

The News-Journal

75¢

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

No. 38 Vol. 109

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, November 26, 2014

\$20,000 reward offered in shooting death of teen



Hoke District Attorney Kristy Newton offers chance for community to speak up. With her, Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin. (Catharin Shepard photo)

'This is a 16-year-old child we're talking about'

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County Sheriff Hubert Peterkin announced Tuesday a \$20,000 reward offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the shooting death of 16-year-old DeAndre "Papa" Ricketts.

Ricketts, a student at Hoke County High School,

was shot and killed October 13, 2013 at a birthday party on Bethel Road. Investigators have been working the case for over a year but have not been able to make any arrests because many of the people who were at the party that night keep changing their stories or won't talk to officers, Peterkin said.

"Some of the challenges we've had doing

interviews, we've had some of the persons we've interviewed to go back and change their stories. Some won't come back and do other interviews, to come back and do further interviews to corroborate some of the information that we may have found. We feel like we really want to reach out to the community so we get some more effort," he said.

The sheriff's office is putting up a \$20,000 reward, taken from drug forfeiture funds, in hopes that the money will encourage people with information about Ricketts' death to come forward.

"We have conducted over 125 interviews in this case. We have followed some really good leads, but for some reason I feel like (See REWARD, page 4A)



The scene where a child suffered third degree burns.

Child burned in grease fire

A young boy was badly burned Monday in a grease fire that started on a stove when she walked away from a hot pan to tend to her children, according to authorities.

Firefighters were called to a mobile home on the 400 block of Heather Lane, just off of Hillcrest Drive. The call came in around 4 p.m., reporting that there was a fire with two people injured.

Resident Sarah Talindo was cooking on the stove when she walked away from a hot pan to tend to her children, according to Maj. Freddy Johnson of the Hoke County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Division. A neighbor's seven-year-old child, whose name was not released, grabbed the (See FIRE, page 3A)

Fireman arrested for theft from station

Officers with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested a volunteer firefighter last week for allegedly stealing a generator from the Stonewall Fire Department.

Investigators arrested Michael Andrew Miller Jr., 28, of the 700 block of East Donaldson Avenue in Raeford on one count of felony larceny and one count of felony

obtaining property by false pretense. He was held under a \$20,000 secured bond. Miller



Authorities were reportedly able to recover the generator and return it, according to the sheriff's office.

Thousands of lights, Santa come to park

The Hoke County Recreation Complex will turn into a light-filled winter wonderland next week as the county's Parks and Recreation Department presents "Christmas in the Park."

The event will feature

thousands of Christmas lights, people in costume, a visit from Santa, Christmas carols from local church choirs and more.

Christmas in the Park will have an official grand opening with the county (See PARK, page 6A)

This Week

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Friends kick in to help cancer victim with bills

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Friends of Raeford native Ray Burrow and his family are raising a little Thanksgiving and Christmas cheer to help support him in a battle against cancer.

"This, to me, is what

Thanksgiving is," friend and local businessman Andy Bullock said.

Bullock, who owns and operates Low Country Pork Skins and Rinds, is one of several people raising money for Burrow's medical expenses. Burrow graduated from Hoke High in 1993 and is a friend

to many people in the community, Bullock said.

Burrow started experiencing some health problems that sent him to the emergency room on Halloween night, where he was diagnosed with cancer. A biopsy confirmed the malignancy, and Burrow is undergoing an aggressive

treatment of radiation and chemotherapy, Bullock said. Burrow, employed at Unilever, has been unable to work for the last several weeks.

That's why friends and local businesses are supporting fundraising efforts for him.

Plumbing Repair, Inc. and Low Country Pork Skins and

Rinds are both holding special sales to benefit Burrow as he battles the disease, and Raeford Hardware will hold a raffle.

All profits Plumbing Repair, Inc. makes on Wednesday, December 10 will go to help Burrow.

(See BURROW, page 3A)



Sports scenes

Above, Brooke Callahan is lifted by friend Emily Smith after her team won the Parks & Rec soccer championship for 11- and 12-year-olds. Also above, #40 Autry Grading leaves the ground at Rockfish Speedway. At right, #32 driver Brad Foose flipped in warm-ups. (Racing photos by Hal Nunn; soccer contributed)



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VIEWPOINTS

Fracking rules ignore public input

By SARAH KELLOGG
Appalachian Voices

The North Carolina Mining and Energy Commission (MEC) issued its final vote on proposed changes to the rules regulating the process of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas (i.e. fracking) last Friday. As you've probably heard by now, the panel voted unanimously to approve the rule set.

What you may not know is that, between July 14 and Sept. 30, the MEC received 217,000 public comments on more than 100 draft rules regarding safety standards for fracking in the state. More than 2,000 North Carolinians attended the commission's four public hearings, and the vast majority of speakers opposed fracking and asked for stronger rules. The MEC's response, written in a hearing officer's report released two weeks ago, showed a considerable lack of consideration for public comments, a fact that disappointed concerned citizens and advocates across the state. Almost all of the recommendations fell short of what the public overwhelmingly asked for, and the few recommendations that strengthened the rules do so quite minimally.

For example, though the MEC received over 2,000 comments asking it to increase "setback distances" from occupied buildings and water sources from 650 feet to at least 1,500 feet, the hearing officer's report only recommended one change to setbacks – an additional setback of 1,500 feet from surface waters that supply municipal drinking water (all other setbacks remain 650 feet).

Though the MEC originally promised that North Carolina

would have the "strongest rules in the country," it acknowledged in the hearing officer's report that many states have much larger setbacks from occupied buildings and water supplies, ranging from 800-2,000 feet. Clearly, the MEC members were not willing to follow through on their promises to the public or adequately respond to the public's overwhelming concerns.

The MEC acknowledged in the hearing officer's report public concern over several other aspects of the rules, including comments in support of a ban on open pits for fracking wastewater storage as well as unannounced inspections, air monitoring, stronger bonding rules, and health studies. Unfortunately, despite numerous comments, the Commission did not make any substantial changes in these areas before adopting the rules. While the MEC did change the language that had previously required inspections to be announced, they did not include any provision in the rules requiring that inspections be unannounced either.

Additionally, the rules do not address air quality issues, chemical disclosure or compulsory (aka "forced") pooling, an extremely controversial practice in which landowners who do not wish to lease their mineral rights are forced to accept drilling anyway. Some of these issues, most notably forced pooling, may have to be dealt with by the General Assembly before drilling can begin in the state.

