

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

75¢

No. 39 Vol. 106

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

FirstHealth's large Hoke hospital denied

Also denied is a Cape Fear Valley facility in north Fayetteville

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A state office has announced it will not allow either of two competing hospital systems to build a 65-bed hospital in the region.

The North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation denied Certificate of Need applications by Cape Fear Valley Medical Center and FirstHealth of the Carolinas to

build a 65-bed hospital. Cape Fear Valley sought to build the hospital on Ramsey Street in Fayetteville and FirstHealth sought to build the hospital on U.S. Highway 401 in Hoke County.

The denials do not affect the state's previous decision to allow both systems to build a hospital in Hoke County. The state already approved Cape Fear Valley's 41-bed and FirstHealth of the Carolinas'

8-bed facility for Hoke County, although the two systems reportedly remain in mediation after filing appeals to the decision. The 65-bed Certificate of Need filings were separate from the previous applications.

"This does not affect our plans to build a 41-bed hospital in Hoke County," Cape Fear Valley spokesman Vincent Benbenek said.

Cape Fear Valley's application to build a 65-bed hospital in Fay-

etteville was denied because the hospital is currently in danger of losing Medicare funding. A state licensure team surveyed the Fayetteville medical center last week and placed it on Immediate Jeopardy status. The specifics of the situation are confidential under health care privacy laws.

"We are confident that when the surveyors return, they will agree that our policies and procedures

are in compliance, and the Immediate Jeopardy status will be lifted," Chief Executive Officer Michael Nagowski said in a statement.

The state's decision indicated that Cape Fear Valley's application did demonstrate a need for a hospital in Cumberland County and that the organization has the financial feasibility to build it. It's "not unprecedented" for the state to deny a
(See HOSPITALS, page 5A)



Christmas is in the air

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Hoke County. The Lumber Bridge Community Choir held its annual performance Sunday and Monday (clockwise from above); Turlington student Aaron Childs decorates a nursing home door (Story, page 4A); Martha Beatty sets up a display for those who attended an event at the library for AIDS awareness; the library's "Giving Tree," which has tags with names of books needed.



Tough times straining families

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Karen Harrington expected to be evicted from her home Friday, along with her 13-year-old son and two friends who said they had nowhere else to go.

After nearly three years of unemployment, health problems, and medical bills from a disabling car accident, she struggled to make rent, buy food and afford her medication. This month the lights were turned off because she couldn't pay the bill, she said.

Harrington's story is not uncommon, Hoke County Coalition Against Homelessness Director
(See TOUGH, page 6A)

This Week



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Bank group readies ethanol plant for sale

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The new owners of the ethanol plant that went bust just months after it opened are spending big bucks to get it in shape for sale.

The banks that financed much of the construction of the ethanol plant in Dundarrach have formed a new limited liability corporation and taken possession of the property deed.

The deed transferred last Wednesday to CBF Holdings LLC, the name chosen by the banks that funneled more than \$66 million into North Carolina's first ethanol plant. Cape Fear Farm Credit made the winning bid for the plant in a foreclosure auction this August.

Cape Fear Farm Credit Vice President Joel Britt said the group continues working to repair issues with the plant and is already marketing it to

some interested buyers. Meanwhile the company is conducting needed maintenance at the plant. The banking group is paying for the repairs, which are not cheap, Britt said.

"It's significant—it's a lot of money we're spending on it to get it back to 100 percent," he said.

A few problems occurred while the plant was still operating, and some of the other issues are things that were never fully completed to begin with,

Britt said. A team is repairing concrete and fixing the grain bins, which "settled too much" and had to be re-supported for safe use. There was also trouble with a malfunctioning valve.

"There was some type of vent valve that did not operate correctly, so the top of that bin was damaged," Britt said.

The bank hired a company to take it off and replace it. Clean Burn Fuels fixed one of the bins
(See ETHANOL, page 6A)

New middle school faces legal delays

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County Schools' plan to build a new middle school has been pushed back several months to allow more time for working out the funding details, officials reported.

The delay is somewhat beneficial because it will put the school on track to eventually open in August instead of January once it is completed, Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson said.

The school system previously hoped to break ground on the new

Sandy Grove Middle School in January but it's likely that will be delayed later into 2012, the superintendent said.

Attorney Rod Malone of the Tharrington and Smith law firm is handling the legal documents for the process.

"We are working on the development agreement between the developer, the county, and the school system. That would outline the various responsibilities for the parties for the construction of the new middle school," he said.

The school system, county and
(See MIDDLE SCHOOL, page 5A)

Schools may add 5 days

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The 2012-13 school year could be five days longer for Hoke County students if the state denies the school system's request to waive the requirement.

Hoke County Schools is one of about 70 school systems in the state asking permission to waive part or all of a state mandate that schools add five days of instructional time to their calendars.
(See 5 DAYS, page 6A)

Coat collection begins

The difference between a child shivering through these winter months and being toasty warm may be hanging in your closet.

You are asked by the Hoke County Coalition Against Homelessness to go through your closets and drawers and search for new or gently used coats, shoes and
(See COATS, page 5A)

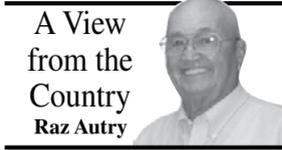
VIEWPOINTS

They're after meat eaters

Christmas is upon us and we are trying to see how we can spend less money than we did a year ago. When you use a credit card, there is always a pay day. If you believe otherwise, when is the last time you heard a credit card company say, "Don't worry about payment—that is your Christmas present?" Only in your dreams would this happen.

When I was young, we didn't know anything about credit cards—they were not invented. Besides, if they had been, we wouldn't have used them because we didn't even have any credit.

You raised all your food and didn't have the money to buy meat, which led to the killing of hogs and cows. Today, the animal folks are going to see if they can stop the slaughter of turkeys, which is our staple food on Thanksgiving. You deer hunters better be aware



A View from the Country
Raz Autry

of those folks—they will be after you next. If those folks had been around and saw how we killed hogs, most of them would have died with a heart attack. Those who survived would have ended up in a mental institution. A hog was selected to be the meal for the year. The person doing the slaughtering would knock the hog in the head with an ax. It was cruel but we did not know it. That is just the way it was. I am sure the hog thought there must be a better way for him to leave this world. It was like the man who knows he is past middle age when his wife starts paying the premiums

on his life insurance long before they are even due.

There is no doubt that I have worn this subject out, so we will talk about the weather, which is a popular subject. Today we have weather people running out our ears. As I have stated before, they are the only folks I know who are paid for being wrong. Now I must admit about one out of 10 times they will be right. However, in my times the old folks predicted the weather by the ache of their bones. They were right most of the time. Now I don't know which bones they were using for their predictions.

My parting thought: Middle age is when your wife tells you to pull in your stomach, and you already have.

When you are young, you want to change the world. When you are old, you want to change the young. Enough said.

Are we so different from dictatorships?

