



To Wed April 24

Remonia Gayle Brown and Rollie Perdue (Rocky) Hall have announced their forthcoming marriage Saturday, April 24, at 1 p.m. in Franklin Square Park, Southport. Miss Brown is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Brown of Southport and granddaughter of Kathleen H. Williamson, also of Southport. Hall is the son of Earline B. Hall of Pensacola, Fla., and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Gene C. Johnson, also of Pensacola. Friends and family of the couple are invited.

Stalking The Wild Cougar: Is It Really Extinct Here?

Are there wild cougars stalking the backwoods of the Lower Cape Fear area, though they've been declared extinct here?

On Sunday, May 2, at 2:30 p.m., a knowledgeable panel will discuss the possible existence of cougars in the region during a free, two-hour program at Cape Fear Museum in Wilmington.

One of the three panelists will be Wilmington native Buster Humphries, a retired scientist for DuPont. Humphries has documented possible cougar sightings for the last two and a half years. His research has uncovered the possibility of 212 cougar sightings by 169 people from 1937 to 1992. Some of those purported sightings have been in Brunswick County.

Some naturalists and scientists believe the cats that have been seen escaped from captivity; others think they are part of a cougar population still living in southeastern North Carolina that never became extinct. Also known as panthers, mountain lions, catamounts and painters, cougars or pumas are large, generally tawny cats. They are thought to be extinct in the eastern two-thirds of the United States, except for a small population in Florida. The cats generally avoid contact with humans.

Panelist Mary Clark, curator of animals at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Science in Raleigh,

will discuss historical data associated with cougars and the criteria needed for their positive identification. She will include in her presentation photographs, a mount, a skull and track cast of a cougar.

Randy Wilson, the third speaker, is manager of the non-game program for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. He will discuss the problems associated with verifying cougar sightings and the significance of wild cougar populations in this part of the state, if in fact they do exist. He may show a video of a possible cougar sighting.

Following the program, the panelists will take questions from the audience.

For more information contact Cape Fear Museum, 814 Market Street, Wilmington, 1-919-341-4350.

Hickmans To Reunite

The second annual Hickman family reunions—descendants of Isaac, Elkanah, Thomas Hickman, etc.—will be held Saturday, April 24, at the Lockwood Folly Community Building on Stanbury Road near Holden Beach.

Family members should bring a covered dish and beverage as well as pictures or other memorabilia to share with other relatives.

For more information, call Lettie Hickman at 457-6622.

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SOPRANO TANIA BUTLER of Shallotte (front, second from right) is secretary of the N.C. Central University Touring Choir, which presents its second Brunswick County concert Friday night at Bolivia.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

NCCU Touring Choir Present Concert Friday

The 36-voice touring choir of North Carolina Central University in Durham will appear in concert Friday, April 23, at the Brunswick County Government Center at Bolivia.

Sponsored by the university's Brunswick County Alumni Chapter, the concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Assembly Building. Admission is \$5.

Tania Butler of Shallotte, a junior at NCCU, is a soprano with the

group, which also performed in Brunswick County last spring. She is the daughter of Joseph and Ethelene Butler.

The 1993 spring concert tour program features a wide selection of religious music, sweeping from Handel's "And He Shall Purify" and Gounod's "Gallia" through "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" to Howard A. Roberts' "Sinner Man." Included are director Charles H. Gilchrist's own arrangements of such popular works as "Rock A Mah Soul" and

"His Eye Is On The Sparrow."

The second half will include a tribute to the late Thomas A. Dorsey, who is known as the "father of gospel music."

Gilchrist is chairman of the uni-

versity's music department. Grover Wilson Jr., a lecturer and assistant director of choral activities at the university, is assistant director and accompanist for the touring choir.

For more information contact Eatherine Butler at 754-6706.

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