

# The News-Journal

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50¢

No. 18 Vol. 96

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, August 7, 2002

Hoke's top stories are on the web  
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## This week



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Kent Jacobs search expands page 7A

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## County no longer recycles newspapers, cardboard

### Solid Waste still accepts items

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hoke County's solid waste department is no longer recycling newspapers and cardboard as a courtesy to citizens. The

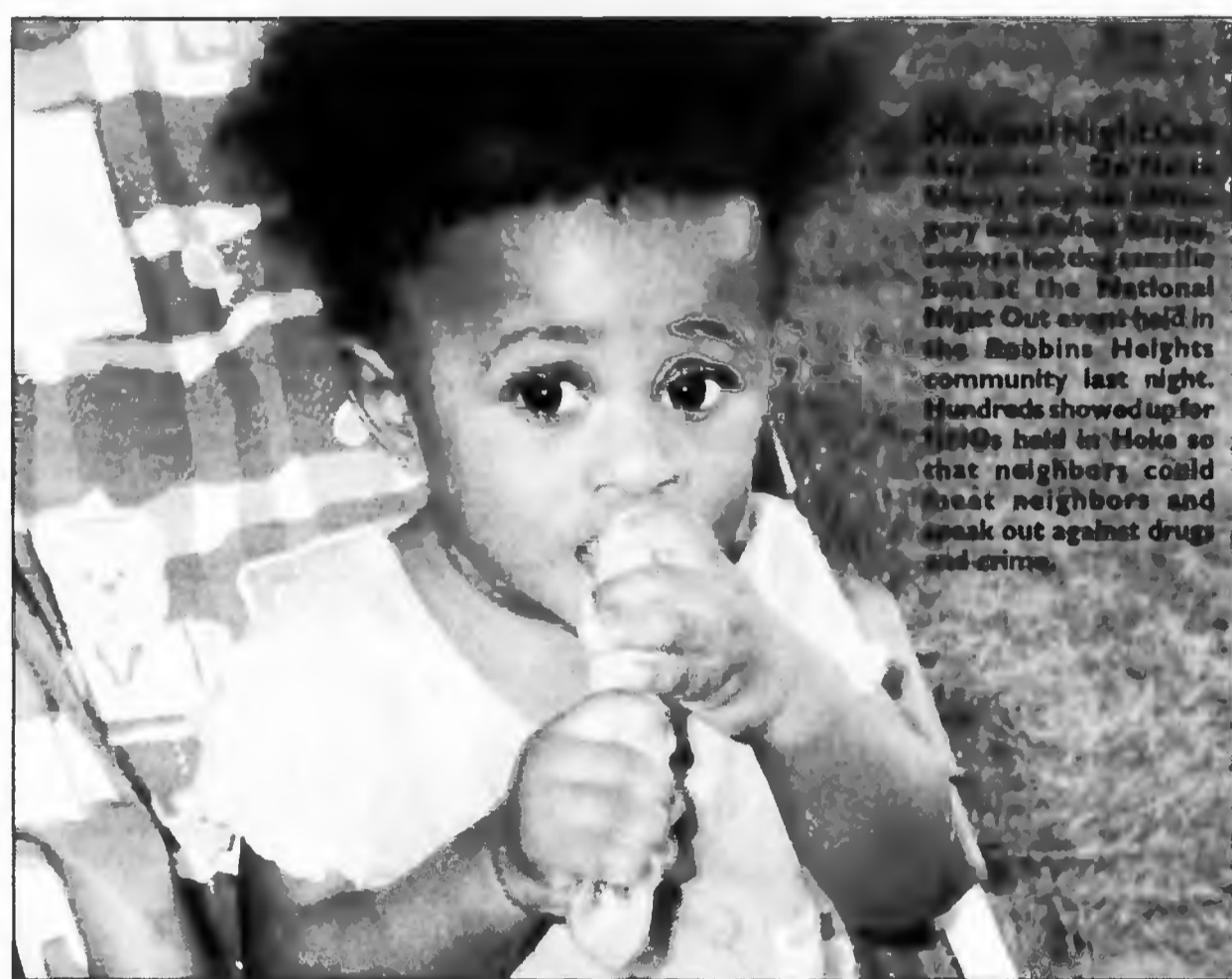
practice was discontinued about four months ago, according to Don Russell, solid waste director at the Hoke Landfill. No one needs to worry because newspapers and cardboard are still accepted at the container sites, Russell said.

