

# The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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## 1984 In review

Unlike the year of "Big Brother" predicted by British novelist George Orwell, for Hoke County 1984 was a year of good news, which saw the beginnings of a widening group of residents taking part in shaping the county's future.

It was a year of accomplishments and changes. Although there were shifts of command in city and county management, only one incumbent local elected official was turned out of office by the voters.

There were few extremes in the weather, and through December, the winter was one of the mildest on record.

Most county farmers had one of the best years in recent memory, but low market prices offset production gains.

The slaying of Danny Morrison still baffled Raeford Police officers at year's end as the investigation continued into its 13th month.

Final figures have not been compiled, but break-ins clipped along at a usual pace of about one per day in 1984. Other crime seemed to be down. Only two persons were murdered during the year, both of which appeared to have stemmed from domestic disagreements.

On the good news side, Burlington Industries announced a major expansion for its Hoke County operations, a state ban on new industrial use of the Raeford sewer system was lifted, an industrial development board was created, a plan for rehabilitating the schools was approved, the four-laning of US 401 was returned to the construction priority list, a new animal shelter was opened and the old Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad depot was given to the Chamber of Commerce to use as an office.

Hopes for a community college branch in the county were dimmed, but not killed. At year's end a citizens' group was working on landing the school.

Here's a look at the top stories which made headlines in Hoke County during 1984:

### January

Burlington Industries announced in mid-January that construction had begun on a multi-million dollar expansion of its Raeford Plant. The plans included a 35,000 square foot addition, and the cost of the work was pegged at \$4 million.

Raeford Attorney Warren L. Pate was sworn to fill the vacancy on the 12th Judicial District Court. Pate gained the post after a united group of residents drew help from state officials to lobby Governor James B. Hunt.

Local officials vowed to fight to have US 401 widened. A concentrated campaign for the highway improvements erupted after a Cumberland County District state Department of Transportation (DOT) engineer said Hoke residents had not asked for the work to be done. In December the highway was returned to the state construction priority list.

In January, State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) authorities said despite an audit's showing unaccounted for funds, a further probe into mishandling of money at the Sandhills Mental Health Center would not be conducted.

Raeford Police held a road block in an effort to uncover clues in the slaying of store owner Danny Morrison.

State and local health officials found low-level traces of cancer-causing chemicals at two illegal dump sites in the county. No cleanup was ordered because the pollutants were considered not to be hazardous.

### February

The second month of the year opened with temperatures in the 60's and an announcement from the state Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD) that a sewer moratorium imposed on Raeford for more than six years had been lifted.

A committee of Hoke residents was appointed to study the county's schools.

Both Raeford and Hoke County cranked up efforts and applications for community development funds. The bids later in the year fell short of the mark and were rejected.

Members of the Puppy Creek Fire Department and others fought a blaze at Carolina Country Estates, but were unsuccessful in saving the life of three-year-old Conelia McDuffy.

A \$5,000 reward was offered by the Governor's office for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers of Danny Morrison.

A new animal cruelty ordinance was adopted by members of the Hoke County Commission. The law allows animal control officers to confiscate animals who are being mistreated.

Sandhills Community College circulated a questionnaire among residents querying them about the need for a satellite branch in Hoke County. More than 1,600 responses were received. All were in favor of the unit.

Retail sales in the county rose more than \$1 million over the previous year, Chamber of Commerce Director Earl Fowler announced in February.

### March

Marion Gatlin was named Citizen of the Year by the Raeford Kiwanis Club during the club's 60th anniversary gathering.

Plans were announced by the Chamber of Commerce to strengthen Hoke County's ties with Ft. Bragg.

A Hoke County couple was arrested and charged with abusing a three-year-old child. They were later sentenced to seven days in jail for the offense.

