THE DAILY CLIPS

July 22, 2011

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

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ECU TRUSTEES CHOOSE CHAIRMAN

NEWLY APPOINTED chairman Bob Lucas speaks at the ECU Board of Trustees meeting, where Lucas and two other new members were sworn in on Thursday.

Lucas: Goal is to provide more opportunities

BY JACKIE DRAKE
The Daily Reflector

The East Carolina University Board of Trustees elected member Bob Lucas as chairman and installed new members at its meeting Thursday afternoon.

Lucas, a lawyer from Selma and ECU alumnus, started his one-year term by accepting the gavel from outgoing chair David Brody. The vice chairwoman will be Carol Mabe. Officers can serve up to two terms at a time.

“One of the things I have passion for is ECU. My goal is to help this board and this university give the same opportunities to more kids,” Lucas said. “I very much look forward to working with everyone and I want to do the best I can.”

The board’s newest members are Deborah Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and Kieran Shanahan, a lawyer based in Raleigh. Both are ECU alumni.

Student Josh Martinkovic joined the board as a voting member by virtue of his position as the student body president.

“I’m privileged to be here,” Davis said.

Shanahan said he was now even more energized to be on the board after the first meeting. Martinkovic echoed his remarks.

“I’m excited to be here,” Martinkovic said. “I just want to be a resource for you all so decisions made here can be student friendly.”

Davis and Shanahan were appointed by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. Two more seats remain.

See ECU, B3
Continued from B1


Past board members David Brody, David Redwine, Robert Greczyn and William Bodenhamer finished their terms in the spring.

"We're losing a lot with the outgoing board mem-

bers, but gaining a tremendous amount with our incoming members," Chancellor Steve Ballard said.

A new biosciences building, new student center, retention of faculty, campus safety and reducing the cost of education to students are major priorities for the upcoming year, according to Ballard.

The Board of Trustees is a 13-member body consisting of four members appointed by the governor and eight elected by the University of North Carolina system Board of Governors.

Terms are four years. The student body president is an ex-officio voting member for his or her year in office.

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Reflector.com
Published July 22, 2011

GREENVILLE

Diabetes conference Saturday

The 10th annual Winning with Diabetes Conference is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at St. James United Methodist Church, 2000 E. Sixth St.

The event will provide advice from doctors, nurses and nutritionists.

It also will provide encouragement and tips from people who have battled diabetes; vascular, kidney, stroke, blood pressure and foot screenings; cooking demonstrations, therapeutic massage and vendors with products geared toward diabetics.

Sponsors include Pitt Memorial Foundation, ECU College of Nursing, Brody School of Medicine and University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina.

About 125 people are expected to attend the conference. The cost is $25. Register by calling 744-6504.
Pirate alumna's wedding delayed, not derailed

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THE DAILY HERALD
BY LANCEY HORN

"I didn't change the couple's hearing..."
Published July 22, 2011

N.C. Civil War history might need a rewrite

BY JOSH SHAFFER - Staff Writer

RALEIGH -- For more than a century, North Carolina clung to a pair of Civil War distinctions thought sacred: It sent the first Confederate killed in battle, and it sacrificed 40,275 men - the most in the South.

Only part of that may still be true.

On the 150th anniversary of the war's first shots, a new state study pulls together the scattered, error-riddled records of North Carolina's Civil War dead and shows the following:

A Virginia captain beat Pvt. Henry Lawson Wyatt, a 19-year-old from Tarboro, to the grave by nine days;

North Carolina's casualty list is actually closer to 32,000, possibly 35,000 if you count those still missing from the records and lumped into the "probable" category. Whether that's the highest is unclear;

The war killed about a quarter of the state's men of military age. More died of typhoid fever and chronic diarrhea than bullets. Some even died of spider bites and lightning strikes.

The point of the study isn't to debunk any points of pride, said Josh Howard, the study's author and a historian with the state Office of Archives and History. He started the study six years ago assuming the 40,275 figure was accurate.

