

# The Daily Record

BENSON BUIES CREEK BUNNLEVEL COATS DUNN ERWIN FALCON GODWIN LILLINGTON LINDEN NEV

**DEX**

- Sports 8
- Deaths 9
- Classifieds 10

## McCoy Cut Back Harnett Schools

temporarily as superintendent.

### WOERNER at Record

Dunn County School Board voted to bring one of its educators out of the county as deputy superintendent. The former Superintendent Dan Honeycutt was named interim assistant superintendent. Mr. Honeycutt last worked in the county as superintendent before his retirement. He also worked as assistant superintendent, principal, and teacher.

By Duncan McCorneycutt will be paid \$70,000 a year. Honeycutt can only receive a certain amount of money because of state retirement work less than a year.

McCormick said that, who could not be named, will fill the position by current Assistant Tom Fry, who is superintendent. The board officially approved the tract Wednesday.

McCormick will make a salary of \$70,000 a year, the first day of the new fiscal year. The salary is \$125,000, paid in two installments. The remainder will be paid in two installments through county and state.

McCormick will now make \$70,000 a year, officially begin his duties Monday. Mr. McCormick's last day in the county was Friday.

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Page 3



## Farm Owner Believes In Working From The Ground Up



Daily Record Photos/Kim Lambert

The owner of High Ground Farm in Duncan is trying to revive the nearly-extinct Java chickens, whose eggs are noted for their rich yolks and robust flavor and sell for 50 cents each at Whole Foods, top. Deborah Underwood-Brown is holding one of the chickens below. She also renovated a neglected, 1850 farmhouse, transforming it into an inviting homestead on the National Historic Registry, above.

## These Are Not Your Ordinary Chickens

By KIM LAMBERT  
For The Record

Deborah Underwood-Brown has always been one to see a project through, she said, from the ground up.

"I've always been this way, a purist. Once, I wanted to take up knitting sweaters years ago," said the northwest Harnett resident. "I started off with a flock of sheep, then I learned to shear the sheep, and spin the wool and make yarn, then I knitted the sweaters."

Such was the premise of her transforming an old, neglected 1850 farmhouse into a beautiful, inviting homestead.

When Ms. Underwood-Brown saw the abandoned home in grave disrepair in 1979, she approached the property owner, Glenn Womble, asking to purchase the farmhouse doomed for demolition.

No stranger to the family, she said her grandfather and grandmother, Bruce and Emma Carroll, had rented the home in the 1950s.

Abandoned for two decades, the Harrington-Dewar home — built by John Tyler Harrington in the 1850s — was cut in half and transferred to its current location, on a

densely wooded lot. She and her family members took five years to restore the farmhouse, while working full time. While the entire structure was sound, with heart of pine clapboards and interior, they added electricity, wiring, insulation and closet spaces during its renovation.

### Java Chickens

That same premise, working from the ground up, was applicable to Ms. Underwood-Brown's raising of a nearly-extinct flock of chickens.

Not one to shy away from challenges, the petite, northwest Harnett farmer embarked on raising Java chickens at her Harrington-Dewar home nestled in her densely-wooded 17-acre estate in Duncan, which — thanks to her persistence — has been added to the National Historical Register. Now it is home to approximately 120 robust Javas in

black, shimmering green and black and white.

"The Java was on the critical list until two years ago," she said. "The Java chickens are threatened with less than 1,000 breeding birds in the U.S. with only seven primary breeding flocks. The estimated global population has dwindled to about 5,000 birds now."

She explains she has worked to maintain a pure flock and to preserve the heritage breed. High Ground Farm has achieved Animal Welfare Approval, following the highest standards of animal welfare.

Customers now flock to Cary's Whole Foods Market where they are quick to purchase her ever-popular eggs for 50 cents a piece, noted for their rich, orange



See High Ground Farm, Page 3

## Bond In Tr

Alleged in wrong m; claims bonc

By BRIAN News I

A Harnett County man has been arrested on felony charges. The man, who was allegedly detained in a Harnett County magistrate court, claimed the bond for the correct future for the correct future.

Susanna Layaou "Sue" Spearman, 40, of 1717 North Norris Lane, was charged by the Harnett County Sheriff's Office with felonious receipt of money by false pretenses. She owns Angelic Bail Bonds.

Harnett County Sheriff's Office said the incident occurred on Tuesday, February 22, 2011. Dunn Police investigated the incident under the sheriff's office.

