

The Mount Airy News

MONDAY

Established 1880

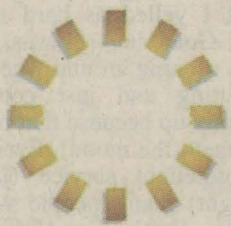
Mount Airy, N.C.

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April 30, 2007

50 cents

Today's Weather

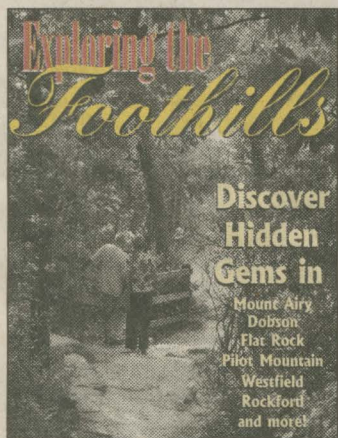


Sunny

High 84 / Low 55

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EXPLORING:

A special look
at our communities.

Inside



SPORTS:

Sports Hall of Fame



Angela Schmall/The Mount Airy News

Barbara Harrison, front, calls up family records on her computer, hoping to be able to fill in some of the blanks, while, from left, Mae Creasy and Mildred Adams examine the computer printout of the Harrison family tree during Saturday's Harrison family reunion at Fisher River Park near Dobson.

Technology brings Harrisons together

By ANGELA SCHMOLL
Associate Editor

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Cadd and her husband, who



Dobson agrees to grant, loan for library

By ANGELA SCHMOLL
Associate Editor

DOBSON — Dobson Town Commissioners agreed last week to borrow whatever amount is needed to secure a \$50,000 grant toward the purchase of the building housing the Dobson Community Library this summer.

Town Manager Wayne Atkins told the board that the town had been offered a grant from USDA Rural Development, but must have the remainder of the financing in place to receive the grant.

"We've been working closely with USDA on the water/sewer project (to Interstate 77) and got a call last week that they might have money for the purchase of the building," said Atkins. "There is a possibility that we could receive a \$50,000 grant, but we've got to have the remainder of the financing in place by June 30."

While the Dobson Community Library Board of Trustees was launching its fundraising effort with a mail campaign at the same time as the commissioners' meeting, Atkins said USDA needed an answer immediately.

"If we don't know we're going to have the money in place by June 30, they need to be able to go ahead now and offer the grant to someone else," he said.

The "Putting Down Roots" fundraising campaign for the library focuses on the fact that the library has been forced to move several times since its inception and now has the chance to buy its home for \$200,000 -- well below the cost of building such a facility for the library. It also offers would-be donors the chance to pay the full cost of the building and have the facility named in honor of the donor, or



SPORTS:

Sports Hall of Fame ceremony in city.

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COMING UP:

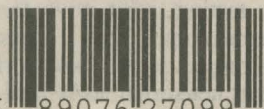
Cox honored by N.C. State.

Tuesday

Chuckle

A lie may take care of the present, but it has no future.

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Barbara Harrison, front, calls up family records on her computer, hoping to be able to fill in some of the blanks, while, from left, Mae Creasy and Mildred Adams examine the computer printout of the Harrison family tree during Saturday's Harrison family reunion at Fisher River Park near Dobson.

Technology brings Harrison's together

By ANGELA SCHMOLL
 Associate Editor

DOBSON — Slowly, with lots of pieces of tape to battle the cold wind blowing through Fisher River Park Saturday morning, Barbara Harrison and some of her "new" cousins unrolled a family tree across a series of picnic tables in the picnic shelter where the Harrison reunion was beginning to take shape.

The family tree, a printout from Cathy Cadd's computer using a Family Tree program, was just one example of the technology that made the reunion possible.

"A cousin of my side of the family, not close, had been researching the family for years and knew the Harrison's settled in the mid to late 1700s in the Siloam area on Hogan's Creek," said Irma Sohnchen of High Point, who many credited with "doing a lot of work" to get the reunion together.

"She came up last October and I had been speaking with some Harrison relatives in Mount Airy and we decided to get together at Pandowdy's for lunch. We'd never met before, but we had a blast.

"The conversation came up, why don't we see if we can get all the Harrison descendants together after 200 years and we went on a search."

While Saturday's event was the culmination — at least for

now — of that search, the beginning actually predated the reunion, not just by a few months, but by decades.

Cadd and her husband, who came from the Seattle, Wash., area for the reunion, said she'd been doing genealogy for 30 years. She did less while her sons were growing up, she said, but got serious again after they were grown.

Computers and the Internet revolutionized genealogy, she said, while looking over another computer printout on yet another picnic table.

