Gorbachev meets world leaders
See page 2

Superstars fall in Invitational
See page 6

Good afternoon

Weather
Tonight, clear and colder. Lows near 40. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph. Friday, sunny and cooler. Highs around 50. Northwest wind 10 to 20 mph.

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Suffolk News-Herald

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Heavy rains prove costly for city's peanut farmers

DAVID HARRISON
STAFF REPORTER

1984 was a good year for peanuts throughout most all of Virigina, but heavy July rains washed away Suffolk's chances of a banner peanut crop last year.

The Virginia Crop Reporting Service noted an increase in statewide peanut production. But because Suffolk farmer's count on dry weather to keep moisture down, the heavy rains put Suffolk last among the state's peanut producing areas.

Last year's Suffolk yield matched the statewide yield of 2,900 lbs. per acre. But while the state's yield was up 800 lbs., Suffolk's was down by 300.

98,000 acres of peanuts were planted in Virginia last year, up 2,000 from 1983. Of those acres planted, 97,000 were harvested, compared with 95,000 the year before.

Total production in the state was also up, as the 1984 figure was 281,300 compared with 198,550 in 1983.

In addition to the high quantity, agricultural statistician Stephen Williams said that last year's peanut crop was also one of quality.

"The peanuts were graded higher last year than in the past," he said, noting that a higher quality can also increase prices farmers receive for the product.

Local Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service Executive Director Steve Butler said peanut production increased proportionally with the western areas.

Soils in Dinwiddie and other counties west of Suffolk are dryer, and rely on excessive moisture, while Suffolk's soil holds water better, and can withstand dry spells.

"This was one of those years when it was too wet," Butler said, "and we suffered as a consequence."

Butler indicated that many Suffolk farmers still managed to recover their cost by growing corn–a crop which did especially well in all areas of the state this year.

While all of last year's statewide peanut statistics–especially the yield–are considered to be very good, none were records.

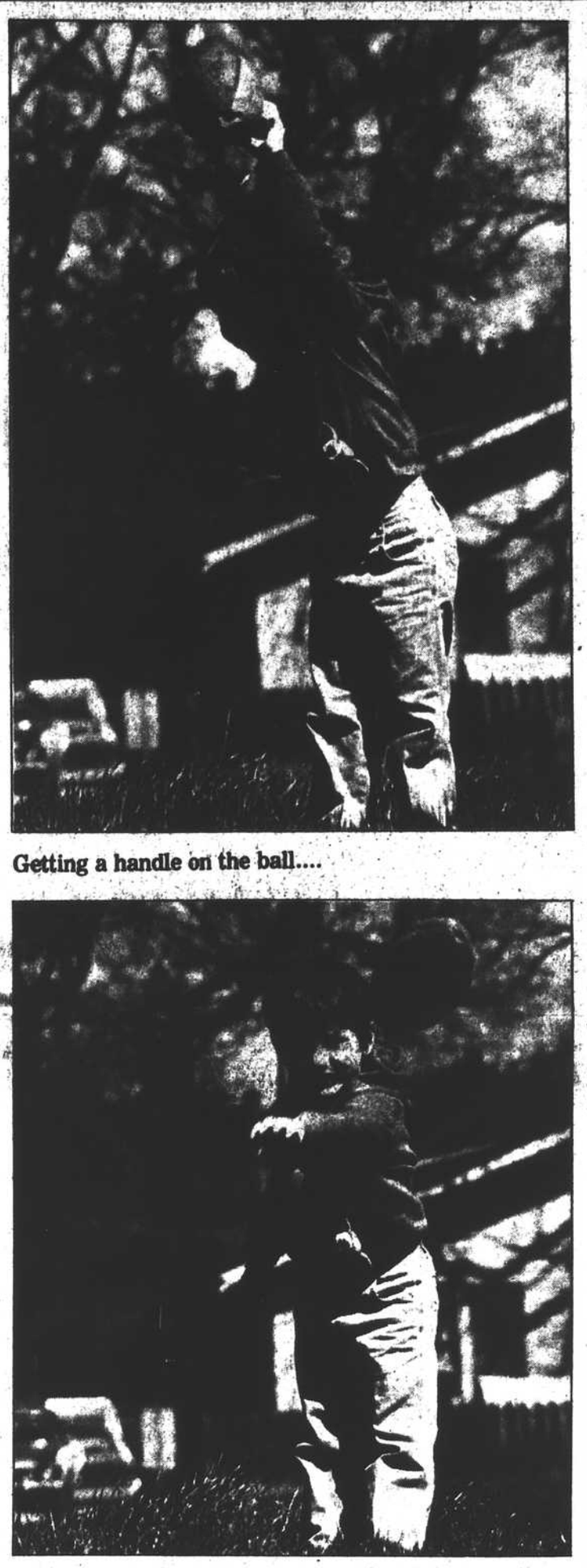
Acreage in 1981 topped 105,000, but dipped to around 96,000 the past two years. This year's increase should be good news for peanut farmers further to the west who will likely be looking at severe cuts in the federal Peanut Support Program beginning next year.

