

Harnett County News

News & Advertising

Deadline: Monday Noon

Published Continuously Since 1919

VOL. 62

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1979

TWENTY CENTS

Thousands Expected For Eventful Day In Park

By LORRAINE MIZE
Lillington's annual Fourth of July activities have gained the reputation of being one of the best celebrations held in this part of the state. This year's activities should prove to be no different.

Opening this year's events once again will be the third annual Cape Fear River Race, sponsored by the Lillington Kiwanis Club.

Boat race chairman Rodney Tart said a money race for flat-bottom boats has been added to this year's running due to popular demand.

"If everybody participates that asked for it, we should have the biggest field we've ever had," he said.

The two money races this year are in the Open Division, with two classes featured, canoes and flat-bottoms. Entry fees are \$10 per craft for canoes and \$5 per craft for flat-bottoms. Only two persons are allowed per craft.

The canoe race will begin at 9 a.m. at Captain's Landing and will finish at the Lillington bridges between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. The flat-bottoms will begin at 10 a.m. at Hector's Creek and will also finish at the bridges at about the same time as the canoes.

Registration for both races will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the respective starting points and will continue until starting time.

First place winners in the canoe race will receive 50 percent of the total entry fees, with a minimum guarantee of \$100, and a trophy.

First place finishers in the flat-bottom class will receive 50 percent, with a minimum of \$25, and a trophy.

In the Sportsman Division, first place winners in all classes will receive trophies and ribbons, while second and third place finishers will get ribbons.

All trophies are sponsored by local merchants.

The three classes within the division are canoes and kyacks, flat-bottom boats and one class for anything that floats.

Again, a limit of two persons is allowed per craft and entry fees for all classes are two dollars per craft.

All the races will begin at Hector's Creek and will finish at approximately the same time at the Lillington bridges.

Canoes and kyacks will begin at 10 a.m., flat-bottoms will start at 9:30 and all others will begin at 9. All entrants must register 30 minutes before their starting time.

Because of safety factors, several rules have been made for this year's race and no exceptions will be allowed.

First, all participants must wear life preservers. Entrants under 18 must have a signed parental consent form and must have an adult in the same boat. Proof of age will be required. Forms may be obtained from the Lillington Chamber of

Commerce office or the Harnett County News.

Amateur radio operators from the area will be positioned at points along the river and at the bridge to help co-ordinate the event. They will also be set up at the park during the afternoon.

One major event of interest at the afternoon Festival in the Park will be a display of stained glass creations by Jack Pinkerton. Pinkerton will be on hand to talk with about his craft. Retired from the U.S. Army after 22 years of service, he was a riding instructor at Campbell College for three years.

One of the most popular features of last year's Festival in the Park, the helicopter ride, will be back again this year.

The appearance of the helicopter, owned by Executive Helicopters of Atlanta, is sponsored jointly this year by Bank of North Carolina, the Harnett County News and the local Chamber of Commerce.

The helicopter should arrive in Lillington sometime during the mid-morning and should be ready for riders around mid-day.

Tickets for the rides are six dollars each, with two passengers going up each time. Tickets will be available at the sponsors' office and at the park on the day of the festival.

A new event for the park this year is the candy drop sponsored by the Lillington Kiwanis Club.

Dwight Corbello of Lillington will fly a small plane over the park at about 2:15 and drop about 100 candy bars, each attached to a small parachute. Children will then be allowed to gather the candy on the field. An age limit on participating children will be announced prior to the drop.

Sky divers will be performing at 2 and 4:30 p.m. A rocket show, sponsored by Collins Mini Mall, will be conducted at 4:45 p.m.

The Lillington Rotary Club will hold its annual barbecue supper at the Fireman's Hut at the park from 5-8 p.m. Plates of chicken or pork, potato salad, slaw and hushpuppies will be available.

Tickets are \$2.50 each and will be available at the park from any Rotarian. Advance tickets can be purchased from Mid-South Bank. As in all the club's projects, all proceeds will go back into the community through various service projects.

Another new attraction to this year's festivities is the operation of a shuttle bus service to the park.

An activity bus on loan from the Harnett school system will be used for the shuttle service, another feature sponsored by the Lillington Kiwanis Club. There will be no charge for riding.

The end of daylight hours by no means summons the end of the day's activities.

The Miss Fourth of July pageant and the street dance, traditional events sponsored annually by the Lillington Jaycees, will be held at the park this year instead of Front Street.

The dance will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets for one dollar, will be used in a drawing for three prizes sponsored by the Jaycees.

