

The News-Journal

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Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

No. 21 Vol. 110

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Kids will have A.C. when school starts

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Rockfish Hoke and Sandy Grove Elementary schools both have their new chiller systems in place and working, and East and West Hoke Middle schools each have new chillers going in to keep

students and staff cool when class starts next month, school officials reported.

After months of issues with the chillers at the two elementary schools and coming close to the end of the lifespan of the chillers at the middle schools, the county schools' energy performance

contracting work is now underway and replacing not only the chillers that serve as air conditioning but also everything from water fountains to ceiling lights.

Senior project manager Mike Vrchota updated school leaders Tuesday morning on how the performance contracting work is

going. "We're approximately 42 percent complete with the energy savings agreement and project right now," he said.

The two middle schools each have two chillers. Workers have replaced one of the old chillers at each school and are preparing to replace the last two, Vrchota said.

"We're about 80 percent complete with that as far as the install of the chiller. Tomorrow we begin check tests and startup with the Trane U.S.A. technician out at West Hoke, and then East Hoke the following day. I don't anticipate any problems with either (See CHILLERS, page 4)



Bullard



Todd



Graham



Griffin

4 charged in drug search

Authorities with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office have charged three people with trafficking heroin and cocaine, and charged a fourth with other drug crimes.

Investigators arrested Ira Todd Lockhart, 38, of the 200 block of Quarry Lane; Dustin Tyler Graham, 19, of the 100 block of Jane Road in Maxton; Jeremy Park Bullard, 44, of the 400 block of Oxendine Road in Pembroke; and Catrena Lannette Griffin, 44, of the 300 block of Langdon Street in Fayetteville.

Lockhart was charged with two counts each of trafficking opium/heroin and cocaine, possession with intent to sell or deliver methamphetamine,

(See DRUGS, page 8)



Fisher person

Brooke Turlington reeled one in on her first fishing outing, a scene captured by her mother, Gale Turlington. The picture was a near-winner in The News-Journal Oh Snap Photo Contest. It was entered in the Camping-Fishing-Outdoor category. There are still a few weeks left in the contest. See entry rules and guidelines inside—and this week's winner.

Sheriffs gather for Peterkin installation

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County Sheriff Hubert Peterkin was set to be sworn in this week as president of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association.

Peterkin joined the NCSA as a member when he was first elected Hoke County Sheriff in 2002. He has served as an officer for several years, and was first vice president in the year leading up to his NCSA presidential term.

The association is made up of sheriffs from nearly all of the state's 100 counties and focuses on a variety of issues relating to law enforcement. The association trains newly elected sheriffs to help them more quickly integrate to their jobs, encourages cooperation (See SHERIFFS, page 8)

Paratrooper's death probed

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A Fort Bragg soldier living in Raeford died last week after being found unresponsive in his car, according to military authorities.

Sgt. James Donald Little III, 28, formerly of Hubert, North Carolina, died July 20.

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office is investigating Little's death.

The sergeant was an allied trade specialist assigned to B Company, 407th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division.

(See PARATROOPER, page 4)

This Week

Schools revise vaccination policy

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More than 3,000 students can eat free this year

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

More than 3,000 students in Hoke County Schools will be able to eat breakfast and lunch completely free this year, whether or not their families financially qualify for federal free or reduced-price school lunch.

Seven of Hoke County's 13 public schools will take part in the community eligibility provi-

sion (CEP) program of the Food and Nutrition Service section of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Under the CEP program, all students at a designated school can eat at no cost to their families. The USDA pays the school system for providing the meals, as long as the breakfast and lunch menus meet federal nutrition guidelines.

Six schools qualified for the program last year, and this year

Upchurch Elementary will join McLaughlin, Scurlock, Hawkeye and West Hoke elementary schools and West Hoke Middle and Turlington Alternative in taking part in the CEP program.

That means 3,172 students out of the over 8,000 students enrolled in Hoke County Schools will be able to eat breakfast and lunch without paying out of pocket, according to school officials.

Last year, the number of stu-

dents eating at the CEP participating schools rose by 4.9 percent for breakfast and 4.2 percent for lunch. The school system received \$3.3 million from the program last year, an increase of over 7 percent.

If students at Upchurch Elementary don't take part in the meal-times, the school system could end up losing over \$17,000, but that's lower than what the nutrition program is paying now, officials (See MEALS, page 8)



Children hurt

Three children and one adult were taken to a hospital after a single-vehicle wreck on Boyle Road last Wednesday morning. Marley Amador Gonzalez of Red Springs lost control of a 1999 Chevrolet, which flipped several times and came to rest upside-down in a field, according to a report filed by North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper J.L. Nelson. Gonzalez was charged with reckless driving. (Ken MacDonald photos)

BROWSING THE FILES

47 Years Ago August 1, 1968

Raeford is "dead as a doornail" as Burlington Industries closes for the week for annual vacation. The annual shutdown of the plant, with its estimated 1,600 employees, reduces business to half the usual volume, says one Main Street merchant.