According to a Dunn Police report, Mrs. Spearman was arrested on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at her home on North Norris Lane when she was acting as a bail bondsman.

Mr. Otero told police he took her into custody at her home on North Norris Lane, Dunn. The incident occurred behind the store front of customers.

He said Mrs. Spearman was arrested at his store several days ago. The incident occurred while she was acting as a bail bondsman.

Mr. Otero said he took her into custody because he was not the bail bondsman, but she took him to court where he was being the right person.

He said when he was arrested, she was holding a gun on her agency's phone number to show him the number to another bail bonds agency.

The agency's owner was in a partnership with her for several years ago before she was arrested.

Mrs. Stokes has since been arrested on charges against Mrs. Spearman. The suit, filed Nov. 4, 2010, alleged that Spearman engaged in a course of prosecution, including distress, interference, unfair and deceptive practices against Mrs. Stokes.

Sheriff Rollins said he passed on the matter to the sheriff's office in Lillington. He said the matter was not a bail bonds issue.

"This all precipitated that occurred to a bail bondsman who she thought he was a person she had known," Rollins said. "She has been acting as if I understand the correct and it was the guy."

See Bond, Page 3

## Assault Sends South Student To Hospital

A South Johnston High student was hospitalized after an assault.

## Marijuana Found In Engine Area Of Car

A 22-year-old Newton Grove man is facing felony drug charges following a search of his car.



WTSB. Gabriel Gaston, 22, of U.S. 701 South was charged with maintaining a vehicle with marijuana.

## Willow Spring DWI Suspect Exposes Herself

Johnston County police officers arrested a suspect who exposed herself during a DWI stop.



Daily Record Photo/Bart Adams

**DAILY DIGESTS**

**Shoot The Hoop To Aid Local Food Pantry**

The Angier Parks and Recreation Booster Club will host a three-point contest Saturday at 4 p.m. inside the Angier Elementary School gym located on McIver Street. With a \$5 entry fee and at least one canned food donation, the contest will feature a free throw contest for the younger set, a three-point contest open to youth to age 15 and a separate bracket for adults. A coaches' game will begin at 6 p.m. with a half time, half-court shot contest. Entry for that event is \$1. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available for purchase and there will be a pizza

raffle from Domino's. All canned foods will be donated to the Angier Area Food Pantry.

**Harnett NAACP To Meet Saturday**

The Harnett County branch of the NAACP will meet Saturday at 11 a.m. at Lillington First Presbyterian Church, 861 Shawtown Road, Lillington. At this meeting the group will receive input on goals for the year, meeting dates, times and place(s), discuss the upcoming Freedom Fund Banquet and the overall organization for the year. Additionally, interested persons may join the branch at this time.

For more information, contact Oscar M. McPherson at 891-2781.

**High Ground Farm**

Continued From Page One

foxes and hawks, Ms. Underwood-Brown was recently awarded a \$4,000 Good Husbandry Grant from Animal Welfare Approved specifically for predator control. The grant will also provide her with a trained guardian dog for added protection against predators.

High Ground Farm and Animal Welfare Approved — a non-profit agency focused on promoting family farms with high animal welfare standards — are partnering to host a free livestock fencing workshop this week-end.

The free workshop, hosted at High Ground Farm Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m., is limited to 10 volunteers each day.

Under the direction of her neighbor, John Griffin, a third-generation farmer, participants will construct a fence around 3 acres of land to protect pastured heirloom breed hens. A home-cooked meal in front of a roaring fireplace is also part of the workshop.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to learn fence installation from a local farmer, help a local farmer, and have fun at the same time," said Emily Lancaster, farmer and market outreach coordinator with Animal Welfare Approved.

She suggests participants wear work clothes, boots, bring along

work gloves and a hammer. Upon their arrival, volunteers will learn to set poles, pull wires and hang gates, all part of a skill passed down through generations.

"Be ready to get dirty and tired while you work to put up a 3-acre fence for pastured heirloom-breed hens," Ms. Lancaster said.

Ms. Underwood-Brown said participants must be over age 18, be able to lift 50 pounds, pull and use a hammer. As farm work is potentially hazardous, volunteers must accept all risks of injury in order to participate.

Animal Welfare Approved is a free certification program and food label for pasture-based family farms. The nonprofit program's Good Husbandry Grants help farmers like Ms. Underwood-Brown improve farm animal welfare.

