

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Ethanol plant sold to Tyton Buyer turns tobacco into ethanol, price likely \$12.8 million

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The first ethanol plant in North Carolina, which has sat unused since it went into bankruptcy in 2011, has a new owner. Tyton N.C. Biofuels LLC closed Friday

on the former Clean Burn Fuels ethanol plant in Dundarrach, according to county records. Attorneys for the new owner filed the deed with the Hoke County Register of Deeds office Monday, and also stopped by the Hoke County Tax Office to make a \$1,168,965.84 payment on back taxes owed

by the prior owner.

The registered address for Tyton N.C. Biofuels LLC submitted on the deed was a post office box located in Stateline, Nevada.

The final purchase price on the plant has not yet been made public, but former owner CBF Holdings LLC expected it would sell

for less than \$15 million. The excise tax was recorded on the deed as \$25,636. An excise tax of \$2 per \$1,000 of the property sales price would put the price tag for the plant in the \$12.8 million range.

Officials said they were withholding (See ETHANOL, page 6A)

Rockfish marks Memorial Day



Community celebration

The Rockfish community held a celebration of Memorial Day on Sunday, beginning with a skydive by the All Veterans Parachute Team to bring in the POW flag and those from branches of service. The team signed autographs. Speakers addressed the crowd., classic cars were on display, bands performed, hot dogs were free, and vendors sold produce. The event was held at the Rockfish Speedway and Flea Mall. (Hal Nunn photos)



Video gamblers deadline set: July 1

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Operators of illegal gambling machines in Hoke County have until July 1 to shut down their gaming parlors or face criminal charges, according to the Hoke County Sheriff's Office.

The Hoke and Scotland County joint gaming task force "will begin strict enforcement" of North Carolina General Statutes 14-292 to 14-306.4 on July 1.

"If you are found to be in violation of the State's gaming laws, your property will be seized and you could be charged with misdemeanor and felony offenses," according to a flyer that officials said will be distributed to all facilities in the county that are operating the illegal machines.

"It is illegal to operate, possess, or play these machines," the notice said. Hoke County Sheriff Hubert Peterkin, Raeford Police Chief Kemp Crumpler, Scotland County Sheriff Shep Jones and Laurinburg Police Chief D. Williams signed the task force letter.

The two-county task (See GAMBLING, page 3A)

This Week

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Service remembers veterans' sacrifices

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

While the last Monday in May is the unofficial start to summer, full of barbecues and beach trips and family fun, that's not what Memorial Day is all

about, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10 Commander George Balch said.

"On Memorial Day when we're supposed to be remembering, I really wonder if we understand the significance of Memorial Day," he said.

Balch was the speaker and master of ceremonies Monday at the annual Memorial Day ceremony, held at 11 a.m. at the service monument in front of the Hoke County Courthouse in Raeford. His message to the small crowd of veterans and their families and community members was to be sure to pass on the importance of the day to the next generations.

All too often, people—including elected officials—don't support the efforts to remember veterans on special occasions like Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Balch said.

"I'm observing and I don't see many of them here, they're not in Washington D.C. and they're not up in Raleigh, so I just wonder where they're at," he said. "We as people need to remind our children and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren and our great-great-grandchildren (See VETERANS, page 4A)



Taking part in the service at the Hoke Courthouse.



Burning out of control

A man burning grass off Ratley Steet Monday lost control of the fire and couldn't stop it from destroying this shed and burning a large tree. No one was hurt. (Ken MacDonald photo)

Wreck kills local man

A man from Aberdeen died in a car accident this weekend after drinking and driving, according to the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

James Thomas Crouch, 56, of the 15700 block of U.S. 15-501 in Aberdeen died at the scene of a single-vehicle accident Sunday, a report by Trooper Locklear of the State Highway Patrol said.

Crouch was traveling southbound on MacFarland Blue Road around 9:22 p.m. (See WRECK, page 4A)



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VIEWPOINTS

It's not so easy to find a job these days

Unemployment continues to be a problem as we slowly recover from the recession. While many people say those who really want to work can find a job, my bet is that many of these people have not faced the challenge of finding a decent job in today's economy, in an impersonal world where many traditional jobs have disappeared. Personal connections are still king, but for many, they do not exist. I have often wondered what luck I might have today if I moved to a city where I am unknown and tried to break into the job market. I actually did this years ago during the recession of the eighties and had a rough time finding an engineering job with no personal recommendations. Take away my college education, a qualification that many hard working people do not have, and I might still be looking. Update to the methodology of finding jobs today and it would likely be even worse.

First of all, knocking on doors is largely a bygone strategy. This will get you a request to fill out an online application. I can do that, but now my application is mixed into an impersonal batch that cannot reflect my desire, or my personality. Since I am out of work, my work history is sure to reflect a gap, which must be explained. I won't get much sympathy or understanding from a computer, so I will likely be kicked to the curb right away. Being persistent is also a strategy that used to work, but these days, it is



Frog Holler Philosopher
Ron Huff

just as likely that the actual person doing the hiring does not work there, and is using the computer to purposely screen out as many applicants as possible, making his or her job easier. Persistence translates into filling out the same old application again.

Add to this the competition from experienced people who are now having to apply for lesser jobs, competing with younger applicants, and you can see how it can be tough. Have you noticed the ages of people now working in lesser paying jobs?

On the other end of the spectrum, I got an unexpected visit from Mike, my part-time farmer friend who has been cutting hay at Frog Holler for the last few years. I had noticed that last year, he hadn't been there a few prime cutting days. He was now informing me that he just could not get enough time away from his main job to harvest the hay. It seems that he is being required to work many extra hours at his job, and the work and stress of the extra farm work is just too much. He works on an electrical line crew for a major power company. He would be more than happy to work 40 hours a week and live a better quality life while allow-

ing the extra work to be given to someone else. He and one other of his co-workers work enough for three regular jobs and would rather work less. Even though he works for a company that has a monopoly on a product that is needed by everyone, every day there is financial pressure for the company to hire fewer workers.

Last week, our friend Mark from Pennsylvania came down for a few days to visit the frogs and the dogs and to catch a few fish in our pond. Mark works for an airline as a maintenance foreman and makes excellent money—incidentally with a technical degree. He is being squeezed so much by the airline that his mechanics are asked to perform nine hours of work on planes each night while only having the planes available for six hours. His complaints of the need for more mechanics is met with the excuse that company profits must be raised from the current 13 percent to 15 percent to please the stockholders. This is a major airline and their passengers are flying on planes that are not being maintained to established guidelines.

