

# The News-Journal

Si c'est arrivé, les nouvelles sont pour nous

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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## Sheriff's office seeks info on burglaries

### Homeowners report rash of break-ins in McDougald Downs, other subdivisions in east

A recent armed robbery and several reported breaking and entering cases have officers with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office asking the community's help in catching criminals.

A reported armed robbery occurred at the beauty shop located on Pilgrim's Mobile Home Park Drive

Dec. 30. The robber departed the area with an undetermined amount of money in a woman's purse.

Officials are also seeking information about multiple property crimes in the McDougald Downs subdivision area. There has been a rash of crimes in the area in recent months, the office reported.

Residents are asked to keep an eye out for any strange people who do not live in the area who might be entering the subdivision and acting suspiciously. Officials also asked residents to call if they spot a person walking around carrying an item that could potentially be stolen. Unfamiliar cars driving through the

area or other suspicious activity can also be reported.

Citizens can additionally help law enforcement by being aware of any strange activity in the area, recording serial numbers of personal items, taking pictures of items in the home to help identify any item that may be stolen and keeping copies of the

serial numbers and photographs in a safe deposit box or other location for safekeeping. Keeping track of serial numbers can help officials return property to the right owner if it is stolen and later recovered.

Anyone with information on the crimes should call the Hoke County Sheriff's Office at 875-5115.



The trail is better marked a year after a jogger was shot. Kemp Crumpler hiked the trail Tuesday with his dog, Dundee. (Ken MacDonald photo)

## Trail death investigation complete

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The United States Army's Criminal Investigation Division completed its probe into last year's shooting death of a Fort Bragg captain on the All-American

Trail, a spokesman said Monday.

Capt. Jeremiah Sipes was shot and killed on New Year's Day 2011 while running on the All-American Trail near Plank Road and King Road. A 911 call released by Hoke County law enforcement officials suggested a hunter may

have shot Sipes by accident.

The C.I.D. finished its investigation and turned the case over to the U.S. Attorney's office, Army spokesman Jeffrey Castro said.

"I can tell you that the CID (See INVESTIGATION, page 4A)

## Man charged with posting porn downtown

A Raeford man was arrested last week for reportedly posting pornographic material in front of a downtown grocery store.

Samuel Gaston Williams, 50, of the 100 block of Harris Avenue was arrested on a charge of disseminating obscene/pornographic material.

Police connected Williams with similar material found posted in various spots in and around Home Food Market on Main Street in Raeford over the past year, according to a report. These same types of pictures and writings were previously found in McLauchlin Park at a time when Williams was living near the park, police reported.

Williams was held under a \$5,000 bond.

## Wreck kills man

A Raeford man died Friday in an accident on Calloway Road that also sent two others to the hospital.

Jerry Keith Harris, 47, of the 100 block of Deaton Road in Raeford was killed when his 1995 Jaguar hit a tree about 10:30 p.m. January 6, authorities said. Passengers Marvin Harris, 45, and Tony Harris, 48, were also injured in the wreck.

Jerry Harris was driving west on Calloway Road at the time of the accident. Harris lost control of the car and ran off the road while going through a curve, according to the State Highway Patrol. The driver overcorrected to the left, and the vehicle spun around and hit a tree, a report stated.

Speed may have been a factor in the wreck, officials said. The Highway Patrol estimated the (See WRECK, page 3A)

## Two dead in fire

Two people died last week in a mobile home fire on Heflin Road near the Hoke-Moore County line, officials said.

The mobile home of Judith Seabolt, 81, and her daughter Patricia Rogers, 60, caught fire last Wednesday morning, the Moore County Sheriff's Office said.

A woman called 911 around 7:30 a.m. and reported that the kitchen was on fire and she could not get out of the house. The two bodies found in the home were sent to Chapel Hill for identification and to determine the cause of death.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Authorities believe the fire started in the kitchen. The Moore County Sheriff's Office and the Moore County Fire Marshal's Office is conducting the investigation.

## Broken axle sparks fires

Sparks from a broken trailer axle last week started several brush fires along Calloway Road, Hoke County officials said.

Richard Lucas of Roseboro was pulling a trailer behind his 1995 Chevrolet truck Thursday when something went wrong with one of the trailer axles. Part of the axle touched the pavement as Lucas drove and the contact created sparks. The grass (See FIRES, page 3A)

## Autry in 'Top Chef' top eight

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer



Autry at work on the set of Top Chef.

A chef with local ties is still in the running for the Top Chef title on the Bravo network's popular culinary competition.

Lindsay Autry, granddaughter of Raz and Ireni Autry of Raeford, is one of the eight remaining competitors on the "Top Chef: Texas" television show.

Already 21 of the original 29 chefs from across the country have gone home, leaving Autry and seven others with seven episodes left in the Season 9 challenge. The Top Chef winner receives \$125,000 and a feature in Food & Wine Magazine, among other prizes.

Each week the contestants face a different kind of cooking challenge. Autry was recently on a team of three chefs tasked with cooking chicken, pork and beef barbecue, plus side dishes, for 300 people. Her team's Asian-style twist on barbecue won the challenge and a \$15,000 prize.

Earlier in the season, Autry won an elimination immunity challenge after creating a meal from items provided in a survival kit. The improvised "club sandwich" made of (See CHEF, page 4A)

## Investigation into death of ex-chief's fiancée completed

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The State Bureau of Investigation is done looking into the death of a former Raeford police chief's fiancée, an agency spokeswoman said last week.

The SBI turned the case over to District Attorney Kristy Newton's office for review. The District Attorney's office has not yet released any further details about the case.

Amanda Graham, 29, died August 10 of a gunshot wound to the head, according

to an autopsy report from the State Medical Examiner's Office. At the time of her death, Graham was engaged to Kevin Locklear, a former Raeford police chief and an officer with the Red Springs Police Department.

Locklear reported that

he and Graham had argued at the home they shared on Covington Avenue the day Graham died. Graham went into a bedroom and Locklear heard two gunshots, according to statements he made to police recorded in a sworn affidavit.

The autopsy report suggested that alcohol might have been a contributing factor in Graham's death, and a note on the report suggested the gunshot wound might have been self-inflicted, but officials have not announced any (See GRAHAM, page 4A)

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