

# The News-Journal

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

75¢

No. 52 Vol. 110

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

## Leach says 'FireLeach.com' signs won't work Website targets commissioner, who says he can take 'serious' action



Signs along Old Wire Road in Antioch.

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Signs around the county promoting a website campaigning against County Commission Chairman James Leach are the property of a group called Hoke County Citizens United, according to its president.

John Wilson, a former candi-

date for the local school board, said he created the website [www.fireleach.com](http://www.fireleach.com) on behalf of Hoke Citizens United.

"After hearing for years about how crooked Hoke County politics was, I got tired of sitting around and complaining about it. I'm standing up and I'm spreading the truth," he said in a statement about his

involvement with the organization and website.

The site lists "Top 10 Reasons to Fire James Leach" and includes an endorsement of incumbent Commissioner Bobby Wright and candidate Joseph Alston.

Some of the content on the website references links to newspaper articles and court

documents, while other statements make allegations citing unnamed sources.

Wilson alleged in a statement that some county employees are afraid "due to working in a political environment," and additionally accused Leach of cronyism and racism.

"We are about to stop the (See FIRE LEACH, page 10)

## Early voting begins Thursday

The early voting period for the March primary begins Thursday and will continue through Saturday, March 12.

Early one-stop voting will be held at the commissioners' room at the county building on Main Street, and at the Rockfish Community Center.

The primary election is set for Tuesday, March 15.

Voters will cast ballots in several local and state races, including contests for seats on the county commission, the office of district attorney and the North Carolina State Senate (See VOTING, page 9)

## Hospital's maternity ward delayed

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

As Cape Fear Valley's Hoke hospital approaches its first anniversary, hospital system officials are still working on bringing one part of the facility online.

Part of the hospital was built for the purpose of housing a maternity suite, including an operating room for performing Caesarian sections, a separate entrance just for expectant mothers (See MATERNITY, page 9)



### Getting ready to roll

Jerry McKinnon of Riley Paving spiffs up his dump truck, one of nearly a dozen poised at Main St. and Harris Ave. Tuesday to begin paving work that ultimately will renew N.C. 211 from Raeford to Aberdeen. First, it's patching time on Harris Ave. (Ken MacDonald photo)

### This Week



Stoneybrook marks 65  
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www.raefordnj.com

## Candidate debate follow-up: issues explored

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Four candidates running for the Hoke County Board of Commissioners and two candidates running for the office of 16A District Attorney recently debated each other on topics of local interest, and the debate is available on YouTube for citizens to watch.

About 100 people attended the debate sponsored by the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce and The News-Journal. The public submitted the questions with final selection made by a Chamber of

Commerce Committee, and Sand-Hoke Early College High School speech and debate teacher Marcia Long and team captain James Mitton served as moderators.

Commission incumbents James Leach and Bobby Wright and candidates Lonnie Baldwin and Joe Alston, all Democrats, took part in the debate. Republican candidate William "Brownie" Brown was invited to participate but declined in order to give priority to the candidates facing a primary election. No matter which Democratic commission candidates move forward in the March 15 primary, they will face

Brown in the November General Election.

District Attorney incumbent Kristy Newton faced off against candidate James Allen. Both are Democrats. There are no candi-

dates of other parties running for the position, so the primary election will determine the winner of the DA race.

Both debates are viewable on (See DEBATE, page 9)



Candidates for the Hoke Commission listen as Lonnie Baldwin answers a question. (Ken MacDonald photo)



A fuse box may have sparked this fire last week. (Freddy Johnson photo)



## 3 residents lose house to fire

A late-night fire that destroyed a home last week near Johnson Mill Road was ruled accidental, according to Hoke County emergency officials.

A house at 235 Tidworth Court in the Bridgeport subdivision caught fire shortly before midnight February 23. Authorities believe that a fuse box may have sparked the blaze.

"The accidental fire originated in the garage with ignition from electri-

cal sources within the electrical service panel," according to Maj. Freddy Johnson of the Hoke County Sheriff's Office - Emergency Management Division.

The house sustained "extensive" damage from smoke, heat and water. There were no injuries reported.

The house belongs to Jonathan Taylor of Lubbock, Texas, according to county tax records. Branch Bauch, 26, (See FIRE, page 9)

## News-Journal wins awards

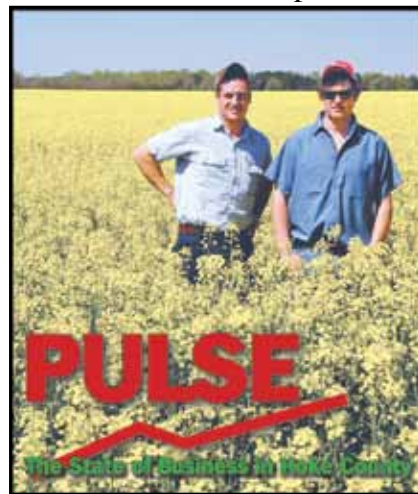
The News-Journal received five awards from the North Carolina Press Association News, Editorial and Photojournalism contest last week, including first place for the annual Pulse business section.