Total value of Virginia's chief crops in 1984 increased 37 percent from 1983's drought-reduced levels and was 4 percent higher than 1982's production value.

Last year's crops were worth more than $943 million. Farmers also took in record yields of corn, wheat, soy beans, flue and dark-fired tobacco.

Tobacco value increased by 22 percent at $208 million dollars and corn was valued at $166 million, or two and a half times higher than in 1983. Despite these high yields, prices were lower on corn, hay and soybeans, the service said.

The top five crops in terms of production value in Virginia are tobacco, corn, hay, soy beans and peanuts.



Getting a handle on the ball....

....is no easy feat for Kenny Askew, Jr...

but once he does, he manages to make the throw

Photos by HARVEY WHITE

Riddick blasted again during political debate

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

In the second debate between Democratic gubernatorial candidates Wednesday, Attorney General Gerald Baliles criticized Lt. Gov. Richard B. Davis for comments made by paid staff-member Moses Riddick Jr. of Suffolk. Riddick has said the party ticket would be a "dead duck" if it nominated a black lieutnenat governor and a woman attorney general.

"Even the Republicans have rejected that kind of attitude," Baliles said.

Davis responded that he fully expected Sen. Douglas Wilder, D-Richmond, to be nominated for lieutenant governor and Delegate Mary Sue Terry, D-Stuart, to be the party's nominee for attorney general.

"I will enthusiastically run with both of them," Davis said. Asked if such a ticket would be viewed as too liberal for most Virginians, he said, "It's not whether you are left or right, it's whether you are right or wrong."

The two candidates answered questions from three journalists in the 75 minute debate on the stage of the Mill Mountain Theater. They are scheduled to debate again in Tidewater on March 19 and in Richmond March 22.

As in their first meeting in Virginia Beach last week, the similarities between the candidates were more apparent than their differences.

Both said industrial development, transportation and schools would be top priorities under their respective administrations. Both agreed the state's expanding economy should make a tax increase unnecessary. Davis claimed he had more experience, but Baliles said he was more likely to be elected.

Davis cited his background as a banker and businessman, combat veteran, Portsmouth mayor and Democratic party chairman.

"No one will ever ask Dick Davis, 'Where's the beef?'" he said. Baliles, a former Richmond Delegate, noted that he had defeated the likely Republican nominee for governor, Wyatte Durrette, to become attorney general in 1981.

"I have never lost an election and I don't intend to start now," he said.

