

The News-Journal

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75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, August 15, 2007

Ethanol plant on track for September

BY LENORE L. MORALES

Construction on North Carolina's first ethanol plant is expected to begin in September, according to Jack Carlisle of Clean Burn Fuels, LLC.

"I've never been able to say I think we'll start next month, but it looks

good right now," Carlisle said.

The plan to build the alternative fuel facility is in its last stages as the company awaits the approval of \$35 million in renewable fuels guarantees from the U.S. Department of Agriculture this week.

Cape Fear Farm Credit is the

applicant for the guarantees as the institution handling financing on the land, facilities and equipment for the Clean Burn Fuels plant.

Steve Byrd, the North Carolina USDA director of business and cooperative programs for rural development, said two types of guarantees

on the financing are nearing the end of the approval process.

About to become official are a \$10 million energy guarantee and a \$25 million business and industry guarantee, Byrd said.

"I would expect a formal statement out of the national office this

week," he said.

According to the USDA webpage for rural business and cooperative development in North Carolina, the agency's business and industry program provides loan guarantees for the expansion and
(See ETHANOL, page 8A)



Deputy Herring's car flipped four times in this cotton field

Deputy injured when car flips

Crashes while responding to call

Hoke County Sheriff's Deputy Victoria Herring was seriously injured Tuesday afternoon when she apparently lost control of her cruiser while responding to a domestic fight call and crashed.

According to Highway Patrol Trooper F.K. Crumpler, Herring was trying to pass several vehicles at once on US401 between Raeford and Wagram when she lost control of the car, ran off the left side of the road, crossed

to the right and into a cotton field.

Her cruiser flipped four times, Crumpler said, throwing her some 30 feet into the field. He estimated her speed at 90 miles per hour.

Herring was taken to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center but was later flown to Duke Hospital.

Sheriff Hubert Peterkin said this morning she's in critical but stable condition, and asked people to pray for her.



Cooks in the The Pied Piper, performed by local children over the weekend (Amanda Ward, Birch Moon Photography)

Local children get taste of theater

The Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) wrapped up a week-long residency in Hoke County on Saturday night with two performances of The Pied Piper.

The production was a collaborative effort between Hoke County and the Hoke County Schools and a part of the

County's larger vision, begun two years ago, to bring a revival of the arts and cultural events to the community.

To support the residency, the County received a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council through the Arts Council's Grassroots funding program and sponsored the event through the schools. The

Hoke County Schools hosted the event at the Mary Archie McNeill Auditorium in Raeford, with the support of county leaders, the board of education, school administration, staff, teachers, and volunteers. There was no admission fee charged for the rehearsals or performances.
(See THEATER, page 6A)

This Week



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MySpace at issue page 2A

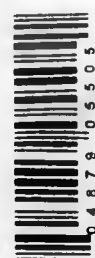
Schools set open houses page 5A

Volunteers sought for weather spotting page 5A

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Sweat, left, with Social Services board chairperson Shirley Wright.

DSS gets new director

The Hoke County Department of Social Services has a new director. Della Sweat assumed her duties on August 1.

She comes to the Hoke County from the Cumberland County Department of Social Services where she was employed for nine years. Prior to that she worked at Robeson County DSS for seven years.

She is a graduate of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and resides in Robeson County with her husband, Christopher, and their three children.

Sweat says it is a "blessing to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Hoke County."

She replaces Barbara Brooks, interim director since 2005. Brooks took the helm after the resignation of former director Bob Mercer.

Parents complain of school policies

BY LENORE L. MORALES

For the second time within a week, a group made up mostly of parents of students at Hawk Eye Elementary School assembled Thursday night at an informal meeting to discuss their disapproval of the school's visitation policies under its new principal, Teresa Anderson.

The parents said they oppose security measures such as those that require them

to make an appointment to visit their children's classrooms, to leave their drivers' licenses in the office during visits during school hours and to be escorted to and from classes.

Some said they were being kept from volunteering in classes as they said they have done for years.

By the end of the evening, the group had collected pages of written com-

plaints and chosen a committee of five volunteers to carry them to Hoke County Schools Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson.

However, Williamson said Friday that Hawk Eye's rules are no different under Anderson from what they were during the tenure of former principal Tona Jacobs -- and no different
(See PARENTS, page 8A)

Community mourns loss of educator



Cohildia Lyons

BY LESLEY COVINGTON
Intern

In the August heat more than 300 people gathered at Freedom Chapel AME Zion Church to celebrate the life of Rev. Co-

hildia M. Lyons.

Lyons died Aug. 7 after a long life of service to her community. The funeral was Aug. 10. Lyons was 75.

"She was truly a Christian lady who had a special love for children, families with problems and education," said County Commissioner Ellen McNeill, who served on committees with Lyons for more than 20 years.

Lyons was known for her generous actions. She often bought shoes for children who had none and drove members of her church to and from services. She was not known as one to toot her own horn.

"Other people told you about it," McNeill said, referring to any good deed Lyons performed. "She didn't brag about it."

(See EDUCATOR, page 6A)



Hattie Jones (right) seems quite happy to receive a \$50 gift certificate from McCain Correctional inmate Dwayne Haywood. More photos, page 4A.

Hoke High scores praised by expert

BY KEN MACDONALD

Hoke High School may have experienced only a 2.7 point increase in its composite score last year, but a consultant hired by the state praised the improvement as one of the "more significant growths in the state of North Carolina."

Bob Barnes, retired principal at Southview High in Fayetteville, now on a state consulting team, said the improvement to 46.4 percent "may seem not an appreciable amount -- it is."

He told the Hoke Board of Education last
(See SCHOOL BOARD, page 5A)