

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

75¢

No. 6 Vol. 107

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

DSS director: Woods was right choice Felon, suspended four times by county, was given social worker job

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Former Senior Services Director Don Woods, a convicted felon who was suspended four times in his five years on the job, was the right choice to fill a social worker position because of his qualifications and experience, Social Services

Director Della Sweat said.

Woods applied for the Social Worker II position March 13 while serving a paid suspension that began on March 2. He resigned from the director's position March 20 and interviewed for the social worker job March 28, according to Sweat and county public records.

He was hired with Social Services April

2 with a salary of \$35,482.

Woods was convicted of multiple crimes in the 1980s and 1990s, including several felony charges, according to information from the North Carolina Department of Corrections.

The record for Don M. Woods, 43, reported crimes including selling drugs, forgery, larceny and one 1989 escape from

prison. His last criminal conviction was in 1999.

The county has a policy requiring a criminal records check when considering a potential employee for a position. However, the Department of Social Services is one of three county departments that handle their own hiring. The other two that manage
(See DSS, page 3A)

Wreck kills teen Mom injured

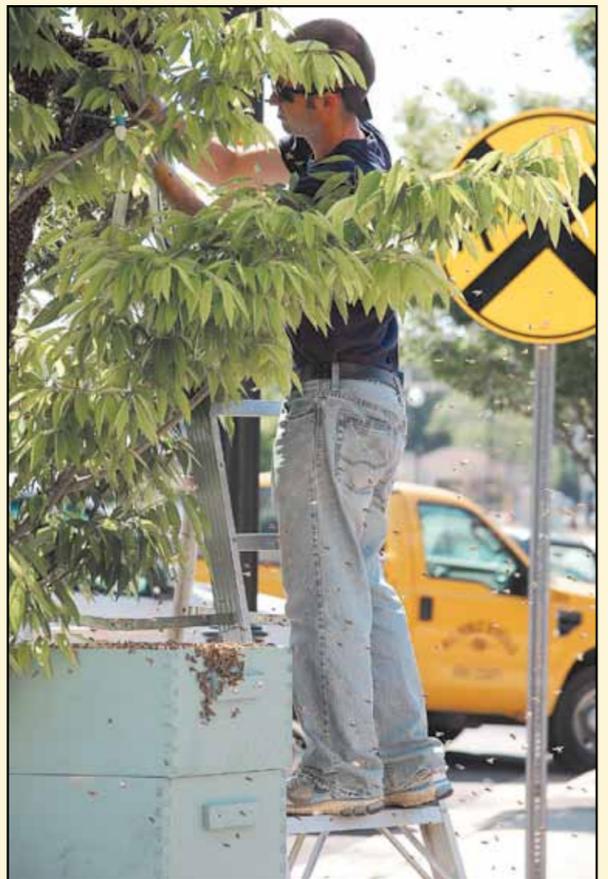
A teenager died and her mother was taken to the hospital after a car wreck Monday in eastern Hoke County.

The single-vehicle crash happened around 5 a.m. near the Johnson Mill Road and Adcox Road intersection, according to the State Highway Patrol. Fayetteville residents Tricia Simmons and her daughter, Erin Simmons, both of Mariner's Landing, were in Simmons' 2000 Mercedes when she apparently lost control of the vehicle.

The car went left of center, ran off the road and struck a tree before catching on fire, authorities said. Erin Simmons died on impact and Tricia Simmons was injured.

Simmons was transported to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. Her condition was not available.

Erin Simmons was a student at Jack Britt High School. The high school junior was involved in the theater arts program and the ROTC program, a school official said.



Bee-autiful Swarm

A Raeford business owner phoned Dustin Gregory, president of the Hoke County Beekeeper's Association, Tuesday morning to retrieve a rogue swarm of honeybees from a tree on Main Street. Bees can leave their hives and swarm when the queen bee dies or for other reasons. Gregory estimated about 80,000 to 100,000 honeybees swarmed in the tree. He collected the bees by gently scraping them off the tree limbs with his gloved hands and placing them into hive boxes. Gregory said the swarm was "huge." He planned to take the bees to a farm to let them rebuild their hive. (Catharin Shepard photos)

Health firm wants to use McCain hospital

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A company is interested in developing the McCain Correctional Hospital into a healthcare facility, Hoke

County commissioners learned Monday night.

The sprawling campus, which has been empty for the last two years, could have a second life with a new purpose, County Attorney

William Fields said.

"There's a company that is trying to gather up support to have the hospital deeded over to a private entity that's going to develop it into a healthcare facility," he said.

The board of commissioners held a closed session at the end of its meeting to discuss economic development and consult with Fields. After emerging from closed session, the board voted for Fields to

draft a letter supporting the initiative.

The details are still unclear and officials remained quiet about the deal, which is not finalized yet.

(See MCCAIN, page 5A)

This Week

Library honors
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State legislators
get low rankings
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We're on the web at
www.thenews-journal.com
Read by 4,500 each week



Wanda Cohen (left) and Mary Hollingsworth are teaming up to see that the Hoke Farmers Market has a good run this year. (See story, page 8A.)

OTHER STUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD

Had an occasion to spend a few days in the hospital recently because I inherited a heart you might expect to find in a stereotypical Scot: it can't keep a beat. The doctor says I have a low risk for stroke—which is a good thing, because I got the hospi-

tal bill last week—but having a heart that changes rhythm more frequently than a teenager with a Kmart keyboard drives a person nuts and saps his energy so that he feels like he walked the Relay for Life, ran the Turkey Festival road race and sat through a school system vision meeting
(See STUFF, page 7A)

Students tour Italy on break

The Hoke High School History Club visited Italy over Spring Break, arriving in Rome April 9.

There, students Joshua Quick, Jason McLaughlin, Taya Zawadzki, Megan Jones, Shannon Pancake and Brendan Pitts, and teacher Kristie DeLuna visited the Coliseum, the Roman Forum, the Trevi Fountain, the Vatican and other historical sites.

The group then traveled to Assisi, where it studied the history of the Franciscan monks and medieval villages.

In Florence, students toured the Duomo, the Medici Palace, and the Ponte Vecchio.

The bravest students climbed to the top of the Leaning Tower
(See ITALY, page 8A)



The Leaning Tower of Pisa gets a little support from the History Club — Taya Zawadzki (left to right), Brendan Pitts, Jason McLaughlin, Megan Jones, and Shannon Pancake.

VIEWPOINTS

Churches risk legal action

Most elections, the Hoke Civic League raises eyebrows by endorsing candidates, but no one has really made a case that it is doing anything wrong. In fact, if done legally and according to the rules, endorsing candidates and working the system is as American as it gets.

The problem is churches being a part of the Civic League. More than 20 Hoke County churches are listed on the organization's website as members, which makes them participants in illegal campaigning, as the League endorses candidates. Consequently, those churches risk their tax-exempt status.

