

JUST FOR KICKS: After stroke, woman hopes to play soccer again. **SUNDAY**

ECOLOGY: Is bamboo useful plant or just a nuisance? **3B**

DR. DONOHUE: Cramps bring fear of being sidelined. **5B**



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Saturday
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City Editor:
Joe Feeney
jfeeney@hpe.com
(336) 888-3537
Night City Editor:
Chris McGaughy
cmcgaughy@hpe.com
(336) 888-3540

5 students hurt in Davidson County wreck

BY CHANEL DAVIS
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

DAVIDSON COUNTY

Five South Davidson High School students were involved in a wreck Thursday evening that resulted in four students being transported to Wake Forest Baptist Health and one to High Point Regional Health System.

According to officials with the N.C. State Highway Patrol, the wreck happened on Hannerville Road in the Lexington area. The preliminary report stated the car the students were riding in overturned when they tried to swerve to avoid an oncoming vehicle and

'As far as I know, the students were not seriously injured. We are hoping they will return to school as soon as they can.'

Jonathan Hayes
South Davidson principal

ran off the road. The unknown vehicle kept driving after the wreck.

According to statements that were given to the troopers, the unknown vehicle tried to run the car that the students were in off the road. Troopers have yet to obtain a clear description of the car.

None of the students involved sustained life-threatening injuries.

The wreck did not occur during school hours and happened during the students' personal time.

South Davidson High School Principal Jonathan Hayes said the students were in good spirits on Friday and only had minor injuries.

"As far as I know, the students were not seriously injured," Hayes said. "We are hoping they will return to school as soon as they can."

There were no other details about the accident Friday night and charges have not been filed.

cdavis@hpe.com | 888-3657



DON DAVIS JR. | HPE

Ronnie Kollock, of High Point, uses a computer terminal at the DES office to search for machine operator openings.

Is this rebound for real?

Area jobless rate reaches lowest mark in 3 years

BY PAUL B. JOHNSON
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT – Maybe this time, it's for real.

One encouraging sign for the possible rebound in the job market was reflected in the local figures released Wednesday by the N.C. Division of Employment Security.

For the first time in three years, jobless rates in the four counties that touch High Point are near or below the 10 percent mark. In November, three counties – Forsyth, Guilford and Randolph – recorded rates below 10 percent while Davidson County came close at 10.3 percent.

The last time that Davidson, Forsyth, Guilford and Randolph counties all recorded monthly unemployment rates below 10 percent was December 2008. The Great Recession officially began

JOB SERVICE OFFICES

Anyone who needs help either looking for work or applying for unemployment benefits can contact one of the N.C. Division of Employment Security offices in the area. The locations include:

- High Point office, 607 Idol St., 882-4141
- Asheboro office, 355 S. Fayetteville St., 625-5128
- Lexington office, 103 W. Center St. Extension, 248-2326

in December 2007 and concluded nationally in the summer of 2009, though the negative impact on the labor market has lingered.

Job service counselors in the High Point area during the past three years have seen upturns in the employment market, only to have the turnaround stall or retreat. But one aspect of the current rebound gives Ikel Williams

reason for optimism.

The job gains that he's seeing locally now are the broadest-based since the recession, said Williams, manager of the High Point office of the Division of Employment Security.

"We actually think it's going to pick up this time. We are seeing a diverse market, not just one particular field," Williams told The High Point Enterprise.

Also, Williams said temporary employment agencies are bringing on more workers, which usually is a precursor to more permanent hiring by employers.

If the job market improves, the area and state have a huge employment hole to fill. Since the economy entered the recession four years ago, North Carolina has lost a net of 305,500 jobs, or 7.2 percent of its payroll employment base, according to the economic research firm South by North Strategies out of Chapel Hill.

pjohnson@hpe.com | 888-3528

WHO'S NEWS



The Department of University Events at High Point University recently hired Sarah Drake as an event planner.

Drake, a native of High Point, will handle speakers, concerts, meetings and various other events taking place on campus.



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.

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Go-Forth expands pest control business

ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

HIGH POINT – A pest control business based in the city is expanding its operation by purchasing another operation in a different part of the state.

Go-Forth Pest & Lawn, founded in High Point in 1959, announces that it has acquired Lake Norman Pest Control from owners

Sam and Fran Newman of Lake Norman. The Newmans, who have owned Lake Norman Pest Control for more than 30 years, are retiring.

The acquisition was finalized Dec. 30.

The addition of Lake Norman Pest Control means that the Go-Forth service area will extend from Hillsborough to Statesville

and the Lake Norman area. Go-Forth will maintain its headquarters in the Triad and will operate a satellite branch in the Lake Norman area.

"I know that my grandfather, who founded the company, would be proud of the footprint we're building across the state while still honoring his values of professionalism, quality and

customer service," said Chase Hazelwood, general manager and part owner of Go-Forth Pest & Lawn.

Chuck and Suzanne Hazelwood have co-owned Go-Forth since 1980. They have overseen the company expanding from two small offices in Asheboro and High Point to operations across North Carolina.

INDEX

ADVICE	3B
CAROLINAS	3B
COMICS	5B
OBITUARIES	2-3B
TELEVISION	6B