

# The News-Journal

75¢

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

No. 43 Vol. 109

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, December 31, 2014

## Man killed in wreck, teen in coma

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Road. Alton Ray Hill, 66, of the 7200 block of Fayetteville Road in Raeford was pronounced dead at the scene of the two-vehicle wreck that happened near the Hoke/Robeson County line around

7 a.m. Sunday, according to a report filed with the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

Hill was driving south on Davis Bridge Road in a 2008 Ford when he lost control of the vehicle. He ran off the road to the right, overcorrect-

ed and collided head-on with a 2006 Chrysler driven by Rachel Lee Willis, 16, of the 9200 block of Rockfish Road in Raeford.

Willis, a junior at Hoke County High School, was injured but survived and was

taken to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in stable condition, according to the Highway Patrol. However, Willis did not regain consciousness after the accident and was transported to UNC (See WRECK, page 4A)



Rachel Willis

### Man charged with child sex

Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office have arrested a man on allegations that he sexually assaulted two children.



Scali

Authorities arrested Mauro Joseph Scali, 65, of Hunter Mill Way in Londonderry, New Hampshire and charged him with two (See ASSAULT, page 4A)

### Woman charged with forgery

Investigators with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested a woman this month for allegedly forging checks. Officers arrested Angela Gail Williams, 39, (See FORGERY, page 4A)



Williams

### Man charged with break-in

Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested a man Monday for (See BREAK-IN, page 4A)



Beauchamp



Godwin (above) works with a student. At left, Goolsby helps a student with technique. (Ken MacDonald photos)

## Arrows hit mark for military students

### After-school program aims to relieve stress military families face

By KEN MACDONALD

You wouldn't have wanted to stand before them with an apple on your head as students at East Hoke Middle School tried their hands with bows and arrows recently. As Davit Goolsby, a Physical Ed teacher at West Hoke Middle and one of the leaders of the after-school program, talked about the group's progress, a young lady he had been working with let fly arrows toward a target perhaps 50 feet away and not a single one found its mark.

The students were taking part in a program created by the Department of the Army for

military children to give them something worthwhile to do after school. Coordinated by Ray Owens in Hoke County, the Army Youth Programs in Your Neighborhood addresses a need first targeted by the White House in 2010 to support and strengthen military families as a top national priority: how to help 1.2 million school-aged children who have at least one active-duty military parent.

Those children face stresses such as high rates of mobility, separation from parents, and the possibility their parent may be injured or killed. A little support from adults, academic help, physical activity and experience in cre-

ative arts got high priority.

In Hoke County, organizers came up with three initial activities for the county's three middle schools and two high schools: golf, an historical tour—and archery.

Enter Alton Godwin of Godwin Archery. He readily accepted a request for help, Owens says, and even provided instruction and bows, arrows and targets, which he trucked to schools for each of the three-week sessions. Helping him were Lisa Dobson, a 7th grade teacher at East Hoke, Owens and Goolsby. They supervised the use of various bows, correct handling (See AFTER-SCHOOL, page 6A)

### This Week

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## Beavers believed behind shutdown of Lindsay Rd.

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A beaver dam, combined with heavy rainfall, is likely to blame for high water that required officials to immediately shut down part of Lindsay Road and block it to all traffic.

A section of Lindsay Road near the intersection with Adcox Road has been

closed since Christmas and will probably remain closed until at least late next week, according to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Engineer Charles Vick. The heavy rain washed out the sides of the road and possibly damaged the roadbed itself.

"I understand that there's (See ROAD, page 4A)

### OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

The females in the family—the guardians of tradition, yet plotters of change—informed our family that, after 34 years of greeting Christmas morning in our house, we were packing up and moving the festivities to the home of the grandchildren. The announcement to me was cautious—"Now be calm when I tell you what we've decided..."—but it didn't really bother me. After all, Santa's gonna find ya, right? Wherever you are?

Part two of the announcement was that there ain't (See OTHER STUFF, page 4A)



DOT crews blocked Lindsay Road after it was washed out by flooding water Friday. The road remains closed between Stoney Point and Adcox roads. (Ken MacDonald photo)

# VIEWPOINTS

## More emphasis on the arts would unite us

In my musical journey, I have become exposed to many artists through other artists and musicians. Such is the case with Nnenna Freelon, the fabulous black jazz vocalist who currently resides in Durham. I first heard of her through my friend and wonderful jazz guitarist Scott Sawyer. He worked with her for a time and did many dates with her including some international ones. I had never heard her perform but had kept an ear to the ground hoping for an opportunity to do so. That opportunity arose when friend Bubba Dickson found out that she was performing a Christmas concert with the John Brown Big Band at the Carolina Theatre in Durham. This sounded like a great excuse to get together with Bubba and wife Vicky, and lifelong friend John Morris and his wife Betsy. Charlotte and I headed up on a Sunday afternoon for the rendezvous.

Big bands are all but extinct these days. The slow demise of the live music venues all but doomed them long ago and now threatens even the small bands. It is a great shame that most of the public has never heard a live big band. Some of you may remember a day when big bands played nightly at dance halls while now it takes a special effort to hear one. I have heard several local ensembles, which often utilize unpaid musicians and are not always of great quality. With that in mind, I was prepared for anything. What we got was spectacular.

The Carolina Theatre is a wonderful old venue with a great



**Frog Holler Philosopher**  
**Ron Huff**

stage and an antique feel. We had great seats courtesy of Bubba. The stage was impressive, adorned with attractive music stands bearing the John Brown logo. By the time the band came on, we were more than ready.

John Brown is a large black man with a big smile, a welcoming personality and a beautiful acoustic bass. Two notes into the first song, we knew we were in for a treat as the band proceeded to warm up the audience with Christmas arrangements. The band consisted of nineteen members, a rhythm section of bass, piano, guitar and drums and fifteen horns. They were well mixed racially as was the audience. If you want to see an example of how racial relations should be, attend an event such as this. Everyone was there for the music and there was a glow of shared enthusiasm throughout the venue. The power of a big band is something that you must experience live.

After a few numbers, John introduced Nnenna and beckoned her to the stage. She came on like a lioness decked out in a white dress and fully in command of everyone in the room. She moved with cat-like grace, unhurried, each movement calculated to captivate. I knew from her charismatic demeanor and confidence that she was a star before she sang the first note. And then she sang! Her

voice is wonderful, expressive and under total control. Her singing seemed effortless, but anyone who performs knows that it takes total concentration to make it look easy.

