

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Workshops set for 2013-14 budget talks

Board of Commissioners also makes plans to discuss mobile home permits

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners began preparations Monday to meet with county department heads and Hoke County Schools officials later this month to discuss the 2013-14 county budget

ordinance.

The commission will meet beginning at 9 a.m. Monday, April 22 and Tuesday, April 23 to hear budget requests from county department heads and the school system.

This year the board will face a question of whether to provide the school system with an additional

\$1.1 million in funding that school officials reported earlier this year will be necessary to open Sandy Grove Middle School, which is still under construction on Chason Road in the Lumber Bridge community. The board members have not yet discussed the school system's request in open session.

After meeting with County Finance Officer Garvin Ferguson, County Manager Tim Johnson and the department heads, the board will discuss a draft of the budget in open session and give the public a chance to view the document and comment on it during the public comment period at an upcoming meeting. The

board will likely approve a budget sometime in May or June. County department leaders have turned in their finalized budget requests, Johnson said.

During the regularly scheduled meeting, the board approved a five-item consent agenda including a - (See **WORKSHOPS**, page 4A)

Home Food opening café downtown

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Locals feeling the loss of Howell Drug's lunch counter will have reason to celebrate this summer as Home Food Supermarket in Raeford prepares to open a grill and café.

The locally owned Home Food grocery store, which has operated on Main Street in Raeford for over 90 years, is expanding its offerings to include freshly-prepared sandwiches, salads and other items. Construction is ongoing building an addition on to the side of the building using some of the space where the business usually has plants and garden items for sale. If everything goes according to plan, the grill should open this summer, owner David McNeill said.

"This is kind of something we've always wanted to do and actually we're kind of going back to our roots," he said.

McNeill's great-uncle Neil used to run a hot dog stand on the corner, selling hot dogs and hamburgers while the family's other brothers operated the grocery store, he said. Over time, the store has remained though the hot dog stand is no longer (See **CAFÉ**, page 6A)

Egging them on



A girl inspects a purple Easter egg at the Relay for Life Easter egg hunt Saturday afternoon at the Hoke County Recreation Complex on Highway 211.



A youngster gets some coaching in how to hunt Easter eggs.



Dozens of children and their parents rush off the starting line at the start of the hunt.

This Week



Hoke girl in Australia needs your vote
page 3B

Cape Fear Valley achieves stroke certification
page 4A

Calendar.....2B
Classifieds.....6B
Deaths.....3A
Editorials.....2A
Legals.....3-5B
Sports.....7A
Worship.....2B

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Volunteer firefighter dies in West Hoke wreck Friday night

A 22-year-old volunteer firefighter died Friday night after being involved in a single-vehicle accident near U.S. Highway 15-501 in western Hoke County.

Pinehill Fire Department volunteer Sarah Stonesifer of the 600 block of Nighthawk Loop in Aberdeen was

driving on Stubby Oaks Road around 7 p.m. Monday when she apparently lost control of her vehicle, ran off the road and struck a fence post, according to the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. The impact rolled her car several times and Stonesifer, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was

ejected from the vehicle, according to a report.

Responders with the Pinehill Fire Department, located only a few miles away on Ashmont Road, found Stonesifer dead at the scene of the wreck. Stonesifer was reportedly on (See **FIREFIGHTER**, page 4A)

Horses ready to run at 62nd Stoneybrook Steeplechase

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Riders, runners and hat decorators are getting ready for the 62nd annual Stoneybrook Steeplechase, set for this Saturday at Carolina Horse Park in Five Points.

Events begin at 9 a.m. Saturday with the Run for the Ribbons five-kilometer race benefiting the FirstHealth Cancer CARE Fund, which assists people battling cancer

and their families with medical and travel expenses.

General admission to the Stoneybrook Steeplechase events starts at 9:30 a.m. The first of the steeplechase races will start at 1:30 p.m. The steeplechase includes five races concluding with the finale, the Sandhills Cup, which features a purse of \$25,000 sponsored by FirstHealth of the Carolinas. The total prize money for all five races is a combined \$60,000.

Besides the horse races, the steeplechase features activities and entertainment for children and adults. The children's stick horse race, the famous hat decorating contest and the tailgating contest will run through the morning.

Spectators can tailgate in the infield to enjoy time with their friends and family, shop at Merchants Crossing and visit the Local Yogurt Kid's Zone for jump tents and pony (See **STONEBROOK**, page 6A)



Sarah Stonesifer

Tribe seeks Congressional support for recognition

The Lumbee Tribal Council is working with elected officials in Congress as part of their ongoing efforts to secure federal recognition as a Native American tribe.

Lumbee Tribal Council Chairman Paul Brooks met last month with Rep. Richard Hudson of the 8th District and staff members from Rep. Mike McIntyre and Sen. Kay Hagan's offices to discuss the potential for introducing a bill to recognize the Lumbee Tribe. The tribe's leaders have sought federal

recognition for decades but so far have been unsuccessful in securing it.

Hudson told tribal leaders he is currently working to gain support from the North Carolina Congressional delegation and from other members of the United States Congress for legislation to recognize the Lumbee Tribe, Brooks reported in a press statement. Hudson "expressed his commitment to introducing a bill" and representatives from McIntyre and Hagan's offices also (See **TRIBE**, page 4A)



Bucks sweep track event

The Hoke County High School Bucks boys' and girls' track teams swept the competition - Scotland County, Richmond County, Lumberton and Purnell Swett - last week at Raz Autry Stadium. In this photo, Shumaiz Cobb (left) and Corey Cannon (right) exchange the baton in the 4x100 meter relay, which Hoke County won. (More photos on page 5A)

VIEWPOINTS

Blooming of peaches reminds me of Raz

Riding through Candor last week, I caught my first glimpse of blooming peach trees and this sight stirred great memories of my old friend Raz Autry who regrettably left this earth last year. I miss keeping up with Raz indirectly through his column "A View From the Country" which graced this publication for many years. I always looked forward to it, and its discontinuation left a void that can never be filled. This void, in part, was the inspiration for the Frog Holler Philosopher. As a former student and friend of Raz's, I attempt to honor his memory with my humble writings. He, unlike myself, could claim some legitimacy as a writer and published several books.