The News-Journal received first place in the community publications Special Section category for the 2015 edition of the Pulse, which focused on agriculture-related companies in the county. The Pulse 2016 edition is included in

today's issue of The News-Journal, and focuses on the Highway 401 corridor's impact on the local economy.

The News-Journal also won first place and second place in

the new NCPA City/County Government Reporting awards category for stories about the county's finances and the firing of former county manager Tim Johnson. Additionally, the newspaper received second place in News (See AWARDS, page 9)



# BROWSING THE FILES



"The queer-looking plastic things looking like double-jointed telephone receivers are earphones and the machine in the center of the table is a record player," reads a caption for this photo. Fifth graders at Raeford Elementary School are listening to a story and reading along. Together with a cassette machine, the cost to the school was several hundred dollars but will be "worth that and more," says Principal J.W. Turlington.

## 47 Years Ago

March 6, 1969

Rep. Neil McFadyen says he expects to introduce a bill that would cause members of the Hoke Board of Education to be elected every two years. McFadyen says he thinks it's in everyone's best interest that the election be partisan. Heretofore, members of the board have been recommended by the representative and appointed by the legislature.

Hoke County Manager T.B. Lester tells commissioners the county needs a sales tax to prevent having to raise property taxes. The state, he says, is working its way out of the welfare system and the slack will fall to counties. The burden to the county would be 80 percent more. Lester proposes a one-cent addition to the 3 percent state sales tax.

A town election will be held May 6 for mayor and all five members of the board. Currently on the board: Mayor H.R. McLean and commissioners Palmer Willcox, J.D. McMillian, John K. McNeill Jr., Frank Teal and Jimmie Sinclair. Kate Covington is named to serve again as registrar and Mrs. T.C. Scarborough and Mrs. Dewey Howell are appointed as judges.

A cablevision company is trying to get set up here to serve Red Springs and Raeford. Town Manager John Gaddy says representatives will meet with the town board March 11.

Sam Morris shares a poem that includes: In thirty-two, times sure were bad/A pot of beans was all I had./My belly shrank and my rear grew flat./That's why today I'm a Democrat.

Ellen Willis is named head of the Homemakers Department of the Hoke County Extension to succeed Josephine Hall. An assistant home agent for three years, she attained the status of home agent a year ago. She was Hoke County 4-H Coordinator. Before joining the extension department, she had taught home economics.

## 25 Years Ago

March 6, 1991

A company known as Thermal-



Raeford Elementary School is the proud owner of new equipment—a cassette player—which will help fifth graders catch up with themselves in reading. Librarian Phyllis Hall (right) and Principal J.W. Turlington give individual help to students in basic reading and phonetics. The child in the rear listens to instruction from a recording and uses her pencil and pad to obey them.



Upchurch School, holding open house March 12, "is composed of more building than some colleges," reads a caption under this photo. Shown is a new drive that circles the building in the rear. Photo is by Maj. William T. Nivens of Raeford and Sumter Air Force Base.

KEM approaches Hoke County for permission to build a hazardous waste incinerator if current plans to build it in Northampton County fall through. It's a moot issue now, says County Manager Barry Reed, but if it fails in Northampton, "We'll have to look at both sides which will be very difficult with such an emotional issue."

Raeford turns 90 on March 14. The Downtown Revitalization Committee headed by Kay Thomas is planning a birthday party at City Hall.

Hoke Sheriff Alex Norton says he won't raise the salary of his chief jailer again. He increased the salary by \$3,500 but it's only half needed to return Jimmy Riley's pay to \$24,720. Norton had demoted Riley from chief deputy and says to pay him his former salary would have him making more than his new chief deputy Wayne Gardner.

Parents can get a video and set of fingerprints made for their children to ease the fear should their child become lost or kidnapped. It's Matthew Warren's Eagle project.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Items should be submitted for the Community Calendar by noon Friday before the publication date. You are asked to keep in mind that paste-up of the calendar page is done on Monday before publication. Also, if an ongoing item has been discontinued or needs to be changed, you are asked to contact the editor as soon as possible.

### March 3, 10, 12 & 17

**FAMILIES ALL READ (F.A.R.)** is a Smart Start program designed to encourage parents to go FAR with reading with their children. Children 0-5, when accompanied by a parent, will receive a free book each time and a special book each 5th visit. A drawing is held for a special book for children and another drawing for parents during each program. March 3, 6:30 p.m. - Dr. Seuss and Me!; March 10, 6:30 p.m. - Hands On Fun With Science & Math; March 12 - 2 p.m. - Imagination Station; March 17, 6:30 p.m. - Easter Parade!

### March 8

**HOKE READING/LITERACY COUNCIL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet at 12:30 p.m. at the Literacy Council, 125 West Elwood Avenue. Anyone interested in becoming a literacy volunteer may contact the Literacy Council at 910-875-2145. The public is invited to attend.

### March 10

The **HOKE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY** will hold its Annual Convention at 6:30 p.m. at Rockfish U-Haul Building, 2950 Lindsay Road, Raeford. You must be a registered Republican to attend this convention. For more information, go to [www.hokegop.com](http://www.hokegop.com).

