

The News-Journal

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one hour
Saturday
night

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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

From the looks of the plants and trees in my yard, you would think it was spring. The azaleas are blooming and the dogwood trees are budding and they should be in bloom before long. The only thing wrong is that the thermometer seems to want to register freezing temperatures. The wind out of the North doesn't help. Just when I think my bones will stop aching another cold spell comes through. Maybe it is just bad to grow old, but I enjoy every day even with the pain of age.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the high Wednesday to be in the 60s and the lows in the 30s. Thursday the high will be in the 60s and the low in the 50s. Friday and Saturday the highs will be in the 70s and the lows in the 50s. There is a chance of rain on Thursday and Friday.

Last week I had an item in this column asking for money for a city museum. Saturday morning there were two checks in my mail box for this project.

One was from Mary Helen Senter and the other was from Senator David Weinstein of Lumberton. There was also the following letter from the senator.

"Dear Sam: As always I enjoy reading your column. Of special interest to me was (See AROUND, page 6A)

Manning ruling 'victory' for Hoke

Raleigh judge orders reallocation of money to aid students in poor counties

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

An educational transformation will be undertaken after a court ruling by a Wake County judge in a Hoke County land-

mark suit against the state over public education in poor counties. Hoke's students were found to be from more economically deprived backgrounds than the average, lower income student in North Carolina. In his Monday

verdict, Superior Court Judge Howard Manning gave the state and school systems one year to devise a plan. He ordered them to accommodate the needs of at-risk students in the existing \$6 billion educational budget. Other-

wise, more money would have to be allocated, he added. "This is certainly a victory for us," said Hoke school's finance officer Carolyn Olivarez, which was echoed by lead attorney Bob Spearman of Parker Poe Adams

and Bernstein L.L.P. of Raleigh, legal counsel for Hoke's schools. Cumberland, Vance, Robeson and Halifax counties were also united with Hoke in the lawsuit. Olivarez and Spearman agreed (See VICTORY, page 10A)



JROTC Cadet 1st Sgt. Alton Scott of the Hoke County High School Bucks Battalion practices prior to drill competition held at the school Saturday. A junior, Scott is the son of Ollie Mae Scott and the late Raymond Scott Jr.

Boycott targets Daniels

Group wants to hurt commissioner's business for vote

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Being a commissioner may not always be a popular job, but Commission Vice Chairman Bobby Wright and Commissioner Charles V. Daniels, both Democrats, said they voted their "convictions" last week to endorse John McAllister, retired school board chairman, as their choice to replace the late Commissioner L.E. McLaughlin Jr. During a heated debate, Commissioners James A. Leach and Tony Hunt voted to accept former

Raeford city councilman Clyde Thomas as the Democratic Party's recommendation, and an impasse subsequently resulted.

Now, some unknown citizens have been circulating an unsigned and undated boycott notice in Hoke. The letter urges people not to conduct business with Daniels, proprietor of two service stations in Raeford. A number of people have expressed disgust that anyone would "resort" to that type of practice.

Charlotte Kelly, chairman of the Hoke County (See BOYCOTT, page 10A)

Census: Hoke County's rate of growth third highest in state

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Folks in Hoke knew the county had grown but had no idea how much until Census 2000 results were released last week.

U.S. Census Bureau statistics revealed Hoke County was the third fastest growing county in North Carolina during the last decade, having grown a whopping 47.2 percent. Raeford, however, lost a little bit of its population.

Census results "surpassed expectations," said Hoke County planning assistant Ed Bradley. "In the middle of the count we had passed what was expected of Hoke."

According to the latest census figures, Hoke

County has a total population of 33,646; 1990 statistics indicated 22,856 people. Raeford's population of 3,386 reflects a 2.3 percent decrease.

The census report also shows that the county's Hispanic population grew by more than 1000 percent resulting in 2,415 people. Hispanics numbered 218. Other racial breakdown indicates 13,988 whites, 12,536 African Americans, and 3,797 Native Americans.

The racial breakdown indicates the white population is gaining over the blacks; 1990 figures indicated African Americans outnumbered whites. Whites accounted for 9,635 people in 1990 with 9,878 African Americans. There were 3,176 Native Americans listed in 1990. (See CENSUS, page 7A)

Hoke Republicans look positively at 2002 races

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Hoke Republicans say they can get enough votes in the year 2002 to fill a county office.

Approximately 30 Republicans met at their annual convention this past Saturday and chose Odell Ashburn, a military and civil service retiree, to lead the party. Outgoing chairman Gene Shelnett told those gathered at the courthouse, "We are a party of the people. Although we may not always agree, you won't find us bickering and arguing."

Republican numbers have tripled since the Hoke party was reorganized in 1995, Shelnett said. "We have to be doing something right. We have enough to fill a political seat in Hoke County — especially with the help of unaffiliated voters."

Shelnett's significant showing in his bid for a commissioner's seat in 1996 told him "there are some people who agree with (See REPUBLICANS, page 10A)



Odell Ashburn

UNC Hall of Fame to induct Hodges

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer



It's a jungle at home where Jean Hodges enjoys exotic gardening.

Jean Hodges, an established Raeford civic leader and owner of a Fayetteville advertising firm, said she has immersed her "heart and soul" into the realm of business for 40 years. Noted as one of two women to ever serve as a Hoke commissioner, Hodges is now the first known Hoke resident to be selected as an honoree for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Hall of Fame.

She will be inducted as an advertising recipient on Saturday during a ceremony at UNC's School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Other prominent members of the broadcast community, editors and writers across the state will be lauded with Hodges.

A Texas native, Hodges has resided in North Carolina for more than 25 years. Far from ordinary, Hodges grew up in a family acquainted with the late President Lyndon B. Johnson. Her first V.I.P. advertising assignment was to promote the rock n' roll (See HODGES, page 7A)

Hoke 'takes back' Wal-Mart store

"If Hoke County wants a Wal-Mart, then by golly we'll give them one," said a local official overseeing the latest volley in a battle for economic development here.

Officials have commissioned a team of artists to put a new Wal-Mart in the old hotel building on Main Street in Raeford. (See WAL-MART, page 10A)



Centennial paint job

To highlight Raeford's centennial celebration, the Hoke Courthouse is being painted "centennial blue" this week. Hoke official I.M. Lyon says this will be the most noticeable, "if not attractive" courthouse in N.C. This photo was taken after one day of painting, which will resume April 1.



Artists commissioned to paint the old hotel at work Tuesday.