The News-Journal

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Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

County hires Edens as manager No contract, no salary set, board puts off details for later

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners voted four to one Monday night to hire Interim County Manager Letitia Edens to fill the manager's position full-time.

The county board chose not to advertise the job opening or interview other candidates, and voted to hire Edens without having a contract in place. The motion to hire her included a requirement that Edens, Chairman James Leach and County Attorney Grady Hunt meet later to negotiate her contract, which will be brought before the board for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Information about the new county manager's salary and other terms of employment won't be available until a contract is finalized. Leach mentioned offering \$10,000 in moving expenses for Edens to move into Hoke County, which is the same amount offered to former County Manager

Tim Johnson when he first took the job, officials said.

Commissioner Harry Southerland said he believed in Edens' competence and capabilities and felt that she would be an excellent county manager.

"I know there may be some concern about going out and possibly doing some interviewing and looking at other candidates, but she's been doing the job for the last seven months and, prior to that, she was on the job six months prior to this in the

(assistant) county manager's role, plus her years of service in county government," he said. "I don't necessarily see that there's a need to go out and maybe do some interviews when I think that we've got someone that's in-house that's doing an excellent job, and I'd like to see her be promoted to county manager, and I'm willing to put that in the form of a motion if I have to tonight."

Commissioner Bobby Wright suggested having something in writing before hiring (See MANAGER, page 6)





Left: Hoke sheriff's deputies attend to victims (Ken MacDonald photo). Above, a truck burns after its driver escapes. (Sherry Sanders photo)

Vreck on N.C. 211 kills 3 in Lumberton family

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

A former Robeson County commissioner and his wife and son were killed Monday in a wreck with an allegedly impaired driver on N.C. 211 near Shiloh Presbyterian Church.

wife Joyce Wellington, 69, and son James Douglas Wellington, 55, all of Lumberton, were killed in the head-on crash that happened around noon about five miles outside of Raeford, according to the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. Joyce Wellington's sister, 55-year-old Gail Prescott, survived the crash and at last report was in stable condition at FirstHealth Moore

Regional Hospital.

Authorities suspect that the driver faulted with the wreck, 31-year-old Matthew Allen English of Pinehurst, was driving under the influence. English survived are pending," North Carolina Highway

in the Wellingtons' deaths, according to officials.

"During the process of talking with the assistant (district attorney), further charges

John "Tommy" Wellington, 84, his

the wreck and was arrested on charges of driving under the influence, careless and reckless driving and driving left of center. He will likely also face criminal charges

Patrol Troop H spokesperson Trooper John Burgin said.

Sherry Sanders of Raeford was driving (See FATALITIES, page 6)

This Week



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BY CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

Funding for a local program meant to help juvenile offenders is in question after some county leaders reportedly received complaints from citizens upset over a friends-only Facebook post an organizer made after she resigned from her position for unrelated reasons.

Suzanne Maness, founder and executive director of Called Into Action, was working on securing funding that would support the Teen Court program. The nonprofit Called Into Action, which Maness started three years ago, works with at-risk youth and young people seeking volunteer opportunities. The Teen Court program offers alternatives for young offenders who have committed a misdemeanor offense for the first time.

Maness said she resigned from Called Into Action last week because of the struggles of getting funding and due to a lack of support from volunteers and the community.

"I felt there was a lack of support from the board and the community," she said.

The organization had been promised funding from the state, but it was contingent on matching funding from a local source. Maness tried to get on the Hoke County Board of Commissioners' agenda to seek the county's help in getting the matching funding to pay for the programs, after the city of Raeford declined to provide the ap-

I am tired of black lives matter activists and the NAACP and all the other black organizations trying to take over. Why does it have to be about race ALL the time? What happen to compassion for all people and to love your neighbor? These organizations just want to cause division between the races instead of solve racial issues

Screen shot of Facebook post that Commissioner Allen Thomas says prompted citizen complaints.

proximately \$10,000 in matching funds. However, she was taken off the first meeting in August after Commission Chairman James Leach said he wanted to get some more information, Maness said. She was on the agenda for the meeting (See FACEBOOK POST, page 7)

Walking track light repair due

Back by popular demand—lighting at the McLauchlin Park walking track.

The City of Raeford's Duke Energy account representative, David McNeill, told city officials that repair to the underground power lines is scheduled for Elementary School. Saturday, August 22.

Based on information from Public Works Director Travis Sutherland, the initial delay was caused by a discrepancy in the light pole numbering scheme.

The track is located behind McLauchlin

Office flood forces out Hoke Farm Services

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

Concern over water damage from a plumbing problem has forced the local branch of the Farm

Services Agency to temporarily move to Cumberland County.

As of August 14, people seeking services from the FSA will have to go to the (See FSA, page 7)





August 19, 2015

Students receive missionary union scholarships

By CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

Recent high school graduates including a firefighter, a media specialist and a student attending the Citadel Military College of South Carolina received scholarships last week from the Hoke County Missionary Union.

The missionary union held its 14th annual scholarship award banquet Friday night at the Matthew Rouse Community Resource Center. The banquet honors the students and helps raise money to support the scholarship fund.

The 10 honorees this year were a diverse group with goals ranging from becoming entrepreneurs and owning their own businesses to pursuing careers in healthcare and animation.

Yulla Hines, president of the missionary union, offered some words of wisdom for the young people gathered at the banquet, many of whom will be leaving home soon.

"Keep God first in your life, pray and come home sometimes," she said.

Rev. Dr. LaMont Johnson Sr. was the guest speaker for the evening. Johnson is a member of Greater Galilee Baptist Church of Charlotte, director of music for the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, a former officer for the Pee Dee Educational Missionary Baptist Association, the vice president at-large for the Music Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention and has degrees in religion, ministry and theology from schools including Shaw University School of Divinity, Drew University School of Theology and Virginia Union University. He was ordained at the age of 19 by the New Hope Association of North-Central New Jersey, where he was born and raised.

The 10 awardees included Brittany Anderson, who received the first-time presentation of the White Oak School scholarship. Anderson plans to attend Fayetteville State University this fall.

Shalonda Branch, the daughter of Brian and Georgeanna Branch, is a member of Buffalo Springs Missionary Baptist Church. She is a 2015 Hoke High graduate and will attend the University of North Carolina at Greensboro this fall. While a student, Branch volunteered with Food Services and served as a babysitter and tutor at a local daycare. She was a member of the drama club and participated in talent contests. She is active in her church, where she serves as a member of the Youth Ministry, Women's Ministry, Choir Minis-



This year's class of Hoke County Missionary Union scholarship recipients included a student at the Citadel, a volunteer fighter fighter and several musicians.

Clyde and Margie McNeill, is a

he enjoys playing the drums and videotapes worship services.

