

## Taxes may rise to combat Raeford crime

BY LENORE L. MORALES

Raeford Police Chief Mike Dummett distributed his department's staffing schedule for the month, along with a slick report on crime's rise in the city, to each city council member at their monthly meeting.

Then he began to make his case. Armed robbery. Rape. Kidnapping. Bank robbery. Assault. Homicide. These, together with other felonies, have increased by 74.4 percent since 2004, according to the chief's study. Misdemeanors such as DWI

charges and domestic disputes have gone up 30.9 percent. Raeford must have more police officers to fight the escalation of crime, Dummett told the council. "We've reassessed the need for personnel to address rising rates," he said. It's not because the present

police force isn't ready for the task, Dummett said, as he rattled off a list of improvements to the department since his arrival in April 2008. Updated policy, police cars, weapons, cameras, crime scene technology and more educationally and physically trained officers are

among the upgrades the chief touted. Still, more manpower is needed, he said. Dummett wants to deploy four teams of three officers working 12-hour shifts, with a sergeant on duty every day. Now, one team is complete, while three teams lack

a member. Meanwhile, the city pays overtime to cover for officers who are off or sick. "We are spending a gargantuan amount of overtime," Dummett said. The chief's study showed that \$63,923.43 was spent (See CRIME, page 6A)



Denise Neal

### Assistant helps avert tragedy

BY JASON BECK Staff Writer

Denise Neal, a teacher's assistant at Don Steed Elementary School, was in the middle of her lunchtime routine Friday – monitoring two classes of students as they enjoyed a typical meal of corn dogs and baked beans. Out of the corner of her eye she saw one student making an unusual commotion. Little did she know she was about to make a huge difference. Neal quickly moved to (See COMMOTION, page 5A)

### Wrestlers bring in the Turkey Festival



Wrestlers and the turkey are among those at the Turkey Festival Throw Down Sunday who helped get this year's Turkey Festival started.

### Skydivers, Congressman, wrestlers kick off festival

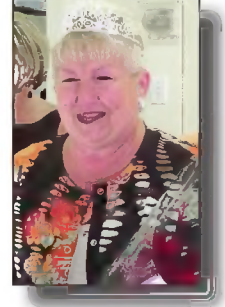
For the twenty-fifth year in a row skydivers dropped onto the field at Hoke High School to kick off the Turkey Bowl and the N.C. Turkey Festival. The 15 skydivers, sponsored by Raeford Aviation and Paraclete,

met Congressman Larry Kissell, festival mascot Lurkey Turkey, and News-Journal mascot Screech the Owl at center field to lead the crowd in a moment of silence in memory of victims of September 11, 2001.

Kissell honored medical, fire, rescue and law enforcement personnel, then tossed the coin to start the game. South View defeated the Hoke High Bucks 48-35 to claim the Turkey Bowl trophy.

On Sunday, seven step teams from surrounding counties took part in the festival's first step competition, co-hosted by B Phi B Step Team of Hoke High School and (See FESTIVAL, page 5A)

### This Week



Woman's Club names Wilson Woman of the Year page 1B

Flu season arrives early page 4A

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### Soldiers accused of making up fireworks story

BY JASON BECK Staff Writer

Two soldiers who reported an attack by fireworks last week are now in hot water with law enforcement.

According to Sheriff Hubert Peterkin, the two men

allegedly made up the story in an attempt to cover up self-inflicted injuries.

Last week, Alex Christman, 23, and Christian Martinez, 19, reported someone attacked their pickup truck with an industrial-grade fire-

work at the intersection of Fayetteville Road and Club Pond Drive.

Martinez was able to get out of the burning pickup truck but Christman was not. He sustained second and third degree burns and was sent to

the North Carolina Jaycees Burn Center in Chapel Hill.

However, according to Captain John Kivett, the lead investigator on the case, the soldiers' story wasn't adding up. There were no burn marks on the ground from the truck

at Club Pond Drive and Fayetteville Road.

Detectives made an arrest once they took a closer look at the damaged 2007 Nissan Titan pickup truck.

According to the sheriff's (See FIREWORKS, page 6A)



Clockwise from top: Glenn Balfour rides in competition; Sherry Beasley and Hannah; Dixie Acorn prepares a goat.

### Hoke County residents take bikes, goats, selves to Cumberland Fair

BY JASON BECK Staff Writer

The rides, the animals and the fried food – all part of the fall carnival. Since Hoke County doesn't have a traditional yearly fair, many natives are running for the border. There is a huge Hoke

presence at the Cumberland County Fair, which opened last week and will continue through Sunday evening.

Sherry Beasley, a Raeford native who owns a frame shop downtown, brought her family to the fair last Friday. While father and son were (See FAIR, page 8A)

### New law says you can't throw away plastic bottles

BY JASON BECK Staff Writer

At the end of the month, hundreds – maybe thousands – of Hoke citizens could be breaking the law.

Those who want to obey will have to go out of their way.

A new state law will go into effect October 1 that bans throwing plastic bottles into regular trashcans. The new law also bans throwing away pallets, oil filters and oyster shells. It's already illegal to throw away aluminum cans and cardboard boxes.

However, in the short term, consumers here will have to handle the recyclable waste themselves. Both the City of Raeford



You can't throw it away any longer.

and the Hoke County government have designated areas to discard recyclable items. The city has containers for cans, bottles and cardboard at the city maintenance garage near Unilever and the county has recycle bins at each of its waste convenience sites.

However, for the citizens this could result in an extra trip. Johnny Melton, Rae- (See RECYCLE, page 8A)

