

# The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

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## This week



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community unity  
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suits up  
with EHMS football  
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## Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS  
Contributing Editor

The weather for the past few days has been nice. The temperature Monday morning, when I got up and out of bed, was in the low 60s. Sunday the temperature was in the 70s for most of the day. We did have a trace of rain Sunday afternoon, but it wasn't enough to register on the rain gauge. Maybe the rain will hold off for a few days and the farmers can get in their tobacco. Now if the hurricanes will stay away from North Carolina, maybe we can get back to normal weather.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the 90s and the lows in the 70s. Maybe there will be scattered showers but rain isn't in the forecast for every day.

Last week I had an item in this column about the Plummer reunion at Parkers United Methodist Church on Sunday, August 6. I listed the children of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Plummer. Sunday I found out that I had omitted one of the daughters. Her name is Eva. Sorry about this, I should have taken notes instead of trusting my memory.

Bob Nelson brought the following information to the office Monday morning:

The Centennial Committee of the Raeford United Methodist Church is searching for  
(See AROUND, page 7A)

## Drug-smuggling ring involves Hoke

### U.S. Customs, FBI, SBI, Raeford Police round up suspects

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

A multi-million dollar drug-smuggling ring was crushed by a national law enforcement task force last week, resulting

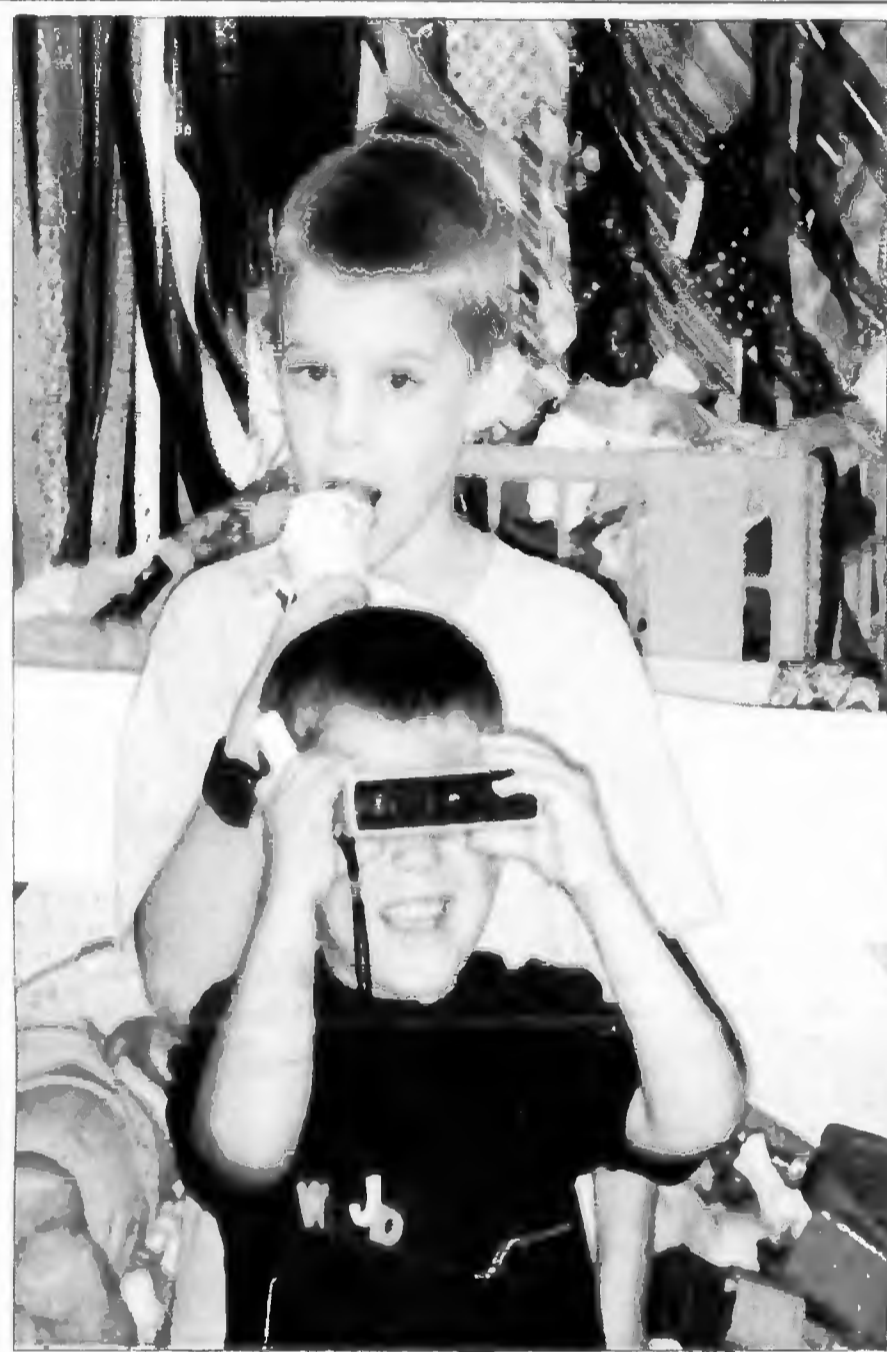
in the arrest of more than 25 members of a network that involved people in Union and Hoke counties. Considered by some law agencies as one of the largest illegal drug operations in the state, several people were arrested in Hoke; their names are still being withheld.

