

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

No. 10 Vol. 95

50 cents

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Hoke's top stories
are on the web
www.thenews-journal.com

This week



Museum open
house is Sunday
page 2B

Flames destroy
country home
page 4A

Hoke TeC bridging
digital divide
page 6A

Three siblings
make Hoke MVA
page 5A

Index

Births	3B
Calendar	4-5B
Classifieds	7B
Deaths	12A
Editorials	2-3A
Engagements	3B
Legals	5-6B
Public Record	5A
Religion	9A
Schools	5,8B
Socials	3B
Sports	5A
Weddings	3B

Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

Sunday, June 2, the temperature was a hundred degrees in some places in North Carolina. I can't ever recall 100-degree weather this early in the year. Many parts of the state got rain, but it seems to miss Raeford and Hoke County. Most of the crops need rain and we might not have fresh vegetables out of the garden if it doesn't rain soon. One farmer, last week, said we needed a hurricane to get the soil back to normal.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the high Wednesday to be in the 90s and the low in the 70s. Thursday and Friday the highs will be in the 80s and the lows in the 60s. There is a chance of rain on Thursday and Friday.

Don't forget the following events that will take place this week, next Sunday and in July:

The Hospice Golf Tournament will be held at the Bayonet Golf Course Friday, June 7. There will be two starting times, and lunch and dinner will be served. If you haven't signed up, then call the Hospice office or the golf course.

Another event will be Sunday, June 9, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. A reception will be held at the McLaughlin-McFadyen Raeford-Hoke Museum. The museum is located in the block of East Central Avenue and Highland Street. Invitations were sent out to many people (See AROUND, page 12A)

Board still divided on deputy 'perk'

Should 24 deputies who live outside Hoke drive county cruisers home?

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Another round was fought Monday night in the debate over whether deputies should keep the "perk" of driving county-owned vehicles to and from work outside of Hoke. The issue of whether taxpayers should foot the bill was stalled by a

divided board of commissioners at their regular meeting. Because Sheriff Jim Davis, who was injured in an accident May 21, was absent, Commissioner Cleo Bratcher said the decision should be delayed until the sheriff could be present.

The board agreed to discuss the merits of deputies driving outside the county on a deputy-by-deputy basis. Some mem-

bers of the board hope to reach a compromise on which deputies should be entitled to drive vehicles across the county line.

Against the dissenting votes of Commissioners Bobby Wright and Charles V. Daniels, Commission Chairman Tony Hunt, Vice Chairman James A. Leach and Bratcher voted to recess the meeting until Monday morning, June 10 at 8 a.m. in

order to resolve the situation.

On Monday night, Davis' formal response listed 24 deputies who reside outside of Hoke but drive patrol cars to and from work. Davis said previously "only a few" deputies resided outside the county.

In 1998, when Davis was seeking election, he promised citizens all of his deputy (See DEPUTY PERK, page 10A)



Happy day

It's hugs all around for Hoke High School seniors after the school's graduation exercises last Wednesday morning. Approximately 275 received diplomas, including George Elmer Vanhoy, a World War II veteran who decided to obtain his high school diploma after his teenage-years education was interrupted for the war.

Hoke - Robeson border inaccurate

Implications explored

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

There is no need for Hoke residents on the border of Robeson and Cumberland counties to panic over some preliminary corrections in county boundary lines, said Holly Sheminski, Hoke's mapping coordinator. She says she has received a barrage of phone calls about the issue. Sheminski recently received a copy of an updated six-month report conducted by the state's Geodetic Survey Office that shows discrepancies in some of Hoke's borders.

"People do not need to worry," Sheminski said. "For any land we may lose to Robeson for tax purposes, we will probably gain some in the southeastern border between Hoke and Robeson."

"We will probably break even once the boundaries are appropriately designated."

(See COUNTY BORDER, page 8A)

Former police chief denies Peterkin involved in cheating

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Former Fayetteville police chief Ron Hansen put to rest rumors that Hubert Peterkin, a Democratic candidate for Hoke County sheriff, was involved in "police-test cheating."

A Fayetteville Observer article dated 1993 was distributed in a Raeford restaurant yesterday that implicated Peterkin, a Fayetteville police officer, in the so-called cheating incident. Previously, Hoke deputies said they were required to distribute similar allegations about Peterkin along with a questionnaire form. Some deputies said Sheriff Jim Davis required they give the information to citizens each time they responded to a call. Peterkin served as Davis' chief deputy for more than a year prior to resigning to rejoin the Fayetteville Police department.

Davis, also a Democrat, is seeking reelection.

Hansen, who was in command of the

Fayetteville Police Department in 1993, said emphatically "it is not true" that Peterkin was involved in cheating and he was not suspending for cheating.

Peterkin has also denied it, saying it was an attempt to smear his reputation.

The Observer story, written by the late Pat Reese, was passed out while Democratic candidate for sheriff Joe Troxell was having breakfast with a Peterkin supporter, Alvin Walker; some members of the Republican Party; and a county department head.

Troxell said he did not know in advance the news article would be circulated by a supporter of his candidacy.

"The fellow who was doing this is out of my control; he is not on my campaign committee," Troxell said of the story distributed in his presence. "I am sure he is talking to folks for me. I will ask him to not do it any longer."

Peterkin said opponents are trying to discredit his reputation. "I did not cheat (See PETERKIN, page 10A)



I think i can, I think i can

A grimace gives this cyclist (left) more power as she competes in the North-South Carolina District Road Race this past weekend at Five Points. Male and female riders donated \$1,000 to the Pinehill Volunteer Fire Dept., whose members manned safety checkpoints along the route.

Fifth-graders awarded

Some 160 Hoke fifth-graders received the President's Award for Educational Excellence last week during a program at West Hoke Middle School. Brooke Sosa, daughter of David and Amelia Sosa, was one of them. She was a student at West Hoke Elementary. Hoke High valedictorian Melissa Plummer also addressed the students.



Candidates address residents of nursing home

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Most of the local office seekers spoke at a candidates forum at National Senior Living of Raeford Monday morning.

Candidates spent most of the three minutes allotted them introducing themselves and speaking of their qualifications. Sheriff's candidates were allowed to speak first, and will be introduced here in the order in which they appeared before residents and staff at the assisted living facility.

Sheriff's candidate Hubert Peterkin (D) promised three things. He said he would be a "sheriff for everybody" and be "fair" and that

a person's color would not matter. He said he would be "a sheriff you can come to anytime" and that he would deal with one of the problems people complain about most in the community — drugs.

Peterkin said seniors and young people would be a priority. He also said he thought he "should conduct himself like a sheriff right now."

Robert Crull (R) put his hand on Peterkin's shoulder as the two walked by one another, before telling those gathered, "I'm going to be your next sheriff because I'm a people person." He said he "likes people and likes working with and for people."

(See CANDIDATES, page 8A)