By law, churches don't have to ap-

ply for tax-exempt status—it's granted automatically as long as they obey IRS regulations. But one of those regulations is that all 501(c)(3) organizations, including churches and religious organizations, are "absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office," to quote an IRS publication. Violation can result in forfeiture of tax-exempt status and the imposition of excise tax.

Churches can't have it both ways. You can't be both tax-exempt and involved in candidacies at election time.

Never had time for some questions

Editor's note: We are re-running previous columns in Mr. Autry's health-related absence.

Question: What can a man do while his wife is going through menopause?

Answer: Keep busy. If you are handy with tools, you can finish the basement. When you are done, you will have a place to live.

When I graduated from high school, more years ago than I can remember, one of my best friends was Huckleberry Jones. At least that is the name we all knew him by. Huckleberry was constantly saying that he had to get out of high school so he could find himself. I didn't know he was lost; however, as I got older, I soon realized a lot of folks left home until they could find themselves. Personally, I never was worried about that problem, with five boys, one girl and a whole gang my father brought home from the orphanage, which was next door to our home. The only time we had to find ourselves was when we

A View from the Country

Raz Autry



woke up in the morning, because we didn't know most of the time with whom we were sleeping. If I was sleeping with my brothers, I could tell by the smell of their feet. Strange feet have a different smell than kin folks'. However, I can assure you with my mother close by we were not sleeping with any girls.

There is another question that is popular with many teenagers and some beyond the teen years—the question being, "Who am I?"

I had that question put to me one morning at 2 a.m. It came from a young man I had known from my first principalship. At that time I was the principal at Hoke High. The first question out of his mouth when I answered the phone was, "Mr. Autry, I am a former student of yours, and I

need to know who I am." That is a question psychologists are supposed to answer, not high school principals. After finally getting awake and discovering the house wasn't on fire — after all, how many folks are aroused out of a sleep at 2 a.m. by a former student who you suspect has been hitting the bottle and wanting to know, "who am I?" — and after pretending to be happy to hear from him at 2 a.m., I said, "I will try to get you an answer to your question." I sent him a note in a few days but I didn't give him an answer because a friend who was a specialist in the field of psychology didn't know how to tell him who he was. I would suspect he is still searching for the answer.

My parting thought: Elderly patient — "Help me, Doc. I am ninety years old and I still chase women."

Doctor — "If you are that old and you still chase women, you don't need my help."

Elderly patient — "But I keep forgetting why I still chase them."

We Get Letters

Step up and help animal situation

To the Editor:

I am a proud pet owner. Let me rephrase that, I have many pets as a part of my family. Until recently, I lived in downtown Raeford, but my family still lives there. I believe that dogs and cats should not be chained at all times and cannot be "controlled" at all times.

Let me explain. I have had my pets neutered, I had a fenced-in yard, we took them on walks often, etc. I am a responsible pet owner, as are several who live in Raeford. However, things happen and dogs hop the fence in search for the squirrel they were playing with, cats dart out of the door when you're trying to get the mail, a dog slips out of the leash, and so on. Trying to control your animal at every second is like trying to control your child constantly,

which every person can tell you it is impossible to have total control at all times. Pets are expected to be trained and to be safe to be around, but any dog that feels threatened by another animal will defend itself.

Teach your kids that just because an animal is there, they should not run up and get into the animal's face because it could become startled and attack. As far as the situation described with the dog killing a cat, both were outside. If the argument "the dog should be controlled" were to go in court, I am sure that the same would have been said about the cat.

As for animal control, it is an organization that works hard to collect animals. I know that they have quickly responded to calls

that I've made in the past for stray animals. They are doing their job, but it is impossible for them to be on every street at every minute of every day to collect an animal that might dart across their path. I think the statement "When is Animal Control going to wake up and do their job?" is not only unfair but it comes from a side that has likely not tried to make a difference. If you are unhappy with the way an organization is working, step up and do your part. Instead of complaining about what a horrible job an organization is doing, volunteer or give reasonable solutions. Become a part of the solution instead of complaining about the problem.

Megan Hackett
Schweinfurt, Germany

Community comes to aid of family

To the Editor:

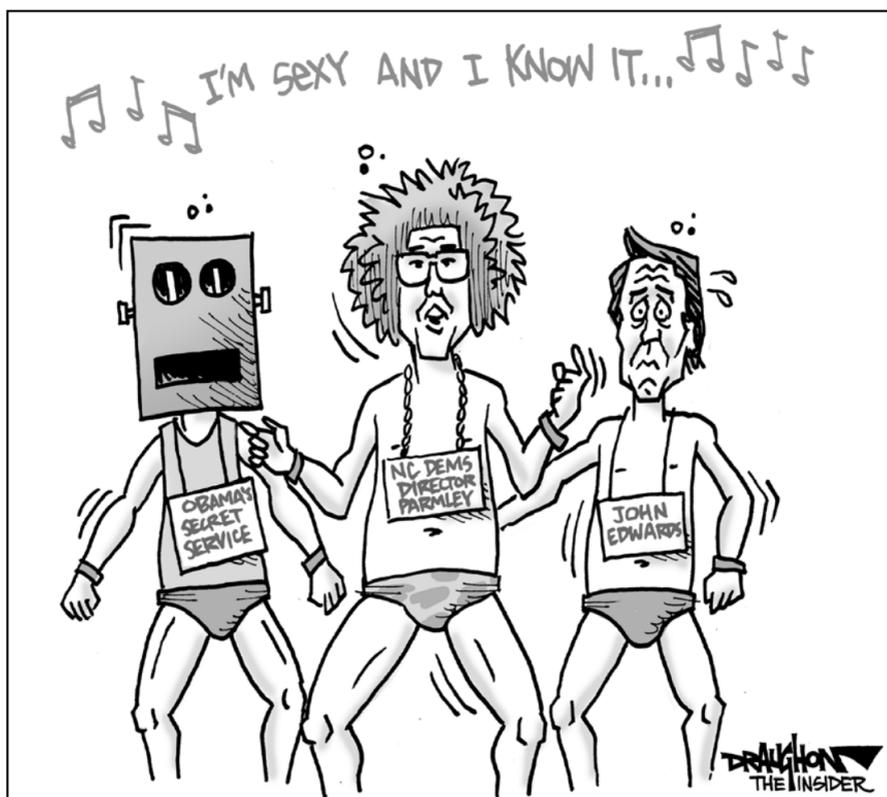
One is defined by whom they call their family and friends. In our time of need we experienced and were embraced by those that we call friends and family and the definition of extraordinary

love and power of prayer was paramount for each of us.

When our family experienced two major and unexpected illnesses, we were blessed and loved by so many. A community of such stature defines the meaning of love

and band of angels that came to our assistance. God provided your strength when we needed it the most and we are humbly thankful and eternally grateful to all of you.

The Tuttle Family



State superintendent faces Republican opposition

By SCOTT MOONEYHAM
Capitol Press Association

A few months ago, it appeared that Democratic state schools superintendent June Atkinson would face primary opposition.

