

# The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

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## This week



Rest home gets  
facelift, new  
management  
page 1B

WHMS Winterguard  
wins it all  
page 4A

Johnny McKinnon  
turns 109  
page 10A

## Index

Births ..... 3B  
Business/Farm ..... 5A  
Calendar ..... 2B  
Classifieds ..... 8-9B  
Deaths ..... 6A  
Editorials ..... 2-3A  
Legals ..... 6-7B  
Public Record ..... 4A  
Religion ..... 2A  
Social News ..... 3B  
School ..... 10B  
TV Listings ..... 5-6B

## Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS  
Contributing Editor

Maybe the cold weather has left us. I know that Raz Autry will like this, but he still has to worry about hail. Sunday afternoon there was hail the size of golf balls in some parts of the state. There was also winds that blew down trees and power lines. Harold Gillis was telling me Monday morning that his power was off for over four hours. Clayton Buoyer said there were trees down in the Thomasfield subdivision. I haven't heard wind make this much noise since the last hurricane. I haven't had a chance to find out if there was any serious damage to property in the county.

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

Last week I mentioned two people who sent money for the City of Raeford Museum Fund. Since then I have received two more checks, one from James and Dodie Currie and the other from John Reid and Virginia Davis of Oxford. The following letter was with the check from John Reid:

"Dear Sam - We supported the Hoke County Library, Hoke County Rescue Squad, (See AROUND, page 5A)

## Deputy shot, men at large for 4 days

After pursuing robbery suspects and ramming their car, is shot repeatedly

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

"Scotland County deputy shot at Park's Grocery — shots fired — five shots; officer down!" blared across Hoke police scanners around noon last Friday. Inflicted with multiple gunshot wounds

from two alleged burglars he chased across the county line, Major Dan Skamperle was reported in stable condition on Monday after undergoing surgery.

What witnesses said preceded the alarming report was the "cold-

blooded" shooting of Skamperle, accompanied by a frantic air-ground chase and tri-county search for the men who allegedly tried to kill him.

A massive four day manhunt was conducted by the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation and Scotland Sheriff's Office to capture

the "armed and dangerous" male suspects described with "bushy hair and messy clothes." It ended with the pair arrested and placed behind bars on Monday.

After the two men surrendered "peacefully" early Monday

morning in a wooded area off Pittman Grove Church Road where they were hiding for two days, the SBI charged William Glenn Barefoot and Timothy Lee Jordan with the attempted murder. (See SHOOTING, page 9A)

### Suspects hole up in house

4 tense  
days in  
Hoke



Shoot deputy



and then surrender

## Sunroof shoot-out stuns witnesses at country store

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

"They were shooting at the deputy from the sunroof of their vehicle as he pursued them down Highway 211 until they pulled off at Park's Grocery," said an eye witness to a macabre Hoke shooting on Friday.

"It was almost like something you would watch on TV, but this was real. The deputy did not appear to be firing back at the men from his car because he probably did not want to hurt any innocent people.

"If it was not for the deputy being so brave, we could have all been taken hostages or probably

killed at the grocery store. Those two men shot that deputy in cold blood."

At least six witnesses observed suspects later identified by the SBI as William Glenn Barefoot and Timothy Lee Jordan. The pair allegedly attempted to murder Scotland deputy Major Dan Skamperle, who was chasing them on suspicion of robbery. The law officer was gunned down at Park's Grocery on Aberdeen Road after he deliberately crashed into the back of the jeep four-wheel drive driven by the men.

Two women and four men watched in horror at Park's country store as the two Fayetteville men (See WITNESSES, page 9A)

## Hunt warns planning board to heed correct acreage request

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

A request from Hoke's Planning Commission to reduce land parcels from a minimum of 10 acres down to two and one half that would have quadrupled land use was axed by county commissioners on Monday. It was also the consensus of the planning commission not to address "road standards" in the proposed text change, said County Planner Linda Revels

In unanimous opposition, the board denied the request reportedly spearheaded by realtor Harold Brock, planning vice chairman, that was approved at the commission's March meeting for the second time. In spite of the topic not being announced to the public when the agenda was published, Brock asked the commission to vote on the issue, said Zoning Administrator Donnie Bowen.