Nnenna strutted and the soloists dazzled as the performance progressed. After several numbers, she motioned to the piano player and they performed a duet of The Christmas Song, which left me wondering how I could know so little about playing the piano after doing it for more than 50 years. It was awe-inspiring for me.

Nnenna spoke little, but with meaning. She talked a little about the fact that this caliber of entertainment is available everywhere, not just in New York. Her grandmother had once advised her to play where you live and she had heeded that advice. I must say that I have also made it my choice to play where I live, and although we are talking about different levels of accomplishment, the principle is the same.

As we basked in the good vibes and our good fortune at being there on such a celebratory occasion, Nnenna, in one moment of candor, briefly lamented some of the recent events that have divided us as a nation. She then stated her belief that art could heal our wounds. This belief was in evidence on stage and in the audience.

I wish we, as Americans and humans, would place more emphasis on the arts and less on our differences. We all have some capacity to create and we should use it more. Support the arts! More later.



## Quotes reflect the year 2014

Each year, state lawmakers and observers make memorable comments that sum up the news of the day. The following are eight quotes from 2014 that reflect major news in state government and politics, with brief explanations to remind you of the issues.

• "\$30,800 is not enough to raise a family or pay off student debt." – Gov. Pat McCrory, to The News & Observer in early February

Context: The Republican governor referred to the base salary for public school teachers, foreshadowing months of debate over teacher pay during the legislative session in the summer. Ultimately, teachers received about a 7 percent raise on average, with some getting more than others. Calls for additional increases in 2015 are mounting.

• "It's not the end of the primary. It's really the beginning of the primary mission ... to defeat Kay Hagan and make Harry Reid irrelevant." – Republican Thom Tillis to The News & Observer in May, following his GOP primary win for the U.S. Senate

Context: In November, Tillis completed his mission and will serve in a GOP-controlled Senate.

• "We're told that, if the privilege license goes away, services must be cut. I would submit that's not really accurate. Priorities have to change." – Rep. William Brawley, a Mecklenburg County Republican, to WRAL News in late May

### One on One

**Patrick Gannon,**  
*Capitol Press Association*



Context: The General Assembly eliminated cities' authority to levy privilege taxes on businesses beginning in July 2015. Brawley suggested cities could find ways to reduce spending without cutting services.

• "We are re-examining our commitment to North Carolina." – Bill Vassar, executive vice president of EUE/Screen Gems Studios in Wilmington, to The Insider in June

Context: Vassar expressed frustration after a House committee voted against extending the current film incentives program, which helped boost the movie and TV industry in recent years. Ultimately, lawmakers replaced the incentives – which were costing the state tens of millions of dollars a year – with a less generous grant program that film advocates say will deplete the industry here.

• "I think we're going to be setting the trend for the rest of the country to follow when it comes to dealing with coal ash." – Sen. Tom Apodaca, a Henderson County Republican, to The Insider in June

Context: Lawmakers responded to the massive coal ash spill into the Dan River in February by passing legislation to require Duke Energy to begin cleaning up its coal ash pits. It's stricter than federal coal ash legisla-

tion passed recently, but not strong enough for many environmentalists and others.

• "I'm going to have to fight them from a constitutional standpoint, including even the coal ash commission!" – Gov. Pat McCrory, to WRAL News in August

Context: The comment came as McCrory let the coal ash legislation become law without his signature. Later, he sued General Assembly leaders, claiming that lawmakers overstepped their constitutional authority in creating certain commissions responsible for carrying out executive branch functions, highlighting another sometimes-tense year between the governor and lawmakers. The suit is pending.

• "It was a good night for Republicans, but it's not time to go spike the ball. We need to let people know that we've been to the end zone before, and it's our job now to govern." – Gov. Pat McCrory, to The Insider, shortly after the November elections

Context: Republicans retained veto-proof majorities in the state House and Senate, gained another seat in the U.S. House and knocked off Hagan – a good year for the GOP.

• "This is a civil war within our party, and most of you have to agree that it has to stop." – Wake County Democratic Party Chairman Dan Blue III, to The News & Observer in mid-November

Context: Democrats have work to do ahead of the important 2016 elections, when presidential and gubernatorial races will highlight the top of ballots.

## We Get Letters

### Mankind: every single life is valuable

To the Editor:

Few people realize that America stands on the threshold of serious civil disorder. The climate is much as it was before the Civil War: 1) sharp racial divides; 2) constitutional violations by federal powers; 3) the violation of states' rights—not on constitutional questions like slavery but on long-held, established judicial precedents and rights established by our Bill of Rights; 4) executive power run amuck (i.e. a government of men and not of laws); 5) an expanding nation (not via western expansion but via illegal immigration); 6) a faltering economy; 7) growing sectionalism; and 8) emotions ruling over reason (Ferguson violence, home-grown terrorism, and outlandish local crime). Yes, all the ingredients necessary for a powder keg explosion!

None of these problems can

be solved by violence in our streets. They can only be solved at the ballot box and in the course of our own personal behaviors. We must get involved politically and we must get involved individually—at home, at school, at church, in the workplace, in the community—everywhere!

We are blessed in Hoke County with fine law enforcement leadership. Our sheriff ranks as the best in this state. His officers and support personnel are to be commended. Citizens must use reason to address serious issues. When any citizen (of any race and ethnicity) breaks the law, the law is obligated to step in and protect the citizenry (of any race and ethnicity). It is the lawbreaker who is engaged in evil, not the law. The lawbreaker opposes himself, not the law. Officers of the law are not required to die in the line of duty for lawbreakers threatening their

lives. They have families too! The lawbreaker's family is not more important than theirs. Do black lives matter? Yes! So do white lives, Hispanic lives, Indian lives, Asian lives, etc.! The policeman's job is to protect life and property, not to accommodate lawbreakers and cop-killers. Our law enforcement officers here in Hoke go the thousandth mile to avoid shooting anyone, even lawbreakers! Let's remember that!

We have to work with each other, not against each other. It's not about black and white and Indian. It's about mankind; every single life is valuable. May we remember this now in the new year and in the dark times ahead, as we find ourselves tested by the troubles, suffering, and trials of life so rapidly escalating around us.

