THE DAILY CLIPS

August 9, 2010

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

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
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Newsweek
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East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
Nonprofit offers services to those in need
By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
Friday, August 6, 2010
Low-income Greenville residents are being offered a new opportunity to have free health checks and receive information about a multitude of available health and human services at the JOY Ministries soup kitchen.
The new programs at the kitchen are being coordinated by Churches Outreach Network (CON). The network helps people register to vote, to receive food stamp and prescription assistance, to file Pell grant applications for college tuition assistance and to participate in health improvement projects sponsored by a health ministry and other nonprofit health organizations.
Students from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University offer free basic clinical health services while counselors from The Benefit Bank program and Communities in Schools of Pitt County offer advice on federal student aid enrollment and other government programs designed for low-income residents.
“We’re just here, even if people only want to vent about feeling lost and overwhelmed. Sometimes that’s all they want; someone to listen,” said Monica Shamsasani of ReStart Behavioral Health Care, which offers counseling and referrals for treatment of mental health disorders and substance abuse for children and adults through Medicaid.
Jason Lee and Steven Pontickia, second-year medical students at Brody, participate in the clinic as part of Project Elevation through the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. They surveyed attendees and employees of the soup kitchen, then fashioned services to address the primary needs that people expressed. On Wednesday, they checked people’s feet and blood pressure, tested for levels of fat in blood and other risk factors for stroke and heart disease. Serious medical conditions are referred to physicians for a course of treatment when discovered, they said.
“Rather than do all kinds of fancy medical procedures, we’re just trying to start this clinic at the most basic level,” Lee said. “We just talk to folks, get to know them and try to contribute to the improvement of their lifestyles, and hopefully get them out of the soup kitchen and back into school or jobs.”
Neighborhood resident Greg Richardson had dangerously high blood pressure. The students’ evaluation caught it and sent Richardson to the hospital for medication and follow-up services.
“I was having pain above my eyes and thought I ought to get my pressure checked. They helped me a lot and they’re helping out a lot of people here,” Richardson said.
Lee said he hopes recipients will spread the word about the services offered at the kitchen.
“If one person tells another about the work we’re doing here, we might be able to create a groundswell of participation and make a lot of people more healthy,” Lee said.
Stephanie Grey, R.N., director of Be Healthy Ministries, helped Lee and Pontickia with their work and offered people the opportunity to participate in several free health and wellness projects, including pre-conception health and smoking cessation.

“This is an awesome opportunity for these people,” Grey said. “They don’t have to travel far away from home, and they can come to JOY and have a meal while they get their spiritual and physical needs met all in one place free of charge.”

The concept of providing multiple services through ministries and public-private organizations comes from Churches Outreach Network co-founder Pastor Rodney Coles.

“Jesus did healing in addition to preaching and feeding. This all falls in line with his principles of taking care of all of his people’s needs,” Coles said.

The CON pastor marveled at what can be accomplished by bringing people’s good ideas for charitable work together.

“The miracle is that we have people here who can help and who reach out to offer their help to those in need,” Coles said. “I thank God for all our partners who help those in need. For our church network, it’s all about connecting the dots of people’s talents and gifts. Teamwork makes the dream work.”

Darryl Allen sat with Benefit Bank volunteer Cardonia Lewis and searched for ways to get food stamps and financial aid for school. Lewis searched the Web for charitable organizations that might fit Allen’s specific needs.

“We serve as a link between the community and the Social Services Department, bringing our computers and printers closer to those in need. This expedites the process for them,” Lewis said.

Allen said it means much more than technical support to him and the people who come to JOY kitchen.

“It gives you a lot of hope to know that you’re not out there alone. Ms. Lewis’s help has been inspirational and encouraging to me,” Allen said.

Those interested in contributing or adding to the services offered at JOY Ministries, or in benefitting from them, can contact Coles of Churches Outreach Network at 902-4137.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9571.
Volunteer Cardonia Lewis tells visitors to Greenville's JOY Ministries soup kitchen about some of the services now being offered. The kitchen, located on Albemarle Street, coordinates its new services through the Churches Outreach Network.
Michael Abramowitz/The Daily Reflector

A neighborhood resident gets a blood pressure check this week at the JOY Ministries soup kitchen from Steven Ponteckia, a medical student at the Brody School of Medicine.
Michael Abramowitz/The Daily Reflector

Volunteer Cardonia Lewis helps Darryl Allen find food stamps and other available services.
Michael Abramowitz/The Daily Reflector
What are they paid? Public employees' salaries scrutinized

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, August 7, 2010

When the news broke in mid-July that certain public employees in a California suburb were pulling down seriously swollen salaries, Greenville City Manager Wayne Bowers told his staff to expect inquiries.

Reporting by the Los Angeles Times exposed that Bell's city manager, assistant city manager and police chief were pulling down breathtaking six-figure amounts. More than President Barack Obama. More than governors and leaders in Los Angeles and New York City.

Bell's chief administrative officer made $787,637, his assistant city manager $376,288 and the police chief was paid $457,000 annually. All in a town of fewer than 40,000 people.

