

# Lifestyles



**Sway away**  
This pampas grass sits just outside of the door of a Hoke County resident, but the tall plant with silvery plumes is native of southern South America. If one

looks just right at the plumes with the sun behind it, a shimmer of silver can be seen as the plant sways in a breeze.

Photo by Becky Jones

## Bagworms plaguing county

**By Willie Featherstone Jr., County Extension Chairman**  
Bagworms seem to be plentiful on plants and shrubs this year, and we have had several inquiries concerning their control.

They are brown cocoon shaped "bags" which can be seen hanging from branches and foliage. They reach full size about mid-August and are now readily visible.

They feed mainly on evergreens such as arborvitae, red cedar, juniper, hemlock and pine. They may also attack apple, elm, maple, sycamore, oak, locust or willow trees.

Bagworm injury is frequently overlooked early in the season when the bags are small. By the time actual feeding is noted, these pests have developed to a stage where they are very difficult to control with chemicals.

**Life Stages**  
Eggs remain in the bag over

### Extension News

winter. These eggs hatch in the spring—about mid-May in this area.

The young larvae (caterpillars) begin to feed immediately after hatching and build a bag or "cocoon" lined with silk and having leaves and stems of the host plant on the outside.

This cocoon gets bigger as the caterpillar develops, and reaches full size about mid-August.

The caterpillar takes its protective bag wherever it goes. He feeds and moves through an opening in the upper end where the bag is attached to the shrub.

The larvae change to pupae within the cocoon. The male moths leave the cocoon from late August to early November. They are almost black in color with a furry body and feathered antennae. Their wing spread is about one inch.

The females are more or less

maggot-like, white in color and never leave the cocoon. Each fertilized female produces 500 to 1,000 eggs in the cocoon or "bag" before she dies.

**Control**  
Where practical it is advisable to remove and burn the cocoons, especially if there are only a few present. Scissors or a sharp knife may be used. Chemical treatments are effective if applied while bags are still small.

Apply sprays of acephat (Orthene) Bacillus, chlorpyrifos (Dursban), diazinon, malathion, or dimethoate (Cygon, Rebelate or De-Fend) as soon as infestation is noted and again seven to 10 days later. Thorough coverage is essential. Be sure to follow label directions when using sprays.

If you have any questions regarding bagworms, or other pests, please call your local Extension Office at 875-3461 or come by the office located on South Magnolia Street.

## House buying not a hasty move

**By Alice L. Pettitt, Home Extension Agent**

Buying a house is probably the biggest financial transaction most families ever have to face. That's why it is vitally important to shop around, look for signs of quality, and buy wisely.

Here are a few tips:  
-Choose the community and neighborhood first. When you decide where you want to live, you can then start to look for a specific house.

-Make sure the house and property suits your family's life style. For instance, if you love to cook out and spend a lot of time outdoors, it is important for your family to have a patio or a nice attractive lawn area.

-Don't overlook the garage area - is it large enough, and is it in good condition? Is there access to it from the house? What about the driveway and walks?

-Look closely at the siding

### Front Burner

material on the house. Be sure the brick and masonry are free of cracks and that the foundation walls are solid.

-Do check to see that the house is well constructed. It is wise to get expert advice on this for much construction detail is hidden. Ask an architect, for a nominal fee, to look over the house you are considering. He or she will give you a reliable opinion on its soundness.

-Don't neglect to make sure that the house's heating, plumbing and electricity are adequate and in good condition. These are important factors in a house and if they are not in good shape they can run you into a great deal of trouble and money.

Although there are a few things that you can't see when it comes to checking out a new home for quality, there are some physical clues to

look for such as the appliances the builder has installed.

The quality of the appliances in a new or older home can make the kitchen "extra special". According to experts from one home appliance company, home appliances have a long life span, and you will probably be living with them for a number of years. They suggest that if you are building a new home, you should carefully consider the size and features of the appliances to make sure they will meet your family's needs now as well as in the future.

**OLIVE-SWISS CHEESE PIE**  
1/2 lb. mushrooms, coarsely chopped  
1 1/4 cups coarsely chopped ripe olives  
3 tablespoons butter or margarine  
1/4 cup dry bread crumbs  
1/2 cup chopped green onions  
1 1/2 cups (6 oz.) grated swiss cheese

(Continued on page 3B)

## Ross receives Army Commendation Medal

Sgt. Marty R. Ross, son of Robert L. and Carol S. Provance of North 86th East Avenue, Collinsville, Oklahoma, has been decorated with the U.S. Army Commendation Medal at Fort Bragg.

The Army Commendation Medal is awarded to those individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement or meritorious service in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Army. Ross is an infantryman with the

82nd Airborne Division. His wife, Carolyn, is the daughter of Rosa Lee Brown of Raeford.

He is a 1981 graduate of Collinsville High School.

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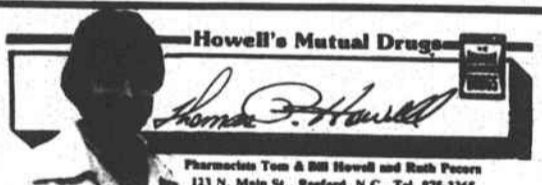
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### Prevent cataracts with sunglasses

Sitting in the sun has become a favorite pastime. Additional problems from sunlight, however, are being pointed out by experts — cataracts.

Cataracts, or the clouding of the lense of the eye, can occur from exposing one's eyes to too much ultraviolet radiation — too much direct sunlight.

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