Among the most disturbing aspects of the process surrounding adoption of the new rules were the thinly-disguised attitudes of some of the MEC members. In the meetings preceding last Fri-

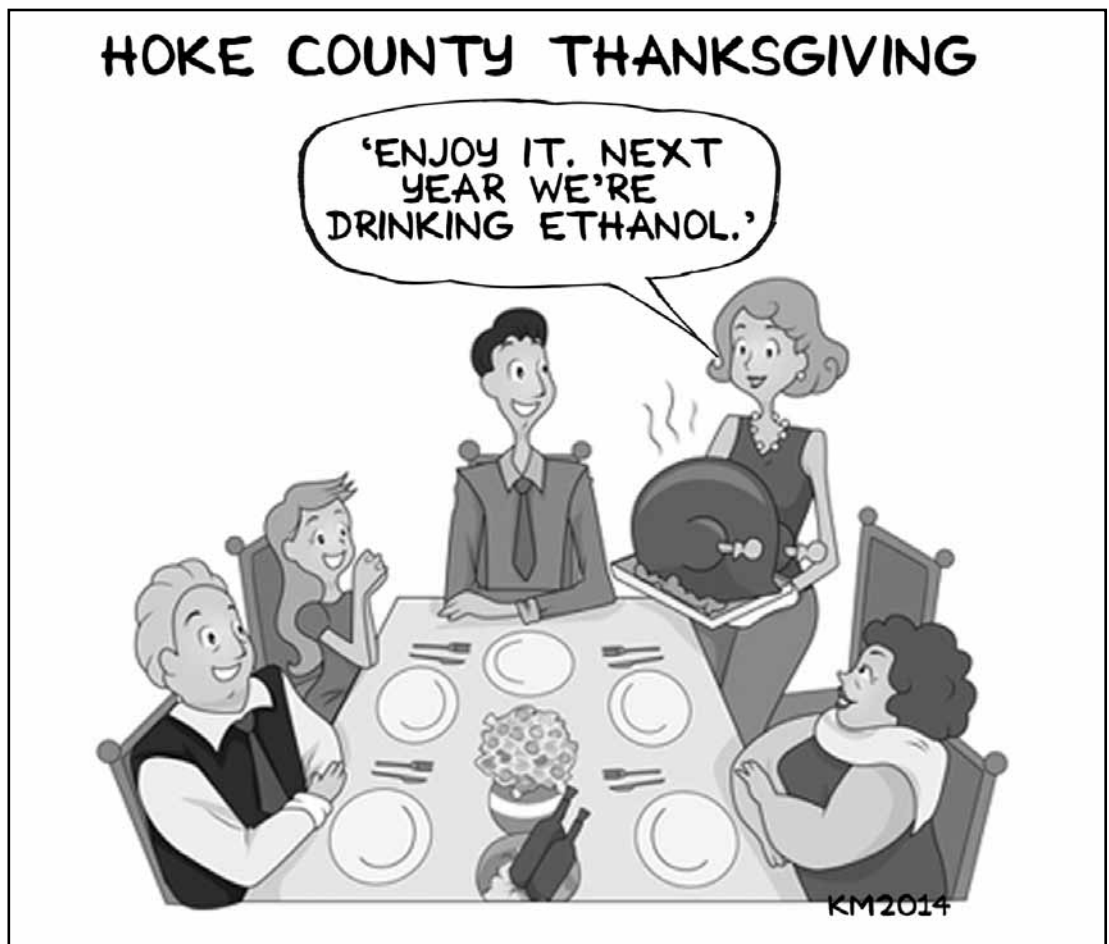
day's final vote, members of the Commission were heard making negative statements about the public's comments.

Both Commissioners Howard and Womack dismissed the public's comments as "useless" and lacking science. Similarly, detailed comments recommending stronger rules for well construction were disregarded as "telling the industry how to suck its own egg." These responses from the commissioners are especially disturbing given that many groups and individuals did submit scientific comments, complete with peer-reviewed studies, and that North Carolinians put forth a great deal of effort to express their concern with the MEC's weak rules. Perhaps the only voice of reason came from Commissioner Amy Pickle, who warned the other commissioners against speaking too proudly of the rules since they are not what the public wants to see.

Given the rushed timeframe for review and consideration of the public's comments and the industry-friendly makeup of the Commission, it's not surprising that the final rules do not adequately protect North Carolina's water, air and public health from the documented risks associated with fracking. However, given the enormous public outcry, members of the anti-fracking community had at least hoped for better.

The rules will now move onto the Rules Review Commission and, barring legislative action, permits for fracking may be issued as early as April 2015.

Sarah Kellogg is the North Carolina Field Organizer for the environmental advocacy group Appalachian Voices.



Politicians have lots to be thankful for

Politicians and others involved in government in North Carolina have plenty to be grateful for this Thanksgiving.

The N.C. Democratic Party can be thankful for Asheville and Buncombe County voters. Without them, the election would have been an unmitigated disaster for the state party. On Nov. 4, Asheville-area voters sent two Republican state House members – Reps. Tim Moffitt and Nathan Ramsey – packing. In all, Democrats picked up three net seats in the House, but lost one in the Senate. They weren't very successful elsewhere on the ballot either.

U.S. Sen.-elect Thom Tillis can be thankful for state Senate Leader Phil Berger, R-Rockingham. You mean the guy who handed Tillis and the House a draconian budget and engaged in tough negotiations over teacher pay and coal ash cleanup to the point that legislators were still in Raleigh in the final days of August? Sure, it could have been September or October.

U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan can be thankful for Tillis, who defeated her on Nov. 4. Who wants a job where, every six years, you have to go begging for dollars and sell your soul while your fate is actually tied to the public standing of a president who may very well be less popular than Charles Manson?

One on One

Patrick Gannon,
Capital Press
Association



Gov. Pat McCrory can be thankful for the words "broken" and "silos." If you believe the governor, when he came into office in 2013, the state's economy was broken, the Medicaid system was broken, the Division of Motor Vehicles was broken and state infrastructure and buildings were broken. Meanwhile, state agencies and systems operated in silos, not communicating with each other and wasting money. Unfortunately, state bureaucrats also have adopted "silo-speak," and it comes up routinely at state government meetings. But hey, tearing down walls and fixing things is a good way to cement a legacy, right?

