

# The News-Journal

'If it happened, it's news to us'

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comes home  
to practice dentistry

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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS  
Contributing Editor

Sunday was a cold day in Hoke County. I don't believe that the temperature reached 50 degrees. It was cold Monday morning, but the frost wasn't as heavy as usual because of a light wind. The sun came out and as I write this column the temperature is in the 50s. Winter doesn't arrive until next week, so maybe we will have a cold winter. I hope not!

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the low 60s or high 50s. The lows will be in the low 40s or the 30s. There isn't any rain in the forecast. So get out and complete your Christmas shopping.

While on the subject of Christmas shopping, remember that there are people watching and waiting in the shopping malls to relieve you of your packages or your money. You read or hear on television every day about people being attacked in malls while shopping. So remember to be on the alert and if possible try to (See AROUND, page 12A)

## Deputy indicted by grand jury

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff Writer

It took a grand jury less than a half hour yesterday to come back with a true bill of indictment charging Hoke Deputy Frank E. Hicks with voluntary manslaughter in the death of David Michael Sivak on Aug. 29.

Hicks, 41, has been on paid administrative leave since he killed Sivak, 32, in western Hoke County. The officer said he shot Sivak when he tried to run him down with his van.

Sivak's mother-in-law, Joan Miller, said, "Thank you, Jesus," when she read the bill of indictment. "We can't bring David back but we can get justice for the family." She requested copies of the indictment then went to get her cellular phone to telephone Sivak's widow, JoAnn Sivak, with the news.

Hicks had pursued Sivak about two hours before an autopsy report says he was shot dead at 11:30 p.m. The officer had stopped to check out Sivak's parked van at a convenience store

at the Highway 211 and Army Rd. intersection. Hicks reported Sivak pulled off and in a pursuit that followed, Hicks said Sivak slammed on his brakes in an apparent attempt to cause a collision and also tried to run him off the road. The chase took them to Stubby Oaks Rd., where Hicks lost Sivak's vehicle near Fred's Turkey Shoot.

Nighthawk Loop runs off Stubby Oaks Rd., and a couple there called the sheriff's dept. to report a van was parked behind a (See INDICTED, page 11A)

## Sheriff's officers react to grand jury decision

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff Writer

When asked about the morale of officers of the Hoke County Sheriff's Dept., Sheriff Wayne Byrd responded, "It's hard to gauge it. The con-

cern now is like what am I supposed to do now if I'm doing the best under the circumstances..." He stopped and invited the News-Journal to visit officers at the department and ask them how they felt (See REACT, page 11A)

## Study: County needs master sewer plan

By KRISTIN GUTHRIE  
Staff writer

After completing an in-depth study of the Hoke County's needs and present conditions, Ron Huff of Hobbs, Upchurch, & Associates recommended Monday that the County Commissioners start the wheels in motion to develop a long-term plan master sewer system plan.

Huff emphasized that the county's industrial and commercial development all across the county hinges on the establishment of a long-term sewer plan. "Commercial development is really going to suffer without sewer offerings," Huff said.

Other areas of Hoke County will also remain under developed or undeveloped as a result of soil restrictions tied in with the lack of a sewer system. "Residential development at competitive development costs will require that denser development be allowed with sewer," Huff also said.

With these concerns and others on the forefront of the

commissioner's minds, Huff suggested that the Board adopt a master plan with a mission. The plan's purpose includes:

- providing a tool to evaluate sewer needs and the cost of providing facilities to meet the needs for a 20-year period

- prioritizing needs based on population growth patterns and identifying areas of needed commercial and industrial growth

- investigating the willingness and ability of neighboring systems to accept wastewater from Hoke County

- investigating other wastewater treatment alternatives, with cost estimates included

- identifying specific and general projects to meet the county's needs

- investigating the feasibility of providing sewer with regards to residential development

- protecting the county from environmental damage caused by septic tank failure

In an effort to plan ahead into the year 2000 and even further, (See COMMISSION, page 10A)



SBI Agent Kim Hefner and County Fire Marshal Al Schwarcbher look through the remains of a home that burned Sunday morning.

## Raeford home declared a total loss

PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

A two-story home that burned early Sunday morning was declared a total loss.

None of the 10 occupants were at home when the fire at 412 Wilson Hill Rd. was reported at 3:32 a.m., said Hoke County

Marshal Al Schwarcbher. The dwelling belonged to Benny Locklear.

The house, located at the end of a dirt road which runs off Alex Baker Rd. northwest of Raeford, was valued at \$104,000. Firefighters from North Raeford, Hillcrest, Pine Hill, West Hoke and Tylertown volunteer fire

departments responded to the blaze. Also responding were emergency medical services and rescue personnel. The last firefighter left the scene approximately four hours after the fire was reported.

There were no reported injuries. The fire is under investigation.

## Drug roundup nets 11

By PAT WILSON  
Staff writer

A drug round-up by Raeford police which began Aug. 1 has resulted in the arrests of 11 people. Police filed 17 drug-related charges plus three additional charges. Officers were assisted by the State Bureau of Investigation in conducting undercover drug buys. Charged are:

- Willie Gene McArthur, 29, 1517 Cockman Hill Rd., posses-

sion with intent to sell and deliver crack cocaine;

- Joyce McRae, 30, 202 LamMont St., possession with intent to sell and deliver crack cocaine;

- Matthew Peterkin, 28, 702 Saunders St., possession with intent to sell and deliver crack cocaine;

- Dudley Rudolph Wendell, 37, 420 Vass Rd., possession with intent to sell and deliver crack cocaine;

(See DRUGS, page 10A)

## Bible as literature to continue in Hoke

By KRISTIN GUTHRIE  
Staff writer

An initial call to the State Department of Public Instruction led Hoke County school administrators to believe that all classes taught at Hoke County High School had to be taught by a certified instructor, but follow-up calls to the same department indicate that the Bible as in Literature class currently taught at the high school can legally be taught by a pastor, as is being done at this time.

"I was told you have to have a

certified teacher to teach the class," Superintendent Don Steed said, but Associate Superintendent Jeff Moss said he called the State Department again. "They said they're going to consider it a local decision—whether to offer it for credit or not since it's an elective," Moss said.

Moss said the local school system decided to allow the pastors of the Raeford Ministers Association to continue teaching the class at the high school. "We'll leave it in the hands of the Ministers Association—if they (See BIBLE, page 10A)



Huge trucks and all types of other equipment were hard at work last week clearing the land for the new elementary school in the eastern part of the county. The next step in the process will include awarding construction contracts for the project.

## Board of Education re-elects chairman, vice-chairman

By KRISTIN GUTHRIE  
Staff writer

During the regular December meeting, Board of Education members demonstrated their faith in the current leadership when they re-elected John McAllister chairman of the board and Leland Strother as vice-chairman.

Upon their re-election, McAllister begins his seventh year as chairman and ninth year on the board. Strother, a little newer to the education board, begins his second term as vice-chairman and sixth year on the board.

Board plans to award construction contracts to area companies

to complete all the stages involved with the building of the new elementary school in the eastern part of the county were delayed until a later date.

The clearing of the land for the school, across from Sandy Grove United Methodist Church on Old Wire Road, is already well under way at this time.