First prize is a riding lawn mower, second prize is a gas grill and a 10-speed bicycle will be offered for third prize.

Tickets will be available from all Jaycee members, the Fabric Shop, the contestants in the pageant and at the park. Music for the band will be provided by "The Contents," a country-rock band.

Vying for the Miss Fourth of July crown will be Catherine Denise Spivey, Anita Gayle Denning, Dayna Andrien Jung, Donna Lynn Trasti, Kathy Williams, Annie Hollman and Frankie Cotten.

At about 9:45, the skies of Lillington will light up with the bursts of fireworks and noise-makers. Festival chairman Dan Denning has promised that this year's show will be the most spectacular ever seen at the park.

The fireworks this year are sponsored by the Lillington Volunteer Fire Department, which solicited contributions from area businesses and civic clubs to help pay for the event.

The fire department agreed to take over the event because of the troubled financial status of the local Chamber. As an incentive for contributions, it has promised to display in fireworks the logos and club symbols of each contributing organization.

The entire show will center around a patriotic theme and will end with a finale that Denning says "will pop your eyes out."

MARS, Hams Invade Lillington

By STEVE PLUMMER
MARS, not Skylab, is coming to Lillington July 4, but don't panic - there should be plenty of hams accompanying it.

Confused? Don't be. We're talking about Air Force MARS, or Military Affiliate Radio System, an organization of licensed amateur radio operators (hams) who work with military stations to provide global communications.

Still confused? Then you need to be here at the Festival in the Park on July 4, because the techniques and equipment will be on display, along with many ham operators, and the whole subject should be made a lot clearer.

Val Jones of Lillington, owner and operator of The Paint Works, is an avid amateur radio operator and the operation scheduled for the park next Wednesday is his idea.

"The whole thing started when I was approached by some members of the Kiwanis Club for help in coordinating communications for their boat race," Jones said.

More plans were made as other ideas and suggestions popped up. The end result is that the folks at the park next week will get an opportunity to witness in action one of the most sophisticated and efficient communications networks in the world.

"In addition to working with the boat races, we'll have equipment on display at the park," Jones said. "We'll be talking to other hams around the country and we'll be sending personal messages for people to any spot in the world they want."

Jones said anyone who would like to send a brief message to a friend or relative, regardless of where they live, should bring to

the park the person's name, address and telephone number.

The radio operator in the park will send the message, with the aid of the MARS unit, to a ham located in the designated area, who will contact the person personally.

The local appearance of amateur radio operators will serve three purposes, Jones said.

First of all, they will coordinate all communications for the boat race, insuring the safety of the participants and monitoring their progress on the river.

Secondly, the hams will display and discuss various types of equipment and its functions. This type of educational discussion may prick the interest of other potential amateur radio operators, Jones said. The demonstrations will include sending personal messages for interested persons to

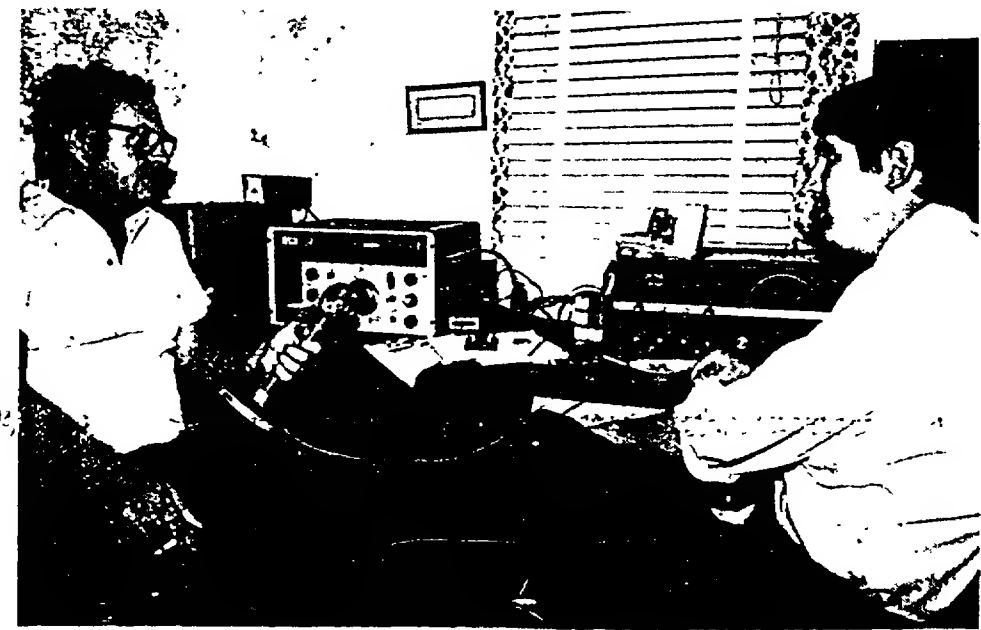
any spot in the world.

