

# The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

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make us proud  
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## Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS  
Contributing Editor

Monday morning most of the people I talked with had smiles on their faces. This came about because of the rain Saturday and Sunday nights. There was more rain in the western section of the county than in Raeford.

The rainfall in Raeford was around one inch. The temperatures last week were mostly in the 90s during the day. It is somewhat cooler Monday morning as I write this column.

The forecast for Wednesday through Saturday calls for the high Wednesday to be in the 90s and the lows in the 60s. For the remainder of the week the highs will be in the 80s and the lows around 60. There is a chance of rain about any afternoon with the best chance being on Thursday.

A reminder to golfers that would like to play in the Hospice Golf Tournament June 2 at Bayonet. If you would like to play, call Charlie Barch at the Hospice office 875-5132. Also, don't forget that this is Membership Month for Hospice. So send your check to the Hospice office on South Main Street.

Last week I received the following letter from Betty McLean Ritchie of Harrisburg. "Dear Sam, "Just wanted to let you know that my mother, Sadie McLean (Mrs. H. Raymond), (See AROUND, page 3A)

## Nature Conservancy buys 245 acres

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

A 245-acre plantation of young longleaf pines nestled near the Hoke-Moore county line along Stubby Oaks Road has been

acquired by The Nature Conservancy as a sanctuary for the red-cockaded woodpecker, an endangered bird. Previously owned by the estate of Barbara M. Sullivan, the \$400,000 tract of 10-year-old pines includes several small farm-

houses and a tobacco barn.

The conservation effort involves a partnering between Bank of America and The Nature Conservancy, which currently owns and manages 55,000 acres in North Carolina.

"We were thrilled when we saw who was the successful bidder for this property," said Jim Schroering, assistant vice president of estate services for Bank of America. "The Nature Conservancy has (See LAND, page 9A)



Within the heart of the Sullivan estate's longleaf forest, more than 2,000 types of plants and wildlife may exist. (Photo by Pat Allen Wilson)

## Event planned to unite Hoke men



Milton H. Williams Sr.,  
keynote speaker



Hubert A. Peterkin,  
fellowship founder

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hubert A. Peterkin is looking for more than a few good men — he's seeking 200 men to come together as a "mighty fortress" for the first Hoke County 200 Men Fellowship. The "spiritually-uplifting crusade" is slated at Freedom Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Raeford on August 20.

Peterkin expressed a personal philosophy about this fellowship event.

"As men, we sometime forget that a relationship with God is a gift," Peterkin said. "We don't earn it; we can't buy it and we can't boast or feel a sense of accomplishment about achieving it," he said.

"God gives us this gift out of love for us and a desire to be in relationship with his people."

Peterkin, an investigator with the Fayetteville Police Department, first conceived the concept of uniting men of all cultures and faiths for fellowship last year, when he was major-chief deputy at the Hoke County Sheriff's Department. As chairman of the annual men's pro-

gram for 2000 at Freedom Chapel, Peterkin's mission is to coordinate an evening of inspirational music combined with keynote speakers, where members of all Hoke communities can join in fellowship under one roof.

"We're trying to bring the community together and especially targeting the men of Hoke County from all affiliations and organizations," Peterkin said. "We're not limiting participation in the fellowship to just churches," he said.

"We're hoping to instill a strong unity among all men and bring our county together. Women are also welcome to participate," Peterkin said.

The Rev. Milton H. Williams Sr. of Hoke County, presiding elder for the Laurinburg District of 19 A.M.E. Zion Churches, which includes five churches in Hoke, has been invited as an honored guest speaker for 200 Men Fellowship. Williams, who earned his honorary doctor of divinity from Teamer's School of Religion in Charlotte, received his master's degree from East Carolina University.

(See MEN, page 11A)

## Chamber gavel goes to Li

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

It was the ladies night at Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce's banquet when Angel Li took over as president from Linda Richards, and Eloise Upchurch Carter was honored for her outstanding contributions to the community.

West Hoke Middle School's dining room was filled to capacity as emcee Dooie Leach welcomed Chamber members. It was the 53rd such banquet for the Chamber.

