

# The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

No. 2 Vol. 94

50 cents

Wednesday, April 11, 2001

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## This week



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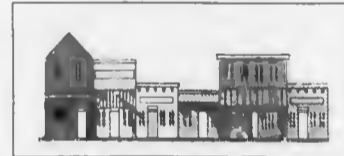
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## Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS  
Contributing Editor

My wife said last week that we don't have spring anymore. When winter is over we go into summer. For the past few days the temperatures have been over 90 degrees. I can't remember turning on the air conditioner unit this early. Most people use to say that we would always have a cold snap around Easter. This coming Sunday is Easter and things will have to change if we have the cold snap. Both of my cars are supposed to be blue, but for the past week they have become yellow. Maybe a good rain would get rid of the pollen.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the 80s and the lows in the 60s. There could be some rain on Thursday and Friday.

\*\*\*\*\*

There will be many Sunrise Worship Services this coming Sunday morning. So start the Easter Day right by attending one of these services. There will be an Easter Song Service at the Raeford Presbyterian Church at the 11 o'clock worship service. It will be led by the new choir director, Mariam Ropp McNeill.

\*\*\*\*\*

The annual Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held Tuesday, May 15 at the West Hoke Middle School Cafeteria. It (See AROUND, page 6A)

## School Board redraws district lines

### Rockfish Creek to be line for determining middle school attendance

By KRISTIN GUTHRIE  
Staff writer

The Hoke Board of Education decided last night to draw the district lines at Rockfish Creek for students attending East and West Hoke middle schools. Beginning next school year, all middle schoolers will attend

these schools based on this plan, except current seventh graders.

As proposed by board member Teddy Locklear and seconded by other member Harry Southerland, 66 current seventh graders would be given the option to attend East Hoke Middle even if they were redistricted to attend West Middle. The only

catch would be that parents would have to provide transportation to these students if they chose to attend East Hoke anyway.

The measure passed, but not without a breaking of a tie by board chair Leland Strother. Rising sixth and seventh graders would be redistricted based on the Rockfish Creek boundary to

attend their respective middle school, and would not be given any option.

Board member Russell Smith was not supportive of allowing students to have a choice of school if they provided their own transportation, saying, "I think it's a slippery slope." In his opinion, "Where the district line is,

that's where you ought to go," he said.

Superintendent Mitch Tyler said, "I don't want to be on the slippery slope," but he did say that he wanted to offer parents and students an option if they currently attend East Hoke Middle. Tyler's initial proposal (See SCHOOL LINES, page 9A)

## Stoneybrook sight



"Howdy Hoke!" Stacey Dudak of Southern Pines got an egg-cellent prize at Stoneybrook for her Easter bonnet. (Photo by Victoriana Summers)

## Stoneybrook pageantry revived in Hoke County

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

The Bluegrass state has its famous Kentucky Derby, and now Hoke County is showcasing the legendary Stoneybrook Steeplechase just miles from its former home in Southern Pines. Renowned as an international world class race, the 50th running of Stoneybrook on Saturday offered an opportunity for racing fans to partake of Hoke County hospitality under fair skies.

"It has been a wonderful day," said a satisfied President Roger Secrist, president of The Sandhills Equestrian Conservancy, sponsors of Stoneybrook. Secrist has christened Stoneybrook the "platinum" of horse races.

A smiling Lafreida Williams, SEC vice-president, was adorned with a special racing bonnet as she welcomed guests to the race track which she has devoted several years to see completed. (See STONEYBROOK, page 8A)

## Child care's license suspended as abuse allegations checked

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

A licensed family child care home, Linda's Child Care on Laurinburg Road, is under investigation after a report of alleged child sexual abuse was received, said Karen Dunn, a program manager for child abuse and neglect with the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services and Major Thomas Carlton of the Hoke sheriff's Office. The facility was temporarily shut down by the state's Division of Child Development on April 6, after information about alleged abuse came to the attention of Hoke's Department of Social Services, Dunn added.

