Porter says Hoke is ‘poultry friendly,’ would welcome plant

A couple accused of killing the manager of a local motel has been captured by law enforcement officers in California.

According to the Hoke County Sheriff’s Office, California law enforcement officials arrested Tyler Mark Pierce, 21, and Samantha Lyn Shults, 21, on warrants for charges including first-degree murder and common law robbery. Shults and Pierce are accused of killing 58-year-old Mohomed Zakir Shaikh, who was the manager of the Raeford Inn, where his body was found last week. Family reportedly told him he was missing Friday, January 16. His brother, who owns the motel, discovered him dead in one of the motel rooms Monday, January 19.

After discovering the suspects had fled the state, the sheriff’s office put the word to the U.S. Marshall’s office for officers to be on the lookout for Pierce and Shults. An off-duty federal marshal in California spotted Pierce while driving on Highway 80 near the city of Truckee and contacted the California Highway Patrol, according to Sgt. Randy Fisher of the CHP. A trooper located the vehicle and made a “high-risk” stop, meaning officers took Pierce out of the car at gunpoint. The suspect knew why he had been stopped. Pierce said: “He said he knew, he figured it was coming,” he said.

Troopers turned Pierce over to federal custody. According to records, Sacramento County police arrested Shults Monday night. Details were not immediately available about how Shults was found. Pierce and Shults, who are boyfriend and girlfriend, were renting the room where Shaikh’s body was found. (See SUSPECTS, page 4A)

For the last several years, Sanderson Farms has pushed around for a place to put a $131 million facility but has met with resistance from other communities in eastern North Carolina. Most recently, Cumberland County residents protested against the possibility of the company locating there. Cumberland County elected officials have not held a public hearing about providing the community with economic incentives, but the Cumberland commission recently reversed course. The commissioners set a hearing for February 2 to discuss the possibility of offering incentives to Sanderson Farms after all.

If Sanderson Farms wanted to come to Hoke, it wouldn’t encounter the resistance it’s received from residents in Cumberland County, Porter said.

“I think there is to not degrade Cumberland but to let them know that this is a poultry friendly community over here and that we think that we have the infrastructure and land … my thing is I want them to know there will be no pushback from a community standpoint in Hoke County,” he said.

The development commission has tried to avoid working toward bringing any company to Hoke County that would cause concern for residents. Porter said. (See CHICKENS, page 6A)

No sweat, chillers being replaced at Rockfish Hoke, Sandy Grove

By Catherine Shepard

The industrial chillers at Rockfish Elementary and Sandy Grove Elementary went out last year, leaving some students – and parents – but under the collar in some unusually warm fall weather. But this year shouldn’t see a repeat of the problem.

The school system is moving along with its performance contracting and plans to begin contracting and installing the new chillers over the next few months, according to school maintenance director Charles Tapp.

“We’re shooting for April. It takes about six to eight weeks to build these things,” he said.

Rockfish Hoke Elementary was built in the early 1990s and the little expecancy of the chillers is just about 20 years, meaning that chiller is on its last leg, officials said. Replacing the enormous systems is not like changing out a simple air conditioner, officials said. The school system decided last year not to repair the chillers (See CHILLERS, page 4A)

Flowers mark the site of Friday’s wreck that killed Jamie Oxendine (left), Austin Oxendine (center) and Mary Ann Oxendine. A man the Highway Patrol says was drunk allegedly ran a stop sign on Shannon Road, in background.

Accused drunk driver kills 3

By Catherine Shepard

Three members of a Hoke County family on their way home from dinner out Friday night were killed when their car was struck by a driver who was allegedly drunk and ran a stop sign. Jamie and Mary Ann Oxendine and their 17-year-old son, Austin Shane Oxendine, were killed at North Old Wire Road and Shannon Road. The Oxendines were returning home after having dinner together at a restaurant, a friend of the family said. When Rodolfo Marín Vela, 29, of the 400 block of Mary C Road in St. Pauls allegedly failed to stop at a stop sign, Vela was driving his 1999 Ford Ranger on North Shannon Road and crashed into the Oxendine family’s 2012 Ford Escape as they were driving on North Old Wire Road. The wreck happened around 9:54 p.m., according to the North Carolina Highway Patrol. (See FATALITIES, page 6A)

Dog shooting leads to felony charges against man

Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff’s Office arrested a former felon last week when they reportedly found a gun and illegal drugs in his possession after he allegedly shot two dogs.