### March 11, April 8, May 13 & June 10

**AMERICAN RED CROSS FIRST AID/CPR/AED CLASS SCHEDULE** (Adult/Child/Infant) Classes are held from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Classes may be changed/canceled depending on availability of instructor, holiday and inclement weather. To register or for more information, call the Hoke County Health Department at 910-875-3717 ext. 2106.

### March 14

**SEARCH Family Support Program** will be held at the Department of Juvenile Justice in Raeford from noon to 1 p.m. This meet and eat session will give caregivers a chance to learn about the full range of services available to them throughout their community and surrounding areas. Lunch and material are free. To register, contact Shirlyn Smith at 919-906-7103 or toll free 877-776-6599 or by email at [search.family.support.program@gmail.com](mailto:search.family.support.program@gmail.com).

### March 16

The **JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL MEETING** will be held in the JCPC Building at 1 p.m.

### March 23

"Children & Grief" will be held at the Department of Juvenile Justice in Raeford from noon to 1 p.m. Ken Stewart with FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care will discuss the signs and symptoms of grief in children ages 6-18, contributing factors of grief, and resources and options to help children recover from grief. Materials and lunch are free. Registration in advance is required. The registration deadline for this presentation is March 18. To register, contact Shirlyn Smith at 919-906-7103 or toll free 877-776-6599 or by email at [search.family.support.program@gmail.com](mailto:search.family.support.program@gmail.com). **NOTICE: In order to keep our Calendar up-to-date, we are adding an expiration date to the following announcements. If you would like the event to continue in our calendar after the expiration date, please call (875-2121), fax (875-7256) or email ([robin@thenews-journal.com](mailto:robin@thenews-journal.com)) requesting this at least a week before its expiration.**

### Others

**FRESH START RECOVERY GROUP** holds weekly meetings. Monday, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8-9 p.m. at 334 N. Main St.; Tuesdays and Fridays from 8-9 p.m. at 399 Oakdale Gin Road; Wednesdays from noon - 1 p.m. at 399 Oakdale-Gin Road. 24-hour NA hotline number is 866-418-9500. (expires June 2016)

A **CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP** meets the last Tuesday of each month at Pittman Grove Baptist Church. The meetings are from 5:30 - 7 p.m. (expires July 2016)

**MAGGIE'S OUTREACH COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER (MOCEDC)** is looking for Mentors over the age of 21 to be a mentor to our Youth. We are looking for mentors to help change the lives of our At-Risk Youth (boys and girls) in the community. You must be able to pass a background check and be willing to commit to making a difference. If you are interested in learning more about the opportunities in mentorship, contact our office at (910) 875-6623 or [mbdevelcenter@mocedc.org](mailto:mbdevelcenter@mocedc.org). (expires June 2016)



## SPECIAL WORSHIP EVENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>First Baptist Church</b><br>Lenten Lunches with guest speaker (\$7.50)<br>Wednesdays until March 23, noon | Rainbow Tea<br>March 12, 6 p.m.   |
| <b>Word of Life Temple, Inc.</b><br>Youth Night/Bible Explosion<br>March 2, 9 & 23, 6 p.m.                   | <b>Raeford United Methodist Church</b><br>Barbecue Plate Sale<br>March 18, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. |

**BARBECUE PLATE SALE**  
Friday, March 18th  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Dine in or Carry out  
\$8 donation  
**Raeford United Methodist Church**  
308 N. Main St.  
\*proceeds go to the Open Access Fund

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**Five Brothers**  
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Come hear the nationally acclaimed Gospel group in their first performance in this area.  
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Deadline for advertising is March 18. Ads will be in The News-Journal March 23. Contact Hal Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 119 W. Elwood Ave., Raeford, NC or call (910) 875-2121

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2011 Chrysler 200 Touring P26138	\$8,900
2014 Chevy Cruze Diesel P26138	\$15,959
2014 Chevy Traverse LT P26487	\$26,719
2014 Dodge Charger P26406	\$17,689
2013 Cadillac Escalade P26321	\$41,900
2013 Chevy Impala P26249	\$10,999
2013 Malibu LS P26399	\$13,899
2013 Chevy Silverado C1500 P26174	\$18,849
2013 Chevy Sonic Hatchback P26384	\$9,789
2013 Chevy Tahoe LT B5043A	\$31,969
2013 Chevy Traversen LS P26477	\$19,949
2013 GMC Sierra C1500 P26423	\$20,500
2013 GMC Sierra C1500 DE P26491	\$27,949
2013 GMC Sierra K1500 G5295A	\$29,900
2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee P26403	\$22,749
2013 Lincoln MKX P26060A	\$32,000
2012 Buick Enclave P26427	\$26,719
2012 Buick Lacrosse P26204	\$20,489
2012 Buick Lacrosse P26466	\$15,939
2012 Buick Regal P26400	\$16,499
2012 Cadillac CTS P26343	\$19,000
2012 Cadillac SRX P26424	\$23,459
2015 Chevy Equinox LS P26475	\$18,889
2012 Chevy Camaro LT P26425	\$15,995
2012 Chevy Silverado C1500 G5333A	\$25,500
2012 GMC Yukon SLT G6093A	\$31,500
2014 GMC Terrain SLT P26328A	\$22,997
2009 Chevy Silverado C1500 P26430A	\$14,900
2008 Chevy HHR LT P26369A	\$6,500
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Call David Hendrix  
A Hoke County Native  
**(910) 843-2141**  
[davidhendrix1997@gmail.com](mailto:davidhendrix1997@gmail.com)

# VIEWPOINTS

## Services tax goes after the poor

By THOMAS MILLS  
Politics N.C.

