $5 million Center City Bond. Grant funds and other resources will be sought for subsequent phases, Flood said.

City planners contracted the first phase of the project with Merje environmental graphic designers of West Chester, Pa., to produce 186 informational signs of varying sizes, shapes and purposes, Flood said.

The final design plan was adopted in 2010 after working with the N.C. Department of Transportation to assure the designs met state safety standards, including the poles and platforms on which the signs are mounted.

About 86 signs have been installed.

One of the more noticeable signs is the kiosk placed at Five Points Plaza on Evans Street downtown, within view of Flood’s office window. The sign offers information about the history of the plaza and city, directional and parking information for the downtown area, and a bulletin board upon which residents may post notices. A “walking skills” sign, also posted on Evans Street, shares information with pedestrians for a safe and enjoyable walk in that area, Flood said.

Signage placement began on the inner sections of the city and will expand outward. Among the final signs will be a replacement for the “Welcome to Greenville” sign on Stantonsburg Road near Allen Road, which welcomes visitors approaching the city from U.S. 264.

“We will expand the system to meet the traveling public’s expectations as additional resources become available, but we’re pleased with the way the first phase of the project is shaping up,” Flood said.

“Some in the public have told workers out there that the signs look pretty good to them.”

As further funding becomes available, the city’s planners will evaluate public reaction and feedback, then seek authorization from the City Council and the Redevelopment Commission to bid out additional phases, he said.

Plans for wayfinding signs are available on the city’s website at www.greenvillenc.gov.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or 252-329-9571.
Shuffled board: UHS panel set to shrink

By K.j. Williams, The Daily Reflector

The makeup of the Pitt County Memorial Hospital board won’t change, but the 20-member University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina board will shrink to 11 members under a reconfiguration approved Tuesday by both boards at a joint meeting.

Both boards have had the same members, consisting of members appointed by either the Pitt County Board of Commissioners or the University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

Ralph Hall, a retired vice president of facilities at PCMH, was the sole vote against the change at the meeting, which was held at the Rock Springs Center.

“I’m real concerned about removing citizen representatives off the board,” he said. “I would say that the people of North Carolina deserve more active representation on the board.”

A nominating committee will present its recommendations for the reconfigured board next month. The new board is expected to take office by March 1.

David Womack, chairman of the PCMH and UHS boards, said after the meeting that the change will make the UHS board separate.

The composition of the hospital board can’t change due to an agreement made with the county when the former county facility was sold in 1998.

“We can create a smaller board,” Womack said. “We cannot create a process where the members are not vetted by the county board of commissioners or the UNC Board of Governors.”

The PCMH board will be renamed since the hospital will become Vidant Medical Center on Jan. 25, the same day that UHS becomes known as Vidant Health.

Womack said a separate UHS board won support because of the not-for-profit’s growth from owning only PCMH to owning or managing nine more hospitals.
“The smaller board will allow for a better governance, better ability to plan strategically, and (will be) better able to create a vision and accomplish a mission,” he said.

The UHS board will maintain the same percentage of appointees with six members chosen by the county and five by the UNC Board of Governors.

Pitt County Commissioner Beth Ward, an ex officio board member, said that she isn’t bothered by the change to a more compact UHS board since its members must come from the ranks of the PCMH board.

The move is the latest action toward rebranding the organization taken by UHS officials. It follows November’s announcement of the name change to Vidant Health. Vidant will become part of the name of eight regional hospitals but will not affect Outer Banks Hospital in Nags Head, which UHS co-owns with another entity, or the UHS-managed Albemarle Health in Elizabeth City.

In other matters, a report was given about the health system’s audit. UHS has $568 million in cash investments, up $40 million from last year, according to the auditor’s presentation. The fiscal year for UHS ran from Oct. 1, 2010, to Sept. 30.

According to the report, UHS will need to pay $12 million on its debt this year, a reflection of its recent acquisitions. Its assets increased by $68 million to reach $694 million. While its revenues grew by 9 percent, its expenses went up by 7 percent. After all its financial obligations were met, UHS had $49 million in net income.

UHS continues to have about four months of cash reserves on hand, but officials were advised to build up cash liquidity while paying down more of its debt, particularly if officials want to expand further.

Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com or 252-329-9588.
UNC coach Roy Williams took responsibility for the Tar Heels' 90-57 loss to Florida State on Saturday. It was the largest point loss of his tenure at North Carolina.

NCAA official says coaches don't have authority to end games

BY LUKE DECOCK - ldecock@newsobserver.com

RALEIGH–College basketball officials have the power to end games in extraordinary circumstances. Fear of fans getting ready to storm the court isn't one of them.

John Adams, the NCAA's national officiating coordinator, said Tuesday that only game officials have the power to end a game early, as North Carolina coach Roy Williams attempted to do Saturday by mutual consent with Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton. Williams, concerned for his team's safety at Tallahassee's Tucker Center as fans prepared to rush the court to celebrate the Seminoles' 90-57 upset, said he approached Hamilton about ending the game with 14.2 seconds to play.

"I'm not aware of any precedent where officials ended a game early because both coaches wanted to," Adams said. "Not to say it's never been done, I'm just not aware of it. ... From the 30-minute mark in warm-ups, until the time the officials designate the final score as correct, the jurisdiction, the management of the game falls within the hands of officials."

