

# The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

75¢

No. 44 Vol. 101

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

## Ethanol plant clears last major hurdle

### Owner says \$60 million loan commitment received, project is at '1-yard line'

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

The company planning to build an ethanol plant in Hoke County says it has cleared its last major hurdle when it secured a \$60 million loan commitment.

"We are down to the one-yard line," said Jack Carlisle, owner of the multi-million dollar

Clean Burn Fuels of Cary.

"Clean Burn, itself, has put up a one percent escrow of \$250,000 toward financing the project," Carlisle said.

The company is nearing its goal to create 100 jobs in Hoke County as it builds one of the first ethanol-producing plants on the East Coast.

Carlisle said the \$60 million loan commitment is from Cape Fear Farm Credit, with offices in Raeford and Clinton. That loan, along with an additional \$35 million already generated by private investors will take Clean Burn over the final hurdle to begin construction, he said.

Carlisle said his number one location choice

has always been Hoke.

"It was an excellent decision for us to select Hoke County as the site for our plant," Carlisle said.

"The county commissioners have been just great, and everyone wants to see this plant in Hoke.

(See ETHANOL, page 4A)

## Joe stirs crowd at King event

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Faces from different cultures across Hoke County joined in the 20th annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Monday evening, sharing a chord of inspiration from guest speaker, District Court Judge Regina Joe.

She was preceded by Dr. Samuel Norman, pastor of Center Grove Missionary Baptist Church who discussed the span of King's life from the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott of 1955, to his "I have a dream" famous speech of August 8, 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson's signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and King's assassination in 1968.

"Martin Luther King Jr. gave the ultimate sacrifice," Norman said. "He gave his life so we would have our civil rights and freedom."

Hoke Clerk of Court Vera Hollingsworth introduced Joe to guests and



Guests at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. banquet enjoy camaraderie on Monday evening.

dignitaries. She also read greetings from N.C. Representative Garland Pierce, who attended the dinner gala. Pierce praised the Hoke County Civic League, sponsor of the King event. Pierce said the organization's mission was achieving outstanding goals to encourage leadership in

the Hoke community.

Joe indicated she was speaking from her heart and recounted some of the triumphs and tragedies in the life of King whom she said was assassinated after bringing unity to African Americans during the struggle for integration.

She urged people of all races to not just rely on God for His blessings, but to also make every effort to improve their lives to make them better people.

"White or black," Joe said, people have (See KING EVENT, page 5A)

### This Week



Hoke teen releases first CD page 1B

Lady Bucks win page 7A

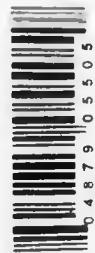
Grants sought for \$1 million forest page 5A

Police arrest two for drugs, breakin page 8A

### Index

Births.....2B  
Calendar.....3B  
Classifieds.....7-8B  
Deaths.....3A  
Editorials.....2A  
Legals.....4-6B  
Socials.....2B  
Sports.....6-7A  
Weddings.....2B

We're on the web at  
www.thenews-journal.com  
Read by 3,000 each week



## Ground broken for Steed Elementary School

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Sharing shovels of dirt and responsibilities for future growth, Hoke's Board of Education and Hoke's commissioners celebrated the groundbreaking of the future Don D. Steed Elementary School on Philippi Church Road.

"Bless the kids who will walk these halls," Dr. Freddie Williamson, Hoke school superintendent said during an

invocation.

Named after retired school superintendent Don Steed, the elementary school construction began last Thursday, coinciding with the groundbreaking. The new facility will house 34 classrooms and accommodate 700 students from grades kindergarten through 5.

Brown Hendrix, Hoke schools director of facilities management, said the school would also feature a multi-

purpose room and stage, a resource center, computer lab, music room, conference and meeting rooms. There will also be a gymnasium, administration offices and other audiovisual rooms. Hendrix anticipates completion of the project by June 2008.

"This is quite a star-studded event," Russell C. Smith, chairman of the Hoke board of education, said. "This is a good thing for (See STEED, page 8A)



Steed (left to right), Smith, Powell

## Dial: ghostly image of angel a sign of better times

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Antioch widower Elisha Dial says on Christmas Day he was touched by an angel --- an apparition that never disappeared.

"It has become a permanent presence that has illuminated my life forever," Dial, a member of the Lumbee Tribe residing off Balfour Road, said. "I was walking through my large social hall near my home that I lease out for weddings and other family events.

"But, I was in a low state of mind on Christmas morning, getting ready

for our annual family dinner."

An emotional Dial said he was sobbing, with his head downcast.

"I was thinking of my loved ones who had died," Dial said. "My wife, Nancy, mother Essie Mae Dial and my mother-in-law, Pauline, died almost at the same time several years ago.

"I cried out, 'Oh Lord, why must I be so much alone?' he said.

"I heard this voice say, 'You are not alone; look up.'"

Dial said no sooner than he raised his head that he saw a cameo-shaped face had appeared on the wall about

waist high, with two large wings framing it. The depiction of the angel is underneath the grain of the wood, when examined up close.

"I was amazed," Dial said.

In the impression, which was discovered on a rough-hewn pine panel, the imprint of the face was the size of a large hand, he said.

Surrounded by swirls formed in a large pine knot, the sloe-eyed face with a sturdy nose, faint delicate lips and traces of hair resemble his wife when she was younger, according to Dial.

(See ANGEL, page 8A)



Dial with a pine knot, or an angel?



By KEN MACDONALD  
Publisher

At Earl's Fine Dining (the Edinborough) Saturday morning I ran into Chad, a fellow who used to work in our Fayetteville commercial printing office several years ago. We were seated so our eyes met, and eventually we recognized each other. Then it hit me. This was the fellow with whom I committed the best practical joke of my career.

It was a sunny day in April, 1999. April

I in fact. By some good fortune it had been my turn to provide a program for the Raeford Kiwanis Club. Yes, it fell my lot to provide a speaker for the club on April Fool's Day.

I took this as a sign and began working hard and early on the project.

I thought it might be good to have someone the club didn't know pretend to be something he or she wasn't, but who and what?

All this time later, I don't remember how we settled on some of the details, but (See OTHER STUFF, page 8A)

## Mom warns about bus safety

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

A single parent residing in McDougald Downs subdivision wants other parents to watch out for their children to ensure they are safely picked

up at their bus stops.

Cynthia Walker complained of two incidents that happened on a Hoke school bus of her daughter being left behind and then later (See BUS, page 4A)

## Dinner theatre in Raeford?

It's a mystery -- how does Raeford get a dinner theater production? The play itself is a mystery too. Entitled "The Elvis Show," the play, writ-

ten by Hoke High students Brittany Winters and Chanai Denson, keeps Elvis' fate a mystery until the end. (See ELVIS, page 4A)