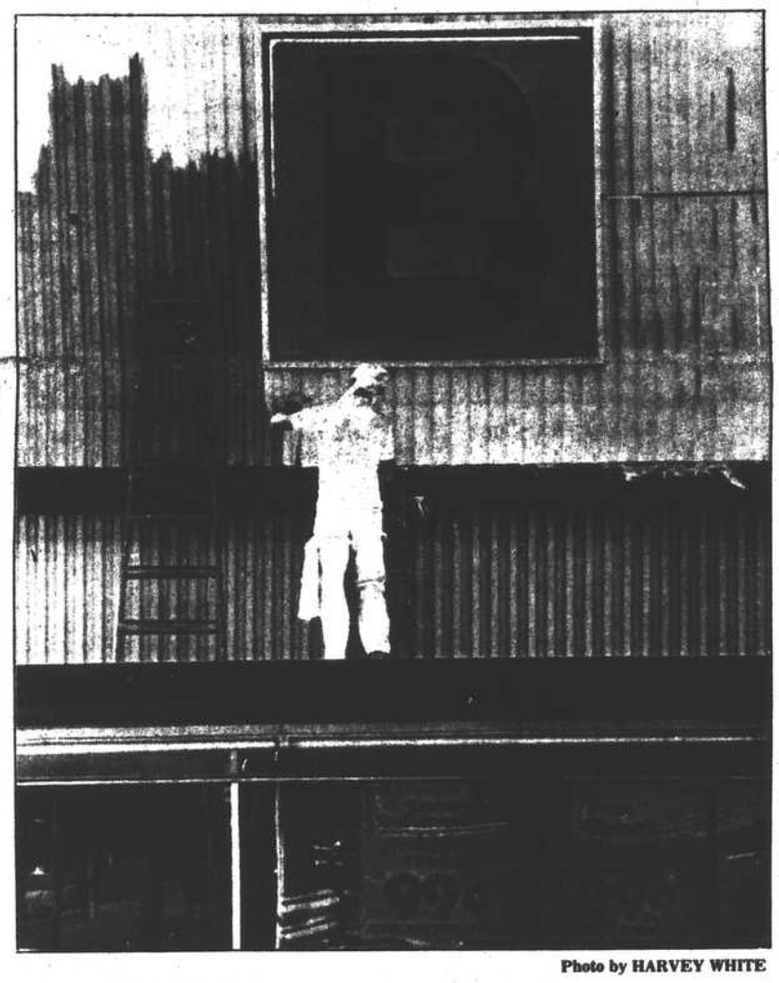


Photo by HARVEY WHITE

A workman paints around the big 'B' Wednesday afternoon as he put new color on the old Cavalier food store on West Washington as part of the transition to Be-Lo.

Suffolk parents learn hard lesson about hemophilia from their sons

By LINDA MCNATT
NE SUFFOLK BUREAU CHIEF

Jennifer Bunn knew very little about hemophilia until her oldest son, William, was born. She knew the genetic disease was in her family. Her uncle was a hemophiliac, but she had two brothers without the disease.

"My uncle died when he was 21," Bunn recalls. "I was just a kid. I remember seeing him walking on crutches. I had heard the family talking about hemophilia, but it just never made an impression."

Hemophilia made its impression when William was born six years ago. When he was circumcised, it required stiches, and still the bleeding didn't stop. When she and her husband finally took the baby home from the hospital, the bleeding began again. Tests verified that William was a victim of Factor IX deficiency, Christmas disease.

For Jennifer Bunn and her family, William's diagnosis was the beginning of an education. They learned that at least 20,000 males in the United States are hemophiliacs, that the disease is a hereditary blood clotting disorder which affects males almost exclusively, and, eventually, they learned to live with the affects of hemophilia.

The affects multiplied two years after William's birth when his brother Aaron was born. Aaron, too, suffered from Factor IX deficiency.

"A woman is almost always a carrier," Bunn explains. "Every male child born to a woman with a history of hemophilia in her family has a 50 percent chance of having the disorder."

"Hemophiliacs don't bleed more, they just bleed longer."

It's a common misconception, Bunn explains. Many people don't understand the disease. Contrary to the common conception, hemophiliacs do not bleed to death from minor external wounds. Minor cuts are easily treasted in most cases, much as they are with the non-hemophiliac.

The major problem for the hemophiliac is uncontrolled internal bleeding which can begin spontaneously without apparent cause. If internal bleeding is not quickly stopped with appropriate treatment, it will result in pain and swelling. Over a period of time, bleeding into joints and muscles can cause permanent damage and chronic pain.

"When the boys were small, I didn't dare take them out in public without long pants and long sleeved shirts," says Bunn. "They were always black and blue. They looked like abused children."

And there were many precautions that had to be taken. The family was advised to do away with the coffee table; there was too much chance of falls and injury. Every razor blade, every knife and kitchen utensil had to be put out of reach of little hands.

Until Aaron's birth, William was treated with fresh, frozen blood plasma whenever he had a "bleed," whether it was an external bleed or an internal, spontaneous bleed. Aaron, unlike his brother, has been fortunate in not having so many spontaneous, joint bleeds. William, a first grader at Elephant's Fork Elementary School, has had his most serious problems with an ankle joint. Often, he needs crutches to walk.

Both boys are now on home treatment. The drug Konyne, a clotting factor derived from human blood, must be infused into the vein. Each time internal bleeding occurs, additional clotting factor is needed. Although Konyne is an effective control, there is no cure for hemophilia. A child born with the disease will

See HEMOPHILIA, page 2

Photo by LINDA McNATT

William and Aaron Bunn