Williams said Monday on his radio show he thought he and Hamilton agreed to end the game, and most of North Carolina's players, coaches and staff left
the bench with Williams. Five players remained on the court as officials played out the final seconds.

A UNC spokesman said Tuesday there was nothing to add to Williams' Monday comments.

ACC officiating coordinator John Clougherty said Tuesday that as long as there are five players on the floor for each team, his officials will finish the game.

"Officials are going to referee the game up until the end of the game," Clougherty said. "They're going to do that. They'll look to game management and security to take care of it."

Clougherty referred all other questions regarding the Tallahassee situation to the league office. An ACC spokesperson said Tuesday that in-game situations like the one in Tallahassee fall under NCAA rules, not league rules.

Adams said officials have the power to make decisions on situations not included in the rulebook, but that "elastic" power is limited to extremely rare situations. Officials, for example, ended the game last month between Cincinnati and Xavier with 9.4 seconds to go after a massive brawl between the teams.

"There's your elastic powers of the referee," Adams said. "There's a case where the officials probably thought they couldn't restore order in a reasonable time, No. 1, and No. 2, there was no doubt in the outcome of the game. There's a case where in the interest of the safety of everybody - fans, players, police - let's deal with the issue at hand and not worry about trying to find five players for each team."

Staff writer Andrew Carter contributed to this story.
CDC: Binge drinking isn’t just a college problem

By Jenna Johnson

Binge drinking has long been a major issue on most campuses, as administrators try to convince students that getting wasted and/or blacking out is not as fun as it seems — that it’s actually pretty dumb and dangerous.

But those administrators shouldn’t be the only ones concerned, as a new report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that binge drinking isn’t just a college problem.

About one in six adults binge drinks about four times a month. Binge drinking is defined as five or more drinks for men in a short period of time and four or more drinks for women, but the CDC found that when most people binge, that usually means consuming about eight drinks.

So who are these heavy drinkers? The age group with the most binge drinkers is the 18-to-34-year-olds, but the age group that binge drinks most often (five to six times a month) is the over-65 crowd.

Bingeing is most common in the Midwest, New England region, the District of Columbia, Alaska and Hawaii, based on data collected in 2010. (D.C. drinkers consumed about six drinks per sitting.)

“Binge drinking by adults has a huge public health impact, and influences the drinking behavior of underage youth by the example it sets,” said Pamela S. Hyde, substance abuse and mental health services administrator, in a statement.
Heavy drinking can lead to serious injury, alcohol poisoning, car crashes, violence, suicide and a host of other problems. That’s why Dartmouth College President Jim Yong Kim declared binge drinking a public health problem last year and established the national Learning Collaborative on High-Risk Drinking.

For college students, excessive drinking can lead to dropping out of school or being kicked out. About 40 percent of college students report binge drinking, according to the White House’s latest drug control strategy, and 25 percent of students said alcohol has caused them to miss class, fall behind, do poorly on exams and papers, or receive lower grades.
Nichols House, residence of the president of Johns Hopkins University. In addition to this perk, former JHU President William R. Brody pulled in $264,796 for serving on IBM’s board, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. (Courtesy of Johns Hopkins University)

**U-Va., JHU’s former presidents earned over $200,000 a year for serving on corporate boards**

By Daniel de Vise

**Update:** I learned this afternoon that former U-Va. President Casteen actually earned more than $400,000 for serving on two different corporate boards in 2011. Details below.

The former presidents of the University of Virginia and Johns Hopkins University each earned more than $200,000 a year for serving on corporate boards, in addition to their presidential salaries, according to an analysis by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Former U-Va. President John T. Casteen III and former JHU President William R. Brody are, of course, accomplished men whose time is certainly valuable.
But the Chronicle’s story raises a couple of obvious questions: How much work could either man have possibly done to justify $200,000-plus in compensation for serving on a governing board? And, how much free time could they possibly have had to work these second jobs, given the demands of a major university presidency?

As one commenter put it, “Who knew being a university president was such a part-time gig?”

Casteen earned $251,823 in 2011 for serving on the board of Altria Group, the tobacco giant formerly known as Philip Morris. U-Va. He earned another $150,000 for serving on the board of Strayer, the for-profit college, according to Strayer officials. That’s more than $400,000 on top of his $703,648 compensation from U-Va., and it pushes Casteen’s total earnings over $1 million.

(Interesting note: Only one public university president, Gordon Gee of Ohio State, earned more than $1 million in total compensation in 2009-10, according to the latest Chronicle survey.)

Brody earned $264,796 last year for serving on the board of IBM, on top of his $3,821,886 in university compensation.

(That number is high because it was an exit package and included deferred compensation from previous years. Brody was the second-highest-paid private current or former university president last year.)

The Chronicle’s report focused chiefly on apparent conflicts of interest created by a university president’s board service. University of Miami President Donna Shalala, for example, serves on the boards of two companies whose CEOs serve on her university’s board of trustees.

“In effect,” Jack Striping and Andrea Fuller, the Chronicle report’s authors, write, “her role as a director at a national medical group and at a home-building empire places her in the position of functioning as her bosses’ boss.”

Neither Casteen nor Brody served under any such conflict. I checked, and it doesn’t look like anyone from IBM, Philip Morris or Strayer sits on the board of either JHU or U-Va.

Spokespeople for JHU and U-Va. had no immediate comment on the disclosures. If any arrives later today, I will add it to this post.