So, we have a society in which some can't find a decent job and those who have them are often overworked and are losing the quality of their lives. Corporate profits are held in greater esteem than workers or even customer safety. Meanwhile many corporations are sitting on mountains of cash. What is wrong here?

More later.

There's a hidden gem in Rockfish

"Woe is us." "Our county is so poor." "We need help from Raleigh and Washington." These are examples of statements often used by taxpayers and elected officials in describing Hoke county. And how often do we get a raised eyebrow when we tell people from other areas that we live in Raeford? While our great county does have its issues (as all counties do), we also have numerous reasons to be proud to live in Hoke county. To name a few:

- As the fastest growing county in North Carolina, our economic future is bright.
- We are in the process of having two hospitals, something no surrounding county can claim.
- We have a nationally accredited Sheriff's Department,

Rockfish View

Michael Lindsay



and judges and prosecutors who work diligently to keep us safe.

- Hoke's education community is full of people who care deeply about our children.
- Sandy Grove Middle School continues to be a shining star for Hoke county.
- A few miles south of Raeford, the Hoke Parks and Recreation Athletic Complex is a state of the art facility.
- Hoke is home to one of the few, and finest, indoor skydiving centers in the United States.

• The Carolina Horse Park is one of the best equestrian centers anywhere.

Remember these facts the next time someone starts running down our great county.

There is a hidden gem in Rockfish, and I say hidden because the number of patrons does not match the level of food, service and atmosphere. Our Daily Bread Café and Bakery is worth the trip to Rockfish, regardless of where you are coming from. Owner and operator Jim Klemish has created a menu that pays tribute to local farmers and communities by naming the dishes after them. Most recently, I ordered the "Dundarrach" and, like everything else I have tried there, it was delicious.

Governor could get power in other ways

There's a secret nobody in the Raleigh power establishment will confirm.

It is this. Our Republican governor, Pat McCrory, would not mind if there were a few more Democrats in the General Assembly after this fall's elections.

When you ask people close to the governor about this possibility, they are not likely to give you a straightforward "yes" in response. But their flashing eyes and quick grins tell you that they think the governor would have more strength dealing with the legislature if there were fewer Republicans.

As The Charlotte Observer's Jim Morrill wrote earlier this month, "Gov. Pat McCrory's first months on the job were trying. Legislators from his own party drove major policy debates on abortion rights and voter identification in 2013, often leaving the new governor little more than a spectator."

It is not the first time a North Carolina governor and a legislature controlled by the same party have butted heads. "Just who does he think he is?" I remember one powerful legislator exclaiming when a powerful education governor stepped over some imaginary boundary line while trying to push legislators to fund a new educational program.

Recent governors have had a weapon in their dealings with the legislature, one that, arguably at least, McCrory does not have. It is the power to veto legislation.

But McCrory does have the

One on One

D. G. Martin



veto. Why suggest that he does not?

The value of his veto power is limited because the Republican legislative leaders have a veto-proof majority in both houses. North Carolina's Constitution provides that the legislature can override a governor's veto by action of three-fifths of the members of both chambers.

To override a governor's veto in the state senate 30 votes are needed. Republicans control 33 of the 50 seats.

In the house, 72 votes are needed. Today, Republicans have 77 of the 120 seats.

With their current majorities, the Republican legislative leadership has the votes to override a governor's veto. With his veto power diminished, the governor has a hard time demanding a seat at the table or insisting on being consulted when major legislation is under consideration.

With just a few more Democrats (four more in the senate and six more in the house), the veto-proof majority would disappear and the governor would get a seat at the table.

Or so the story goes.

However, longtime observers of North Carolina government remind us that most of our governors had to get along without the veto until 1996 when

we amended our constitution. Until then, North Carolina was the only state whose governor lacked the veto power.

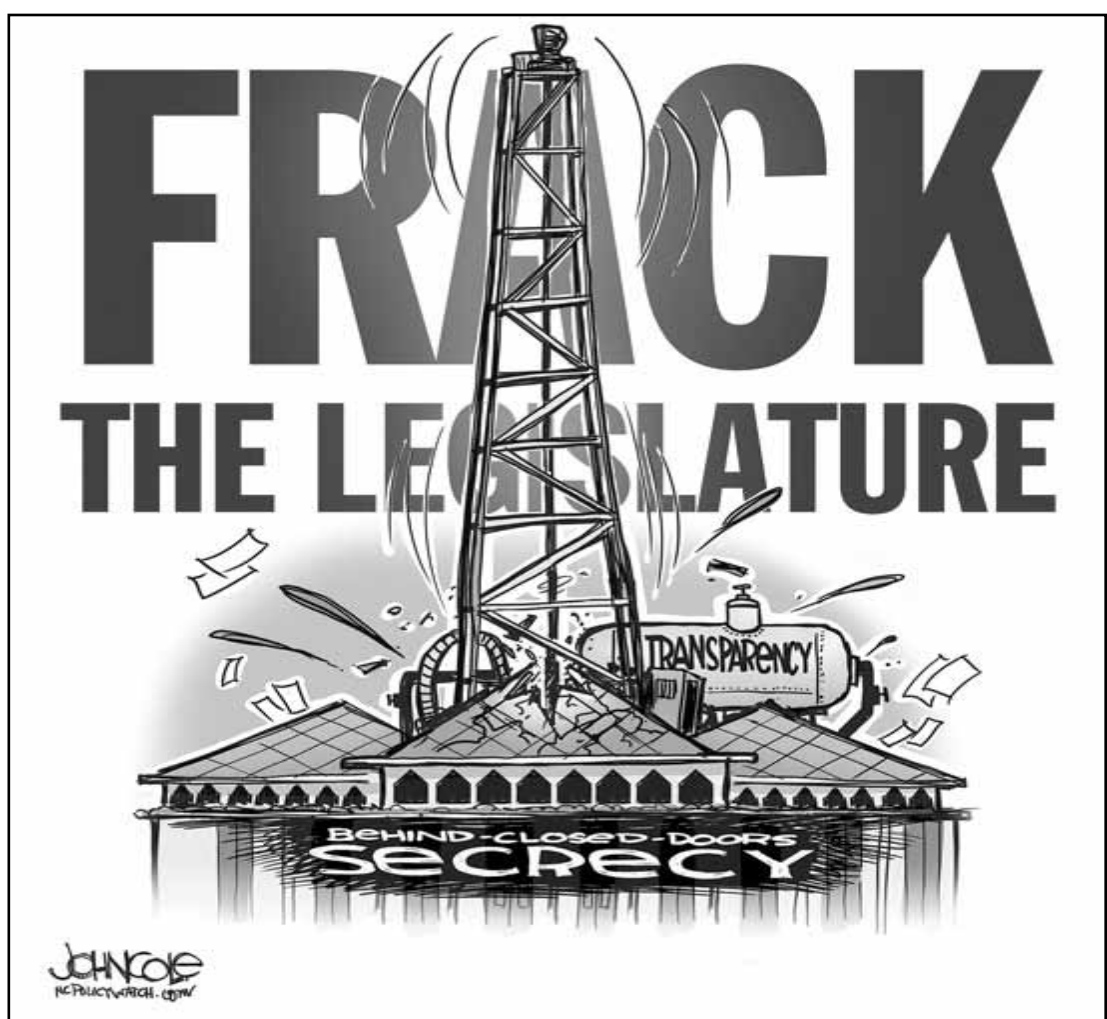
Prior to 1996, governors without the veto had to find other ways to lead. And they did, using their control of the state bureaucracy, their power to make appointments to high positions, to direct highway and construction spending, to exercise their budget authority, to enforce state laws and regulations, to grant permits for activities, and through their use of their access to the media and the "bully pulpit" of the governor's office.

