Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

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No. 23 Vol. 108

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, August 14, 2013

Hoke hospitals name administrators





By Catharin Shepard Staff writer

The two hospital systems operating in Hoke County recently named the administrators who will oversee the local facilities once they are completed and open to patients.

Susan Beaty will serve as administrator for

FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital's Hoke Campus when it opens this fall, and Velvette Jones will serve as president of Hoke Healthcare at Cape Fear Valley's Health Pavilion Hoke and the hospital once it is built and opens.

Beaty, a registered nurse, currently serves as administrative director of FirstHealth Oncology Services at Moore Regional Hospital, a position

she has held since 2008. Beaty will step in as administrator for the FirstHealth Hoke hospital on September 2. The hospital will hold a grand opening celebration September 22 in conjunction with the North Carolina Turkey Festival and will open to patients on October 1.

Beaty earned an associate's degree in nursing (See HOSPITALS, page 6A)

FirstHealth hospital cited for accident

By Catharin Shepard Staff writer

Two FirstHealth of the Carolinas hospitals are in danger of losing Medicare and Medicaid funding after a fire in an operating room left a patient with first and second-degree burns, according to information from the hospital system.

The North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation placed FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital and Richmond Memorial Hospital on immediate jeopardy status following an unannounced survey of the hospital conducted August 1, a statement from FirstHealth said. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) defines immediate jeopardy as "a situation in which the (See CITED, page 4A)

More charges filed in child rape case

charges

have

been filed

against a



Hoke County who was arrested earlier this month for alleged sexual

A d - second-degree rape and ditional sexual activity by a substitute parent. He has now additionally been charged with three counts of second-degree sexual offenses and three counts of crimes against nature. Originally held under a \$1 million bond, Roa's bond amount was increased by another \$500,000. He remains in custody at the Hoke County David Roa, 39, no ad- Detention Center under an dress given, was previously Immigrations and Customs arrested and charged with (See CHARGES, page 4A)

Deputies seek information on shooting that injured man

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office is asking for the community's help in finding the gunman who shot and wounded a man from Hoke County.

Officers responding to a reported shooting Sunday in

the area of Oakdale Gin Road reportedly discovered Victor Puges had been shot with an unknown weapon. Puges had several injuries to his upper body, according to information from the Sheriff's Office. (See SHOOTING, page 4A)



Wanda Harris (standing at chair) and her family on Saturday. They're Hoke's newest Habitat for Humanity family. (Catharin Shepard photo)

It's moving in day for Habitat family

By Catharin Shepard Staff writer

Wanda Harris and her family got a flag, a Bible and a sapling tree to plant in the yard of their new home Saturday, along with the keys to the sixth Habitat for Humanity house built in Hoke County.

A moment after Habitat for Humanity president William McDonald dropped the keys to the family's new home in Harris' hand, she wrapped her arms around him and hugged

It was the end of a long process of construction, a process that Harris and her family helped with every step

of the way, and one that was supported by businesses, individuals and churches throughout Hoke County.

"It was really a rewarding experience, something I had never done before," Harris said. "Coming out here and going from the ground up and helping every Saturday, it was

(See HABITAT, page 4A)

This Week

Sandy Grove Middle opens Saturday See page 4A

Meet the new principals at 4 schools See page 4A

Police make drug bust See page 4A

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National Night Out



A clown captures the interest of one of hundreds of children who turned out for the annual National Night Out Saturday at the sports complex on NC 211. The Hoke Sheriff's Offfice and other public safety agencies hosted the event with free food, music, and a skydiving demonstration from the Blue Emu all-veteran skydiving team. The event is an anti-crime and drug abuse program held around the country. (Catharin Shepard photo)



A 2011 fatal wreck on US 401 South. (File photo)

Hoke worst in state for fatal traffic wrecks

By Catharin Shepard Staff writer

An annual analysis conducted by AAA Carolinas reported that Hoke County ranked most dangerous of any North Carolina county for fatal crashes, based on crash data collected in 2012.

The AAA Carolinas agency reported that the county handled less than .4 percent

of North Carolina's total vehicle miles traveled but had 4.27 fatal crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. That's nearly four times more than the state average of 1.15 fatal crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, according to the agency.

Robeson also joined Hoke on the list of fatal crashes per vehicle miles traveled (See WRECKS, page 4A)

August 14, 2013 **VIEWPOINTS**

Republicans, prepare for the backlash

BY SCOTT MOONEYHAM Capitol Press Association

With another legislative session in North Carolina completed, the postmortems have begun, and most have not been very kind to the honorables.

Many of the honorables, at least those in the Republican majority, are likely taking comfort from pats on the back by likeminded friends, praising them for standing up to the Democrats and reversing a state course plotted by Democrats.

And some surely dismiss the buzz of criticism surrounding the last six months as more droning from the liberal media.

If so, it is a politically risky attitude, and one that ignores basic

Hardly anyone who has paid attention — Republican, Democrat or independent — would dispute that the Republican legislative majority, now that it has a GOP governor behind it, has taken a chain saw to established public policy in North Carolina.

Since January, GOP lawmakers, with the backing of Gov. Pat McCrory, have overhauled how

state taxes will be paid, put new restrictions on abortions, altered how state dollars will flow for schooling, shortened and cut unemployment benefits, reworked judicial appointments and elections, and completely revamped the state's regulatory landscape.

McCrory also signed into law a bill that will change how elections take place in the state, including shortening the early-voting period and requiring a picture voter ID at the polls.

There can be and has been plenty of argument about whether these changes benefit the majority of North Carolinians while not infringing on the guaranteed rights of anyone in the minority.

The argument pretty much ends there though. All of the aforementioned legislation represents substantial shifts in longstanding policy, and legislators approved much of it without a lot of public consideration or debate.

To believe that they could redo this policy without engendering the protests and animosity that has followed them around is to live in a fantasy world.

The reason goes beyond ideology or partisanship. As that

studied philosopher Mark Twain once said, "Nobody likes change but a wet baby."

Sure, we like candidates who talk a good game of "change" and "hope" and other words that make us believe we are part of some grand movement. What most of us really want is to live our lives as we have without too much interference from some outside force -- be it a sweeping economic tide, a natural disaster, an activist government or a nosy neighbor.

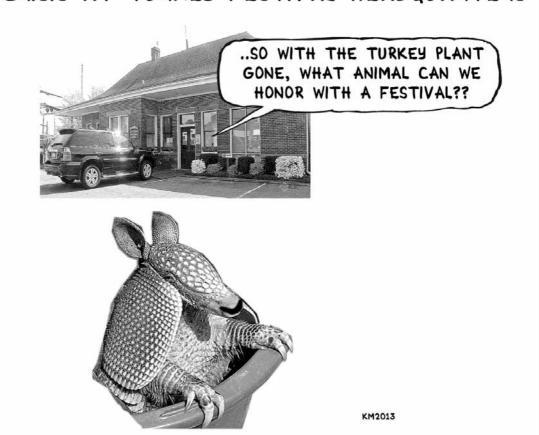
A lot of Republican legislators have unfortunately convinced themselves that they are part of some grand movement, that state voters, first in 2010 and then again in 2012, pushed them onto this conservative crusade.