Darrell Cozart, the grandson of Alice Green, is a member of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. He is a 2015 Westover High School graduate and will attend Shaw University this fall. Cozart participated in marching band and is a dedicated drummer at his church, where he works with the music ministry. He aspires to be an entrepreneur and own a beauty and barber shop franchise. He will be the first in his family to graduate with a four-year degree.

Randy Geiger Jr., the son of Randy and Caroline Geiger, is a member of Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church. He is a 2014 Seventy-First High School graduate and will attend N.C. A&T this fall. While in high school, Geiger was a member of the National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars and the Gentlemen of Distinction club. He is active in his church where he serves as a media specialist, records worship services and makes DVDs. He also works with the missionary department and the Youth Ministry. He aspires to be an entrepreneur and wants to create and market technology devices.

Ny'Lexzia McCollum, the daughter of Portia McCollum, is a member of Leach Springs Missionary Baptist Church. She is a 2015 Hoke High graduate and will attend Sandhills Community College. She plans to then transfer to North Carolina Central University after graduating from Sandhills. McCollum aspires to study nursing and healthcare, and her goal is to give back to her community. She serves with her church as a member of the youth choir and praise team, a praise dancer and an usher.

NaiQuez McLean, the son of

member of Center Grove Missionary Baptist Church. He is a 2015 Hoke High graduate and will attend Sandhills Community College this fall, where he will study public safety, fire and rescue services and motorcycle mechanics. While attending high school, McLean played baseball and football and was a member of Skills USA, where he placed fifth in the regional competition. At his church, he serves as a drummer, is a member of the men's chorus and also serves as Sunday School secretary. He is a volunteer firefighter with the South Antioch Volunteer Fire Department, and believes that furthering his education will help him become a more valued asset as a firefighter.

Reginald McMillan, the son of Carolyn Love, is a member of Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church. He is currently a sophomore at the Citadel Military College of South Carolina, where he is majoring in criminal justice. He will graduate in May 2018 and plans to be commissioned into the United States Army as a second lieutenant. McMillan has served in his church as assistant Sunday School superintendent, Youth Choir president, is a member of the community outreach program Mighty Men and is a youth usher. McMillan realized at an early age that his passion in life is to serve and protect others, and he plans to commit fully to his calling.

Darryl Sean Shaw Jr., the son of Darryl and Pamela Shaw, is a member of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and received the 2015 Clark-McNeill Scholarship. Shaw is a 2015 Jack Britt High School graduate and will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he plans to major in media and design. While attending high school,

Shaw twice received awards from the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) and was very active in organizations including the National Honor Society, the Spanish National Honor Society, the Key Club, the Prestige Ambassadors, the track team and Men of Distinction. He competed in track and currently holds the Jack Britt school record in the triple jump, and is the North Carolina State Four-A triple jump winner. He also played football for his high school, and is a member of the Lewis Chapel Youth Praise Team. He aspires to positively affect the lives of others. Macaela Latrice Watkins, the

daughter of Oscar and Joyce Watkins, is a member of Laurel Hill Missionary Baptist Church. She is a 2015 Hoke High graduate and will attend Fayetteville State University this fall. She plans to earn certification and a degree in law enforcement. While in high school, Watkins participated in the step team, drama club, dance club, Beta club and Student Government Association. She was also active in volleyball, basketball and track. She served on the Homecoming Committee and volunteered with Hoke High Special Olympics. At her church, she has been on the praise team, choir and praise dance team. She has participated in oratorical contests, was a Vacation Bible School teacher assistant and has worked with the kitchen staff.

The Hoke County Missionary Union has given more than \$20,000 in scholarships over the last 14 years.

Remember what's at stake Monday

By Ken MacDonald

As most children in Hoke County prepare to return to public school next week, perhaps it's fitting to stop for a second and think about WHY we're getting ready to round up all eight thousand-plus of them, get them into buildings on 14 campuses for seven-plus hours each day, and begin with them a diet of subjects we've deemed important. After all, students, parents, teachers, school board members, business leaders and legislators want to be working in one accord, right? We're all after the same thing, right?

Well, I'm not so sure about that. While we're all trying to do good things, it seems to me half of us are working with kids' welfare in mind, the other half with society's.

In my admittedly amateur view (and perhaps simplistic for this space), students, parents and teachers generally view school's purpose with a focus on the student—to develop his or her full potential and character, to teach basic skills yet instill a love and competence of learning so that student can further seek out knowledge and understanding.

The others—school board members*, business leaders and legislators—generally think school is for society's benefit to get students ready for jobs so that we can compete with other countries, keep democracy and our economy strong, and populate a workforce.

Again, both are good goals missions, in school vernacular. But they are radically different, and drive radically different strategies and decisions as we begin to deal with these young ones once they take their seats in class.

For example, quality of education is probably parents' chief concern, but for CEOs and legislators, it's efficiency. What is best for the child versus what is most cost-effectively acceptable.

We see this play out constantly in the news as subjects to be emphasized, teacher pay, classroom and school size and student assessment methods are debated.

At the end of this process, run to their extremes, we can end up with factory-like schools that are, as John Taylor Gatto describes them, "anti-life." Or we can end up with learning communities that send kids—to appropriate Walter Gladden's hymn—like a "shining ray, far down the future's broadening way."

Honestly, in Hoke County, we see each—much of the best, because of our teachers and administrators and staff who care about our children and see their welfare as their mission. Much of the worst because increasingly "reform" has made it all about test scores; leaders bent on comparing the U.S. to other countries have narrowed the focus to technology; and the resource-strangling current crop of legislators see only dollar signs.

Hug your child tight as he or she heads out the door Monday, and let us do it figuratively as a community. Let us remember what is at stake as we sort through these aims.

*So, apparently I'm wrong about school board members in general. In a 2010 survey of 875 school board members across the nation, roughly 81 percent said the reason we're rounding up these kids is to help them fulfill their potential, prepare them for a satisfying and productive life and make them well-rounded. In Hoke County, however, the school system's stated mission: "All Hoke County Schools' students will graduate college and career ready, globally-competitive, and prepared for life in the 21st Century."



try and Ushers' Ministry among other roles. She aspires to create and own her own businesses.

Jhamal Chambers, the son of Pearl Bratcher, is a member of Silver Grove Missionary Baptist Church. He is a 2015 Hoke High graduate and will attend Sandhills Community College. He plans to transfer to North Carolina A&T to earn a degree in graphic design. Chambers enjoys art and tapping into his creative side, and seeks to explore and develop his skills in animation, typography and multimedia design software. He aspires to work creating art for signs, commercials, movies and more. As a church member,



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Nicole Jackson 12-year-old daughter Skye and 5-year-old son Aiden swim in a salt pool at Holden Beach.

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County Board action unprofessional



The Hoke Board of Commissioners hired its new county manager unprofessionally. (But then it got rid of the last one that way too.)

The board decided to make the interim manager permanent without a contract, without even a salary specified. Why the rush? Could it not have waited until a contract was in place?

