



Minions take over Pirate Nation. **A4.**

BRIEFS

Staff Reports

ECU Police to hold active shooter training

The East Carolina University Police Department will conduct active shooter training July 8–12 at Tyler Hall on College Hill.

This training, a normal part of ECU's emergency planning procedures, is designed to prepare law enforcement personnel to respond to an active shooter on campus. Tyler Hall will be the only building involved in the training scenarios.

According to the ECU Police, the exercise may involve actors and simulated use of weapons.

Students, faculty, staff and visitors are encouraged to avoid the Tyler Hall area between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., July 8–12, if possible.

New faculty orientation to be held

From August 12–16 a program entitled "Pirates Aboard" will be held on campus for new faculty.

The program will offer information on entry and exit policies for all employees, support from Joyner and Laupus Libraries, parking and 1 Card sign up, syllabus requirements and recommendations, information about classroom management at the college level, university policies, research expectations and assistance, conflict of interest reporting requirements, service requirements and opportunities.

The Office for Faculty Excellence will also inform new faculty of opportunities for Scholarship of Engagement, the Personnel Action Dossier and Sedona system for reporting research and creative activity, faculty development opportunities, Information Technology & Computing Services (ITCS), units, and others.

Author reading coming to art museum

Eastern North Carolina writer Jim Grimsley will read from his fiction at the Greenville Museum of Art, 802 Evans Street, in a free and public event.

An award-winning novelist and playwright, Grimsley is a senior resident fellow in creative writing at Emory University.

Grimsley will be introduced by Gary Richards, a professor at the University of Mary Washington in Virginia. Richards interviewed Grimsley for the 2009 issue of the North Carolina Literary Review.

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Wednesday, 7.10.13



Tar River revitalization

KATIE WEST | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The city has allotted \$200,000 for a study that will make the Tar River more accessible to citizens of Greenville as well as attract more tourism to the area.

City Council study begins in 30–45 days

Lauren Keranakis

COPY CHIEF

The 2014 fiscal year brings a Tar River study in hopes to improve public access to the river, officials say.

The study will begin in the next 30 to 45 days said City Council Member Marion Blackburn.

"We love our river and we want to make it more accessible to the public," said Blackburn.

According to a newsletter from City Council Member Calvin Mercer, the study will focus on making better use of the river and positioning Greenville as a gateway city for regional tourism.

"This two-part vision is a possible way to increase quality of life for our citizens and make progress, in a cost-efficient way, on economic development," said Mercer.

\$200,000 has been allotted for the study. The money is provided solely from the city's budget.

"I thought it was not wise to spend a quarter of a million dollars to study the river. We already have a Town Common master plan that shows how to utilize that part of the river and is widely supported by the public," said Mercer.

Mercer suggested that expertise from ECU, even graduate students, could help with the study to lower costs. Mercer added that left over money should be put into savings.

"Rather than spending all that money to do another study, we can take \$100,000 and begin doing something. And then maybe we can take \$50,000 and do another study," said Mercer.

Greenville is looking to other cities, like Rock

> **TAR RIVER** page **A2**

According to a newsletter from City Council Member Dennis Mitchell, the possibilities of showcasing the river with private partnerships include:

- **An Outdoors Center to rent Kayaks, jon boats, bikes and sell bait for fishing**
- **A World Class BMX park to spotlight our strong BMX heritage with long term planning for a National BMX Museum**
- **Redevelopment of run down apartments along the river for either retirement communities or single family homes**
- **Expand Uptown shopping toward river**
- **Marina style boat docks to promote travel to the coast by water**



DREW CARTER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The upcoming Walmart opening will include a week of celebrations, including freebies and raffle prizes aimed at students.

Greenville anticipates new Walmart

Chelsea Cox

STAFF WRITER

The new Walmart in Greenville will open July 17 with a ribbon cutting at 7:30 a.m. and the doors opening at 8 a.m.

Walmart's location, 4600 E.10th St., will be much more convenient for some locals, including ECU students. The store will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will feature pharmacy, grocery and a variety of merchandise.

The grand opening will call for lots of celebrations and giveaways.

"For two weeks after the grand opening we'll have activities. The first day, I know BlueBell Icecream is giving out free ice cream," said Ken Bedsole, Walmart store manager. "There'll be a lot of freebies... there's a lot of different activities we're doing that the vendors are helping us with...so everybody is really excited about it."

On July 20, Walmart will be celebrating with vendors and shoppers from 12–3 p.m., according to a recent press release.

"Everybody will be here then,"

said Bedsole. "Coke is bringing in their fresh team [and] a NASCAR simulator...we're cooking out, we'll have face painting, clowns, Pepsi will be here."

As part of the university's Plunge Into Purple celebration on August 18, students will enjoy a night of shopping and giveaways from 9:30–11:30 p.m., according to Bedsole.

"We're real excited about this," said Bedsole. "For the past two years, East Carolina has been having their shopping run and they've been partnering with Target. This year, we're their partner"

The university will provide buses running to both Walmart stores that evening. Bedsole said all of their vendors will be on the premises with giveaways and coupons.

