

# The News-Journal

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## Most go free for 1984 county break-ins

By Ed Miller

If you are a victim of a Hoke County break-in, the odds are good the perpetrator will never be apprehended, according to an annual report released last week by Sheriff Dave Barrington.

Over 77% of all break-ins reported last year remain in the unsolved files of the Hoke County

Sheriff's Department, the report says.

Out of the 430 break-ins reported last year, 335 are unsolved and 95 were solved, according to the report.

There were almost 1.2 break-ins per day recorded in the county. The City of Raeford is not included in those statistics.

In their efforts to control crime in Hoke County deputy sheriffs traveled a total of over 310,864 miles, the report says.

For their miles of travel and the time spent in patrolling, there was still \$320,609 worth of personal property stolen from Hoke counties last year, reports from the Sheriff's Department show.

Of that dollar amount, 47.2%

was recovered, Barrington's reports shows.

Over \$151,642 in property was recovered; however, that number includes vehicles that were stolen from other places and just recovered in Hoke County.

The actual percentage of the amount recovered versus the amount stolen from the county could be lower than 47%.

Also for their quarter million plus miles traveled, deputy sheriffs served 6,584 warrants and summons for court, the reports says.

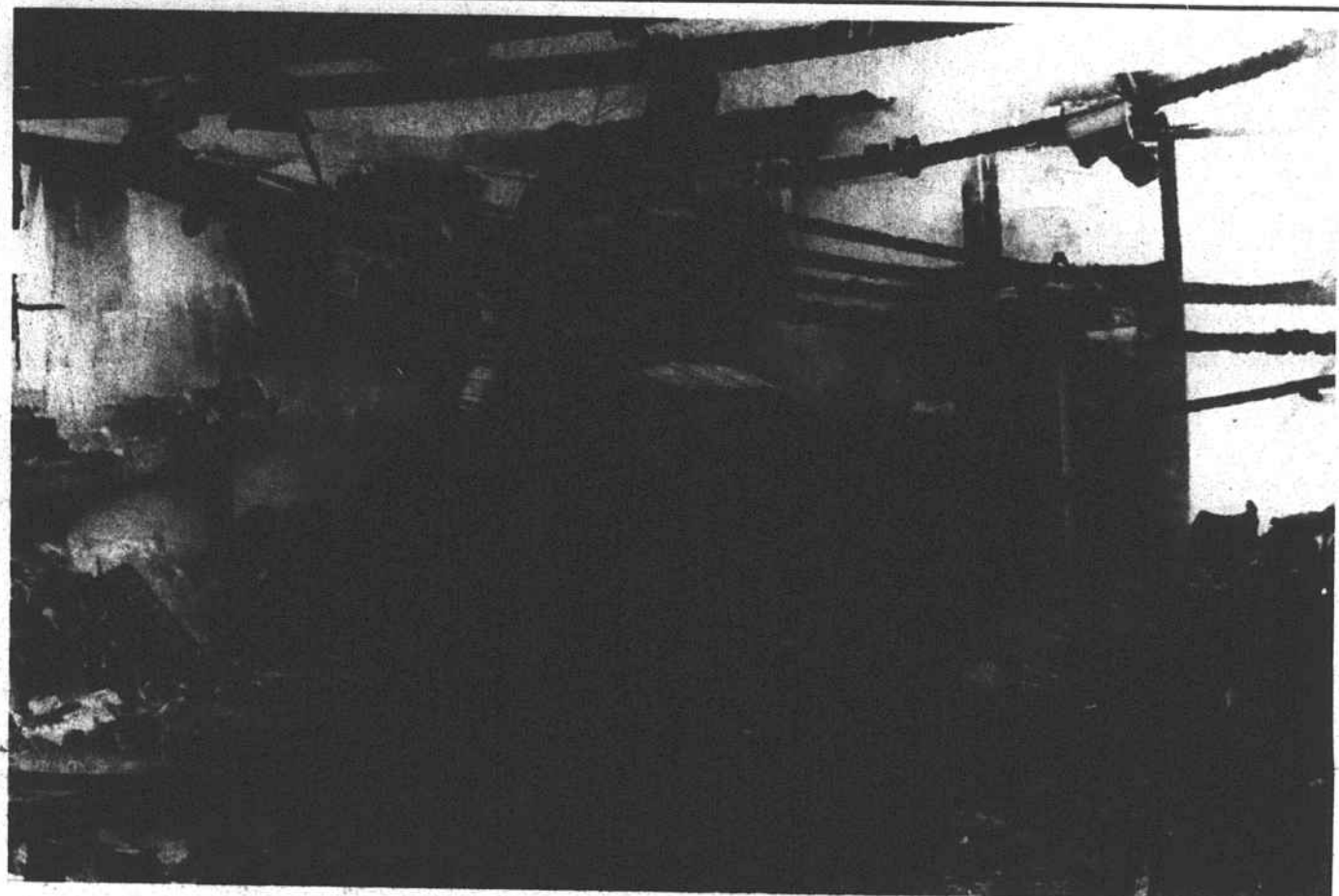
There were 4,491 criminal papers served and 2,093 civil papers distributed, shows the report.