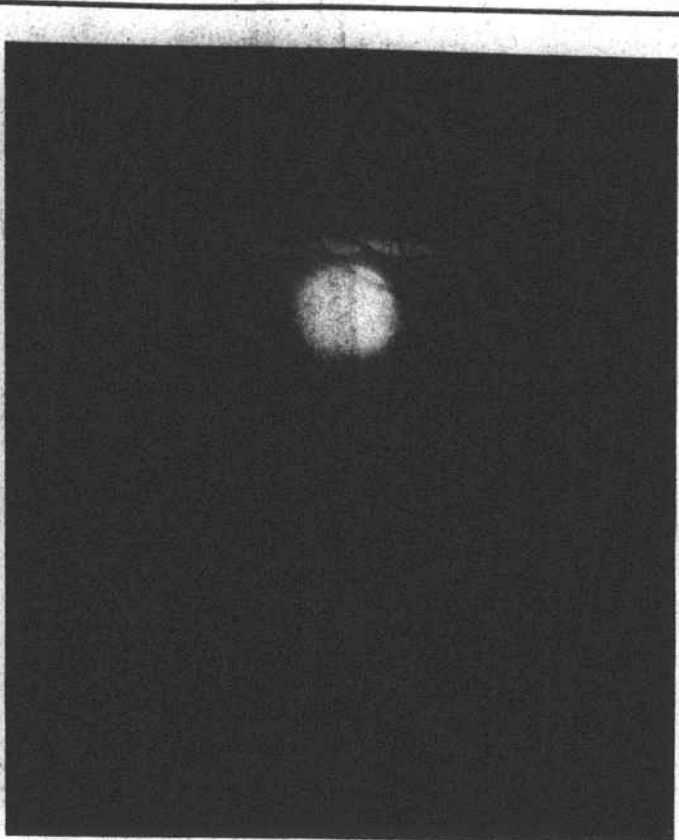
Another Hoke resident was also arrested during the month and charged with abusing a three-year-old. In an unrelated incident, a man was charged with abusing a minor.

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### End of the year

The sun sets here through trees in the Bethel Church area of Hoke County bringing a close to the 1984 year. Local residents brought in the New Year with parties and fireworks, but no major disturbances were reported by authorities.

## New EMS system could aid Hoke

By Ed Miller

A new certification for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel may quadruple the number of cardiac patients saved by ambulance crews in the state and could provide a lower cost way to upgrade the qualifications of Hoke County ambulance personnel.

The new type of training, called Cardiac Tech, will mainly allow the use of a defibrillator, or an electric device used to shock the heart back into a regular, steady rhythm, by EMS workers before transportation to the hospital.

Currently, the program is under study in three or four counties in North Carolina, said Hoke County EMS Director William Niven.

If the system is approved by the state, Niven will be able to recommend it to the EMS Board and then to the county commission, he said, adding that he has no plans right now to make a recommendation.

According to Niven, the initial cost of the transition to the system will be the only major one incurred by switching over.

Heart monitors and additional training of personnel to read them will be needed for each ambulance, said Niven.

At last check, the monitors cost about \$5,000 per unit, said the director.

"They're finding (the defibrillator) to be the most important piece of equipment in saving cardiac arrest victims," Dr.

Ronald Milowski of Moore County Hospital said.

"I'd rather have that than anything else," he said.

According to Milowski, without a defibrillator, only 3% to 8% of cardiac arrest victims ever make it to the hospital.

With the device, 35% to 50% of the victims can be saved.

"If you can't get the patient alive to the hospital, you can't save them," Milowski said, adding that heart attack is the number one killer of adults in the United States.

A steady heart rhythm must be gotten within 6-8 minutes or the patient probably will not make it, said the doctor.

Studies show that cardiac technicians are saving about as many

heart attack victims as paramedics, said Milowski.

The studies have been going on in larger states and major cities around the country since 1967, he said.

According to Milowski, the major differences between a paramedic and a cardiac technician is that paramedics can stick tubes into bronchial passages to clear airways and can start intravenous medication.

North Carolina should approve the Cardiac Tech program this year sometime, said the doctor.

According to Milowski, there is not yet an established outline for cardiac technicians.

"It varies from county to county," he said.

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather in Hoke County over Christmas has been unbelievable. The temperatures have been in the 70s and have broken records all over the state. Today, (Monday, December 31) the temperatures are in the 60s and are expected to be the same again tomorrow.

