



# The News-Journal

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

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No. 19 Vol. 107

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

## Clark wins Hoke Clerk of court race to go on ballot

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Candidate Robert B. Clark III carried his home county of Hoke against candidate Billy King in the state Senate District 21 race.

Hoke County voters turned out to the polls in

low numbers for the runoff election, which included several state races as well as the local senate race. Hoke voters cast 861 votes in favor of Clark and 78 votes in favor of King, including early voting and absentee ballots. As of News-Journal deadline

Tuesday night, Clark had also captured 52 percent of votes in Cumberland County over King's 47 percent with 46 out of 63 precincts reporting. The preliminary count won't be final until the canvass.

No Republicans filed to (See ELECTION, page 6A)

## Clerk of Court Smith dies



Russell C. Smith

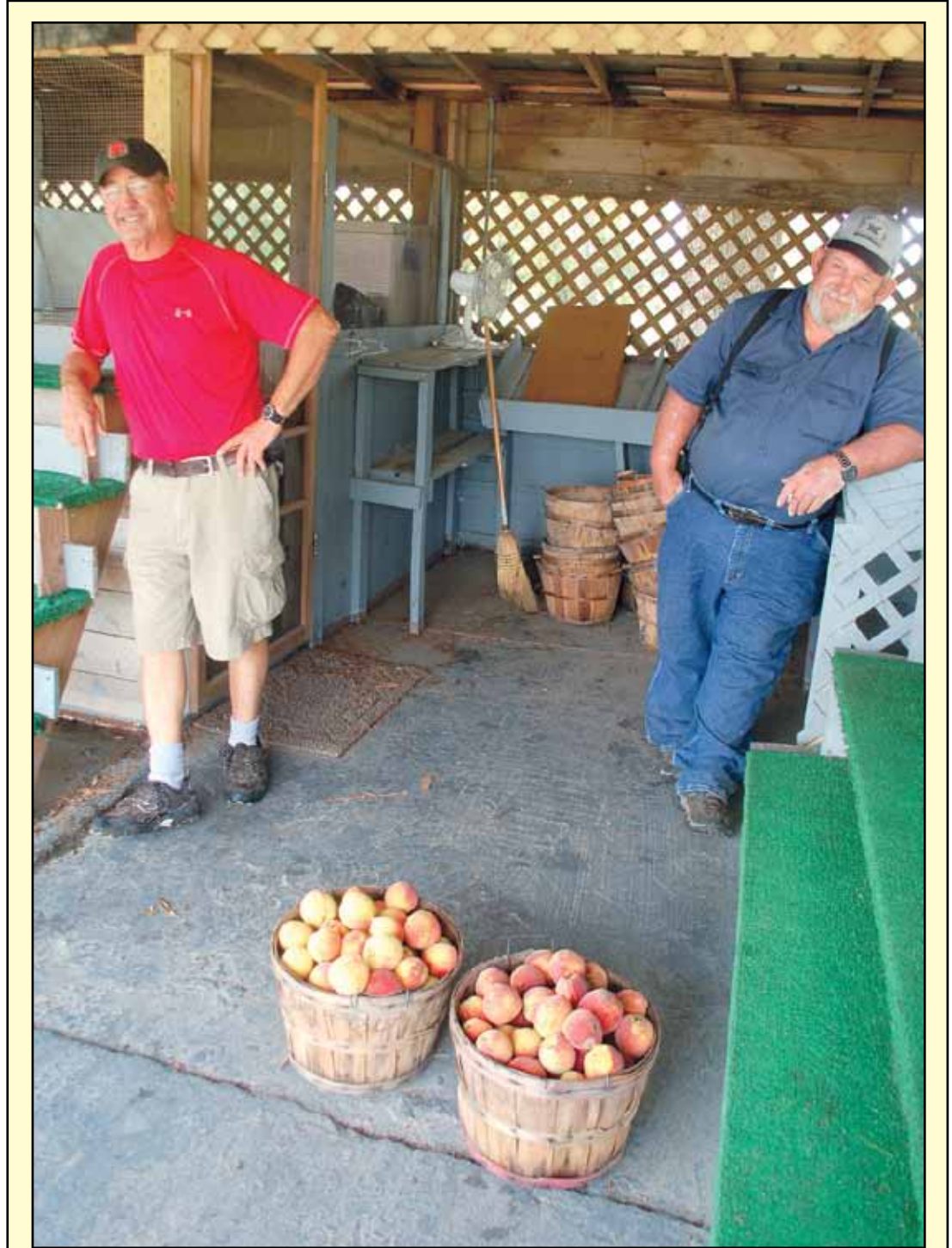
Hoke County Clerk of Superior Court and long-time school board member Russell Smith died Saturday at the age of 54 after battling cancer.

Smith was deeply involved with local education. He taught social studies at Hoke County High School and coached sports including football and wrestling. He was elected to three four-year terms on the

Hoke County Board of Education and often served as chairman of the board.

Smith returned to school to earn his law degree in 1993. He graduated from Campbell Law School and began working in the legal field. He was elected Clerk of Superior Court in 2010 and was serving a four-year term at the time of

(See SMITH, page 6A)



George "Skip" Autry (left) is bringing in one last harvest with neighbor Henry Pickler. (Catharin Shepard photo)

## Raz's family harvests peaches one last time

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

It's the last peach season at Autry and Son farm.

The peaches came early this year, ready to be picked sooner than George "Skip" Autry III could remember in almost 30 years of helping out on his dad's orchard.

It's a bittersweet harvest – the first the pickers have brought in without George

"Raz" Autry, who passed away in April at the age of 85. It will also be the last, as the family has decided it's time to move on.

"The family, the three kids, my mother, my wife, we sat down and we plan on keeping the farm, but we're converting it back over to crop land, and then I planted pines, about 11 acres of pines. I want to be able to keep it, but I don't want to be tied down to it like I am (See PEACHES, page 5A)



When firemen arrived, it was too late—the building was engulfed in flames. (Contributed)

## Five Points Grocery burns

A Monday morning fire destroyed a grocery store near the Carolina Horse Park, authorities said.

An interior burglar alarm sensor went off at 5:15 a.m. Monday at the 5 Points Grocery on the 3200 block of Calloway Road. Shortly after

the alarm went off, a driver passing by called 911 and reported the building on fire.

The Pine Hill Fire Department along with North Raeford, West Hoke and Crestline fire departments and the Hoke County Rescue Squad, Hoke County

Sheriff's Office and Med1 responded to the scene.

Fire Chief Tommy Nelson of the Pine Hill Fire Department arrived on the scene first and reported heavy fire showing from the structure. Firemen arrived a moment (See FIRE, page 6A)

### This Week



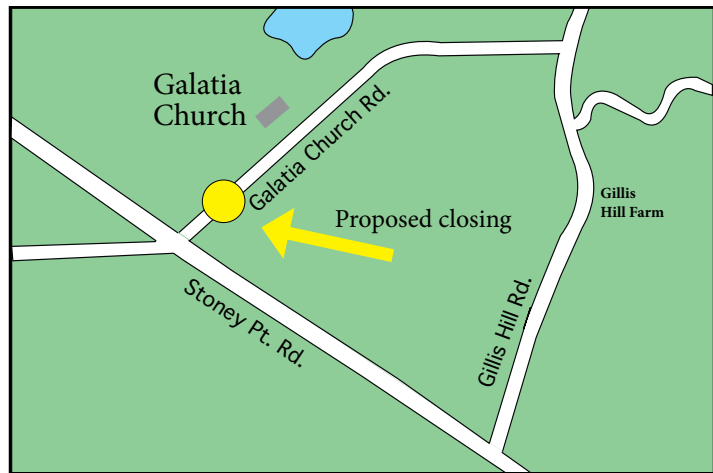
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## Residents don't like Galatia road change

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer



The proposed solution would make the road more dangerous, residents say.

