

# The News-Journal

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

No. 39 Vol. 89

50 cents

Wednesday, December 31, 1997

## In

Kwanzaa  
celebrated  
tonight

5A

You can't  
git thar  
from h'yar

3A

## In

Pepsi celebrating  
100 years

1B



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## Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS  
Contributing Editor

The weather for Christmas was nice, after the rain of Christmas Eve. The temperature on Christmas Day was in the low 60s and the sun was shining. It stayed this way until Sunday and then the thermometer dropped and the cold rain came. Many places in the state had snow and the roads were bad for driving. As this is written Monday afternoon, we haven't had any sleet or snow. I don't believe it would stick on the roads or ground.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs Wednesday and Thursday to be in the 40s and the lows in the 20s. Friday and Saturday the highs will be in the 50s and the lows in the 30s. No rain or snow is in the forecast.

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In talking with people Monday morning in the office, I didn't hear of any bad incidents over the holidays. Raeford and Hoke County were quiet.

\*\*\*\*\*

I received a Christmas card  
(See AROUND, page 7A)

## It was a year to remember

### From liquor-by-the-drink, to Ferguson's conviction, to Hicks' indictment

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

In this, the last issue of the last day of the year, *The News-Journal* outlines some of the top news stories. Read on for a recap of what went on month-by-month.

#### January

Hoke County commissioners began the year by considering a county-wide curfew for teens. The idea stemmed from the Rev. Tony Hunt's request that a curfew be set up in the South Hoke community where he lives and works.

Commissioners voted 3-2 for the issue of liquor by the drink to be put before voters on May 6.

And in town, Raeford police initiated a bike patrol.

An issue of *Business North Carolina* stated Hoke County's net migration rate between 1992 and 1996 was 38.3 percent — well above surrounding counties' migration rates. County Planning Director Al Mitchell said this was the result of more people moving into the western part of the county from Moore County and into new subdivisions on the east from

Cumberland County.

Dr. Riley Jordan, family medicine practitioner here since 1953 and former county commissioner, was named Kiwanis Man of the Year. He was honored for making a significant difference in the county.

Hoke High seniors exceeded goals in math and reading, according to tests taken at random. Science scores ranked students just below average.

#### February

A year-round school for grades K-8th is considered.

Autumn Care Nursing Home

expanded, adding 40 new beds to the Fulton St. facility. The state's elderly population is expected to increase by 52 percent by the year 2000.

#### March

The Hoke Board of Education voted that public school students in grades K-8 will attend classes year round in the future. More than half of affected parents favored the year-round plan. Superintendent Don Steed said students will have academic advantages under the new schedule.

County commissioners, the planner, residents and Dept. of

Transportation representatives met to discuss a three-prong land use plan to prevent future zoning problems. An adopted 1990 zoning plan has not been adhered to.

Some churches united to fight the sale of mixed beverages in the county. The effort is led by the Rev. C.S. "Dallas" Morales, Hoke Baptist Mission pastor.

Police were showered with glass bottles while trying to calm a crowd in Robins Heights. County back-up was called in and six, mostly juveniles, were arrested. The local Community (See REVIEW, page 8A)

## Teen curfew starts Thursday for county

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

A curfew for juveniles 16 and under goes into effect Jan. 1.

County commissioners passed the youth protection ordinance in October after a committee studied the issue for four months.

County commissioners passed the youth protection ordinance in October after a committee studied the issue for four months.

The curfew is on a six-months trial basis and does not include the city limits of Raeford.

Beginning Thursday at 11 p.m., juveniles ages 16 and under are restricted from public places between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. every day of the week. Juveniles not attending school are also prohibited from visiting public establishments between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on school days.

Provisions of the ordinance allow for adults 18 years or older to accompany juveniles at such times the curfew is in effect.

Juveniles reacting or responding to emergencies are exempted from the ordinance as are married juveniles. Also exempted are juveniles are traveling to or from, by direct route, school or religious or recre-

ational activity that is supervised by adults and sponsored by a school, county or other government, civic or other organization that accepts responsibility for the youth.