Prices for flue-cured tobacco are averaging \$70 per hundred-weight as the Border Belt—the region near the S.C. border that includes portions of seven counties—markets open. After an all but rainless June, showers in July saved the crop and farmers report above average yields.

The peach crop is proclaimed to be the largest in 21 years. The Lorings and Halehavens have been at their peak. Georgia Bells are coming in this week, and Redskins, Elbertas and newer varieties are expected next week. Poole Orchard at Poole Road reports the biggest harvest in many years.

Cantaloupes are 3 for 89 cents at A&P. Tomatoes are 25 cents per pound. Peaches are 29 cents per pound.

Rockfish Coon Club holds its second bench show at McLeod's pond, east of Raeford. Some 60 dog owners participate.

There are just two years left in the "sexy sixties," pro-



Jerry Williams "sets up" a bluetick entry at the Rockfish Coon Club bench show.

claims a piece written with no attribution. "Charleston dance was uncouth and certainly not ladylike," reads the article. "But today's kids have gone them one better (or worse) with the frug, the bird and other body-jerking, arm-waving methods of keeping time to the new popular bands made up of drums, strings and the portable organ."

25 Years Ago August 1, 1990

House of Raeford owner Marvin Johnson hints that, if the

City of Raeford doesn't back down on \$70,000 in fines for sewer violations, he will close the turkey plant. "It's going to take a lot more people than (City Manager) Tom Phillips to make me write that check," he tells a packed conference room at the Hoke Library.

Three of 102 wells tested in Hoke and Moore counties are found to have levels of pesticides that may exceed drinking water standards. Another 20 are said to contain pesticide residues, but levels are within EPA guidelines.

Real Estate Transfers

Transfers of property recorded with the Hoke County Register of Deeds:

July 9
• The Highlands at Bedford, Lots 51-53 and 78-83, from Breezewood of Fayetteville to H&H Constructors Inc. of Fayetteville

• Lot 226 Summerfield East Section 4, from Molly E. and Alan Michael Sanchez of Raeford to Stacie S. and Jody C. Home of Raeford
• Four acres on North Shannon Road, Shannon, from Delmy and Jose Angel Moreno Torres to Flor De Maria Moreno Pacheco and Gustavo Adolfo Ramos Sanchez of Shannon

July 10
• Property on West Donaldson Avenue, from Avery Connell Agency Inc. of Raeford to Virginia Diane Casey Wilson of Raeford
• Lot 12 Whispering Winds, from Lumbee Quality Builders Inc. of Red Springs to Jillian Flowers and Chris Y. Uyebara of Raeford

• Lot 153 Stonewall Section 9, from Kelsey A. and Travis F. Mills of Manchester, Maine to Ashley and Johnathan Van Hook of Raeford

• Lot 129 Wedgefield Phase 3A, from H&H Constructors Inc. of Fayetteville to Jarsheka M. Donaldson of Raeford

• Lot 160 Wedgefield Phase 3A, from H&H Constructors Inc. of Fayetteville to Elaine and Martin M. Thompson of Raeford

• 1.90 acres on Frank Crumpler Land, from Armand V. and Marion M. Lee of Raeford to Richard M. and Karen I. Allen of Raeford

• 0.95 acres on Lindsey Road, from Paul Edwin and Sandra G.

Barnes of Clayton; Kenneth Julian and Gay Barnes of Raleigh; Teresa Jane Davis of Wilmington; Marilyn Gay and Craig Overcash of Mount Ulla and J.C. and Nora Meisner of Raeford, to Mathew and Erin Smuland Gordon

July 13
• 0.67 acres in the McLauchlin township, from Yoshiko Schultz of Raeford to Patti J. and Claude Purnell of Raeford

• 0.54 acres on Wallace McLean Road, from Amanda and Benjamin Beason to Charlie Howard and Janet Hendrix of Raeford

• Lot 115 Dove Field Section 4, from Military Warriors Support Foundation to Dennis Williams of Fayetteville

• Lot 102 Liberty Point Section 2, from Brennan S. and Channapa Goltry of Pacific Grove, Calif. to

Jessica L. and Matthew James Lizy-ness of Raeford

July 14
• Lot 140 Wedgefield Phase 3A, from Caviness Land Development Inc. of Fayetteville to Emilia S. Adzan and Francis Parku of Raeford

• Lot 40 Liberty Point, from Jason Allen and Jerasha Jay Carr of Hamlin, W. Va. to Lorena Landeros of Raeford

• Lot 27 Raeford Village, from Tarheel Construction Inc. of Roseboro to Carlos Artunez and Lynette Rodriguez Antonez of Raeford

• Lot 157 Bridgeport North, from David J. and Lauren D. Tiedeman of Raeford to Michael Blanco of Columbus, Ga.

