



The News-Journal

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Clark first in Hoke in years to win senate

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Former Hoke County Democratic Party Chairman Robert Benjamin Clark III wasn't surprised last week when he won the state Senate District 21 runoff election against Cumberland County Commissioner Billy King, even if some commentators doubted he could get enough support from Fayetteville voters to do it.

"There was this, I'll call it a myth, being perpetuated by, I'll call it numbers of the political pundits and maybe the political elites over there in Cumberland County that I am just somebody in Hoke County and essentially the folks in Cumberland County would not vote for me, but that's in spite of the fact that I was born, raised, went to school in Cumberland County for the entire time of my upbringing," Clark said. "...

To characterize somebody with that type of history as being an outsider is somewhat disingenuous at best."

By the time the final ballots were counted last Tuesday, Clark received five more votes than King in Cumberland County and won Hoke County by a wide margin of 861 votes to King's 78 votes. As no Republicans filed to challenge for the seat, Clark will be unopposed on the ballot this November.

The runoff results are likely the final decision in a contested race that started out with six Democratic candidates campaigning for the seat left open by incumbent state Sen. Eric Mansfield, a Fayetteville Democrat who chose to campaign for lieutenant governor instead of seeking to maintain his seat in the state General Assembly. In the May primary, King held a lead over the other

(See CLARK, page 4A)



Clark



County and school officials broke ground Thursday on Sandy Grove Middle School in the Lumber Bridge community.

Hi-tech middle school going up

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Construction officially got underway on Hoke County's third middle school last week at a groundbreaking ceremony on Chason Road, the location of the future Sandy Grove Middle.

A unique partnership between the public schools and county and private companies SFL+a architects and the FirstFloor developer

funds the new middle school. "Sandy Grove Middle School is an example for other school districts across this state and nation of how public-private partnerships can work to build schools. We are thankful and proud of the fact that Hoke County will lead the way for this type of financing," Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson said. Although the school will cost about \$21 million overall to build, funding through tax credits cut the

county's contribution by several million. The Hoke County Board of Commissioners approved a three-cent property tax raise last year to pay for the school. Due to the unusual funding arrangements, which led to additional paperwork between the schools, county and companies working on the project, Sandy Grove Middle will be the first of its kind in the state and only the second of its kind in (See SANDY GROVE, page 3A)



Chamberlain's Escapade at the Sun 'n Fun Airshow in Lakeland, Florida in April (Daniel Compton photo)

Raeford man dies in crash

Plane he built, piloted crashes in Ohio woods

A pilot from Raeford and apparently based in Lumberton died last week when his small airplane crashed in a wooded area in Ohio. Gerald Chamberlain, 72, of Raeford was flying a single-engine fixed-wing aircraft shortly before noon Friday, July 20 when the plane lost altitude and crashed near Rutland, Ohio.

A coroner pronounced Chamberlain dead at the scene of the crash, according to a report from the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Chamberlain was the only person in the 2007 Escapade at the time of the crash. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the crash and has not yet offered a reason for why the plane crashed. No one in the vicinity was injured. Chamberlain served a term in the U.S. Navy and worked 28 years for the transportation department of P&C Foods, Inc. in Syracuse. He moved to North Carolina and (See CRASH, page 4A)

Farmers market curbs operations in Rockfish, postpones in Raeford

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

One local Farmers Market site is suspending sales until after the Turkey Festival and another is closing permanently, organizers said. Not enough people attend-

ed the second Hoke County Farmers Market location in the Rockfish community to justify continuing with it, market manager Wanda Cohen said. The Rockfish market "just did not develop as we had hoped," she said.

Cohen took over running the market earlier this year. The nature of fresh produce combined with the poor turnout prompted her to make the call to put one site on hold and close the other, she said. "Growers drop out of the market when they can expect

only a dozen or so customers each week. Once produce is harvested, it cannot be held and if it is not sold, the grower is left with an unusable product," Cohen said. The Farmers Market had better sales during the spring season, and the Raeford

market on Main Street will continue to operate in the future, she said. People hoping to find local produce will have another chance later this year once the market reopens. "We had more support during the early spring season and are hoping that we will

see an increase in attendance when fall vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, squash, broccoli, kale, turnips and collards are available," Cohen said. "We so much appreciate the loyal customers who came out every week and want them to (See MARKET, page 3A)

