

The News-Journal



If it happened, it's news to us

75¢

No. 26 Vol. 102

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

Frustrated Hawk Eye parents fight back



Mitch Jackson speaks for the crowd of parents.

70 parents tell School Board they'll take case to state superintendent

By JASON BECK
Staff Writer

As the Hoke County Board of Education conducted the final minutes of last night's monthly meeting, shouts resonated outside as about 70 angry parents continued to complain about recent changes at Hawk Eye Elementary School.

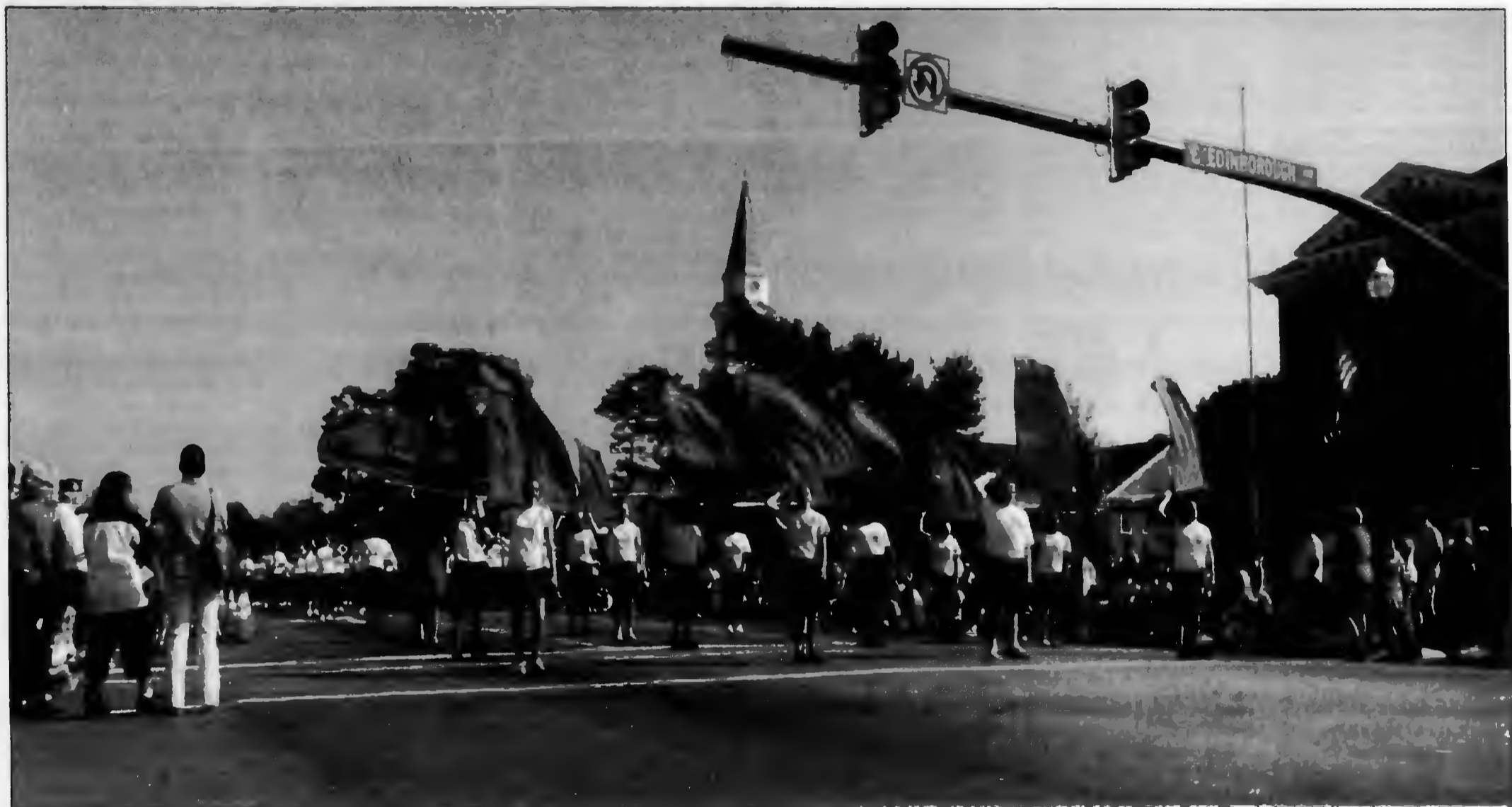
Moments earlier, the group, now known as Concerned Parents for Improving Education, voiced concern to the board over Principal Theresa Anderson's leadership and her policies on school visitation. Anderson took the helm of the former South Hoke Elementary School in July.

Mitch Jackson, a Hawk Eye parent, spoke for the standing room only crowd during the

board meeting's public forum.

