

The News-Journal

\$1⁰⁰

If it happened, it's news to us



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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, June 2, 2021



Veteran Stanley Edward Blitz III is accompanied by a youngster during Friday's parade along Main Street. (Catharin Shepard photo)

Hoke honors veterans Parade, service mark Memorial Day downtown

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke's State Rep. Garland Pierce knows what it's like to fight for the United States, and what it's like to lose a loved one in that fight.

Pierce, a veteran himself, marked Memorial Day by

reading to a crowd gathered on the Hoke Court House lawn, a letter he and his family have kept close to their hearts for more than 50 years. In March 1969, Corp. Hugh R. McKinney was honored with the Bronze Star for his heroism. McKinney was killed (See *VETERANS*, page 4)



Veteran Wendell Young autographs a Jeep as citizens gathered Friday to honor veterans in a parade. (Shelley Wilburn photo)



State Rep. Garland Pierce addresses a crowd on the courthouse lawn Monday. (Ken MacDonald photo)

Vaccination rate may be higher

Military numbers not counted

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Due to the county's military and veteran population and differences in how civilian and military medical providers track vaccinations, it's possible Hoke County's COVID-19 vaccination rate is actually

higher than it appears, according to one local health official.

As widely reported by media outlets across the state, the official vaccination rate for Hoke County has been among the lowest, if not the lowest in North Carolina. Surrounding (See *VACCINES*, page 5)

Budget hikes new deputy pay 18%

They'll start in Hoke at \$41.1k

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners' budget for 2021-2022 will include

funding to cover a starting salary of \$41,127 for newly hired sheriff's deputies, and a 15 percent pay increase for deputies already (See *BUDGET*, page 3)

Veterans honored with banners placed downtown



OTHERSTUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD

We had to travel over the weekend to the mountains for my nephew's wedding to someone—who, as is the case with all us MacDonald men—is definitely out of his league. Deep in the Blue Ridge, in areas that haven't seen sunshine since the uplifting of tectonic plates, we got to try out my all-wheel-drive truck on the straight-up (See *OTHER STUFF*, page 6)

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