I had a special relationship with Raz, although I'm sure many who knew him feel the same way. Our relationship began when he stormed on the scene as principal of Hoke High in 1967. I was a junior that year and ready to assume the earned privileges of an upper classman. He immediately served notice that all hair (for the boys) was to be short, all would dress per his code, all trash was to be placed in trashcans, all rules were to be followed, all teachers and classes were to be respected and all were to be treated equally. It only took a couple of days of his omnipresence to convince us that he meant business. After a few weeks we further realized that any attempts to bend or stretch the rules were futile. Of course we still tried.

I really believe he had a secret twin brother because he constantly patrolled the campus, and yet, was always in the office to dish out discipline and handle his administrative duties. He also seemed to have a network of spies in the community who reported any observed infractions of his rules. I could never catch him in the same place twice but that was my limitation, not his.

We hated the short hair as this



Frog Holler Philosophy
Ron Huff

was the era of fashionably long hair. As a musician, I hated it even worse, but we all fell into line, not realizing that he was giving us the structure and discipline that we needed. He was infamous in other communities who heard of his perceived disregard for students' rights, but I remember defending him when folks from other areas criticized him.

The true test of Raz's influence came the following year when the Hoke schools were racially consolidated. The historically white high school was expanded by annexing the campus across Bethel Road where the stadium now stands. I remember how we felt having our school upset, but then think about how traumatic it must have been for the students of Upchurch, the African American school, and Hawkeye, the Native American school, who had to leave their schools behind, only to be thrust into a completely new situation. There was much uncertainty, misconception and even fear between the racial groups as we were forced together. I had been elected president of the student council for that year only to find that there were three of us in the same position. Raz called me to his office and stated that there would be three presidents for the coming year. Without causing controversy, he had established equality of the races in a single proclamation. I eagerly agreed.

Raz had amazed us all the previous year by quickly learning the names of all 600 students in the school. He just as quickly learned the names of the new students, though the number of students had more than doubled. True to his creed, he treated all students equally. His strength gave us all

comfort knowing that order would be preserved at the school. There was not one negative racial incident in the school that year. My fears and ignorant prejudices gave way to respect and admiration for the new students.

Raz did many great things as a principal and then moved on to be superintendent of the Hoke schools for many years. Although I was away at school and worked for many years outside of Hoke County, Raz would always greet me by name as if we were still at Hoke High together. He maintained genuine interest in all of his former students.

Raz tirelessly gave back to Hoke County with his work in soil conservation, on community boards, in his church, in politics (he was no politician but influenced the politics around him) and as a good citizen. I had the honor of serving with him on the Board of Health for some years and witnessed his power and influence. He was a man whose morality and integrity were never questioned. This, along with his personality, made him a force of nature and a great proponent for good.

I must say that I really had to scratch my head when Raz retired only to take on the task of peach farming. Having been raised on a farm myself, I was determined that my fortunes would not be subject to the whims of nature. Well, if anyone could deal with the weather, Raz could, and he successfully fulfilled his need to farm and spread a lot of joy in the community, especially with his ice cream, until the day he died.

I will always miss Raz. He was a man among men and a true hero to me. He is an example that I could never live up to, but his memory will keep me pushing forward.

More later, or as Raz always closed his column, "Enough said!"

Loss of 900 jobs comes with big box territory

The announcement by the House of Raeford that there would be more than 900 positions eliminated from their workforce came as a shock to the community. In any community a loss of 900 plus jobs is a blow to the economy, but in an area such as Hoke County, a loss of 900 jobs is a disaster. When a community's economy is dependent on one company for its existence, its future is always placed in jeopardy.

I have stressed in these columns for community leaders to make more of an effort to attract employers to this area. I know there must be incentives and concessions made to attract businesses to an area. But when businesses are placed in a position where they can control the lawmakers as well as the citizens by threats of shutting down and taking away over 900 jobs, you have a case of "the tail wagging the dog."

When companies such as the House of Raeford, as well as "big box" stores, come to a poor area such as Hoke County, it is true that they are able to employ residents that would not be able to obtain employment due to the loss of jobs in the textile and tobacco industry. But this is also an advantage to these companies; they are able to fill these jobs with lower wage employees than they could in a



Paul Burnley

more metropolitan area such as Charlotte or Raleigh. So this lowers their operating cost, which in turn increases their profits. This is a benefit for the community but also a benefit for the company.

The county and its residents appreciate the fact that a company such as the House of Raeford is the largest employer; however, if their plant were placed in another county where they would have to pay much higher wages, then they would have to accept lower profits. So operating in this county is an advantage to this company.

Most are under the impression that bigger is better. In a recent column I reported that 30 years ago both sides of Main Street in Raeford were lined with stores and business, employing a number of residents. There were clothing stores, shoe stores, pharmacies, hardware stores, and grocery stores. There were no supermarkets, or "big box" stores, and many more citizens were employed. None of these small businesses were large enough to control the actions of the leadership of the

