



Butler, UConn win
SPORTS, C1



Pirates, Tigers split pair
SPORTS, C1

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The Daily Reflector



SUNDAY, March 27, 2011

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WEATHER



BRITTON SEYMOUR, St. Peter's

SOGGY

Today: 42, rain
Tonight: 32, cloudy
Complete forecast on A2



SPORTS

Rose rolls over SC

Saturday afternoon's baseball game between J.H. Rose and South Central began with a home run by SC's Zach Holton, but it was all Rampants after that as they grab an 11-1 win. **Page C1**

NATION



Ferraro dies at 75

Geraldine Ferraro, who in 1984 became the first woman to run for vice president on a major party ticket, only to lose in a landslide, died Saturday. She was 75. **Page B2**

WORLD



Gadhafi retreats

Libyan rebels clinch their hold on the east and seize back a key city on Saturday after decisive international airstrikes sent Moammar Gadhafi's forces into retreat, shedding their uniforms and ammunition as they fled. **Page A6**

TODAY'S OPINIONS

PCC FUNDING: In a year that North Carolina faces a revenue shortfall estimated to be \$2.4 billion, no aspect of state government should expect to be spared its share of hardship in the coming fiscal year. **Page A12**

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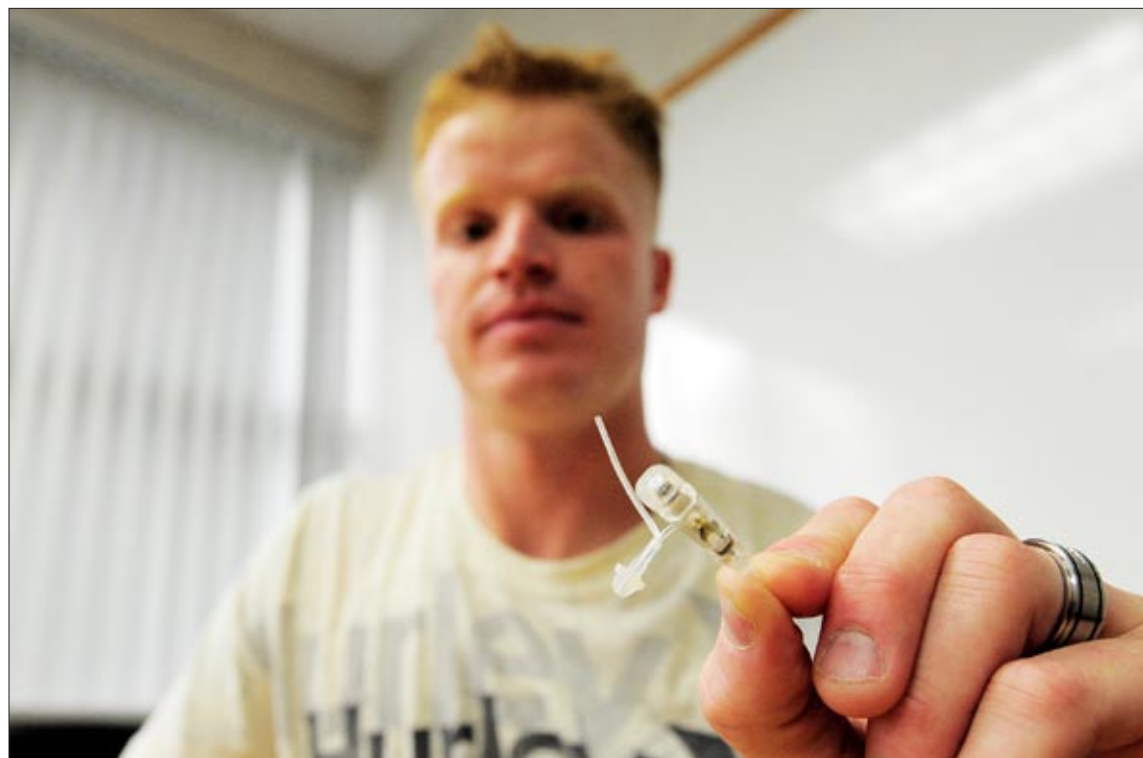


SUMMER CAMPS

Now's the time to start planning. Our annual listing of summer camps offers area youth everything from academics and sports to music, art, theater and dance. — **Look, Page E1**



Spotlight on stuttering



JUSTIN FALLS/THE DAILY REFLECTOR

MATTHEW ROBERTS, 25, began using a SpeechEasy device in December, more than two years after a traumatic brain injury he suffered while serving in Iraq left him with a stuttering problem. He combines the device with speech therapy. "You can't just get this; you need to get therapy by the professionals," he said. "You don't just put it in, but this along with all the other stuff, it works."