What they have missed is that the voters who put them in power did so mostly as a backlash to impending change from Democrats, and largely at the national level.

In other words, they wanted the GOP to stop more shifting ground under their feet, not bring about a different kind of ground-shaking.

Meanwhile, Republican lawmakers forgot a critical aspect of the word "conservative" prudence.

CRISIS AT TURKEY FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS



Circle of life plays out at Frog Holler

Frog Holler is a haven for all kinds of critters of various descriptions. As if nature didn't provide enough variation, we have augmented the selection with two dogs, a cat, a horse and a donkey. I am fortunate to have time to contemplate these various species, being semi-retired. Before this year, I spent most of my observation time on the back deck where I can see the pond and listen to the music of my choice through nice outdoor speakers. The music and natural sounds

often complement each other. For Father's Day this year, I received a stereo for the front porch, expanding my world of frequent critter observation. The front porch is surrounded by Charlotte's beautiful gardens, has a nice view of the pasture and is home to many a hanging flower basket. Shortly after installing one of the baskets this year, a small bird burrowed among the plants and made a nest. This wasn't discovered until, while watering the plants, the angry little bird came out screaming at Charlotte in protest. This prompted her to immediately adjust the watering routine to accommodate the birds. Not long ago the babies hatched. I was sitting on the porch listening to the Beatles, remaining fairly motionless, when I began to observe the mother in her feeding ritual. She would emerge from the nest, swoop under the branches of a large dogwood hanging close to the ground, fly between the top and bottom rails of a split rail Frog Holler Philosopher **Ron Huff**

fence over to the pasture fence and disappear somewhere in the pasture behind. Within a minute or two, she would fly back and perch in the dogwood before flying to the nest. She would faithfully have a mouthful of some bug or worm for the kids. Upon seeing their mother with the groceries, the babies would commence to shriek at an incredible volume. Although they were probably not paying attention to the Beatles, they sounded like teenage girls at a Beatles' concert. After several seconds of desperately furious sibling rivalry over the food, the mother would emerge and the shrieks would stop as abruptly as they had started. I don't know how many times I watched this, as I was surely hypnotized by it. Regularly, the mother would be away a little longer. I postulated that she must be feeding herself, as she surely was not getting more fuel economy than an EPA estimated one trip to the bug.

All of a sudden I was shaken out of my trance by the mother who was sitting in the dogwood branches, now shrieking at the top of her lungs, apparently disturbed by something. From the corner of my eye I saw the slinking form of Rita Mae, our cross-eyed, crazily marked Siamese-esque cat. This

cat loves to catch a bird and the birds know it instinctively. Just the day before, I had caught Rita Mae on the roof of the house hanging as close as she could get to that very nest in hopes of leaping onto the basket. As I had then, I shooed her from the scene so the mother could resume her duties.

Rita Mae slinked on over to her favorite hunting spot under a hanging bird feeder where she hides behind the bushes waiting for unsuspecting birds to land on the ground to peck at fallen bird seed. I have also seen her lie motionless under the feeder for long periods of time in hopes of catching a bird. The feeder is pretty high, but she can jump straight up into the air to amazing heights.

So – I am watching the mother bird comb the grass for insects and worms to feed the babies while flying low among the obstructions to prevent being preyed on from above by a hawk or some other predator. She is simultaneously on guard against attacks from Rita Mae, who is also stalking all the other birds in the vard. If Rita Mae patrols around the property too much at night, she might become a meal for the coyotes we hear are in the neighborhood. The deer are constantly being chased by the dogs and the grass is under constant attack by the horse and donkey. We won't even get into the world of the frogs and the pond.

Man, this circle of life is mak-

ing me hungry. More later.

We Get Letters

Ready in the kitchen when armadillos arrive

To the Editor:

Thanks for the shout out! (Other Stuff: Not Necessarily the News in Hoke, 8-7-13) I already have pictures and recipes for the delicious armadillo—it tastes like pork, not chicken— in my "Wild and Free Cookbook" (with Roadkill Section) published by Paladin Press and also available on Amazon.com.

Years ago, I told then Game Warden (Wildlife Officer) Tom Pilkington that we would eventually have armadillos here.

I ate them in El Salvador, raced them in Texas, and practically lived on them in Florida for

When my late father Richard Squier came to visit I cooked him one as a "suckling pig." He loved it but got a little crazy when he found out it was a "possum on the half-shell!"

No comparison!

Possums are very greasy and you should never eat a roadkill one. You have to pen them up and clean them up with buttermilk and

cornbread and fresh fruit.

Armadillos eat insects and are nearly blind. I would attract them into close range by being still and tossing pebbles into the leaves, closer and closer.

When armadillos get scared, they jump straight up in the air—to bumper level on a car.

In some places they make purses from the shells with feet, tails and heads intact.

Thanks and good eating!

Tom Squier

No changes to free speech

To the Editor:

"Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the Morning." Thank you President Obama and the Democrats for giving our county a taste of "change" and the platform for Governor McCrory's administration, and our state's House and Senate representatives of the people new life into the 21st Century. My hat is off to both parties for their effort of "change' which the Republican Party has taken the good ole North State a banner higher. I was dismayed as the banner of change did not address our 1st Amendment of Free Speech and Occupational Licensing Laws. They were too busy with education, voter ID, and

abortion protection than correcting an issue, which touches each one of us. You are puzzled how free speech and the ability to get a job correlate? First, contact Hoke County's political representatives Pierce and Goodman and Senator Clark, whom by the way resides outside of Hoke County. One of three workers in North Carolina requires a license to work in their given occupation. Licenses backed by special interests are protectionism and restrictive to enter. Back in the 1950s and 1960s it was one in 20 that required a license. Remember when the First Lady was visiting North Carolina and she gave advice on what to eat? She broke a North

Carolina law as only a licensed dietician has the authority. See the free speech issue. Hey, Public Education, here is the excuse you need to justify why occupation curriculum was dropped from public education and replaced with college prep, which we now know that route is a false sense for employment security. Education is big business—look at the uproar. Take away college professor's tenure and you will go deaf over the generated noise of dissent. As a Yankee, I am proud to call Hoke County and the Ole North State Home.

> John F. Harry Shannon

Where were state representatives when turkey plant closed?

The closing of the House of Raeford turkey processing plant, with the loss of about one thousand jobs, will affect the economy of Hoke County. In an area where the unemployment rate is over nine percent, you would think our representatives in Raleigh would be placing more importance on this problem than they have. The plant closing and that it would eliminate almost a thousand jobs has been known for months, yet there has been no mention of this problem from our representatives in Raleigh.

