

# The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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Thursday, November 21, 1985

## Flim-flam thwarted

An attempt by an apparent "flim flam" man to swindle a clerk at B & W Food Mart in Raeford, backfired last Tuesday.

According to a Hoke County Sheriff's Department report, a black male entered the store at 9 p.m. and purchased \$1.04 worth of merchandise from clerk Mrs. Tammy Collazo.

The unidentified man gave Mrs. Collazo a \$20 bill, and the clerk counted out change giving the man a \$10 bill, a \$5 bill and four \$1 bills.

Then the man gave the clerk five \$1 bills and a \$5 bill, and asked Mrs. Collazo for a \$10 bill.

The \$10 bill was handed to the customer, but he gave it back to the clerk and demanded his \$20 bill back.

Mrs. Collazo stood her ground and told the man that the \$10 bill was all he was getting.

The man began arguing with the clerk.

Another woman behind the counter, Mrs. Jan Webb, told the man to leave.

When the man refused to go, Mrs. Webb called the sheriff's department.

On his way out of the store, the flim flam man yelled "God will get you for this."

The case is currently under investigation.

In an unrelated case, a total of \$490 worth of goods were reported missing Monday from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Davis, Rt. 2, Raeford.

(See BREAK-IN, page 2A)



### Food for breakfast

Breakfast food can be scarce on a cloudy, wet morning, but these blackbirds managed to find a substantial breakfast in this Hoke County hay field.

One by one they flew in for a meal, then went on to other places to find more things to eat.

(Photo by Stephen Ellis)

## SBI investigates arrest incident

An assault complaint filed against the Raeford Police Department is apparently being probed this week by agents with the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI), *The News-Journal* has learned.

The assault allegations apparently stemmed from an arrest of Willie Howard Graham, 27, of Rt. 3, on October 3, following a high speed chase, involving Raeford Police officers and Hoke County Sheriff's deputies.

It is the second SBI probe of Hoke County law enforcement authorities in the last month.

Although the results have not been announced, SBI agents recently concluded an investigation into a hanging death in the Hoke County Jail.

Graham was sentenced to as much as 18 months in jail after being convicted in District Court of carrying a concealed weapon, resisting arrest, hit and run property damage, no operators license and failure to stop for a blue light and siren.

The sentence is being appealed and was continued until the January session of Hoke County Superior Court, records show.

According to an unnamed source, Graham claimed he was repeatedly hit in the head while being arrested by a Raeford Police officer.

The investigation was requested by the District Attorney's office, assistant District Attorney Jean

Powell confirmed.

However, Powell would not say who was under investigation or which department, and would not comment about the nature of the charges.

"We asked for the SBI to assist us in investigating a complaint filed by Willie Howard Graham," Powell said.

The investigation is underway and findings would be reviewed to determine if any criminal prosecution would be taken, Powell said.

Agents are expected to conclude the investigation during the next two weeks, Powell said.

The SBI recently completed an investigation into the death of Robert Lee Chappelle, 28, who was found hanging from the bars in his cell on October 15.

Findings from that investigation will be turned over to District Attorney Ed Grannis, who will determine if the results will be made public, Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington has said.

Barrington has urged Grannis to open the files on the case.

Graham was arrested along with three other persons following a chase and altercation with a sheriff's deputy.

Deputy Clarence Patterson was bitten on the shoulder, and his patrol car was damaged in the fray.

Patterson is not believed to be the target of the SBI probe, sources said.

## Commission rethinking use of library for deeds office

By Ron Anderson

A request to reconsider a planned move of the Register of Deeds office to the Hoke County Library while the courthouse is being renovated, was tabled Monday night by members of the Hoke County Commissioners.

A decision on the move is expected during the December 2 meeting of the commissioners.

The plan calls for the offices to be housed temporarily in the library conference room beginning

at the end of December and to remain there until renovations are completed in August.

"We really and truly feel this will set our library program back," Sandhills Regional Libraries Director William G. Bridgman told the commissioners.