Prior governors, like Sanford, Hodges, Holshouser, Martin and Hunt, did more. They courted legislators, inviting them to regular breakfast meals at the governor's mansion and paying regular attention to them.

Speaking to a group of reporters earlier this month, former house speaker and current senate minority leader Dan Blue emphasized the importance of what he called the knowledge of "inside baseball" as an important part of the skill set of our prior successful governors.

Ironically, the line of strong North Carolina governors ended about the same time the governor got the veto power.

Maybe a few more Democrats in the legislature next year would give our governor a seat at the table. But it will not, by itself, get him into the pantheon of North Carolina's most successful governors.



We Get Letters

Is Hunt being denied right to speed trial?

To the Editor:

Let Justice Prevail...in the courts and in our community

I have followed with interest news articles chronicling the unfortunate domestic charges of Hoke County Commissioner Tony Hunt, including allegations of a felony, since November 2013.

Chiefly of concern has been the FIVE court continuances surrounding this case that on the surface beg the question of justice, and violations of the Commissioner's rights sealed by the Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution. This amendment constitutionally guarantees persons accused of criminal wrongdoing the right to a speedy trial. Again, I raise the question, are Commission's Hunt's right to due process being denied?

The leading paragraph of the front-page article appearing in the May 14th edition of The News-Journal further captured cause for public concern by detailing "that if convicted of the felony" Commissioner Hunt would not be "allowed to stay in office or return following the November election." Questions abound here

whether or not a deliberate effort is being launched ...overtly or covertly... to prevent the Commissioner from continuing to serve the electorate voices that have spoken in support of his continued leadership and service as a commissioner. This article further provided significant background as well on the North Carolina State Constitution's provisions prohibiting public service by a convicted felon to whom citizenship rights have not been restored.

It was also noted in a follow-up report of the fifth continuance that Commissioner Hunt asserted he had never asked the court for, nor sought, any continuance of this matter in the interest to have it expediently addressed. In response, District Court Judge John Home Jr. advised that a grand jury had not been impaneled to hear charges so there was nothing he could do even if he wanted to. Once again, there are questions surrounding constitutionally protected rights violation. The Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution provides that: "No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous

crime, unless on a presentment of a true bill of probable cause or indictment by a Grand Jury. We raise the question surrounding the responsibility upon whom the impaneling of the Grand Jury rests. What is our local District Attorney doing to ensure this matter is addressed? Should our State Attorney General's Office or a Federal US Attorney be consulted given that these entities are empowered by the United States Constitution to impanel a Grand Jury?

As an interested and engaged public citizen, my interest here is not to weigh in on the presumed guilt or innocence of Commissioner Tony Hunt. It is my interest, however, to strongly advocate that he not be tried in the media or through public opinion. I am seeking answers to questions posed here by urging and encouraging the judicial system be allowed to work as it is designed to work. I am asking that justice be allowed to prevail in our courts and in our community.

Christina Davis-McCoy
Raeford

'Public money is not all public money'

To the Editor:

Your editorial, "Not hard to see why parents want out, but there are just a few problems," of May 21 contains many flaws in viewpoint, as you attempt to condemn those scholarships to poor children and also a judge's recent upholding of those scholarships via the judiciary process.

1.) You seem to have no clue that public money is not all public. Public schools benefit from private donations, private fundraising projects, public-private partnerships, private gifts and endowments from individuals, lottery money, etc. These are only a few examples of private money

contributions to public education and public funding. Public money is not all public money! Quit misleading the public. This is why it is fair to divert some of that money BACK to the private sector from which it came.

2.) Opportunity scholarships do not work by taking resources from public schools kids and giving these to private schools, as proposed in your editorial diagram. No, opportunity scholarships give children in failing schools the chance to succeed in private schools—it enriches the children, not the private schools. Quit misleading the public. It gives resources to the child who

is devoid of them and too poor to acquire them. The resource follows the poor child, not the private school.

3.) Parents are not obligated to sink their own children's boats of education to shore up a sinking public educational ship. Quit trying to make them feel guilty for seeking the best for their children. A child's staying in the failing system that is failing him is not in the best interest of the child. Thank you for allowing me the freedom of speech to disagree, as the First Amendment guarantees.

Barbara Richie Pond
Raeford

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Home Page: www.thenews-journal.com



Ken MacDonald (ken@thenews-journal.com)..... Publisher
Catharin Shepard (cshepard@thenews-journal.com)..... Reporter
Hal Nunn (hal@thenews-journal.com)..... Sports Writer
Hal Nunn (hal@thenews-journal.com)..... Sales Representative
Wendy Tredway (wendy@thenews-journal.com)..... Sales Representative
Sheila Black (sheila@thenews-journal.com)..... Office Manager
Robin Huffman (robin@thenews-journal.com)..... Composition Design/
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Obituaries



Larue C. Brock

Larue C. Brock

Larue Carroll Brock of 782 Sanders Road died Monday, May 19, 2014 in Cape Fear Valley Medical Center at the age of 77. She was born in Hoke County on November 5, 1936 to the late Hunter and Ethel Jackson Carroll. She received her nursing degree

from Sandhills Community College. A loving mother and grandmother, she was dear to all who knew her. She was a member of Arran Lake Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

She is survived by her daughter, Carolyn B. Tillery of Houston, Texas; her sons, Don Brock of Lake Waccamaw, and Marion Brock and his wife Wanda of Raeford; her sister, Elaine Hendrix of Raeford; two grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 23 at Arran Lake Baptist Church with the Rev. Dr. Jeff Isenhour and the Rev. Ronnie Wilson officiating. Burial was in Cumberland Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Arran Lake Baptist Church, 1130 Bingham Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304.

