

# The News-Journal

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75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, August 2, 2006

## Hoke government copes with turnover

### Sheriff's department, Social Services lead list with numerous staff changes

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hoke County government has seen numerous personnel changes in 2006, mostly in two departments, the sheriff's office and the Department of Social Services. On a list

of inactive employees provided by Hoke Human Resources director Ed Crutchfield, 52 employees have left Hoke government.

Since January 2006, Sheriff Hubert Peterkin has fired five deputies and three jailers. He has

also accepted resignations from nine employees. Thirteen of those 17 employees left the department after April, following then-Hoke chief deputy Troy McDuffie, who accepted a position as police chief in Red Springs.

Fourteen people left Hoke's Department of Social Services — two terminated, 11 resigned and one retired — since January.

In other county departments, three employees were dismissed and 16 resignations have been accepted

as of January, with two whose job assignments merely ended. Crutchfield cites military spouses moving, salaries that are more competitive offered in Cumberland County, and retirements as typical causes.

(See **TURNOVER**, page 8A)

## McDuffie quits job to campaign

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Red Springs Police Chief Troy McDuffie says he is "continuing on," waging a write in campaign as a candidate in the Hoke sheriff's race to challenge Democratic nominee-elect Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin, a colleague for 15 years.

After less than three months on the job, McDuffie submitted a resignation letter last Wednesday afternoon to the Red Springs police department effective August 18. The 42-year-old McDuffie plans to devote the next 90 days full time to campaigning for sheriff. As former Hoke chief deputy and second-in-command to Peterkin, McDuffie resigned in May to accept the position in Red Springs.

Red Springs town man-  
(See **MCDUFFIE**, page 4A)



It's truly a family affair when you're dirt track racing, and Payton Calloway, Mackenzie Beasley and Chason Beasley get some of the benefits as they sit in Shawn Beasley's Beasley Body Shop Super Late Model Ride. See one family's racing story on page 5A.

### This Week



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## National Night Out sends message to criminals

### Citizens, politicians meet at park, proclaim intent to 'take community back'

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

Community leaders gathered in Raeford City Park last night to send a message to criminals — that their activities will not be tolerated, and neighborhoods and law enforcement are working together toward this end.

It was the seventh such event for Raeford, and community advocates were on hand to offer encouragement to an audience of adults and children of all ages. Raeford Mayor

John K. McNeill read a proclamation for National Night Out event, which is marked August 1 throughout the nation. Mary Fowler proclaimed the purpose of NNO.

Kelly Breeden, pastor of Ministry Beyond the Walls, which meets in the park every third Saturday, told those gathered for speeches, entertainment, games, hot dogs and hamburgers, "This is about taking our community back — about taking back what belongs to us."

(See **NIGHT OUT**, page 7A)

## Cold murder case revived

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

A cold murder case is being revived by the Hoke Sheriff's Office and may soon be solved, according to Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin.

After being brutally beaten to death in October 2001, Scurlock resident David Cherry Jr. is buried at Rockhill Missionary Baptist Church.

However, his family says the memory of his "cruel" murder and the killers roaming free is haunting their minds, according to Peterkin.  
(See **CASE**, page 6A)



David Cherry

## Major shopping center coming?

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hoke County could soon be in high cotton with its first major commercial store possibly locating at the intersection of U.S. 401 and Wayside Road.

Re-Max real estate firm in Fayetteville has sold 38 acres of the

commercial-zoned land adjoining the BP service station and convenience store. The site is connected to the U.S. 401 corridor's interceptor sewer project. A "for sale" sign has been covered with a large "sold" designation.

The land is owned by Willetteville has sold 38 acres of the  
(See **SHOPPING**, page )



Mother Evelyn Price greets Congressional candidate Larry Kissel.



By Ken MacDonald  
Publisher

"You want that bridge two lanes or four?" — Genie\*

I do not understand the thinking of women. My son and I were outside last week admiring his handiwork as he ripped shingles off an out-building. We spotted two 50-gallon plastic pickle barrels left over from a project to store water and conserve heat in the greenhouse.

"Think of the subwoofer you could make with those babies," I said to him.

In his teenage years he had used two five-gallon paint buckets as enclosures for massive speakers that turned his uncool station wagon into a jamming traveling noise ordinance violation.

We began to muse about our male need for stage-sound quality in our musical experience, whether at home or in our vehicles. The speakers' frequency response needs to be 16 to  
(See **OTHER STUFF**, page 5A)