

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

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Covers All of Northampton's Towns and Communities

10 PAGES

Spring In Northampton County Means... Budding Romances... Blossoming Trees... And Blooming Work



SPRING HAS SPRUNG—Officially spring arrived Monday and brought with it weather conditions that enable one to do the things one likes and expects to do in the springtime. Romance, flower blooms, blossoming trees,

baseball, fishing and of course work all enjoy a boon as spring weather enters the scene. Above Miss Gail Williams, 15, and Larry Shackelford, 14, take a break from studies to rest a bit on the grassy lawn at Northampton

County High School. The couple's shining eyes are almost a match for the bright sunshine in which they bathed. The center photo is a familiar scene around the county as is the scene on the right. Lee Flythe is engaging in some-

what the same activities being undertaken by most county farmers this week as he breaks ground for planting in the near future.

'Choice' Forms Set To Be Mailed Friday

JACKSON—Parents of Northampton County school students are scheduled to receive information and a choice form for selection of the school their child will attend next year. The forms will be mailed Friday. Both the notice of the school desegregation plan and the text of the annual letter to parents were drawn by the U.S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Superintendent Roy L. Lowry and Northampton County Board of Education Chairman W. C. Conner were in Raleigh on Friday for an explanation of guidelines by David Barus, acting deputy director of equal educational opportunities of the U.S. Office of Education. "Substantial progress" was the term used to outline requirements for all school systems but just what the term means is not certain. Freedom of choice plans such as the one used last year by Northampton County were described as "a way of undertak-

ing desegregation," but Barus added that he believed the plan would be held unconstitutional by the courts in a year or two.

Incumbents Seeking Re-Election

CONWAY — Two incumbents have filed for re-election to Northampton County offices according to Russell Johnson, Jr., county board of elections chairman. Buxton Weaver, who has served as solicitor for the past eight years, filed Tuesday for another two year term. C. O. Burgess, constable of Kirby Township, also filed Tuesday to succeed himself. Thus far the two have no challengers for the positions.

In North Carolina, 155 of the 169 school units submitted voluntary plans last year. They must sign a form assuring the USOE that the unit will abide by the new guidelines as they apply to the plan.

The signing of this document will automatically amend the plan as it now stands to put it in line with the revised requirements. This means that no school units will draw their own new plans. Explanatory Letters The text of the notice being sent with choice forms and otherwise available to the public begins, "The Northampton County public school system is being desegregated under a plan adopted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The purpose of the desegregation plan is to eliminate from our school system the racial segregation of students and all other forms of discrimination based on race, color or national origin." The explanatory letter and choice forms must be sent by first-class mail to the parent or other adult person acting as parent of each student who is expected to attend school the following year. This means a mail list of some 8,000 for Northampton County, the superintendent must also be included.

will be promptly notified in writing of their school assignments. Any student denied his choice because of overcrowding will be

Living Alone? Pay Less For Water

RICH SQUARE — One person households are getting a break from the town officials in water and sewer billing. At the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on Thursday night it was agreed to reduce water and sewer rates for one person households, effective with the March billing. The new rates will be: from one to 1,500 gallons, \$2.50; 1,501 to 2,500 gallons, \$3; from 2,501 to 3,500 gallons, \$3.50. Prior to the board's decision all one-person households were billed at the same rate as other households: \$4.50 for the first 3,000 gallons.

promptly notified and given a choice among all other schools in the system where space is available.

A choice of school for any student who will be best to the school system may be made during the spring 30-day choice period or at any other time before he enrolls in school. The parent of a child entering the first grade is required to choose the school his child will attend under the same process. A schedule of preschool conferences is being worked out by the superintendent's office and will begin in April.

signed to under the plan will not be made public by school officials.

Staff Changes Substantial faculty desegregation also must be accomplished this fall but again the extent of desegregation under the word "substantial" is not clear. "Facilities will be desegregated

and no staff member will lose his position because of race, color or national origin. This includes any case where less staff is needed because schools are closed or enrollment is reduced," according to the explanatory text.