With the antics going on in Washington today, it's difficult to know who is running the show. It seems lobbyists and special interest groups control our representatives. Recently on the 60 Minutes TV show, there was a report of a lobbyist that in many ways controls the Republicans in Washington. It seems years ago there were members of the Republican Party who pledged they would not raise taxes for any reason. Now this lobbyist threatens that if any Republican votes for any tax increases, for any reason, they will be exposed as traitors to the party. And if they run for re-election, money and resources will be used to defeat them.

This is why, in many instances, we the public are not aware of whom is running our country. Have we reached the stage of where the "clowns are running the circus?" People that were not elected to office are now controlling the actions of those we have sent to Washington to represent us. In the wake of what has happened in the Middle East recently, this should send a message to the people of this country and our representatives to adhere to the voice of the majority of the people and not be influenced by special interest groups that are only interested in maintaining their control.

Much of the discontent between different groups in this country has been caused by



Paul Burnley

radio and TV personalities who use their positions to divide one segment of the population from another. We hear these radio personalities venting their anger against those of different political parties, different religions, and different races. This has different groups fighting against each other, while the special interest groups that control those who spread this propaganda feel that as long as they are fighting among themselves, they are not able to see the real enemy.

When we think of discrimination, we think of racial discrimination. In recent years, many who never thought they were being discriminated against have found that in many ways they too are being discriminated against. The collapse of the housing industry, the demise of major banks, the drop in the stock market, and the losses of millions of working class people have led to protests around the country. These actions, although devastating, in many ways have brought much of this country closer together with our understanding that we ALL are being discriminated against. Working together is the only way we are able to improve

this situation.

As mentioned at the start of this column, we should learn from the actions in the Middle East, when people band together for a general cause to succeed. I am in no way advocating or encouraging protesting against authority. But it should be made clear to those we send to represent us that we expect their alliance and interest should be that of the people who elected them, not to those who pay or give perks for favorable votes.

We seem to think that our country's brand of democracy is so different from that of dictatorships around the world. In many ways, there is little difference. Dictatorship is where a few control the wealth and direction of a country. This is the complaint of the protests that have erupted around the country.

Millions of working class Americans have lost their homes, jobs and savings because of mismanagement of major corporations, while those who cause this disaster have pocketed millions in retirement benefits and bonuses. Unless someone recognizes and makes an effort to correct the problem, we in this country may see some of the same disruptions in our government as we have seen in other countries.

Paul Burnley can be reached by email at PLBurnley@aol.com.

Indictments not likely to kill Perdue

BY SCOTT MOONEYHAM
Capitol Press Association

For Gov. Beverly Perdue, the news wasn't unexpected.

The rumor mill in the state capital had been churning for months.

Finally, the indictments came down. Three former campaign aides or supporters of the governor were charged with crimes related to the running of her 2008 campaign.

Peter Reichard, finance director for the Perdue campaign, faces a charge of obstruction of justice. Julia Leigh Sitton, another campaign aide, and Trawick "Buzzy" Stubbs Jr., a key Perdue supporter, were charged with obstruction of justice and filing a false campaign finance report.

In announcing the indictments, Wake County District Attorney Colon Willoughby made clear that he doesn't expect Perdue to face any criminal charges and stressed her cooperation.

Still, the collective wisdom within Raleigh political circles seemed to be that the indictments amounted to a devastating blow to Perdue's hopes for a second term.

The Republicans wanting to oust her from the governor's mansion hope that is the case.

So does state Rep. Bill Faison, a Democratic lawyer from Orange County who has notions of replacing Perdue on next fall's ballot and hasn't been bashful about letting loose his criticisms of the governor.

I'm not so sure that the collective wisdom is all that wise, or that her opponents should get their hopes up.

Obviously, Perdue suffered a bad day when the indictments were announced. Just as obviously, and no matter what Willoughby says, the criminal cases could cause some thread to unravel exposing more wrongdoing that subjects Perdue herself to serious, "pay-to-play" questions.

Let's assume that doesn't happen.

If so, the larger public—particularly Democrats and any others already inclined to vote for Perdue—may be more perplexed than outraged by the criminal charges.

Why shouldn't they be?

Under the current state of our campaign finance laws, the bigger crime committed by Reichard et al may be stupidity.

The courts have turned modern-day campaign finance into the Wild West. Meanwhile, we've got a deadly gunslinger charged with spitting in the street.

If Reichard had set up a shadow campaign allegedly independent of the Perdue campaign, he could have paid Sitton from whatever corporate source of money he wanted and faced limited scrutiny.

That's how political operatives in Washington do it. That's how more and more political operatives in North Carolina will do it unless something changes on the legal front.

And much of the public already assumes that the big money moving through campaigns is corrupting. In one national poll, 68 percent of respondents said they believe "big contributors to political parties sometimes block decisions by the federal government ... that could improve people's everyday lives."

So, the political class shouldn't be surprised if allegations of an off-the-books campaign worker and some free campaign-related airplane flights cause the public to yawn.

That's not to suggest that Perdue is in good shape politically.

At this point though, a weak economy and her occasional periods of wishy-washy leadership are more likely to be her political undoing than a criminal case against campaign workers.



We Get Letters

Be careful out there

To the Editor:

As we celebrate this holiday season, my husband and I are reminded of the fact that it could have been our last. We have so many "things" which should make us thankful and many people who touch our lives in a special way. After 46 years of safe driving, I encountered an impaired driver taking possession of my side of the highway. If the driver of that other vehicle had not hit us, he may have been another Hoke County fatality. Needless to say, it was very frightening yet a miraculous event. We give thanks to God for his care and to those whom He has instilled the knowledge in caring for others. We want to thank several residents of the Woods Edge II neighborhood for their

kindness and professional medical knowledge, Puppy Creek Fire Department and EMS response teams, the law enforcement agencies, the 911 operators and family and friends who assisted us at our accident site. We do not know you all by name but you will hold a place of honor in our lives. With the holiday season upon us, we do not want others to experience such an event to be reminded of how important it is to be an alert driver and to watch out for other drivers. Years of experience will not and do not eliminate accidents. We wish all of you a safe holiday season filled with love of family and friends.

Carrie and Butch Posey

Letters policy

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.

Hardship in N.C. by the numbers

BY CHRIS FITZSIMON
N.C. Policy Watch

4.6—the number of unemployed workers for every job opening (Labor market will lose over half a million jobs if UI extensions expire in 2012, Economic Policy Institute, November 4, 2011)

70,000—number of unemployed workers in North Carolina who will lose their federally funded extended unemployment insurance benefits at the end of this year unless Congress approves an extension (Ibid)

45 billion—amount in dollars of the cost of extending federally funded unemployment insurance benefits (Ibid)

72 billion—amount in dollars of the positive economic impact of extending federally funded unemployment insurance benefits (Ibid)

18,300—number of jobs in North Carolina that would be

created or saved by an extension of unemployment benefits into 2012 ("How many jobs could Congress save in my state through 2012?", The Economic Policy Institute Blog, November 14, 2011)

560,000—number of jobs nationwide that would be created or saved by an extension of unemployment benefits into 2012 (Ibid)

6—rank of North Carolina among 50 states in rate of food hardship in 2010, defined as a person not having enough money to buy needed food at some point over a 12-month period (BTC Brief: Hunger Continues to Rise Across North Carolina – Key programs like food stamps softened the Great Recession's deep blow, November 2011)

13—rank of North Carolina among 50 states in rate of food hardship in 2008 (Ibid)

3—number of North Caro-

lina metro areas in the top ten list for highest food insecurity among the 100 largest metropolitan statistical areas in the country (Ibid)

25—percentage of population in Winston-Salem experiencing food hardship in 2010 (Ibid)

3—rank of Winston-Salem in food hardship percentage among the 100 largest metropolitan statistical areas in the country (Ibid)

5.44 billion—amount in dollars of the economic costs of hunger in North Carolina in 2010 (Ibid)

235—percent increase in the unemployment rate in Dare County from September 2007 to September 2011 (Ibid)

520—percent increase in the food stamp participation rate in Dare County from September 2007 to September 2011 (Ibid)

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Days Since

The intent to build a hospital in Hoke County was announced.

