

# The News-Journal

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75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, October 4, 2006

## City may help to get 65 Burlington jobs

### \$4.2 million project would increase water capacity for plant, rest of city

By PAT ALLEN WILSON  
Editor

Raeford is taking one more step in joint efforts by the city, county and state to bring 65 more jobs to Burlington Industries starting in 2007.

Along with an incentive plan approved by the council on August 21, the city is looking into plans to

provide the Raeford industry with additional untreated water that will also upgrade overall water capacity.

John Grey of The Wooten Company, Raeford's contracted engineering firm, presented a plan at the council's October 2 meeting. He included a preliminary cost projection of \$3.1 million to meet

immediate needs for the industry and \$1.1 million for a future project that would provide additional flow to Burlington and the city. "I'm hoping these numbers are high," he said.

City officials are meeting today with the Local Government Commission to discuss financing of the project.

Douglas said the proposed water

project gives the city the ability to provide 500,000 more gallons per day to customers. City officials are also looking at providing water to a planned 300-unit residential subdivision.

International Textile Group, of which Burlington is a division, announced in August that Raeford would get 65 positions after a plant

closing in Virginia. The dye and finishing portion that makes military dress uniforms is being moved to Raeford, adding the 65 jobs over a three-year period. The firm, based in Greensboro, said Monday it is investing \$7 million in the move, according to the office of Governor Mike Easley.

(See BURLINGTON, page 3A)



#### Homecoming royalty

All homecoming royalty candidates were introduced prior to the Hoke High Bucks vs. Westover Wolverines game Friday night. Winners were announced at halftime. Pictured clockwise, from the top, are Queen Jeliana Rainey, Jocelyn Hunt, first runner-up, King James Robinson Sr. and Rainey, and first runner-up Molly Griffie. The Bucks won 33-6. (Photos by Dan Magid)

#### This Week



#### Gas leak forces evacuation

page 3A

#### School board pushes referendum

page 3A

#### Hoke students picked for state science, math school

page 5A

#### Index

- Business/Farm.....4A
- Calendar.....8A
- Classifieds.....7-8B
- Deaths.....10A
- Editorials.....2A
- Legals.....4-6B
- Religion.....2B
- Schools.....3,5A
- Socials.....3B
- Sports.....6A
- Weddings.....3B

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## DA quashes complaint against sheriff

### Says allegations by former employee, Hoke commissioner may be political

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Determining allegations of election violations against Sheriff Hubert Peterkin to be unfounded and "frivolous," District Attorney Kristy Newton even declined to meet with the accuser.

Raleigh attorney Christopher Brook filed the criminal complaint on behalf of Lisa Jones, a former sheriff's office em-

ployee and Bill Cameron, a Hoke County commissioner.

Jones alleged she was "ordered" to reproduce a facsimile of the official primary election ballot for Peterkin's election campaign on "county time with county supplies."

Peterkin, Hoke Democratic nominee for sheriff, flatly denied Jones's complaint, saying the allegations were "absolutely not

true." "I understand it is election time and that desperate candidates some time resort to desperate measures," Peterkin said of what he deemed preposterous allegations. "I will not be distracted by this."

"I will continue to focus on the safety and security of the citizens of Hoke County."

Jones, the former administrative assis-  
(See COMPLAINT, page 9A)



Newton

## Jail bids approved, Wood gets contract in 4-1 vote

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hoke's county commissioners unanimously approved on Monday night the lowest of three bids to construct the future 152-bed Hoke County Detention Center. Plus, the board signed a somewhat controversial employment contract with County Manager Mike Wood, who had been serving without

an agreement.

Estimated at \$7.7 million, the jail project loan needed increased to \$8.5 million and will come from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Based on a recommendation from architect Dan Mace of Moseley Architects, the board accepted a bid from Bordeaux Construction, Inc. of Durham. Bordeaux built the  
(See JAIL, CONTRACT, page 4A)

## State NAACP president stirs crowd to persevere

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

A rousing welcome and final standing ovation were bestowed on keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president of the North Carolina branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, at the second Freedom Fund banquet held at East Hoke Middle School on Saturday evening.

Hoke's NAACP chapter trea-  
(See NAACP, page 9A)



Barber, state president.

## Board buys land for ethanol plant

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hoke's board of commissioners accelerated plans to acquire land for the first phase of the Hoke County Regional Industrial Park in a special meeting last week, offering the property to "first choice" recipient Clean Burn Fuels. The Cary-based firm has pledged to build a \$65 million

ethanol plant, bringing 100 jobs to Hoke.

Agreeing to exercise an option on 630 acres of the Z.V. Pate tract on N.C. 20, the board paid \$3.6 million, averaging approximately \$6,000 per acre. If the option had not been exercised, the price of land at the site would have increased to \$8,000  
(See ETHANOL, page 7A)

### The News-Journal

News Other stuff

By KEN MACDONALD  
Publisher

No offense, but after awhile, walking around Raeford just ain't enough scenery for me. So Thursday found me talking to this muscle-ey, ranger-looking outdoor type at a guide shack in Estes Park, Colorado.

While my wife was attending a yoga conference (cough), my children, sister and I planned to do some hiking. The 14,256 foot Long's Peak, just two

ridges away, beckoned from the view of our cabin, but I knew better than to answer that call; I had been there before, and even I am not that crazy. In fact, by my count some 49 people are documented to have died on the mountain succumbing to every terror from 1,250-foot falls and avalanches to lightning strikes and exposure. One guy was even shot to death. No, I just wanted a short, challenging hike to get us started.

(See OTHER STUFF, page 10A)