The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

No. 31 Vol. 93

This week

Matthew Pittman

son of Wade and

Shannon Pittman.

Costume contest

winners picked

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in conference

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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 Tur-

key Festival in mid Septem-

ber. 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 pa-

der 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

There still isn't any rain in

The following press release

"The 5th Army Associa-

came to The News-Journal last

tion (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

Hoke County that were in this

war zone. So write to the above

address when you can find

There are many projects and

(See AROUND, page 10A)

I know that there are men in

or phone 516-432-3022."

The forecast for the remain-

tient!

the forecast.

week:

time.

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50 cents

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Elections chair complains to Justice Dept. Visit us on the web www.thenews-journal.com

Board says McCaskill acted improperly

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS Staff writer

Hoke Elections Board Chairman Willie tion. 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 elec-

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

members who said yesterday at a 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)



Wizard of Oz for The News-Journal's Halloween Contest. Photos begin on page 1B.

Barrington, long-time sherriff, dies



Staff writer

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS

Colleagues and family will pay last respects today to legendary Hoke County Sheriff David "Dave" McLeod Barrington after his sudden death on Monday at 67.

Fellow officers paid tribute to Barrington as "the

people's sheriff," recalling his career chronicled by exploits that sometimes landed him in controversy, but his "honesty" and "integrity" were impeach-

Barrington was described by lifelong friends as one of the "finest" sheriffs to wear the badge of Hoke's highest law officer position.

A native of Hoke, Barrington was the youngest sheriff to serve in North Carolina at the age of 28. He was sworn in on December 3, 1962 when Sheriff David Hodgin decided not to run for another term. Barrington's distinguished career included being the longest serving sheriff in Hoke's history and the third sheriff to lead the county's law officers.

During his first campaign for sheriff, the popular Barrington garnered more votes than all four of his challengers combined. After almost three decades as sheriff, Barrington retired midway through his term in 1988, saying he felt it was "time for a younger man to take over." Yet Barrington successfully steered the county through turbulent times, arresting moonshiners and bringing numerous murderers to justice. According to a former account in The News-Journal, Barrington was credited with raiding "500 illicit liquor stills" during the days of bootlegging.

Raeford's Chief of Police Mack High said there will never be another sheriff like Barrington.

"He was the right thing for Hoke County at that time," High said, who served as a deputy under Barrington. "He was the one that talked me into going back to law enforcement."

As one of Barrington's closest friends, High was officially called to Barrington's home on North Magnolia Street when the sheriff's housekeeper could not get him to open the door. Barrington was discovered in repose; he died of natural causes,

(See BARRINGTON, page 11A)

Laughlin 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.

try, a member of LRCOG's award. board, led with congratulatory annual dinner.

"He is so dedicated to regional-

Raeford's Mayor Bob Gen- ism. I was so pleased he got the

"I told board members that remarks for McLaughlin at the L.E. was my political mentor."

According to Gentry, the I know how much L.E. award is given to the one person McLaughlin does," Gentry said. who goes the extra mile "above (See MCLAUGHLIN, page 11A)

for Sammy's parents to help with

meals and expenses for the trip."

her hands — his favorite activi-

McPhaul danced and clapped

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-monthold baby who suffers from brittle bone disease, was flown to Canada to the Shriners medical facility in Montreal last Mon-

day. 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 twirled his head to the tempo. In

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

ties — for Sammy. "Go, Sammy, go. Go, Sammy,

go," McPhaul sang as the boy 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 Applehee's and escorted back by Aberdeen Police to pay for their meal, they were jailed by (See ARRESTED, page 10A)



last week. She also won first place for her costume. Story, page 6A.



Amanda Vocque works the duckie-booth at McLauchlin Fall Festival