

# The News-Journal

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

No. 30 Vol. 91

50 cents

Wednesday, October 28, 1998

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## Around Town



BY SAM C. MORRIS  
Contributing Editor

The fall weather is still with us. A couple of mornings last week there was frost or a thin layer of ice on my car windows. I like this kind of weather, but I wish we could get some rain. Maybe the farmers with cotton in the fields like the dry weather.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the high 60s or low 70s. The lows for the period will be in the low 50s or high 40s. There isn't any rain in the forecast.

Last week I received a letter from H.E.L.P. that was requesting a donation for the "Share Your Christmas" program. The organization has been helping needy families for the past several years. The new program director of H.E.L.P. is in charge of the program. Her name is Bonnie Johnson.

I sent a check the day I received the letter. This is a program that you should support also. So take time today and send a check to the following address:  
(See AROUND, page 7A)

## Editorial

### Let's keep our perspective: the sun will rise over Hoke County next Wednesday

One week from today the November election will be over and guess what — the sun will rise over Hoke County on Wednesday just as any other day. Regardless of who is sheriff.

The candidates in the race — Jim Davis and Wayne Gardner — their supporters, this newspaper, indeed the whole community have been in an uproar over the race. But with the election essentially decided in each voter's mind, it's time now to move on. This county must accept the man who gets elected.

Regardless of who it is, we know Hoke County will be the same place.

The same people will be living here. No, this isn't Mayberry. Yes, we have our share of problems.

We would like to point out one significant and relevant fact — Hoke County has been electing people of color to office for years, a clear indication the people of Hoke County can base — and have based — their votes on qualifications, not color.

There are many good people, of all races, who have tried to make improvements in all areas of Hoke County's quality of life.

Is there is room for improvement?

Absolutely. No one has ever tried to claim that there isn't.

Go out on the streets of Raeford or to Dundarrach or Antioch or Rockfish or anywhere in Hoke County. Go into the stores and restaurants and businesses and industries and churches and schools and look around. You'll see your neighbors of all races talking and laughing and crying and working and learning and praying and breaking bread together.

Most of them are just trying to make a living and pay the bills and provide their families with a roof over their heads and food on the table.

Most of them are just trying to make sure their kids get a good education and made it through another day happy and healthy and alive.

That's why some of you came to Hoke County and made it your home in the first place. That's why most of you have stayed here all these years.

Hoke County and her people are the reality. No election, regardless of the outcome, is going to change that. Only the names and the faces of those who get elected will change.

Let us accept the will of the voters and move onward and upward.



Too much 'brew'

It just goes to show you what can happen if you drink a little too much "brew" and "drive" on Halloween night, as this witch found out early after she flew into a tree in a yard on Main Street in Raeford at the home of Don and Pam Foster. For more trick or treat fun and some tips for a safe Halloween, see today's "B" section. (Contributed photo)

## Haddon requests poll observers

### Financial reports filed

BY PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

Ben Haddon, chairman of Hoke County Democrats, has asked that observers be placed at polling places during Tuesday's general election.

Under North Carolina election laws, a candidate may make the request through the chairman of his or her party. The Republi-

cans and Libertarians have not requested observers and neither has the campaign manager for the lone unaffiliated candidate. The request must be made five days prior to an election.

The names of 26 potential observers were submitted to the Hoke County Boards of Elections, which is expected to act on the request Thursday at an 11 a.m. meeting.

Two observers from each party (See OBSERVERS, page 12A)

## Voter registration up by nearly 2,000

BY PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

Last week, the Hoke County Board of Elections had registered 15,533 voters. That number is subject to change by three or four, Caroline Shook, Board of Elections director said. She said last minute cancellations had been received, election boards from other counties canceled some registrations because former Hoke residents registered there, and some registration forms are awaiting signatures because residents forgot to sign them. "Things like that happen," she said.

Voter registration for the No-

ember 3 primary ended October 9.

Of the registered voters, 10,987 are Democrats, 2,488 are Republicans, 2,038 are unaffiliated, and 20 are Libertarians.

Registered voters by precinct are: Puppy Creek, 2,365; Raeford #1, 1,726; Rockfish, 1,474; Raeford #3, 1,428; Antioch, 1,342; Raeford #4, 1,320; McCain, 1,022; Blue Springs, 966; Raeford #2, 959; Raeford #5, 955; Stonewall, 905; Buchan, 793, and Allendale, 278.

In late April, before the May 5 primary, there were 14,436 registered voters with 10,383 Democrats; 2,339 Republicans, 1,693 (See VOTERS, page 12A)

## Hoke volunteers honored for service

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Governor's Office of Citizen and Community Services recognized recipients of the 1998 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service for the Southeast Region of the State.

Nominees for Hunt's Outstanding Volunteer Service Award included Hoke County's Mark Gaver; Rodney Lee; Pedrito Mitchell; Roderick Virgil; Chuck Wade; Unilever HPC USA, represented by Phil Huot; and West Hoke Middle School PTO Executive Board,

represented by Jan Smith, president; and Tricia Booker, who was unable to attend the banquet.

Gaver is a valuable asset to Rockfish-Hoke Elementary School, serving as president of the PTA and as resident computer programming expert. He has developed a computer program for parents as well as programs which enhance learning for students.

Hillcrest Fire Department thanks Rodney Lee for his involvement with the department

for over six years, and specifically his efforts to improve the firefighting procedures of the department as a whole. He is always willing to risk his own life to save the lives and property of others.

Pedrito Mitchell claims 15 years of service to Sandhills Youth Center, focusing his energies and volunteerism efforts through the Yokefellow Prison Ministry and Community Volunteer Sponsorship Programs. He is highly respected by both staff (See VOLUNTEERS, page 12A)



Teddy Locklear



L. Thomas Pilkington



Leo Salzer



Russell Smith



John Harry

## School board candidates share their positions with public

Five candidates, Teddy Locklear, Thomas Pilkington, Leo Salzer, Russell Smith and John Harry, are seeking the three available seats on the Hoke County Board of Education. Current board members Ann Hardin,

Robert Conoly and Charlotte Kelly, whose seats are available, chose not to seek re-election for personal reasons.

Members serve four-year terms on the five-member board. To assist voters in making in-

formed decisions in this non-partisan race, *The News-Journal* asked candidates four questions. Their answers appear here unedited.

### Candidates

• Teddy Locklear, 35, 2817

North Duffie Road  
Hoke County High School graduate, 1982; BSP, East Carolina University, 1986  
wife, Tammy Bryant Locklear, two children ages 8 and 2.

• Thomas Pilkington, 55, 3046 Fayetteville Road  
retired as a game warden with N.C. Wildlife Enforcement  
wife, Gay Kirkley Pilkington, 2 sons ages 12 and 10  
(See CANDIDATES, page 9A)