

# The News-Journal

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50¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

## County moves on megaparks

### Two industrial sites target jobs, millions in revenue

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Two planned mega industrial sites in Hoke County could bring millions of dollars in grants, more revenue, and create many jobs, according to Commission Chairman Bobby Wright.

"I think this is a win-win situation for our county because we can attract substantial industries here to complement our strong corporate citizens already established in Hoke," Wright said. "We are planning to develop a corridor on the western end of Hoke on Highway 15-501 where an existing business, Southeastern Tool & Die, Inc., is operating, and also on the eastern side near I-95 where the county has (See *INDUSTRIAL SITES*, page 8A)



Hoke educators converged as a group at the Hoke Board of Education meeting last night to oppose reverting to a traditional school calendar at all schools.

## Angry teachers confront board

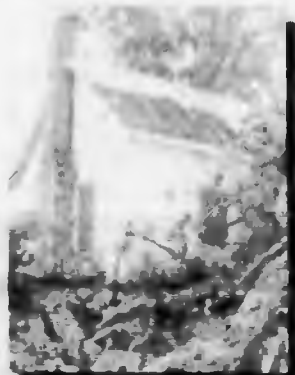
### Unhappy with planned change to traditional school calendar

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hoke's Board of Education heard impassioned pleas from six local educators last night to revert from a traditional calendar to the year-round school calendar, or to offer choices for each school in the district. With the school board conference room overflowing with more than 50 teachers, the protesters held poster-sized signs to support the year-round schools. They wore turquoise and green T-Shirts embossed with "year-round" schools.

Many certified teachers, and some holding master teaching distinctions, indicated they would be seeking employment outside the county if the year-round calendar concept was not reconsidered by the school board. However, a motion by school board member Leland Strother, who was supported by school board member William Hollingsworth Jr., to offer school educa- (See *YEAR-ROUND*, page 3A)

### This Week



Tornado leaves couple homeless  
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Roads, homes flooded by storm  
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Larry Brown points to son Joseph's name on the wall. At a ceremony last night, Jane Howlin and daughter Jenna put yellow roses by the name of a soldier missing in action.

## Moving Wall pays tribute to Vietnam War vets

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

They pressed their palms or fingertips against the wall. Some knelt in the grass crossing their hands over their hearts. A few wept, wiping tears away when they found a name of a friend or loved one on

The Moving Wall.

An array of emotions swept across nearly 100 guests who attended the ceremony that served as the opening of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The display extended for almost 300 feet on the grassy field adjacent to the Raeford Hoke Chamber of Commerce. More than

58,000 names of military men and women who sacrificed for their country and died doing it were honored as a prelude to the annual N.C. Turkey Festival that begins on September 16.

"This was another piece in the spoke in trying to get things done for our community," George Balch, co-chairman of

the project and senior vice commander of the Hoke Disabled Veterans, said. "It is very dear to us and we hope everyone will enjoy the wall."

Balch said it was 30 years before he was ever welcomed back from Vietnam by someone at the Raeford National (See *MOVING WALL*, page 5A)

## City residents complain about salvage company expansion

By PAUL ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

Robert L. "Bob" Conoly, sworn in as a new city councilman Monday night by Clerk of Superior Court Vera Hollingsworth, was put right to work addressing a sticky situation with Raeford Salvage.

Residents of the area have complained about expansions at Raeford Salvage, located at Magnolia Avenue and Gatlin Avenue, that are, they say, creating eyesores and health problems. Hoke County Dept. of Social Services employees have also long complained about flat tires caused by nails and other debris dropped on roads by

vehicles approaching the loading docks. Robert A. Nelson, a resident of Harris Avenue, addressed these concerns plus the "detrimental impact" he thinks conditions there have on surrounding properties and the city at large in a letter dated September 1, 2004. Robert C. Mercer, director of Hoke DSS, wrote in August about flat

tires attributed to debris spilled on South Magnolia Street, the only road leading to the DSS building.

Nelson told the city council Monday night he had been asked what it would take to "satisfy him personally."

Nelson said the obligation is to satisfy (See *SALVAGE COMPANY*, page 9A)

## The News-Journal

News Other stuff

By KEN MACDONALD  
General Manager

Never one to let ability, fitness, equipment or fashion get in the way of a good outing, I went to Southern Pines on Labor Day to ride in the Tour De Moore bicycle race again.

For us, it was a family event without the children. "Did you place?" a friend asked afterwards.

"Yes," I said, "dead last," which wasn't technically true. We had ridden the 27.5 mile course, and came in ahead of at least half a dozen riders who had opted for the 50 mile route and, I think, all of the 100-mile riders.

I blame my dismal performance on my bicycle.

It's so old, Donald Louya said of it, that its parents were those bikes with the huge front wheel and the tiny rear one.

Because it made a racket on the rare occasions I've ridden it over the last year, I decided to take it to the bike shop before the race and have it tuned up. To avoid the inevitable embarrassment that comes with wheeling in such a clunker, I took it to a store that has its repair center in the back of the building. It was the same store from which I bought it exactly 30 years ago.

"What's this?" the bike tech (See *OTHER STUFF*, page 6A)

## Food, fun, door prizes at N.C. Turkey Festival

By CASSIE BLACKARD  
Intern Reporter

Rain or shine, Ivan or not, the 20th Annual North Carolina Turkey Festival will take place this weekend. "Just bring your umbrella," says Jackie Lynch, executive director. The street fair begins with an opening ceremony Saturday at the Library Stage at 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

A decision on the festival parade, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, will be made Thursday morning, Lynch said. (See *TURKEY FESTIVAL*, page 6A)

## Student stabbed on school bus

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

A fight between two Hoke High teens on a school bus filled with students ended with a 14-year-old boy allegedly stabbing a 16-year-old male student who initially punched him, according to Major Freddy Johnson of the Hoke Sheriff's Office.

The incident occurred Monday while the bus was (See *FIGHT*, page 6A)