

# The News-Journal

The 42nd issue of our 85th year

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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New school

Technically, Upchurch Elementary School's main building is not new, but practically, it is. The building has undergone extensive remodeling and is now bright and shiny, and once again filled with students.

## Recycling total doubles

Raeford proved itself an earth-friendly city last year by more than doubling recycling totals from 1992.

The city collected 345,456 pounds of aluminum, glass, cardboard, newsprint and plastic — saving 287 cubic yards of landfill space — compared to 140,180 pounds collected last year, city Public Works Director Mike

McNeill said. "People are more aware, more willing to recycle now and I think the city is the instrument to get there," McNeill said. "It's going to take a generation of change for people to get more active in recycling."

State mandates have revved up recycling efforts by forcing counties to reduce landfill space by at least 25 percent, which, at least in

part, is responsible for the increased poundage.

The other part is community effort, McNeill said.

"It (recycling) has progressively gotten more active. I think people have gotten used to our schedule — they are really looking forward to it."

The city schedules recycling (See RECYCLE, page 12)



John D. McAllister — Citizen of the Year

## Raeford Kiwanis Club names McAllister Citizen of the Year

Calling him a "steadfast" citizen "true to his faith," Raeford Kiwanians Thursday named John D. McAllister Hoke County Citizen of the Year.

The award, presented each year to an outstanding county resident, lauds the contributions of that person to the Hoke County community.

"I have told him several times that I wished I possessed some of his slow and easy traits — never showing haste or anger," Harold Gillis told fellow Kiwanis Club members. "... He has set an example which many of us could benefit (from)."

Gillis gave background on McAllister's family and recounted some of his lifetime achievements as a student, serviceman, churchman, educator and civic leader.

Born in the Blue Springs Township in Hoke County, McAllister was the fourth of 11 children. He was raised on a farm, and attended Upchurch High School and Fayetteville State Teacher's College, now known as Fayetteville State University. He served in the U.S. Army from 1941 until 1946, when he was discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

After his release from the service, he completed his bachelor's degree in Education at Fayetteville State. Later he earned a master's degree from A & T College (now A & T University) in Greensboro and went on to work in the Hoke County Schools as principal of White Oak Elementary, Scurlock Elementary and Upchurch Junior High. (See CITIZEN, page 12)

## School board race begins to heat up

### State, national races get interest, too

While few filed for election in Hoke County this week, three candidates gave a boost to the Hoke County Board of Education race. Also this week, national and state races saw interest from incumbent Representatives.

In the local race:

•Incumbent Robert L. "Bobby" Conoly, 319 W. Edinborough Ave., filed for re-election to the Hoke school Board. He has served on the school board for three years.

Conoly, 57, is a banker for United Carolina Bank in Raeford. He and his wife, Sara, have two children, Lawrence Conoly and Angela Sellers.

•Incumbent Dwight Oxendine of Walters Farm Road is seeking a second term on the Board of Education.

Oxendine, 33, is a pharmacist for Wal-Mart Stores, as well as president and CEO of three corporations. He and his wife, Cynthia, have three children: Andy, 9, Amber, 7, and Chelsea, 3.

•Political newcomer Ann Hardin of 6825 Calloway Road, in the Quewhiffle Township, also filed for election in the school board race.

Owner of Ann's House of Beauty in Raeford,

Hardin has been a parent volunteer with Hoke County Schools for 13 years. She is chairman of the Hoke County School Safety Task Force, a Parent Teacher Organization member and a Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church in Raeford.

Hardin and her husband, Brent, have two sons, Michael, 19, and Justin, 14.

At the national and state levels:

•Congressman Bill Hefner of Concord filed for an 11th term representing the 8th District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Hefner has served on the Defense Subcommittee and has been chairman of the Military Construction Subcommittee.

•Representative Ronnie Sutton, a Pembroke lawyer, filed to serve his second term as N.C. Representative in the 85th District. Sutton has served on the Transportation and Labor Relations Subcommittees and on the Military, Veterans and Indian Affairs Subcommittee, among others.

Those who have filed for office since Jan. 4 are:

•Incumbent Judge Craig Ellis has filed to retain his seat as Superior Court judge.

•Incumbent Judges Warren Pate and William

(See RACE, page 7)

## Bus driver threatened by gun-wielding parent

A school bus driver was threatened by the parent of a child who had just boarded the bus on Friday morning, according to Sheriff's department reports.

Deputies arrested Linda Locklear, 30, of 300 Haire Road, and charged her with carrying a weapon onto school property, a Class I felony. She was also charged with going armed in terror of the public and with communicating a threat, Sheriff Wayne Byrd said.

Gwen Sconiers, 30, of Raeford, reported that the

incident occurred when she had stopped East Hoke Middle School bus No. 133 along Haire Road around 7 a.m. After several children got on the bus, the mother of one of the children followed allegedly carrying a small pistol partially covered by a paper towel. The mother allegedly proceeded to curse at Sconiers, threatened to shoot her, and left the bus. Sconiers then drove the bus to the school, where she

(See CRIME, page 7)

## Community involvement is key to fighting drugs, officers say

Hoke's drug problem may stem from the county being a

"distribution point," one law enforcement official told Hoke

Against Drugs members Thursday, but the public can do a lot to help curb the rising number of drug arrests.

Raeford Police Chief J.E. Murdock said Raeford has become somewhat of a distribution point for drug trafficking via Interstate 95. He explained in a later interview that because Hoke County sits in the middle of four larger counties — one of which includes a metropolitan area — Hoke's rural nature and comparatively limited manpower make it attractive to drug dealers.

(See DRUGS, page 7)



Police Chief James Murdock



Sheriff Wayne Byrd

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The Arctic air has finally gone out to sea and it has been liveable weather for the past couple of days. I am glad that the snow and ice stayed to the north and west of Hoke County. It is hard to imagine the number of wrecks because of the ice.

When one hears of 150 wrecks in a single morning in one city, then we can realize how lucky we were just to have below freezing weather.

Another thing that happened because of the cold temperatures was the large number of school buses that wouldn't start or stalled on the highways during the run of their routes. In Wake County about 25 percent of their fleet of buses didn't make it to school. Don Steed told me last week that only two of Hoke's buses wouldn't start and this didn't hinder the buses arriving at the schools on time. He also stated that one boiler stopped

during the cold weather, but that it was repaired in time for school. This shows that the maintenance of our buses and buildings is in good hands.

We can look forward to warmer weather for a few days. The highs Wednesday through Friday will be in the 50s and the lows in the high 30s and low 40s. Colder weather is expected over the weekend. There is a chance of rain on Wednesday morning.

Many people have asked me if I have heard from anyone who knew Evander Smith whom I wrote about last week. I am writing this column Sunday night and so far I haven't heard anything. If anyone does know Smith or recognizes his picture, please get in contact with me.

There have been other people in Hoke County recently who have located relatives. (See AROUND, page 12)