

# The News-Journal

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

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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS  
Contributing Editor

Monday morning there was frost on my car. It is almost impossible to forecast the weather in this column. I write the column on Monday afternoon and by the time the paper comes out on Wednesday the forecast has changed. We did have a little rain last week, but not enough to do any good. It did take most of the leaves off the dogwood trees in my yard. Maybe another raking or two will be enough for the year.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the low 60s or high 50s and the lows to be in the high 30s or low 40s. There is a chance for rain on Thursday night or early Friday morning.

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Do you have your ticket for the Annual Mullet Roast? It will be held Tuesday, December 1 at the Civic Center. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be obtained at the Chamber office.

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Mary Alice and I, accompanied by Pearl Warlick, at (See AROUND, page 10A)

## Davis' election to sheriff decertified

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

Jim Davis will not be sworn in as Hoke County Sheriff as planned on December 7, according to Delbert Minshew, head of the Hoke County Board of Elections. The county board of elections, which had previously cer-

tified the results of November 3's general election on November 9, learned at a meeting yesterday that the North Carolina Board of Elections decertified Davis' election to sheriff.

An order from the state board is to come in the form of a letter which will direct the county board to hold a hearing on the matter of

his certification. Once the letter is received, a hearing will be set.

Davis did not respond to a phone call left on a message machine at his campaign headquarters.

On November 9, the county elections board read 18 notarized statements, most from supporters of his opponent in the general

election, Wayne Gardner, stating that Davis had gone into voting areas of 11 precincts during voting hours. The county board voted to send the statements and the minutes of their meeting to the state board.

State election laws do not allow candidates in voting areas unless it is to inquire at the door-

way about election results. Candidates are not informed of the laws pertaining to campaigning at polling places; it is considered a candidate's duty to be informed about the law.

David Gibson, an elections official of the Blue Springs precinct, said at the November 9 (See DAVIS, page 9A)

## Sheriff responds to Justice Dept.

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

Hoke County Sheriff Wayne Byrd has responded to a U.S. Justice Department investigation into a complaint of racial discrimination against his department. The complaint was made by Elisha Dial, a Lumbee whose two nightclubs were shut down for reports of illegal drug use and violence. Countryside Recreation was closed in 1997 and Cousins was closed in 1991.

Byrd's office has sent boxes of material to the Justice Department. "Close to 100 hours of work went into compiling" the files and information that were sent to the Justice Department, according to Byrd.

Byrd said, according to

records, officers were dispatched to Countryside Recreation, 1390 John Road, 144 times between May 23, 1993 and December 15, 1996. "This doesn't include normal patrol stops, times the officers worked with NC Highway Patrol or NC Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) officers or checking stops to make sure people leaving the nightclub were sober—that sort of thing," Byrd said.

Byrd said most of the responding calls were made when Dial called the department. Out of the calls, made during that same time frame, 817 criminal charges were made, Byrd said. "Most of the time Elisha Dial called and from his information, a lot of these arrests were made."

(See SHERIFF, page 7A)

## World AIDS Day is observed in Raeford

By KNIGHT CHAMBERLAIN  
Editor

The 11th observance of World AIDS Day will be held on Tuesday, December 1, in downtown Raeford next to the Hoke County Public Library stage at 6 p.m.

A candlelight ceremony, sponsored by the Hoke County Health Center, will commemorate those directly and indirectly affected by this disease. The Rev. Tony Hunt will open and close in prayer, Cynthia Love will sing, and Jean Brewer and Monica

Bigford will provide HIV/AIDS facts and information.

This year's World AIDS Day theme is "Be a Force for Change." The purpose of this theme is to recognize the millions of people worldwide who are affected by HIV/AIDS, to increase the understanding of the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic globally, and that the epidemic continues despite new hope in treatment.

It is hoped that the theme will promote action and sound policy (See AIDS DAY, page 8A)



Love that story

Brittany Burch reacts in enjoyment at a story told by The Spellbinders at West Hoke Elementary School last week. Storytelling was one of the activities featured at the school during National Children's Book Week, observed by schools across the county. (Pat Allen Wilson photo)

## Deputies give notice

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

Hoke County Sheriff's Department deputies are concerned as to what will happen to their jobs when or if Sheriff-elect Jim

Davis is sworn into office. Davis, 52, is not talking to the media, he says, and refused to see reporters the night of November 3, when voters chose him to be sheriff.

Outgoing Sheriff Wayne Byrd said eight deputies have recently turned in their resignations leaving that many positions vacant. All are going to other jobs, he said—some in law enforcement, others in construction work.

Byrd said he was misquoted in another paper as saying he has advised his deputies to find other jobs. He said he has told those who live outside Hoke County, when they asked for his advice, to look for jobs elsewhere.

One of Davis' campaign promises was that he would require deputies to live in Hoke County. A display ad announcing jobs for jailers and deputies that ran in

last week's issue of *The News Journal* said applicants should be willing to relocate if not a resident of Hoke County.

The ad stated applicants should be high school graduates or have the equivalent and be BLET certified for deputy sheriff positions and be jail certified for jailer positions. Applicants should be 21 years old or older and have no criminal convictions.

Those applying for positions with the Hoke County Sheriff's Department are to do so through Hoke County Personnel Manager Shirley Rush.

Rush said yesterday she had received 13 applications for deputy and four for jailer positions.

Deputies are paid starting salaries of \$21,001 to \$28,244. Jail (See DEPUTIES, page 7A)

## First-time homebuyers get a break from FHA

By KNIGHT CHAMBERLAIN  
Editor

First-time Hoke County homebuyers who meet certain eligibility requirements may apply for 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages at 5.75 percent, thanks to the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency.

Agency Chairman Lucius S. Jones announced the mortgages to some 300 housing industry

representatives during a statewide Partner's Forum hosted by his agency in Research Triangle Park last Wednesday.

"The low rate opens a wonderful opportunity for families who have been saving to buy their first home," said Gov. Jim Hunt. "This is good news for families and children, and good news for North Carolina's economy."

(See BUYERS, page 8A)



Head-on crash

Three people were injured in this head-on collision which occurred shortly before 1 a.m. Sunday at the intersection of King and Plank roads on the edge of the Fort Bragg reservation in West Hoke. Units from FirstHealth EMS-Hoke, Hoke County Rescue, Hoke County Sheriff's Department, PineHill Volunteer Fire Department, NC Highway Patrol, and Fort Bragg Military Police assisted at the scene. No more official details were available at press time. (Pat Allen Wilson photo)