

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

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This week

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H.E.L.P. Store to hand out ice cream page 7

Task Force plans Health Fair page 4

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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

The hot weather has left us for a while. The 80-degree temperatures have helped for the people who have to work outdoors. We have had rain for the last few days, but not like other areas of the state. Sunday morning when Mary Alice and I went to the Raeford Presbyterian Church, there was water about knee deep at the corner of Edinborough Avenue and Magnolia Street.

It had rained so hard for a few minutes that the storm drain could not take the water fast enough. It didn't cause any damage.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the low 90s or high 80s. The lows for the period will be in the low 70s or high 60s. As usual this time of year there could be thunder showers about any day.

Mary Alice and I went down to Raz's peach orchard last week and ate ice cream under the oak tree. There was a nice breeze and it was an enjoyable time. I asked Raz about his peach crop and he stated that the warm weather had ripened the peaches faster this year than before. He said the varieties of peaches that he was now picking would be gone by the end of this week. It will be about five days from the end of this week before the next variety will be ready to pick. There will still be plenty of ice cream!

Last week Robin Thompkins left an envelope on my desk from Ann Webb, a former employee of *The News-Journal*. In the envelope was an obituary of Mrs. Ruth (See *AROUND*, page 5)



Christina Davis McCoy seeks cooperation from commissioners in obtaining grant monies to reduce poverty.

Blue Springs seeks partnership

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Executive Director Christina Davis McCoy of Blue Springs-Hoke County Community Development Corporation appealed to Hoke County Commissioners

on Monday night, seeking the first partnership with Hoke to undertake a special project that would glean a \$50,000 state grant. McCoy hopes to lead Blue Springs in its efforts to focus on improved housing conditions for the low wealth and disadvan-

tagged people residing in Hoke. County commissioners voted to consider McCoy's request, only after guidelines have been established, and the matter was tabled until further study could be completed. McCoy will meet with County Attorney Neil

Yarborough, Commission Chairman James A. Leach and County Manager Bernice McPhatter to iron out details before a final approval is garnered from commissioners. Funded by the N.C. Department (See *BLUE SPRINGS*, page 9)

Dr. Wall leaves for Lenoir

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke County High School Principal Dr. Barry Wall resigned last week to accept an administrative post in Lenoir County. Wall would have been entering his third year as principal at Hoke High in August.

Wall was hired as director of work-force development in Lenoir's school system, a position that elevates him into a central office format. He has signed a contract in Lenoir and began his new job last Tuesday. Wall is supervising Lenoir's teachers involved in the student vocational program.

Wall is remembered by former Hoke School superintendent Don (See *WALL*, page 10)

Hoke Men unity event gets response

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The promise of holding the first Hoke County 200 Men Fellowship has inspired a widespread response from local people, says Hubert A. Peterkin, program chairman for the event. Scheduled for August 20 at 5 p.m., the all-male spiritual crusade will celebrate an evening of brotherhood at Freedom Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Raeford, the official sponsor. Citizens, civic, elected and (See *HOKE MEN*, page 10)



All in the family Commissioners welcomed a young peer to their Monday night meeting. Shown are (from left) Chairman James A. Leach, Commissioners L.E. McLaughlin Jr. (standing) and Cleo Bratcher Jr. with grandson Broyn Bratcher, and Commissioner Charles Daniels. (Photo by Victoriana Summers)



Carnival Jacie and Michael joined "Snoopy" for an alligator ride at the carnival at LaFayette Ford over the weekend. Youngsters and the young-at-heart braved rain and thunderstorms to attend the event. (Photos contributed by Cary A. Wilson)

Fawn rescued by The Haven dies

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Linden Spear is mourning

what she considers the senseless death of a two-week-old fawn she rescued, and then saved by emergency surgery at Animal Hospital of Fayetteville several weeks ago.

According to officials at the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, "Bambi," as the deer was christened by Spear, died in Caswell County last week after being placed in a wildlife reha-

bilitation facility with 40 other fawns. "I am heartsick," Spear said, breaking down in tears when she heard the news. "The wildlife (See *FAWN*, page 9)

Bronze Star is in his hands after 55 years Brother's efforts pay off

Fifty-five years after having been authorized to receive the Bronze Star Medal, World War II Staff Sergeant William H.

"Bill" Nelson finally has the medal in his possession. Nelson is the oldest brother of Dr. Bob Nelson, retired superintendent of the Hoke County Schools, who resides in Raeford.

A lifelong resident of Mooresville who is retired from the U.S. Postal Service and owner-operator of Nelson Nursery, Bill Nelson was inducted into the U.S. Army along with a group of 49 other Iredell County

men at the end of July, 1942. Following his induction, Nelson was away from home and family for more than three years without a stateside furlough.

Nelson was trained as a cryptographic technician at Chanute Field in Rantoul, Illinois, prior to his being shipped overseas to Orsan, Algeria, North Africa. From there he was flown to Bari, Italy, with the task of establishing a cryptographic code room where he and other technicians would code and decode messages that would direct U.S. Army Air

Force air attacks against German targets, including the famed Ploesti oil fields that fueled the Luftwaffe.

By coincidence, the flight to Bari occurred on Nelson's 21st birthday. He had breakfast in North Africa, lunch in Sicily where the C-47 "Gooney Bird" transport plane had been forced to land because of mechanical problems, and dinner near Bari, Italy, while under heavy attack by German bombers.

His birthday meal consisted (See *BRONZE*, page 9)

John Butler: still missing after a year

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

It will be a year ago this Friday that John Edward Butler wandered away from his home in eastern Hoke. His family continues to look for him.

Although he is now 53 years old, Johnny Butler has lived with his mother since he returned from the Vietnam War minus his lower leg at age 20. He is mentally ill and suffers from post traumatic stress. In the past, the only trips he made from his mother's home on Pittman Grove Church Road were in the company of family

members, who took him for medical appointments at the VA medical center in Fayetteville.

The family believes Butler is still alive. "Not one of us believes to the contrary," says sister Linda Owens.

There were numerous reported sightings of Butler in eastern Cumberland County and Hope Mills several days after his disappearance, and extensive searches were conducted. As recently as two months ago, a clerk believes he visited the store where she works in downtown Fayetteville. A man who fit his description went into the store

several times, four to five weeks apart, but has not been in the store for about a month.

"We don't know if that is John, but that person needs to be considered because of commonalities, similarities," Owens says.

The family followed up on the latest reported sighting by bom- (See *BUTLER*, page 7)



Johnny Butler, missing a year.