Other numbers on the report include 1,097 arrests made in the county last year and 642 investigations opened.

The department also destroyed over 1,556 ounces of marijuana, 12 cases of beer and a pint of rum, according to the report.

There were only two homicides and one suicide reported in the county during 1984.

Members of the Sheriff's Department also spent a total of 1,445 hours in court, the report shows.



### Total loss

Larry Ray lost about \$80,000 in machinery and engine parts when his West Hoke shop burned last Thursday afternoon. North Raeford and West Hoke fire departments responded to the blaze apparently caused by a gas heater that caught some surrounding material on fire.

witnesses said. According to Ray, much of the machinery was bought in the last year or so. "I had 15 years' savings in that shop," Ray said. To add to his personal loss, there were also motors belonging to some friends in the shop, Ray said.

(Photo by Pam Frederick)

## School revamp being studied

By Ed Miller

A possible reorganization and redistricting of the Hoke County School System is being considered by members of the Board of Education.

Although no official action was taken during a specially called meeting Tuesday, proposals were made by Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson to have maps drawn to study redistricting plans.

Also under consideration is a plan to reorganize the present system from a junior high structure to a middle school arrangement.

According to Nelson, overcrowding in some schools in the county is forcing the redistricting issue.

J.W. McLaughlin Elementary and Scurlock Elementary schools are presently too crowded, said Nelson.

"For the 1985-86 school year, we must make a decision by July 1," said Nelson.

Exactly how to redistribute children among the county's schools was not decided, but there is room for more students at South Hoke and West Hoke schools, Nelson said.

Deciding what children are to be moved from where is the question, Nelson said.

According to the superintendent, South Hoke School is already close to being a majority school.

Board members will not be able to take children from the borders of school districts nearest South Hoke because of the racial imbalance such a move will create at the school, Nelson said.

In other discussion, Nelson voiced his preference to a middle school organization over the present junior high school arrangement.

If Hoke County were to go to such an organization, grades K-5 would be placed in elementary schools, grades 6-8 would be in a middle school facility and grades 9-12 would be the high school level, Nelson said.

Presently, there are four K-4 facilities in the county. J.W. Turlington School houses 5-6, Upchurch Jr. High holds 7-8 and Hoke

(See SCHOOL, page 11)

## Literacy group teaching readers despite meager budget

By Ed Miller

About 20 Hoke County residents each week are learning to read, although the bare bones budget of the local Literacy Council is barely able to meet the salaries of the two staff members, the director of the program said last week.

Despite the financial woes, Director Barbara Buie said she is "feeling good about literacy."

"We're not down. We feel very, very good; better than we've felt in a long time," said Hoke Literacy

Council Director Barbara Buie.

About one out of every three residents over age 25 in Hoke County is illiterate or functionally illiterate, said Buie, adding that over 50% of the adults in Hoke County over the age of 25 have no high school diplomas.

This year, the Literacy Council will operate on \$22,743.

That figure includes money from donations, the United Way, local churches, legislative pork barrel funds, the Hoke County

Commission and the Raeford City Council.

There is another \$1,000 under consideration by the City Council, Buie said.

Only last week, the Hoke County Commissioners gave the council \$5,000, and the money came none too soon, Buie said.

The money has been needed since last July, Buie said.

This year, there is a new approach being taken by Buie and members of the Literacy Council's Board of Directors.

"Last year was a bad year for us financially," Buie said.

"The board stretched and cut where they could," she said.

There was such a shortage of money and materials last year that paper clips were hard to come by and old tickets, printed for literacy's annual fish fry, had to be used as index cards.

"We feel that we have not wasted any money," said Buie.

This year, the Literacy Board and Buie have taken a "do not

worry about money" stance, said the director.

"We don't believe in padded budgets. When we say we need money, we need it," she said.

Buie is the only full time staff member. There is also a part-timer working for the council, she said.

