

**Political Fight**  
Candidates Tangle—Page 5-A

**Leave Veto**  
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**Political Showout**  
Candice vs. Romero

**Pulling Out?**  
Troy St. May Leave GSC—Page 1-B

**No-Hitter**  
Stewart Grounds Jays—Page 1-B

**Daybreak**

Valdosta should see partly cloudy skies with a high in the 90s. Tonight's low should be near 70. Complete weather details on page 2-A.

**Locally**

**Farm-City**

Adel-Cook County Chamber of Commerce's first Farm-City celebration kicks off at 10 a.m. today with an antique tractor parade through the downtown area.

Willie Paulk, chamber director, said Farm-City Day is like a family reunion. A chance for folks to get to know our neighbors in Cook and the surrounding counties.

It's the first city-farm joint venture since the Golden Harvest Jubilee phased out several years ago. If today's celebration goes well, Ms. Paulk said next year's Farm-City Celebration may host an entire week of activities.

But for today, the parade features 15 antique tractors going along a route starting at the city's Fire Tower at 4th Street, she said.

Entries will be judged by Wright Crosby, an agricultural engineering professor with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Harold Reagan, a state senator; and Billy Radcliff, a tractor collector.

A closing show as well as other crafts will be exhibited in the vacant lot across the street from Day's Food Mart.

The Future Farmers of America will be selling slices of watermelon and has planned a children's petting zoo.

—Dean Poling

**Briefly**

**Blacks March**

THOMASVILLE — A group of Thomsville residents held a march to protest the life sentence given a white man who pleaded guilty to killing a black 7-year-old.

Adam "AJ" Hopkins, a Thomsville businessman, got a permit for the six-block march Monday. He said he expected about 200 people to participate, but Thomsville Police dispatcher Barbara Hobson said only 50 or 60 people marched.

Hopkins said the purpose was to raise funds for the family of the victim, 7-year-old Ronald Wayne Jr., and to protest the fact that Ernest B. Shuman was allowed to plead guilty to a murder charge in the case without the boy's family being present.

—The Associated Press

**Lottery**

MIAMI — Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Florida Lottery.

Fantasy 5  
01-21-17  
Cash 3  
9-4-4

**Today's Tips**

●House of Representatives candidates for the 147th District have been invited to an open forum 7:30 p.m. today at the Walker Street Auditorium in Oulman. The public is invited.

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# Judge 'Gags' Death Probe

By DEAN POLING  
Times Staff Writer

As speculation mounts about the shooting death of a local school teacher nearly two weeks ago, no one is talking. Officials are bound by a Lowndes County Superior Court Eg order.

Superior Court Judge Arthur McLane issued the order Wednesday to halt the flow of information about the death of Beverly K. Schappagh, 48, who was found shot to death in her car about 6:48 a.m.

June 18.

McLane told The Valdosta Daily Times Friday the gag order is "not customary" in an ongoing investigation. When asked why it was issued, he said he could not answer without violating his own order.

State Attorney General Michael J. Bowers also said a gag order is not standard practice in an investigation but, "a judge can issue an order in the interest of serving justice."

Bowers would not comment on this particular case.

Perry Michael, a spokesman for

the attorney general's office, would only say "if a judge has issued it, it must be the law."

Lowndes County Sheriff G. Robert Carter said under the order, neither he nor any of his detectives can comment on their investigation into the death.

Although autopsy reports released last week by the Georgia State Crime Laboratory in Atlanta show Ms. Schappagh died of internal bleeding from a single gunshot wound in the area of her left breast, no death certificate has been issued,

authorities say.

Ms. Schappagh's funeral was June 22, but the death certificate will not be issued until a cause of death has been determined, authorities say.

Officials have not said whether or not she was murdered. Found beside her in the car's passenger seat, was a 38-caliber pistol registered to Ms. Schappagh.

Authorities are awaiting the results from ballistics tests to determine if it is the same weapon used in her death.

Ms. Schappagh was found dead by a man walking his dog on June 18. She was in her gray 1987 Nissan Sentra parked in the eastern corner of Pine Grove Primary School's playground on Bemis Road.

She worked at Pine Grove for one school year.

Crime lab autopsy reports also reveal that Ms. Schappagh had several minor injuries in addition to the gunshot wound, which included a black eye, a bruise on one shoulder and scrapes to both knees.