Eliseo Enriquez, 40, of 2566 Balfour

Road in Shannon was named in the indictment, arrested and taken into federal custody last week. The indictment stated Enriquez did unlawfully combine, conspire, confederate and agree with others to possess with intent to distribute a quantity of cocaine, a quantity of cocaine base and a quantity of marijuana.

U.S. Attorney Mark T. Calloway of the western district of North Carolina in Charlotte announced a federal indictment was unsealed on August 10 that concluded a year-long probe code-named "Operation Knockdown."

As part of this dragnet, the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted a drug sweep in Hoke last Thursday and Friday, where it suspected a major drug trafficker.  
(See SMUGGLING, page 7A)



### Keeping their cool

Lorenzo Newman, a first grader at Scurlock Elementary, keeps cool with watermelon at a class party. Brandon England, 9, and Aaron England, 4, sons of Steve and Teresa England, had ice cream at the H.E.L.P. store's appreciation day event Friday. Aaron turned the table on the photographer with his own toy camera.

## School suit ruling near Summary phase in 'low wealth' case to begin Friday

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Former Hoke School Superintendent Don Steed is predicting a ruling should be reached in October on the lawsuit claiming North Carolina is failing to meet the basic, sound educational needs of students in Hoke schools, and some other poor counties. A hearing that was scheduled for August 11 in Wake County Superior Court was postponed until August 18. Superior Court Judge Howard Manning will hear lawyers argue summaries of evidence that were submitted in June, concerning the trial that began last September.

"The summary procedure is nothing out of the ordinary," Steed said. "We're just crossing our fingers and certainly hoping the judge will decide in our favor, because it will mean more money," he said.

"It will also mean more opportunities for our youngsters to get a better start in life."

Rob Tiller, a partner with Parker, Poe, Adams and Bernstein, in Raleigh, is representing the school systems involved in  
(See SUIT, page 3A)

## Firefighters learn lessons from prison fire drill

### Hydrants needed, security limits equipment

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

"All this was done for lessons learned," Hoke County Emergency Services Coordinator and Fire Marshal Al Schwarchbher told firefighters and other safety and emergency personnel at a briefing following a fire drill at Hoke Correctional Institution Wednesday evening.

One of those lessons was that water might be a problem in a real fire. "Water and water resupply," Schwarchbher said, "because of inadequate water supply at the institution itself — mainly fire hydrants."

There is one fire hydrant for the entire medium custody prison facility, located at McCain in western Hoke, and it is not operational, Schwarchbher said.

A blockage has existed in the pipe leading to the hydrant for at least 12 years, said a firefighter at the briefing held at the

prison facility.

In his after-action report, Schwarchbher is "strongly" recommending two fire hydrants be added to the system and that the prison have all three hydrants operational.

Prison Supervisor Cordellia Clark agreed. "I understand that we need to get our water system upgraded," she said at the briefing.

Another lesson learned was that security built into the prison system limited fire and other emergency vehicles' access to the facility. Gates were locked and entrances were not wide enough for some of the larger  
(See LESSONS, page 8A)



Firefighters relax as a drill winds down at McCain's Hoke Correctional Institution.



An ambulance in mourning took the body of Carolyn Ellisor to Raeford Cemetery Friday.

## Emergency health workers pay tribute to one of their own



Carolyn Ellisor

Carolyn Diane Tatum Ellisor's duties as a paramedic took her in an ambulance to assist people in emergency health situations throughout the county.

Friday afternoon, she took her last ride in an ambulance which served as a hearse as family members, co-workers and friends paid tribute

to, and said goodbye to her.

More than 50 rescue vehicles, ambulances and fire trucks from across the state were in the funeral procession that followed the ambulance, draped in black bunting, as it left Crumpler Funeral Home.

The ambulance passed down Main Street, continuing on Central Avenue to Raeford Cemetery, where Ellisor was buried after an emotional graveside service.

A flank of law enforcement officers congregated across from the burial site, observing as Ellisor's fellow paramedics served as pall bearers, and removed her coffin from the ambulance. A floral wreath  
(See TRIBUTE, page 10A)