Richard Edward Locklear, 46, of the 100 block of Locklear Lane in Red Springs was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of a Schedule II controlled substance, simple possession of a Schedule VI controlled substance and misdemeanor possession of a Schedule II controlled substance.

Investigators were called to the 300 block of Single ton Road January 22 in refer- ence to a complaint about someone shooting two dogs. (See CHARGES, page 3A)
The Hoke County United Fund works to improve the lives of residents by providing local, long-term, linking people and resources together toward common goals. We know that good, when that united, we are better. We work with local non-profits, businesses, schools and other local social service agencies to ad-

ress our community’s needs. Our focus is on education, health and people’s ability to meet their basic needs.

As the cold of winter sets in, Cheri told me about going on a winter getaway to warmer climes. After months of planning, it was our thirtieth anniversary, we had been to Texas, to the other side of the globe and now, it was time to face the fact that we were avoiding the crowds, we were looking for a little more room in glowing terms. The service that the couple provided was unsurpassed, we were astonished at the food and the weather was, unfortunately, a little worse than expected, the stress of travel were behind us as we dined under the palapa. After an agonizing wait of more than a few hours, we were greeted with our bones and the weather was, it was time for the warm crept in, the cold was behind us. We had just lost a day but made the most of it.

We arrived the next day at Puerto Vallarta around 3 p.m., where we grabbed a car and, as Cheri said, we continued to find out to find the rather obscure beach that was our destination for our directions because we were not able to follow our directions because we were not able to follow our directions without it. As we neared the small dead end street, the pavement disappeared, then we had to look for the narrow gravel street that led to Number 18. There we grew out, the seemingly forlorn beach that we were going to. We were greeted with a heavy, dusty, heavy-laden gate with a sign that said “private” on it. We knocked on the gate, and in the following days, we would find that the way for the first time of our lives, we had to make our way up.

Before I set on the weddings, apparently not sure to be in time for the service that the couple provided. We were excited to see the mission, all of us.

This being the last connecting bit of our trip, we wanted to be able to be embroidered in a matching suit. The wedding was held for a few hours, we had to travel on, we could see the ocean and the sea was calm. The wedding was held for a few hours, we had to travel on, we could see the ocean and the sea was calm.

The winds was sinking into the ocean, the weather was calm and continued to be perfect, for the entire evening. As the second margarita was going down, it was time to jump into the ocean, we had decided to use the hot water. We were in the water for a few minutes, it was time for the warm crept in, the cold was behind us. We had just lost a day but made the most of it.

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Obituaries

Aurethe S. Locklear
Aurethe S. Locklear, 75, of Locklear and the Rev. Hedrick Jones officiating. Burial will be held at Locklear and the Rev. Hedrick Jones officiating. Burial will be held at Prospect United Methodist Church. The funeral/visitation will be held Wednesday, January 28 at 6 p.m. at Prospect United Methodist Church with the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Locklear and Rev. Hedrick Jones officiating. Burial will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, January 29 at Prospect United Methodist Church. Online condolences can be made at locklearandsonfuneralhome.com.

Mary Ann Odom
Mary Ann Odom, 45, of Washington, Texas, Springer, was born June 30, 1974 and departed this life with her mother on Friday, January 25, 2015. She was preceded in death by her parents, Allen and Betty Butler, special father-in-law, Louis Ruggerio of Maxton; two brothers, Brad (Nicole) Lowry and Charles (Kim) Springer; three sisters, Dyna J. Oxendine and Megan E. Snellgroves andwife Julia of Fayetteville; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

ShADELL M. ZHAK
ShadeLL M. ZHAK, 70, of 1000 South Main Street, Raeford, was born July 11, 1941 and departed this life at Wake Med in Raleigh Wednesday, January 28, 2015. Survivors include her husband, Micah; son, John; and daughter, Vannia. Visitations were at 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, January 27; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday, January 28, and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, January 29 at Prospect United Methodist Church. Burial will be held at Bluff City Cemetery in Chicago.

Moselle Rodwell
Moselle Hill-Rodwell of Raeford departed this life at home at the age of 75. She was born July 7, 1941 in Scott County, Arkansas to the Rev. Louis and Mamie Rodwell. She was a member of the Rev. Rodwell Family Church and was employed by John Hancock Life Insurance Co. She was married to Howard Rodwell and had two children, three great-grandchildren, and one grandchild.

Maurice R. Smith
Maurice R. Smith, 86, of Raeford, died Friday, January 23, 2015 at his home at the age of 86. Maurice was one of the most humble, caring, and compassionate people that you could ever meet. He was kind and loving, and he will be missed by those who knew him.

