

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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## Marston goes on trial Monday for Ed Harris' murder

The man fingered as the alleged trigger man in the murder of Southern Pines police detective Ed Harris last year goes on trial Monday.

Kerry Lemar Morston, 21, of Aberdeen faces charges of first degree murder, conspiracy, attempted murder and shooting into the Harris home.

Morston is one of nine Moore County men charged in Harris' murder; two — Timothy Darnell McKayhan of Pinebluff and Shannon Martel

McKenzie of Aberdeen — pled guilty earlier this month to the lesser charges of second degree murder and conspiracy to commit Harris' murder.

The two made a deal to testify against their alleged co-conspirators in exchange for the lesser charges; sentencing for McKayhan and McKenzie will be delayed until after the trials of the other men charged in the murder.

Ed Harris, who once applied for the job of sheriff

in Hoke County, was gunned down a year ago Saturday in the doorway of his Ashley Heights home.

Harris was hit six times with 9 millimeter slugs, according to a medical examiner's report. Harris' wife, Judy, was hit in the hand by one bullet. Slugs from a 30-30 rifle were also found lodged in the house.

Harris, a former drug detective with the Hoke

County Sheriff's Department, had worked for the Southern Pines police for the prior two years.

In addition to Morston, the following are also charged with first degree murder:

John Gregory Chisolm of Southern Pines; Terry Lee Evans of Southern Pines; Bernice Hugh McDougald of Aberdeen; Mitchel Evans McNeil of Southern Pines; and Leroy Richard Medley Jr. of Southern Pines.



Breaking ground: Universal Service's Richard Bischoff (left to right), Hoke County Commission Chairman Wyatt Upchurch, Congressman Bill Hefner, Lt. Gen. Gary Luck, land owner Neill McFadyen, Army Corps of Engineer's Bob Unger.

## Ground broken for '801' complex



Lt. Gen. Gary Luck

Ground breaking was held Tuesday morning for a 250-house complex. Congressman Bill Hefner said amounts to a "pretty good-sized town."

The Heritage Place development, being built by private developers for long-term lease to the military, is going up off Rockfish Road about three miles north-east of Raeford.

Hefner was one of a handful of dignitaries who along with approximately 125 others attended the morning ceremony.

"Very seldom do you have an

opportunity to go somewhere and break ground for what amounts to a pretty good-sized town," Hefner said. "It makes us feel like we've done something good for our people and soldiers."

Fort Bragg Commander Lt. Gen. Gary Luck thanked the Hoke County community for hosting the housing site and told a group of soldiers in attendance they were looking at "the beginning of a good deal."

"We've been working hard to see that we take care of these younguns," Luck said.

He said Hoke people are the "finest in the world," and Hoke is "the best place I've ever been."

The 801 project, in the wings for the last several years, will finally begin to take shape in the next few months; construction should begin in a few weeks with completion set

for summer, 1993.

"Three or four years ago, I didn't think it was going to materialize," Hoke County Commission Chairman Wyatt Upchurch told those in attendance. "But I didn't give up on it."

He said the project will add \$15 million to Hoke County's tax base, bringing in \$108,000 per year in tax revenue. He also estimated the 250 families who live at Heritage Place will spend \$1.25 million annually in Hoke County.

"We called around where 801 housing already had been constructed," Upchurch said, "and nothing but good came from those areas."

In addition to tax revenues and local spending, the County said in a flyer it distributed, the project will

bring \$195,000 through an "impact fee;" will pick up 20 to 50 customers along a sewer line the County is running to the project; will pay \$46,800 annually for water; will bring in state and federal dollars because of increased population; will hasten the widening of Highway 401; and will provide "good, solid" citizens and workers to Hoke.

Heritage Place, being constructed by Universal Services, Inc. of Texas, will include 178 two-bedroom and 37 four-bedroom houses for privates through staff sergeants and 35 four-bedroom houses for sergeants first class through sergeants major. It will include a central meeting place and a number of outdoor activities and trails.

## Former inmate sues County over sex assault

A former inmate of Hoke County Jail has sued the county and four deputies over a sexual assault that allegedly occurred in the jail last year.

Marc L. Wertz is demanding a jury trial and asking for "compensatory and punitive damages" of at least \$10,000 (plus lawyers' fees) for violations of his constitutional rights and negligence of a duty to protect him.

Wertz, whom a Superior Court judge found was forced last April to perform a sex act on another inmate, claims his constitutional rights to due process and protection from adult inmates were violated by jailers and detectives while he was in jail.

