

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, October 27, 1993

Youths supposed to be in school, were robbing homes

A group of Hoke teens, supposed to be in school, were actually roaming the County breaking into homes and stealing, the Hoke Sheriff's Department says.

Detective Greg Beard says with the arrest of four youths, 12 break-ins and 13 larcenies in northern and western Hoke were solved. Raeford Police Chief James Murdock says their arrests may solve two

break-ins in the City. Beard said the four were students at Hoke High School and on many mornings, would ride a bus to East Hoke Middle School where they were supposed to transfer to another bus and continue on to Hoke High.

Instead, he says, on some days they would get off the bus at East Hoke Middle and break in to homes in

the Highway 401 Business and Rockfish areas. Then, they'd return to East Hoke Middle and ride the bus home.

On other days, Beard says, the four would ride the bus to Hoke High where they'd leave the campus and break in to homes in western Hoke.

That they weren't in school came as a shock to the

youths' parents, Beard says. "They were like, 'Man, we thought they were in school,'" he said. "If they get on the bus in the morning in front of their house and then if in the evening they get off the bus in front of their house, then the parents don't know they haven't been in school," he said.

(See CRIME, page 13)



'Babes in Drugland'

Ole King Cole (Joshua Davis) made a bad mistake — he abused tobacco and drugs. Stephanie Linthicum is amused, but at a different problem. The Ole King was also having microphone trouble. The play "Babes in Drugland" was performed by Ann Shannon's McLaughlin School class as part of Red Ribbon Week, held to promote drug awareness.

Medical Center's first year a success

Center may become model for other rural areas losing physicians

Hoke's medical experiment — the Hoke Family Medical Center, Inc. — has ended its first year, and from all indications things are going well. In fact, the center is seeing an average of 128 more patients per month than in the days when it was strictly a private practice.

Ann Himmlewright, president of the citizen board that governs the center, says the goal now is to recruit additional medical providers and extend operating hours.

The center was formed to answer a problem facing Hoke County — and many other rural, poor counties — how to attract

physicians. Many rural areas face the loss of their doctors to retirement and have no hopes of finding replacements. Doctors cite low pay, long hours and professional isolation among factors leading them to locate elsewhere.

"The need to replace the

retiring doctors is crucial," Himmlewright says. "This has not been a field that has attracted a lot of doctors in the past," she says. "They specialize."

Since the experiment began, Himmlewright says, several goals have been met. The building on

(See MEDICAL, page 18)

Two students injured in wreck on practice field

Two Hoke High School students were seriously injured Monday when the pickup truck in which they were riding across the school's football practice field struck a pine tree.

Raeford Police Chief James Murdock says the truck, driven by Roger Allen Oldham, 16, of Rt. 1, Shannon, was traveling at approximately 40 miles per hour as it approached a line of pine trees on the campus' south side. Murdock says the driver aimed for a break in the tree line and applied brakes, but skidded into a tree at an estimated

(See WRECK, page 14)



Halloween scene: Dale Connell, 109 Magnolia St., prepared this elaborate spooky spectacle. Halloween will be celebrated Sunday — it has not been rescheduled, according to Raeford Police Chief James Murdock.

Moderate turnout expected of voters

Mayor, City Council seats only local races on ballot

Moderate turnout is expected Tuesday of Hoke County voters going to the polls to decide a new mayor for Raeford and two new Raeford City Council members. Voters across N.C. will also decide bond issues that could bring \$300,000 to Hoke County for renovation work at Sandhills Community College here, and money for water and sewer infrastructure work.

Hoke Elections Supervisor Caroline Shook says the state issues may help the local ones. "With the bond referendum being held at same time as city election I feel like we should have a better than average municipal election turnout," she said.

In local elections, Raeford Mayor Bob Gentry is challenged in his bid for reelection by City Councilman Steve Phillips.

In the City Council race incumbents Eddie McNeill and Benny McLeod are challenged by Charles Fields, Elle Graham, George McGuire, Clyde Thomas and Eric Wowra.

Statewide, voters will consider a constitutional amendment permitting the state legislature to enact laws allowing the issuance of bonds without referendum to finance public economic development and commercial projects.

There are also four bond issues on the ballot:

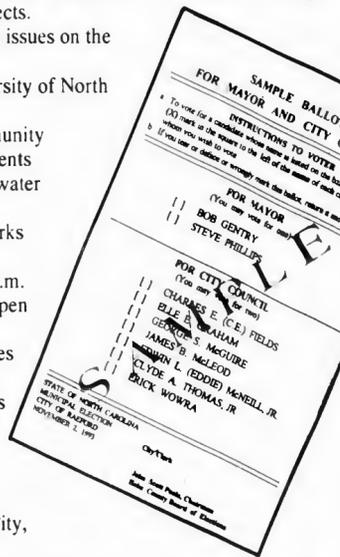
- \$310 million for University of North Carolina improvements
- \$250 million for Community College System improvements
- \$145 million for clean water projects
- \$35 million for state parks projects

Polls will open at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday and will remain open until 7:30 p.m.

Shook says although lines will probably be short all day, the best time to vote is between 9-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.

In Hoke County, 9,023 citizens are registered to vote; in the City, 1,782 are registered.

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Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The fall weather continues and we did get some rainfall since last week. The rain wasn't enough to help much with any dry conditions. There was frost in some parts of the state Sunday morning, but I haven't heard of any around here.

The forecast for the remainder of the week calls for the highs to be in the 60s and the lows will be in the 40s. Maybe we can say that fall is here to stay. The outlook for rain is very slim.

Last week I really goofed on the dates for the ingatherings for county churches. Instead of writing Thursday, I wrote Wednesday and used the dates, also. So I will attempt to make amends this week. It is too late for Antioch, but I attended last Thursday and I believe that they had a record attendance.

The correct dates and times are Shiloh

Thursday, October 28 starting at 4:00 p.m. Bethel — Thursday, November 4 starting at 11:00 a.m. The Happy Hobby Harvest, put on by the Raeford United Methodist Church, will be Saturday, November 13. Hours are 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There are many other church affairs that are listed in the calendar and they also appear in ads in the paper.

The time for the election of mayor and two members of the City Council will be held Tuesday, November 2, 1993. There are two names on the ballot for mayor and there are seven names on the ballot for the two seats on the council. Last week in *The News-Journal*, each candidate answered questions submitted by the press. I read every line of each candidate and I hope that each voter in the city did the same. Most of the

(See AROUND, page 8)