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Anderson Field Day.....Page 4



AURORA-Snowden Elementary kindergarteners spent the last two days of school participating in special activities, one of which was a day-long picnic at the Texasgulf Recreation Center....Helen Sommerkamp photo.



Store Addition.....Page 7

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# The Pamlico News

SERVING PAMLICO COUNTY & RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

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## Weekend Rains Give Farmers Some Relief

Last week, the chairman of the Pamlico County Agricultural Extension Service was predicting decreased yields due to a very dry spring, the driest the state has experienced since recordkeeping began in 1885. Monday, although about two inches of rain came down over the weekend (thanks, in a large part, to tropical storm Andrew), the deficit remains; the crops, however, appear to have benefited greatly from the moisture.

For the first six months of 1986 (through June 4), Pamlico County received 11.4 inches of rainfall. The fifteen year average for the same period, according to state records, is 26.26 inches.

Prior to the spring of 1986 (March-May), the spring of 1985 was the driest on record with a statewide average of 6.66 inches of rainfall. Before last year, a drier spring had not been recorded since 1925 when the state averaged 7.74 inches of rain. And, to aggravate the problem, the winter of 1985-86 ranked as "extremely dry," the worst rainfall deficit category with an approximate state average of 4.93, also, it appears, the worst on record.

Last week the corn in Pamlico County was showing signs of drought stress; it looked "spiky" and, in fact, according to Extension chairman Fred May, the leaves were twisting, a result of the dry weather. May said that the

corn will begin tasseling in about three weeks and the time prior to that is a critical one for the crop. It is also the time when corn needs the most water.

The weekend's rains, though, in general, were a "real blessing" for the corn crop, relieving the drought stress.

May added, "Surprisingly, the crops, field corn, especially, looks good relative to the amount of rainfall we've had."

Some farmers had planned to start digging potatoes this week, May said. As of last week, the potatoes were small and needed three to five inches of rain. If potatoes get a good rain, "they'll size rapidly," he commented, taking only about another week to reach harvestable size. Some farmers may be delaying harvesting a few days to give the crop a chance to grow a little more.

But the potato crop, overall, will be affected. "It was dry too long," said May. In addition, some fields were already damaged by a frost.

"The wheat is already reduced by dry weather," said May. Farmers could be seen out in the fields last week harvesting the grain. May said he had heard one report of a harvest of about forty bushels an acre; the average yield in Pamlico County is fifty to sixty.

The cabbage harvest has also been delayed by the dry weather, and a late harvest means less

money at the market, said May. Except in those fields where irrigation has been installed, May said he also anticipates low yields.

"We seem to be getting halfway decent stands of soybeans," May commented, but some farmers have found it necessary to replant tobacco transplants that couldn't withstand the dry conditions. He added that less than 500 acres of Pamlico County farm land is now planted in tobacco, compared to 800 acres five years ago.

If the current weather trends continue, May said, more farmers are going to have to consider irrigation, especially for vegetable crops such as potatoes and cabbage.

The recent rain, however, added May, was not enough to bring the county out of its deficit situation.

In Beaufort County, the rainfall has been "spotty", according to Extension chairman Marion Griffen.

"The corn's looking good," said Griffen, but yields in the small grain will be cut by about a third.

Griffen said Monday that he hadn't heard of any potatoes being dug but that two weeks ago when he checked the fields, the potatoes were about half the size they should have been.

Soybeans, planted only two or three weeks ago--after some needed rainfall was received--seem to be establishing good stands, he commented.



The Briarhoppers

### 7th Annual Pamlico County Croaker Festival

### 'Hit's Briarhopper Time'

In recognition of Independence Day, the 7th Annual Pamlico County Croaker Festival's schedule of events is "bustin' at the seams."

The festival, sponsored by the Oriental Ladies' Auxiliary of the Volunteer Fire Department, will begin Friday morning, July 4, which has been designated as "Children's Day" and continue until Sunday evening, July 6.

One of the featured attractions will be the original Briarhoppers, one of the most popular radio programs in the southeastern part of the U.S., featured on WBT, Charlotte, from the middle 1930's through the early 1950's. The Briarhoppers featured different styles and vocal solos, duets and trios as well as instrumental varieties. They were and still are in great demand for personal appearances. They are also engaged in presenting folk music in the North Carolina schools as a part of the continuing effort of folk life programs to engage young students in their own heritage by introducing them to traditional folk style music by the Briarhopper's own demonstration.