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Obituaries

Edith Eaton

Edith Mae Eaton, 73, of Raeford died Monday, November 21, 2011. Survivors include a sister, Ruby Youmans; and brothers, Oatha, Fred and Jessie.

The funeral was held Saturday, December 3 at 1 p.m. in Buie Funeral Home chapel in Raeford. Burial was in McLaughlin Chapel Church cemetery.

Darren P. McMillan

Darren Patrick McMillan, 25, of 102 Stacy Lane died Thursday, December 1, 2011.

Survivors include his mother, Lilah; his father, Darrell; a sister, Kelli Peacock; and grandparents, Angus and Lois, and Isadore and Pauline Raysor.

The funeral was held Tuesday, December 3 at noon in Cape Fear

Conference B Headquarters. Burial will be Saturday, December 10 in Bamberg, South Carolina.

Kenneth Viner

Kenneth Robert "Mack" Viner of Raeford died Friday, December 2, 2011 in Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.

He was born November 18, 1945 in Washington, D.C., the son of the late Robert Victor and Anne Rock Viner. He came to North Carolina, the state he came to love, in 1974, first living in Greenville for about 16 years before moving to the Fayetteville area in 1990.

Survivors include his wife, Audrey Batts Viner; his daughter, Sabryna Roberson of Sacramento, California; two grandchildren, Tyler and Lilly Roberson of Sacramento; three sisters, Joanne

Trihey of Beaver, Pennsylvania, Carol Smith of Rockville, Maryland, and Susan Broomall of Frederick, Maryland; and two brothers, Bill Viner of Swanton, Maryland, and Rob Viner of Fort Worth, Texas. He loved and was a special pop to his surviving pets, Shadrack, Brittney, Luckey and Lil Girl.

A private funeral is planned.

Irene F. McNeill

Irene Catherine Frierson McNeill, 91, of Raeford died Friday, December 2, 2011.

Survivors include cousins, Vern David and Helen Barns.

The funeral will be held Wednesday, December 7 at 2:30 p.m. in Silver Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

District Court

Recent cases heard in Hoke County Criminal District Court: **Nov. 29**

Judge Regina M. Joe, presiding
• Curt Joseph Ehrnt, 50, 5631 Philippi Church Road, Raeford, resisting public officer, one day in jail, credit for one day served

• Janet Jones, 42, 1464 Scott Currie Road, Raeford, simple assault, misdemeanor larceny, resisting a public officer, second-degree trespass, 57 days in jail, credit for 32 days served

• Paul Jones, 36, 314 Springs Pine Lane, Shannon, second-degree trespass, 20 days in jail, credit for 20 days served, judgments consolidated; possession of stolen goods/property, shoplifting by concealment of goods, voluntary dismissal per case

• Neecie Ann Locklear, 40, 206 Shannon Road, Shannon, domestic criminal trespass, resisting a public officer, injury to personal property, one day in jail, credit for one day served, judgments consolidated; disorderly conduct, voluntary dismissal **Dec. 1**

Judge William C. McIlwain, presiding

• Jason Collier Baker, 26, 310 Wilson Ave., Spring Lake, driving while license revoked, 30 days suspended, one year unsupervised probation, \$100 fine and court costs

• Barbara Lynn Carroll, 45, 539 Mount Zion Road, Red Springs, driving while impaired, Level 3, 180 days suspended, 18 months unsupervised probation, \$100 fine

and court costs, attorney and community service fees, not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed

• Austin Wayne Commick, 23, 797 Eastman Road, Fayetteville, improper equipment-speedometer, \$150 fine and court costs

• James Zebulon Crump, 59, 338 N. Hilltop Road, Red Springs, driving while impaired, Level 1, two years suspended, 18 months probation, court costs, attorney fee, split jail time and pay fee, obtain substance abuse assessment, not to consume or possess any alcoholic beverages, not to operate a motor vehicle until properly licensed; driving while license revoked, 45 days suspended, 18 months probation, \$50 fine, not to use or possess any controlled substances, submit to warrantless searches, random tests for same; possession or display of altered, fictitious or revoked operator's license, voluntary dismissal

• Johnnie Marcano, 25, 115A Eulon Loop, Raeford, driving while license revoked, 100 days suspended, 12 months probation, \$100 fine and court costs, 60 days electronic house arrest and pay fee, not to use or possess any controlled substances, submit to warrantless searches, random tests for same, may be transferred to unsupervised probation upon payment of all costs

• Neil Antonio McAm, 18, 588 John Road, Red Springs, no operator's license, 20 days suspended, six months unsupervised probation, \$50 fine and court costs

• Crystal McMillian, 17, 414

Wilson Road, Red Springs, no operator's license, 20 days suspended, six months unsupervised probation, \$50 fine and court costs

• Enrique Montes, 27, 237 Scurlock Road, Raeford, driving while license revoked, 45 days suspended, one year probation, \$150 fine and court costs, not to use, consume or possess any controlled substances or alcoholic beverages, submit to warrantless searches, random tests for same, probation officer to test for alcohol at the minimum of once a month; may be transferred to unsupervised probation after six months, if all costs paid and no violations; driving while impaired, not guilty

• Marvin Connell Stubbs Jr., 33, 400 E. Fourth Ave., Red Springs, driving while license revoked, 120 days suspended, 18 months probation, \$50 fine and court costs, 120 days electronic house arrest and pay fee, not to use or possess any controlled substances, submit to warrantless searches, random tests for same, transfer probation to Cumberland County, may transfer to unsupervised probation upon payment of all costs; driving while license revoked, (two other counts), 120 days suspended, 18 months probation, court costs, not to use or possess any controlled substances, submit to warrantless searches, random tests for same, judgments for these two counts consolidated, to be served at expiration of sentence listed above; failure to wear seat belt by driver, voluntary dismissal.

Council bans video gaming downtown

BY BILL LINDAU

Electronic gaming establishments are prohibited in Raeford's downtown business district under an ordinance approved Monday evening by the City Council at its regular monthly meeting.

With six changes to the original ordinance sent to council by the planning board earlier on, the ordinance was approved unanimously.