Special permits for exceptions may be applied for at the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Parents, guardians and establishment owners are responsible for violations. Juveniles who violate the curfew could be sent to juvenile court. Adults found guilty of violating the ordinance are subject to fines of no more than \$100.

"We're taking it slow on enforcement — especially since school is out now," said a county spokesman.

Wayne Gardner, chief deputy of the sheriff's dept., said a first-time offender will be taken home to his or her parents or guardians if the offense is only a curfew violation. The second time a juvenile is caught violating the ordinance, he or she will be charged.

Sheriff Wayne Byrd is meeting today with County Attorney Neil Yarborough and County Manager Mike Wood to discuss how best to enforce the ordinance.

Notices of the curfew have been posted throughout the county and at the courthouse and public library in Raeford.



Pat Wilson/News-Journal

Detective J.P. Brock shows some of the items recovered from recent break-ins.

## Burglary ring believed busted

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff Writer

A dragnet set up by the Hoke County Sheriff's Dept. was helped along by an alert citizen and an arrest, with more arrests expected, has been made in the burglaries of several homes.

Ricky Morrissey, 18, of Stoney Pt. Rd., is charged with five counts of breaking and entering and larceny with more charges pending. He is charged with burglarizing homes on Overton St., Sparrow Dr., Walter Ct., Carriage Ln. and Sheffield Ct.

Officers believe they have broken a burglary ring in which per-

petrators kicked in the doors of houses then went in and quickly took only items they could grab in a hurry.

Officers were out in full force to catch the thieves, according to Sheriff Wayne Byrd, and because of that, they were able to close in after a man called and gave a description of a man and a vehicle he believed were involved in a break-in of his neighbor's home on Dec. 23.

Units quickly responded to "close the net" and stopped the suspect vehicle on Galatia Church Rd. as it left Ridge Manor subdivision in the northern part of the county, according to Detective J.P.

Brock said. Other officers arrived and the four people inside the vehicle were placed in separate patrol cars and questioned without being able to confer with one another, Brock said.

Officers also went to the scene where the neighbor saw what he considered criminal activity and found a footprint on the door.

Three of the men were deemed not to be involved in the break-in, but Morrissey confessed and was arrested, according to Brock.

Some missing property was recovered — found hidden in the woods near Morrissey's home.

Morrissey is in Hoke County Jail under \$35,000 secured bond.

## First ice wreck of season leaves pickup in creek

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

Twin Bridges, in the western part of Hoke County, is so-named because of a pair of bridges, less than 300 yards apart, that span Rockfish Creek on Golf Course Rd. near Phillipi Church Rd.

That section of the county is low, and maybe that is why the two bridges were the only ones in the county to ice over early Monday morning in a cold, drizzling rain, says state Trooper Kemp Crumpler. A pair whose pickup ended up with one side in five feet of water in Rockfish Creek probably consider themselves lucky and are remembering the yellow and black road signs which remind us, "Bridges Ice Before Roads."

The driver was traveling east on Golf Course Rd. when her vehicle slid on one ice-covered bridge and went out of control into the creek on the left side of the second bridge, according to Trooper Crumpler. The truck was submerged to the window on the driver's side, and the driver and her passenger exited the vehicle on the passenger's side, where water was not so deep, he said. Neither passenger reported any injuries.

Rockfish Volunteer Fire Dept., Hoke County Rescue and FirstHealth personnel responded to the scene. A Dept. of Transportation truck arrived a short time after the accident, and sand was applied to the bridges.

Crumpler reminds motorists not to apply brakes on ice, and to remember that bridges ice first.



Knight Chamberlain/News-Journal

Wreck injures Raeford woman

A two-car wreck at the intersection of Edinborough Avenue and North Magnolia Street sent Ruby Nichols of Raeford to Moore Regional Hospital with broken ribs and lacerations to her face, scalp and leg Tuesday morning. Above, emergency workers offer comfort as they prepare to extract her from her vehicle.