Chief Anderson spoke at the weekly news conference, on the recent crime in Greenville at Police headquarters on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011. (Aileen Devlin/The Daily Reflector)

**Chief: Task force should bear fruit**
By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
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Wednesday’s first meeting of a gang task force spearheaded by the Greenville Police Department was productive and should soon bear fruit for the people of Greenville and Pitt County, Chief William Anderson said Thursday at his weekly news briefing.

The meeting followed the Sunday death of Demetrius Lamar “Deejay” Boone, an 18-year-old South Central High School graduate, during a party at an apartment complex that caters to East Carolina University students. Investigators said several gang members were involved. It was the fifth homicide since Oct. 29, the second at private student housing.

All police departments in the county and the sheriff’s office made commitments to the task force and had representatives at the meeting, Anderson said.
“The individuals involved now are the ‘worker bees,’ the officers with the most knowledge and information about gang activity in the county,” he said.

On their first day, officers put together a response plan that will soon be implemented, the chief said.

“I can’t say more about that because it might jeopardize the operation, but it will happen very, very soon and will have a positive impact on Greenville and around the county,” Anderson said.

In interviews with The Daily Reflector, the municipal chiefs acknowledged their communities either wrestle with youth crime and gang activity or see it approaching. They were enthusiastic about the task force’s plans.

Anderson talked Thursday about the benefits to his department.

“A lot of the incidents and issues we have in Greenville, we later learn involve people who do not live here but come here from other towns and unincorporated areas of the county to commit their crimes,” he said. “By sharing information, the task force can identify those people and will have a significant impact.”

Anderson said that none of the latest homicides are connected and were random acts of violence. Some of the investigations have led to arrests. Most of the ongoing investigations have generated leads or have produced persons of interest, he said.

Jimmy Edward Richardson III, 19, surrendered to police Wednesday night and was arrested for the Nov. 17 stabbing death of Leroy Staton in the parking lot of Jaycee Park on Cedar Lane. Anderson said the two men knew each other, and the crime was drug-related.

Detectives have produced promising leads and persons of interest in Sunday’s shooting death of Boone at Pirates Cove on East 10th Street. The complex of about 1,000 residents caters primarily to ECU students. Anderson repeated that detectives believe the incident was gang-related. “We believe the individuals involved in this homicide are not from Greenville, but from elsewhere in Pitt County,” he said.
The chief announced that the death of Michael Roy Burgwardt, 64, discovered Nov. 20 in an apartment at 212-4 Summer Place Apartments, is being investigated as a homicide.

“We recently obtained some promising information that we’re following up on, but that’s all we can say right now,” Anderson said.

The chief said he expects an arrest soon for the Dec. 1 shooting death of Malcolm Terrell Washington, 25, found in a driveway outside a duplex on Elkin Ridge Drive off of Portertown Road. Washington was shot in the back after he and at least one other person tried to rob a local resident, Anderson said.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or 252-329-9571.
Editorial: Big East leaves Pirates wanting
Friday, December 9, 2011

The express train of conference realignment has blown through the station once again, leaving East Carolina University standing on the platform. The Pirates were among the parties disappointed with the Big East Conference’s addition of five new members this week, including three schools culled from the membership of Conference USA.

University officials find themselves in a difficult and unenviable position now, as Conference USA and the Mountain West Conference consider some type of reorganization while the Big East whispers the possibility of bringing on three additional football-only members. Uncertain as that may be, East Carolina must not falter or fail in its efforts to find a lasting home as the process continues to unfold.

The Pirate football team turned in a 5-7 record this year, marking the first time in six years that the squad did not earn a bid to a postseason bowl game. That came at a tremendously inconvenient time as East Carolina looked to secure a stable future for its sports programs amid the ongoing conference realignment process. What began as one or two schools seeking new affiliations has dramatically altered the face of college athletics — and no school with aspirations can afford to be left behind.