An amendment, as passed by council, contained the following changes from the original document:

- A permitted conditional use in the downtown business district was deleted, rendering gaming illegal in the downtown district

- The setback from gaming establishments to churches, schools, day cares and similar establishments was increased from 500 to 1,000 feet

- A 1,000-foot setback was also added for public and private parks

- The number of gaming machines allowed in an accessory use gaming establishment was reduced from four to two

- The measurement standard for the setback requirement was changed the distance between the gaming operation structure and the property line of a church, school, day care and similar establishments to measuring the distance between the gaming operation property line and the property line of the other establishment

- A conditional use permit would be required for electronic gaming establishments in the Highway Commercial zone of the city.

Also according to the ordinance, all existing businesses

engaged in electronic gaming operations covered by this ordinance are required to contact the planning office of the city immediately to determine eligibility as a nonconforming use. Owners must bring their establishments into compliance by July 1, 2013.

The constitutionality of one section of the state law on gaming operations is being challenged, and lawsuits are being heard in the State Court of Appeals, said Councilwoman Mary Neil King. King produced copies of a December 2 letter regarding this law.

Mark A. Davis, special deputy attorney general, said in correspondence to the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety and Rockingham County Sheriff Sam S. Page that one of the two judges who heard the cases in state courts ruled that North Carolina General Statute 306.4 was constitutional in all respects. The other judge, John O. Craig, ruled that the statute was constitutional in all parts except one, a subpart of the statutory definition of the phrase "entertaining display."

This subpart defines "entertaining display" as "any other video game not dependent on skill or dexterity that is played while revealing a prize as the result of an entry into a sweepstakes," according to Davis' letter.

"Our courts have not clearly defined the extent of the jurisdiction of Superior Court judges under these circumstances," Davis stated. "As a result, until the appellate courts resolve the conflicting rulings in these two cases, it is our advice that law enforcement authorities should not attempt to enforce subpart

(i) of N.C. Gen. Stat. 14-306.4." City Planner Felecia Locklear told council the local ordinance would push the limits where gaming operations would be held to the outer limits of the town, including the area around Highway 211 west of Raeford, where the Hess convenience store is located, for example.

Mayor pro tem

Robert Conoly was appointed by his fellow council members as mayor pro tem, a two-year appointment expiring December 5, 2013. According to state law, the mayor pro tem will conduct the mayor's powers and duties in the mayor's absence.

Conoly, along with fellow council members John Jordan and Mary Neil King, took the oath of office following their re-elections to four-year terms.

Other action

Council also approved the following:

- The re-appointment of Dickie Lippard to the Firemen's Relief Fund Trusteeship

- A tax levy of \$2,332.68 for Wright Business Investments per the Hoke County Tax Listing Department

- The Business of the Year award for the City of Raeford, by the Lumber River Workforce Development Board. This is the second time the city has received this award, said Mayor John K. McNeill III.

- A budget amendment to set up a project in which the city must match half of a \$195,000 grant from NC One to Unilever. The city is to pay \$97,500, and Hoke County, the other half.

- The city's monthly departmental reports.

Community Development Corporation holds luncheon

The Blue Springs-Hoke County Community Development Corporation will hold its 16th annual community conversation series Saturday from 12-2:30 p.m.

This year's theme will focus on reshaping the future toward economic recovery and prosperity. The day's objectives are

to educate the Hoke County community on the corporation's efforts to be a major development player and partner in building Hoke County from within, to provide outreach and presence to local and regional strategic allies and partners to strengthen joint and unique service delivery

efforts, and to seek input from locals and hear their concerns to help the corporation in developing and enhancing program areas that meet community needs and demands.

The event will be held at the Armory building this Saturday beginning at noon.

Commission hears comments on flight path zoning

Draft sent back to committee

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

After hearing comments from concerned citizens about proposed changes to the county's zoning ordinance, the Hoke County Commissioners decided Monday to send the ordinance back to the planning committee for further discussion.

The proposed changes would add two districts to the existing nine. Parts of Hoke County close to Fort Bragg would zoned as Flight Path Overlay District, and land to 250 feet of either side of U.S. Highway 401 would be zoned as Corridor Overlay District.

The Flight Path Overlay District is meant to "ensure the compatibility between air operations associated (with) the military installation in the area and land uses on properties near these military bases, in terms of potential interference with

safe aircraft operation, potential threats from falling aircraft, and potential impacts of aircraft noise," according to information from the county offices.

The Flight Path Overlay District zoning would not affect any type of residential home but it would require developers to apply for a conditional use permit to build any business, church, or other facility that would attract a large number of people in the district.

The Corridor Overlay District is meant to "enhance the economic and aesthetic appeal and orderly development of properties adjacent to major transportation corridors in Hoke County," according to county documents. "The Corridor Overlay District is for properties (or parts of properties) parallel to both sides of the rights-of-way of U.S. 401 from the Town of Raeford's zoning jurisdiction east to the Cumberland County line."

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The Hospice Foundation of Hoke County, Inc. announces our annual **Love Lights Tree**
This gives you a perfect way to recognize loved ones during the holiday. A Love Light can be named in honor or memory of anyone who has played a significant part in your life.
The Tree, located by Hoke County Public Library, will shine during the Christmas Season beginning December 12th.
All proceeds continue to help Hospice patients and families in Hoke County.
Please fill this out completely and return with your donation to:
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Address: _____
City, State, Zip code _____ Phone: _____
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Justin Windmon, Ashley Mathews, teacher Karrie Detwiler, Jarrett Odom, Aaron Childs and Matt Hyatt worked on the project.

Students cheer up nursing home

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Autumn Care Nursing Home got decked out for Christmas last week with help from a group of Turlington Alternative School art students.

Hoke County Teacher of the Year Karrie Detwiler's classes took time to create Christmas-themed designs on the glass doors of some of the activity rooms and hallways. The students used paint that simulates a stained glass effect when layered on windows.

Usually the students make Christmas cards for all of the residents, but they wanted to try something new this year, Detwiler said. The group chose to paint the windows after plans for painting an outdoor courtyard area were deemed too hazardous for the

elderly residents.

The class chose a "Winter Wonderland" theme for the project. The birds and one-horse open sleigh were by special request, and the students also painted a church and figures enjoying a winter scene. When Christmas is over, the transparent paint will easily peel off the windows, Detwiler said.

Nursing home administrator Jackie Ward said the residents enjoyed watching the students paint the glass.

"We're really glad to have them here, making us all feel Christmas-y. Our residents have enjoyed them being here," she said. "This has been fun for the residents because they're able to see it come to life."

Detwiler's friend and fellow artist, Zele Desta, and Trieste

Teatro joined students Justin Windmon, Ashley Mathews, Jarrett Odom, Aaron Childs and Matt Hyatt in working on the project. More students from the art classes also used their talents to complete the glass paintings.

Selling ornaments

The class of art students is also making and selling handcrafted Christmas tree ornaments to fund a trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh.

The ornaments are baked in a kiln and then painted by hand. The students are selling them for \$3 each.

The trip is a way of celebrating the end of the school year and her students' hard work, Detwiler said. To purchase an ornament, contact Detwiler at 875-2583.

Christmas shipping deadlines near

Shipping deadlines are fast approaching for items that have to make it there by Christmas.