"The parents of Hawk Eye Elementary School know our rights," Jackson said. "We know we have the right to visit our child's classroom during the structured time. We also have the right to volunteer in the classroom during the structured time."

"None of the elementary schools in the (See HAWK EYE, page 5A)



The Hoke County High School Marching Band marches along Main Street Sat. during the N.C. Turkey Festival Parade. The festival continues through Saturday. Story, page 8A; photos, 1B.

This Week



Pet of the Week is back page 4A

Board's ambulance switch legal page 8A

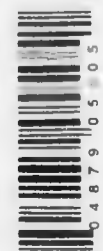
Five arrested on drug charges page 5A

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Raeford council to annex 12 tracts of land

By LENORE L. MORALES

Raeford's city council acted unanimously Monday night on all of the issues before it — including the second phase of annexation and a sewer contract award — after a lengthy set of well-attended public hearings on rezoning matters.

The council approved a resolution of intent with

service plans to take into the city 12 separate tracts in 6 areas with a total value of \$3.4 million in phase two of its annexation plan.

If all of the proposed areas become annexed, the change will add to the city's coffers approximately \$47,000 per year in taxes and up the population by 89, said City Manager Richard Douglas.

Jim Perry of the Lumber

River Council of Governments said the move would cost the city \$350,000 for water and sewer improvements in order to meet state requirements. Some of the areas already are served by city water and sewer, he said.

A separate public hearing must be held for each of the 12 areas, Perry said, but all could be held consecutively during one meeting.

A public information meeting on the proposed annexations will take place on October 25; public hearings are scheduled for November 19.

The areas to be annexed consist of two lots on Lewis Street; nine lots on East Prospect Avenue and North McMillan Street; two lots at East Prospect Avenue and Highway 401 Business; three lots at Laurinburg and

East Palmer roads; 11 lots on Laurinburg Road and College Drive; five lots on four separate sections of Dudley Street; 14 lots on West Avenue; 24 lots on Fuller Street and Cumberland Avenue, and one lot at Aberdeen and Turnpike roads. The tracts vary in zoning designation.

In other annexation action, the council awarded (See ANNEX, page 5A)

Sex exploitation case worst sheriff says he's seen

By JASON BECK
Staff Writer

A Hoke County man has been charged with nearly 200 sex crimes against children, in a case so disturbing, Sheriff Hubert Peterkin says he has seen nothing like it.

Jack Delroy Edwards, 69, of 7059 Fayetteville Road, was arrested last week and charged with 99 felony counts of second degree sex exploit of a minor and 99 felony counts of third

degree sex exploit of a minor. He is being held under \$1 million bond.

The sheriff said Edwards allegedly took pictures of adolescent girls in a sexual manner over the course of several years. More charges are pending in the case, which is still under investigation. Peterkin said the evidence is staggering.

"There was evidence that showed he has been doing this as far back as 10 years ago," Peterkin said. "Second degree means he took photos and du-

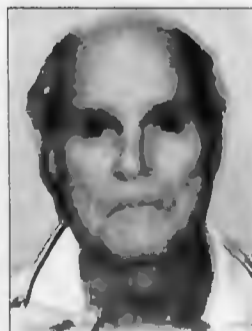
licated them... third degree means he was in possession of them.

"These were actual pictures," he said. "The evidence implicated him clearly with the victims. Some of the victims we have been able to identify and some we are trying to identify."

A tipster came forward and notified authorities of the alleged sex crimes. Deputies obtained warrants and searched the house, allegedly finding enough evidence to fill an entire interrogation room Peterkin said.

"He was very detailed about what he was doing; he was very organized," the sheriff said. "He kept journals and there was documentation of what he was doing."

Currently, the Hoke County (See MOLESTER, page 7A)



Edwards



By KEN MACDONALD
Publisher

Just back from the Turkey Festival parade, in which I played the N.C. Turkey, I have a theory, and it has the potential to unite the world. In fact, I think I will clear a space on my office wall for the Nobel Peace Prize — it comes with a plaque, doesn't it? Here goes.

You will agree, I'm sure, there are three things universally understood and appreciated: music, dance and chickens (four, if you count sex, but we definitely won't in this

discussion).

Music and dance have always held universal appeal, and I add chickens, because they play a big part — usually breakfast and supper — in every culture with which I'm familiar. So, combine all three and you have The Chicken Dance.

It's easy. Cue the music. Hands up. Make like two beaks for four beats. Form chicken wings and flap for four beats. "Shake it" — four beats. Clap, four beats.

I believe if we teach it to all the children (See OTHER STUFF, page 8A)



...and here's the steeple. Hillcrest Baptist Church got a new steeple last week as part of a renovations and expansion project, which will include a new fellowship hall.