The financial ramifications are obvious. The Bowl Championship Series, which helps determine the national title for the highest level of college football, distributed more than $155 million in the 2009-10 season, with the lion’s share going to the six “power” conferences. To compare, the Big East collected $19.8 million to share among its member institutions while Conference USA pocketed a paltry $2.7 million. When added to television revenue and other income, entry into a high profile conference is tremendously lucrative.

That success spills into other areas, as well. By reducing travel costs and increasing revenue receipts, the university can strengthen its investment in academic programming, offsetting the type of tuition increases seen with
 alarming frequency in recent years. Some conferences, like the Atlantic Coast Conference, encourage education partnerships between member institutions, ties that would serve this region and this state. All of those factors would benefit the community and area businesses, which will reap the windfall from both fans and visitors.

Entry into a BCS conference could facilitate change throughout Greenville and across eastern North Carolina, but those prospects seem today in considerable doubt. Fans should continue their relentless support, knowing they remain under scrutiny, even as officials continue their tireless efforts to find East Carolina a suitable and stable home.
Former Texas Tech football coach Mike Leach was introduced as Washington State’s head football coach earlier this week and he could already be impacting East Carolina’s coaching staff.

ECU assistants Dennis Simmons and Clay McGuire are reportedly headed to Washington State, although neither had turned in an official letter of resignation as of Thursday afternoon, according to ECU media relations director Tom McClellan.

McClellan did confirm that East Carolina director of football operations Antonio Huffman has resigned from his position with the Pirates.

Huffman played for Leach at Texas Tech from 2003-06 and was the Red Raiders’ director of player personnel for two years before coming to ECU in April 2010.

McGuire has been East Carolina’s running backs coach and special teams coordinator since 2010. He was a running back for Leach at Texas Tech and was on the Texas Tech football staff for four seasons, including one as running backs coach and one as special teams coordinator.

Simmons was at Texas Tech for 10 years, including two seasons as wide receivers coach, before serving as the Pirates’ outside wide receivers coach the last two years.

Leach was 84-43 at Texas Tech in 10 seasons before being fired in 2009 because of allegations of mistreating a player with a concussion.

ECU head coach Ruffin McNeill was Leach’s defensive coordinator when Leach was fired and McNeill hired many former Texas Tech assistants after being appointed the Pirates’ head coach Jan. 21, 2010.
Leach said at his introductory press conference on Tuesday that he was contacting his former Texas Tech assistants to fill out his Washington State staff.

Contact Ronnie Woodward at rwoodward@reflector.com or 252-329-9592.
Dance Arts Theatre’s 20th performance of “The Nutcracker” will feature new costumes and choreography, along with additional characters, making for the largest cast in the history of the local production.

From the prologue and the party scene through Clara’s journey into the Land of Sweets, the ballet, a benefit for University Health Systems Children’s Hospital, has grown by leaps and bounds since it was first staged locally in the 1980s. A cast of more than 140, including students from the North Carolina Academy of Dance Arts and guest artists from New York City Ballet and the Carolina Balle, will bring to life the story of a little girl whose beloved nutcracker soldier is magically transformed into a handsome prince.

In other words, this is not your mother’s “Nutcracker.”

Unless, by chance, your name happens to be Brianna Patton. Brianna, 14, will play the same role and wear the same costume as her mother, Denise Patton Rouse, wore in “The Nutcracker” in 1989.

“I was also a maid in the party scene way back when I was in 10th grade,” said Rouse, 37, who began as a student at the academy in second grade and
joined the staff as a choreographer after studying dance at East Carolina University.

Though Brianna has appeared onstage in “The Nutcracker” since she was 9 months old, this year’s production marks the first time the young woman has stepped into a role that once belonged to her mother. Rouse’s name is written inside the decades-old maid costume.

“Now they hand-stitch them in there, but we used to just hand write the names in the costume,” Rouse said. “You could go through and see everybody’s names written so you knew who had worn the costume before you.