Barbara Richie Pond  
Raeford

### What was true purpose of Cuba embargo?

To the Editor:

In his Dec. 24th column, "Don't be chained to past with Cuba," D.G. Martin addressed possible normalization of relations with Cuba and lifting the embargo. So often in recent elections I have heard, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting different results." President Barack Obama just applied that to the five-and-one-half decade Cuban embargo, pointing out that the Castro brothers were not displaced as a result. But what was the true purpose of the embargo? No doubt, Fidel Castro became a repressive dictator, but how much did American imperialists lose when he nationalized U.S.-owned businesses? Why was Castro able to win the rebellion and rise to power? Could that be because American imperialists were prospering at the expense of the Cuban people under Fulgencio Batista's repressive regime?

Castro brothers were well received until they upset the U.S. imperialism "apple cart," now weren't they? Cuba is so rich in natural resources that it is titled "the Pearl of the Antilles." Yet, just as Native Americans here on the mainland were robbed of their homeland, how many Cubans enjoyed the fruits of their land and labor under U.S. imperialistic domination? Was the Cuban embargo an attempt to create a better life for the Cuban people, or an attempt to put U.S. business people back in control of Cuba's vast natural resources and labor force? We can't trade with communist Cuba due to its human rights abuses, but we can award communist China our "Most Favored Nation" trade status? Do you remember Tiananmen Square in 1989?

Yes, desperate Cubans risked their lives in unseaworthy boats, makeshift rafts and inner tubes in attempts to escape the Castro brothers' brutal regime. But the partners of U.S. imperialists were airlifted to Florida along with enough wealth to create "Little Havana," now weren't they? Some two thousand were trained by our CIA for the Bay of Pigs invasion at U.S. taxpayer expense, now

weren't they? President John F. Kennedy wisely denied a U.S. airstrike at the Bay of Pigs, thereby avoiding serious international repercussions. But an airstrike would not have aided a victory anyway because, whether due to intimidation by or satisfaction with their new government, an insurgency did not rise up from within as expected.

Columnist Martin wrote: "... supporting policies of engagement with Cuba ... can be beneficial for the American people, in the same way such links with Japan, Vietnam and China have been better for Americans than earlier policies and separation and antagonism were." By all means, lift the embargo and allow Americans and Cubans to trade with each other, but without the ball and chain of imperialistic exploitation! As for those wearing blinders to Chinese human rights abuses while refusing to trade with Cubans for the same reason, how will you feel about the Chinese if they nationalize the countless U.S. factories now exploiting cheap Chinese labor and U.S. markets simultaneously?

Think about it, please!

Robert C. Currie Jr.  
Laurinburg



## The News-Journal

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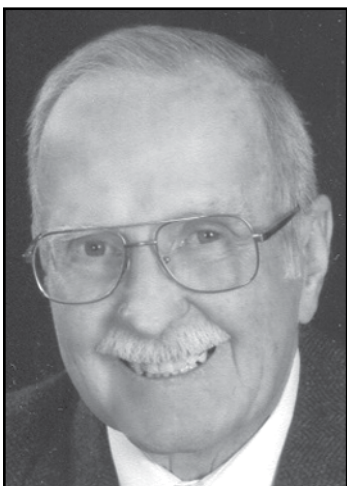


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# Obituaries



Clyde E. Register

**Clyde E. Register**

Clyde E. Register of Raeford died Monday, December 29, 2014 at FirstHealth Hospice House in Pinehurst at the age of 79.

He was born in Bladen County on July 12, 1935 to the late Claudie B. Register and Fannie Owen Register. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Charles Register and C.B. Register; and his sister, Betty Register Davis.

He was a member of the Raeford United Methodist Church, treasurer for the Bob Lewis Sunday School Class, and finance and pastor parish chairperson. He was also a member of the Fairmont Masonic Lodge and the Shriners Club.

He retired in 1989 from the A & P Tea Company after 37 years of service. He then returned to work with the House of Raeford and worked as transportation manager for 26 years.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Doris L. Register of Raeford; two sons, Ricky E. Register (Vickie) of Oak Island, and Jeffery B. Register (Crystal) of Southport; a daughter, Renee R. Brice (Leamon) of Davidson; eight grandchildren, Chad Brice (Katrina), Kristen Lakis (Andrew), Kira Harris (Brock), Megan Pierce (Joshua), David Register (Maranda), Jared Register, Cassidy Register and Jeffery Register; four great-grandchildren, Jonah Pierce, Abraham Lakis, Jude Pierce and Lilly Grace Harris; five sisters, Peggy Johnson (Buck) of Ft. Pierce, Florida, Rachel Thompson (Knox) of Maxton, Pat Kissing (Jesse) of Goldsboro, Margo Merritt of Ft. Pierce, Florida, and Dale Boyd (Roger) of Spring Lake.

Visitation will be held from 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, December 31 at Raeford United Methodist Church.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 31 at Raeford United Methodist Church with the Rev. Dr. Stephen Castle officiating. Innumment will be in the Raeford Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Raeford United Methodist Church, 308 North Main Street, Raeford, NC 28376.

Online condolences may be made at [www.crumplerfuneral-home.com](http://www.crumplerfuneral-home.com).



Joyce A. Blackburn

**Joyce A. Blackburn**

Joyce Ann Blackburn of Raeford died Friday, December 26, 2014 in FirstHealth Moore Regional at the age of 69.

She was born in Hoke County on November 27, 1945. She was preceded in death by her husband, J.L. Blackburn; her mother, Sadie Jones; and her brother, Claude B. Jones.

She is survived by her daughter, Maxine Blackburn of Raeford; her sons, Randy Blackburn of Raeford, and Julian Blackburn of Goldsboro; her brothers, Earle Neal Jones and Johnny M. Jones, both of Raeford; her sister, Mary Lou Stuart of Raeford; and one grandchild, Daniel Blackburn.

The funeral will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, December 31 at South Hoke Baptist Church. Burial will be in Highland Biblical Gardens Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made at [www.crumplerfuneral-home.com](http://www.crumplerfuneral-home.com).



Bessie S. Parks

**Bessie S. Parks**

Bessie "Rorie" Strother Parks, 82, of Raeford died Thursday, December 25, 2014.

She is survived by her son, Leland; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, December 29 in Ashley Heights Baptist Church.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215.

**Alton R. Hill**

Alton Ray Hill, 66, of Raeford died Sunday, December 28, 2014.

Survivors include his wife, Sarah; daughters, Gloria Baxley, Jennifer Miramontes, and Paige Baker; sisters, Jimmie Locklear, Ann McRea, Shirley Godfrey, Cathy Guy, and Virginia Jones; and eight grandchildren.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 31 in Saint Pauls Funeral Home chapel in St. Pauls. Burial will be in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. prior to the service at the funeral home.