This Week

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Two charged with child porn, abuse



Ramirez Steganius A man and woman were arrested this month on allegations of child pornography and abuse. Hoke County deputies charged Amelia Lynn Ste-

ganius, 23, of 594 South Buckeye Drive with two counts each of first-degree sexual exploitation of a child, indecent liberties with a child and child abuse and one count each of first-degree forcible sexual offense and crimes against nature. Officers charged Luis Antonio Ramirez, 45, also of 594 South Buckeye Drive, (See ABUSE, page 4A)

Mentoring group seeks volunteers

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

When Suzanne Maness felt called into action to help Hoke County's youth, she

started looking for a way to make it happen. Drawing on her previous experiences working with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office, a nonprofit organiza-

tion and as a Spanish teacher at SandHoke Early College High School, Maness and a volunteer board of directors recently launched Called (See MENTORS, page 4A)

All-Stars team finishes 3rd in state

BY HAL NUNN
Sports writer

The 10-and-under Hoke County Angels All-Stars

softball team continued their history-setting season last week in Eden as they battled for a state championship, a feat no other girls' softball

team has ever accomplished in Hoke County. The young girls qualified for the state tournament by finishing second in the district tournament in June.

Hoke County began the state tournament with a 14-0 loss against West Stanly. The game was much tighter than (See ALL-STARS, page 5A)



All-Star Team Abby Dover (front row, kneeling, left to right), Alex Sexton, Haleigh Line and Baylea Breedon; second row: Julia Ogden, Adrianna Honaker, Ina Womack, Tejanah Murray, Nailah Quick and Alyssa Norton; back row: Assistant Coach Jimmy Saunders, Assistant Coach Donald Womack and Head Coach Jamie Dover.

OTHER STUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD

Real mountain trekkers risk avalanches, crevice falls and hypoxia. My sissy life-and-death hiking challenge last week was waiting on an eighth-grader who stepped in one mud hole too many, and in a fit of exasperation threw a "ruined" shoe into the woods. There being no Rack Room in the wilds off the Blue Ridge Parkway, she had to continue on several miles up rocks and through mud barefoot. (Well, technically, in socks.)

(See OTHER STUFF, page 3A)



VIEWPOINTS

And the civil rights struggle continues

By DR. CHARLES BEEM
Like many other North Carolinians, I was saddened and shocked by the outcome of May's primary election in which 61 percent of voters approved a constitutional amendment defining marriage as only between a man and a woman and prohibiting all forms of rights, privileges, and benefits for all unmarried couples. Most of us who voted against this amendment lamented the fact that its timing was the ultimate in political chicanery by the conservative leaders of the General Assembly, who well knew that voter turnouts are traditionally low for primaries.

Nevertheless, the voters made their decision. As a historian, it occurs to me that this nation has reached a disturbing and reactionary constitutional watershed as states pass amendments in order to legislate inequality into their constitutions. Even a cursory examination of the thirty such amendments across the nation does not reveal any form of cogent legal justification, and most appeal to some vague concept of a timeless and sacrosanct institution of marriage.

But mostly they testify to widespread misunderstanding of what the institution of marriage actually means.

Marriage, in fact, is not one thing. Instead, the concept of marriage exists on a variety of levels in specific social and legal contexts. For instance, if a man and a woman (or a man and a man, or a woman and a woman) enters a house of worship and they exchange holy vows in front of a clergyman, who subsequently unites them in a state of matrimony in the

eyes of God, then one particular form of marriage has indeed been celebrated.

However, if the very same couple wishes to file a joint tax return, avoid testifying against each other in open court, or leave their property to each other without resort to costly legal safeguards, they need to go down to the courthouse and obtain a marriage license. This, of course, is another kind of marriage altogether, one that is sanctioned by the state, which confers rights and privileges upon those that it recognizes as enjoying the right to enter into this form of contractual union.

It is this latter form of marriage, one granted by the states, that most gay people want. I have been with my partner for thirty-two years, through thick and thin, sickness and health, happiness and tragedy, and I cannot escape the conclusion that I am a second class citizen because the state I live in will not grant my partner and myself the rights and privileges enjoyed by all couples, straight or gay, in Iowa, New York, the District of Columbia, and several other states.

