

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

50¢

No. 33 Vol. 99

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, November 3, 2004

Voters keep Wright, Leach but not Strother

Incumbents elected to commission, McAllister-McRae, Richards win school board

Record turnout reported in Hoke

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A record number of 11,005 Hoke voters had the final word to make their votes count on election day.

This, in spite of some computer glitches on election night and a few voting machines bloopers, causing temporary malfunctions, that were corrected earlier on election day, according to several voters.

"It was record-breaking," Carolina Shook, Hoke Board of Elections director, said. "This is the highest number of voters I know to have turned out."

"We are really pleased with the results."

Shook said the enormous number of volunteers at the Hoke Board of Elections on election days helped tremendously in assisting citizens with any questions.

"I really appreciate the community support," Shook said. "I also appreciate the work of our Elections Board."

Compared to the almost 22,000 Hoke registered voters, the turnout totaled approximately 50 percent of voters eligible to vote. Shook had predicted the voter participation would be higher this year, and she was right.

In a highly competitive Hoke commissioners' race, Democrat incumbents, Commissioners Bobby Wright and James A. Leach, claimed a victory over Republican candidate Odell Ashburn and Libertarian opponent Pete Camp.

Wright, winning 5,791 votes, and Leach, with 5,210 votes, swept the polls, sharing 65 percent of the votes. Ashburn came in third with 3,771 votes and 22 percent. Camp ended up with 13 percent of the vote, totaling 2,155 in spite of representing the Libertarian Party of only 64 members in Hoke.

The Hoke County Civic League endorsed Wright and Leach during their campaigns.

A Hoke tobacco and cotton farmer, Wright will serve his second term on the board of commissioners.

A senior pastor at a Moore County church and co-owner of Tri Star Convenience Store near Raeford, Leach returns

for a fourth term on the commission.

Neck to neck in the Hoke Board of Education contest, newcomers Hank Richards, a retired Hoke school principal, and Rosa McAllister McRae, admissions (See ELECTION, page 4A)



Above: Kerry/Edwards campaign worker Pauline Harris places a candidate sticker on Peggy Owens yesterday. (Photo by Cassie Blackard) Right: Shown in a jubilant moment on election night are from left Commissioner Jean Powell, Shirley Wright and husband, Bobby Wright, who re-claimed his commissioners seat.



Woman arrested for murder kills self

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A woman charged with the murder of her husband died two days after her arrest, apparently of an overdose of prescription medicine she took just before being taken into custody.

Deborah Britt Scaggs' death

occurred after her arrest for the murder of her husband, John Michael Scaggs. He died of a gunshot wound during an alleged home invasion on Thanksgiv-



Deborah Scaggs

ing eve in 2000 where Mrs. Scaggs claimed she was also assaulted.

"If anyone else besides Deborah Britt Scaggs was allegedly involved in the murder of her husband Michael Scaggs three years ago then she took that secret to her grave," said Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin, responding to a news media question about whether it could have been a murder

conspiracy.

Neither the State Bureau of Investigation, lead investigators in the murder inquiry, nor the District Attorney's office, who also conducted an investigation, disclosed if the murder case is still open, or if they are pursuing any additional leads. Those agencies have also not (See SCAGGS, page 8A)

This Week



Unilever workers give up vaccines page 4A



'Bring them home alive,' sheriff sings page 3A

Hotel again gets reprieve page 5A

Index

Anniversaries.....	3B
Births.....	3B
Calendar.....	5B
Classifieds.....	7-8B
Deaths.....	8A
Editorials.....	2A
Legals.....	6B
Religion.....	2B
Schools.....	4B
Socials.....	3B
Sports.....	6-7A

We're on the web at
www.thenews-journal.com

McNeill chosen Raeford's mayor

Son of former mayor takes oath Dec. 6

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Noting it has been a year since Raeford Mayor Bob Gentry passed away, Mayor Pro Tem John Jordan nominated John K. McNeill III to be the next mayor in a surprise move Monday night. Three other councilmen agreed with him and McNeill will be sworn in as mayor at the next city council meeting — December 6.

McNeill said yesterday, "I look forward to serving. I feel Raeford is going to grow. We have some things coming up that are important." He cited a downtown revitalization project that will be taking place soon — and growth. "Hopefully, we can experience some growing



John K. McNeill III

pains," he said.

McNeill, 57, retired after 32 years in the Hoke County school system but returned to work part-time as a counselor, the work he did prior to retirement. His wife, Delia McNeill, is also a retired Hoke educator who now tutors (See MAYOR, page 7A)



Above: Cumberland and Hoke deputies radio nearby officers as they search on King Road. Right: An agent from the N.C. Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms readies his weapon at Stoney Point Fire Department.



Search for escapee moves east

A fatigued Barefoot reportedly vows to not surrender

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke County deputies and regional law enforcement are on high alert as the massive search widens for fugitive William Glenn Barefoot, who escaped while serv-

ing 84 years in prison.

Barefoot escaped last week from the Hoke County jail where he was



William Barefoot

being held for a court appearance here.

He was convicted three years ago by Hoke District Attorney Kristy M. Newton of the attempted murder of a law officer and a string of burglaries and (See SEARCH, page 5A)

The News-Journal

News

Other stuff

By KEN MACDONALD
General Manager

The loudest concert I ever attended was Reba McEntyre's, many years ago. I snuck out to the bathroom and stuffed some toilet paper into my ears so if my eardrums burst the bleeding would be contained. If that wasn't bad enough, while I was gone to the bathroom, I was told later, a woman took her shirt off and I missed it.

The second-loudest was on Saturday night at the Crown Arena in Fayetteville.

Our group of 21 was there to hear Toby Mac and Third Day, Christian rap and rock bands respectively.

Because of a ticketing issue (someone took some of our seats), I moved a little higher up in the section and positioned myself at the end of an aisle — just in case I had to go find toilet paper — and was standing up, leaning against the wall waiting for the show to begin.

BOOM!, began the bass drum as Toby Mac took the stage. I was thrown against (See OTHER STUFF, page 4A)



The Hoke High Bucks played their first soccer playoff game in the school's history last night. They held their ground, but were defeated by Hoggard 3-0. Story, page 6A.