## Parachute factory, shopping center planned

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS Staff writer

More industrial and commercial businesses will soon be calling Hoke County

County next to P.K. Air Park on Doc opening. Brown Road.

Amajor body armor equipment com-next to the multi-million dollar Hoke ging to fill contracts for private and U.S. Army Golden Knight parachutist.

Paraclete Armor and Equipment, tion. In another business development, a owned by Tim D'Annunzio, will manusmall business center is being designed facture parachute components and rig-

Everything's all white

story and more photos on page 7A.

pany located in St. Pauls is planning to Landing on Club Pond Road where the military orders, according to Gene uses the airport drop zone frequently to open the first parachute factory in Hoke new Food Lion grocery store will be Thacker, who with his wife, Billie, owns skydive. A Raeford resident, Raeford's airport and Raeford Avia- D'Annunzio also employs his sons, John and Joey, in the family-owned business. The new factory will be named Joey, a member of the 82nd Airborne Paraclete Aero. D'Annunzio, a former Division, is currently stationed in Iraq. (See FACTORY, page 4A)





Left: Calloway Road was picturesque at noontime on Friday. Below: Twins Mandi (left) and Candi Garner huddle in ponchos waiting for a ride home after classes end early at West Hoke Middle School. See



**Evelyn Price is Volunteer of the Year** 

page 16

Hoke teen appointed to state council

page 3A

**Snowfall causes** early school closing

Little TA

Births ..... 2B Calendar ......3B Classifieds ..... 5-6B Deaths ..... 9A Editorials ..... 2A Legals ..... 3-4B Public Record ...... 3A Religion ..... 5A Schools ..... 3A Socials .....2B Sports ..... 6A

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Weddings ......2B

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## Feud over rezoned lot in Rockfish going to court

### Neighbor says commissioners ignored opposition and improperly spot-zoned land

Staff writer

A dispute between Rockfish property owners over the rezoning of a lot from RA-20 to highway commercial will likely end up in a Hoke County courtroom.

An appeal of the recent Hoke board of county commissioners' rezoning action is seeking for the board to reverse its was filed on January 2 in the Hoke Superior Court division. Rockfish resident William E. Kelchner, Jr. lodged the complaint.

Kelchner, who owns a home near the controversial lot, opposed the rezoning application at a county commission meeting last month. However, the board unanimously approved the request of Rockfish property owner Clyde Shepley, who said he wanted to place a neighborhood business on the one-acre tract he owns. In spite of substantial opposition, the majority of the board indicated the rezoning would help advance the economy of Hoke without affecting property values. They unanimously approved Shepley's request to change the lot's use.

Kelchner named all the commissioners, and also Shepley, in his petition to the

court. The board and Shepley will be required to respond to the civil summons.

The cleared land is located at the corner of Myra and Rockfish roads near Davis Bridge. It is across the street from Stonewall Subdivision, containing a number of homes that directly flank Rockfish Road.

In his complaint to the court, Kelchner decision. He alleged in his complaint that the rezoning consisted of "illegal spot zoning." There are no commercial properties located within a half-mile radius of

Shepley's property, he added. "Respondents (commissioners) had very little discussion of the issues at the hearing, therefore, making it appear the rezoning was a 'done deal,' Kelchner wrote in his petition to the court. "Respondents ignored substantial and overwhelming testimony from the surrounding residential owners that the application for rezoning be denied.

"The respondents (commissioners) exceeded their powers as the rezoning was not for the purpose of promoting,the health, safety, morals or the general welfare (of citizens)."

(See LAWSUIT, page 8A)

# The News-I Journal

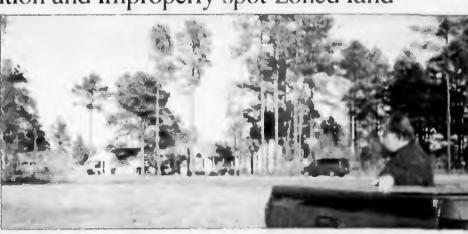
By KEN MACDONALD General Manager

I've often heard it's hard to find a good Plummer, But I know of a few. Judging from a newspaper clipping given to me, one is Dr. William Plummer, a native of Hoke County. A veterinarian for more of the Year. He was also president of the than 50 years in Wayne County, Plummer was honored in December with an endowed scholarship in his name at N.C. State University. The company for whom he worked for 12 years following his retirement from private practice -Goldsboro Milling - funded the scholar-

ship with \$17,000 to aid future vets, mainly in eastern N.C.

Plummer is related to most of the other mostly good Plummers in Hoke County. He was a fighter pilot in World War II, is a graduate of Auburn University and was twice named Distinguished Veterinarian state association of veterinarians. \*

Ellen Currie stopped by the office Monday and delivered a photo of Ken and Betsy Ann McNeill's grandchildren, Sara and Kenneth (<-- nice name) Cato of (See OTHER STUFF, page 4A)



Rockfish resident Clyde Shepley examines a one-acre tract he owns that was rezoned from RA-20 to highway commercial.

## County, city collaborate on 21st Century projects

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS PAT ALLEN WILSON

Following the City of Raeford's lead, the Hoke board of commissioners has also voted to support four key development projects to enhance living and economic conditions in the county.

These objectives will serve as a blueprint for the Hoke County 21st Century Community initiatives, according to Hoke Economic Developer Don Porter.

Essential for transforming dreams into designated improvements, these projects may be altered during he process or (See PROJECTS, page 8A)

Can you hear me now?" Hoke Economic Developer Don Porter mimics the popular

Verizon commercial as he discusses positive growth with Raz Autry, former Hoke Schools superintendent.

#### Teachers assistants accused of sexual misconduct

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS Staff writer

Two male teacher assistants working at Hoke County High are no longer employed by the Hoke public school system after being accused of sexual misconduct. A male student filed a complaint with a

School Resource Officer approximately one month ago against the two faculty members, according to the Hoke Sheriff's Office.

SRO deputies are certified and assigned to Hoke High under the direct command of Sheriff Hubert Peterkin. They also have (See MISCONDUCT, page 8A)