"It's not that we're trying to destroy them," he said. "Every household in North Carolina lost somebody in the war, or at least knew somebody. We as North Carolinians owe it to them to get it right, to demonstrate the huge loss the state took."

In all likelihood, North Carolina still ranks first in fallen Confederates. If records in Raleigh are wrong, it's a good bet the rest of the Southern states have inaccurate counts, too. Second-place Virginia, also reviewing its count, is moving much closer to North Carolina in the number of dead.

Descendants and admirers of the dead aren't upset about the findings.

"It's always good to get it right," said John Huss of Raleigh, a local camp officer with the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "But we still might be first."
Praising the dead

Turning casualties into bragging rights may sound macabre by modern standards, but Howard's study illustrates how Southern states used the measurement of their dead as a yardstick showing who gave the most to the cause. At the end of the war, with so many dead, North Carolina needed a symbol.

Wyatt became a powerful one. Howard's study documents the portraits hung in the state library during the 1880s, and the collectible baseball-style cards that circulated with his likeness. Even today, his bronze statue appears on the Capitol lawn, rifle at the ready.

When Virginia protested that Capt. John Q. Marr had preceded Wyatt in death, North Carolinians disputed the claim by concluding that Marr had perished in a mere skirmish while Wyatt fell at the Battle of Big Bethel.

Similarly, the Capitol grounds monument to the Confederate dead facing Hillsborough Street boasts that North Carolinians were last to leave Appomattox.

"North Carolina has always been looking for ways to claim that it is unique and it is better," said Larry Tise, history professor at East Carolina University, "that it is first in so many things."

Howard's study takes it further: High fatalities didn't inflate the egos of Southern generals after the war; they boosted state pride.

"Sacrifice equated honor," he wrote.

But in the days after the war, as the federal government tried to tally the dead, they worked with Confederate records captured from fleeing officials, many of which were lost. Few of those counting had much enthusiasm for the job at the war's end, and the 40,000 became accepted truth.

Historical legwork

Aided by Charles Purser of the Garner Sons of Confederate Veterans camp, who has long sought to publish the records for every North Carolina soldier online, Howard checked muster rolls, prison records and hospital records against census reports and land records. He checked after the war to see if those reported as casualties were truly dead.

For the first time, he gave credit to roughly 2,000 white and black soldiers from North Carolina who served on the Union side.

"We couldn't have done this 20 years ago," Purser said. "We put ours on the Microsoft Excel and we can sort it, look at it from different angles. If you look at it from an alphabetical listing, it's hard to see things. When you sort it by death date or capture date or counties, sometimes something will hit you in the eyes."
But both Howard and Purser admit the numbers will never be 100 percent accurate. Some men appear on prisoner of war rolls but show no signs of dying there or getting released. In the 1860s, it was easier to simply vanish from official record and stay invisible to the researcher's eye.

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Hotline encourages west Greenville tips

By Jennifer Swartz

A temporary hotline devoted exclusively to west Greenville was launched Thursday to encourage crime tips as the community copes with a summer gang war.

“I think we have to do everything we can to make sure the community has the resources it needs to help them deal with the problem,” police Chief William Anderson said during a news briefing Thursday.

“Right now this is a community issue,” he said. “The people who have the concerns in west Greenville need to step up. They need to speak up.”

The hotline is 329-4949. Callers may leave information or speak with someone in the police department. Tipsters may remain anonymous.

The announcement came hours before a town hall meeting designed to solicit feedback from residents concerned about a recent wave of gang violence between Crips and Bloods in the city.

Eight shootings in late June and early July and a rash of home invasion robberies believed to be linked prompted police to declare war on gangs in the city.

The investigation continues into seven of eight shootings. Police are working to overcome a lack of cooperation from victims and witnesses, Anderson said Thursday.

“Whether or not we'll be able to make any charges is still up in the air,” Anderson said.

