

The News-Journal

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

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No. 10 Vol. 107

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Hoke Veterans Service officer resigns

McPhaul says he didn't like being questioned about his campaign for board

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County Veterans Service Officer Freddie McPhaul resigned from his job last week, claiming that a county official questioned his campaign tactics while campaigning against two incumbent county commissioners.

McPhaul resigned Thursday, May 10, two days after failing to win the Democratic nomination for a seat on the county commission. Asked why he resigned, McPhaul replied, "Ask your commissioners."

McPhaul claimed the county manager approached him with questions about comments he made while both working for a county office under the commissioners' jurisdiction

and campaigning against two of the incumbent commissioners.

"He was questioning the fact that I was speaking on things that the commissioners felt I was attacking them, talking about them. I was," McPhaul said. "I felt



McPhaul

like they weren't doing their job. But I felt like that didn't have anything to do with me doing my job."

McPhaul was one of two Democratic candidates challenging incumbents James Leach and Bobby Wright in the primary. Leach and Wright received a majority of the votes in the primary election last Tuesday.

(See MCPHAUL, page 6A)



Authorities use dogs at a Hillcrest mobile home park to hunt for the robber. (Ken MacDonald photo)



Topping ceremony

Clockwise from left: Cape Fear Valley Health System Chief Executive Officer Mike Nagowski points out where a special beam is meant to rest on top of the incomplete Health Pavilion Hoke facility. Construction workers and hospital officials signed their names to the steel beam before a worker raised it to the top of the building, which is still under construction. The hospital system plans to begin construction later this year on a 41-bed hospital on the same site. Health Pavilion Hoke will offer a variety of outpatient services including imaging, a pharmacy and more. The hospital will offer a 24-hour emergency room, operating rooms, labor and delivery rooms and acute care beds. (Catharin Shepard photos)

Search for gunman prompts lockdown

Two schools affected by manhunt

East Hoke Middle School and Scurlock Elementary School went on lockdown Monday while authorities searched for and eventually arrested a man accused of robbing an H&H Homes real estate agent during an open house.

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office responded Monday to a report of an armed robbery of a real estate agent at a newly built house on Equestrian Way. The victim provided a description

of the robber and officers soon spotted his vehicle on Fayetteville Road near Doc Brown Road.

Officers chased the man along Fayetteville Road until he pulled over, jumped out of the car and fled on foot. The Sheriff's Office put the two schools in lockdown to prevent the man from fleeing to the campuses. The Hoke County Sheriff's Office and the Raeford Police Department worked together (See GUNMAN, page 4A)

Senate race goes to runoff in July

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The District 21 North Carolina Senate race will go

This Week

Family upset over teacher's comments page 4A

Experts warn against summer accidents involving children page 6A

Transportation plan draft ready for viewing page 1B

Calendar 2B
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Deaths 3A
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to a runoff after two candidates received support from voters.

Former Hoke County Democratic Party Chairman Robert Benjamin Clark III and Cumberland County commission member Billy King will compete in a second primary for the seat left open by Sen. Eric Mansfield. Mansfield, a Democrat, campaigned for lieutenant governor but was defeated in the primary. No Republican candidates filed to run for election in the race.

The newly redrawn District 21 includes Hoke County

and parts of Cumberland County. Hoke County voters cast 117 more ballots for newcomer Allen Thomas Jr., a 25-year-old born and raised in Hoke County, than they did for Clark. However, the more heavily populated Cumberland County voters favored King and Clark.

King received 4,329 votes, or about 25 percent of the ballots, while Clark received 3,510 votes, or about 20 percent of the ballots.

The runoff primary is set for July 17.

Hoke voters will be able to vote in several local, state

and national races this fall. Candidates up for election after the primary include:

County commission (two seats, four-year term): James Leach* (D), Bobby Wright* (D), John Harry (R), Elda Thacker (R)

District attorney: Kristy Newton* (unopposed)
(See RUNOFF, page 4A)

Child found unresponsive in pool dies in hospital

An 18-month-old child died last week, days after falling into his family's backyard pool, authorities said.

Tyler Easton "Turtle" Schulte died Thursday, May 10, three days after he was found in the family's swimming pool at their Plaza Drive home near the Hoke/Cumberland County line. His mother, Dawn Schulte, was on the phone with emergency communications and reporting the toddler missing when she discovered him in the swimming pool and jumped in to pull him out, according to the Hoke (See POOL ACCIDENT, page 4A)



Tyler Schulte

Alleged Lucky Charm cafe robbers not so lucky

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested two suspects last week in connection with an armed robbery at the Lucky Charm Sweepstakes Internet gambling café on U.S. 401 Business Highway.

Shortly before midnight May 9, three armed men

entered the Lucky Charm Sweepstakes and demanded money. The men threatened and endangered the life of the clerk and held a firearm to a customer's head during the initial struggle, according to the Sheriff's (See UNLUCKY, page 4A)



Wanda Cohen (left) talks about local produce being sold at the Hoke Farmers Market Saturday. The market is open on Saturdays downtown 9 a.m.-1 p.m. across from the courthouse. It's also open at the Rockfish Community Center on Tuesdays from 2-6 p.m.



VIEWPOINTS

No surprises from primary results

By SCOTT MOONEYHAM
Capitol Press Association

Tuesday's primary elections came and went with few surprises.

In the aftermath, the only final fit came from the opponents of an amendment to the state constitution banning gay marriage. They vowed, somehow and someday, to fight on, despite the 61-39 result at the polls.

Perhaps that great American tradition of political protest will provide a little solace.

Elsewhere, Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton easily outdistanced former Congressman Bob Etheridge in the Democratic primary for governor, setting up a match-up with former Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory, who was already the presumed Republican nominee.

It didn't take long for the candidates and their respective parties to lay out their attack strategies.

Dalton used the attention gained from winning in a competitive primary to go ahead with an expected tactic of portraying himself as the protective buffer preventing a right-wing legislature from running amuck.

McCrory will no doubt be painted as the rubber stamp for

that GOP-controlled legislature.

The state Republican Party responded to Dalton's win by labeling him "BevPart2." In a web ad, it used his own ad theme against him by posing a series of unflattering questions—"Who will flip-flop on political positions just like Bev Perdue?—All answered, "Walter Dalton."

Look for more of the same this fall.

The two incumbent statewide office holders who faced primary challenges—Republican Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler and Democratic State Treasurer Janet Cowell—easily won.

In a number of other down-ballot races, runoffs loom because the top vote getters failed to reach the 40-percent mark. Especially on the Republican side of the election ledger, there's still a lot of uncertainty.

The runoffs will be held July 17, and those elections will attract far fewer voters than the better than 2 million who turned out for the first primary.

Maybe that's not such a bad thing.