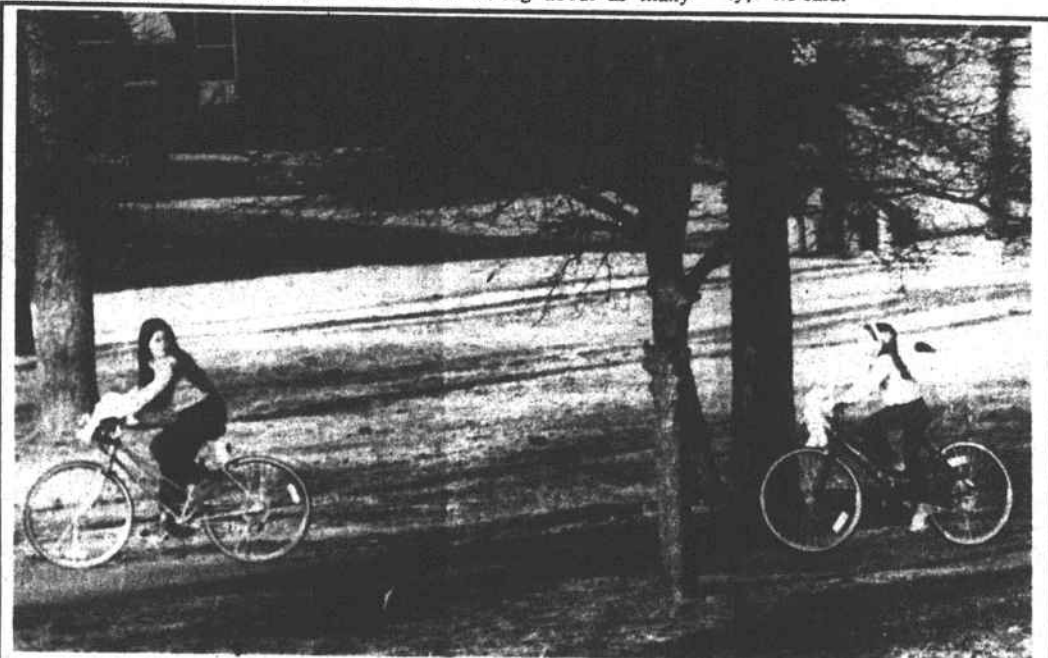
One person mentioned to me that before the end of time, the Bible said, we wouldn't know one season from the other. I guess the person thought the end of time is near. Let's remember that would be for the whole world and they are having winter weather out west.

I believe that before long, winter will hit Hoke County, too.

Warren Johnston, editor, told me Monday that for a while he couldn't see why I wrote about the weather. He said after compiling the yearly report for 1984, he saw a good reason for the item. It will be a record of the weather for Hoke County put down and kept on file for anyone to refer back to at any time.

We started using the item when Gatlin was using a weather chart each month and we would compare years and months. Also many people outside of the county would comment to me about the weather item. Glad to know it can be useful in years to come.

Walter Thomas, who is employed by the ASC office in the county, was by the office last week and had a tax receipt dated February 11, 1898. It was made out to Mrs. C.F. Thomas of (See AROUND, page 12)



### Nice day for ride

These girls seem to be enjoying a sunny 70° December day as they take their Christmas dolls on

a bike ride near McLaughlin School last week.

## Band heading to inaugural parade, fund raising effort is underway

About 190 members of the Hoke County High School Band will leave Raeford at about 9 a.m. Saturday for Raleigh and the Governor's Inaugural Parade.

The group will leave if a needed \$2,000 for transportation costs can be raised to move the band to the capitol city.

Funds raised for the trip will include only the money needed for

the one-day trip to Raleigh and will not include lodging, Hoke County Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson said Monday.

"We will leave in the morning and come back after the parade," Nelson said.

Hoke High's band will be among approximately 120 units performing in the parade, which will follow the inauguration

ceremonies of Governor James G. Martin.

The parade will begin about 1:30 p.m.

The band is asking for contributions from county businesses, individuals and industries.

Any donation will be appreciated and all should be sent to the Hoke County High School Band Parade Fund, Post Office Box 370, Raeford.