Also, the board violated its own Personnel Policy by not advertising the position.

It's all loosey goosey at best. And it has us wondering once again what these commissioners are really up to.

Budget delay wearing very thin

If I've heard it once from state legislators, I've heard it a thousand times: "The state budget is the most important thing we have to do every session."

You certainly wouldn't know it if they didn't say it so often.

Here we are, more than a month and a half into the new fiscal year, which started July 1, and still no budget to direct how more than \$21 billion worth of taxpayer dollars should be spent through next June. And top Senate and House members finally are starting to act - or at least talk with a sense of urgency, saying last week that they were getting close to a compromise between the chambers on the amount of money that will be spent, but not necessarily how that money will be allocated.

"We're not up here just sitting around doing whatever," House Speaker Tim Moore said. "We really are working, and a lot of folks are having meetings, some meeting very early in the morning, some late at night, trying to get this done."

The words sound great, if you live in a vacuum. But they ring hollow, given the time of year – the legislative session began in January – and the fact that no budget is in place. They might really be working toward completing a budget now, but what about the

Dene on One Patrick Gannon, Capitol Press Association

> weeklong summer vacation they took in early July and the out-ofstate conferences many legislators have attended since then?

> Had the "part-time" legislators done their "most important" job sooner, they could have had a really long summer break beginning around July 1 (until next year's short session, which starts in May).

Moore's words also offer little or no consolation to the teacher assistants, state employees and other workers whose jobs hang in the budget balance. Along with potentially 9,000 teacher assistants, workers in the state Department of Transportation and other state agencies also are targeted in either the House or Senate budgets or both. Also, state residents who work in certain industries affected by the budget also wait for the final outcome. Film industry workers, for example, want to know how much money the state will spend on film grants. That will determine how many productions get shot in North Carolina in the coming year, and, in turn, how much work will be available to them here.

Another quote from Moore last week also sounded good at first, but not so good if you really think about it.

"It's better that we get a good product, even if it takes a little longer, than to do a rush job on something that we can't be proud of," Moore said.

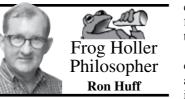
First, he no longer gets to use the phrases "a little longer" or "rush job" when talking about the state budget. Those luxuries - AKA excuses - were forfeited some time ago, maybe around mid-July as legislators returned from their vacations. The budget, if and when passed, already will be the latest since 2002. And if the budget process stretches out to Aug. 31, the General Assembly will be entering rare territory in terms of budget lateness. There's only been one time since 1961 that the legislature didn't pass a two-year budget by Aug. 31, the deadline for the latest temporary budget, N.C. Policy Watch's Chris Fitzsimon reported.

And finally, I'll just point out that the House, Senate and governor's mansion are all controlled – and dominated – by Republicans. And they have a \$445 million surplus to work with this year.

Should it really be this difficult?

Chickens leave home to roost

A couple of months ago, Charlotte became the proud owner of three chickens over my objection to their habit of thinking that the entire world is their bathroom, and I don't mean for taking baths. They were cute chicks who were nurtured inside the house until they were big enough to move into their plush coopdominium. In order to get maximum chicken watching enjoyment, she installed the coop within sight of the front porch where Cornelia, Bessie and Helen were allowed to roam the yard and gardens blissfully pecking away. As the days passed, the emboldened birds ranged closer and closer to the front porch. The porch is close to ground level and has no railing and soon they were roosting on the chairs, huddling close to the front door, preferring the porch to the lawn through some convoluted chicken logic. I suspect they do not like to roam out in the open for fear of flying predators. With our ever-present hawks circling, that is well advised. At first, Charlotte kept the damage to a minimum by frequently hosing off the porch. As things progressed, I was soon having to look down at every step, and scan every chair before sitting in it. The hosings were less frequent and I reached my limit of tolerance. The coop had to go! There was little argument at this point. Even Charlotte saw that this would not do. I insisted that the coop be relocated to a place where the porch was out of sight entirely. We settled on a



place on the opposite side of the house, behind the garage. I can't stand to have things ence to find their way back to the front yard. It was now time for the chase.

Industrial chicken catching is done in the dark when they are asleep. Daylight chicken catching is a whole new ballgame. They are shifty and quick and had a million places to run around, under, and through to evade us. We caught Helen and Bessie, somehow leaving only the elusive Cornelia on the lam. I got out the pool skimmer and tried to reach under the bushes to catch her, but she repeatedly darted beyond the reach of the skimmer net. At this point, it was just me against Cornelia and I reasoned that my best chance was to overwhelm her. After an all-out, hilarious and relentless sequence of chasing, she headed for the security of the porch and I cornered her. Success at last! I was panting like a dog. Her expected response left her last mark on the porch. The new location is better suited for chickens, but a new covered swing was needed to view the new venue. They will have a long perilous journey around the back of the house to get to the front porch unless they figure out that they can walk around the garage the other way. I am not looking forward to that! I always thought chickens were pretty stupid but I have learned not to underestimate hen sense

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GOP: government can't do anything right

By Thomas Mills Politics North Carolina

When Republicans took control of the General Assembly in 2010, North Carolina was struggling in the midst of the worst recession since the Great Depression. We got hit harder and were recovering slower than much of the rest of the nation. The recession compounded problems brought about by trade policies that had decimated our manufacturing sector and changes in health habits that all but killed our tobacco industry. Rightly or wrongly, Democrats who were in control got the blame.

The GOP didn't just try to fix what was broken, they've gone after the whole system of government. They created a narrative that virtually everything in the state was broken–our schools, our university, our Medicaid system, our economic development program, our unemployment system, our tax structure.

Their solution for fixing it all was to cut everything. In their telling of our state, we had squandered tax dollars on a bunch of failing institutions and if we would just stop paying so much for services and let rich people and corporations keep more of their money, the economy would take off and need good services. We just need mediocre services and we don't need to help more people, we need to help less. That applies to public schools and universities as well as to welfare programs and economic development efforts.

They've been very successful. Our teacher pay and per pupil spending is among the lowest in the nation and we're sending some of our best teachers to other states. Our university system has taken a huge hit, raising tuition on students while cutting valuable curricula. Our economic development strategies have been gutted, sending our existing industries to other states and discouraging new industries from locating here. Successful environmental programs that have protected natural resources such as fisheries and forests are on the chopping block.

We're shifting from a state of greatness to a state of mediocrity. Now, the Senate wants to ensure that we can never recover our national or regional standing by implementing the so-called Taxpayer Bill of Rights, or TABOR. The constitutional amendment would cap taxes and spending, preventing the state from making smart investments in education and infrastructure or adequately responding to natural disasters like the hurricanes that are sure to come. Only one state has passed a TABOR amendment and they've been trying to undo it ever since it

passed a dozen years ago. Colorado has seen its public education and university systems decline dramatically. They've seen a decline in money for public health including immunization programs for children. Republicans and Democrats alike in Colorado have been trying to change the harmful effects of the law with only limited success.