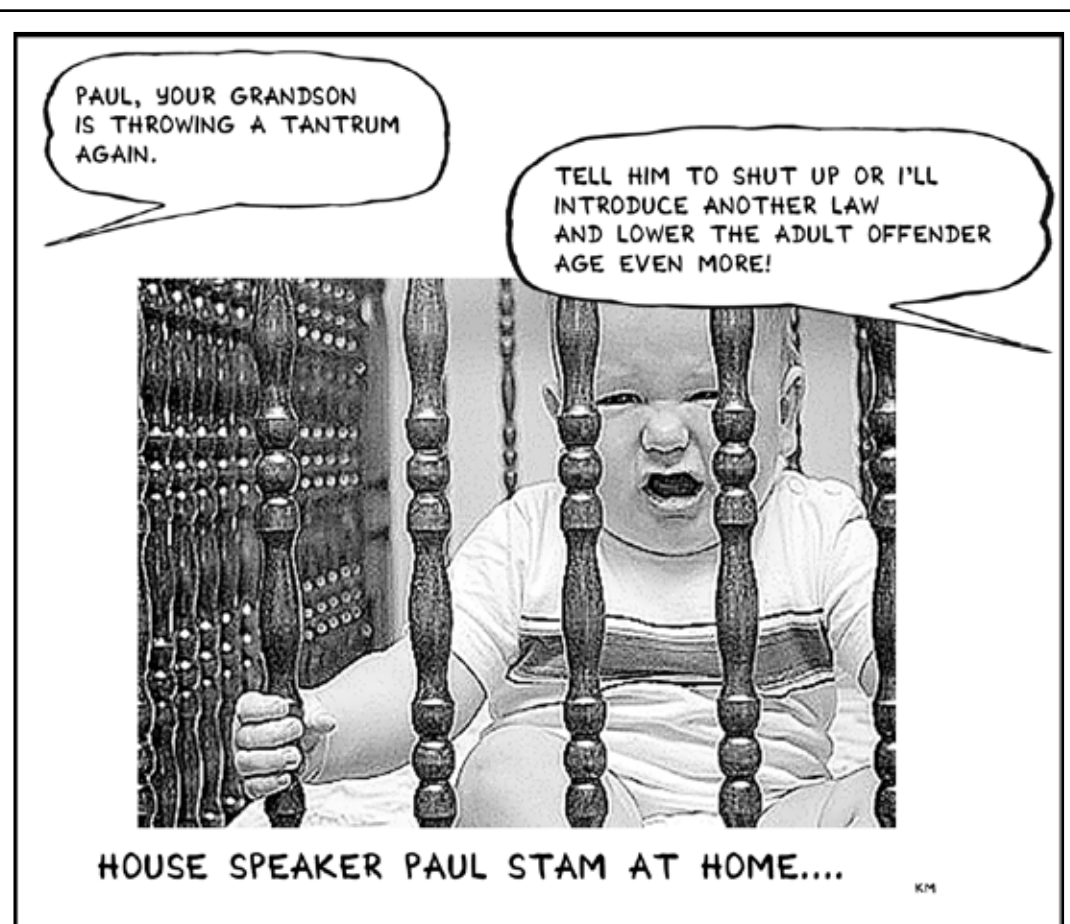
community but worked in harmony with city leaders.

Today, if a citizen of Raeford wishes to purchase a pair of shoes, a dress or furniture, he must settle for items from the big box store in Raeford or drive more than 20 miles to Fayetteville or Aberdeen. This shows that bigger is not always better. The idea of large supermarkets and big box stores may work well in highly populated areas, but in rural areas such as Hoke County, it works a hardship on those who have to travel a long distance.

Another disadvantage of having a company or business that controls and dominates an area is price. They control the pricing of an item. You may be able to purchase that item cheaper, but if you have to drive 20 miles, the expense becomes greater.

Once a community allows a company or business to become so large that it controls the actions and the economy of that community, you are at their mercy. This may work well in a larger metropolitan area, where there are a number of large companies competing and one must make concessions to stay in business, but when you are the only "big dog" on the block, you control the area.

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Proposed law treating youth offenders as adults flies in the face of 49 other states' reforms

BY ROB SCHOFIELD
N.C. Policy Watch

For years now, advocates on behalf of children in North Carolina have been attempting to change an antiquated state law that makes North Carolina a complete outlier in its treatment of children accused of crime. The modernizing proposal – which is commonly referred to by the shorthand nickname "Raise the Age" – would end North Carolina's status as one of only two states in the union to automatically treat 16- and 17-year-old kids as adults in the criminal justice system. The other – New York – is moving to change its law.

Right now, in North Carolina, a 16-year-old high school sophomore is presumed by state law to be an adult when he or she is accused of a crime and when he or she is sent to jail. Such children can only be sent back to the juvenile justice system under certain conditions. In 48 other states, the presumption works the other way: children are presumed to be children and only bound over to the adult system in limited circumstances involving very serious crimes or factual situations.

In recent years, bolstered by bipartisan political support and overwhelming support from scientists, psychiatrists, social workers (and even many law enforcement officers and adult corrections officials), the Raise the Age movement has been gaining significant steam. Indeed, the main objection from state lawmakers has been limited primarily to fiscal policy concerns – i.e. the potential fiscal

impact that such a change would place on the juvenile justice by adding a large influx of troubled kids – rather than substantive ones. Virtually everyone agrees that, given the scientific consensus on the status of the teenage brain, treating 16- and 17-year-olds as adults is both unfair and, as a practical matter, counterproductive – especially since sentencing 16- and 17-year-olds to the adult prison system rarely produces a good result.

Leave it to the folks driving the 2013 session of the North Carolina General Assembly, however, to find a way to buck modernity, progress, science and common sense. Last week, three conservative state representatives – John Faircloth of High Point, Stephen Ross of Burlington and House Speaker Pro Tem Paul Stam of Apex – introduced a measure that flies in the face of the Raise the Age movement. Here's how:

Amazing as it may seem, current law isn't just limited to treating 16- and 17-year-olds as adults; it actually allows it for 13-, 14- and 15-year-olds (i.e. seventh, eighth and ninth graders) accused of felonies as well. The one safeguard in the statute is that the transfer of such children to the adult system can only happen with the approval of a superior court judge. The judge can issue such an order upon motion of the prosecutor, the defense or simply upon his or her own motion. For very serious (Class A) felonies, however, the transfer is actually automatic.

But wait, here's where it gets crazier: The new bill would make this law even tougher by removing the judge's discretion

on transfers to adult court for 13-, 14- and 15-year-olds for other felonies (Class B1 through E). Instead, transfers would be at the discretion of the prosecutor.

If this bill is enacted into law, North Carolina will literally be placing the future of thousands of young children at the almost complete discretion of the only professionals in this entire drama with a direct and vested interest in treating them as adults: prosecuting attorneys.

This is not a slam on prosecutors; it's just a simple statement of fact. For better or worse, most prosecutors perceive it as their duty to put as many people in jail for as long a period as possible. To make such a group the sole arbiter of what's the best course for kids accused of crime is simply a matter of empowering a group that has an obvious conflict of interest.

Even if one sets aside the simple matter of fairness in the justice system, however, the downsides surrounding the treatment of juveniles in the adult justice system – even for 16- and 17-year-olds – are simply too compelling to ignore. The advocates at Action for Children North Carolina have put together a compelling list of arguments at www.raise-the-age.nc.gov.

