

The News-Journal

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

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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

Winter doesn't arrive, by the calendar, until December 21. This past weekend felt like winter weather. Saturday was a cold day. There was frost a couple of mornings. We had a little rain but it was not enough to help. The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the 60s and the lows in the 40s. There is a chance of rain Wednesday morning and Saturday.

As I have written recently in this column, I get mail over the Internet; last week I found the following letter on my desk:

"My name is Jeff Gilbert and I live in Sonoma, Cal. I have many relatives who live in Raeford and I have no way of knowing who and where they are. Could you please, maybe, help me with my search and direct me as to how I could find them. Thank you, Jeff Gilbert."

Recently, with the help of you readers, I have been able to bring relatives together. I (See AROUND, page 10A)



Capt. Felton Moore, right, presents Sheriff Wayne Byrd (left photo) and Frank Hicks with a plaque. (Pat Allen Wilson photos)



Hicks, Byrd honored by state PBA

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

The North Carolina Police Benevolent Association (PBA) gave Hoke County Deputy Frank Hicks and Sheriff Wayne Byrd awards at the Hoke County Courthouse on Monday. Present were representatives of the state PBA. Capt. Felton Moore, presi-

dent. Sandhills Chapter PBA, presented Hicks and Byrd with plaques.

Hicks' plaque honored him for "outstanding service, courage and valor" in protecting the lives of Bruce and Lisa Ellis and Willard and Diane Manning. Nighthawk Loop residents. Byrd's plaque honored him for "outstanding service, dedication

and support of law enforcement officers who defend the constitutions and preserve law and order."

Byrd was surprised that he received an award from the PBA. "I thought I was here to support Frank... I did what any employer should do, stand up for an employee when he's right. I never regretted it."

Hicks said the sheriff "could have taken the easy way out. I appreciate his standing by me... I'm glad the ordeal is over with and I can move on with my life now."

Hicks returned to duty as a road deputy the night his case was dismissed.

The PBA was critical that the (See PBA, page 10A)

Hoke Elections Board certifies Nov. 3 results

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

On Monday, the Hoke County Board of Elections certified the results of the November 3 general election. The board also turned over complaints against sheriff-elect Jim Davis to the local District Attorney's office and the state Board of Elections.

Davis defeated Wayne Gardner in the sheriff's election by 265 votes.

Board member Frank Teal read 17 notarized statements that said Davis had gone into voting areas on Election Day. Another sworn statement described a man in a cowboy hat as going into polling areas. Most who complained are Gardner supporters.

North Carolina election rules state a candidate cannot go within 50 feet of a polling place except for an inquiry at the doorway to get election results. Residents who registered sworn complaints say Davis went into Hillcrest, Stonewall, McCain, Puppy Creek, Antioch, Rockfish, Buchan, Raeford #5, Raeford #2, Raeford #1 and Allendale precincts. The complainants described visits of 3-5 minutes and some said he went into some places more than once. Some said they called the Board of Elections office to report the violations.

Board of Elections member Scott Poole told those who gathered at Monday's meeting that precinct officials were told at an instructional meeting held be-

fore the election that electioneering was not allowed within 50 feet of the voting place. Precinct officials were told to advise those who did so to move. "That's what should have happened on Election Day," he said. No chief judges were involved in advising Davis that he was in violation of election laws, he added.

Poole said only two of the affidavits stated that Davis was actually campaigning inside election areas and that there was "no evidence of intimidation."

Poole then motioned for the Board of Elections to forward complaints and minutes of the meeting to the State Board of Elections and the Hoke County District Attorney's office as required by law and to certify the election "as it ended after (Friday's) canvass."

Attending the meeting were two members of the District Attorney's office. Poole advised those present that the meeting was not a hearing and that any charges would have to come from the DA.

Campaigning by a candidate or others inside a polling area is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

Complaints started coming when the board gathered the day after the election to count precinct transfer ballots. Those who complained were told to bring back notarized affidavits at Monday's meeting.

On Wednesday, David Gibson, an official of the Blue Springs precinct, where Davis (See RESULTS, page 10A)



Farm-City Week Breakfast

About 100 city, county, civic, agricultural and educational leaders, along with other guests, turned out for the Raeford-Hoke Farm City Week Breakfast at the Civic Center Tuesday morning. While enjoying their meal, those in attendance learned from guest speaker Dooie Leach that Americans spend only 10 percent of their disposable income on food today, compared to 22 percent in 1950 and 47 percent in 1935. He attributed this to greater efficiency in food production, but warned that agriculture must remain socially acceptable, environmentally responsible and economically viable to remain a positive force in the U.S. and around the world. For more about Farm-City Week, see 1B for a full-page write up and photographs. (Knight Chamberlain photo)

Arrest follows kidnap, rape charge

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

A Pembroke woman who is estranged from her husband reported he raped her, tied her up, left her in a woods, threatened to kill her, and then left with their grandchild on Thursday, October 29.

The woman, whose name was not released by Hoke County authorities, told Hoke County

Detective Robert Crull that Charles Clark picked her up in a van along with their two-year-old grandson to do some shopping. She said he smoked cocaine as they rode around then raped her at knife point. Using electrical cord, he tied her hands and feet and left her in a wooded area on Lower Macedonia Road in South Hoke. The man left with the child, saying he would return and kill the woman and himself.

Thanksgiving project needs Hoke's help

By KNIGHT CHAMBERLAIN
Editor

For about the 12th year in a row Nettie McDuffie, a long-time Hoke County resident and friend to those less fortunate, is planning to prepare Thanksgiving dinner for those in Hoke County who otherwise might spend the holiday alone and hungry.

And, for the 12th year in a row, she needs your help.

This year the dinner will be prepared and served out of the Raeford Presbyterian Church with the help of the church youth and any other volunteers — other church groups, civic organizations, schools, etc. — who would like to help out. The need is great because many of those served are homebound and need to have their dinners delivered.

As in past years, Nettie is planning a traditional Thanksgiving feast including turkey and dressing, ham, gravy, string beans, candied yams, sweet peas, hot rolls and several kinds of cake. Last year about 250 people were fed, but she is anticipating a bigger need this year.

Cooperating in this effort is the Hoke Emergency Liaison Program (H.E.L.P.) (See HELP, page 10A)