All transportation furnished by the school system will also

operate on a desegregated basis and all school-connected services, facilities, athletics, activities and programs are open to all.

Barus, in his two state appearances before school officials at Hickory and in Raleigh, was quite emphatic in answer to questions (See "CHOICE," Page 6)

Speeding-Fines: A Warning To Heavy-Footed Motorists

JACKSON — The large number of speed-limit violators fined in Northampton County Recorder's Court Wednesday should serve as ample warning to heavy-footed drivers who might tend to cruise a little too swiftly along county roads. Judge Ballard S. Gay handed down guilty verdicts in 23 cases of speeding which, in most cases, involved out of county and out of state motorists who had posted cash bonds. Most of the charges were lodged as a result of radar

clocking by the North Carolina State Highway Department. Fines ranged from \$10 to \$15 and court costs. Three non-traffic cases were also ruled on by Judge Gay. George Buffalo, 28, of Seaboard received a 90-day suspended jail term after Judge Gay heard testimony to the fact that Buffalo allegedly threatened Hornton Duberry with a switch-blade knife. Duberry, who operates a combination dry cleaning and bar, told the court that Buffalo create

considerable commotion in his place of business before pulling the knife and threatening him (Duberry). It was requested by Duberry that Buffalo not be allowed on his premises. Judge Gay granted Duberry's request and stipulated in Buffalo's probation that he (Buffalo) not go to Duberry's place of business for a period of 12 months. The judge also issued a warning to Duberry on the status of his (Duberry's) license to sell beer.

Despite Warnings - Northamptonians Keep On Puffing

Your Home Newspapers Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, D. C. — Has the anti-smoking campaign, conducted by the U.S. Surgeon General and others, reduced cigarette smoking in Northampton County? What effect have the health warnings had on local smokers? How much are they smoking compared with people in other areas? Judging from the latest regional figures on cigarette sales, business is back to normal. The setback in smoking in 1964, after release of the government report linking cigarettes with lung cancer, heart disease and other ailments, was short-lived. Now, it appears, the public has decided to ignore the warnings and has gone back to cigarettes in earnest. Figures compiled by the Internal Revenue Service and by the Tobacco Tax Council give the rate of consumption in each section of the county. A breakdown of these figures shows that no less than 2,862,000 packs of cigarettes were smoked in Northampton County in the past year. This was at the rate of 172 packs for every local resident over the age of 18. In some parts of the United States the rate of consumption was even higher than this and in some areas, lower. The average, nationally, among persons over

18, was 216 packs last year. In the South Atlantic States it was 214 packs. In general, the per capita use of cigarettes has again reached the record rate set in 1963. The recent rise is attributed to the fact that most of the people who had stopped smoking, or had (See WARNINGS, Page 8)

Preschool Clinic Set

RICH SQUARE — The preschool clinic for children who will enter the first grade at Rich Square Elementary School next September will be held at the Health Center in Jackson on Wednesday, April 6, at 9 a.m. Mrs. Charlotte R. King, principal, has announced. "It is necessary that the enclosed medical and personal history be completely filled in and returned to the principal's office in Rich Square before that date," said Mrs. King. "Please make arrangements to accompany your child to the clinic. It is essential that both child and parent be present to get the beginner off to a good start in his school career," she stated. Children entering the first grade next fall will attend beginners day at the school at a date