**Rosemary Gibson**

Rosemary Gibson, 58, of Raeford, died Wednesday, December 24, 2014.

Survivors include her children, Kassiem, Shawana Miley, Robert Newton, Naomi and Leah; her mother, Mary Cooper; and siblings, Cleola Thompson, Loretta Cooper-Jones, Bobby, James Jr., Thomas, Gene, Carol, Deborah Cooper, Schartige Hilliard, and Curtis Brown.

A memorial service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 27 in Bowmore Tabernacle Holiness Church.

**Shirley B. Whitaker**

Shirley Blue Whitaker, 86, of Greensboro died Saturday, December 27, 2014.

She was a Spanish instructor at Duke University, associate professor of Spanish at Mary Baldwin College, and associate professor of Spanish at UNC-Greensboro for more than 25 years.

She was preceded in death by her son, Brian Cameron Whitaker and her brother, Julian H. Blue Jr.

Survivors include her sister, Katherine (Kacky) Fountain and husband Richard of Rocky Mount; two grandchildren; her daughter-in-law, Sally Whitaker Bergquist of Centerville, Massachusetts; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 3, 2015 at the Raeford Cemetery with the Rev. Douglas Kelly officiating.

Memorials made to the UNC-G Spanish Department, UNC-G Advancement Services, PO Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170.

# What's coming in 2015?

There are some ongoing projects scheduled to open in 2015 that are sure to make an impact in Hoke County, while other issues from previous years could make a reappearance as the community moves forward. Here are 10 of the things residents should keep an eye out for in the coming year.

**Cape Fear Valley's Hoke Hospital**

The 41-bed hospital, complete with maternity ward, a 24-hour emergency room, operating rooms and more, is set to open in early February. Construction wrapped up in December, but the hospital system still has to finish moving in all the equipment and passing various inspections and certifications processes before it can open for patients. Expect the first baby to be born in a Hoke County hospital labor and delivery room sometime in early 2015.

**A New Board**

Hoke County's Board of Commissioners said goodbye to two members of the board, now-former commissioners Ellen McNeill and Jean Powell, while welcoming newly-elected commissioners Harry Southerland and Allen Thomas and returning incumbents Tony Hunt, James Leach and Bobby Wright. The new board members will be undergoing training through the month of January, but voiced support for holding a retreat early in the year to examine the county departments' three to five-year plans. It's possible there could be some changes coming once the commissioners take an in-depth look at the county's plans for local government's future.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant**

The county's new wastewater treatment plant and water line improvement project broke ground in 2014 and is well underway toward completion, with some of the water line projects already finished. Construction on the sewer plant, which is being built at a low point on Rockfish Creek, should wrap up in early summer. Officials

plan to have the plant operating by July. The county spent the better part of a decade working with state and federal officials to put together the funding and support to build the plant, with the hopes that having new infrastructure in place - particularly in the eastern part of the county - will encourage commercial growth, bringing retail stores, restaurants and other new businesses to Hoke.

**\$20,000 Reward in Ricketts Shooting**

It's been over a year since 16-year-old DeAndre Ricketts, a student at Hoke High, was shot and killed at a party on Bethel Road. More than 100 people, including many local youth, attended the party, but law enforcement officials have had difficulty getting information from people who were there. People either refuse to talk or, in some cases, keep changing their stories, according to authorities. In November, Sheriff Hubert Peterkin announced the department was putting up a \$20,000 reward in hopes of getting information that will lead to an arrest and conviction in the case. If the reward proves tempting, there could be an arrest in the case in the upcoming year. People with information about the case can contact the Hoke County Sheriff's Office at (910) 875-5111.

**New Campus at Hoke High?**

For the last several years, the Hoke County Board of Education has discussed the possibility of adding a third campus onto Hoke County High School. The campus school has been added onto throughout its history, including putting some classrooms in trailers, but school officials predict enrollment will top 2,000 students by 2016, stretching the capacity well beyond the limit. School officials have proposed adding a multi-story building that will house science, technology, engineering and math classes, more career and technical education classes, a new gym with a swimming pool that would potentially be open to the public and a new

cafeteria. There isn't a dollar figure attached to the project yet, but the school board brought the matter up to the Hoke County Board of Commissioners during the 2014 budget talks. It's likely that the issue of needing to address overcrowding at Hoke High will come up again in the 2015-16 fiscal year budget talks, which typically start around March or April.

**The Firearm Ordinance**

Last year, the Hoke County Board of Commissioners passed a firearm ordinance banning gunfire during certain hours of the day and within 1,000 feet of a dwelling, with exceptions, such as when firing a weapon in defense of life or property. The board passed the ordinance after receiving multiple complaints over the last several years regarding nuisance and potentially unsafe gunfire in some parts of the county. The commissioners worked with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office to write the ordinance and have local authorities begin enforcing it, with fines possible for violations. However, after receiving multiple complaints from residents - including one that reported the nuisance gunfire had only gotten worse - the commissioners proposed taking another look at some parts of the ordinance, specifically the rule banning shooting within 1,000 feet of a dwelling. It's possible the board will reexamine the ordinance and make changes to it in 2015.

**Buyer for the House of Raeford?**

While the House of Raeford closed its last local operations down in December, Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Director Don Porter said he is working to help market the slaughter plant and the newly shuttered further processing plant to potential buyers. There has been some interest, according to officials, but nothing firm has been announced. It's possible that (See *WHAT'S COMING*, page 6A)



This house at 711 Scurlock School Road was deemed a total loss.

## Woman escapes house fire

A woman in the Hillcrest community escaped without injury when her home caught on fire early Tuesday, but lost all of her belongings in the blaze.

Michael Scott with Hillcrest Fire Department reported that firefighters were called out to a

mobile home on Scurlock School Road around 4 a.m. Tuesday in response to a house fire. Scott said that the homeowner, whose name was not available, woke up to find her house on fire. She was able to get out of the house, along with her pet parakeet, without suffering

any injury. However, the mobile home was a total loss due to the heat and smoke, Scott said. She declined assistance from the Red Cross and is staying with family.

Investigators are still looking into the cause of the fire

but believe that it started in the living room. The embers reignited Tuesday afternoon and firefighters returned to once again put out the flames.

This is the third fire in recent weeks to burn a family out of their home.