The state Department of Transportation is considering changing an intersection close to the Hoke/Cumberland county line and some residents aren't happy about the proposal.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will hold a hearing in Fayetteville July 26 to take public comments on a proposal to turn Galatia Church Road into a dead end near the intersection with Stoney Point Road.

That inconveniences and endangers Hoke travelers, residents say.

"NCDOT proposes to create a dead end for

Galatia Church Road before its intersection with Stoney Point Road. This will create a three-way intersection with Stoney Point Road in Fayetteville," according to a public notice. "Access to Galatia Church Road would change from Stoney Point Road to Gillis Hill Road."

The proposal is one option state engineers suggested to make the intersection safer, officials said. The four-way intersection of Galatia Church Road and Stoney Point Road popped up on a state computer program that monitors accident data because of the number of accidents that have happened there: 35 over the last five years, NCDOT Project Manager (See GALATIA, page 5A)

## Exchange students casualty of growth in school system

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A family seeking to host a German student was surprised when they learned Hoke County Schools and Hoke High School are not accepting exchange students.

Hoke High School's principal has

a policy of not admitting foreign exchange students and the school is too full to offer space for an exchange student, according to emails from officials and information from the school system.

Bobbi Jo Sonon's family recently returned to Hoke County after a long (See EXCHANGE, page 6A)

## Man arrested on assault charge

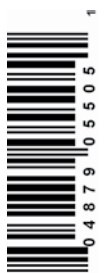


McKenney

Officers arrested a Raeford man July 15 on charges of assaulting a woman. Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested Clyde McKenney, 40, of the 100 block of Eulon Loop in Raeford on misdemeanor assault

on a female. McKenney was not provided bond for 48 hours following his arrest due to the matter being a domestic related assault.

The arrest came after detectives investigated a call from a woman reporting that the suspect attempted to choke her and then threatened her with a firearm, according to the Sheriff's Office. Further investigation turned up other information about the events, which led to McKenney's arrest.



# VIEWPOINTS

## We're losing our community

The demise of the Raeford Woman's Club is probably but a point on a slope of general decline in Raeford's and Hoke County's state of community. But it's disheartening nonetheless.

Though there is still life out there yet—the Turkey Festival, Relay for Life, the Raeford-Hoke Museum—many organizations that drew their strength from the dedication of citizens and their own drive to be involved are dead or dying. The Jaycees and Lions are gone. Kiwanis struggles to maintain membership. Partners in Education, the Chamber of Commerce—you can argue even churches are suffering for the same reason—we've lost our sense of community.

Maybe it's partly due to a transient population in the east and partly because we've grown to the point we no longer know our neighbor. Maybe young people don't value community. Maybe we're all a little more individualistic or, frankly, selfish.

Whatever. It's sad. We're becoming a bedroom community that is losing its community.

We cannot live in isolation for long. If we prefer television or Facebook to life among each other, if we do not care to vote, if we do not want to tax ourselves to educate other people's children, if we want to live and be left alone, we will eventually pay the price.

## Smith exemplified the things we value

BY KEN MACDONALD

At Russell Smith's funeral I looked around the church—by Raeford's standards, it's a pretty big one—and it was packed. The demographics were notable too—people of different races, different ages, probably different economic backgrounds. The room of people was testimony to what we in Hoke County value, and that's because Russell epitomized it.

We value each other, despite racial differences. Russell was white, but he was a member of the mostly black Civic League, and apparently he had been slipping out the back door to visit a black church too. That makes me proud, because despite differences in style, we in this county worship mostly the same God, and really it's shameful we don't join each other a little more often in church.

We value wisdom. Russell was gentle and couldn't be rushed with his opinions. He learned his manner partly from the Andy

Griffeth Show and drew some of his humor—something else we value—from Andy and Barney, somehow managing to infuse Sunday School teaching with lessons from Mayberry.

We value civic and political involvement. Russell cooked pancakes with the Kiwanis and for awhile chaired the Hoke School Board. His last job was an elected one, and local lawyers will tell you he had the clerk of court's office humming.

We value team sports. Well, not me so much, but I do value the lessons taught and learned on the field—about working hard for something, working together, learning from a coach and older players, sacrificing if need be, and how to just be nice when things don't go your way.

We value education and more specifically our children. That's where Russell's heart was even after he changed professions. He had been a teacher and coach, but even after going to the dark side of

law, he sank himself into education of kids in Hoke County.

On Facebook there were numerous posts from former wrestlers and football players, and from his former students. "So, when I was a teenager I hit a very rough patch," one wrote. "My life was spiraling out of control and I had no-one to really help me get a grip. I had a tumultuous relationship with my family, and we were all feeling a lot of pain. So I got to that point where we feel we are about to break, and there was a hand for me. When I was losing it, a teacher helped me find my feet. I can't express how influential my US History teacher was in my life. Some of the best parts of the man I've come to be can be rooted in Russell Smith."

When we lose a good fellow, it is fitting to name the things for which he stood that we value.

In that way we acknowledge he left the place better for having been in our midst, and we set a mark for what we do with the rest of our days.

## Need to prepare for influx of seniors

Our area has attracted a large number of seniors. Some who were stationed at Fort Bragg fell in love with the area and decided to remain after retirement. Also, there are those who left the area when they were younger who are now returning to spend their senior years at home. Then there are the "baby boomers" that have reached the age where they are conceded as "seniors." This causes a few problems, not only for our area but also across the country.

The elder group is growing very rapidly and services are needed for this group. I have often spoken of the two new hospitals that are being built in Hoke County. But there is a third medical facility being built in Hoke County. It is the FirstHealth facility on 401 north of Raeford. This center in many ways is to be geared to seniors. The plan is to have an operating room for orthopedic surgery. With seniors, this type of surgery will be in demand. If this growth of seniors continues, the majority of our population will be seniors, and we must be prepared to meet their needs.



Having more medical facilities in our area will attract more seniors to Hoke County. Not having to travel to Cape Fear or Moore County hospitals for treatment will be a plus for many seniors. In some cases, the travel time to a hospital out of the county can mean the difference between life and death.

Another advantage of having the new hospitals in our area is that they will attract more specialists to Hoke County. At the present time, if a person has a problem that requires a specialist, they must travel to Duke in Durham or Chapel Hill to find physicians or surgeons in their particular field. Having a number of hospitals, dealing with all types of medical problems, will attract more specialists to this area.

There are a number of services for seniors that may not be known to many. The Hoke County Senior

Services can be reached at 910-875-8588. Senior Services has participated in a number of programs to assist seniors. During this hot weather they have given more than 70 electric fans to those who were in need of them. Through Unilever, they have helped families to build ramps to make their homes more accessible for the handicapped. Senior Services was able to assist 34 families with rents, mortgages and utilities with funds from FEMA. For more information, contact Hoke County Senior Services at 875-8588.

North Carolina has become one of the most attractive retirement states for seniors, so more attention must be paid to their needs. Also, our politicians must recognize the vote of seniors can be the deciding factor in many of the elections.

With Hoke County becoming a more active medical center, more seniors will be interested in moving to our area, so expect a greater influx of seniors.

Paul Burnley can be reached by email at [plburnley@aol.com](mailto:plburnley@aol.com)

## Mistrust of corporations has consequences

BY SCOTT MOONEYHAM  
Capitol Press Association

In North Carolina and across the country, a strange dichotomy exists these days when it comes to public discourse about business and the promotion of a strong business climate.

At the state legislature, elected representatives pass bills designed to limit what they call "burdensome regulations." They put forward proposals that they say will improve the state's business climate by promoting "tax fairness."