• Lot 57 Turnberry Section 1, Part 4, from H&H Constructors Inc. of Fayetteville to Holly A. and John H. Mahoney of Raeford.

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A winner each week will be published in
The News-Journal & ECHO
Enter at: www.thenews-journal.com/ohsnap

We Get Letters

Christians, display flag to show commitment

To the Editor:

As Christians, it is imperative that we show our commitment to Christ and Christianity. It is more important today than ever before. As a member of First Baptist Raeford, we are asking our church families to display a

Christian Flag from their home.

I would like to challenge all of the churches in Raeford and Hoke County to ask their families to commit to display the flag. This is a small thing that we can do compared to what Christ did for us. I am looking forward to seeing

all of the flags as I ride around our town and county. This display may change someone's heart.

The flags can be purchased online or from a Christian Bookstore.

Wanda McClendon
Raeford

Who owns education in Hoke County?

To the Editor:

What are an American and its political ramification for the citizens of the City of Raeford and Hoke County in 2015 and 2016? Minority and none minority, left and right, liberal versus conservative, middle class identity or is it something else smoldering in Hoke County that is driving a wedge within a certain political party? What I hear on the streets defies the biblical quotation "am I my brother's keeper." Can you become Japanese if you establish citizenship? No, or if you establish Thai citizenship, no, but if you seek American citizenship, you become an American. An American within

two established political parties; not a black or white, Asian or Latino, but Democrat and Republican. Since 1933 up to now and especially 1964, the color of a person's skin, not what lied below the pigment, became political pawn. The owner of mind, body and soul as we have allowed skin to define who we are and it really does not define who the person really is. Case in point. Liberals have been perpetuating that Republicans and conservatives are racist over various North Carolina judicial rulings over Voter ID and especially school vouchers. Hoke County School Board (supported by the county commissioners) is party to the law-

suit Leandro I and Leandro II (599 S.E. 2n 365 (2004). The ruling for Opportunity Scholarship Program (school vouchers) is a win; win for the State of North Carolina and Hoke County. Color of skin was the pawn not education. Many middle class blacks favor school choice and school voucher as well none blacks of Hoke County and of North Carolina. Why the liberal dissent from our school board at the conclusion of this judicial closure of Leandro? Who owns education, the people or the power moguls of Hoke County School Board and County Commissioners?

John Harry Shannon

Marriage Licenses

Recently issued by the Hoke County Register of Deeds, with date of marriage in parentheses if different from date license issued. All marriages performed in Hoke County unless otherwise noted:

June 1 (July 18)

• Parinel Gonzalez Perez of St. Pauls and Evelin Ramos Gonzalez of Fairmont. Married in Robeson County

June 25 (June 26)

• Bryan Nicholas Locklear and Kristen Denice Hammonds, both of Red Springs

July 6 (July 18)

• Kevin D. Shoun of Raeford and Joyce Mein Johnson of Anchorage, Alaska. Married in Cumberland County

July 17

• Johnathan Bernard Dunlap-Banks and Marie Lynie Boltwood, both of Raeford

• Michael Curtis Stanton Jr. and Katherine Ann McKelvey, both of Raeford

• Petion Louissant and Mimosa Monevil, both of Fayetteville (married July 21 in Cumberland County)

July 20

• Eric Richard Stroud and Chelsea Jayne Finlay, both of Raeford
• Urbano R. Contreras of Compton, California and Sarai Benitez of Raeford (Married July 21).

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Fall Semester Begins August 17

VIEWPOINTS

What makes a good county commissioner?

I have recently stated displeasure with the Hoke Commissioners. I went so far as to give them my self-righteous, mildly sarcastic, but still sincere views on how to improve the finances of the county. While I do not criticize without careful consideration, it is easy for me to play Monday morning quarterback. The fact is that the job of commissioner is a tough one that takes a lot of commitment, and we owe a debt of gratitude to those who serve us well in this capacity.

I would like to think that, if I served on the board, the failures leading up to the budget crisis would have been noticed and averted. This, of course, would have required not only recognizing the problems but also swaying the board to make the necessary decisions to fix them. That may or may not have happened, even with good intentions.

Well, if I am so smart, why don't I run for the board? When I contemplate the time required to do a good job in this position, and the restraint, tact and deliberate lack of candor needed to be a politician, that pretty much answers the question. I would probably make a lousy politician!

What should our politicians be? Should they pander to one group of the electorate by running on a promise to favor that group above others? No, not philosophically, but that is the nature of politics. Should they carefully consider the benefits and costs of their actions on all citizens of the county, not just a select group? Yes, but that is not the nature



Frog Holler Philosopher
Ron Huff

of politics. Should they avoid making decisions that provide personal benefits for the greater good of the county? Yes, but that is not the nature of humans. Should they be motivated primarily by a call to service rather than a call to self-service? That would be great, but idealistic. Should they be pillars of morality, justice and fair play? That would be nice!