"They're going to be doing a bunch of raffles. Coke is giving away a couple of iPads. We've got some Red Lobster gift cards, some Olive Garden gift cards, Carolina Ale House gift cards, t-shirts, free food...that night is really going to be geared towards the students," said Bedsole.

Bedsole also mentioned that students will soon be able catch the bus to the new Walmart.

"The bus line has been extended, so the bus line will actually come all the way to Walmart now," said Bedsole. "We had a covered bus stop installed for the students."

ECU Junior Elementary Education major Andi Justice is excited about the opening of the new location. "I'm from Greenville, and that is right down the street from where my parents live, so I'm real excited because I don't have to drive all the way to the other side of town now to go to Walmart" said Justice.

Walmart has created approximately 300 new jobs with the opening of their second location in Greenville.

The grand opening celebration will also include \$5,500 in grants to local non-profits, such as the American Red Cross, the Ronald McDonald House and Special Olympics of North Carolina, to name a few.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Monday is for protest

Marcella Camara

STAFF WRITER

Peaceful protests against recent changes in North Carolina began 10 weeks ago continuing every Monday since earning the protest the name Moral Monday.

With the 2012 election of North Carolina's first Republican Gov. in 20 years, Pat McCrory, the state has seen numerous changes. Gov. McCrory and the GOP majority have announced plans to usher in new legislation regarding education, voting, immigration, and health care.

On July 1, North Carolina made budget cuts to the unemployment benefits program that aided those who are newly unemployed in the state. Other recent changes include a proposed \$750 million cut to education spending, a rejection of Medicaid expansion, voter ID restrictions and a recent bill that may limit safe abortions.

Moral Mondays are a diverse gathering of concerned North Carolinians and their supporters held every Monday at 5 p.m. in front of the N.C. General Assembly. Those at the rally hold signs, chant, march and commit acts of civil disobedience in attempt to get the attention of Gov. McCrory and lawmakers. The weekly rally has gained a large following and grown more organized since its inception in late May.

Community organizers and leaders, such as the N.C. NAACP President Rev. William Barber, stand at the forefront of the protest, organizing educational meetings

> **MONDAY** page **A2**

MONDAY continued from A1

about state issues and engaging in civil disobedience. They have even recruited a law council for those who get arrested.

Barber, who has spoken on the campus of ECU various times, has played an active role in Moral Mondays by rallying members of the community and educating the public by giving speeches. He has worked with various students, including ECU senior DeMonte Alford who gave a speech at the protest held yesterday.

Moral Mondays and the hot button issues it tackles have shown that people of all kinds are passionate about what happens in this state, including many other students at the university and

members of the Greenville community. Sophomore major, Ashley Breedlove, city council member Marion has attended various Moral Mondays.

Breedlove, who works as city council member Marion Blackburn's campaign major, referred to her Moral Monday experience as "overwhelming, but empowering." She does not agree with many of the N.C. GOP's recent actions and has attended as many Moral Mondays as possible to ensure her voice is heard.

"It is amazing to see people standing up for things that they do not want, and it has been astounding to watch the crowds get larger week by week," said Breedlove.

During her various atten-

dances of Moral Monday, Breedlove has experienced a lot including getting to meet Melissa Harris-Perry of MSNBC.

Tyrasia Sawyer Smith, a sophomore major, agrees with Breedlove's passion and "the citizens of North Carolina are hurting," said Smith. Smith has attended three Moral Monday protests to show her support for her fellow North Carolinians. She stated that she originally attended the event to "witness history in the making."

As of now, Moral Mondays are set to continue in Raleigh in front of the General Assembly weekly at five p.m.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Tipsy moves chairs indoors

Brittany Sanderson
STAFF WRITER

A popular downtown Greenville venue has decided not to continue outdoor dining after the City of Greenville required the use of a permit.

The Tippy Teapot removed all of its tables, chairs and rainbow umbrellas from outside after the city told the uptown merchants of the new regulations.

Owner Delia Liuzza said she wasn't forced to bring her furniture inside, she chose to do it. She said the City of Greenville created a laundry list of regulations and she couldn't complete all of the requirements.

"I don't think at this point it would be a problem to leave them outside," Liuzza said.

Liuzza said she thinks the City of Greenville is trying to do a good thing but they are going about it in a negative way.

"They are trying to promote outdoor dining but the way they are going about it is so disincentive that I don't want to have tables and chairs out there," Liuzza said.

Senior journalism major Sydney Barill said The Tippy Teapot has a charm unlike any other place.

"Part of their charm is

the ability to make many different types of people feel welcome and comfortable, including those of us who like to dine outside," Barill said.

Barill said it's a shame for the Tippy Teapot to do away with a commodity customers have enjoyed for years. She understands why Liuzza chose to remove her furniture though.

"The Tippy Teapot has a lot of great qualities that will keep customers coming back, Barill said. "The food and great service will be enough."

Barill said loyal customers will not mind enjoying their coffee on the inside.