A day after the election, I heard more than a few people, on both

sides of the political spectrum, comment that the results on those down-ballot races surely showed just how little voters knew about some candidates.

A week earlier, a political insider told me about the advantages of helping a candidate who happened to enjoy a solid, WASPy-sounding name. That name on the ballot, he figured, was worth the equivalent of a weeklong, statewide ad buy.

But then, candidates for those lower ballot races typically can't raise the dollars required for a statewide TV ad buy, unless it comes from donors regulated by or doing business with their agencies (think Meg Scott Phipps).

It's funny how, among those who closely follow state politics, there is plenty of sentiment that North Carolina elects too many executive branch officials. Only a couple of other states elect as many.

State leaders, though, haven't been willing to spend the political capital to try to make that constitutional change.

I guess it is easier to pursue one that puts people at each other's throats.

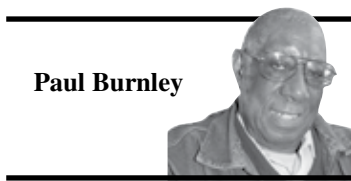
Local election more important than national

Now that the primary election is over, the attention is focusing on the elections this fall. One of the main reasons is that the fall election is one of the most important, not only on the national level but also locally. The majority of those running for office nationally, and in some cases in our local races, have no idea about the problems facing many of our residents.

The news media generally focuses on the national picture. The unemployment rate is about 10 percent nationally; however, the rate in counties such as Hoke and Robeson is much higher. These statistics are often overlooked by politicians. One of the reasons is that where they live, in most instances, is so removed from local citizens that they are unable to see or understand the problems of the average citizen.

I read a recent article by Mr. Allen Thomas, a Hoke County resident who is a candidate for the N.C. Senate District 21 seat. He pointed out the fact that many of our representatives are out of touch with the voters of this county. He and I also feel it is time to send people to Raleigh and Washington that understand the problems facing the people of their districts.

If a person has money, influence, and education to qualify for high paying jobs, in many



Paul Burnley

instances they are unable to understand the problems of those who have been out of work for months or years, of those who have lost homes and of those who are burdened with medical problems and bills. Many of our representatives in Raleigh as well as in Washington are not affected by these problems so they are unable to understand the problems of the average citizen.

The upcoming presidential election has taken the focus away from many local problems. I am not saying that the presidential election is not important. But in many instances our local election is more important to the individual because the effect can be realized sooner on a local level. This is why we as voters should vote for those we feel will move the entire area forward. Too long people have voted for one particular party because of habit. It is time we examine the candidates and vote for those who have the interests of the majority and not ones who support special interest groups.

There are a number of politicians here in Hoke County that

are running for office. I encourage them to hold "town meetings" in churches and other venues to not only explain their programs but also to ask questions of the public to understand their needs. It does not matter if you are a Republican or Democrat, the public is interested in the person that understands and is making an effort to correct some of the problems they are facing. It doesn't matter which party you represent, people of this area are looking for those who will move the entire area forward.

This is why many areas are so far behind the affluent areas. They have voted for the "good old boys," although they have done nothing to improve the situation. The only thing they improved was their own situation, financially. It is time for the voters of this county and others to demand accountability from their elected officials. This can only be done by asking questions and demining answers from these candidates.

In many cases, we vote according to our political affiliation. It is time we vote for the person that is going to bring prosperity to our area, with more jobs, and opportunity to move the county forward. Hoke County needs politicians that will have the interest of ALL the people of Hoke County. This should be shown in our voting.

Law that hurts youth needs to go

By TERESA SHIRLEY
RaiseTheAgeNC.com

As a mother, I care about my children above all else. I devote nearly every hour and all of my prayers to helping them build strong character and a bright future. I know they'll make mistakes, and I welcome the opportunity to help them learn from those missteps, pay their dues and move on to better things.

As a mother, I know children are our future. And that is why, on this Mother's Day, I urge North Carolina's legislators to change a law that does nothing but hold thousands of our kids back.

North Carolina remains one of only two states that automatically prosecute all 16- and 17-year-olds as adults – for something as minor as stealing a candy bar. This outdated system leads to exactly what we don't want: kids' lives damaged by a permanent adult record and the experience of being exposed to the influence of seasoned adult criminals.

My daughter is among those children whose prospects have been put in jeopardy by this law. At age 17, Cydney was arrested and charged as an adult for the kind of schoolyard scuffle so many kids get into. If Cydney lived in a state other than North Carolina or New York, this minor charge would have immediately gone to juvenile court. There would have been strict and appropriate consequences (such as tight supervision and restitution) but none that would brand her for life as an "adult" offender.

But because Cydney is a

teen in North Carolina, her life and future prospects flew into unnecessary chaos. Once an enthusiastic student, her experience in adult custody left her disheartened. She felt cast out — a sentiment that only deepened when she began to look at going to college, something that would benefit not only her but society in general.

What college, she worried, would want a student with an adult record, even if just for a run of the mill offense that kids from other states wouldn't have to note at all? Each day it seemed, Cydney faced new doubts and challenges—all of them needless and counterproductive.

Common sense legislation before our General Assembly this spring would "Raise the Age" of youth jurisdiction, so that 16- and 17-year-olds like Cydney who commit low level offenses are handled in the juvenile justice system. There they would learn their lesson, pay their dues and eventually be able to get on with leading productive lives and contributing to society. Meantime, kids convicted of more serious crimes would remain in the adult system.

Raise the Age would do away with what former North Carolina Supreme Court Justice and Republican candidate for Governor Robert F. Orr has called the "destructive, one-size-fits-all punishment" system we have now. It's also an extremely expensive system.

Most state officials and legislators understand that the repetitious costs of incarcerat-

ing 16- and 17-year-olds in adult correctional facilities is far more pricey in the long-term than providing them with age-appropriate services, treatment and punishment near their home communities. A study by the North Carolina Youth Accountability Planning Task Force last year found that the state could avoid spending \$50 million a year by "Raising-the-Age" based on lower recidivism rates and fewer youth with an adult criminal record.

But while the practical arguments for Raising the Age are strong, I'd like again to speak from a mother's heart. During Cydney's darkest days, I stood by her. She did the hard work of paying for her mistake and pulling herself back up by her bootstraps, but she had a full and loving family around her.

What about those kids who don't have a tight-knit family to help them overcome the burden of an adult record? Many probably have strong potential to grow into productive adults, raising families and benefiting society through careers. Yet, our state is nearly alone in clinging to a system that undercuts these kids, and in doing so, hurts us all.

As a mother and in honor of this Mother's Day, I urge the General Assembly to put our future ahead of a flawed status quo. Let's join 48 other states and Raise the Age.

Teresa Shirley lives in Western NC and travels the state working with parents to Raise the Age. www.RaiseTheAgeNC.com.

