



The News-Journal

TURKEY FESTIVAL
PREVIEW INSIDE

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, September 5, 2012

Hoke short on Highway Patrol troopers

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Retirements and promotions have cut Hoke County's number of State Highway Patrol troopers down from seven to three, and some Moore County troopers are stepping in to provide coverage across the shared district.

"We'd like to have more, but it's what we do. We step up to the plate," First Sgt. T.D.

Simmons said. Simmons is in charge of the State Highway Patrol District 8, which includes Hoke and Moore counties.

Moore County is allotted 11 troopers and Hoke County is allotted seven, Simmons said. Currently Moore County is at full capacity, but the number of troopers in Hoke County has shrunk by more than half. Simmons arranged the roster to have Moore County troopers patrol the roads in Hoke to make sure the

fastest-growing county in North Carolina is covered by the state agency.

"We're not going to slight the citizens of a county at all," he said. It's not the first time in his 26 years of serving on the State Highway Patrol that it's been necessary to balance out one county with another, and Hoke's predicament isn't anywhere near as bad as some other, larger counties in the state, Simmons said.

"The whole state is short-staffed, it's not

just us," he said.

The agency loses about 6.5 sworn officers a month, according to a March 2011 presentation to the state Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation. At that time the state was short by 65 troopers, and that number was predicted to grow to 176 vacancies by summer of 2012.

Part of the reason for the shortage is while (See TROOPERS, page 4A)



Support poles go up at a solar farm located at St. Pauls Rd. and East Palmer Street. The poles will soon hold solar panels. (Catharin Shepard photo)

Here comes the sun, power that is \$20 million solar energy project should be online by November

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Raeford's first utility-scale solar panel array is now under construction in a field near the intersection of St. Pauls Road and East Palmer Street.

Workers have started installing the bases to hold about 26,600 photovoltaic (PV) solar panels that will soak up sunlight and convert it into electricity, according to officials with the two companies partnering on the venture.

The North Carolina-based Birdseye

Renewable Energy and Strata Solar companies combined their efforts to bring the \$20 million solar farm project to Raeford. So far the companies have completed four of six planned solar farms in southeastern North Carolina, including several in Robeson County.

"I am proud that my collaboration with Strata Solar and our local landowners has brought such significant solar investment to Hoke County. We found the Town of Raeford and Hoke County to be exceptionally supportive of our project from day one," Birdseye Renewable Energy

CEO Brian Bednar said.

The solar farm will generate about 6.4 megawatts of direct current or about 5 megawatts of alternating current, according to Strata Solar Vice President of Marketing Blair Schooff. The farm will likely be operational by early November, Schooff said.

The construction typically takes about 14 weeks from start to finish. Right now the workers are putting up the posts in preparation for the rest of the installation. Soon the panels will start going in along (See SOLAR, page 5A)

Arrest made in murder

Robeson deputies arrest Raeford man in shooting



Davis

A Raeford man was arrested last week in connection with the August 23 shooting death of a Lumber Bridge resident.

Deputies with the Robeson County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday arrested Quentin Maurice Davis, 22, of the 100 block of

Woodland Court in Raeford on a charge of first-degree murder. Davis is accused of shooting TwaQuan Curtis Evans, 27, outside a home on the 400 block of Quick Road in Lumber Bridge where Evans was reportedly staying with relatives.

The shooting took place around 11 p.m., according to Maj. Howard Branch.

"Two females were in the house, they heard gunshots outside, the victim was outside. The victim comes inside stating that he'd been shot," Branch said. Evans asked the women to call for help, then collapsed on the floor and died, Branch said.

Davis was held without bail at the Robeson County Detention Center.

Hoke County deputies arrested Davis on August 13 and charged him with allegedly firing shots at the home of a woman on Timber Ridge Drive, a street off of Wayside Road in eastern Hoke County. At that time Davis was held in the Hoke County Detention Center under a \$50,000 bond. Davis was previously convicted of resisting an officer in 2008 and felony common law robbery in 2009.

This Week

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Death march survivor Mims to return to Japan

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Bataan Death March survivor John Mims is going back to Japan for the first time in more than half a century, returning as an honored guest to the place where he and hundreds of other prisoners of war were once forced to labor in a coal mine under daily threat of death.

The retired World War II veteran and his wife received a special invitation from the Japanese ambassador offering them the chance to take an expenses-paid trip as part of a national effort to reach out to the aging sur-

vivors who made it out of the prison camps. If his health allows, next month Mims will join five other former prisoners of war – including one other veteran captured with Mims and forced to work in the same coal mine – in touring the places so many other soldiers never left.

"I thought that was something else. This character was over there in '45," Mims said. "Now he's returning in 2012. That's quite a number of years."

Mims works to educate others about the Bataan Death March and what the surviving soldiers faced in the months afterward in the (See MIMS, page 6A)



Mims in 2006 at a gathering for survivors of the Bataan Death March. (George Baird photo)



This house caught fire Monday and then again Tuesday. (Hal Nunn photo)

House fire damage set at \$225k

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Firefighters responded Monday night and again Tuesday morning to a fire at an unoccupied house on Fayetteville Road near the Waybetter Arabians horse farm.

The blaze at the large single-family home located on the 3800 block of Fayetteville Road started Monday night, Fire Marshal Maj. Freddy Johnson said. After getting the fire

out and leaving for the night, the crews were called back Tuesday to the same property.

"They had a rekindle this morning," Johnson said.

Homeowner Jarvis Carr was renovating the house and it was unoccupied at the time of the fire, according to a report. The first call came in around 10:18 p.m. Monday. Firefighters from Hillcrest, Puppy Creek, Raeford and North Raeford (See FIRE, page 4A)



VIEWPOINTS

We need to protect the arts and culture

By Benjamin Filene

It's easy to think of the arts and culture as extraneous. Certainly many North Carolina state legislators do. But that is terribly shortsighted. Over the last several years, relentless funding reductions have already significantly damaged the museums, historic sites and agencies that preserve the state's heritage, sustain its cultural health, drive tourism and make this state a desirable place to live. Further reductions are under consideration.

The idea that culture is unessential, a luxury for flush times, is at odds with our own best traditions. While the earliest museums were showcases for the rich — no ruffraff allowed — in 19th century America, culture began to be seen as a public right. The dazzling world's fairs and the new public museums of the era suggested that the whole world could be brought to the doorsteps of ordinary people.

During the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt and Congress didn't cut back on culture but rather invested in it, seeing it as both an economic boost and a source of strength for the country. The U.S. government hired musicians, writers, folklorists and artists to create recordings, guidebooks, archives and post office murals that we enjoy to this day.

In the 1960s, when voting rights were finally granted to all, the promise extended to culture: the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts were founded so that everyone could enjoy art, music and history. North Carolina's Department of Cultural Resources and the state's Humanities Council, both founded in the early 1970s, emerged from this vision.