State Rep. Michael Wray, D-Northampton, can be thankful for lower gas prices. Wray is a House member whose campaign reported buying fuel 427 times between July 2011 and June 2013, spending more than \$28,000 on his campaign debit card, enough to drive well over 100,000 miles. The campaign is being investigated by the State Board of Elections. His last couple of campaign finance reports show he's not driving nearly as much

these days however.

The public relations firm Edelman can be thankful for Deborah Crowder, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill employee who reportedly devised a "paper classes" scheme that help keep athletes academically eligible to play. Edelman is expected to receive more than \$1.65 million from the university for PR services mainly in response to the academic and athletics scandal.

Possible 2016 gubernatorial contenders McCrory and Attorney General Roy Cooper can be thankful for easy issues. McCrory has spent most of the past couple of weeks saying how much he loves veterans and encouraging employers to hire them. Cooper has spent much of the past two weeks talking about tougher penalties for drivers who pass stopped school buses. Yes, these are important issues, but come on, who doesn't like kids and veterans? Let's hope this isn't all we get for the next two years.

Cities and towns across North Carolina can be thankful they are still allowed to levy property taxes on their residents. In the past few years, the General Assembly has taken away the authority of cities to grow through annexation and charge privilege taxes on businesses. But who needs street sweepers, trash collectors, police officers and firefighters anyway?

Found out how Mr. Turlington's paddle felt

I recently got an email from Ellen McNeill, our past county commissioner who has been working on educational projects including a recent book about the history of Hoke education. I contributed an article about my experiences at Ashemont School in grades one through three. She asked me if I could contribute more and here goes.

My first year in the consolidated, but still segregated, Hoke system was spent at the old J.W. McLaughlin School building that burned many years ago. The following year I moved up to what is now the Turlington School, where I spent grades five through eight.

I have many memories of that school, including my first and only school paddling which was administered by Mr. Turlington himself, then principal. Nothing but the best for me! I can still visualize that heavy wooden paddle with the holes menacingly drilled in it. It was always in plain sight in his office, a place you wanted to avoid. I have no idea what I did or was blamed for, but I sure remember the punishment.

We had great teachers at the school. My fifth grade teacher was the young, pretty Ms. McCrimmon who drove a new cream-colored Ford Fairlane. She was a great teacher as was Mrs. Biggs in the sixth grade who introduced us to the workings of our government and started each day with a discussion of current events. Not since the sixth grade have I been able to name the cabinet members and Supreme Court justices. It was in her class in the fall



**Frog Holler
Philosopher
Ron Huff**

of 1962 that we weathered the Cuban missile crisis, the hottest moments of the Cold War.

The approach of the seventh grade was daunting. Not only was it the first year of changing classes, it was our date with Roy Young, the no-nonsense history teacher whom we feared and whose technique with a paddle rivaled that of Mr. Turlington. I vividly remember the first time we walked in single file, like the condemned, to Mr. Young's class for a test. I literally felt sick, but soon found that Mr. Young was a great teacher who inspired us.

I was in Mrs. McFadyen's English class when the intercom announced the horrible news of President Kennedy's assassination. Those were turbulent times. I came face-to-face with my own limitations when I found myself, always a top student, relegated decisively to a lower status in our weekly special reading classes. The assignment to these stratified classes was based strictly on some reading ability, which I lacked. Only years later did I realize that I am a chronically slow reader who did not do well on the timed reading and comprehension assignments.

The school itself seemed old even then with its hardwood floors made pleasantly aromatic by the green stuff that the janitors used to sweep them with. The nice auditorium, which has

now been renamed for Mary Archie McNeill, is where I met that great lady as she auditioned for boys' chorus and drafted me as the piano player.

The lunchroom was under the since-demolished gym, and the lunch ladies could really cook. Their chicken potpie is still the standard that I judge by, and their mixture of honey and peanut butter made fantastic sandwiches that accompanied the wonderful vegetable beef soup. Another curious smell was that of the reusable plastic lunch tickets, which were washed in something to convince somebody that they were sanitized.

Speaking of sanitized, the old gym was definitely not, in spite of all efforts of the staff. And speaking of staff, I first got athlete's foot in the building and have fought it ever since. The seventh grade was the first year that we had organized physical education. We donned our gym shorts, tee shirts and jock straps each day to face Mr. Walker, the P.E. teacher, and the girls in their blue gym suits. At recess, we played hard on the playground where kickball and foursquare ruled and I learned to flirt with girls by chasing and being chased by them.

I had my first romantic encounter in the seventh grade and a new era in life was launched at that great old school. I am happy that it still stands and is still a vital building in Hoke County education.

Mr. Turlington, though feared, was fair and well-respected. After all, they renamed the building for him.

More later.

We Get Letters

Citizens, don't take voting for granted

To the editor,

I am deeply humbled and appreciative of those who placed their trust in me these past weeks. I am appreciative of our Constitutional Republic for the opportunity as a citizen to run for public office. Notice I didn't say our county is a democracy government as we are not. We are a Republic. Distinctions between the two are many and sometimes confusing to those within government and those of the elector. This is for another day's discussion as my deepest concern is the lack of interest of the electorate. Hoke County's registered voters are around 30,000 citizens. Around 10,000 citizens voted during the election cycle.

What gives? Lack of interest, unknown candidates, or major issues facing the county? Before the election, there was turmoil at the state capital with Moral Monday clashes. Hoke County Board of Elections was being chastised for their actions for the establishment of safe voting precincts. Did voting lose its luster afterward when calmness prevailed? Let me put it in historical proportions; remember the "Purple Finger" of the Iraqi where over 4,000 of our American service members died. In every military expedition our armed forces participated, one major aspect of those actions involved "the right for the people to form and elect their leadership

by way of VOTING." Back to the "Purple Finger"—a badge of honor and courage by the voters of Iraq. Honor and courage prevailed over threats of death, which did take place afterwards to many voting Iraqis. Evidences were the many dismembered purple stained fingers of the unfortunate voter. I know, as I witnessed the aftereffects of the first free election 2004 to 2005 while serving in Titrik, Iraq. Citizens, please exercise the election process. Question: What does "saloons," "chicken," and "fish" relate to the election process? Citizens, do not take the task of voting for granted.

John Harry Shannon

We welcome your letters

The News-Journal welcomes letters to the editor and encourages readers to express their opinions.

Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. The street address and phone number will not be published, but are required so we may verify authenticity.