“It’s been really special for her to play the same role that her mother played,” she said, “and the majority of that role has not changed.”

The same cannot be said for a number of roles in this year’s production of “The Nutcracker.” Faced with an increasing number of students hoping for a part, Sherryl Tipton, director and owner of the North Carolina Academy of Dance Arts, sought creative ways to give more dancers a turn in the spotlight.

“Normally we would have a cast of 105,” said Tipton, who founded the nonprofit Dance Arts Theatre in 1985. “We had over 130 people audition. If we include the ECU dancers and our guest artists, we’re looking at 145 people. That’s a lot; that’s like a small school.”

Tipton packed more people into the prologue. She cast one student as an assistant to the Herr Drosselmeyer character. She added a group of tiny mice to the Mouse King scene.

“We’ve added so many things. It’s been fun in that respect,” Tipton said. “I don’t think I took liberties to create things outside of the normal realm of things ... (but) it’s driven Lisa (Kannen) in costume and production crazy.”

Along with costume changes have come the restyling of certain portions of the choreography. The Spanish Variation now includes four couples instead of one. The angels’ dance has been altered for the first time in at least a decade.
Sometimes, such changes don’t fly with certain members of the audience. For Dance Arts Theatre alumni who performed in those roles years ago, the costumes they donned and the choreography they danced are considered almost sacred.

“You can almost just watch in their faces,” Rouse said. “You can see them kind of, in their head, rehearsing it back from when they danced it.”

Rouse, who portrays a mother in “The Nutcracker” party scene, knows that one day, the maid role that she and her daughter shared will not look the same as it does this year. The day that costume is retired will be a sentimental moment for Rouse, but changes are bound to come as the show goes on.

Though bowing to tradition is what makes “The Nutcracker” nostalgic, Tipton believes movement is what keeps the dance alive.

“Dancers improve or maybe I improve, maybe I’m at a different point,” she said. “To me, that (change) breathes new life into it. To me it never becomes mundane. It just needs that every so often.”

*Contact Kim Grizzard at kgrizzard@reflector.com or 252-329-9578.*
UNC trustees formally approve hiring of Fedora as head football coach
By Andrew Carter - Staff writer
Published in: North Carolina
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Tim Isbell - Sun Herald
University of Southern Mississippi coach Larry Fedora directs his team during a recent game in Hattiesburg, Miss. Fedora has accepted the head coaching job at North Carolina.

CHAPEL HILL The University of North Carolina Board of Trustees on Friday morning formally approved the hiring of Larry Fedora as the university’s new head football coach. Fedora will be introduced during a 1 p.m. press conference on campus.

Fedora has agreed to a seven-year contract that will pay him an annual salary of $1.7 million per season. He will receive a one-time payment of $400,000 on or before Jan. 31, 2012. Fedora will also receive an annual expense allowance of $30,000.

Fedora’s contract includes retention bonuses that will go into effect after the third year of the deal. If he remains UNC’s coach by Jan. 15, 2015, he would receive $100,000. If he remains UNC’s coach by Jan. 15, 2016, he would receive $200,000. From there, the bonuses increase incrementally by $50,000 for each year of the contract.
Fedora’s contract does not include outside media and apparel contracts that Fedora is likely to sign.

Fedora received a seven-year contract instead of one for five years because the university placed itself on two years of probation amid an NCAA investigation into impermissible benefits and academic fraud within the athletic department. The NCAA could extend UNC’s probationary period.

Fedora is also due to receive bonuses if his teams meet certain academic and on-the-field benchmarks.

He’d receive a bonus of one-twelfth of his base salary of $350,000 for winning the ACC’s Coastal Division and winning the conference championship. He’d receive the same bonus for a non-BCS bowl appearance, and if his team’s APR equals or exceeds 960. Fedora would receive a bonus of two-twelfths his base salary if UNC plays in a BCS bowl game, and he’d receive a bonus of $200,000 if UNC plays in the BCS national championship game.