With the choice period beginning in this county on March 28 parents or students have until April 25 to return the completed choice forms by hand to any school or by mail to the superintendent's office at any time during the 30-day choice period. A choice is required for each student and no assignment to a school can be made unless a choice is indicated. A choice form may be signed by a parent or other adult person acting as parent. A student who is 15 years of age or will enter the ninth or higher grade may sign his own choice form. The student's choice will stand unless a different choice is exercised by his parent before the end of the period during which the student exercises his choice. Once a choice has been submitted it may not be changed even though the choice period has not ended. The choice is binding for the entire school year to which it applies except in the case of compelling hardship, change of residence to a place where another school is closer, the availability of a school designed to fit the special needs of a physically handicapped student or the availability at another school of a course of study required by the student which is not available at the school chosen. Denial Basis No choice may be denied for any reason other than overcrowding. In cases where granting all choices for any school would cause overcrowding, the students choosing the school who live closest to it will be assigned to that school. All students and their parents



JACK STOREY... accomplished a little L. E. DAVIS... won't be long JOE NARRON... partial success DON GLOVER... not that important

On U.S. Space Program

Did the Gemini 8 flight supply the United States with sufficient information and knowledge to classify the multi-million dollar journey into space a success? Should the United States continue its present pace in the race with Russia to be first to land a man on the moon? And is the United States spending the taxpayers' money wisely when they shoot it into outer space? These were the questions presented several Northampton County persons this week. All voiced approval of contin-

uation of the program but sides were divided on the money issue. "I reckon we accomplished a little," says Jack Storey, a Conway farmer, in commenting on Gemini 8. "They (NASA officials) did something they never had done before but you couldn't call it (the flight) a complete success," added Storey. Another Conway farmer, L. E. Davis, commented, "I don't have too much time to read and don't know too much about it but I guess I agree with Jack (Storey)." Davis has his own opinion of what is in store in the future for the

space program. Opined Davis, "They will continue to progress and it won't be long before..." He stopped there but one gets the feeling Davis might have his mind on the moon. "A partial success" is the way Joe Narron of Rich Square appraises the Gemini 8 flight. But while offering adequate praise in the Gemini 8 exploits, Narron said, "I am inclined to believe the money could be put to better use." Rich Square service station manager, Don Glover, is in Narron's opinion corner. Glover offered the same type

praise for Gemini successes as Narron and then added, "I don't think we should put as much money into it (the space program)." In concluding, Glover said, "It's (the space program) not that important and the money could be used for something more helpful to everyone." And Mrs. Bessie Hill, a cook, thinks the space program "is nice." Mrs. Hill also said she thought "it was a good thing and that we should go to the moon" as she scrambled to the kitchen to avoid the snap of the camera shutter.

"You have had a lot of trouble at your place and if you are not careful you are going to lose your beer license," Judge Gay said in response to learning that Buffalo had been drinking prior to entering Duberry's business and had acquired beer at Duberry's place. In a stiffer warning to Duberry, Judge Gay added, "And if I hear of any more trouble out there (at Duberry's business) I am going to see that they (Duberry's) beer license are revoked." Other cases ruled on by Gay included: Jeanniene Dreistroffer Frisco, 40, Charleston, S. C., speeding 73 in a 60 mph zone; gully, \$10 and court costs. Shirley S. Farmer, Newport News, speeding 70 in 60 mph zone; gully, \$10 and court costs. William C. Morris, 20, Fort Belvoir, Va., speeding 70 in 60 mph zone; gully, \$10 and court costs. Max Alton Manassa, 43, Hampton, speeding 70 in 60 mph zone; gully, \$10 and court costs. William E. Parrish, 26, Newport News, speeding 75 in 60 mph zone; gully, \$15 and court costs. Willie W. Wiggins, 29, Virginia Beach, speeding 70 in 60 mph zone; gully, \$10 and court costs. Robert Stewart, disposal of mortgaged property not gully. Larry Lewis Duet, 18, Alexandria, Va., speeding 70 in 60 mph zone; gully, \$10 and court costs. Ruby Annette Price, 25, Castle Hayne, speeding 70 in 60 mph zone; gully, \$10 and court costs. Charles A. Colvin, 37, Brooklyn, N. Y., speeding 70 in 60 mph zone; gully, \$10 and court costs. (See SPEEDING, Page 6)