

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

50¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

FEMA trains officials, stages disaster here

Hoke gets rare chance for training by state, national emergency experts

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Rubber bullets are fired into a riot to disburse a crowd without inflicting fatalities. A major fire hits a Raeford factory or a category four hurricane sweeps across

Hoke with massive casualties. These are some of the simulated scenarios being taught this week to Hoke County and City of Raeford officials, who are enrolled in a crash course taught by the national FEMA agency. "You think it will never happen here?"

Robert Park, battalion chief of Graham fire and rescue from Washington, said. "Whoa! It can happen, and you need to be prepared. "What if you had an industrial fire at House of Raeford? A lot of people might die."

(Someone quipped: "Yeah, and there could be a lot of dead turkeys.") Local officials participate today in a full-scale "mock" disaster that is being held at the former Sandhills Youth Center at McCain through tomorrow, the disaster recovery day. The seminar and subsequent

disaster demonstration objectives are to prepare governmental leaders to handle future disasters and to protect citizens' lives and property, according to Major Freddy Johnson, chief of operations of the Hoke Sheriff's Office, Hoke emergency recovery day. (See FEMA, page 5A)

3 Raeford students killed

NCA&T sophomores die in Greensboro wreck



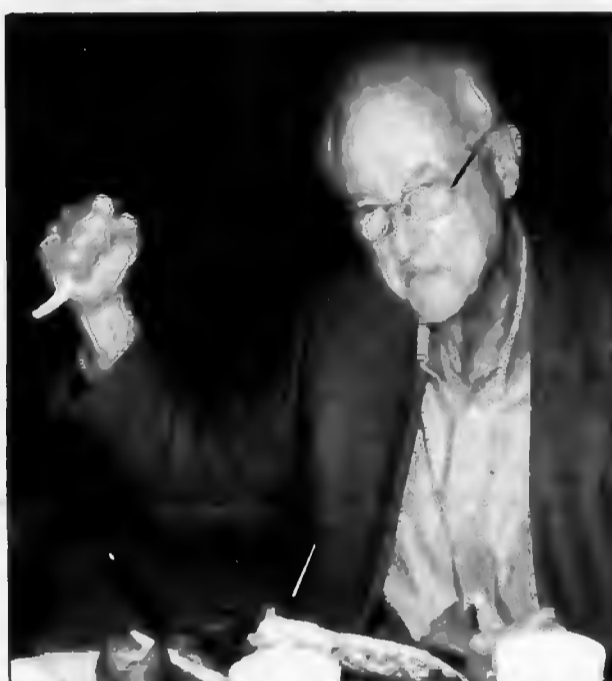
BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A wreck in Guilford County last night killed three former Hoke

High School students. Carla Maria Marshall, of the 100 block of Arbor Street in Raeford, Tiffany Helene Catrell, of the 600 block of Gatlin Farm Road in Raeford, and Lynai Bree Thorne, of the 1800 block of Glenburney Court in Raeford were all 19 years old and students at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro.

Highway patrol spokesman Sgt. A.W. Waddell of Guilford County and formerly of the Aberdeen-Hoke office said speed was a contributing factor in the accident.

Marshall, driver of the vehicle, apparently (See ACCIDENT, page 5A)



No whining, just dining
The state of business and industry in Hoke was generally reported as good at the annual Chamber of Commerce Mullet Roast. Above: Deborah Carpenter (center), Hoke schools director of child nutrition, offers a feast to Andrew Callihan (left), Hoke schools finance officer, and Allen Strickland, Hoke school superintendent; top left: Commissioner James Leach gets ready to dine; bottom left: N.C. House of Representative Doug Yongue flexes his muscles like Popeye after devouring a tasty fish. See story, page 4A.

This Week



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Genena Perhealth whistles up the wind
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Daniels: county still deficient in money controls

Problems persist four years after former county manager convicted of embezzlement

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Four years have passed since then-county manager Bernice McPhatter embezzled \$269,000 of county funds and went to jail.

But, in the meantime, irregularities have occurred in several

other county departments, according to Commission Vice Chairman Charles V. Daniels, involving State Bureau of Investigation inquiries and a recent probe by Sheriff Hubert Peterkin.

"No unannounced, 'spot' internal audits have been conducted for almost one year, which is contributing to problems, in my

opinion" Daniels said. "Until more accounting policies are established, I am concerned that more incidents may occur until sufficient controls are in place.

"For at least five years, the county has been told by our annual auditor that some employees are not depositing money into the bank within a 24-hour period,"

he said. "That is against accounting procedures, but we are still too lenient about not correcting the problem."

However, Allison Walters, an accounting technician in finance, said some internal controls have been improved. An employee may not purchase any item for more

than \$100 without first submitting a purchase order to Hoke finance for approval. Also, two employees—as a checks and balances procedure—are involved in the process of accepting cash or checks, verifying the amount, receipting the payments received, and depositing funds, she said. (See FINANCES, page 3A)

County pins hopes for new day at Parks and Rec on Jackson

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

County Manager Mike Wood has named William David Jackson Jr. the new Parks and Recreation director for Hoke County. His first day on the job was last Monday.

The hiring of Jackson comes after almost a three-month search to replace fired Hoke athletic director Jose Yopez. With the hiring of Jackson, Hoke officials look forward to erasing turmoil during Yopez'

tenure. He had argued with some parents, and there were allegations he misused county funds.

Wood said Jackson, the former general recreation supervisor for the City of Fayetteville, comes with impeccable credentials and more than 20 years of experience in the field of recreation. The 46-year-old received a bachelor of science degree from North Carolina State University in recreation resource administration. Although Wood had the authority to directly hire Jackson, he advised the board of his inten-

tions prior to Jackson's appointment. "We are fortunate to get David," Wood said. "We have been looking for a person with fine qualifications who is a high-caliber kind of individual. David is exactly the

kind of person we have been seeking. "He is someone with a lot of experience that can step up our Parks and Recreation department to a higher level that will (See JACKSON, page 4A)

The News-Journal

News Other stuff

BY KEN MACDONALD
Publisher

It's Monday morning and my son Benjamin is in London, about to board a plane to Islamabad, Pakistan. In our family's true style, he is on his way without a visa, trusting a man we know only as "Mr. Tamir" from New York, and at last word, two congressmen who happen to be on his plane, to get him into the country.

The plan is for him to live with my cousin Lauren, a specialist in international women's health, and her husband Tamur, a doctor tapped by UNICEF to work with

the thousands of people injured by an earthquake that devastated the region Oct. 8. Because they have in their household three children of their own and four who are victims of the quake, Lauren has been unable to spend much time in the field, and so Ben is en route to help out.

That makes him an "earthquake relief worker" in my mind.

Unfortunately, that is what he is in his mind too, and so that's what he listed on the visa application as his reason for traveling to Pakistan. Suddenly he was no longer a simple tourist, but was bumped (See OTHER STUFF, page 7A)



Tequorra Green was named Miss Hawkeye Indian Culture Center 2005-06 in conjunction with the 8th annual HICC pow-wow. Tina Goins, chosen Miss Congeniality, models her regalia. See more photos and story on page 4B.