

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, December 23, 2015

Nightmare coming, paving of N.C. 211 West highway open to 1 lane in places until mid-summer

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff Writer

One of Hoke County's busiest roads will be resurfaced next year and could be turned into a four-lane highway sometime after 2020, according to the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Workers will patch the two-lane N.C. 211 between Raeford and Aberdeen and then

resurface it. The work will start in January or February and wrap up in July 2016, according to the NCDOT.

"They're going to patch along 211 and then they're going to repave the whole route from the Moore County line to East Palmer Street, a total of 14.9 miles," NCDOT spokesperson Ginny Inman said.

The road, which is one of the most heavily traveled in the county, is also on NC-

DOT's radar for a widening project, Inman said.

"They have programmed funds to study right-of-way and widening 211 from West Palmer Street/Mockingbird Hill Road in Raeford to 15-501 in Aberdeen," she said.

The state will examine ways to turn N.C. 211 into a four-lane road between Raeford and Aberdeen, and engineers will start studying the area in 2020. It's unknown

when construction of the road might start, but it would be at least several years after the study is completed and possibly longer.

Just the fact that it's on the schedule for study is a big step in the process, Inman said.

"It's on the department's radar and it's one of those that scored high enough to be in the STI, which is a great sign for the (See PAVING, page 8)



Christmas lunch

Veterans and their spouses enjoyed a free Christmas luncheon last week, provided by the Hoke County Public Library. The Hoke County High School choir performed music for their entertainment. (Catharin Shepard photo)

Filing closes, incumbents challenged

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Five people, including four Democrats and one Republican, have filed to run for election to two available seats on the Hoke County Board of Commissioners.

Joe Alston and Lonnie Baldwin, both Democrats, and William "Brownie" Brown, a Republican, filed to run against incumbents Commission Chairman James Leach and Commissioner Bobby Wright, who are Democrats.

Voters selecting the Democratic ballot in the primary election in March will choose two (See FILING, page 8)

Men charged with teen prostitution



Morse

Rodger

Investigators with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested two men last week for allegedly being involved in the

prostitution of a minor.

Deputies arrested Joseph Edward Morse, 31, (See PROSTITUTION, page 2)

This Week

Fight over dog ends peacefully
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Williamson finalist for national top superintendent



Williamson

The School Superintendents Association announced the list of

Hoke County Schools Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson is one of four candidates for the 2016 National Superintendent of the Year.

finalists last week.

Williamson, who got his start as a classroom teacher, has worked in education for more than 30 years. He has served as Hoke County Schools superintendent since 2006 and has also served in leadership roles for organizations such as the North Carolina School Superintendents Executive Board, North Carolina Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Board

of Directors, Sandhills Regional Education Superintendents Council, FirstHealth of the Carolinas Advisory Board and Fayetteville State University Educational Leadership Advisory Board. He also serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

The other candidates include Thomas Tucker of Princeton City

Schools in Cincinnati, Pamela Moran of Albemarle County Schools in Charlottesville, Virginia and Steven Webb of Vancouver Public Schools in Vancouver, Washington.

Co-sponsored by Aramark, VALIC and AASA, the 2016 National Superintendent of the Year will be announced at AASA's National Conference on Education February 11-13 in Phoenix, Arizona.

OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

While the world elbows its way around Christmas, here's wishing for you a peaceful and bright holiday.

Each morning lately, I've been picking up the morning paper (well, reading its website), and that bully Trump has been asserting himself into every edition, saying one mean and repulsive thing after another.

One morning while reading his repugnant drivel, a light came on outside at the neighbor's and she became visible in the darkness. She was carrying, like a baby, her pet beagle mix who was no longer able to go outside on his own because of a cancerous tumor. Later that day, I learned, she had to have him put down.

The contrast was stark. A woman humbling herself in the dark, in pain at the impending loss of her long-beloved pet; a blowhard braggart inflicting pain on a national (See OTHER STUFF, page 2)



Monday fire

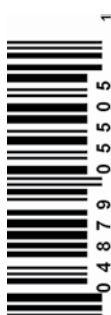
A burning charcoal grill left on a balcony at Stone Gables Apartments apparently erupted into flames Monday requiring a response from Puppy Creek, Hillcrest and Rockfish fire departments. Residents who evacuated the apartment building reported that the fire was put out quickly and didn't damage any of the other units. (Catharin Shepard photo)



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BROWSING THE FILES



List takers take an oath in preparation for tax listing time, which begins January 2. They are Betty McFadyen (left to right), Eli Shankle, Julian Love, C.C. Conoly, Alma Lovette; and Willa McLaughlin. Administering the oath is Clerk of Court E.E. Smith.