They've all since announced forthcoming resignations, without severance packages, and ethics investigations are under way, the Times reports. The majority of City Council members overseeing matters earn $100,000 annually themselves.

"It hurts our image as professionals," Bowers said this week. "We should be compensated. But fairly. And I don't think anyone finds that to be fair."

Locally, city and Greenville Utilities Commission employees are undergoing an unrelated classification and compensation study, conducted by an outside consultant group from Dallas. Though updates can be conducted in-house along the way, a major study is conducted every decade or so, Bowers said.

Questionnaires draw out responsibilities plus education and experience requirements for each position. Each is reviewed by supervisors for accuracy. Everyone from custodians to the director of financial services is included.

The consultant then assesses what the proper compensation range should be based on comparisons to cities of similar size with utilities nationwide. Benchmark cities are as close as Rocky Mount or Asheville, and as far away as Kissimmee, Fla., and Flower Mound, Texas.

Published private sector and industry pay surveys also are taken into account when determining the salary ranges that will be posted alongside job openings, Bowers said.

Results are expected in November.

At that time the pay scale can be retooled. Hard-to-fill positions may be worth more while salary holds could be put in place if someone is earning above the market value. Any changes in the pay plan must be authorized by the Greenville City Council.

Pitt County has a similar system. Human Resources Director Florida Hardy said an outside market comparison took place in 2002. Since then, the county has internally evaluated and updated a third of the positions each year. She said officials look to Catawba, Alamance and
Johnston counties for comparison, and recently to New Hanover, which has experienced significant growth.

Some positions are funded at the state level, Hardy added, including directors of the Pitt County Health Department and Department of Social Services.

That’s also the case for some East Carolina University jobs.

All chancellors’ salaries throughout the University of North Carolina system are approved by the UNC Board of Governors, according to ECU spokesman John Durham. Salary ranges for vice chancellors are set for each campus by the Board of Governors and the specific salaries for those vice chancellors are determined by the chancellor and approved by the Board of Trustees. The contract for the athletics director is, too.

For others on the executive council, Chancellor Steve Ballard determines the salaries, Durham said. He also relies on comparative salary data within the UNC system, among out-of-state peer institutions and research universities nationwide.

The members of ECU’s executive council make less than their counterparts at UNC-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University, Durham said.

The salaries of Pitt County Schools’ top administrators are negotiated with the district and the local Board of Education based on employees’ years of experience, job responsibilities and education. Administrators are paid from both state and local funds with the bulk of their salary coming from state dollars.

All listed salaries were obtained under North Carolina’s open records law and were provided almost immediately upon request. The list isn’t all inclusive, but it does provide a glimpse at how much taxpayer’s money goes toward paying government employees.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at k.kennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.

**Current local government salaries**

City of Greenville:

City Manager Wayne Bowers $167,377
City Attorney Dave Holec $146,265
Assistant City Manager Thom Moton $138,611
Police Chief William Anderson $126,152
Director of Recreation & Parks Gary Fenton $126,713
Incoming Fire Chief William Ale $110,000
Director of Public Works Wes Anderson $137,592
Director of Financial Services Bernita Demery $127,545
Director of Information & Technology Rex Wilder $127,483
Director of Human Resources Gerry Case $124,820
City Clerk Carol Barwick $67,496

Pitt County:

County Manager D. Scott Elliott $162,652
Public Health Director Dr. John Morrow $180,899
Director of Planning and Development James Rhodes $100,716
Sheriff Mac Manning $84,304
Emergency Services Director Noel Lee $76,868
Deputy County Manager/Chief Information Officer Mike Taylor $143,098
Deputy County Manager/Financial Services Director Melonie Bryan $131,851
County Attorney Janis Gallagher $127,323
Development Commission Executive Director Wanda Yuhas $109,305
Human Resources Director Florida Hardy $94,963
Social Services Director George Perry $94,963
Tax Administrator Cathy Booker $84,426
Solid Waste & Recycling Director John Demary $65,264
911 Communications Manager Sam Tyson $63,021
Board of Elections Director Dave Davis $62,276
Register of Deeds Deborah Barrington $58,368
Pitt Area Transit System Director Rebecca Clayton $52,827
Animal Shelter Director Michele Whaley $47,006
County Clerk Kimberly Hines $45,897

East Carolina University:
ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard $315,000
Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Marilyn Sheerer $276,000
Vice Chancellor for Health Services Phyllis Horns $358,710
Athletics Director Terry Holland $356,400
Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Kevin Seitz $251,000
Executive Associate Director of Athletics Nick Floyd $225,000
University Attorney Donna Gooden Payne $180,000
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor Philip Rogers $115,000

Other:
GUC General Manager/CEO Ron Elks $211,993
Pitt Community College President G. Dennis Massey $171,780
Pitt County Schools Superintendent Beverly Reep $166,890
Greenville Housing Authority Executive Director Don Rogers $123,789
Joyner Library to open Collaborative Learning Center
Sunday, August 8, 2010
ECU News Services

The Collaborative Learning Center at J.Y. Joyner Library at East Carolina University will officially open for students on Sept. 1; however, the university community is already trying out the new study spaces and technology.