As is practice, authorities have shuffled manpower, drawing in part from the administrative and detective corps, to beef up focus areas and put the squeeze on gang suspects and anyone else breaking the law in the hot spots.

Since July 13, 35 people have been arrested for a variety of infractions as part of the stepped-up effort.

Other areas of the city, including downtown, continue to be staffed headed into the start of classes at East Carolina University in August, police said.

Police also have targeted and publicized the identities of about two-dozen men confirmed by the department as known gang members, all believed to be connected in some way with the spree.
“We want the community to know who these individuals are,” Anderson said.

“We want their mothers, their fathers, their aunts and their sisters, their cousins, everybody to bring as much pressure on them as they can,” he said.

“I think right now they understand that the pressure is on,” he said. “They know they've been targeted, and I think that's the main reason we haven't seen any new incidents occur.

“I think we're doing our job, but the community has to get involved, the system itself has to work to keep these people off the streets,” he said. “It's frustrating for us, but we understand what our role is and we're going to continue doing that.”

Anderson said he had something to say to those caught up in the violence.

“We might not get you for the shooting you were involved in, but we're going to get you, one way or the other,” he said.

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DNA finding credited to UNC

STAFF WRITER HELLEN CHAPPELL

CHAPEL HILL -- For decades, biology students have learned their ATGCs - a four-letter alphabet that spells out the four chemical building blocks of DNA: adenosine, thymine, guanine and cytosine.

But DNA's alphabet expanded years ago. A fifth chemical building block was discovered in 1948, and a sixth in 2009.

Now, researchers at UNC-Chapel Hill have discovered two new building blocks, for a total of eight. Their discovery was published Thursday in the journal Science.

Yet even the newest biology textbooks still maintain that only four chemicals form DNA's backbone.

The extra building blocks might not be widely known because they're all very similar, said Yi Zhang, a professor of biochemistry and biophysics at UNC who led the project.

The differences that distinguish the extra blocks are minor, akin to adding flourishes to a written word. They change the way the word looks, but they don't change the fundamental way it fits into a sentence - the sentence in this case being a strand of DNA.

So far, the team has found the new components only in mice, but "I would not doubt that humans have it," Zhang said. Now researchers must figure out what functions the blocks serve, he said.

"Just like any new discovery," Zhang said, "we answered less questions than the questions raised."
Move to make Peace co-ed outrages students

Faculty and staff of Peace College exit the music building following a meeting on Thursday in Raleigh. Officials announced earlier that the school is going co-ed and changing its name.

BY NICOLE KYLE AND JANE STANCILL - staff writers

RALEIGH -- After more than 150 years of educating women, Peace College will change its name and admit men, a move that stunned students and alumnae.

In a surprise announcement Thursday, Peace College trustees said the school will become fully co-ed, opening its doors to male students in the fall of 2012. The college will be renamed William Peace University, after its founder.

"This is about making Peace bigger and better," Elizabeth Cherry, trustee vice chairwoman, said. "Adding more students means enhancing the student experience for everyone and it will certainly enhance our athletic, academic and extracurricular programs."

College officials maintained the decision was not made for financial reasons, but acknowledged the shift will broaden Peace's market appeal. Many private colleges that depend on tuition for survival have suffered enrollment declines during the recession.

Students react
The outrage from alumnae and students was immediate. They say the change will destroy
the traditions of the downtown Raleigh college that has educated women since before the
Civil War.

A Facebook group known as "Peace Girls" lit up with posts such as, "It will never be the
Peace I knew and loved." Another said: "You want my donation every year and this is
what you do with it. Change the entire history of the college and never even bother to ask
an opinion."

Students said the announcement came as a blow. Many learned of the decision via an e-
mail from the college, only after it notified the media and posted an announcement on
Facebook and Twitter.

The lack of communication was disturbing, Peace junior Lucy Stone said.

"We're supposed to be a sisterhood, and you don't keep stuff from your sisters - and that's
what happening," she said.

