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BICYCLE MAN'S BOUNTY

Wheels for Christmas

Moses Mathis opens up his warehouse once again, and children pour in to pick out free bikes.

By John Ramsey
Staff writer

A red hoodie and blue jeans shielded David Renkel's small frame from the biting chill, but he knew he'd forgotten something. In the 9-year-old boy's rush to leave home before 8:30 a.m., socks slipped his mind as he strapped on his sandals. His older sister, Destiny Goff, still in pajama pants and fuzzy bedroom slippers, had put on three pairs. While the two stood in line with their mother outside a warehouse filled with bikes, Destiny pulled off her slippers and two socks, which David quickly used to cover his numb toes. Shivering, the siblings were among hundreds of children excited by the prospect of an early Christmas present, one many of their parents couldn't afford this season: a bicycle. The bikes inside the warehouse belonged to Moses Mathis, who earned the nickname Bicycle Man from years of repairing old two-wheelers to give children at Christmastime. David's old bike broke. And he's not picky about a new one. "As long as it's a working bike, it's fine," he said. "As long as it's not a girlie bike."



Moses Mathis started the bicycle program 16 years ago.

ONLINE
■ Watch video and view more photos at fayobserver.com

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Staff photos by Andrew Craft

Top row, left to right: Lee Evans, Asia Burroughs, Arrianna Williams, Kalinda Luna and Brian Olshavsky.
Second row: Kama Lewis, Terra Smith and Christopher Williams.
Third row: David Renkel, Mekaylah Williams and Erica Neil.
Bottom row: Shayla McDonald and Derrick Noiles.

HIGHWAY FUNDING

LEADERS TO FIGHT FOR LOOP

■ A local contingent will try to convince the state to restore money for the next section.

By Andrew Barksdale
Staff writer

Elected officials and top business and military leaders plan to take their case for the Fayetteville Outer Loop to Raleigh next month. A local contingent plans to meet

with the state Board of Transportation on Jan. 7 to explain the importance of restoring money for the next section of the loop, which is the future Interstate 295.

This fall, the board had planned to award a bid for the \$270 million project to extend the freeway, which now stops at Ramsey Street, to the All American Freeway on Fort Bragg. The board decided this month to postpone funding for the loop project indefinitely, citing the state's

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FAYETTEVILLE'S I-295 LOOP

- Interstate 295 is expected to be **35 miles** when complete, linking with Interstate 95 north and south of Fayetteville.
- So far, **7.5 miles** of the road are open, from I-95 to Ramsey Street. The state has approved — but not funded — the next stretch from Ramsey Street to All American Freeway. The estimated cost is **\$270 million**.



Report: Officer was fired upon

■ The handwritten narrative was part of the autopsy report on 26-year-old Kenmara Davis.

By Nancy McCleary
Staff writer

Officer Michael Yount was dispatched to Post Avenue on Thanksgiving night to investigate reports of shots being fired. When he got there, Kenmara Davis, 26, was walking in the street, with one hand in his pocket. Yount ordered Davis to take his hand out of his pants' pocket. Davis did, pulling out a gun and firing at Yount, striking his patrol vehicle and shattering the driver's-side window, according to a document that gives the first details of the shooting that happened Nov. 27. Yount returned fire, hitting Davis in the lower right back. Forty minutes later, Davis was pronounced dead at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. The account is part of a narrative written by Jason Williams, Cumberland County med-

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Dirty Dozen helps push total higher

It's a big day when the Dirty Dozen checks in with the Bill Shaw Salvation Army Christmas Fund.

This group of gentlemen, about 46 in all, goes way back with the fund. Many were personal friends with the late Bill Shaw, an Observer photographer for whom the fund is named.

Col. H.B. Smith, the auctioneer, V.F. Tally and Steve Horne dropped by the paper Tuesday morning as representatives and brought along a check for \$5,395.

The donation comes from the Dirty Dozen, widows of deceased Dirty Dozen members and friends of the group, and it is given in memory of the

late Billy Parrott.

Thanks, everyone, for your contribution and for being a part of our fundraiser for so many years.

We'd like to tip the Santa hat to several others today, as well. Gwendolyn P. Vanzant contributes \$2,395 in honor of

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TOMORROW

- **Military:** Airmen and soldiers donate thousands of gifts to needy children in the area.
- **Life:** Meet the three winners of our Christmas story contest — and read their tales.

WEATHER

■ Cloudy, warmer; high around 64, **6B**