The learning blueprint for today’s university student is far different than the traditional instruction some East Carolina alumni may remember. Independent study has been replaced largely by the collaborative learning model, library officials said. Joyner Library provides the venue for 21st century learning with the launch of a state-of-the-art Collaborative Learning Center, located on the first floor of the library where reference was previously housed.

When classes begin later this month, Phase I of this transformation will provide increased seating capacity from 345 to more than 525. Comfortable yet ergonomic seats, high-tech computer stations, tables, lounge chairs and booths will provide even better study and work conditions.

“I’m excited about the remodeling of the first floor. More space and better furniture will make working on team projects easier,” said Yasheka Batts, an ECU senior child life major, who tried out one of the touch screen monitors on Wednesday. “Having this new technology available will help us for classes and for our jobs.”

“Joyner Library’s new furniture configurations and technology upgrades will increase collaboration and production among our students,” said Mark Sanders, head of reference services.

“And of course, the reference department remains positioned to provide research and instructional support in person, via telephone, e-mail, instant message or text message.”

State-of-the-art technology, especially in the new presentation practice room, will allow students to DVR their presentation or group project, play it back, and download to a flash drive. Wi-Fi is available throughout the library; students can check out laptops, camcorders, and iPods.

To complete the comprehensive learning experience, the Pirate Tutoring Center and University Writing Center have moved to the first floor of Joyner Library. Vending areas offer a variety of food and beverages so students can take breaks on site.

“Joyner Library’s new state-of-the-art Collaborative Learning Center will support ECU students by providing an encouraging environment for study, research, and social interaction,” said Dr. Larry Boyer, dean of Academic Library and Learning Resources.

The opening reception is scheduled for 3-5 p.m. on Sept. 1, which will include self-guided tours, refreshments and a T-shirt giveaway for students. For more information, contact Dawn Wainwright at 328-4090.

Literary review reflects state’s talent
The 2010 issue of the North Carolina Literary Review, featuring vibrant cover art by Will Henry Stevens, is soon on its way to subscribers and independent bookstores across the state.

The special feature section focuses on N.C. Appalachian literature, with the work of such literary stars as John Ehle, Robert Morgan and Kathryn Stripling Byer, while other content moves the
reader east with such selections as poetry by James Applewhite. The issue closes with Wilmington-based mystery writer Wanda Canada, complemented by Doug Kazantzis’s seaside photography.

Published by ECU and the N.C. Literary and Historical Association, NCLR is an award-winning journal that received additional funding for the 2010 issue from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.

NCLR 2010 opens with an excerpt from Ehle’s “The Land Breakers,” the first in a series of novels in which the author traces the settling of western North Carolina through the experiences of an extended family from the 18th to the early 20th centuries. This series is then discussed in an essay by Terry Roberts that includes material from an interview Roberts conducted with Ehle. Ehle is finding a new audience after Kevin Watson, editor of Press 53 in Winston-Salem, began reprinting his novels in 2006. NCLR editor Margaret Bauer applauds Roberts’ and Watson’s campaigns to renew interest in Ehle’s work.

“As we edited the content that would follow the Ehle material in the Appalachian section, I was struck by John Ehle’s influence upon the other writers discussed: Robert Morgan, Ron Rash, Pamela Duncan, Kathryn Stripling Byer, Wayne Caldwell — all of these writers seem to have been inspired by Ehle,” said Bauer, an ECU professor in the Department of English.

Other selections include an essay on Morgan’s “The Hinterlands,” which will bring readers to this early book, published before Oprah Winfrey selected his novel “Gap Creek” for her book club. An essay by Joyce Compton Brown delves into Ron Rash’s “Serena,” who Bauer noted “may be the most evil female character I have encountered in literature.” Angelina Jolie has been tapped to play Serena in a movie to be directed by Darren Aronofsky (“The Wrestler”).

Other content includes poetry as well as a short story by Byer, the former state poet laureate, and photography by Rob Amberg.

The Appalachian section also features the winner of the 2009 Doris Betts Fiction Prize. Two of the 2009 Betts competition finalists also appear in the North Carolina Miscellany section of the issue, with art by Richard Garrison and Kelly Adams complementing these stories.

NCLR 2010 features art and photography by several luminaries of North Carolina’s visual arts. The cover artist, Stevens, was a leading figure of modernism in the American South. Carolina Galleries in Charleston, S.C., provided the front cover art.

Blue Spiral 1 Gallery of Asheville provided scans of several more of Stevens’s paintings of the North Carolina mountain region for the inside and back cover and to complement content of the special feature section. The photography of Horace Kephart comes courtesy of Western Carolina University’s Hunter Library and adds images that reflect the time period of several of the novels discussed in the issue.

For more information, visit http://www.nclr.ecu.edu.

**Dowdy Student Stores present scholarships**

Eleven ECU students won’t have to worry about paying for textbooks this fall thanks to Dowdy Student Stores. The on-campus bookstore, which is owned and operated by ECU, will be awarding almost $5,000 in textbook scholarships to the winners of two recent promotions.

Eight first-year students will have all of their required textbooks for the fall semester provided at no cost. Their names were randomly selected in drawings held during each of the orientation sessions this summer.