The United States Post Office is hitting its busy season with an estimated 16.5 billion cards, packages and letters flooding in for delivery to destinations around the world. Military mail destined for Afghanistan should have been sent by December 3 but customers have until December 10 to send out mail to other overseas military bases.

For shipping in the United States, mailers using parcel post, the most economical shipping service, should get

their mail out by December 15 to make sure it will arrive by Christmas. First-Class Mail should go out by December 20, while Priority Mail and Express Mail offer last-minute shoppers a chance to send mail out on December 21 and 22 with delivery expected by December 25.

To make sure packages arrive safely, USPS recommends selecting a shipping box strong enough to protect the contents, wrapping the items with packing material and adding a card inside the package with the delivery and return addresses in case the mailing label is damaged or falls off.

Scam warning

The post office is also warning customers to be careful when opening emails about package deliveries. Some customers report receiving fake emails containing a link that, when opened, installs a virus that can steal personal information from a computer.

The emails claim to be from the U.S. Postal Service and contain information about a fake attempted or intercepted package delivery. Postal inspectors warn people not to click on the link and to delete the message. The Postal Inspection Service is working to resolve the issue.

Blankets ready for those in need

Hope for Hoke will distribute free blankets to the homeless and people in need this month.

The blankets will be given away Sunday, December 17 out-

side of Bo's supermarket on Main Street in Raeford. The giveaway starts at 11 a.m. and will continue until the blankets are gone. The donated, good condition blankets

are washed before distribution.

Donation bins for Hope for Hoke are set up at the Raeford Walmart and accept donations year-round.

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Spend some quality family time together. Worship at the church of your choice. Our community has a number of churches and a variety of denominations for you and your family.

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Sunday Worship 10:30am
Awana 6:15pm
Sunday Evening Service 6:30pm
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm
Youth Ministry 7:00pm
(910) 868-3812
www.westfayettevillebaptistchurch.com

Pittman Grove Baptist Church
4921 Pittman Grove Church Rd.
875-5045 or 263-3268

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

NONDENOMINATIONAL

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Raeford, NC 28376
Phone: (910) 848-2999
Mobile: (910) 476-0653
(910) 229-1526
Sunday Morning - 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Thursday Night - Family Night Meal 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Bible Study 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
newbeginningzministries@yahoo.com

Harvest Community Family Worship Center
409 E. Central Ave
Sunday Worship, Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
(910) 875-5796
Email: HCFWC@aol.com
Pastors Darryl & Lisa Barnett

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

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Front Row L-R, Cindy Kilpatrick, Agent; Kathy Brewer, Agent. Back Row L-R, Byron Jones, Agent; Jim McMillan, Agent; Horace Whitaker, Agent and Rick Sandy, LUTCF, Agency Manager.

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BONELESS Pork Roast \$2⁷⁹ lb.	ANGUS BEEF Ribeye Steaks \$7²⁹ lb.	Smoked Picnic \$1⁶⁹ lb. PORK WHOLE \$1⁹⁹ lb. HALF SLICED	Aberdeen Bacon 2/⁵ 12 oz. Gwaltney Meat Franks 99¢ 12 oz.
WHITE (5 lb. bag) Potatoes 2/⁵ Baby Peeled Carrots 99¢ 1 lb. bag	Miller Lite/Coors Lite \$13⁹⁹ 18 pk. cans Duplin Holiday Wines \$8⁹⁹ (Variety)	OUR FAMILY Sugar 5 lb. bag 2/⁴ Spring Water \$3⁹⁹ 16.9 oz. 24 pk.	Coke Products 2/⁷ 12 pk. cans Powerade 32 oz. 99¢ Coke 2 lbs. \$1⁰⁹

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MEAT BUNDLES Choose from our best selling meats or MAKE YOUR OWN			
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BEEF & CHICKEN BUNDLE - \$85.99 35 lbs. MEAT 5 lbs. Boneless Chicken Breast • 10 lbs. Fryer Leg Quarters 10 lbs. Boneless Chuck Steaks • 10 lbs. Fresh Ground Beef	HARDIN'S ORIGINAL 1998 BUNDLE 55 lbs. Meats & 6 lbs. Veggies \$169.99 12 lbs. Fresh Ground Beef 8 lbs. T-Bone or NY Strip Steaks 10 lbs. Lean Pork Chops 3 lbs. Chicken Hot Dogs 10 lbs. Fryer Leg Quarters 4 lbs. Smoked Sausage • 4 lbs. Sliced Bacon 4 lbs. Boneless Chicken Breast Frozen Vegetables (3 2 lb. bags of your choice)	MINI BUNDLE 19 lbs. Meats \$34.99 3 lbs. Fresh Ground Beef 10 lbs. Fryer Leg Quarters 3 - 2 lb. Bags Frozen Vegetables (your choice)	
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Holiday Greetings will appear in the December 21st issue of
The News-Journal

Contact HAL or WENDY Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at
119 W. Elwood Ave. or call (910) 875-2121.

Middle school

(Continued from page 1A) developer will receive a new draft of the development agreement in the next week and continue working toward a final deal for construction of the school.

The agreement removed the tax credits as a condition of the deal from the county's side but the developer will still have to build the school based on the amount

cited in the agreement whether or not the company obtains the tax credits, Malone said.

"At some point before the developer actually signs the agreement he will have to be pretty comfortable that he can get the tax credits," he said.

The agreement places the risk on the developer instead of the county or school system, Malone said.

Food and stocking drive set

People looking to help others this Christmas can drop off non-perishable food, Christmas stockings, wrapped candy and new or gently used toys at the National Guard Armory on Teal Drive.

Tammy Sheeley is preparing for a second food drive after the first one earlier this year received low response from the community. This time, the proceeds will be split between the H.E.L.P. store food bank,

the Harvest Community Family Worship Center and the Hoke County Coalition Against Homelessness.

Besides non-perishable food items, the groups hope to stuff 1,000 stockings for Hoke County children this Christmas. The drive accepts Christmas stockings and candy to fill them, and any new or gently used toys.

The drive will be held from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. this Saturday.

Hospitals

(Continued from page 1A) Certificate of Need to a hospital under Immediate Jeopardy status, according to a hospital representative.

"We are disappointed by the agency's decision," Nagowski said about the Certificate of Need denial. "We are grateful for the community's support for our (Certificate of Need) to build a 65-bed hospital in northern Cumberland County. The need is great."

FirstHealth's request for permission to build a 65-bed hospital in Hoke County was also denied. Information

about why the state denied FirstHealth's application is due to be released this week along with other findings from the state Division of Health Service Regulation.

"We are disappointed the state denied our application," FirstHealth Chief Executive Officer David Kilarski said. "We will review the state's findings over the next couple of weeks and determine our next course of action. Although this application was denied, we will continue to pursue all efforts to build a much-needed hospital in Hoke County."

Coats

(Continued from page 1A) socks for adults as well as for children. These items may be dropped off at the Hoke County Public Library, 334 N. Main St. or call Martha Beatty at 910-261-5894.

The coalition will also be giving out free sandwich lunches from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 112 S. Main St. (next to the barber

shop) on Tuesday, December 13. Anyone who is hungry is invited to drop by.

