



Rocky Mount TELEGRAM

ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA ■ <DAYOFWEEK>, <MONTHIAG> <DAY>, <YEAR>



JOB HUNT

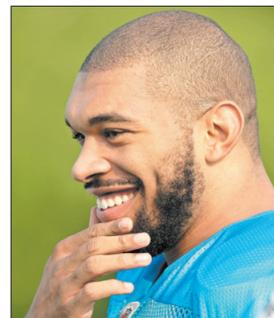
Tips for good impression

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IN CUSTODY

Iran arrests 3 Americans

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WORTH ALL THE MONEY

Peppers helps Panthers

SPORTS 1C

Employees pressure Cummins to rehire laid off workers

By JOHN HENDERSON
Staff Writer

Cummins Rocky Mount Engine plant workers said they hope to convince the Whitakers Town Council to pass a resolution to put political pressure on the company to hire back employees it laid off in March.

On July 6, more than 20

workers showed up at a town council meeting to urge the council to pass a “workers’ recall rights resolution.”

The council tabled the issue until Aug. 3, directing the town’s attorney Lamont Wiggins to research the issue.

Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant employees who are members of a statewide workers union want the plant

to promise to rehire 179 full-time employees who were laid off if business picks up.

But the company has not agreed to the request, noting that the employees are not part of a plantwide union with a collective bargaining agreement with Cummins.

The promise also isn’t being made because it is unclear in this struggling econ-

omy whether the employees will be needed in the future when the economy rebounds, a Cummins spokesperson previously said.

Mark Land, executive director of corporate communications for Cummins, could not be reached for comment Friday.

The latest “Unity News,” a publication put out by the

workers, states that business at the plant has recently been picking up, and it’s time to hire back some of the workers.

“Already the B Block line is back to two full, rotating 10-hour day shifts,” the publication dated July 30 states.

It adds that some of the

See CUMMINS, 5A

SPEAK OUT

Whitakers Town Council was asked to intercede on behalf of laid off workers.

PHIL FORD CLASSIC



Telegram photos / Alan Campbell

Charlotte Bobcats assistant coach Phil Ford, right, chats with Sean Ryan on Saturday during the Phil Ford Golf Classic at Birchwood Country Club in Nashville. Below, former University of North Carolina men’s basketball head coach Bill Guthridge watches the flight of his tee shot on hole 16 Saturday during the Phil Ford Golf Classic at Birchwood Country Club.

Celebrities heed call to aid Boys & Girls Club

By J. ERIC ECKARD
Special to the Telegram

NASHVILLE – The Carolina family is close-knit, to be sure. And when one of their own comes calling, former Tar Heels respond to that call.

That’s why Saturday’s Phil Ford Golf Classic was chocked full of celebrities with University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill ties. Ford, a former UNC point guard and Rocky Mount native, called many of his fellow Tar Heels to help raise money and awareness for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Nash/Edgecombe Counties.

“When Phil does something, I’ll always support it,” former basketball coach Bill Guthridge said.

Former UNC players David Noel and Walter Davis, although a generation apart, also answered Ford’s call. As did Danny Talbott, a former UNC football and baseball standout.

“If Phil Ford wants me, I’m here every year,” Noel said. “I feel the cause is so great – you know, for the kids.”

And Davis, who works for the Denver Nuggets, said he does up to 10 charity golf events every year. But he has to be picky because of scheduling.

“If I had to choose between an event in Denver and this event, I’m going to come here,” Davis said.

See CLASSIC, 2A



FBI digs deep in slayings

Agents question friends, families

By MIKE HIXENBAUGH
Staff Writer

Federal investigators have for the past week actively probed a string of similar Rocky Mount murders, sources involved in the case said.

Local authorities announced early last week that the FBI was helping investigate the series of murders that date back to 2005. The bodies of five black women with similar profiles have been found partially clothed and abandoned in remote locations outside the city during the past few years.

Investigators believe the homicides, as well as a sixth murder of a woman yet to be identified, might be linked. Rumors of a potential serial killer have spread throughout the city since late June, when a worker found the body of 31-year-old Jarniece Latonya Hargrove abandoned in the woods off Seven Bridges Road.