For months our representatives have been locked in battles over voter ID and abortion. I am not saying that these issues are not important to many voters, but the loss of a thousand jobs in an economically depressed area of the state is just as important and should be addressed by those representing the citizens of this area.

The loss of jobs is only the first problem that comes to mind. The loss of revenue from taxes, not only from the House of Raeford plant itself but also from the workers that live in Hoke County, is another. Unless new jobs are created to fill this void, the entire county will suffer.

If our representatives would place as much importance on bring-



ing new businesses to this area as they do bickering over a bill for everyone to have ID before voting, this would make more sense. There should be more concentration on bringing another company to use the abandoned plant and absorb the majority of the laid-off workers. This would not only be a boost to the area's economy but also the tax revenue.

The loss of these jobs and the increased unemployment will not only reduce the amount of tax revenue to the state and county but will also increase the amount the county and state must pay for the new unemployed workers. This will be an economic disaster for Hoke County, which now has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state.

The two new hospitals being constructed on Fayetteville Road will generate more than 500 jobs. Also, there will be related industries moving to this area to accommodate the needs of the patients of these hospitals, and they will need

workers. But unless the citizens of Hoke County are prepared to fill these needed positions, and people from inside the county are hired for these jobs, it will not improve the economic status of Hoke County.

A number of the jobs at the hospitals, such as nurse assistants, lab technicians, and housekeeping, can be obtained by those who have attended a technical or community college for a short time.

I understand that most of the jobs lost by the closing of the turkey plant were unskilled. By going to school and learning a skill, workers will not only ensure themselves employment in this area but anywhere they choose to live.

You can lose a job when a plant closes, but if you have a skill in a particular industry, you are able to move to an area where that skill is needed. Obtaining a skill is the method of assuring your employ-

If workers here do not acquire the skills to fill the upcoming jobs coming to this area, others from outside this area will come to fill

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

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

Now they're taking credit for schools

North Carolina Policy Watch

One of the more entertaining events of this week was the scramble by Republican legislative leaders and Governor Pat McCrory to take credit for the news that the state's high school graduation rate increased to 82 percent, an all-time high.

It's understandable that they are desperate to draw attention away from the woefully inadequate education budget they passed a few weeks ago, the thousands of teacher assistants they fired, the supplemental pay they are ending for teachers with

master's degrees, and the deep cuts to instructional support that teachers need in the classroom.

But claiming credit for the new graduation numbers is simply absurd. Improving the graduation rate doesn't happen in a year or two, it happens over time with long term investments in our schools and students and teachers, early childhood programs like SmartStart and NC PreK, professional development for teachers and principals, scholarships to attract bright students into the teaching profession, and, yes, raising

teacher pay. In other words, all the things McCrory and the General Assembly decided not to fund in their budget this year. Instead they reduced the number of slots available for NC PreK, abolished the nationally recognized Teaching Fellows program, slashed funding for teacher development and ignored pleas for teacher salary increases even as the state's ranking for teacher pay falls to among the worst in the country.

Governor McCrory issued a statement about the graduation numbers, praising the "work and talent of our classroom teachers and school (See FITZSIMON, page 3A)

The News-Journal

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John H. Love

 $John\,Henry\,Love, 74, of\,2026$ Hidden Forge Drive, Fayetteville died Thursday, August 8, 2013 in his home.

Survivors include his wife, Machalle McIntyre Love; three sons, Henry Gregory Love of Raeford, Bishop Kenneth Kelly of Raeford, and Johnathan "Chino" Love of Siler City; two daughters, Shirley Kelly and Nickkia McIntyre, both of Fayetteville; his mother, Callie Bell Love Buie of Raeford; a sister, Maggie Galberth of Raeford; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be held at noon Saturday, August 17 in Conference B Headquarters.

Visitation will be held Friday, August 16 from 1-7 p.m. at Buie Funeral Home Chapel.

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

Inez H. Goff

Inez Hough Goff, 80, of Raeford died Tuesday, August 6, 2013.

Survivors include a son, Maurick Bradley; a daughter, Stephanie Balaam; four stepdaughters; five stepsons; a sister, Dasiree Hough; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, August 10 in Leach Springs Missionary Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Dorothy M. Monroe

Dorothy M. Monroe, 74, of 709 Saunders Street died Friday, August 2, 2013.

Survivors include her husband, Lester; a daughter, Diane; a son, Lester Jr.; 11 sisters; six brothers; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Friday, August 9 in Center Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Red Springs. Burial was in the church cemetery.

James R. Weaver Jr.

James Robert Weaver Jr., 55, of Wilmington died Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice and LifeCareCenter of Wilmington after a long battle with heart disease.

He was born November 18, County on January 7, 1980 to

A-1 Gas & Food Mart..... E. Central Ave.

Arabia Food MartArabia Rd.

Barbee PharmacyHarris Ave.

Bolton'sHarris Ave.

Bo'sS. Main St.

Citgo Mart.....Red Springs

CVS Pharmacy......401 Bypass

Daniels' Exxon..... E. Central Ave.

Edinborough Restaurant......S. Main St.

Fast Shop......W. Prospect. Ave.

Five Star #2...... Hwy 211

Food Lion.....Laurinburg Rd.

Food Lion/MiCasita Fayetteville Rd.

Food Mart #4 Hwy. 211 S.

Food StopW. Prospect Ave.

401 Lucky StopE. Central & 401 N.

401 Shop-N-Save #1 Harris and 401

Hardin's.....Rockfish Rd., Rockfish

Hardin's Express Stop Rockfish Rd.

Home Food Supermarket......Main St.

Howell Drug......Teal Dr.

Jay's Food Mart...... Hwy 211. at county line J&L Grocery & Meats Rockfish Rd.

1957 in Macon, Georgia to the late James and Florence Weaver. He married Candace Sullivan Weaver on October 2, 2003 and she survives.

Also surviving are his son, James Robert Groome and stepson Cory Steven Groome, both of Wilmington; a brother, Mark Cameron Weaver of Southern Pines; and various aunts, uncles, and cousins. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his youngest brother, Bob Tanner Weaver.

Known as Jim, he was a long-time resident of Raeford, traveled extensively, and settled in Wilmington, where he met and married his wife Candace.

He studied at the Pinehurst Culinary School, and became a master chef with a career that lasted 25 years. He began a new career, most recently with Rite Aid pharmacy. He was an accomplished guitar player, an avid reader of all genres, and was an obsessive football fan, especially of the Oregon Ducks. In recent years, he was actively involved in Full Circle Ministries. He had an infectious quirky sense of humor and always had a smile on his face for anyone who needed it. He was loved by family and friends and will be sorely missed.

