

The News-Journal

'If it happened, it's news to us'

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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

Fall came in last week and most of us were looking for cooler weather. Saturday and Sunday felt like summer days with the temperatures in the 90s. On top of that we haven't had but about one-tenth of an inch of rain in two weeks. With the sun closer to the earth, the heat seems hotter. Let's hope that the winter weather is not as cold as the summer was hot.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs Wednesday and Thursday to be in the 80s and the lows in the 60s. The highs Friday and Saturday will be in the 70s and the lows in the 50s. There is a chance for rain on Wednesday and Thursday.

Hurricane Georges is on the coast of Mississippi and its path will determine if we will get more rain.

Recently a Mr. Spainour, a retired lawyer from High Point, came by the house. He said that he had been a law partner of the late Rufus Dickson, also of High Point. (See AROUND, page 9A)

Bucks victorious in impressive 1st conference game

By JEREMY PRICE
Staff writer

The Varsity Bucks proved to be impressive in their first conference game of the year Friday by defeating the Rams of Purnell Swett (58,16). The Bucks posted a banner before they entered the field that read "Rams are Dead." Hoke had three players who

scored two touchdowns apiece, laying the Rams to rest.

Derrick McLaughlin (#35) had two 1st quarter touchdowns, and 115 yards rushing. Quarterback Aaron Locklear (#8) had a touchdown in the second, third and fourth quarter. Otis Ray (#11) had an outstanding game scoring touchdowns on three occasions (See BUCKS, page 9A)

Still time to register

FROM STAFF REPORTS

If you are an unregistered voter and want to vote in the general election, you've got a few days to do so. Registration books for the November 3 election close October 9, according to the N.C. Board of Elections.

Absentee ballots for the general election will be issued beginning Friday, October 2. October 27 is the last day absentee ballots can be requested by mail. One-stop absentee voting be-

gins October 12 and ends at 5 p.m. on October 30.

In Hoke County, five men are seeking three seats on the school board in an unaffiliated race. John F. Harry, Teddy Locklear, Tom Pilkington, Leo K. Salzer III and Russell C. Smith are running.

In the sheriff's race, Wayne Gardner, an unaffiliated candidate, is challenging James A. "Jim" Davis, the Democratic nominee.

Underwood enters not guilty pleas

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Raeferd Police Detective Mike Underwood entered not guilty pleas in Hoke County Superior Court last week to four charges of sexual misconduct.

Underwood, 39, is charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, committing a statutory sex offense, committing a crime against nature, and taking indecent liberties with a child. The charges were filed against him in April, and he was

suspended without pay from the police department when Chief Mack High learned the FBI would be filing charges. The charges came approximately a year after the alleged crimes against teenagers.

Underwood, of Route 1, Lumber Bridge, has been with the police department for more than two years. Prior to that, he served with the Hoke County Sheriff Department but was asked to resign by Sheriff Wayne Byrd.

Saturday's harvest in West Hoke was a sweet one

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

Gold is found in the freshly plowed fields of Hoke County. Some farmers have turned from growing the golden leaves of tobacco to the golden flesh of the

sweet potato.

Lifetime farmer Danny Walters planted 51 of the 800 acres he leases in sweet potatoes this year for the first time. On Saturday, migrant Mexican workers and some locals were picking up by hand the sweet



Quarterback Aaron Locklear is on his way! The Bucks won by 42 points. (Jeremy Price photo)

Teens return after jail break

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

After less than two days of freedom, two teenagers who had broken out of the Hoke County Jail turned themselves in to officers at the Sheriff's Department.

Cornelius McDuffie, 17, and Mario Dockery, 17, escaped from the cell they were in at approximately 2 a.m. on Friday. They made their escape by taking a

grate loose from over a window and breaking the window, according to Wayne Gardner, chief of deputies. The inmates were housed in the older section of the jail in the juvenile section, he said.

The Sheriff's Department received a call that the young men were seen "running through the woods" behind Scurlock Elementary School on Rockfish Road late Friday morning. Responding officers "chased them

around for about four hours" in the Scurlock area, Gardner said. A tracking team from the N.C. Department of Correction was also brought in.

The following afternoon, at about 3:15 p.m., an aunt of one of the teens drove Dockery and McDuffie to the Sheriff's Department, Gardner said. They had changed from their prison wear to civilian clothing.

The two prisoners were in the (See BREAK, page 10A)

Hoke volunteers are recognized

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

Six people, a business and a school group were selected as Hoke County recipients of the 1998 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service in Southeast North Carolina.

To be honored by Governor and Mrs. Jim Hunt on Monday, October 12 in an afternoon ceremony in Hamlet are Tricia Booker, Mark Gaver, Rodney Lee, Pedrito Mitchell, Roderick

Virgil, Chuck Wade. Unilever HPC USA and the West Hoke Middle School PTO Executive Board.

"These award recipients represent the best North Carolina has to offer," Hunt said. "I commend them for dedicating their time and talents to creating a brighter future for all North Carolinians."

This is the 20th consecutive year that individuals, groups and businesses have been honored for providing outstanding ser-

vice to their communities on a volunteer basis. Hunt began the program in 1979.

Honorees are:
•Booker, involved with the Hoke Reading/Literacy Council, is a one-on-one tutor. She was honored as Tutor of the Year with the Council and won a county award.

•Gaver serves as president of the Rockfish-Hoke Elementary School PTO and used his computer programming skills to de- (See VOL'NTEERS, page 10A)



Migrant workers pick up sweet potatoes in West Hoke. (Pat Allen Wilson photo)

thousand bushels.

Pickers select the "number ones" and "jumbos," Walters says. The "canners," the smaller potatoes, are left behind. "It's not worth it financially to pick up the canners," Walters says.

Workers start the day "running like rabbits," Walters says, but slow down as the day goes by. In the field, he provides lunch, twice-a-day snacks and for some of the workers, homes and utilities when they have finished their labors.

The potatoes picked up by laborers are large. Walters says he planted Beauregards, the variety most North Carolinians choose. It is a high yielder, good shipper, and stores well. He also grew some Hernandez, a sweeter variety that doesn't store as well.

Some of the potatoes are large due to "lots of fertilizer," Walters says. The largest one found in the field Saturday weighed eight pounds.

Walters' potatoes are shipped to a produce brokerage, Burch Brothers Farms in Faison.

Sweet potatoes have been called "the perfect food"—no fat, no cholesterol and lots of nutrients. And, unlike tobacco, sweet potato growers aren't told their produce causes cancer and other illnesses.