James P. Keaton
James P. Keaton CSM (Ret) James P. Keaton, 61, of Raeford died Friday, January 23, 2015 at his home at the age of 61. He was preceded in death by his father, Edward Lee Locklear, and a special uncle, Manuel Locklear.

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Mester begins on February 17.

The county's revenues and expenses increased significantly over the past year, with revenues increasing to almost $39 million, an increase of 16 percent, and expenses rising to roughly $34.3 million to $36.9 million, an increase of 7.5 percent, and roughly $33.6 million to $36.9 million in 2014, according to the report. The LGC Fund balance was at 11.1 percent of the county's revenues. The LGC commissioners also approved a consent agenda including financial items such as a resolution for a proposal from Seneca Jacobs PLLC engineering consultants and two new members to the county's water meters in order to access and more accurately meter reading. The county's available financial resources, which was at least 9 percent, would not be a problem with the Local Government Commission (LGC) because of it, she said.

Other business

The board additionally discussed replacing the equipment. Replacing the equipment allows organizations like public schools, universities and government offices to examine their utilities usage and equipment and replace out-of-date or potentially faulty systems. Replacing the equipment comes at an upfront cost to the school systems, as the money will be paid back over the long term of energy savings on utility bills from reducing how much the school will have to spend on energy for electricity and fuel, officials said.

The county's Board of Education approved the performance contracting plan that had already been given initial first committee status.

Energy performance contracting allows organizations like public schools, universities and government offices to examine their utilities usage and equipment and replace out-of-date or potentially faulty systems. Replacing the equipment comes at an upfront cost to the school systems, as the money will be paid back over the long term of energy savings on utility bills from reducing how much the school will have to spend on energy for electricity and fuel, officials said.

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Chillers

(Continued from page 1A)

(Continued from page 1A)

because it would cost between $15,000 and $17,000 just to buy the new units, according to the sheriff. The board also discussed energy savings with LED lighting and put in some LED lighting at the Hoke Community College because it would cost between $15,000 and $17,000 just to buy the new units. The board was also discussing energy savings with LED lighting and put in some LED lighting at the Hoke Community College and Hoke High School, which is not only saving the county money and providing easier access and more accurate meter reading. The board was also discussing energy savings with LED lighting and putting in some LED lighting at the Hoke Community College and Hoke High School, which is not only saving the county money and providing easier access and more accurate meter reading.

New chillers were discussed by the LGC Board as well as the intent to set aside at least $5 million in the fund for future improvements. New chillers were discussed by the LGC Board as well as the intent to set aside at least $5 million in the fund for future improvements. New chillers were discussed by the LGC Board as well as the intent to set aside at least $5 million in the fund for future improvements.

The chillers should be ordered by late March in order to replace the chiller before the start of classes in early April, Tapp said.

All other schools in the county will get a new chiller in early September of this year at the same time as the Hoke Community College.

Lyric is a completely different way to hear better

• World’s first and only invisible hearing device, it’s not an implant but works 24/7 for months at a time without replacement.

• Sits close to the eardrum so it uses your outer ear to give you incredibly loud, beautiful sound.

• No battery changes necessary. The device is charged while it’s being worn.

1 Day Special Event: February 4th - 6th, 2015
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A Lyric Technology Expert will be on hand to answer your questions!

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www.phonurnalstic.com

Lyric is a completely different way to hear better

World’s first and only invisible hearing device, it’s not an implant but works 24/7 for months at a time without replacement.

To the online application closes on February 6, 2015 at 11:59:59 p.m. Applications will not be accepted after the closing date.

If you need any assistance in applying for SHECHS, please contact Lisa Sheals, SHECHS Community Development Coordinator, at lisas@lcsisd.edu.
**SPORTS**

**Hoke County Bucks sweep Rams**

By Hal Nunn  
Sports writer

The Hoke County High School Bucks boys’ and girls’ teams swept the Rams of Purnell Swett last week to conclude the SEC season. That also puts the evening started with a 62-35 win over the Rams. The Lady Bucks are 7-0 overall and 2-2 in the Southeastern Conference. The Hoke County High School girls’ basketball team swept the Rams last week. The game will also be held at the Hoke County High School.

In the fourth quarter, the Lady Bucks continued the pressure defense and outscored the Rams 18-9 to lead 39-27 heading into the final period. Hoke got the game won in front of the Rams with 23 points in the final quarter and pulled away winning 62-35. Jetera Wells led the way with 13 points and 12 players scored for the Lady Bucks. The Lady Bucks are 7-0 overall and 2-2 in the Southeastern Conference and played Pinecrest last night in Moore County. They will host Richmond County Friday night at Hoke High.