A memorial service was held Monday, August12 at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church on South College Road at 3 p.m., the Rev. Judy Jeremias and Pastor Tom Dean officiating. Inurnment was at Greenlawn Cemetery immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial contributions to Full Circle Ministries, 445 Shipyard Blvd., Wilmington, NC 28412 and/or Lower Cape Fear Hospice, 1406 Physicians Drive, Wilmington, NC 28401.

Share memories and condolences with the family by going to www.wilmingtoncares.com.

Sgt. Eric Hobson Jr.



The News-Journal

The News-Journal is sold at these locations:

Sgt. Eric Daniel Cobb Hobson Jr., 33, passed away Friday, July 26, 2013 in Colorado

Springs, Colorado. He was born in Cumberland

Lucky StopHwy. 401 & Palmer St

Lucky Stop 2196Rockfish Rd.&401 Bus.

MP Mart..... Hwy. 211 South

McNeill's Grocery...... Hwy. 211 S.

McPhatter's Grocery Hwy. 401 & Vass Rd.

Muncheez Express Fayetteville Rd.

Murphy Express Walmart Hwv 401

The News-Journal119 W. Elwood

NJ Fried Chicken..... E. Central Ave.

Quality Foods......McCain

Poco Shop #4 E. Central Ave.

Raeford Mart Hwy 401 & Palmer St.

Rockfish Flea Mall.....Lindsay Rd.

Short Stop #54......Davis Bridge Rd.

Short Stop #64.....Hwy. 211 West

Short Stop #68......N. Fulton St.

Tobacco World Fayetteville Rd.

211 Food Mart Hwy 211

Waffle House......401 Hwy Bypass

WilcoHess.....Aberdeen Rd.

Yogi Mart Hwy. 211 S.

Sgt. Eric Hobson Jr.

Tereascia Maynor and the late Eric Daniel Cobb Sr. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Dorothy Mainor Ross, Fayetteville and Conward and Icerlean Cobb, Raeford.

His awards and decorations include Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Action Badge, Combat and Special Skill Badge Basic Markmanship Qual Badge (Rifle), and Overseas Service Bar.

Surviving are his wife, Julia; daughters, Aliyah and Alisha, both of Colorado; mother, Tereascia Maynor of Favetteville: three sisters, Wykeisha Gray of Fayetteville, Erica Oliver of Texas and Jhodeci Redmon of Arizona; his brother, Derrick Cobb of Fayetteville; grandfather, Welton Ross of Fayetteville; aunts, Juanita Stocks (Duke) of Durham, Gloria Mainor McLaurin of Fayetteville, Nellie Stevens (Walter) of Fayetteville, Mable "Tina" Houghton (Napoleon) of Fayetteville, Dorothy Braswell (Charles) of Fayetteville, Dimato Cooper (Marcus) of Pinehurst, Regina London of Raeford, Juliana Sims (Norman) of Fayetteville, Kenita Marougas (Dimitris) of Greensboro, Tammy Ross of Fuguay Varina, Pam Thomas (Robert) of Raeford, Maxine Blue (Calvin) of Raeford; and uncles. William Mainor of Favetteville, John Mainor (Linda) of Raeford, Thomas Mainor of Raeford, Larry Cobb (Pam) of Raeford, Glen Cobb (Hilda) of Raleigh, Ricky Cobb (Melissa) of Fayetteville, Jerry Cobb (Lisa) of Texas and Bruce Cobb (Sonya) of Fayetteville.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Thursday, August 8 at Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, Raeford with Dr. Matthew Rouse Jr. officiating and Pastor FD Daniels doing the eulogy.

Burial with full military honors was private at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery.

Police Blotter

Raeford Police reported the Jones-Blanchard following recent incidents:

August 7

Drug violations, aggravated possession of marijuana, possession of controlled substances, trafficking, maintaining a motor vehicle for the purpose of keeping and selling controlled substances, East Prospect Avenue, victim State of North Carolina. See story on page 4A for further details.

August 8

Larceny, 1000 block of East Central Avenue, victim Louise Nicole Adams

Larceny, 500 block of South Bethel Road, victim Charles Michael Conner

Larceny, 100 block of Lantern Lane, victim Conoly Caitlyn

August 9

Assault on a government official, probation violation, 500 block of John Roper Avenue, victims Officer P. Noce and State of North Carolina

August 10

Intoxicated and disruptive, 100 block of Fayetteville Road, victim State of North Carolina

Simple physical assault (domestic), 500 block of West Donaldson Avenue, victim Joshua Joel Jones

Hit and run, assault with a deadly weapon, 100 block of Fayetteville Road, victim Gary Devon Lomack. Lomack reportedly received severe lacerations after a suspect hit him with a vehicle and left the scene in the parking

lot area of Waffle House. Officers continue investigating the case.

August II

Larceny of medication, 200 block of McDuffie Street, victim Linda Miller McNeill

Larceny, 700 block of Southern Avenue, victims Artasia Davis and Angela Davis

Larceny, breaking and entering, 600 block of North Jackson Street, victim Lula McRae Thomas

Resisting, delaying or obstructing an officer, 1300 block of Fulton Street

August 12

Solicitation of a child by computer or other electronic device, 400 block of College Drive, victim's name withheld under The News-Journal policy

Fitzsimon

(Continued from page 2A) principals," and saying that the results are evidence that "if we reduce the mandatory testing burden, as we have suggested, and allow our teachers to teach, their creative and innovative spirit will take our students to a higher level of academic achievement."

Those would be the hard working teachers that were slapped in the face in the budget McCrory recently signed, with no raise and an end to due process protections when they are fired, and no more supplemental pay for teachers who earn their master's. McCrory also rewarded the teachers for their work and talent with larger classes, no more teacher assistants in the second and third grades, and cuts to their budgets for textbooks and supplies.

It's also interesting that not too many months ago, then gubernatorial candidate McCrory was

traveling around the state claiming that public schools were broken in North Carolina and needed a major overhaul.

Now after a few months in office, McCrory is praising teachers and principals for achievements they made last year, at the very time when he was shouting from the soapbox that the schools were broken.

McCrory's campaign website still says he opposes spending more money on a "broken system," you know the one that is graduating a higher percentage of students than ever.

It's also worth noting that McCrory and other Republican leaders keep saying that we don't need to keep throwing money at education (even as the state falls to almost dead last in per-pupil expenditure rankings), yet they are trying as hard as they can to mislead voters into thinking they increased spending for public

schools this year.

They didn't. They slashed funding, cutting more than \$100 million from what Art Pope's budget office said was needed to keep schools operating at last year's levels and spending \$500 million less than 2007-2008 when you adjust for inflation.

Don't be fooled by all the right's use of the new graduation numbers.

Remember two things.

McCrory and his buddies running the General Assembly just passed a budget that makes it harder for teachers and schools to help kids learn.

And Republican education policies not only had nothing to do with the increase in graduation rates, their budget slashing and dismantling of public education makes it very unlikely the improvement in our schools will continue for very long.