The recent cuts to funding for history and the arts, then,

are not just trimming elite leisure-time activities; they are attacking the very notion of us as a public — the idea that we have a shared stake in creating citizens who are invited to look within and beyond themselves, to understand where we have been and where we are going.

The damage done of late in North Carolina is real. The already lean budget for the Department of Cultural Resources has been reduced by nearly 25 percent since 2009. Cultural leaders have had to fend off threats to close new or recently revitalized institutions such as the Museum of Albemarle in Elizabeth City and Tryon Palace in New Bern. The flagship N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh took two decades of fundraising to open a new exhibition chronicling the state's history in 2011 only to face cuts of nearly a million dollars in the last two years.

Most drastic of all, perhaps, has been the damage to the state's network of over two dozen historic sites, the places where visitors come to realize that, indeed, history happened here.

Public hours have been reduced, professional positions frozen, maintenance and preservation deferred. Some sites don't have sufficient fuel or staff to cut the grass regularly.

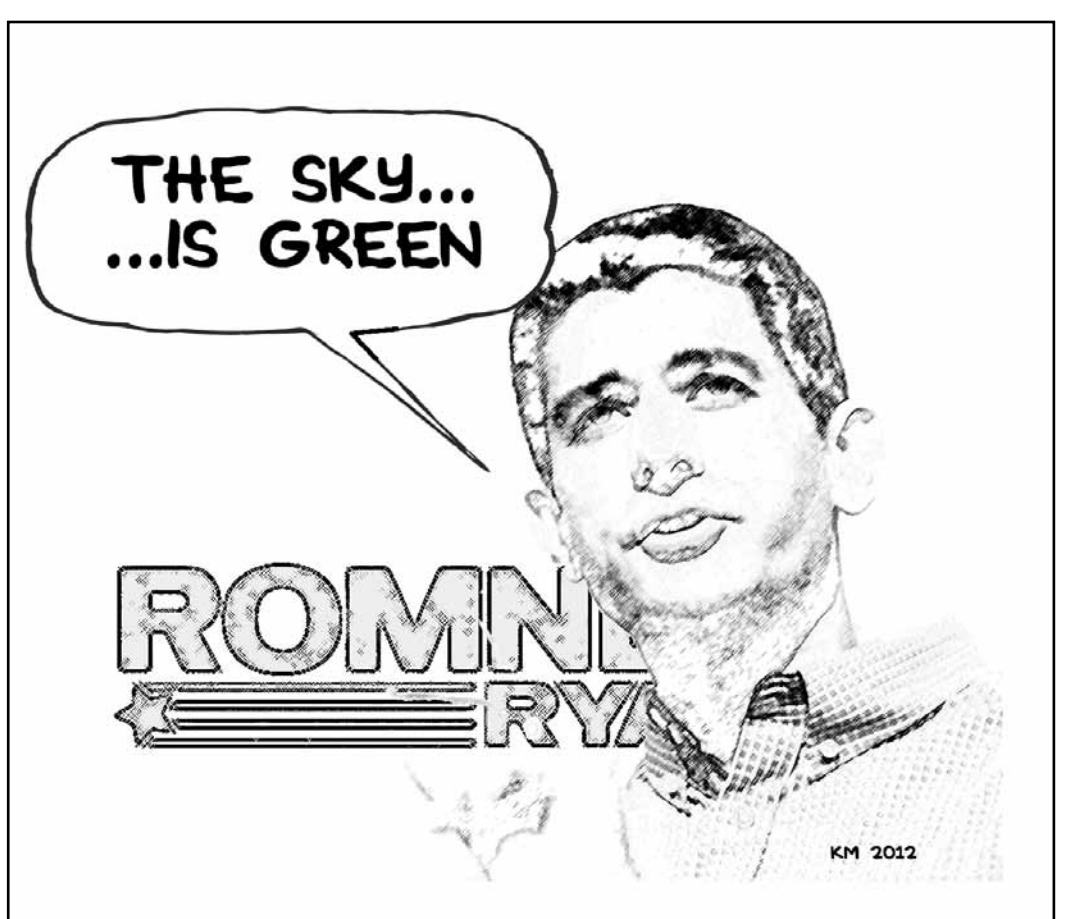
It wouldn't take much to fix these problems. The amount appropriated to the Department of Cultural Resources — less than \$61 million — is three tenths of 1 percent of the state's \$20.2 billion budget for 2012-13. A mere \$6.30 per person per year supports 27 historic sites; seven history museums; the State Library, the State Archives; the state divisions of Historical Publications, Archaeology, Genealogy, and Historic Preservation; the N.C. Symphony; the N.C. Arts Council; and the N.C. Museum of Art.

Unfortunately, we seem to be headed in the wrong direction. The General Assembly's Program Evaluation Division is studying the possibility of consolidating management at state historic sites, reducing open hours, introducing or raising admission fees and transferring operations to outside nonprofit groups. Sites under the gun include Bennett Place, Duke Homestead, the Thomas Wolfe Memorial, Historic Stagville and Historic Edenton. The Program Evaluation Division report, due in December, looms as an excuse for the legislature to further scale back its commitment to public culture in the name of "efficiency."

We must challenge the assumption that cutting cultural institutions is the solution to our budget difficulties. Instead, we should be investing in them. The fact is that culture is a significant driver of the state's economic health. The 2011 N.C. Visitor Profile, compiled by the Department of Commerce, reports that 40 percent of travelers' time is spent on cultural activities. Within the state, cultural institutions are sources of employment for thousands.

Most fundamentally, though, the arts and culture sustain our sense of whom we are individually and collectively — of where we came from as a people and our sense of possibility for what we might yet become. These are not luxuries but essential to our past, present and future. Let's hope that in the months to come, North Carolinians speak up loudly and often and convince state legislators that these essential public institutions are worth the small investment needed to save them.

Benjamin Filene is director of public history and an associate professor at UNC Greensboro.



Ryan's speech cost the party trust

What does a lesson learned from a Mecklenburg County district court judge many years ago and a recent experience of Duke Energy have to do with this year's presidential election?

One on One
D. G. Martin



Trust. It has been almost 45 years since a brand new Charlotte lawyer presented a proposed order to Judge J. Edward Stukes. It was a routine procedural order, not controversial, or so the young lawyer told Stukes. The judge looked up at the lawyer and told him he would sign the order because he trusted him to tell the truth about the situation and the purpose of the proposed order. He told the young lawyer that if he ever violated that trust, it would take a long time, if ever, for him to win it back. I was that lawyer, and I never forgot the lesson.

Duke Energy's predecessor, Duke Power Co., spent more than 100 years building a culture of trust, under the leadership of people like Bill McGuire, Carl Horn, Bill Lee, Bill Grigg, and others.