Movie brings attention to speech device

BY KIM GRIZZARD
The Daily Reflector

In 2003, Queen of Talk Oprah Winfrey gave a royal public relations boost to a speech aid developed by East Carolina University researchers. Nearly a decade later, the film "The King's Speech" has again helped create a platform for the device.



COGDILL

As the box office figures for the movie have increased, so has public interest in Janus Development Group, a Greenville-based corporation established to coordinate the development and sales of the SpeechEasy. "Our web traffic has increased significantly as well as the daily inquiries that we get from people going to the website and request-



THE WEINSTEIN CO.

COLIN FIRTH, left, as King George IV, prepares to try a "masking" technique with his speech therapist (Geoffrey Rush) in "The King's Speech."

ing more information," Janus President Alan Newton said. "It (the movie) has certainly raised awareness overall of stuttering." "The King's Speech," winner of four Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Actor, stars Colin Firth as Britain's King George VI, whose heritage

makes his struggle with stammering nearly unbearable. Joya Cogdill understands that feeling. The Buies Creek native began stuttering in early childhood in a home where everyone else seemed to be the epitome of

See SPEECH, A7

Moment of silence policy to return to committee

BY JACKIE DRAKE
The Daily Reflector

Drafting work will continue on a proposed moment of silence policy for schools following Monday's meeting of the Pitt County Board of Education.

The board discussed but ultimately voted down a motion to make the moment of silence optional for each school. The draft will continue to read that the moment of silence will be required. The policy goes back to the policy committee for its next meeting on April 11.

Any policy must be approved by a majority of the full board in order to be adopted. If approved, the policy would enact a daily moment of silence for students and staff at each school not to exceed one minute following the pledge and morning announcements starting in the 2011-12 school year. The moment was proposed to allow time for non-religious quiet reflection to prepare for the school day.

At the last policy committee meeting on March 14, district five representative Jennifer Little moved to reword the draft to make the moment of silence an option at each school, which passed at the committee level. This countered the original motion made by district six representative and policy committee chair Worth Forbes at the Jan. 18 school board meeting, which said the moment of silence would be required. The issue of changing the original motion had to come before the

See POLICY, A7

Pulitzer Prize-winning ECU grad to speak at reception

BY GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Reflector

A Pulitzer Prize-winning graduate of East Carolina University will discuss her career and thoughts on 21st century journalism during the fifth annual CommCrew spring reception scheduled for next Saturday. Margaret R. O'Connor, class of 1971, was photography direc-



O'CONNOR

tor for The New York Times at the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. She and her staff went on to win two Pulitzer prizes for breaking news photography and feature photography for coverage of the event and its aftermath.

O'Connor will discuss the details of Sept. 11 during the event, to be held at 6 p.m. Saturday at Emerge Art Gallery, 404 Evans St. Tickets are \$25 each and still available.

"I think people were thinking the still photograph was dead but that story, being so visual, you couldn't report it without pictures," O'Connor said. "I think photojournalism came back in a

big way that year." O'Connor said she wants to have an audience discussion about the Internet and social media and its role in modern journalism. The technology gives everyone the ability to be a journalist, she said.

While once wary of the idea, O'Connor said she's gone from

See GRAD, A6

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SPEECH

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eloquence. "It was just hard for me as a child because my father is a preacher, and my mom was a teacher, and my brother was a lawyer," Cogdill, 31, said. "Then I come along, and I don't want to talk."

The Stuttering Foundation of America estimates that about 5 percent of children will experience a period of stuttering that lasts six months or more, but 75 percent of those will recover by late childhood.

Cogdill was among the 1 percent — more than 3 million Americans — to have a long-term problem with stuttering.

While she participated in once-a-week speech therapy in school until sixth grade, Cogdill struggled with assignments such as oral reports, and she hated being called on to read aloud in class.

"I remember when I was a kid, I never understood why when we had to read in unison at my church I never had trouble," she said. "I never knew why."

She did not learn the answer until 2003, when her mother called to tell her about a stuttering device she had seen featured on "Oprah." The SpeechEasy simulates the so-called "choral effect," which describes how stuttering is significantly reduced or even eliminated when a person who stutters speaks in unison with others.

The device, worn like a hearing aid, uses altered auditory feedback technology to recreate the effect. When SpeechEasy users speak, the device replays their words into their ear with a slight delay and at a modified frequency, as though they are speaking along with someone else.

