

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, May 13, 1992

## Last jurors picked for Morston murder trial

Lawyers finished picking jurors Tuesday for the trial of Kerry Morston, accused of murdering Southern Pines drug detective Ed Harris in his western Hoke home. The long-awaited trial will start Thursday morning.

On Tuesday, Jean Powell, district attorney for Hoke County, and Woodberry Bowen, Morston's lawyer, picked the two alternate jurors for the trial, which is set to start Thursday morning.

Ed Harris was gunned down over a year ago in

the doorway of his Ashley Heights home. Morston is one of nine Moore County men charged in the murder.

Investigators believe Morston fired the shots that killed Harris; if found guilty, Morston would face one of two sentences: life in prison, or death.

Morston is also accused of conspiracy in the slaying along with eight other Moore County men. Morston is further charged with attempted

murder and shooting into an occupied house.

Harris' wife Judy and their son, Charles, were also at home when Harris was shot. Judy Harris suffered a gunshot wound in her hand.

John Gregory Chisolm, Terry Lee Evans, Benjamin B. Jones, Bernice Hugh McDougald of Aberdeen, Mitchel Evans McNeil, and Leroy Medley Jr. are also charged with first degree murder.

Two men — Timothy Darnell McKayhan and Shannon Martel McKenzie — pled guilty in April 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.



Fire breathing monster

Employees of Chesebrough-Pond's Raeford plant practice putting out burning propane Monday afternoon. People who live across S. Main Street from the plant said they could feel the heat from the intense flames. The

practice session was supervised by Fayetteville's Firefighters LP Gas Mobile Training Unit and Terry Tapp, Raeford's fire marshal. More photos on page 9.

## Crowder, Leach call for runoff

Four candidates for two County Commissioner seats will face each other June 2 in a runoff primary.

Charles Crowder and James A. Leach, the third- and fourth-highest vote getters in last week's primary election, both called for the second primary.

Leach submitted a letter requesting the June 2 primary to the county Board of Elections Friday; Crowder turned his letter in Monday.

Crowder and Leach will face Riley Jordan and Jean Hodges, the top two vote getters last Tuesday night.

Jordan received 1,183, just shy of the 1,248 votes — 20 percent of total votes cast — needed to win the primary outright.

Hodges got 811 votes, Crowder got 758 and Leach had 731.

The seven remaining candidates who ran for County Commissioner are out of the race.

The June 2 Democratic primary will decide who becomes Hoke's two newest commissioners because no Republicans ran for the office.

Democrats who were registered before April 6 may vote June 2.

The two seats came open as incumbents Wyatt Upchurch and Neill McPhatter decided not to run for office again.

Upchurch is the chairman of the board; McPhatter is the vice-chairman.

## Rockfish students will start at Upchurch

Students slated to attend the new Rockfish Elementary School will go to Upchurch School in Raeford in August.

That's because school officials don't expect Rockfish School to be finished before December.

The School Board voted as one last night to send those students to Upchurch, which has been empty since middle school students and teachers moved to the new East Hoke Middle School when it opened in January.

Superintendent Bill Harrison said he expects to be able to use 16 to 18 classrooms at Upchurch with little renovation.

The alternative, he said, was to crowd Scurlock Elementary School — which is already overflowing with

students — even more.

"If we didn't have any growth, we would be opening with 28 to 29 children in a class," said Harrison, "and that's not the right thing to do for the children."

(See SCHOOLS, page 5)

## Upchurch chosen '91 Man of the Year

The Raeford Kiwanis Club presented businessman and Hoke Commission Chairman Wyatt G. Upchurch with its Citizenship Man of the Year award at the club's annual Ladies' Night banquet Thursday.

Upchurch, a Raeford resident since 1953, was honored for his work in business, local government and civic affairs.

Club member Harold Gillis detailed Upchurch's life and accomplishments, and member Bobby Conoly, last year's recipient, presented the award.

Upchurch, president of Tarheel Turkey Hatchery, came to Raeford

as a grader for the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Priebe Poultry. In the 1960s he formed and co-owned Upchurch Turkey Farms. The company built a turkey hatchery on Campbell Ave. In 1972 he purchased the hatchery and formed Tarheel Turkey Hatchery. Currently, the company operates two hatcheries and 20 farms, and employs more than 250 people.

Upchurch has also held leadership positions in industry associations including presidency of the North Carolina and National turkey federations. In his tenure as National Federation president, he presented a

(See CITIZEN, page 12)



Upchurch, left, with presenter Bobby Conoly.

## Deal brings doctors here

### Non-profit clinic to open staffed by 4 or 5 doctors

A non-profit clinic, employing four or five doctors, will soon replace the practice of long-time family doctor Robert Townsend in Raeford.

With ties to a clinic and hospital in Fayetteville, Hoke County's Health Department and with non-profit foundation money to get it off the ground, the clinic will be unique, said Barry Reed, Hoke's county manager.

A result of a doctor search started two years ago by county commissioners, the unusual clinic is the brainchild of Dr. Harvey Estes, who heads the Kate Reynolds Foundation.

The Kate Reynolds Foundation recruits doctors to work in poor counties.

In 1990, Estes identified Hoke as one of the hardest hit in the medical drought that poor, rural counties are experiencing.

Hoke doctors Townsend and Rannik Zota are the only family physicians in a county of 22,500.

"Dr. Estes and a whole bunch of people have designed this sort of new — it's never been tried before — practice," said Barry Reed, Hoke's county manager.

"They believe that this is really a model for rural health care," Reed said of Estes' group. "They're confident that it's going to really solve our problems for years to come."

A three-year, \$600,000 grant will fund renovation and equipment for the community-owned building which now houses the office of Robert Townsend, a long-established family doctor in Raeford.

The grant will also pay part of the salaries for three doctors.

The county will chip in up to \$50,000, much of which is already in the Health Department budget, to pay for one of those doctors, Reed said.

After the first year, though, most of the doctors are expected to make enough money to pay their own salaries, Estes' group maintains, Reed said.

(See DOCTORS, page 9)

## Assistant resigns; principal likely to leave high school

Hoke High School may be losing its principal and will lose one of its assistant principals.

Mitch Tyler, for two years the principal of Hoke High, will be leaving to pursue a doctorate in school administration, said Bill Harrison, superintendent of Hoke Schools.

"He received a fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill," Harrison said.

Tyler learned last Wednesday the fellowship had come through, Harrison said.

(See RESIGNS, page 4)



Mitch Tyler

## Around Town

by Sam C. Morris

The cold weather did come in last week, but it was colder than had been forecast. The highs were in the 50s for a couple of days and with the wind blowing the wind chill factor was in the 30s. It seemed like February weather rather than May. We had some rain, somewhere between one inch to one and a half inches in the county. It helped, but we still need rain. The temperatures warmed up over the weekend and the highs on Monday and Tuesday were in the 80s.

The forecast calls for the thermometer to continue to rise and it looks as if the rain may miss us. The highs Wednesday through Saturday will be in the high 80s and the lows at night will be in the 60s. This is the kind of weather we are used to in May.

The Raeford Kiwanis Club held its annual Ladies Night last week. One of the items on the program was the naming of the Citizen of the Year. This year, the honor went to Wyatt Upchurch. This is just one of the many honors that Wyatt has received in the past several years. After his heart bypass surgery this year, he decided not to run again for the Board of Commissioners.

Congratulations to Wyatt Upchurch as the 1991 Citizen of the Year. His many friends in the county thank him for his service for the past few years.

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Last Sunday was Mother's Day and I think most people were aware of this. I don't believe as many people wear red and white rose buds to sig-

(See AROUND, page 12)