Others were resigned to the shift.

"It was bound to happen, you know. It'll be something different to have guys here, but at
least it's not for another year," sophomore Ruby Hernandez said.

Hope Williams, president of the N.C. North Carolina Independent Colleges and
Universities, joined Peace officials for the announcement. She said she supported the
decision.

"These are challenging times for all of higher education, and Peace has once again chosen
the path of moving forward to embrace the future with fresh ideas and new ways to meet
the needs of students," Williams said in a news release about the shift.

The trustee vote was unanimous and enacted part of the school's new strategic vision,
said Peace President Deborah Townsley, who has been on the job for a year. The trustees
formed a planning committee to discuss the idea about eight months ago, she said.

A year of change

The decision capped a tumultuous year for Peace.

Longtime faculty members and administrators were let go as the college reorganized its
academic programs. Townsley expanded the night school, which was already open to
male students. New degree programs were launched, including online-only options.

The changes created tension with alumnae and unsettled some students, who talked of
transferring.
Stone, who is at home in Virginia for the summer, thought about leaving last year but didn't. Now she wishes she had the option. Most schools have stopped accepting transfer applications this late in the summer.

"Every reason that she chose Peace college no longer exists," her mother, Pat Stone, said. "This president and Board of Trustees has completely destroyed what existed for 150 years and has created a whole new animal - and it's not a particularly nice one."

There will still be opportunities for Peace women to learn in a single-gender environment. Single-sex classes will be offered in some subjects in which evidence shows that male and female students benefit, Cherry said.

Some of the logistical aspects of the transition are still in the planning stages, such as reconfiguring residence halls, adding men's athletic teams and recruiting male students, Townsley said.

**Forgotten mission?**

Active Peace alumnae said they were reassured last fall, in January and then again at the end of the spring semester, that co-education was "off the table," from school officials, including Townsley and the trustees. Even so, a petition to "Save Peace" had been circulating on the Web.

"We were told yet again that 'No, [Peace] would continue to empower women," alum Erica Galliuppe said. "I'm incredibly disappointed and deeply ashamed to be a part of the Peace sisterhood, which I believe to be dead and buried."

Former President Laura Carpenter Bingham, who retired last year, issued a statement Thursday saying it was difficult to comprehend the undoing of a 150-year-old mission in 11 months with virtually no consultation with students, alumnae and other college supporters.

"Change and innovation can be good - and should always be diligently considered - but this much change this fast is very rare for institutions which serve a public trust," Bingham's statement said. "The enduring passions for Peace of alumnae, students, professors and donors are being abandoned, and a campus community known for quality teaching and quality people uprooted. It's doubtful that the namesake would welcome this sudden change of mission or that thousands of supporters will accept it, not having been part of the visioning for it."

Bingham went on to say that she hopes "the Peace of the future will earn a quality reputation as Peace College did successfully for generations."

**Meredith won't follow**
After the announcement, Meredith College moved quickly to reassure students, faculty and alumnae that it would not follow Peace's decision.

"As a Meredith graduate, I know firsthand the value of a women's college education, and Meredith College is committed to remaining a women's college," said President Jo Allen.

Some women's colleges have struggled to attract students in recent years. Some have gone co-ed in response. "I think it is the right decision for them," said Susan Lennon, spokeswoman for the Women's College Coalition, an association that represents a dwindling number of the single-sex schools. "These are very complicated times."

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Davis to release his cellphone records

Tar Heels coach responds to media request for public records in connection with NCAA investigation.
By KEN TYSIAC
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DURHAM - North Carolina football coach Butch Davis said Thursday he will release records of the business calls he made on his personal cellphone in response to a media public records request.

Media outlets have sought to review Davis' personal cellphone records in hopes of shedding light on an investigation that has resulted in NCAA allegations of major violations against the Tar Heels program.