"People can just throw their papers and cardboard into the open tops of containers," Russell said. "We will not refuse the items unless the containers just happen to be filled on a particular day."

"We got out of the recycling business because we were losing money. It was actually costing the county to recycle the items."

Russell said there is no problem in disposing of newspapers and cardboard at the site in Montgomery County where all of Hoke's garbage is transported. On a daily basis, he said Hoke's solid waste department is moving an average of 100 tons of garbage.

"That is pretty high end for a small (See *RECYCLING*, page 11A)



What a Night Out! At the National Night Out event held in the Robbins Heights community last night, hundreds showed up for the event held in Hoke so that neighbors could meet neighbors and speak out against drugs and crime.

## Board grants raise to fire marshal

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Al Schwarzbher is supposed to let the county know today whether he will remain in his multiple capacity as fire marshal, emergency management director, communications director, safety officer and addressing supervisor. After an hour-long executive session closed to the public, Hoke commissioners voted 4-1 to grant Schwarzbher a \$5,000 increase in his current salary of \$33,350 per year.

Prior to the recess into closed session, citizen Jeff Sumner told the board he was looking at "five strong men — good men." Sumner was in favor of offering Schwarzbher more money so he would not resign.

"I read that four out of five county commissioners support Al Schwarzbher for a raise," Sumner said. "It makes me nervous for you to go into a private meeting. We (you) do not have to do this. Help our county by doing away with these closed personnel meetings."

Schwarzbher is still considering another offer for better compensation and a guaranteed 40-hour work week in the federal sector. He has served in his present supervisory positions for five years.

"I have really enjoyed working with the county, and I appreciate the commissioners' concession," Schwarzbher said. "In a way, I would hate to leave because there is still so much to accomplish. I am proud of what we have achieved so far."

"I am discussing the situation and will give the board my decision by today."

He had previously requested a \$10,000 merit raise in a letter sent to the board on July 25. Most commissioners said they would have considered meeting Schwarzbher's request, but the state shortfall is impacting the county's budget.

Commission Chairman Tony Hunt was the only (See *RAISE*, page 9A)

## City council hears park proposals

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

Raeford city council members heard once again from a representative of Robbins Heights asking for help as residents there attempt to improve conditions in the community that is predominantly African American.

Robbins Heights resident Martha Beatty addressed the council at their Monday night meeting asking specifically for a temporary shade shelter until a permanent one can be built at Raeford City Park.

The Robbins Heights Community Watch is

anxious to begin activities at the park to include fund-raising events. A momentum was begun after a daylight murder occurred on the street in front of the entrance to the park on January 23 of this year.

Last night, the third annual National Night Out was held with the goal of heightening awareness of crime and illegal drug activities and to partner with law enforcement against crime. City council members were invited to that event.

National Night Out has been observed across the nation for 19 years and this is the third observation by Robbins Heights. The Hoke communities of Allendale and West Hoke also cel-

ebrated with their own events.

"Each community is encouraged to consider making plans to observe this event next year in their community or hopefully come together locally somewhere in the county as one large group," states a Robbins Heights Community Watch release. "Anyone interested in participating and planning such an event is asked to contact Evelyn Price at 848-3012, Mary Fowler at 875-0379 or Martha Beatty at 875-8743."

The city has budgeted \$30,000 for improvements to the park and \$1,000 for maintenance. At budget time, no decision was made on how (See *PARK*, page 11A)

## Well water dwindles for widow, others Drought still severe

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

With the prolonged drought in Hoke continuing, Rockfish resident Polly Barnard pleaded for her home to be hooked onto the county water line. During the public input session at the Hoke commissioners' meeting on Monday evening, Barnard told the board her well is nearly running dry and she had a "unique" problem.