The name of the writer and, in some cases, the town the writer is from will be published at the end of the letter.

We are not able to publish letters that are essentially thank-you cards.

We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, as well as those that exceed 300 words. We

will not publish letters that we consider to be in poor taste or libelous. In some cases we may add an editor's note as a postscript when we believe a correction, explanation or amplification is warranted. We may also, at our discretion, limit the number of times an individual writer may submit a letter for publication.

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Obituaries

Harold "Buzz" E. Stone

Harold "Buzz" E. Stone Jr. DDS, 73, of Jacksonville, Florida died Tuesday, November 18, 2014.

He spent several summers in Raeford. He was the son of Harold and Elizabeth Stone and grandson of M.B. and Annie McFadyen Warren. He remembered the good times at Robert and Mamie Gatlin's pond. He was raised in Falls Church, Virginia and attended UNC undergraduate and dental school, served in the Navy for a few years and then opened a dental office in Jacksonville, Florida. He enjoyed all water sports and had a powerboat, jet ski and sailboat over the years.

Survivors include his cousins, Chan Roberts, Mary Roberts Shapiro and Pat Hood McNeill; his aunt, Jennie Warren Hood; and a host of friends.

A memorial/graveside service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers: memorials may be made to Raeford Presby-

terian Church Archie Ball Buie McFayden & Family Scholarship.

Barbara J. McKinnon

Barbara J. McKinnon, 74, of 409 South Magnolia Street died Saturday, November 15, 2014.

Survivors include her daughters, Denise McLeod, Barbara Tyson, Jackie McLean and Deborah Blue; and sons, Gerald and Darryl.

The funeral was held at 1 p.m. Friday, November 21 in Freedom Chapel AME Zion Church. Burial was in Highland Biblical Gardens.

Shirley L. McNatt

Shirley L. McNatt, 45, of 106 Dakota Drive died Thursday, November 13, 2014.

Survivors include her daughters, Iris and Jaquana; mother, Willie; father, James; sisters, Lisa Kelly, Francene Best, Erica and Sheerice; brother, James; and four grandchildren.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Thursday, November 20 in McLaughlin Chapel AME Zion Church. Burial was in Hoke County Community Cemetery.

Marriage Licenses

Marriage licenses recently issued through the Hoke County Register of Deeds, by date license obtained. List includes date of marriage ceremony and county performed if outside of Hoke:

Oct. 31

- Peter Francis Tyree of Raeford and Kristin Elizabeth Schultz of Braintree, Mass.; married Nov. 8

Nov. 3

- Victor Emmanuel Torres Castaneda and Brittany Christine Holland, both of Raeford; married Nov. 3

Nov. 4

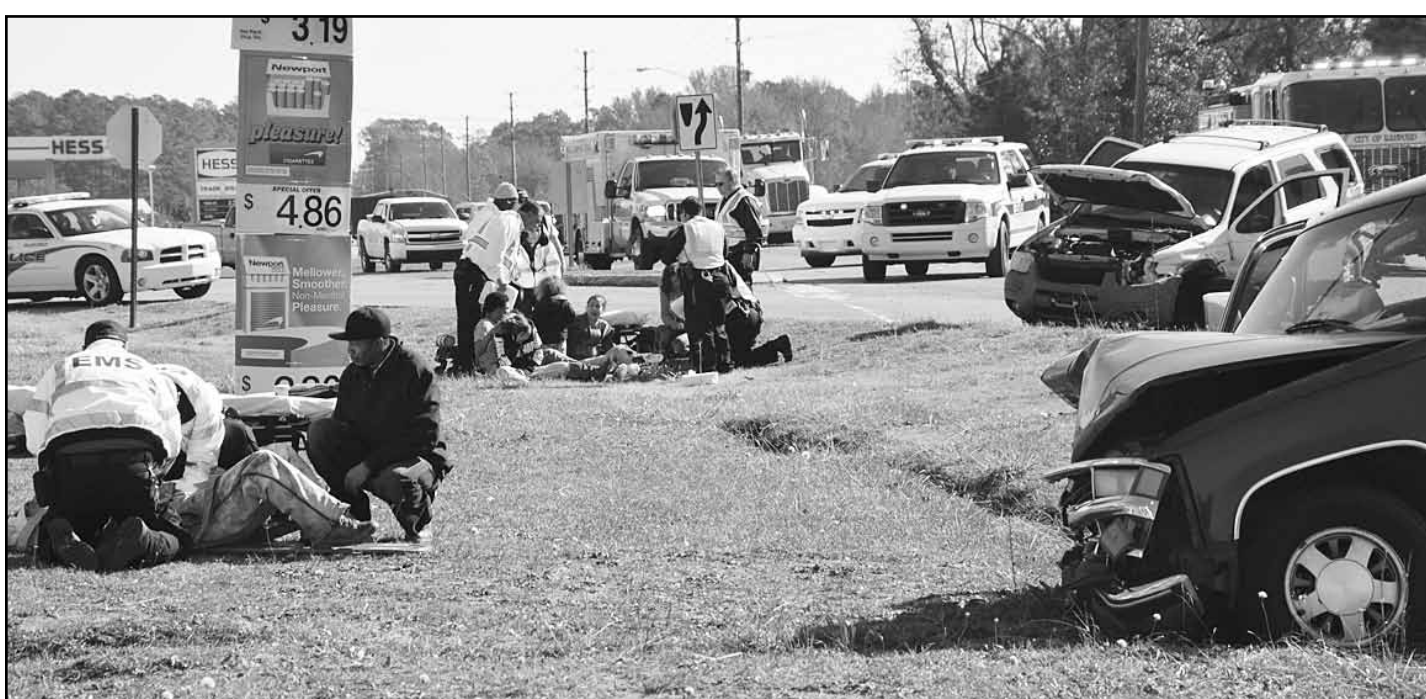
- Manuel Capolin-Xelima and Virginia Vazquez-Rivera, both of Red Springs; married Nov. 6 in Scotland County

Nov. 6

- Harold Leon Miller of Fayetteville and Eola Peterkin Newkirk of Raeford; married Nov. 8

Nov. 14

- Ricardo Garcia Fajardo and Mary Louise Napier, both of Darlington, S.C., married Nov. 15 in Cumberland County
- Teisha Marie Nguyen and Zamilia Ann Scott, both of Raeford; married Nov. 14



Seven hurt

A wreck last week at the intersection of Turnpike Road and Aberdeen Road sent seven people, including several children, to the hospital with injuries. Driver Marry Glennise Langley, 39, of the 7400 block of Red Springs Road was stopped at the stop sign on Turnpike Road when she reportedly turned left without looking, pulling out in front of driver Billi Jo Stentz, 38, of the 600 block of Sanders Road. Langley was charged with failing to see before starting and failure to secure child in a correct child seat.