TODAY'S HOMEWORK (Notes on Education)

"Teacher, bus driver, coach, lunch lady, custodian, maintenance man, business manager, aide, secretary, principal, and, yes, even you superintendents out there trying to hold it all together — you serve your state with skill and honor and dignity, and I'm sorry that no one in power has the guts to say that these days. History will recognize that the epithets they applied to your schools said more about leaders who refused to confront child poverty than the teachers who tried valiantly to overcome it. History will recognize that teachers in these bleak years stood in desperate need of public policy help that never came. Advocacy for hurting children was ripped from our lips with a shush of 'no excuses.' These hateful labels should be hung around the necks of those who have allowed inequitable school funding to persist for decades, those who refuse to tend to the basic needs of our poorest children so that they may come to school ready to learn." — Texas superintendent John Kuhn, Save Texas Schools rally (March 1, 2013)

"It is not what is poured into a student that counts but what is plant-

Orthodontics

Dr. John Mark Griffies

Retired Military

EW PATIENTS WELCOME!

— Linda Conway

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Sandy Grove Middle grand opening is Saturday

A grand opening at Sandy Grove Middle School is set for Saturday. Billed as the nation's first energy-positive, LEED Platinum designed, leased public school, the facility will ease overcrowding at East Hoke and West Hoke middle schools.

The grand opening will be held from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the school and see the work completed since construction began in July 2012.

The school will be an energypositive facility, designed to return more energy to the grid than it consumes and, officials say, will save Hoke County Schools approximately \$35 million o Sandy Grove Middle grand opening is Saturday

ver the next 40 years, with \$16 million in energy costs

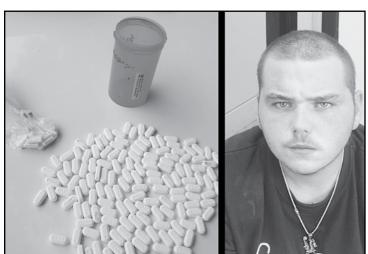
The school is located at 300 Chason Road beside Sandy Grove Elementary School.

Police make drug bust

The Raeford Police Department arrested a man last week on multiple drug charges following a traffic stop that revealed narcotics pills in his vehicle.

Officers arrested Caleb Goodwin of Raeford August 7 on charges of trafficking narcotics, possession with intent to sell or deliver Schedule II narcotics and driving while impaired, among other traffic charges, according to a statement from the police department.

Officers seized Goodwin's vehicle along with 139 dosage units of Percocet, 20 Xanex pills and \$254 in cash. Goodwin is currently on probation and has additional pending drug charges in Moore County. He was held in the Hoke County Detention Center under a \$100,000 bond.



Drugs recovered, Goodwin

Charges (Continued from page 1A)

Enforcement (ICE) detainer.

Authorities arrested Roa earlier this month when a call to the sheriff's office directed them to a residence in Raeford in reference to sexual abuse in the home. "Reportedly, the investigation revealed that there has been a history of sexual abuse in the home

by the defendant," according to a statement from the sheriff's office.

The investigation into potential additional crimes is ongoing, officials said. The offense reportedly occurred on July 23 and Roa was arrested July 29, according to law enforcement. The additional charges were filed August 8.

Shooting

(Continued from page 1A) He was transported to an area

hospital where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries

Investigators believe the actual shooting took place on the 300 block of Ratley Street in Raeford. Deputies investigating the case were able to recover evidence from the crime scene and identify

a potential suspect vehicle. Officers are searching for a burgundy SUV, possibly a Dodge Durango or Ford Expedition, which would have been seen on the 300 block of Ratley Street at the time of the shooting. The investigation is ongoing.

The Sheriff's Office is asking interviewed multiple people and anyone with information connected to the shooting to contact the Detective Division at 875-3614.



Wrecks

(Continued from page 1A) in 2012. Combined with Warren, Gates and Yancey counties, Hoke and Robeson accounted for 81 fatal crashes – nearly 7 percent of all fatal crashes in the state in 2012 – despite carrying only 2.4 percent of the state's vehicle miles traveled.

The use of statistics showing the number of fatal wrecks per 100 million miles traveled is a way for the Department of Transportation to compare apples to apples across counties that vary greatly in size and amount of traffic, according to Capt. D.L. Allen of the State Highway Patrol.

"The 100 million miles traveled is a ratio that lets you say, all things being equal, how many people are dying," he said.

Rural counties like Hoke often have larger spaces of road that are not as closely watched by law enforcement officials, due to the sheer size of the area that officers have to routinely patrol. It can entice more drivers to speed, and that is often a big factor in wrecks, especially the more serious or fatal wrecks, Allen said.

"They tend to operate at higher speeds or maybe some more risky behaviors, and that factors into it," he said.

The state's Highway Patrol is also currently not working with a full complement of troopers. Some troopers from Moore County currently provide coverage in Hoke County.

"We are short throughout the state right now—we're trying to rectify that," Allen said.

Additionally, drivers can help reduce the numbers by obeying the speed limit, not texting while driving and following other traffic laws.

"We're encouraging people to obey the law, be out and be safe, to reduce those numbers,' Allen said.

Cumberland County and Robeson County ranked third and fourth, respectively, as the deadliest counties with the highest total number of fatal crashes. Cumberland County reported 50 fatal crashes in 2012 while Robeson County had 47 fatal crashes. Mecklenburg had the highest number of fatal crashes

The analysis looked at sev-

eral different statistics for the rankings. For the third straight year, Pitt, New Hanover, Person and Watauga counties topped the list of most dangerous counties for collisions. Pitt County has ranked as the most dangerous county in the state for the past five years, averaging 306.7 crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. That average was 50 percent higher than the state average of 204.7 crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

New Hanover County averages 286.8 crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, Person County averages 266.6 and Watauga County averages

"AAA Carolinas bases its annual ranking of the most dangerous counties on the likelihood of a certain type of crash – fatal, injurious, motorcycle, tractortrailer, total - based on vehicle miles traveled," according to a press statement.

AAA Carolinas' annual Dangerous Counties analysis, inaugurated in 1995, is one of several ways to look at North Carolina traffic crash data and done to remind motorists of the need for safe and defensive driving, especially in counties with above-average traffic crashes, injuries and deaths, according to David Parsons, president and chief executive officer of AAA Carolinas.

'Consistently high rankings for being one of the most dangerous counties in the state should be a wake-up call for better traffic enforcement or road design," Parsons said

"The total number of traffic fatalities in North Carolina increased 4 percent from 1,217 in 2011 to 1,270 in 2012. This number had been dropping steadily over the past few years (1,452 in 2008, 1,344 in 2009, 1,328 in 2010, 1,217 in 2011) before increasing in 2012," according to AAA Carolinas.