Davis said his personal cellphone records were reviewed "completely and entirely" last fall by the university's counsel, and he plans to release them "pretty soon." He said he plans to redact personal calls from the records.

"It's a personal cellphone that I've had for over 10 years," Davis said. "And so we'll redact and I will go through it and things like my wife, my son, my dad, my sister, close
personal friends and family members, those types of things. Anything that has anything to do with university and business, those will be completely open for public record."

The News & Observer also asked for records of business calls on Davis' home phone. North Carolina spokeswoman Nancy Davis said Butch Davis has told school officials he does not conduct university business on his home phone.

Davis met for eight minutes with reporters after the annual Pigskin Preview charity luncheon that features coaches from North Carolina, Duke, N.C. State, East Carolina and N.C. Central.

In his first public comments since North Carolina received a notice of allegations from the NCAA in June, Davis said the university has done a "remarkable" job in full cooperation with the NCAA.

Under review

The NCAA on June 21 sent North Carolina Chancellor Holden Thorp a notice alleging nine major violations. The investigation of impermissible benefits and academic misconduct began in July 2010 and resulted in 14 players missing games in the 2010 season, with seven missing the entire season.

North Carolina must provide a written response by Sept. 19 and meet with the Committee on Infractions on Oct. 28.

"Now, obviously, we have the opportunity for 90 days to review those allegations and decide which ones they think they might want to contest and which ones they don't think there is any contest to it," Davis said, "and in October, we'll go in front of the infractions committee and some time thereafter we'll find out what comes out of the entire investigation."

Davis said he plans to join school officials when they meet with the Committee on Infractions. He declined to respond to any of the allegations, saying the NCAA has asked North Carolina officials to refrain from comment and that athletics director Dick Baddour is the spokesman for the school.

"There's a limited amount that any of us know," Davis said. "I think, certainly, as has been talked about many, many times is that Dick Baddour as the athletic director, he's been the point guy. And he along with our compliance department and Chancellor Thorp, they're the ones that are in the know on absolutely everything. There's a lot of things that I don't need to know, don't know."

Throughout the NCAA investigation, Davis said, he has expected to remain North Carolina's coach. He was not personally cited in the notice of allegations, which spared North Carolina the damaging "lack of institutional control" charge but did accuse the school of failure to monitor some violations.
"I totally expected to be the football coach," Davis said.

**McAdoo's status**

Davis said he wasn't sure whether plagiarism allegations against former defensive tackle Michael McAdoo will prevent him from keeping his scholarship and holding a student coaching position.

McAdoo had his attempt at an injunction denied last week by Durham Superior Court Judge Orlando Hudson.

Davis is uncertain whether McAdoo wants to return to North Carolina for classes, or whether he will enter the NFL's supplemental draft or transfer to a school not affiliated with the NCAA to play football.
A year later, it's still 'wait and see' at UNC

BY LUKE DECOCK - Staff Writer
Published in: DeCock

DURHAM A year ago, Butch Davis stood up before the Pigskin Preview and said the NCAA investigation into the North Carolina football program would go "as quickly as possible."

A year later, Davis was back at the Washington Duke Inn, still the Tar Heels' coach, but with the school now accused of nine major violations by the NCAA and a hearing still three months away. This time, Davis counseled patience.

"Everybody said back in August and September and October that this is a process," Davis said. "It's going to take some time."

Given everything that has transpired in the past 12 months, Davis would be forgiven for wondering if he'd even be invited to another Pigskin Preview.

After all, those nine major alleged violations include an assistant coach in cahoots with an agent, an alum considered an agent apparently given free run of the football complex, and the exploits of Jennifer Wiley, tutor to the stars, who also worked for Davis in his home. Fourteen players missed at least one game, and seven missed the entire season.

That's a lot of stuff to stack on one coach's plate, particularly when the only defense he has offered is ignorance that any of this went on within the program he's paid a healthy amount to oversee. Yet Davis said Thursday that he never thought his job was in jeopardy.

