

The News-Journal

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75¢

No. 45 Vol. 100

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, January 25, 2006

DSS building fire was set, man arrested

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Sheriff's deputies arrested a south Hoke man and charged him with setting the fire that

caused \$400,000 damage to the Social Services building Jan. 14.

Raeford authorities had no indication that the fire was not accidental until a man

provided information to The Sheriff's Office that the fire was set, apparently during a break-in.

Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin said Carl Dean Goins, 48,

of Old Maxton Road, has been charged with one count of burning a government building and two counts of breaking and entering. He has been placed on a \$120,000 secured

bond. However, Peterkin said, additional charges are pending that might cause Goins's initial bond to be increased.

"Based on our inquiry, we were able to specifically

corroborate by information given to the Hoke Sheriff's Office that there were sufficient facts to make an arrest of Mr. Goins," Peterkin (See DSS FIRE, page 3A)

Schools get land worth \$1 million Possible site for new school

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke farmer James "Jim" Hendrix, a graduate of Hoke County High and a former student at Appalachian State University, gifted land worth close to \$1 million to Hoke County schools on Friday.

Included in Hendrix's "magnanimous" donation is 50 acres of prime land, according to Hoke Board of Education chairman Russell C. Smith. The land was used for farming, but is suitable for commercial, institutional or residential development. The cleared land is located on Philippi Church Road just east of its intersection with Rockfish Road near Scurlock.

Hoke schools need the land because the regular growth rate of the school system is increasing by 500 students per year - not counting the

military student influx. The system is coping in the short term with 36 mobile classroom huts.

Smith indicated Hendrix has provided the school system a site for learning not otherwise feasible because of the limited resources of the school board and county.

Smith accepted the deed from Hendrix on behalf of the school board on Friday, and he helped arranged the transfer of title. Brown Hendrix Jr., nephew of Hendrix's, who was also instrumental in finalizing details, accompanied Smith.

"We, with me representing the school board, are thankful to Brown Hendrix Jr., who served as a liaison in the process," Smith said.

Commission Chairman Bobby Wright also met with Smith and Hendrix Jr. on Thursday to expedite discussions about the land transfer.

"I am elated and pleasantly surprised by Mr. Hendrix's generous donation to our school system," Smith said. "Certainly, this gift has saved the county, therefore the taxpayers, a lot of money."

"This could not have come at a better time as our school age population continues to grow."

Smith said Hendrix approached the Hoke school board about gifting some of his (See LAND, page 5A)



Above: Johnson enjoys kindergartners at Sandy Grove Elementary School. Left: a student tells Simeon about his pets.

Washington official tours two schools

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Dr. Henry Johnson's face was bright with a smile when he crouched next to children at their miniature tables in a kindergarten classroom at Sandy Grove Elementary School last week. Johnson, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary

Education, listened intently to replies from Sandy Grove pupils during his tour of the school.

"I like to talk to the children," Johnson, a North Carolina native born near Salisbury, said. "Now what did you say begins with K?"

A tousled-haired pupil promptly said, "Kangaroo." (See TOUR, page 4A)



This Week



Bucks beat top-ranked wolverines page 7A

Community gathers to fight juvenile crime page 3A

Hoke picked for practice census page 5A

Drug bust nets 11 page 8A

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County cements deal and acquires most of city block

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke County has recently cornered some major property in downtown Raeford.

Hoke's board of commissioners unanimously approved purchasing

most of the city block adjacent to the Hoke Courthouse last-week for \$490,900.28.

Framed by North Main Street, East Edinborough, North Stewart and East Elwood avenues, the block will enhance future county expansion projects. County officials take possession of the property in February.

"The purpose of our acquiring most of the block is to expand our county facilities," Wood said. "But, county commissioners have no immediate plans to demolish any of the buildings."

"Obviously, we are under a lot of pressure. As the Hoke population continues to rapidly grow, the demand for services is increasing," he said. "We wanted to stay in the city, but we needed more space. Buying the block allows us to remain and probably not have to (See BUYS BLOCK, page 2A)

McNeill first to organize for office

Ellen McNeill, on Friday, was the first to file with the Hoke County Board of Elections the Statement of Organization requirement as a Democratic candidate for one of three available commissioner seats

Filing a Statement of Organization,

denoting campaign committee organization, is required within 10 days after a candidate has publicly announced he or she is seeking an office.

McNeill made her announcement on January 16 at the Martin Luther (See MCNEILL, page 4A)



By KEN MACDONALD
Publisher

Out of the corner of my eye I saw him coming—a blurry projectile plowing like a torpedo along the water line. Only he was just above the water line and the water was frozen. This kid was maybe eight or nine, was dressed as a hockey player, and was sliding uncontrolled on his side across the ice rink in my direction. I wanted to take

evasive action, but on ice skates that would require skill.

"Goin' down!" I said to myself as he nailed my feet with a perfect bulls-eye.

Suddenly the muscles I haven't used since my bike trip in September went to full power as I tried to catch myself, but it was too little too late. In a flash I was on my rear sliding across a very cold (and, as it turns out, wet) rink floor. (See OTHER STUFF, page 5A)



A humvee found burning in the Davis Bridge area.

Three teens face felonies for burning humvees as protest against Iraq war

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Three Cumberland County teens attempted to burn three U.S. Army Special Forces vehicles parked in Hoke County over the Christmas holidays in what they said was a "protest against the war in Iraq," according to

Sheriff Hubert Peterkin.

"They indicated they were trying to retaliate," Peterkin said of the suspects' alleged involvement in the vandalism that occurred on December 27.

An employee at the Short Stop convenience store in Davis Bridge (See PROTEST, page 4A)