Let's hope lawmakers reviewing this new "lower the age" proposal put aside the emotions that such efforts will raise and stick to science, common sense and the facts. In the 2013 session, that would be a welcome departure.

Rob Schofield is Director of Research and Policy Development at NC Policy Watch.

TODAY'S HOMEWORK (Notes on Education)

"When something seems too good to be true, it usually is. Finally and really reforming education in the United States won't include any silver bullets: it will include a long hard slog that looks seriously at social policy instead of longingly at the glittery, substance-challenged world of edu-technocratic faddish-ism/silver bulletism."
—Jake Matthews, *The Reformer's Orthodoxy*

"People believe that perceived flaws in the condition of the American youth are 'the teachers' fault' principally because teachers rarely challenge that narrative. Such an acquiescence to blame leads to a public misconception about the power of teachers to easily overcome terrible home situations; it also encourages a willingness among some parents to punt on parenting and leave character education, education about hygiene, efforts against obesity and drug use and date rape and any number of other traditional parental responsibilities entirely in the laps of people who only see the children for 180 days a year, typically in large groups, and who never sit down for a meal with them."
—John Kuhn, *The "No Excuses" Parent*

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Obituaries

Horace T. Blake

Horace Thomas Blake died Thursday, March 28, 2013 in Kingswood Nursing Home at the age of 86.

He was born in Robeson County on November 8, 1926 to the late Adam Blake and Maris Lamb Blake. He was a member of the Celebration of Praise Church of God, and served in the U.S. Navy during WWII.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Evie Bowman Blake of Raeford; his daughters, Barbara J. Blake of Newport News, Virginia, and Sharon B. Branch and husband Randy of Raeford; his son, Dale B. Blake and wife Tammi of Raeford; one brother, Adam Blake and wife Melba of Raeford; four grandchildren, Kevin Jackson, Gerri Jackson, David Shane Herring, and Natasha Beard and husband Shelton; and eight great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at 4 p.m. Monday, April 1 at the Celebration of Praise Church of God with Pastor Jerry Edge officiating. Burial was in the Raeford Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made at www.crumplerfuneral-home.com.

Brenda B. Stevens

Brenda Ann Barrett Stevens died Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst. She was born in Scotland County on January 26, 1948 to



Brenda B. Stevens

the late Lewis and Letha Barrett. She was employed at Autumn Care of Raeford. She was preceded in death by her husband William Stevens Sr.

Survivors include her daughter, Lula S. Garner and husband Eddie of Raeford; her son, William (Will) Stevens Jr. of Raeford; and five grandchildren, Ashley Garner, Edward Garner Jr. Aubrey Stevens, Crystal Garner, and Jerri Garner.

The funeral was held at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 30 at Celebration of Praise Church of God.

Online condolences may be made at www.crumplerfuneral-home.com.

James R. Bridges

James Robert Bridges, 76, of Raeford died Saturday, March 23, 2013.

Survivors include brothers, Willie, John, Selester and Ransome; and sister, Hattie.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Willie J. Headen

Willie James Headen, 69, of Raeford died Friday, March 22, 2013.

Survivors include his wife, Henriette; children, Audrey, Sermanda, Brenda, Blondell, Shelby, Dwight, Willie, Dennis, Darel, Elijah and Steve; siblings, Lillie, Shirley A., Shirley J., Jeanmae, Wilbert and Laweren; and 36 grandchildren.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 29 in Buie Funeral Home chapel in Raeford. Burial was in McLaughlin Chapel Church cemetery.

Sarah E. Stonesifer

Sarah Edith Stonesifer, 22, of Aberdeen died Friday, March 29, 2013.

She was a volunteer firefighter with the Pinehill Fire Department in Hoke County and was a member of the Rockfish Coon Club.

Survivors include her parents, Nelson and Anne; a sister, Emily; and grandparents, Shirley Stonesifer and Edith Hess.

The memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 2 at Boles Funeral Home & Crematory in Southern Pines. Burial was in Bethesda Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Pinehill Fire Department in Hoke County or the Rockfish Coon Club.

District Court

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

March 26

•Mauricio Cortes-Salazar, 18, 4538 Old Wire Road, Red Springs, no operator's license, three days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, \$50 fine and court costs

•Gary Ladarris Daniels, 33, 120 Cockman Hill Road, Raeford, possession of up to 1/2 ounce of marijuana, 15 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, \$100 fine and court costs, attorney and court-appointment fees; possession of drug paraphernalia, voluntary dismissal

•Jernicha Sharnell Ford, 22, 595 Rockfish Road, Raeford, failure to comply with operator's license restrictions, three days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, \$50 fine and court costs; child not in rear seat, voluntary dismissal

•Antwoine Cortez Harrington, 31, 107 Camillia St., Raeford, assault on a female, 45 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, not to threaten, harass, assault or intimidate prosecuting witness

•Russell Hunt, 36, 3630 Union Chapel Road, Pembroke, driving while license revoked, 60 days in prison, to be served concurrently with any sentence now serving

•Anthony Gordon Jackson, 22, 606 Green St., Raeford, simple possession of Schedule VI controlled substance, 15 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, \$100 fine and court costs, attorney and court-appointment fees; possession of drug paraphernalia, voluntary dismissal

•Franklin Thomas Liles, 29, 2805 Crouch Road, Raleigh, driving while license revoked, 90 days in jail, credit for 90 days served; exceeding posted speed, voluntary dismissal

•Richard Charles Locklear, 28, 3076 U.S. 258, Kinston, assault on a female (two counts), assault with a deadly weapon, 60 days suspended, credit for 58 days served, sentence to be served concurrently with any sentence now serving, judgments consolidated; communicating threats, voluntary dismissal

•Benito Joaquin Manuel, 26, Rennett Road, Raeford, driving while impaired, Level 5, 16 days in jail, credit for 16 days served; possession of open container or consumption of alcohol in passenger area, defendant reported in federal custody

•Michael Lee McCarthy, 24, 202 Jones Livonia Circle, Pembroke, driving while license revoked, 15 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, \$100 fine and court costs, not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed

•Eddie Junior McCollum, 33, 1286 Johnson St., Red Springs, driving while license revoked, 21 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, \$200 fine and court costs, not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed; fictitious or altered title, registration card or tag, voluntary dismissal