Only the staunchest ideologues think the TABOR amendment was a good idea in Colorado. Unfortunately, we are being guided by the same type of ideologues. They've convinced themselves that government can't do anything right and only private sector competition can provide quality services. They believe in mediocre public services, including schools and universities, because they don't believe in investing in people. They believe that only hard work, competition, and innovation will lift people out of poverty or increase upward mobility.

The GOP has slashed funding to the institutions that give people the tools to succeed in the modern economy. Now, they want to ensure that North Carolina is stuck with their ideological recklessness with an amendment that would codify their mistakes. They want to take North Carolina off the road to greatness and put it on the road to

completely out of level and having just gone through a painstaking leveling of the original coop, I found myself at it again. The chosen spot was not too bad and I was able to curse it into acceptable level, chopping our tree roots all the way. Meanwhile, Charlotte was packing up the feeders, waterers, perches, toys, cutesy hanging signs and everything else that constitutes a chicken coop at Frog Holler. We were now ready to make the move.

The 10-foot-by-10-foot-bysix-foot tall dog pen that serves as the enclosure of the coop is a little heavy and awkward for Charlotte and me to move so we enlisted brother Rusty for the heavy lifting. Perching one wall of the pen on the tailgate of the truck, we carefully threaded the pen through several tight areas until we reached the destination. The heavy lifting was done.

As we moved the pen, the girls were happily hiding under their favorite shrubs and pecking around the old coop site. Now, we had to catch them and move them over. I, having seen something somewhere about displacing animals, insisted that, once caught, we would need to cover up their eyes so they had no visual refer-

Even though this crisis has been at least temporarily rectified, I will not be surprised to find Cornelia, Bessie and Helen floating in the pool on blow-up rafts.

More later.

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.

Submit letters to the editor online: Look for heading "Send Us Stuff" at www.thenews-journal.com everyone would be happy.

What Republicans never say, but what is implied in their philosophy, is that we don't really mediocrity.

Mills blogs at politicsnc.com.

TODAY'S HOMEWORK (Notes on Education)

"If you're having trouble filling a teaching position, make a better offer. It really doesn't get any more complicated than that." — Peter Greene "Why A Teacher Shortage?"

"One of the big changes we need to make (and one which underlies the overturning of every assumption in this book) is to learn to like children and to want them around all day. Many so-called developed countries – especially those in North America – are not particularly child- or familyfriendly. Our cities, our workplaces, our institutions – all facets of daily life, in fact – are not fully open to children, who are relegated to segregated spaces through no choice of their own."

- Wendy Priesnitz, from Challenging Assumptions in Education

"It's well intentioned to raise standards, but the mistake it makes is that it fails to recognize that education is not a mechanical impersonal process that can improved by tweaking standards and regularly testing. ... It's a human process. It's real people going through the system and whether the system takes into account who they are, what engages them, isn't incidental. It is the core of what education is."

— Sir Ken Robinson, in Sir Ken Robinson Has A Lot To Say About U.S. School Reform



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BROWSING THE FILES



Cadets who make up the newly organized Girl Scout troop and their leaders: left side, front row: Mrs. Ed Church, Pam Peoples, Yvonne Baker, Kristi Frahm; back row: Betsy Postel, Donna Clifton, Debbie Tew and Jackie Webb. At right are cadet visitors from Fayetteville and their leader: front row: Loni Traylor, Charlene Bowie, Sallie Neely, Lorraine Miller, Mrs. W.E. Taylor, Phyllis Collins, Lerna Massey and Sarah Traylor.

47 Years Ago August 22, 1968

A crop duster crashes near the Robeson-Cumberland line killing its pilot, Paul Lundeberg of Fayetteville. The cause of the crash is speculated to be an aerodynamic stall during a low-level maneuver.

The largest field crop in Hoke County is—by far—soybeans. Nearly half (48 percent) of all planted land is allocated to the crop—more than 20,000 acres. The second largest crop is corn for grain (19%). Cotton and tobacco are tied for third at 8 percent. Average yield for soybeans is 25 bushels per acre with a market price of about \$2.50 per bushel. The crop is valued at \$1.25 million, far behind tobacco, valued at \$2 million even though only 2,457 acres are planted.

The new Raeford city manager starts work. John Gaddy replaces Ed Williams and is selected from a field of 12. He and his family moved in on East Donaldson. "It was a hot day for moving," he said, "but the man who came to turn on the water (William Sellers), upon seeing our plight, went home and brought back a big pitcher of iced tea which saved the day."

All classes in grades 6-12 will be fully racially integrated this year, but School Superintendent Donald Abernathy says the only anticipated problem is working out bus schedules. A state transportation specialist is brought in to help.

In Hoke County, an estimated 2,031,000 packs of cigarettes are smoked in 1967. The average rate of consumption is 187 packs per year for those who smoke. The per capita cigarette rate is 4,295 for every person over age 18.

Radio Station WSHB is now under new management. Charles Pearce is the new manager.

25 Years Ago August 22, 1990 Students returning to Hoke High School Monday will find changes. Principal Mitch Tyler says he's employing the Renaissance program, which provides incentives to promote learning. Students will also go home 15 minutes earlier—at 2:45, and there are double the lunch periods.

The vacant site of Primary Care Plus will soon be a doctor's office again. Pinehurst Orthopedic Clinic will open a branch in Raeford. It will specialize in bone and joint problems.

Tylertown residents show up at the Hoke Commissioners' meeting to complain about alleged shoddy workmanship in rehabilitated houses in the area.

Raeford student Amy Wright spends the summer in Japan. The daughter of Gerald and Jean Wright, she takes part in an exchange program.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Tuttle is the Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month.



James L. Scott

James Lindsay Scott of Raeford died Saturday, August 15, 2015 at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem at the age of 73.

He was born in Robeson County on January 29, 1942 to the late Claude Scott and Kathaleen Lindsay Scott. He was a retired carpenter in Hoke County.

Survivors include two sons, James Lee Scott and wife Angela and Jerry Lindsay Scott, all of Salisbury; three brothers, Wayne Scott of Climax, and Doug Scott and Mickey Scott of Greensboro; three sisters, Patsy Brown of Bennett, Gayle Scott of High Point, and Kathy Fogleman of Liberty; and two grandchildren, Kathaleen Scott and Cheyenne Scott.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, August 22 at Crumpler Funeral Home chapel, 131 Harris Avenue, Raeford. Online condolences may be

made at www.crumplerfuneralhome.com.

Margaret L. Hammonds

Margaret Locklear Hammonds, 85, of Raeford died Friday, August 14, 2015.

Survivors include a daughter, Rebecca O'Berry; sisters, Annie Collins, Cathleen Locklear, Grace Hall, Marsh Bizzell and Sara Barton; two grandchildren; and seven greatgrandchildren

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Monday, August 17 in Chapel of Jesus Christ Family Worship Center. Entombment was in the church cemetery.

