

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

50¢

No. 34 Vol. 99

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, November 10, 2004

Barefoot recaptured in Gastonia

Two week manhunt for Hoke County escapee ends with no injuries

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Fugitive William Glenn Barefoot, who escaped from Hoke County Jail 16 days ago, was captured — armed with two loaded pistols — after resisting arrest in Gastonia around 3 p.m. yesterday.

No officers were injured in Barefoot's apprehension, and he did not sustain any injuries after a two-week pursuit from Raeford to Aberdeen, Hope Mills, and west-

"We are relieved, and I am sure that even Mr. Barefoot is relieved that it is over."

— US Marshal
Charles Reavis

ward to Gastonia. He became a nationwide fugitive on "America's Most Wanted" TV program after overpowering two female jailers and escaping from the Hoke County Jail on October 25.

U.S. Marshal Charles Reavis, of the eastern North Carolina district, held a press conference in Fayetteville at the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office last evening. Reavis said Barefoot faces additional charges from kidnap-

ping to assault on two government officials.

Reavis commended Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin, Cumberland County's Sheriff Moose Butler, and the Gastonia Police Department for being instrumental in the capture of Barefoot.

Barefoot was convicted of the

first-degree attempted murder of a Scotland County deputy, Major Dan Skamperle, in 2001 at Parks Grocery near McCain by District Attorney Kristy M. Newton. He was serving 84 years in state prison. Transported to Hoke on October 24, Barefoot was scheduled to attend a hearing,

answering to more felony charges that were pending.

Barefoot now faces an array of federal charges and other felony counts that will be levied by the Hoke Sheriff's Office, Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, and the Gastonia Police Department. He will be returned to Central Prison

in Raleigh on maximum security status until all the charges can be sorted out, according to Reavis.

Capture

Attempting to elude a law enforcement task force, Barefoot was frantically chased on foot by U.S. Marshals, Gastonia police and other law officers when he

was spotted in a small residential community in the city.

Reavis said it was shades of Eric Rudolph, accused bomber of the U.S. Olympics in Atlanta, when the feds pursued Barefoot into a heavily wooded area. Reavis said it reminded him of Ru (See BAREFOOT, page 5A)



Barefoot is taken into custody by authorities in Gastonia. (Photo by the Gaston Gazette)



Peterkin at news conference

Peterkin credits teamwork

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Fugitive William Glenn Barefoot, who escaped from Hoke County Jail barely two weeks ago, is back in custody, and he (See TEAMWORK, page 5A)

This Week



Third graders learn about cotton page 1B

Porter sells Hoke possibilities page 3A

Schools get 'fine' audit page 5A

Warriors, Titans Parks & Rec champs page 7A

Index

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

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

Peterkin fires jailer in aftermath of jailbreak

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

After an internal investigation was completed on Friday, Sheriff Hubert Peterkin revealed on Tuesday that one of the two female

jailers at the Hoke County Jail implicated in the recent escape of fugitive William Glenn Barefoot has been fired.

This resolution came just prior to the capture of Barefoot yesterday in Gastonia.

"I merely told her that I no longer needed her services," Peterkin flatly said. "We are doing everything to make this situation right so our citizens in Hoke County will be protected from our inmates."

"We will be exercising more disciplinary actions for violations that we found."

Peterkin said he administered the disciplinary action even though a State Bureau of Investigation criminal probe has still not

been completed. District Attorney Kristy M. Newton requested the SBI to intercede with an inquiry, which is standard protocol, after the jailbreak incident occurred on October 25.

(See JAILER, page 4A)

Turkey Festival - Christmas parade set for Saturday

By PAI ALLEN WILSON
Editor

September's loss is November's gain.

With rain expected from Hurricane Ivan, the 20th annual North Carolina Turkey Festival parade that was to take place in mid-September was rescheduled for this coming Saturday. In addition to the tall and famous — make that infamous — turkey that walks the parade route, there will be the jolly old man himself.

Melissa Tuel, chairperson of the

parade, says Santa Claus will be on the tail end of the parade as it moves down Main Street.

The first entry will be the grand marshal, John Mims. Mims' choice was an appropriate one as this nation is again at war. He is a survivor of the Bataan Death March and spent four years under the tyranny of his Japanese captors in prisoner of war camps. A resident of west Hoke, he is now 81 and one of a handful of survivors of the death march.

Tuel says there will be close to 100 entries in the parade. "We lost a (See PARADE, page 8A)



Last year's parade, which too was postponed due to weather.



John Mims, this year's marshal.

Director of juvenile crime program blames politics for his ousting

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

George Cooke was ousted on Friday as the program director for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council after a three-year career devoted to turning around juveniles facing disciplinary problems or charged with criminal offenses.

Cooke is described by some of his supporters as gifted and tireless in his efforts to help reform juvenile delinquents. Hoke commissioners indicated Cooke's contract was cancelled because of plans for the county to restructure

the position and seek bids for the contract in the future.

Chairperson Rogina Deese of

Cooke's removal as coordinator, however.

Cooke said he was not sur-

"It was basically a decision based on dirty politics and a personal vendetta of James Leach's because I supported an underdog in the election."

— Cooke

"I think George Cooke was a disgrace to the county commissioners. He was using his position we were paying him for to try and tear us down."

— Leach

the JCPC dismissed Cooke on a directive from the county. The JCPC members did not vote on

prised, attributing his requested departure to his political ties during the election.

"Unfortunately, the ones who may suffer after my being let go are the children of Hoke County," Cooke said. "I was very committed to helping them."

A Democrat, Cooke recently ran unsuccessfully for a position on the Hoke Soil and Water Conservation board. Cooke also served as the campaign manager for Libertarian candidate Pete Camp, a commissioner opponent who lost to Commission Chairman Bobby Wright and Commissioner James A. Leach in the race. Wright and Leach are both Democrats.

"I was fired by Rogina Deese,

but I know she did not want to (See OUSTED, page 6A)



Chaplain George Cooke