

# The News-Journal

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50¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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## County board rejects joint land use plan twice

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Commissioners rejected a proposal for the second time in two months that would slow down residential growth in Hoke County within a one mile buffer

around Fort Bragg/Pope Air Force Base, affecting 21,000 acres.

Commission Chairman Bobby Wright said the joint land use plan could depreciate land value, limit commercial development, and reduce the tax base revenues

in Hoke.

"The main concern is the proposal does not come with funding," Wright said during a public hearing attended by more than 250 citizens. "I think they should come up with compensation before they take away development

rights because that would take away substantial value from property.

"People say we are poor, but we are fortunate our land value is going up."

Daniels said he was not "brainwashed" by concessions that were promised without the fi-

nancess to back them up from state, military and conservation agencies.

"I have been against this proposal from day one," Daniels said.

Commissioner James Leach, also in opposition, urged negotiations to continue to benefit

property owners and the county. He said dialogue should also be ongoing with Cumberland commissioners, too.

"We will continue to talk to opponents of this," Leach said.

The majority of property owners opposed restrictions on their (See *LAND USE HEARING*, page 7A)



### Fourth fun

The skies lit up over Raeford at the annual Fourth of July fireworks show at Lafayette Ford Saturday night. Lucy McMillian celebrated a quieter Fourth at Open Arms Retirement Center with hot dogs and watermelon on Family Night Wednesday. More Fourth of July photos are on page 5A.

## Most landowners denounce plan

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

In orderly, but frequently emotional orations, more than 25 Hoke County property owners in the proposed land use one-mile, military buffer explained their opposition, approval or confusion about restrictions being recommended for their land.

It was a standing-room-only crowd at the public hearing for the joint land use study proposal for Fort Bragg/Pope Air Force Base on Monday evening, but everybody was given an opportunity to speak by commissioners.

In the 1920s, a portion of Fort Bragg was formed from land relinquished unwillingly by many Hoke landowners. The attempt in the 1950s for Fort Bragg officials to obtain another 49,000 acres was thwarted. However, if restrictions are imposed on another 21,000 acres of Hoke land now, half of the original county will either be a part of Fort Bragg or fall under restric-

tions by the state for the military, according to Raeford attorney William Moses.

A landholder in the critical area, Moses noted the "conspicuous absence" of planner Jim Daugherty of the N.C. Department of Commerce at the public hearing, or representatives from Fort Bragg. Daugherty supervised the regional joint land use study, appearing at the Cumberland County public hearing on the proposed plan held in June.

"Hoke County is worth more than Fort Bragg," Moses said to applause. "They seem to forget we had 225,000 acres in Hoke, and they (Fort

Bragg) took 92,000 acres.

"Hoke County has given too much to displace people again," he said.

"I am thankful and proud of what our armed services are doing to protect our freedom, but (See *LANDOWNERS*, page 7A)



Donald Louya, proprietor of Your Eyes Optical and a former Hoke planning commission member, says he is unsure whether he is in support or opposition of the land use study.

### This Week



**Bethel Presbyterian same age as U.S.A.**  
page 4A

**Museum solicits membership**  
page 3A

**Three armed robbers in Hoke, Raeford**  
page 3A, 7A

### Index

Births.....2B  
Calendar.....2B  
Classifieds.....6-7B  
Deaths.....8A  
Editorials.....2A  
Engagements.....3B  
Legals.....4-5B  
Religion.....4A  
Socials.....3B  
Sports.....6A  
Weddings.....3B

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## Girl Scouts brighten Burlington Park

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Burlington Park is blossoming with almost 1,000 flowers planted in beds around the park — compliments of a transformation by the Hoke County Girl Scouts.

A colorful array of petunias, impatiens, periwinkles and ornamental shrubs have brightened up the park's ordinary landscape since their annual summer camp was held on the grounds last

week, said troop leader Lisa McPhee.

"The theme for the camp was Art in the Park," McPhee said. "They really took pride in their accomplishments. I think they went beyond the call of duty with this project.

"The flowers pulled everything together. We hope the community will enjoy the park more, and our scouts enjoyed the friendship with each other like sisters while they worked on the (See *GIR SCOUTS*, page 7A)



Even though the swing seats are still missing at county-owned Burlington Park in Raeford, Hoke Girl Scouts (from left) Anasa Dixon, Beckie Smith, and Siera McPhee play on the support bars during annual summer camp.

## Five file for Raeford city council

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Opening day of filing for the upcoming Raeford municipal election started off slowly on Monday morning, but by the end of the day five candidates had filed to fill three available city council seats.

With the city election slated for November 4, candidates will vie for the current seats held by Raeford city councilmen John Jordan, Earl McDuffie and Wayne Mills.

"This is one of the best first days I have ever seen for the City

of Raeford filings," said Caroline Shook, Hoke's board of elections supervisor. "I think this will generate a lot of interest in the community.

"I am very excited by this response."

Raeford businessman Wayne Mills, a former Hoke school teacher, was the first incumbent in the door on Monday morning to file. It will be his second term if he is reelected.

"I enjoy what I am doing, and I am working to help the city," Mills said. "The City of Raeford is basically in good shape.

"We have some dedicated

employees working for the city. The utilization of our moneys is always utmost."

Joining Mills in the council race is incumbent Jordan, vice president of Fidelity Bank, who has served for one-and-a-half terms on the council. Jordan won in a special election when city councilman Joe Upchurch passed away six years ago and kept his seat during a second victory four years ago. Both Jordan and incumbent McDuffie, proprietor of Edinborough Restaurant, filed on Monday afternoon.

(See *CITY RACE*, page 8A)

## Downtown group giving up on hotel

Revitalization continues with new grant, approval of funds

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

Still attempting to save the former Raeford Hotel, councilmen voted Monday night to seek bids from some who have made informal offers for the vacant and dilapidated building at the corner of Central and Main streets.

Councilmen also agreed to partially match a Rural Business Enterprise Grant of \$99,999 to be used in the first phase of a proposed downtown revitalization project. The city's contribution will be \$55,501.

Steve Connell spoke with councilmen about the hotel and downtown revitalization plans. A "streetscape" plan is still on

the drawing board that would beautify the downtown area. It is expected to cost \$1.4 million and includes putting utility lines underground and building new sidewalks.

Connell, as chairman of the Raeford Downtown Revitalization Committee, had written County Manager Mike McNeill (See *DOWNTOWN*, page 3A)

## Major power outage stymies traffic and communications

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

An act of nature caused a massive power outage across Hoke County yesterday after a large tree toppled over onto a 65-foot, wooden utility pole on Oakdale Gin Road. The pole — one of

three — normally serviced the Progress Energy and Lumbee River Electric substations as a major "feeder" line, according to a Progress Energy spokesman.

A witness said the tip of the utility pole instantly snapped, resulting in a flare that enlarged momentarily into a fireball. No

fire resulted in the field below, however.

Traffic was temporarily snarled in Raeford, no gas was available at service stations, the stores downtown cleared out of shoppers, and most Hoke residents were left without telephone (See *POWER OUTAGE*, page 3A)