

The News-Journal

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

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In A



E.E. Smith edges Hoke in Turkey Bowl
17-14
8A

In B

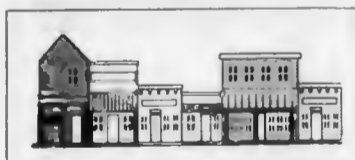


Cartoonists' field day — 1B

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Around Town



BY SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

The weather was cool for a few days and then warmed up over the weekend. Some of us older folks had jackets on for a few days, but they were put away when the thermometer rose again into the 90s. We haven't had any rain and I know that the Turkey Festival people want it to hold off for another week.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for cooler weather the latter part of the week. Wednesday the highs will be in the 90s and the lows in the 60s. Thursday, Friday and Saturday the highs will be in the low 80s or high 70s and the lows will be in the low 60s or high 50s. There is a chance of thunder showers on Thursday.

The Turkey Festival will get underway Thursday with the opening ceremonies being held at the stage beside the Hoke County Library. The parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will follow the usual route along Main Street. Events will be staged every day and the (See AROUND, page 7A)

State BOE: No election improprieties reported

BY KNIGHT CHAMBERLAIN
Editor

State Board of Elections Chairman Larry Leake says the state Board of Elections "has received no reports from the State Bureau of Investigation which indicate any election impropriety in Hoke County" in connection with allegations made by Jim Davis and his campaign manager, Gregory Thompson, last July. In a letter dated September 9, 1998 and addressed to Thompson, Leake also urged

Davis and Thompson to attempt to get along with the Hoke County Board of Elections, "without any sense of paranoia."

Davis, the Democrat nominee for sheriff, opposes Wayne Gardner, a candidate by petition, in the general election. Davis defeated Sheriff Wayne Byrd in the May primary. Gardner is the Sheriff's Department chief of deputies.

Leake reminded Thompson that "the North Carolina State Board of Elections is an administrative agency, a quasi-judicial

agency, and we are in no position to advise you of each and every communication that our office may receive that involves an individual.

"If anyone was to make a complaint with regard to Mr. Davis involving an alleged election law violation, we would certainly advise your client and you of that fact," the letter stated.

Leake's letter to Thompson was in response to a letter from the Hoke County Board of Elections to Leake, dated Aug. 10, 1998, requesting his help.

In the letter, Hoke Board of Elections Chairman Delbert Minshew, Secretary Franklin Teal, and member Scott Poole noted that "although no evidence was submitted by Mr. Davis that indicated any improprieties on the part of the Hoke County Board of Elections and certainly your board requested no investigation of the Hoke County Board of Elections, it appears that some Hoke County citizens have the impression that the opposite occurred.

"The following is a quote from

an area newspaper following the meeting: 'Davis said the hearing was a success. He interpreted the board's decision as meaning that the board would work with the SBI in the investigation. That is our concern and we accomplished our purpose,' he said. This is surely misleading.

"We understand that these circumstances were beyond your control. However, we respectfully request your help in assuring our citizens that the Hoke County Board of Elections is not being investigated."



The Turkey Festival Board welcome everyone to the 14th Annual Furkey Festival. Members include, from left, Carol Herrington, Brenda Jacobs, Connie Marlowe, Patty Webb, Frances Gordon, Carl Pevia, Glenda Clanton, Johnny Wallace, Jean Hodges, Charles Tapp, Marvin Lynn Maxwell, Bobby Strother, Jackie Lynch, Russell Smith, Judy Morris, Carrie Posey, Tommy Jacobs, Betty Smith, Judy Pittman, Don Foster, Kristi Posey and Cathy Brown. Not pictured: Ronnie Wilson, Erick Wowra, Mary Malone, Darlene Moss, Mike McNeill and Clayton Singletary. (Ken MacDonald photo)

Raeford ready for Turkey Festival

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The community of Raeford invites you to celebrate three days of rollin' good fun and festivities at the 14th Annual North Carolina Turkey Festival, September 17-19.

Since its beginning in 1985, this festival has grown from a local celebration with 10,000 visitors to a widely-recognized and much-anticipated festival attracting more than 50,000 people from across the state and

beyond. Honoring an industry that ranks North Carolina as the nation's leader, the Turkey Festival features everything festival goers care to gobble up; free non-stop music and entertainment, (See FESTIVAL, page 11A)



Mike McNeill

Probation on McNeill lifted

BY PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

Monday night, the Raeford City Council lifted a six-months probation that had been imposed on City Manager Mike McNeill at a meeting held on June 1.