A few of the victims’ families told the Telegram that FBI officials contacted them this week by telephone and in person, probing for detailed information about the victims and seeking to assure family members the cases would be resolved.

For the most part, the questions have focused on the victims’ backgrounds, one mother said, asking that her name not be published.

See SLAYINGS, 2A

Commissioners eye agriculture districts

By GEOFFREY COOPER
Staff Writer

Nash County commissioners will hold a public hearing on a proposed voluntary agriculture district ordinance.

County officials said they hope the ordinance will increase protection for farm owners from other nonfarm developments and impacts within the county. A vote on the proposal is scheduled for the Monday meeting.

The ordinance would allow land owners to register their property as an agriculture dis-

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Deputies seek man who ran away from afternoon traffic stop

By **GEOFFREY COOPER**
Staff Writer

Nash County deputies are looking for a suspect somewhere between Nash and Wilson counties.

Nash County deputies said the man failed to stop after being pulled over around 1 p.m. Saturday af-

ter a high-speed chase near Interstate 95 South heading into Wilson County.

Authorities said the suspect threw items out of the vehicle during the chase.

Then the suspect exited the vehicle while it still was running to flee the scene on foot. He was last seen going into the woods.

SLAYINGS

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The federal investigator wanted to know who her daughter was friends with, where she hung out and what she did for fun, the mother said.

Another victim's mother, Diana Nicholson, said the FBI asked her similar questions during a phone interview.

"I was so happy to hear (the FBI) was getting involved," said Nicholson, whose daughter, 28-year-old Taraha Nicholson, was found dead in March in a field off Marriot Road. "I'm just so glad to hear someone else is coming in to help. I hope they can find this person who's doing this."

An FBI official declined to comment on the organization's role in the investigation, other than to say federal officials are offering any resources necessary to assist in solving the case.

Nicholson said she

hopes authorities find answers before anyone else is killed.

Each of the five victims who have been identified were black women found in remote locations near the eastern boundary of Rocky Mount, and each had a history of drug or alcohol abuse and prostitution, according to criminal records.

Each was found only partially clothed and at least two of the women were strangled.

The Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office has led the task force investigation, which also includes Rocky Mount police and the SBI, to determine if and how the murders are related.

Authorities are searching for at least three missing women in connection with the case: Yolanda "Snap" Lancaster, 37; Joyce Renee Durham, 46; and Christine Marie Boone, 43.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the Rocky Mount Police Department at 252-972-1411.

DISTRICTS

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tract. The program is voluntary.

If a landowner's property is registered, road signs will be created to make the general public aware of the agriculture district. Landowners can register their property as either a traditional agriculture district or an enhanced agriculture district.

The ordinance also would start an agricultural advisory board.

The board would consist of appointed residents actively involved in farming, horticulture and forestry. The board's duties will include approving or disapproving landowners' applications, make recommendations regarding changes in agricultural districts and study farming, horticulture and forestry-related protection methods for landowners.

Nash County Cooperative Extension Director Charlie Tyson described the county as "transitional," with new subdivisions and business arriving at a fast rate. He said some residents move into farming areas and don't know what type of activities to expect.

"This ordinance is solely for educational purposes,"

Tyson said. "It will give new residents who are unknown to certain areas a heads up about their surroundings.

"I think it will especially help the non-farming people understand the industry, which would help them become better neighbors."

Nash County has more than 3,000 county farm and woodland owners with an average farm size of 315 acres.

Nash County would become the 66th county in the state with an agriculture district ordinance if the measure is approved, Tyson said.

Agricultural land makes up 44 percent of Nash County and is tied to \$140 million to \$170 million in the sales of poultry, eggs and flue-cured tobacco.

"It's big business all around," Tyson said.

Commissioner Fred Belfield said the ordinance is designed to keep the county's agriculture activity in the eye of the public and would help landowners with continuing to stimulate resources for the county.

