

# The News-Journal

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75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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## Burlington plant may gain 65 jobs

### Company says if state provides incentives it could shift workers from Virginia

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

International Textiles Group may be on the move south, but not across the border to Mexico to outsource production. The industry is considering an expansion of its Burlington Industries plant in Raeford, signifi-

ing a gain of 65 employees here.

This plan would take effect over the next few months because ITG's Hurt, Virginia plant will be shut down by next June. However, the local expansion project may hinge on the N.C. Department of Commerce offering some economic incentives,

according to Hoke commission chairman Bobby Wright.

"I think the City of Raeford and Hoke government would be more than willing to help Burlington get these workers here," Wright said. "I think Burlington is a very fine corporate citizen, and we hope ev-

erything works out.

"This expansion would be a plus for Hoke County. We need this type of growth."

By increasing the workforce in Raeford, ITG would be able to utilize the twin plant in Raeford currently not in full use. Since outsourcing

to Mexico occurred two years ago, the local plant has been operating in approximately half of its space. Burlington primarily manufactures yarn for military dress uniforms and some civilian work uniforms. Reductions in Raeford's workforce over the past (See BURLINGTON, page 4A)

## \$20 million bond referendum set

### Money needed for new schools

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hoke's board of commissioners unanimously approved placing a \$20 million school bond referendum on the November general election ballot.

County Manager Mike Wood also indicated the "far-reaching" implication of the school bond issue would determine if Hoke County Schools would be able to immediately build an elementary school. Planned near Scurlock Elementary School on Phillippi Church Road, the school would be built on land donated by Hoke farmer James Hendrix.

A public hearing is scheduled for September 5 at 7:30 a.m. at the regular commissioners' meeting. Citizens will be given the opportu-

nity to decide whether they want the "general obligation" bond request to appear on the November ballot. Wood said repayment of the bonds would be at a low interest of 4.3 percent.

If approved by voters, Wood said, \$12 to \$14 million of the bond money loaned to Hoke would be earmarked for the new elementary school. The remainder of the funds would be targeted for "beginning work" on a future middle school and to pay debt service for the school system, he added.

Wood said the preliminary application has already been filed with the Local Government Commission. Final arrangements would also need to be presented to the LGC for approval, he added.

"There is an assortment of other projects for the school system," Wood said. "The Hoke Board of Education will sort it out in the near future to identify what would be a part of the projects."

Wood said a statement of Hoke government's debt ratio was also included in the financial package sent to the LGC. (See REFERENDUM, page 5A)



Hoke High students David Cuchine and Natasha Fox share an after-school stroll in J.W. McLaughlin Park.

### This Week



Sports Preview  
INSIDE

All American Trail  
moving along  
page 5A

Grits and grit  
page 3A

City addresses  
lamps, annexation  
page 3A

### Index

Anniversaries.....	3B
Births.....	3B
Calendar.....	1B
Classifieds.....	6-7B
Deaths.....	8A
Editorials.....	2A
Engagements.....	3B
Legals.....	4-5B
Religion.....	2B
Schools.....	2B
Socials.....	3B
Sports.....	7A

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## Base realignment to bring opportunity, leaders say

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

More civilian jobs, military troops, recreational opportunities and economic incentives on and off the post at Fort Bragg could jet-tison Hoke and surrounding

counties into the wake of a thriving future, according to information released by a Base Realignment And Closures study last week.

Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue announced recently that population growth related to

the BRAC process enlarging Fort Bragg would mean the creation of 3,500 "non-military" jobs. An influx of troops returning from Europe and an additional 12,000, civil employees transferring from Georgia in the U.S. Army

Forces Command over the next five years will signify families seeking housing and places to shop for services, according to her.

"This report is additional proof that the growth of Fort Bragg, as a result of BRAC,

is a big, big economic opportunity for North Carolina," Perdue said. "We welcome the jobs that BRAC is creating in our communities."

Perdue likened FORSCOM's relocation to (See BRAC, page 8A)

## Agency addresses domestic violence

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

Domestic violence is not OK; fact is, it's against the law.

There is an opinion held by some that it's OK for a husband to strike his wife or for a boyfriend to beat up his girlfriend. Behavior patterns show that even the "perfect" behavior by a wife or girlfriend is no defense against the attitude that domestic violence is an acceptable way to work out a problem.

If you are being abused by (See VIOLENCE, page 8A)



Guest speaker Dr. Dudley Flood urges teachers to teach with joy.



## School kickoff intended to inspire teachers

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

A sea of Hoke academic leaders, teachers and elected officials filled the Cape Fear Conference B Headquarters Monday morning, celebrating the annual convocation for Hoke County Schools with a theme of "a whole new day."

Hoke school superintendent, Dr. Freddie Williamson, was applauded during

his remarks. Guest speaker Dr. Dudley Flood, distinguished as the first state associate school superintendent, now retired, was offered a standing ovation during his inspirational message.

"Welcome to the great academic school year 2006-2007," Williamson said. "With God, we can make a difference in the lives of kids."

"Let us pray with God we can do bet-

ter together. We are privileged to have friends in such high places."

Hoke Board of Education Chairman Russell C. Smith recognized N.C. representatives Garland Pierce and Doug Yongue, along with school board members Hank Richards, Rosa McAllister McRae, Tom Pilkington and Irish Pickett. He welcomed new (See CONVOCATION, page 3A)