

THE HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE  
**LOCAL**

**PERSON OF INTEREST:** Investigators focus on soldier linked to slain servicewoman. **3B**

**SHACKING UP:** Couple live in shed until home can be rebuilt. **3B**

**NEW FOCUS:** Commuter colleges turn to traditional offerings to boost enrollment. **6B**



**B**  
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# Is anybody out there?



DAVID HOLSTON | HPE

Chris Horne, president of the High Point Amateur Radio Club, keeps a log of contacts he has made over the years.

## Ham radio operators make long-distance connection

BY EMMA BURGIN KUNZA  
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

**JAMESTOWN** – Sarah Spagnola, 18, a quiet girl, was standing Saturday with her hands buried deep in her pockets and her eyes glued to the pine-straw covered ground.

Spagnola, who just graduated from Ledford High School, is the youngest mem-

**‘You learn all about these different countries. A lot of it is just casual conversation.’**

**Chris Horne**

President, High Point Amateur Radio Club

ber of High Point Amateur Radio Club and was camping with the group this weekend as part of a nationwide Field Day event, an emergency and communi-

**On the Web ...**

For more information about ham radio, go online to:

[www.w4ua.org](http://www.w4ua.org)

cations simulation for extreme weather and natural disaster.

“I had a little battery operated short-wave radio that I played around with, and I heard about ham radio and thought it would be interesting to get into,” she said. “I’m really shy, so I thought it might help me get over my awkwardness.”

Spagnola added she talks to people about anything and everything on her radio, from their pets to their work-day commutes. She and other members of HPARC set up their equipment and tents on William Moore’s Farm in Jamestown Saturday. They intended to spend 24 hours talking on their amateur radios, also known as ham radios.

“If there was severe weather, like a bad ice storm or hurricanes, other means of

communication can fail, even a cell phone,” said Chris Horne, president of HPARC. “Ham radios can still relay messages.”

The antennas for ham radios can send signals longer distances than cell phones and other types of radios, Horne said. He said his interest in amateur radios started when he was a teenager. He took a class in High Point to get a license to operate his own ham radio station and later went to a summer course in broadcasting at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“What interested me was ham radio and geography,” Horne said. “You learn all about these different countries. A lot of it is just casual conversation. You talk about the weather, about your station, what kind of job you have.”

The club members will be at William Moore’s Farm on Sherrill Avenue, off Scientific Street, until 2 p.m. today. The public – especially Boy Scouts, who can earn a merit badge – are encouraged to come out and visit.

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## Drought worries business owner

BY EMMA BURGIN KUNZA  
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

**HIGH POINT** – Darryl Cole is just about desperate enough to head outside and start a rain dance.

The owner of Cole’s Lawn Maintenance said his business is down significantly since the drought set into the area last summer, and word Friday from the governor’s office that conditions might get worse as the summer heats up left him fishing for ways to survive.

“It affects me a lot,” Cole said. “We went from working 60 hours a week ... to barely 35 to 40 hours a week as far as the grass cutting goes. I don’t have another job. This is the only thing I have to depend on. This is my livelihood.”

Gov. Mike Easley said Friday that, unless there is significant rainfall some time soon, the state could face an even more serious situation than in 2007.

The most recent federal drought map showed 14 counties in North Carolina in exceptional drought, while 26 counties – including Guilford, Davidson, Randolph and Forsyth – were under severe drought conditions.

Water levels were down this week about 10 inches at City Lake and more than 26 inches at Oak Hollow Lake. Normal yearly rainfall for the area through June 25 is 20 inches, but rainfall this year through June 25 is 16 inches.

Cities and towns that have loosened very strict water restrictions during the spring might have to think about re-tightening restrictions before July and August, according to a report from the National Weather Service. That means even more lawns might need less care from businesses such as Cole’s. He said people already have been cutting back on his services, telling him to come only once or twice a month to cut the lawn.

“I don’t know how we’re going to handle it,” Cole said. “It’s just hard to get a job doing anything else when you’ve been in business for yourself as long as I have. We’re hoping things are going to pick up. I’d rather go out there and do a rain dance, but it’s all in the hands of God now.”

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**WHO’S NEWS**



**Michelle M. Cook**, executive director of the Winston-Salem State University Foundation, was named vice chancellor for University Advancement at the university.

Cook, who will continue her role as executive director of WSSU’s Foundation, has more than 25 years of experience in the areas of fund development, institutional advancement and training.



Do you know anyone who deserves some extra attention?

You can submit names and photographs of people who could be profiled in the daily “Who’s News” column in The High Point Enterprise.

Send information to: Who’s News, The High Point Enterprise, P.O. Box 1009, High Point, NC, 27261.

E-mail versions with an attached color photograph can be sent to [whosnews@hpe.com](mailto:whosnews@hpe.com)

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## Church expansion extends outreach into community

BY NICK G. MAHERAS  
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

**HIGH POINT** – The Rev. Robert J. Williams Jr. is excited about Williams Memorial CME Church’s future.

Williams, pastor of Williams Memorial CME Church for 31 years, will lead his congregation into an expansion that will, ultimately, more than double the church’s current size and extend its ministries far deeper into the community.

The High Point Planning & Zoning Commission unanimously approved conditional use requests by the church on Triangle Lake Road Tuesday. The requests open the way for the church to convert the former

Brentwood Elementary School into a south High Point campus.

The 43,200-square-foot school facility at Brentwood Street and E. Russell Avenue has been mostly vacant since it closed 20 years ago. “It is a large project that we’re undertaking,” Williams said. “We feel this is a part of what we want to do in helping the community, making our presence known in the community and helping others that are less fortunate.”

“It will take several years. We want to renovate the existing building first and, then, look at (building) a congragate care facility ... maybe two or three years down the road.”

The church has more than 1,000 members and an average Sunday worship attendance of up to 800.



SPECIAL | HPE

**Artist’s rendering shows what the renovated Brentwood Elementary School (foreground) and new congregational facility will look like.**

Founded in 1926, the church moved to Triangle Lake Road in 2004.

“We made a conscious decision several years ago to do

outreach ministries,” Williams said. “Our boards and auxiliaries changed their focus from inward to outward, hoping to

reach and touch more lives. We encouraged members to do more outreach, and they began to take on projects in the community.”

When the chance came along to purchase the property at auction, the church jumped at it. Williams declined to release the purchase price or project costs. “We wanted to carry out the mission of the church, which was for outreach, and, also, (to) partner with other churches,” Williams said. “We’ve had inquiries from ministries that may want to be part of that.”

The church intends to locate its dance and television ministries at the renovated facility along with offices, a food pantry or clothes closet.

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