

# The News-Journal

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75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

## 63 dogs rescued from West Hoke home

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

More than 60 puppies and dogs – some on the verge of dying from heatstroke and others already dead – were found abandoned in a puppy breeding mill in western Hoke last Tuesday, according to Michelle Queja, Hoke animal shelter director.

Jimmy Carthens, Hoke Animal Control supervisor encountered the gruesome sight of 63 dogs and puppies starving, without shade, in soaring temperatures and in need of medical attention after responding to complaints of the deteriorating situation at the breeding kennels, Queja said.

A few months ago a complaint

had been investigated, but when the animal control officers arrived the dogs had food in the bowls.

"The place was so remote," Queja said. "The puppy mill was hidden away in an area hard to get to with even with a vehicle."

Golden retrievers, Collies, German Shepherds, Akitas, Samoyeds, Bassett hounds, Huskies, Jack Rus-

sell terriers, and Shih Tzus were just some of many purebred dogs left to die in cages.

Carthens quickly rushed back to the Hoke Animal Shelter to advise Queja that the situation was dire, Queja said.

With the help of Cindy Bristow, director of the non-profit organiza- (See *RESCUED*, page 6A)



"Collie" (left) with new guardian.



### New Habitat house

Volunteers gathered at 555 Saunders St. Saturday for the dedication of the Raeford-Hoke chapter of Habitat For Humanity's newest home. Above, Stephanie Specht, who will own the home, and her son turn the first shovel of dirt as Bill Evans, president of the local chapter, and William McDonald, treasurer, await their turns. At right, R. Benjamin Clark, secretary of the Executive Board, speaks to a crowd, who in the coming weeks, will build the house.



### This Week

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Raeford Police offer citizen academy page 5A

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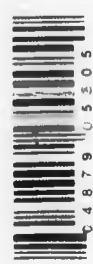
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## Daniels files for Council, deadline nears

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

With only 48 hours to go before filings end at noon on

Friday, only one additional candidate has filed for Raeford City Council in the last week.

Former Hoke County com-

missioner Charles V. Daniels filed yesterday for the unexpired term of Buddy Blue who died before he took the oath of office two years ago.

Daniels, 67, resides at 502 N. Main Street with wife Dottie Daniels. He co-owns and operates Daniels Service Center with son Brian Daniels.

Daniels previously served two terms on the Hoke board

of commissioners, serving three of the eight years as board chairman. He has also served on the Raeford Downtown Revitalization commission and the Hoke Raeford Economic Development board.

"I decided to run for office on the city council after a number of citizens approached me," Daniels said. "I believe my experience as

a commissioner and involvement in city affairs will be an asset."

Also filing for the last two years of Blue's term was 39-year-old Shelley Wilburn, who declared on July 6. Owner operator of the Chatterbox Café on N. Main Street, Wilburn is the only competitor running against Daniels. Wilburn is a former (See *COUNCIL*, page 8A)



Raeford native Victoria Lynch is on The Reveille dance team for the Fayetteville Guard. She is the daughter of Cecil and Jackie Lynch of Raeford. Related story, page 7A.

## With main courtroom tied up, sessions move all over town

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

As jury selection in Hoke's Superior courtroom continues for the fourth week in the April Pate murder case, other superior court felony cases were transferred out of the courtroom because of the jammed up schedule.

Potential jurors have been sequestered at Raeford's city

hall meeting room and every other available public government space downtown. Hoke sheriff deputies have been posted outside facilities to keep jurors from being exposed.

Daily, jurors wait to be interviewed by defense attorney Carlton Mansfield and District Attorney Kristy Newton in the pending murder trial in the Hoke Courthouse.

Hoke assistant district attorney Chris Rhue said it is the first time in Hoke's history that superior court has ever been held outside of court.

Rhue successfully prosecuted three cases back-to-back in a two-day session last week in the Hoke board of commissioners' assembly room. (See related article.)

It is also the first time (See *COURT*, page 6A)

## 3 guilty in felony cases

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Three people charged in different felony cases pleaded guilty last week in Hoke Superior Court.

Assistant district attorney Chris Rhue said he is satisfied that three defendants received the maximum penalties by law in separate Superior Court cases.

"Justice was served," Rhue said. "There were no situations of plea-bargaining, or reductions in charges."

"The three defendants pleaded guilty as charged."

In the first case, 17-year-old Jamel Gates was convicted for involuntary manslaughter in the accidental shooting of his girlfriend, 16-year-old Jerticha Ford, of Malloy Street. Both (See *FELONIES*, page 6A)

### The News-Journal

News

Other stuff

By KEN MACDONALD  
Publisher

Standing in an aisle of Home Food Feed and Seed store Saturday, I was pondering why roses get "food" when every other plant gets fertilizer, and I felt a cold prickly sting on my neck followed by wetness flooding down my shoulder.

I turned around to see Andrew Sutton, a teenager and employee of the store, standing 20 feet away, holding a water spray bottle, which

was aimed in my direction, not at the piece of pea-shelling equipment he was apparently supposed to be cleaning.

Before I could react, another stream of water crossed the store and struck me dead-on in the face.

"Oh no you didn't!" I mumbled to myself.

Still in a bit of shock – I mean, who ever expects to be garden shopping one moment, and the victim of a senseless violent attack the (See *OTHER STUFF*, page 8A)