**Career Highlights**

2011: 11-2 record this season with a Conference USA championship, the school's first since 2003. Set school wins record with 11.
2011: Team averaged 37.8 points and 471 yards in total offense.
2009: Southern Mississippi had a graduation rate of better than 90 percent and was one of 39 FBS schools earning recognition from the American Football Coaches Association.
2006: As offensive coordinator for Oklahoma State, his team was seventh nationally in scoring after being 96th in 2005.
2004: As offensive coordinator at Florida, his team led the Southeastern Conference in six offensive categories, including passing and total offense.

**Larry Fedora**

Age: 49
Born: Sept. 10, 1962, College Station, Texas
Playing career: wide receiver, Austin College, Sherman, Texas
Record at Southern Miss: 33-19, four seasons
College coaching career:
Southern Mississippi, head coach, 2008-2011
Oklahoma State, offensive coordinator, 2005-2007
Florida, offensive coordinator, running backs/receivers, 2002-2004
Middle Tennessee State, offensive coordinator, 1999-2001
Air Force, wide receivers coach, 1997-1998

**Fedora's head coaching record**
2008: Southern Mississippi Head Coach, 7-6, New Orleans Bowl (W, 30-27 OT vs. Troy)
2009: Southern Mississippi Head Coach, 7-6, New Orleans Bowl (L, 42-32 vs. MTSU)
2010: Southern Mississippi Head Coach, 8-5, Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl (L, 31-28 vs. Louisville)
2011: Southern Mississippi Head Coach, 11-2, CUSA Champions (W, 49-28 vs. Houston)
Source: TarHeelBlue.com
The hiring of Larry Fedora as North Carolina's new football coach makes sense on three important fronts:

1. He's a college insider: Unlike Butch Davis, UNC's hire in 2007, Fedora isn't arriving from outside of the college culture.

Davis had not coached at the college level for six seasons when he was selected to succeed John Bunting.

Fedora, 49, has been on college staffs since 1991. There will be a transition period from one school and one conference to another, but nothing so radical as Davis' move to the ACC.

Not since UNC hired Mack Brown from Tulane in 1988 has the school moved in such a traditional direction.

Brown was followed by his defensive chief, Carl Torbush, who gave way to NFL aide Bunting.
Brown, in 10 seasons at Carolina, went 69-46-1 overall and 40-35-1 in ACC games.

Before Brown, UNC hired Miami (Ohio) head coach Dick Crum, who won 72 games in 10 seasons with the Tar Heels and was 38-24-1 in the league.

2. He knows offense: Fedora's entire background has been on offense.

From Baylor to Air Force to Middle Tennessee to Florida to Oklahoma State before he was picked by Southern Miss athletic director and a former Duke sports information director Richard Giannini to take over for popular Jeff Bower, Fedora has been an offensive specialist.

You don't have to look beyond Clemson's improvement under first-year offensive coordinator Chad Morris to find an example of what aggressive schemes can do in the ACC.

In the offensive range war that marks all Conference USA seasons, Fedora over the past two seasons has been able to match the league's scoring pace while maintaining at least some semblance of defense.

3. Gratitude: Fedora will be so thrilled by UNC's facilities that he would have to win two or three ACC championships to request any sort of additional bells and whistles.

By Conference USA standards, UNC has all the trimmings of a football utopia - first-rate infrastructure, beatable in-league opponents, receptive fan base and reasonable expectations.

Although it's not a reflection of reality, Southern Miss is seen as the third-best program in its own state simply because Mississippi and Mississippi State are SEC members.

If Fedora is able to turn UNC into a top-25 team, there's a good chance he'll stay for years.

There will have to be a recruiting adjustment. Southern Miss has 15 junior college transfers on its 2011 roster, and that's about average for the Eagles. The JuCo recruiting strategy has been a program staple for the past 20 years.
Lovette trial spotlights ATM use

BY ANNE BLYTHE - ablythe@newsobserver.com
Fri. Dec. 09, 2011

HILLSBOROUGH -- In the last, terrifying hours of her life, prosecutors contend that Eve Carson came in contact several times with a system of communication, surveillance and security - an ATM.