McNeill had been placed on probation and \$2,500 was deducted from his pay because he failed to meet city residency requirements.

McNeill, who lived in the county, was hired as city manager in December of 1996 after serving as acting manager. At that time, he was given a year to move into Raeford. In January of this year he was given a six-months extension because of his wife's health problems. It was at the end of that extension that council members decided he had (See COUNCIL, page 10A)

Planning director Al Mitchell resigns

BY PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

Al Mitchell, Hoke County's part-time planning director, resigned last Wednesday, and interim County Manager Bernice McPhatter says she plans to ask

commissioners for a full-time director.

Mitchell's resignation was immediate, and he was not at Thursday night's meeting of the Hoke Planning Board.

A Fayetteville resident, (See MITCHELL, page 11A)

C.U.E. helping in search for Troy Lee Jacobs

BY PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

Troy Lee Jacobs' family wants to know what happened to him, and Community United Effort (C.U.E.), a nonprofit organization based in Wilmington, has joined the family and the Hoke County Sheriff's Department in efforts to locate his whereabouts. Jacobs' disappearance two and one-half years ago is being treated as a homicide, and most family members say they believe he is dead and that he was murdered.

On Sunday, C.U.E. representatives met with Detective David Newton and family members as well as other concerned citizens to begin a campaign to "blitz" Robeson and Hoke counties with information on Jacobs and his disappearance. Flyers and posters are being distributed to businesses and stores throughout the two counties.

Jacobs, who was 22 when he was last seen at a convenience store on Highway 211 in Red

Springs, disappeared on February 26, 1996. The description on flyers states he was 5'6" tall, weighed 130 pounds, had brown eyes and dark brown hair, and was wearing a long-sleeve white, light blue and dark blue shirt that zips up the front, black jeans, Carolina Tarheel cap and white Nike tennis shoes. Other descrip- (See JACOBS, page 10A)



Troy Lee Jacobs

Wayward teens lead officers on wild chase

BY PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

Two teenage probationers who were assigned to a military-style boot camp program in Hoffman, Richmond County, are in Hoke County Jail after a wild ride through Hoke County in the clothes of a woman whose house officers say they broke into.

Michael Tate, 18, Burlington, and Bryan McNeill, 19, Raeford have multiple charges against them and are being held in jail under bonds of \$100,000 each.

The two men were working with a program called IMPACT when they walked away at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. Trina Juarez found them in her home on Aberdeen Road between noon and 1 p.m. They had gone through a back window

of her mobile home near Ashley Heights, taken off the jump suits that would have identified them as escapees, put on her clothing, and were drinking her beer, according to a report.

Hoke County Detective David Newton said Tate held a kitchen knife to her seven-year-old son's neck and took the keys to her 1979 Toyota Celica.

Juarez called the Sheriff's Department, and Newton was on the way to her home when he saw her Celica on Haire Road, south of Raeford. He turned his vehicle around but Tate, who was driving the Celica, would not stop, he said.

"The chase was on," said Newton. Newton drove his vehicle 39.7 miles with speeds up to 95 mph before catching up with Tate (See TEENS, page 11A)



Marvin Johnson was inducted into the North Carolina Poultry Hall of Fame on August 28, 1998. At left, congratulating Johnson, is N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham. (Contributed photo)

Johnson inducted into Poultry Hall of Fame

SPECIAL/THE NEWS-JOURNAL
E. Marvin Johnson has come a long way since he and one of his brothers sold live turkeys on the streets of Rose Hill to make a little money during the Depression.

As an indication of just how far he has come, the North Carolina Poultry Federation inducted Johnson, who owns House of Raeford, into the North Carolina Poultry Hall of Fame on August 28, 1998.

Johnson was born in South-eastern North Carolina into a ru-

ral farm family described as "hard working and close knit." After graduating from Rose Hill High School in 1942, he served a two-year stint in the Merchant Marines.

That first venture on the streets of Snow Hill with brother Bizzell involved turkeys raised on the farm of their parents, Nash and Mary Sue Johnson.

Nash, Marvin and Bizzell built the first feed mill in Rose Hill in 1955, calling it Nash Johnson and Sons Inc. Four years later, (See JOHNSON, page 11A)