The monthly homeless luncheon will be held at the Raeford Civic Center (behind the Raeford Animal Clinic) from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 17.

Commissioners

(Continued from page 3A) take out," he said, describing the low-impact or "green" approach to development.

The Hoke County zoning ordinance "applies to all land within the unincorporated areas of the County lying outside the extraterritorial jurisdiction of any municipality."

The proposed ordinance is available to view online at <http://www.hokecounty.net/buildingdocs/ProposedZoning082411.pdf> and also available at the county clerk's office on Main Street in Raeford.

In other business, the commissioners voted unanimously to name James Leach chairman of the board of commissioners and unanimously named Tony Hunt vice chairman for the upcoming year. The commission also reappointed Dr. Charles Allen and appointed Joseph Alston to serve three-year terms on the Hoke County Board of Health.

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NOTICE

HOKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS HAS RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF THE PHASE V WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

TAP FEE SCHEDULE

TAP-ON FEES (To Include Irrigation)

(1) Construction-Phase Rate:

The tap-on fee during the construction of the water distribution system will be as follows:

Meter Size	Established Fee
3/4 inch	\$50.00
1 inch	\$100.00
Larger than 1"	Standard Rate

(2) Future Services:

Customers not wishing an immediate connection to the water system, but who wish to take advantage of the discounted tap-on fees available during the construction phase may sign up for a "future service" tap at the following rates:

Meter Size	Established Fee
3/4 inch	\$150.00
1 inch	\$250.00
Larger than 1"	Standard Rate

Future Service rates apply only during the construction phase of the distribution system.

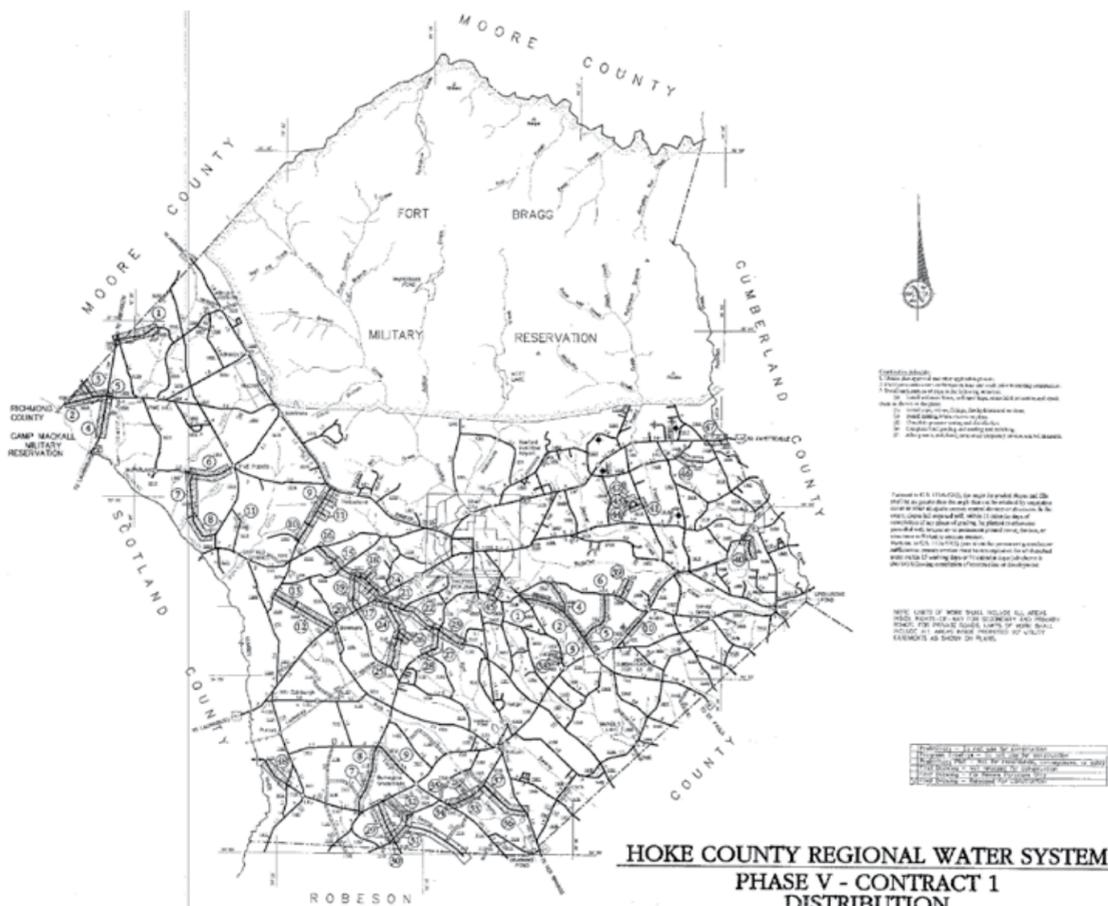
With a "Future Service" tap, a meter is not installed until requested by the customer. No monthly billing until meter installed.

THE DASHED AREAS ON THE ATTACHED MAP INDICATE WHERE NEW DISTRIBUTION LINES WILL BE INSTALLED. CITIZENS RESIDING IN THESE AREAS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT OUR OFFICE AND MAKE EARLY APPLICATION FOR SERVICE IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE REDUCED TAP FEES. WE ARE LOCATED IN THE L.E. MCLAUGHLIN BUILDING, 423 E. CENTRAL AVE, RAEFORD NC, (910) 875-6704

HOKE COUNTY REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM, PHASE V, CONTRACTS 1 & 2

WATER MAINS SHALL BE INSTALLED ON ALL OR PORTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING ROADS. CONTACT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO VERIFY THE YOUR AREA WILL BE INCLUDED.

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ASHMONT RD.	L.A. SANDY RD.
ADDOR RD.	BOSTIC RD.
MONTROSS RD.	SADDELBRED LANE
PENDERGRASS RD.	FILLY LANE
FULFORD MCMILLAN RD.	PONY PATH
ROY'S RIDGE	HACKNEY LANE
LINDA'S LANE	SPRING HILL RD.
NORTON RD.	UPCHURCH RD.
JOHN RUSSELL RD.	HWY 20
WHALEY RD.	DUFFIE RD.
PALMER FARM RD.	ADCOX RD.
MCNEILL FARM RD.	NEILL MAXWELL RD.
CHILSOM RD.	BLUE SPRINGS RD.
REX CURRIE RD.	OLD MAXTON RD.
MT. ZION RD.	WILSON RD.
TOM MCLAUGHLIN RD.	GOOSE POND RD.
COVINGTON RD.	DIAL RD.



Tough

(Continued from page 1A)
Martha Beatty said.

"There are more than three or four or five people here in Hoke County that need help. They just haven't found the right people or they haven't been in touch with somebody to try to contact me," she said.

As of last week, the coalition even knew of one family living in the woods, board member Betty Perkins said.

"These are situations that are happening here," she said.

Housing is a big need for families in the county, Beatty said. The coalition has obtained a house in Red Springs and three people are paying the \$1,200-a-month rent to make it available to families who need a temporary place to stay while they get back on their feet.