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| Hardin's ..... Rockfish Rd., Rockfish         | 211 Food Mart ..... Hwy 211                                 |
| Hardin's Express Stop ..... Rockfish Rd.      | Waffle House ..... 401 Hwy Bypass                           |
| Highway 55 ..... 401 Bypass & 401 Business    | WilcoHess ..... Aberdeen Rd.                                |
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# Rep. Pierce seeks women's input

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Hoke County state Rep. Garland Pierce is inviting local women to speak up about issues affecting them and their communities at a luncheon in Laurinburg this Saturday.

Pierce, a Democrat who represents Hoke, Robeson, Richmond and Scotland counties, said he wanted to host the Women's Voice Luncheon to be able to accurately address the interests of women in his district as the state General Assembly heads into its first session of 2015.

Women's issues can get lost in a male-dominated General Assembly, Pierce said.

"I want to hear from them the issues they have or foresee going forward, either that we've dealt with or need to deal with, that affect the lives of women in the state of North Carolina. The best way to do that is to provide opportunities for women to share their concerns, thoughts and ideas," he said.

Issues such as pay inequality, domestic violence laws and women's healthcare are among the issues the representative said might come up in the 2015 law-making sessions.

"There are many women who are going without healthcare because of the failure to expand

Medicaid. Women's health issues are very important," Pierce said. "I know that sometimes they face a lot of issues that we men are not as sensitive to because we're not women."

Although teacher pay is not specifically a women's issue, it applies because women make up a large portion of schoolteachers, he said.

"You know and I know that in the school system most of the teachers are women, they're the breadwinners and the money is not what it needs to be," Pierce said. "We know that they're underpaid and we want to do more than what we're doing."

Maxton Mayor Sallie McLean said there is a need for women to be empowered through self-esteem and self-sufficiency. Participating in the political process is one way to do that, she said.

"Women really need to have some sort of voice as far as their political viewpoints are concerned," McLean said. "Women don't get the platform that men get, so a lot of times we get the short end of the bill. We're simply not in the room."

McLean, who has worked with the Women's Economic Equity Project in her area, additionally said that the luncheon gives women a chance to "be in the room and share what we feel

about policies and laws that affect our lives."

"I'm really happy. This will be a time for women to come in the room," she added.

Women face social, economic and religious issues that are specific to their home, community and region, Pierce's office said in a statement.

"Discussions at the open-forum event will be led by a panel of women representing a variety of ethnicities and demographics to ensure a diverse cross-section of views and opinions," the statement said. "While all citizens of District 48 and surrounding areas are welcome, the floor will be reserved for only women to ask questions and engage in dialogue with the panel."

Pierce said that although he frequently hosts town hall meetings, this is the first time he has held a meeting specifically for women's input.

Women from Hoke, Robeson, Scotland and Richmond counties and surrounding areas are welcome to attend the Women's Voice Luncheon on January 3 at 11:30 a.m. at the Bright Hopewell Baptist Church, located at 601 North Main Street in Laurinburg. Attendees are asked to RSVP for a meal order by emailing garland@ncleg.net or calling (910) 273-1098.



DOT blocked Lindsay Road after water eroded the roadbed.

# Man arrested for vehicle theft

Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested a man last week for allegedly stealing a car.

Authorities arrested Julian Burns, 36, of the 3600 block of Spring Hill Road in Red Springs on charges of felony larceny of a motor vehicle, felony larceny of a firearm and misdemeanor larceny.

He was held under a \$30,000 secured bond.

Investigators looking into the case of a car reported stolen from the home of Terry Amaral learned that the suspect allegedly drove around attempting to sell the car to various people. The vehicle was located parked down a dirt

road, out of gas. Items including a shotgun and a tree stand had been removed from the vehicle.

Officers were able to track the items to a pawn shop and then located and arrested the suspect.

Burns was held in the Hoke County jail.

# Other stuff

(Continued from page 1A)  
gonna be no Santa for anyone who's not a child. In fact, ain't gonna be no presents, just a stocking.

Whatever, I reassured myself. I like the Christmas sights and sounds (except for the 42 verses of The First Noel, which must have been written to fill time. "They looked up and saw a star, Shining in the east beyond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night." Two verses later we're still talking about the location of the star: "This star drew nigh to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest." And what kind of phrase is "And there it did both stop and stay?" I digress.)

Anyway, I figured I'd turn my attention to the giving instead of

the receiving, and began to procure some cool stuff to cram in my wife's stocking—gourmet blood orange candy, some Ras El Hanout for a Turkish meal, and, of course, some Kopi Luwak, the civet-poop coffee we've all wanted to try but couldn't because of the expense.

And so it was that on Christmas morning, after the grandchildren had thrilled to presents from family and Santa and excitedly observed the cookies left for him were mostly eaten, and after Ben and Courtney arrived from Apex, we adults one at a time explored our stockings for all to see.

"What's this?" my wife said as she pulled an item from her stocking. And it wasn't cat-poop coffee. It was a small handbag.

"Well... I don't know," I replied, because I didn't.

"I bought this for Clair!" she said. "It's a child's handbag!"

And then it hit me. I'd been stockpiling small items for the stocking for weeks, and apparently at departure-from-Raeford-time I'd grabbed more than just the things I'd stockpiled.

She pulled a large eraser from the stocking. "I bought this too," she said.

Nobody was as surprised as I. Of course, it doesn't explain why I went ahead and put the items in her stocking. I admit there isn't a convincing explanation. Christmas Eve, I just assumed I had a reason for selecting those items weeks earlier.

Well, that's what happens when you go to messing with tradition. ❖

# Wreck

(Continued from page 1A)  
Hospital where she remains in the intensive care unit. At last report, she was unresponsive to attempts to interact with her, according to a school official who obtained the family's consent to release the information.

Willis is a member of the volleyball and tennis programs and also trains and rides horses. She was scheduled to have surgery Tuesday morning. Her family welcomed prayers for her recovery.

Alcohol and speed are not believed to be factors in the accident, according to authorities. Trooper J.O. Melton of the Highway Patrol is investigating the wreck.

The accident happened near the home of Aggie Hales, who said that she has seen many wrecks happen on that stretch of Davis Bridge Road. Many drivers have crashed into the trees on the side of the road opposite to her home, while others have even come close to hitting her house.

"It's a dangerous situation out here," she said.

Hales blamed trees lining the road for causing many of the problems. It keeps drivers from

being able to see what's coming around the curve, she said. Potholes in the road also present a danger, she added.