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

Sheriff Blotter

The Hoke Sheriff's Department reported the following recent incidents:

- May 17**
Fire investigation, 4300 block of Rockfish Road
Communicating threats, 100 block of Lucy Lane
Breaking/entering, larceny, 200 block of Oakdale Gin Road
Larceny, 100 block of Malloy Street
Missing person, 100 block of Marsh Court
Injury to personal property, 3300 block of Stone Gate Drive
Larceny, 1000 block of Dunvegan Drive
Exhibiting harmful performances to minors, 100 block of State Street
Larceny, 4500 block of Fayetteville Road
Larceny, 100 block of Hawk-eye Drive
Uttering forged instrument, 100 block of Swan Lane
Arrests: Juan Carlos Ortiz, 100 block of Streeter Circle, assault on a female; Tyronda Levette McNeill, 100 block of Iowa Street in Southern Pines, larceny and two counts of failure to appear; Justin Lamar Nolan, 100 block of Swan lane, assault on a female and uttering forged instrument.
- May 18**
Injury to personal property,

- 100 block of Water Wood Court
Injury to real property, 100 block of Emma Lane
Larceny, 400 block of Hodgkin Road
Simple assault, 100 block of Beltons Loop
Assault on a female, 100 block of Streeter Circle
Assault on a female, 100 block of Chapel Hill Drive
Assault on a female, 100 block of Beltons Loop
Larceny, 100 block of Davis Bridge Road
Injury to personal property, 100 block of Alex Baker Road
Assault on a female, simple assault, 300 block of United Road
Injury to personal property, 200 block of Falling Leaf Drive
Fire investigation, 100 block of Heron Drive
Arrests: Brandon Thompson, 100 block of State Street, exhibiting harmful performances to minor
- May 19**
Larceny, 100 block of Dakota Drive
Breaking and entering, injury to real property, 100 block of Oak Court
Larceny, possession drug paraphernalia, possession of a Schedule II substance, 4500 block of Fayetteville Road
Assault on a female, 100 block of Hobson Road

Here's how there's a deficit and surplus

One on One

Paul O'Connor



support essential expenses.

North Carolina has struggled with a structural deficit for years. Our industrial-era state tax structure devised in the 1930s does not support "essential services" in the information age. The tax structure does not align with economic activity.

Republicans promised tax reform in 2013 but didn't have the political will to pull it off. So they cut taxes for the affluent, raised taxes on many others, and set the stage for this shortfall.

When Democratic leaders Sen. Dan Blue, D-Wake, and Rep. Larry Hall, D-Durham, held their session-opening press conference, they spoke of the state's structural deficit and a revenue

system that can't support "essential services."

And the next day, Art Pope, state budget chief, recited a slew of numbers that said just the opposite: The state has a surplus this year.

Here's how both sides can be technically right: It depends on one's definition of "essential services."

For the 10 years prior to the GOP's legislative takeover in 2011, Democrats didn't reform the revenue structure, but kept the budget in balance with temporary tax increases. That allowed them to provide raises for teachers and state employees most years, to fully fund UNC, pre-school and public education, and to maintain the community colleges and other programs.

To Democrats, all were essential services and the tax system had to support them.

To Republicans, much less is considered essential. Since 2011,

they've cut public school, UNC and social service budgets all so they could keep state spending in line with a revenue stream that they've depleted with their tax cuts.

You can't say that there's a structural deficit because Republicans have shown they are willing to keep cutting what Democrats would call "essential" services.

Here's the difference in simplified form: Democrats decide which services are essential and then set tax rates to pay for them. Republicans set tax rates and then see what that will buy them in services.

In 2010, after Democrats had repeatedly raised taxes to maintain most services, voters threw them out of office. Some day, when voters decide that Republicans have cut "essential services" too much to maintain low tax rates, they'll throw them out, too.

Gambling

(Continued from page 1A)

force will work together to shut down any gaming parlors still operating past the deadline, Peterkin said.

"That is it. We expect all of these video poker businesses, any business that's operating (the machines), casinos, any of them, to be shut down on July 1," the sheriff said.

And if they're not, District Attorney Kristy Newton has agreed to prosecute them, he said.

This marks the fourth time in a decade that the sheriff's office has had to crack down on the illegal operations. The gambling operations' attorneys keep finding loopholes in the law, but a decision by the Supreme Court made it clear that the machines are illegal.

In recent months the gambling parlors have snuck back into the county.

"Based on investigations being conducted there's a lot of machines in this county," he said. The task force has identified the owners and the vendors and will operate as a group to put a stop to the illegal activities.

It appears the community does not want the parlors in Hoke County, according to what the sheriff has heard from residents.

"We've received numerous complaints from the community about this problem, how it's been a nuisance to the area and business, but the bottom line is it was ruled illegal on the Supreme Court level so people shouldn't be doing it," Peterkin said.

Most of the parlors belong to people from other areas who were essentially kicked out of those counties by law enforcement agencies there, Peterkin said.

"We want them to leave," he said.

The task force is also receiving support from the state in pursuing action against any of the parlors that do not shut down by the deadline.

"Right now the task force has a unanimous support from every organization involved including the state," Peterkin said.

Newton sent out a letter last month about the matter, explaining what happened with the court cases to confuse the issue. Law enforcement officials have battled the operations for a number of years, but ongoing litigation and misinterpretations of legal decisions kept agencies from being able to act to close them down, she said.

"For an extended time period,

our hands were tied and we were not permitted to enforce the law because of injunctions and prohibitions put in place by various courts across the state," the district attorney wrote. "The (United States) Supreme Court has now clarified that the laws prohibiting gambling are constitutional and given us the green light to enforce the law."

The surge in local gambling parlors "likely resulted from a misunderstanding about a local court decision," she said. The Supreme Court dismissed one gambling case in Scotland County for reasons related to that specific case, the district attorney said. That made some people believe that some types of the gambling machines are legal when they are not.

"The Court did not issue a ruling that gambling is legal. The Court made a narrow ruling in a single case, based on the facts of that particular case," Newton said in the statement.

But the time is about to be up for local parlors, Peterkin said.

"I just hope that people take this seriously and understand that come July 1, we expect them to be shut down," he said.

County Planner Robert Farrell said last month that all of the video gambling parlors in Hoke County are operating without county permits.

Arrests: Phillip Allen Paster-nak, 200 block of St. Matthews Church Road, order for arrest; Clarissa Nash, 700 block of Commerce Street in Fayetteville, wanted for arrest; Jimmy Earl Locklear, homeless, wanted for arrest; Neal McPhatter, 200 block of East Fifth Avenue in Red Springs, wanted for arrest; Erynn Loeder, 100 block of Hobson Court in Raeford, wanted for arrest.

