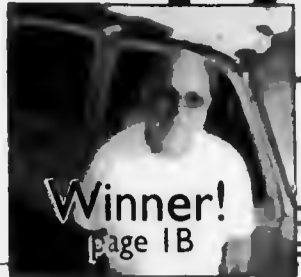


The News-Journal



If it happened, it's news to us

75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ethanol plant inches closer to fruition

Final hearing set, bioelectric plant also a possible neighbor in industrial park

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Clean Burn Fuels LLC of Raleigh meets with Hoke commissioners June 18 for a second round of public hearings as plans for an ethanol plant in Hoke come closer to fruition.

Meanwhile, another energy-related plant may locate next door.

Ethanol production equals extra prosperity

for Hoke County, according to Hoke commission chairman James A. Leach.

"The board will discuss inducements offered to the multi-million dollar firm for building at the Hoke Regional Industrial Park," Leach said. "Clean Burn has cleared all the hurdles for state building and environmental permits for its \$100 million ethanol, alternate-fuel producing plant."

Clean Burn has also secured 100 percent

of its financing for the 500-acre tract between Raeford and Interstate-95, according to Jack Carlisle, Clean Burn executive officer in Cary.

In a separate negotiation, a bioelectric plant, could also re-locate in Hoke. Producing green power for other counties in the region, the plant could be established on the remaining 100 acres of the land already "in possession" by the county. The electrical plant would also

attract 50 new jobs for Hoke citizens.

Carlisle said sharing the mega site with another environmentally sound firm would be good.

"I still think we will be the first ethanol plant to be built in the state," Carlisle said. "We have not encountered obstacles like some other sites in North Carolina."

"Hoke citizens and commis-
(See ETHANOL, page 6A)



Summer's here

ScOOTERING just before dark Asheville visitor Holton Brown (right), grandson of Harris Avenue resident Marilyn Brown, and Raeford resident Nick Smith, home schooled by his mom, Kim Smith.

Victim: rapist hurt her, Raeford

Woman struggles to recover

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The hands of Embarq Communication's only female employee in Raeford gesture nervously as she describes her ordeal and ultimate escape from a Silver City rapist.

A young grandmother and mother of two daughters, the victim's tears stream down her cheeks as she speaks of her gradual recovery and the "violent rape" she says she will never forget. Her attention span is short, as she still experiences severe pain from a cracked rib and other injuries. She declined to use her name, but said she wanted people to see her photograph in a happier moment.

"I loved my job," she said. "I love all the people in Raeford. Those who know me know my name."

"I was out performing a service for them when Grady Cunningham violently, deliberately attacked me."

She wants to thank Raeford citizens who have sympathized with her plight, offered her prayers and support.

The rape victim also expressed gratitude to the Raeford Police Department, the Hoke Sheriff's Office, FirstHealth of the Carolinas medics and medical staff at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.

Cunningham allegedly severely beat and molested her on May 21 in a vacant house in Silver City where he had been squatting on St. James Street. He is charged with first-degree forcible rape and first-degree kidnapping after he allegedly dragged her into the dilapidated structure while she was repairing a line during the early morning.

With a history of sexual assault, assault of a government official and a sundry of other crimes, Cunningham was released and walking the streets of Raeford and Silver City when he accosted the victim. She says she understands he is being detained in Dorothea Dix mental hospital. He was placed on a \$50,000

(See VICTIM, page 8A)



The victim in happier times.

This Week



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Raeford passes budget

No tax increase, more annexation proposed

By LENORE L. MORALES

Raeford City Council approved its 2007-2008 budget Monday night without much discussion.

Councilmen quickly voted in unison to adopt the budget, satisfied after having carefully reviewed the plan that was presented to them in May.

The new budget of \$3,740,821.67 is just over six percent higher than the one for the current year.

City residents will not pay more property taxes or utility charges, as the tax rate will remain at 48 cents per \$100.

According to City Manager Richard Douglas, modest growth in Raeford is responsible for keeping the current tax and utility rates. He has said the expected increase in expenditures will be offset by corresponding increased revenues.

Under the new budget the city will add no new staff positions, but current employees are set to

(See CITY BUDGET, page 6A)

Hoke to get more sessions of superior court

Now larger than Scotland County, Hoke needs greater share of court time

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Scotland County used to be bigger and therefore was allocated more sessions of superior court than Hoke. But that's about to change.

Hoke-Scotland district attorney Kristy M. Newton says Hoke Scotland District

16A will change its scheduling next year, with Hoke's sessions increasing. Scotland is switching some of its superior scheduling to accommodate the heavier caseload in Hoke.

"It was my recommendation," Newton said. "I met with Judge Brown, the clerks of court in Hoke and Scotland

and courtroom personnel," Newton said. "The group discussed the need to reallocate some of the weeks shared by the two counties for Hoke superior court."

"It was something we mutually agreed on doing."

Judicial officials will be welcoming Hoke-Scotland resident Superior Court Judge

Richard Brown to the Hoke Courthouse frequently next year.

"He will actually be in Hoke County more than in superior court in Scotland," Newton said of the shift.

According to Newton, during her 12-year tenure as senior assistant DA and since her second term as DA, there

has never been an increase in Hoke's allotment for superior court time. Newton said she had been monitoring the number of cases in each county over the past year.

"It is supposed to be divided between the two counties by the Administrative Office of the Court," Newton said. "I

(See COURT, page 4A)

Criminal complaint filed against House of Raeford

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

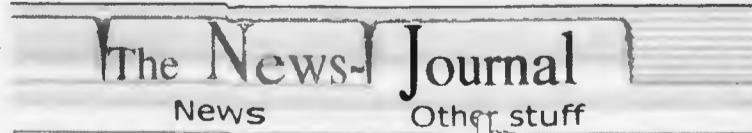
Mercy for Animals based in Ohio filed a criminal complaint on May 18 in connection with allegations against House of Raeford and five of its employees on animal cruelty.

None of the slaughterhouse workers implicated remain at

the national poultry production plant. But at least one of them was fired, according to a House of Raeford company executive.

A video was publicized nationally through news media and on the internet video site YouTube last week, exposing alleged inhumane treatment of turkeys over a

(See COMPLAINT, page 5A)



By KEN MACDONALD
Publisher

I don't think I have ever purchased a sheet in my life. Well, that's not true. I bought one to use as a projector screen. But other than that, sheets occupy the same space on my radar as, say, coconut milk. I don't think I've ever even noticed them, though that's going to change after my last trip to Mexico, when my head slipped out of the sleeping bag in the middle of each night, made contact with a very worn mattress and brought home a

special rash that could be cleared only by an anti-fungal cream. Yes, to me, sheets are like air, except that you lie on them.

So when the females told my son that he should bring clean sheets with him upon his return to the lake where we were vacationing I barely listened.

But then he asked, "What size?" That set off a conversation that drew me in. Because if you think about it, and I accidentally did, sheet sizing doesn't make a bit of sense. (See OTHER STUFF, page 8A)