Or, maybe she wouldn't even seek a third term in the job.

But after Atkinson announced that she would run, the former teacher and education administrator suddenly found herself without any primary opposition. State Rep. Rick Glazier of Fayetteville decided against challenging Atkinson, and no other Democrats took the plunge either.

That doesn't mean that there aren't plenty of Republicans wanting a shot at Atkinson.

Five Republicans have filed for the post and are now trying to distinguish themselves from each other. All have education backgrounds: two are teachers, two are local school board members and one is a college instructor.

Ray Martin is a 24-year public school teacher and U.S. Navy veteran.

Martin says he wants to focus on improving the graduation rate through innovation and encourag-

ing a passion for learning. He's also been critical of what he says is a tendency by Democrats to "throw more money at the problem."

Martin points out that the state's graduation rate, if it were a number grade, would still be a "D" despite some recent improvement.

David Scholl is a small business consultant and has been a member of the Union County Board of Education since 2008.

Scholl says his perspective as a private business owner will allow him to better address the problems facing public schools. He wants to encourage innovation, the use of more technology in the classroom and increased local decision-making.

John Tedesco is a Wake County school board member who has been in the middle of the controversy regarding that school system's student assignment plan. Tedesco formerly served as chief development officer for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle and was also a director of development for Harbor House in New Jersey.

Tedesco says he wants to expand vocational education,

strengthen high school academic standards, expand partnerships between schools and industry, encourage merit-based pay for teachers and move away from a teach-to-the-test culture. His campaign mantra has been, "Public education takes care of other people's children with other people's money and needs to stand accountable for both."

Mark Crawford served one term in the state House in 2001-02 and has been an instructor at Western Carolina University since 2005. He says he will improve schools at all levels by focusing on spending in the classroom while reducing bureaucracy, inefficiency and waste.

Richard Alexander is a former small-business owner from Union County who teaches school in Lancaster, South Carolina.

Alexander says he will cut the state Department of Public Instruction budget by 60 percent in his first two years and return the savings to local school districts. He has said that he teaches in South Carolina partly because he wants to be able to speak freely about the state of the schools in his home state.

You have to understand the 1950 primary

Early voting is under way this week in North Carolina's primary elections. So far there is not much excitement.

Sixty-two years ago we had a much different primary and run-off election experience. Voters came out in record numbers.

Today, a surprising number of people still remember that election and can tell you how the bitter struggle divided the state. Many of those who "remember" were not yet born in 1950. They know the story well because it is told over and over again and handed down from political generation to generation, sounding like an Old Testament story of God's chosen people battling the Philistines.

North Carolina historians agree that the 1950 U.S. Senate primary between Frank Graham and Willis Smith helped define North Carolina politics.

To understand today's North Carolina politics, learning about this contest is an essential task.

For a detailed version, read "Frank Porter Graham and the 1950 Senate Race in North Carolina" by Julian Pleasants and Augustus Burns, published by the UNC Press in 1990 and still available in most public libraries.

In the meantime, here are some basics about the Graham-Smith contest:

In 1949, Governor W. Kerr Scott appointed UNC President Graham to a vacant U.S. Senate seat. Graham was, for the times, a liberal on race and social issues. So conservative Democrats re-

One on One

D. G. Martin



cruited Willis Smith to run against Graham in the 1950 Democratic primary, the winner of which would face only token Republican opposition in November. Smith was a distinguished Raleigh attorney who had served as president of the American Bar Association. At the beginning of the campaign, both men enjoyed wide respect throughout the state—even from those who disagreed with them.

Graham led the first primary in May 1950 with 48.9 percent of the vote. Smith had 40.5 percent. In those days, unless a candidate reached 50 percent, the second place finisher could call for a run-off. At first Smith indicated he would not call for a run-off. Then his supporters, including young Jesse Helms, orchestrated an impressive show of public support that persuaded Smith to change his mind.

Smith's campaign faced an enormous challenge in the run-off—how to persuade large numbers of working class Democrats to vote for a conservative business-oriented lawyer. If these folks voted their economic interests, they probably wouldn't support Smith.

In 1950, two things would persuade many North Carolina whites to vote against their eco-

nomics interests. They were race and communism.

Smith's supporters used both issues. Although Smith distanced himself from his supporters' tactics, they "played the race card." Flyers, newspaper ads, and mail used crude inflammatory language to assert that Graham supported mixing the races in the workplace and everywhere else. And to a lesser degree, Smith's followers played up Graham's membership in organizations that were supposedly communist "fronts."

Graham refused to respond in kind. But his supporters attempted, without success, to inflame voters against Smith's "big business" leanings. In the end, Smith's supporters' tactics won the run-off for their candidate.

Why does the Graham-Smith contest continue to be significant? One reason is that several important recent political leaders cut their teeth in that battle. For instance, Jesse Helms worked vigorously on the Smith side and Terry Sanford took on one of the toughest precincts in Fayetteville for Graham. There are others, some still alive, who got their start in this campaign and still remember. But many more are indirect disciples of Graham or Smith, through political figures like Sanford and Helms.

Perhaps the battlefield is quiet this spring, but the war between the Smith and Graham sides is not over. It is still being fought, and it is not yet clear which side is really going to win.

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.

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Obituaries

Alton Locklear

Alton "Jab" Locklear, 82, of 404 Murph McLaughlin Road died Thursday, April 12, 2012. Survivors include four sons, Danny, Roy, Wallace and Jerry; a daughter, Mary; a sister, Catherine Dial; 22 grandchildren; 41 great-grandchildren; and a great-grandchild. The funeral was held Monday, April 16 at 3 p.m. in Hoke County Holiness Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Inge K. Lowell

Inge Kaim Lowell died Friday, April 13, 2012 in her home at the age of 78. She was preceded in death by her husband, Odber P. Lowell and her son, Charly A. Lowell. Survivors include two sisters, Lido St. John of Arizona and Silke Hirschvogel of Germany; and a niece, Lil Barlow of Arizona. A graveside service was held Monday, April 16 at 11 a.m. at Raeford Cemetery with the Rev. James D. Wilhide officiating. Online condolences may be made at www.crumplerfuneral-home.com.

Annie Auman Brim

Annie Ruth Auman Brim, 91, of Asheboro died Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at the Randolph Hospice House.

Anative of Hoke County, she was born October 17, 1920, the daughter of the late Charlie Roe Auman and Minnie Mae Freeman Auman. She was retired from Ram Tie in Ramseur and worked for Cross Road Rest and Retirement Center after her retirement. She was a member of Huldah Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Henry Brim; her children, Eugene Brim, Bobbi Jean Brim, and Lewis Brim; her grandson, Dustin Brim; her sisters, Frances Voncannon, Beulah Hartsell, and Louise Clodfelter; and her brothers, Garland Auman and James Auman.

