

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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## New hospital will honor slain trooper

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Many years ago a life was taken on the same place along Highway 401 where now, lives might be saved.  
Cape Fear Valley Health

System plans to honor the State Highway Patrol trooper who was gunned down in the line of duty on what is now the site of the hospital system's Hoke County medical complex, according to officials.  
North Carolina State Highway

Patrol Trooper W.T. Herbin was shot and killed on the property on August 31, 1964 while he was conducting a traffic stop. When Herbin tried to arrest a drunk driver, the driver and one or more of the vehicle's three other occupants resisted and severely

beat Herbin, according to historical accounts. One of the vehicle occupants took Herbin's service revolver and shot the trooper in the head three times. All four suspects were arrested the same day. The driver and one of the suspects were convicted of

first-degree murder and in December 1964 were sentenced to serve life in prison. The state Supreme Court ordered the release of one of the suspects less than a year later stating that evidence against the suspect was insufficient. (See MEMORIAL, page 4A)



### Hallowinners

These children won The News-Journal's annual Halloween Costume Contest and will split the \$100 first prize. Winners (left to right) are Will Hodgkin, 10, and Mary Katherine Hodgkin, 5, children of Chad and Elizabeth Hodgkin; and Payton Calloway, 10, daughter of Brad Calloway and Debra Beasley. They're minions from the movie "Despicable Me." Other winners and more photos are in the Halloween Section inside and on Page 6A.

## City voters go to polls

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

on Main Street in Raeford.

Raeford voters will cast ballots Tuesday for two city council seats and in the uncontested mayoral race.

Turnout for early voting has been low but better than the turnout of the last municipal election two years ago, Hoke County Board of Elections Director Caroline Shook said. "Right now, I think we're at just under a hundred, about 88 (votes)," she said. "That is relatively slow but it does pass what we did two years ago."

Early voting is ongoing and will run until 1 p.m. Saturday. The city opened one early voting polling place in the county office building

The polls will open Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. and will close at 7:30 p.m.

There are three voting precincts and polling places for the election: Raeford number one at the Hoke County Public Library on Main Street, Raeford number two at the Juvenile Justice building on West Elwood Avenue and Raeford number four at the Raeford Civic Center on College Avenue.

Municipal elections typically see lower voter turnout than in years when there are bigger races locally and at the state and federal levels. This year voters in Raeford will select two candidates to serve a four-year term on the Raeford City Council. (See ELECTION, page 4A)

## Huffs donate \$1.5 million to Methodist auditorium

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A prominent family from Hoke County recently donated \$1.5 million to fund renovations of an auditorium in the John Reeves Fine Arts Building at Methodist University.

The auditorium, soon to be named the Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall in honor of the donors, is located on the Methodist University campus in Cumberland County.



A rendering of the renovated Methodist auditorium.

The Huffs, who grew up in Hoke County, each have many years' history tied into the community and are both avid supporters of fine arts. (See GIFT, page 4A)

## Hoke shoebox organizers hope to break record set last year

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The local branch of Operation Christmas Child sent a record number of treat-packed shoeboxes to

children around the world last year, and the group is hoping to do even better this year.

People in Raeford and Hoke County donated more than 1,500 shoeboxes full of toys, toiletries, school supplies and treats last Christmas, organizer L.S. Brock said.

"That's the best year we've had here in the 10 years we've been doing it," he said.

Besides the items included in the boxes, there is also a special message that the Samaritan's Purse-backed organization seeks to convey to children around the world.

"The key to this shoebox, this shoebox is a vehicle to carry the message of Jesus Christ to the child," Brock said. "There's a booklet called 'The Greatest Journey' that's in the shoebox in

the native language of the country where it's going to be delivered. Besides the reward for the children, it's to get that message to them there in that booklet."

Brock ordered about 1,000 shoeboxes this year and has about 400 of them available at the Raeford Presbyterian Church if people need to pick one up. It's also possible to use a plastic shoebox. (See SHOEBOXES, page 4A)



Glenda Lester shows collected shoeboxes in a previous year.

## County park on outskirts of Raeford set to open



Above, Rockfish Creek flows through the park. At left, the location of the forest on Vass Road.

Hoke County's newest park is set to open in a few weeks and will bring trails for walking, hiking and horseback riding. Canoeists will also be able to access Rockfish Creek. The Hoke Community Forest is composed of more than 500 acres and is located on the outskirts of north Raeford on Vass Road.

Mikkie Sager, director of the Conservation Fund, one of several key partners in development of the park, says final touches are being completed on what is one of the most unusual parks in the southeast in that it combines space for recreation, permanent conservation of the land, and even an economic benefit for pine straw collection.

(See FOREST, page 4A)

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