## Farmers Could Lose Half Of Corn Crops

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI  
Times Staff Writer

Low rainfall amounts and torrid heat could result in area farmers losing 50 percent of this year's corn crop.

Low rainfall in the past month is beginning to make local crops suffer and if conditions do not improve it could only get worse.

"The past four weeks have been low in rain and with the hot weather the corn growing has been showing signs of drought stress," said John Baker, Lowndes County Extension Agent. Thus far about 75-90 percent of the local crop has been affected by the dry conditions and close to 50 percent of the crop could be lost, he said.

The past month showed 1.27 inches of rain which is 3.77 inches less than normal, said Roger Getts, a meteorologist with the Southeast Agriculture Weather Service Center in Auburn, Ala. Over the past two months it has rained 5.51 inches which is 8.73 inches less than normal. So far this year, the area has had 18.59 inches of rain, 6.08 inches less than normal, he said.

"The area is going through a dry spell," Getts said. However, a drought has not been

declared. "It is very difficult to label a drought, there is no measure. It mostly depends what happens in a long period of time and on the economic impact," he said.

Next week's forecast shows no signs of helping the situation. "It will be three H's, hot, hazy and humid," Getts said.

July's forecast shows to have normal rainfall and temperatures, but most of the rain will be in the form of thunderstorms and scattered showers which dumps rain in a short period of time, he said.

The problem with showers is the rain runs down and does not get a chance to soak in before drying up," Getts said.

It's important the rain gets in the ground because this is a very critical time for corn. The pollination stage has begun and moisture is needed for the seeds to stick, Baker said. There are about 10,000 acres of corn planted in the county and almost \$1 billion is generated by the crop.

There are several farmers in the area who use irrigation devices but Baker said some may stop irrigation because they would end up losing more money from the expense.

In addition, Georgia is considered a corn

—CORN, Page 2-A



Nearly 200 children and teachers at First United Methodist Church's Vacation Bible School celebrate the **Liftoff!** final day Friday by releasing balloons into the skies—Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

## Cook County Plant Closing In January

By DEAN POLING  
Times Staff Writer

ADEL — A Cook County plant is preparing to shut its doors, but owners say 20 regular full-time employees affected by the closing will be offered positions elsewhere. It is the second industrial closing the county's faced this year.

Hypoxec Corp., an organic peat processing and packaging facility, will close on Jan. 4, according to a written statement this week.

Paul W. Devine, spokesman for Hypoxec's parent company O.M. Scott & Sons in Marysville, Ohio, said the plant is closing but had no details. Neither Jim McSpadden,

Southeast regional operations manager in Jacksonville, and Joe Hoy, Adel's plant manager, were available for comment Friday.

According to the statement, approximately 20 full-time employees will receive severance pay, extended medical insurance and other benefits. They also will be offered similar positions in one of Hypoxec's other 22 locations across America, the release said.

Company officials are transferring Adel's organic production to other Hypoxec facilities in the Southeast for greater efficiency and improved customer service, the statement said.

Willie Paulk, director of the Adel-Cook County Chamber of Commerce, said "we're devastated by the closing."

## Valdosta Daily Times Captures GPA Honors

Staff and Wire Reports

JEKYL ISLAND — The Valdosta Daily Times won seven state awards Friday, including two first place citations, in the Georgia Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest for the 1989 calendar year.

The Daily Times received first place in Georgia for local news coverage and first place for the best sports section.

Also, The Valdosta Daily Times was awarded second place in the state for general excellence. The general excellence award was based on a general evaluation of the newspapers and a system of points awarded for excellence in specific categories.

The Daily Times also was awarded second place for best lifestyle coverage and third place for layout and design.

Staff writer Dean Poling won an individual state award: Second place for feature writing.

Staff photographer Mike Tanner was awarded third place for best local features photography.

\*Winning these prestigious state awards just shows what a good team we have at The Times, said



Managing Editor Frank Syles Jr. said, "Our reporters, photographers and editors are producing some of the best journalism in Georgia, and they all share in these awards." Syles also commended the news team.

See TIMES, Page 2-A

**Here You Go**

Charla Parker, Georgia Watermelon Queen, hands a piece of watermelon to Marie Paulk Friday at the Georgia Welcome Center on I-75 — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

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