Tippy Teapot customers have proven to be faithful and supportive. "Everyone knows what is going on. They have shown immense support," said Liuzza. "I've had several people offer to pay the annual fee."

Liuzza said she doesn't think she will lose business because of this, but it will be harder to attract new customers.

"My umbrellas were always my open sign. Now we look closed and that doesn't attract business," Liuzza said.

Junior speech pathology major Ciara Stone said the

tables, chairs and umbrellas are a part of the Tippy Teapot. She said the City of Greenville is being unfair to the venue by taking that away.

"Having furniture outside is inviting to customers. I think by regulating that the city is taking away the potential business that Tippy could have," said Stone.

Stone said the City of Greenville is being selfish by making business outreach more difficult.

"They clearly had a reason for putting tables outside, probably to make it more attractive for customers," said Stone. "I don't think Tippy will lose business from regular customers, but it will be a lot harder for them to get new ones."

Sophomore English major Lindy Sellars said she enjoys going to The Tippy Teapot for a lot of reasons, but outdoor dining isn't one of them.

"I go there all the time, I have never eaten outside," said Sellars. "I have never seen anyone use those tables."

Sellars said she is sure they do get used but she doesn't think losing them will affect business at all.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.



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Reuse old news

Recycle this paper

TAR RIVER continued from A1

Hill, S.C., for ideas on how to capitalize the Tar River.

"I've seen a lot of people in Greenville with boats so I think that a marina style dock will be a great addition," said Senior health fitness specialist major Lind-

sey Hager.

The Pamlico-Tar River Foundation's official river keeper, Heather Deck, hopes the foundation will have the opportunity to provide input for the study.

"We see [the study] as a

great way to utilize the river in an environmentally sensitive manner," said Deck.

More than seven miles of the Tar River flows through Greenville. The study will also include developing the Green Mill Run Greenway

along the majority of river.

"We hope to have a greenway that runs from [Vidant Health] to Eastside Park," said Blackburn.

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PIRATE RANTS

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I'm enjoying how empty campus is during summer classes. I've yet to have an awkward encounter with a random hookup.

Physics at ECU is like going to Krispy Kreme and buying a doughnut and then handing you a cup of flour and telling you to make your own.

Tip for convenience stores: don't put the candy section right below the register. I don't enjoy the cashier smirking at me and sarcastically saying, "it sure is a hard decision" when I take my sweet time deciding what I want. Don't judge me for my chocolate addiction!

That awesome moment when you are wearing ECU gear outside of North Carolina and someone yells "arghhh!" as you walk by.

I love going out and knowing 90 percent of the people in the bars, it makes for a much crazier night.

Everyone should be required to wait tables during their lifetime so they can realize all of the s**t we have to deal with.

If I am at your bar with a \$20 dollar bill in my hand and you are serving the fat, sweaty men behind me, you will not get any of my hard-earned money.

Why do guys have to cheat? Just grow a pair and break up with her. You know you want to.

Paula Deen got called out for what everyone else says when few people are around. She should have made an apology dinner for everyone and I am sure they would have been content.

I wonder how many people in Greenville DON'T drink. I am sure the statistics are leaning towards the fact that we are all alcoholics.

That awkward moment when you realize you forgot to put deodorant on.

Everyone is hating on Kim Kardashian and Kanye West for naming their baby "North." Lets not forget about her sex tape and his insanely ignorant song lyrics.

Follow
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writing for
Opinion?



Contact Jessica Powell
at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com
for details.

EDITORIAL

Our view

Local parking: a continued battle

Parking in Greenville is continuing to be a burden on many Greenville residents. Tickets, boots and towing are widespread around town, and a solution has to be created.

As a community, we should try to work together rather than have separate entities when discussing issues such as this. Yes, the government would like to make a profit from our careless parking, but we as tax-paying citizens would enjoy entering the establishments that keep this town afloat without the risk of an unnecessary ticket.

The money the city receives from the copious amounts of towing and ticketing should be used towards parking lots and parking decks around the downtown and university areas.

A simple drive to summer classes has turned into a childhood game of hide-and-go-seek with local towing companies.

As a regular to Christy's Euro Pub, I have become accustomed to parking in the large, abandoned lot in front of the once prosperous City Market on Jarvis St.

Recently, signs have been put up by a local towing company claiming the lot is now "by permit only" and will be under 24-hour video surveillance.

Being accustomed to parking in that lot when attending the pub, I naturally chose to park in that location to make my daily walk to Joyner East a little more scenic and convenient.

Unfortunately, every parking lot or spot in Greenville has a grocery list of restrictions, and I am now forced to find yet another place to park.

The inconvenience and principle behind this is what fuels my anger. Soon enough we will not be able to park anywhere without a pass of some sort that requires an annual fee.

Help us poor students out, we have tuition to pay.

The editorial staff can be contacted at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.



WEB PHOTO

Remembering Leah Droske



CONTRIBUTED

Jessica Powell
OPINION EDITOR

Many hearts are irreparably shattered after the recent death of 19-year-old Leah Droske. A vibrant, talented, determined girl, Leah recently chose to call Greenville her home to begin her life as a college student, but the universe had other plans for her.