The Lady Bucks got off to a slow start and only hit five points in the first half but came alive in the second period and scored 18 points to lead 21-18 heading into the break. John Maynor continued the pressure defense and led the way, with each with seven first half points. The Lady Bucks won by 25, 74-49. Dominique Love continued to lead in points and John Maynor missed out on 12. D’Coda Cummings was the next leading scorer with 15 points.

The Bucks got the evening started with a 62-35 win over the Rams. The Hoke County High School girls’ basketball team swept the Rams last week. The game will also be held at the Hoke County High School.

Boys V Basketball Home vs.
Richmond 7:30 p.m.

Girls V Basketball Home vs.
Richmond 6 p.m.

Boys V Wrestling at Pinecrest
5 p.m.

Girls JV Basketball at Lumberton
5 p.m.

Middle School Wrestling at Sandy Grove
4:15 p.m.

Boys Wrestling at Pinecrest
5 p.m.

Boys Basketball at East Hoke
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Boys Freshman Basketball at Scotland
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Boys Freshman Basketball at Sandy Grov
unlawfully, the issue of his im-

migration and Customs Enforcement

secured bond.

was held at the Hoke County

for conditions.

open container of alcohol in the

vehicle, driving while impaired,

three counts of felony death by

wearing a seatbelt.

without a license and was not

he said.

passenger of the Ford Ranger.

er traveled to Cape Fear Valley

Patrol.

was driving drunk, according to

incident had reason to believe Vela

injuries and were taken to Cape

funeral is set for 6 p.m. Wednes-

day at Prospect United Methodist

school. The fund had raised over $1,200 by Tuesday. Family friend Jacob Hopp set up the fundraiser. Hoke Hi-Jack is also a place where donors can drop off money to help with funeral expenses. The school is accepting donations for the fam-

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Roger Edwards said.

Vela was always close with her four grandchildren, daughter-in-law Nicole Lowery

said. She loved being a grandma.

"We lodge a detainer when we

officers have asked local law

enforcement to inform immi-

grandmother of three, said.

those who remain interested to

If Vela is re-

leased on bond, ICE will take

him into custody at the time of

release. Picard said.

of court papers to as-

what crimes it

is.

"The Hoke Hi-Jack continues

investigating the wreck," Ritter

said. A special with the divi-

dion plans to use equipment to
download all the information

available from the two vehicle

computer systems.

If the vehicles are young

enough, so speak, modules can

be downloaded off the vehicle.

Any time we have a tragedy like

this, we take the extra step," Rit-

ter said.

The information that give

authorities a clearer picture of

exactly what happened by provide-

data on how fast the vehicles

were going and when or if the
drivers hit the brakes.

A shirt pays tribute to the family.

New Life Road when they were

killed in the wreck.

Diana Jan Ouellette is a sopho-

more at Hoke County High School

where her brother Austin was a

pupil. Students gathered at the

school flagpole before class

Monday morning to remember

their classmate, and the National

American Student Association

performed a traditional drum beat

Tuesday morning.

Friends of the family have

set up an online donation fund

trough Go Fund Me to help

fund raising $3,000 to

pay for funeral expenses. The

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"The Hoke Hi-Jack continues

investigating the wreck," Ritter

said. A special with the divi-

dion plans to use equipment to
download all the information

available from the two vehicle

computer systems.

If the vehicles are young

enough, so speak, modules can

be downloaded off the vehicle.

Any time we have a tragedy like

this, we take the extra step," Rit-

ter said.

The information that give

authorities a clearer picture of

exactly what happened by provide-

data on how fast the vehicles

were going and when or if the
drivers hit the brakes.

A shirt pays tribute to the family.

New Life Road when they were

killed in the wreck.

Diana Jan Ouellette is a sopho-

more at Hoke County High School

where her brother Austin was a

pupil. Students gathered at the

school flagpole before class

Monday morning to remember

their classmate, and the National

American Student Association

performed a traditional drum beat

Tuesday morning.

Friends of the family have

set up an online donation fund

trough Go Fund Me to help

fund raising $3,000 to

pay for funeral expenses. The

fund had raised over $1,200 by Tuesday. Family friend Jacob Hopp set up the fundraiser. Hoke Hi-Jack is also a place where donors can drop off money to help with funeral expenses. The school is accepting donations for the fam-

y of the main office, Principal

Roger Edwards said.