"I have seen so much on this curve that it will affect me for the rest of my life," Hales said. Hales's brother Louis Hardin was at home at the time and ran to help when the accident happened, she said.

Tom Groves and his wife, who live in Fayetteville, were also among those who stopped to help immediately following the wreck. Groves said it was apparent right away that Hill had not survived.

Groves and his wife remained on the scene trying to help Willis while waiting for paramedics to arrive, he said.

A funeral for Hill was scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 31 in the Saint Pauls Funeral Home chapel in St. Pauls, with burial to follow in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Hill is survived by his wife Sarah; daughters, Gloria Baxley, Jennifer Miramontes and Paige Baker; sisters, Jimmie Locklear, Ann McRea, Shirley Godfrey, Cathy Guy and Virginia Jones; and eight grandchildren.

# Assault

(Continued from page 1A)  
counts of taking indecent liberties with a child.

Investigators called to a local residence in September in reference to an alleged child sexual offense were told that Scali had been visiting family in Raeford at the time. Scali was accused of allegedly sexually assaulting a

five-year-old and a seven-year-old while in the home. One of the children reportedly told a family member they had been assaulted, and the family member contacted law enforcement.

Scali turned himself in to the Hoke County Sheriff's Office on December 29. He was held under a \$20,000 bond.

# Road

(Continued from page 1A)  
been some undermining of the shoulder, probably due to a beaver dam situation," Vick said.

A driver first reported the problem on Christmas Eve, when Hoke County experienced heavy rainfall and some minor flooding on low-lying streets. DOT officials closed the road immediately, and work is ongoing to assess the damage.

The length of time it will take to make repairs and get the road open again depends on how severe the damage turns out to be, Vick

said. If it's just the shoulders that were washed out, the road could open more quickly, but if the road itself is undermined, it could be closer to two weeks before the work is done.

"It depends if there's any damage to the pipe. They would need to repair or replace the pipe," Vick said.

It's not unusual for beaver dams to cause flooding problems for roads that pass over creeks, but this is the first time that there's been a problem with one on Lindsay Road, the engineer

said. If a beaver dam is on the DOT right-of-way, the state can take action to break it up without getting permission from anyone. However, if the dam is on private property, the DOT seeks to get the property owner's permission before proceeding.

While some streets and yards flooded due to the heavy rainfall, Hoke County's two automated monitoring sites—Rockfish Creek at U.S. 401 and Flat Creek on Fort Bragg—did not rise to flood stage.

# Break-in

(Continued from page 1A)  
allegedly breaking into a home and stealing property.

Officers charged Jason Beauchamp of the 7600 block of Branchwood Circle in Fayetteville with felony breaking or entering, felony larceny and conspiracy to commit breaking

of property, including debit and credit cards.

Authorities arrested Beauchamp in connection with a break-in that reportedly occurred in September at the home of Robert Ludlum and Bobbie Ludlum on the 1400 block of Darby Drive. A suspect entered the house and stole approximately \$1,660 worth

of property, including debit and credit cards. During the investigation, officials tracked purchases made with the victims' credit card and traced them to Beauchamp, according to the sheriff's office.

He was held under a \$5,000 secured bond.

# Forgery

(Continued from page 1A)  
of the 25100 block of Hill Creek Drive in Wagram on felony charges of obtaining property by false pretense, forgery of an instrument and uttering a forged

instrument.

Authorities called to Hardin's Food Store on a report of a fake check cashed in October discovered that the check was fictitious. Deputies reportedly used

the identification used to cash the check to locate the suspect. Williams was arrested December 17 and placed in the Hoke County jail under a \$3,000 secured bond.

# Family nurse practitioner joins FirstHealth



Carol Jessee

Carol Jessee, family nurse practitioner, has joined FirstHealth Wound Care & Hyperbarics for the programs

at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital-Hoke Campus in Raeford and FirstHealth Richmond Memorial Hospital in Rockingham.

Jessee received a B.S. degree in education from Oklahoma Baptist University and her BSN degree from the University of Central Oklahoma. She earned her MSN degree from Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing and was trained in wound and hyperbarics at Healogics in Jacksonville, Florida.

Prior to joining the FirstHealth

wound care service, she was employed as an executive practitioner in a retail Target Clinic. She previously worked in primary care at Womack Army Medical Center/Robinson Health Clinic, as outreach director for Central Texas Wound Healing Associates and as a nurse practitioner in a family practice clinic setting.

In addition, Jessee has been an adjunct clinical instructor for an

associate degree registered nurse program, an elementary school nurse and a flight nurse with the Oklahoma Air National Guard.

She is affiliated with the Association for the Advancement of Wound Care.

The FirstHealth Wound Care & Hyperbarics program in Hoke County is located in the Physician Offices & Specialty Center at 6322 Fayetteville Road, Raeford.

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# SPORTS



Darius Capers blocks a shot of a Union High offensive player. Darius not only played great defense but he also was one of the leading scorers, hitting 12 points in the Bucks win over Union High. (Photo by Mike Carter www.atthe18foto.smugmug.com)

John Maynor gets two of his game high 14 points off a fast break against Union High Monday night. The Bucks defeated Union 67-34 and played Clinton High in the championship game last night; however, the game was not completed by press time. (Photo by Mike Carter www.atthe18foto.smugmug.com)

## Bucks Holiday Tournament Update

BY HAL NUNN  
Sports writer

The Hoke County High School Bucks boys' and girls' basketball teams are wrapping up their holiday tournament rounds this week. The Lady Bucks got the weekend started Saturday in the Leon Brogden Holiday Tournament in Wilmington with a 38-33 loss against Wilmington Laney. The Lady Bucks were still down four players due to injury. "Jazlynn McNeill has really stepped up her game and been our leader since we have lost a few players to injury," Coach Tiffany Parks said. In game number two, the Lady Bucks faced Hough High School in the consolation bracket and fell 34-32. Je'Teria Wells was the leading scorer for the Bucks with 15 points. Jazlynn McNeill had 10 points. "We really need a full team effort and our bench to rise to the occasion if we want to compete moving forward," Coach Parks said. Hoke played Hog-

gard yesterday in the final game of the Leon Brogden Holiday tournament; however, the game was not completed by press time. The Lady Bucks will be back in action Friday night, January 2 at home vs. the Westover Wolverines. The Lady Bucks lost by 10 points against the Wolverines in Cumberland County last time.