Tuesday, North Carolina instituted its tax hike on the lower middle class. The Republicans in the legislature decided that we need to tax services to fix things like flat tires and plumbing problems. They say these taxes are fairer than the income taxes because everyone shares the burden equally. But that's not true. Everyone may have to pay them, but the burden is far greater on a household making \$25,000 a year than it is on a family making \$250,000 a year.

The taxes were really implemented to offset the massive tax cuts the GOP gave to the rich and corporations. By flattening the income tax, the GOP says they made it fairer. While everybody may now pay the same percentage of income tax, they reduced

the amount families making over \$250,000 pay by thousands of dollars a year. They lowered the taxes for families making the median income by a hundred dollars a year or less. The sales tax increase will offset most, if not all, of the income tax cut for working families. It will barely affect the tax cut given to rich people.

North Carolina needed tax reform and some of that reform needed to include broadening the tax base through some sort of expanded sales tax. The legislature could have pushed taxes on services that are disproportionately used by wealthy people and big businesses. They didn't. Instead, they pushed for sales taxes that would hit the pockets of the poor and lower middle classes hardest, the same people who were hurt most by the Great Recession.

Initially, Pat McCrory de-

manded that the tax reform be revenue neutral. Like a lot of things, though, McCrory got steamrolled by the legislature and supported tax reform that dramatically reduced funding for schools, universities and other programs that benefit the middle class. McCrory, of course, tried to change the definition of revenue neutral rather than admit that he opposed the legislature.

Right now, the middle class in this country needs a break. They need more money in their pockets and they need hope for the future.

However, the way the GOP sees it, the middle class needs to learn to live within their diminishing means and quit asking for corporations and rich people to subsidize their lifestyles. Nothing exemplifies this attitude more than Republican tax reform in North Carolina.

## Session may be short, but will be important

As I write this, only 56 days remain until the 2016 legislative session begins on April 25.

Gulp. By then, the state House and Senate primaries will be in the rear view mirror, and legislators with general election opponents will be busy campaigning.

So you'd expect the short legislative session to be just that — short — so incumbents can get back to their districts and focus on re-election bids. There's also still that hangover from last year's marathon lawmaking period, which stretched from January until late September.

But these facts don't mean that this year's session won't be packed with important and controversial issues. It is an election year after all. And it also will be the final session for powerful and longtime legislators, including Sen. Tom Apodaca of Hendersonville and Sen. Bob Rucho of Matthews in the Senate and Rep. Paul "Skip" Stam in the House. They aren't running for re-election, and my guess is they won't want to go out quietly.

I asked House Speaker Tim Moore of Kings Mountain last week to name the top five issues he believed would be tackled this year. Here's what he told me:

The state budget. The most important duty of the General Assembly in even-numbered years is to adjust the two-year state budget to account for fluctuations in

### One on One

Patrick Gannon,  
Capitol Press  
Association



revenue and other changes during the past year. And because this is an election year for all state lawmakers, as well as Gov. Pat McCrory, don't be surprised to see some significant budget changes.

Pay raises. Moore and others have said they plan to give raises to teachers and state employees this year, but the question is how much money will be available for that, given tax cuts in recent years. Also, legislators disagree on whether across-the-board raises should be given or whether the available money should be divided among employees based on performance.

Tax changes. This also depends on how much tax revenue is coming into the state, but don't be surprised to see tax cuts this year. Moore and other legislators are talking frequently about raising the standard deduction, the amount of income up to which state residents don't pay any income taxes. It's currently at \$15,000, increasing to \$15,500 for the 2016 tax year. The standard deduction could be further increased, which would be good for low-income folks.

But don't forget that new sales taxes just went into effect

on services that weren't previously taxed, including car and shoe repairs, oil changes and floorings, appliance and tombstone installations. It's unclear whether additional services will be added to that list this year, as the Republican-led General Assembly continues its shift to taxing more services, while lowering corporate and personal income tax rates.

Economic development. The 2015 session brought major changes to the state's efforts to lure new companies and retain existing ones. Moore said he expects proposals to emerge to continue to help recruit new companies, with a focus on bringing more prosperity to rural areas. These debates are always contentious, especially among different factions inside the Republican Party, which controls the General Assembly.

Wild card. Moore said he anticipates an issue will come up between now and April 25 that isn't on anyone's radar screen right now, like coal ash a couple of years ago.

If a special session isn't called to respond to the recent transgender bathroom decision of the Charlotte City Council, that is likely to be one of those.

We'll see what else comes up in the next two months.

Patrick Gannon is editor of the Insider State Government News Service in Raleigh. Reach him at pgannon@ncinsider.com.