Finally, the operators will be receiving messages from other hams throughout the country and the world.

"All hams who contact us at the park will receive a certificate from us featuring the location, event and time of our operation that day," Jones said. "All they have to do is send us a stamped, self-addressed manila envelope and we'll send them a Lillington Fourth of July certificate."

The certificate, an ink drawing designed by an artist friend of Jones', features a canoeist with a short-wave radio sending a message to a hovering helicopter. Names of all the civic clubs participating in the day's activities will also be listed on the certificate.

Jones said such certificates are common practice with other amateur radio operators. who



VAL JONES (left), KIWANIS PRESIDENT GLENN JOHNSON

Bus, Traffic Plan May Reduce Congestion

Traffic control and parking have been two major headaches for the Lillington Police Department and the Chamber of Commerce during the annual July 4 Festivals in the Park, but a couple of efforts this year may be just what the doctor ordered.

First and foremost is the implementation this year of a shuttle bus service that will run from the park to the central business area of Lillington.

Sponsored by the Lillington Kiwanis Club, the two activity buses, on loan from the Harnett County school system, will make runs throughout the day. There is no charge for riding.

The buses will run from the park, up Main Street, right at Front Street, left at Eighth, left again onto James and another left at the stoplight to go north on Main.

The bus will then turn right onto Front Street, left onto First behind the courthouse, left again on Harnett, right on Main and back to the park.

The buses are critical for two reasons, explained Festival chairman Dan Denning.

First of all, if the buses are used to their full capacity by local townspeople, then the number of cars at the park will be sharply reduced, limited mainly to out-of-town visitors.

Secondly, Denning said, with the gas situation like it is today, hundreds of gallons can be conserved by letting the buses do the driving.

In addition to the shuttle service, the police department will restrict traffic on First Street, as it runs by the park, to one-way access.

Traffic will enter Edgar Street by Brock Chevrolet and turn left onto First Street, passing the park. Traffic will exit on D. Street by the ABC Store.

Lillington police chief Lincoln Neal said he hopes the plan will help keep traffic moving and prevent long lines of cars trying to leave the park area at once.

One more area of parking remains to plague the local police and Neal admits there is not much they can do about it.

The areas beside Main Street near the bridges fill up with cars every year as spectators at the Cape Fear River Race arrive for the finish.

Although the large number of cars is usually there for only a few hours around mid-day, they

create considerable concern among members of the police department.

The number of cars and spectators at the bridge create confusion and a real traffic hazard, Neal said, particularly to through traffic by vacationers who are not aware of the on-going festivities.

Neal said his men each year attempt to maintain control over the amount of cars at the bridge, as well as keeping people off the bridge, but he admits it is a losing battle. This is another area that he hopes will be aided by the use of the shuttle buses.

Receiving gallon pins from Lillington were Samuel C. Hann, James A. Holbrook, Randy Womack and Mrs. Ann McCormick.

Wayne S. Dean of Lillington received a two-gallon pin.

Congratulations also go to the people, who really understand the value of "the gift of life."

Congratulations also go to the Lillington Lions Club, which sponsored the visit and provided the labor for setting up and taking down the equipment. They handled it with their usual competent professional style.

JOKARI TOURNAMENT
David Stewart, basketball
Continued on Page 4

Bunnlevel Native In N.C. Pageant

On June 30 in Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium a new Miss North Carolina will be crowned.

Last year's winner, Debbie Shook, competed as Miss Spivey's Corner. This year Velena Gaye Black of Bunnlevel will compete in the pageant, again for Spivey's Corner, and she hopes to duplicate Miss Shook's triumph.

Ms. Black the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Black Jr., is a

junior at Campbell College, studying drama. She has competed in several other beauty events and was first runner-up in the Miss N.C. Teen pageant at Montreat.

For her talent presentation in the week-long event, Ms. Black will sing, "As Time Goes By," the song made famous in the Humphrey Bogart film "Casablanca." Accompanying her will be Wynette Johnson, a piano major at Campbell Col-

lege. Ms. Black has studied voice four years with Campbell music professor Susam Horton. She also studied dance with Leslie Carter, drama at Campbell College and piano with a private teacher.

