

## Wood-burning power plant eyes land Public hearing set, plant wants to buy county land at industrial site

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A private company is interested in buying 129 acres of county-owned property in the Hoke County Industrial Park to build a wood-burning plant for generating electricity, county officials said.

The Hoke County Board of Commission-

ers will hold a public hearing next month regarding the economic development project, according to a legal notice released Tuesday. Members of the public are invited to share their views at the hearing set for 9 a.m. Tuesday, July 10 in the commissioners' room at the county building on Main Street in Raeford. The project would involve selling the property at 841 Golf Course Road in the Hoke County

Industrial Park for \$6,000 an acre, a total of \$774,000.

The company wants an option to buy the land and has not asked the county for any incentives, County Attorney William Fields said. The commissioners have discussed the project in closed session before, County Manager Tim Johnson said. Raeford/Hoke Economic Development Director Don Porter

said the project is not connected with the ethanol plant.

"This project has not been announced, we're just in the preliminary stages," Porter said. County officials did not reveal the company's name.

"The purchaser of the tract intends to pay the county for the full value of the tract (See POWER PLANT, page 6A)

## Fireworks here on July 7 Other options nearby on 4th

Hoke residents looking for fireworks can travel a short distance to see displays on July 4 and will be able to stay in the county for a special celebration and fireworks display at the high school set for Saturday, July 7.

Hale Artificers, one of the biggest fireworks companies in the state, is coming to Raeford to put on a fireworks show courtesy of the Raeford/Hoke Chamber of Commerce. The gates open at 7 p.m. July 7 at Raz Autry Stadium at Hoke County High School and the fireworks will begin at 9 p.m. The Chamber will offer snacks and drinks for sale with proceeds benefiting the

Turkey Festival.

For displays on July 4, residents can travel to shows in Aberdeen and Fayetteville. The Aberdeen celebration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the annual celebration at the Main Post Parade Field on Fort Bragg begins at 3 p.m. The town of Hope Mills will also hold a celebration beginning at 10 a.m.

### Safety tips

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office suggests a number of safety tips to keep the July 4 holiday a fun and enjoyable experience while avoiding accidents that could send someone to the emergency (See SAFETY, page 3A)



**Lemonade Aid**  
Brittany Holland helps out and buys a glass of lemonade from entrepreneur brothers Alex, Peter and Paul, who last week set up a mobile lemonade stand in the back of father Hubert Wooten's truck. The effort generated some cash (above).

## You don't want this house, neither do the owners



Todd Sheeley shows problems with house. (Shepard photo)

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Shortly after Todd and Tammy Sheeley bought their home on Arabia Road, the septic system backed up.

Soon after that the porch light caught on fire. The couple started finding pieces of wood chips in their water filter. They had to replace the toilets because something was wrong with the plumbing fixtures.

Over the next three years, even stranger things started happening. Inside the

house, parts of the floor buckled and swelled as if something buried in the concrete slab was trying to force its way through the carpet. Outside in the yard, pieces of cut-up tires, metal and other trash slowly worked up from the ground.

"My dog was chewing on a cell phone," Tammy Sheeley said. While digging a hole to plant a tree, she uncovered what looked like a scorched showerhead and burnt house siding. Now she and her husband wonder just what's buried on their property and worry about the possible effects of chemicals leaching into

their well water.

Inspection by private companies revealed parts of the house were not up to code, even though in 2009 a Hoke County inspector signed off on the property. A re-inspection by a different Hoke official turned up problems too. Then the Sheeleys found paperwork showing that although the real estate company marketed the house as new construction built in 2009, the structure actually started out as a detached garage originally built in 2002 that was converted to a house by (See HOUSE, page 4A)

### This Week

Whooping cough breakout targeted page 3A

The News-Journal will be published Tuesday next week because of the holiday

Deadlines are one day earlier

- Calendar ..... 2B
- Classifieds ..... 5B
- Deaths ..... 3A
- Editorials ..... 2 A
- Legals ..... 3-4B
- Sports ..... 5A
- Worship ..... 2B

## Paranormal team shares ghost stories at library



Ghost in the dark: do you see it?

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The shadowy outline of a soldier appears in a photo

of a living room. A strange formation behind a group of children looks almost like a face in an old black and white snapshot. The two photos were taken in different places, years apart, but both made people wonder whether they showed evidence of something otherworldly.

The two photos had something else in common: they were both fakes.

"You have just been punked," paranormal investigator Richard Caminiti

announced. The teens at the Hoke County Public Library laughed. "None of that was real."

"I knew it!" one young man said.

"This is the type of stuff—that's why we're here. This is the type of stuff that's going on with paranormal groups, and they're claiming it as evidence," Caminiti explained.

The presentation at the library was part of the ongoing summer reading program designed for teens with a

camp-out theme in mind. The topic for the week was ghost stories, and the Fayetteville Area Paranormal Research Association - FAYPRA - brought plenty of spooky tales.

Caminiti, partner Melissa "Missy" Williamson and son Rich Caminiti III are founding members of both FAYPRA and the Long Island Paranormal Research Association in New York, and they've seen and debunked a lot of so-called proof that

ghosts are real. The first photo they shared with the audience was created with a smartphone app called Ghost Cam that lets a prankster put a ghostly image in a picture. The second photo was a good example of something known as "matrixing," a theory suggesting that when a person sees an image, their brain automatically starts seeking out patterns and faces. The technical term for matrixing is visual pareidolia, Caminiti (See GHOSTS, page 5A)



**Milestone**  
Burlington Industries in Raeford marked a special milestone last week as the textile plant celebrated 8 million safe work hours with a party and gifts for employees.

## Woman sentenced in fraud case

A Hoke County woman was sentenced last week to spend three years in prison for accepting Medicaid payments in exchange for psychological services she was not licensed to offer.

Teresa Marible, 44, of Raeford pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to commit healthcare fraud.

Marible was arrested last

year along with two others indicted separately for healthcare fraud and other charges.

From March 2009 to April 2011, investigators said, she represented herself as a provisionally licensed provider of behavioral and mental health services. However, court records showed she was not licensed to provide those services and was not

approved by Medicaid to seek reimbursement.

According to court records, Marible claimed during a hearing that she bought a fake degree and transcript online and failed the licensing test multiple times. She was sentenced to 36 months in prison and was ordered to pay back the more than \$1.1 (See FRAUD, page 5A)