We can define our ideal politicians, but that has nothing to do with the qualities of the folks who actually seek the offices. I am not implying that any person who seeks an office is automatically unfit for it, but people often seek office for reasons that ignore the general good. These candidates can mask their true agendas, especially to voters who want to believe in them or who are asked to vote for them by people that they trust. We too often follow the leader in these issues. If this is how you vote, at least pay attention to the performance of who you vote for.

So, how do you voters decide whom to support? In a perfect world, you would look at each candidate and judge him/her on the basis of character, devotion to service and ability to deal with county business. The issues are often those of fairness, foresight and finances. Enacted policies should be as fair as possible, directed toward future improvement

of the county and on solid financial ground. All of these qualities are subject to personal judgment. We should elect people who have demonstrated good judgment and character in their own lives.

In Hoke County, it seems that our divide has often been racial. Hoke has great racial diversity and that should be a strength. Instead, I perceive that it is sometimes a weakness that leads us to vote our race first. There are many fine, upstanding and qualified citizens of every race in Hoke. Civic gatherings in the county reflect this great resource. I would prefer to see a good racial balance on the board, but that shouldn't matter if the members are qualified to make good decisions and have integrity and the interest of the county as a whole at heart.

These qualities are essential for good government, but trust is also important. We as citizens are not, and cannot be, party to every discussion and every meeting that concerns the business of the county. We have to trust the commissioners to act in our best interest. Actions performed without being fully explained to the public erode this trust.

I urge any citizens of character, integrity, foresight and intelligence, with a willingness to serve, to run for the board of commissioners. I urge you to vote for candidates that have these qualities.

Having said all this, I want to thank those who have served, and currently serve, the citizens with integrity and good intent.

More later.



TODAY'S HOMEWORK (Notes on Education)

"Vouchers are not reform; they are an abdication of public education."
— N.C. State Rep. Rick Glazier in February, 2014 after a court invalidated the state's voucher plan.

"When you look at the agenda of the biggest and richest corporate lobbies in the country, it's impossible to conclude that they want to see the full flowering of the potential of each little kid in poor cities. To say 'I want to cut the minimum wage, I want to prevent cities from passing laws raising wages or requiring sick time, I want to cut food stamps, I want to cut the earned income tax credit, I want to cut home heating assistance. Oh but, by the way, I'm really concerned about the quality of education that poor kids are getting'—it's just not credible. You're creating the problem that you now claim to want to solve."
— Gordon Lafer

"When researchers control for the effects of poverty, American schools rank near the top of the world. Our overall scores are unspectacular because the child poverty rate in the U.S. is very high, 23%, second-highest among all economically advanced countries. Children of poverty suffer from hunger, malnutrition, inferior health care and lack of access to books. All of these have a powerful impact on school performance. The best teaching in the world won't help when children are hungry, ill and have little or nothing to read."
— Stephen Krashen

School vouchers by the numbers

BY CHRIS FITZSIMON
N.C. Policy Watch

4—number of days since the N.C. Supreme Court upheld the school voucher program passed by the General Assembly that allows taxpayer dollars to fund tuition for private and religious schools ("State's highest court upholds school voucher program despite lack of accountability and standards," Progressive Pulse, July 23, 2015)

10 million—amount in dollars appropriated in the state budget for school vouchers in 2014 in the 2013-2014 state budget (Ibid)

17 million—amount in one-time dollars in the 2015 House budget for school vouchers (Comparison Report on the Base, Expansion, and Capital Budgets, House Bill 97, General Assembly Fiscal Research Staff, June 19, 2015)

17 million—amount in recurring dollars in the 2015 Senate budget for school vouchers (Ibid)

70—percentage of private schools eligible for vouchers that are affiliated with religious institutions ("Records show millions more taxpayer dollars released to private schools in North Carolina through school voucher program," Progressive Pulse, February 11, 2015)

5—number of schools that had received more than \$100,000 in public money through the voucher program as of February 2015 (Ibid)

5—number of the five schools receiving the most voucher money that were religious schools (Ibid)

180,600—amount in dollars of

public money received by Word of God Christian Academy in Raleigh through the voucher program, the most of any private school (Ibid)

40 million—amount in dollars that Rep. Paul Stam says is needed each year to get the voucher program "upto where the market is." ("School privatization agenda pushes forward as concerns over accountability grow," Progressive Pulse, January 29, 2015)

4,200—amount in dollars of the voucher provided to students to use at a private or religious school (Ibid)

19,105—amount in dollars of annual tuition for students in grades 1-4 at Charlotte Country Day School (charlottecountryday.org)

