

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

## Commissioner Hunt pleads Felony dropped with guilty plea to misdemeanors

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Hoke County Commissioner Tony Hunt pleaded guilty last week to three criminal charges in exchange for having several other charges dropped, including the sole felony charge against him, according to court documents.

Hunt, who also serves as the Lum-

bee Tribe's Tribal Administrator, agreed to plead guilty to assault by pointing a gun, communicating threats and resisting an officer in exchange for prosecutors dismissing charges of carrying a concealed gun, assault on a female, domestic criminal trespassing and felony larceny, according to court records. The charges stemmed from

an alleged domestic incident with his estranged wife in November 2013.

Some information was provided about two of the dismissed charges on the notices of dismissal, filed at the Hoke County Courthouse on June 5.

"The defendant was on premises he owned jointly with the alleged victim, Linda Hunt, at the time he was car-

rying a handgun concealed on his person. According to Linda Hunt, the defendant was not restricted from entering the premises," according to one of the documents. Another document stated "the alleged victim, Linda Hunt, reported that she and the defendant did not have any agreement that restricted (See HUNT, page 4A)



Tony Hunt

## Last days of school, beat the heat



## Senior Services director fired

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Hoke County Senior Services Director Esther Harrell was recently fired from her position, according to Hoke County Manager Tim Johnson.

"She was terminated," he said Tuesday.

Johnson could not comment on the circumstances surrounding Harrell's termination, but he did say she was serving a two-week disciplinary suspension when she was fired.

The county is now seeking a new department head for the senior services office and is also looking to fill several other positions. Local officials posted job ads for the senior services director position, the county public utilities director position and additionally a senior services program coordinator and public buildings director.

Hoke County Public Utilities Director Dennis Baxley resigned from his position to take a job as the new Raeford city manager, stepping in for Mike Wood. (See SENIOR SERVICES, Page 6A)



### Cool games

Kids at McLauchlin Elementary School were treated to "Water Day" Friday as firefighters from Raeford Fire Department opened the hydrants and let the water flow. Clockwise from top left: Student Alyssa Norton sprays some younger children; Lissette Garcia runs through the spray while playing a game; Nevaeh Livingston and Jaylen Collins play in the spray from the fire hose; Physical education teacher Alan Caywood sprays Victory Morales-Hardison while Norton watches the fun. (Catharin Shepard photos)

## This Week

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## Families might have to pay for drivers ed

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Hoke families could end up paying for their child's driver education classes if they want to get their

license before turning 18, if state budget cuts go into effect.

The state Senate passed a budget last month that did not include funding for schools to provide students

with driver education. State law requires that students under the age of 18 have 30 hours of classroom work and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction before they can even take the test

to get their license.

Without state funding for the program, Hoke County Schools won't be able to pay for students to take the classes, Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson said.

"If the state subsidy for driver education is eliminated by the state budget, it will probably mean that parents will have to pay the cost for private instruction (See DRIVERS ED, page 6A)



### Hoke High Marshals

Hoke High School's Junior Marshals for 2014 are Melissa Tomashek (front, left to right), Michael Rose Jr., Ameenah Abdur-Raheem, Elizabeth Chason; Ashley Pfeiffer (second row), Sarah Phifer, Consuela Simmons, Tony Cunningham Jr., Corey Locklear, Shantel Jacobs, Shelby Robertson and Ashelynn Priest. Not pictured are Hayley Bayne, Justin Colon and Tyler Hornbeck.

## Relay For Life draws 22 teams

So far, some 200 walkers signed for June 20 event

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

It's almost time for volunteers and cancer survivors to lace up their walking shoes and hit the track for the annual Hoke County Relay For Life.

This year's Relay is set for June 20-21 at the Raz Autry Stadium on the Hoke County High School campus. The all-night event features volunteer walkers packing the track from dusk to dawn to collect money for the American Cancer Society, along with activities, entertainment, food vendors and more.

Churches, schools, companies, and friends and family of people battling cancer are just a few of the groups that often make up Relay For Life, but any other group is welcome to come and join as well, organizers have said.

The annual event starts at 6 p.m. Friday, June 20 with the introductory ceremony and the cancer survivors' lap around the track. All cancer survivors who would like to take part in the survivors' lap can register for the event beginning at 5 p.m. the day of Relay For Life.

Relay For Life raises thousands (See RELAY, page 6A)



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