That trust was an asset of incalculable value when Duke was dealing with the public. The asset was damaged, if not lost forever, by Duke's apparent misrepresentation of its intentions regarding its chief executive officer after its merger with Progress Energy.

Okay, what do Judge Stukes' advice and Duke Energy's stumble have to do with the presidential election?

Trust.

Coming into last week's Republican convention, Mitt Romney's vice presidential choice, Paul Ryan, attracted considerable favorable public attention, even from people who disagreed with his politics. He seemed to be a bright and trustworthy public servant.

That image could have been a great asset for the Romney campaign. Inexplicably, Ryan threw it away in his convention speech with its blatant and transparent misleading statements. Independent reporters, as well as the Obama campaign, noticed immediately.

What got the most attention was Ryan's implication, arguably his assertion, that an automobile plant in Ryan's hometown of Janesville, Wis. had closed even though Obama had promised it would stay open.

Here is what Ryan said: "A lot of guys I went to high school with worked at that GM plant. Right there at that plant, candidate Obama said: 'I believe that if our government is there to support you ... this plant will be here for another hundred years.' That's what he said in 2008."

"Well, as it turned out, that plant didn't last another year. It is locked up and empty to this day. And that's how it is in so many towns today, where the

recovery that was promised is nowhere in sight."

Although the plant's closure was announced before Obama became president, Ryan wanted his listeners to hold the president and his policies accountable.

News reporters and commentators rushed to tag Ryan's speech for other misleading statements, including (1) blaming Obama for doing nothing on the Bowles-Simpson Commission report, when commission member Ryan's no vote insured that the report would not get enough votes to be adopted by the commission, and (2) blaming Obama for funneling \$716 billion from Medicare, when Ryan's budget proposal takes away exactly the same amount.

Sally Kohn, a columnist for foxnews.com, wrote, "... to anyone paying the slightest bit of attention to facts, Ryan's speech was an apparent attempt to set the world record for the greatest number of blatant lies and misrepresentations slipped into a single political speech."

Kohn may be exaggerating the degree of Ryan's misrepresentations. But his trickiness with the truth cost him an asset that could have been a big help for the Republican ticket this fall.

It put him in the same basket with any lawyer who tried to get something by Judge Stukes and any utility company that misleads a utility commission. It has a name.

The Basket of Lost Trust.

A national health plan makes sense

The upcoming national election has become one of the most important elections of our times. There are many important issues facing the country. The economic situation and the lack of jobs may be two of the most pressing issues but with these economic problems also come medical problems. The two are tied together. So many people who were covered by medical insurance while working are now unemployed and without medical insurance.

The majority of our representatives in Washington agrees that we should have a national health plan but is unable to agree on a plan. The main opponents seem to be those who have medical coverage. They complain that if we have national health coverage, costs will rise. That may be true but here's the problem. Americans are the highest paid people in the world, with the highest living standards, yet we complain more about paying for services.

As I pointed out in this column, it seems strange that countries with much smaller economies are able to offer every citizen health care as well as other services to ensure a better and less stressful life. In the long run a national health plan would cut medical



Paul Burnley

costs. If every citizen were able to obtain medical coverage when they needed it, a number of medical problems would be discovered before they became major.

When I think of a national health program, I am not thinking of those who go to a Beverly Hills surgeon for cosmetic surgery. I think of the single mother who has an emergency and has to wait eight to 10 hours in an emergency room before being seen because she has no insurance. Then there is the father who has lost his job and his health insurance coverage for his family. I feel these are the people that a national health plan should be designed for.

I agree wholeheartedly with those who believe that a prevention program would reduce medical costs. Prostate screening for men, breast checks for women, colon checks and EKGs, MRIs and other checks would catch a number of problems that could be corrected. But these exams are expensive, and for those without insurance, they are out of the

question.

We will pay now, or we will pay later. With the number of people using the emergency rooms of our hospitals because they have no family doctor, the expense is passed on to the public. With a national health plan these people would be able to go to a family doctor who would better know their medical problems and would be better able to treat them.

Another objection to a national health plan is that you may not be able to have a doctor of your choice. Under this plan, if you can afford it, you could see any doctor, but these programs are designed for those who are unable to afford premium care but need medical service.

Some say the cost of a medical plan would have to be paid over a number of years. It's not that I am in favor of this approach. However, this is the way that this country has operated over the years. We buy cars, homes, college education for our children, etc. on the assumption that we get it now and pay for it later. Very few of us would own cars, homes or much we have if we had not made plans to pay for them later.

Paul Burnley can be reached at pburnley@aol.com.

How much should public workers be paid?

By SCOTT MOONEYHAM
Capitol Press Association

Funny things happen when top elected officials prepare to leave office.

Sometimes they and their underlings say exactly what they are thinking.

So it was the other day when Gene Conti, the state's secretary of transportation, said that non-elected agency heads need to be paid more.

Conti went on to tell The News & Observer of Raleigh that he had taken a pay cut to take his current job after previously working as vice president of an engineering consulting firm.

Conti, like other cabinet agency heads under Gov. Beverly Perdue, is paid \$121,807, or about \$18,000 less than his boss. The agency he oversees has a \$4 billion budget.

I would note that the engineering consulting firm that once employed Conti may have been paying him for expertise gained in previous stints in state and federal transportation-related positions.

Nonetheless, his point shouldn't be dismissed. Can the state attract and keep

qualified people in top administrative jobs paying far less than the private sector would pay for jobs of similar responsibilities?

It's not a question easily answered yes or no.

One reason the answer isn't so cut-and-dried is because government isn't the private sector.

Public-sector administrators and managers aren't faced with the same kind of bottom-line pressures as their private-sector counterparts. The enterprises that they run typically act as monopolies. The funders of those enterprises — the taxpayers — don't increase or decrease like a private-sector customer base, based on the price, quality or availability of goods or services.

So, saying that responsibilities are similar isn't saying that they are the same.

A couple of other differences also can't be overlooked.

Politicians, being politicians, don't always put the best people in those top cabinet-level positions. Sometimes they put political cronies in the job.

No amount of money is going to ever stop that practice. Higher salaries might even cause more of it.

Then there are the differences among the agencies.

Running the \$4 billion Department of Transportation isn't the same as running the Department of Cultural Resources. Running the unwieldy Department of Health and Human Services isn't the same as running more straightforward enterprises like the Department of Commerce and Department of Revenue.

Should the top honchos in each be paid the same?

None of this changes Conti's basic point, that at times the state needs more expertise in top state jobs and would better attract that expertise if some of those jobs paid more.

Next year, exactly that could begin to happen. State legislators included a provision in the state budget that allows governors to adjust the salaries of the top administrators in state agencies under his or her control.

The change may be a good thing, addressing the problem that Conti referenced.

It may also be a minefield for the next governor, leading to internal conflict and external criticism about politics — not expertise or competence — dictating those pay decisions.

