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very seen, schools will be out for the summer, and as many parents can validates, keeping children entertained can be a daily chore.

Luckily for residents, with major cities on one side and the ocean on the other, the Twin Counties are uniquely suited as the starting point for a variety of day trips that can be done on a tank of gas.

One of the cheapest, most entertaining and nearest trips is to a minor league baseball park.

“It is a fun, affordable family trip,” said Tim Vangle, assistant general manager for the Greensboro Grasshoppers.

The Grasshoppers are one of four minor league teams within driving distance of Rocky Mount, the others being the Carolina Mudcats, Burlington Royals and the Greensboro Grasshoppers.

Walking in a minor league park is different from its major league counterpart, Vangle said, because of the different entertainment options.

“At a major league park you are watching the game; he said, “At a minor league game you are not just sitting in your seat. We have playgrounds for kids. We have lawn and a walkway. It is totally different entertainment environment.”

Most minor league games have a home run each day, Vangle said. For example, Thursday is Thirsty Thursday at Neuville Bank Park, where the Greensboro play, where beer is sold at a discounted price. The team also does fireworks after games Friday and Saturday nights.

Tickets at minor league games can be as low as $5 for general admission, but prices vary from team to team.

Planning a day trip that satisfies everyone can be difficult, which is why Wilmington makes such an attractive vacation destination for families, said Connie Nelson, communications and PR director for the Wilmington & Beaches Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Wilmington offers one destination and four unique settings, she said.

Families looking for an entertaining and easiest trips done on a tank of gas.

Variety of day trips that can be sited as the starting point for a day trip around the Twin Counties.

Memorable day trips near the Twin Counties include the Battleship North Carolina memorial, alone, forground, and the Wilmington Historical district, alone, and baseball at venues such as Durham Bulls Athletic Park, below.

The Yankees are coming – again
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Life Columnist
FAIRY
SUNDAY
THE GRASSHOPPERS ARE ONE OF THREE MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE OF ROCKY MOUNT, THE OTHERS BEING THE CAROLINA MUDDATS, BURLINGTON ROYALS AND THE GREENSBORO GRASSHOPPERS.

The battleship is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily until the last Thursday before Memorial Day, after which it will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tickets are $12 for adults, $10 for kids, 6-17, and $9 for seniors and military.

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Custom leaves marriage proposal to men

BY CONNIE GASS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Steve Paska waited two weeks for Washington’s famously fickle weather to clear before the question of the blooms. Then he surprised his partner with a proposal. It’s a good spot for a romantic evening, but consider this: Although the public is widely changing to challenge that stigma lingers.

One particularly inter-

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