Burrow

(Continued from page 1A)

"If you have a plumbing job that needs to be done or one that you have been putting off, please call 904-3104 to schedule an appointment," the business owner wrote on the company's Facebook page. "You would be helping a worthy cause and taking care of your problem all at once."

Bullock announced that his proceeds from Low Country Pork Skins and Rinds from the month of November will go to help Burrow. He is offering BBQ Ranch, hot BBQ, plain and salt and vinegar pork skins for \$5 each, and BBQ Ranch, hot BBQ and plain pork rinds for \$3 each. The delivery date will be December 4 at the Farm Bureau on Harris Avenue from 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Orders can be made through Monday, December 1. People interested in buying from Bullock can contact him through his Facebook page or through his business

Face-
book
page,
Low
Country
Pork
Skins
and
Rinds.



Burrow

Raeford Hardware store is holding a raffle in December to raise money for Burrow and his family. The prizes are - 1st place, a choice of Remington 870 Adult, Remington 870 Youth or \$350 Raeford Hardware gift card; 2nd place - 32-inch flatscreen TV; 3rd place - \$50 cash.

The tickets are for a \$5 donation and can be purchased at the counter of Raeford Hardware store in downtown Raeford.

People as far away as Florida and Connecticut have been chipping in by buying pork rinds and even calling about raffle tickets, Bullock said.

Fire

(Continued from page 1A)

pan to try and put the fire out, but the fire ignited his clothing.

Talindo helped the boy do the stop, drop and roll procedure to extinguish the flames burning his clothes, but he ended up with third-degree burns, Johnson said. The child was taken to FirstHealth Hospital - Hoke campus and airlifted to the UNC-Chapel Hill hospital's burn unit. An official at the scene reported the child was in stable condition when he was

transported to the hospital.

Talindo also received some burns from the fire but refused treatment.

Hillcrest Fire Department, which is about a block away from the home, was quickly on the scene. Hoke County EMS, Cape Fear Valley ambulance service and the Hoke County Sheriff's Office were among the agencies that responded to the call.

There is no investigation needed into the fire as the cause is known, officials reported.

Sheriff's office seeking public comments

Members of the Hoke County community are invited to offer comments about the Hoke County Sheriff's Office at a public information session next week as part of the office's re-accreditation process.

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will visit the Hoke County Sheriff's Office December 2 to examine the office's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services to see if the office meets the requirements to be re-accredited.

As part of that process, agency employees and local citizens are invited to offer their comments at a session set for 4 p.m. December 3 in the Hoke County Commissioners' room located in the county building on Main Street in Raeford.

The office first earned the national accreditation three years ago. The accreditation must be renewed every three years, and during that time period, the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with CALEA standards.

If for some reason an indi-

vidual cannot speak at the public information session but would still like to provide comments to the assessment team, they may do so by telephone. The public may call (910) 878-1210 on December 3 from 1-3 p.m.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Sheriff's Office. The local contact is Debra Bordeaux at (910) 878-1221.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Hoke County Sheriff's Office's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Blvd., Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia 20155.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., please write the Commission at 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-2215; or call (800) 368-3757 or (703) 352-4225.

The News-Journal

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- Hardin's.....Rockfish Rd., Rockfish
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- Howell Drug.....Teal Dr.
- Jay's Food Mart.....Hwy 211. at county line

- J&L Grocery & Meats.....Rockfish Rd.
- Lucky Stop.....Hwy. 401 & Palmer St.
- Lucky Stop 2196.....Rockfish Rd.&401 Bus.
- Mi Casita.....4534 Fayetteville Rd.
- MP Mart.....Hwy. 211 South
- McNeill's Grocery.....Hwy. 211 S.
- McPhatter's Grocery.....Hwy. 401 & Vass Rd.
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- Tobacco World.....Fayetteville Rd.
- 211 Food Mart.....Hwy 211
- Waffle House.....401 Hwy Bypass
- WilcoHess.....Aberdeen Rd.
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Happy Birthday Roscoe

We miss you so much and we love you!

Rest in Peace

Love, your baby girl Cassandra, wife Mary, Tim, grandchildren, Upchurch staff & other family & friends

Nov. 29, 1945
Sept. 29, 2014

*To Our Children:
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*Love, Robert &
Ophelia Virgil*

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Reward

(Continued from page 1A)



DeAndre "Papa" Ricketts

we need to put forth a little bit more effort to get what we need to bring someone to justice in this case," Peterkin said.

Hoke County District Attorney Kristy Newton issued an "open invitation" for the Hoke community to speak up for Ricketts.

"This case is very important to this community. This is a 16-year-old child we're talking about," she said. "DeAndre was 16 at the time someone shot and killed him. You have a kind of community you participate in building, and this is an open invitation to members of this community to help us participate in building a safe community, a community where our children can be safe. We need to know what happened to DeAndre."

The Ricketts family deserves to know what happened to their son and brother, the district attorney said.

"We are inviting good, honest members of this community to come forward and tell us what they know. Tell us what happened that night. Tell us what you saw, tell us what you heard. Be willing to do the right thing. We need justice in this case. Justice can only come from truth, and there are people in this community that have information that will help us determine the truth about what happened that night, and that's exactly what we

are inviting you to do, do the right thing," Newton said.

Ricketts' mother, Sharon Murchison, said it's been a difficult year without her son. Her two other children miss their brother too, she said.

"This is hard. He was my baby, he was a good student, he was actually a good child," she said.

It was "shocking" for this to happen to him, she said, and pleaded with witnesses to come forward with information.

"I just don't understand how so many people were at the party and said that they loved him, but nobody won't come forward. But someone knows and I really need for someone to come forward and tell the truth if they loved him the way they said they did," Murchison said.

Someone knows who shot Ricketts, the sheriff said, and added that he believes more than one person knows what happened that night.

"Papa's friends often said they loved him, they cared for him. If you do, or if you did care for this young man who was 16 years old, we need you to do what's right. Do the right thing," Peterkin said. "Tell us who did this. Bring me some information that will corroborate an arrest and a conviction. Bring me something, I need something to make this work."