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Obituaries

Howard E. Harris

Howard Earl Harris, 65, of Raeford died Monday, August 27, 2012.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; sons, Marvin, Christopher and Timothy; a daughter, Angela;

his mother, Pauline; a sister, Grace Dudley; 16 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Friday, August 31 in Freedom Chapel AME Zion Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Police Blotter

The Raeford Police Department reported these incidents:

August 28

Concealment of merchandise, 100 block of Fayetteville Road, victim Dollar General

August 29

Injury to real property (vandalism), 600 block of Prospect Avenue, victim Raeford Oil Co.

Injury to real property (vandalism), 200 block of Cole Avenue, victim Goody's Department Store and City of Raeford

Larceny, 100 block of Dudley Street, victims Candace Morgan and Lynette Kay Wheeler

Larceny by employee, 200 block of Main Street, victim Bo's Supermarket

Weapons on campus or other educational property, 200 block of Aberdeen Road, victim State of North Carolina

Assault on a female, 100 block of Yadkin Trail, victim Yensa Harrell

August 30

Damage to real property, 100 block of Campus Avenue, victim N.C. Mentor

September 1

Assault inflicting serious injury, 1000 block of East Central Avenue, victim Rakeen Davis

Gas leak, 100 block of North Wright Street, no victim listed

Damage to property, 400 block of East Central Avenue, victim The Harvest Church

Larceny, breaking and entering, criminal damage to property, 500 block of East Sixth Avenue, victim James Edward McMillan

September 3

Larceny, breaking and entering, injury to real property, 500 block of Aberdeen Road, victim Hedgpeh Farm & Greenhouse

Felony larceny (motor vehicle-motorcycle), 800 block of North Main Street, victim Gregory Bernard Thompson

Larceny, 300 block of South Magnolia Street, victim Martha Mana Gamas-Gamas

Turkey Festival preliminaries

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Art Contest & Display. Hoke County Public Library
NC Turkey Bowl. Hoke High School vs. Raleigh Ravens
7:00 pm Pre-game Show, 7:30 pm Raz Autry Stadium

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9-11 Remembrance Ceremony, 8:30 am, Raeford-Hoke Museum
Tennis Tournament, 9:00 am Hoke High School (two-day event)
Softball Tournament, 10:00 am, West Hoke Field of Dreams (two-day event)

Horseshoe Tournament, 10:00 am, West Hoke Field of Dreams
Turkey Throw Down, 6:00 pm Autograph Session, 7:00 pm Bell Time, Hoke High School Gymnasium

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Opening Ceremonies, 6:00 pm, L.E. McLaughlin Senior Room

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Card Tournament, 7:00 pm, Raeford Civic Center, \$7 per person

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Senior Day, 10:00 am, Raeford Civic Center - Bingo * Luncheon \$3.00 per person, limit 100

Recent cases heard in Hoke County Criminal District Court, Judge Regina M. Joe, presiding: **Aug. 28**

- Lorenzo Jacob O'Neil Andrews, 21, 7311 Shillinglaw Circle, Fayetteville, failure to wear seat belt in front seat, \$25.50 fine and court costs
- James Howard Atchison, 55, 104 Overton Road, Raeford, improper equipment-speedometer, \$50 fine and court costs
- Ladarien Devon Beatty, 23, 266 Hodgkin Road, Red Springs, speeding 44 miles per hour in a 35-mph zone, \$25 fine and court costs

- Juan Mario Calvillo-Morales, 36, 314 Purvis Court, Raeford, failure to notify North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles of address change, three days suspended, six months unsupervised probation, court costs
- Edwyn Abraham Canjura, 29, 109 Hensdale Road, Raeford, no operator's license, unsafe passing in yellow line, three days suspended, six months unsupervised probation, \$50 fine and court costs, judgments consolidated
- Jane Doe, 20, 311 Brewer Road, Red Springs, resisting

public officer, injury to personal property, 30 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, pay \$175 restitution to Hoke County Sheriff's officer, court costs, judgments consolidated

- Dionisio Antonio Hernandez, 55, 7206 East Great Marsh Church, St. Pauls, driving while license revoked, prayer for judgment continued, court costs
- Jimenez Hernandez, 28, 111 Lasso Lane, Raeford, driving while impaired, Level 4, 30 days in jail
- Brittany Skye Ingram, 22, 301 Franklin Road, Raeford, injury to personal property, court costs
- Rhonda Kaley Johnson, 46, 300 Franklin Road, Raeford, simple worthless check, 21 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, pay \$168.38 restitution to prosecuting business, court costs
- Jenny Denise Jones, 36, 190 Beckman Place, Raeford, speeding 64 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone, \$100 fine and court costs
- Ernst Lavalaise, 58, 226 Grouper Drive, Fayetteville, no operator's license, three days suspended, six months unsupervised probation, \$50 fine and court

costs; expired or no inspection sticker, voluntary dismissal

- Michael Jesse Law, 32, 463 Northwoods Drive, Raeford, driving while impaired, Level 4, 60 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, \$100 fine and court costs, community service fee, obtain assessment, surrender operator's license and not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed
- Kimberly Nicole Linney, 32, 363 W. Palmer St., Raeford, improper equipment-speedometer, \$25 fine and court costs
- Willie Lee McGoogan, 70, 2121 McGougan Road, Lumber Bridge, assault on a female, two days in jail, credit for two days served
- Rose Marie McNeill, 50, 2121 McGougan Road, Lumber Bridge, simple assault, two days in jail, credit for two days served
- Marquise Lavonte McPhaul, 22, 115 Meadows Lane, Raeford, driving while impaired, Level 4, 60 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, \$100 fine and court costs, 24 hours in jail, credit for 24 hours served, pay jail fee, surrender operator's license, not to operate a motor

vehicle until properly licensed, obtain assessment, not to use or possess any alcoholic beverages; driving while license revoked after notice of revocation for driving while impaired, two days in jail, credit for two days served

- Marcus Tyron Scott, 27, 9380 Cedar Lane, Laurinburg, driving while impaired, Level 1, 24 months suspended, 12 months probation, court costs, mandatory jail sentence, surrender operator's license, not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed, transfer probation to Scotland County; driving while license revoked, 120 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, court costs, not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed; expired registration card/tag, voluntary dismissal
- Tracy Julius Stone, 29, 124 Lindas Lane, Raeford, speeding 64 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone, \$25 fine and court costs
- Damien Warnitz, 20, 104 Breckenridge Drive, Raeford, improper equipment-speedometer, \$100 fine and court costs
- Justin Ashley Wixson, 40, 200 Northwoods Drive, Raeford, improper equipment-speedometer, \$25 fine and court costs.

Juvenile offenders get their day in teen court

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

For first-time juvenile offenders in Hoke County, pleading guilty to a minor crime can mean facing not just a jury of their peers but an entire courtroom full of them.