Tragedies like this only occur in movies, right? It can't be real. There is no way that this is real.

The strength to pull through a devastating situation like this must be summoned from every fiber of ones being. The faith in an afterlife, endless prayers and the perpetual reevaluation of whether or not everything happens for a reason speeds through the minds of the mourning families, yet never seems to subside.

The cave-like pit in your heart where that wonderful person once illuminated is now dulled, but not all hope should be lost.

Death is often so sudden that no goodbyes can be made, no apologies can be given, and no closure can be found. In times like this, we should remember that the deceased is not suffering, although those left in their wake can be.

Living with Epilepsy, Droske struggled to live a completely normal life without constant worry of unintentionally harming herself or others. After her body was discovered in a backyard swimming pool, the lives of both Leah Droske and her family will be forever changed.

Although no longer with us in this life, her bold spirit will forever surround us.

You were the daughter of my courageous stepmother, welcomed resident to the Powell home, and my stepsister. You sang like an angel, and now you are singing with them. Rest in peace, Leah.

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The constant search for love



INSIDE THE
MIND OF
JOURNALIST
JESS

One thing that almost all humans have in common is an insatiable hunger to love and be loved in return. The burning desire to be desired far surpasses many other instinctual human needs.

The enthralling part about love is that you do not have to believe in a "soul mate" to fall in love with another individual. Rather than approaching your love life as a quest for your "soul mate," look at it as a treasure hunt instead, bettering yourself along the way until you meet your ultimate treasure.

Yes, it may sound pessimistic and distasteful

to those who believe that they indeed found their "soul mate," but I am skeptical. Love is strong, but not always singular.

Throughout life's journey, you will encounter an incredibly large amount of people. Although you may not view all of these people as potential life partners, it is not unrealistic to think that someone you have already met will be the person you will spend the rest of your life with.

Although I am a young college student, it often makes me uneasy to see a mass amount of people my age with boyfriends, husbands, and even children. My curiosity gets the best of me when wondering, "Will I find someone one day?"

I have persisted in the mindset that I will prosper by myself in order to have something to offer the person I am lucky enough to end up with.

But, single people are not always the most confused. Love can get complicated when people in relationships have a wandering eye and are looking for the next best thing. People become torn when they are not completely satisfied with the relationship they are in, but are hesitant to leave because they may not be content with their decision, and going back to that original person may not be an option. Whether you are single or in a relationship, there are issues on both sides of the spectrum.

Robert Frost said, "Love is an irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired." Whether we want to believe it or not, this is true. Everyone is capable of loving and being loved in return if they take that chance.

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Two years of homemade treats

Kristen Martin
STAFF WRITER

On the corner of Fifth and Evans is a restaurant that is a perfect niche in Greenville's downtown district. The Scullery Coffeehouse and Creamery was named after the scullery in old houses and ships.

"Old houses had big kitchens and in the rear of the kitchen they would have the scullery where they would do dishes," said Matt Scully, co-owner and operator. "It's also a term used for the kitchen or the dish room on a large ship."

Other than being a variation of Scully and his wife Erin's last name, the name's connotation was also important. "It's a really neat word

because it sounds kind of fancy, but it has a really humble meaning," said Scully. "That's kind of what we wanted to do; we want to have really great food, but present it in a really casual way so that people feel comfortable."

Two years ago, Matt and Erin entered the Small Business Plan Competition that is sponsored by the City of Greenville. This competition is held twice a year.

"We won a round of that and that's how we got our initial funding," said Scully. "We just celebrated two years."

Matt and Erin have always had a love for food, coffee and ice cream, and coupled with their background in restaurants, they felt like downtown Greenville would be the perfect location for

their idea. "We just saw a real need for that down here and knew that it would be successful," said Scully.

Instead of trying to target just college students since they're in close proximity to campus, the Scullys have a more general scope. "We really try to target the entire community and we do a pretty good job of it," said Scully. "That's one thing that we're really proud of, that we have a diverse customer base."

When entering The Scullery, the overall vibe is very intimate and homey. "I really wanted it to feel like a combination of a cool coffee shop with the feeling of a 50s soda shop counter kind of thing," said Scully.

During the summer months, The Scullery has slightly different hours than normal. On Monday through Fridays it opens at 7:30 a.m. and at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Mondays and Tuesdays they close at 4 p.m., while on Wednesdays, Thursday and Saturday they close at 7 p.m., and Fridays at 9 p.m. They are also closed on Sundays.

The menu offers a wide variety of choices that could satisfy any customer. One of the things The Scullery prides itself on is creating interesting dishes, such as a BLT with avocado added. "It's real simple stuff, but we try to make it interesting at the same time," said Scully.

There's no one popular item on the menu. "Everything on there is really good; it always sells really well," said Scully. "We don't keep anything on there that isn't going to be great." All of the items on the menu are made from scratch in the shop.