3—number of students at Paramount Christian Academy in Thomasville, a school eligible for taxpayer funding under the voucher program ("Taxpayer funds may be funneled to home schools through school vouchers," N.C. Policy Watch, December 12, 2013)

1—total number of teachers and staff members of Paramount Christian Academy in Thomasville (Ibid)

7—number of years since the publication of science textbook currently used in private and religious schools receiving taxpayer dollars in North Carolina that says "dinosaurs and humans were definitely on the earth at the same time and may have even lived side by side within the past few thousand years" ("School Vouchers: A Pathway Toward Fraud and Abuse of Taxpayer Dollars," N.C. Policy Watch, April 24, 2013)

0—number of teachers or coun-

selors or other employees (other than principal or top school administrator) required to undergo criminal background checks at schools eligible for taxpayer-funded vouchers (Ibid)

0—number of curricular goals or guidelines required at schools eligible to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers (Ibid)

0—number of credentials or licenses or levels of educational attainment required of teacher at schools eligible to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers (Ibid)

0—number of schools eligible to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers that will be evaluated as part of the state's A-F grading system designed to give more information to parents (Ibid)

23—number of years the Milwaukee school voucher scheme has been in operation, making it the longest running voucher program in the country ("Public Money for Private Schools: Vouchers and Neovouchers," N.C. Justice Center Education and Law Project, April 24, 2013)

41—percentage of students participating in Milwaukee's voucher program proficient in math (Ibid)

50—percentage of students in Milwaukee's traditional public schools proficient in math (Ibid)

57—percentage of students participating in Milwaukee's voucher program proficient in reading (Ibid)

60—percentage of students in Milwaukee's traditional public schools proficient in reading (Ibid)

So now the question: will vouchers help?

Does it serve a clear public purpose to give lower-income families \$4,200-a-year, taxpayer-funded scholarships so their children can attend private or religious schools?

That was one of the main questions the N.C. Supreme Court grappled with as it considered the constitutionality of the state's "Opportunity Scholarship" program.

Earlier this legislative session, dozens of students who received the state-funded scholarships and their parents descended on the Legislative Building to advocate for the program's continuation and expansion. Parents told emotional stories of their kids getting bullied, not challenged or treated poorly by teachers at public schools. The voucher program, they said, has put their kids in better learning environments, and they have flourished.

I'm not a constitutional lawyer and would never pretend to be. But it would be difficult to argue, by anyone who sat through the news conference with those parents and kids, many of whom were African-Americans, that the voucher program doesn't serve a public purpose. It would seem that giving lower-income children a better chance at thriving in school — and their lives — would serve many public purposes.

Last week, not surprisingly, the Republican-controlled Supreme Court deemed the program constitutional in a 4-3, party-line decision. The program was created and continues to be championed mainly by General Assembly Republicans,

One on One

Patrick Gannon,
Capital Press
Association



although it does have some Democratic support.

In the majority opinion, Chief Justice Mark Martin wrote that a previous court case established principles for determining whether an undertaking is for a public purpose. One of the guidelines is that "the activity benefits the public generally, as opposed to special interests or persons." To satisfy that test, it isn't necessary for the scholarship program to be used by every citizen, Martin wrote. (Vouchers are only available to students whose families meet income-based eligibility guidelines.)

"Although the scholarships at issue here are available only to families of modest means, and therefore inure to the benefit of the eligible students in the first instance, and to the designated nonpublic schools in the second, the ultimate beneficiary of providing these children additional educational opportunities is our collective citizenry," Martin wrote.

But in her dissent, Justice Robin Hudson wrote that she didn't believe the voucher program satisfies that part of the test because private schools that receive scholarship money have no required teacher training or credentials and no required curriculum or other means

of measuring whether the education received by students at these schools prepares them to become productive members of society.

"The main constitutional flaw in this program is that it provides no framework at all for evaluating any of the participating schools' contribution to public purposes; such a huge omission is a constitutional black hole into which the entire program should disappear," Hudson wrote.

Her words underscore the need for state monitoring of the students who get the scholarships and the schools they attend, especially as legislators plan to expand the program to more students and by millions of dollars. Other states have more stringent accountability measures.

The Opportunity Scholarship program might be constitutional according to one court, but without accountability, the recertifying isn't worth the paper it's written on.

As Martin noted very early in his opinion: "If constitutional requirements are met, the wisdom of the legislation is a question for the General Assembly."

So, too, is the assurance that the money spent on private schools is doing the trick. Legislative Republicans often say that throwing more money at under-performing public schools isn't the answer to educational woes.

We should all know whether giving that public money to private schools brings about better results.

We welcome your letters

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

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

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

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

We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, as well as those that exceed 300 words. We will not

publish letters that we consider to be in poor taste or libelous. In some cases we may add an editor's note as a postscript when we believe a correction, explanation or amplification is warranted. We may also, at our discretion, limit the number of times an individual writer may submit a letter for publication.