## Ended up in Carnaval celebration parade

Steve and Krista Duncan recently invited us to join them for a week in Cozumel, Mexico. By coincidence, we would be there at the time of their annual Carnaval, a celebration that is held in many places in Mexico as well as Brazil and is known as Mardi Gras in New Orleans. It runs for over a week and ends on Fat Tuesday, this year on February 9.

Cozumel is a small island 30 miles long and 10 miles wide located 50 miles south of Cancun and 12 miles east of Playa del Carmen on the Yucatan Peninsula. Although I have been in this area several times, it always amazes me when I look at it on the map. When flying down, we expected to set our watches to Central time, but this was not necessary. Folks from Arkansas were in disbelief that they had to set their watches ahead to Eastern time. The map reveals that Cozumel is almost due south of Pensacola, Florida and is only a few miles from Cuba. We also had several debates on what water bodies surround the island. I suggested that it was the Gulf of Mexico, but it is actually in the Caribbean. Geography can fool you.

As we arrived at the condo situated on the beach at the south end of San Miguel, the island's largest city, we immediately saw evidence of Carnaval. There was to be a parade our first night there and groups of costumed people were everywhere. Across the street from our building was Carnaval central, where a huge tent of approximately an acre was erected. From this tent and



Frog Holler  
Philosopher  
Ron Huff

various locations throughout town came a constant barrage of loud music. San Miguel is situated on the west side of the island overlooking the mainland and has a long waterfront street where huge cruise ships constantly move in and out, allowing their passengers to disembark for a few hours of shopping, diving and other tourist activities. Tourism is the only significant economic activity on the island.

On our first night, we headed downtown for dinner and took a good viewing spot next to the parade route. We were in Carnaval mode when the parade reached us. I was mesmerized by the scope of it, with elaborate costumes and floats filled with those who were lucky enough to be able to take part in the parade. As the parade went on, we were amazed at how many floats and elaborately costumed people there were.

It had been a long day and we were more than a mile from our condo, so we reluctantly left the restaurant and headed home against the grain of the parade. Suddenly, we were right in the middle of it, bucking the tide of partiers who were both following the parade and filling up the sidewalks to view it. It was a marvelous stew of humanity. Many onlookers were costumed themselves. This was

their annual chance to let it all hang out. They did!

I have never been to Mardi Gras, but this was about as close as I need to get at my age. Surprisingly, the crowd, though rowdy, was polite and we saw no instances of bad behavior with the possible exception of our own. Tired from our long day of travel and vacationing, we got into bed around 10. We were on the ground floor with every float and band passing right by and each competing to be the loudest. It was around 4 a.m. before the thunderous thumping from the tent across the street finally stopped.

The next three days saw more activity leading up to the final big parade on Fat Tuesday. The parade route was soon full of locals, some of whom had brought out comfortable furniture and set it along the parade route. The restaurants had hundreds of reserved tables on the street. It was like Christmas for the kids with a real family atmosphere. The final parade began as we settled outside on the street to watch. After five hours of reveling, Steve and I crossed the street and went into the big tent where thousands had gathered to see a spectacular show band. We were the only gringos in a sea of Mexicans.

The ear damaging music finally forced us out of there and, around 1 a.m., the thumping finally ended! Carnaval was over, leaving the streets littered with trash and memories. The next morning the trash had disappeared!

More later.



## We Get Letters

### Tony, excuse yourself from 'any intercourse'

To the Editor: "ETTU BRUTUS" "Let the game begin."

Yes! Yes! Yes! The spirit of it all within the Hoke County Democrat Party, a spitting image of its parentage blossom in The News-Journal of February 26. Wow, Democrat County Commissioner assumes duties at Hoke County Public School—conflict of interest! Hoke County Democrat Party chairman labeling our hometown state senator a traitor to the cause and, as I interpreted it, like calling our elected senator an "Uncle Tom." Topping it off, an eligible registered voter has the right to question someone's eligibility to conduct a political campaign for office, a challenge is raised pitting

one Democrat against another. You would think the new redistricting map was being discussed. Not to mention keeping mute in the background are two registered Democrats seeking re-election to the Board of Education. Love it! Ole time politics at its best!

Where to begin?

Mr. Commissioner, I will assume that when you are reviewing issues about education or budgets, especially the school board budget or bond issue or others, you will EXCUSE yourself from any intercourse of the nature presented. Otherwise, Tony, I have no qualms with your qualifications for the position now holding at the school and wish you well. I see our super-

intendent received an outstanding award without question but our senator, who received praises and gratitude among his peers, is slam dunked by our local DNC. Jim, everyone elected you sheriff, now what gives? Democrats always complain that there is no across the aisle partisanship but, when it does take place, wham-o, you call him a traitor to the party. Ben, keep up representing all of us. Dr. Aziz, welcome to the world of Democrat politics. Your party moniker is "smear." Find a home and stay there 365 days. Narcissism, despotism, school board candidates, get to you later.