"NOW REMEMBER BOYS AND GIRLS, WE ARE LEAVING YOU A PERFECT WORLD. DON'T SCREW IT UP."

(FAREED ZAKARIA, QUOTING ART BUCHWALD)



We Get Letters

Voters might have misunderstood ballot

To the Editor:

The ballots should have asked, "are you for or against 'same sex marriage' — yes or no."

Not are you for or against that amendment, because most people do not understand the amendment is to stop same sex marriage.

A vote to stop the amendment will allow "same sex marriage."

Most voters of the nearly a million do not want same sex marriage.

I understand North Carolina is one of the few states that allows a state referendum, which allows

citizens to vote laws but that was passed in Washington, D.C. in our constitution not theirs in D.C.

But if the ballots were misunderstood we could wind up with laws we do not want.

Bill McPhail

Should be ashamed of amendment vote

To the Editor:

I have lived in North Carolina for the past five years. During this time I have met some of the greatest people, and planned on making North Carolina my permanent home. After the ballot on Amendment One, I am now

having second thoughts. The amendment passed, and for what? So people can call themselves righteous? Now if two female friends decide to live together, they won't be protected, or even two male friends. This state needs to seriously rethink itself. Why

do you care if two people of the same sex live together? It is none of your business! They should be allowed to have the same rights as any other couple. You all should be seriously ashamed of yourself!

Jeannie Landon
Raeford

No outrage, just questions and a suggestion

To the Editor:

A few thoughts:
Thanks for the great article on the debate team. Maybe some of the kids could do a local presentation of their skills for the public to attend.

• Voting – please Hoke voters, come out in full force for the June primary run-off vote to determine our representative to the Senate in Raleigh. Vote for the "local" candidate, Robert Clark.

It is frustrating that Hoke County has a near impossible chance to have someone from here elected to anything state or nationwide, being always thrown together with larger counties. First Robeson, now Cumberland. We only have 25 percent of the vote, Cumberland 75 percent. So it takes all of us to go out and vote to even have a chance. Since the Supreme Court overthrew the past "by county" representation, we have never had a local citizen in any outside office. We are just someone's appendix, even economically.

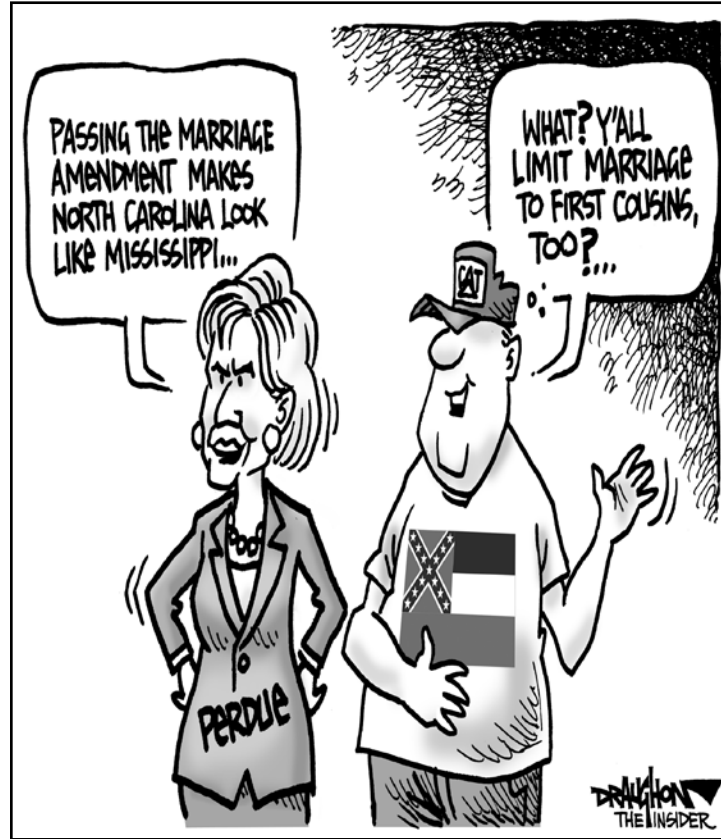
• Re. Where's the outrage? Unless I am given the entire background (both sides) as to an employee's suspension, instead of the "it's a personnel matter, we can't talk" phrase, someone who had a past conviction and served the punishment should have a chance to make a living like anyone else. At this point,

I know nothing of the whys and wherefores...

• The Horsepark is great and does bring lots of people. But—if they do stay overnight, where do those people go? What restaurants do they attend? I am sure none in Hoke, because we really don't have anything beyond a 'local type kitchen' and fast foods. We do need to build

at least a motel and a couple of decent restaurants in that area. The only other question is could we get the infrastructure there? We would need sewage lines for that. Could they be extended via Raeford? Oh, I forgot, we do have an economic developer, don't we? How about it, sir—give us some information.

Renate Dahlin



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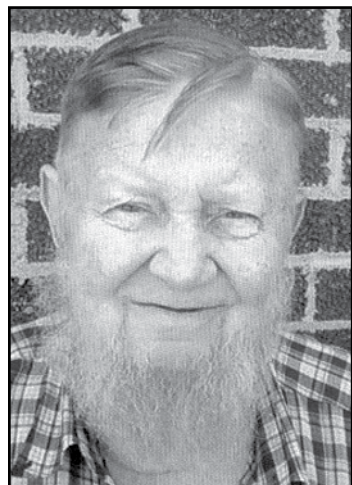
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Obituaries



Thomas E. Brooks

Thomas E. Brooks

Thomas Evin Brooks of Dallas, Texas, formerly of Raeford, died Saturday, May 12, 2012 in the Dallas Texas VA Hospital at the age of 73.

He was born in Guilford County February 1, 1939 to the late Edgar Ray Brooks and Betty Sue Brooks Stanley.

Survivors include one daughter, Brenda S. Brooks Arriaga of Whitney, Texas; four grandchildren, Artamio Arriaga of Whitney, Texas; Amanda Arriaga of Granview, Texas; Nia Arriaga of Grandview, Texas; and Kayla Arriaga of Victoria, Texas; seven great-grandchildren; a brother, Bobby Brooks and wife Jeanette of Salisbury; and a sister, Linda Brooks Martin and husband Jimmy of Lumberton.

Visitation will be held from 1-2 p.m. Friday, May 18 at Crumpler Funeral Home, 131 Harris Ave, Raeford.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, May 18 at Raeford Cemetery with the Rev. David Hollaway officiating.



Tyler E. Schulte

Tyler E. Schulte

Tyler Easton "Turtle" Schulte of 236 Plaza Drive, Fayetteville, died Thursday, May 10, 2012 at the age of 18 months.

He was born in Cumberland County on October 16, 2010.

