

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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## Woman burning trash dies after housecoat catches fire

An elderly Raeford woman died after her housecoat caught on fire while she was trying to burn trash behind her Scotland Avenue home, the woman's sister said Monday.

Ollie Jordan, 74, of 223 Scotland Ave., had gone out to burn some trash Thursday morning when her housecoat ignited, Thelma McAllister said.

"She started screaming and her son heard her. She wasn't too far from her doorstep," she said. Jordan's son, "Pete," came outside, saw the flames, and called for help.

"You're in a shock to see somebody in a blaze if it's not your mama," said McAllister. "Pete didn't know what to do."

McAllister said Jordan's niece, Mary

Ann Turner, was by Jordan's side as they waited for an ambulance. "Mary Ann said Ollie kept telling her she was all right, and to take care of Pete. She had to be in shock."

Jordan was taken to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, then transported to a burn center in Chapel Hill where she died Thursday evening at 4:30 p.m.

A funeral service was held Tuesday at Silver Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

### Man wounded in shooting

Fred McMillan Jr., 48, of Lot 11, Alpine Mobile Home Park, was shot in his stomach and leg Thursday night in a dark, wooded lot behind the trailer park, Detective Lt. Bob Conerly Jr. of the Hoke County

Sheriff's Department said Monday.

Clara E. Faircloth, also of Lot 11, Alpine Mobile Home Park, told a deputy that McMillan had been talking on the phone, after which, she said, she and McMillan then got into a car and drove to the lot. There, McMillan apparently got out of the car and was talking with someone when (See FIRE, page 6)



### Waiting for a goal

Andy Sunkel catches a toss from his brother on a sunny Friday afternoon. Andy and his brother, Marty, who live on Old Maxton Road, say they are looking forward to having a basketball goal in their yard soon.

## Hoke gets child-abuse-prevention grant

The N.C. Children's Trust fund recently mailed Hoke County a \$50,000 valentine.

The county will use the grant, received on Valentine's Day, to begin "Child Focus," a program to prevent child abuse through an education program for teen parents, including the fathers. The program will include a weekend-long conference in May, support groups and continuing education.

"Hoke County really has some sad, sad numbers on child abuse," county grant writer Jennifer Morris said, citing a 44 percent rise — from 187 to 270 — in the number of child abuse reports received by the county Department of Social Services from 1992-93.

Facilitated through Hoke

County Schools' Student Support Services office, the \$51,226 grant — with a total value of nearly \$80,000 including in-kind services — aims to address child abuse before it begins.

"You've got to grab the attention of folks who might be jeopardizing themselves and their children," Morris said. "We want to make this like a splash — here you go, here's what we're doing."

The initial conference, she said, should reach 120 of the about 300 eligible teen parents in the county.

Grant funds and Aid to Families with Dependent Children monies will provide transportation and child care for the young parents to attend the conference, to be held away from Hoke County. Morris

said she feels making the conference an event, with seminars, nametags — the works — will make it a more important and memorable event in the parents' lives.

When they return to Hoke County, they will attend parenting skills workshops — each containing seven seminars — conducted by a team of trainers at five locations around the county. Morris said the county is working with the local ministers' council to seek help from churches to provide locations.

By going through churches throughout the county, she said, "We want to make sure all racial communities are reached." Any eligible teen would be welcome to

attend the workshops, Morris said.

Workshop topics will include parenting skills, information on nutrition, child development and effective discipline.

"We hope this sort of program can be implemented across the state," Morris said. "We can essentially become a model for the rest of the state."

Ideas for the program came out of community needs seen by employees of the county school system, DSS and health department, Morris said.

"Child abuse prevention has got to be from the community, and I think that's what made the people in Raleigh sit up and take notice — we want so much involvement from the community," she said.

## Residents assured board hears hog farm fears

About 15 citizens who live near a hog farm being constructed on Pendergrass Road came to Monday night's commissioners' meeting expecting to find themselves on the agenda. But instead, they found themselves waiting to be officially heard once again.

The group had attended the Feb. 7 meeting hoping to see the hog farm issue addressed then and asked to be placed on Monday's agenda.

Board Chairman L. E. McLaughlin Jr. told the Five Points area residents "we understand your concerns" and County Manager Mike Wood explained the board has nothing to add because it has no control over hog farms.

The farm in question is being built by Clinton-based Dogwood Farms, which has several other operations in North Carolina. The company is a subsidiary of Lundy's Hog Market.

Wood said the board has put the issue into the hands of the committee appointed Feb. 7 to address hog farms coming into Hoke County. The committee consists of agriculturalists and developers as well as a health specialist and one other citizen.

Wood said the committee would meet with the concerned residents as soon as possible.