In boys' action, the Bucks played their first game of the Clinton Dark Horse Classic Monday night against Union High in Clinton. The Bucks won 67-34. However, Coach Quame Patterson said, "We played a pretty sloppy game typical of coming off a holiday break. We didn't play well defensively, couldn't find a rhythm and had too many turnovers." John Maynor led the way for Hoke with 14 points and Devan Norwood and Darius Capers each had 12 points. Last night, the Bucks played a Clinton team that beat Hobton 106-73 and have a lot of players back from their football state championship

run. The game was not completed by press time.

The Junior Varsity boys' team won their first game in the

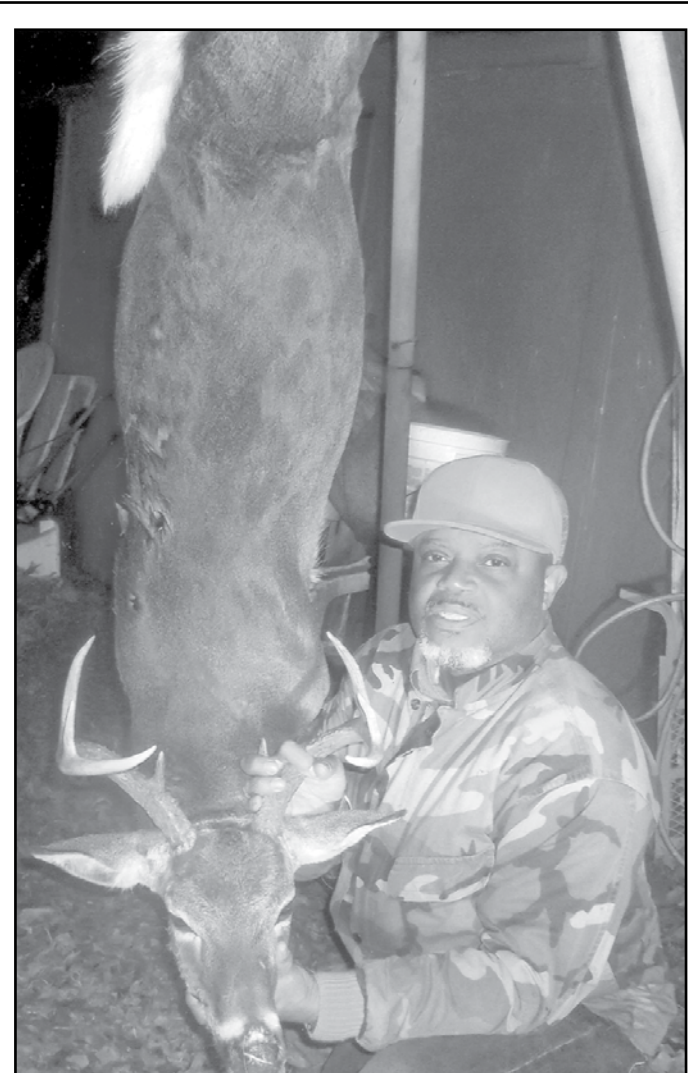
tournament as well and played Clinton for the championship; however, the game was not completed by press time. The

JV Bucks have been playing really good as a team, according to Coach Patterson. The Varsity Bucks will be home Friday

night against Westover to try and avenge their 41-38 loss to the Wolverines in Cumberland County last week.



Jazlynn McNeill battles a Wilmington Laney player for a rebound in the Lady Bucks 38-33 loss last Saturday. Jazlynn has been one of the key players for the Bucks since four players went down with injuries. (Photo by Wilmington StarNews)



**Johnson gets 8-pointer**  
Derwin Johnson of Hoke County got his biggest buck of the year with this 8-pointer, shot while still-hunting using a shotgun in the Timberland area of Hoke County. Derwin has been hunting in the Hoke County area since 1980 and this is one of his biggest ever.

### —Just Putting Around—

**Bayonet**  
The Friday Shootout saw the team of Chad Hodgin, Rick Evans, Richard Cook and Ellmer Capps shoot a 2-over par to get the win.

**Upland Trace**  
The Friday "Pack" group winners were Ed Bailey, Brandon Jackson, Lee Harless and Johnny Boyles.

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# Looking back on 2014

The past year has been a time of changes, beginnings and endings for Raeford and Hoke County. Here's a look back at some of the happenings in 2014.

## January

Jackie Halliburton is named the new Hoke County Veterans Service Officer, taking over for the retiring Randy Smith. The county also hired Barry Mayo to fill the position of County Finance Officer.

The Board of Education decides to meet with the Hoke County commissioners about building a third campus at Hoke High and adding more classrooms to several other schools.

Hoke gets hit with a snowstorm that dropped about four inches of snow on the county and shut down schools for nearly a week.

Kim Ray, a coach and exceptional children's teacher at Hoke High, dies after suffering a medical emergency. Friends and students worked together to create the Kim Ray Scholarship in her honor.

## February

Winter storm "Pax" pummels North Carolina, dumping about five inches of snow on the Hoke area along with sleet and freezing rain. The weather shut schools down for another four days and knocked out power to over 1,300 homes.

Hoke County commission Chairman James Leach speaks out against the county board of elections' decision to relocate the one-stop voting site in Raeford from the county office building to the public library. Later, the election board split on the decision when one member refused to sign the already-approved one-stop voting site plan. After multiple attempts at approving a voting site plan, the state stepped in to determine one for Hoke.

Cape Fear "tops off" its 41-bed hospital, under construction on Highway 401.

## March

The Paraclete XP wind tunnel hosts the international indoor skydiving championships, bringing competitors from all over the world to Hoke.

Well-known local broadcaster and church deacon James Peterkin dies at the age of 91 after suffering from ill health. Peterkin spent nearly 60 years of his life sharing gospel music over the radio, and even longer sharing love and support with family and strangers alike.

Raeford City Manager Mike Wood announces he plans to retire; the city later hired Dennis Baxley, formerly the county public works director, to fill the position.

## April

Investigators with the sheriff's office arrest four people in the disappearance and death of Tayvon Joseph McMillan, 18, of St. Pauls. McMillan was allegedly lured to a home where he was beaten and forced into the trunk of a vehicle, then driven onto Fort Bragg and fatally shot as he tried to escape. The case is ongoing.

Four ambulance companies vie for the county contract to provide emergency transport services for Hoke residents. The county later selected Cape Fear Valley over Med I, FirstHealth and AMS ambulance services.