Survivors include his parents, Rob W. and Dawn T. Schulte of Fayetteville; a brother, Branden Schulte of Fayetteville; three sisters, Tina Hanson, Kelly Schulte, and Ashley Schulte, all of Fayetteville; his maternal grandmother, Diana Cole of Garner; paternal grandparents, Bob and Michelle Schulte of Fayetteville; his maternal great-grandmother, Theresa Horszak of Edison, New Jersey; his paternal great-grandmother, Kay Bequette of Olathe, Kansas; his paternal great-grandmother, Barbara Greenwood of Bristol, New Hampshire; two aunts, Candice Hodge of Garner and Melissa Leahigh and husband Richard of Ray City, Georgia; and two uncles,

Christopher Hodge of Garner and Corey Shott of Rowland.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 19 at Crumpler Funeral Home Chapel, 131 Harris Avenue, Raeford with the Rev. James Wilhide officiating.

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



Marie L. Harrison

Marie L. Harrison

Marie Lovette Harrison went home to be with the Lord Saturday May 12, 2012 in Autumn Care of Raeford at the age of 88.

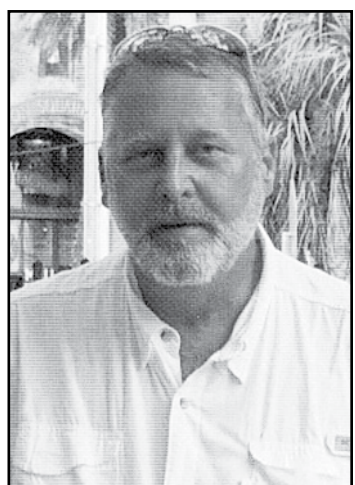
She was born in Alderson, West Virginia on December 23, 1923 to Charles Alex and Mattie Bell Flack Thomas. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Edker Lee Lovette and John Harrison, two brothers, Roscoe and Earl Thomas and a special "sister," June Honaker. She retired from Burlington Industries.

Survivors include two sons, Colin Lovette and wife Bobbie of Raeford, and Charles Lovette and wife Frances of Iverness, Florida; two daughters, Linda Pittman and husband Barry of Lumber Bridge, and Paula Zaring and husband Pat of Raeford; 10 grandchildren, Michael Lee Lovette and wife Denise of Slidell, Louisiana, Stephen Thomas Lovette and wife Jessie of Charleston, South Carolina, Darren K. Pitman and wife Tracey of Fayetteville, Donna P. Jackson and husband Greg of Raeford, Robert Christopher Lovette of Raeford, Charles Rueben Lovette Jr. and wife Isis of Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Joseph Edker Lovette and wife Sara of

San Diego, California, Jennifer Laura Chandler and husband Rob of Naples, Italy, Julie Lovette Saunders and husband Drake of Raeford, and Priscilla Marie Gallagher and husband Joseph of Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa, Japan; 23 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 15 at Raeford Cemetery with the Rev. Ken Williams officiating.

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



James Soles

James Soles

James "Jimmy" Soles of Raeford died in his home Thursday, May 10, 2012 at the age of 52.

He was born in Moore County on October 14, 1959 and was preceded in death by his father, Joe Douglas Soles, and stepfather, Dr. Riley Jordan. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was employed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the time of his death.

Survivors include a son, Christopher James Soles of Raeford; his mother, Lyda W. Jordan of Southern Pines; a sister, Karen Larsen and husband Dr. Eric Larsen of West End; his companion, Cathy James of Raeford; and two nephews, Jason Kennedy and Joey Kennedy, both of Wilmington.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, May 14 at Crumpler Funeral Home Chapel with Jere Lee McClendon officiating.

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

District Court

Cases heard May 8 in Hoke County Criminal District Court, Judge John H. Horne presiding:

- Alma Elizabeth Allan, 27, 1005 S. Second St., Lillington, driving while license revoked, 27 days in jail, credit for 27 days served

- Alex Alfredo Nieves Espada, 36, 1309 Camelot Drive, Fayetteville, speeding 64 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone, \$25 fine and court costs; operating motor vehicle with no insurance, voluntary dismissal

- Andrea Garcia, 26, 584 Edge Grove Court, St. Pauls, no operator's license, \$50 fine and court costs; child not in rear seat, voluntary dismissal

- Eric Douglas McDonald, 24, 6561 Barley Hill Court, Fayetteville, improper equipment-speedometer, court costs; driving while license revoked, voluntary dismissal

- Randall Meacham, 23, 251 Brevard Drive, Raeford, domestic criminal trespass, 15 days suspended, 12 months probation, pay \$402.32 restitution to prosecuting witness, court costs, not to be found on or about the premises of prosecuting witnesses without their express written consent, not to use or possess any controlled substances, submit to warrantless searches, random tests for

same, may transfer to unsupervised probation upon payment of all costs and restitution

- Claudio Rodriguez-Robledo, 37, 151 New Maxwell Road, Raeford, improper equipment-speedometer, \$75 fine and court costs; no operator's license, voluntary dismissal

- Brian Anthony Shaw Jr., 225 Fallingleaf Drive, Raeford, improper equipment-speedometer, \$15 fine and court costs

- Jeremy JaQuann Shaw, 21, 318 N. Wright St., Raeford, consumption of alcohol by person 19 or 20 years old, two days in jail, suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, court costs, appointment fee (defendant under 21 on date of charge)

- Sheronda Latoya Shaw, 33, 2633 N.C. 130 West, Rowland, shoplifting by concealment of goods, 20 days suspended, 12 months probation, court costs, community service fee, not to use or possess any controlled substances, submit to warrantless searches, random tests for same, stay away from prosecuting business without written consent, transfer probation to Scotland County

- Michael John Vinicombe, 39, 137 Spring Valley Drive, Raeford, improper equipment-speedometer, \$25 fine and court costs.

High school plans 2012 graduation

Hoke High School is preparing to graduate more than 330 students this month at commencement exercises planned for May 25.

This year the school has rearranged parking for the ceremony. All general parking is accessed by Palmer Drive. Parking is available behind Raz Autry Stadium, the school bus lot, behind the MacDonald modular building, the MacDonald Practice Field, Bethel Road and behind the vocational buildings. Guests can access handicap parking in the Gibson student parking lot by Harris Avenue. A handicap decal is required.

No through traffic is allowed on Bethel Road and/or High School Street after 4:30 p.m. After 4:30 p.m., High School Street is only accessible from Bethel Road and is one-way

traffic. The graduates' procession begins at 6 p.m. No field access is available once the procession begins. Any items that may block the view of other individuals are not allowed in the stadium during the graduation exercise. School officials ask that families and friends give these items to graduates after the ceremony is over. Large bags and coolers are not allowed in the stadium. Metal detectors will be present at all entry gates. The school asks attendees to be prepared to keep the lines moving while going through the detectors.

Graduation rehearsal is set for May 24.