Jacqueline M. Torrence

Jacqueline M. Torrence, 54, of 3835 Gainey Road died Wednesday, August 12, 2015.

Survivors include her husband, Roscoe; children, Teisha Scott, Tiffany Hill, Darla Hill, Alvin Hill, Nicole Troy, Natasha Baker and Octavia; sisters, Catherine, Betty, Bobbie, Gracie and Angela; brother, Clarence; and 11 grandchildren.

The funeral was held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, August 18 in Mountain Grove AME Zion Church. Burial was in McLauchlin Chapel Church cemetery.

School Briefs Parker named to

Dean's List

Keyatta Parker was named to the Dean's List at UNC Charlotte for the spring semester. She earned a grade point average of

Obituaries

Dorothy W. Bennett

Dorothy W. Bennett, 73, of Raeford died Sunday, August 16, 2015. Survivors include her children, Christopher and Ronald Holeman,

and Jacqueline Sanderson; six grandchildren; and eight greatgrandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, August 19 in Pinecrest Funeral & Cremation Services chapel in Hope Mills. Visitation will follow after service at the funeral home.



Bennie Lee D.Turbeville

Bennie Lee D. Turbeville Bennie Lee Davis Turbeville passed away Saturday, August 15, 2015 in Raleigh.

She was born in Raeford to the late Thomas Franklin Davis and Frankie Currie Davis.

Her first employment was with Graves Registration at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska, where she helped document unidentified soldiers killed in the invasion of the Aleutian Islands. Upon returning to Raeford, she was employed at Burlington Industries, where she rose from the spinning room floor to the Planning Department to the Dye House to be the company's first woman supervisor. Upon retiring from Burlington Industries, she went home to help her husband run the farm. They enjoyed making and selling crafts and working in the gardens. Upon the death of her husband, she relocated to downtown Raeford. She had a knack for repairing and restoring old objects, which she sold at her "infamous" yard sales.

She was an active member in her church until a decline in her health forced her to move to Raleigh to Abbotswood, a retirement living facility, to be near her daughters.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Turbeville; her daughter, Debbie Finley-Foor; sister, Eloise Wade; and brothers, Paul, Tommy, and Kenneth Davis.

She is survived by two daughters, Linda Odom (John) and Pat Nicholson (Nick), both of Raleigh; five grandchildren, Robert and Lee Ann Odom, John and Thomas Nicholson and Kara Michael; six great-grandchildren; abrother, Jerry Davis (Barbara) of San Antonio, Texas; sister-in-law, Francis Davis of Southern Pines; and brother-in-law, Bill Turbeville (Johnnie) of Jasper, Georgia.

The funeral was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, August 18 at Hillcrest Baptist Church with Pastor Toby Neal officiating. Burial was in the Raeford Cemetery

Memorials may be made to Hillcrest Baptist Church, PO Box 1533, Raeford, NC 28376.

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

Jannie C. Patterson

Jannie Mae Campbell Patterson, 94, of Red Springs died Wednesday, August 12, 2015 in Autumn Care of Raeford.

She was born in Robeson County on December 17, 1920 to the late Lawrence and Hattie Campbell.

Survivors include her daughters, Gina Daniels of Raeford, Catherine Patterson, Perlie B. Brown, Clara Pratt (Thomas), and Annie "Maxine" Smith; sons, James (Shirley) of the home, and Larry Patterson (Yvette); sister, Helen Artis of Red Springs; 27 grandchildren; and a host of great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, August 15 in Red Springs Middle School in Red Springs with Bishop Genathem Winston officiating. Burial was in Mack's Chapel Church Cemetery in Red Springs. Online condolences may be

made at crumpler funeral home.com.

Lamar F. McLean

Lamar F. McLean, 44, of Raeford died Sunday, August 9, 2015.

Survivors include his mother, Polly; brothers, Ernest, Lutena and Gregory; and sisters, Andrea Williams and Devra Miller.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Friday, August 14 in Buie Funeral Home chapel in Raeford.

William L. Lancaster

William L. Lancaster Jr., 73, of Coffee Springs, Alabama, formerly of Raeford, died Friday, August 7, 2015.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Jill Hawkins.

Survivors include his wife, Elke Lancaster of Coffee Springs, Alabama; former wife, Beverly Quick Lancaster and son William (Will) L. Lancaster III of Yanceyville; three brothers, Dave Lancaster (Ann Marie) of Garner, Joel Lancaster (Terri) of Chancellor, and Bob Lancaster (Mary) of Defuniak Springs, Florida; and a grandson, David Hawkins.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at www.searcyfuneralhome. com.



Viewing history

Tabernacle Baptist Church of Rockfish senior adults toured the Raeford-Hoke Museum recently. Jackie Quick was tour guide. Taking part were Irese Dees (standing, left to right), Ray Jones, Elizabeth Jones, Trudy Suggs, Jackie Huckabee, Joyce Connally, Catherin Brock, and Libby Wright; and Oscar Berry (sitting), and Jim Suggs.



3.5. She is a transfer Golden Leaf Scholar at the school.

Sandhills begins sustainable food course

Sandhills Community College is beginning a Sustainable Food and Farming Systems course. The course will cover food, nutrition and agriculture as an "integrated network introducing pathways to careers in food systems and ag-related ventures."

Students will hear lectures and guest speakers, attend learning labs at local small farms, and get practical experience. Registration is at 910-695-3980.

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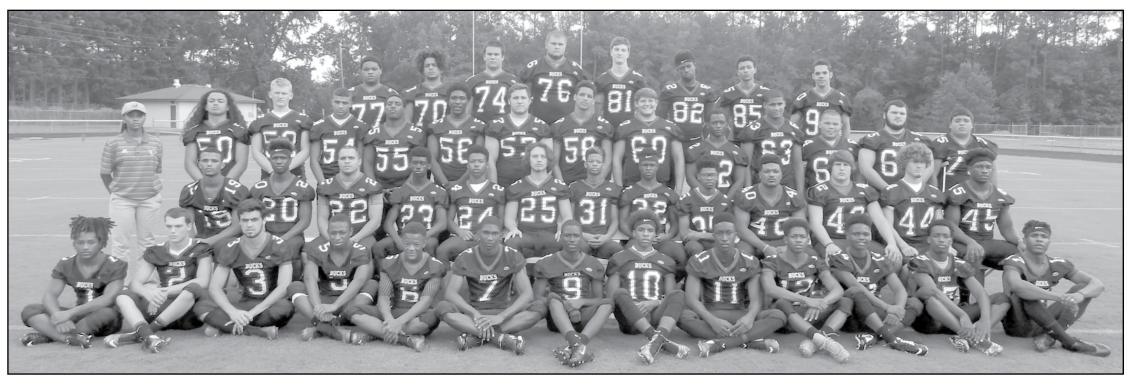
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Sports



