

## NIFONG TO RESIGN

Duke lacrosse prosecutor says community has had enough

State, Page 3A



## ANYONE'S GAME

Nobody's taking control as Open heads into weekend play

Sports, Page 1B



# The Sanford Herald

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### LEE COUNTY

# CRIME DOWN

Crime rate falls (slightly) in Lee for 6th straight year; violent crime at lowest rate in 10 years

By GORDON ANDERSON  
Herald Staff Writer

SANFORD — Crime was down in Lee County in 2006, according to figures released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Uniform Crime Report numbers, which are released each year by the FBI and include violent crimes (murder, rape, assault) and property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, arson, larceny, etc.), show that crime in Sanford and Lee County as a whole in 2006 was

down 1.7 percent from 2005.

The decrease mainly took place in Sanford, where crime was down 11.9 percent. Crime in unincorporated parts of Lee County actually rose 36.7 percent during the same time period.

The overall crime index in Sanford and Lee County — 4,739 — is the lowest since 2000, when the index was 4,457.6, and the second-lowest in 10 years. The highest crime index in that time period was in 2002, when it was 7,195.

Violent crime in Sanford and Lee County hit a 10-year low at 294, and has been on a steady decline since 2002, when it was 456.5.

The crime index is a measure indicating the number of crimes per



Crime rates are calculated by taking the total number of crimes and figuring that rate per 100,000 people. For instance, if one murder occurs in a town of 50,000 people, the rate of murders is 2.0 per 100,000 people.

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### CRIME RATES BY COUNTY

#### Lee County

2005 Rate	2006 Rate
4,823.9	4,739.9



Down  
1.7%

#### Chatham County

2005 Rate	2006 Rate
2,412.8	2,666.0



Up  
10.5%

#### Harnett County

2005 Rate	2006 Rate
4,189.6	3,928.9



Down  
6.2%

#### Moore County

2005 Rate	2006 Rate
3000.4	3045.0



Up  
1.4%

### TAKE 5

#### Hampton Rutledge

Today, we Take 5 with Hampton Rutledge, a Realtor with Re/Max Real Estate Services and state director for the Central Carolina Jaycees, based in Sanford.



Rutledge has been a member of the CCJCs for nearly three years.

The North Carolina Jaycees, or North Carolina Junior Chamber, provides opportunities for 21- to 40-year-olds to participate in various activities encouraging personal and professional growth.

"When I moved to the area I was having a hard time meeting other young professionals," Rutledge said. "The Jaycees provided the outlet I needed to become more involved in the community while fostering my own leadership skills and doing so with a terrific group of people."

Rutledge is originally from Asheville, and he earned his B.A. in English literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1997. He currently lives in the Cameron area of Western Harnett County, where he's been for the past seven years.

**Q:** The Central Carolina Jaycees will host the first Community Care Fair on June 23. What was the impetus for organizing this event?

**A:** The "first annual" CCJC Community Care Fair will be held at the old airport off of Tramway Road on June 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Every year, the CCJCs make a contribution to the Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill. Usually that support comes from the annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration.

Since the resources were not available to have the fireworks celebration this year, we decided to find another way to celebrate and promote the community.

One of our newest members, Amber Dunigan, suggested a fair that would include support from the city's emergency service personnel. We were happy to have had a strong response from both the Lee County firemen as well as the Lee County Sheriff's Office. Since then the interest in the Community Care Fair snowballed into what will hopefully be a successful tradition.

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### BEST BETS

A sock hop, the third fundraising dance for the Lee County Centennial celebration, will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. today in the old gymnasium at Lee County High School.

A deejay will spin beach music, and refreshments will be served. Tickets cost \$10.

Other area events of interest:

■ Cameron resident Georgia Hooker McNeill, author of "Stay Out of My Business" and "God Gave Me Kinky Hair," will host a book signing from noon to 3 p.m. today at Tree of Life Christian Bookstore, 125 Wicker St.

■ A fundraiser for the Front Porch Music Series, featuring Memphis the Band, Southpaw, Rootzie, Club Boheme and other bands, will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the Bynum General Store, 950 Bynum Road in Bynum.

■ Temple Theatre presents "Beehive: The '60s

Musical Sensation" at 8 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets cost \$20 for adults; \$16 for groups, active military personnel and Lee County educators; and \$10 for students and children.

■ Sandhills Theatre Company presents "Cheaper By The Dozen" at 8 p.m. today and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Owens Auditorium on the campus of Sandhills Community College in Southern Pines.

■ ChathamArts will hold its second "Potluck in a Pasture" from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Holly Hill Daylily Farm in Moncure. Visitors are asked to bring a potluck dish for eight made with at least one local ingredient, along with the recipe to share, plus picnic blankets or chairs and beverages. Adults and children over 12 are asked to donate \$10 (\$8 for ChathamArts members); \$5 for children under 12 (\$4 for members). Proceeds benefit ChathamArts.

### DEATHS

SANFORD  
Leona Goins, 78

LILLINGTON  
Barbara Buchanan, 63

SILER CITY  
Vann Lineberry, 78  
Jeffery Scotton, 34

### BIRTHDAYS

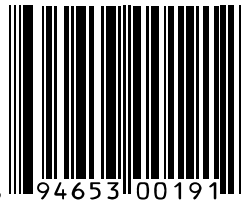
Best wishes are extended to everyone celebrating a birthday today, especially **Deborah Ellerby, Symetra Jackson, Brandon Chase Austin, Alexis Anne Elkins, Abigail Leigh Dowdy, Carlie Lynn Mote, Alexis Danielle Hall, Madelyn Rae Collins, Michael David Howell, Lina Thomas, Holly Bowling, Zkeyah McLean, LaCrystal Monique McLean, Jimmy Russell Wilkes Jr., Katie Myers, Jennifer Hall, Tony McKay, Jim Boyte, Levi McAuley, Biaca Garcia, Antonio T. McKay and Keisha Petty.**

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