The idea behind teen court programs is that young offenders receive punishment for their crime but don't have to carry the mark of a first-time crime on their records, program coordinator Brittney Eberman said.

"It prevents them from getting a record, of course, it gives them a chance," she said. "It gives them a chance to kind of realize what they've done so that it won't happen again and they don't have to have a record."

In Hoke County, first-time offenders between the ages of 10 and 17 who plead guilty to committing a minor crime have the option of going to teen court. The program is also an opportunity for students interested in the legal system to play a role in a court hearing years before they earn a college degree.

Hoke County has had a Teen Court for many years, but while it used to be a branch of the A.B.L.E. program, now it's

funded through the Scots for Youth, Eberman said. The first fall court session is coming up later this month, and the program's 40 or so volunteers are preparing to hear cases again.

Teen court handles only cases of minor crimes like vandalism or shoplifting. The children and teens have to plead guilty to the crime before they're admitted to the teen court, Eberman said. It's part of the bargain for avoiding a criminal record.

"It's just a diversion so they don't actually have to go to juvenile court," Eberman said. "...This would not be on their record at all."

Probation is typically the sentence handed down in similar crimes that do go on to juvenile court, she added.

Student volunteers from various schools in Hoke County play different parts of the court system, including the attorneys, bailiffs, clerks and jurors. Just like in a real court, the defense attorney advocates on behalf of the defendant and the prosecutor represents the state and has the responsibility to seek justice. The bailiff opens and closes each court session and maintains order in the court-

room, the clerk maintains the court docket and the paperwork for the cases and the jurors have the obligation of determining the defendant's sentencing.

Student volunteers can go through training and must sit through at least one court session before taking part in the activities themselves. They're required to dress appropriately for court, pay attention to their posture and hand gesturing, practice making eye contact and prepare beforehand for hearing the case, according to the program handbook.

The teen volunteers running the court have the option to determine what punishment the offender receives. The punishments handed down are typically things like community service or jury duties, Eberman said. A new life skills class recently developed by the Scots for Youth might be added to the possible consequences this year.

The program is a good way for students who are shy about speaking in public to gain self-confidence. It gives the volunteers a good item to put on their college applications and it lets them get a taste of the legal system at the same time, Eberman said.

"They're helping their community by allowing other students to have a chance, and it kind of gives them an idea of how the court system works, and it's kind of a preventative measure for them," she said. "So maybe they realize they don't want to be involved with that as well, to make the right decisions."

Adults with legal expertise oversee the process. Gregory Thompson, John Thompson, William Fields, Regina Sutherland and Russell Smith are some of the local attorneys who have donated their time to overseeing teen court as a judge for each court session, Eberman said. However, it's still up to the student volunteers to pass judgment on the plaintiff.

"Their peers ultimately decide what's going to happen, what the outcome's going to be," Eberman said.

The next upcoming court sessions are September 25 and October 23. Volunteer applications are available at the Juvenile Justice center located at 127 West Elwood Avenue in downtown Raeford and at many local schools. For more information, contact Eberman at 878-0213.

The News-Journal

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Fiery weekend wreck kills one

A man died Saturday morning after he lost control of his vehicle and ran into a tree in western Hoke County, according to authorities. Michel McPhaul, 33, of the 100 block of Concord Court in Carthage was driving on Gainey Road near Fulford McMillan Road around 4:41 a.m. Saturday

when he apparently lost control of his 2005 truck. McPhaul was driving west when he crossed the center line, ran off the road and collided with a tree, according to the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. The tree broke at impact and damaged a nearby utility pole,

causing the utility wire to fall. The vehicle caught on fire, a spokesperson said. McPhaul later died of his injuries. Speed may have been a factor, according to the report filed by Trooper D.R. Clark. No other vehicles were reportedly involved. Further details were not available.

Troopers

(Continued from page 1A)

experienced troopers received promotions or retired last year, young people seeking to become troopers weren't able to go through the classes necessary to join the State Highway Patrol, Simmons said. With finances tight, the agency in 2011 temporarily suspended the 29-week-long trooper cadet program and froze hiring. It costs about \$100,000 to put one trooper through the program,

according to a state figure. The school graduated almost 40 troopers in summer of 2011 before the program was halted. Troopers also have to undergo another 12 weeks of training after the program. Trooper salaries start at about \$34,000 and can go up to about \$52,000. In June of this year the Highway Patrol again started recruiting applicants, this time for a "fast track" Basic School program only 16 weeks long set to begin this fall.

The state is also now accepting applications for another Basic School class of troopers. That class will start in 2013 at a date to be announced, according to the State Highway Patrol. When the Highway Patrol does graduate a class of new troopers, decision-makers have to send those new troopers where they're needed the most, Simmons said. And that might not be Hoke County. "Some counties are a lot worse off than we are," Simmons said.



Fire rekindled Tuesday morning.

Fire

(Continued from page 1A)

fire departments responded to the scene along with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office, the Hoke County Rescue Squad and Med1. The fire started in the attic and destroyed the roof. Officials believe the fire was started by an electrical problem. The house valued by the homeowner at \$225,000 was a total loss, Johnson said. The home was secure when firefighters arrived on the scene. Officials did not suspect arson. The Fire Marshal's office is still investigating.

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Hoke communications wins national certification

Hoke County Emergency Communications was one of only three agencies in North Carolina to win national certification last month from the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO). Hoke County Emergency Communications "met or exceeded" the required minimum training standards. The county earned the certification as of August 13. Gregg Riddle, president of APCO International, said public safety standards are important

because they ensure staff members are receiving and using the most up-to-date information and tactics. "We thank Hoke County 911 Emergency Communications staff for their unwavering dedication and perseverance in the public safety industry and their commitment to strategic emergency service procedures," he said in a statement. Public safety agencies use APCO Project 33 Agency Training Program Certification as a formal mechanism to certify

their training programs in meeting with the APCO American National Standards. Initial and continuing training for public safety telecommunicators is important as they provide essential services to the public in an expanding and rapidly changing environment, the association said. Hoke County Emergency Communications was honored last month at the Distinguished Achievers Breakfast during APCO's 78th Annual Conference in Minneapolis.

Elections board member certified

Robert Vaughn, one of the three members of the Hoke County Board of Elections, achieved the designation as a certified North Carolina Elections Official at a recent State Board of Elections conference in Chapel Hill last month.

Vaughn completed all the requirements for certification of board members in the North Carolina Elections Program. The conference was held August 13-15 at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. He was one of only three

board members from other counties across the state to receive the distinction and is the first board member from Hoke County to become certified in the elections program, according to a statement from the conference.