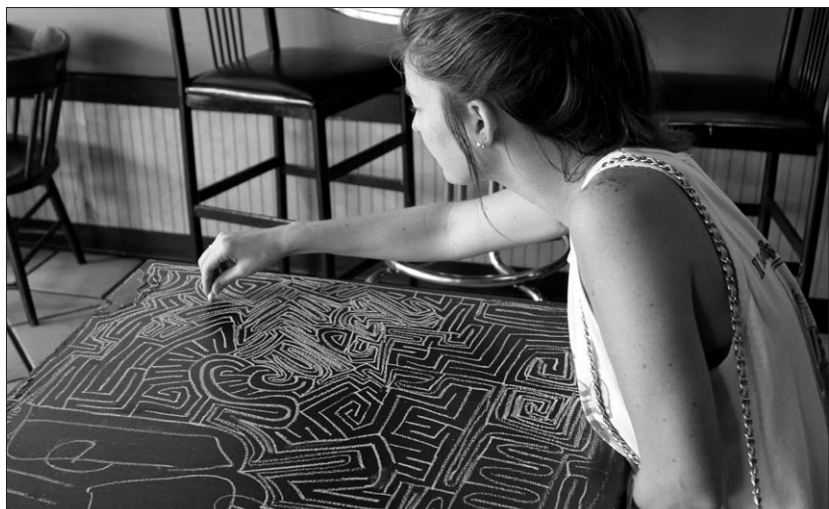
Every couple of weeks the menu is changed, and generally new things are added with each change. "When we opened up, it was very simple. We just had coffee, a couple of ice creams, one or two salads and grilled cheese sandwiches," said Scully. "Now we have a full breakfast menu and we do catering and have beer and wine."

One of the things The Scullery is known for its homemade ice cream. "We make it from scratch right



ALL PHOTOS TAKEN BY DREW CARTER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

(Top and above) Uptown coffee shop and creamery craft homemade ice cream and treats. Ingredients for popular menu items are fresh and local. (left) A variety of coffee drinks, salads, sandwiches and breakfast meals are offered at The Scullery and can be enjoyed on chalkboard tables.



here," said Scully. "We do a custard base, so it has eggs, milk and sugar." Generally, there are always ten flavors, including chocolate, vanilla and coffee. They also make interesting flavors, such as avocado and sweet corn.

Senior English major Jess Crawley loves the homemade soups and ice cream. "Always something different, always something delicious," she said. "I love the atmosphere as well, and the point that you get to sit there and draw on the table while waiting for your food is so much fun."

In the two years they've been open, the Scullery has had some fascinating visitors. "Governor Bev Perdue came here and spent a morning with us last year," said Scully. "The city was honored for its revitalization commis-

sion, so she came and did a press conference here." MTV's Savage University has also filmed in The Scullery.

This writer can be contacted at arts@theeastcarolinian.com.



EVENT CALENDAR

Tipsy Teapot

Today 7 p.m. ODM	Thursday 7 p.m. Comedy Open Mic
Friday 8 p.m. Myself and I Me Against May The 11th Hour	Saturday 7 p.m. Ooops comedy improv Maci Magic

Peasant's Pub

Thursday 10 p.m. Mamma's Love	Friday 10 p.m. David Dixon	Saturday 10 p.m. Packhouse
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Uptown Events

Today
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Umbrella Market

Know of some awesome events coming up? Let Arts & Entertainment know! Email arts@theeastcarolinian.com and put "Event Calendar" in the subject bar.

You have to be at least 21 to attend any shows after 10 p.m.

MOVIE REVIEW



Minions bring movie mayhem

Jessica McGettigan
STAFF WRITER

DESPICABLE ME 2

For fans of the loveable animation "Despicable Me", the arrival of the sequel has been highly anticipated. In "Despicable Me 2", Steve Carrell's character, evil genius Gru, is no longer the super villain he once was, which causes him to lose his trusted evil partner, Dr. Nefario. Now a doting father, the beginning of the movie starts out at a princess themed birthday party for the youngest daughter, Agness. When the fairy princess Gru hired fails to show up, Gru dons his pinkest and glitziest princess dress so that Agness has a special birthday.

Feeling that something is missing from being a whole picture, Margo, Edith and Agness decide that they really want Gru to find a wife. Conveniently, Gru has a very pushy neighbor who ironically has many single friends. After being forced into a horrible date and dodging an attempt from the girls to sign Gru up for online dating, Gru finds love in his new partner, Lucy.

When an evil potion is released into the world, the Anti-Villain League recruits the help of ex-villain Gru and Lucy to stop the potion from falling into the wrong hands. It was believed that the sought after villain worked in a local mall, so Gru and Lucy are assigned to work undercover at a pastry shop in the mall.

Within minutes, a neighbor of the pastry shop walks over to meet Gru and Lucy. Gru quickly realizes that it is an ex-villain, El Macho, who was believed to have been dead. El Macho quickly rises to the top of Gru's suspect list, partly because El Macho's son has caught the eye of Gru's oldest daughter, Margo.