"Simply put, they live like chickens," Ms. Lancaster said, adding that pasture-based husbandry "makes for healthier hens who lay more nutritious, tastier eggs. ... The yolk is richer, the flavor more intense, and the farm-fresh quality is prized in cooking."

To volunteer for this weekend's fencing workshop or for more information about High Ground Farm, call (919) 552-6916 or check out their blog at [www.highground-farm.blogspot.com](http://www.highground-farm.blogspot.com).

ict voting lines. Both boards are required to draw new lines every 10 years based on Census results and keep one district with a majority of minorities. Board members agreed it would be cheaper to see the same demographer as the school system.

Though both boards now have the same attendance lines, that is not a legal requirement.

"We don't have to do what they want to do," Board Chair Billy art said.

Ten years ago Mr. Tart voted against the present lines in which the district begins near Coats, nakes along the southern border of the county through Overhills nd up to Nursery Road.

The board voted to send a reso-

lution to lawmakers to try to find available funds to avoid further budget cutbacks.

**'Fund Schools First'**

The resolution instructs lawmakers to "fund schools first" before considering making budget cuts. It will be sent to all of the legislators that represent Harnett County in Raleigh.

The resolution comes at a time when bad budget news keeps coming. Mr. Ferrell said he learned Tuesday there will be no planning allotments provided by the state this year.

"They are telling us to use the number we got last year and deduct 5 to 10 percent from it," Mr. Ferrell said.

nd it's a violation."

Licensed bondsmen, he said, re given photo identification that tells who they are, what they are nd what their horsepower is and hat's all they're supposed to ow."

The incident was not the first ime Mrs. Spearman has been accused of apprehending the wrong erson.

In 2009, Kenneth Howard cantland filed a police report gainst Mrs. Spearman, alleging he and two other agents detained nd handcuffed him after they istook him for another man who ad jumped bond.

Mr. Scantland said he had to how the bondsmen his birth certificate before they finally let him o. No one was charged in the incident.

The North Carolina Department of Insurance had an enforcement case open against Mrs. spearman at the time, but the case as since been closed.

Department of Insurance pokesperson Kerry Hall said the oplaint was determined to be nfounded and therefore, criminal harges were not pursued.

Ms. Hall said a case was not pned regarding the latest incident with Mr. Otero because the heriff's office initiated a formal uestigation.

If Mrs. Spearman is convicted

of the charges, the department will review her license and it could be revoked.

"It depends on the conviction and the particular case," Ms. Hall said.

N.C. Bail Agents Association President Melissa Seiler cautioned that the facts of Mrs. Spearman's case have not yet been addressed in court, but said her association makes it clear to all agents that "criminal activity in our profession will not be tolerated."

Mrs. Spearman's bond was set at \$1,000 secured.

She had a first appearance in Harnett County Court Feb. 11. During her first appearance, a probable cause hearing was scheduled for March 1 and Mrs. Spearman said she planned to retain Lillington attorney Jesse Jones. Mr. Jones told *The Daily Record* he had not yet been retained by Mrs. Spearman.

A message left on Mrs. Spearman's cell phone was not returned.

TUESDAY	
<b>MEGABALL</b>	<b>Pick 3</b>
15-22-23-48-55	(Day) 8-1-3
Megaball 31	(Night) 7-9-8
Megaplier 4	<b>Pick 4</b>
<b>CASH 5</b>	1-1-3-1
11-15-21-34-35	

**WHAT IS HAPPENING???**



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**The Daily Record**

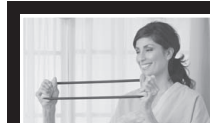
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*Heart of Harnett Playhouse*  
Presents  
*Steel Magnolias*  
Friday, Feb 25th @ 7 pm  
Saturday, Feb. 26th @ 7 pm  
Sunday, Feb. 27th @ 3 pm  
Friday, March 4th @ 7 pm  
Saturday, March 5th @ 7 pm  
Sunday, March 6th @ 3 pm  
Presented at  
The Old Lillington High School  
900 Eleven Street, Lillington, NC  
Tickets available at the  
Lillington Chamber or at the door  
Students \$5  
Senior Citizens \$8  
General admission \$10  
Call 910-814-5959  
for more information or at  
[www.heartofharnettplayhouse.com](http://www.heartofharnettplayhouse.com)  
This production is supported by the Harnett Co. Arts Council, Inc. with Grassroots Arts Funds from the NC Art Council, a state agency.



**Harnett Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation Center**  
(formerly Brithaven of Harnett)