All of the tutors are volunteers, said Buie.

According to the director, there is no time to worry much about next year either.

There is too much work to be

done with a recruiting drive in the making.

At the recent Hoke County Commission meeting, Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said money will be budgeted for next year according to priorities.

"If the commissioners do that, literacy will be funded," Buie said.

In the near future, the Literacy Council will start a recruiting drive to get more students, said the director.

(See LITERACY, page 11)

## Chore work reducing shut-in costs

By Ed Miller

Chore services, provided by the Hoke County Department of Social Services (DSS), have kept many older residents out of rest homes, DSS Director Ken Witherspoon said.

Chore services are provided by workers who go into the homes of aged and disabled persons, clean and grocery shop.

There are currently over 60 residents in the program from Hoke County, program coordinator Carolyn McKoy told members of the DSS Advisory Board Monday.

According to Witherspoon, the program has grown literally 10-fold since he became the DSS Director.

The state and federally funded program classifies people eligible for the services into one of three categories according to how much, or little they are able to provide for themselves.

Three categories are for waiting list purposes; however, there are

no waiting lists in Hoke County, McKoy said.

Persons must meet certain eligibility requirements to get into the program, said McKoy.

Although the program costs the taxpayers, the services are less expensive than putting people in rest homes, said McKoy.

Most of the persons being served now by the program would be state supported if they were in rest homes, McKoy added.

In other information given to DSS Board members, the Hoke County DSS is the only one in this region that has not had to pay a penalty for late processing of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) applications.

There are 17 counties in the region, Witherspoon said.

According to the director, there is one case pending at the state level which may result in a penalty. "There is a question of rule interpretation in the minds of the state people," said Witherspoon.

According to the director, the

application was processed on the last day before a penalty could be levied, but there was a question about a doctor bill that arrived after the processing.

The late bill made the state question the amount of Medicaid deductible allowed for previous bills, he said.

Advisory Board members also learned that a large number of checks will be mailed in early February for low income energy assistance.

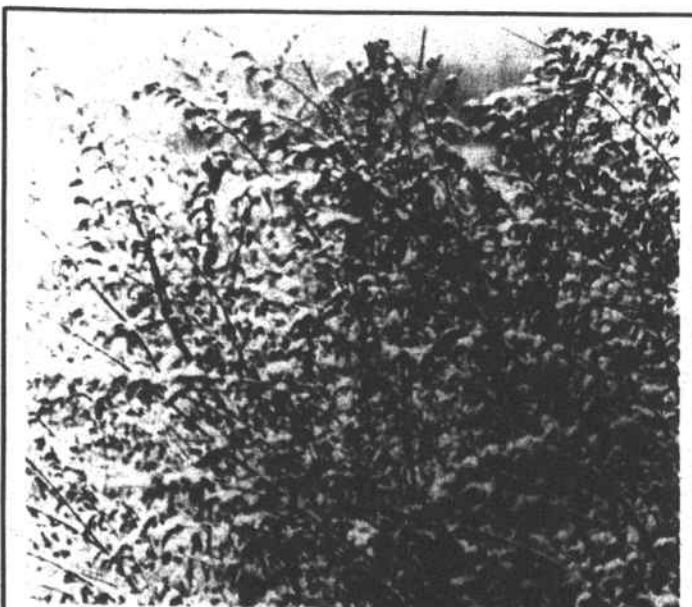
The 1,062 checks will help about 3,430 children who reside in the households receiving money, Witherspoon said.

The checks are for variable amounts, said the director.

Some families will get checks for as little as \$63 and others will receive amounts up to \$349, said Witherspoon.

The amount of the check is dependant on what kind of fuel is used to heat the home, he said.

(See CHORE, page 11)



### Gets on everything

Not even winter dead plants can escape the chill of a blowing snow. As temperatures dipped into the upper 20's Monday night, precipitation turned to snow and most of the area was given a light coating of the white stuff.

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

Winter weather is still with us and according to the forecast it will be around for some time to come.

We have been lucky in the past two weeks to not have our roads frozen like in other parts of the state. The schools haven't lost any days and this means getting out of school before the hot weather sets in on us in June.

Bill Southern, of the Department of Transportation, was telling me Sunday that there were just spots of ice on our roads in Hoke County during the minus 3° temperature recently. He said that they had crews standing by for 24 hours just in case things got worse.

The plumbers were busy, along with the fire departments of the county, but so far everyone has survived in Hoke County. Yes, it could have been very bad.

The item about the deer atop the (See AROUND, page 11)