Textbook winners are Lindsey Murphy of Mebane, Alexis Miller of Julian, Isaac Riddle of Dumfries, Va., Carlos Cobb of Washington, D.C., Chelsea Morgan of Fuquay-Varina, Victoria Shaw of Crouse, Samantha Finkle of Annapolis, Md., and Ashonti Long of Baltimore, Md.

And the three students were selected by their departments to receive $500 textbook scholarships in a contest sponsored by Dowdy Student Stores. The contest rewards ECU departments for having the highest percentage of faculty submitting their fall textbook orders on time.
The departments were placed into three categories: small department (fewer than 50 courses), medium department (50 to 100 courses) and large department (more than 100 courses). Winning departments selected a student of their choice to receive the scholarship.
The Department of Philosophy (small department) awarded its scholarship to Richard Anthony Fernandez of Wallace. He is a senior triple majoring in philosophy, biology and chemistry.
The Department of Physics (medium department) presented its scholarship to Jasdeep Maggo of New Delhi, India, a senior majoring in physics.
The Department of Exercise and Sport Science (large department) chose Megan Sawyer of Camden, a senior majoring in physical education, to receive their scholarship.
Faculty must decide which textbooks they want to use months in advance.
The early deadlines allow Dowdy Student Stores staff time to set up lists for spring buyback, purchase as many used textbooks as possible from wholesalers, and to share their textbook needs list with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University.
Dowdy Student Stores are among the largest contributors to ECU scholarship funds, providing more than $350,000 annually for academic merit, athletic and need-based scholarships.
Brody addition

Dr. Balaji Pabbu, a geriatric specialist, has joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Pabbu joins ECU as a clinical assistant professor in the geriatric division of the Department of Family Medicine. He is a graduate of Sri Venkateswara Medical College in India. He completed residency training in family medicine at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center in California and a fellowship in family medicine and geriatrics at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.

Pabbu is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. His clinical interests include hospice care.

Pabbu sees patients at the ECU Ambulatory Geriatric Center, Physicians Quadrangle, Building C.
10 years on, mystery of Confederate sub remains

By BRUCE SMITH (AP) — 2 days ago

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. — A decade after the raising of the Confederate submarine Hunley off the South Carolina coast, the cause of the sinking of the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship remains a mystery. But scientists are edging closer.

On Friday, scientists announced one of the final steps that should help explain what happened after the hand-cranked sub and its eight-man crew rammed a spar with a powder charge into the Union blockade ship Housatonic off Charleston in February, 1864.

Early next year the 23-ton sub will be delicately rotated to an upright position, exposing sections of hull not examined in almost 150 years.

When the Hunley sank, it was buried in sand listing 45 degrees to starboard. It was kept that way as slings were put beneath it and it was raised and brought to a conservation lab in North Charleston a decade ago.

Sunday marks the 10th anniversary of the raising of the Hunley, discovered five years earlier by shipwreck hunter Clive Cussler.

As thousands watched from boats and the shoreline, the Hunley was brought from the depths and back to the lab by barge. Thousands turned out again in April 2004 when the crew was buried in what has been called the last Confederate funeral.

During the past 15 years, about $22 million has been spent excavating and conserving the Hunley, according to Friends of Hunley, the nonprofit group that raises money for the project.

About $10.8 million came from the state and federal government, with the rest raised through donations and tour ticket and merchandise sales. About a half million people have seen the sub that sits in a tank of water at the conservation lab.

An economic analysis earlier this year estimated the project has returned its investment many times over.

The study found that publicity from hundreds of news stories, a half dozen documentaries and a made-for-TV movie has generated at least $30 million in a state where tourism is an $18 billion industry.

"I have absolutely no misgivings," said state Sen. Glenn McConnell, the chairman of the South Carolina Hunley Commission. "The state is spending millions of dollars to get its message out to get people to visit here and the Hunley, in just one new historic revelation, makes history and makes news all over the world."

U-Haul also has the picture of the Hunley on the side of 1,200 of its rental trucks that travel throughout the country, essentially free advertising that the company says would otherwise be worth $117 million.

Rotating the sub will allow scientists to, for the first time, completely examine the Hunley's hull.

It's a delicate operation, involving replacing the existing slings before the sub is turned upright.

The pressure on the straps will be monitored electronically and a laser will monitor to make sure the surface doesn't get warped.

The Hunley is "a ghost of an iron object," said senior conservator Paul Mardikian, adding it has "hundreds of different parts and everything has to move together."

Putting it upright should provide clues to the sinking.

Was it damaged by fire from the Housatonic or perhaps struck by a second Union ship coming to the aid of the blockade vessel? Were the Hunley sailors knocked out by the concussion of the explosion that sank the Housatonic?

The clues indicate the crew died of anoxia, a lack of oxygen which can overtake a person very quickly, and didn't drown. The remains showed they were at their crank stations and there was no rush for an escape hatch.

McConnell concedes he didn't expect the project to take so long and thought it would have been in a museum by now.

"The Hunley is a very complex artifact and we decided we had only one chance to do it and that was to do it right," he said.