Arval A. Hogan was born in Robbinsville on July 24, 1911. After a few years his family moved to Andrews. In his younger years he learned to play the guitar and mandolin by listening to records. He later met his wife, Evelyn, and they became proud parents of two fine daughters. About the time he met his wife, he also met Roy Grant whom they nicknamed "Whitey", thus the fine vocal and instrumental team "Whitey and Hogan". They began their radio career at WSPA, Spar-

tanburg, S.C., and in 1941 became one of the feature acts on the WBT Briarhopper program. Whitey and Hogan recorded for several

record labels including Decca.

Roy "Whitey" Grant was born

(See MUSIC, Page 8)

## \$12 Million Beaufort School Bond Goes To Voters Nov. 4

The Beaufort County Commissioners voted unanimously June 3 to submit the \$12 million school bond referendum to county voters on November 4.

Chairman of the Washington City Board of Education, A.B. "Brownie" Futrell, Jr. had requested that the commissioners schedule a special election for September 9.

Futrell reminded the commissioners that the bond referendum had been submitted by both the Washington City and the Beaufort County Boards of Education. He

said that both boards were requesting the special election. He commented that this will probably be "the most important vote in this generation."

In response to Futrell's request, commission chairman Ledrue Buck said that it was the feeling of the commissioners that the best way to address the issue was to put it in the general election in November. Buck agreed on the importance of the vote but did not think tax money should be spent for a special election.

After the commissioners' deci-

sion, Futrell said that the most important thing was that a date had been set.

In other business, the commissioners:

-Heard the budget request from the Beaufort County Nursing Home presented by Rev. Robert Gayton.

-Praised Marion Griffin, Extension chairman, and Ann Parrish, home economics agent, for the work being done for county farmers and for the women in the county.

-Set a public hearing on the budget for June 17 at 7:30 pm, in the Superior Court room.

-Visited the social services building on Market Street after reading a report that the floors are sinking. It was also reported that some walls were pulling away from the ceiling while other walls were separating from the floor.

-Heard a report from county manager Don Davenport that a tax rate of \$.35 per \$100 valuation would bring in, within \$5,000, the same money as the current \$.47 rate because of the property revaluation.... by Helen Sommerkamp

## Smith, Rice Winners In Run-Off

Nancy Smith and Brad Rice defeated their opponents last week in the run-off for two county commission seats.

Smith overtook Joe Himby Tuesday by a vote of 794 to 505 for the Township 3 seat. She will face Republican Bill Paul in the fall general election.

Incumbent Brad Rice polled 785

votes to defeat Russel V. Lee who received 420. Rice will retain his seat, representing township 5.

Robert Paul, incumbent commissioner for Township 1, defeated his opponents in the May primary. He will be pitted against a Republican, Matthew Prescott, in November.

## Reelsboro Man In Jail After Shots Fired

A Reelsboro man found himself in jail Monday night after allegedly firing at neighbors and a deputy sheriff.

Deputy Sheriff Bob Lyon said that Clyde Paul was arrested Monday night after a neighbor, Randy Williams, called the sheriff's department to report that Paul had fired at him. Lyon said

that when he arrived, Paul was on the front porch, holding a 30-30 rifle. The deputy said he asked Paul to put the weapon down but that Paul fired a shot in the air as he (Lyon) moved towards his patrol car. Lyon said he then radioed for assistance.

(See SHOTS, Page 8)

## CRC Decision Favorable For Boat Slip Rental

The Coastal Resources Commission decided recently that a pier extension and boat slips constructed last year in a subdivision just outside Oriental meet the regulations established by CAMA and can be utilized for commercial purposes.

A group of property owners and residents in the subdivision opposed the construction because Ray Creech and Bobbie McIntosh intended to rent the slips. James

Billings of Raleigh, a property owner and part-time resident, contended that the area was residential in nature and that problems would be created by an increase in land and water traffic generated by the slip renters.

Billings requested and was granted a hearing before the state, held earlier this year in Pamlico County.

(See SLIPS, Page 8)