"When the computers and the Internet got started, it just exploded," she said. "I found everybody. I found Irma because she had put out a query about my great-great-grandfather and I called her."

"I had quite a bit of information about some branches of my family," said Pat Miller of Mississippi. "The Internet helped me find information about other branches and trace other names in my family."

Harrison said it was the Internet that first put her in touch with Sohnchen about four years ago and helped sow the seed for the reunion Saturday.

Using Internet searches in combination with traditional genealogy methods of examining old census records, wills, and birth and death certificates, the Harrison descendants gradually expanded their family

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Angela Schmall/The Mount Airy News

Pat Miller, left, begins to look for family names on the Harrison family tree Saturday even as Barbara Harrison, right, and others are still unrolling the printout to reveal other "branches" of the tree during a reunion at Fisher River Park near Dobson. The extended family from as far as Washington was brought together by the Internet and DNA testing.

Brown serving on African task force

By DONNA FAIR
 Army & Air Force Home-town News Service

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti — When most people think of Africa, they think of exotic animals roaming wild in the jungle, safaris on the expansive savannah and hunters looking for their next kill — all images that have been portrayed on the Discovery Channel, in movies like Tarzan and King Kong, or pictures in National Geographic.

However, for the son of a King couple, life in Africa is very different.

Army Staff Sgt. William Brown, son of William and Patricia Brown, King, is one of more than 1,800 U.S. service members, civilians, coalition forces and partner nations taking part in the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

They are conducting unified actions in the combined joint operations area of the Horn of Africa, which includes a large portion of northeast Africa consisting of the nations of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. The task force is here to

prevent conflict, promote regional stability and protect coalition interests in an attempt to prevail against extremism.

Brown, a well driller, has been deployed to this remote location since February.

"I'm the first sergeant for the 1132nd Engineer Detachment. We perform well drilling here in Djibouti as a humanitarian mission," said Brown, a 1988 graduate of South Stokes High School, Walnut Cove.

Living in tents, working in temperatures that reach an excess

See BROWN, page 3



Army Staff Sgt. William Brown

effort with a mail campaign at the same time as the commissioners' meeting, Atkins said USDA needed an answer immediately.

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Surry man still missing

By ANGELA SCHMOLL
 Associate Editor

MOUNT AIRY — Local rescuers were still searching Sunday evening for a Surry County man who disappeared Thursday.

Surry County Emergency Services Director John Shelton said James Roger Huff, 55, of 190 Palmer Road, had

been reported missing on Thursday by relatives who had been unable to locate him.

"They said he never leaves without a vehicle, but all of his vehicles are at his home," said Shelton.

Huff was last seen near Oak Grove Baptist Church, off West Pine Street, and a State Police helicopter and search teams were combing that area Sunday.

Huff was apparently carrying his cell phone, as it had not been located, but efforts to reach him had been unsuccessful. Shelton said that he hoped to be able to obtain records from his cellular carrier on Monday to determine the last time the phone was used and who he may have called.

"We're still looking for people who may have given him a ride," said Shelton Saturday evening. "There are still people that haven't been contacted. In addition, he was originally from Woodlawn, Va., so we're hav-

See MAN, page 3



Hull

HARRISON

2-3-00

Mrs. Lillian Longworth Harrison, 101, died Thursday, Feb. 3, 2000, at The Oaks at Forsyth after living a part of three centuries. She was born March 9, 1898, in Salem to William Burgess and Alice Clodfelter Longworth. Her mother died when she was an infant and she grew up in Waughtown with foster parents Albert and Emma Long. Mrs. Harrison was a member of Ardmore United Methodist church and very active as long as her health permitted. Married Jan. 6, 1917, to Bennie Foster Harrison, she was preceded in death by her husband, who died in 1966; two sons, B.F. Harrison Jr. and William "Bill" Harrison; and a great-grandson, Jake Manoogian. She is survived by one son, Mr. Allen L. Harrison of Walkertown; two daughters-in-law, Viola Harrison and Margaret Harrison, both of Winston-Salem; eight grandchildren, Barbara H. Preston (James) of Walkertown, John R. Harrison (Irene) of Winston-Salem, Treva H. Myers of Raleigh, Jeanette H. Manoogian (Sam) of Greensboro, Mary H. Stevenson (John) of Raleigh, Marie H. Hippert (John) of Seagrove, Michael Harrison (Christine) of Kernersville and Jeannie H. Walls (Robert) of Walkertown; 15 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. The family will receive friends Saturday, Feb. 5, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at Hayworth-Miller Silas Creek Chapel. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens with Dr. William T. Medlin III officiating. The family requests memorials be made to Ardmore United Methodist Church, 630 S. Hawthorne Rd., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103.