For some, the results are instantaneous. Cogdill, who has used a SpeechEasy device since 2004, remembers the first time she tried it.

"I remember (the speech



PHOTOS BY AILEEN DEVLIN/THE DAILY REFLECTOR

ALAN NEWTON is president of Greenville-based Janus Development Group, which was established to coordinate the development and sales promotions of assistive living devices, including SpeechEasy. More than 8,000 SpeechEasy devices have been sold in the United States in the past decade, and 2,000-3,000 have been sold in other countries through SpeechEasy International.



IN ADDITION to various SpeechEasy models, which sell for \$4,000-\$5,000, Janus Development has other altered auditory feedback products, including SpeechCoach, which is designed to be used during speech therapy. The newest product, MySpeech, scheduled to be released in the next few weeks, will cost about \$2,000. About the size of a cell phone, the device can be used with earphones or a Bluetooth earpiece.

therapist) had me read something, and she recorded my errors," she said. "I had 96 errors or hesitations (before). Then she put the SpeechEasy in my ear, and I read the exact same essay, and my errors were like five on the whole page. I sat there and cried."

Amber Snyder, Janus clinical services manager, said tears are not uncommon.

"I have some clients that we have the box of tissue sitting right there because they start crying, parents start crying, I start crying," she said. "I've seen clients

who are 40 years old who say 'I'm the only person I've ever met who stuttered' and they didn't think there was anything else out there. There's certainly relief."

While SpeechEasy has been shown to reduce stuttering, it is not promoted as a cure. Newton said Janus avoids touting SpeechEasy as a "medical miracle," terminology used to describe the device on "Oprah."

"That disenfranchised a lot of speech pathologists," he said. "Those were not our words; those were her words. They thought that it came from us, so we had

more than two years to convince the government that he needed a SpeechEasy to help fulfill his duties as a corporal in the Marine Corps.

Roberts has not had a life-long battle with stuttering. Though he experienced some stuttering in childhood, the problem did not recur until 2008, when he suffered a traumatic brain injury in an explosion in Iraq. He tried speech therapy, cognitive therapy and even hyperbaric oxygen treatment before being fitted for a SpeechEasy in December. He wears the device daily and makes the trip from Camp Lejeune to Greenville for speech therapy twice a week.

"I'm 25 years old, and this (stuttering) is new to me," Roberts said. "It was driving me crazy, so this is like a real big deal to me. ... It's helped me a lot."

Cogdill said SpeechEasy has helped her realize her calling as an elementary school teacher. While she already had completed her undergraduate degree before she began using the device, Cogdill's stuttering made interviews difficult, leaving her unable to find work in her major. She took temporary jobs but struggled with tasks such as answering the phone.

In 2005, she returned

"Sometimes I am amazed that my worst fear in life is now what I do all day every day, which is public speaking."

Joy Cogdill
stutterer

to her alma mater, Campbell University, to pursue her teacher certification. She went on to be named "First Year Teacher of the Year" at McGee's Crossroads Elementary

in Johnston County, where she teaches first grade.

"Sometimes I am amazed that my worst fear in life is now what I do all day every day, which is public speaking," Cogdill said. "Somehow or another it's become not easy and not flawless, but it's become easier."

King George VI found success as well, even 60 years before altered auditory feedback technology was developed. Gary Hassell, national sales manager for Janus, believes the "The King's Speech" is inspirational to people who are hoping to find help for their stuttering.

"It actually creates awareness," Hassell said. "Really, we haven't had anything like that for stuttering. It just makes them start searching. When they search they will find lots of options."

"We think it's a big deal," he said, "especially for something that was developed right here in Greenville."

Contact Kim Grizzard at kgrizzard@reflector.com or (252) 329-9578.

POLICY

Continued from A1

full board, which was denied by a 9 to 3 vote.

"The motion I made back in January stands," Forbes said in a phone call this week.

At the meeting, board members discussed the potential effectiveness of such a policy and how it would be enforced.

"I will state for the record, I am not opposed to

a moment of silence in our school system in a suggested manner, I am opposed to it being mandated," Little said.

As for enforcement, "This is just like any other policy, it would be enforced by the student code of conduct," Forbes said.

Once a final draft is developed, it will be sent for review by the legal department in the N.C. School Boards Association before coming for consideration before the Pitt County

Board of Education.

The policy committee meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the second Monday of the month in the county office complex on Fifth Street. Policy committee members are: Worth Forbes, Mary Williams, Sean Kenny, Jennifer Little, Billy Peaden and Christine Waters.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or (252) 329-9567.

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