Drama club to hold yard sale

The Hoke High School Drama Club and History Club will host a community yard sale in the parking lot of East Hoke Middle School June 2 from 7 a.m. until noon. Anyone is welcome to contribute or to rent a space for \$5. All proceeds go towards

student educational trips to London for the 2012-2013 school year. If you would like to rent a space or donate goods, please contact Kristie DeLuna or Medina Demeter at 875-2156 or kdeluna@hcs.k12.nc.us or mdemeter@hcs.k12.nc.us.

Editorial Deadlines

Friday 12 Noon

Calendar Items - Social Items - News Items

Monday 12 Noon - Letters to the Editor


The News-Journal

The News-Journal is sold at these locations:

Arabia Food Mart.....Arabia Rd.	Home Food Supermarket.....Main St.
Barbee Pharmacy.....Harris Ave.	Howell Drug.....Teal Dr.
Bolton's.....Harris Ave.	Howell Drug.....Main St.
Bo's.....S. Main St.	Jay's Food Mart.....Hwy 211. at county line
Carthens Grocery.....Center Grove Ch. Rd.	J&L Grocery & Meats.....Rockfish Rd.
China Buffet.....Main St.	M&A Tobacco.....Rockfish Rd.
CVS Pharmacy.....401 Bypass	MP Mart.....Hwy. 211 South
Daniels' Exxon.....E. Central Ave.	McNeill's Grocery.....Hwy. 211 S.
Edinburgh Restaurant.....S. Main St.	McPhatter's Grocery.....Hwy. 401 & Vass Rd.
Fast Shop.....W. Prospect Ave.	Miller's Store.....Old Wire Rd.
Five Points Grocery.....Calloway Rd.	Munchez Express.....Fayetteville Rd.
Five Star #2.....Hwy 211	The News-Journal.....119 W. Elwood
Five Star Food Mart.....Hwy. 15-501	Quality Foods.....McCain
Food Lion.....Laurinburg Rd.	Poco Shop #4.....E. Central Ave.
Food Lion/MiCasita.....Fayetteville Rd.	Lucky Stop.....Hwy. 401 & Palmer St.
Food Mart #4.....Hwy. 211 S.	Short Stop #23.....Rockfish Rd.&401 Bus.
Food Stop.....W. Prospect Ave.	Short Stop #54.....Davis Bridge Rd.
401 Lucky Stop.....E. Central & 401 N.	Short Stop #64.....Hwy. 211 West
401 Food Mart&Tobacco.....E. Central Ave.	Short Stop #68.....N. Fulton St.
401 Shop-N-Save #1.....Harris and 401	Tobacco World.....Fayetteville Rd.
401 Shop-N-Save #2.....E. Central Ave.	Waffle House.....401 Hwy Bypass
Happy Mart.....Hwy 401 & Palmer St.	WilcoHess.....Aberdeen Rd.
Hardin's.....Rockfish Rd., Rockfish	Yogi Mart.....Hwy. 211 S.
Hardin's Express Stop.....Rockfish Rd.	Zip N Mart.....Fayetteville Rd.

1999-2000

Miss Tuttle's Kindergarten



I'm so proud of you all!

Love,
Miss Tuttle
(Kim T. Gray)

Straighten-Up Orthodontics

Commitment to Excellence

Dr. John Mark Griffies
Retired Military

- Board Certified American Board of Orthodontics
- Member of American Cleft Palate Association
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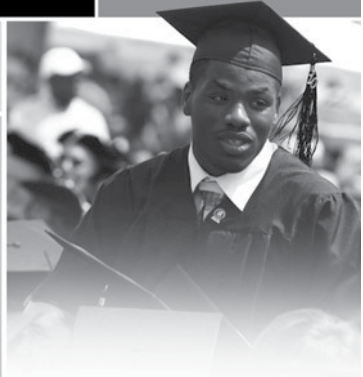
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Family upset over teacher's comments, school response

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The mother of a Hoke High School teenager is voicing concerns about comments a teacher made in her daughter's Spanish class last month and has taken her concerns to the school board and superintendent. The teacher will leave at the end of the school.

Angela Pacheco's daughter told her mother that a teacher made comments during class about suicidal and self-harming students. Hoke County High School Principal Roger Edwards said he held a meeting with the parent, student and teacher at the school, and called the teacher's statements "very inappropriate."

"Useless juvenile comments that were not really directed at the child. It was a conversation he and another child were having," the principal said. "There was no threat ever directed to the child, or directly to anybody. It was a very inappropriate conversation about suicide and about people doing things that—a lot of the time we don't

know why they do them. He admitted it was a conversation that should never have taken place."

The teacher apologized to Pacheco and her daughter while they spoke, Edwards said.

The teacher in question had already handed in his resignation about a week before the incident as he and his family are planning to move out of state, Edwards said. If the teacher had not already resigned, the school would have pursued disciplinary action against him, the principal said.

"He understands that that was highly inappropriate and juvenile. If you're a professional adult, you can't have those kinds of conversations," Edwards said. "Certainly we would have taken personnel disciplinary action, whatever that would have been."

Failed meeting

Pacheco appeared before the Board of Education's meeting last week and made an appointment to speak with Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson the

next day. When Pacheco and her daughter showed up with Micah and Katharine Royal, pastors of Diversity in Faith: A Christian Church for All People in Fayetteville, they were told Katharine Royal would not be allowed to attend the meeting.

"He wouldn't let me bring my advocate in," Pacheco said. "She knows about bullying and she knows this personally and she knows (my daughter's) issues. She's the most familiar outside of the family."

But bringing Katharine Royal along wasn't the understanding the school officials agreed to at the meeting, Williamson said.

"She (Pacheco) was scheduled to talk with me about her concerns about bullying at the high school and provide evidence to support her claim," he said. "We were clear that we were not going to discuss personnel."

Personnel privacy laws typically prevent officials from revealing information about or discussing school employees. Williamson, board attorney

Nick Sojka and board Chairman Hank Richards communicated with Pacheco at the board meeting that she could bring an advocate along with her in accordance with school policy.

"We agreed that the gentleman, that's who was going to do that. She knew that coming to that meeting," Williamson said.

Katharine Royal founded Operation Bullyhorn, a group dedicated to stopping bullying. She also counsels youth. Pacheco and her daughter attend the Royals' church and recently hosted an Operation Bullyhorn event in Raeford.

The meeting did not happen and the group left the building. Pacheco said she made a call on her cell phone while her daughter and the Royals were leaving the building. When she caught up with the group, they claimed the superintendent had yelled at them.

"I guess he had started screaming in (my daughter's) face," she said.

The school superintendent said that the accusation that he yelled at a student was "ridiculous."

"None of that's true," he said.

Pacheco filed a police report against Williamson but authori-

ties told her to take the matter to the Department of Public Instruction, as there was no basis for criminal charges.