May 20

Larceny, 100 block of Remington Drive
Injury to personal property, 1700 block of Ashemont Road
Breaking and entering, larceny, 1500 block of Loop Road
Breaking and entering, larceny, 1500 block of Clan Campbell Road
Breaking and entering, larceny, 700 block of Club Pond Road
Larceny by employee, 4700 block of Arabia Road
Breaking and entering, larceny, 100 block of Michael Drive
Breaking and entering, larceny, 200 block of Haire Road

Man arrested for stolen vehicle

A man from Maxton was charged last week with reportedly possessing a stolen four-wheeler. Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested Brent Locklear of the 100 block of Marguerite Road in Maxton on one count of felony possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Locklear was reportedly found to be in possession of a four-wheel vehicle belonging to Doyle Upchurch, one of several people who reported their four-wheelers stolen from

the same area in H o k e County. Investigators traced the vehicles to Robeson County, where they made the arrest. Locklear was released on a \$5,000 unsecured bond.



Locklear

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| Food StopW. Prospect Ave. | Short Stop #68.....N. Fulton St. |
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| 401 Shop-N-Save #1.....Harris and 401 | Tobacco WorldFayetteville Rd. |
| Hardin's.....Rockfish Rd., Rockfish | 211 Food MartHwy 211 |
| Hardin's Express Stop.....Rockfish Rd. | Waffle House.....401 Hwy Bypass |
| Highway 55.....401 Bypass & 401 Business | WilcoHess.....Aberdeen Rd. |
| Home Food Supermarket.....Main St. | Yogi MartHwy. 211 S. |
| Howell Drug.....Teal Dr. | Zip N Mart.....Fayetteville Rd. |
| Jay's Food Mart.....Hwy 211. at county line | |

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* Hay Street United Methodist 12 pm - 1 pm Sundays

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Veterans

(Continued from page 1A)
if we're that lucky to get them, what the significance of Memorial Day is."

When Balch was a young man, he said, his school would take students to a local cemetery to place flags on the veterans' graves. Now, many people do not know where their ancestors who are veterans are buried, he said.

"People ask how we can best honor and remember the veterans who have fallen in service to our country. Today we're gathered here, we're doing that. We're doing that for the veterans in Hoke County who have fallen," Balch said. "Some of them fell in the war zone, some of them have fallen as a result of their time in a war. Sometimes you get injured and it doesn't take place for many, many years."

Agent Orange, which was used against soldiers in Vietnam, is one example of that, he said.

"It took about 30 years before we were able to convince people that we actually had some diseases," Balch said.

The Vietnam generation of veterans is not the only group of veterans who have suffered exposure to substances that could cause long-term health problems, and they're not the only ones

who sometimes have had to fight just to prove that what they endured caused illness or injury, he added. That's one reason why it's important for veterans to become involved in local veterans organizations – to be a voice not only for themselves, but for their fellow veterans.

"We had people from Desert Storm who got hit by unspent uranium artillery shells and we do not know what the consequences of that exposure will be, and they're fighting hard for us, and we need to join that fight, and one way that we can do it is as veterans here in Hoke County, join the veterans organizations so that we have strength in numbers when we go up to the state house here in Raleigh speaking about veterans' issues, when we go to Washington, D.C. as a unit and speak about veterans' issues," he said.

There are about 5,700 veterans living in Hoke County, but that only tells part of the story.

"That doesn't talk about all the people who have not ever filed a claim; that does not talk about the veterans who have just come back from Iraq, Afghanistan. They're all veterans. A veteran is any man or woman who has put the uniform of their country on and

signed (on a dotted line)," he said. "With all volunteer services, they have dared to die."

Among those Hoke County veterans are former Prisoners of War including the late Ralph A. Pandure, Bud Wilson and John Mims. Medal of Honor recipient Rudy Hernandez also lived in Hoke County for a time, among many other decorated veterans, Balch said.

"We need to remember those people, we need to remember their service," he said.

Organizations placed wreaths at the service monument in honor of veterans. The presenters read off the names of all the Hoke County veterans who passed away since last Memorial Day.

Roosevelt McPherson offered the invocation and benediction at the service. John McGirt performed the national anthem and led the crowd in singing "God Bless America." The Hoke County Honor Guard performed a three-volley salute. VFW Post 10 presented the playing of TAPS.

American Legion Post 20, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10 presented the program, and Hoke County Veterans Service Officer Jackie Halliburton gave in support.



The Hoke County Honor Guard prepares for a gun salute.



A Scout and a veteran place a wreath at the ceremony.

Wreck

(Continued from page 1A)
Sunday when he apparently ran off the road to the right. The driver overcorrected to the left, crossed the center line, and ran off the road again in that direc-

tion. The vehicle overturned and Crouch was ejected from it, officials said. The vehicle came to rest on the right shoulder of the road. No other vehicles were involved.

Crouch was not wearing a seat-belt, and alcohol was the factor in the wreck, according to Trooper Locklear's report.

No obituary information was immediately available.

Class Reunions

1956 — The Upchurch High Class of 1956 committee will meet soon. Contact Marjorie G. Hendrix at 867-8555.

1961 — If you are interested in attending a reunion for the 1961 Upchurch High School class, contact myrticemyrt@aol.com or call Myrtice Pollard (910) 843-5952 or Martha McNair Brown (910) 875-6119.

1962 — Information on the class of 1962 may be obtained by calling Annie Gilchrist McLain, 487-4195; McKinnon McKeller, 864-0772; or Ellen Clark McNeill, 875-3237; or email emcneill1005@aol.com.

1964 — Upchurch High School class of 1964 is planning for its 50th reunion in 2014. Any classmates that would like to attend meetings or make any suggestions should contact president Rebecca McNeill (910) 875-1469 or vice-president John McLean (910) 843-4047.

1965 — Upchurch High Class of 1965 meets monthly at the home of Mr. Bobby and Jennie Allen. All interested parties are invited to attend. Contact Rev. Jennie Allen at (910) 875-5026; Pastor Cora Murphy (910) 684-0417; Mr. Paul Purcell (910) 904-1622; Janice McDougal (910) 423-6271; email jlmac65@nc.net; snail mail 3649 Marcliff Road, Hope Mills, NC 28348.

1968 — Hawk Eye High School Class of 1968 will be holding its reunion September 5 at Hawk Eye Elementary School from 6 p.m. until. For more information contact Mary Maness (910) 369-5988, Darlene Locklear (910) 369-2816, Toney Lowery (910) 875-3030 or Bonnie Goins (910) 875-5040.

