

The News-Journal

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Leaders to address war issues

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Since President Bush gave Saddam Hussein 48 hours to flee Iraq or face invasion by a military force on Monday night, Hoke Countians have joined others across the nation in facing an inevitable war. There is also a growing concern of retaliation on the home front in the form of terrorist attacks.

Sheriff Hubert Peterkin and others in Hoke are taking action in whatever ways they see fit to prepare locals for war and possible terrorist attacks.

Peterkin wants people to listen to the local (See **WAR PREPARATIONS**, page 2A)

Food Lion plaza gets sewer, water

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke commissioners approved preliminary engineering fees to design a \$318,000 sewer system for Hoke Landing, a proposed multi-million Food Lion shopping plaza adjacent to East Hoke Middle School. The addition of sewer infrastructure at the intersection of Club Pond Road and U.S. 401 will benefit the surrounding area for a multitude of commercial enterprises and could create more jobs, according to County Manager Mike Wood.

(See **FOOD LION**, page 7A)

LANDMARK BURNS THIS MORNING



Raeford fireman Glenn Thompkins takes a break from fighting a fire this morning at 813 N. Main Street. The home, belonging to James and Florence Weaver, was completely destroyed, but firemen from Raeford and North Raeford fire departments, along with Raeford police, were able to rescue several people from the house. See story, page 7A

This Week



Can you identify these antiques?
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Hoke's top stories are on the web; send us stories, subscribe
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Burlington sale falls through, other buyers sought

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A bid to acquire Burlington Industries Inc. for \$579 million in cash has fallen through. Berkshire Hathaway Inc., a Nebraska-based firm owned by billionaire Warren Buffet, has been turned down by the bankruptcy court, but Burlington is seeking other buyers. Buffet's multi-mil-

lion offer for Burlington represented a substantial opportunity for the Greensboro-headquartered textile giant to pay off its debts from Chapter 11, according to George W. Henderson III, Burlington's chairman and chief executive officer.

Henderson said the unsecured creditors would not agree to the terms even though the bank lenders were in agreement on the sale. Burlington filed for

bankruptcy protection in November 2001 under Chapter 11. The Raeford plant has remained opened in spite of some plant closings in other regions.

"It is unfortunate that the Berkshire Hathaway break-up fee was not accepted by the court and the offer has been subsequently withdrawn by Berkshire," Henderson said. "It was a firm cash offer that would have been a good outcome for

the company, our employees and our creditors.

"The fact that there is so much interest in the company is a credit to our employees that have worked so hard to get us to this point. The bankruptcy process is complex and consists of many steps."

Henderson said since the court's rejection of Buffet's offer, Burlington officials (See **BURLINGTON**, page 5A)

Lumbee tribe approves territory change Will help in bid for complete federal recognition, leaders say

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Lumbee Indians have declared Hoke, Robeson, Scotland and Cumberland counties their official territory. The declaration followed a referendum and is part of the tribe's efforts to gain full federal recognition after more than a century of denial. In a vote held on March 8, tribal mem-

bers decreased their domain to include only the four contiguous counties rather than the entire state.

Otherwise, it would have placed them in conflict with territories of the seven Indian tribes in North Carolina, according to Alex Baker, Lumbees' public information officer in Pembroke.

"By restricting our territory, we are respecting the territories claimed by other

Native American tribes in the state so they do not overlap," Baker said. "The majority of the Lumbees' 52,000 members reside in these four counties. We have 46,000 in Robeson County, 3,852 in Hoke, 1,200 in Cumberland and the remainder reside in Scotland and other parts of the state or out of state.

"Changing our territory was a major (See **LUMBEES**, page 4A)



Michelle Queja, a volunteer with the Hoke Raeford Humane Society, consoles Prince after he was allegedly abused.

Police file cruelty to animals charge against Raeford man

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A Raeford man has been charged with animal cruelty by the Raeford Police Department after his nine-year-old husky named Prince was found in his backyard without food, water or shelter. The emaciated-looking Prince, renamed Trooper by the Hoke Raeford Humane Society because of his spirit to survive, was euthanized several days later.

The dog was rushed to Cross Creek Animal Clinic suffering from shock on March 1, according to Michelle Queja, Hoke cruelty investigator.

"He was barely clinging to life," Queja said. "We tried to save him,

but he was too far gone. He was in tremendous pain."

Trooper was diagnosed Dr. Timothy Jordan as having cancer and heart worms.

The suspect, Philas Ray Johnson, allegedly failed to feed, water or obtain medical attention for his dog, according to arresting officer P.M. Caughey of the Raeford PD.

Johnson, 52, of 203 East Donaldson Avenue was charged with misdemeanor cruelty to animals. His trial is scheduled for April 8, said Kim Shelton, cruelty investigator and director of the Hoke Animal Shelter.

Caughey said a bucket of stagnant, greenish water was found in Johnson's backyard. He said he (See **CRUELTY**, page 5A)



A young Lumbee tribal member participates in an annual Native American powwow.

Chamber, businesses prepare for Expo

Preparations are underway for Hoke Expo 2003 which will be held next Tuesday and Wednesday.

The National Guard Armory on Teal Drive will again be bursting at the seams after industries, businesses and organizations set up booths to showcase their products (See **CHAMBER**, page 8A)