The 2015 Hoke County High School Bucks, in numerical order, are 1-Dekwon Gibson, 2-Michael Chieffo, 3-Casey Grobarcik, 4-Martez Riggens, 5-Tyshawn Garlington, 6-Montrell Douglas, 7-Calvin Purcell, 9-Damonte Dudley, 10-Kevin Thorpe, 11-Andrea Pegues, 12-Deazwun Campbell, 14-Marcus Jackson, 15-Decva' Knight, 17-James Galberth, 19-Quinn Maynor, 20-Devin Norwood, 22-Jacob Rushing, 23-Ron McNair, 24-Rashade Loyd, 25-Joseph Chavis, 30-Trent Lee, 31-Jevon Thomas, 32-Brandon Smith, 33-Lacedric Jones, 34-Nykeem Shaw, 35-Shiquille King, 40-Sean Smaugh, 42-Chase Jackson, 44-Trey Paris, 45-Donovan Wirt, 50-Lariyah Fuentes, 52-Shelton Beard, 54-Mikel Locklear, 55-Dillon Dorisme, 56-Marcus Freeman, 57-Brandon McClary, 58-Landon Bain, 60-Kacey Reitz, 62-Jayquan Cowan, 63-Jaylin Fennell, 64-Dakota Thomas, 65-Daniel Wood, 70-Anthony Hunt, 73-Joseph Locklear, 74-Harley Ellis, 75-Kendall Hall, 76-Chris Fields, 77-Daquan McIntyre, 78-Dylan Hoffman, 81-Liam Gentry, 85-Noah Handon, 90-Shiloh Bezalel, 91-Tyree McRae and 99-Deven Carroll; Team Manager Keyanna Mears.

Bucks roster set for season opener Hoke opens with New Hanover at Raz Autry Stadium

By Hal Nunn Sports writer

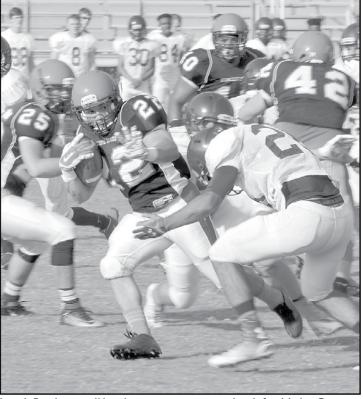
The Hoke County High School Bucks football team has been working all spring and summer and, heading into the season opener Friday night at Raz Autry Stadium, the 54 man roster is complete. Twenty-six seniors are on the roaster with 18 juniors, nine sophomores and one freshman. The team will play New Hanover, a team out of Wilmington that finished in second place in the Mideastern 3A/4A Conference last vear at 5-1 and 7-5 overall. They lost in the first round of the state playoffs to Greenville Rose 47-25. Last year, they played some Southeastern Conference teams, losing to Scotland 49-21 and to Lumberton 27-17 but beating Purnell Swett 49-21. The Wildcats have an exceptional receiver with Garrett Walston, a 6'4" tight end weighing 223 pounds. He had 847 yards receiving and 10 touchdowns and is verbally committed to the University of Georgia. The Wildcats have a new coach this year but he's not really new. Earl Smith, who coached the team in 2001-2002, is back to lead the Wildcats. Hoke County is building on a foundation set last year by Head Coach Tom Paris, who will be in his second year in charge of the Bucks. They are looking for a new quarterback as Antonio Peterkin has moved on to Winston-Salem State: however, starting running back Jacob Rushing is back after

his 1,000+ yards rushing season and 11 touchdowns last year. Andre Pegues and Kevin Thorpe have been getting the most time at quarterback. The offense will be re-tooled but Brandon Smith will be another key player on the offense and probably special teams as well. Casey Grobarcik and Montrell Douglas will see significant time at wide receiver along with Devin Norwood. Brandon MacClary will anchor the offense line at center. Defensively, Donovan Wirt will anchor the middle and Sean Smaugh will be a force as well. Chase Jackson will help anchor the defensive line and probably spend some time on offense as well. Quinn Manor will move to safety this year and Dekwon Gibson, who stands at only 5'3" but plays much bigger on the field, will be a key corner for the Bucks. His toughness will help the defense.

The game this Friday night has been dubbed Military Appreciation Night, Rockfish Speedway Night and New Employee Night. The game time is set for 7:30 p.m.; however, pregame festivities will start at 7 p.m. Cars from Rockfish Speedway will be on display and those folks who have a military ID and wish to be recognized before the game will need to be there at 6:30 p.m. If you cannot make the game, listen to it online with the Bucks Broadcast Network. Link can be found at www.nunnboys. com



Dekwon Gibson makes a great goal line stand against Southern Lee last week. Gibson will be one of the starters at cornerback and a tough competitor all around.



Jacob Rushing will be the starting running back for Hoke County. Last year, he rushed for over 1,000 yards. He is seen here in last week's scrimmage against Southern Lee where he scored four times in the practice.

Raeford Racing Round-Up

Rockfish Motorsports Speedway

Rockfish Motorsports S p e e d w a y has changed the Mod Lite Race from August 22 to August 29. This Saturday is Brownie's



This Saturday is Brownie's Towing Night and all regular classes will

Colton Beasley practices with his Mod Lite at the speedway. (Photo by Glen Young of GPS Photography and Video)

run. August 29 will be Ashley Heights Sand Night with the modified cars running.

First Baptist Church



Join Us! Informational Meeting Aging Outreach Services August 26, 2015

5:45 Dinner • 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting Seniors are a vital part of our family and as elders age, who can help guide us thru it... AGING OUTREACH SERVICES



For more information call (910) 875-3508.



Members of the Hoke County Touchdown Club helped work the gates for the scrimmages the last couple of weeks. They also hold fundraisers for the football teams from freshman to varsity. Tickets prices will go up to \$7 this year as a Southeastern Conference rule. Shown are Selena Jackson (left to right), Keva Fennell and Timothy Adams. Also helping is Lori Caldwell.



Diamond Elite 12U wins Midnight Madness

The Diamond Elite 12U girls' fastpitch softball team won the championship at the NC USSSA Midnight Madness Tournament this past weekend in Kinston. They went 5-0, outscoring their opponents 48-3. The games started at 10:20 p.m. Friday night and they played around the clock until 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Pictured are Peyton Daniels (front row, left to right), Abby Dover, Faith Matthews, Megan Cygan, Summer Powell and Courtney Cygan; middle row: Tatiana Hunt, Hailey Pait, Hailey Wilson, Kamryn Russell, Alyssa Norton and Morgan Barbee; back row: coaches Jamie Dover and David Pait.

Fighting Bucks Sports Schedule

August 19 Girls JV Volleyball at E.E. Smith 5 p.m. Girls V Volleyball at E.E. Smith 6 p.m. Boys JV Soccer Home vs. South View 5:15 p.m. Boys V Soccer Home vs. South View 7 p.m.

