

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

No. 42 Vol. 93

50 cents

Wednesday, January 17, 2001

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

This week

Best



and



Worst
of 2000

1B

Five charged with
store break-in
page 4A

Free depression
screenings offered
10A

Raeford teens reign
at academy ball
page 2B

Index

Births	2B
Calendar	3B
Classifieds	6-7B
Deaths	4A
Editorials	2A
Legals	5B
Public Record	4A
Religion	5A
Schools	6-7A
Socials/Family	2B
TV Listings	3-4B
Weddings	2B

Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

The weather finally warmed up so that it makes one think of spring. We had a little rain over the weekend, but just enough to settle the dust. The heat is working again in my house and at the Raeford Presbyterian Church. So now I don't have any excuse for not going about my life as usual. We can be thankful that we don't have the electric shortage as many other people do.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the high Wednesday to be in the 40s and the low in the 30s. Thursday, Friday and Saturday the highs will be in the 50s and the lows in the 30s. There could be rain on Wednesday or Thursday.

Last week I wrote about the death of May Foust Plonk Weaver of Greensboro. Since then I have received two more notices of her death. The following letter from Bill Cox of Gastonia also had an obituary of Mrs. Weaver.

"Dear Sam: Enclosed is an obituary which appeared in the January 5 issue of The Charlotte Observer. I wasn't acquainted with the deceased but I know she was from a very prominent family in Kings Mountain, some 10 miles west of Gastonia. Perhaps some of her former students in Raeford will remember her."

(See AROUND, page 3A)

County adopts waste plan, averts fines

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A resolution to update the county's 10-year solid waste management plan was unanimously approved by Hoke commissioners on Tuesday evening. In a separate discussion, the county agreed to consider a proposal from Safety-Kleen Corp. of St. Pauls that would dispose

of county residents' hazardous waste materials, offering front-door pickup, or transporting items to a selected site.

Hoke's solid waste requirements, a plan required to be updated every three years, will be submitted to the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Raeford's city council for approval before taking effect, County Manager Bernice McPhatter said. Last year, toxic chemicals

as well as traces of mercury were found in ground wells tested at Hoke's landfill. This situation caused pressure on Hoke officials to complete the 10-year plan or risk penalties, state engineers said.

According to consultant Charles Whittenton of Fayetteville, Hoke has been required to operate its own plan since the Bladen/Cumberland/Hoke project closed (See WASTE, page 8A)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet



Dr. Paul M. Carter addresses the assemblage at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. banquet.

Carter: move ahead in economic areas

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Don't depend on politics to move ahead; rely on intelligence and economic empowerment.

This was the message of Dr. Paul M. Carter, chief of surgery at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, who was the keynote speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr. banquet/celebration Monday night.

The surgeon, also a community activist, was critical of schools that give "apassive" education and said churches should lead the way in

teaching economic education and preparing children for the future.

Carter may have stepped on some toes with his frank delivery, but his audience was appreciative of his words of advice and gave him a standing ovation at the end of the speech.

Speaking of the need to learn financial intelligence and oversee the education and development of the children, Carter said, "The things in the past are minor compared to the things we have to prepare our children for in the future... We have to develop our community better than we have... We have to look beyond, we can't just continue to react."

King was beginning to focus on finances when he was assassinated, Carter said. His death had the effect of sheep whose shepherd was taken away. "Unable to put together a master plan, the sheep scattered," (See BANQUET, page 9A)

It's up to grant writer to save Rockfish Park

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Almost 4,500 Rockfish residents will benefit if Hoke County Parks and Recreation makes a home run in grant writing. Hoke commissioners recently approved seeking a \$94,988 parks and recreation trust grant from the state, which must be equally matched in funds from the county. If the grant is received, the \$186,976 will be used for renovations at Rockfish Community Park and to

acquire an additional one-half acre for a children's playground.

"I commend the county commissioners and County Manager Bernice McPhatter for applying for this grant," said Eddie Brock, a Hoke realtor. "We have all been working very hard to establish a park that will be a legacy for our children."

McPhatter told the board the Rockfish community is committed to the proposed project, indicating they may hold some fund-raisers to assist the county. Commis-

sioner James A. Leach praised the board's decision, saying, "This is a way for us to put our best foot forward. We need something in that area of the county for our youth."

Proposed plans submitted to the state included costs for new construction and renovations at the existing facility that already includes a baseball diamond and dugouts.

In the master plan for Rockfish Park completed on (See ROCKFISH PARK, page 9A)

Suspicious fires burn two vacant homes

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

The old home had been deserted for years, and cane surrounded it so completely it could not be seen from Aberdeen Road unless one was searching intently for it.

The wooden frame house at McCain that was last occupied by the John Linthicum family is no more. Flames consumed it Friday afternoon. "The building rekindled several times so it is down to the ground," says Hoke County Fire Marshal Al Schwarzbher.

Later that night, another vacant house, a

white two-story dwelling on Doc Brown Road, received damage from fire and was saved, according to Schwarzbher, "thanks to the outstanding response of the fire departments."

Both fires are "suspicious in nature," Schwarzbher said.

The State Bureau of Investigation is investigating the fire at 965 Doc Brown Road that was listed for sale or rent by Ann Locklear Realty Company of Fayetteville. Neighbors reported the fire at 10:15 p.m. Fire damage was confined mostly to the garage area with the remainder of the build-

(See FIRES, page 8A)



Firefighters battle a house fire on Aberdeen Road.

Sandhills offers brush-up courses

By KRISTIN GUTHRIE
Staff writer

Jim Nealon, a new part-time instructor at Sandhills Community College, Hoke County Center, moved all the way from Ohio to teach pre-curriculum courses to students who need a little brushing up before they officially begin their college career.

Nealon currently teaches seven students English 090, a composition strategies course with an emphasis on paragraph to essay writing skills, and six students Reading 090, a course aimed at teaching students to read with advanced skills for understanding.

These two courses piggyback behind English 080 and Reading 080, a level I writing course which teaches sentence to paragraph writing techniques and one which seeks to improve college-level reading skills, respectively.

Students take English 080 and Reading 080 in

the fall and then complete the year-long program in the spring with English 090 and Reading 090. In addition to these two courses, students can also choose to enroll in Math 060 in the fall and Math 070 in the spring, both courses taught by Alisa Williams.

Nealon said students take the courses for a "stronger basis before their college-level courses." He said he has really been impressed with the persistence of his students. In addition to classes Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., many of the students currently enrolled in this cluster of classes work 40-plus hours a week, many of them 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.; are married and/or also have children. "They're doing so much and yet trying to be academic," Nealon said of his students.

Even through the students range from age 19 to mid 40s, Nealon said, "They're sort of a tight-knit group. Because it's such an intense course, they (See BRUSH-UP COURSES, page 9A)



Pictured, from left, English 090 class members Peaches McNair, Joann McLean, instructor Jim Nealon, LaPortia Manuel and Renee Bethea. Not shown are students Gary Tillman and Cathy Sue Adkins, also instructor Christie Allen