He estimates the Hunley could now be displayed in a museum by 2015.

Conservation of such artifacts often takes years, underwater archeologists say.

It was almost 30 years before the Swedish royal warship Vasa, which sank in 1628 in Stockholm Harbor and was raised in 1961, went on display in a permanent museum.

Scientific reports on the Vasa are just coming out, said Lawrence Babits, director of the Program in Maritime Studies at East Carolina University.

"The Hunley is iron and the iron isn't very thick and iron that has been in salt water is in a very nebulous state," he said. Putting it in shape where it can be displayed "does take time."
Patterned after the explosive, relentless Texas Tech attack they learned from former Red Raiders coach Mike Leach, McNeill and offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley are installing a full-blown, wall-to-wall spread that could have quarterbacks routinely attempting 40 to 50 passes in a hurry-up scheme that will remind many Pirates more of what they used to dread rather than cheer.

"We expected the kids to work hard all summer to prepare for this. It was exciting for me to finally get around them a little bit and watch them work," McNeill said in a statement released by ECU.

It’s not a stretch to say that in the 12-team Conference USA, the Pirates will be a West Division-styled team.

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**SEASON-OPENER**

**TULSA AT ECU**

*When: 2 p.m. Sept. 5*  
*Where: Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Greenville*

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ECU

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tempting to win a third straight East Division title.

If all goes as expected, the offense under McNeill will closely resemble those used + for the past three or four seas-

sons by Houston, UTEP, Tulsa and SMU in Conference USA’s West Division.

What’s more, the Pirates’ starting quarterback by opening day could be Dominique Davis, a guy who began his career at Boston College (under Logan’s guidance as offensive coordinator), took a detour to junior college and had not practiced a down for ECU until Friday. A 6-foot-3, 215-pound junior, Davis entered the five-man quarterback competition as the only guy in the group with real college experience.

"... It was Dominique's [Da-

vis] first day where he could be coached by Lincoln Riley, and I thought Dominique did a good job paying attention. I’m anxious to watch him develop," McNeill said in a statement.

When McNeill was hired to replace Holtz upon his departure for South Florida, the Pirates began one of the most sweeping offensive makeovers in the nation this season.

Against Tulsa, the only cosmetic change will be a return to last names on the backs of jerseys. But once ECU gets possession, it’s going to be a new ballgame.
Giants punter Matt Dodge practices under the watchful eye of Jeff Feagles.

EVAN PINKUS - AP

continued...
Big shoes to fill

Feagles’ successor for Giants at punter stands out

BY MARK VIEIRA
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ALBANY, N.Y. — Matt Dodge admitted that walking into the New York Giants’ locker room for the first time was somewhat unsettling. He was not only a rookie—a punter, no less—he was replacing the stalwart Jeff Feagles. But because of Dodge’s physique, he did not go unnoticed.

“Yeah, he’s pretty jacked,” receiver Sinorice Moss said. “It’s probably the first time I’ve seen a punter that big.”

A bodybuilding fanatic, Dodge spent more time idolizing Arnold Schwarzenegger than Ray Guy while growing up. Now, he weighs a rock-solid 228 pounds, biceps bulging underneath T-shirts that fit snugly around his arms.

“I don’t do it to be a better punter,” Dodge said of his bodybuilding. “This is more selfish stuff.”

In April, Feagles announced his retirement after a 22-year NFL career, the past seven with the Giants, in which he was the virtuoso of directional punting. Feagles retired as the league’s career leader in punts (1,713), punting yards (71,221) and balls downed inside the 20-yard line (554).

No pressure after that, right?

Drafted in the seventh round out of East Carolina, Dodge beat out Jy Bond in minicamp this summer, making him the heir apparent to Feagles. Dodge had a shaky start to training camp, but he has been working with Feagles, who is at camp helping out.

“Obviously, I’m not going to line up and knock out someone on every play, which is how a lot of these guys gain respect,” Dodge said. “I’m going to have to do it working hard and just producing.”

Among punters, Dodge has already distinguished himself with his physique.

As a junior in West Carteret High School in his hometown, Morehead City, N.C., Dodge immersed himself in weightlifting after he noticed the effects on his body; he gained 20 pounds by the time he graduated, and he was hooked.

His older brother, Nate, a member of the Army National Guard who served in Iraq from 2004-05, helped to push him in the weight room. Nate had learned different targeted workout routines during his tour of duty, exercises with names like ultimate arms and barbaric back.

Nate, 29, said he was never as intense about weight training as his younger brother.

“It might be a rewarding thing for him,” Nate Dodge said in a telephone interview. “It might be a confidence booster. Plus, not too many people are going to mess with you when you’re bigger.”

At East Carolina, Dodge’s 9,583 punting yards ranked third in team history and second among punters from Conference USA. (Dodge played one season at Appalachian State before transferring to East Carolina, and his first season there was in 2007.)

“The mindset I have is a bodybuilder mindset,” Dodge said. “I want to be the best punter I can be, but I’ll always have that in the back of my mind that I want to lift weights, too.”