"I fully expected to be the football coach," Davis said. "I've been very, very fortunate. I've got great support from the administration, the board of trustees, the athletic director, Chancellor (Holden) Thorp."

Why would Davis ever wonder? The athletic director and chancellor have lined up behind him, as have the donors footing the enormous bill for the Butch Mahal rising in
Kenan Stadium's east end zone. The academic community has been oddly quiet about the multiple allegations of academic fraud. The NCAA didn't mention Davis' name in connection with the alleged violations.

Still, it's too soon to say Davis has escaped unscathed. The Committee on Infractions has commanded his presence at October's hearing, and Davis confirmed Thursday that he would appear as requested. The committee could yet have something to say about Davis' role in the scandal.

It'll take some time for resolution in that department, but if the past year has shown anything, it's not to be surprised by where the NCAA's investigation is headed.

A year ago, John Blake and Chris Hawkins were proud representatives of the university, not wince-worthy embarrassments. A year ago, no one outside the football program or the Davis household had heard the name "Jennifer Wiley." A year ago, the investigation had yet to spawn two separate lawsuits against the university, one by a group of media organizations led by The News & Observer in (successful) pursuit of public records related to the investigation, the other by Michael McAdoo against UNC and the NCAA seeking his reinstatement.

A year ago, Davis said he didn't know where this was headed. He's still saying that now. A year has gone by, so much has happened, and nothing has changed.

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North Carolina court rules UNC Wilmington can be sued in police raid death

The N.C. Court of Appeals has decided that a wrongful death suit can go forward in the case of a college student shot and killed by the New Hanover County Emergency Response Team in 2006.

Peyton Strickland's family sued UNC Wilmington and its police department in 2008, claiming that false information provided by campus police to the New Hanover County Emergency Response Team led to the unarmed teen's death.

UNCW said in a statement that it is reviewing the decision.

"The University disagrees with the court's opinion, including its interpretation of the public duty doctrine," the statement read in part. "At this time, the University intends to petition the N.C. Supreme Court for discretionary review."

Authorities were serving an arrest warrant on Strickland, a Cape Fear Community College student who was accused with several others of beating a UNCW student over the head and taking two PlayStation 3 game systems. Strickland was shot through the front door of his rental home in December 2006 when an officer said he mistook the sound of a battering ram hitting the door for gunshots inside the home.

In the lawsuit, Strickland's family said UNCW's police department gave "false, misleading and irrelevant information," to the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, including that Strickland was known to be armed and dangerous and had been involved in gang activity.
Letter to the editor: Shades of qualification

"Truth is, all [teacher] candidates, whether minority or majority, must be fully qualified in order to gain employment," said a letter-writer, referring to Wake Schools Superintendent Tony Tata's efforts to increase hiring of minority teachers ("Well-qualified hires," July 20).

Truth is, it's not that simple. Diversifying a cognitively demanding field means confronting the problem of relative scarcity. Here's how selective universities solve the problem, quoting a letter I had published in Duke Magazine:

The box students checked off on the racial question on their application was thus shown [by Princeton researchers Thomas Espenshade and Alexandria Radford] to have an extraordinary effect on a student's chances of gaining admission to the highly competitive private schools in the NSCE [National Study of College Experience] database. ... To have the same chances of gaining admission as a black student with an SAT score of 1100, a Hispanic student otherwise equally matched in background characteristics would have to have a 1230, a white student a 1410 and an Asian student a 1550 (January-February, 2011).

"Fully qualified" tends to have several meanings in a diverse context.

Tom Shuford

Lenoir
Letter to the editor: Weaker after mergers

The recommendation to merge community colleges may be well-intended, but the proposal is loaded with unintended negative consequences: a reduction of much-needed local control, a loss of valuable local financial support for CC buildings and maintenance, and weakened local CC economic and community development leadership.