The Royals and Pacheco had asked the school officials to allow Katharine Royal to provide some anti-bullying programming for students. Williamson said the schools tend to shy away from that.

"We have a lot of outside groups that want to make available to them for whatever reason our student body and staff. We can't do that," he said. Confidentiality issues are a concern, and the schools already have people trained to handle things like bullying and harassment, he said.

School bullying

Bullying in schools has been a topic of national interest recently. The North Carolina Association of School Boards recommended policy changes earlier this year that the Hoke County Board of Education implemented. In particular, cyber-bullying—the act of bullying someone on the Internet—is becoming a growing concern.

The school system's policy on bullying states "the board expressly prohibits unlawful

discrimination, harassment and bullying." Students and employees are required to follow the policy, with any violation considered "serious." Employees violating the bullying and harassment policy "will be subject to disciplinary action, up to, and including, dismissal."

The school system has a complaint procedure that involves an investigation by a school investigator. The board members have final say in the local district in settling issues, Peggy Owens said. The policy also indicates the board attorney has power as the investigator in cases involving a board member or the superintendent.

There are currently four active investigations of bullying on the Hoke High campus, Owens said. That does not include any prior, completed investigations of bullying that happened earlier in the school year. Those figures are not calculated until the end of the school year and that information is not currently available, Owens said.

In this situation, "In terms of the parent as far as a complaint or a grievance, Mr. Edwards followed that protocol," Owens said.

Runoff

(Continued from page 1A)

Register of Deeds: Onnie Dudley* (unopposed)

N.C. House of Representatives, District 48: Garland Pierce* (D) (unopposed)

N.C. House of Representatives, District 66: Ken Goodman* (D) (unopposed)

U.S. House District 2: Renee Ellmers* (R), Steve Wilkins (D)

Gunman

(Continued from page 1A)

to establish a perimeter and search woods for the suspect.

Officers located and arrested James Patrick Locklear, 23, of Clarksville, Tennessee on charges of robbery with a dangerous weapon and second-degree kidnapping. He was placed under a \$70,000 secured bond. Additional charges are pending.

A criminal check on Locklear revealed that he is wanted on other criminal charges in neighboring areas, according to the sheriff's office.

Pool accident

(Continued from page 1A)

County Sheriff's Office. Rescuers performed CPR and were able to revive the child on the way to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, where he was admitted in critical condition.

Survivors include his parents, Rob W. and Dawn T. Schulte, brother Branden Schulte and sisters Tina Hanson, Kelly Schulte and Ashley Schulte. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday.

U.S. House District 7: Mike McIntyre* (D), David Rouzer (R)

Asterisks indicate incumbents. Two school board positions

are also up for election this year. The filing period for the Board of Education opens this summer. The general election will be held November 6.



New business

Advantage Med Solutions opened its office last week at 109 Campus Avenue. Cutting the ribbon are Randy McLeod, president and CEO (left to right), and Ilene Derenberger, customer service representative for the company, the Chamber of Commerce's Margaret Crumpler and Mayor John K. McNeill.

Unlucky

(Continued from page 1A)

Office. The clerk called 911 to report the robbery after the robbers fled on foot.

Detectives with the Sheriff's Office investigated and were able to identify and arrest two of the suspects.

Deputies arrested Javonda Eugene Sentel Morris, 29, of the 200 block of Tonya Loop in Raeford on felony charges of robbery with a dangerous weapon, first-degree kidnapping, conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous

weapon, altering serial numbers on a firearm and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. He was held under a \$500,000 secured bond. Officers later arrested Glen Edward Maynor, 16, of the 300 block of Purvis Court in Raeford on felony charges of robbery with a dangerous weapon, first-degree kidnapping, conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana. He was held under a \$400,000 secured bond.

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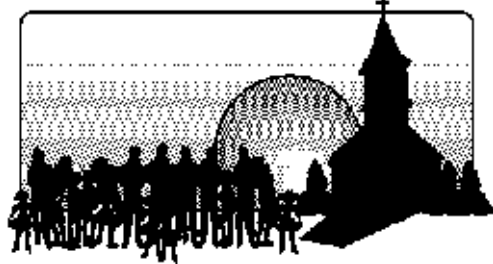
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BEEF & CHICKEN BUNDLE - \$89.99 35 lbs. MEAT 5 lbs. Boneless Chicken Breast • 10 lbs. Fryer Leg Quarters 10 lbs. Boneless Chuck Steaks • 10 lbs. Fresh Ground Beef	HARDIN'S ORIGINAL 1998 BUNDLE 55 lbs. Meats & 6 lbs. Veggies 12 lbs. Fresh Ground Beef 10 lbs. Lean Pork Chops 3 lbs. Chicken Hot Dogs 10 lbs. Fryer Leg Quarters 4 lbs. Smoked Sausage • 4 lbs. Sliced Bacon 4 lbs. Boneless Chicken Breast Frozen Vegetables (3 2 lb. bags of your choice)	MINI BUNDLE 19 lbs. Meats \$36.99 3 lbs. Fresh Ground Beef 10 lbs. Fryer Leg Quarters 2 lbs. Boneless Beef Steaks (Chuck) 4 lbs. Loaf End or Rib End Pork Chops	
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SPORTS



The team from West Hoke Middle School, Jeremy Teetes (left to right), Preston Bridges, Sharon Burney-President of Partners in Education, James Courdway and Derrick Bullard, won the 14th annual Partners in Education golf tournament held May 5 at Bayonet at Puppy Creek.

West Hoke Middle wins PIE Golf Partners in Education raises \$3,000+

BY HAL NUNN
Sports writer

The 14th annual Partners in Education golf tournament was held May 5 at Bayonet at Puppy Creek Golf Course in Hoke County. Seventy-one golfers played in the tournament that serves as the primary funding source for the non-profit organization that serves as a liaison between local businesses in the community and the Hoke County Public School System. This year the golf tournament raised over \$3,000 to help support many programs in the community to include Teacher

and Student of the Month/Year Awards, the President's Academic Excellence Awards, the Annual Teacher of the Year and Mini-Grant winners' award luncheon, special equipment and program funding requests and the Golden Apple Award.

Each year the golf tournament awards an overall winner and the highest finishing school in the tournament. West Hoke Middle School was the top finisher overall this year and the team members were Jeremy Teetes, Derrick Bullard, Preston Bridges and James Courdway. Second place went to

Hawkeye Elementary with team members Ivan Street, Jennifer Stopher, Rick Keen and Mike Little. Third place went to McLaughlin Elementary with team members Keith Jackson, Brian Wiggins, Robi Currie and Chris Long. Fourth place went to the team of Bob Barnes, Jay Toland, Barry Shoffner and Tony Hunt.