Survivors include her daughters, Diane Thornburg of Asheboro and Janet Murchison of Julian; a son, Larry Brim of Port Orange, Florida; a sister, Clara Holt of Greensboro; three brothers, Donald Auman of Rockingham, Charles Auman of Jackson Springs and Carl Auman of Winston-Salem; 13 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held Thursday, April 12 at 2 p.m. at Huldah Baptist Church with the Rev. Jimmy Shirlen and the Rev. Wayne Vuncannon officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Randolph, PO Box 9, Asheboro, NC 27204. Tributes may be sent to the family at www.ridgefuneralhome.com.



Theresa H. McBryde

Theresa H. McBryde

Theresa Hollowell McBryde of 3612 St. Pauls Road died Thursday, April 12, 2012 in FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst at the age of 87.

She was born in Wayne County on August 7, 1924 to the late Gurney and Renna Stevens Hollowell. She was a member of Raeford Presbyterian Church. She was the owner and operator of Theresa's Dress Shop in Raeford for 30 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wilson McBryde.

Survivors include a son, G. Van McBryde and wife Christy of Kinston; a daughter, Susan McBryde of Raleigh; and two grandchildren, Lauren M. Gray and husband Ashley and their daughter, Lucy Gray, all of La-Grange, and Wilson H. McBryde and wife Nicole of Mooresville.

A graveside service was held Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m. at Raeford Cemetery with the Rev. James L. Braden officiating.

Memorials may be made to Raeford Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1570, Raeford, NC 28376.

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

District Court

Recent cases disposed of in Hoke County Criminal District Court, Judge John H. Horne presiding:

April 10

• Alejandro Vargas Aguirre, no address listed, driving while impaired, Level 2, 30 days in jail, active; no operator's license, five days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation

• Whitney Baker, 17, 301 Tonya Loop, Raeford, misdemeanor larceny, 45 days suspended, 12 months probation, community service fee, not to use or possess any controlled substances, submit to warrantless searches, random tests for same, not to be found on or about the premises of the prosecuting business

• Hattie Bethea, 23, 502 Vass Road, Raeford, misdemeanor larceny, 45 days suspended, 12 months probation, community service fee, not to use or possess any controlled substances, submit to warrantless searches, random tests for same, not to be found on or about the premises of the prosecuting business

• Oscar Samuel Foote Jr., 60, 6225 Canadian Ave., Fayetteville, driving while license revoked, seven days in jail, credit for seven days served

• Angela Locklear, 34, 103 Nutley Drive, Red Springs, no operator's license, 15 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, \$50 fine and court costs

• Willie Davis McArm Jr., 23, 491 Rockfish Road, Raeford, carrying concealed gun, prayer for judgment

continued, court costs

• Frederick McNair, 28, 491 Rockfish Road, Raeford, carrying concealed weapon, prayer for judgment continued, court costs; discharging firearm in city limits, voluntary dismissal

• Joshua James McNair, 17, 241 Lake Elizabeth Road, Raeford, disorderly conduct, prayer for judgment continued, court costs

• Larry Mario McNeill, 21, 308 Hill St., Raeford, possession of open container/consumption of alcohol in passenger area, court costs

April 12

• Denise Brown, 55, 104 Murray Fork Road, Fayetteville, failure to stop at stop sign or flashing red light, prayer for judgment continued, court costs

• Paula Christine Davis, 48, 3406 Village Drive, Fayetteville, improper equipment-speedometer, \$15 fine and court costs

• Brittany Leigh Dean, 22, 1111 Hammond Drive, Laurinburg, improper equipment-speedometer, \$25 fine and court costs

• Terrance Jamal Delbridge, 24, 649 Dunrobin Drive, Raeford, speeding 57 miles per hour in a 35-mph zone, prayer for judgment continued, court costs

• Jerry Wayne Dial, 46, 641 McGirt Gin Road, Maxton, speeding 44 miles per hour in a 35-mph zone, \$25 fine and court costs

• Lawrence Alphonson Ferguson, 39, 106 Douglas Ave., Red

Springs, speeding 95 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone, 10 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, \$100 fine and court costs; reckless driving to endanger, voluntary dismissal

• Henry Hunter Forbis, 34, 116 Graham Road, Lumber Bridge, improper equipment-speedometer, \$25 fine and court costs; license restriction violation, voluntary dismissal

• Dean Kenneth Frizzell, 42, 229 Delicate Drive, Lumberton, improper equipment-speedometer, \$15 fine and court costs

• Peter Todd Hannon, 49, 701 Mackay Court, Raeford, no operator's license, court costs

• Trevor Anthony Hughes, 17, 1532 Dover Court, Fayetteville, improper equipment-speedometer, \$50 fine and court costs

• Louis Phillips Irizarry, 24, 190 Finch Road, Fayetteville, speeding 64 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone, \$25 fine and court costs

• Jeffery R. Kunz, 24, 301 Dorothy Drive, Raeford, speeding 75 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone, court costs

• Cody Alexander Locklear, 21, 1550 McBryde Mill Road, Raeford, improper equipment-speedometer, \$25 fine and court costs; possession or display of altered, fictitious or revoked driver's license, voluntary dismissal

• Javaris Sanchez McLaughlin, 25, 379 Shankle Road, Shannon, improper equipment-speedometer,

\$50 fine and court costs

• Derrick Eugene Pusey, 43, 3819 Briargate Lane, Fayetteville, speeding 94 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone, \$100 fine and court costs

• Bertin B. Rejino, 23, 151 Malinda Drive, Raeford, no operator's license, \$50 fine and court costs; speeding 73 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone, voluntary dismissal

• Lucinda Anne Seidat-Stanley, 30, 265 Gun Club Road, Pinehurst, improper equipment-speedometer, \$15 fine and court costs

• Gautam A. Tikekar, 28, 114 Kipling Road, Cherry Hill, N.J., improper equipment-speedometer, \$25 fine and court costs

• Kevin Michael Valdez, 21, 107 Steeplechase Lane, Raeford, speeding 64 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone, \$25 fine and court costs

• Charlotte Joy Vandusen, 21, 7316 Ryan St., Fayetteville, improper equipment-speedometer, \$25 fine and court costs

• James Robert Wade, 39, 127 E. 8th Ave., Red Springs, improper equipment-speedometer, \$25 fine and court costs

• Michael A. Wagner, 27, 6023 Mud Hill Road, Brewerton, N.Y., speeding 64 miles per hour in a 55-mph zone, \$50 fine and court costs

• Brandon Dean Wiuff, 27, 196 Allegiance St., Raeford, improper equipment-speedometer, \$15 fine and court costs.

Lumbee Tribe holds planning meeting in Laurinburg

The Tribal Council and Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina held a retreat and planning session last weekend at the W.R. Dulin Conference Center at the Scotland Health Care System campus.

Tribal Chairman Paul Brooks said the purpose of the meeting was to "share and hear ideas between the executive and legislative branches about how to move the Tribe to self sufficiency in 5

years, and put more of our housing funds back into our tribal housing programs."