At a campaign stop, Republican gubernatorial nominee Pat McCrory pledges to make state government more responsive to the needs of business, to cut out onerous, unnecessary and redundant regulation.

These themes are being repeated by Republican and Democratic politicians and business leaders across the country.

McCrory's most recent public comments on the subject came as Duke Energy CEO Jim Rogers was responding to questions about whether company officials had duped state regulators regarding who would head the company formed by the merger of Progress Energy and

Duke Energy. Elsewhere in the world of big business, regulators looked into whether banks manipulated a key interest rate that determines other interest rates, like those that you pay for home and car loans.

Barclays Bank of London has already admitted involvement. One of its traders, in an email thanking a colleague for the manipulation, wrote, "Dude, I owe you big time! ... I'm opening a bottle of Bollinger."

A piece in the New York Times recently asked, is this kind of manipulation any worse than packaging together risky mortgages, stamping them with triple-A credit ratings and selling them to unsuspecting clients? How about then making side bets in the market that the investments are going to fail?

But it is worth pointing out that any widespread manipulation of interest rates likely cost state pensioners in North Carolina hundreds of millions of dollars, as well as costing taxpayers who make yearly pension fund contributions.

The more important questions raised in the New York Times piece were whether corporate corruption

is growing and whether corporate misdeeds have created an historic decline in public trust of big business.

The answer to the first question may be debatable. The answer to the second isn't.

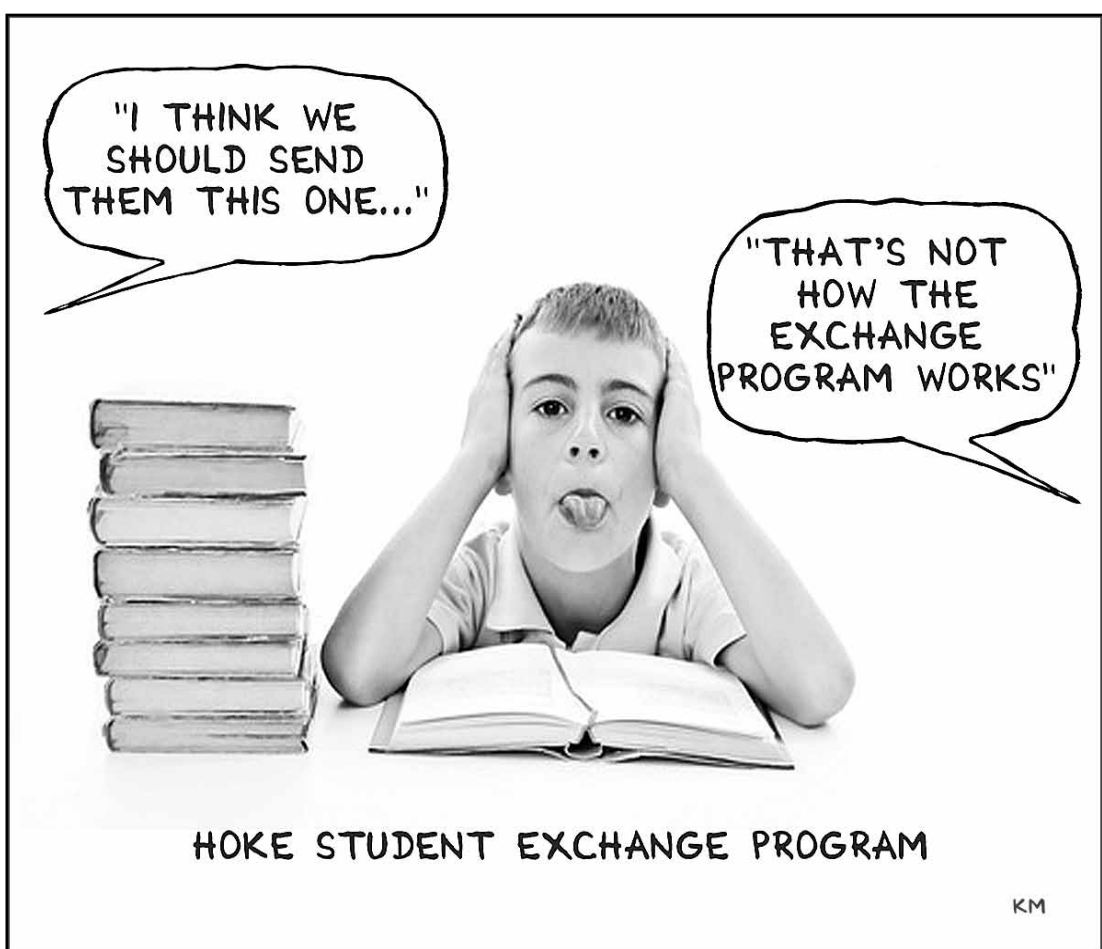
Only one in five Americans has much trust in banks, a level of mistrust that has roughly doubled since 2007, according to Gallup polls. Most Americans believe that corporate corruption is widespread and growing.

This public mistrust has real-world consequences.

Investors leave their money on sidelines, wondering whether to believe anything that comes out of a mouth of a company CEO or an investment banker hawking his or her company.

Without that capital, a company grows more slowly or dies in its infancy. Multiply that company by a thousand, and the economy grows more slowly.

There is a case to be made that too much of the regulation of business is redundant or meaningless. Less regulation, though, implies trust. And the real enemy of economic growth may be what has occurred in corporate boardrooms across America to undermine that trust.



HOKE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

KM

## They chose millionaires over teachers

BY CHRIS FITZSIMON  
N.C. Policy Watch

The more you consider all that happened in the disastrous 2011-2012 General Assembly session, the clearer it becomes that one of the defining moments came during the Senate budget debate last month when Republican leaders refused to allow debate about a tax cut for millionaires in a budget that was slashing education funding and ignoring eugenics victims.

Democrats offered an amendment to cap what was billed as a small business tax cut to make sure that only small businesses would receive it. The News & Observer had reported a few weeks earlier that the tax break was also going to millionaire lawyers, owners of medical practices, private equity partners, even some well-heeled lobbyists.

The tax cut cost the state \$336 million a year. The amendment that Republicans refused to allow Senators to vote on would have saved \$141 million by allowing only small businesses to receive the break and used the savings to lessen the damaging cuts to public schools and pay for compensation to the survivors of the state's eugenics program.

Democrats tried a similar amendment to another budget bill during the last days of the session

with a similar result. Senate leaders again refused to allow a vote. After the session, Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger again boasted that Republicans had passed tax relief for small businesses, a claim that House Speaker Thom Tillis also made.

Berger also repeated a line that is part of the Republicans' talking points - that they did the best they could in the budget with the "money they had available."

No one pressed Berger much on the fact that almost half of the "small business" tax break went to millionaires, significantly reducing the money they had available and forcing deep cuts to public schools and the university system.

This week Berger was asked the question directly in an interview with the Greensboro News & Record. Reporter Travis Fain asked Berger why he didn't cap the tax cut and use the money saved for education.

Berger's reply was that it was a small business tax cut because it targeted the first \$50,000 in income "so the businesses that will benefit from that are by and large small businesses."

The News & Observer story pointed out that the partners in the Winston-Salem based law firm Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice will all receive the tax break and that the firm had revenues of

\$279 million in 2011. That's quite a small business they have there.

Then Berger said it was difficult to cap the tax cut, which makes little sense since the tax code is filled with ceilings and caps. And even if it wasn't perfect, wouldn't it make sense to try to keep from giving millions of dollars to the wealthiest people in the state when you were firing thousands of teachers?