Safety John Busing was teammates with Matt Turk, one of the bigger punters in the NFL, while playing for the Houston Texans last season. At 6 feet 5, Turk is taller than 6-1 Dodge. Busing said a punter like Dodge is an anomaly.

“He doesn’t look like a typical punter, so he may get treated a little differently,” Busing said. “But he’s still a punter.”
Pirates meet the press
By Ronnie Woodward
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, August 7, 2010
Fittingly, Emanuel Davis and Dwayne Harris sat at the same table during the East Carolina football team’s media day on Saturday.
The duo, which has a combined 28 starts and will be counted on for leadership this fall, calmly answered questions from the local media about ECU’s new coaching staff and new offense, among other things.
Most of the other players in the room, however, were experiencing media day for the first time. Despite their once unnoticed status on the ECU team, players like quarterback Brad Wornick are now gaining plenty of attention.
“It’s definitely been a whirlwind,” said Wornick, a sophomore former scout-teamer who is one of five players battling for the starting quarterback position this preseason. “But you have to take it and run with it. Every opportunity you get, you have to make the most of it, and I think that’s what I’m doing right now.”
The Pirates, who open the season Sept. 5 at home against Tulsa, are trying to replace 28 seniors and 16 starters from last year’s team, which won Conference USA for the second straight year.
First-year coach Ruffin McNeill said keeping his young team focused on a day-to-day schedule and not letting players get too ahead of themselves is a must.
“Some guys will now get significant playing time who didn’t (before), and it’s very important that I make sure they focus on the sequence of things,” McNeill said. “Today, it’s focusing on execution and tempo. They still haven’t reached the tempo we want on offense, defense or special teams yet.
“When the season starts, we can’t worry about the next game. There are a lot of games on the schedule, we have plenty ahead of us and we have to focus on the day-to-day process. ... That’s the biggest goal with this team.”
For a player like Harris, a senior wide receiver, the abundance of youth has made him become a leader in a hurry.
“Most of the offensive guys and skill guys are now looking up to me,” said Harris, who needs 105 receiving yards to become East Carolina’s all-time leader. “In the past, I was just one of the guys who was out here having a good time.”
The same can be said for Davis, a junior cornerback who is one of two starters returning from a defense that played a key role in ECU’s C-USA title win last year under former coach Skip Holtz.
“There are a lot of new faces around and a lot of new people to get to know,” Davis said. “I think the coaching staff did a good job of getting us together after the coaching change and letting us know that it’s time to get to work and the past is the past.”

The Pirates started preseason practice on Friday.

McNeill, a former Texas Tech assistant who has brought the Red Raiders’ attacking style of offense and defense with him to Greenville, said part of preseason practice is about establishing a new identity.

“We want to be a team that plays with great fundamentals, plays with great effort and attacks on all three sides of the football,” McNeill said. “Those things have to be established and each team is different. No play you made the year before carries over to the next year.

“No success or failure carries over, so everything has to be established and starts anew.”

Contact Ronnie Woodward at rwoodward@reflector.com or (252) 329-9592.
Travis Simmons runs through a drill during East Carolina workouts this summer.
Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector

For bragging rights
By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, August 8, 2010
There aren’t exactly a lot of big plays during off-season workouts in college football, but that doesn’t mean there is no excitement.
As is the case everywhere in the country, some great battles were waged not only for positioning on the depth chart at East Carolina during voluntary workouts, but also for bragging rights.
Some of the best of the summer were the regular relay races between the Pirates’ cornerbacks, namely starters Travis Simmons and Emanuel Davis, who locked horns numerous times.
While great vision, preparation, positioning and instinct are needed to make complete corners, speed will always be the greatest measure between a good one and a great one. First-year coach Ruffin McNeill has brought running-intensive football to Greenville, and even in the early days of August camp, one of the benefits has been greater gains in speed and acceleration.
“I think a lot of us have actually gotten our speed up during the speed camp that we’ve had out here,” said Simmons, a senior who deflected away what might have been the game-winning
touchdown pass for Houston last season to seal ECU’s second straight Conference USA championship. “It’s been a lot of fun competing out there against guys like Emanuel, Derek Blacknall, Leonard Paulk and all those dudes.”
When it comes to who the fastest is, Simmons proved himself a true corner.
“In my book, I’d say I’m at the top, and in their book, they’d probably say they’re at the top,” Simmons said, comparing himself against his teammates. “At the end of the day, we’re all pretty fast.”

Like father ...
One of the driving forces behind McNeill’s rise in the coaching ranks has been his father, Ruffin Sr.
According to the head coach, whose father is a retired high school coach, many of the philosophies he will employ with the Pirates this season were hand-me-downs from his dad.
“From the philosophy in football of making sure your team is well conditioned, the Xs and Os and the schematics, and the feeling that the fundamentals can never get lost and a scheme can never override fundamentals, all that came from him,” McNeill said. “With my dad, the emphasis was always on the fundamentals, and it always comes down to two things: On offense, who blocks the best, and on defense, who tackles the best.”
Now that camp is under way, McNeill — much like ECU coach Skip Holtz before him — will put to the test many of his father’s coaching tenets.
Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252)329-9595.
Illegal students get unofficial break

BY JULIA PRESTON
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Obama administration, while deporting a record number of immigrants convicted of crimes, is sparing one group of illegal immigrants from expulsion: students who came to the United States without papers when they were children.