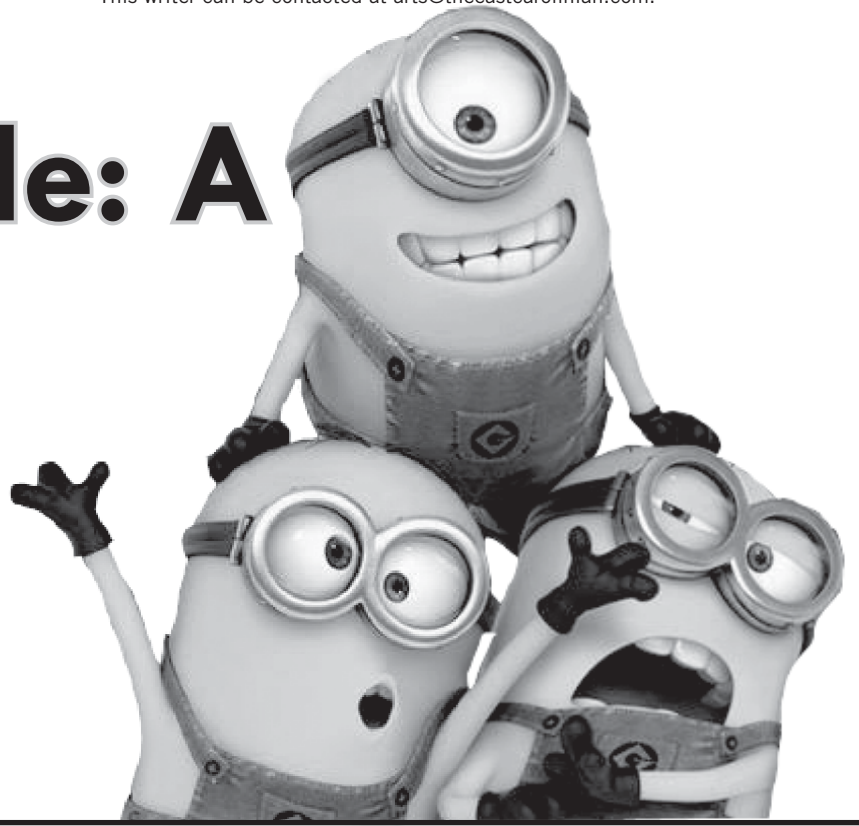
As always, the adorable minions never disappoint and in the sequel, they appear even more than in the first movie with even more singing and dancing. When the minions begin to randomly disappear one by one, the mission of finding the missing evil potion turns into a rescue mission, especially when the evil potion is used on the minions.

After realizing he was assisting an evil villain who was hurting the people he loved, Dr. Nefario decided he wanted to come back to work with Gru and his family and help rescue the minions. Gru, Lucy, Dr. Nefario, and even the girls rescue the minions. Gru and Lucy fall in love, and in the end everyone is one big happy family.

"Despicable Me 2" is a movie for all ages. It is a fun, loving comedy that does not feel the need for excessive violence and unnecessary language. Although there is nothing truly educational within the movie, it is an hour and a half of pure entertainment filled with many laughs.

This writer can be contacted at arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

Grade: A



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Staff Reports

Chase McDonald drafted into minor league

Former East Carolina University player Chase McDonald has made his professional baseball debut with the Greenville Astros.

McDonald signed with the Houston Astros organization after being drafted in the 12th round and playing briefly this summer with two separate stints with the Marlins organization and in 2011, McDonald was named Coastal Plain League Offensive Player of the year.

McDonald finished the 2011 season leading the CPL in batting average (.403) and RBIs (51). He placed second in home runs (13) and total bases (120).

The summer of 2012, McDonald played with the Bourne Braves of the Cape Cod League. McDonald was hitting .256 with four home runs and batted in 11 runs.

McDonald is a Greenville, N.C. native and played his collegiate baseball at East Carolina University, where he was a consistent asset for the Pirates lineup

Erik Lenzen commits to 2014 season

Cardinal Gibbons (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) offensive tackle Erik Lenzen committed to East Carolina on July 1, becoming the sixth commit for the 2014 Pirate class and the second from Florida.

The 6-foot-5 270 pound lineman has great speed to go along with his size.

Lenzen admitted ECU's move to the American Athletic Conference in 2014 played a role in his recruitment, but his visit to campus is what made him finally commit. The coaching staff has told him he'll likely red-shirt his first year at ECU.

Lenzen is excited to be a future member of the Pirate Nation.

"I can't wait to get there," he said. "I'm excited to have a chance to compete at the college level. I'm ready to feel what it's like to play college football."

As far as 2014 commits, the Pirates are still behind in comparison to fellow in-state schools UNC Chapel Hill and N.C. State. Both schools outnumber ECU by double figures, UNC has 16 commits, while N.C. State leads the nation with 24.

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Fanny Wolte (left), junior, was honored as an All-American Scholar for the third time recently. Katie Kirk (right), sophomore, was honored for the second time. WEB PHOTOS

Lady Pirates chosen as All-American Scholars

Ronnie Moore
SPORTS EDITOR

Being named an All-American Scholar consecutive years is a difficult feat, but for the ECU Women's Golf team, it's not rare at all.