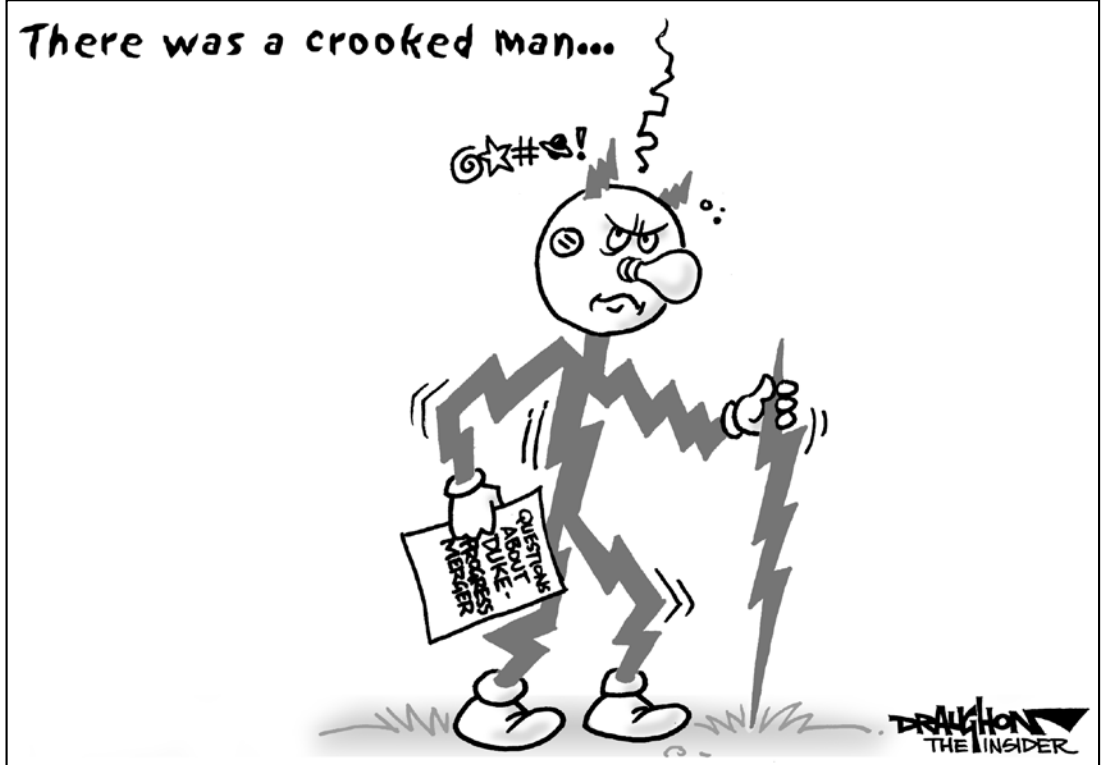
Finally, Berger resorted to the catchall "what we were trying to do was to leave more money in the private sector." That echoes remarks made by Senator Bob Rucho that somehow giving millionaires another \$3,500 a year would encourage them to hire somebody.

Berger must also think that the \$44 million golden parachute given recently to former Progress Energy CEO Bill Johnson was a good idea. That money too is in the private sector.

Berger and fellow Republicans will keep trying everything they can to deflect attention away from their unwillingness to cap the tax cut to make sure that only small businesses receive it.

They don't want people in North Carolina to know the truth - that they chose millionaires over teachers and eugenics victims.

But that's what they did, no matter how many times they try to deny it.



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Home Page: [www.thenews-journal.com](http://www.thenews-journal.com)



Ken MacDonald ([ken@thenews-journal.com](mailto:ken@thenews-journal.com))..... Publisher  
Catharin Shepard ([cshepard@thenews-journal.com](mailto:cshepard@thenews-journal.com))..... Reporter  
Hal Nunn ([hal@thenews-journal.com](mailto:hal@thenews-journal.com))..... Sports Writer  
Hal Nunn ([hal@thenews-journal.com](mailto:hal@thenews-journal.com))..... Sales Representative  
Wendy Tredway ([wendy@thenews-journal.com](mailto:wendy@thenews-journal.com))..... Sales Representative  
Sheila Black ([sheila@thenews-journal.com](mailto:sheila@thenews-journal.com))..... Office Manager  
Robin Huffman ([robin@thenews-journal.com](mailto:robin@thenews-journal.com))..... Composition Design/  
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# Deaths

(Continued from page 3A)  
home in Raeford where they raised their three sons.

After her marriage, she transferred her church membership from the Antioch Presbyterian Church to the Raeford Presbyterian Church where she was a member for more than 60 years. As long as her health permitted, she was an active, loyal member serving the church as a Bible Circle Leader, as a Sunday School Teacher of adults and young people, and in numerous positions in the Women of the Church, later renamed the Presbyterian Women. In recognition of her many years of faithful service, she was awarded a life membership by the Presbyterian Women.

She was also active in civic affairs and was for many years a member of the Arts and Public Affairs Department of the Woman's Club in Raeford.

After her youngest son began school, she returned to teaching. She resumed her career teaching North Carolina history and later English to eighth graders. She was a truly professional teacher wholly dedicated to fulfilling her responsibilities to her students and was much respected for her teaching ability. After teaching for more than 30 years, she began her retirement. In her honor, the school established the "Harriet McFadyen Citizenship Award" which for a number of years after her retirement was presented to an outstanding eighth grader.

Her love and devotion for her family, her faith to her church, her loyalty to her friends and her many acts of kindness to those in need will always be remembered by those who knew and loved her.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband, and all her siblings. She is survived by her sons, Duncan B. McFadyen III of Raeford, George Hodgin McFadyen and wife Anne of Pinetops, North Carolina, and James Laurence McFadyen and wife Susan of Thomson, Georgia; four grandchildren, James Scott McFadyen and John Robert McFadyen of Tarboro, Martha McFadyen Scott and husband Winfield of Lewisville, Georgia, and Mary Kathryn McFadyen Land and husband Jared of Thomson, Georgia; three great-grandchildren;

her sisters-in-law, Frances McFadyen McCreery and husband Robert of Ponte Vedra, Florida and Willa McFadyen Lindsay of Southern Pines; Louise B. McFadyen, the widow of her brother-in-law Lewis McFadyen of Red Springs; many nieces and nephews; and a special friend, Ruth Anne Warren.

The funeral was held Friday, July 13 at 11 a.m. at the Raeford Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Michael McGehee and the Rev. James Braden officiating. Interment followed in the City of Raeford Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Raeford Presbyterian Church Building Fund, 128 West Edinborough Avenue, Raeford, NC 28376.

### Alicia B. Clark

Alicia Beth Clark, 31, of Athens, Georgia, formerly of Raeford, passed away Monday, July 16, 2012.

She was preceded in death by her father, James Calvin Clark in 2000. She was recently employed with Anderson Merchandising in Winder, Georgia. She was a precious soul and had a heart of gold. She helped everyone she could and lived life to the fullest. She was artistic and had a great sense of fashion. She was always seen with that beautiful smile on her face and that sparkle in her eyes. She had a great love and passion for animals and treated them like her children. She was a wonderful daughter and sister to her family and she will be greatly missed.

Survivors include her mother, Patricia Clark of Rex; brothers, Sean Calvin Clark of Athens, Georgia, Timmy Clark of Tennessee, and Tony Clark of Virginia; sisters, Angela Clark Fuselier of Raeford and Terri Horne of Raeford; and a number of nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be held Friday, July 20 at 11 a.m. at Philippi Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Chip Grammer and the Rev. Sean Clark officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be held Thursday, July 19 from 7-9 p.m. at Crumpler Funeral Home.

Flowers are accepted or donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 1701 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311.