Ms. Black's drama credits include several roles in Campbell College plays. In this year's fall production of the musical "Oklahoma," she had the role of Kate and worked backstage with the make-up crew.

In "The Misanthrope" she played the role of Celimenc, the female lead. She worked with stage design in the "Misanthrope" and "Life With Father" and appeared in the Harnett Regional Theater production of "Hello Dolly." She is a member of the Campbell Players and the Paul Green Society.

The pageant began Monday and will continue through Saturday night when the new Miss North Carolina will be crowned.

Swimsuit competition will be held Wednesday night, evening gown competition Thursday night and talent competition Friday night.

The 10 semi-finalists will be presented Saturday evening at 9 p.m. and the winner will be crowned around 11 p.m. WRAL-TV, Channel 5 Raleigh, will televise the event.

Ms. Black is just over 5'8", a blonde with green eyes whose hobbies include water skiing, softball, weight lifting, photography, horseback riding and

cooking. She has worked as a waitress and said the job gave her the opportunity to meet people and be more comfortable around them.

Her reason for entering the competition was simple. "I felt like it would give me an

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Summer Program Announced

The Lillington Parks and Recreation Department will begin its summer arts and crafts program for children July 9 at the Community Building in Lillington.

Following is the schedule for different aged children, along with the breakdown of weekly programs that will be offered:

JULY 9-27
4th-8th Graders
Week 1, counted cross stitch; Week 2, macramé; Week 3, crochet.

JULY 30-Aug. 17
1st-3rd Graders
Week 1, natural materials; Week 2, yarn and cloth; Week 3, paints and crayons.

All of the above classes will be offered free and will meet Monday through Friday during the morning hours.

Parents may register their children for any of these classes by calling the Lillington Parks and Recreation Department at 893-2864 or by calling the instructor, Phyllis Lawrence, at 892-8880.



VELENA GAYE BLACK

Around Town

By STEVE PLUMMER
The Red Cross Bloodmobile enjoyed considerable success last week, when 109 donors turned out. Ninety-five pints of blood were collected.

"We were well pleased," said Mrs. Grace Swain, executive secretary with the Red Cross. She attributed much of the success to the telephone campaign by the RSVP volunteers, who called previous donors and urged them to give again.

"Mrs. Avis Hall had folks on the telephone calling donors and that made a difference," Mrs. Swain said. "We also got 23 donors from Blue Bell. We really appreciated their cooperation too."

Nineteen first-time donors were on hand and several veterans were awarded one and two-gallon pins.

Receiving gallon pins from Lillington were Samuel C. Hann, James A. Holbrook, Randy Womack and Mrs. Ann McCormick.

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JOKARI TOURNAMENT
David Stewart, basketball
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Compensation Schedule For Damaged Leaf

Several Harnett farmers will receive compensation for tobacco crops damaged by S-D fertilizer contaminated with a potent herbicide.

Smith-Douglass Inc. officials said Friday they were ready to settle claims. Joseph J. Pointer, company president, said in a prepared statement that "Smith-Douglass sales agents will be in the field to meet with the affected farmers to begin settling and paying claims."

More than 500 acres of tobacco in Harnett has been damaged, according to James Goff, Harnett agriculture extension agent.

But some tobacco growers have indicated that the damage is growing out of the crop as it gets bigger. "I think another week will tell whether there

will be much loss or not," said Harnett tobacco sales supervisor C.E. McLamb, Sr. "Apparently some of it is not damaged much."

Smith-Douglass has worked out a plan for compensation which is based on a formula using the cost of the damaged tobacco to date plus a profit margin. Harnett farmers will probably get several hundred dollars per acre, according to one expert.

An estimated 3,000 acres of tobacco in North Carolina and a similar amount in South Carolina was damaged by the herbicide picloram. The herbicide has been detected in samples of three grades of tobacco fertilizer produced at the Smith-Douglass plant in

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Schedule Of Events

The following list of events is a tentative schedule for the July 4 Festival in the Park:

- 9-12 - Cape Fear River Race
- 1:00 - Opening in the Park
- 2:00 - Sky-diving
- 2:15 - Candy Drop
- 4:30 - Sky-diving
- 4:45 - Rocket Show
- 5-8 - Rotary Club Barbecue Supper
- 8:00 - Park Dance
- 9:45 - Fireworks
- 10:00 - Crowning of Miss Fourth of July

Various games and concessions will be available throughout the day.