"The first thing I ever won," says Paul Wall, winner of the Chamber of Commerce color TV set. Money for the raffle goes to street decorations for Raeford.

Other stuff

(Continued from page 1)

scale. At the end of a flight over the weekend, I saw an assertive woman try to push past other passengers as they reached for the carry-ons, but a man popped out of his seat and blocked her with his elbow and shoulder like he was playing football. Where's the love, ya'll?

A minute or two later, another lady did just the opposite. "Sir, would you like to go ahead?" she asked an older man.

I guess the tone of this season simply is what we make it. Again, here's wishing for you a peaceful and bright holiday.

47 Years Ago

December 26, 1968

Miss Mabel McDonald, Hoke County Director of Public Welfare, reports a very generous county at Christmas. "We have given names of more than 50 families to clubs, church groups, school organizations, scouts and so on during the past two weeks," she says. Hardly a week passed since last Christmas that one Sunday School group did return to their family to help an elderly couple.

An elderly couple and their "feeble-minded cousin" are getting a new house for Christmas, thanks to a Sunday School class. Hugging a weak heater fire, they ward off a wind that whistles through their current house. The "careening" structure "apparently has never seen a coat of protective paint."

25 Years Ago

December 26, 1990

Conoly's Exxon, which has stood near Central Avenue and Main Street in Raeford since 1962, is changing hands. "We're retiring," co-owner Jimmy Conoly said Friday. The service station will be taken over by Charles Daniels and his son Brian.

Hoke County is getting a new doctor first of the year. Dr. David Drake, a Fayetteville general practitioner, will come out of retirement to work with Dr. Robert Townsend.



The Upchurch Sixth Grade Chorus, under the direction of Barbara S. Lawson (left), are (first row) Sharon Conoly, Karen Epps, Becky White, Jane Austin, Deborah Davis, Susan Bounds, Cindy Conoly, Suzanne Jordan, Jennie Monroe, Jo Ann Register; (second row) Debbie Ward, Jodi Upchurch, Agnes Campbell, Debbie Wilkes, Judy Daniels, Laura Pannell, Renna Brown, Carolyn White, Sallie Bray, Peggy Graham, Carol Rose Page, Kay Clifton; (third row) Diane Inman, Kim Meeks, Jackie Campbell, Marie Hendrix, Jody Allen, Linda Bratcher, Sibyl Lee, Lindy Ramsey, Rosemary Inman, Yvonne Thomas, Theresa Wright, Margaret Rogers, and Pamela Dockery. Barbara Douglas was absent.

Prostitution

(Continued from page 1) of the 400 block of Martin Drive in Raeford on three counts of facilitating a minor's prostitution; and Arnold Wayne Rodger, 49, of the 400 block of Pendergrass Court on four counts of facilitating a minor's prostitution. Both men

were arrested December 18 and held under \$10,000 unsecured bonds.

Authorities with the sheriff's office reported that they started looking into the case regarding a 17-year-old girl who was involved in prostitution beginning December

10, 2015. The investigators tracked down Morse and Rodger, who allegedly confessed to the activity and were arrested without incident.

Juvenile services will be involved in the ongoing investigation regarding the victim, according to the sheriff's office.

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Obituaries

James R. Dees Sr.

James Robert Dees Sr. died Thursday, December 17, 2015. Survivors include his wife, Joan; children, James R. Jr., Ronald, Timothy, and David Mark; siblings, Sara Conoly, Dan Dees, Joyce Connally, Allen Dees, Alene Dees Stiffel, Malcolm Dees, Linda Lovette, and Donnie Dees; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, December 20 at Rockfish Baptist Church.

Linda F. Pate

Linda F. Pate, 69, of Raeford passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at UNC Medical Center in Chapel Hill. She was born in Fayetteville on August 29, 1946 to the late Mr. and Mrs. Vander and Ada Blue. Survivors include her husband of 40 years, Bobby Pate of Raeford; daughters, Georgia (Dave) Stubbs of Cameron, Sallie (Lauren) Sherrill of Gray's Creek, and Linda (Darrin) Jacobs of Gray's Creek; grandchildren, Ronnie (Nina) Jones of Carthage, Savannah Stubbs of Cameron, Lauren Sherrill II, Kelsey Sherrill, and

Logan Jacobs, all of Gray's Creek; sister, Margie (Dennis) Stanley of Raeford; brothers, Michael (Jennifer) Blue and Freddie Arnett, all of Cape Coral, Florida; nieces, Jada and Jenna Blue, both of Cape Coral, Florida; and nephews, Michael Blue Jr. and Jackson Blue, both of Cape Coral, Florida, and Aaron Blue of Denver, Colorado. The family has scheduled a private service. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the family.