AAA Carolinas, an affiliate of the American Automobile Association, is a not-for-profit organization that serves more than 1.8 million members and the public with travel, automobile and insurance services while being an advocate for the safety and security of all travelers.

Cited

(Continued from page 1A) provider's noncompliance with one or more requirements of participation has caused, or is likely to cause, serious injury, harm,

impairment or death to a resident."

The incident, which happened in June of this year, occurred while a patient was undergoing what hospital officials described as an "emergency life-saving procedure" in an operating room at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. Vapor from a sterilizing fluid ignited and caused a "brief flash fire" that was immediately put out, officials said. The patient sustained "small first and seconddegree burns to the neck and shoulders but no lasting injuries," the hospital announced in a press statement.

The patient was later discharged, according to Dr. John Krahnert, chief medical officer for FirstHealth of the Carolinas.

"After a thorough investigation, we have determined that the operating room staff responded to the incident appropriately and then successfully continued with the original emergency procedure," Krahnert said in a statement.

The hospital system was placed on immediate jeopardy status because Moore Regional operating room staff "failed to follow established safety prevention policies and procedures," according to FirstHealth public relations director Gretchen Kelly. Immediately after the incident, hospital operating room staff changed the operating room preparation procedures for emergency cases, she said. Additionally, the FirstHealth officials called the hospital's Joint Commission Resource Liaison on the day of the incident "to consult on our corrective action plan and appropriate reporting

After the initial notification, the hospital system began putting the new policies and procedures into a corrective action plan that is being submitted to CMS this week, Kelly said.

"Our corrective action plan includes ongoing training and monitoring throughout the health system. We are confident the CMS will approve our plan of correction and the immediate jeopardy status will be lifted following the CMS's full survey," she said.

There are three potential outcomes after a hospital is placed on immediate jeopardy status. CMS can approve the hospital's corrective plan and lift the immediate jeopardy status, suggest additional recommendations the system must add to the corrective plan of action and then lift the immediate jeopardy status, or the CMS could revoke the hospital system's conditions of participation and Moore Regional and Richmond Memorial would lose Medicare and Medicaid funding.

CMS will notify the hospital system about its status in writing, Kelly said. At this time the immediate jeopardy status will not affect hospital services or Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries, she said.

FirstHealth Chief Executive Officer David Kilarski said the hospital is committed to "putting all the necessary policies and procedures in place to ensure every patient's safety and provide the highest level of care."

"Our highest priority is for the safety of our patients and staff, and we are working diligently to adopt and implement the recommendations noted in the survey," he said.

FirstHealth plans to open its Hoke County hospital this fall and begin accepting patients on

Habitat

(Continued from page 1A) really, really hard doing that, but now the reward has paid off. We thank the Lord for everybody."

Before the house was built, Harand her children lived in a rented home in McDougald Downs. The new property will give them more space, organizers said. Even better, it's something Harris can pass on to her children, she said.

"Knowing that it will be a place that my children can have, that they'll have a place to stay, because I don't have any sisters or brothers. So my children, they have a stable place they can call home," Harris said.

The county's Habitat for Humanity organization selected Harris's family from among a number of applicants as the one to receive the house. The family was required to put in at least 250 hours of "sweat equity" on the construction site,

physically helping build the house when teams of volunteers showed up every weekend to pound nails and raise boards.

The process did have a few bumps in the road on the way to getting the Harrises in their new home, McDonald said. When the churches' volunteers arrived to work on the construction, sometimes they would be left standing around with nothing to do.

"We ran into a lot of problems when we first started with delivery of materials. We'd stand out here at 8 a.m. with nothing to work with," McDonald said.

But the community stepped up and helped to get it all done, he said.

"This house was built strictly on donations and free labor," Mc-Donald said. "...We have a lot of individuals who support us with \$10 a month or even \$10 every other month, it helps us."

Habitat for Humanity builds houses with donated labor and sells them to deserving families with a no-interest mortgage that covers only the cost of the building materials. As Harris pays off the mortgage on the home, that same money will go toward helping the next family complete their own Habitat house.

Habitat for Humanity is always looking for dedicated volunteers to help make the next homecoming possible for another family, McDonald said.

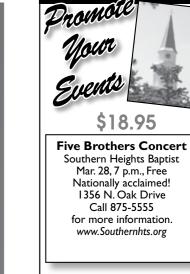
After the dedication ceremony, the family gathered around their new kitchen table to share their first breakfast in their home. Mc-Donald's donated refreshments for

the dedication. Action for Christ Ministries Pastor Harley Johnson offered the greeting and invocation and presentation of the Bible. L.S. Brock, executive board member

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for Habitat, helped the family plant the sapling tree in their new yard. Brenda Lawyor, vice regent of the Alfred Moore Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presented the family with a flag for the home. Delia McNeill of Raeford Presbyterian Church announced that the church will be assisting the family with some of its needs during the year.

The Habitat for Humanity executive board includes McDonald, Brock, Will Johnson, Dawn Johnson, Daphne Dudley, Kermit Wood, Travis Sutherland and Susan Quick. Nearly 40 organizations including area businesses, local governments and churches offered their support to the house build and dedication.



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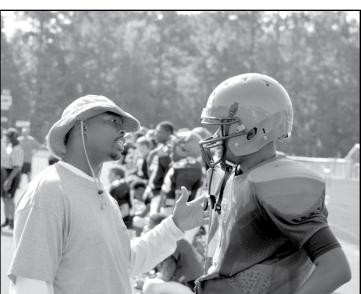


SPORTS



Hoke County Parks & Rec holds soccer camp

The Hoke County Parks and Recreation Department held their second annual youth soccer camp last week at the complex on Highway 211. Last year, the Methodist University girls' soccer coach held the camp and, this year, Colin McDavid, the new soccer coach at Hoke High, held the camp. Approximately 44 kids, ages 6 to 14, took part in the camp.



Coach Antonio Covington (left) talks with junior Antonio Peterkin (right) about some of the situations that came up during the scrimmage last Saturday at Hoke High. Peterkin is the son of Hoke County Sheriff Hubert Peterkin and attends SandHoke Early College High School. This year, athletes who attend SandHoke are allowed to play sports with the Bucks and still manage their classes at SandHoke.

Just Putting Around

Bayonet at Puppy Creek

The Bayonet member/guest tournament will be held this Saturday and Sunday beginning at 11 a.m. The N.C. Turkey Festival golf tournament is tentatively set for September 21 and 22. For more information on either of these tournaments, call 904-1500.

Upland Trace

Huse Lowery shot a 70 during the Thursday group last week at Upland Trace. The Saturday 9 a.m. group winners were Huse Lowery, Lee Harless and Bill Baxley. The Saturday 9:30 a.m. group winners were Les Sandy, Richard Hoffman and Keith Jackson. The Sunday morning group winners were Tom Batchelor, Greg Wyrick, Al Smith and Lee Harless. The Sunday afternoon group winners were Jeff Lunsford, Rodney Thompson and Jerry Johnson. For more information about Upland Trace Golf Course, call 875-3524.