## District Court

Cases heard July 10 in Hoke County Criminal District Court, Judge Shelly S. Holt presiding:

- Tiffany Carol Bullard, 21, 151 Maximus Drive, Maxton, driving while license revoked, prayer for judgment continued, court costs; driving left of center, voluntary dismissal
- Jason Dexter Chavis, 34, 52 Elias Road, Maxton, driving while license revoked, prayer for judgment continued, court costs; speeding 51 miles per hour in a 35-mph zone, voluntary dismissal
- Fidel Ramos Cruz, 26, 230 Shady Oak Drive, Biscoe, driving while impaired, Level 5, 30 days in jail, credit for 30 days served; no operator's license, 10 days in jail, credit for time served; speeding 60 miles per hour in a 45-mph zone, voluntary dismissal
- Teresa Rose Hall, 26, 301 Juanita Ave., Hamlet, following too closely, prayer for judgment continued, court costs
- Perry Harrington, 53, 28480 Aberdeen Road, Marston, driving while license revoked, fictitious or altered registration card or tag,

30 days in jail, credit for 20 days served, judgments consolidated

- Chirinos Hernandez, 38, 108 Ashley Place, Raeford, no operator's license, 10 days suspended, one year unsupervised probation, \$50 fine and court costs, not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed; window-tinting violation, voluntary dismissal
- Timothy Jones, 38, 2677 S. Duffie Road, Red Springs, possession of marijuana between 1/2 to 1 1/2 ounces, 10 days suspended, one year unsupervised probation, \$100 fine and court costs
- Samantha Page Locklear, 24, 1695 Cope Road, Red Springs, failure to wear seat belt by driver, \$25.50 fine and court costs; expired registration card or tag, voluntary dismissal
- Christie Marie Mornuchik-Schweitzer, 28, 8307 Brostrom St., Fort Benning, Ga., simple assault, not guilty
- Rontrice Deshawn Morrisey, 25, 108 Heron Drive, Lot 3, Raeford, driving while license revoked, 45 days suspended, 12 months probation, \$100 fine and

# African man wins lottery to live in this area

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ERIC PAHON

U.S. Army Sgt. Koku Adzoble won a lottery to move to the U.S. from a tiny sliver of a country in West Africa where he grew up.

He joined the U.S. Army to make a better life for himself.

"Back in Africa, I was a teacher in high school," said Adzoble, who claims Bronx, New York as his stateside home but grew up in the West African nation of Togo. "When I came here, I was working in a store, and it wasn't good for me. So, I joined the Army. I saw a way to make a difference in my life, and this is a much better place. That's why I'm staying in."

Adzoble immigrated to the U.S. in 2007 under the Department of State Diversity Visa program. The program essentially works like a lottery, making up to 55,000 visas available each year to countries with under-represented immigrant populations in the U.S., according to the Department of State website. The program requires entrants to either have a high school education or two years work experience in one of the job fields listed on their website to apply.

Adzoble won one of only 3,777 visas offered in his country in 2008, a country with a population the United Nations estimated at 6.6 million in 2009. He was a college graduate, having earned a degree in physics from the University of Lomé in 2006, and was teaching high school until he gave it all up to move to the U.S. in 2007.

"I had a chance," said Adzoble. "Some countries don't get that chance, so you play every year you're eligible, and if you win, you get to come to the United States and get a visa. I was very lucky."

Adzoble worked as a stock clerk in a New York City department store for about seven months when a co-worker turned him on to joining the U.S. Army.

Sgt. 1st Class James Crews, Adzoble's supervisor, says an unfailingly positive attitude has



Adzoble (left) inventories tools with Sgt. 1st Class James Crews of Raeford on Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, June 14. Adzoble immigrated to the United States in 2007 from Togo, west Africa, and joined the U.S. Army soon after. (Eric Pahon photo)

allowed him to become a model Soldier.

"He's a hard worker," said Crews of Raeford, North Carolina. "He had some great leadership before he came to me in 2010. He's one of those guys who goes straight to work when you ask him to do something. He doesn't ask why; he just does it."

Adzoble is a supply clerk in the motor pool on FOB Salerno, keeping track of parts inventories, ordering new parts and monitoring deliveries. His job is critical to keeping the unit's vehicles out on the road, requiring an immense attention to detail and the ability to keep track of dozens of components

all at once.

"He's an encyclopedia," said Crews. "He's that type of guy who'll pretty much look over something once or twice and he's got it memorized. It comes in very useful. When I'm trying to find a part, I ask him, and he knows what I'm talking about and where to find it right away."

Adzoble is adamant there's nothing he doesn't enjoy about the Army. Under a barrage of questioning to crack his armor, he finally let on to his only difficulty.

"Sometimes the places you want to be, you're not there," he said.

Adzoble has a wife and a daughter still in west Africa.

"The places they send you are where the Army needs to send you. That's the thing, but as for the rest, it's easy."

He says his daughter is too young to leave Africa right now, but he hopes to establish a permanent home in the United States so his family can join him in a few years. First, he wants to explore the country and find a place he'd like his family to settle.

"I don't want to bring them, then the next day we have to move again," said Adzoble. "It's not like I don't enjoy Fort Bragg, but I want to see more of the United States and see if there's somewhere I might like even more."

## Sales tax holiday Aug. 3 helps with back to school shopping

The annual North Carolina sales tax holiday begins Friday, August 3 and runs through Sunday, August 5. Shoppers can save money on certain purchases of items like clothing, school supplies and computers. The first sales tax holiday was held in August 2002.

The popular event exempts clothing, footwear, and school supplies of \$100 or less per item; school instructional materials of \$300 or less per item; sports and recreational equipment of \$50 or less per item; computers of \$3,500 or less per item; and computer supplies of \$250 or less per item from sales tax. Tablet computers and netbooks of \$3,500 or less per item qualify; eReaders do not.

Items are not necessarily exempt from sales tax just because they are required by a child's school or sports team.

The Department of Revenue's website lists all items that qualify. It's at [www.dorn.com](http://www.dorn.com).

The holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. Friday and lasts until 11:59 p.m. Sunday. Participation in the sales tax holiday is required; retailers cannot opt out.

Retailers may not charge sales tax on exempt items sold during the holiday and tell shoppers to request a refund from the Department of Revenue. In cases where the sales tax is charged on purchases that should be exempt, a customer's only option to obtain a refund is from the retailer.

Discounts from retailers' coupons are deducted from the price of an item before determining if the item is eligible for the sales tax exemption. Example: a customer buys a dress priced at \$105 and uses a retailer's coupon for a 10 percent discount. The discounted

sales price of the dress is \$94.50 (\$105.00 - \$10.50 = \$94.50) and the dress is exempt from sales tax if purchased during the holiday. Manufacturers' coupons are treated just the opposite way and are not deducted from the sales price before determining an item's eligibility for the sales tax exemption.

Rebates do not affect the sales price of an item for the sales tax holiday. Example: a computer priced at \$4,000 with a \$600 rebate is not exempt from sales taxes. The amount of the rebate is not deducted from the sales price of the computer before determining if the computer is eligible for the sales tax exemption.

The Department of Revenue invites citizens to contact its Taxpayer Assistance Division at 1-877-252-3052 with questions.

## Worship Together

Spend some quality family time together. Worship at the church of your choice. Our community has a number of churches and a variety of denominations for you and your family.

### BAPTIST

**West Fayetteville Baptist Church**  
2465 Gillis Hill Road  
(Across from the Wal-Mart Super Center)  
"Connecting People to the Heart of God and to Each Other"  
Sunday School 9:15am  
Sunday Worship 10:30am  
Awana 6:15pm  
Sunday Evening Service 6:30pm  
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm  
Youth Ministry 7:00pm  
(910) 868-3812  
[www.westfayettevillebaptistchurch.com](http://www.westfayettevillebaptistchurch.com)

**Pittman Grove Baptist Church**  
4921 Pittman Grove Church Rd.  
875-5045 or 263-3268  
**CHURCH SERVICES**  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Meal & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

### NB Bible Institute of America

**NOW ENROLLING BIBLE CLASSES FOR 2012-2013**  
For more information visit us at 529 Harris Ave., Raeford or call (910) 476-0653.  
*Prosperity comes when you study and apply the Word of God in your life.*

**Amazing Wonders**  
**Pittman Grove Baptist Church**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
July 22-26 • 6-8:30 p.m.  
4921 Pittman Grove Church Rd.  
875-5045



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6 - 9 p.m.