1969 — The Hoke High Class of 1969 will be holding its 45th reunion October 10-12 in the Ocean Reef Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC. The cost will be \$70 per person and each person will be responsible for their own room reservation. Call any of the following committee members for more information: Pat Graham

(910) 848-5142 or patgraham@centurylink.net; Shirley Rush (910) 875-4357; Vincent Parker (910) 224-3565; Myrtle Quick (910) 843-4922; Linda Cherry (910) 875-4654. We need your email or address so you can get the information.

1974 - The Class of 1974 Reunion Committee is in the planning stages for its 40th year reunion to be held October 3-5. More information will be forthcoming. If you are a member of the Hoke County High School Class of 1974, contact Mary McCollum at (910) 875-4823, benz4keeps@aol.com or Barbara Smith at (910) 875-4912, bxsmith@embarqmail.com with your contact information.

1977 — Hoke County High School Class of 1977 will meet every Monday at 7 p.m. at Virgil's Drive-In. Any interested classmate may call James Quick at (910) 273-1863.

1969 — Hoke High Class of 1969 committee will host their 45th reunion October 10-12 at the Ocean Reef Resort, 7100 N. Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach, SC. Contact Pat Graham at (910) 878-1255, Alfonso Parker at (910) 224-3565, Myrtle Quick at (910) 843-4922 or Shirley Rush at (910) 875-4357 for more information.

1987 — The Hoke County High Class of 1987 class reunion preparations are underway for 2012. For suggestions/details email: Della Brunson Smith at_della.smith@hotmail.com or Anthony Sinclair at microtec31@netscape.net.

1984 — The Hoke County High School class of 1984 will hold its 30th class reunion June 27-28 at Midpines Resort in Southern Pines. For information, call Leslie Foster Hinson at (910) 494-4056 or email tarhinson@aol.com or Sharon Peterkin at (910) 884-6546 or email speterkin@roadrunner.com. Early bird registration before Feb 28. Please help spread the word.

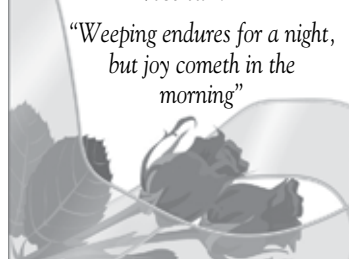
1990 — Class of 1990 classmates are having a cookout July 26 at Leon Tew's house, 1600 MCBryde Lake Road, Raeford, at 4 p.m. This is an adult function. Cost is \$25 per person due by June 20. A PayPal account has been set up for online payment. For more information, email or call Tonya Virgil-Morrissey, tonyavmorrissey@yahoo.com, 1-910- 916-7398 (cell) or Tonya McLaughlin-Stewart, ladybuzz111@aol.com, 1-910-286-5890 (cell). Please confirm your attendance by facebook, calling or submitting an email.

1998 — Planning for the class of 1998 reunion has been completed. Please contact April Bratcher at (336) 841-5388 or (336) 338-2286 cell or Damon Williams at (910) 690-6707 ASAP so we can get an information packet to you via mail or email.

2001 — A website has been established for Hoke High's class of 2001 so that classmates may keep in touch and exchange reunion ideas. The website was begun by Gretchen Adams and the address is www.geocities.com/fightingbucks2001/index.html.

Please Recycle
This Newspaper!

The Hoke County High School Class of 1966 Remembers the Life of Sp4 John Pratt United States Army April 1, 1948 • May 2, 1969 Vietnam



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CLASS OF 2014

CONGRATS.

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As always this Special Section will feature photos, honors, and awards of the Hoke County Senior Graduating Class. Don't miss this great opportunity to show your support.

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Our Special Section will appear in The News-Journal on June 11.

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To reserve your Graduation Section space, contact Hal Nunn or Wendy Tredway at The News-Journal (910) 875-2121

SPORTS

Raeford Racing Round-Up

By HAL NUNN
Sports writer

Rockfish Speedway results
Rockfish Speedway and Flea Mall was the place to be this week-

end in Hoke County as they celebrated Memorial Day weekend in style. First off the racing action Saturday night was some of the best they have had and two new winners gained checkered flags

on the clay oval. In the Legends Class, Brad Foose a Colonel out of Ft. Bragg got his first win of the season. Mike MacDonald came in second, Billy Gomez Jr. came in third, Bryan Wright came in fourth and Frankie Morgan came in fifth. In the 270 Micro Sprints, Matt Jones got his first win of the season edging out Dale Arnold for the win. Matt Carr came in third, Andy Cardinale came in fourth and Jason Brown came in fifth. In the Pro Go Kart division, Logan McPherson got the win followed by his cousin Josh McPherson in second. Jake Layton finished fourth and William Brown finish in fifth. In the Mini Pro Go Karts, Ben McCall got the win with Dale Trogden finishing ion second. Levi Brown finished in third and Zack Kober and Chris McPherson rounded out the top five.

race track will continue to salute our military with Military Appreciation Night and Wounded Warrior Night. Tickets will be discounted \$2.00 for admission with a military ID and special recognitions will be made for our Military and Wounded Warriors. The racing action will end under the lights however, gates open at 3:00 p.m., with practice starting at 4:00 p.m. and racing under the lights at 6:00 p.m.

This past Sunday the Speedway and Rockfish Flea Mall celebrated Memorial Day Weekend with all kinds of events at the track. There was a classic car show, race car show, flea market, vendor areas, live music by 71st Junction Band our of Parkton and door prizes and giveaways. The entire event was sponsored by Autry Grading, Brownies 24hour Towing, Rockfish Uhaul, Flea Mall and Speedway Bingo.



Mike Elliott of the All Veteran Parachute Team addresses the crowd at Rockfish Speedway this past Sunday. Four members of the parachute team jumped into the speedways infield in recognition of Memorial Day Weekend.



Some of the race cars were on display at Rockfish Speedway this past weekend for the Rockfish Community Memorial Weekend Celebration.



Softball team wins third tournament

Members of the Diamond Elite 12U fastpitch travel softball team, based out of Hoke County won their third tournament of the season last weekend sweeping the competition and going undefeated in Laurinburg. This tournament win follows up their second tournament win back on May 10 where they also went undefeated and swept the competition in Dillon South Carolina. The Diamond Elite team members are, front row L-R, Rayne Nolan and Skye Hammond. Second row L-R, Alicia Rodriguez, Haleigh Line and Mackenzie Peters. Third row L-R, Alyssa Norton, Abby Dover, Lydia Walker, Jenna Saunders and Hailey Pait. Back row L-R, Coach Jamie Dover, Ri'Ana Green, Coach Jason Line, Ina Womack and Coach Jimmy Saunders.