The council heard presentations from the Veterans, Homeownership, Down Payment Assistance, Rehabilitation, New Construction, Asset Management, Human Resources and Tribal Finance departments.

District 11 Representative Linda Revels of Hoke County said

in her tenure it was the "first time the council and the chairman have ever had dialogue of this caliber."

The theme of the retreat was "Responsible Stewards: Moving the Tribe Forward." The tribe held the conference within the tribal territory to save money, while highlighting and strengthening the tribe's partnership and presence in Scotland County.

The Lumbee Tribe of North Car-

olina is a state-recognized American Indian tribe with an enrollment of over 55,000 members, the largest tribe east of the Mississippi. The tribe currently has an acknowledgment bill pending before the United States Congress.

The tribe receives federal funding to operate tribal programs that address the severe economic, social and housing issues facing the Lumbee people.

DSS

(Continued from page 1A)

background check at that time. He was suspended from his job in 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012. State records laws do not require officials to reveal the reasons for the suspensions.

The Social Services board has direct oversight of hiring at the Department of Social Services. But when asked about the matter, Wright expressed concern that the issue apparently wasn't brought before the entire Social Services board before Woods was hired.

"I think the department head should have gone to the board before any hiring was done," he said. Asked if the board was not informed of

Woods' hiring, Wright responded "not the total board."

"I've talked to two board members and they were not informed," he said.

Director responds

The News-Journal asked Sweat about Woods' hiring. She responded by fax while on vacation last week.

Q. Why hire an employee who has been previously suspended multiple times from another county job?

A. The Hoke County Department of Social Services fills positions within the agency based upon the needs of the agency and the qualifications of the candidate. Don Woods was hired as a Social Worker II based upon his particular qualifications and experience.

Q. How did the timing of his hiring happen? When did he put in an application? Did an interview take place? If so, when?

A. Mr. Woods submitted an application for the position of Social Worker II. The application is dated March 13, 2012. Mr. Woods was interviewed for the position on March 28, 2012.

Q. Do you have any concerns about hiring an employee with a documented history of multiple suspensions? If so, did you address those concerns? If so, how?

A. All employees of the Hoke County Department of Social Services are required to comply with the rules, regulations and policies of the agency. Employees that fail to comply with the rules, regulations and policies of the agency are subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Q. Does the department have any particular policy regarding hiring former county employees?

A. No.

Art trip needs last-minute donations

Two weekends in a row of rain shut down Turlington art teacher Karrie Detwiler's students' ambitions of raising enough money to completely cover their trip to Washington, D.C., but with a week to go, they're trying one more time to raise the final amount.

The students will hold a car wash April 24 from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at Turlington Alternative School in Raeford. The money will go to help

pay for hotel costs for the two-day trip to the nation's capitol, where the students hope to visit many of the art museums and exhibits on display.

The students held other fundraisers and already paid for the charter bus, and students will pay for their own meals, but the group is about \$1,000 short of the money needed for the hotel rooms, Detwiler said.

For more information or to donate, contact the school at 875-2583.

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Thursday, April 19th, 2012

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9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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State legislators ranked low in effectiveness

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Local elected officials serving in the North Carolina General Assembly didn't fare well in effectiveness rankings released last week by the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research.

The center, which describes itself as nonprofit and nonpartisan, released the 2012 rankings last week. The rankings are determined by votes from General Assembly legislators, lobbyists and state capitol reporters.

Rep. G.L. Pridden, a freshman Republican representative from Lumberton, ranked 96th out of 120 legislators but said he didn't fill out his own questionnaire form.

"I didn't feel that it would be fair for me to rank the other members of the House when I do not work directly with or have committees with all of them," he

said in an email. Pridden said he "wasn't real happy with the ranking but not totally disappointed either" since he is a freshman legislator. The conservative Civitas organization ranked Pridden 9th out of 120 legislators, he said.

Pridden is running for reelection but due to changes in the district boundaries, Hoke County will no longer be part of the district he currently represents. House Speaker Thom Tillis recently named Pridden co-chairman of the new House Unemployment Fraud Task Force Committee to investigate and make recommendations "to help control the fraud in unemployment," Pridden said. Pridden ranked in a tie for first place in attendance and did not miss any days of the legislative session.

Rep. Garland Pierce, a Democrat representative from Wagram,

ranked 114th out of 120 legislators, a drop from his 2009 ranking of 64th and 2007 ranking of 88th. He ranked 100th out of 120 legislators in the 2005 rankings, according to the Center for Public Policy Research. Pierce, who represents District 48, is running for reelection unopposed.

Pierce ranked in a tie for 60th out of 120 legislators in attendance. He missed one full day and one partial day of session.

Senator Michael P. Walters, a Democrat from Proctorville, ranked 38th out of 49 senators. Walters ranked 42nd out of 49 senators for attendance after missing seven full days and one partial day of session.

Pierce and Walters could not be reached for comment by press deadline.

Rep. Ken Goodman, a Democrat currently representing District 66, ranked 99th out of 120

legislators in the rankings. Following redistricting efforts, part of Hoke County will officially become part of District 66 after the upcoming election. Goodman is running unopposed.

Speaker Tillis ranked first in effectiveness among House representatives and Leader Phil Berger ranked first in effectiveness among senators.

Only 63 of the 120 House members responded to the survey along with 24 of the state's 49 senators. The Center for Public Policy Research conducted the legislative effectiveness survey in December 2011 through February 2012. The group offered all senators and representatives, 407 registered lobbyists and 23 state capital news correspondents to rate the effectiveness of each member of the North Carolina General Assembly on a scale of 1-10.

Girl Scouts observe Earth Day

Hoke County Girl Scouts will observe Earth Day April 21 at McLaughlin Park.

The Scouts will clean up the community and invite the public to join them from 8 - 10:30 a.m.

From 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., the Scouts will meet with local businesses to learn how to help the community.

Crafts and refreshments will be available for children.

Rabies clinic rescheduled

Due to bad weather, the Hoke County Animal Control Department was unable to hold its scheduled rabies clinic March 31.

It has been rescheduled for April 28 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The cost of the vaccination is \$6 per dog or cat. The new event will be held at the same location, Paraclete XP Para-

chute freefall tower. Should there be a rain issue again, the event will still take place but will be moved across the street to Norris Buildings' sheds and carports. Those wishing to get a three vaccination must have current rabies' vaccination certificates in hand at the time of vaccinating.

Arts festival is Sunday

The Hoke Schools All-County Arts Festival will be held this Sunday beginning at 1:30 p.m. Performances will begin at

2:30 p.m. The event showcases the arts in the schools and will be held at MacDonal Gym at Hoke High School.

School system begins after-school programs

The Hoke County School System is creating after-school programs in the county's two middle schools and at its three high schools.

The Student Services Department is incorporating the Army Youth Program in Your Neighborhood (AYPN) program to

"provide quality and high interest after-school programs based on the resiliency research for Army youth attending secondary

schools off the installation."