The suit, filed April 2 in U.S. District Court in Greensboro, charges Jimmy Riley, the former

chief jailer, and Glenda Blue, a former jailer, with "deliberate indifference" including failure to protect Wertz and denying his access to the courts.

The suit also cites Riley, Wayne Gardner, the former chief deputy, and Danny Wilson, a former detective, for "cruel and unusual punishment" by beating Wertz while he was in jail.

Wertz' complaints first came to light last year during a trial at which Judge Donald W. Stephens ousted Sheriff Alex Norton from office.

District Attorney Jean Powell and County Attorney Duncan McFadyen, who petitioned the courts for Norton's removal, brought Wertz to the stand (where he revealed details of the alleged assault) in an effort to show

(See SUIT, page 4)

## Board names Clark elementary principal

The Hoke County School Board has chosen a new principal.

Darlene Clark, a former assistant principal who now teaches at McLaughlin Elementary, will become a principal when the new Rockfish Elementary School is opened, said Shirley Gibson, chairman of the board.

But the school board, which made the decision last Tuesday after a closed session, did not decide which school Clark will head. Hoke School administrators, who saw a lot of changes last summer, may be in for yet another shift.

In July, Hoke County hired two new principals in for its newly built middle schools. Jack Burgess replaced retiring principal Emma Mims at West Hoke Middle School. Randy Bridges replaced Leo Salzer, who

was fired as principal and later took a teaching job at the high school.

That same month, Milton Williams moved from West Hoke Elementary to Scurlock Elementary after its principal, Jim Spencer, resigned to take a job in Scotland County.

Just after that, assistant principals lost their positions temporarily, as principals were allowed to rebuild their leadership staffs by new Superintendent Bill Harrison. Most were hired right back; three were not and one moved to an assistant principalship at a new school.

Darlene Clark, then an assistant principal at West Hoke Elementary, was among three who did not return to their original jobs.

"I am a survivor and a teacher at (See PRINCIPAL, page 11)

## Deputies clear crowd with threat of tear gas

Hoke County sheriff's deputies threatened to gas a crowd at the National Guard Armory in Raeford early Saturday after they were assaulted while arresting three party-goers.

The crowd dispersed within eight minutes after deputies used a public address system to tell it to clear after a fight in which three deputies were injured, a patrol cruiser was dented and equipment was lost and damaged by attendants of a party at the Armory, according to a report by J. P. Brock, a deputy.

Three people were charged Saturday with inciting a riot and obstructing arrests:

Sheldon D. Ray, 17, of Route 3, Raeford was also charged with two counts of assault on a lawman.

Tammy McNeill, 17, of Route 3,

Raeford was also charged with two counts of assaulting deputies.

Bryan L. McNeill, 20, of Fort Bragg was also charged with second degree trespassing.

Deputies originally arrived at the Armory when called to a report of a fight, according to sheriff's reports; when they showed up, partiers told them the fighters had left.

Shortly afterward, as deputies sat in their cars in the parking lot of the Jones store on S. Main Street, an unidentified informant drove up and told them the fight had begun again at the Armory, according to reports.

When deputies returned to the Armory, they were again told by members of a crowd of around 200 that the fighters had left, according

(See CRIME, page 5)

Say what?  
Of course, they mean it in the nicest possible way. This year's Turkey Festival logo, designed by Hodges Associates, invites all to partake of the food at this year's Festival Sept. 17-19.

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather has been like summer over the Easter holidays. The temperatures have been in the 70s and low 80s Wednesday through Saturday. The lows for the period will be in the high 50s to the low 60s. The chances for rain after Wednesday are not good.

Maybe all the cold weather has left for this year.

Raz Autry said Monday afternoon that the peach crop had been hurt, but he would have about a 10% crop. Let's hope this estimate is low.

The farmers are preparing fields and many are setting tobacco plants. Com

has been planted and most of it has sprouted from the ground. Bill Cameron stated that the crowds are digging the seeds out of the ground in many places in his fields. Maybe we could have a good crop shooting!

Now if the farmers could get some rain the crops will continue to do well.

Raz Autry, who since retirement, has more jobs and he does more work than before, asked me to request that people who have wheelchairs in their basements or attics to let him know. If you would like to let someone in need of a chair have the use of yours for awhile, please call him. Raz said that Hospice has a chair, but it stays in use most of the time and he is always getting calls asking about a chair. So if you have one around the house, call Autry at 875-3787 and he will come and get it and put it to use.

When you read this item about poli- (See AROUND, page 4)