Joint administrative services were standard policy in the 1960s. In the early years of development, many Industrial Education Centers (IEC, now CC) were units operating within an established technical institute. As these units grew in service to the community, local support grew, and more control became necessary.

A need for local control brought this issue to a head when Fayetteville Tech sought accreditation in 1968. Accreditation was stalled because FTI lacked full control over Robeson IEC, a unit under its administration. The State Board of Education realized the merged system was broken and, beginning in 1970, wisely converted IEC units into independent local institutions, which eventually developed into community colleges.

If history and experience are overlooked and merger is demanded, local support will diminish and become inadequate. The result will be another education problem that needs fixing. The state will have to provide the funds for community college buildings and their upkeep. The result: a weakened community college system and no cost savings for North Carolina.

Dr. G. Herman Porter

Goldsboro

The writer is a former president of Wayne Community College and former chair of the State Board of Community Colleges.
Some states are leaving the education law behind

BY JESSIE L. BONNER AND CHRISTINE ARMARIO - Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho -- At least three states are vowing to ignore the latest requirements under the No Child Left Behind law in an act of defiance against the federal government that demonstrates their growing frustration over an education program they say sets unrealistic benchmarks for schools.

The law sets a goal of 100 percent of students proficient in math and reading by 2014, but states were allowed to establish how much schools must improve each year. Many states saved the biggest leaps for the final years, anticipating that the law would be changed.

But it hasn't, and states like Idaho, Montana and South Dakota are fed up. They are preparing to reject the latest requirements for determining school progress under the 9-year-old law - even if the move toward noncompliance may put them at risk of losing some federal funding.

Idaho will no longer raise the benchmarks that public schools have to meet under No Child Left Behind, nor will it punish the schools that do not meet these higher testing goals, said Tom Luna, the state's superintendent of public schools.

"We've waited as long as we can," Luna said. "The federal requirements are unrealistic for schools to meet while they wait for the government to enact new education standards, he said."

Montana and South Dakota also are rejecting the latest No Child Left Behind targets, while Kentucky is seeking a waiver that would allow it to use a different method to measure whether students are making adequate progress under the program. More states could follow in seeking relief from the federal requirements.

Federal officials recently warned Montana to get in line with the requirements by Aug. 15 or the federal government could withhold funds under an education program. The state receives more than $44 million in federal funding for that program, though it's unclear how much of that money is at risk. In Idaho, that program is worth more than $54 million, and in South Dakota, about $43.7 million.

Pressure increases

As high-profile cheating investigations in Georgia, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., call attention to statewide standardized testing, experts say many districts feel pressured to meet the standards to avoid penalties.
No Child Left Behind was passed in 2001 and signed by then-President George W. Bush. It has been widely panned by critics who say it brands schools as failures even as they make progress, discourages high academic standards, and encourages educators to teach to the test as opposed to providing practical classroom learning to students.

There's bipartisan support for an overhaul, but Republicans and Democrats have different ideas about what sort of reforms should go into the law and how long writing a new bill should take. Education Secretary Arne Duncan has urged the U.S. House to finish before the next school year starts this fall, but the Republican chairman of the House education committee has said his panel plans to work through the fall.

Montana Schools Superintendent Denise Juneau said the state decided to freeze the federal requirements so schools will not be inaccurately labeled as failing - and suffer the scorn that comes along with the classification.

"Everyone knows it's broken. And the biggest broken piece of No Child Left Behind are these arbitrary bars," Juneau said. "It's one thing we could do to assist schools and not getting labeled as failing or be denigrated in the press when they are absolutely doing a better (job)."

Schools are required to meet 41 benchmarks for student achievement under the law and a school's annual yearly progress is calculated based on test participation, academic achievement, graduation rates and other statistics.

But every few years, the percentage of students who must pass state tests increases.

Of the 821 public school schools in Montana, 255 are not making adequate yearly progress under the current benchmarks. If the state makes the next jump under No Child Left Behind, 383 schools wouldn't be up to snuff under the federal law.