August 20 Girls Tennis at Jack Britt 4 p.m. Girls JV Volleyball Home vs. Pine Forest 5 p.m. Girls V Volleyball Home vs. Pine Forest 6 p.m.

August 21 Boys V Football Home vs. New Hanover High 7:30 p.m. August 24 Girls Tennis Home vs. Jack Britt 4 p.m. Girls JV Volleyball Home vs. South View 5 p.m. Girls V Volleyball Home vs. South View 6 p.m. Boys JV Soccer Home vs. Pine Forest 5:15 p.m. Boys V Soccer Home vs. Pine Forest 7 p.m.



Terrell McIntyre graduates from Clemson

In a promise made to family, Terrell McIntyre went back to Clemson University and completed his degree. Last week in a ceremony at Bon Secours Wellness Arena (due to Little John Coliseum renovations), Terrell McIntyre graduated from Clemson University. (Photo courtesy of Clemson University)

August 19, 2015

Fatalities

(Continued from page 1) back to work at Turlington School from a doctor's appointment and was three cars back from English's truck, she said. She said she saw it swerve several times before the accident, and reported that, as the driver got out of the truck, it erupted into flames. She went over to the other car and held the head of a victim until paramedics arrived. "I'm glad God put me there and gave me the strength to talk to him," Sanders said.

English's 2003 Chevrolet Avalanche truck hit the Wellingtons' 2005 Buick Lacrosse sedan nearly head-on. The Avalanche caught on fire and burned, but English was able to get out of the truck and walk away from it, according to Burgin. The Wellingtons' vehicle came to rest on the shoulder of the road

Joyce Wellington, who was sitting in the left side of the back seat, was pronounced dead at the scene. Rescuers transported John Wellington, who was sitting in the front passenger seat, to Cape

Manager

(Continued from page 1) Edens.

"I think you need to have the amount of money you're paying and all that stuff before you do that. I think you need to have a written...have some discussion before we jump the gun," he said.

Commissioner Tony Hunt suggested that, to save time, the board could hire Edens and then approve her contract at the next meeting.

"Miss Edens is working in the capacity of manager right now as an interim basis. She's being paid...we adjusted her salary at that time to compensate her during this time period. I think what we could do tonight is we could go ahead and approve her being hired and then let her and the chairman get together and the county attorney and put together a contract to bring back to the board to save time," he said. "As Mr. Southerland said, she's been here all this time, she's worked in the capacity as the county manager. I think we need to go ahead and let our citizens know...we can make that decision tonight and then we can get that contract together and get it approved at our following meeting.

Leach asked Edens if she would accept the opportunity to serve as the county manager, and Edens said yes. Wright asked if she would move to Hoke County, and she said she would. Edens has six months to move into the county.

"Certainly, I want her to pay ne taxes in Hoke County, and a whole lot of it, so Tish, buy the most expensive house you can find," Leach said.

Fear Valley Hospital where he died of his injuries. Driver James Douglas Wellington was taken to FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, where he also died of his injuries.

English was arrested at the scene and taken to the Hoke County Detention Center, Burgin said

"He had no visible injuries and refused treatment," the trooper said.

The state is waiting on the results of blood tests to determine how Wellington was impaired, but authorities suspect it was drugs, not alcohol, Burgin said.

"We suspect it was some type of drugs and it could have been prescription medication or it could be illegal," he said.

Wellington reportedly served as a Robeson County Commissioner from 2005-2010. Obituary information and funeral plans for the family were not available by News-Journal deadline. Obituaries are updated daily at http:// www.thenews-journal.com.

vou know at the last meeting. I support a state and national interview process that we create and bring in the most talented people and whoever comes out on top after we're able to look at what they've done in their respective places, and we vote on them of course as a board. I agree with that process. My vote today is not for or against Ms. Edens as a manager, but against the process we're taking to hiring the next manager."

In response to Thomas's comments, Hunt defended his position on not conducting a candidate search or interview process. It doesn't make sense to search for another candidate when Edens has already proven herself, he said.

"We can do a national, state search, get resumes and references from people all over this country. Well, we could get somebody from Italy if they wanted to move here. But the fact of the matter is, we haven't seen what they've done personally. We've seen what this young lady has done personally," he said. "We watched her work through our budget process and all that...sometimes we rely too much on what people send us on paper and not what we've seen, and we've seen this young lady's ability, and that's why I'm going to take the stance that I'm going to take tonight."

Southerland echoed Hunt, saying Edens had already proven herself as the right candidate for the job.

'At eight o'clock at night I've

"Through her and her staff and her leadership, we've done well. We have a good, strong, solid budget and if you have someone who knows how to do a budget and keep your finances in order, you can pretty much well have a good, great county. She's done that. She's proved that by working with us," he said. "She has convinced me that she can lead this county.'

Wright said he was impressed with the way Edens handled the budget.

"I thought you did an excellent job and every suggestion that I think any of the commissioners brought to you, you looked into it and gave us a reason why you didn't do it or a reason why you did it, and that's all we can ask," he said.

Southerland made the motion to hire Edens, and Hunt seconded it. Leach, Hunt, Southerland and Wright voted to hire Edens, while Thomas voted against it.

"I'm really excited about them making me the county manager and I just want to work for the citizens of Hoke County to make it a better, positive place, not just for the citizens but for the employees too," Edens said.

Edens has worked with the county for 11 years, eight of them as Human Resources director and the last two as both HR director and assistant county manager. Before then, she spent 25 years working in human resources for companies including Staffmark and Perdue Farms

Chicago

Sgt. First Class Corey Hood, 32, a member of the U.S. Army Parachute Team (USAPT) Golden KnightsBlackDemonstrationTeam, was critically injured in what Army officials described as a mid-air collision with a member of the Navy's precision skydiving team, known as the Leap Frogs.

"Hoodwasknockedunconscious which resulted in an uncontrolled offsite landing," according to spokesperson Donna Dixon of the USAPT.

Hood was one of more than a dozen parachutists performing in the formation jump at the Chicago Air and Water Show Saturday, August 15. The other parachutist he collided with reportedly suffered a broken leg.

Hood was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio and was a member

Faces of the Fallen seeking photo

A project seeking to put faces to the names of all the American military members who died in Vietnam is asking for help in getting a photo of one of Hoke County's fallen veterans.

The "Faces of the Fallen" project, run through the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, has collected photos of all but one of the Hoke County soldiers who died in Vietnam. Still needed is a photo of Henry F. Nugent Jr., born 1922 and died 1968, who

enlisted with a Raeford address. This is the second time the organization has put out a call for

help from Hoke residents. The first request for photos helped them get a picture of Hoke County fallen veteranJeromeL.McCormick,born 1944 and died 1966.

Anyone with a photo of Nugent should send it to Jim Reece at reecejim@yahoo.com.