Hoke County Parks & Recreations standings

Majors Baseball
Rangers 7-1-1
Tigers 5-4
Nationals 4-5
Braves 1-7-1

Rockhounds 6-2
Marauders 2-6
Grasshoppers 1-7

AAA Baseball
Yankees 7-1
Rays 6-2
Marlins 4-4
Red Sox 2-6
Pirates 1-7

Ponytails Softball
Alabama 11-0
Michigan 3-7
South Carolina 2-9

Angels Softball
Florida St. 8-1
Georgia 7-2
Arizona St 3-6
LSU 0-9

Coach Pitch Baseball
Volcanoes 7-1
Sand Gnats 4-3-1
Bees 2-4-1
Raptors 2-6

Darlings Softball
Arkansas 6-3
Auburn 5-4
Oklahoma St. 4-4-1
Miami 2-6-1

Coach Pitch Baseball
Express 7-1

Just Putting Around

By HAL NUNN
Sports writer

Bayonet at Puppy Creek

Wednesday Shootout Results, First Place (-8) Brian Altman, Marcus Dudley, John Hudson and Ron Wall. Second Place (-6) Robert Crowder, Carl Casey, Ray Miranda, Bob Persons and Grady Beasley. Third Place (-5) Larry Hardy, Eddie Southards, Gene Carter and Sean Sinclair.

FREE 2-Day Clinic for Junior Golfers age 7-12: June 23 and 24 from 8 - 10:30 a.m. Snacks and beverages are included. Space is on a first-come

first-serve basis and the topics covered will be stand and set up, balance, sportsmanship and golf baseball will be played on day 2. For more information call (910) 904-1500.

Deercroft Golf Club

The Hoke County High School Athletic Department is hosting their annual fundraiser golf tournament this Saturday, May 31 beginning at noon with a lunch and tee off at 1 p.m. It will be a four person Captain's Choice and the Hole-In-One prize is \$10,000. Other prizes are \$200 cash, Four Play at Pinehurst #8 and Four Play at

Lonnie Poole Golf Course in Raleigh. For more information contact Gary Brigman at (910) 286-2346.

Upland Trace Golf Club

The Saturday morning group winners were, Don Frykholm, Steve Jumbelick and Dixie Musselwhite. The Saturday "Pack" group winners were Tom Batchelor, Al Smith, Gary Cook and Ray McLemore. The Sunday afternoon group winners were Wayne Beasley, Ken Bullock and David Hoover. The Monday Memorial Day winners were Keith Jackson, Les Sandy, Mark Walsh and Jerry Johnson.



Riggins awarded Male Athlete of the Year at SGMS

Deontaye Riggins was incorrectly identified last week in winning Sandy Grove Middle School Athlete of the Year. He is an 8th grader at Sandy Grove Middle School where he was MVP of the football team, MVP of the track team and won the Coaches Award for basketball. He is the son of Sherronda Morrissey and stepson of Patrick Morrissey. His father is Demeco Riggins.

First Baptist Church

Graduate Sunday
June 1 • 11 a.m. service

ALL ARE WELCOME

First Baptist Academy Graduation
June 8
11 a.m. service

Father's Day Service
June 15 • 11 a.m.



WEDNESDAYS

SUNDAYS

Family Dinner 5:50
Youth & Children's Missions 6:30
Bible Study 6:30
Adult Choir Practice 7:30

Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship 11:00 am
Youth 6:00 pm
Evening Worship 6:00 pm

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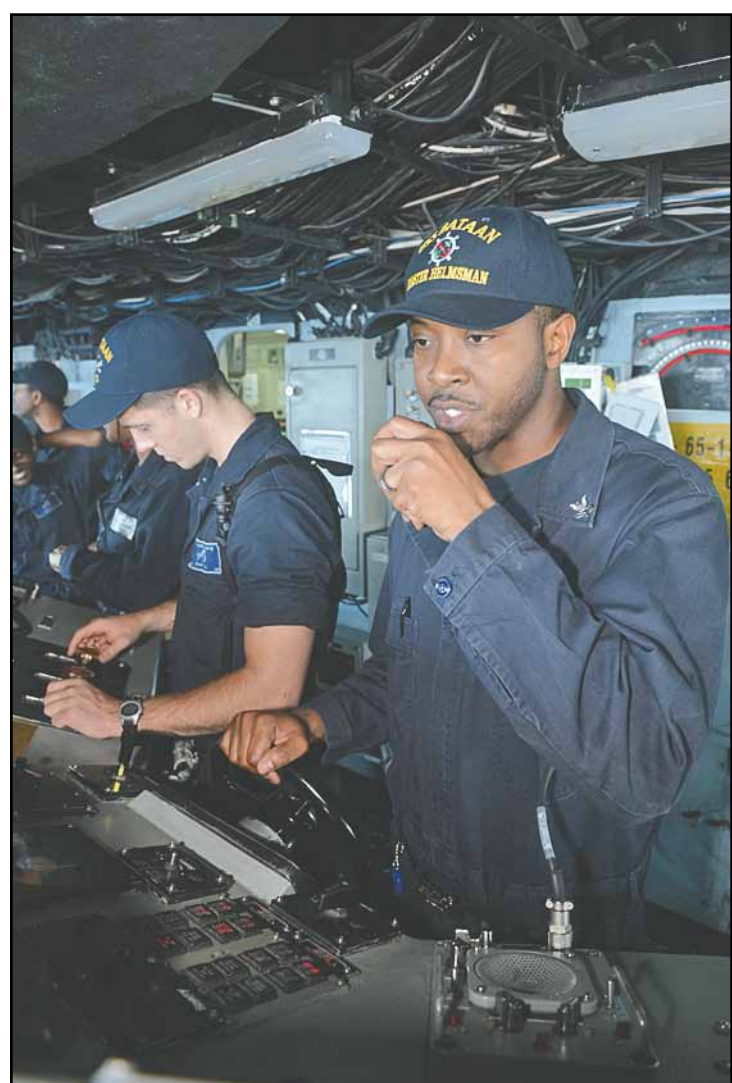
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- THINKING THURSDAY (Science & Math Activities)
- FUN FRIDAY (All About Fun)

Snacks will be provided
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\$75 per week
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The former Clean Burn Fuels ethanol plant when it neared completion. It operated for only a few months.



Louis Blue on the job.

Ethanol

(Continued from page 1A)

details about the sale and the plant's future until Wednesday, when they expected Gov. Pat McCrory to make an announcement about the ethanol plant.

According to the Tyton BioEnergy Systems website, the company is working with using tobacco as a biomass for making biofuels.

