A man from Raeford was killed and a teenager left in a coma following a head-on crash that happened Sunday morning on Davis Bridge Road.

**Man killed in wreck, teen in coma**

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, overcorrected 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)

**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 David 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 creative 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 Gudewin of Gudewin 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 supplied the use of various bows, correct handling technique. (Ken MacDonald photos)

**Beavers believed behind shutdown of Lindsay Rd.**

By Catharine Shepard

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 Azkon 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 construction planned as well, but I don’t know where that’s going to fit in,” said Vick.

Micheal 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.

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In my musical journey, I have become exposed to many faces of Cuba, the country, its music, and its musicians. Each face with the same advertisements and billboards of the black jazz vocalist who currently resides in Havana. After hearing of her through my friend and fellow band member Scott Sawyer. He worked with her for a time and did many tours with her in the international ones. I had never heard her and was excited to hear an ear to the ground hoping for something new. This is where my opportunity arose when friend Philogram and friend were performing a Christmas show at the Carolina Theatre Band at the Carolina Theatre. I was so excited to see this new music, I had never heard a live big band and was looking forward to hearing the power of the music. When big bands played nightly at dance halls while it was a time to test the popularity of bands, a rhythm section of sax, guitar and drums and an instrument. The group would perform in front of the audience and the music would resonate throughout the venue. The power of this music would be felt by all who experienced this type of entertainment.

I was one of the first who introduced the band to the audience and the music was there for the music and there was a glow of shared enthusiasm among the audience. The instrument would be played by a rhythm section of sax, guitar and drums and an instrument. The group would perform in front of the audience and the music would resonate throughout the venue. The power of this music would be felt by all who experienced this type of entertainment.

The Carolina Theatre is a wonderful venue with a great stage and an intimate atmosphere. The venue is both intimate and grand, the stage is impressive, and the audience is under a beautiful arch. There were quite a few faces in the crowd, many of whom I had never seen before. I was glad to see the variety of people enjoying the music. Among the crowd was President Barack Obama. I was glad to see him enjoying the music and the company of the audience. The music was powerful and moving, and everyone in the audience was moved by it. The music was a testament to the power of art and the importance of preserving it for future generations.

The night was beautiful with a full moon shining over the Carolina Theatre. The audience was engaged and the music was resonating throughout the venue. The power of the music would be felt by all who experienced this type of entertainment. The night was a wonderful experience, and I look forward to hearing more performances like this in the future.
Clyde E. Register

Clyde E. Register, 82, of Raeford, died Monday, December 29, 2014 after a brief illness at First Presbyterian Hospital in Fayetteville at the age of 82.

He was born in Hoke County on July 12, 1932 to the late Lonnie W. Register and Grace Hamrick Register. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Charles Register, C.B. Register, and his sister, Betty Register Davis.

He was a member of the Raeford Methodist Church, Mason for the Boys and Girls Club in Raeford, a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, and a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He retired in 1989 from a job at A&P Company after 37 years of service. He then returned to work with the House of Raeford and worked as transportation manager at the nursing home.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Doris E. Register of Raeford; two sons, Ricky E. Register (Vickey) of Oak Island, and Jeffrey B. Register (Crystal) of Southern Pines; a daughter, Brenda R. Brice (Leamon) of Davidson; eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 31 at Raeford United Methodist Church, burial will be in the Raeford Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to www.crumplerfuneral-officiating.com

Joyce A. Blackburn

Joyce A. Blackburn, 94, of Raeford, died Friday, December 26, 2014 in her home at the age of 94.

She was born in North Carolina on November 27, 1920. She was predeceased by her husband, Jesse Blackburn, her brother, Buren B. Blackburn, and her sister, Geneva B. Copeland.

She is survived by her daughter, Masline Blackburn of Raeford, her son, Randy Blackburn of Raeford and his wife, Doris; her daughter, Linda Hamrick of Raeford; a granddaughter, Christy Jones of San Antonio, Texas; a grandson, Ross Blackburn of Raeford; and one great-granddaughter.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 31 at First Presbyterian Church, 102 W. Prospect Avenue, Raeford.

Memorials may be made to www.crumplerfuneral-officiating.com

Rosemary Gibson

Rosemary Gibson, 84, of Raeford, died Wednesday, December 24, 2014.

Survivors include her children, Karen Allen, Lisa Black, Robert Newton, Naomi and Leon, her mother, Doris Newton of Fort Pierce, Florida, and Dale (Knox) of Maxton, Pat Kissinger of Southport; a daughter, Renee Register (Vickie) of Oak Island, and a son, Glenn Register of Fort Pierce, Florida; her brothers, John, Charles Register, and Fannie Owen Register of Raeford; her sisters, Mary Cooper; and siblings,Tester, Elsie Register (Tommy) of Pinehurst; a son, Lee Register (Liz) of Fort Pierce; Florida; Rafael Thompson Register; and Benjamin Register of Raeford.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 31 at the First Presbyterian Church.

Memorials may be made to www.crumplerfuneral-officiating.com

Bessie S. Parks

Bessie S. Parks, 89, of Raeford, died Thursday, December 25, 2014.

She is survived by her son, Hubert Peterkin of Raeford; her daughter, Linda Hamrick of Raeford; her sister, Nettie Parker of Pinehurst; her grandchildren, Kathy (Mark) Freeman and Thomas Hites; her great-grandchildren, Allie Hites, Miles Hites, and Hunter Hites; and her great-great-grandchildren, Jack Park, Sam Hites, and Owen Hites.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 31 at the First Presbyterian Church.

