

The News-Journal

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75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Petition: rename South Hoke school

Group asks board of education to change name to Hawk Eye Elementary

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A group representing the Hoke Native American community implored the Hoke Board of Education last evening to switch the name of South Hoke Elementary School to its original name, Hawk Eye Elementary School.

Lynette Dial, Hoke Public Library supervi-

sor, spoke on behalf of the Lumbees, presenting a petition with more than 350 signatures. A delegation of tribal members accompanied her, with the school board assembly room overflowing.

Dial told the school board no one could seem to explain why Hawk Eye, which was initially an Indian school, had its name changed in 1968. The Hoke school board changed the name to South Hoke in April during the time

of integration, she added.

"Native Americans of the Lumbee Tribe have roots that are rich and widespread in Hoke County, with native people being proud of our culture and Indian heritage," Dial read in the petition. "The first school for Indians was called Jacob's Point School House back in the early 1900s, as recognized by the Hoke County Board of Education.

"Our founding forefathers fought for the

right to educate our children and foresaw the vision and importance of education to our Native American people," she said.

"We, the native people of Hoke County, are requesting, as part of our heritage, that the name of South Hoke be changed back to Hawk Eye Elementary School in this year of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Signing the main petition's request were
(See HAWK EYE, page 7A)



Lt. L.E. Morgan Jr. (above) shows a booster seat to Lorena Sanchez while three other children in a van (right) wait their turn for safety seat checkups at the Hoke Health Department.



Lumbee bill clears House

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Fifty-one years to the day after the U.S. Congress on June 7, 1956 recognized the Lumbee tribe as Indians, the House of Representatives voted to support a bill that would also entitle Lumbees to financial recognition already garnered by many Native American tribes.

In a landslide, the House passed the Lumbee Acknowledgment Bill 256-128 last week. The vote paves the path for the U.S. Senate to vote on the issue. A dual victory in Congress would enable President Bush to sign the bill into law.

The state of North Carolina officially recognized the Lumbee tribe in 1885. Although the federal government has conferred recognition and benefits to the Cherokee nation in eastern North Carolina, the Lumbees were deprived in their quest for similar recognition. The Lumbees' origin dates to 1724 on the Lumber River, formerly known as Drowning Creek. Lumbees' (See LUMBEES, page 6A)

This Week

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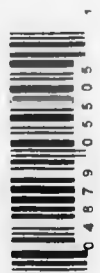
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Families take advantage of car seat help

Traffic deaths of infants can be reduced by 71 percent with use of child restraints

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A caravan of cars and SUVs were lined up at the Hoke Health Department yesterday, as families sought to have their child safety seats checked out, or to receive newer ones to keep their children secure on the highways.

This local safety day comes at a time when the U.S. Center for Disease Control estimates motor vehicle injuries were the leading cause of death in 2006 among children in the U.S.

Approximately 1,451 children ages infant to 14 years old died in crashes last year across the nation. Nearly half of the occupants were unrestrained, according to CDC statistics.

The risk of deaths to infants can be reduced by 71 percent with the use of child safety restraints.

In children ages one to four years old, the risk of deaths could be effectively reduced by 54 percent by using child safety seats, CDC reports.

"As you can see, this event today has brought out a crowd," (See CAR SEATS, page 6A)

School system begins annual teacher recruitment effort

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A wave of teachers is leaving Hoke County Schools this year - many retiring, others tendering resignations because of dissatisfaction or to seek career opportunities

elsewhere.

However, almost 20 percent of teachers exiting Hoke schools were asked not to return because of performance deficiencies, according to human resources statistics.

In teaching positions alone

Hoke Schools currently has 50 vacancies, according to Dr. Cheryl Benson, assistant Hoke school superintendent of human resources. Benson said 30 of those retired. Eighteen resignations were accepted.

"That is not a large num-

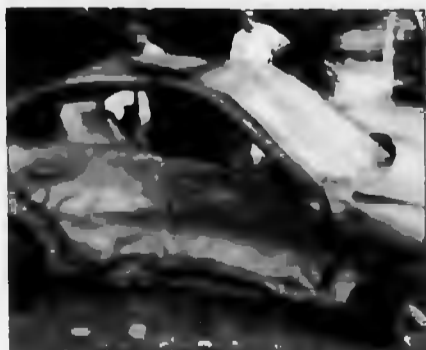
ber," Benson said. "It is workable to replace them.

"During this time of year, many personnel changes are made to match up our schools."

"We are participating in an upcoming regional job fair this Saturday at Triton

High School in Erwin."

Benson said special incentives are being advertised to recruit highly qualified teachers, including an extra \$1,500 sign-on bonus and \$500 allocated for moving expenses to Hoke. These inducements (See TEACHERS, page 7A)



Child thrown from car, killed in wreck on Highway 211

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Amid afternoon collision yesterday left a young boy dead after he was thrown from the vehicle in which he was a passenger. The driver at fault might also face felony charges, ac-

cording to the N.C. Highway Patrol.

"The child was ejected from the vehicle, where he was a passenger in the rear seat," N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper D. Clark, investigating officer, said. "His vehicle overturned several times after the driver, according to a witness, tried to turn onto Shannon

Road as he was traveling southbound from Raeford on Highway 211.

"The driver crossed into the path of a van that struck his vehicle on the right side when he could not clear it in time.

"The ten-year-old boy landed with (See WRECK, page 7A)

2 guilty of child sex crimes

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke Special district attorney Mike Hardin won convictions of felony child molestation and child rapes without a jury last Friday, where three victims were involved.

With Harnett superior court judge Frank Lanier presiding over the trials the two defendants waived their rights



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to defend themselves.

Visiting in Hoke's jurisdiction, Lanier sentenced one defendant, Michael Steven (See CONVICTED, page 8A)

The News-Journal

News Other stuff

By KEN MACDONALD
Publisher

Sunday night, a yute was telling me he was about to depart for vacation - a family camping trip. Those two words - family camping - inspire in me more fear than any others, except perhaps "sewer clog" or "spaghetti squash."

It's because when I was little, we once committed family camping.

My grandmother had purchased a place at the beach. To a teenage mind this meant

we'd soon be water skiing on the Intracoastal Waterway, checking out (and most assuredly being rejected by) the chicks at Myrtle Beach, sneaking off and smoking the sea oats in the dunes - what? like you never tried that? - deep sea fishing, and relaxing on the front porch overlooking the ocean and stunning sunsets.

Turns out her place was a lot, it was about a day's hike from the ocean and was probably the set for 1970s Off commercials. In fact, not only was the lot nowhere near beachfront it wasn't (See OTHER STUFF, page 8A)