

The News-Journal

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50¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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Hoke gets \$1 million grant to aid development County is 21st Century Community 'poster child', gets grant with no strings attached

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Being named one of 16 North Carolina 21st Century communities continues to pay off for Hoke. Yesterday county lead-

ers were told Hoke is the recipient of a \$1 million Community Development Block Grant that will allow for the expansion of a western Hoke business and the development of an industrial park around it. The money will pay for sewer lines from

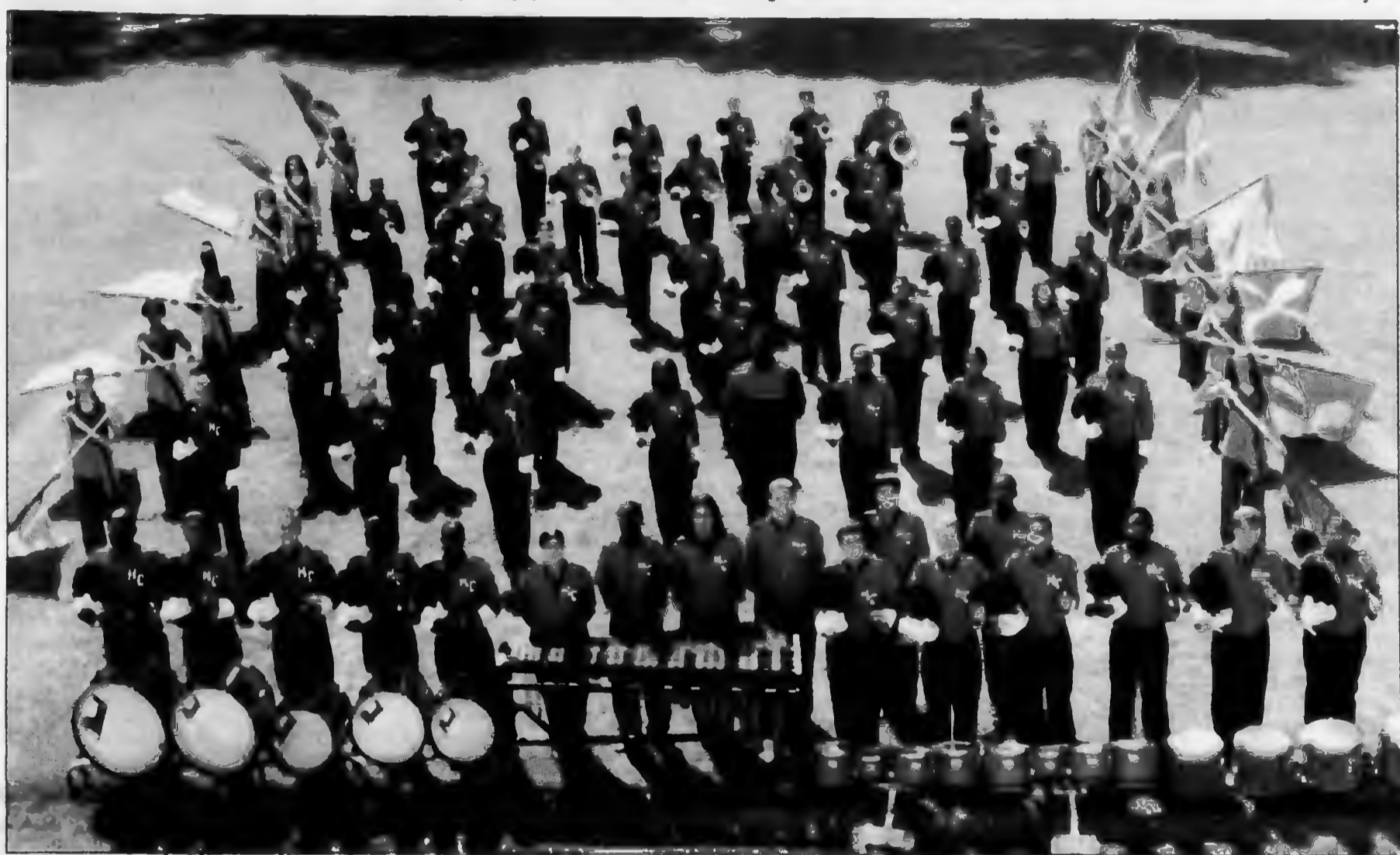
Addor in Moore County to Southeastern Tool & Die on Highway 15-501 near the county line.

Earlier this month the county learned it was the recipient of a half million dollar grant from the N.C. Rural Economic

Development Center that will allow for a water tower and guarantee piped water to the area. That grant was tied in to increasing job opportunities and required a match of \$85,000 from the county. Southeastern, owned by Jimmy

Thompson, is negotiating to manufacture a new line of handcuffs. Expansion of the business would create approximately 60 new jobs.

Approximately 70 acres in Hoke (See GRANT, page 5A)



Competition winners
The 2004 Hoke County High School Band and Colorguard won the Overall Band Spirit Award and received a Superior Rating at a recent high school band competition against 19 other schools. See page 6A for story.