In 2007, the Army leadership unveiled the "Army Family Covenant," a pledge to provide soldiers and their families with a "quality of life commensurate with their service and sacrifice." This covenant was renewed in October in Washington. Secretary of the Army John McHugh said, "We must not forget that with all these great soldiers, men and women in uniform, forward deployed—wherever that deployment may take them, more than 80 countries across this planet—that back home there are folks like yourselves who are struggling as well and holding that family together."

The program in Hoke schools is intended to help "hold families together." It's available at East Hoke and West Hoke middle schools, Hoke High, Burlington Alternative, and SandHoke Early College, and is open to all students.

A special program to showcase the after-school work will be held Friday, April 20 at 6 p.m. at East Hoke Middle School. The "Gallery Walk" of the AYPN programs will be held in conjunction with Month of the Military Child.

Woodmen office now full-time

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The Woodmen of the World is increasing its presence in Hoke County by staffing the Raeford office full-time instead of just part-time.

The insurance and savings company has operated an office in Hoke County for many years and the company stakeholders have been influential in the area, Woodmen of the World field representative Eugene "Tre" Smith said. However, the Raeford branch didn't have full service hours, something that's now changed.

Smith and field representative Kaye Willoughby staff the office on College Drive. Smith worked out of the Robeson County office previously and worked with State Farm Insurance before joining Woodmen of the World. Willoughby has been with Woodmen of the World for over five years. Now they're hoping to get to know Hoke County and its citizens better, they said.

"We're just starting to get our

feet wet in Hoke County," Smith said.

The Hoke County community has hundreds of Woodmen of the World members and many of them have been with the company for decades, he said.

"We've got some members of Woodmen of the World that have been members 50-plus years," Smith said.

The local members wanted more than just part-time representatives available to help with their concerns, so Woodmen of the World moved the two agents from Lumberton to Raeford full-time.

"We are going to donate all our time and effort to this area and this lodge," Willoughby said.

The Woodmen of the World members often do a lot of community service wherever they live, Smith said. The group presents American flags to public buildings like schools and libraries and also to private businesses like nursing homes. The local Woodmen of the World recently donated a flag to Open Arms and plans to present a new flag to a local elementary

school soon.

Woodmen of the World is run by its members and each lodge has its own board that oversees operations. Besides life insurance, the organization offers college savings and retirement savings plans, among other products.

The life insurance company also sponsors Camp Woodmen, a summer camp for children with 31 campsites around the country. The East North Carolina Woodmen Youth Camp is located in Fort Barnwell, between Kinston and New Bern.

Locally, Smith said he hopes to get started on more community outreach efforts by connecting with Hoke County Schools, especially Hoke County High School, and other groups in the area.

"We want Woodmen of the World to be more of a fixture and a face in Hoke County, especially in Raeford," Smith said.

Lodge meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month. The agents keep flexible hours to serve customers. For more information, call 536-4821.

Editorial Deadlines

Friday 12 Noon: Calendar Items • Social Items • News Items
Monday 12 Noon: Letters to the Editor

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Monday, April 30 • 5:30-7 p.m.

Schools want to end 'reversions'

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Education approved last week a resolution asking the state to stop requiring school systems to send back millions of dollars in funding every year.

The board resolved to request that the state end the discretionary budget reversions that typically require schools to send back part of their funding. Hoke County schools officials projected that the school system will have to give back about \$2.8 million in funding next year as part of the

discretionary budget reversions. "The elimination of the reversions will allow Hoke County Schools to offset the loss of federal Edjob funds at the end of this fiscal year, and would put an end to discretionary reversions in North Carolina," the resolution stated.

The school board also discussed receiving a waiver for the school calendar 2012-13 school year. The school board requested the state waive three instructional days and 22.5 instructional hours to convert those days to mandatory teacher workdays for professional development on

essential standards and common core curriculum. The state Board of Education voted to approve the request, according to a letter from Ozella Wiggins, Student Accounting Consultant with the state Department of Public Instruction.

The final calendar reflects 182 student school days. The calendar added January 2, 2013 as a mandatory workday for teachers.

Spotlight on Success

The board recognized several students and one coach in the Spotlight on Success. Tia. C. Cunningham of Hoke County

High School was selected to attend the 2012 Governor's School. The board also recognized Hoke County High School student Tarique Thompson as Southeastern Conference Varsity Men's Basketball Player of the Year and Quame Patterson as Southeastern Conference Varsity Men's Basketball Coach of the Year. The school board also recognized Allyesha Hall, a debate team member and student at SandHoke Early College High School, and Domineek Matthews, a Hoke County High School student.

The Board of Education meeting was held at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Program enrollment deadlines posted for area farmers

Hoke farmers are reminded the deadline to enroll in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) program is Friday, June 1.

"Hoke County producers interested in DCP should visit the USDA Service Center where their farm is administered and sign up," said Acting Executive Director Pamela Pollard. "Enrollments cannot be accepted after the deadline. Enrolling early means avoiding a missed deadline during this busy season."

DCP provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for any of the 2008 through 2012 crop years. The two types of DCP payments, direct payments and counter-cyclical payments, are calculated using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. DCP is authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill).

Other FSA programs having enrollment deadlines include:

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (check with the Hoke County FSA Service Center for dates); Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-up 43 - April 13; Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) - June 1; Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE) - June 1, 2012 for crop year 2010; 2011 ACRE Production Evidence - July 15; Certification of Planted Acres - Small

Grain - May 15 and other crops June 30; Farm Reconstitutions (changes) - August 1, 2012 for the 2012 crop year; Crop Insurance - Contact a crop insurance agent or the regional RMA office.

For information on how a late filed provision may apply or for more information on FSA programs, producers and farmers should contact the Hoke County FSA Service Center at 910-875-8111, extension two.

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McCain

(Continued from page 1A)

McCain Correctional Hospital was built around 1920 on the Hoke/Moore county line and originally housed a tuberculosis sanatorium. Construction added on to the facility through the 1950s. The state Department of Corrections took possession of the hospital in 1983 and operated it as a prison for elderly or disabled inmates until 2010, when the last inmates were moved out and the state shut McCain down.

While operating, the minimum-security prison hospital had 222 beds and could handle 411 inmates at a time. The state retains ownership of the property at this time, according to the Department of Corrections website.

Hoke Economic Development Director Don Porter said the group interested in making the project happen is not ready to make an announcement. The commissioners had to handle the vote in open session as a matter of public record, he said.

Other business

The board heard from County Planner Conrad Garrison regarding loopholes county staff discovered while going through the county's subdivision ordinance. The current language defining a minor and major subdivision would unintentionally allow developers to skirt the ordinance by building multiple small subdivisions next to each other instead of filing the development as one major subdivision.

Garrison submitted some proposed fixes to close the loopholes, based on similar language from Harnett County's ordinance. The commission decided to hold a public hearing on the changes at the next meeting.

The board heard a budget request from Victoria Whitt, director of Sandhills Mental Health. Whitt's organization requested the same amount as last year "in recognition of the economic difficulties that we're all facing right now."

