

**DAILY DIGESTS**

**School Board To Meet With Commissioners**

There will be a joint meeting of the Harnett County Board of Commissioners and the Harnett County Board of Education Tuesday. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the Harnett County Administration Building, in the commissioners meeting room. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and it is open to the public.

**Dog Jog Saturday Saturday In Lillington**

The second annual Dog Jog to benefit the Harnett Animal Welfare Coalition (HAWC) Saturday morning. A 5k run will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the one-mile dog walk beginning at 10 a.m. Runners can register on the day of the event beginning at 7 a.m. The 5K course is certified by the United States Track and Field Association and runners will be chip timed. For more information or to register, go to [www.dogjog.org](http://www.dogjog.org).

**Memorial Day Closings**

- Local and state government offices will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day.
- Post offices will be closed and the mail will not run Monday.
- The State Employees' Credit Union and all local banks will also be closed Monday, as will local libraries.
- Trash collection and recycling services will not run on Monday,

with collections resuming Tuesday. Landfills and all convenience sites in Harnett, Johnston and Sampson counties will be closed Monday. ABC Store locations in Dunn, Lillington and Benson will be closed on Monday. The ABC Store in Angier will remain open regular hours on Monday.

**Schools**

Continued From Page One

know about it." Patricia Harmon-Lewis, the public information officer for Harnett County Schools, said talking about specific cases of bullying is prohibited by law. "By law, we are bound to protect the privacy of that student and that situation," she said. "That's why we have the bullying task force in place, so students can report anonymously, or the parents and students can reach out to administration." Ms. Harmon-Lewis also emphasized that it is the school's job to protect its students. "We have this new system in place, it's helping the bullying situation, but it doesn't mean it's fixed every problem. It also doesn't mean the school system doesn't care about the bullying," she said. "I know that Miranda Pearson (chairperson of the anti-bullying task force) and the principals take it seriously. They're professionals, educators and it's our jobs to educate. We want to provide a safe learning environment, all I can say is that they're working on it."

**Memorial Day**

Continued From Page One

Johnston County Veterans Organization will sponsor their Memorial Day ceremony Monday at 11 a.m. The ceremony will be held at the courthouse. Knox Jenksin, retired Superior Court judge of Johnston County, will be the guest speaker. Johnston County Commissioner Chad Stewart will issue a proclamation declaring Johnston County a Purple Heart county. Veterans are encouraged to take part in the Memorial Day remembrance event. Questions about the event can be directed to Johnston County Veterans Service Office at (910) 989-5067.

Johnsonville Johnsonville Ruritans will have a memorial service Monday at 11:30 a.m. It will be held at the Ruritans veterans memorial which is located at the intersection of N.C. 24/27 in Johnsonville beside Dollar General. Overhills High School JROTC will perform a flag ceremony. State Sen. Ronald Rabin will be keynote speaker. Dedication of pavers which have been purchased in honor of residents will take place at the veterans memorial. This is the ninth year for this ceremony. For more information on the ceremony or to purchase a paver, contact Carole Davis at (919) 499-3967.

**No Paper Monday**

Because *The Daily Record* is now delivered to subscribers through the U.S. Postal Service, we no longer publish on postal holidays. So there will be no edition Monday, Memorial Day.

**Balloon Goes Missing In Harnett County**

UNC grad student looking balloon, 'incredible' footage from 110,000 feet above the earth.

By OONAGH McQUARRIE  
Of The Record Staff

Something has landed in Harnett County.

That something is a bright red lunchbox with several cameras and digital recording equipment inside.

The lunchbox's owners, Danny Bowman and Jared Sabater, attached it to a high altitude balloon and launched it Wednesday morning at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Mr. Bowman is a graduate student at UNC, studying geophysics. He hopes to learn more about recording sounds in the atmosphere. Mr. Sabater is his neighbor, and a film maker. The two got together to launch a high altitude balloon into the atmosphere, so Mr. Bowman could research the sound recording, and Mr. Sabater could use the footage in a film he is working on.

The balloon launch was successful, but at some point in the flight the satellite tracking device the pair used to track the flight path of the balloons fell off.

Now they are facing a county-wide search for their balloon. "When the balloon is launched, it goes 110,000 feet into the atmosphere," Mr. Bowman said. "You can see the curvature of the earth. That's almost three times as high as commercial planes fly. Once it reaches that height, the balloon pops and a parachute opens so the equipment can come safely back to earth."

Mr. Bowman said the task of tracking down the balloon is daunting. "We have predictions as to where it would go, but it's like looking for a needle in a haystack,"



Jared Sabater on the left and Danny Bowman on the right hold their high altitude balloon. They think the balloon has landed somewhere in Harnett County.

he said. "We're desperate to get it back, not only because we've invested in the equipment, but because we're both interested in seeing the footage. It'll be incredible." Mr. Bowman says the "payload" is hard to miss.