**Raeford Evangelical  
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# WELCOME to Hoke County

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**875-2121**

# Peaches



One year, the orchard harvested just four peaches. "I ate them," said Henry Pickler. (Catharin Shepard photo)

(Continued from page 1A)  
now," George Autry said.

Raz Autry first became interested in growing peaches while working a summer job on a peach orchard in Montgomery County, his son recalled. It was much later, after a long career as a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent for Hoke County Schools, that he had the chance to start an orchard of his own. He bought the property in the Arabia community shortly after retiring in the late 1970s and soon launched his second career, one that he pursued to the end of his life.

Autry started out with just 100 peach trees and added to them over the years. At one point they had more than 2,400 trees on about 20 acres of land, all needing tending, his son said. In recent years that number shrank down to a more manageable nine or so acres but even that many trees demanded a lot of attention.

Peach trees have to be sprayed and fertilized. Even in the off-season, they have to be pruned. The work is never done, Autry said.

When he retired a few years ago, Autry agreed to help his father continue working the orchard as long as Raz was able to do it.

"I said, 'Dad, I'll help you as

long as you're able to do it,' because this was his hobby and his love, and also a sanctuary. But I have different interests, and this is a lot of work. It's time consuming," he said.

Now that the farm's original owner has passed on, Autry wants to spend more time traveling and visiting with his children. The third-generation Autry peach growers have lives and careers far from the quiet fields of Hoke County. With the founder of Autry and Son gone, the decision to close the peach orchard made sense to the family, even if it was a tough call to make.

But while they move on, they won't forget, and someday the property could see a new Autry-owned business bear fruit.

### 'A lot of characters'

Raz Autry probably wouldn't have been surprised that his peach trees had unusual timing this year. There wasn't much of a "usual" when it came to growing peaches. The long-running column he wrote for The News-Journal often talked about the good and the bad of trying to coax a crop from the sandy soil of his farm.

One year they only got one peach out of the entire orchard,

neighbor Henry Pickler said.

"He went over there and got the thing and carried it to the house and cut it up and gave it to the grandchildren," he said.

Pickler moved into the neighborhood 26 years ago and has helped out on the orchard for the last 15 years. Another year, he got the only four peaches that came off Autry's trees, he said.

"They were ready so I just ate them," said. "He said, 'Well, at least somebody got them, they didn't fall on the ground.'"

*One year they only got one peach out of the entire orchard, neighbor Henry Pickler said.*

*"He went over there and got the thing and carried it to the house and cut it up and gave it to the grandchildren," he said.*

Pickler and neighbor Lloyd Brewer joined Autry this year to help bring in the harvest, which has been a pretty good one so far, they said. Some years they didn't have any when a late freeze would get the blossoms.

Pickler can tell plenty of stories of mishaps on the farm over the years. One time Raz ran into a hornet's nest while working on the orchard and had to scramble to get out of the way.

"He jumped through the window of that truck and came up here, he looked like Puff the dough boy," Pickler said. Raz's wife Ireni Autry had to rescue him and take him to a doctor.

Another time, he ran into the electric fence that kept the farm's goats contained. Pickler said he couldn't help but laugh at that one. But Autry got his revenge, even if he didn't mean to, when he was driving a truck with Pickler riding on the back and didn't see a low-hanging wire in time.

"He ran up under that cable, he flipped me off the truck and knocked me just about plumb out," Pickler recalled, laughing.

Over the years the farm became a gathering place for all kinds of people. Everyone from politicians to preachers stopped by, Pickler said.

"We had some good times fishing too," he added. "Had holes cut in the boat and it like to sank on us."

But Raz loved his retirement, his son said. And over the years,

a lot of others enjoyed the orchard too.

"As time went on, there have been a lot of people who have worked with Daddy out here, a lot of characters," Autry said.

### The third generation

Peaches weren't the only things raised on the farm. Autry's crop of grandchildren grew up working the trees and other produce, too.

"They kind of became his help and grew up working on this place,

and I think it's where they got their work ethic. They all grew up working on the farm," their father said.

All three of the grandchildren had an agreement with Raz, their father said. If they worked on the orchard through their freshman year of college, he would help them with education expenses.

"Then they were released to pursue their adult careers, from their indentured servitude. I used to say that; they always laughed," Autry said. "When they were growing up as teenagers, they wanted to know why they had to do it, but you know, each one of them have told me they wouldn't trade that experience for anything."

Each of them kept their promise, and so did their grandfather.

Today Lindsay, the oldest, is a renowned chef whose appearance on the Top Chef Texas television show is still opening new doors for her career. Jackson, the middle child, went to his dad's alma mater of N.C. State to become an engineer and today works in Queens, New York with General Electric's aviation division. The youngest, Samantha, attended the prestigious Fashion Institute in New York and is working with a fashionable retailer in Manhattan.

"They thought the world of their granddaddy," Autry said.

### A new future

The Autry family plans to keep the property and lease some of it out for farming field crops. Autry already planted pine trees on part of the property and should have some pine straw in the future. But the peach trees will be gone after this year to make room for other produce.

For now, it's the last days of the last peach season – the last days of the ending of an era for fans of the farm's produce. But someday there might be another family venture on the site of the peach orchard to add another chapter to Raz Autry's legacy.

"Lindsay, one day she may be the one that wants to come back and open a bed and breakfast or do something with it," Autry said. "I want to keep that land open where if she decides she's going to come back and open a bed and breakfast and start growing just a little bit, she wouldn't need much, to go to her table, her restaurant, that's what she would be able to do."

Until then, there are still a few more peaches waiting to be picked and sold at the roadside stand. The stand is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. during the week, or until the farm sells out of peaches, whichever comes first.

But if anything's certain, it's that peaches never are.

"If they want to get some, they better hurry," Autry said.

# Galatia

(Continued from page 1A)

Jerry Bradley said.

"We have a hazard elimination program that identifies locations that have accident patterns and this intersection came up on the program as potential for some type of safety improvement due to the accident pattern at the intersection," he said. "The regional traffic engineer looks into that and identifies the actual accident pattern and we all try to come up with some type of treatment that would correct the accident pattern, so this is the suggested treatment."

Although the NCDOT wants to address the intersection's safety, the road closure is just one proposal, Bradley said. There are other options DOT officials are willing to consider if people potentially affected by the road closure speak out against the proposal.

"If they have other ideas or concerns, we'll try to evaluate that information and come up with the best treatment for the accident pattern," he said.

### Crash analysis

A five-year crash analysis of wrecks at the intersection showed 35 accidents there between November 2006 and October 2011, NCDOT traffic engineer David Phipps said. "Angle collisions," also known as T-bone wrecks, accounted for 26 of the accidents.

"Angle collisions tend to be a little bit more severe," Phipps said.

There were no fatalities at the intersection but based on highway patrol accident reports, there were two serious injuries, eight moderate injuries and 31 minor injuries. The injury numbers total more than the number of accidents because in some cases more than one person was injured in a single accident.

The numbers were surprising because the intersection is considered "low volume," Phipps said.

"That is a significant number of accidents for the volume of that intersection," he said.

There are other options available if the dead-end proposal proves unpopular, the engineer said.