Wanda Barnett, who lives one-half mile from the rising swine farm, suggested there be at least one person living in the area placed on the committee "to keep the smell in the nose of the committee." She

and her husband, Curtis, have an 11-year-old daughter, Shannon, whose allergies and asthma they claim would be worsened by airborne pathogenic organisms, grain and dust from the farm.

The Barnetts are part of a newly organized group of Five Points area citizens who call themselves Hoke Organized for People and Environment. Curtis Barnett said H.O.P.E. has about 25 members. He said the smell and air quality are only part of their beef about the hog operation — they also worry about disease and groundwater pollution stemming from the huge lagoon that is designed to hold hog urine, feces, and afterbirths.

But Leonard Hubbard, who bought the land where the Pendergrass Road farm is going up, said Tuesday, "It's not gonna bother anybody like they think it is." He said the farm, which will raise several hundred hogs, was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency before he bought the land.

Hubbard said several million dollars will be put into making the new farm "a nice outfit" with "the most modern equipment." He added that the lagoon will be lined to prevent seepage into groundwater and streams.

### Rezoning application invites controversy

Neighbors of a Davis Bridge Road salvage yard came to the meeting expressing their disapproval (See COMMISSIONERS, page 5)

## Building inspector hired

Hoke County has gained a new staff member. Ralph Allen "Jack" Ellis, 51, of Route 3, Raeford, began his new post as building inspector in the county inspections department Feb. 14, county manager Mike Wood said Monday.

Ellis is responsible for inspecting construction of new dwellings in the county. The building inspector position was previously held by Simon Moore.

Wood said Ellis will be paid at a beginning salary of \$20,884 a year.

Ellis was previously in the running for the building inspector position last spring, when some county commissioners were accused of pressuring planning director Karen Burd to "hire the right person" for the post. At that time, the inspections department was under her authority.

The inspections department later was separated from the planning commission, which has since been slated, along with Burd's position, for an April dissolution.

## Officers encourage citizens to stay aware

Law enforcement officials interacted with Hoke Against Drugs members at their monthly meeting Thursday night and encouraged them to keep the upper hand on drug abuse and distribution in Raeford and Hoke County.

Raeford police Detective Mack High showed areas highlighted on a map where drug-related arrests have been made within the city.

In an interview after the meeting, High said, "The majority of street dealing in our area is just outside the city. Street dealing inside the city is pretty low key, and that's where we want to keep it."

High said Raeford does not appear to have any one hardest hit area, although the Robin Heights Park area off 7th Street holds one of the highest potentials for drug-dealing activity.

High encouraged citizens to "make life hard on drug dealers" by reporting any suspicious activity. He emphasized that reports may be made anonymously, and that checking out suspected drug activity is the best way of keeping it under control.

Hoke County Sheriff Wayne Byrd named Scurlock School



Regina Carpenter thanks detective Mack High.

Road and Silver City as two areas in the county especially plagued by drugs and drug dealing due to their being densely populated.

"People and drugs are the two things that work together," Byrd said after the meeting. He said drugs (See H.A.D., page 8)

## Calloway set to graduate

Steven Calloway will have a chance to graduate from high school this spring after all.

Calloway's mother, Mary Love, said he began attending Calvary Christian Academy in Southern Pines Feb. 15. He will be able to graduate there at commencement exercises to be held June 5.

Calloway was suspended from Hoke County High School, where he was a senior, for the rest of the school year on Jan. 13. He turned in his pocketknife, which he said he mistakenly took to school that day, during a random weapons search. Calloway uses the knife at his after-school job at an automobile body (See CALLOWAY, page 3)

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather went from winter to summer in a few days. Last week I was writing about ice knocking out electricity and this week records have been broken for warm weather. Sunday the 74-high was a record at Raleigh Durham airport. We have had seven days of above normal temperatures. Monday the temperature was again in the 70s. But things will change!

The forecast calls for a low pressure front to move into the area this week. For Wednesday and Thursday we will see highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s. On Friday the high will be in the high 40s and the low will be in the 30s. Saturday the high will be in the 40s and the low in the 20s. There is a chance of rain on Wednesday and Friday.

On the Sunday after the electricity had been off for five hours on the previ-

ous Fridays, members of my Sunday School Class were reminiscing about the "good old days." Many were talking about getting up in the cold and building tires. Bill Southern said he could remember when they didn't lock a door at their house, either day or night. He said it would be good to see that again.

Bobby McBryde asked Bill if he remembered getting up at three o'clock to go to the bathroom. He said going out in the cold to a small house behind the barn, wasn't the "good old days."

Yes, we can all reminisce about days gone by, but we can't just have the good things and throw away the bad. I believe that most of us regret some of the things that are happening in our country today, but when we take the progress that has helped our living conditions and compare them with the "good old days," then most of us will want to remain with the (See AROUND, page 4)