It's a bright red lunchbox with a camera pointing out of the side and top of the box, with electronic equipment inside. There will be shreds of a mylar balloon attached to the box by a long piece of string. The plastic parachute should still be attached, which might look like a plastic bag from a distance. The red lunch box will be tied to the parachute.

"My name and phone number is written on a card attached to the box, but that might have fallen off during the flight," Mr. Bowman said.

A milk jug with a sticker "Soleil Multimedia," Mr. Sabater's film company, may still be attached.

"Tell your friends, and tell them to tell their friends," Mr. Bowman said. "We really want to look at this footage."

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Mr. Bowman at [danny.c.bowman@gmail.com](mailto:danny.c.bowman@gmail.com), or call him at (575) 418-8555.

There will be a band and a deejay at the all-day event, as well as vendors and food trucks on site. The car show is free to attend.

There will be a bass fishing tournament Saturday, June 7 at Jordan Lake near Farrington Point. Cash prizes will be awarded to the fisherman or woman who catches the biggest bass. Registration is \$100 per boat.

The final event this summer will be a golf tournament at Carolina Lakes Golf Course in Sanford, set Saturday, June 21.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the winner. Registration is \$50 for a single player. All golfers will be provided with breakfast and lunch.

All proceeds from these events will go to UNC Hospitals Pediatric Brain Tumor Research, and toward getting a foundation named after John Ryan.

For more information on these events, or to donate, go to [johnry-anparker.com](http://johnry-anparker.com) or call Donna Parker at (910) 890-9105.

**John Ryan**

Continued From Page One

Journal of Transplantation, children under the age of 5 have the highest risk of dying while on a waiting list for an organ, higher than any other age group.

"They decided they didn't want anybody else to have to go through what they were going through," Ms. Parker said.

Monique and Madison made a choice that many adults can't make, in the hope that "John Ryan will live forever in someone else."

Ms. Parker doesn't want to focus on the grief.

"It has been hard. Monique has been grieving a lot, Madison fishes a lot, I think so he has some time to process," she said. "But doing this has really helped us deal with the pain. Knowing someone else's child is healthy because of us has given John Ryan's life some purpose. It doesn't feel like we lost him for nothing."

Not only has the idea of saving two lives helped the family cope, they are keeping busy. They have organized three events to raise money for UNC Pediatric Brain Tumor Research, in the hopes that discovering what causes these tumors — called astrocytic tumor-

glioblastoma IV — will prevent more families from having to lose a child. Ms. Parker said the tumor is two to one more prevalent in white baby boys and has increased in occurrence in the last 20 years.

"If we raise \$25,000 they'll name the foundation after him," Ms. Parker said. "The John Ryan Parker Foundation. If we raise \$100,000 they'll name a floor of the hospital after him. I'd like to see his name on a building somewhere, maybe to help kids with these cancers, or to help their parents."

Ms. Parker has already raised \$7,900 toward her \$25,000 goal, and she hopes the three events coming up in the next month can help her family reach their goal of a foundation being named after John Ryan.

**Events**

The first event, a car show, will be held Saturday at Cagle Furniture on N.C. 87 in Cameron. To register your car in the event costs \$20 and can be done the day



Monique Horton and Madison Parker hold their son, John Ryan, before going to church.

of the show between 9 a.m. and noon. There are three categories: muscle cars, classic cars and new cars, and 26 awards will be given out in different categories.

"I think there's going to be a lot of people there, because the phone at Cagle Furniture has been ringing off the hook," Ms. Parker said. "It's all hands on deck for this weekend."

**Dion**

Continued From Page One

He's been choked. He had been done punched up side the head twice. He had been tripped in the school hall. Today he was jumped on and actually beaten," she said. "Different ones are doing it to him."

She said she had taken out papers on a girl who choked him. Dion told his mother he thought the girl had been suspended and she got a letter from the school that they had handled the issue, but with no details.

"Since that time he has been choked again, a boy this time," she said.

Rita found out about the assault from a text message from another student which she re-

ported it said in part, "Yeah, Dion got punched by a boy with no reason. The teachers and a few people saw it. He couldn't fight back. When he got on the bus he was crying."

"Dion said the boy just jumped on him and started beating," she said.

When she called the school, the assistant principal said she would talk to Dion Tuesday. "She said she didn't know what had taken place before the kid jumped Dion."

Previously, she said, "I talked to the principal one time, and the assistant principal I know five times. I've talked to the board of education."

Rita said she has spoken with Miranda Pearson, the chairper-

son for the anti-bullying task force in the Harnett County School system.

"They've told me he's provoking them, they want him to get counseling and go into special classes," Rita said.

"(Miranda) told me he needs to stop provoking them and it will stop. She said once testing is done, he'll forget all about this over the summer," she said.

She said her adult daughter has been to the school to talk to administrators. She said the people from Excel Outreach Learning Center in Erwin which he attends on Saturday have been to the school, eaten lunch with him to "make him feel secure."