Head coach Kevin Williams and the Lady Pirate Golf team were represented for the ninth straight year with at least two golfers on the list.

The duo of junior Fanny Wolte and sophomore Katie Kirk represented ECU on the All-American list for the 2012-2013 season. To be named a NCAA Division-1 All-American Scholar, you have to

achieve two things: the golfer must maintain at least a 3.5 GPA while participating in 50 percent of the golf rounds for the season.

Wolte is a three-time honoree, while Kirk was selected for the second consecutive season. Wolte joins five former Pirates as a three-time honoree.

In the 13 years of the team's existence, they have had 10 golfers notch 27 NGCA All-America Scholar honors.

"We are extremely proud of Fanny and Katie for being named Academic All-Americans again this

year," said ECU Head Coach Kevin Williams. "It takes a tremendous amount of discipline, determination and hard work to achieve the academic and athletic success by these student-athletes."

In the classroom, Wolte is a three-time C-USA Commissioner's Academic Medal winner, three-time C-USA Honor Roll recipient, six-time ECU Director of Athletics Honor Roll member and a two-time C-USA All-Academic Team selection.

On the course this year, Wolte earned Player of the Week for her

sixth place finish in the Marsh Landing Invitational when she shot even par for the week. In 34 career events, she has two victories, three podium finishes, eight top-10 and 15 top-20 finishes. Wolte owns a 75.20 career stroke average, which ranks second all-time at ECU. This year, Wolte ranked third on the team with a 75.27 stroke average.

Kirk, a Davidson, N.C. native, competed in all 12 events this season (77.91 stroke average), and com-

> GOLF page A7

Southeastern Conference's growth

How Pirate football could be a beneficial addition

Josh Graham
SENIOR WRITER

It's beginning to feel like ECU fans will never be content with the league their Pirates compete in. As the school enters its final year in Conference USA before joining the American Athletic Conference in 2014, recent rumors have swirled that involve ECU becoming a member of the Southeastern Conference (SEC).

Don't be mistaken. More than likely, these rumors are nothing more than message board banter during the slow months of summer and nothing more. With that disclaimer, there are legitimate reasons why it would make sense.

Before getting into whether or not ECU is worthy enough for the greener pastures of the SEC, an important question must be answered: why would the SEC want to expand in the first place?

The conference has won the last seven national titles in football and hosts one of the premier programs in college basketball. Are there really options for SEC commissioner Mike Slive to improve his league's brand?

Geographically speaking, there certainly is.

Currently, the conference has 14 members. But with some of the other leagues considering expanding to 16 schools, and the ACC already sitting at 15, the SEC may want to explore its options.

The SEC's footprint stretches as far west as Texas and Missouri, while

touching various markets along the east coast—including South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky. Though the current layout is impressive, there is a notable opportunity being missed along the Atlantic coast.

There are no schools from North Carolina or Virginia in the SEC, and subsequently the league has yet to

cash-in on either of their cable markets. Hypothetically, if there was a member in one of these states, the ACC likely loses a percentage of its audience, which further strengthens the SEC Empire.

Assuming the SEC was interested in expanding through North Carolina or Virginia, what makes ECU so appealing?

With little or no debate, there are more qualified candidates nearby in the ACC than ECU. Teams like Florida State, Clemson, Virginia and even North Carolina would all fit into that category—if not for the ACC's presidents signing a Grant of Rights agreement in April.

For those unfamiliar, the Grant of Rights ensures the ACC all of its current and future member's television rights through 2026-2027. In simpler terms, the SEC or any other conference couldn't benefit from any of the school's television revenue. Thus, all but excludes them from the conversation.

Who does that leave the SEC to choose from? I'll wait...

> SEC page A7



WEB PHOTO

CALENDAR

"We are extremely proud of Fanny and Katie for being named Academic All-Americans again this year. It takes a tremendous amount of discipline, determination and hard work to achieve the academic and athletic success by these student-athletes." - ECU Women's Golf Head Coach, Kevin Williams

37 days



Until Women's Soccer begins

51 days



Until Women's Volleyball begins

52 days



Until Pirate Football begins

Voyaging new seas: Football primed for memorable final season in Conference USA

Ronnie Moore
SPORTS EDITOR

Over the last year, ECU football has changed many key aspects of their team and program that Pirate Nation will have to get used to come this fall.

First, the Pirates ushered in a new era at quarterback when Dominique Davis graduated and took his talents to the NFL. Soon after naming Rio Johnson the starting quarterback, his struggles out of the gate forced the coaching staff to give Shane Carden the keys to the Pirate ship. After that, ECU prospered and they gained momentum. The Pirates moved on to the R+L Carriers bowl after finishing 7-1 in Conference USA and tying for the East division crown.

Conference realignment reared its ugly head towards

the end of the season, and the university found itself in an unsteady Big East conference. With teams fleeing from the conference and only Pirate football moving up to the new league, many media members dubbed the Big East as "Conference USA 2.0."

