

# The News-Journal

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## This week



Extension celebrates  
Heritage Day  
page 1B

7-year-old saves  
subdivision from  
wildfire  
page 8A

## Index

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Births .....        | 2B     |
| Calendar .....      | 2B     |
| Classifieds .....   | 8-9B   |
| Deaths .....        | 3A     |
| Editorials .....    | 2A     |
| Engagements .....   | 3B     |
| Legals .....        | 7B     |
| Public Record ..... | 4,7,8A |
| Religion .....      | 7,9B   |
| School .....        | 10A    |
| Socials .....       | 3B     |
| Sports .....        | 6A     |
| TV Listings .....   | 5-6B   |
| Weddings .....      | 3B     |

## Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS  
Contributing Editor

The 100 degree temperatures have gone and Hurricane Dennis didn't come ashore. This is the big weather news for the week. Monday we did have some windy weather in the morning, but the rainfall was east of Hoke County. There was some water and wind damage along the coast and as I write this column only three deaths have been reported. The most extensive damage was to the people who had to leave the coast and mess up their vacation. Of course many businesses lost money because of the hurricane. We can be thankful that it remained at sea.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs Wednesday and Thursday to be in the 80s and the lows in the low 60s. Friday and Saturday the highs will be in the 90s and the lows in the high 60s or low 70s. There isn't much chance of rain.

There were two deaths this past week of people whom I had come in contact many times over the years. Mrs. Mary Ellen "Willie" Andrews was buried Monday. She lived on Harris Avenue for many years and part of that time I lived in the neighborhood. Her husband, Bill, died many years ago and I can remember going (See AROUND, page 9A)

## Sheriff Davis target of SBI investigation

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hoke County Sheriff Jim Davis is being investigated. The State Bureau of Investigation confirmed on Tuesday an inquiry is being conducted about allega-

tions concerning Davis.

"It is true," said SBI Agent Janie Pinkston, speaking on behalf of acting special agent Neil Godfrey of the Fayetteville office. "District Attorney Jean Powell did make a request to our office on August 25.

"An agent from the SBI office in Raleigh should be beginning the investigation some time this week."

A complaint against Sheriff Davis was reportedly lodged by a former deputy regarding alleged misuse of funds. Davis

denies it.

Davis verified he hired the former employee after he took office as sheriff. However, Davis said he was unaware of any investigation by the SBI until last week.

"This was a former disgruntled

employee who resigned," Davis said on August 31. "I can't release his name. The employee that filed the complaint was the one I entrusted to take care of our supply and equipment needs.

"This was done to attack my (See SBI, page 5A)

## World-famous steeplechase moves to Hoke

The Five Points Horse Park in western Hoke will host the Stoneybrook Steeplechase, an annual and major global event in the equestrian world. For 49 years, the event was held at Southern Pines but has been without a home since the loss of its host, Yellow Frame Farm.

The National Steeplechase Association has given its stamp of approval to visit the Five Points Horse Park, and the first Stoneybrook is planned for April of 2001, the golden anniversary of the event. Bids have been solicited for the construction of the steeplechase's grass track at the intersection of Montrose, Calloway and Horace Walters roads.

The Five Points Horse Park is a world class equestrian facility planned for some 230 acres of "beautiful, undeveloped farm land approximately 12 miles south of Southern Pines, North Carolina," according to realty and public relations statements beamed round the world on the Internet and in newspapers and magazines not even heard of here.

"The site... will be developed to include the facilities required to accommodate five major equestrian events: three-day eventing, combined driving, steeplechase, hunter/jumper and dressage."

(See STONEYBROOK, page 9A)



### Help when needed

FirstHealth EMS and Hoke Rescue personnel provide assistance to six-year-old Latrice Harris after the vehicle she was riding in was involved in a collision Wednesday afternoon. Rescue volunteer Diane Faircloth offers words of comfort. Emergency responding personnel were kept busy with vehicle accidents last week. On Saturday, a man died in a fatal crash. See stories, page 7A.

## \$5 million FirstHealth medical mall nears completion

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

FirstHealth of the Carolinas in Pinehurst is placing Raeford on the map with an innovative idea for the Sandhills.

"FirstHealth is combining medical arts and a health-fitness center in Hoke County in a new venture for the community," said Jim Ashworth, development director for FirstHealth Regional Services. "It's the first time we've

ever constructed this type of center and it's the only one we know of in Hoke."

Known as the FirstHealth Family Care Center-Raeford, the 39,000 square-foot community health center will be open on

October 4. A grand opening is also scheduled October 9 open to the public from 2 to 4 p.m. It includes preview tours and activities for children.

### Contemporary look

A sweeping promenade bor-

ders the entranceway to the red-brick structure, accentuated by a steel-girder overhang and hunter-green roof. A covered drop-off station for patients and parking to accommodate 165 vehicles is

(See MEDICAL, page 10A)



Area Manager Jay Martinek views the spacious FirstHealth Family Care Center in Raeford slated to open on October 4.

## Planning Commission considers controversial zoning changes

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

The Hoke County Planning Commission is looking into recommending a zoning change that some say will bring more money into the County's coffers; others say the proposed change will put cash into developers' pockets.

At a workshop held Thursday night, Planning Commission members voted to consider at their September meeting whether or not to change from 10 acres to

2.5 acres the amount of land not subject to subdivision regulations.

Commissioner Vice Chair Harold Brock, who proposed the change, said he thinks the County's tax base would be increased "tremendously."

Former Commission Chairman Donald Louya is against the proposed change. He asked Commission members, "What is the purpose?" in the proposed change, while Brock countered, "Give me a reason why we

shouldn't do it." Commission Chairman Brown Hendrix Jr. said he "hates to see 10 acres tied up."

It was pointed out that County Commissioners had chosen about 10 years ago to accept the 10 acres that was recommended by the N.C. Institute of Government with an understanding that the number would be dropped to five.

Planning and Zoning Director Linda Revels looked into acreage that surrounding counties (See ZONING, page 4A)

## Sheriff garners grants totaling \$220,000

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hoke County Sheriff Jim Davis has been harvesting a crop of grant money to aid in law enforcement around the county.

Between July and August of 1999, Davis was notified his agency is recipient of \$220,005.83 in grant monies.

"We've been working pretty hard," Davis said Tuesday, "I

have been able to facilitate more than

\$200,000-plus of equipment and services to be afforded this sheriff's office through grant process and contacts with state agencies. These agencies have helped this Sheriff with his equipment," Davis said Tuesday, "I

(See GRANTS, page 5A)



Davis

## Library assistant dies of Bragg wreck injuries

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Staff writer

A second woman involved in a July 5 crash on Fort Bragg in Cumberland County has died as a result of the accident.

Wendy Yvonne Strickland, 39, died Sunday morning in Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. Jaime Catherine Butler, 23, died July 8. Both were wives of Fort Bragg military personnel. (See STRICKLAND, page 5A)

## Chairman, Trigger head up concert

Get ready to party at the 15th annual North Carolina Turkey Festival Outdoor Concert on Saturday, September 18th! This year's event features General Johnson and the Chairman of the Board along with a local favorite, Trigger.

Turkey  
Talk



Tickets are currently on sale at the Depot or you may purchase yours from any NCTF (See FESTIVAL, page 4A)