

# The News-Journal

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75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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## Raeford on National Historic Register

Year-long effort pays off with creation of district encompassing 50 buildings

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

The luster of preserved antique bricks, ornate earthquake rods impaled in historic downtown buildings and intact structures dating as far back as 1903 are putting Raeford on the map permanently.

Downtown Raeford has officially made the National Register of Historic Places, according to Mary Archie McNeill, a driving force behind the downtown streetscape project.

With the near completion of the project, which was also led by

Raeford realtor Steve Connell and Raeford attorney Williams Fields, the city has taken another step in improving downtown, McNeill says.

"We are very excited and proud of this honor," McNeill said. Through the efforts of Raeford's

Downtown Redevelopment Commission, the yearlong project succeeded, honoring 50 buildings that contribute to the historic character of Raeford. Thirteen other buildings in the area, including The News-Journal, are within Raeford's historic district, yet not considered

quite old enough to contribute to its historic flavor.

Raeford has joined the ranks of Southern Pines, Aberdeen and Maxton as historic places in the Sandhills region.

"I think it is a great accomplishment," she said. (See HISTORIC, page 8A)

## Parade ushers in Turkey Festival

Forecast is good for big day

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

The Hoke High Fighting Bucks defeated Cape Fear 7-3 in the Turkey Bowl, the first event of the N.C. Turkey Festival. It was a good opener.

Then the weather was kind and Raeford's streets were lined with folks who came to view the parade — a parade that was not held last year because of ongoing downtown renovations.

The parade went off without a hitch. "We're off to a good start," William Daniels, executive director of the 22nd annual festival, said after the event.

The street fair this coming Saturday will end more than a week of festivities. "We're expecting approximately 50,000 people this year," Daniels said.

Because of the renovations, now completed, the street fair, traditionally held on a blocked-off Main Street, was concentrated in an area in the vicinity of Donaldson/Stewart streets last year. That is where it will be this year because 2005 festival-goers evidently enjoyed having the shade from large pines.

Main Street will not be closed off, according to Daniels. When asked what will be new and exciting this year, Daniels said a new company, located on U.S. Highway 401, called Lazer Tag, will be present "for children of all ages to test their skills." They will be located alongside the tennis courts in McLauchlin Park near the KidZone.

Daniels is also pleased at the number of vendors who will be present — 110 arts and crafts, food and information

booths. These activities will be available from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

"There are more food vendors, a great variety in an effort to please everyone's palate," Daniels said. Foods and drinks on sale will be beef/chicken kabobs, onion spirals, cotton candy. (See FESTIVAL, page 3A)



The focus of Saturday's N.C. Turkey Festival Parade was on gratitude — to citizen soldiers. They headed up the parade on the NCTF float and also marched in the parade as did future soldiers — members of the Hoke High ROTC. Uncle Sam was almost 10 feet tall as he maneuvered Raeford's Main Street on stilts. More photos may be found on 6A and 1B.

### This Week



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## Couple charged with stealing identities, faking IDs



Catalina and Juan Capote

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

A Hillcrest couple has been arrested for allegedly stealing people's identi-

ties in the largest identification theft and forgery scheme "ever stumbled on" in Hoke County, according to Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin.

Based on information received in an unrelated undercover operation, the major crimes division of the Hoke Sheriff's Office searched the home of 50-year-old Juan Capote and his 27-year-old wife, Catalina Capote, 227 Hillcrest Drive, on September 5. The Capotes were subsequently charged with felony identify theft after detectives seized forgery equip-

ment and fake identifications already printed up.

The Capotes are currently in the Hoke County Jail. Each is being held on a \$250,000 secured bond. Their children were at home during the 10:30 p.m. raid, but detectives ensured relatives residing nearby were able to take care of them. Peterkin said the couple owned their home where the illegal operation was being conducted.

"We acted on this information within a 24-hour period," Peterkin

said. "Identity theft has continued to be a serious threat across the state."

"The Capotes were very organized — like a one-stop shopping plaza at home. People were apparently paying from six to seven hundred dollars to get an entire set of fake identifications, or from fifty to two-hundred dollars for individual ID cards," he said.

"Those who sought the illegal identifications did not want to go the legitimate route to obtain those IDs. Most of these cards would help people get jobs (See IDENTITY THEFT, page 7A)

## The News-Journal

News Other stuff

By KEN MACDONALD  
Publisher

Now that just tears it! I have been mistaken for a Chicken, the East Hoke Middle Eagle and Big Bird, but for the first time, during this year's Turkey Festival parade, I heard people yelling, "AFLAC!" in reference, I suppose, to the insurance company's mascot, which is a duck.

Look, simpletons, I am the Turkey — the N.C. Turkey Festival Turkey. My

job is to bring joy and happiness to all the little children (that I don't scare witless) as I shake or high-five their little hands and hug their little heads. My job is to get out there and shake my tail feathers, strut my stuff(ing) and ham it up.

I should have known the AFLAC quacking, which began even before the parade got underway, was ominous. This year's parade wasn't one of my better moments.

(See OTHER STUFF, page 5A)

## Autopsy shows toddler drowned

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Autopsy results in the death of a two-year-old Lumber Bridge toddler found floating in a neighbor's swimming pool on July Fourth weekend were released on August 29, according to the N.C. Medical Examiners Office in Chapel Hill.

State pathologist Deborah L. Radisch determined that the cause of death on July 2 of Austin Curtis Jimmerson, residing at 124 Helen's Lane, was drowning. Austin was reportedly found by his uncle, 17-year-old Noah Jimmerson, on the

Sunday prior to the Fourth of July.

Although Radisch detected "moderate contusions" on the child's body, the incident was deemed accidental in the autopsy report. In the toxicology testing, no evidence was found of any substances relating to his death. Nor were other injuries found contributing to his drowning in the pathology report.

Hoke sheriff Hubert Peterkin said an investigation is still continuing into the circumstances surrounding Austin's death. Peterkin expressed concern over the lack of supervision (See AUTOPSY, page 6A)