

# The News-Journal

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Art Fillyew's Model A was used in the movies "The Color Purple" and "Billy Bathgate." (Catharin Shepard photos)



Above, eight Model A cars are visible from the balcony of the Raeford Museum. At right, Ray Harris is at the wheel of his.



## Model A enthusiasts gather at museum

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Some of the octogenarian cars parked in a half-circle at the Raeford-Hoke Museum were shiny black or green, polished to perfection, while others bore the scars of their long history. But whether tuned up or toned down, all of the Ford Model As — and their owners — were welcome at the Fayetteville Region

Model A Restorers' Club drive-in Saturday. Local pastor and Model A enthusiast Ray Harris said the early Ford collectible vehicle is one of the most popular cars on the road today. And while the newest model is 83 years old, many of them still run just fine, even if their top speed is somewhere around 55 miles an hour and the backseat ride is bumpy. "There's 500,000 still in existence

and going," Harris said. "It's the most collectible car in the world." The cars are hard to kill and despite their age can be more reliable than even modern vehicles, fans said. One club member even took his Model A all the way to the Arctic circle. When Henry Ford shut the Model T factory in 1927, he'd sold 15 million of the first truly successfully (See *MODEL A*, page 4A)



Raeford Police Chief Kemp Crumpler blocks traffic at Fidelity Bank on US 401.

## Bank robbed Suspect wrecks during chase

Authorities arrested a man Tuesday after he reportedly robbed a bank and led law enforcement officers on a high-speed chase across three counties. Hoke County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested J.C. Suggs, 49, whose last known address was Lairds-brown Road in White Oak, on multiple charges related to a bank robbery Tuesday morning at Fidelity Bank in Raeford.

"We had a bank robbery about eight minutes after 10 this morning. We got a call of a bank robbery and we responded to the scene," Raeford Police Department Assistant Chief Maj. Marc Godwin said. Suggs allegedly used a note to demand money from a teller at the bank, located on U.S. Highway 401 Bypass not far from Hoke High School. (See *ROBBERY*, page 4A)

## State picks neither election site plan

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

After hearing two conflicting petitions from the Hoke County Board of Elections, the North Carolina State Board of Elections decided not to accept either of them. Instead, the state board came up with a third option that combined aspects of both plans and ruled that the county must follow that

instead, according to Hoke elections board secretary Gene Shelnett. Shelnett gave a statement Tuesday on behalf of the Board of Elections, reporting that the county's one-stop voting will be held at the county building in Raeford and at the Rockfish community building. "They took portions of each plan, put them together and accepted it," (See *ELECTION*, page 4A)

## Daniels says experience gives him advantage

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Eight years after leaving his seat on the Hoke County Board of Commissioners to run for sheriff, Charles Daniels is once again seeking political office. Daniels, a Democrat, is one of 12 people who have filed to run for one of three seats up for election on the commission this year.

The late Raeford mayor Bob Gentry was Daniels' mentor when he ran for office for the first time in 1998. At that time, Gentry told Daniels he could be one of two kinds of commissioner: a dedicated commissioner, or one who ran just to get his name out in the public. "I said no, I'm running to serve the people," Daniels recalled. Daniels served on the commission from 1998 to 2006, when he chose to give up his seat in a failed bid for (See *DANIELS*, page 4A)



Daniels

## Grandfather left children to get milk

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Stanton Mark Moretti Sr. allegedly left his three

grandchildren home alone for just a few minutes to run to the Food Lion half a mile away to pick up some milk. He returned to find their house burning to the ground, and now faces charges for exposing the children to danger by fire.

Moretti, 74, of the 700 block of Club Pond Road was charged last week with three counts of misdemeanor exposing children to fire, according (See *FIRE*, page 4A)



Three children narrowly escaped this fire on Club Pond Road.

## OTHER STUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD

As I was eating my chicken and dumplings at The Edinborough Restaurant Thursday at lunch with Monica, Donna the waitress stopped her hurried walk at my table, reached inside my jacket, which was lying on the seat beside me, and tucked an air horn into it.

Not something you see every day, I guess, but hey, it's Raeford.

She leaned over and said, "I need to get to that real quick when Johnny Melton leaves."

(See *OTHER STUFF*, page 4A)

## City manager to retire

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The city of Raeford is seeking a qualified candidate to take over as city manager this summer.

City Manager Mike Wood said he plans to retire by June 30. Wood has been the Raeford city manager since 2008. He worked with the county from 1976 until he moved to the city position.

(See *MANAGER*, page 6A)



Wood

## Club names Smith Citizen of the Year

Raeford Kiwanis Club named Betty Smith its Citizen of the Year at a recent anniversary night. Smith is Raeford city clerk. (See *CITIZEN*, page 6A)



Smith

## This Week

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