•Ashley McCoy, 24, 5523 Highfield St., Fayetteville, injury to personal property, 45 days in jail, active

•Sonjai Adele McKoy, 29, 234 Twin Creek Drive, Raeford, simple assault, driving while license revoked, 10 days suspended, 12

months unsupervised probation, court costs, attorney and court-appointment fees, not to threaten, harass, assault, intimidate or otherwise communicate with prosecuting witness, judgments consolidated

•Jasma Tera McNeil, 25, 311 Buie St., Red Springs, driving while license revoked, 21 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, court costs, attorney and court-appointment fees, not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed; child not in rear seat, voluntary dismissal

•Eric Lavon Salter Sr., 40, driving while impaired, Level 1, driving while license revoked, 12 months suspended, 12 months probation, court costs, obtain assessment and follow any treatment recommended by the court, not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed, credit for 100 days served in jail, judgments consolidated; driving while license revoked (second count), 45 days suspended, 12 months probation, not to use or possess any controlled substances, submit to warrantless searches, random tests for same, not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed

•Martera Shinise Sconiers, 26, 630 Harvey Dale Drive, Fayetteville, no operator's license, five days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, \$100 fine and court costs

•Laquanda Reese York, 35, 255 Cash Ave., Raeford, driving while license revoked, 10 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, court costs, not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed; speeding 68 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone, voluntary dismissal.

Police Blotter

March 27

Larceny, breaking and entering, 400 block of West Cole Avenue, victim Flora Ann Hardin

Armed robbery, East Central Avenue at Reeves Street, victim Philip Bullard. Police are investigating a reported armed robbery that took place around 11:30 a.m. March 27. Bullard, 22, was reportedly held at gunpoint while a suspect demanded items including a ring and an I.D. card. The case is pending further investigation. Uttering forged instruments with false endorsements, 200

block of South Main Street (BB&T Bank), victim BB&T Bank

March 28

Larceny from a motor vehicle, breaking and entering a motor vehicle, 500 block of East Central Avenue (House of Raeford parking lot), victim Crystal Patrice Caple-Lloyd

Fictitious registration, possession of marijuana, 600 block of Laurinburg Road, victim State of North Carolina

March 29

Possession of counterfeit money, 400 block of Aberdeen Road (Wilco-Hess), victim United States Federal Government

Larceny, 200 block of Cole Avenue, victim Goody's

March 30

Communicating threats, 100 block of Lantern Lane, victim Janie Bullard Jacobs

Breaking and entering, 200 block of East Sixth Avenue, victim Marna Davonne Ledbetter

Possession of fictitious license,

Highway 401 Business/Azalea Street, victim State of North Carolina

Open container, driving while intoxicated (alcohol), U.S. Highway 401 Business, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged Army soldier Stephan Brant Johnson, 28, of the 100 block of Chamberlin Boulevard in Raeford.

April 1

Damage to personal property, 400 block of Covington Avenue, victim William Russell

Sheriff Blotter

March 26

Breaking and entering, assault on a female, domestic criminal trespass, 100 block of Haywood Drive

Assault on a female, assault with a deadly weapon, 100 block of Park Place Mobile Home Park

Breaking and entering, larceny of firearms, 1800 block of Edinburgh Road

Simple assault, 4500 block of Fayetteville Road

Breaking and entering, larceny, 1600 block of Wallace McLean Road

Breaking and entering, 6000 block of Pittman Grove Church Road

Breaking and entering, larceny, 100 block of Manning Drive

Breaking and entering, larceny, 300 block of Walter Gibson Road

Larceny, 2400 block of O'Hara Drive

Communicating threats, 3900 block of Blue Springs Road

March 27

Attempted breaking and enter-

ing, larceny, 100 block of Beverly Court

Breaking and entering, larceny, 100 block of Zenia Drive

Larceny, 100 block of Hillcrest Drive

Domestic violence seizure, Lot 16 Jackson Mobile Home Park

Breaking and entering, larceny, 4000 block of Fayetteville Road

Larceny, 1200 block of Andrews Road

Larceny, 9600 block of Fayetteville Road

Breaking and entering, larceny, 7000 block of Calloway Road

Communicating threats, 2500 block of Highway 401 Business

Breaking and entering, larceny, larceny of firearm, 1800 block of Edinburgh Road

Breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, larceny, possession of stolen goods, 300 block of Americana Drive

Breaking and entering of a motor

vehicle, larceny, possession of stolen goods, 200 block of Americana Drive

Breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, larceny, possession of stolen goods, 700 block of Americana Drive

Breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, larceny, possession of stolen goods, 200 block of Walden Green Drive

Breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, larceny, possession of stolen goods, 300 block of Americana Drive

Fire investigation, 100 block of Cool Breeze Drive

Breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, larceny, possession of stolen goods, 100 block of Hurdle Lane

Breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, larceny, possession of stolen goods, 600 block of Americana Drive

Breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, burglary, larceny, possession of stolen goods, 200 block of Walden Green Drive

Illegal burning, 100 block of Ellicott Street

Trespassing, injury to personal property, larceny, 1400 block of East Palmer Street

Breaking and entering, larceny,

5700 block of Shannon Road

Sex offense, 300 block of Rushmore Drive

Larceny, 400 block of Butterfly Lane

Simple assault, 7300 Laurinburg Road

March 30

Larceny, 1100 block of Ellis Road

Harassing phone call, 1300 block of North Main Street

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, 4900 block of Philippi Church Road

Breaking and entering, larceny, 1300 block of McPhaul Road

March 31

Assault on a female, simple assault, 100 block of Pelican Lane

Assault, 400 block of Cope Road

Larceny, 100 block of Oregon Trail

Unauthorized use of motor vehicle, larceny, fraud, 1100 block of Ellis Road

Trespassing, 2400 block of Turnpike Road

Breaking and entering, larceny, 1300 block of McNeill Farm Road

Simple assault, assault with a deadly weapon, violation of a domestic violence order, 1500 block of McBryde Mill Road

Wilmington man killed

A retired military officer from Wilmington died last month when he lost control of his vehicle, ran off the road and struck a tree, according to the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

Lt. Commander Thomas Bruce Cullen, 55, of the 900 block of Saltwood Lane in Wilmington was driving south on U.S. 15-501 toward Scotland County around 2 a.m. on March 22 when he ran off the road and crashed into a tree, officials reported. Cullen's 2007 Dodge truck overturned and came to rest on its roof.