Then, head coach Ruffin McNeill and his staff decided not to renew the contract of defensive coordinator Brian Mitchell and the search for a replacement commenced. It didn't take long, as Ruffin McNeill visited former defensive backs coach Rick Smith and immediately he knew he found the guy for the job.

The Big East has since changed to the American Athletic Conference (AAC) and all ECU sports gained entry in 2014.

Recently, Ruffin McNeill

was given a contract extension and many fans were torn on the decision by new athletic director Jeff Compher. After three seasons in Greenville, McNeill is just 19-19 with zero bowl wins. Many will be quick to compare McNeill to previous head coach Skip Holtz, but their third seasons in Greenville were very similar indeed.

As ESPN College Football Insider Brett McMurphy pointed out, "Looking at the defensive numbers, I noticed ECU's yards per game and points per game on McNeill's third year were nearly identical to the 2007 season, also the third year for Skip Holtz," said McMurphy. "Both teams also finished 8-5."

Numbers do not tell the whole story, of course, but they do indicate a possible

pattern. Holtz led the Pirates to conference titles in his fourth and fifth seasons at ECU.

The return of Rick Smith may tighten the secondary unit of the defense, as it was a sore spot for the Pirates the last few seasons. Under Smith in his previous tenure, the Pirates were highly ranked in defensive interceptions and turnovers. The ball-hawking nature of Smith's defense may be the shot in the arm that ECU needs.

"The fact he's already coached at ECU should be a huge benefit," said McMurphy.

If McNeill hopes to win a conference championship, this will be the year to do so. With many of the C-USA football powers exiting stage left, the Pirates themselves are the ones standing in their

own way. If they can take care of business at home and knock off one of the ACC non-conference foes, ECU should, and could, be playing in a title game — C-USA, that is.

"ECU has proven in the past it can knock off V.T., U.N.C. and N.C. State," said McMurphy. "I don't see why the Pirates can't pull off at least one upset against those three this fall."

"I think it would be a disappointment if ECU isn't playing to lock up the East Division in its season finale at Marshall."

With the recent television contract negotiated between ESPN and the AAC, ECU may be primed for time in the spotlight as they rejoin their former conference mates. Cincinnati may be the only team that may have more strength than the

Pirates, but any team can beat any team on a given day.

"I've covered a few games at ECU and it is not an easy venue for visiting teams," said McMurphy. "In fact, I think ECU will have one of the best, if not the best, home field advantages in the American [Conference]."

The future of Pirate football looks to be on the up and up while ECU sails unfamiliar waters entering a new conference and era of the program. Meanwhile, ECU may add a title to their trophy case and gain national recognition this season, but to do so, the Pirates will need to clear some hurdles on the road to the Liberty Bowl.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

GOLF continued from A6

peted in her second-straight NCAA Regional.

Being a scholar athlete at a division-1 university is a tough task. With practices, games and road trips, hitting the books can be a tough task for some athletes. "We miss a lot of class time due to competition, which makes this feat even more remarkable," said Williams.

The NCAA has implemented its Academic Progress Rate's (APR) system,

which is based on the eligibility, graduation and retention of each scholarship student-athlete.

The ECU Women's Golf team has consistently been near or above the average for a women's golf program. The average APR has been 986 and over the last eight seasons, ECU has been at 984 and above all but one year.

The rate and averages change each season based on the performance of the last

four years in the classroom. The low point for the lady golfers was in 2010 when the Pirates were at 976, which is good but subpar for the program.

For a four year division-1 program, 974 is the average, which shows how consistently better the women's golf team has performed when it comes to academics.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

SEC continued from A6

To save you some time, nobody comes remotely close to ECU's credentials given the aforementioned criteria.

Similar to a typical SEC school, football is undoubtedly the primary sport of interest at ECU and the program has an excellent following. In 2012, ECU ranked No. 45 in attendance nationally, which would be remarkable for any other mid-major school.

For ECU, last year's numbers were smaller than in previous seasons. Since the addition of "The Boneyard" section at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium in 2010, ECU has averaged about 49,000 per game.

The Pirates success on the field has often times been met with scrutiny because of their weak conference schedule. In an attempt to overcome that, ECU consistently schedules difficult non-conference slates, but have still managed to make bowl appearances in six of the last seven seasons.

Despite what ECU's porous 3-9 record non-conference record under Ruffin McNeill may lead you to believe, the Pirates were competitive in most of those games.

There's no better example than in 2011 when ECU faced off against South Carolina in Charlotte. The Pirates were

in command early on and led 24-14 going into halftime. That all quickly changed in the third quarter when ECU turned over the ball on its first three possessions of the half. The Gamecocks capitalized with 28 unanswered points en route to a 56-37 win.

Again, I emphasize, this isn't to suggest that ECU is capable of competing for SEC football titles and becoming a nationally ranked powerhouse on the gridiron. However, if another wave of conference realignment rolls through, all bets are off to where the Pirates' ship sails to next.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.






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