"I am on a private well, but the pump is running out, water is so low," 81-year-old Barnard said. "I am in a desperate situation."

"I am afraid any day I will go without water." Barnard was not alone in her complaints about the water shortage. Nine other families, who reside off Highway 211, petitioned the board to be added to the county water system in order to eliminate problems with dwindling water supplies.

Other complaints of water woes included Commissioner Cleo Bratcher Jr. informing the board that residents on Noble Drive off U.S. 401 are also experiencing problems with drying wells. Commissioner Charles V. Daniels said folks on Harris Lane are suffering from low water in their wells.

Gwen McGougan, administrative assistant in the Hoke Utilities division, said the situation was worsening in terms of the water supply. Hoke residents using county water are currently on a mandatory restriction that allows limited use of water on odd and even days, coinciding with the numbers on addresses.

"In spite of the conservation effort, there has been no significant decrease in the amount of water used," McGougan said yesterday. "The county either produced or purchased 61 million gallons of water in June. That figure only dropped

to 57 million gallons in July.

"A decrease of 4 million gallons is not a 20 percent decrease as the governor has requested of counties in the Cape Fear region."

A widow, Barnard said her water was so depleted due to the drought that she was only able to bathe in about two inches of water. She said it was impossible to run her washing machine and dishwasher at the same time. While she is conserving water, Barnard said water in the well was not being replenished fast enough.

"Several years ago I did not realize that I had the option to sign up for water," Barnard said after the meeting. "My husband was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and was confined to a nursing home."

"My entire world revolved around him." Commissioners were sympathetic to Barnard's plight. Commission Chairman Tony Hunt promised Barnard and others they would try to speed up their requests to receive county water.

"I say get it to her as quickly as possible," Leach echoed.

Commissioners estimated it could take at least six months to bring relief to these taxpayers because a plan must be submitted to the state for approval. The least time it could take might be 60 days for Barnard to receive county water, according to County Manager Mike Wood.

Wood told the board there was some money left "potentially" from phase three of the regional water project that could be used to add Barnard's home to the water line. He said the funds remained after some people did not sign right-of-way easements over to the county for water lines to be installed in their area.

(See *WATER*, page 11A)

## National publication recognizes Dr. Smith for work with minority men

By SHELLEY MARTIN HAMMOND  
Special to The News-Journal

African-American, Hispanic and Native American men living in the United States experience higher rates of illness and death than Caucasian men, according to "What About Men? Exploring the Inequities in Minority Men's Health," a recently released national report funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Karen Smith, M.D., of the FirstHealth Family Care Center-Raeford, contributed to the report, which outlines how minority men (See *DR. SMITH*, page 8A)



Dr. Smith with a patient.

### Something in common...

## Kidney transplant renews bond of sister, brother



Dr. Willie Jacobs



Angela Jacobs

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Big brother and little sister Willie and Angela Jacobs inherited a love for music as members of

The Jacobs Family, a popular Hoke gospel-singing group. They also shared an undying, spiritual love for each other. It seemed only natural when Angela became afflicted with Lupus disease — her life threatened by the deterioration of her kidneys — that Willie donated one of his own to

her.

A 1984 graduate of Hoke County High School, Angela was first diagnosed with the illness shortly after graduation. She detected a "butterfly rash" on her nose initially and went to the doctor. Over a period of 17 years, her condition deteriorated. She was unable to work because of the chronic pain. Her parents, Elsie and Willie Jacobs Sr., offered her unlimited support, encouraging her to remain at home with them.

"I knew I had the Lord there with me, and I was not worried about dying," Angela said of her surgery completed at the University of North Carolina Hospital at Chapel Hill on June 8, 2001. "I think the surgery took about five hours, but there

(See *TRANSPLANT*, page 11A)