

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

No. 19 Vol. 93

50 cents

Wednesday, August 9, 2000

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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

When will it stop raining? It seems that every afternoon or night we have had a thundershower. The ground is so wet that it doesn't take much rain for water to start standing in your yard. During cold weather there is a smile on the man's face that sells oil or gas for heating. Now the smile is on the man's face that mows your lawn. The hot weather has also returned with the temperatures in the 90s and the heat index in the 100s. Lets hope it will stop raining so the farmers can harvest their cotton and tobacco.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the 90s and the lows in the 70s. Yes, there is rain in the forecast for every day of the period.

Lindsay "Buttons" Autry was by the office Monday morning and she said that they would have peaches until the end of the month. She is going to school in Charleston, S.C. on August 30th. Maybe Raz can make the ice cream after she goes away to school.

While on the subject of farms, we don't hear or read about the opening of the tobacco markets as we once did. It used to be that many warehouses would run advertisements in The News-Journal about the openings. This is just another instance of how times are changing.

(See AROUND, page 3A)

Parents arrested in child's heat death

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The parents of two-year-old Zachary McKinley, who died on July 29 after being trapped in the family's hot car for more than 3-1/2 hours at Heritage Village, were arrested by Hoke Sheriff's detectives on Friday in the death of their son. Ryan McKinley, 28, a soldier stationed at Fort Bragg, and Karen McKinley, 33, were both charged with felony invol-

untary manslaughter and child neglect. They were each released on \$5,000 unsecured bonds, but are reportedly under the supervision of the U.S. Criminal Intelligence Division at Fort Bragg.

A memorial service was held on Monday for the child in Smoke Bomb Hill Chapel on Fort Bragg, followed by a private service at Rogers and Breece Funeral Home in Fayetteville. According to some who attended the memorial, Zachary McKinley was viewed reposing in a cradle

on his side with a pillow; he appeared as if he were sleeping.

"This cradle was provided at the family's request," a spokesperson said. "The family felt more comfortable with him in the cradle, and elected not to use a casket. Although it is not a frequent request, it (See ARRESTS, page 11A)



Ryan McKinley



Karen McKinley



Celebrity Joan Lunden describes her "awesome" airborne experience to a Golden Knight. (Photo by Victoriana Summers)

TV's Joan Lunden jumps here

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

TV diva Joan Lunden, former celebrity co-host of national TV's "Good Morning America" talk-show, dropped out of Hoke's sunny skies on Monday morning, jumping in tandem with the U.S. Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights. The radiant Lunden, star of A&E Cablevision's "Behind Closed Doors" series and one of the most famous female TV newscasters of the decade, fulfilled her dream to skydive for the "first time ever," touching down at PK Air Park in Raeford.

"Wow, I did it perfectly," Lunden said after her successful descent with Golden Knights' staff instructor Sgt. Mark Hogue. "Right at the door of the plane, it was such an intense moment. It was almost like sensory overload.

"It was such fun, and I did not feel like I was falling at all."

The famous Golden Knights also made international history, allowing Lunden, as a novice civilian, to participate for the first time with these world champions as the center of an airborne star, and separate arrowhead formation at about 14,000 feet. Prior to her second jump, "creep" practice was performed by Lunden and the Knights, lying on flatbed, wheeled dollies. The exercises simulated the modified mechanics of athletically demanding air formations.

Lunden was paired with Golden Knight Matt Davidson on her jumping sequel. In (See LUNDEN, page 7A)

S.O.S. program won't sink for lack of money

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Executive Director Harry Southerland of the Golden Gate Community Development Corporation announced on Monday his organization will take up the slack from Hoke County Partnership for Children and Families, restoring the Save Our Children (S.O.S.) after-school program for Hoke's school system. Formerly funded under the "umbrella" of Hoke's Partnership, Golden Gate will directly receive grant funding in 2000.

Formatted primarily for middle school and adolescent students, S.O.S. will be administered by Golden Gate officials. Golden Gate was awarded a grant for \$75,000 from the state's Office of Juvenile Justice to continue operating S.O.S. for another three-year period. Each year an additional \$75,000 will be dispersed for Golden Gate to administer the educational program.

"We have reviewed your application for S.O.S. funding and are pleased to inform you that your proposal will be funded," said Christopher Eaddy, SOS state director in a June 23 letter.

Southerland said he's appreciative of the opportunity to provide another avenue for children to learn. S.O.S. also (See S.O.S. page 12A)

Gwen Locklear files for school board

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer



Gwen D. Locklear

On the final day of filing for the Hoke County Board of Education, Gwen Dial Locklear, 47, put in her bid, becoming the third candidate to file for two available seats.

Harry Southerland and incumbent Leland Strother filed earlier.

A quiet activist in the community, Locklear is director of the Hawkeye Indian Culture Center on John Road. In that capacity, she was instrumental in bringing Native American pow wows to Hoke County. She

also works toward preserving the heritage of Lumbees in Hoke County.

"I believe I am the first female Native American to run for office, as far as I know," Locklear said. "That was one of the reasons I filed, because there were no women on the board.

"I am a mother, a grandmother and a native of Hoke County. My family has been involved in educational systems since my grandfather, Elisha Dial, started the first Native American Indian school in Hoke County, Hawkeye High School."

Today, Hawkeye is known as South Hoke Elementary School.

(See FILES, page 10A)

ABCs results show growth in some schools

By KRISTIN GUTHRIE
Staff writer

Last night the Board of Education heard that six of the county's 11 schools reached expected growth when tested according to the ABC's of Public Education, while four of them went beyond that more average measure to gain exemplary status. Rockfish Hoke reached the highest honor

in Hoke County, being recognized as a School of Distinction.

Those schools that scored at the expected growth level included Hoke County High School, Scurlock Elementary, South Hoke Elementary, Rockfish Hoke Elementary, Upchurch Elementary and Turlington Alternative School. The four that met exemplary status were Hoke County High, Scurlock, Rockfish,

and Turlington.

Principals, assistant principals and other certified teachers at the schools that met exemplary growth will receive a \$1,500 bonus. Non-certified personnel will receive a \$500 bonus. Those schools that attained expected growth will reward their certified personnel with \$750 and their non-certified employees with a \$375 bonus. (See SCHOOLS, page 12A)

Economic development consultant tells county to build on momentum, study less, do more

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

The attorney hired as a consultant and an advisor for the Raeford/Hoke Economic Development Board (RHED) said the board should build on the momentum created by recent economic developments in the county.

"Study less and do more... There are some things apparent that need to be done,"

said Ernie Pearson of the Sanford Holshouser Law Firm. He had recommendations for immediate short-term courses of action and a process to getting "deeper into getting things done."

While meeting with the RHED yesterday morning, Pearson said the county/city economic development commission should develop a strategic plan "on where you are going." He said the county should have in place an industrial park and that a

shell or "spec" building be ready for occupancy by industry.

"Everybody understands quite well" the need for a shell building, Pearson said. "Eighty to 85 percent of potential industry looks for a shell building," he added.

Pearson said Hoke should consider a dual-county industrial park with an adjoining county. Being land-locked by Fort Bragg is a burden, he said, but it's "just (See ECONOMIC, page 10A)