Social Security offers online services

BY BRENDA BROWN
Social Security, Fayetteville

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, and whether you prefer communicating in English or Spanish, there are some important online services we'd like you to know about. You can find them at www.socialsecurity.gov and at our Spanish site, www.segurosocial.gov. If you are ready to apply for Social Security retirement benefits now, you can do it quickly and easily on your home or office computer. The online application takes as little as 15 minutes. Once you complete the online application and "sign" it with the click of a mouse, your application is complete. In most cases, there are no documents to submit or additional paperwork to fill out.

Online is the easiest way to apply, and you can do it in English or Spanish. In addition to applying for Social Security retirement benefits, you also can apply for Medicare — in as little as 10 minutes, from start to finish. But you can do more than apply for benefits. You can find a lot of information and a number of online services that allow you to complete your Social Security business online, in English or Spanish. One of the most popular is our Retirement Estimator, which provides an instant, personalized estimate of your future Social Security benefits. Using the actual wages posted in your Social Security record, the Estimator will give you a good picture of what to expect in benefits. It protects your personal information by

providing only retirement benefit estimates — it does not show the earnings information used to calculate the benefit estimate, nor does it reveal other identifying information. You can plug in different retirement scenarios and future wage amounts to get estimates for different situations. If you already are entitled to Medicare and are having trouble with the cost of prescription drugs, you might qualify for Extra Help from Social Security. The Extra Help from Social Security can save you as much as \$4,000 each year. You can learn all about it and apply online. Whether you prefer to do business online in Spanish or English, our website is the place for you. Visit www.segurosocial.gov or www.socialsecurity.gov during Hispanic Heritage Month, or anytime. It's so easy!

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SPORTS

Bucks cage Falcons 35-20

By HAL NUNN
Sports writer

The Hoke County High School Bucks continued their winning ways last Friday night with a 35-20 win over a very physical Seventy-First Falcons team.

"Our kids played hard but so did Seventy-First," Coach Butts said. "This was the first time we got out hit." This year's team might not be quite as deep as last year but playing a physical team like Seventy-First will surely get the team ready for Southeastern Conference play. In the process, Hoke lost wide receiver Jawane Harris for a few weeks with a meniscus injury and is still without the services of offensive lineman JaCarl Purcell who has been out with a personal matter.

In the win against Seventy-First, turnovers were a big part of getting the win and Hoke accumulated four of them. One interception was overturned due to a roughing the passer call.

On Seventy-First's initial series, Tydre Daniels stripped the ball from a Falcon runner and Treqwon Covington scooped the ball up and rushed in for a touchdown. Shakiem McGougan also had one turnover and Chaz Brooks had an interception. Hoke running back Detrez Newsome rushed for 101 yards and three touchdowns.

On the season, Newsome in three games has rushed for 731 yards and 11 touchdowns. Hoke QB Geoffrey Thompson had six carries for 73 yards rushing and one touchdown. Backup QB Michael Locklear threw 3-3 for 62 yards and receiver Cory Cannon had three catches for 62 yards.

This Friday night the Bucks come home for the annual Turkey Bowl against the Sanderson Spartans. Last



#52 Tobias Edge-Campbell makes certain he does not rough up Sanderson quarterback Evan Parker in last year's game in Raleigh.

year Hoke went to Raleigh to play the Spartans and came away with a huge win 42-12. At the end of the first quarter Hoke was leading 21-0 and Detrez Newsome ended up with over 200 yards rushing and four touchdowns against the Spartans. Game time this week is set for 7:30 p.m.; however, if you would like a great seat for the pre-game festivities, get there by 7 p.m. and if you cannot make the game, listen online to the Bucks Broadcast Network at www.ihigh.com/bucksnetwork.



When the solar farm is complete, it will generate enough electricity for 600 homes, company officials say.

Solar

(Continued from page 1A)

with the wiring above and below ground to collect the solar energy. "You'll see the shape of the farm begin to form," Schooff said.

The solar farm works by absorbing solar energy and transferring it through conduits to inverters that change the energy from direct current to alternating current. From there the energy is sent into the Progress Energy power grid and can be used to power homes and businesses.

Once assembled, the 3-foot by 5-foot tilted PV panels will sit about two feet off the ground and rise to a high point of about seven or eight

feet. The solar farm will generate enough electricity to power about 600 homes, officials said. Progress Energy already collects solar-generated electricity from solar installations in Wake, Person, Hayworth and New Hanover counties.

City Planner Felicia Locklear previously reported the company plans to rent the land long-term from the family estate of Agnes Mae Campbell. The solar farm will probably be in place at least 15 years and maybe longer, depending on the specifics of the agreement with Progress Energy, Schooff said. If at the end of the agreement a property owner wants to use the land for

something else, it should be easy to remove the solar panels without leaving behind any damage.

"We can essentially leave the land in exactly the same condition it was in when we put in the farm," Schooff said.

The solar panels don't present any kind of danger for people living near the installation, he said.

"There's no hazards or issues at all with solar farms," Schooff said.

The companies hired about 150 people with experience in construction and electrical wiring to travel from site to site and set up all of the solar installations in the southeastern North Carolina "cluster." That way the employment lasts longer for the people handling the job, Schooff said.

"We're really trying to give them as long an employment opportunity as possible," he said.

The Raeford City Council voted last October to allow solar energy companies to apply for zoning permits. The same day, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners approved conditional use permits for solar farms in Shannon and Rowland, also developed by partners Birdseye Renewable Energy and Strata Solar.

Bednar said he spent a lot of time in the Sandhills area and became familiar with Hoke County while working on the project in neighboring Robeson County. The CEO's familiarity with the area was part of why the company wanted to build in Raeford.

"I've just found it a good place to do business, there is available land and generally have been able to have a nice solar resource," he said when announcing the project last year.

The company will pay local taxes on the installation. A private investor with access to solar energy tax credits funded the site construction, an official said.



The 2012 Hoke High Lady Bucks' tennis team (names below)

Sports Briefs

The N.C. Turkey Festival tennis tournament is back and begins this weekend. Hoke High School head tennis coach Nelson James is running the tournament that will be played on the new courts at Hoke High beginning Saturday morning at 8 a.m. and will run through Sun-

day. Competition will be in singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

Hoke High School Tennis Team: The Lady Bucks' tennis team is 1-6 on the young season. The Bucks number one player Hunter Thaggard injured her finger and is out for a few weeks. New

number one is Amanda Daniels, along with teammates Nichole Currie, Kanisha Smith, Savannah Simmons, Tiara Harris, Taylor Jacobs, Hope Davis, Jamillia Johnson, Jyneasha Johnson, Jaida Navarro, Laura Pineda Garcia, Jahyah McKeller and Porchia High.