For more information about the Partners in Education program or to become a sponsor/volunteer next year, contact Jodie Bryant at the Hoke County School Board or visit their website at www.hcs.k12.nc.us and search resources, Partners in Education.



John Jordan (left to right), Grace McDonald, Shellie Lettieri, Jean Hodges and Richard Coker were just a few of the volunteers that helped with the golf tournament. Seventy-one golfers participated in this year's tournament.



The Culinary Arts I & II Class, directed and taught by Barry Oxendine, prepared and served a delicious lunch to the Partners in Education board members and awards' winners.



This photo was taken at the annual Teacher of the Month and Mini-Grant Awards luncheon last week. Nineteen teachers were recognized that day; however, 25 teachers were awarded. They are: Teacher of the Month winners: Dr. Amelia Anderson - Turlington, Bethany Arsenault-Cimler - McLaughlin, Meagan Bledsoe - Rockfish, Debbie Charleston - Upchurch, Samuel Dowels - Hoke High, LeaAnna Fernandez - Don Steed, James Gates - Scurlock, Rachel Hall-Robinson - Hawk Eye, Mary Judd - West Hoke Elementary, Tiffany Huggins - East Hoke Middle, Katie Wardman - Sandy Grove, Cynthia Williams - West Hoke Middle and Faydra Womble - SandHoke; Mini-Grant Winners: Carrie Brewington - Hoke High, Heather Bridges and Vicki Hasty - West Hoke Middle, Patricia Corella - McLaughlin, Gabrielle Patrick - East Hoke Middle and the team from Sandy Grove - Shayne Francis, Marla Grainger, Lydia Locklear, Brandy Marsh, Virginia Moon, Melissa Shaver and Sarah Swiley. Standing in back right is Ken MacDonald, PIE board member and Sharon Burney-PIE President.

Parks & Rec Baseball/Softball Standings

Majors 11/12 Baseball
Orioles 5-0
Nationals 4-2
Rockies 3-3
Rangers 2-4
Padres 0-6

AAA 9/10 Baseball
Marlins 6-0
Mets 5-1
Red Sox 4-2
Yankees 3-3
Blue Jays 2-4
Mariners 1-5
Reds 0-6

Coach Pitch American 7/8 Baseball
Bees 7-0
Volcanoes 3-4
Sand Gnats 2-5
Raptors 1-6

Coach Pitch National 7/8 Baseball
Express 6-0
Valley Scrappers 3-3
Grasshoppers 2-4
Bats 1-5

Ponytails 11/12 Softball
South Carolina 5-1

Alabama 4-2
Michigan 4-2
Kansas 0-6

Angels 9/10 Softball
Arizona State 3-0
LSU 2-0
Florida State 2-2
Colorado State 1-2
Georgia 0-4

Darlings 7/8 Softball
Washington 5-1
Arkansas 3-3
Florida 2-4
Auburn 2-4

Sports Briefs

The 3rd annual Hoke Athletic Golf Tournament will be held this Saturday, May 19 at Deercroft Golf Club. The format will be four-man

captain's choice with tee-off time at 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided at 12:30 p.m. at the course. The cost is \$50 per golfer and a verbal commitment

is needed by Friday. Donations and door prizes are still being accepted. For more information, contact Hoke High Athletic Director Gary Brigman at 910-286-2346, 910-875-2156 or email him at gbrigman@hcs.k12.nc.us.

The Rockfish Bowhunters Archery Club's 3D competition will be held this Sunday, May 20 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The club is open to all ages and types of bows and is family oriented. The range is located at 3001 George Owen Road Bypass. Yearly memberships are available. See website for more information: www.rockfisharcheryclub.com.

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NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BUS TRAINING SESSION

Hoke High Media Center

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Thursday, May 31st - 8:30 - 3:30
Friday, June 1st - 8:30 - 3:30
(Must attend all three sessions)

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McPhaul

(Continued from page 1A)

McPhaul said he resigned because he "no longer wanted to work for them" after the county manager allegedly came to him with questions about his campaign. "I asked him if he had a problem how I was doing my job," McPhaul said. "I didn't appreciate him asking me questions like that. I said you need to find someone else to do the job."

McPhaul said he planned to send a letter to the county and suggested he may take legal action. He said he had not addressed the commissioners directly yet.

"I'm sending him my letter to-

day concerning me wanting to face the accuser and the fact that I feel like they violated my constitutional rights of free speech," he said.

Wright said he didn't have all the facts in the situation and didn't want to provide wrong information.

"I haven't talked to him since he resigned so I couldn't tell you," he said.

The News-Journal was not able to reach other commissioners for comment by press time. County Manager Tim Johnson said he could not comment on personnel matters.

McPhaul's resignation is the latest leadership change for a

Hoke County office. Parks and Recreation Director David Jackson resigned and county Health Department Director Cynthia Oxendine was fired last year. Senior Services Director Don Woods resigned from his job in March and was later hired at the Department of Social Services.

Human Resources Director Letitia Edens said the Veterans Services Officer is a county position and the county will advertise the job. The Veterans Services office on Elwood Avenue is closed with a sign posted on the door instructing veterans in need to call a phone number for assistance.

Military Briefs

Jones signs with Navy

Civilian Patricia S. Jones, daughter of Joselle P. and James E. Jones of Raeford, recently enlisted in the United States Navy under the Delayed Entry Program at Navy Recruiting District, Raleigh.

The program allows recruits to enter the Navy and take up to one year to complete prior commitments such as high school. Using recruiters as mentors, this program helps recruits ease into the transition from civilian to military life.

Jones will report for active duty to undergo basic training at the Navy's Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois.

Jones is a 2011 graduate of Seventy-First High School of Fayetteville.

Harrison promoted

Navy Seaman Steven J. Harrison, son of Anita J. Harrison of Raeford and Roy S. Harrison of Holiday,

Florida, was recently promoted to his current rank upon graduation from recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois.

Harrison received the early promotion for outstanding performance during all phases of the training cycle, which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations". This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor. Harrison is a 2011 graduate of Hoke

High School of Raeford.

Crumpton completes basic training

Marine Corps Pfc. Robert A. C. Crumpton, son of Dell Monroe Crumpton of Aberdeen and Robert E. Crumpton Jr. of Meadows of Dan, Virginia, recently graduated from the Marine Corps Basic Combat Engineer Course at Marine Corps Engineer School, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune.

During the five-week course, Crumpton received instruction in the fundamentals of engineering support for combat units, including the procedures for building and repairing bridges, roads and field fortifications. Crumpton also received training on demolition concepts, land mine warfare and camouflage techniques.

Crumpton is a 2011 graduate of Patrick County High School of Stuart, Virginia.

Summer months pose more hazards for kids

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The summer is full of fun, sun and activities for children and their families, but the adventure can end in tragedy.

