

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

No. 51 Vol. 92

50 cents

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

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This week



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for saving him
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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

The weather cooled off for the weekend. Saturday the wind was from the northeast and it felt colder than the thermometer registered. Last Thursday and Friday we had about two inches of rain before the temperatures began to drop. As I write this column on Monday morning it is raining again and the forecast is for it to continue into Tuesday. This will get the ground wet and it may hinder the preparing of fields for crops.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the 60s and 70s and the lows in the 40s. Spring arrived Monday so maybe the weather will become normal again.

If you receive your paper on Wednesday, don't forget that this is the day for Expo 2000. This event will be held at the National Guard Armory on Teal Drive from 10:00 am until 6:30 pm. The Expo is sponsored by the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

I have heard that all the Expo booths have been purchased for the year so get out and enjoy the exhibits.

There were two deaths recently that touched the lives of many Hoke County people. Marian M. Clark died last week and was buried in the Raeford Cemetery Sunday afternoon. There was a large
(See AROUND, page 12A)

Voter registration sparse for election year

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Voter registrations in Hoke County for the upcoming May primary and presidential elec-

tion in November are lagging behind the response anticipated by Board of Elections' officials. Out of 1,700 voter registration applications picked up by candidates and registration drive vol-

unteers, only 51 completed forms have been returned, says Director Caroline Shook of Hoke's Board of Elections.

"In 1998, I gave out 3,000 forms to register to vote to candi-

dates and special requests for drives," Shook said. "We got back 1,200, which is a lot more than what we're receiving back this year," she said.

"Now, if all those 1,700 appli-

cations come back I gave out this year, I'll be singing a new tune," she said.

Thus far, 283 Hoke residents have registered this quarter to
(See REGISTRATION, page 6A)



Scene at Thursday's fatal wreck on Red Springs Road. (Photo by Pat Allen Wilson)

Wreck in rain kills woman

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

A Shannon woman died after the car she was riding in "hydroplaned" and was struck by another on Red Springs Road during last Thursday's afternoon downpour.

Jennifer Ann Jones, 22, a resident of Cook Road in Robeson County, was pronounced dead at the scene after the passenger side of the 1990 Ford Mustang she was in was struck by another car.

Jones' husband, Timothy Jones, 25, the driver of the Mustang, was thrown through the back window onto the pavement from the impact. He and the driver of the other vehicle, Elbert McBryde, 64, Rochester Lane, Red Springs, were taken to FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

The accident happened about 1.7 miles south of
(See FATAL WRECK, page 7A)

Coach assaulted, parent charged by police

Parent arrested on high school campus

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A dissatisfied parent, Jerry Goins, "went to bat" for his son last Wednesday, reportedly demanding Robert Lazauskas, a Hoke County High School assistant baseball coach, give Goins' son more playing time on the field. According to Lazauskas, Goins' tirade led to the parent trapping the coach in his school office, where Goins allegedly assaulted him.

Goins, 40, of Fletch McFall Road near Red Springs, was arrested on campus by the Raeford Police Department, charged with assaulting a school employee and second-degree trespassing. School security guards took Goins

into custody while Hoke High Principal Dr. Barry Wall called law enforcement.

Lazauskas said Goins' son, an 11th grade student and former member of the junior varsity baseball team, opened the coach's office door on Wednesday morning to confirm Lazauskas was inside, stepping back so his father could enter.

"Mr. Goins was completely irate and it was very scary," Lazauskas said. "It was a complete surprise to me. The problem started at the Tuesday night game when the student's mother (Sandra Goins) approached me after the game," he said.

"The whole thing stemmed from the kid's playing time and she told me

he was quitting and not coming back to play," he said.

According to Lazauskas, Mrs. Goins called him a "liar" and a "racist" before storming off the field. Her son, a backup endfielder for Hoke High's team, is Native American. Lazauskas said he tried to reason with her, explaining that based on practice, playing time was earned by team players. Lazauskas said the team is comprised of many races, including white, black, Hispanics and Native American. He's taught physical education four years in Hoke, including one year at Turlington School. Lazauskas said he never encountered any problems with parents before.

"The accusations of Mrs. Goins were completely unjustified and I never
(See COACH ASSAULT, page 7A)

Board considers buying land for industrial park

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

The Hoke-Raeford Economic Development Board touched on the idea of purchasing land for an industrial park. Chairman Dooie Leach brought up the subject at the board's regularly scheduled meeting on March 14.

Leach indicated control of land targeted for development would mean the terms of arrangement for a particular prospect could be dictated.

Leach presented a scenario in which the value of land chosen by a particular industry might go up while the

government was in the process of getting sewer and other utilities to the site or a land owner might back out on the sale, particularly where several owners are involved. He said control of the land would "dictate terms of arrangement for a particular prospect."

Board members admitted the industrial park concept could become complicated.

County Manager Bernice McPhatter pointed out that the board's current policy is what to do if a known industry is coming to Hoke. "The policy doesn't address the industrial park concept," she said.

McPhatter said she was in agreement with the concept and said now is the time to start talking about a focused effort. She pointed out, however, "we are not the only players... If the county buys, the county would want to control where the industrial park goes."

McPhatter also pointed out that some areas have already been designated as future sites for industrial parks. The county's Land Use Plan, considered a non-binding map for future growth, envisions two major industrial park areas to be developed.

Economic Developer Don Porter
(See INDUSTRIAL PARK, page 6A)

Raeford-Hoke Expo opens today



Gloria Virgil, left, staffs the Buie's Funeral Home booth, and representatives of Sandhills Community College prepare for the opening of the Raeford-Hoke Expo yesterday. The Expo features local businesses and is open at the new National Guard Armory on Teal Drive until 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Relay Round-Up

'Fun-raising' for ACS begins

Relay for Life, a signature activity for the American Cancer Society, will be held in Hoke County for the third time this year.

The fun, fund-raising, cancer-fighting event, with a goal of \$60,000, is scheduled for April 28-29 at the Hoke County High School stadium beginning at 6 p.m. and is to conclude 24 hours later.

In preparation for the glorified walk-a-thon, teams of walkers are contacting others for donations and holding their own fund-raisers. Each week, *The News-Journal* will announce Relay for Life events and items of interest — as they unfold — in the "Relay Round-Up" column.

For more information on Relay for Life, call
(See RELAY, page 6A)