Cullen was reported dead at the scene of the wreck.

Cullen, originally from Ohio, studied at Ohio State University and St. Mary's College before serving in the Air Force and the Navy. He is survived by wife Christa Cullen, son Sgt. Christopher Cullen, daughter Kimberly Cullen Dufault, sister Patricia Cullen, brother John Cullen, and his beloved dog Cocoa, according to an obituary.

Funeral services with full military honors were held March 28 in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

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Hoke County Special Olympics

Spring Games

Thursday, April 11th, 2013

Raz Autry Stadium

Hoke County High School (505 South Bethel Road)

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Volunteers Needed!
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 (910) 875-2156 ext. 6275
 or Scott Boucher
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Come out and support our Special Olympics Athletes!

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Hoke museum asks for city's support

BY BILL LINDAU

The City of Raeford heard a request for financial support from the Raeford-Hoke Museum and approved applications for two state Facade Grants Monday at the city council's monthly meeting.

Joyce Monroe and Tim Tapio of the museum told the council about the museum in a bid by the museum's board of directors for a \$20,000 donation for its projects. Monroe said the number of visitors and the use by various groups make the museum an asset to both the city and county. The museum is located at 111 South Highland Street in Raeford. Tapio showed the council members a photo album of the museum and its visitors.

The council took no action on

the matter as Mayor John K. McNeill III said the members would consider the museum's request.

Monroe said the extra funds would be used to renovate and restore the Parker House, landscape the yards on the five-acre property and construct a barn. Last year more than 800 visitors came from out of town just to go to the museum, dining at local restaurants and spending money at other local businesses, she said.

Youth and senior groups have been among the visitors, Monroe said, adding that more than 500 children have visited the museum on special educational days. She also stated that the museum has received much publicity through magazine and newspaper reports. The museum has a website at www.raefordhokemuseum.org.

In other action, the council approved two N.C. Facade Grant applications by the Downtown Redevelopment Commission. The grants are for \$20,000 and \$86,000 respectively, City Manager Michael Wood said. The money would go toward the upkeep of the old Belk building and the Greg Thompson Law Offices, Wood said.

The council also approved a budget amendment for \$190,000 to go to one of the Facade Grant projects.

Council members Mary Neil King and Shelly Wilburn were not present at the meeting. City Attorney Regina Sutherland was also not present.

In another matter, Wood mentioned forming a local emergency management committee, consist-

ing of representatives of the city and county, local industries and members of the media. Terry Tapp, director of city utilities, said this committee would work with industries that use chemicals that could be hazardous to the community.

In other action, council reappointed the following individuals to the Downtown Redevelopment Commission: Jackie Lynch, Will Wright, Charles Daniels, Steve Connell, Grace McDonald, Judy Strother, Bobby Conoly and Ellen McNeill.

The council also approved a budget amendment appropriating \$4,017.40 for the purchase of 30 banner pole mounts and 10 printed banners saying, "Our Town Is Your Town, Enjoy Raeford."



Service organization

The Omicron Omega Omega Chapter, the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African-American college educated women and includes Hoke women, celebrated Alpha Kappa Alpha Founders' Day at the Longleaf Golf and Country Club on March 23. Pictured seated left to right are Vanessa McNeill, Peggie Caple, April Balsley, President, Nancy Coor, and Dorothy Lutz. Standing are Deborah Davis Carpenter, Diane Balsley, Blanche Carter, Dr. Tandra Carter Price, Natasha Villines, Tammy Farmer, Claudine Allen, Shanda Whitaker, Ernestine Wooten, Natalie Carter Sharpe, Vainette Walker, Monica Roberson, and Jaclyn Hollingsworth. Not pictured are Almetta Armstrong, Patricia Hollingsworth, Alice Jackson, and Alice Kincy.

Cape Fear Valley achieves stroke certification

Cape Fear Valley Health System has received advanced certification as a primary stroke center under the Joint Commission's disease-specific care certification program.

Disease-specific programs that successfully demonstrate compliance with national standards for care, evidence-based clinical care, and taking an organizational approach toward performance

improvement are awarded the certification.

"This is another example of our nationally recognized commitment to patient care," Cape Fear Valley Chief Executive Officer Michael Nagowski said. "As many people know, the incidence of stroke is very high in this region. We are determined to provide the highest level of care possible for patients impacted by this terrible

disease."

The stroke certification marks the fourth time Cape Fear Valley has received a disease-specific care certification from the Joint Commission. Other certifications include hip joint replacement, knee joint replacement and heart failure. Joint Commission disease-specific care certifications demonstrate and validate hospitals' commitment to quality care.

Benefits of the Joint Commission certification include patient care quality improvement, better staff recruitment and development, and recognition by health insurers. The Joint Commission is an independent, not-for-profit organization that accredits and certifies more than 20,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States.

Boogie in the Books returns this month

The Friends of the Hoke County Public Library are selling tickets to the annual "Boogie in the Books" party set for 7-9 p.m. Saturday, April 20.

The Boogie in the Books features music, food, door prizes and more. The fundraiser collects money to help support the Hoke County Public Library. Funds are often used to help with the library's expenses such as purchasing new books and equipment for the public's use.

Tickets for Boogie in the Books are \$10 and are available through Friends of the Library members and at the Hoke County Public Library.

The Friends of the Library group is still seeking donations of door prizes and food to cater the event.

Restaurants, businesses and individuals who would like to donate an item or donate money to the organization can contact the library on Main Street in Raeford at 875-2502. The Friends of the Library is a 501c3 non-profit and donations to the group are tax-deductible.

The Friends of the Hoke County Public Library work to support the library's programs and missions in serving the community by raising money and offering interactive events, such as the local book discussion club. People interested in joining the Friends of the Library are welcome to attend the next meeting, set for Monday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the history room at the library.