Anyone collaborating with a suspect to hide the truth could face criminal charges too, the sheriff said.

"If you are hiding information, if you are working with the person that did this, you are subject to be charged just as well. Don't throw your life away," he said.

The sheriff said he has reason to believe that some of the people at the party are purposely refusing to talk and may even be holding meetings trying to get others to remain silent about what happened that night.

"Sometimes our young people feel like they need to stick together or they just don't need to talk. From what we're hearing, they've been told not to talk. We've even found that there have been times when some of the persons who were at the party got together and had meetings just to tell the same story to throw the law enforcement detectives off the case. That's not good," he said. "It all boils down to one word - character. Do you care about this situation?"

It's not just young people, he said. There are some adults involved who will not work with law enforcement too, Peterkin added.

The sheriff's office is circulating reward fliers in Hoke and surrounding counties, as it's possible the shooter was from a different county, the sheriff said.

"We had kids from all the surrounding counties at this party. It wasn't just Hoke County kids," he said.

The shooting is not gang-related, Peterkin said, but encouraged parents to be aware of the dangers of letting young people attend large, open parties with little supervision.

"When you're allowing your kids to go to a party that's open to anyone, you're subject to have anyone in the party, and a lot of the times at these parties that's not controlled, well, you have kids with guns," he said. "I hate to break the news, but kids carry guns, and they'll run into others they're familiar with, that they don't like...they say this is a place where they have their beef wars or whatever you want to call it, but we're finding in this situation this is not a gang-related matter."

There was more than one gun fired that night, the sheriff said.

"I just believe that when we get to the bottom of this whole thing that we're probably going to be more surprised about why it happened than anybody," he said.

This is the first time the sher-

iff's office has had such a hard time getting clear information that would lead to an arrest, Peterkin said.

"This is the first time we've had this challenge," he said.

Although Ricketts was the only one to be shot and killed, at least two other people have been shot at parties in Hoke County in the last year. Authorities charged Silvester Moultrie Jr., 22, of the 1600 block of McBryde Lake Road in Raeford with shooting Binaka Tarpley in the leg while Tarpley was attending a birthday party June 27 on Pope Street in Raeford. Jawan Shakor Sturdivant, 20, suffered a life-threatening gunshot wound to the stomach at a graduation party on the 2100 block of O'Brien Drive in Raeford.

Murchison said that she didn't have any fears about sending her son to the party that night.

"What mother knows something's going to happen to her child while he's at a party?" she said.

Shootings at large, open birthday parties do seem to be an increasing trend, the sheriff said.

"We as parents want to believe when we hear birthday party, everything's going to be okay, but we don't know. Times have changed. I believe that now, this day and time, when you allow your kids to go to a party that's not controlled or that's not by invitation or that it's not monitored well, you're subject to have fights, you're subject to have shootings, you're subject to have gang members there, you're subject to have drugs, you name it," Peterkin said.

The community needs to keep a closer eye on large parties such as the one where Ricketts was killed, he added.

To receive the \$20,000 reward in exchange for information leading to an arrest and conviction, the person must come forward and cannot remain anonymous, Newton said.

"This is not an award that is available for information submitted anonymously. You must be willing to come forward, go on the record, tell us who you are, how to contact you, provide all of your information. If you're telling the truth, you should have no reason why you would not want to do that," she said.

Anyone with information about the case is urged to call lead investigator Capt. John Kivett of the Hoke County Sheriff's Office at 910-878-1216 or 910-624-5562.

Historic house Christmas event is December 7

Mill Prong's Christmas Open House will be held Sunday, December 7 from 2-5 p.m.

Traditional decorations will be on display throughout the historic house. Docents will conduct tours and highlight significant architectural details. This event is free and open to the public.

Mill Prong House served as a stage coach stop and was the largest plantation in the region. The House was built in approximately 1795 by Scottish immigrant John Gilchrist Sr. and is located in southern Hoke County between Red Springs and Raeford at 3062 Edinburgh Road. Visitors will be greeted by the costumed Sandhills Consort presenting 18th and 19th

century music featuring instruments of the time. Refreshments made from recipes of Mill Prong owners' cookbook, The Keepers of the Hearth, will be served.

Exhibits depicting the construction and later restoration of the House are provided for those interested in preservation. Also available for viewing are documents depicting John Gilchrist Jr.'s leadership and contributions to regional education, particularly the founding of Floral College for Women, prior to the Civil War.

The House is open monthly on each first Sunday from 2-5 p.m. For additional information, call 910-466-9008 or 910-692-7272.

Maggie's Outreach seeks toys

Maggie's Outreach Community Economic Development Center (MOCEDC) is seeking donations to help give needy Hoke County children toys and clothing this Christmas.

The center is holding "Andy's Box" Toy Giveaway Christmas Celebration. The idea was inspired by two early college students, I'kelia Williams and Annie Wright, who had a desire to give back to needy children in the area, organizers said.

"The two caring young ladies decided not to think of themselves this holiday season but chose to make a difference for others," the non-profit organization said in a

statement. MOCEDC is asking for donations of money, toys, clothing items and food for local children and their families.

"We also invite you to look to the community and refer a needy family that you believe this effort will benefit," organizers stated.

To donate or for more information, contact Maggie's Outreach Center at 875-6623 or by email at mbdevelcenter@mocedc.org.

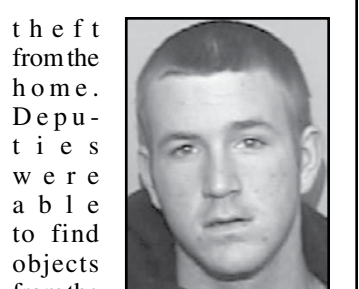
The event will be held Saturday, December 13 at the center located at 7350 Turnpike Road in Raeford. The doors open at 3 p.m. and there will be a visit from Santa.

Man arrested for break-in

Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested a man last week for allegedly breaking into a house and stealing items.

Investigators arrested David Ray Bowman, 23, of the 800 block of Southerland Court in Raeford on one count of breaking or entering and one count of larceny after breaking or entering.

Officers were called to the scene of a breaking and entering November 7 at the home of Maurice McMillan on the 600 block of Dunrobin Drive. They began an investigation into



Bowman

theft from the home. Deputies were able to find objects from the home

had been sold to a pawn shop in Fayetteville on the same day.