With the end of school in sight, child safety groups like Safe Kids North Carolina and Safe Child North Carolina warn families to be mindful of the dangers that heat and water can pose for children.

Children die every year from hyperthermia, or heat stroke, from being left alone in a vehicle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recorded dozens of child deaths from children left in cars last summer, according to the NHTSA. Even when temperatures are only in the mid-80s, the inside of a vehicle can heat up to more than 100 degrees in 10 minutes and be over 130 degrees in just an hour. Many of the deaths occur because parents forgot they had the child in the car with them that day, the NHTSA suggests.

The NHTSA and child advocacy and safety groups offer the following tips for keeping children safe from hyperthermia:

- Never leave infants or children alone in a vehicle, even if the window is partially open.
- Don't let children play in a vehicle.

- Lock vehicle doors and keep keys away from children so they cannot get into the vehicle on their own.
- Make a habit of looking into the vehicle, front and back seats, before walking away to make sure there is not a child inside.
- Keep a stuffed animal in the child's safety seat and move it to the front passenger seat as a visual reminder that the child is in the vehicle with you. Or try putting your purse or briefcase next to the child.
- Tell daycare or preschool workers to call immediately if a child is not checked in for the day.
- If you see a child alone in a hot vehicle, call law enforcement.

Another concern for any month, but particularly in summer, is drowning. Accidental drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children under five years old, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, and drownings can happen in the time it takes for an adult to make a phone call. About 77 percent of child drowning victims had been out of sight less than five minutes, according to the commission.

The commission suggests these tips to keep children safe:

- Install a fence or other barrier, such as a wall, completely around the pool. The barrier should be

at least four feet high and should have no foot- or handholds that could let a child climb it. Vertical fence slats should be less than four inches apart to prevent a child from squeezing through.

- Consider buying a protective pool cover that would keep a child from falling into the water. Barrier recommendations are available at <http://www.cpsc.gov>.
- Install door alarms to warn of a wandering child leaving the house.
- Make sure gate latches are secure and that children cannot open them.
- Remove steps and ladders to above-ground pools.
- Drain plastic "kiddie pools" completely when not in use; children can drown in as little as a few inches of water.
- At pool parties, assign one adult as the designated supervisor to watch children in the pool.
- If a child is missing, check the pool first.
- Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.
- Don't allow children to play on or near pool drains.
- Remove toys from the pool area when not in use to keep children from trying to reach them.
- If inflating swimming pools at a gas station, do not allow children to ride in them to hold them down.

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WE WILL BE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 28

The News-Journal 119 W. Elwood Avenue (910) 875-2121

DEADLINES for MAY 30 ISSUE are as follows:
Legal - noon Thursday, May 24
Editorial & Classified - 10 a.m. Friday, May 25
Echo Ads - noon Friday, May 25
News-Journal Ads - 4 p.m., Friday, May 25

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If you are a newcomer to Hoke County, we offer a three month subscription absolutely FREE!

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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & EVENTS
Working Together, First in Quality, First in Health

WANT MORE BEDS?

FirstHealth needs your support to add more beds to FirstHealth Hoke Community Hospital. FirstHealth will file a certificate of need application with the State for 28 beds to increase the size of Hoke Community Hospital.

Go to www.MoreBeds.org to voice your support.

ARTHRITIS PAIN: MANAGING WITHOUT SURGERY

Wednesday, June 20, 5:30-7 p.m., Monroe Auditorium, Conference Center, FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst

FirstHealth Pharmacist Thom Morris, RPh, leads a panel discussion with audience questions about non-surgical treatments for arthritis pain.

Panelists:

- Rodney Tolentino, P.T., ART Certification, FirstHealth Centers for Outpatient Rehabilitation
- Randy Ballard, Corrective Exercise Specialist, NASM, FirstHealth Centers for Health & Fitness
- Phillip Perrotta, P.A.-C., FirstHealth Back & Neck Pain Center

Registration is required. Space is limited. Call (800) 213-3284 to register. FREE

CHOLESTEROL, DIABETES & BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Tuesday, June 5, 8-11 a.m., FirstHealth Center for Health & Fitness-Raeford, 313 Teal Drive, Raeford

\$5 for all three screenings. A 9-12 hour fasting is recommended. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

To make an appointment, call toll-free at (888) 534-5333.

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 Monday, May 21, at 6 p.m.

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

STEPS TO ACHIEVING AN ACTIVE & PAIN FREE LIFESTYLE: OPTIONS FOR BACK PAIN

Tuesday, May 22, 6-7 p.m., FirstHealth Raeford Center, 313 Teal Drive, Raeford

Join Brian Thwaites, M.D., Anesthesiologist and Pain Expert and David Botnick, DPT, Physical Therapist as they share the impact of aging and how individuals can help prevent some of the negative side effects associated with the process, as well as different options for back pain.

Call (800) 213-3284 to register or for more information. FREE

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.

NEW FAMILY MEDICINE PROVIDER

FirstHealth Family Care Center-Raeford is pleased to welcome Valerie Taylor, P.A.-C, to the practice. Ms. Taylor is now accepting appointments for new patients.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 904-2350

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, May 21, 7-8 p.m., Renaissance Room at Pinehurst Surgical, 5 FirstVillage Drive, FirstVillage Campus, Pinehurst

This program will feature information on Eating on the Run/Eating Out. **Call (910) 255-3690 for more information. FREE**

PLAY CLASSES

Do you have a group who would like to learn how to PLAY more? FirstHealth offers a PLAY (People Living Active Year-Round) class free to the community. If you have a church group, social group or community group eager to learn how to make physical activity a part of their everyday life, call us to schedule a class. PLAY is funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to improve health among low-income communities in the Sandhills region.

For more information, call (877) 342-2255.

CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

Sunday, June 3, 2 to 4 p.m., The Fair Barn, Harness Track, Pinehurst

Join us as we celebrate cancer survivorship! Features include Bingo, a cake walk, a "Dunk the Doctor" booth, a wellness area, crafts area and photos as well as a boxed lunch meal.

For information, call (800) 213-3284

SATURDAY DENTAL APPOINTMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

The FirstHealth Dental Care Center now offers Saturday appointments. Located at 400 Teal Drive, Raeford, the Dental Care Center serves Medicaid, Health Choice and uninsured children.

For appointments and more information, call 904-7450.

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.**

QUIT CLASS

Ready to quit tobacco? We can help.

Quit classes are scheduled by appointment at the FirstHealth Raeford Center, 313 Teal Drive, Raeford. **For more information or to register, call Melissa Kuhn at (910) 255-3651 or toll free at (877) 342-2255.**

CLINICAL TRIAL OPENING

Have you had a stroke and are experiencing difficulty walking? If yes, call (888) 850-8625 toll-free to learn more about a clinical trial comparing methods of rehabilitation.

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