

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

No. 31 Vol. 93

50 cents

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Visit us
on the web
www.thenews-journal.com

This week



Matthew Pittman, son of Wade and Shannon Pittman.

Costume contest winners picked page 1B

Bucks 2nd in conference page 9A

Index

Births	4A
Calendar	2B
Classifieds	10-12B
Deaths	3A
Editorials	2A
Engagements	4B
Legals	9B
Public Record	9A
Religion	4A
Schools	5-7A
Socials	4A
Sports	9A
TV Listings	7-8B

Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

The nice weather continues and it doesn't seem that we can get any rain. The record that was set many years ago was broken Sunday when the number of days without any rain passed 32. Many people that I have talked with said the last rain was during the Turkey Festival in mid September. There is plenty of dust and the leaves from trees are all over yards or in piles beside the streets. It will take a while for the city crews to take up all the leaves. So be patient!

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the 70s and the lows in the high 40s or the low 50s.

There still isn't any rain in the forecast.

The following press release came to The News-Journal last week:

"The 5th Army Association (Italy, World War II) would like to hear from men and women who served under General Mark Clark from the Salerno Beachhead to the Alps. Contact Sy Canton, Executive Director, 465 Shore Rd., Long Beach, NY 11561 or phone 516-432-3022."

I know that there are men in Hoke County that were in this war zone. So write to the above address when you can find time.

There are many projects and (See AROUND, page 10A)

Elections chair complains to Justice Dept.

Board says McCaskill acted improperly

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke Elections Board Chairman Willie McCaskill has written a letter to the U.S. Justice Department criticizing the elec-

tions director, and yesterday said he wants the State Board of Elections to send someone to supervise Hoke's upcoming election.

The letter set off a furious round of criticism among other elections board

members who said yesterday at a board meeting they did not know McCaskill was going to write it.

McCaskill's letter accused Caroline Shook of failing to post and advertise new extended voting hours after being instructed to by the board.

But other board members say the board

didn't issue any instructions and McCaskill is again trying to discredit Shook.

Roman Jacobs and Delbert Minshew said McCaskill had no right to file any reprimand against Shook unless the matter was voted upon by the board. Both (See ELECTIONS, page 10A)

Commercial 401 corridor cemented

Sewer to spur growth

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

"Our vision is fulfilled," said Hoke Commission Chairman James A. Leach after commissioners unanimously approved installing sewer service down the U.S. 401 North corridor during a special meeting last Friday. "This project will bring more jobs and commercial growth to our county."

Funded solely by Hoke, the \$1.2 million "401 Interceptor Project" will straddle the Hoke-Cumberland county line. Partnering with Fayetteville's Public Works Commission to provide water and sewer service, Hoke's project will initially extend two miles to Pittman Grove Church Road.

"The county is getting ready to take its greatest step in history," said Donald Porter, executive director of the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Board (RHED). "It is a great honor to be a part of it."

"This board (commissioners) along with its staff is moving Hoke County forward."

Porter said the sewer plan may be instrumental in enticing a major shopping center that is still being negotiated at the corner of Wayside Road and highway 401.

The sewer extension will also ultimately benefit Federal Express, a billion dollar package transport carrier tentatively opening its headquarters at Midway Drive and 401 in July 2000, Porter added. According to Porter, FEDEX's Cumberland County hub is moving onto a 10.7 acre tract of land in Hoke to operate a major distribution center in a more centralized location.

Porter commended county commissioners and fellow members of the RHED board for uniting in their objectives. He also praised County Manager Bernice McPhatter for her financial expertise in making the "commercial dream for Hoke a reality."

On October 16, commission (See CORRIDOR, page 8A)



Karissa Henry, daughter of Russell and Melissa Henry, dressed up as Dorothy, from The Wizard of Oz for The News-Journal's Halloween Contest. Photos begin on page 1B.

McLaughlin earns top regional government honors twice

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Commissioner L.E. McLaughlin Jr. said he felt like he was at a coronation when he was honored by The Lumbee River Council of Governments

Board of Directors last month. As senior member of Hoke's commissioners, McLaughlin, 78, was awarded the "LRCOG Board Member of the Year Award" for the second time. He's the only person to ever receive the accolade twice.

Raeford's Mayor Bob Gentry, a member of LRCOG's board, led with congratulatory remarks for McLaughlin at the annual dinner.

I know how much L.E. McLaughlin does," Gentry said. "He is so dedicated to regional-

ism. I was so pleased he got the award.

"I told board members that L.E. was my political mentor."

According to Gentry, the award is given to the one person who goes the extra mile "above (See MCLAUGHLIN, page 11A)

Local Shrine club sends baby to Canada for care

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

For the first time, local Shriners are sending a child outside the U.S. for treatment.

Ben Haddon, who has been instrumental in arranging the trip, says Samuel "Sammy" Julian McKoy-Johnson, a 16-month-old baby who suffers from brittle bone disease, was flown to Canada to the Shriners medical facility in Montreal last Monday.

Due to the efforts of The Mecca Shrine Club, Haddon said, Johnson received evaluation for a new treatment unavailable in the United States.

Johnson attends the nursery at the Children's Developmental Center in Raeford. His last day

on October 20 was one of blessings for teacher Sandra Felton and teacher's assistant Vanessa McPhaul. Felton read to Sammy from his favorite book, "Colors." A smiling Sammy was "on oxygen" and lying on his quilt. He turned the book's pages on his own.

"Sammy's personality is just God-given," Felton said. "All the teachers took up a collection

for Sammy's parents to help with meals and expenses for the trip."

McPhaul danced and clapped her hands — his favorite activities — for Sammy.

"Go, Sammy, go. Go, Sammy, go," McPhaul sang as the boy twirled his head to the tempo. In spite of being unable to crawl or walk, he is an inspiration because of his zest for life, McPhaul (See SHRINERS, page 8A)

Dining couple skips, caught with drugs

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff Writer

A Raeford couple reportedly dined at Applebee's restaurant in Aberdeen recently, and left without paying for their meal. When a manager tipped off police, they not only brought them

back to pay up, they charged one of them with drug offenses.

Not only were Stephanie Lynn Cummings and David Amad Monroe later banned from Applebee's and escorted back by Aberdeen Police to pay for their meal, they were jailed by (See ARRESTED, page 10A)



Amanda Vocque works the duckie-booth at McLaughlin Fall Festival last week. She also won first place for her costume. Story, page 6A.