Raeford Racing Round-Up

The racing action was wide open last weekend as all three local tracks were open and the big dawgs took to the road course in Watkins Glen, New York. Local Lumber Bridge resident Matt Canady got the first win of his career at Fayetteville Motor Speedway in the Open Wheeled Modified division. Mattheld off hard charger Chris Parker for the win. Robert Knowles took home his ninth win of the season at Rockfish and Willie Milliken rattled off another win at Dublin Motor Speedway.

This weekend Rockfish will be closed and will be back in action August 24. Fayetteville Motor Speedway will host the Carolina Clash series with a \$4,000 to win race sponsored by David Hales' insurance. Dublin Motor Speedway will be off this weekend and will reopen August 24 for a regular night of racing.

In NASCAR, Kyle Busch held off Brad Keslowski in the last two turns to win at Watkins Glen. NAS-CAR returns to the high banks of Michigan International Speedway this weekend for the Pure Michigan 400.

"The Rock" of Hoke-Rockfish Motor Speedway

Legends 1st Robert Knowles 9th win 2nd Bryan Wright (Rockfish) 3rd Chad Autry (Rockfish)

Micro Sprints

1st Matt Carr 3rd win 2nd Jody McCall 3rd Gary Jacobsen

Pro Go Karts

1st Luke McPherson 6th win 2nd Logan McPherson 3rd Dan Hogan (Rockfish)

Mini Go Karts

1st Timothy Hogan 3rd win (Rockfish) 2nd Zach Kober 3rd Ethan Blanks (Parkton)

Fayetteville Motor Speedway Late Model

1st Timmy Blackwell 2nd Chris Blackwell 3rd Cody Shaw

Open Wheeled Modified 1st Matt Canady (Lumber Bridge)

Super Street 1st Jerry Johnson 2nd Buddy Isles 3rd Brad Hamn

2nd Chris Parker

3rd David Taylor

U-car

1st Brandon Jacobs 2nd Mike Farrior 3rd Jon Roach

Dublin Motor Speedway Late Model

1st Willie Milliken 2nd Damon Kotke 3rd Daulton Wilson

Open Wheeled Modified

1st Greg Brown 2nd Mack Coxe 3rd Daniel Parker

Super Street

1st Benji Thompson 2nd Randy Guyton 3rd Jamie Barnes

Pure Stock

1st Martin Sweat 2nd Eric Bently 3rd Nathan Pate

Stock 4 Cylinder

1st Jimmy Ray 2nd Gibson Murray 3rd Kevin Weatherford

U-car

1st Marty Dean 2nd Mark Dean 3rd Ronnie Yarborough



Hoke County High School Bucks football team played their first scrimmage game last Saturday vs. Pine Forest and Douglas Byrd. In the backfield for the Bucks was Antonio Peterkin at quarterback with Jacob Rushing and Laquest Peterkin at running back and fullback. Geoffrey Thompson was out of town during the weekend scrimmage but is expected to play some at quarterback. The Bucks are returning only seven starters this season on both sides of the ball.



Senior returning wide receiver/tailback Brandon McRae hopes to see more of this in the upcoming season. Once he was out in the open, no one could catch him. The Bucks scrimmage at Jack Britt tomorrow night vs. Terry Sanford in the Cumberland/Robeson Jamboree. The first game of the season is next Friday, August 23 at Wilmington Ashley.

Newspaper Carriers Sought

Independent contractors sought to deliver newspapers. Pick up papers and bags Wednesdays in Raeford at 12:30 (afternoon) and have 30 hours to deliver. 19 routes available. Average route 600-700 papers and typically requires 5-6 hours. Pays 9 cents each paper. Call Ken at 875-2121 M-F 8-5



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Hal Nunn at 964-0990; hal@thenews-journal.com

Sports Briefs

Hoke County graduate Earl Wolff played in his first pre-season NFL football game last Friday night when the Philadelphia Eagles took on the New England Patriots. Wolff had two solo tackles and one assisted tackle for a combined three tackles. Wolff played most of the third quarter and some of the fourth. The Eagles lost 31-22.

The Hoke County High School Lady Bucks' golf team will hold tryouts on Tuesday, August 20 at Bayonet at Puppy Creek at 4:30 p.m. All Hoke County schools' female students that are in the 9th – 12th grade and have a valid physical may attend tryouts. For more information, contact Coach Buddie Currie at Hoke High or call the school at 875-2156.

Sports News To Report? Call Hal Nunn at (910) 875-2121

First Baptist Church



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Rep. Garland Pierce speaks.

Ex-offenders find advice, connections at town meeting

By Catharin Shepard Staff writer

Robeson County native Dennis Gaddy successfully completed higher education and went on to work in business – but then, he said, he broke the law and ended up incarcerated.

"I made some very poor choices and ended up spending five-anda-half years in the North Carolina Department of Corrections," he said.

Afterhis release, Gaddy changed his focus to helping people that also made poor choices and served time in prison. Today, through his work as executive director of the nonprofit Community Success Initiative, Gaddy is able to offer mentorship opportunities and more for ex-offenders through a variety of partnerships.

"I knew that people will hear you differently when they know you share their same experience," he said.

Gaddy was one of the speakers Friday night at the town hall meeting at the old Armory in Raeford who reached out to people who had been convicted of a crime and now seek to obtain employment and move forward with their lives.

Hope for Hoke, a local com-

munity nonprofit outreach founded by Lynn Baum, organized and conducted the town hall meeting. Hope for Hoke also conducted a job fair for ex-offenders earlier this month attended by about 75 job seekers and is additionally planning another event for October. Baum also runs an annual blanket drive to support people who are homeless.

Gaddy and other speakers addressed a small group of ex-offenders and their families about programs that exist to help people who were incarcerated reintegrate into society.

Rep. Garland Pierce also spoke at the event, encouraging individuals with convictions to speak out about their issues and discuss the challenges they face with elected officials. Pierce was one of the state legislators who in 2008 commissioned a study on the reentry process to see what kind of concerns exist for ex-offenders.

"It really allowed us to really see some of the things that men and women have to deal with when they come back home to society," Pierce said.

A lot of times their family members didn't want to have anything to do with them once the offender was released from prison, he added.

"You find yourself really out there on your own, and that's what we have seen over the years studying reentry," he said.

Baum encouraged people who were previously incarcerated to not be afraid to reach out and utilize services that are in place for those who are trying to work toward something better.

"Think positive. There's a lot of help there that you don't know,"

Having a positive attitude and sticking out even the hard times can lead to better things, Baum told the group.

"If you want to do better, you've got to do what it takes. If you're tired of struggling like I was, growing up homeless most of my life, and never feeling sorry for myself because sorry never put a dime in my pocket, you can do whatever you put your mind to do," she said.