That system, despite its sophisticated interconnectedness, was not equipped to summon help.

On Thursday, the second day of testimony in the trial of Laurence Alvin Lovette, the 21-year-old Durham man accused of kidnapping, robbing and murdering Carson, jurors saw images and heard the record of transactions on Carson's ATM card following her abduction on March 5, 2008.

Some argue that people in such circumstances might be saved if the banking industry would provide an option of punching in panic codes, or reverse PINs, to silently alert law enforcement officers that they were in danger.

Though such an idea might have broad appeal initially, banking representatives say test cases have shown that ATM alert systems are not effective.

"Many banks have tried reverse PINs and determined it doesn't improve consumer safety and in many cases it can put a consumer in more danger," said Ryan Zagone, a spokesman with the American Bankers Association.

On Thursday, Bank of America representatives testified about details of the ATM activity on Carson's account.

Stan Godwin, a vice president of customer relations for Bank of America, said there were eight attempts within an hour on March 5 to withdraw money from Carson's checking and savings account - at University Mall in Chapel Hill and at Northgate Mall in Durham.
The last withdrawal was at 4:44 a.m. in Durham, less than 30 minutes before Carson was found dead in a Chapel Hill neighborhood about a mile from campus and her home. Over the next 32 hours, there were nine more attempts to withdraw money from her account. Seven hundred dollars were withdrawn before the bank put a stop on her account, Godwin said.

Prosecutors contend that Lovette and an accomplice kidnapped Carson from her home about 3:30 a.m. March 5, then drove her in her Toyota Highlander to ATMs in Chapel Hill and Durham. Bank of America representatives testified that after $700 had been withdrawn in one 24-hour period - the daily limit allowed on Carson's card - ATMs denied several more attempts to withdraw money. Overall, $1,400 was withdrawn.

Zagone, speaking generally, said the banking industry had rejected panic codes and reverse PINs for numerous reasons. Typically, Zagone said, law enforcement officers were unable to get to ATMs quickly enough to ward off robberies.

The industry also worried that customers might panic trying to recall emergency codes and tip off robbers that they had summoned help.

The industry, he said, has not embraced one common system as it works to improve safety for its customers. For now, ATM providers rely on good lighting and surveillance cameras as deterents.

Images from surveillance cameras at an ATM, a convenience store and a UNC-CH sorority house were introduced by prosecutors on Thursday in the Lovette trial.

In one image, prosecutors contend, Lovette is pictured at a Bank of America ATM at the time that Carson's bank account was accessed near University Mall.

The image shows a man at the steering wheel of what prosecutors contend is Carson's Toyota Highlander. Though it is difficult to see clearly, prosecutors and others contend that Carson can be seen in the back seat of the same image, leading investigators to believe she was alive at the time of some of the bank withdrawals.
Also on Thursday, a 2010 UNC-CH graduate testified that she saw two men walking near Carson's home shortly before investigators believe she encountered her attackers.
Caroline Harper, a UNC alumna from Concord who now lives in Alexandria, Va., said she had just finished talking to her boyfriend on her cellphone about 3:30 a.m. on March 5 when she saw two black men in their late teens or early 20s standing in the parking lot of her sorority house.

Harper, who said she did not get a clear view of the men's faces, recalled that they wore dark, baggy clothes and hooded sweatshirts, outfits similar to those that investigators say Lovette and his accomplice were seen wearing in surveillance images.

"They were standing there looking at me," Harper said. "It was just a couple of seconds before I got really frightened and drove away."

DeMario Atwater, 25, pleaded guilty last year to kidnapping, robbing and murdering Carson. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Investigators say Atwater told his girlfriend what happened that night, and prosecutors said in opening statements this week they planned to call her as a witness.

Blythe: 919-836-4948