

Merry
Christmas
to All

The News-Journal

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

No. 38 Vol. 89

50 cents

Wednesday, December 24, 1997

In

Christmas stories
from Joe Rockholt
and Lonnie Bounds

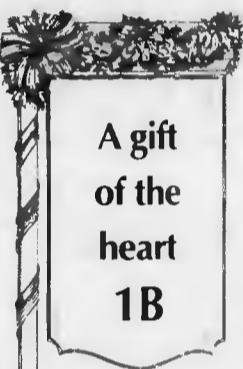
3-4A



West Hoke
Community Watch
wants youth center

4A

In



A gift
of the
heart
1B

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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

The weather has warmed a little and this brought rain into the area on Monday. The temperature for the day was in the 40s both day and night. It was forecast that it would be in the 60s on Tuesday. I hope the rainy weather doesn't hamper the Christmas shoppers. We all are looking forward to Santa's visit Wednesday night. Christmas day should be sunny with temperatures in the 50s.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, will have the highs in the 50s and the lows in the high 30s or low 40s. Rain is in the forecast for Wednesday.

We all like to celebrate during the holidays and many people think that you must have whiskey or other alcoholic beverages during these occasions. In listening to the reports on television and reading in the daily papers, it appears that the law enforcement officials will be out in full force from now until January 4. They will have check points (See AROUND, page 10A)

Spirit of Santa lives on Old Farm Road

KNIGHT CHAMBERLAIN
Editor

This spirit of Santa Claus is alive and well on Old Farm Road near West Hoke Middle School in Raeford, even though everyone knows the real Santa lives at the North Pole.

But Rick John is as close to being the real thing as you are likely to find in these parts, and he fits the role with a spring in his step and a twinkle in his eyes.

John, 36, is active duty Air Force and stationed at Pope Air Force Base.

But when he's away from the tarmac, this helper in Santa's clothing and self-taught carpenter will most likely be found in his workshop making toys for children of all ages.

And as December 25th approaches you'll see him out in the neighborhood dressed in his Santa suit and joined by his own elves; daughter Jessica, who's five, and son Justin who's eight. Together they make the rounds, knocking on every door and de-

livering the hand-crafted nutcrackers, gumball machines (Justin's idea), train whistles and cars to whoever might be home.

"This is my fifth Christmas in Raeford," said the Texas native, who moved to Hoke County with his wife, Sharon, and children after being transferred from Norway. "I think the neighbors thought I was a little nuts before they got to know me. The first year I did this was at night and it was raining. Some folks didn't want to open the door.

"I actually started doing this about 15 years ago and each Christmas it got a little bigger and a little more organized."

John said the spirit of giving really hit home one year in Norway when thousands of refugees, many of them children, arrived from war-torn Bosnia.

"There we had volunteers who helped us gather toys for the children," he said. "We had this old '69 Volkswagen bus and we just kept filling it and filling it with toys over and over again, and let (See SANTA, page 10A)



Knight Chamberlain/News-Journal

Santa (Rick John) and his elves (Jessica and Justin John) greet their neighbors, Clayton and Janet Buoyer, with gifts for Christmas.



Knight Chamberlain/News-Journal

Linda Richards presented Sam Morris with a plaque Thursday, honoring him for his years of support and service to the United Way of Hoke County.

UW reaches third of goal

FROM STAFF REPORTS

United Way of Hoke County campaign chairman John Jordan reported last Thursday that United Way is currently at \$17,000, or 33 percent of goal, with additional pledges forthcoming.

The local chapter held its annual meeting on at the Hoke County Public Library. The meeting was called to order by Linda

Richards, president, who welcomed members, board members and guests.

A motion made by Emma Mims and seconded by Lynn Hendrix to accept the newly revised by-laws carried unanimously.

The purpose of the revision was to get the by-laws more in line with the current operation of United Way.

(See UNITED WAY, page 7A)

Funds available for youth programs

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Hoke County Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) for Community Based Alternatives (CBA) has reported that \$74,009 will be available to operate CBA programs for the upcoming fiscal year.

Pre-applications can be obtained by contacting Wayne Gardner, Hoke County YSAC chairman, at 875-5111. Completed applications are due by Friday, January 30, 1998.

A major objective of CBA programs is to provide services

for troubled or potentially troubled youth that offer an alternative to placement in training schools. CBA programs must provide services to impact juvenile justice-related behaviors for youth ranging from age 7 to 17.

The Youth Services Advisory Committee, through an extensive planning process, has identified three problem areas — juvenile justice, family and community — to be addressed by potential programs. Here are the top five problems for each area:

- 1.) Lack of positive self im-

- age;
- 2.) Absence of positive role models;
- 3.) Lack of respect for authority;
- 4.) Lack of self discipline;
- 5.) Lack of socially acceptable values.

Family

- 1.) Inadequate parenting skills;
- 2.) Lack of parental supervision;
- 3.) Lack of socially acceptable values in the home;
- 4.) Parents unwilling to cooperate with treatment;

(See YOUTH, page 7A)

Five Points grows with new church

By KRISTIN GUTHRIE
Staff writer

In early November, Perry and Becky O'Berry saw evidence of the fruits of their labor when their new church's facility, the Chapel of Jesus Christ, was finally completed and the first formal worship service and wedding was held.

The actual building of the facility, which took well over a year, was without a doubt a labor of love, not only by the O'Berry's but for many members of the congregation. According to Becky, the church collected \$40,000 up front before the facility was completed and many church members donated time and materials throughout the building process.

The new facility expands the church's meeting place capacity from 50 to 130. Indeed, the O'Berry's agreed they have seen growth since the new facility opened just two short months ago and even more drastic changes since the church started more than six years ago.

The Chapel of Jesus Christ actually began to form more than

six years ago when Perry claims that the spirit of the Lord impressed upon him to become a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He became a licensed minister by the Baptist Association and served in the evangelistic field for a year before God revealed to him that he would start his own ministry.

With just three attenders at his first service in 1991, Becky, Perry and their son, Dwayne, Perry and the small congregation founded the Chapel of Jesus Christ. They met in an old tobacco barn situated outside their home on Horace Walters Road.

From there, the O'Berry's said friends and family members became a part of the church body.

Now everyone in the church is (See CHURCH, page 7A)

Hoke DAV chapter brings Christmas cheer to vets

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

Tanya Tucker's recorded rendition of "Silent Night" gave way to the songs of a live choir from Zion Hill Baptist Church, and residents of Autumn Care nursing home listened to holiday music, ate cupcakes and ice cream, and received Christmas cards with a monetary gift inside.

The party is an annual event sponsored by Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17 of Hoke County. It was the second such party for Jessie Burrows, a two-year resident of Autumn Care, who showed photos of his family and talked about the people he knows from back home.

"We're free today because of these veterans," said James Hall, (See DAV, page 7A)



Kristin Guthrie/News-Journal

Nativity scene

The Raeford United Methodist Church displayed this nativity scene outside the church before and during the Christmas season. To all our readers, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and best wishes for a prosperous New Year.