# The News-Journal

## If it happened, it's news to us

50¢

No. 48 Vol. 96

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, February 18, 2004

# Deputies disciplined after pepper spray attack One fired, one suspended, one resigned after allegations inmate was intentionally sprayed

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS Staff writer

A Hoke sheriff's deputy was fired, another was suspended, and one resigned following an incident in which an inmate was allegedly sprayed with pepper spray unnecessarily.

Monica Jeranek, the mother of a teen inmate in custody at the Hoke County Jail, filed a complaint with the Hoke Sheriff's Office on February 9 and with the Hoke District Attorney's Office, according to Chief Deputy Troy McDuffie.

"My son complained of burning in his eyes and his chest, but I hope he is okay now," Jeranek said. "I am not considering filing criminal charges myself at this time because I am satisfied with how Sheriff Peterkin handled the situation.



City councilmen were told Monday night that the city will lose \$62,000 in grant money if it doesn't move ahead with the second phase of a water improvement project.

A 12-inch water line on Highway 20 to Oakdale Gin Road and on to Highway 401 Business is near completion and a new water tank is beginning to go up; all are Phase I projects. However, the laying of a 12-inch water line along the Palmer Street Extension, a part of (See WATER GRANT, page 9A)

"I am satisfied also with the investi- excessive force had been used on her gation, and I feel like they did what they son after he told her what occurred be- and not go off half-cocked." Jeranek should have to discipline the deputies." cause she has family members in law said. "I did not want this to happen to According to Jeranek, she recognized enforcement.

"Deputies are supposed to be trained why I complained." another inmate in the jail, and that is

McDuffie said the pepper spray used (See DEPUTIES, page 8A)



### Valentine's Day warm-up

Bobby Graham, left, and Tamara Matthews warm up for the inaugural Raeford-Hoke 5K Love Run which was held this past Saturday in downtown Raeford. For complete story, see page 7A.



**Duke Endowment** supports UMC day care page 1B

Lumber Bridge, **UNCP** make music together page 4A

## Teens want tobacco taboo on campuses page 3A

111(4)

Births ..... 3B Business/Farm ...... 8A Calendar ......2B Classifieds ......6-7B Deaths ..... 10A Editorials ..... 2A Legals ......4-5B Public Record ..... 10A Religion ..... 5A Schools ..... 5A Socials ..... 3B Sports ..... 6-7A

Hoke's top stories. are on the web; send us stories, subscribe www.thenews-journal.com

# County to hire planner to cope with growth Board also seeks city's help to reach new Palmer Street health complex with water, sewer

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS Staff writer

A professional planner will be hired by the Hoke board of commissioners because of immediate challenges with facility needs around the county, and because of increased residential and commercial growth, according to Commissioner Bill Cameron.

"We needed one," Cameron said. "It should have happened (before), but it has not happened."

The board unanimously voted to ap-

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS

Hoke's most wanted deadbeat parents may soon be placed on house arrest.

An idea to monitor deadbeat parents with electronic surveillance until they pay their delinquent child support bills is gaining popularity, according to Bob Mercer, director of Hoke's Department of Social Services.

If approved by Mercer, Hoke could be lates it on a civil basis, he said. distinguished as the first county in the house arrest. Unlike many counties that ing to Mercer. enforce nonpayment of child support with

directing County Manager Mike Wood

and Jean Wade, human resources direc-

tor, to begin the process. Criteria for hir-

ing a planner will be discussed in depth at

a one-day retreat that will be held on

"I think the way the county is growing

and has grown that we could put in more zoning fees down the road," Cameron

said. "Schools are an issue, and we need

to be prepared as far as long range plan-

March 11 at Camp Rockfish.

ning.

prove advertising the planner's position, doghouse. We are talking schools, a jail Jean Powell. and millions of dollars. Who will suffer? The overall county, itself." he said.

"Someone has to say 'whoa.' If we do not lay the groundwork, we will be in trouble 15 years from now."

**Commission Vice Chairman Charles** V. Daniels commended Cameron for his candid approach to planning and the other commissioners' teamwork to solve growth problems.

"Glad to see Bill is on board," Daniels said of the junior commissioner most re-"If we do not, we are going to be in the cently elected along with Commissioner

Until after the retreat is concluded, candidates for the new planning position will not be interviewed, according to the board.

"It will take a while to get a professional planner," Wood said. "It is complicated."

Linda Revels, current Hoke planner and clerk to the board of commissioners, expressed confidence in the board's decision to hire a certified planner. Developers such as Joe Riddle of Riddle Proper-

(See PLANNER, page 9A)

# Hoke DSS proposes house arrest for deadbeat parents

'staff writer

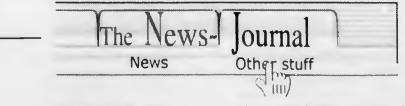
Hoke statistics currently indicate there Cape Fear region to establish a house are 1.475 cases of parents in arrears on arrest policy for parents behind or refus- child support who are in contempt of local ing to pay child support. Mercer said court orders. One of the worst offenders Hoke would follow the lead of Wake and owes \$80,000 in child support. DSS is New Hanover counties as the third county unable to locate many of the offenders to stiffen collection methods to include because they have left the county, accord-

"There will probably be less parents criminal penalties, Hoke currently regu-skipping out on child support obligations

if the system is established in Hoke," Mercer said. "I am thinking about doing it during the next budget year beginning in July."

"We are in the process of talking to judges and local law enforcement about piloting this project to see what it will accomplish. This is a new market for us," he said.

According to Mercer, putting individu-(See HOUSE ARREST, puge 4A)



### BY KEN MACDOANLD **General Manager**

Word from the Board of Education is that we need to build two-maybe three- students for middle schools. new schools. Not surprising when you're in one of the fastest growing counties in high school as well. the state.

new middle school and elementary school roughly 50 percent, but because, just like are needed. Some of our elementary the middle schools, it's too darned big. schools and both of our middle schools are approaching the size of an average

high school in N.C - 994 students. The two middle schools - West, at 780 students; and East, at 843- are certainly blowing past the state average of 680

But I think it's time to consider a new

Not just because its enrollment at 1,450 I doubt that anyone would dispute a students exceeds the state average by

Okay, you say, how about Southview (See OTHER STUFF, page 8A)





**Black Military History** 

World War II veteran Clyde Thomas Sr. holds a photo of himself when he served in the military. Vietnam veterans John Scott, left, and Richard Fergison, check out the Vietnam war display. The exhibit on black military history was presented by Raeford VFW Post 7930.