Bowman was already under arrest by another jurisdiction and is being held in the Cumberland County Detention Center on a \$15,000 secured bond.

Retirees, federal civilians can live on post

Hoke residents who are military retirees or federal civilians and their families are now allowed to live on post at Fort Bragg, according to military officials and Corvias Military Living.

Additionally, the children of federal civilians who live on post will now be allowed to attend Department of Defense schools on Fort Bragg.

The base is opening up to military veterans and federal civilian families because there are fewer soldiers and their families living on post, according to Fort Bragg.

"The expansion of on-post housing eligibility to include these groups is being made due to a small decrease in the number of active-duty families currently living on base," according to a statement released from the Fort Bragg press office.

Additionally, the move is meant to ensure funding for future home construction, modernization, upgrades and repairs on the installation over the next 40 years of a long-term partnership between Fort Bragg and Corvias Military Living.

The chance to live on post at Fort Bragg is "a true privi-

lege for members of the base community," according to Fort Bragg Garrison Commander Col. Jeffrey Sanborn.

"Our retirees and federal civilian families are already a vital and important part of the fabric of our community, so we look forward to welcoming them home inside the gates."

Retirees and federal civilian families are allowed to seek housing on post beginning December 1.

Rental prices will be "at competitive market rates" and include utilities, lawn care, 24-hour maintenance, access to

Corvias' Community Centers and pools as well as some other base amenities. The base will offer floor plans including two-, three- and four-bedroom options.

More than 5,800 military families live on post in one- and two-story houses. Families interested in moving on post are encouraged to request information from the Corvias Military Living Leasing Center by phone at 495-0878 or online at <http://bragg.corviasmilitaryliving.com>. Applicants will be required to pass installation background checks as well as credit and income requirements.

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SPORTS

Flames win midget soccer league

BY HAL NUNN
Sports writer

regular season champions. The Flames outscored their opponents 56-10 over their 11-game regular season, including two wins in an Election Day doubleheader. Their only loss was to the Cobras at the end-of-season tournament. The Flames had eight different scorers throughout the season.

The Hoke County Farm Bureau Flames in the 11 & 12 year-old Hoke County Parks and Recreation soccer league won the regular season title going 10-1 overall. Last week, we incorrectly identified the Cobras as the



Malachi Harris of the Flames makes a move on an Eclipse defender. He was won of the eight different scorers on the season for the Flames. Photo By Angel Jacobs.



The Hoke County Farm Bureau Flames 11 & 12 year-old soccer team won the Regular Season Championship going 10-1. Pictured are Meredith "Chainsaw" Byrne (front row, left to right), Brooke Callahan, Brady "The Beast" Callahan, Emily Smith-Goalkeeper and Adrianna "Coast-to-Coast" Honaker; second row: Malachi Harris, Hatteras "The Man" Simmons, Michael "Squires" Squires, Roberto Romero, Dylan Brown and Tori "Danica" Osorio; back row: Coaches Gary Honaker and Chris Byrne. Not pictured is Luis Torres. Photo By Dodi Callahan.

Twenty-five 600 cc Sprints descend upon Rockfish

BY HAL NUNN
Sports writer

Hoke County, along with folks from Winston-Salem, Belmont, Charlotte and the local region.

"I couldn't be more happy on how the event turned out," William "Brownie" Brown, track owner and owner of Brownies Towing in Raeford, said. "We had no flags, no problems and no incidents during the evening and I'm just happy that so many people made it out and came to our county." Track announcer Larry Long said, "We are still trying to figure out exactly how many people we had for this full night of racing but I am positive it was the biggest crowd we have ever had at Rockfish Speedway."

The finishing order and the drivers and their hometown are as follows: 1st Justin Lineman-Salisbury, 2nd Buddy Trogden-Fayetteville, 3rd Matt Supan-Concord, 4th Robbie Huffman-Plant City, Florida, 5th Dirk Miller-Sanford, Florida, 6th David Hall-Orlando, Florida, 7th Fred Prosperi-Fayetteville, 8th Sean Garman-Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 9th Raylynn Moss (15 years old)-Deland, Florida, 10th Asa Epperly-Danville, Virginia, 11th John Crowder-Summerfield, Florida, 12th Dale Arnold-Fayetteville, 13th Eddie Moss-Deland, Florida, 14th Ron Crossley (70 years old)-Hartly, Delaware, 15th

Jackson Wellman-Belmont, 16th Matt Jones-Rockfish, 17th Rick Goss-Charlotte. Seventeen cars finished in the 24-car field.

Four other divisions ran on the night and the winners were: Micro 270-Dale Arnold, Legends-Jonathan Crooms, Pro Go Karts-Billy Gomez Jr., Mini Pro Go Karts-Levi Brown.

The annual Rockfish Motorsports Speedway Banquet will be held on December 13 at 7 p.m. at the U-Haul Building off Lindsay Road and is open to anyone. Admission to the banquet is \$5.00 and includes a meal, door prizes and awards' ceremony.



Sixty-eight cars and all their teams filled the Rockfish Motorsports Speedway garage area Saturday for the grand finale race of the 2014 season. Twenty-five 600 cc Micro Sprints came from as far away as Florida and Delaware to compete in the race.



James Larose, an 8th grader on the East Hoke Middle School wrestling team, helped his team go 2-1 in the Quad Meet last week at Hoke High. All three middle schools competed and Sandy Grove won going 3-0. West Hoke was 0-3 and Anson County 1-2.

Wrestling Update

BY HAL NUNN
Sports writer

The Hoke County High School and the three middle schools' wrestling programs have started their seasons. Hoke High has competed in three matches and one individual tournament. In the matches, they are 2-1. Last year, the Bucks came very close to winning the Southeastern Conference but finished second. This year, they have 41 wrestlers and are hosting a Grapple Fest today at

Hoke High beginning at 11 a.m. and running until about 5 p.m. Several schools, such as Cary, Athens Drive, Fuquay-Varina, Lumberton and Raleigh, will be participating.

