

# ...Around Town

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875-2121 and Ann Webb will be glad to assist you.

The pictures that were in *The News-Journal* Photo Contest are still on display at the Hoke County Library. If you haven't been by to see them, please do so. It is well worth your time. They will be on exhibit at the library for the remainder of the month of May.

The City of Raeford has a new city manager. He starts to work Monday, May 14. His name is Tom Phillips and he comes to Raeford from Troy. It would be good for everyone to go by his office and welcome him to Raeford.

The reason I say this, is that down that road you may make a trip to his office to register a complaint and you will not have to be introduced.

We welcome Tom Phillips to Raeford and hope that his stay here will be fruitful.

Many people called me during the first primary about the fact that they didn't know when the deadline was for absentee ballots. Don't get caught for the second primary. Call the Board of Elections office today and find out when the deadline is for the primary.

Never put off voting. It is just one thing you can do that doesn't cost you!

# ...Chamber on hold

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board will operate the Chamber office.

Board members are expected to investigate whether the county needs to hire a director with strong industrial development credentials, or whether the Chamber should

concern itself with only local questions.

Meanwhile, plans are on go to hold the Chamber's annual dinner on May 29 at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker for the event is expected to be the Chamber director from Sanford. That community is noted for its industrial development successes.



## Welcome to Hoke County

County Commission Chairman John Balfour (standing right) welcomes North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt (standing left) during a fund raising luncheon held last week at the Raeford Civic Center to help support the governor's bid for the U.S. Senate. About 100 local supporters and politicians attended the \$25-a-plate affair. If elected to the Senate post, Hunt promised to look into Hoke County's

need for a four lane highway. Seated at the head table with the governor were: Balfour, Farm Chemical owner Alfred K. Leach (far left), county Democratic Party Chairman Harold Gillis (left center), Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill (right center) and state Sen. David Parnell (right).



### Standing by

This fellow seems to be just standing by during Hobnob festivities earlier this month.

# School employee arrested in drug bust

By Ed Miller

A drug ring, specializing in the alleged selling of marijuana to minor inmates on work-release from Sandhill's Youth Center was broken recently due to the combined efforts of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department and the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI).

According to a report on file at the Hoke County Sheriff's Department, a janitor at Upchurch Jr. High School, Chavis Adams, was allegedly the major distributor of the drug.

Detective C.E. Harris said in his report at least one young inmate co-operated with law enforcement officials. He allowed himself to "be wired" with a radio transmitter and agreed to purchase some of the drug with money marked for future identification.

Adams was arrested after the buy.

He is no longer employed at Upchurch, principal Allen Edwards said.

Adams apparently agreed to co-operate with law enforcement officers by being "wired" for sound and led officers to the home of Annie and Michelle Bratcher in Raeford.

Adams is reported to have purchased some of the alleged mari-

juana and turned it over to officers.

The Bratcher home was then searched where an undetermined amount of marijuana was seized and both women were arrested and charged.

Adams was charged with delivering a controlled substance to an inmate, possession with intent to sell and distribute marijuana, and selling and distribution of marijuana.

Michelle and Annie Bratcher were charged with possession with intent to sell and distribute marijuana.

All were out of jail on bail as of Monday afternoon.

Harris reported that the Department of Corrections and school officials were in co-operation with the law.

In an unrelated incident, Ronald W. Cockran reported the apparent theft of a Suzuki four-wheel motorcycle.

The Shannon resident reported that on the morning of May 8, he found the vehicle stolen and told sheriff's deputies about it.

The report continued to say that on the same day, the bike was found beside rural road 1448 at about 9:30 p.m.

The \$1,320 four-wheeled vehicle was returned to its owner the next day.

Local Police reports show that a Raeford resident was the victim of an alleged theft that left her almost \$1,250 poorer.

Diane McPhaul reported that her 1972 Ford Mustang was broken into last Thursday as it sat in the parking lot of the House of Raeford.

Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said that someone allegedly "went into the console" of the car and took the money.

The matter is under investigation.

In an apparently unrelated car break-in, John R. Pleasant reported that his car was broken into as it sat on East 7th Street in Raeford.

The apparent theft netted two speakers and a digital watch from the car of the Red Springs resident. The speakers were reportedly worth about \$40 and the watch about \$10.

A Raeford man reported his truck stolen last week.

Alfred J. Kozik told sheriff's deputies that Saturday night, his red 1974 Ford truck had been stolen from his yard.

His wife reported that at about 5 a.m. Sunday, she had heard dogs barking but had failed to look at the area where the truck was parked.

Kozik said the truck had been locked.

The vehicle whose license plate number is BAK-855 was said to be worth about \$3,000.

Sheriff's deputies have two suspects in the case that is still under investigation, reports show.

In other crime, Anthony H. McCormick reported that he came home at about 9:30 Sunday night to find that his Duffy Road house trailer had been broken into.

In the apparent robbery, alleged thieves took about \$25 inside a piggy bank, \$150 worth of assorted jewelry and a \$650 stereo.

Sheriff's officials have no suspects in this case.

Clarence Webb of Raeford reported that he had \$250 worth of

tools apparently stolen from his home Sunday.

Webb also said that he had seen a red car parked near his house earlier that day.

Also on last Sunday, Phillip Smith reported that his Lumber Bridge residence had been broken into.

In that apparent robbery, a \$400 stereo receiver was taken.

Smith reported that the alleged thieves left the speakers in the house.

The report said that a screwdriver had been used to gain entry into the house.

Finally, Margaret Wilson, of Raeford reported that someone had allegedly purposefully burned a tent that was in her back yard.

## Commissioners on tax list

Two members of the Hoke County Commission are on the list of property owners who have not paid 1983 county taxes.

According to the list published in *The News-Journal* by the Hoke County tax collector's office, Commissioners James Albert Hunt and Cleo Bratcher have not paid last year's local taxes. Their property is subject to foreclosure. As of Monday, Bratcher owed

\$220.77 in back taxes and Hunt was behind by \$471.87, according to the tax office figures.

About 95% of the county's property owners have paid the 1983 levy, and almost \$2.2 million has been collected of the \$2.4 million billed, a spokesman for the office said.

There was an outstanding balance Monday of approximately \$255,250.

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The News-Journal  
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A course that will be offered for the first time in Hoke County is Sharon Shaw's "Survival Skills in Written Communication." The course is intended for those planning to go to college from high school, for older individuals interested in going to college but who are frightened of writing, and for those who simply want to improve their communication skills. May 21 thru 24, Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur. Hoke Co. Public Library 9-3. \$10.

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**Eddie Knox**  
**In The**  
**May 8th Primary.**

**Raz Autry**  
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Puppy Creek Bob Jordan Thanks You  
Stonewall Ken and Bet McNeill deeply appreciate your cooperation  
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