John Harry Shannon

### If you're running for prestige, please sit down

To the Editor:

A note to those running for office:

1. Don't spend time trying to expose and discredit your opponents.

2. Let us hear what you plan to do to make things better.

3. If you are running for prestige, popularity and to push your agenda, please go sit down somewhere.

4. If you are easily manipulated and controlled, you won't be able to help make effective changes!

Shakera Graham  
Now Generation Radio

### TODAY'S HOMEWORK (Notes on Education)

"Nothing enrages me more than when people criticize my criticism of school by telling me that schools are not just places to learn maths and spelling, they are places where children learn a vaguely defined thing called socialization. I know. I think schools generally do an effective and terribly damaging job of teaching children to be infantile, dependent, intellectually dishonest, passive and disrespectful to their own developmental capacities."

— Seymour Papert

"What about Socialization?"

As it turns out, the regular school day is mostly about discouraging socialization. Get the kids to sit still and be quiet so they can learn, except in widely spaced controlled group activities. Most of the fun happens in extracurricular activities, which you can still join, or in plain old free play, which you can do any time."

— Mr. Money Mustache, a popular blogger on financial issues

"Somewhere along the line we've forgotten that education is not about getting this or that score on a test, but it is about enlarging hearts, minds, and spirits. It's about fulfilling human potential and unleashing human creativity. It's about helping children understand that the world is a place full of wonder, truly wonder-full. It's about giving children the tools they will need to participate in a complex global world where we can't imagine today what the next twenty years, let alone century, will bring."

— Susan Zimmerman, in "Comprehension Going Forward"

## The News-Journal

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A previous running of the Stoneybrook Steeplechase.

# Stoneybrook marks 65 years in April

The 65th Annual Stoneybrook Steeplechase will take place at the Carolina Horse Park Saturday, April 9. The all-day event is famous for horse racing, outdoor partying and family activities. General admission is \$25 in advance and reserved tailgate parking starts at \$110.

A showcase for both national horse racing talent and "people watching," Stoneybrook is one of the cornerstone events at the Carolina Horse Park. The 65th running of the event will feature the best horses and jockeys from around the nation vying for over \$80,000 in purse money. Popularity of the event has exploded in recent years, according to Race Director, Toby Edwards. "We are expecting around 10,000

guests this year. That's about double the attendance we had five years ago," he said. Steeplechase fans may start the day with the Steeplechase Warriors 5K race, enjoy a Bloody Mary and gourmet lunch in the VIP Turf Club, enter the hat contest with a sky-high bedecked race hat, and cheer for their favorite mount during five exciting afternoon races, perhaps from the berth of their truck bed in the coveted infield tailgating area.

New this year is the addition of the Family Friendly tailgate rows K&L. Located on the backstretch, across from the White Ribbon Hospitality tent area, this area is designated as alcohol free. The Kids Zone will also be relocated to the north end of the infield, adjacent to the new rows.

Making a comeback this year is a morning 5K Race, which winds through the open country of the Park and will be open to all ages. The race will benefit Hearts 4 Heroes, Team RWB, and Operation Enduring Warrior. All three organizations are dedicated to serving the needs of veterans.

"Stoneybrook always promises a great day in the country for families, young people, and veteran horse racing enthusiasts alike," says Marshall Glass, a longtime member of the Stoneybrook Organizing Committee. To learn more about the event, visit [www.stoneybrooksteeplechase.com](http://www.stoneybrooksteeplechase.com). Tickets may be purchased by visiting [www.stoneybrooksteeplechase.com](http://www.stoneybrooksteeplechase.com) or by calling 800-514-3849.

## Police Blotter

Raeford Police reported the following recent incidents:

### February 15

Possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, carrying a concealed gun, driving left of center, 100 block of North Stewart Street, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged Angela Renee Steffens, 30, of the 400 block of McDougald Drive and Jessica Lynn Wright, 18, of the 400 block of McDougald Drive.

Fraud - unauthorized use of a financial card, 100 block of Main Street, victim Inez Black Craigmiles

Attempt to obtain a controlled substance by fraud or forgery, 200 block of Cole Avenue, victim CVS Pharmacy

Failing to stop at stop sign, driving while license revoked, resisting a public officer, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana less than one ounce, possession with intent to sell or deliver crack cocaine, North Main Street/Cumberland Avenue, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged Robert Durant Blue Jr., 34, of the 100 block of Huckabee Street.

### February 16

Larceny, 1200 block of North Fulton Street, victim Antonio McKoy

Larceny, 200 block of South Main Street, victim Bo's Food Store

### February 17

Larceny, 300 block of West Eighth Avenue, victims State of North Carolina and Jessica Chey-

enne Storm Covington

### February 18

Damage to property, 100 block of Fayetteville Road, victim Jarrett D. Black

### February 19

Fraud - obtaining money/property by false pretenses, 1000 block of North Fulton Street, victim Yvonne Frame

Possession of open container, driving while license revoked, passing in a no-passing zone, stop sign violation, driving while intoxicated (alcohol), East Fifth Avenue/Forest Street, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged Lakeisha Hope, 31, of the 2300 block of Haire Road.

### February 20

Possession of open container, driving while license revoked, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, simple possession of Schedule II substance, possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, failing to burn a registration light, East Central Avenue/Azalea Street, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged Kendrick Leverne Morrisey, 38, of the 100 block of Wood End Lane.