"We closed the facility while we are conducting an investigation," Dunn said.

"It means the facility has been put on an inactive status.

"The investigation is just beginning and will probably take some time to complete."

According to Dunn, Linda Smythey is the operator of the child care facility. Dunn said the center is entitled to keep up to eight children, five of whom can be preschool age. Linda's Child Care was first licensed to operate in July 1997, maintaining three shifts of care, Dunn added.

Carlton confirmed his agency first received a complaint on March 9 that led to the subsequent criminal investigation. After DSS and state officials complete inquiries, Carlton said criminal charges could be imposed.

"We do have a suspect, and the suspect (See CHILD CARE, page 7A)

## Suspects in shooting of deputy face more charges

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

The suspects who allegedly shot a Scotland County deputy and eluded arrest for several days will face additional charges, according to Hoke Sheriff Jim Davis. "Substantially more charges," he added.

William Glenn Barefoot, 36, and Timothy Lee Jordan, 17, are charged with attempted murder in the shooting of Major Dan Skamperle shortly after noon March 30.

Witnesses said two men shot the officer after a car chase that ended at Park's Grocery on Highway 211 west of Raeford. Skamperle was shot three times, and the men fled in his damaged patrol car; a massive manhunt ensued.

The men were charged after turning themselves in to authorities in eastern Hoke County on April 2.

The officer was taken to FirstHealth Moore Regional Center, where he is recovering. Barefoot and Jordan are being held in Scotland County Jail under \$300,000 and \$350,000 bond respectively.

Davis said a house belonging to Steve Matthews on Highway 15/501 in western Hoke was burglarized the morning of the shooting.

The sheriff said Matthew passed the two men in a 2000 black Jeep Cherokee as he was returning home. The Jeep had been stolen in eastern Hoke on March 13 when the owner was beaten, tied and pushed into the trunk of another vehicle. The (See CHARGES, page 8A)

## Court punishes 15-year-old for plot to poison stepmother

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

An unsuccessful attempt to poison his stepmother has landed a troubled East Hoke Middle School student in confinement at a state juvenile justice detention facility for up to four years. The complex investigation included 100 hours of interviews by the Sheriff's Office, and significant time and preparation by the District Attorney's Office to bring the matter to court, said Major Thomas Carlton of the

Hoke Sheriff's Office.

The 15-year-old student was sentenced on Friday in a closed juvenile justice hearing after he was accused of poisoning his stepmother with a deadly mix of chemicals in her soda bottle on September 27. He also allegedly plotted to kill his father. A detailed note was found by his parents, saying, Mission: "Let dad get drunk; talk with him awhile; get knife and stab in chest or stomach; do not be afraid."

Carlton said the boy was arrested on (See POISON, page 9A)

## Single-car accident fatal to man and woman

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

A spin in an automobile for two neighbors ended in tragedy in western Hoke early Friday night.

Friends said Yolanda Ann "Pete" Kale, 32, wanted to test drive an automobile owned by John Douglas "Dougie" Thompson Jr., also 32. The two Fulford McMillan Road residents died after the driver lost control of the 1984 Chevrolet

Camaro Z-28 coming out of a curve near both their homes. State Trooper J.D. Hoover said it was unclear who was driving, but he was told that Ms. Kale was driving when the two "left the house."

The north-bound car was about one-fourth mile from Turnpike Road when, according to Hoover, it ran off the road to the right, struck a large pine tree and spun around. Ms. Kale was thrown clear and Mr. Thompson was partially ejected from (See FATALITIES, page 8A)

## Career Youth Day

Marquette McBryde, a senior, and Kenisha McPhatter, a freshman at Hoke High, "shadowed" Hoke County Manager Bernice McPhatter yesterday as participants in Career Youth Day, a part of Government Week. Twenty-seven students accompanied county employees as they went about their daily tasks to learn about their jobs.