"We know it's going to impact Galatia Church and the property owners in the area, that's why we want to have this meeting and let people express their concerns and have their feedback before we move forward with anything," he said. As proposed, the project would cost about \$150,000 based on preliminary estimates, Phipps said.

### Locals concerned

Jane Gillis Turner lives on

Galatia Church Road not far from the intersection in question. She also attends Galatia Presbyterian Church, which is close enough to her home that she can see it from her house. The NCDOT proposal was so surprising it seemed like a belated April Fools joke, she said.

"It is not a dangerous intersection, it is bordered on all sides by open flat fields. There are no hills anywhere close to that intersection. We can see at least a quarter of a mile up and down the road," she said.

Forcing traffic around the active church to use the curvy, hilly Gillis Hill and Galatia Church intersection instead would be far more dangerous, Turner said. Distracted driving is more likely to blame for any wrecks at the Stoney Point Road intersection than the roadway itself, she said. A four-way stop sign would be a better solution if intervention is necessary, Turner said.

"It would be a lot less of a torture to people than closing the road," Turner said.

Besides traffic from Sunday services, the church has many programs during the week including scouts, Bible study and a food pantry that draws upwards of 130 families every week, Pastor Shuford White said.

White taught driver's education for several years before he went into the ministry. Moving the traffic flow toward the Gillis Hill intersection could create a more dangerous problem than the existing situation, he said.

"It's going to be funneling a whole lot more cars than just a household would funnel into an intersection that's basically in the middle of a road that has two blind turns coming to it," White said. People speeding down Gillis Hill Road add more danger to that intersection, he said.

Any accidents taking place at the Stoney Point Road intersection could be related to a physical issue with some drivers, White suggested.

"You're driving a car, if you have to turn your head more than 45 degrees, it becomes more difficult as you get older," he said.

Straightening the Galatia Church and Stoney Point intersection or adding four-way stop signs there would make more sense than closing Galatia Church Road, White said.

The public hearing regarding the matter will be held July 26 from 4-7 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the New Century International Elementary School located at 7465 Century Circle in Fayetteville.

## Public Notification of Rural Development's Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact

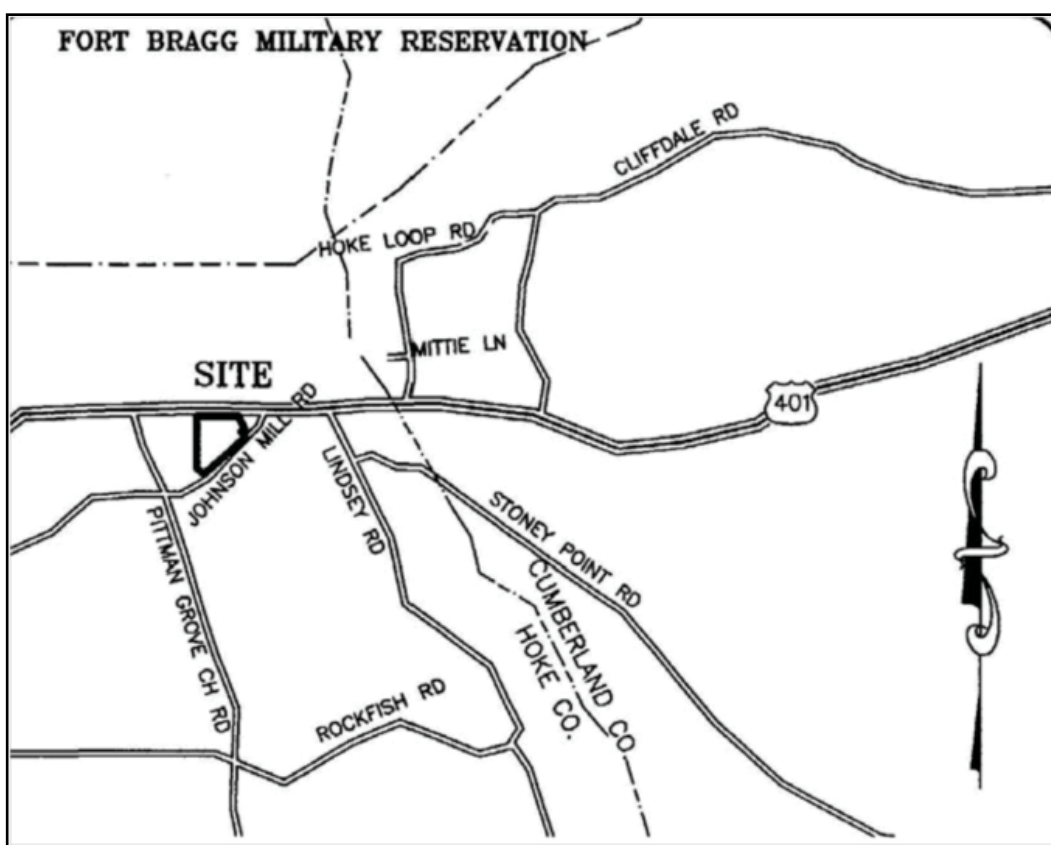
The US Department of Agriculture - Rural Development, through its Rural Community Facilities Program, has received an application for financial assistance from Hoke Healthcare, LLC for a new 41 bed Acute Care Hospital. The specific elements of this proposed action is in the construction of 41-inpatient beds with two operating rooms, 4 birthing suites, sterile processing, Imaging, 16-Bay Emergency Department, 9 observation rooms, laboratory and pathology, Inpatient Pharmacy, Kitchen-Cafeteria, Data/Communications and IT. The location of this proposed action is 27.1 acres located on the Northwest side of Johnson Mill Road and on the South side of US Hwy. 401.

Rural Development has assessed the potential environmental impacts of this proposed action and determined that it will not significantly affect the quality of human environment. Therefore, Rural Development will not prepare an environmental impact statement for this proposed action.

Any written comments regarding this determination should be provided within fifteen (15) days of this publication to Larry R. Sampson, Loan Specialist at USDA, Rural Development, P.O. Box 7426, Lumberton, NC 28360. USDA-Rural Development will make no further decisions regarding this proposed action during this fifteen-day period. Request to receive a copy of, or to review the USDA-Rural Development environmental assessment upon which this determination is based, should be directed to the address above or by phone at 910-739-3349.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

A general location map of the proposed action is shown below.



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# SPORTS

## Raeford Racing Roundup Herb Thomas Tribute Night

BY HAL NUNN  
Sports writer

The drivers of NASCAR don't make their rounds to North Carolina as much as they used to; however, this weekend in a different sort of way at Fayetteville Motor Speedway, one of NASCAR's greatest and 2013 Hall of Fame inductee Herb Thomas (by way of his sons Joel and Victor Thomas) will be bringing their father's 1951 and 1953 Grand National Championship trophies (now known as the Sprint Cup Series Championship) and some other memorabilia to the speedway for Herb Thomas Tribute Night. Thomas passed away in 2000 from a heart attack at age 77.

Larry Long, the track announcer at Fayetteville Motor Speedway, knew Herb Thomas and was a huge fan of the driver who was named the driver of the decade in the 1950s. "A lot of folks still remember him from the days when racing was racing," Long said. "I tell everyone all the time that Herb Thomas was NASCAR's first true superstar."

Larry and others have been promoting the event over the last few weeks and raised some extra money so that all the finishers in the Late Model division will get a little extra cash in their pocket for racing this night. Fans will get a chance to meet Joel and Victor Thomas and get their pictures taken with the championship series trophies as well as see



Herb Thomas Tribute Night will be held this Saturday night at Fayetteville Motor Speedway. Herb Thomas, the Olivia, North Carolina native will be inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in February 2013.

other pictures and memorabilia. Folks from the Historic Speedway Group from Hillsborough along with NASCAR Historian Buz McKim will be in attendance for the tribute night. If anyone would like to help sponsor the tribute night and make the late model purse a little better, contact Larry Long through speedway management at (910) 223-RACE (7223).