"I got more kids in school with Dion. They are seeing this here

and it has affected them," she said.

She said she gives Dion a "pep talk" every time he goes to school.

"I keep telling him be it will be all right, not to talk to people, do your work," Rita said. "I want it to work out. I want Dion to be all right, but it ain't. He can't defend himself, he is not big enough to defend himself. My 10-year-old grandson is bigger than him."

"I'm scared for my son, I am really scared for my son. He is going to end up hurt. I'm sorry is just not good enough and I tried is just not good enough," Rita said.

"Now he don't want to go to school. He said they ain't going to do nothing about it, they're going to keep on doing it. And so far, he has been right."

**Amanda**

Continued From Page One

ing the notes, but the school board said no."

That was around the time when Amanda's mother got a call from the school.

"They told me I had to come to the school," Sarah said. "I go in, and she had gone in the bathroom and taken a pencil and dug it into her wrists and cut them with the pencil."

Sarah took her daughter to counseling, and it was recommended she not go back to school until the bullying was resolved, but was told there was nothing anyone could do unless the school board stepped in.

When Amanda went to high school, her mother said the bullying slowed down for a while, but has picked back up again.

"Last year they filed bullying reports and that did nothing but make it worse. The school board assured me the reports will make it stop," Sarah said. "Amanda went and told her counselor about the girls that were harassing her. They'd ripped off her necklace and thrown it down the hallway; it was starting to get physical. The counselor called these girls in and spoke to them, and we were told a bullying report had been filed."

At the end of 2013, Sarah got a call from 911.

"They said Amanda had told one of her friends she was going

to slit her wrists. I thought everyone was in bed, so I went into the kitchen and turned on the light. There was blood everywhere. She'd cut her wrists all the way up her arms and cut her stomach," Sarah said. "I asked her why was she doing this, and she said, 'Mama, I just can't take it anymore.'"

Sarah went to Miranda Pearson, the chairperson of the anti-bullying task force, and asked why nothing had been done to stop this, despite the bullying reports.

"She looked on her computer and said no bullying reports had ever been filed," Sarah said. "I told her, 'look, either you get it straight, the schools get it straight, or I'm getting a lawyer and some d\*\*\* person is getting it straight.'"

Sarah then got a call from her daughter's principal to schedule a meeting. The three students who had ripped off Amanda's necklace were given a 10-day suspension and their parents were called. "Their parents had no idea," Sarah said. "The school had never called them, had never spoken to them. How are they supposed to know what their child is doing if no one calls them?"

Sarah is worried her daughter will take the self-harm one step further and try to commit suicide.

"I'm not going to see my daughter end up like the kids you see on TV who kill themselves," she said. Sarah also said the bullying has

affected her relationship with her daughter, as well as Amanda's grades.

"She's a totally different person now, she yells and screams at me, her sisters have to walk on eggshells around her," Sarah said. "My daughter is not stupid, she used to be an A student, now she brings home Ds and Es. She was banking on getting scholarships, and now she's worried she's gonna have to go into debt."

Sarah wants to see criminal charges brought against the bullies.

"There's resource officers at the schools, if someone sees something happen, they should be able to report to him and there should be criminal charges," she said. "There's only so much principals

**CLEARING THE RECORD**

Coralee Hunt, charged in operation Wake-Up Call reported in Thursday's paper, said she does not live at Todd Lane, Dunn.

**POWERBALL WEDNESDAY**  
4-20-34 **PICK 3**  
Powerball 31 (Day) 6-3-2  
Powerplay 5 (Night) 7-3-1  
**PICK 4:** (Day) 2-0-3-4  
(Night) 8-3-7-0  
**CASH 5:** 4-11-21-26-29

can do if the school board won't back them up."

It's not just the kids at school who are scared of the bullies. Sarah said a lot of parents are afraid to speak up because they worry causing a fuss will make it worse for their child.

"It's a no-win situation," she said.

**NEW TODAY**  
These ads appear in *The Daily Record* classifieds for the first time today.  
Excludes employment and legal notices.

- Bayou Home Gym. All accessories. \$400. Call 910-892-3272
- Kenmore oven, Excellent condition smooth top, oven does not work. \$150. Call 910-891-5515
- Lawn mowers- 48"Husqvarna \$800 42"Craftsman \$550. Self propelled mower \$100. Air compressor \$125. Call 910-892-3272
- Plainview area- 2 bedroom 1 bath apartment, references and deposit required \$475 month includes water bill Call 910-237-7858.
- Campbell Univ area, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, total electric, large sitting area & dining area, No pets, Call 910-897-5373
- Spring Lake, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, in quiet park \$450 month/deposit Call 910-436-1775 if no answer leave message
- Utility Trailer- 6 x 10. Steel floor, New Axle, Needs Paint, \$650 Call 910-705-6519

Find these ads and many others in My Classifieds on pages 4B - 8B in today's edition of The Daily Record!

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