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Look for heading "Send Us Stuff" at
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Meals are free at soup kitchen

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

People who don't have enough to eat can enjoy a free meal five days a week at a local soup kitchen.

Rev. Al Anderson of Deliverance Temple of Christ, who has worked for several years to organize the soup kitchen, said he wants to make sure people un-

derstand that meals at the kitchen are completely free of charge to diners. He's seen some confusion in the community about what a soup kitchen offers to the public, the pastor said.

"I've been running into a lack of understanding," Anderson said.

The Open Door soup kitchen is located at 399 Oakdale Gin Road and serves food from 4-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

After having to change locations due to a last-minute decision by another church, the kitchen opened in its current location in May to serve meals to those who don't have enough to eat.

However, many of the people who could eat at the kitchen seem to have the wrong idea - they think they have to pay for their meals. That's not the case at all, Anderson said. Soup kitchens

get food through donations, then prepare and serve it at no cost to the diners.

The good news is more people are getting involved with the kitchen, the pastor said. He hopes to team up with other churches to help support the kitchen's efforts to feed people in the community.

For more information, call Anderson at (404) 971-7408.

Schools update vaccination policy

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Beginning this year, children starting school and students entering the seventh grade will have to roll up their sleeves for more vaccinations against diseases.

The Hoke County Board of Education passed an update to the county's policy on required vaccinations to bring the policy in line with a requirement by the North Carolina Commission for Public Health.

The commission last year approved new vaccine requirements and changes to existing requirements, so that the vaccination schedule more closely aligns with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. The requirements took effect July 1.

Students who are 12 years old

or entering the seventh grade, whichever comes first, will have to get a dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine. The vaccine is meant to protect against meningococcal meningitis, an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord that causes nausea, vomiting, light sensitivity and an altered mental state, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Beginning August 1, 2020, all students entering the 12th grade or who are 17 years old will have to get a booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

Changes to previous vaccine requirements include that students must get a fourth dose of polio vaccine on or after the child's fourth birthday and before entering school for the first time. They must receive two doses of the varicella vaccine, administered at least 28

days apart, with one required on or after 12 months of age but before the child is 19 months old, and the second required before starting school for the first time.

Students starting seventh grade or turning 12 years old will also have to get a booster shot of the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) combined vaccine known as TDAP if they have not had it before. Children can get the TDAP and MCV vaccines at the same time.

The county school board approved a policy update that gives families a 30-day grace period from the first day a child starts attending school to meet the vaccination requirements. The extra time is meant to help families who may be bringing their child in to school a few days later than the start date, which is something that can happen especially with

migrant and military students moving into the area.

If a principal does not have proof that a child has received the proper vaccinations within 30 days of beginning school, under state and local policy, that child will not be allowed to attend school.

Vaccines against measles, German measles, mumps, Haemophilus influenzae type b and hepatitis B are also among the immunizations children must receive to attend public school.

Parents can only opt out of getting their child the vaccinations for religious reasons or for medical reasons approved by a doctor.

Complete information about the immunizations required in North Carolina for a child to attend public school is available at www.immunize.nc.gov.

Farm business course applications sought

Cape Fear Farm Credit is accepting applications for the seventh e-learning financial and business planning course. The Ag Biz Planner curriculum includes financial and business planning, budgeting and other money matters essential to a farm's success.

The Farm Credit University offers the online program. Par-

ticipants will have the opportunity to interact and benchmark with producers from the other associations throughout the program and network at a conference at the conclusion of the program in Raleigh.

The e-learning program targets young, beginning, small, and minority farmers throughout the

state. Participants will be assigned a Cape Fear Farm Credit loan officer to serve as their mentor throughout the course. Highlights of the program include modules that cover business and personal financial planning, understanding income statements, cash flow, and the smart use of credit on the farm. Each participant will have

completed a business plan for their operation by the conclusion of the class.

Cape Fear Farm Credit will accept up to five participants for the program, which will begin in October 2015 and run through March 2016. Applications, a course outline, and program information are available at capefearfarmcredit.com. Applications will be accepted through September 1, 2015.

Tuition, hotel, speaker fees and meals bring the total cost of this program to approximately \$1500 per participant. Upon acceptance into the program, each participant will be asked to pay \$250. Participants will be refunded \$150 upon successful completion of the 10 modules and presentation of their business plan. The final program cost to those completing the course is \$100.

Paratrooper

(Continued from page 1)

Lt. Col. Matthew Bresko, commander of the 407th Brigade Support Battalion, expressed his condolences in a statement.

"Sgt. Little was a dedicated and professional leader of paratroopers whose presence will be missed throughout the Golden Griffin family. Our most solemn condolences remain with his friends and family as we mourn this tragic loss," he said.