Memorials may be made to www.crumplerfuneral-officiating.com

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

Michael Scott with Hillsboro Fire Department reported that firefighters were called out to a mobile home on Scissors Chapel Road around 4 a.m. Tuesday, to put out a fire in the home. Scott said that the homeowner, whose name was not released, was able to escape her house on fire. She was able to get all of her pets out of the house, without suffering any injury.

However, the mobile home was considered a complete loss. Scott said that she declined assistance from the Red Cross and was staying with family. Investigators are still looking into the cause of the fire but believe that it started in the living room. The embers from the Wednesday afternoon and firefighters returned to once again put out the flames.

This is the third fire in recent weeks that a family lost its home.

The News-Journal
Rep. Pierce seeks women’s input
By Catharine Sainato

Hoke County State Rep. Gar- land Pierce is inviting local women to voice their concerns affecting them and their commu- nity at a public meeting Saturday. Panama Pinn is representing Hoke, Richmond, Johnston and Bladen counties andsaid theinterests of women in an area are going to be heard, since the Assembly heads into its first ses- sion. Women’s issues can get lost in the Demo- cratic General Assembly, Pierce said.

“I want to hear from them because they have a future going forward, either that we’re dealing with,” said Pierce. “It’s not like we’re going to pass laws that affect the lives of women the state of North Carolina. Their way to do that is to provide opportunities to women to tell them their concerns, their thoughts and ideas.”

She said women face social, economic and religious issues that are spe- cific to their home, their community, their region. Pierce’s office said.

“Discussions at the open- ing event will be judicially sound, and the women will gather to exchange thoughts, views and opinions,” the state- ment said. “While all citizens of District 45 and surrounding areas are welcome, the floor will be reserved for only women to ask questions and engage in the panel with the presenters.”

Pierce said that although he frequently hosts town hall meet- ings, the jealousy the state has to hold a meeting specifically for women.

Women from Hoke, Richmond, Johnston and Bladen coun- tries and surrounding areas are invited to attend the Women’s Violence Awareness Luncheon on Virginia Lane at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3 at FirstHealth Moore Regional. Attendees are asked to RSVP for the meal. Railin@FirstHealth.net or call (910) 273-1098.

Road

(Continued from page 1a)

said it’s not unusual for heavier cars to damage the road for paths that pass over cracks, but this is the first time that there’s been a problem with one on Lindsay Road, the engineer said. Pierce confirmed that there isn’t enough damage to the road to warrant repairs.

The last time it took 6 months to make repairs and get the road open again, and department workers never closed the road, out of gas. Items including the scarf, the shoes and the keys of the suspect were removed from the vehicle. The woman was able to get a few items to a pawn shop and then located and arrested the suspect, according to Pierce.

He was held under a $10,000 bond.

Pierce said that although she has seen many wrecks believed to be factors in the accident, she has yet to interact with her, according to Pierce.

“I want to hear from them because they have a future going forward, either that we’re dealing with,” said Pierce. “It’s not like we’re going to pass laws that affect the lives of women the state of North Carolina. Their way to do that is to provide opportunities to women to tell them their concerns, their thoughts and ideas.”

She said women face social, economic and religious issues that are spe- cific to their home, their community, their region. Pierce’s office said.

“A funeral for Hill was sched- uled for Monday in the Saint Pauls Memorial Hospital in Rocking- ford and FirstHealth Richmond Memorial Hospital at Rocking- ford.”

We love you very much.

ChuRCh seRviCes

We love you very much.

BAPTIST

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sunday Night Worship 6:00 p.m.

sunday school 9:45 a.m.

& Bible study 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Ken Williams

Pittman Grove Baptist Church

4600 Pittman Grove Church Rd.

RAEFORD, NC 28376

(910) 759-6179

sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Pray with us every saturday night.

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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.

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

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.

Sports News To Report?
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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 18-33 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 due to injury,” Coach Tiffany Parks said. In game number two, the Lady Bucks faced Rough High School in the consolation bracket and lost 54-34. Jeff Tennis 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 Hoggard 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 63-34. 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 Hoggard 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 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 Lady 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 43-38 loss to the Wolverines in Cumberland County last week.

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.atthes18foto.smugmug.com)

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.atthes18foto.smugmug.com)

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)
Looking back on 2014

The year 2014 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 Bullard is named the new Hoke County Utilities Service Office’s director, taking over for the retiring Randy Smith. The county also hires Barry Magni 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 in Hoke High and adding more classrooms to several other schools.

February

Winter storms “Pan” pummel North Carolina, dumping snow on portions of Hoke County along with sleet and freezing rain. Two people were killed and five others were hurt by lightning. K pris got hit with a snowstorm that dropped about four inches on the county and shut down schools for nearly a week.

Ken Bay, a coach and children’s theater teacher, was killed after suffering a medical emergency. Friends and students worked together to create the Ken Ray Scholarship in his honor.

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April

Injuries reported with the sheriff’s office arrest four people in the disappearance and death of Taosha Michelle Miller. Michael St. Myers was allegedly pulled into a vehicle where he was beaten and forced into the trunk of a vehicle, then was left on the side of a road.

Likely a male on his mid-20s and weighing 250 pounds is wanted for violation of a domestic violence order. The order was granted against the suspect by a Hoke County judge.

The month of April witnessed the opening of the new Hoke County Fair. The fair was a huge success, with attendance reaching over 14,000.

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