

# The News-Journal

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

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See us at  
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In

Saralyn Smith  
to perform  
in 'Nutcracker'  
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In



Hoke 4-H Club  
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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS  
Contributing Editor

The temperatures don't feel like we expect in December. The temperatures have been in the high 70s or low 80s for the past week or so. The mornings are cool but it warms up during the daytime. What we need is some rain. Sunday, at church, someone said that the streams and creeks are about as low as they have ever seen. With all the leaves falling, it makes it very dangerous in the woods for fires. So everyone should be careful when walking in the woods.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the same kind of weather. The highs will be in the 70s and the lows will be in the 40s. There is a chance of rain late Saturday.

.....  
An event that I look forward to every year is the annual Raeford Kiwanis Club Pancake Supper. It will be held Thursday, December 3 at the Gibson Cafeteria. The time is from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. There will be all you can eat and also good fellowship for the (See AROUND, page 10A)



## Mullet Roast a success

Last night's 15th Annual Mullet Roast was held at the Civic Center where some 200 attendees heard positive end-of-the-year status reports from area businesses and industries as well as the school board and others. Harold Gillis served as emcee while Sheriff Wayne Byrd presided as "chief chef. There was chicken on the menu for those who didn't like their dinner staring back at them. The Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce played host to the event. (Knight Chamberlain photo)

## Lumbee language a barrier to formal tribal recognition?

By PAM SMITH  
Special/The News Journal

Make no mistake about it. More than 43,000 Lumbee in Robeson and Hoke counties know they are ethnically and culturally Native Americans, says renowned linguist Dr. Walt Wolfram.

So why have the Lumbee struggled unsuccessfully for decades to gain complete formal recognition from the federal government? Many believe the loss of their ancestral language may be one fundamental barrier.

Current research by Wolfram, North Carolina State University's William Friday Distinguished Professor of English, and a team of researchers indicates that while the Lumbee lost their ancestral tongue generations ago, they have developed a unique Lumbee English dialect. They look to history as the primary force that shaped a dialect characterized

by particular patterns of pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary.

The Lumbee English dialect, Wolfram says, bears the imprint of the early colonization by the English, Highland Scots, and Scots-Irish. Moreover, Lumbee Native Americans' speech is distinctly different from their Anglo-American and African-American neighbors.

Historical evidence shows that the Lumbee have been speaking English for more than two centuries. As early as 1730, European settlers were surprised to encounter a large tribe of English-speaking Indians in the region. Just where and when they learned it is a matter of conjecture, says Wolfram.

Through research findings reveal some similarities in Lumbee and Outer Banks speech, the isolated examples aren't strong enough to support the popular theory that links the Lumbee with

the Lost Colony. In pronunciation, for example, both use "hoitoiders" (high tiders); in vocabulary, both try not to "mommuck," or make a mess of it" and in the grammatical use of weren't, both might say "She weren't here."

"We were surprised to find examples of dialectal affinity to the Outer Banks," says Wolfram, "but they are isolated examples." He suggests that more likely, both speech communities shared a common Scots-Irish English dialect influence, which also is apparent in Appalachian speech.

Wolfram and a team of graduate students have been conducting community-based language studies in Robeson County since 1993 as part of his North Carolina Language and Life Project. The goal of the Lumbee study, funded by the National Science Foundation and the William C. Friday Endowment, is to promote dialect awareness and a (See LUMBEE, page 10A)

## Election board sets hearing

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Elections yesterday set a time and date for a preliminary hearing into alleged election violations during the November 3 general election in which Jim Davis defeated Wayne Gardner in the sheriff's race.

Davis, a Democrat, defeated Gardner, an unaffiliated candidate, by 265 votes.

The state board directed the county board to withhold or rescind Davis' certification as sheriff. Davis' letter of certification

was returned to the county board yesterday.

At the special meeting held yesterday, County Attorney Neil Yarborough reviewed the state board's three-page letter to the county board as well as statutes and codes relating to elections.

The meeting was held in the county conference room, and Yarborough said his aim was to "let parties know what is expected so everybody will be singing out of the same hymnbook." The hymnal he was referring to is the book of state statutes relating to elections.

(See DAVIS, page 8A)

## School system receives arts grant

By KNIGHT CHAMBERLAIN  
Editor

The Hoke County school system has received a \$5,346 grant from the North Carolina Arts Council to present various performing artists to students around the county.

In addition, the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County has received a \$4,000 grant to support professional development of artists in Hoke, Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett,

Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland counties.

The N.C. General Assembly gave the Arts Council a one-time increase of \$335,750 this year for the Grassroots Arts Program which allocates funds for local arts programming in all 100 counties on a per capita basis. An additional \$1,336 from the legislative increase will come to Hoke County.

The N.C. Arts Council awards (See GRANT, page 10A)

## Byrd agrees to stay on

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

Hoke County Sheriff Wayne Byrd, whose term was to expire December 7, has been asked to stay on in the office until Jim Davis, who was elected on November 3, is sworn in.

Davis' certification was taken away by the N.C. Board of Elections because of complaints he campaigned inside polling areas

on election day.

Byrd said Tuesday he was asked by Susan Nichols, the lawyer who handles election matters for the N.C. Attorney General's office, if he'd remain in office. "I told her I would as long as needed," Byrd said.

Byrd said he has the option of "going home December 7," but chooses to continue his term. He will not be sworn into office again, he said.