Sheriff Hubert Peterkin and District Attorney Kristy Newton issue a crackdown against illegal video gambling machines. As of the deadline, the sheriff reported that all illegal video gambling parlors in Hoke County had been shut down.

An armed standoff between law enforcement officials and a man wanted for violating a domestic violence order ends without anyone getting hurt. Officials served a domestic violence order on Richard Guthrie, 47, of the 900 block of North Main Street in Raeford and additionally charged him with communicating threats.

## May

Voters select their candidates in the primary election, sending three Democrats out of a field of 10 to face two Republican candidates in the fall General Election. The 12 candidates vying for three seats on the county commission board was one of the largest fields in the last several decades.

## June

Tyton Bioenergy buys the former Clean Burn Fuels ethanol plant in Dundarrach with the intention of converting it to run on a special kind of tobacco. The company bought the plant, which

cost over \$100 million to build, for about \$12 million.

Hoke County Senior Services Director Esther Harrell is fired from her position. The county later hires former Hoke Cooperative Extension agent Mary Hollingsworth.

Hoke High and SandHoke Early College High School graduate their largest-ever classes.

## July

Authorities arrest Timothy Tyler, 70, of the 600 block of Gainey Road in Raeford in connection with the shooting death of 50-year-old Alisa Hammonds of the 300 block of Edinborough Road.

Home Food announces it will move to more of a "farm to table" approach, getting rid of some of its goods in favor of operating more of a farmer's market style business.

## August

The Lumbee Tribe pays off over \$85,000 in back taxes from 2007-14 on its properties in Hoke County, including Hawkeye Sands Apartments and other housing owned or previously owned by the tribe.

Franklin Burns Carthens of the 3700 block of Laurinburg Road is killed in a hit-and-run while walking along the road near his home. Officials are still seeking information in the case.

## September

The 30th and last North Carolina Turkey Festival welcomed big crowds for the festival's "Exodus." The festival will return in 2015 as the North Carolina Poultry Festival.

Hoke County officials hold a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off construction of the county's new wastewater treatment plant. Officials hope the plant's capacity will attract new businesses to the county. Construction is set to finish in 2015.

NextEra Energy Resources, LLC gets approval to erect a 196-foot-tall temporary meteorological tower that will record wind data over the next three years to determine whether Hoke County might be a good place to build an electricity-generating wind farm.

An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease is reported at Autumn Care Nursing Home in Raeford, requiring the nursing home to shut off the water and install filters on the faucets and showerheads. The facility is cleared after working with local and state health officials to check the water supply.

## October

The House of Raeford announces it will close its further processing plant in December, laying off about 400 workers. The closing marks the end of the company's business operations in Hoke County.

A broken air cooler at Rockfish Hoke Elementary leaves some parents hot under the collar as classroom temperatures rose and tempers flared. The school board said it will entirely replace the system in spring of 2015.

Army veteran Duane Kyle Robinson, 59, of Raeford is killed in a hit-and-run while riding his bicycle along Main Street on his way to work. Police continue seeking information in the case.

## November

Voters in Raeford and Hoke County put many incumbents back in office for another term, including Sheriff Hubert Peterkin, Coroner Franklin G. Crumpler and Commissioner Tony Hunt, and school board members Della Maynor, Irish Pickett and Barbara Buie. The election also saw newcomers Harry Southerland and Allen Thomas voted into office as Hoke County commissioners.

Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office seize over \$90,000 in suspected cocaine and arrested three people in a drug bust operation.

Local business Cross Creek Seed, Inc. announces it is working with the Tyton Biosciences ethanol plant in Dundarrach to produce a special type of tobacco that can be used to make biofuel.

## December

Cape Fear Valley Medical Center says it has filed a request for the North Carolina State Supreme Court to hear the hospital system's argument that it should receive the 28 acute care beds awarded in 2012 to FirstHealth of the Carolinas.

70-year-old Myrtle Brewer dies in a house fire at her family home on the 5300 block of South Old Wire Road, and two other people are injured.



## Nativity scene

Jasmine Williams as Mary and David Williams as the angel Gabriel performed for 300 people at the New Life Performing Arts Academy Christmas Cantata recently. They took acting classes from Ebony "Ladysticks" Peterkin.

## After-school



A student takes careful aim. (Ken MacDonald photo)

(Continued from page 1A) of equipment, posture (and collected permission forms), and worked in-

dividually with each young person. And speaking of which, as Goolsby continued explaining the

program, his young charge began hitting the target. Not bad, Goolsby said.

## What's coming

(Continued from page 3A) there could be a buyer for one or both of the facilities in 2015 - or the city might see both remain empty for longer, though that's not what officials are hoping for in the New Year.

### The First North Carolina Poultry Festival

Hoke County and North Carolina will celebrate the first-annual Poultry Festival in September 2015. The Poultry Festival is the new name for the North Carolina Turkey Festival, which celebrated its 30th and last year in 2014. The festival will feature many of the same events and attractions under its new name, but this time, people who have passed on turkey but like chicken and other poultry will find offerings for them as well. Expect the parade and day in the park to return, along with many other activities, with a new, broader focus.

### Ethanol, and Tobacco, Returning to Hoke?

The ethanol plant in Dundarrach shut down in April of 2011 and has been closed ever since, but with the Tyton company moving in to take over the plant, it's possible that not only will biofuel production return to Hoke County but tobacco farming will too. The company is already in talks with local business Carolina Seed to potentially develop and produce a special kind of tobacco that's useless for smoking but useful for producing biofuel products. Company officials have said it's possible that they may reach out to local farmers interested in growing the tobacco that would be used in the ethanol plant. One benefit to farmers: tobacco for biofuel production doesn't have to be treated as carefully as tobacco destined for cigarettes. If there is movement in 2015

toward getting the plant open again, it's also possible that the coming year could see tobacco growing again in Hoke County for the first time in years.

### A Decision On Hospital Beds

After two years of legal battles over 28 additional hospital beds that the state originally awarded to the FirstHealth of the Carolinas Hoke campus, the matter has finally reached the end of the line as far as state appeals go. This fall, Cape Fear Valley Health System appealed to the North Carolina State Supreme Court requesting that the court give it the beds instead to reduce overcrowding at its Cumberland County facility. The court could choose to hear the appeal or could decline to hear it. Either way, a final decision in the fate of the additional beds is likely in 2015.

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