Hope for Hoke will hold its next event, a free life conflict workshop and festival called "Make It This Time!" October 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at New Beginningz Praise and Worship center located at 318 Harris Avenue in Raeford. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Hope for Hoke at 691-4142.



Erica Fortenberry







Ashley Michelle Creammer

Four county schools get new principals

By Catharin Shepard Staff writer

Four Hoke County Public Schools will welcome new principals this month as students and teachers prepare to start back for the 2013-14 school year.

Families will have the chance to meet their new principals at open houses scheduled for each school. Parents and students can meet Laurie Ashley, principal of McLauchlin Elementary, on August 22 from 3-6 p.m.; Michelle Creammer, principal of East Hoke Middle, on August 21; Jennifer Damin, principal of Scurlock Elementary, on August 22 from 5-7 p.m.; and Erica Fortenberry, principal of the new Sandy Grove Middle, on August 21 from 4-7 p.m.

Laurie Ashley of McLauchlin Elementary School attended Pfeiffer College and Appalachian State University, where she studied voice performance and was the National Association of Teachers of Singing regional winner her senior year. She earned a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and later earned a master's degree in school administration as part of the N.C. Principal's Fellows Program at Fayetteville State University. She taught at Rosenwald Elementary in Fairmont for nine years and was a Sallie Mae National First-Year Teacher of the Year, and later became a Master Orff Teacher. Ashley taught for six years at Fort Bragg schools before becoming an assistant principal in Cumberland County. Ashley is married to Rae Ashley, who is the director of cardio-pulmonary rehab and vascular health at Cape Fear Valley Health Systems. They have three children, Tripp, 18, Luke, 17 and Claire, 15. Their family is active in Boy Scouts, USA Climbing Competitions and Fayetteville Area Volleyball Association. They are members of Manna Church in Fayetteville.

Michelle Creammer of East Hoke Middle holds master's degrees in education and school administration. She has more than 18 years of teaching experience and taught in Germany as well as Robeson, Cumberland and Hoke counties. She came to Hoke in 2008 and taught at Sandy Grove Elementary before becoming assistant principal at Upchurch Elementary.

Creammer's goals for East Hoke Middle are to "continue the excellent academic growth that has been seen here year after year, to reach all students at East Hoke, providing a quality education that will prepare students to be college and career ready and to have the best teachers and staff at East Hoke Middle School that will be instrumental in students' lives, not only in the school but in the school community." Creammer said she and her husband, who serves in the military, have been married for 18 years. They have two children, Tyler, 16 and Kayleigh, 12.

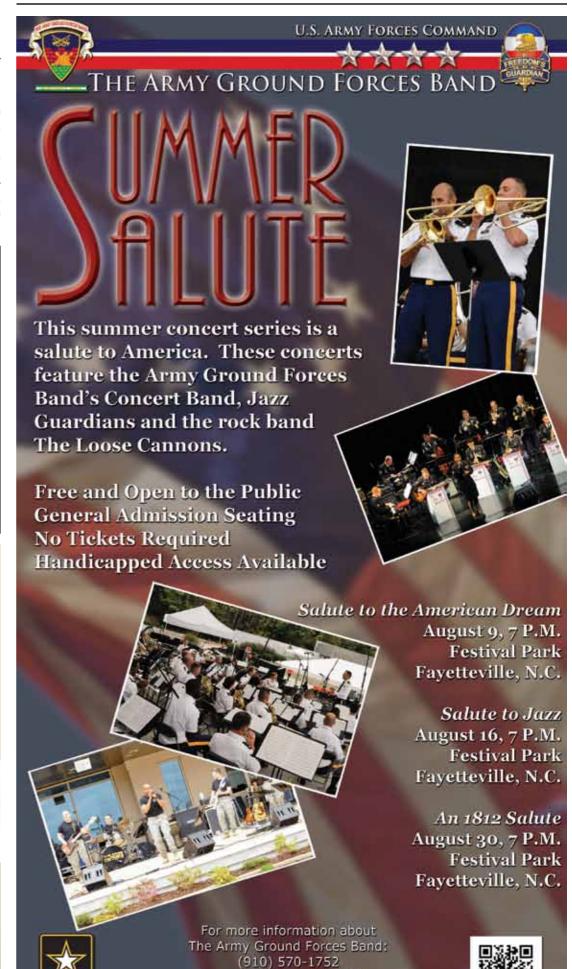
Jennifer Damin of Scurlock Elementary holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania and a master's degree in educational leadership from Phoenix University. She has taught kindergarten, fourth grade and fifth grade, middle school language arts and also worked as an instruction coach for three years. She has lived in the Scurlock area for six years and has served as an assistant principal there for the last two years.

Damin's hopes and goals for leading Scurlock include having every child read proficiently, creating a culture of life-long learning, creating safe, respectful and responsible citizens, preparing every child to be literate, digital learners who will be "college and career ready." Damin's husband serves in the military and they have children.

Erica Fortenberry of Sandy Grove Middle School earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1997, a master's degree in education from Fayetteville State University in May 2003 and a master's degree in school administration from Fayetteville State University in May 2006. She served as an assistant principal intern at Hoke High School from 2005-06 and then worked as an assistant principal at East Hoke Middle School from 2006-07. She was named principal of East Hoke Middle in 2007 and served there until the end of the 2012-13 school year. She was named Principal of the Year for Hoke County Schools in 2012.

Hoke County students start back on Monday, August 26.

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Hospitals

(Continued from page 1A)

from Clinton Community College in New York, a bachelor's degree in nursing from SUNY College of Technology and a master's degree from Walden University in Minnesota. She previously worked with

from Walden University in Minnesota. She previously worked with Duke University Medical Center as head nurse/clinic manager for the bone marrow transplant program and later as nurse clinician and administrative supervisor for the department of medicine, hematology/oncology associates. She has also worked at Scotland Memorial Hospital and Richmond Memorial

Hospital.

Jones will be responsible for overseeing Health Pavilion Hoke, which opened earlier this year, as well as the 41-bed Cape Fear Valley Hoke hospital once it is built and opens.

Jones served as vice president of Bryn Mawr Hospital in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, where she was responsible for hospital space planning, revenue cycle enhancement, patient transport, materials management, patient registration and community health, among others. She was also responsible for Mainline Health System's bariatric and comprehensive wound care service lines.

Before working at Bryn Mawr Hospital, Jones spentsix years working for the Huntersville Medical Center in Huntersville, previously known as the Presbyterian Hospital Huntersville. She served as chief operating officer from 2008-11 and as senior director of professional and support services from 2005-08.

Jones earned a bachelor's degree in allied health with a concentration in respiratory therapy from Tennessee State University in 1992 and earned a master's degree in business administration from Webster University in Missouri in 2000. She is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



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