

# The News-Journal

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25 CENTS

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## Viruses afflict kids, adults

It's not exactly flu, but the virus(es) making the rounds in Hoke County has had enough punch to send students home from school in droves.

A check with Hoke County's seven public schools shows absenteeism was three times higher than normal on Monday, a total of 787 students either absent or sent home by the end of the day. That compares with a normal absentee total of from 210 to 270, according to estimates provided by staff at each school.

Perhaps hardest hit was J.W. Turlington School, which normally has 20 to 25 students out on any given day. On Monday, 107 failed to show and another 30 were sent home after developing the typical symptoms accompanying the affliction: fever, chills, and vomiting. At Hoke High School, 260 students failed to make it

through the day, about twice the usual number.

Another hard-hit school was J.W. McLauchlin, where instead of the usual eight or nine absent students, there were 67 who stayed home and another 12 sent home, 11 from one class. McLauchlin School also lost seven teachers and its principal, Mitch Tyler.

But while most young people seem to be suffering from various winter viruses, adults have been dropping with Influenza A, according to local physician George "Chip" Barth. Typical symptoms include fever from 102 to 104 degrees; shoulder, back, and thigh aches; mild head congestion; and loss of appetite. "They've been telling me it feels like they've been beat up," Barth said Tuesday.

He said treatment has been effective with Amantadine, a fairly new generic drug which is not an

School	usually absent	absent Monday	teachers out
Scurlock	25-35	81	3
J.W. McLauchlin	8-9	79	7
Upchurch Jr. High	30-40	100	12
Hoke High	100-130	260	8
West Hoke	10-12	70	1
South Hoke	20	60	5
J.W. Turlington	20-25	137	7
<b>total</b>	<b>(avg.) 242</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>43</b>

antibiotic, but does greatly reduce the growth of the virus allowing the body to fight it off. Barth says he's also been prescribing the drug for spouses and other family members exposed to Influenza A.

That, he says, keeps them from developing symptoms if taken early enough. He said the number of people seeking treatment Tuesday was likely to break an all-time office record.



Serving line

Congressman Bill Hefner (foreground), Rep. Danny DeVane, Raeford; Mayor John K. McNeill, and Hoke County Commission Chairman Wyatt Upchurch line up for breakfast at the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce's annual Legislative Appreciation Breakfast this past Saturday.

## Appreciation breakfast given legislators

A breakfast sponsored by the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce to express appreciation for the work of local legislators evolved into a question/answer period for Congressman Bill Hefner Saturday morning.

The Congressman fielded questions from local leaders and politicians on a variety of subjects from Social Security to the Space Program.

And he told them he wasn't getting enough input from the state and local levels on issues that concern them. "We need to know what the heartburn items are," he said. He criticized Governor Jim Martin for not giving him a list of priorities, but for calling at the last minute to sway Hefner on an important vote. "We need input from state representatives, because the governor's office doesn't help."

Hefner acknowledged there are problems in the Social Security system, but said the answer is not, as at least one presidential candidate has suggested, phasing the system out. Hefner said, "if you ever do away with

Social Security, you better mandate people putting into a retirement program. Can you imagine the problem?"

He also defended the space program saying, "so many things come out of the space program, when we ought to be looking at SDI - their wanting to rush ahead with deployment - we ought to look carefully at that."

He also sympathized with the plight of counties, which often have to pick up the costs of federal programs being dropped in spending cuts. "There was no tax cut in 1981," he said. "There was a federal tax cut." He suggested Revenue Sharing was a good way of easing the burden on counties.

Other Legislators at the breakfast included State Representatives Sydney Locks, Danny DeVane, and Pete Hastly.

Chamber of Commerce President Alice Glisson thanked them for their support and told them the chamber's top priority is economic growth. She said that involved work in education and on the widening of Highway 401.

## Commissioners set meeting on yellow pages

A meeting between Zan Monroe, newly appointed district commercial manager for Carolina Telephone and Telegraph, and Hoke County citizens concerned about what they feel are shortcomings in the phone service will be arranged by William Cowan, county manager, when he meets with Monroe on Friday in connection with the central communications system.

In bringing up the matter Monday night at the Board of Commissioner's meeting, Hoke County Commission Chairman Wyatt Upchurch said he had talked with Monroe who had agreed to meet with Hoke citizens.

A number of county residents have voiced their dissatisfaction with the telephone company's service since the extended area service (EAS) was established last year. Upchurch said, "It is our duty as county commissioners to follow up on this."

Several of the complaints revolve around the new telephone book recently issued to subscribers. Residents had thought the book would contain combined white page listings for Maxton, Raeford, Red Springs, St. Pauls and Fayetteville.

They also expected Fayetteville Yellow Pages to be included in the book. Monroe says Fayetteville Yellow Pages were never intended to be included in the Raeford version of the Fayetteville directory, which will be delivered to Raeford customers in June. That version will include Fayetteville white pages only.

Other concerns have been expressed about the increased basic rate cost to subscribers since EAS went into effect.

In other business, Commissioners approved a land swap deal between

the Raeford-Hoke Airport Commission and Gene Paul Thacker, owner of Raeford Aviation, subject to approval by Raeford City Council.

The proposed land swap would exchange 2.29 acres of land at the airport owned jointly by the city and county for 5.27 acres owned by Thacker. In addition, the Airport Commission would pay Thacker between \$5,000 and \$5,500 to compensate for the difference in acreage.