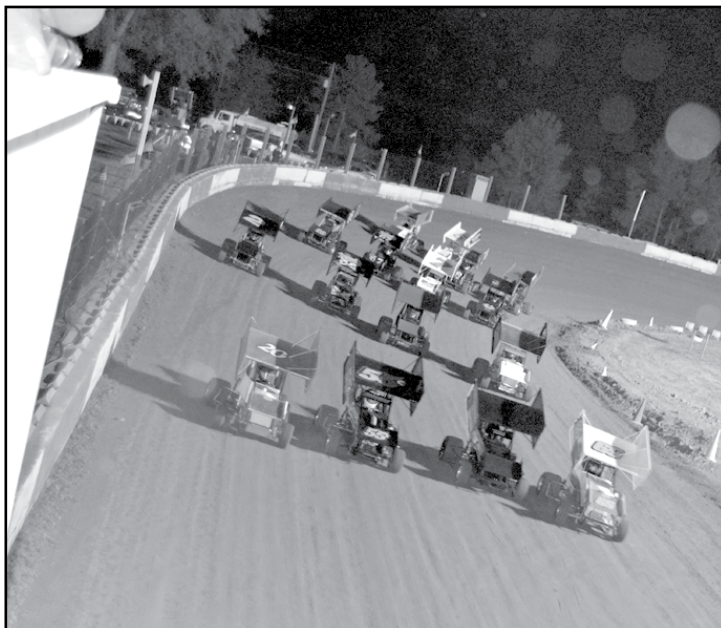
The three middle schools competed last week in a Quad Meet at Hoke High with East Hoke, West Hoke, Sandy Grove and Anson County participating. Sandy Grove won the meet going 3-0 in the first tournament. East Hoke was 2-1, West Hoke 0-3, and Anson County 1-2.

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The 600 cc Micro Sprints were the main event. Pictured here, 16 cars were four-by-four on the front stretch for a parade lap. Rockfish Motorsports Speedway hopes to add more races in 2015.



Hoke High Awards Banquet

The Hoke High School Fall Athletic Awards Banquet was held Monday night on the school's campus. Nelson James (left) was named Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year in tennis and Megan Munroe (right) was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Year in golf. Look for more pictures from the banquet next week in The News-Journal.

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Happy Thanksgiving

In observance of Thanksgiving
The News-Journal office
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November 27 - 28, 2014

Fighting Bucks Sports Schedule

November 26	Boys Wrestling Home 12 p.m.	Girls V Basketball at Pine Forest 6 p.m.
December 2	Grapple Fest Duals	Boys JV Basketball Home vs. Pine Forest 6:30 p.m.
	Girls JV Basketball Home vs. Pine Forest 5 p.m.	Boys V Basketball at Pine Forest 7:30 p.m.



Physically fit
These Sandy Grove Elementary students passed the fall Presidential Fitness Test. That's many more students than in the past, now that the school has been practicing. Some 75 students passed four out of five components.

Park

(Continued from page 1A)
commissioners at 5:30 p.m. on December 4. The event will run from 6-8 p.m. on December 4-14. The cost is \$5 per carload of people. There will be concessions available.

The Parks and Recreation Department is seeking donations

of large candy canes, poinsettias, deer family decorations, surge protectors, extension cords and new LED lights.

"Your help is needed to either provide some of the items and/or to make a charitable, tax-deductible donation to Hoke County Parks and Rec. Christmas Project," organizers

said in a statement.

Money donated should be by cash or check. Cash can be accepted in the Parks and Recreation office in the L.E. McLaughlin Old Armory building on Central Avenue in Raeford, where donors can receive a receipt for their donation.

The money will go back into paying for the Parks and Recreation expenditure for presenting Christmas in the Park.

The recreation complex is located at 3195 Red Springs Road just a few miles outside of Raeford. For more information, call the department at 875-4035.

Arrest made in January drive-by shooting

Detectives with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested one suspect and are seeking others in the case of a drive-by shooting that injured a Raeford man.

Investigators arrested Lamontae Copeland, 17, of the 200 block of Roanoke Drive in Raeford on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. He was held

under a \$50,000 bond.

Copeland was charged with allegedly shooting Travis Grace, 33, of Raeford outside his home on the 1600 block of McBryde Lake Road. Grace was shot in the lower leg January 13 while standing outside in his yard. Grace told authorities that a silver car turned down the road, turned around and then someone began shooting from

inside the vehicle.

Grace tried to run into his home but was struck by a bullet before reaching his front door.

Further investigation revealed and recovered a stolen firearm that was seized from the suspect's residence and confirmed that the firearm was used in the shooting, and that the suspect possessed the firearm at the time of the shooting, accord-

ing to the sheriff's office.

The investigation is still ongoing in reference to other suspects involved.



Copeland

Police Blotter

Raeford Police reported the following recent incidents:

November 17

Communicating threats, 500 block of East 6th Avenue, victim Mickell Isaac

Financial transaction card fraud, 1100 block of Fayetteville Road, victim Charles F. McPhatter

November 18

Larceny, 200 block of South Main Street, victim Bo's Grocery Store

Obtaining property by false pretenses, 100 block of South 401 Bypass, victim Reeta Baker

Felony possession of stolen goods, 700 block of East Donaldson Avenue, victims Olando Larios and Roman Silva Norranjo

November 19

Communicating threats, trespassing, 1300 block of Single Tree Lane, victim Kindra Morrissey

November 20

Fraud, 300 block of Fayetteville Road, victim Advance Auto Parts

Larceny, 200 block of South Main Street (parking lot of Bo's Grocery Store), victim Andrew Allen

Possession of open container, driving while license revoked, driving while intoxicated - alcohol, Harris Avenue/Dickson Street, victim State of North

Carolina. Police charged Rebecca Thomas Riley, 53, of the 300 block of West Palmer Road in Raeford.

Larceny, 200 block of Cole Avenue, victim David Isaac McPhatter

November 21

Possession of less than one-half ounce of marijuana, carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a stolen firearm, possession of firearm by felon, East Central Avenue/East Prospect Avenue, victims State of North Carolina and Bradley Kenny Stocks. Police charged Chavis Euneak Adams Jr., 27, of the 7100 block of Athens Road in Raeford and Michael Lashawn Locklear, 24, of the 100 block of Yadkin Trail in Raeford.

Breaking or entering, larceny, 200 block of Harris Avenue, victim Vardell Hedgepeth

Larceny, 300 block of Teal Drive, victim Nancy Monroe McKenzie

No operator's license, Oakdale Gin Road/401 Business, victim State of North Carolina

November 23

Simple physical assault, 200 block of College Drive, victim Blando Nathala Isaza

Simple assault, assault on a female, 100 block of Burgess Court, victims Derek Stanley Woodard and Briana Shana Woodard

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