Jerry Bullard

Jerry Bullard, 52, of 111 Edwards Road, Aberdeen died Sunday, December 13, 2015. The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 19 in Turnpike Baptist Church in Wagram. Burial was in Lighthouse Baptist Cemetery in Aberdeen.

Ariyana S. Gordon

Ariyana Skye Gordon, 17 months, died Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte. She was the daughter of Charles and Kristina Gordon. She was born July 24, 2014 in Matthews. In addition to her parents, she

is survived by two sisters, Alexiya and Karolyne Gordon; maternal grandparents, Edward (Mel) and Susan Hedrick of Monroe; paternal grandparents, Ronald (Buddy) and Angela Gordon of Raeford; and numerous other family members.

A funeral mass was held at 9 a.m. Saturday, December 19 at St. Luke's Catholic Church, 13700 Lawyer's Road, Mint Hill. A private graveside service was held at Jackson Springs Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Carolina's HealthCare Foundation, Levine Cancer Institute, The Cancer Research Innovations Fund, c/o Carolinas HealthCare Foundation, 1221 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28204. Online condolences may be made at www.briggsfuneralhome.com.

Daisy M. Alford

Daisy Mae Alford, 77, of Raeford died Friday, December 11, 2015. The funeral was held at 3 p.m. Thursday, December 17 in Freedom Chapel AME Zion Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Fight over dog ends peacefully

The fight between a former Hoke County Sheriff's Deputy and a retired Army soldier over a former military working dog ended peacefully last month.

Former Hoke deputy Deon Fuller reportedly gave the dog, a pit bull named Howard, back to Alex Reimer, who was the dog's handler while serving in the military overseas.

Reimer posted that he got the dog back shortly before Thanksgiving. The Facebook page, Bring Howard Home, received over 35,000 likes but has now been taken down.

Fuller was fired from his job at the Hoke County Sheriff's Office after news of the fight over Howard went viral on Facebook. Fuller posted on social media that he believed he was fired because

he refused to give Howard back to Reimer, but Sheriff Hubert Peterkin stated that Fuller was let go because "his services were no longer needed."

Howard was reportedly the first bomb-sniffing pit bull to be certified as a working dog in the U.S. Army. Howard and Reimer were deployed in 2012. Reimer lost track of the dog after he returned to the country and passed Howard on to another handler.

Reimer, who now lives in Colorado, started looking for Howard and located him in the Fayetteville area. He reportedly contacted Fuller and asked for him back. When Fuller turned him down, Reimer launched a Facebook page seeking support to get his former K-9 partner back. It wasn't clear how the dog

went from being a military canine to being adopted out to a family. Apparently, at some point Howard ended up in a shelter and was adopted by a police department Fuller worked for with the intent of making Howard a police dog. When that didn't pan out, Fuller adopted the dog.

That shouldn't have happened, Reimer said. "Howard was adopted to this family incorrectly, and I should have been notified once Howard was up for retirement as I was his first handler," he wrote on the Facebook page, which has since been taken down.

Reimer's family announced plans to start a new Facebook page called "Howard's Search and Rescue," but the page was not available.

Man on parole arrested for break-in



Jackson

Officers arrested Cleon Jackson,

27, of the 800 block of Edinburg Road in Red Springs on one count of breaking or entering and one count of larceny after breaking or entering. He was arrested December 14 and released on a \$25,000 secured bond.

Jackson was charged in connection with a reported break-in at the home of John Oxendine on Gold Hill Road on October 3. Oxendine reported the break-in

to authorities, who then started an investigation and learned that property stolen from the victim's house was sold to a third party.

Deputies arrested Jackson when he reported in to his probation officer. Jackson was serving probation in connection with a charge of breaking and entering and possession of stolen goods in Robeson County earlier this year.

Drug bust nets heroin



Brand

Investigators with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office reportedly found heroin and drug paraphernalia at a home in Raeford last week and arrested one person on drug charges.

Authorities arrested Gary Brand, 52, of the 100 block of Cheer Lane in Raeford on charges of possession with intent to deliver heroin, maintaining a drug dwelling and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was arrested December 17 and held under a \$30,000 secured bond.

The sheriff's office Special Operations Unit had been conducting an investigation into the

possible sale of heroin from the residence and identified Brand as the suspect in the case. Officers executed a search warrant at the house and reportedly located five bindles of suspected heroin along with empty bindles and other drug paraphernalia.

This is the second time authorities have executed a search warrant at that address in the last month, according to officials.

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