

The News-Journal

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Getting ready for high school

Hoke High rising freshman Nico Alexander is dressed for success in his special T-shirt for orientation held last Friday. The week-long event is intended to aid new students make the transition from middle to high school more smoothly. Students meet teachers, tour the campus and eat in cafeterias. They are also taught study methods.

Board to hold hearing on land use restrictions

County alerts 142 property owners

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

County Manager Mike Wood has sent out letters to 142 Hoke property owners notifying them of the public hearing being held on Monday evening, July 7. Landowners and citizens are urged to discuss proposed land use restrictions of northern Hoke land within a one-mile corridor around Fort Bragg.

Some commissioners are also concerned about a separate plan reportedly formulated in 1996 without their knowledge by the U.S. Army Environmental Center. The plan proposes to link a corridor between Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall. The board only recently learned of the second initiative that could affect more Hoke land, reducing the tax base of the county further.

One-mile buffer

The joint land use study plan was designed by the N.C. Department of Commerce. It was endorsed by the Fort Bragg/ Pope Air Force Base Joint Land Use Advisory Committee in May, 2003

to slow down residential growth and economic development around the military bases. Approval is required by the N.C. General Assembly before the plan may take effect.

"I invite all the citizens to come out to have input," Commissioner Charles V. Daniels said. "It (See LAND USE HEARING, page 7A)

Fields urges Hoke to become 'stakeholder' in county land use

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

William Fields, attorney for the City of Raeford and member of the Hoke Raeford Land Use Task Force, is concerned about land use restrictions. Regulations could be imposed on 21,000 acres of Hoke land if a joint land use study for Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base is passed by the state legislature, according to Fields.

"We want to be a stake holder in the decisions (See STAKEHOLDER, page 5A)

Porter first Hoke appointee on N.C. Economic Developers board

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Don Porter, executive director of the Raeford Hoke Economic Development Commission, has been appointed as the first Hoke County representative to the board of directors of the North Carolina Economic Developers Association.

"Warmest personal regards" were conveyed to Porter after his induction

by former Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., one of only three honorary members of the NCEDA.

"Thank you for your personal efforts to build our North Carolina economy and bring jobs into our state," Hunt wrote to Porter on June 20. "I know that some of our friends are pretty down about the economy, but I think that things are really beginning to turn up. Some of our economic development

tools and resources like Golden LEAF are going to give us a real advantage in the months and years ahead."

Hunt sponsored the annual NCDEA conference where Porter was recently elected to the board. Porter officially takes office on July 1, serving a three year term.

"I am a man with a mission," said Porter. "I think my appointment speaks well for our county, the City of Raeford

and all of the southeastern part of the state.

"I pledge to support our region and hope to gain an edge for economic development here in Hoke."

Voted in as a director by the nine-member board, Porter competed with 10 other candidates statewide for only one position that was available. He is also distinguished as the only board (See PORTER, page 6A)



Don Porter

Chief jailer Oxendine retires after helping Peterkin transition

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Captain Frank Oxendine, the first Native American chief jailer to serve at the Hoke County Jail, retired last Friday after seven months of service under Sheriff Hubert Peterkin. He served an important role in improving the conditions of Hoke's detention center and saving the county money, according to Commission Chairman Bobby Wright.

"We were glad to have Capt. Oxendine here as a part of our team," Wright said at the retirement ceremony. "If you want to know how much I respect Capt. Oxendine, I left a broken down combine and a tractor stuck on my farm to come here to wish him the best in his retirement."

Oxendine was also commended for es-

tablishing a separate wing to accommodate female inmates for the first time since Hoke's jail opened in 1967. This project is saving the county more than \$96,000 annually by eliminating the need to transport women to adjoining counties for detention services, said Peterkin.

Oxendine was also credited with installing a new "touch-probe" electronic system so jailers could be monitored while patrolling on rounds inside the jail. He also installed an upgraded time-lapse security system to ensure the safety of inmates and jailers.

"Captain Oxendine had some big shoes to fill in making a lot of changes at the jail in such a short period of time," Peterkin said. "He did an excellent job."

"He was probably the best chief jailer (See JAILER RETIRES, page 7A)



Shown from left at the retirement reception held on Friday are Commission Chairman Bobby Wright; Sheriff Hubert Peterkin; Hoke's new chief jailer Michael Sparks; retiring Captain Frank Oxendine, former chief jailer; Sgt. Marcus Love, assistant to the chief jailer; and Chief Deputy Troy McDuffie.

The Week



Lauren Huff attends youth leadership program page 3A

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Family remembers 'world's best' fisherman page 5A

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News Other stuff

By KEN MACDONALD
General Manager

There were two lines at the airport Wendy's and I got in one. Just as the fellow behind the counter asked me, "May I help you?" a man in the slower line beside me stepped over in front of me and said firmly, "I'll have a single, fries and a Pepsi!"

As a member of a church group returning from Mexico where we had built two houses, the slogan "What would Jesus do?" was racing through my mind, and I was fairly certain the answer wasn't "punch his lights out." But he was clearly out of line (no pun intended). So I shrugged it off, stepped into the place he vacated and when the lady asked for my order, I turned back to the gentleman and said, "Is it okay with you if I order now?"

I've spent a lot of time thinking about what would have been the correct response in that situation. It seemed symbolic of the whole Mexico experience - no easy answers.

(See OTHER STUFF, page 6A)

Glisson releases new CD for Fourth of July



Raeford singer Alice Glisson sings from the heart in red white and blue.

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Raeford singer Alice Glisson, a popular North Carolina recording artist and performer at the annual N.C. Turkey Festival, is releasing her newest CD this week titled, "Proud to Be An American."

She has already sent an autographed copy of her CD to President George W. Bush this week, coinciding with the

Fourth of July being celebrated across the nation, Glisson said.

"I thought you might enjoy these songs in my CD," Glisson wrote to the President. "I am an ordinary American who loves our country."

"I appreciate the things you have done to try and help our country remain free. Have a wonderful Fourth."

Glisson will also sing selections from her CD in an upcoming concert with the sensational group, Maurice Williams and The Zodiacs.

"Stay tuned for the date," a humble Glisson said of her billing with Maurice. "I am proud to be an American, and proud to reside in Raeford."

"I tell people that I am 55 years old, fat - and not famous - but I love to sing," she said. "I was thrilled meeting Maurice while I was recording my CD in South Carolina."

Many of Glisson's fans, who have seen the blond-haired, blue-eyed performer singing at patriotic rallies for generals and soldiers and belting out classics at state festivals, think Glisson's attitude toward music transcends age.

A patriotic tribute to the U.S. troops

fighting in Iraq, the CD's debut was timed to be available this week. Glisson hopes to set aside a major portion of the proceeds from the CD sales to benefit the families of military soldiers who have been killed in the Iraqi War.

"I have dedicated this CD to my family, to Mary Archie McNeill, my high school music educator at Hoke County High School, and my second grade teacher, Dorothy McNeill, who is retired now," she said. "When I gave a copy of the CD to Mary Archie she acted overwhelmed; she almost cried."

Glisson said her latest CD filled with American songs was inspired by the Iraqi War and events from 9/11.

It is being sold exclusively at the Baker House on South Main Street. This represents the first CD she has produced since releasing, "A North Carolina Christmas."

Popular songs featured on Proud to Be an American include: Lee Greenwood's God Bless The USA; This Is My Country; Voices That Care; God Bless America; The House I Live In; Columbia The Gem Of The Ocean; Salute To The Armed Forces; Exodus; America The (See GLISSON CD, page 6A)