

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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## Planners seek Hoke for input

The expansion of Fort Bragg and housing concerns that spill over into Hoke County have led area planners to get Hoke officials in on the developing action.

Hoke County Manager Mike Wood and Commissioners' Chairman L.E. McLaughlin met Monday with representatives from Cumberland County, the City of Fayetteville and Fort Bragg to decide where the Hoke's input on expansion and development would be most useful.

The group decided to beef up a regional planning board that already exists by putting more county decision-makers, rather than representatives, such as planners, on the panel.

Cumberland County has strengthened its subdivision regulations, driving some development into the other counties that border the base — Hoke, Harnett and Moore — representatives said.

Cumberland, Fayetteville and Fort Bragg representatives expressed concern over development — especially dense development — too near the post.

Wood said most of Hoke's development is in the Rockfish area, because that is where water is available.

"Based on conversations with the people from Fort Bragg, they felt pretty good about the way our county stands — the way it is zoned, RA-20 (lots of at least 20,000 square feet), which is fairly low-density."

Communication is also key, Wood told Cumberland-area planners. "What you do over here impacts us so much. If we knew what you were doing immediately, it would help us plan down the line."

Col. John Altenburg of Fort Bragg's public affairs office said the true concern is "encroachment."

"The encroachment issue — no matter who was there first and no matter how important their work is, if enough land owners surround it then they will win the lawsuit."

Altenburg's main concern is (See PLANNING, page 7A)



**Glorious**  
Shakitta Keitt raises her arms to help display her African costume, one of many modeled Saturday night at a fashion show at a Raeford church (see related story, page 1B).

## Hoke High boys' basketball team is conference champ

### First championship for Bucks in 10 years

The Hoke County High School boys' basketball team is celebrating a sweet 76-64 victory over Purnell Swett of Pembroke Friday night that landed them in the top spot in the Southeastern 4-A Conference for the first time in ten years.

"We're real excited. We had a

good season, and we had some young players that came through for us," coach Dan McGougan said Tuesday.

McGougan has been head coach of the varsity basketball team at Hoke High for four years.

"The last time we saw a championship I was assistant coach," he said.

McGougan named two outstanding players in particular as being

significant contributors to the team's championship status.

Kendrick Smith, a senior, averaged 21 points a game for the season, and junior Terrell McEntire averaged 19 points a game overall.

The team will play its first conference tournament game at 7:30 p.m. Thursday against Lumberton at Pinecrest.

Their first game in the state playoffs will be March 10 at Hoke

High School. If they win that game, they would play again the following Saturday.

McGougan said his team has good chances of doing well in the tournaments.

"Being conference champions gives us a bye in the first round so we don't have to play," he said.

"Also, we play at home for the first two games and that helps us out, too."

## Farm panel leaves citizen disgruntled

While Hoke County's livestock advisory committee is up and running, the group is not accomplishing its task, one hog-farm opponent says. The committee, newly appointed to address concerns about hog farms entering Hoke County, met for the first time last Wednesday over lunch at the Edinborough Restaurant.

All seven of the members of the committee were present. Bill Singler, area livestock agent for the North Carolina cooperative Extension Service, was elected chairman.

Singler said Tuesday the group discussed the purpose of the committee. "We're trying to be a proactive committee to work on potential problems with livestock farms versus community residents."

One resident who has set himself against the building of a new swine farm already under construction near his home went to Wednesday's meeting.

Joseph Brock of Pendergrass Road attended the meeting representing the newly organized citizens group Hoke Organized for People and the Environment. He is the chairman of the group, which he says is growing in numbers and in organization.

Brock was not pleased with the impression he got from the committee.

"I didn't get that they were trying to work for the people of Hoke County. I got that they're trying to go around everybody in Hoke County and still have a hog farm," Brock said Monday.

He said four out of the seven committee members make their living from the hog farm industry either directly or indirectly.

Members of the hog-farm panel are: Singler; Richard Wood, Tarheel Turkey Hatchery; Lewis Upchurch, farmer; Steve Connell, real estate developer; Dottie Meacher, economic developer; Nathaniel Johnson, interim health director; Neill McPhatter, citizen.