In case after case where immigrant students were identified by federal agents as being in the country illegally, the students were released from detention and their deportations were suspended or canceled, lawyers and immigrant advocates said.

The students who have been allowed to remain are among more than 700,000 illegal immigrants who would be eligible for legal status under a bill before Congress specifically for high school graduates who came to the U.S. before they were 16. Department of Homeland Security officials said they had made no formal change of policy to permit those students to stay. But they said they had other, more pressing deportation priorities.

"In a world of limited resources, our time is better spent on someone who is here unlawfully and is committing crimes in the neighborhood," said John Morton, the head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "As opposed to someone who came to this country as a juvenile and spent the vast majority of their life here."

Republicans say authorities should pursue all immigrants who are here illegally.

"The administration appears to want to pick and choose what laws they will follow and which ones they don't," said Rep. Brian P. Bilbray, R-Calif., who is chairman of a House immigration caucus. "They are trying to legislate from the White House."

The administration is debating how to handle immigration now that the chances for a broad overhaul that President Barack Obama supports have faded for this year.

The issue of illegal immigrant students has become pressing because young immigrants have staged increasingly frequent and defiant protests to demand passage this year of the piece of the overhaul that would benefit them.

Lawmakers who support that legislation have asked the administration to halt student deportations until Congress takes it up. But most Republicans are opposed to any action that would weaken enforcement against illegal immigration.

An internal Homeland Security memorandum, released last month by Sen. Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, set off a furor among his fellow Republicans because it showed immigration officials weighing steps they could take without congressional approval to give legal status to some illegal immigrants — including suspending deportations of students.

The moratorium had been requested by Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, the second-highest-ranking Democrat in the Senate, and Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., the leading sponsors of the student legislation, called the Dream Act.

Instead of a general moratorium, however, immigration authorities appear to be acting case by case.

"We have not had a single student whose case we handled who has been deported," said Juan Escalante, a spokesman for the Dream Is Coming, an organization that has waged petition campaigns and sit-ins to stop student deportations. "Obviously, there is some sort of pattern there in the fact they are not deporting students."
Going green is comfy at Elon

ELON -- Dan Anderson compares it to a "big radiator."

Its scientific name is a little more technical. And when the geothermal field at Elon University is finished, it will provide enough energy to heat and cool five student residence halls - two already built and three scheduled to open next summer, said Anderson, the college's spokesman.

The field - roughly the size of a football field - is part of the university's plan to use environmentally friendly energy sources and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

While that's the first priority, said Neil Bromilow, Elon's planning director, "it will pay for itself sooner or later." How quickly depends on the price of natural gas, since that's where the savings will happen.

Last week, workers wrapped up the project's drilling phase. That involves 112 holes that are each 440 feet deep. In each hole, a loop of pipe goes into the ground and comes back out. Water will flow in and out of the pipes.

In the summer, the process will remove heat from the buildings and, through an energy converter in a pump house, transfer it to the ground. In the winter, heat will be transferred into the buildings.

Because natural gas savings kick in during winters, Bromilow said, geothermal fields are more common in Northern states.

But they aren't unheard of in this part of the country. Bromilow said there's one at the American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro.

The field is behind Elon's Koury Business Center and will be covered with grass to double as a commons and recreational area.
1,100 colleges join Veterans Affairs' reduced-tuition program for students

By Lisa Rein
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, August 5, 2010; B03

A year after the Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect, about 1,100 private and public colleges and universities have signed on with the Department of Veterans Affairs to reduce tuition for student veterans in the coming school year, the agency said Wednesday.

The colleges range from Harvard University to Texas A&M University, and the pledges for subsidies vary widely.

Harvard will contribute a maximum of $3,000 each for 50 undergraduates and $20,000 each for 20 law school enrollees, whereas Texas A&M will pay $12,000 each for 25 undergraduates, according to a VA Web site. American University in the District will pay up to $13,800 each for 24 undergraduates. Many schools have multiple programs that have agreed to participate, bringing the total to 3,200, the VA said.

The "Yellow Ribbon" program took effect on Aug. 1, 2009, part of an ambitious new GI Bill that covers the cost of in-state tuition at state universities and shares the cost of more-expensive private colleges and some state schools -- if the colleges choose to fund subsidies to close that gap. The government matches dollar-for-dollar any additional tuition aid provided by the private school. The bill applies to community colleges and four-year institutions. Veterans also receive a monthly housing allowance and a stipend for books and supplies.

As of the spring, 228,994 veterans had enrolled in school using the new federal benefits, at about 4,400 colleges and universities across the country. About 22,500 students enrolled in private schools through the Yellow Ribbon program, VA officials said.

And for the first time, service members can transfer the tuition benefit to spouses or children. A spouse, for example, can use the benefit for up to 15 years after the service member leaves active duty.

The bill dramatically expands benefits over the original GI Bill signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. That bill made a college education affordable for millions of World War II veterans, but the system, and other veteran benefits programs that followed, did not keep pace with the rising costs of college.