However, Hoke County needs a halfway house closer to its population center because many people faced with homelessness don't have transportation, Perkins said.

"We can help them get on their feet and help them get in a position where they can help themselves," she said. "I think to me that's the biggest issue in Hoke County."

Services "swamped"

Hoke County Department of Social Services Food and Nutrition Services Supervisor Melanie Harris said many people in the county are having trouble providing food for their families.

"Their not having enough food to eat is our biggest issue," she said.

Keeping warm in the winter is another challenge for some. The Social Services office offers energy income assistance but, due to limited funds, can only offer help to people 60 and older and disabled adults already receiving services through the department.

The office can provide a \$200 credit for electricity and a \$400 credit for gas for some qualified applicants. When that money runs out, it's gone, and the demand is tremendous, Harris said.

"We've been swamped since we started last Thursday," she said. Many area non-profit groups

are collecting food, coats, blankets and other items for families, but they also report a great amount of need in the community. At the Hoke Emergency Liaison Program store in Raeford, delayed and reduced federal funding put the group behind heading into winter months.

Usually the H.E.L.P. store receives about \$15,000 to pay for food that goes to families in need, but this year the organization got about half that amount months after the allotment is usually sent. They were fortunate because some counties received nothing at all, Director Bonnie Johnson said.

The H.E.L.P. store is seeing even more need than in previous years, Johnson said. In November the store provided clothing and food for 207 families. Now the program is working to provide Christmas help for about 160 families, including nearly 200 children. However, it's thoughts of next year's funding that has Johnson concerned.

"I don't know what's going to happen next year," she said.

Mental health services

Unemployment, financial struggles and health problems can combine to create a storm of anxiety and depression, and things are even harder for those with existing mental health issues, according to Lu Evelyn Tillman with the Community Helps Network.

The Community Helps Network, founded by Hoke County natives Wesley Baldwin and Richard Lide in 2007, offers a variety of mental health services to people in Hoke County. Substance abuse counseling, G.E.D. preparation, and psychiatric care are just a few of the programs available through the agency, which operates on Medicaid funding but also donates services to those in need.

The office sees many people in Hoke County facing hunger or eviction, Tillman said. The network worked with four people who were evicted last week.

"Some of them are almost in total despair, very depressed. We've actually just had people walk in

the building wanting to know what do we do, they need help," she said. "...We've had individuals who wanted to commit suicide, we've had individuals who wanted to give up their children because they feel like they couldn't take care of them, because of them getting so depressed over their situation."

The network's psychologist counsels adults and children having a hard time dealing with their circumstances. The center also teaches people money management skills and helps them navigate the health care system, whether they need transportation to the doctor or information about their medications.

"We help them understand budget, finance, how to manage their own healthcare," Tillman said.

It's important that people who are feeling depressed know that there is help available if they will make the call, she said.

"They need to pick up the phone and call somebody, just to call and express your feelings, to have somebody to talk to," Tillman said. "I don't know of one person at this company, if you call, that would not get you to the right person to have some time to have a conversation with. Find friends to be around. Don't be by yourself, though you want to. Get out of that house. If it's going through depression, if it's going through a lack of resources, they need to call and let somebody know there's a need so that somebody can lead them to the right place."

5 days

(Continued from page 1A)

The state budget passed by the N.C. General Assembly in June added five days to the calendar, upping the school year from 180 to 185 days. Hoke County Schools asked the state to waive three of the five days for the 2012-13 school year, Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson said.

The added instructional time will benefit students but there are drawbacks to the plan, he said.

If schools could determine their own start and end dates, it wouldn't be a problem, Williamson said. However, the state requires that schools start no earlier than August 25 and end no later than June 10, so it's not a simple matter of adding five days to the beginning or end of the year. Instead, school districts have to rework their calendars entirely and

cut out days set aside for professional development.

"The issue becomes time. How do we manage all this information?" Williamson said. Teachers may end up attending more development sessions on Saturdays in the future, he said.

Next year August 25 falls on a weekend, so school will have to start on Monday, August 27, the superintendent said. The system also has to synchronize the high school schedule with course offerings at Sandhills Community College, as the college operates on its own schedule.

The mandate to add five extra days to the calendar did not include extra funding to pay for transportation, food services or other costs. It will cost Hoke County Schools about \$70,000 to operate the schools for the

additional five days, officials said.

The school system has already started working in the days and planning for the possibility of losing days set aside for professional development. Officials also discussed the issue at the North Carolina School Superintendents Association executive board meeting earlier this year.

The association's executive board proposed that the state should revise the calendar to allow school systems to start no earlier than the third Monday in August. The state should also provide funding for those five days and for five additional professional development days for teachers, according to the association's proposal.

The schools will hear the state's decision about the waivers early next year.

Ethanol

(Continued from page 1A)

but did not fix the second one because the plant only needed to use one bin at the time, Britt said.

The site has also been cleaned up. Clean Burn Fuels officials removed several trailers that were still on the property. The maintenance work should be completed by early 2012, Britt said.

"About the first part of the new year we'll be ready to have everything completed. It may take a little longer than that," he said.

Seeking buyers

After completing the work, the group of banks will focus on marketing the plant for sale. Several

interested buyers have toured the property and more are scheduled to come this week, Britt said.

A new owner won't have to use corn to make ethanol. The plant can use small grains like wheat and barley and can be converted—at the owner's expense—to use other feedstock.

"There is one group that's interested in modifying it, and it can be done. There's obviously quite a bit of expense to do the capital expenditures to convert it over," Britt said. One company is interested in buying the plant and converting it to use hybrid switchgrass to make ethanol, he said.

According to reports from the

U.S. Department of Agriculture, the USDA and University of Nebraska have conducted research into using hybrid switchgrass as a biofuel crop since 1990. Some varieties can produce 500 gallons of ethanol per acre of grass. In comparison, an acre of corn can produce about 328 gallons of ethanol but planting, growing and harvesting that amount of corn requires about 140 gallons of fossil fuels and costs \$347 per acre, according to an analysis by Cornell University agriculture expert David Pimental.

The asking price for the plant is yet to be determined. CBF Holdings LLC will negotiate it in the future, Britt said.

Editorial Deadlines
Friday 12 Noon
Calendar Items - Social Items - News Items
Monday 12 Noon
Letters to the Editor



**AM 1400
WMFA - Radio**

- * Great Gospel Music
- * Contest and Prizes
- * Request Line 875-6225
- * Dynamic Ministry
- * NCNN Network News
- * Hoke County Football

"The Gospel Station That Heals The Soul"

- * At The Console (Piano & Organ with Terry Jordan)
- * Raeford Presbyterian Church Live 11 am - 12 pm Sundays
- * Hay Street United Methodist 12 pm - 1 pm Sundays



Notice
To best serve the needs of our customer (during the Christmas holidays) we have aligned the operational hours of our (5) Convenience Sites with those of the Transfer Station.

Best wishes for a safe & happy holiday from all of us at Hoke County Solid Waste.

ALL Hoke County solid waste facilities will be closed Saturday, December 24th & Monday, December 26th, re-opening Tuesday, December 27th at our normally scheduled time.