(See HOGS, page 8A)

## Deputies' chases lead to arrests

Two sheriff's deputies on routine patrol on U.S. 401 North in Hoke County before dawn Sunday morning were led on a chase into Cumberland County until their county car collided with the apparently stolen car they were pursuing.

The deputies detained James Barnett Davis, 21, of 2206 Delta Drive, Fayetteville, and Joel McPhaul, 23, of Route 11, Fayetteville and charged them with possession of a stolen vehicle.

The driver of the car, reportedly Jeffrey Shaw, 27, of Route 31, Fayetteville, ran into the woods and was not found the morning of the incident.

Sheriff's department reports said officers R. S. Howell and D. Newton became suspicious of the car when its bright lights were on as it approached the sheriff car.

The deputies turned around, turned on their blue lights and siren, and followed the car to Centry Circle in Cumberland County, the report said.

The suspect swerved from one side of the road to the other several times before he apparently put on the brakes, causing the deputies' car to run into the rear of the suspect's car, according to the report.

The car was reported to be stolen from Shaw's mother.

No one was injured in either car.  
(See CRIME, page 5A)

## Raeford teen, paralyzed in October, walking again

A pick-up truck accident last fall left Brandy Williamson paralyzed below the waist. Today, the Raeford 16-year-old is walking again.

"Brandy is doing wonderful," Williamson's mother Betty Croft said. "She's progressed so far since October."

Williamson was lying down in the back of a pick-up truck Oct. 25, when the truck hit a tree near Hoke County High School. The force of the crash threw Williamson toward the truck's cab, which she hit head-first.

Dr. Richard M. Toselli, new director of the spine section of the division of neurosurgery at the UNC-CH School of Medicine, said in a news release the impact caused Williamson to lose all motor function below the middle of her back.

She was taken to Moore Regional Hospital, then airlifted to UNC Hospitals.

Toselli performed reconstructive surgery on Williamson three days later when the swelling caused by the accident subsided.

The surgery, which lasted six hours, involved using rods to realign Williamson's spine and taking bone from her hip to fuse the vertebrae.

Williamson began rehabilitation at UNC Hospitals approximately three weeks after surgery. She is now able to walk without assistance, but wears a body brace to protect her spine from reinjury.

Williamson returned to Raeford Dec. 9. She now receives physical therapy at Southeastern Regional Rehabilitation Center in Fayetteville three times each week and returns to UNC for monthly check-ups.

Since she got her driver's license Feb. 17, Williamson has been driving herself to physi-

cal therapy

Croft said Williamson will travel to Chapel Hill Friday to have her progress evaluated by Toselli. He has said her prognosis is good although she may not be able to return to school this year.

Williamson is completing school assignments with the help of her homebound teacher, Jenny Phillips. "She's been wonderful with Brandy," Croft said.

Croft said she feels blessed by Toselli's arrival at UNC Hospitals and his skill. "We were incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Toselli as Brandy's surgeon," Croft said. "I can't tell you how much we appreciate the care he provided, as well as the care provided by the nursing staff, social workers and therapists."

"Everybody has been very supportive to Brandy," she said.

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The summer weather left us over the weekend. It was windy and cold Saturday and Sunday. Sunday night the low was around 20 degrees and this was just one degree short of the record. Monday, the temperature climbed up to around 50 degrees and it was not supposed to get below freezing Monday or Tuesday night.

Most of us would like for spring to come early, but remember that we have our biggest snows in March. I hope that doesn't happen this year. I do know that the peach growers want the nights to stay cold for a few more weeks.

The forecast calls for rain Wednesday and Thursday. Temperatures are forecast for Wednesday and Thursday with highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s. Friday the high will be in the 50s and low in the 30s. Saturday the high will be in the 60s and low in the 40s.

Two deaths that have happened in the past week made me think of my own age and the number of years that I have been in Raeford.

The first was Bill McMillan, who died last week in Mt. Olive. Bill was a classmate of my son, John, and I remember him being at my home on their class' tenth anniversary. It is hard to imagine someone of that age passing away. The other was Archie Conoly. He was a few years older than I, but I remember him working at Ulphurch Milling Co. and also the friendly smile always on his face.

We who have lived here for many years have seen many of our older families pass away and in some instances entire families are gone. There have been many changes in our county and city over the years and many of the (See AROUND, page 7A)