VA officials said the agency has stepped up its efforts to advertise the program to returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan and to college admissions staffs. The agency has hired hundreds of claims processors to administer the bill, which had a rocky start last year when thousands of students faced a backlog in reimbursements for tuition, housing and textbook payments. The agency provided $3,000 in emergency aid per eligible student, and officials said they expect a smooth process this fall.
The benefits have eligibility limits that include three years of active service or separation resulting from a service-connected disability.

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Picky eaters fight stigma

If a restaurant doesn't serve potatoes of some kind, Amy Wilson won't eat.

She munches on French fries at almost every meal. To accommodate her peculiar eating patterns, she and close friends spent their high school prom dinner at an IHOP.

When Wilson was younger, her parents took her to doctors and nutritionists, all of whom predicted she would grow out of her picky food preferences. Now, the 24-year-old classics major at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro is seeing a hypnotist because she feels she has run out of options.

"I really want to be normal," she said. "I want to be able to eat different foods. But there's something in me that won't let me."

Wilson isn't alone.

Nearly 2,200 "picky eaters" are now catalogued in the first national registry of picky eating, a collaboration between Duke University and the University of Pittsburgh. The registry, known as the Food F.A.D. Study (Finicky Eating in Adults), aims to understand a phenomenon that researchers say has long been overlooked in medical and mental health circles.

The database is not looking for those who simply eschew broccoli.

What researchers call adult picky eaters are the handful of people who face an uncontrollable, instinctive disgust reaction to new foods, as if someone were suggesting that they gorge on garbage.

Picky eaters share some striking similarities. The limited assortment of "safe" foods they can tolerate are typically white foods with bland textures. Bread, French fries and pasta are common favorites. And they say they have grappled with their extremely restricted food inclinations their entire lives.

Heather Hill, a Web designer from Raleigh, says her penchant for picky eating has been with her for as long as she can remember. Hill's mother recalls the struggles she faced trying to get her daughter to eat.

Now 39, Hill lives on a diet primarily of carbohydrates, with the exception of a few "safe" fruits and vegetables. She describes her reaction to unfamiliar foods as an overpowering feeling of repulsion.

"When I bite into something I'm not familiar with, it's as though it sends a trigger to my brain that says, 'Panic, there is something foreign in your mouth,'" she said. "I either gag or spit it out. If I swallowed, I'd probably vomit."

But Wilson says the thought of letting a piece of plastic touch her palate, for example, doesn't faze her.

"It is very specific to food," she said.

A new eating disorder?
The disorder that has mystified clinicians and nutritionists for years is in consideration for inclusion in the next edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, due for publication in 2013.

If approved, picky eating will likely be classified as a type of eating disorder, but it will be distinguished from better-known ones such as anorexia or bulimia because it has nothing to do with body image.

Getting in the way

To be considered a clinical mental disorder, a behavior must cause significant distress and interfere with functioning in everyday life. Many picky eaters feel that's certainly the case.

"The older I get, the more embarrassing it is," said Wilson, who now tends to avoid food-related events entirely. "People ask me all these questions about it."

A common question, she says, is: Where do you get your nutrients? Wilson depends on multivitamins. A few others have found clever solutions by fortifying their "safe" foods with healthier ingredients that can slip past their sense of smell and taste buds.

For Hill, the impact of being a picky eater didn't really hit her until she joined the working world in her 20s. Probably the worst experience is going to someone's house for a meal, she said.

"They'll go through everything in their cupboard, trying to make you feel comfortable," she said. She often has to reject it all. For hosts who are very into food, she said, a guest's refusal to eat can be taken as a personal affront.

Weddings are the worst

Hill says fancy gatherings such as weddings are extremely difficult. "Usually, you're at a table with people you don't know," she said. "And usually, there's nothing on your plate you can touch."

When they can't get out of events involving food, Hill and Wilson draw from a similar arsenal of excuses around new people: "I'm not hungry." "I just ate." Once, Hill fibbed that she was fasting for a medical test.

Cheryl Curry, 51, a picky eater from Raleigh with a special aversion to fruit, says some disbelieving members of her own family accuse her of just wanting attention. She has always dreaded summer family gatherings because watermelon is the main event. Eventually, she just stopped going.

She described the typical reaction she faces as unfair. "If you don't eat meat, you are trendy. If you don't eat fruit, you must be from Mars," she said.

Looking for support

Dr. Nancy Zucker, director of the Duke Center for Eating Disorders, says one of the first aims of the F.A.D. database is giving the overlooked group a feeling of validation.

"When someone is wearing eyeglasses, no one would ever say, 'Oh, really, you can't see? You're just doing this for attention,'" she said. "Most people derive such pleasure from food that it's hard for them to get their minds around the idea of different sensory experiences."
Indeed, until very recently, many picker eaters say they thought they were the only ones dealing with their particular problems.

Through online forums, Hill now communicates with other picky eaters. For many, finally talking openly about their disorder with like-minded peers is a form of therapy.

"Finding out that I was not the only one changed my life," she said.

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