Whitt asked for \$58,000, which is the county's typical contribution. All of the county funding stays in the county, she said.

Whitt also updated the board on the state's ongoing process of consolidating local providers offering mental health services. Sandhills Mental Health is one of the 11 providers that met the requirements and will continue its work, Whitt said. The group has completed two previous mergers and is considering merging with Guilford County's center in early 2013, she said.

The board also approved a Clean Water Management Trust Fund easement for the Nature Conservancy, which owns land along Highway 211 north of Raeford. The group is currently building a parking lot and will have trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding on the property. So far the site has hosted about a dozen Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups that have worked to improve the area, a representative said. The organization has planted about 100 acres of pine trees on the property.

Commissioner Bobby Wright said he owns property next to the site.

"You make a good neighbor, we like it fine," Wright said. He did question whether they got the right kind of trees planted in the area.

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Elementary school children compete in soil and water poster contest

Winners of the annual Hoke Soil and Water Conservation District poster contest were recently selected. First, second and third place winners received ribbons and certificates, with first-place winners continuing the competition at the district level. There is also an area level and state level. Winners in Hoke County

schools were as follows (first, then second, then third):
 Hawk Eye third grade—Lanadika Cooper, Thomas Ray, Logan Locklear
 Hawk Eye fourth grade—Shyann Jernigan, Noemi Eventos, Baniz Zangana
 Hawk Eye fifth grade—Wynona Locklear, Kobe Locklear, Osiel Capote-Leana

West Hoke third grade—Benjamin Gross, Elizabeth Lebron, Caden McIntire
 West Hoke fourth grade—Keyosha Tillman, Jon Levis Locklear, Autumn Moore
 West Hoke fifth grade—Amy Quinn, Anita McEachin, Jamie Jimmerson
 Upchurch third grade—Jackson Hewitt, Raeden Wallingferd,

Jessica Bres
 Upchurch fourth grade—Areli Brizuela, Victoria Shaw, Suri Ricardez
 Upchurch fifth grade—Caleb Marx, Liesl Dearing, Alyssa Harper
 McLauchlin third grade—Nailah Quick, Ricardo Leak, Amayrani Pano-Martinez
 McLauchlin fourth grade—NaQwan Engle, Amaya McNeill,

Antonio Moner-Hernandez
 McLauchlin fifth grade—Janella Stephens, Jonathan Cervantes, Jaida Green
 Don Steed third grade—Emily Strickland, Sarah Grafer, Savana Cwiek
 Don Steed fourth grade—Cheyenne Anderson, Mackenzie Hartsfield, Melisandra Araza Barrera
 Don Steed fifth grade—Kiana

Chambers
 Sandy Grove third grade—Malachi Stokes, Savannah Dial, Jordan Jacobs
 Sandy Grove fourth grade—Jala Blue, Hunter Montague, Bennie Oxendine
 Sandy Grove fifth grade—Sophia Vazquez and Emily Gromes (tie), Marie Lisa Espenchaide, Adrianna Tellez



Don Steed third through fifth grade winners



Hawk Eye third grade winners



Hawk Eye fourth grade winners



Hawk Eye fifth grade winners



McLauchlin third through fifth grade winners



Sandy Grove third grade winners



Sandy Grove fourth grade winners



Sandy Grove fifth grade winners



Upchurch third grade winners



Upchurch fourth grade winners



West Hoke third grade winners



West Hoke fourth grade winners



West Hoke fifth grade winners



Upchurch fifth grade winners

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Other stuff

(Continued from page 1A)

(no offense) all in the same day. So, after 20 years of complaining I decided to do something about it and gave the doc my blessing to go up through my leg with something I can only imagine to be a boom box and blast radio waves at my heart until it finally gets the beat. Foxy 99, I imagine they used. Perhaps I didn't quite understand the procedure but

that's because when someone starts talking about "going up inside your leg," I get the heebie-jeebies and start picturing myself in my "calm place."

Yeah, I don't want to talk about it anymore. But some of you are probably wondering what the state-of-the-art is like in a decent hospital these days, especially with all the talk about putting two of them in Hoke County, so I thought I'd share what

I learned from my stay.

First, the good news. There are wonderful, skilled and dedicated people working in every job from cooking meals and cleaning floors to frying your heart, and I cannot emphasize that enough. The bad news is they all talk in euphemisms. I would like to share a few examples with you:

• **Gown**—what they dress you in is a gown like Taco Bell is a Mexican restaurant. And the alleged garments show more than Paris Hilton so you're too embarrassed to sneak down to the lobby to the Starbucks for coffee. Unfortunately for them, it didn't prevent me from showing my tail (literally) as I snuck into the nurse's lounge where they had a hot water dispenser, because I thought far enough ahead to bring my own Starbucks instant.

• "You might experience some discomfort."— This means holy-mother-of-all-that's-good-I'm-not-going-to-scream-what-I'm-thinking-or-maybe-I-will get that thing away from me! Had there been a weapon handy when I heard this phrase, I would have been moved to a slightly different institution for 30 years to life.

• "Would you like to get comfortable?"—It means lie back and present your arm because they're going to stick something in it.

• "I will check on you once in awhile."—You will get a blue and white pill at midnight, a white one at 2 a.m., a shot in the stomach at 4 a.m. and an EKG at 6 a.m.

• **Room service**—Not truly a euphemism, "room service" is more of a diversion. Notice they don't refer to it as "breakfast" or "dinner" or "food." This leaves no space for complaint because technically the

service to the room is wonderful. The food, on the other hand...

• "Your bed is automatic."—Every time you move during the night, it inflates under a part of your body, deflates under another, and makes so many minor continuous adjustments you think it might be connected to the office thermostat. I made for the chair and slept there.

• **Conscious Sedation**—The way this was explained to me is that you feel the pain but you don't care and you don't remember it. Really, it's knockout juice, though I'm not sure about any of what I'm telling you because I don't remember.

• **Take a reading**—In my case this meant administering an EKG, and I had to have several a day. I think they started referring to it as "take a reading" because one day when the technician announced she was there to "give me an EKG," I replied, "Okay, just leave it on the bed."

• **Discharge plan**—It's really a marketing opportunity for services you might want to pay for after you leave the hospital. I devised my own discharge plan. I was on the fourth floor and calculated that if I poured lemonade on bed sheets each day until they gave me five clean ones, I could rappel to the ground.

I do not mean to sound ungrateful. Maybe it was something akin to the Stockholm syndrome, but I very much liked all the people I met and very much appreciated their working on my sorry butt...er, heart.