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SPORTS

Wrestling team off to great start

BY HAL NUNN
Sports writer

The Bucks' wrestling team is off to a great start this season, going 5-2 in early competition. The Bucks have beaten Gray's Creek, St. Pauls, E.E. Smith, North Brunswick and Pine Forest in the first couple of matches.

"We have a young team with not much experience on the mat," Coach Vernon Walrath said yesterday. Coach Walrath is in his sixth year at the helm of the Buck's grapplers and seems to have them battling for one of the top three spots in the conference each year.

This year, he started with 74 wrestlers signed up to tryout and 62 of them passed the hydration test. Currently, there are 45 wrestlers competing. The top three wrestlers in the early rounds are De'Jon McClean who is 10-0 at the 170-lb. weight class, Richard Tolston who is 9-0 at the 106-lb. weight class and Austin Rivera who is 10-1 at the 120-lb.

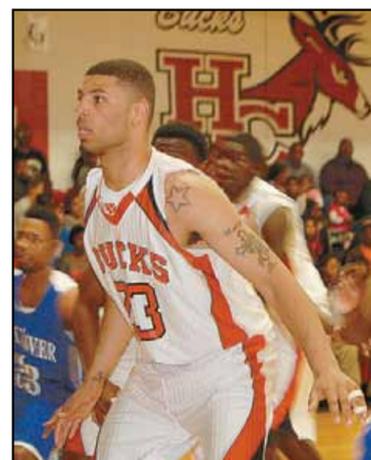
weight class. The Southeastern Conference is a strong wrestling conference with room to grow; however, it looks as though Pinecrest, Scotland County and Hoke County will be the teams to beat. Richmond, Lumberton and Purnell Swett will look to take down the top three and make some noise in the conference.

Tonight the Bucks will travel to Richmond County to take on the Raiders and East Montgomery in Rockingham. The Bucks will travel to Red Springs for the "Devil Made Me Do It" wrestling tournament with schools from Trask, Pender County, North Moore, Red Springs and East Montgomery.

Pin That Fool Tournament: The fifth annual "Pin That Fool" tournament will be held next weekend, December 17, at Hoke County High School. Several teams will be in attendance from across the state battling for the title. For more information on the tournament, go to www.ihigh.com/fightingbucks.



Hoke Head Coach Quame Patterson gets a little instruction time to starting point guard Tymel Blue early in the game against Westover.



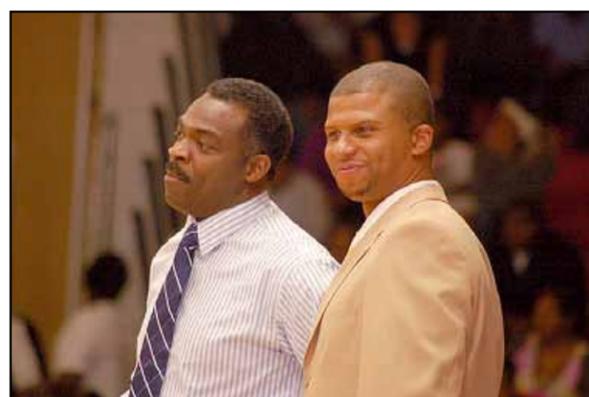
Tarique Thompson #23 for Hoke County defends an inbound play for the Bucks against Westover last Friday night. Thompson led all scorers with 21 points.

Bucks' boys, now 3-0, clobber Westover

BY HAL NUNN
Sports writer

The Hoke County High School boys' basketball team defeated Westover 65-51 for their third straight win last Friday night at a packed Macdonald

Gymnasium. Standing room only was the scene as the Bucks led by as much as 21 points and finished the night with a 14-point win. Tarique Thompson led the way for the Bucks with 21 points. Eleven players got in on the scoring frenzy with Darius Book adding 8, Jamane Harris adding 6, Brennen Wright adding 5, Jayvoine Parker and Tymel Blue adding 4 each, Jared Cole adding 3 and Kimane Freeman, Dreshawn Platt, Devonte Melvin and Jamaal Parker adding 2 each. The Bucks, now 3-0, will play Red Springs at home tonight before meeting Jack Britt next Tuesday night here in Raeford and then Seventy-First next Friday night, also here in Raeford.



George Stackhouse-Westover Coach (left) and Quame Patterson-Hoke Coach (right) speak at mid court just before the game between Westover and Hoke last Friday night in Macdonald Gymnasium.

Fighting Bucks Sports Schedule

December 7
Girls JV Basketball at Red Springs 5 p.m.
Girls V Basketball Home vs. Red Springs 6 p.m.
Boys JV Basketball at Red Springs 6:30 p.m.
Boys V Basketball Home vs. Red Springs 7:30 p.m.
Boys Wrestling at Richmond 6 p.m.

December 8
Girls Freshman Basketball Home vs. Richmond 4:30 p.m.
Boys Freshman Basketball Home vs. Richmond 6 p.m.

Bowling at Robeson Co. 5 p.m.

December 10
Boys Wrestling Away 9 a.m.

December 13
Girls JV Basketball at Jack Britt 5 p.m.
Girls V Basketball Home vs. Jack Britt 6 p.m.
Boys Freshman Basketball Home vs. Pinecrest 4:30 p.m.
Boys JV Basketball at Jack Britt 6:30 p.m.
Boys V Basketball Home vs. Jack Britt 7:30 p.m.

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From left: Cody Holcomb, Casey Nelson, Zakyree Wallace, Skye Damon, Allysha Hall, and Mark Jacobs

SandHoke debater in top four

A SandHoke debater finished in the top four of 106 Lincoln Douglas competitors at the George Mason University Speech and Debate Tournament held December 2-4.

Casey Nelson, a junior, won double-octas, octas, and quarterfinal elimination rounds until she dropped on a 3-2 decision before a five-judge panel in the semifinal round.

Six debaters competed at the university located just outside Washington, D.C.

Skye Damon competed in Dramatic Interpretation.

Mark Jacobs and Cody Holcomb, a sophomore Public Forum debate team, finished with a 2-3 record in preliminary rounds.

Nelson and Zakyree Wallace, a sophomore, both finished Lincoln Douglas (LD) preliminary rounds with a 4-1 record, breaking to elimination rounds with the top 32 competitors. Wallace dropped in the first elimination round on a 2-1 three-judge panel decision.

Senior Allysha Hall finished

with a 3-2 record in LD, barely missing the elimination round cut-off.

North Carolina had six of the top 32 LD debaters from around the state. Nelson went further than any other North Carolina debater.

The team is preparing for tough tournaments coming up in January, as well as hosting their own tournament at Sandhills Community College on January 14.

Anyone interested in judging, please email Marcia Long at mlong@hcs.k12.nc.us.



Hunger walk

Faculty, staff, students, and parents of Hoke County Schools joined community members in a walk to raise awareness for hunger and homelessness in Hoke County. After loading donations of food and toiletries into the distribution truck—Russchelle Strickland and Carl Purcell help here—walkers, including Representative Garland Pierce and Hoke County Schools representatives, began walking around the track of the Raz Autry Stadium. The event was coordinated by faculty from Student Support Services and the Safe and Drug Free Schools Committee.

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