"Here is one of the key things that help keep this county great," Belfield said. "It's important to keep agriculture at the forefront. Many of the state's jobs and resources are created from it."



Telegram photo / Alan Campbell

Former N.C. State University men's basketball player and 1986 NBA Slam Dunk Contest champion Spud Webb, left, talks with John Muter on Saturday during the Phil Ford Golf Classic at Birchwood Country Club in Nashville.

CLASSIC

From Page 1A

But it wasn't just a reunion for Tar Heels. Lev-elle Moton, head basketball coach at N.C. Central, was there. Tony Womack, former All-Star baseball player from Guilford College, was, too. And a trio of well-known former N.C. State basketball players also drove, chipped and putted for Ford on Saturday - Spud Webb, Chuck Kornegay and Chris Corchiani.

"I have five children of my own, so I have to make sure I go to all their events," Corchiani said. "But I grew up in the Boys & Girls Club, so I think it's a combination of Phil asking me and being a product of the Boys & Girls Club. "It's a great event, and it's well run."

And college rivalries among fans also took a back seat as the field of celebrities made their way around the course at Birchwood Country Club in Nashville.

Jamie Denton, a self-proclaimed N.C. State fan who lives on the golf course, said she was happiest when she had her picture taken with Corchiani. But her affinity for the Wolfpack didn't stop her from seeking out autographs from the Tar Heels contingent.

It didn't take much for her to find Noel, though. He hit a shot into Denton's neighbor's backyard, and she helped him looked for it. After it was found, she brought it to Noel and said, "Now you have to give me an autograph."

So Noel signed it and added a "Go Heels" for some good-natured ribbing. And yes, she said she will keep it, "Go Heels" and all.

But Saturday wasn't just about blue, red or purple. It was about the youth.

"The Boys & Girls Club is a special organization," Ford said after the round ended. "It's a place for youngsters to go to learn and grow and feel safe.

"I had a great time today, and it's for a good cause. It's a lot of fun coming back to Rocky Mount and seeing a lot of old friends." But Ford brushed off the



Telegram photo / Alan Campbell

Jerry Calcutt, right, talks with his wife, Dale Calcutt, while sitting in their backyard Saturday and watching the Phil Ford Golf Classic with son Brett Calcutt, second from left, and friends Layne Clark, left, and Mike Rose at Birchwood Country Club in Nashville.



Telegram photo / Alan Campbell

Former University of North Carolina men's basketball player David Noel talks to his ball following a tee shot Saturday during the Phil Ford Golf Classic at Birchwood Country Club in Nashville.

to be a great cause for me to do it," Womack said. "I'm not going to do it just because Coach Ford asked me."

Last year's inaugural event, which was held at Ford's Colony, raised more than \$110,000 for the organization. And although Ford said he wasn't sure of the figures for this year's event, but he said he believed the tournament was a success.

"There's a lot of support, commitment, enthusiasm and energy out here that should add some interest to the Boys & Girls Club," Ford said.

And when he found out that Corchiani's team was in contention to win the tournament, Ford said he didn't even mind that an N.C. State guy might win.

"It's for the Boys & Girls Club," he said. "I'm just glad he came."

But Ford probably was smiling a little more after Talbott's team of William O'Conney, Jane Jones, Tommy Greer and Rhonda Williams carded the low score for the day - a 54.

thought that the celebrity golfers were there because of him.

"I don't think it's because of my name - it's

because of the cause," he said.

Womack echoed that. "I'm honored to have him ask me, but it's got

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THE ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM (ISSN 1082-3727) (USPS 181-460) is published daily, Sunday through Saturday mornings, by the Rocky Mount Telegram, 1000 Hunter Hill Road, Rocky Mount, N.C. Periodicals postage paid at Rocky Mount, N.C. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Rocky Mount Telegram, PO Box 1080, Rocky Mount, N.C. 27802.
Mail subscription rate is \$3.60 per week, plus N.C. sales tax. Subscription rate by carrier seven days a week is \$2.31 a week, \$120.12 per year, less than 33 cents per day. Weekend subscriptions (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) include New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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