

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

50¢

No. 11 Vol. 97

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

DPI drags feet on teacher supplements

Superintendent complains to judge that state has ignored request for recruitment aid

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The state Department of Public Instruction has ignored a proposal that the state fund an eight percent supplement for Hoke school teachers next year, Hoke

school superintendent Allen Strickland said yesterday. The supplements would cost between \$750,000 to \$1 million annually.

Although teachers will return to school by mid-July in a new budget cycle, Strickland said the state has not

allocated any funds to encourage teacher longevity in Hoke.

County commissioners are currently funding a 4 percent incentive above teachers' salaries. Strickland said he requested the county allocate an additional 2 percent teacher supplement, which

would bring it to 6 percent for next year. However, the current proposed funding level for 2004-2005 does not appear to accommodate his request. It would cost the county \$380,000 more, he said.

Strickland said a response from DPI in its quarterly report submitted to Wake

Superior Court Judge Howard Manning on May 10 "falls far short" of the court ruling two months ago when Manning ordered DPI to send more low wealth money to educate at-risk students in Hoke. In Strickland's rebuttal letter dated May 26. (See SUPPLEMENTS, page 5A)



Memorial Day Service

Left: Saluting for their fallen comrades are John Mims (left), a former prisoner of war and survivor of the Bataan Death March, and Bud Wilson, a former prisoner of war during the Korean War. Right: Black and white balloons were released to commemorate veterans who died during the past year in Hoke. Story, page 1B.



Fort Bragg protections outlined

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The Fort Bragg/Pope Air Force Base Regional Land Use Advisory Commission has essentially pressed for the type of environment in its Joint Land Use Study that would increase the presence of the military missions in North Carolina at bases such as Fort Bragg, and be compatible with landmark legislation for the state. Scotland County Commissioner Clint Willis, chairman of the land use commission, indicated to officials from surrounding counties such as Hoke, Moore, and Cumberland.

According to recent accounts, Fort Bragg remains relatively invincible from the potential threat of closing or downsizing. The 18th Airborne Corps headquarters, the Joint Special Operations Command, which supervises the

(See PROTECTIONS, page 6A)

This Week



Juneteenth celebration on the 19th page 9A

Rockfish's Graham Principal of the Year page 3A

Ricky Sandy heads Chamber page 3A

Committee forges ahead to plan land use in Hoke

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Land buffers, green belts, zoning, and infrastructure issues were discussed last week by a study committee of Hoke volunteers who were appointed by the county commissioners. They met for the first time with representatives from The Wooten Company of Raleigh, discussing a vision for land use. Their goal is to keep the county's growth attractive, but in an environmentally sound manner.

Hired to complete a new land use plan, Wooten's planner/architect Patricia Crissman told the group it would take at least six months to compile the plan. Two initial phases will study land use ideas for rapidly growing northeastern and western Hoke. The first consists of Rockfish, McLauchlin, and Stonewall areas and the U.S. 401 corridor. The second phase will concentrate on planning for Quewhiffle Township, home of the Carolina Horse Park at Five Points and Highway 211, connecting Raeford with Aberdeen.

Crissman told the committee that the

study, which will cost \$20,000, would encompass the entire county after the two initial phases are completed. Statistics reflected that McLauchlin Township comprises 34 percent of the total population in Hoke followed by Raeford Township, consisting of 31 percent of the

population.

"There is a huge difference from one township to the other from the richest to our poorest," Crissman said of the various communities in Hoke. "There are ranks of economic distress and levels of success."

"Other factors we have to consider in

the land use plan are home ownership versus renters.

"The highest owner-occupied homes are found in McLauchlin and Raeford townships. Raeford has been fairly uniform with its growth over the past 50 years."

(See LAND USE, page 4A)



Above: Raeford attorney William Fields (left) confers with Commissioner Bill Cameron during a break. Right: Commissioner Jean Powell and Harold Brock, a member of the Hoke Planning Board, review statistics on Hoke County.



Index

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

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

Thomas appointed assistant chief

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Former Raeford police detective Greg Thomas — with a law enforcement career spanning almost 30 years — has been promoted as the first African American assistant chief of police to serve in the city's history, Raeford Police Chief Kevin Locklear announced last Thursday.

Thomas was selected from among five candidates applying from within and outside the local police department, (See PROMOTED, page 7A)



Raeford Police Chief Kevin Locklear (left) welcomes assistant chief of police Greg Thomas. He was promoted to major after serving as a detective on the local police force.

Foundation awards grants

The Hoke County Community Foundation awarded four grants totaling \$1,300 to local non-profits that help the youngsters of the community.

Agencies received checks for \$325 each at a reception at the Raeford-Hoke Museum yesterday evening.

Hoke's 4-H program will use its money for nutrition for a day camp for Hispanic children. Children's Developmental Center will develop an off-site early intervention program with its money.

General operating needs will be met with the grant received from Our Father's Children Daycare and Learning Center of the Chapel of Jesus Christ Family (See FOUNDATION, page 8A)