Workshops

(Continued from page 1A)

quest for qualifications proposal for engineering services for the Phase 1B sewer project, an application and authorization resolution for water system improvements along Highway 401, a Healthy Communities agreement and food and lodging agreement with the county Health Department and contracts for the annual county financial audit.

Fireworks this Fourth?

As part of the consent agenda, the board members also approved a request from the Chamber of Commerce seeking support for a Fourth of July fireworks show at Raz Autry Stadium at Hoke County High School.

"The Raeford Chamber of Commerce is in the preliminary stages of planning a July 4 event for our community. With the help of the City of Raeford and the County of Hoke we can make this a reality," Chamber Executive Director Jackie Lynch wrote in a letter to the county manager that was shared with the commissioners.

The Chamber has contacted Hales Artificer, the same group that provided the fireworks for the Hoke County Centennial in 2011, about putting on a fireworks show on July 6 at the stadium, Lynch said. The total cost for the event will be \$5,000.

"As I stated, this is still in the preliminary stages and we can continue with plans once we have received a confirmation the city and county will help support this event for our community," Lynch wrote.

Supports grant request

After some discussion of the matter, the commissioners unanimously approved a request for support from Ophelia Ray, founder and operator of Maggie's Outreach Economic Development Center. The organization, which is pursuing 501c3 status, is seeking a \$50,000 grant from the North Carolina Juvenile Crime Prevention Council that would be used to support the group's efforts to support local youth. The grant would not cost the county anything but the structure of the application requires the county's support.

County Attorney Grady Hunt raised concerns about the county's culpability in supporting the grant should the organization be selected as the recipient.

"I hate to be the bad person, but sometimes it's my job to be the bad person," he said. "I could never advise the county to sign off on any application where they can't, based on the criteria, they can't apply themselves. Unless we're going to require them to bring us a dollar for dollar match bond to protect us wholly and completely... as a pass-through, we lose complete control of that money, yet if we're the agency that applies for that bond, we're going to be wholly accountable to someone for every penny of that money at the end of the day."

As a nonprofit, the group's financial books are open to inspection and audit, Ray said.

Commission Chairman James Leach said this isn't the first time the board has worked with nonprofit groups seeking

county support for pass-through grants.

"I think we've already been down that road," Leach said.

Sheriff Hubert Peterkin spoke in support of the center's application. Several years ago when he worked with the domestic violence center to get grant money for the center's operations, the county then faced the same issue regarding a "pass-through" grant and handling of that money.

"I know this is a new group but I've met with them," he said. "...Juvenile Justice really puts a lot of emphasis on support of law enforcement agencies in the community. I think it's a good thing to do, whichever way you can do to work it out, I definitely support it."

The board members ultimately voted to support the grant application with plans to discuss safety matters to protect the county, if necessary, if the center actually receives the grant money.

"It's not going to cost us anything to apply for it. Once it's applied for and if they've received the grant, then we can sit back down and cross the bridge of dotting all the I's and crossing the T's, and assuring as the attorney, which is his job, to protect the county, that we are protected once we go forward

from there with the grant," Commissioner Tony Hunt said.

In another matter, Hunt brought up a concern passed on from a county resident regarding permits for mobile homes.

"I had a lady call me from over there in Five Points and they've got a \$350,000 home and then right across in front of it, someone divided up a piece of property and they put a singlewide mobile home right across the road in front of it," Hunt said.

Under the county's revised ordinance, Class B manufactured homes, those built before 1976, that don't meet the Class A requirements must have a conditional use permit.

"It's strictly based on age (of the home)," Farrell said.

The county has only started enforcing the issue in the county's revised ordinance in the last several months, the county planner said.

"Our intention was that singlewide would be a conditional use," Leach said.

The board members decided to hold a workshop to discuss the issue.

In other business, board members discussed appointments to the county's Board of Adjustments and the county zoning committee.

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Public Notice

The Hoke County Health Department Board of Health will hold an open meeting on Monday, April 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Health Conference Room at the Hoke County Health Department, 683 East Palmer Road, Raeford, NC.

The public is invited to attend.

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SPORTS

Hoke County on top in the Southeastern Conference



Detrez Newsome (left) receives the baton from his teammate Brandon Smith in the 4x100 relay. The 4x100 relay team finished in first place in the race.



Kory Jones of Hoke County High School competes in the high jump last week during the match against Lumberton, Scotland, Richmond and Purnell Swett. He won first place with a jump of 5 feet 8.1 inches.



Mikayla King (left) and Tiara Harris (right) were the anchors in the 4x200 meter relay for Hoke. They won their event with a time of 1:45.3. Also on the team were Kaitlyn Thomas and Porchia High.



Daisy Bandy jumps out to an early lead in the mile run last week for Hoke County. Daisy finished in seventh place in the mile.

Just Putting Around

By HAL NUNN
Sports writer

It is great to see the warmer weather this week and hopefully we'll be through with those cold windy days in Hoke County soon. What a perfect time to start working on that golf game and this area has many choices of where to play including two courses here in Hoke County.

Bayonet at Puppy Creek

The Bayonet at Puppy Creek is an 18-hole course featuring 7,036 yards of golfing pleasure from the longest tees for a par 72 course. The course rating is a 74 and it has a slope rating of 134 on Bermuda grass. Designed by Willard C. Byrd, ASGCA, Bayonet opened in 1995. Dyrck Fanning manages the course as the Superintendent.

Upland Trace Golf Course

Upland Trace Golf Course is an 18-hole course featuring 6,063 yards of golfing pleasure from the longest tees for a par 72 course. The course rating is a 74 and it has a slope rating of 113. Designed by Brown Hendrix, Upland Trace Golf Course opened in 2009. Johnny Boyles manages the course as the Owner.

This Past Week

Weekly winners at Bayonet at Puppy Creek in the Wednesday shootout were Sean Burke, Carl Casey, Marcus Dudley and Keith Jackson with a +1. At Upland Trace, the Early Bird winners were Les Sandy, Chad Ham and Gary Cook.

Upcoming Tournaments

Bayonet at Puppy Creek: May 10 - 9th Annual Sheriff Hubert A. Peterkin golf tournament; May 11 - 15th Annual Partners In Education Hoke County golf tournament. For more information, call 904-1500.