Little joined the U.S. Army in 2005 and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and advanced individual training at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. He served on three combat deployments, one to Iraq from September 2006 to November 2007 and two to Afghanistan,

from October 2010 to October 2011 and July 2013 to March 2014.

The sergeant's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with two oak-leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal (one campaign star), the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (numeral two), the Army Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal and the Parachutist Badge.

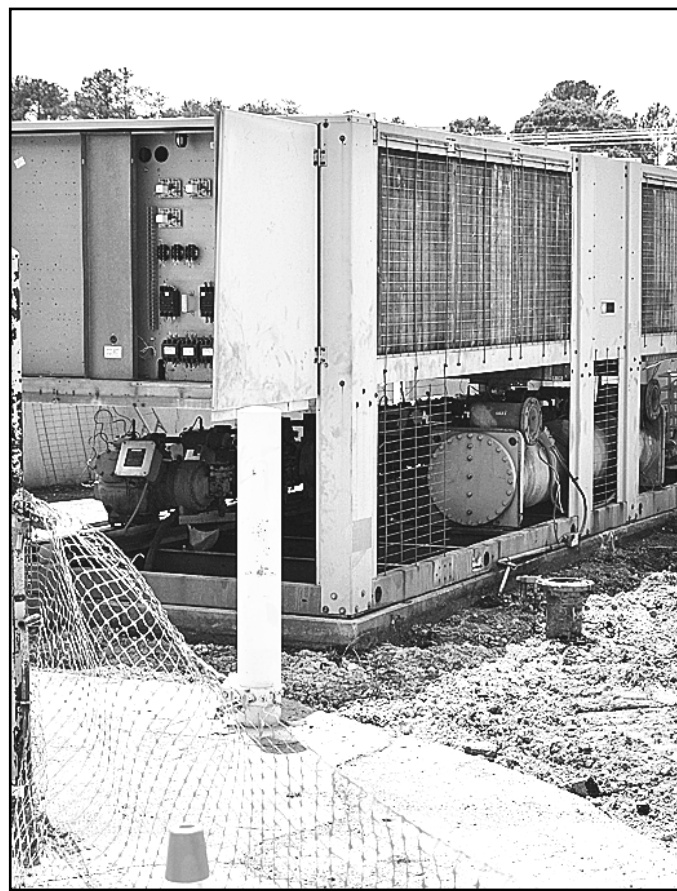
Little loved to fish and spend time with his family, his obitu-

ary said.

He is survived by his wife, Amelia Little of the home; mother and stepfather, Brenda and USMC Ret. GySgt. Sammy Reed of Roanoke Rapids; father, James Donald Little of Hubert; sisters, Michelle Little-Roman and her husband Sgt. Jose Roman of Fort Richardson, Alaska and Angela Little of Sneads Ferry; and brother, Bobby Little of Raeford. He is also survived by his maternal grandparents, Howard and Lois Sutherin of Darlington, Pennsylvania; his mother-in-law, Robin Collier and brother-in-law, Scotty Collier, both of Hubert.

A funeral was set for 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 29 in the chapel of Jones Funeral Home of Swansboro.

Chillers



A chiller that was removed from service this spring.

(Continued from page 1)

chiller; the mechanical contractor has done a very good job and it's been supervised well," he said.

Atlantic Coastal Supply, a local company, is working to replace the water fountains and work on that part of the project is nearly done, the project manager reported. The heating, ventilation and air conditioning controls are going in that will allow the schools to more closely monitor and control interior conditions, and work is also ongoing to improve the "building envelope" that keeps the schools cool in spring and fall and warm in winter.

"What we call the weatherization, the sashes and door bottoms which really keep this HVAC we're providing now into a confined area so we're not blowing it out the doors, and that's working very well. We're 100 percent complete on that," Vrchota said.

Also, Hoke County will be the first school system in the state, and possibly in the nation, to have all of its school buildings fitted with LED lighting, according to Vrchota.

Once the \$6 million project is complete, the school system will save a predicted \$40,000 or more a month on its utility

bills. That will allow the system to pay back the cost of the work and new equipment over the 15-year term of the contract, Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson said.

Other work

Additionally, the school system is using capital outlay money to pay for work at Upchurch Elementary. The system did not receive as much money as officials hoped for to pay for improving the school buildings, school facilities director Charles Tapp said.

"We had to kind of pick and choose and prioritize," he said.

The work at Upchurch Elementary is underway to improve the appearance and function of the school building. The classrooms are getting new sheetrock, new lighting, new brick is being laid out, and the school recently got a new roof.

"We're about halfway through with the classrooms, and the brickwork is about 25 percent," Tapp said.

Work is also ongoing at the high school to move the EC classes to the 400 block of the Gibson side of campus, and to renovate one of the bathrooms for the use of EC students and to make it more easily accessible.