One-stop voting turnout a sign of voter awareness

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Not waiting for election day November 2, Raeford voters are steadily pouring into the county office building to cast their absentee one-stop ballots.

Across the state, almost 5.5 million Tar Heel voters are registered, which is up by at least 100,000 voter registrations since the primary. In Hoke, 20,547 voters — the most ever — were registered as of yesterday with more than 1,400 new registrations counted since the primary.

"Smooth, smooth," is how the advance election process is flowing, according to Caroline Shook, Hoke Board of Elections director.

"The voters are coming from all over," Shook said. "However, we have seen the heaviest turnout from Raeford precincts 1 through 5.

"Most voters coming in are saying they want to vote early to make sure they voted. They say they do not want to miss out, and this process is very convenient for them."

(See ONE-STOP VOTING, page 5A)

This Week



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Jail project stalled, awaiting land acquisition

Negotiating to buy 'The Atrium'

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The Hoke board of commissioners postponed proceeding with a construction plan for the Hoke detention center expansion after a closed session on Monday night. An alternate plan the board privately discussed would not require demolition of the old jail as planned while the construction phase of the jail facility is going on.

"We have been approached to buy about a one-half acre of land where the historic

home now called The Atrium is located on Stewart Street," Daniels said. "The purchase price would be about \$150,000, but it is still under negotiation."

Daniels said the Atrium home is situated next to the parking lot where sheriff's vehicles are parked at the corner of Edinborough and Stewart, and across the street from the Sheriff's Office. It would be ideal to use for expanding the jail, he added.

"It would allow us to build the entire jail expansion without having to demolish the old jail until after the new law enforcement center is constructed," Daniels said.

"We would not have to move the Sheriff's Office while demolition is going on as we originally planned or look for offices to lease temporarily for the sheriff's staff.

"It would also prevent us from having to house inmates out-of-county, which was going to cost almost \$1 million if we had to do this demolition first."

Daniels said the board also rejected a plan during closed session to purchase the historic McLauchlin building. If the board had purchased the in-town property between Edinborough and Elwood, it would have provided additional land to increase

the size of the proposed Hoke County Law Enforcement Center, he added.

"The owners of the McLauchlin property wanted more money for the property than the county could afford to pay," Daniels said.

Daniels said this could be a "golden opportunity" to save time and taxpayers' money if the Atrium property can be secured. The jail plan formerly called for completion within about three years, but the construction time could be cut by one year, he added.

(See JAIL, page 4A)

Raeford man charged with downloading child pornography

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

A Raeford man is charged with visiting child pornography sites and with downloading and disseminating photographs from those sites.

Samuel Lee Coil Jr., 45, of West Sixth Avenue, was charged

on October 15 with 12 counts of second degree sexual exploitation of a minor, 12 counts of third degree sexual



Samuel Coil

exploitation of a minor, and 51 counts of felony disseminate obscenity. He is in Hoke County Jail under \$150,000 secured bond.

Raeford Police Chief Kevin Locklear said his department received information from an out-of-state law enforcement agency that Coil had been downloading and disseminating nude photos of

minors in his home computer. He said a detective in Ohio who investigates child pornography had received email from the suspect. The detective's job is to surf the web and look for sex offenders and child pornography, according to the chief. The officer contacts local officials when suspects are found, the chief says.

Raeford PD was contacted on September 24, 2003. Officers confiscated Coil's computer and contacted the State Bureau of Investigation for their help, Locklear said, and the computer was sent to a SBI lab.

"An abundant amount of child pornography was found on Coil's computer, the chief said.



By KEN MACDONALD
General Manager

The phone rang last Wednesday as I was doing some paperwork.

"I think I'm lost," my daughter said. She was on her way home from the mountains for fall break.

Which I never got when I was in college.

Of course, the first thing a father says in a situation like this is always, "Well, where are you?"

But she overlooked the stupid question and answered that she was somewhere in Asheboro.

I opened up a web browser and went to mapquest.com, and meanwhile asked her to look for a road name so I could pinpoint her location.

"Um... Old Salisbury Road," she said. I typed in the road name, but mapquest drew a blank.

I asked her for an intersecting road. "Um... Tyro-something," she said and (See OTHER STUFF, page 8A)

Juveniles charged with business break-ins

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Perpetrators of downtown break-ins that had Raeford police staking out businesses from the rooftops this past spring have been apprehended, according to Raeford Police Chief Kevin Locklear.

Murder of teen boy baffles Hoke detectives

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The Hoke Sheriff's Office is still seeking clues that will lead to the killer of a South Hoke teen who was gunned down

Two juvenile males have been charged with breaking into 12 business, Locklear said. Because they are under the legal age, he did not release their names, but said they had been charged as juveniles and remitted to juvenile court.

The perpetrators were looking for (See BREAK-INS, page 4A)

in his home last week.

Corey Daniel, 19, died of a gunshot wound to the head at his residence at 7122 Red Springs Road last Wednesday afternoon. A cousin, who initially found (See MURDER, page 4A)