"I would hate to think that someone had a hundred acres of

land out near west Hoke and they wanted to sell some tracts, but they would have to sell as much as 10 acres to one person in order to deal with the ordinance," Brock told the planning commission last month. "The state has all of a sudden found itself eight million dollars in debt. All of a sudden they are cutting back, and Hoke County is going to be cut back."

According to Brock, the only way for Hoke to pick up the loss (See ACREAGE, page 10A)

## Expo goodies



From left, Allie Wilson, Dustin Ellis and Chelsea Strickland of Linda's Child Care examine their pickin's at the Hoke Expo, held this past Wednesday. The event drew approximately 1,100. See related story, page 3A.

## Raleigh officer accused of child molestation here

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Two Hoke children are the alleged victims of sexual molestation, and a Raleigh Police Officer has been subsequently charged with the felony crime of taking indecent liberties with children. Thomas Boatman Jr., 41, of Spruce Pine Circle, was arrested last Wednesday for child molestation and later released from Hoke's Detention Center on a \$10,000 secured bond, said Sheriff Jim Davis.

Since September 1999, Davis said, Boatman is suspected of allegedly molesting his six and nine-year-old step-granddaughters at his Raeford residence. Davis said Boatman appeared to be maintaining dual residency in (See MOLESTED, page 10A)

## De ja vu: Board at odds on seat 2nd vote to replace McLaughlin fails

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

The chasm widened on Monday night as commissioners remained at a standstill in their choice of candidates to replace Commissioner L.E. McLaughlin. Former Raeford City councilman Clyde Thomas Jr. and retired school board chairman John D. McAllister continue competing for one seat vacated after McLaughlin died in February. With only 13 days left to decide upon filling the vacant seat of McLaughlin who died of cancer in February, the commissioners admitted they are equally divided in support of Thomas and McAllister.

An overflowing assembly room of citizens listened as Commission Vice Chairman Bobby Wright brought up the topic of voting on a new commissioner for the second time. A split vote at their March 19 meeting created a stalemate in their positions.

"Last time, we had a rather heated discussion about this," Wright said. "Have any of the commissioners changed their mind?"

No one responded to Wright. However, Commissioner James A. Leach asked Charlotte Kelly, Hoke's Democratic Party chairman, to present her case again.

"On March 15 our executive committee met to elect a Democrat to fill the vacancy of Mr. McLaughlin," Kelly said. "Please accept our recommendation of Clyde A. Thomas, our recommendation."

Leach requested a vote to accept Thomas as McLaughlin's successor. Leach and Commissioner Tony Hunt supported Thomas. However, Wright and Commissioner Charles V. Daniels opposed him. An echo of Wright and Daniels' negative response was heard as citizens, who were in support of McAllister, uttered, "No," in unison.

Then Daniels moved to approve McAllister as the new board (See DE JA VU, page 10A)



A resident looks at a downed tree on Barefoot Road in eastern Hoke.

## Sunday's winds send trees, power lines crashing

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

It would seem nature has played tricks on us for some time now with alternating cold and warm weather. However, warm and cold air got together and managed an April Fool's Day performance that sent a thunderstorm roaring across Hoke County early in the afternoon.

The storm released lightning, rain, hail and winds that gusted to 53 miles per hour. Trees on power lines were the most serious problem caused by winds, according to Hoke County Emergency Management Coordinator Al Schwarcber.

Lumbee River EMC, which received the brunt of the damage, received approximately 30 calls during the afternoon. Some area residents retained power while others had their electricity off for hours.

Hardest hit by the storm appeared to be a corridor that followed U.S. Highway 401 North east and west, according to Schwarcber.

The first 911 call was a response to a two-vehicle accident in western Hoke at the Five Points intersection. The pickup-station wagon collision that occurred just as a tree crashed into a building nearby left injuries. Moments later, a tree crashed into a car being driven on Fulford McMillian Road; the driver was not injured.

A downed power line was reported at the Rockfish Rd./Hwy. 401 Business intersection, another vehicle accident with a minor injury (See STORM, page 7A)