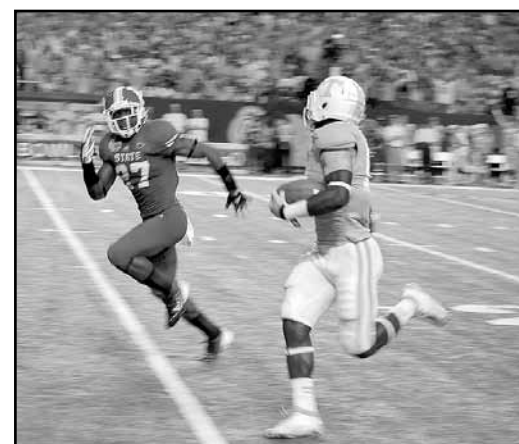
Hoke graduates in action on gridiron

By HAL NUNN
Sports writer

Several Hoke County High School graduates were on the field this past weekend as the college football season kicked off. Earl Wolff of NC State led the Wolfpack in tackles with a total of 12 (9 unassisted) in the Wolfpack's 35-21 loss to the Tennessee Volunteers. Cory Freeman had three tackles in the Liberty Flames 17-20 loss at Duke. Rommel Andre did not play in the ECU vs. Appalachian State game Saturday in Greenville; however, Andre plays for Appalachian State at running back and will start this weekend in the Mountaineers' home opener in Boone against Montana. We will try to keep up with all the Hoke football players who have moved

on throughout the season. If you know of someone who is still playing college or pro football

that graduated from Hoke High, please send an email to hal@thenews-journal.com.



Earl Wolff tracks down a Tennessee receiver and eventually makes one of his 12 tackles Friday night in Atlanta.



Rommel Andre wears #26 for the Appalachian State Mountaineers and is expected to start this weekend when they play Montana in Boone.



Earl Wolff makes one of his 12 tackles in the Wolfpack's 35-21 loss in the Georgia Dome last Friday night.

Fighting Bucks Sports Schedule

September 5 Girls Tennis Home vs. South View 4 p.m. Cross Country Home Conference Meet 5 p.m.	September 7 Boys V Football Home vs. Sanderson High 7:30 p.m. Turkey Bowl
September 6 Girls Tennis Home vs. Scotland 4 p.m. Girls JV Volleyball at Richmond 5 p.m. Girls V Volleyball at Richmond 6 p.m. Boys V Soccer Home vs. Douglas Byrd 6 p.m. Boys Freshman Football Home vs. Richmond 4 p.m.	September 10 Girls Golf at Purnell Swett 2 p.m. Boys V Soccer Home vs. Red Springs 7 p.m.
	September 11 Girls Tennis Home vs. Purnell Swett 4 p.m. Girls JV Volleyball at Lumberton 5 p.m. Girls V Volleyball at Lumberton 6:30 p.m. Cross Country Away Conference Meet 5 p.m.

Sports News To Report?
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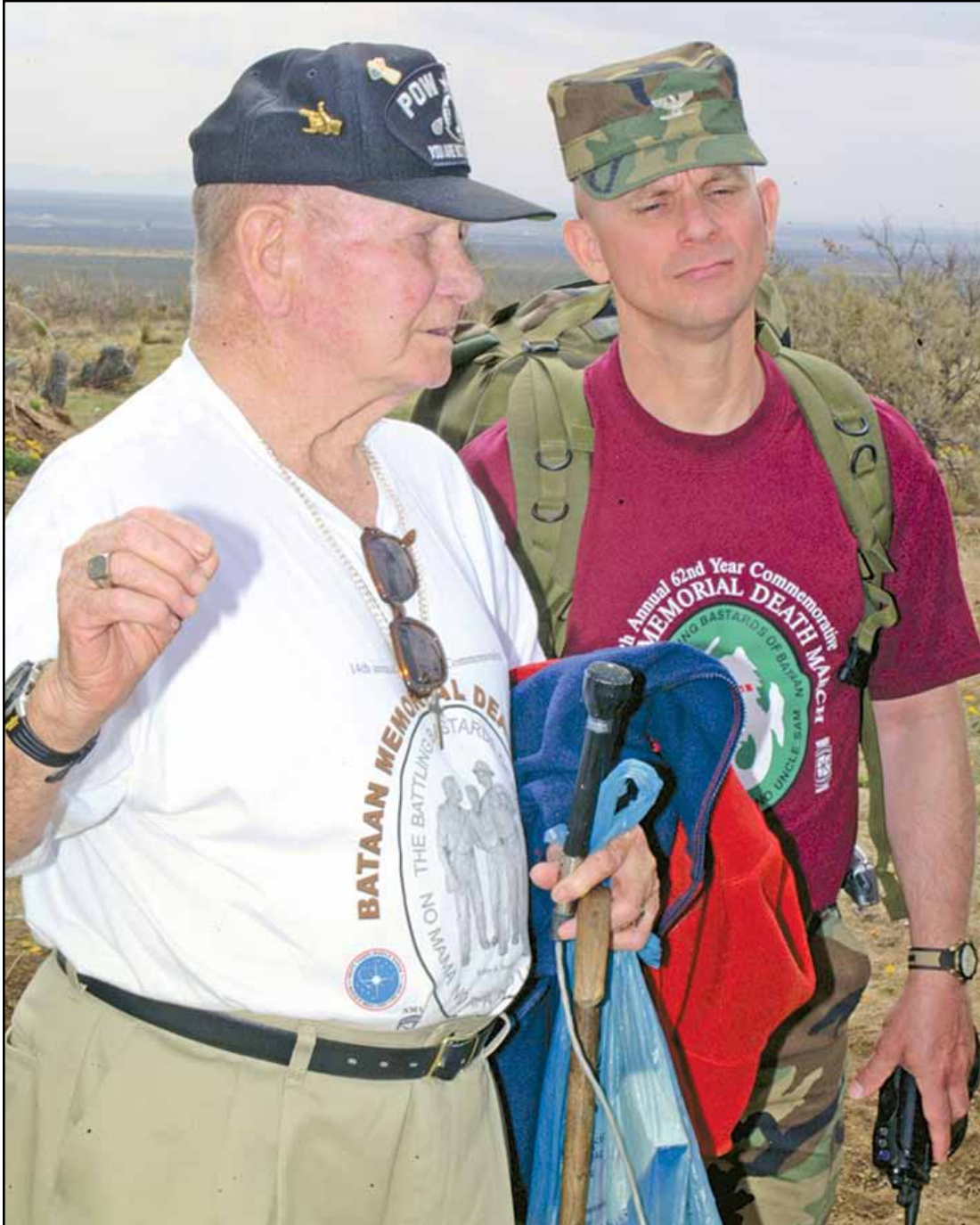
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Mims has worked to keep the memory alive of those who died in the Bataan Death March. (2006 Photo by George Baird)

Mims

(Continued from page 1A) prisoner of war camps. Every year he travels to New Mexico to attend a special service honoring the memory of the many thousands of men who died after surrendering in the Philippines and being forced to march 80 miles under hellish conditions. The international trip will give him the chance to educate new generations in Japan about the dark time in history too.