The project also includes photos of local fallen Vietnam veterans PFC

Court dismisses Cape Fear Valley petition

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

A judge with the North Carolina Court of Appeals issued a written opinion this week affirming an earlier decision by a lower court judge that FirstHealth of the Carolinas didn't need a new Certificate of Need to temporarily change how it allocated the hospital beds at its Hoke campus. Last year, the hospital system contacted the state about using some of its inpatient beds as space for people coming into the busy emergency department at the Hoke hospital campus. The state allowed the hospital to proceed, stating that the proposal wasn't governed by CON law and didn't require a new certificate.

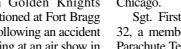
Cape Fear Valley Health System, which opened its 41-bed hospital in Hoke County earlier this year, questioned the decision and filed a petition against FirstHealth and the North Carolina Department of the existing beds in this particular situation, according to the opinion.

"The appeal in this case arises from a dispute over the Department of Health and Human Services' decision that a hospital was not required

The accident happened just before noon Monday near Shiloh Church. (Ken MacDonald photo)

Golden Knight killed in jump

A veteran Golden Knights parachutist stationed at Fort Bragg died Sunday following an accident while performing at an air show in



Corey Hood

Hood is survived by his wife, Lyndsay Hood, who is from North Carolina.

An investigation into the accident is ongoing. The USAPT instituted a safety stand down following the accident, which may impact the team's performance schedule going forward, according to a statement from the team's leadership.

James Clyde Campbell, 2LT Sam

Dixon Warlick, SGT Robert Earl

Dew, CPL Kenneth Wayne Floyd

seeks to put a face to every name

on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Wall is available to view online at

http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Fac-

es/. The photos will also eventually

go into the Education Center next

to the Vietnam memorial in Wash-

ington, D.C.

The virtual Wall of Faces that

and SP4 John Monroe Pratt.

you can to minimize those risks and it is extremely hard when that is not enough. The Knights are a very close-knitteam and the military skydiving community is equally close. We will support Corey's family and each other during this difficult time."

career



served five tours of duty in both

Iraq and Afghanistan. A Forward

Observer, Hood's multiple awards

included two Bronze Stars, two

Meritorious Service Medals, the Master Parachutist Badge and the

Pathfinder, Air Assault and Combat

Action Badges. He had performed

hundreds of freefall jumps in his

porting Corey's family and grieving

for our teammate," USAPT Lt.

Col. Matthew Weinrich said. "As

soldiers, there are risks every day in

what we do, but you do everything

"Our focus right now is on sup-

Commission Vice Chairman Allen Thomas, who voted against hiring Edens, said that he believed the board should have conducted a candidate search and interview process.

"I want to clarify. People think whenever you vote for a county manager and someone votes against that person, it is seen that they don't want that person to serve, and I don't want that to come across that way today," he said. "As

seen our county manager in the office working, on Saturdays and Sundays she was working during the budget process. She took off because we had to make her take off because she was working so hard," Southerland said. "In addition to her qualifications, her commitment and dedication is outstanding. Even if we did an international or national search, Commissioner Hunt, I don't see a better candidate coming out of

that other than Ms. Edens.' Edens' work on the budget this year proved her ability, Leach said.

Another person will be taking over as the county's HR director, and her assistant has already stepped into handling much of that work over the last eight months, Edens said.

Edens said she had a great working relationship with former manager Tim Johnson during his time with the county and learned a lot over the years serving as his assistant. Human resources has always been her passion, and she has worked closely with the county's department directors over the years, she said.

Health and Human Services' Certificate of Need Section.

Administrative Law Judge Augustus Elkins II dismissed the petition in August 2014. Cape Fear Valley Health System appealed the dismissal. The appeal was heard in the North Carolina Court of Appeals May 21, and the opinion filed August 18.

The opinion written by Judge Lucy Inman and affirmed by Judge Donna Stroud and Judge Douglas McCullough of the Court of Appeals said that FirstHealth didn't need a new CON to change how it used

to obtain a new Certificate of Need in order to reallocate the ratio of inpatient and emergency services on a temporary basis to meet fluctuations in demand, where the hospital did not propose to increase or decrease its facility, equipment or expenditures," the opinion stated. "We hold that, based on the record before us, a new certificate of need was not necessary because the hospital did not add a new institutional health service, change the scope of services previously approved in a certificate of need, or fail to materially comply with an existing Certificate of Need."



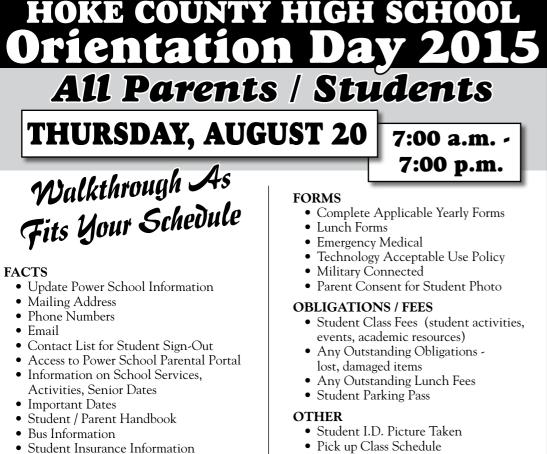
Blue Springs CDC will hold a conversation on access to healthy local food September 17. The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at the Hoke Cooperative Extension Service

building on Prospect Avenue.

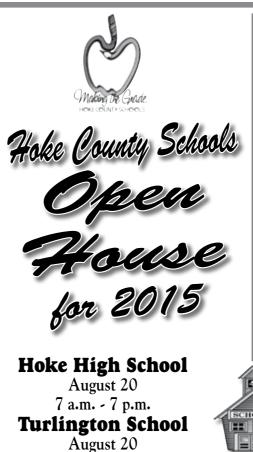
Topics include broader support for growers and farmers, and inspiring and motivating new growers, along with other issues concerning food need in a formerly agrarian community. To RSVP or for more informa-

tion, contact the CDC at 910-848-2377 or 910-904-6547.





- Yearbook Orders/Picture Dates
- Pick up Class Schedule
- (last station all other items completed)



3 - 6 p.m.

West Hoke Middle August 19 • 3 - 6 p.m. East Hoke Middle August 19 • 3-7 p.m. Sandy Grove Middle August 19 • 3 - 7 p.m. **Elementary Schools** August 20 McLauchlin • 5 - 6:30 p.m. Upchurch • 4 - 6 p.m. West Hoke Elementary • 3:30 - 6 p.m. Hawk Eye • 5 - 7 p.m. Rockfish-Hoke • 3:30 - 6 p.m. Don Steed • 4 - 6 p.m. Scurlock • 5 - 7 p.m. Sandy Grove • 5 - 7 p.m.



Meet our **New Principals!** Ms. A.J. Hammond -West Hoke Elementary Mr. Tommy Jacobs -Sandy Grove Middle