Possession of a handgun by a minor, carrying a concealed gun, East Prospect Avenue/Saunders Street, victim State of North Carolina

Discharging a firearm inside the city limits of Raeford, 100 block of Yadkin Trail, victim City of Raeford

Driving while impaired, 700 block of Laurinburg Road, victim State of North Carolina

### February 22

Injury to real property, breaking and entering, 100 block of North Magnolia Street, victim David Joseph Dombkowski

### February 24

Breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, 100 block of Abbey Lane, victim Claudia Corinna Bragg

Obtaining property by false pretenses, victim Olivia Mazuka

### February 25

Possession of stolen goods, larceny (shoplifting), 100 block of Fayetteville Road, victim Dollar General

Trespassing agreement, 100 block of Yadkin Trail

Possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of cocaine, North Jackson Street/East Fifth Avenue, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged Stephanie Nicole Collins, 28, of the 300 block of South Main Street in Raeford.

### February 27

Driving left of center, driving while intoxicated, Fayetteville Road/Turnpike Road, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged Maurice Kwame Dockery, 26, of the 1900 block of John Russell Road.

Simple assault, criminal damage to property, 900 block of Johnson Street, victim Tamara C. Johnson

Damage to property, 400 block of Palmer Green, victim Terrance Lamar Smith

### February 28

Injury to personal property, 300 block of West Eighth Avenue, victim Jessica Cheyenne Storm Covington

## Obituaries



Elbert R. Randleman

**Elbert R. Randleman**  
Elbert R. Randleman passed away Friday, February 19, 2016 at the age of 68.

Survivors include two daughters, Charlene Bounds (David) of Atlanta, Georgia, and Kristie of Shannon; a son, Daryl Randleman of Red Springs; six grandchildren, Jeveris McArn

of Raeford, Latrisha McArn of Atlanta, Daryl Randleman Jr. and Shania Randleman, both of Red Springs, and Brandon McRae and Harlei Maynor, both of Shannon; and a great-granddaughter, Kylie of Savannah, Georgia.

No services are planned.

## Hoke Republicans set convention

The Hoke County Republican Party will hold its annual county convention March 10 at the Rockfish U-Haul Building Meeting Room at 2950 Lindsay Road, Raeford. Registration with Meet and Greet will begin

at 6:30 p.m. and the convention starts at 7 p.m. The local party will hold precinct meetings just before the start of the convention. This convention is for registered Republicans only per N.C. Republican Party Plan

of Organization rules. A guest speaker is scheduled and local Republican candidates will speak during the event. Light food and refreshments will be available. For more information, visit [www.hokegop.com](http://www.hokegop.com).

## Florist fire cause still unknown

Officials are still looking into what caused the fire at a local florist's shop that severely damaged the interior of the store and caused smoke damage to surrounding offices.

The Daisy Patch florist shop in Hillcrest Plaza on Highway 401 Business caught fire in the early morning hours of February 8, ac-

ording to authorities. Firefighters were able to put out the fire, but it caused extensive damage to the Daisy Patch. Surrounding storefronts in the same building suffered from smoke and water damage.

Authorities have not determined how the fire started, according to Maj. Freddy Johnson of the Hoke County Sheriff's

Office Emergency Management Division.

"The fire is under investigation and it's an ongoing investigation," he said.

Cleaning crews were working in the other spaces in Hillcrest Plaza as of Monday morning to repair the smoke and water damage.

## Soup kitchen opens new location, holds fundraiser

The Open Door Soup Kitchen is extending its reach in the community to include the Robbins Heights area of Raeford, and will also hold a basketball tournament this month to raise money.

The soup kitchen will soon begin serving free meals at the Mini-Mart located at 503 East Seventh Avenue.

Open Door Soup Kitchen already provides free meals at its primary dining room on Oakdale Gin Road, and will continue to do so, but Rev. Al Anderson said organizers hope to help more people by opening up a second location.

The Mini-Mart owners were

kind enough to allow Open Door Soup Kitchen to use their space to give away food at mealtimes, Anderson said.

"They're going to allow us space in there to serve the public," he said.

The soup kitchen will hold a special opening ceremony at the new location at 3 p.m. March 14. The location is in the same neighborhood that the late Martha Beatty worked to improve, and is near the Robbins Heights park dedicated to her.

The grand opening is free and open to the public.

Additionally, the Open Door Soup Kitchen will hold

a March Mayhem basketball tournament to raise money. The event is set for March 12 at Martha Beatty Park in Robin Heights. Trophies will be given to the first and second place winners. The entry fee is \$7 per player and registration ends March 4. The event will be held from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The rain date is March 26.

For more information, call 404-971-7408, 863-512-0273 or 910-703-4064.

Organizers ask that participants and attendees bring a canned food item to donate to the soup kitchen at the basketball tournament.

## Cape Fear restricts children's visits due to flu

Cape Fear Valley Health will implement a visitor restriction policy at all of its hospitals restricting children under age 12 from visiting the hospital at this time.