"Tyton BioEnergy Systems has developed a unique energy tobacco that it anticipates will revolutionize the economics of the biofuel industry. Tyton is seeking to propel the 200+ first generation US ethanol biorefineries into the more profitable advanced and cellulosic biofuel classes," the company's website states. "These biorefineries represent approximately \$40 billion in shareholder and owner investment. Tyton's strategy is asset light, requiring low capital expenditure to serve

a substantial market.

"Combining Tyton energy tobacco with a proven and patent-pending Tyton extraction process will unlock tremendous value for ethanol and biodiesel biorefineries and for farmers."

Tyton BioEnergy Systems is located in Danville, Virginia.

The former Clean Burn Fuels ethanol plant cost over \$100 million to build and operated for just a few months before it shut down in March 2011. Clean Burn Fuels declared bankruptcy in April 2011.

The plant went into foreclosure, and in August 2011 sold at auction to the major lien holder for \$34.5 million. Cape Fear Farm Credit formed CBF Holdings LLC to manage to plant's assets. According to economic development officials, the holdings group performed some repair work on the plant and has been working to

market the plant ever since.

CBF Holdings LLC attorney Sandy Sands and holding company general manager Joel Britt revealed news of the possible sale to the county commission during a board meeting in December 2013. At that time the representatives asked for and received a change in the tax valuation.

The valuation was too high for the value of the property, the representatives said at the meeting. Foreclosed ethanol plants typically sell for a fraction of the cost it took to build them; the nearest comparable plant in Virginia sold for around \$13 million, the representatives said in December.

At that meeting the county commissioners voted unanimously to reduce the 2013 tax value of the assessed personal property at the site from \$81 million to \$18.7 million while keeping the assessed real property valuation

the same at \$21 million. With the adjustment, the county essentially placed a total 2013 tax value of about \$40 million on the ethanol plant, roughly \$5 million more than it sold for in foreclosure.

Additionally, CBF Holdings LLC agreed to pay the 2012 personal property tax bill of \$768,654.67 and the 2013 taxes as of the closing of the plant's sale. The holdings group originally anticipated the sale to take place in March, but it did not take place until last week. The tax payment likely came from the money brought in by the sale, according to County Manager Tim Johnson.

Hoke County Economic Development Director Don Porter said he could not yet release official information about the matter as of The News-Journal deadline Tuesday, but added that he should be able to release information Wednesday.

Local man serves on U.S.S. Bataan

This Memorial Day, Louis Blue of Raeford was one of many Hoke County natives serving active duty in the United States military.

Blue, who graduated from Hoke County High School in 2001, is serving his fifth deployment on the U.S.S. Bataan (LHD 5). He has served as a quartermaster in the United States Navy for 13 years. He joined the Navy right after high school.

Blue is one of only six master helmsmen aboard the U.S.S. Bataan.

"As master helmsman, qualified sailors are trusted with great responsibility when the ship is involved in restricted maneuvering evolutions such as anchoring, straight transits and underway replenishments," a spokesman for the U.S. Navy explained.

It's a challenging position to achieve, Blue said.

"It isn't an easy watch to get qualified for, but the rewards for it are great," he said. "I would recommend anyone who has the chance to get it to make the most of that opportunity."

The U.S.S. Bataan is deployed in the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR). On February 8, the U.S.S. Bataan departed from Naval Station Norfolk for an eight-month deployment.

The deployment is part of a regular rotation of forces to support maritime security operations, provide crisis response capability, and increase theater security cooperation and forward naval presence in the U.S. Navy's 5th and 6th Fleet AOR, according to Navy officials.



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FIRSTHEALTH CONVENIENT CARE NEW LOCATION

FirstHealth Convenient Care has moved!

FirstHealth Convenient Care is now located at Moore Regional Hospital - Hoke Campus. Open Monday - Friday, noon - 8 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Located in the FirstHealth Physician Offices & Specialty Center, 6322 Fayetteville Road, Raeford, adjacent to Moore Regional Hospital - Hoke Campus. For more information, call (910) 878-5100.

MOORE REGIONAL HOSPITAL-HOKE CAMPUS EDUCATION SERIES

June 24, 6 p.m.
Advances in Cataract Surgery

Tarra Millender, M.D. a Cataract & Glaucoma Specialist, discusses the advances that have been made in cataract surgery. The Hoke Education Series is free and open to the public. For more information or to register, call (800) 213-2384. Conference Room, Moore Regional Hospital-Hoke Campus, 6408 Fayetteville Road, Raeford.

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Mahalia R. Guerrier, M.D. (Internal Medicine); Vicki Hardy, D.O. (Family Medicine); and Debbie R. Thomasson, M.D. (Cardiology)

FirstHealth Primary Care & Cardiology, Physician Offices and Specialty Center, 6322 Fayetteville Road, Raeford. For more information, call (910) 878-5180 for Primary Care and (855) 695-7915 for Cardiology.

WEIGHT - LOSS SURGERY INFORMATION SESSION

Thursday, June 5, 6 p.m. or Tuesday, June 17, 6 p.m. Renaissance Room at Pinehurst Surgical, 5 FirstVillage Drive, Pinehurst

This program is designed to introduce prospective patients to the FirstHealth Bariatric Center at Moore Regional Hospital and to provide information about the weight-loss surgery options offered. Prospective patients must attend a free information session in order to schedule a consultation with a bariatric surgeon. Family members and/or other supporters are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Please wear shoes that can be taken on and off easily and arrive 20 to 30 minutes early so we can calculate your body mass index. For more information or directions, call toll free (800) 213-3284 or visit us at our website at www.NCWeightlossSurgery.org.

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, June 5, 7 - 8 p.m., Renaissance Room at Pinehurst Surgical, 5 FirstVillage Drive, Pinehurst

This month's topic is "Summer BBQ Shopping Tips and Recipes." This is a free support group. Call (910) 715-6283 for more information.

TOBACCO CESSATION CLASS

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FirstHealth Family Medicine - Raeford, 313 Teal Drive, Raeford.

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Don't forget dad!

Treat Dad to some relaxation time this year and purchase our Father's Day massage special. One hour massage for only \$40, offer valid from June 1 - 20. Limit two specials per customer. Call (910) 904-7400 today!

FirstHealth Fitness, 313 Teal Drive, Raeford.

THE HAPPY KITCHEN

June 2, 12-1:30 p.m., Conference Room, MRH-Hoke Campus

This six-week session will help you learn the basics of cooking nutritious food. Participants will receive ingredients to prepare food from each session at home.

For more information or to register, call Melissa Kuhn at (910) 715-6274.

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