### Results from July 14

**Late Model**  
1-Shaun Harrell  
2-D.J. Tyndall  
3-Robbie Turner

### Open Wheeled Modified

1-John Marshall  
2-Wayne Gray

3-Chris Parker  
5-Mack Cox

### Super Street

1-Zach Blackwell  
2-Greg Bass  
3-Benji Thompson

### Pure Stock

1-Daniel Johnson  
2-Daniel Parker  
3-Eric Bently

### U-Car

1-Shannon Weaver  
2-Ronnie Yarborough Jr.  
3-Billy Gray

### Micro Sprints

1-Dale Arnold  
2-David Lee  
3-Jodie McCall



### Patriotic poster winner

Tyesha Hunter was the first place winner of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest sponsored by VFW Post 10 Ladies Auxiliary. She was presented with a certificate, a patriotic art lapel pin, and a monetary award at the monthly meeting on July 9. She is a junior at Hoke High School.

## School groundbreaking Thursday

Groundbreaking for Sandy Grove Middle School is set for Thursday at 10 a.m.

The school is the first of its kind in the state and only the second in the country to be financed through a public-private partnership. The school system

will lease the building until it is paid for, then the developer will turn the deed over to the county. The school will have a value of over \$21 million but will cost the county a total of about \$16 million due to the use of tax credits.

The groundbreaking will be held at the new school site located at 300 Chason Road in the Lumber Bridge community. The Board of Education will convene its usual meeting at the school system central office following the groundbreaking.

## Money available for seniors raising children

Money is available for senior citizens raising children in their homes.

Applications to receive a voucher to purchase school clothes and supplies will be taken at Senior Services of Hoke County from July 18-27 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Vouchers will be provided by the Family Caregiver Support Program at the Lumber River Council of Governments to financially assist grandparents and older relative caregivers (not parents) raising minor children or raising an adult "dependent child" with severe disabilities who will be attending school in August. Funds for this program are appropriated through Title III-E of the Older Americans Act and are available only to senior citizens raising a child in their home.

To be eligible for a voucher,

the grandparent or an older relative caregiver (not the child's parent) must: (1) be 55 years of age or older; (2) have custodial care of the child in their home without the child's parents living in the home; (3) be raising a child between the ages of 5-18 years old who will be attending school this calendar year; (4) be raising a severely handicapped child between the ages of 5-22 years old who is enrolled in a special education program; and (5) be the child's primary caregiver with financial responsibility for raising the child.

All applications will be reviewed by a panel to determine need and priority for service based on the Family Caregiver Program requirements. Grandparents who received a voucher

last year will be ineligible to apply for one this year. Each voucher is worth \$100 and can be redeemed during the week of August 13-17. Selected applicants will be contacted by telephone by August 10. Contact Esther Harrell at (910) 875-8588 or Anne Oglesby at (910) 272-5080 for more information or directions.

Applications can also be downloaded and printed online at [www.lumberrivercog.org](http://www.lumberrivercog.org). Applications can also be picked up from the N.C. Cooperative Extension Office in Lumberton and mailed in the envelope provided or faxed to (910) 521-7556. All applications must be received at the Lumber River Council of Governments, 30 C.J. Walker Road, COMtech Park, Pembroke, NC 28372 no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, July 27 to be considered.

## Hoke High Sports Update

### Free athletic physicals July 27 at FirstHealth

BY HAL NUNN  
Sports writer

Hoke County High School coaches and Athletic Director Gary Brigman attended the North Carolina High School Athletic Association coaches' clinic this past week at the Greensboro Coliseum and were encouraged that Hoke High is doing the right thing by getting coaches nationally certified.

Hoke High Athletic Director Gary Brigman said, "This year the NCHSAA adopted a plan that we have been working on for the last year in getting all our head coaches nationally certified and we are ahead of the state." From

now on, all head coaches in the NCHSAA are required to be nationally certified by the end of the next school year.

### New coaches

A couple of new coaches have been placed at Hoke High School for the coming season. Tiffany Parks, who was the girls' soccer and track coach at West Hoke Middle School, will be the new girls' soccer coach and assistant girls' basketball coach at Hoke High. Chris Davis, a graduate from East Carolina University, will be an assistant football coach working with the offense. Both Parks and Davis will be Health and Physical Education teachers

at Hoke High.

### Free physicals

FirstHealth has agreed again to do FREE athletic physicals for those students who desire to compete in athletics for 2012-2013. July 27 is the date set for the FREE physicals and they will be held at FirstHealth on Teal Drive in Raeford from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Each student must have a physical form filled out and it must be signed by the parent before coming to the clinic. Students and parents can get a form by going to the Hoke High main office or download the form on the school's athletics website at [www.ihigh.com/fightingbucks](http://www.ihigh.com/fightingbucks).

## Methodist University to hold soccer camp

BY HAL NUNN  
Sports writer

A joint effort between Hoke County Parks and Recreation and Methodist University has evolved into a soccer camp for boys and girls ages 5 to 18. The camp named Forward Soccer Camp will be held at the 211 Sports Complex in Raeford August 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We hope to have about 100 kids out for this first camp," said Bryan Madej, head women's soccer coach for Methodist University. Elgin Blue, Hoke County Parks and Recreation Director, said, "Our soccer program is growing and we wanted to further the child's knowledge/skill level about soccer and we wanted to keep the cost low."

The fee for the clinic will only

be \$10 and will include a T-shirt for each participant, water and a snack; however, participants must register before August 3. College coaches and players will be present as well as some local high school players and parks and recreation leaders. For more information on the soccer camp, call Hoke County Parks and Recreation at (910) 875-4035.

## Three get Golden LEAF scholarships

The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority recently selected Brittany Harris, Chentell Parker and Keyatta Parker as recipients of \$12,000 Golden LEAF Foundation Scholarships. Chentell Parker graduated from Hoke High School and will attend UNC-Chapel Hill. Brittany Harris graduated from Hoke High School and will attend UNC-Greensboro. Keyatta Parker is transferring from Sandhills Community College to UNC-Charlotte.

They are among the 215 students selected to receive a \$3,000 scholarship each year

for up to four years of study at a participating N.C. public university or private non-profit college or university. Recipients are from rural, economically distressed North Carolina counties and are selected based on a number of criteria, including a review of school and community service activities, goals, and expressed intent to contribute to rural communities upon graduation from college.

The Golden LEAF Foundation created the Golden LEAF Scholarship program to broaden educational opportunities and provide support to students

from rural counties with the hope that, after graduation, recipients will provide leadership in these communities.

The Golden LEAF Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1999 to help transform North Carolina's economy. The foundation receives one-half of North Carolina's funds from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement with cigarette manufacturers and places special emphasis on assisting tobacco-dependent, economically distressed and/or rural communities across the state.

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## Hoke County Schools Summer Transition Programs

### RISING 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

**Hoke County High School**  
Tuesday – Thursday, July 10-12, 2012  
8:00 am – 3:40 pm

**SandHoke Early College**  
Monday – Tuesday, July 23-24, 2012  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### RISING 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

**East Hoke Middle School**  
Friday, July 27, 2012  
8:00 am – 3:30 pm

**West Hoke Middle School**  
Wednesday, August 1, 2012  
8:00 am – 3:30 pm

Call your child's school for details:  
Hoke High School – 910.875.2156  
SandHoke Early College – 910.878.5806  
East Hoke Middle School – 910.875.5048  
West Hoke Middle School – 910.875.3411  
Student Support Services – 910.904.1067



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## Editorial Deadlines

Friday 12 Noon: Calendar Items - Social Items - News Items

Monday 12 Noon: Letters to the Editor



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