"I'm going to take a lot of items with me," he said. "I'm taking some of that different stuff so I can show them along the way as we go."

Mims will also be passing out special coins provided by the government, he added.

It's not the first time Mims has been back to Japan. He spent two years working there in the 1950s, running the Tokyo quartermaster depot that supplied the military troops. However, he hasn't been back since, and this trip marks the first time Mims will return to see the places where he and hundreds of

other prisoners of war were forced to work.

"They're supposed to send me where I was a prisoner of war in the coal mines, and I want to see what that's like. In the meantime, I want to get any kind of pictures or information I can because my stepchildren are trying to write a book," he said.

The Japanese government organized the program two years ago to foster relations with the United States. It's a good step forward but it will take more to heal the damage done in the past, Mims said.

"I think it's a good idea but I don't think they're doing enough," he said.

The invitation came in the second year of the program. Other veterans traveled to Japan in 2011. Mims expected he would get one of the limited invitations someday because he had met and spoken with someone who knew about the program.

"I had been expecting it because a doctor that was over there... was the one that told me about it," he said.

Mims and his wife will fly from

Moore County to Tokyo and then travel to several other cities in the country. They don't know what they will see when they return to the coal mine. It might be there but it has likely changed drastically, Mims said.

"Every place in the world is changed. Even your next-door neighbor is changed," he said.

Regardless of what the old mine might look like now, he'll never forget the day over 60 years ago when he overheard a Japanese officer speaking a phrase that gave him hope. Even though it took a dictionary to look up one of the words, which turned out to mean "unconditional," he knew it could only mean one thing.

"That told me the war's over," he said.

Mims welcomes financial assistance to help him attend the annual memorial gathering in New Mexico. He asks that interested persons contact him at 281-4877 or 215-7055.

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Correction

The News-Journal reported information last week provided by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol about a wreck that killed

87-year-old Hoke County resident Sarah Strother. A member of the family reported that some of that information was incorrect. Strother

was driving a Chevrolet Impala and was traveling on Calloway Road around 7:30 p.m. when the wreck happened, the family member said.

Editorial Deadlines

Friday 12 Noon

Calendar Items - Social Items - News Items

Monday 12 Noon - Letters to the Editor



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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JOIN US AT THE TURKEY FESTIVAL!

FirstHealth is proud to be a major sponsor of this year's Turkey Festival.

Wednesday, Sept. 12

Senior Day Bingo

FirstHealth will provide health screenings and demonstrations from Happy Kitchen and FirstHealth Response.

Thursday, Sept. 13

Children's Day and Parade

FirstHealth Dental Care Center will provide dental health giveaways to parents and children. Look for the FirstHealth float in the Turkey Festival parade.

Saturday, Sept. 15

Turkey Festival

Check out our tent across from the main stage for demonstrations, health screenings, giveaways and more.

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH FIRSTHEALTH FIRSTCARE

Let FirstHealth FirstCare assist you with your back to schools needs. Offering sports physicals as well as the tetanus diphtheria and pertussis (TDAP) vaccine. (Required by the schools for all children by age 11.)

FirstCare is a convenient care clinic that is open seven days a week 8 a.m.-8 p.m. No appointments needed.

Located at 4565 Fayetteville Road (in front of the Raeford Walmart). 878-5100.

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Purchase a one-hour massage between Aug. 15 and Sept. 7 for only \$40 from the FirstHealth Center for Health & Fitness-Raeford. Limit two per customer

For more information, call 904-7400.

WEIGHT-LOSS SURGERY INFO

FREE Weight-loss Surgery Information Sessions are held on the first Thursday and the third Monday of each month in the Renaissance Room at Pinehurst Surgical, 5 FirstVillage Drive, FirstVillage Campus, Pinehurst. The next session will be held Thursday, Sept. 6, at 6 p.m.

Visit www.ncweightlossurgery.org or call (800) 213-3284 for more information.

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Thursday, Sept. 6, 7-8 p.m., Renaissance Room at Pinehurst Surgical, 5 FirstVillage Drive, FirstVillage Campus, Pinehurst.

This program will feature a cooking demonstration on Versatile Veggies Call (910) 715-6283 for more information. FREE

MOBILE HEALTH SCREENING

Free Diabetes Screening

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 9-11 a.m., Hoke County Health Dept., 683 East Palmer Road, Raeford

No need to fast. Blood pressure check available upon request.

For more information call (888) 534-5333.

CLARA MCLEAN HOUSE NOW OPEN FOR VISITORS

The Clara McLean House at FirstHealth is a home away from home for patients and families during times of medical treatment. Located across from FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Clara's House is a calming oasis that promotes healing and comfort.

Overnight accommodations provide individual guest rooms/baths with shared common rooms including a kitchen to store and prepare your own food, children's playroom, laundry room, family room, reflection room and library.

For more information on how to receive a referral to stay at the Clara McLean House call (910) 715-4220.

PREPARED CHILDBIRTH SERIES AT MOORE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

The Prepared Childbirth Series is a six-week course held in the evening from 7-9:15 p.m. It is offered from January - November. The goal of the series is to provide specific information about the latter stages of pregnancy, labor and delivery, and what to expect following delivery.

For registration and course dates, call (910) 715-2275. We recommend that you call to register during your first trimester.

FIRSTHEALTH DIABETES & NUTRITION EDUCATION CENTER NOW OPEN

Mondays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., FirstHealth Raeford Center, 313 Teal Drive, Raeford

For more information or appointments call (800) 364-0499.

PROMISE OF HOPE SERIES

Saturday, Sept. 15, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Pinehurst Resort, 80 Carolina Vista Drive, Pinehurst

Join the Foundation of FirstHealth for the Promise of Hope series featuring guest speaker and author of the world-renowned series Conversations with God, Neale Donald Walsch. This will be a spiritually soothing and life-changing event.

Call 695-7500 to register or to register online at www.firsthealth.org/promiseofhope. Cost is \$75 per person and includes lunch.

FIRSTHEALTH RESPONSE

Put yourself and your family members at ease with FirstHealth Response, a personal emergency response service that is based at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. The service, which provides 24-hour assistance at the touch of a button, is available to residents of Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland and surrounding counties.

Call (800) 213-3284 toll-free for more information.

THE HAPPY KITCHEN™

The Happy Kitchen™ is a six-week cooking and nutritional program that teaches you how to prepare healthy, nutritious and economical meals. This program is supported by a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust that serves low-income populations.

If you have a church or community group interested in this program, contact Melissa Kuhn at (888) 534-5333.



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- Dental Care Center
- FirstHealth Jordan Clinic
- FirstHealth FirstCare

- Home Care Services
- FirstHealth Response
- Diabetes and Nutrition Education Center
- Smoking Cessation Programs
- Specialty Center

In Hoke,
For Hoke