## Dollar General set to open Thursday morning

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Customers in Raeford will have a new place to shop for consumable basic merchandise when Dollar General opens its new store located at 105 Fayetteville Road. The grand opening is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, at 9 a.m.

The new 8,000 square-foot store will employ six to 10 people, including the store manager.

With more than 3,500 stores in 24 states throughout the Midwest and Southeast, Dollar General serves customers with a variety of basic items including home cleaning supplies, housewares, foods/snacks, health and beauty aids, and basic apparel.

"For nearly 60 years, we have tried to be responsive to the ever-changing needs of our customers," said chairman and CEO Cal Turner Jr. "Today, we are much more than a retailer that buys and sells merchandise — rather, we are a customer-driven distribu-

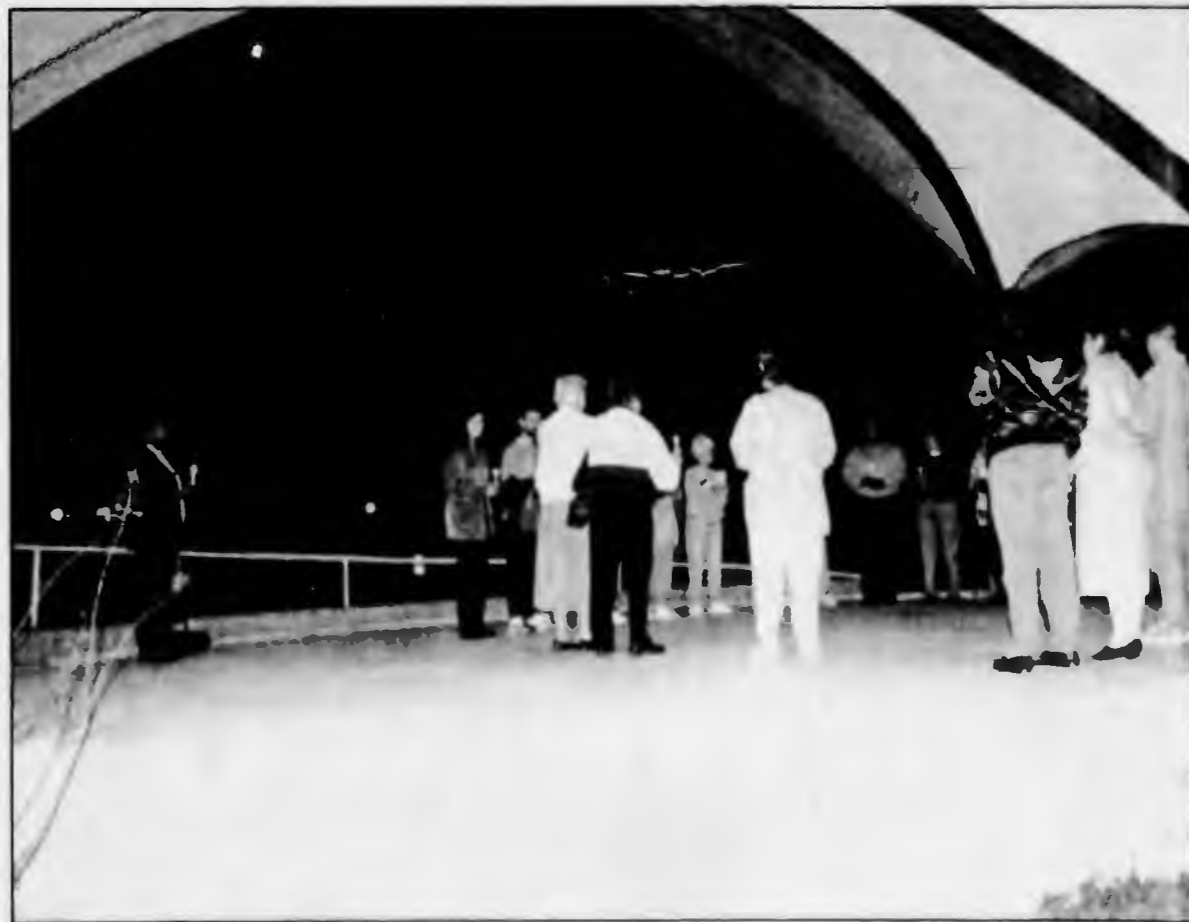
tor of the consumable basics."

Dollar General was the first true "Dollar Store" retailer, in that it founded the concept of even dollar price points. Today, customers can find more than 1,500 items, priced at just \$1, and few items in the store cost more than \$25. The company's low, even-dollar price points offer customers great values every day and because of that, there are no sales at Dollar General.

"Our customers are the most deserving, hard-working people you'll ever meet; smart, too," said Turner. "They have to be. Whether it's a mother working by herself to keep three kids in school clothes, a person on a fixed income, or young families trying to make the payments on their first home, our customers must be smart shoppers."

Dollar General generally targets small to medium markets for new store locations. Through an aggressive new store devel-

(See DOLLAR, page 10A)



## World AIDS Day observed in Raeford

The 11th observance of World AIDS Day was held last night in downtown Raeford next to the Hoke County Public Library. A candlelight ceremony, sponsored by the Hoke County Health Center, commemorated those directly and indirectly affected by the disease. The theme, "Be a Force for Change," was to recognize the millions of people worldwide who are affected by HIV/AIDS. World AIDS Day linked communities throughout the United States in a unified observance when the White House lights were dimmed from 7:45 to 8 p.m., signifying the commitment to defeating the disease. (Knight Chamberlain photo)