Editorial Deadlines

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

Monday 12 Noon: Letters to the Editor

Worship Together

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Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal
& Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Ken Williams

BAPTIST

Hillcrest Baptist Church
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Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Service 6 p.m.
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SPORTS

Sports Briefs

Southeastern Soccer Academy Camp

The Southeastern Soccer Academy Association will be holding a soccer camp August 3-6, 2015 at Hoke County High School for any kids ages 6-14. The cost is \$40 per camper and includes a camp t-shirt. Lead instructor for the camp is Hoke High Head Coach Colin McDavid. The times will be from 9:00 a.m. until noon each day. To get more information please call Coach McDavid at 910-280-1127 or email him at cmcdavid@hcs.k12.nc.us.

Hoke High Soccer Tryouts

Hoke County High School will hold soccer tryouts beginning August 1 from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. each day of the week. Anyone interested in playing soccer at Hoke High should attend. If you need more info, contact Coach Colin McDavid at 910-280-1127

Hoke High Football Midnight Madness/Parent Meeting

Hoke County High School football team will hold a Midnight Madness football practice this Friday July 31 at midnight,

Raz Autry Stadium and this will kick off the first official practice for the football team. This week the team has been holding pre-season practices and they will have their final pre-season practice at 7:30 p.m. at Raz Autry Stadium Friday night. This is a great opportunity for all Hoke County citizens to come out and support the team and get a look at the 2015 Bucks. There will also be a parent meeting for all football player's parents at 6:00 p.m. The first game of the season will be August 21 at home vs New Hanover High School.

Rockfish Speedway

Rockfish Speedway will get back to action this Saturday night at the track off Lindsay Road in Hoke County. This Saturday's race will be dubbed Miller's Automotive Night and there will be "double points" for both Go Kart Divisions. All other divisions will have normal points. Gates open at 2:00 p.m. and practice starts around 4:00 p.m. and racing action about 5:30 p.m. For more info go to www.rockfishmotorsports.com



Diamond Elite 12U team wins Top Gun championship

The Diamond Elite 12 & under girls' fastpitch softball team won the 14 & under Top Gun Summer Heat Series tournament in Latta, South Carolina last weekend. The team won medals and t-shirts for winning the tournament. The team members are Abby Dover (front row, left to right), Faith Matthews, Courtney Cygan, Summer Powell and Megan Cygan; back row: Coach Jamie Dover, Ina Womack, Kamryn Russell, August Smith, Alyssa Norton, Hailey Pait and Coach David Pait.

Bayonet

Twenty-one teams participated in the Wednesday Shootout last week at Bayonet at Puppy Creek. The team of J.D. Godwin, Carl Casey, Earl Swann and Bob Pearsons and the team of Flint Hamilton, Jose Vigil, Dennis Brewer, Brian Daniels and Andrew Lindsey tied at 8-under. Shootout winners for Friday were Bryan Conner, Jose Vigil, Marcus Dudley, Dennis Brewer and Brian Daniels with an 8-under. Second place went to Flint Hamilton, Dave Monks, Earl Swann, Robert Burrus and Mike Sutton.

"Partners Only" total net scores. The winning team was Connie Lindh and Carole Gaskill with a 144. Second place went to Jo Deluca and Suzanne Allen with a 147. Third place went to Sandi Dally and Barbara Burke with a 150 and fourth went to Marilyn Weishaar and Anneliese Cranston with a 151. On Wednesday, July 22, Candy Glidden aced hole #12. It was her second hole-in-one on that hole in less than a year.

Upland Trace

The Saturday morning group winners were Al Smith, Glen Biggs and Art Dearing. The Saturday "Pack" group winners were Wayne Beasley, Greg Wyrick, Kris Taylor and Steven Jackson. The Sunday morning group winners were Al Smith, Dixie Musselwhite, Steve Jumbelick and Guy Wall.

Deercroft

The Deercroft Ladies' Golf Association held its local tournament July 21. The game was

Just Putting Around



Hoke 10-year-old places 2nd in Drive, Chip and Putt

Emily Loes, a Hoke County 10-year-old, placed second overall in the Drive, Chip and Putt competition at Legends Golf Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The Drive, Chip and Putt competitions are sponsored by the Masters Tournament Foundation, The PGA of America and the United States Golf Association (USGA). Emily finished second in the Chip event and her results make her eligible for the Sub-Regional Qualifier at Ft. Jackson Golf Club in South Carolina in August. The Drive, Chip and Putt is a free nationwide junior skills competition open to boys and girls ages 7-15. Emily is the daughter of Judy and Gary Loes of Raeford.

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The Hoke County Health Department will be celebrating
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Meet & Greet 6:30 p.m.
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 373 Pittman Grove Church Rd • Raeford

Speaker: Dr. Lamont Johnson
 Tickets: Adults \$25 • Youth 16 & Younger \$15
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