

# The News-Journal

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75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

## Celebration honors Dr. King, Obama

By JASON BECK  
Staff Writer

Usually, Hoke's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration is all about history. However, Monday's 22nd annual version of the event was more about the present.

Held a night before 44th President Barack Obama was sworn into of-

fice as the nation's first minority commander in chief, the mood was celebratory as the hundreds in attendance proclaimed the fulfillment of King's 'I Have a Dream' speech held only four decades ago.

"God has blessed us to be here on the eve of one of the most historical events in the history of our nation, the inauguration of Barack Obama as

44th president of the United States," said Minister Eula Hines, who presided over Monday's ceremony, sponsored by the Hoke County Civic League. "As Mr. Obama takes office tomorrow... we know he will not be able to please everyone but we know he's going to do a mighty job for this country."

Keynote speaker Dr. Maurice

Wallace, who spoke for a second consecutive year, explained the responsibility that comes with new leadership. Wallace is a noted theologian and professor at Duke University.

"Tomorrow, against all odds, we will witness the fulfillment of a dream dreamed four decades ago by the ebony skinned, silver-tongued

prophet," Wallace told the jubilant crowd. "After 40 years of suffering, sacrifice, closed doors and glass ceilings... after forty years, tomorrow might be our most shining moment yet. It may very well be our shining moment."

"I submit the sobering proposition that our shining moment... lest (See CELEBRATION, page 4A)



Carlos, Diana and Jabena Hernandez throw snowballs at each other over a mound of snow. Right, Lauren and Orion Hoskins show off their snowman and her carrot nose. (Beck Photos)

### This Week



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## Snow is good for kids, bad for motorists

By JASON BECK  
Staff Writer

Heavy snowfall yesterday brought joy to area children, but wreaked havoc on motorists and emergency service personnel forced to deal with

the slick powder.

Raeford received between three and four inches of snow, with some areas receiving a half-foot of the white stuff during yesterday's morning commute. Roads quickly be-

came slippery, forcing Hoke County Schools to cancel class and the Hoke County Offices to close.

Children took advantage of the snow day and took to their yards to build snowmen

and have snowball fights. The snow was thick enough to cover the tallest blades of grass and turn the area into a wintry paradise.

The snow also turned area roads into a nightmare,

as temperatures quickly fell below freezing, catching some motorists off guard. Fayetteville Road was lined with vehicles in ditches during the morning drive. As of (See SNOW, page 6A)

## Fire destroys South Hoke home

STAFF REPORTS



Crews from several area fire departments work to extinguish a structure fire on Haire Road. (Beck Photo)

Fire gutted a house yesterday, leaving the home's owners out in the cold.

A kitchen fire sparked a blaze that destroyed a home at 178 Haire Road shortly after 2 p.m. that sent more than five local agencies scrambling in the snow to help. Though there were initial reports of someone trapped inside the home, no one was injured in the blaze.

The first call to the county's 911 center stated the residents of the home were stuck in (See FIRE, page 4A)



Luke Langley patrols the night for the Raeford Police, even when the action is slow. (Beck Photo)

## Police busy even on quiet nights

By JASON BECK  
Staff Writer

However, officers like Langley have a job to do, whether there's a crime spree or a quiet, lonely night.

The wee-morning hours in Raeford were dark and desolate. Temperatures barely breaking into the single digits kept the streets empty except for one man — Officer Luke Langley.

When most of town has drifted off to sleep, citizens take their safety and the police presence for granted.

Either way, Langley knows you can't sit around waiting for the crime to come to you. His patrol starts at 7 p.m., and five minutes later (after a quick equipment check) he's circling some of Raeford's high crime areas.

"I ride around and check (See POLICE, page 4A)



By KEN MACDONALD

Sometimes you just have to let yourself be carried along by a sea of people. Literally and figuratively, it turns out.

The inauguration was like that.

To tell you the truth, I hadn't really thought about what it would be like at the actual moment power changed hands, the moment history was made.

When my wife suggested we make the pilgrimage to Washington my manly side kicked

in, and I never got past logistics. Travel along I-95 with millions of people, frigid weather, lens choice for the camera. (My heart goes out to an older guy from Massachusetts. We met him in a parking lot when we stopped for supper. He rapped on my window to ask the exit number of our stop so he could tell Triple A. His wife, he said in a thick Yankee accent, overpacked the car despite his warnings, and now his springs were busted.)

But it wasn't until Tuesday at 11:30, when (See OTHER STUFF, page 6A)