Upland Trace: May 24 - The Parkton Historical Foundation golf tournament. For more information, call 875-3524.



Hoyas AAU team wins

The Hoyas 9th grade traveling AAU basketball team recently competed in two tournaments. They won first place in the Youth Basketball of America tournament in Columbia, South Carolina and this past weekend they finished in second place in the Easter Classic in Indian Trails, North Carolina. Their next tournament will be in Raleigh on April 12-14. Gregory Johnson, a Hoke County resident, coaches the team. There are three Hoke County players on the team and the assistant coach is Johnson's son, Rashawn Johnson. Team members are Michael Yancey (front row, left to right, kneeling), James Beard; back row: Assistant Coach Rashawn Johnson, Cedric Walker-Everette, Jertrevious Douglas (Hoke County), Nelson Gibson, Ty McLaurin, Willie Douglas, Dakari Johnson (Hoke County), Kevin Thorpe (Hoke County), Clifton Craft, and Head Coach Gregory Johnson.

Sports News To Report?
Hal Nunn (910) 875-2121

Racing action heats up this weekend

By HAL NUNN
Sports writer

The racing action will be in full force this weekend as this is the first weekend that racing will go head-to-head at Fayetteville Motor Speedway and Dublin Motor Speedway. There will also be racing at the Rock of Hoke - Rockfish Motor Speedway - in Raeford. Last weekend Rockfish and Dublin did not race and Fayetteville was the only track in

action. The winners there were: Late Model: First-Willie Millikin, Second-Cody Shaw, Third-Dean Bowen; Open Wheel: First-Chris Parker, Second-Carlos Jaramillo, Third-Jordan Taylor; Super Street: First-Ron Pope, Second-Jamie Barnes, Third-Greg Bass Jr.; Pure Stock: First-Daniel Johnson, Second-Martin Sweatt, Third-Dustin Watkins; U-Car: First-Brandon Jacob, Second-Robbie Williams, Third-J.R. Williams.



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West Hoke wreath in D.C.

Kevin Booker of Raeford and his family took a trip to Washington, D.C. for spring break last week and got a surprise when they spotted the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier bringing out a wreath from West Hoke Middle School.

Café

(Continued from page 1A) operated. Now the family is looking to launch into the new venture to make the best use of the variety of fresh produce and meat available in the store.

"We wanted to try and see what else we can do with it," McNeill said.

Additionally, after Howell Drug's lunch counter shut down last year, marking the end of decades of offering chicken salad sandwiches and orangeades to customers, the Home Food operators thought it might be time to try and fill the void.

"We kind of felt like there was

kind of a need for it," McNeill said.

The grill and café will offer a variety of items such as sandwiches, hamburgers, salads and more. The café will also have seafood and fresh fish once a week.

"We're definitely going to try to keep a smaller menu and build from there," McNeill said.

Once construction is complete for the new addition, the family plans to take some time to move in all the equipment and test out the recipes to make sure the menu is consistent. Then, likely sometime this coming summer, Home Food will open a takeout window on Main Street for customers to place their orders. Eventually the family also plans to put picnic tables outside the store to give diners a place to sit and enjoy their meal.

"Hopefully, it'll be a beautiful place, if the weather's great, to come and sit out and have some fresh food," McNeill said.



Workers with Henry's Masonry build what will be the take-out window for the Home Food grill and café.

The grill will become the second café operating on Main Street, joining the Yum Delight

shop that opened last year near the Raeford/Hoke Chamber of Commerce building. Meanwhile,

the Raeford Hardware store is expanding into the former Howell Drug lunch counter space.



A rainbow of eggs

Ava Burrow hit the Easter egg jackpot this week with her colorful basket.



Rabbit on the loose

The Easter Bunny almost ran into some trouble this weekend, according to Wendy Fields, who snapped this shot.

Stoneybrook

(Continued from page 1A) rides. Huske Hardware restaurant of Fayetteville will offer pub food and beer at the Pub Tent and the Turf Club sponsored by Land Rover of Cary will also offer

food for sale.

About 40 horses and 12 jockeys, including recent champions Danny Hodgson, Ross Geraghty and Paddy Young, will compete in the steeplechase races. The

participants come from as far away as Tennessee and Maryland to compete in the races. Hall of Fame trainers Jonathan Sheppard and Janet Elliot will also be at the steeplechase this year.

Registration for the Run for the Ribbons 5K and 1K races starts at 7 a.m. and runs through 8:45 a.m. The 5K begins at 9 a.m. and the 1K "fun run" begins at 10:30 a.m.

The Botanicals Fabulous Flowers and Orchids hat contest is at 11:30 a.m. with signups starting at 10 a.m. in the Botanicals Fabulous Flowers and Orchids tent. The Jefferson Inn Stick Horse Races will also start at 11:30 a.m. with signups held at the information booth in Merchants Crossing

beginning at 10 a.m.

The official opening ceremonies for the day will start at noon with a Dugan Briggs Veteran Parachute Team drop. The contest winners will be announced at 12:20 p.m. The gates close at 6 p.m. following the final race of the day.

Advance tickets to the day's events may be purchased at Harris Teeter, online at www.stoneybrooksteeplechase.com or by calling the Carolina Horse Park at 875-2074. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 on race day, or \$20 in advance with a Harris Teeter VIC card. Admission is free for children 12 and under.



Horses clear a fence at the 2011 Stoneybrook Steeplechase.

Editorial Deadlines
 Friday 12 Noon
 Calendar Items - Social Items - News Items
 Monday 12 Noon - Letters to the Editor

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Hoke County Department of Social Services has extended the deadline for accepting bids for the 2013-2014 Chore Level 1 Contract. Any Home Health agency interested in bidding for this contract should submit a bid that details the hourly rate they will charge to provide this service along with a copy of their license. This information should be submitted to the attention of Don Woods, Adult Services SW or Ms. Tammy Chaney, Adult Services Social Work Supervisor at 314 S. Magnolia Street Raeford, NC 28376 or via mail at Post Office Box 340 Raeford, NC 28376. Bids must be submitted by Friday, April 12, 2013 for consideration. Please do not submit multiple bids. If you have questions regarding this process, please call Mr. Woods at 878-1937 or Ms. Chaney at 878-1935.

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