Copies of letters from various civic and educational organizations urging that the library not be used as the temporary location for the Register of Deeds office were given to the commissioners.

A letter from Sandhills Community College Hoke County Branch Director Betty High encouraged the commissioners to find another location for the offices "so that the meeting room of the Hoke County Public Library can remain available to the community."

Even though the community college doesn't use the facility for classroom space, it does use it for important meetings and work sessions, the letter stated.

The Hoke County Public Library Trustees went on record as saying they do not favor the use of the all-purpose room for the deeds office.

During the last 12 months 12,572 county residents have used the room without charge.

Hoke County taxpayers will not be getting a full return on their investment in the public library program of quality, the trustees said.

"We just so strongly need the use of this room and would ap-

preciate so much your help in finding an alternative location," said Charlotta King, a member of the library board.

The trustees suggested three facilities within walking distance of the courthouse which could be used as alternative locations.

The least expensive of the three is the McDonald Building located next to the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, owned by Allen McDonald.

A study by County Manager

William K. Cowan projects that the cost of renting the building and paying utility bills for a period of eight months would cost the county approximately \$3,600.

Commission Chairman John D. Balfour told the representatives from the library that he was concerned about the additional cost of locating the office in another location.

The cost for renovating the courthouse is currently \$80,000 (See MONUMENT, page 2A)

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather for the past few days has felt like summer is not going to leave us this year. The nights are not very cold and it warms up in a hurry when the sun comes out.

The forecast is for it to get colder by the weekend. I don't care if it cools off some, but I don't want any snow or freezing rain for Thanksgiving.

The Annual Community-wide Thanksgiving Service will be held on Wednesday night, November 27th. The service this year will be held in the First Baptist Church and will start at 7:30 o'clock. The Rev. Frank Lloyd, pastor of Raeford United Methodist Church, will bring the message this year.

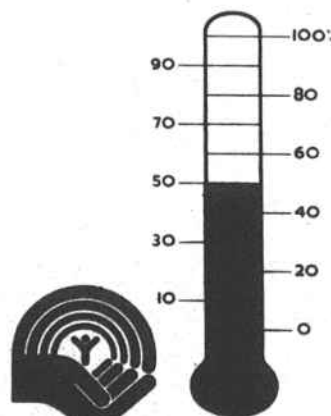
This is a fine time for people of other churches in the community to hear Rev. Mr. Lloyd. He has just recently become pastor of the Methodist Church. So come out and give him a real Hoke County welcome.

I imagine an announcement will appear elsewhere in the paper and will give the information about the singing for the service.

The *News-Journal* will come out a day early next week so that the employees can take the Thanksgiving holiday. This will mean that all deadlines must be moved up one day.

So start preparing now to get your ads, news and pictures into the office. The paper must be in the post office on Tuesday to get into the mail before the holiday.

(See AROUND, page 2A)



United Way

## United Fund nearing goal

The Hoke County United Fund for 1985 should reach its goal of \$28,853, according to Ken Witherspoon, president of the local fund drive.

"Contributions continue to come in, and the goal looks obtainable," Witherspoon said in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

The drive was begun during the second week of October and will end on December 4 with a victory celebration.

"The spirit of the community has been particularly high this year," said Witherspoon.

Businesses, community organizations and individuals have responded to the campaign.

"We've had a number of individuals contribute over the last couple of weeks," said Witherspoon.

"We anticipate an extremely successful campaign this year," he added.

## Effect of new law on suits being eyed

By Ron Anderson

Defense attorneys are assessing what effect legislation signed last week by President Ronald Reagan will have on law suits recently filed against Hoke County seeking overtime payment for employees.

The suits were filed by five former and current sheriff's deputies against the county after the Supreme Court ruled last February that state and local governments were required to pay overtime to all employees who worked more than 40 hours a week.

The legislation signed by the president allows state and local governments to continue offering time off in lieu of overtime pay.