And despite the euphemisms and silly rules (no shower without doctor's orders, have to ride out in a wheelchair, no soccer in the sanctuary—oh wait, that's a church rule), we are fortunate indeed to have the medical care we have in this country. But if you have to go, pack some

SPORTS

Wolff set to make final spring game

By HAL NUNN
Sports writer

Hoke County High School graduate and N.C. State senior football player Earl Wolff is set to make his final spring game this Saturday at Carter Finley Stadium in Raleigh. The red-shirt senior for the Wolfpack actually graduated in December but elected to return to the program to complete his time as a leader in the defensive secondary. Wolff was named All ACC Honorable Mention in 2011 for the end of year awards voted on by the 45-member Atlantic Coast Conference Sports Media Association. Wolff was second on the team in tackles with 105 behind Audie Cole, a linebacker who has entered the NFL Draft along with Scotland County High graduate Terrell Manning. Wolff is hoping his senior season will be the best season of his career and that the Wolfpack can continue to win games in the regular and post season.

Spring game info

NC State's football team will play the fourth annual Kay Yow Spring Football Game on Saturday, April 21 at 3:30 p.m. The contest, presented by PNC, will be broadcast on ESPN3 and will be fans' first look at the 2012 Wolfpack squad that returns 16 starters from last season.

Carter-Finley Stadium parking gates will open at 10:30 a.m. and stadium gates 2-4 (west) and 6, 8-9 (east) will open at 2:30 p.m., with seating available on the east side of the stadium. Handicapped parking is available on both the east and west sides of the stadium and accessible entrances will be gates 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9.

Fans are encouraged to donate a minimum of \$1 per person upon entrance, with proceeds going to the Kay Yow Cancer Fund and the Kay Yow Scholarship Endowment. Over the past three years, over \$100,000 has been raised at the event. For more info about the Kay Yow Spring Football Game, go to www.gopack.com.

Hoke Parks and Rec opens summer season

By HAL NUNN
Sports writer

The Hoke County Parks and Recreation baseball and softball leagues kicked off last weekend with their opening ceremony at Raz Autry Stadium. Hoke County Parks and Recreation Director Elgin Blue said the turnout was great. "We had plenty of folks show up for our opening ceremony and a total of 54 teams got ready to begin the summer leagues," Blue said.

The Hoke County Parks and Recreation line dancing team performed for the crowd as entertainment and Blue said, "A lot of people were unaware we had a line dancing team in Hoke County."

The Hoke County Parks and Recreation leagues are still maintaining growth while some other recreation leagues have gone down, according to Blue. The Moore County recreation league contacted Hoke County to see if they could do some interleague play to make up some games. The Hoke County leagues encompass t-ball, softball and baseball. There are 21 teams in T-ball, 4 teams in Coach Pitch girls, 8 teams in Coach Pitch boys, 5 teams in Angels Softball, 7 teams in AAA, 4 teams in Pony Tails Softball and 5 teams in Majors Baseball. Games will be played Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the park on Highway 211 and Burlington Park downtown.

Fighting Bucks Sports Schedule

April 18
Girls JV Soccer Home vs. Scotland 5:30 p.m.
Girls V Soccer Home vs. Scotland 7 p.m.

April 19
Track Away Southeastern Conference Meet 4 p.m.
Boys Tennis at Pinecrest 4 p.m.
Boys Freshman Baseball at Scotland 4:30 p.m.

April 20
Girls JV Softball Home vs. Scotland 5 p.m.
Girls V Softball Home vs. Scotland 7 p.m.
Boys JV Baseball at Scotland 5 p.m.

Boys V Baseball Home vs. Scotland 7 p.m.

April 23
Boys Golf at Lumberton 2 p.m.
Boys Freshman Baseball at Purnell Swett 4:30 p.m.
Girls V Soccer Home vs. Purnell Swett 7 p.m.

April 24
Girls JV Softball Home vs. Purnell Swett 5 p.m.
Girls V Softball Home vs. Purnell Swett 7 p.m.
Boys JV Baseball at Purnell Swett 5 p.m.
Boys V Baseball Home vs. Purnell Swett 7 p.m.



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Farmers market growing

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The vegetables, herbs and flowers are growing taller at Wanda Cohen's farm on Bethel Road, getting ready for the Hoke County Farmers Market's second year.

The farmers market starts a new schedule beginning May 5 and will open in two new locations. The Saturday market will sell fresh and local vegetables, fruits, herbs, honey, crafts and other homemade items on Main Street in Raeford next to the Hoke County Courthouse. The Tuesday market will operate from the Rockfish Community Center.

Cohen is one of the farmers currently growing produce to sell at the market, but this year she's also stepping into a new role as the market director.

County cooperative extension horticulturist Mary Hollingsworth ran the market last year, but between coordinating 4-H, the master gardeners' classes and many other programs, it was time to let someone else take over to give the farmers market their full attention, she said.

"We needed someone who could devote all their time toward the farmers market," Hollingsworth said.

As a farmer and Hoke native with connections in the farming community, Cohen was a natural fit for the position. She grew up on the farm where she still lives and works, and she knows many of the farming families that will likely contribute to the market.

"It was just sort of a natural," Cohen said.

The farmers market grows with the seasons and the offerings will

be different from month to month, even from week to week, Cohen said. When the market opens vendors will likely have cabbage, lettuce, broccoli, potatoes, some early squash and other vegetables that tolerate cooler temperatures. Later in the year, tomatoes, zucchini and peppers will rotate into season.

This year the market will also offer advice about how to safely handle and prepare fresh vegetables, along with recipe suggestions and cooking demonstrations. The market will also sell fresh cut flowers, homemade jam and other locally produced items.

Farmers market organizers decided to move the market to Rockfish one day a week and change the location of the Raeford site from Teal Drive to Main Street to make it more accessible to potential customers. Eventually organizers hope to bring in even more farmers than before and continue to grow the market.

"We hope to maybe have it become a community event," Cohen said.

Growing the farmers market means spreading the word among customers but also working with the production end of things. Farmers need to know what local buyers want to purchase so they can plan their plantings in advance. The market is also a positive for the farmers looking for a place to sell their produce locally, Cohen said.

"I think we'll learn this year what people do want," she said.

The farmers market will open in Raeford Saturday, May 5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Tuesdays at the Rockfish Community Center from 2-7 p.m. For more information about the farmers market, contact Cohen at 489-4842.



Liberty Statue in the Venice Harbor — (top row) Brendan Pitts, Megan Jones, Taya Zawadzki, Tour Guide: Simona Casalvieri, Mrs. DeLuna, Jason McLaughlin, (bottom row) Joshua Quick, Shannon Pancake

Italy

(Continued from page 1A)
of Pisa and viewed the Alps and the Tuscan countryside.

The tour then continued to Venice, where the students visited the Island of Murano and the glassmaking factories.

There was a tour of the Doge's Palace and the dungeons, and the famous gondola rides through the

canals.

Students worked throughout the school year to raise money for their trips. The community and school board were supportive in helping to make the trip possible, DeLuna said.

A trip to the United Kingdom is being organized for 2013 and will be sponsored by the History and Drama clubs.

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Hoke County Schools Celebrates Month of the Military Child

April 20, 2012
East Hoke Middle School
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April is Month of the Military Child!

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