Assistant District Attorney and Democratic nominee for District Attorney Kristy McMillan Newton installed Li; Wayne Simpson (Unilever HPC-USA) as vice president; Lisa Potts Davis (Burlington Taylored Fashions), second vice president; Pam Frederick (Garry's Paint and Body), secretary; and Charles Davis (Tarheel Turkey Hatchery), treasurer.



Angel Li takes the oath of office.

surer.

Board of directors for 2000-2001 are, in addition to the new officers, Larry Bullard, William Fields, Greg Jackson, Sherry Lucas, Joe Poole, Kristi Posey, Linda Revels, Gene Shelnett and Betty Smith.

In introducing the Chamber member deemed as being an exceptional contributor to Raeford and Hoke County, businesses, organizations, churches, schools and the entire community, Mary Archie McNeill kept much of her audience in suspense as she recounted the contributions of Carter.

"Each one of us is responsible for the 'live-ability' of Hoke County. We must take this responsibility seriously and show, by our actions, that we care."

— Outgoing Chamber president Linda Richards

Carter works "diligently and quietly behind the scenes," McNeill said. She has "given many years of service to the community in both the business and private sectors, gives wholeheartedly to the betterment of this community and especially to the enhancement to the quality of life in our area — a key ingredient to economic development and growth."

A former junior high arts teacher, Carter was one of the organizers and founders of the first community-wide arts festival, called the Hoke Heritage Hobnob, in 1984 that later became the (See CHAMBER, page 11A)

## Sheriff Davis warns against involvement in pyramid scheme

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

Hoke County Sheriff Jim Davis warns residents against a pyramid scheme that is making its way around Hoke County. His office is actively investigating the scheme, often referred to as a gifting program.

The scam was brought to the

attention of *The News-Journal* in mid-April by an anonymous caller who said the scheme was targeting older African-American residents here. "People on fixed income can't afford to lose on this. Some people are borrowing money," she said.

"Your caller is correct," Davis said yesterday. He said he has contacted the District Attorney's

Office, SBI, FBI and Alcohol Law Enforcement. "We are conducting an active investigation," he said.

The pyramid scam perpetrators charge an entry fee for people to participate and operates out of private homes, uses the mail or even fax machines, according to the sheriff.

The anonymous caller said

some meetings had been held in area churches and that some people are soliciting by going from house to house and knocking on doors.

"The organizers promise great wealth through participation. Gifting programs are really a form of money musical chairs where only the organizers are the winners," Davis said.

Davis explained, "The goal is to bring in eight new people who each pay money to the organizer who then leaves that down line with the cash. The remaining participants split into two new down lines, each having eight new vacancies for recruiting new people. The process repeats itself with the organizers often re- (See PYRAMID, page 12A)

## Rockfish residents circulate petition for improvements

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Some Rockfish residents think Hoke County Parks and Recreation has struck out in providing recreational services for the rural eastern Hoke community. A petition circulating in the Rockfish community has already gleaned more than 200 signatures, protesting the lack of upkeep at the Rockfish Community Center, a converted, historic school used for social and civic functions.

Rockfish citizens plan to present the petition to the county, asking for it to repair the neigh-

borhood gathering place.

Although not included in the petition drive, the design of the new Rockfish Community Park recently completed also has Rockfish citizens concerned. Due to several design flaws, residents say they can't play softball and baseball in the ballpark, or use the jogging trail.

"We're just Rockfish, because we're not in Raeford," said Selina Desjardins, wife of chiropractor Dr. Dennis Desjardins. "Yet we have almost 4,500 people in a one-mile radius in Rockfish that rivals Raeford's population," she said.

(See PETITION, page 10A)



Children's book author visits Smart Start Day

Cameron resident Kimberly P. Johnson autographed copies of her books, "The Adventures of the Itty Bitty Frog" and "The Adventures of the Itty Bitty Bunny" at Smart Start Day, held last Wednesday at the National Guard Armory. The event was an open house to introduce the community to Smart Start's programs. (Photo by Pat Allen Wilson)