Frank Baker, chairman of the Airport Commission, told county commissioners the proposed land swap would make it possible for more hangars to be built at the airport. In particular, it would make it possible for Marvin Johnson, president of the House of Raeford, to build a T-hangar to house a jet he owns but which is now based in Fayetteville.

City Council had agreed to the land swap deal at their December meeting pending completion of a land survey. At that time the city was told the land transfer would involve 6.68 acres of Thacker's land. It is expected the city will approve the land swap at their February meeting.

Commissioners were told by Baker that any hangars built at the airport would become taxable property as would any planes housed there.

Chairman Wyatt Upchurch said the land swap deal is a good investment for the future. He said having the extra space for hangars would encourage other planes to be based at the airport.

Also, commissioners dealt with several matters in connection with county roads. They unanimously agreed to submit to the state a petition requesting that Hill Street in the Cameron Heights section become a state-maintained road.

(see COUNTY, page 3)

## School bonds sold to Charlotte company

The \$3.35 million in Hoke County school bonds were sold Tuesday morning for Hoke County by the Local Government Commission to First Charlotte Corporation at a 6.7783 percent interest rate.

County Manager William Cowan said the interest rate was

more favorable than the county had expected. He said, "We anticipated anywhere from 7 1/2 - 8 percent when we started planning so we're very pleased."

Charles Davis, county finance director, said interest in the bonds was high. Davis said he learned nine companies had bid on the

bonds with the highest bid being 7.1 percent.

He said he had been told by Ike McRee of the Local Government Commission that the county's A bond rating from Moody's rating agency played a large part in the lower than expected interest rate.

First Charlotte Corporation is

an investment banking firm which specializes in government and municipal bonds. Persons interested in purchasing the bonds in \$5,000 denominations can contact Connie Coffee at First Charlotte Corporation, Suite 2400, First Union Plaza, Charlotte, NC 28202.

## Committee to work on education application

County Commissioners Mabel Riley and Neill McPhatter have been appointed by Commission Chairman Wyatt Upchurch to the committee which will develop the Critical School Facility Needs Fund application for Hoke County.

The application is a joint undertaking of the County and the School System. Riley and McPhat-

ter will represent the county along with County Manager William Cowan and County Finance Director Charles Davis.

Hoke County School Board Chairman Bobby Wright appointed himself and school board member Eddie McNeill to represent the school system. Also serving on the committee are Dr. Robert Nelson, superintendent of

Hoke County Schools and Don Steed, school's business manager.

The eight will meet and prepare the application which must be submitted by March 15.

A special meeting of the Hoke County Board of Education has been set for Wednesday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. so that the board can decide which projects to sub-

mit in its application for funding. It is believed Hoke County stands a very good chance of receiving substantial funding through critical needs. Much depends on the application process, however.

Cowan said at the commissioner's meeting Monday night that "It's real important we put together a strong application."

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather last Friday and Saturday was wet and cold. The wind on Saturday made the 20° weather feel like it was around zero. It was warmer Sunday and then the temperature got up to around 65° on Monday. It started raining Monday afternoon, but was supposed to stop during the night.

The forecast is for mild weather for the remainder of the week with the highs in the 50s and the lows in the 30s. There is a chance of rain on Thursday.

When you start talking weather a peach grower will tell you that the next few weeks will either make or break this year's crop. Most of the growers are in the orchards at this time thinning or pruning, getting ready for the warm weather to bring forth the peach blossoms. Then they hope and pray it doesn't get below 28°.

When you grow crops it is always a gamble. What will the weather be like this year?

(see AROUND, page 14)

## Hales charged with car fire

Wesley Raymond Hales, 17, of Rt. 1, Raeford was arrested on February 10 and charged with burning personal property after he allegedly set fire to Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill's car on January 20. Hales had earlier been charged with setting fire to Raeford United Methodist Church that same night.

A fire had been set in the back seat of the Mayor's car. The inside of the roof was scorched and some papers burned but the fire had gone out by itself without doing further damage. No estimate of damages to the car was available.

A 20-year-old Fayetteville man was arrested and charged with possession with intent to sell and distribute marijuana on February 9 after being stopped by a Hoke County Sheriff's deputy who noticed the man's car had no tail lights.

John Otis Bradley, 5808 Cole Harbour, Fayetteville, was driving his 1968 Chevrolet Nova on 401 Business when he was stopped by Deputy W.J. Humphrey. Bradley allegedly told Humphrey he had no license or wallet. Bradley gave permission for his vehicle to be searched and evidence was uncovered which led to his arrest.

In another case, 35-year-old William Bratcher Jr., of 403 Robeson Avenue, Raeford, was arrested last Saturday about 7:30 p.m. and charged with possession with intent to sell and distribute marijuana after sheriff's deputies had gone to his home with a search warrant.

A wedding/engagement ring set and a 71st High School class ring have been reported missing by a Rockfish woman. The rings, valued at more than \$1,000, belong to Mamie J. Bundy of Rt. 12, Raeford.

(see CRIME, page 14)



Too close for comfort

Bystanders examine the wreckage of a 1987 Oldsmobile that left South Hoke School Road in a curve (background), plowed through the guardrail of a bridge, and plunged into a creek last Thursday. The car's driver, Connie McBryde Roper, 26, of Red Springs,

was only slightly injured though the car's engine compartment was impaled by a section of the guardrail. Roper was charged with a seatbelt violation. The Highway Patrol put damage to the car at \$8,000 and to the state-owned bridge at \$3,000.