"We just got the legislation; we have it under review. We are assessing its impact on litigation," said Greensboro attorney Mike

Kelly, who specializes in labor and employment law.

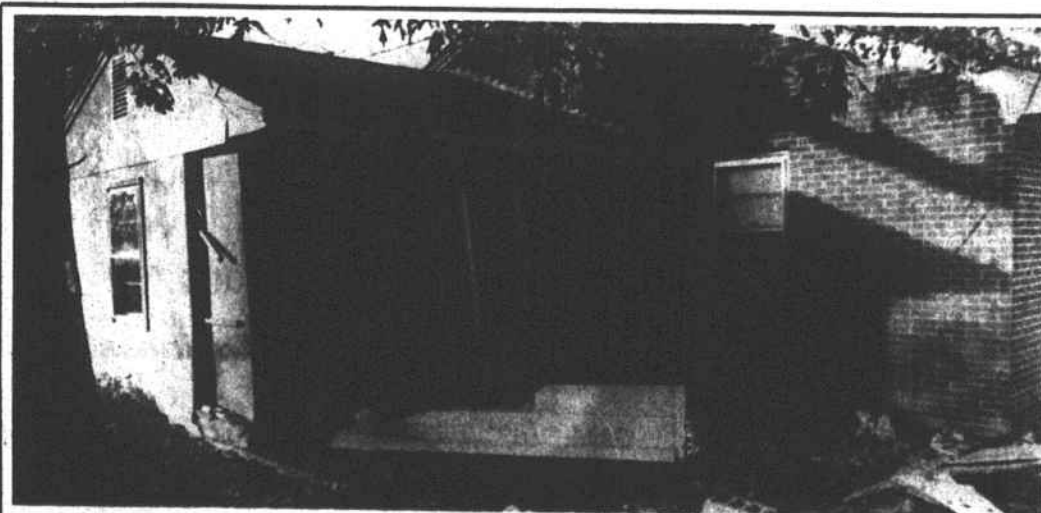
Kelly is with Smith, Moore, Smith, Schell and Hunter, the firm hired to represent Hoke County in the case.

Suits were filed by deputies Ed Harris and Jimmy Riley and former deputies Craig Hart, J.W. Jones and Ronnie Odom.

All seek back pay for previously worked overtime. Under the new law, employees would be given compensatory time off for time worked over 40 hours per week.

The time off is to be assessed at the rate of one and half hours off for every hour of overtime, according to the new law signed by the President last Wednesday.

The new bill is expected to save state and local governments \$3 billion annually.



### Crash scene

A wall and the back door of a den at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie C. Brock Jr. of Rockfish were knocked down by a 1974 Vega allegedly driven by Sherrie Tolar Johnson, 1800 Cameron Road, Hope Mills. According to the investigating officer, Johnson apparently ran off of Rural Paved Road 1406 and into the Brocks' home at 11:50 p.m. last Thursday. Brock and his wife were home at the time of the incident and were not injured. Johnson

allegedly borrowed the car from her father, a mechanic who was working on the alternator for the vehicle's owner, Donnie Elton Smith, Hopedale Street, Fayetteville. A woman and an unknown male fled from the scene on foot, witnesses said. NC Highway Patrolman Ken Weston, investigating officer, said a warrant has been issued for Johnson's arrest.

## Five years is sentence for break-in

A Raeford man was sentenced to five years in prison after he plead guilty to charges of breaking and entering into the Main Street Western Auto Store on September 15.

When Terry Dyrant McGregor, 25, of Rt. 5, was arrested by Raeford Police inside the store last month, he had \$57 cash and a gold ring in his pocket.

McGregor was charged at the scene with breaking, entering and larceny.

The state dropped the larceny charge after McGregor plead guilty to the breaking and entering charges in last week's session of Superior Court.

In an unrelated case, John L. Locklear, Paddlewheel Road, Fayetteville, was sentenced to three years after he plead guilty to a charge of selling a controlled substance.

(See SENTENCE, page 2A)