The policy went into effect Tuesday, March 1. It is designed to minimize the spread of flu and other flu-like diseases at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Highsmith-Rainey Specialty Hospital, Cape Fear Valley Rehabilitation Center, Behavioral Health Care, Hoke Hospital and Bladen County Hospital, as well as Harnett Health's two hospitals: Betsy Johnson Hospital and Central Harnett Hospital.

Cape Fear Valley Medical

Center's Emergency Department will also limit visitors while the policy is in place.

People experiencing flu-like symptoms, such as fever, cough, sore throat and runny nose, are urged not to visit friends and

family at the hospitals. Instead, they should stay home and call their primary care physician for treatment guidance.

Cape Fear Valley Health will revisit the visitation policy when flu numbers decrease.

# The News-Journal

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### Hoke County 2016 Curriculum Fair

Macdonald Gym Thursday, March 10, 6pm-8pm

**What:** Information and displays from every curriculum area at HCHS

**Who:** All parents and students who are currently in grades eight- eleven

**Why:** To prepare for course registration for the 2016-2017 school year

**When and Where:** MacDonal Gym March 10, 6pm-8pm

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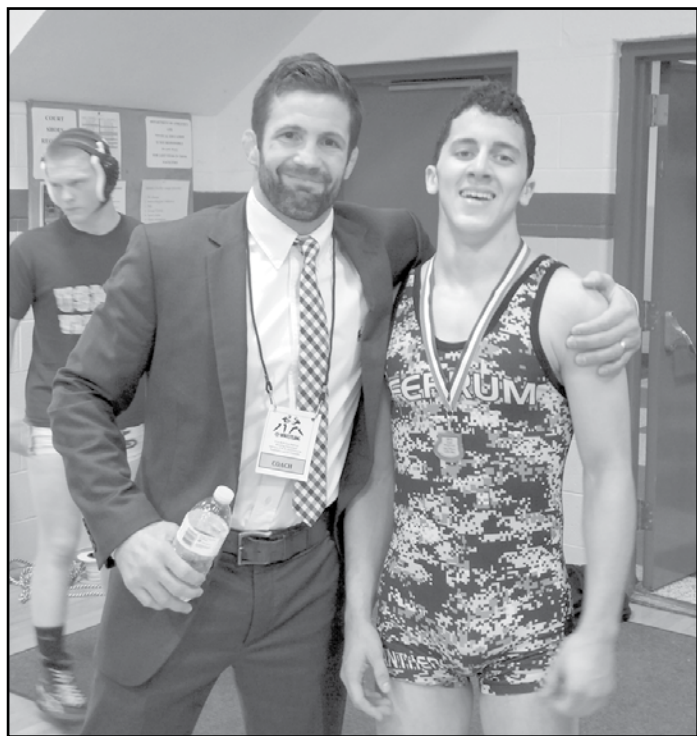
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# SPORTS

## Former Buck wins conference and east regional



Bailey Cooper (right) stands with Coach Nate Yetzer of Ferrum College, which Cooper attends, after his conference win



Former Buck wrestler Bailey Cooper won the Southeast Wrestling Conference Championship at 125 lbs. and placed fifth in the NCAA D-3 East regional.

### Fighting Bucks Sports Schedule

**Wednesday, March 2**  
 JV Baseball at St. Pauls 4:00 p.m.  
 Varsity Baseball at St. Pauls 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, March 3**  
 Boys Varsity Tennis, home vs Jack Britt 4:00 p.m.  
 Girls Varsity Softball home vs Douglas Byrd 5:00 p.m.  
 Girls JV Soccer at Union Pines 5:15 p.m.  
 Girls Varsity Soccer at Union Pines 7:00 p.m.

**Friday March 4**  
 Girls Varsity Softball at Jack Britt 4:00 p.m.  
 Girls JV Soccer home vs Jack Britt 5:15 p.m.  
 Girls JV Softball at Jack Britt 6:00 p.m.  
 Girls Varsity Soccer home vs. Jack Britt 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday March 5**  
 Boys JV Baseball home vs South View 11:00 a.m.  
 Boys Varsity Baseball home vs South View 2:00 p.m.

**Monday March 7**  
 Boys Varsity Tennis at Jack Britt 4:00 p.m.  
 Girls JV Soccer at Pine Forest 5:15 p.m.  
 Girls Varsity Soccer home vs Jack Britt 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday March 8**  
 Winter Athletic Banquet 6:30 p.m.



### Bucks lose 2nd round state playoffs

In game one last week, the Hoke County High School Bucks easily handled Ragsdale, winning 78-53 in the first round. Shown here, #11 D'Coda Cummings of Hoke High defends #10 Brian Free of Ragsdale in the second half.



#10 Wesley Baldwin (left) of Hoke County guards #10 Jalen Knight of West Charlotte in the Bucks 54-51 second round state playoffs loss to the Lions.



#24 Silas Love (left) of Hoke County battled hard all game against #24 Isayah Johnson of West Charlotte. The Lions lost the third round game to Charlotte Catholic 66-38.



Hoke County High Head Coach Quame Patterson sends in signals from the sidelines against Ragsdale last week. The Bucks were 19-8 overall and 7-3 in conference play and made it to the second round of the state playoffs.



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