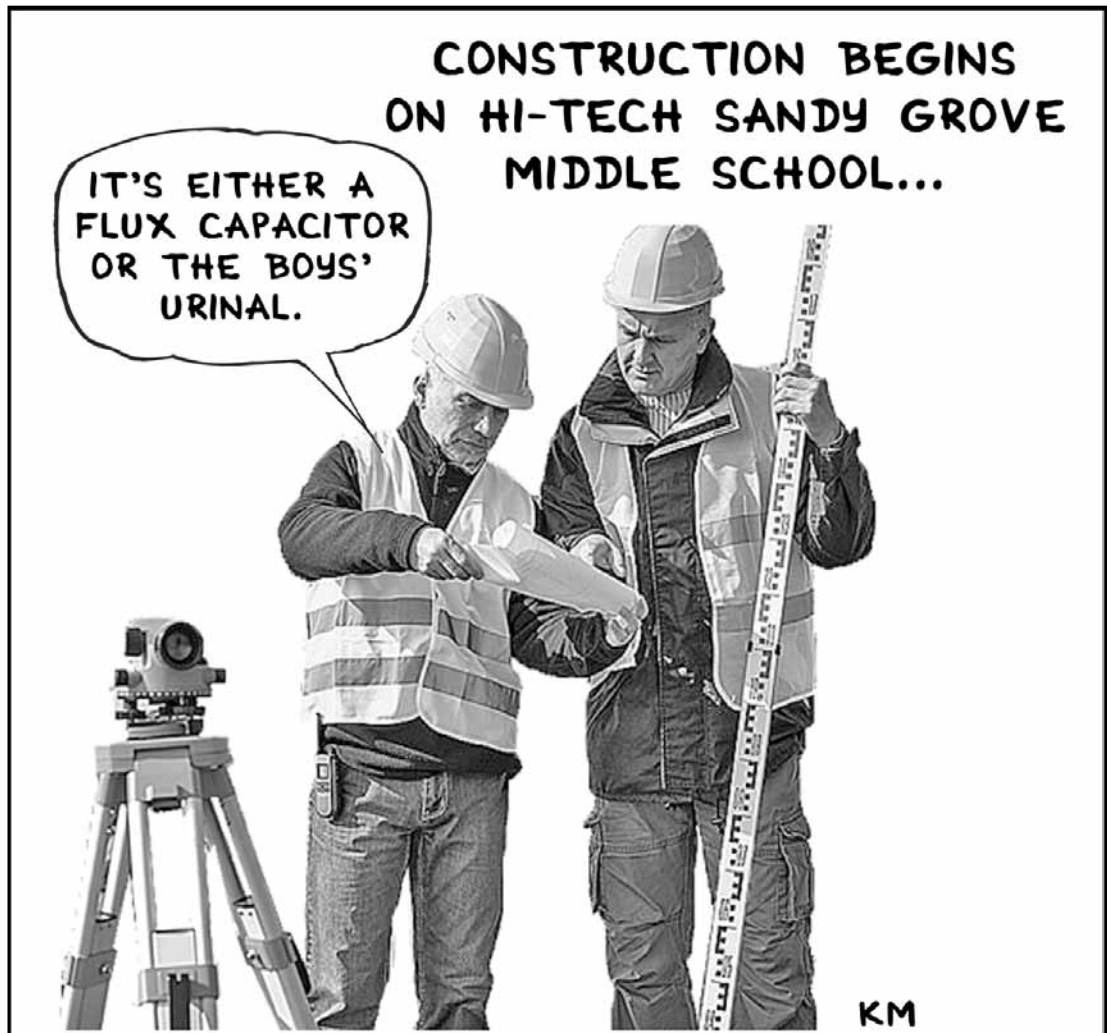
Such state sanctioned contractual unions, which enjoy specific rights and privileges under the law, have nothing to do with religion, and it has everything to do with civil rights. A number of modern nations have also come to this conclusion: Great Britain, Canada, even Catholic Spain, as well as a number of American states, which recognize that full marriage equality represents the logical progression of a much larger and venerable civil rights movement in this country in which African and Native Americans, women of all races,

and the citizens of LGBT communities are all granted equal protections under the law, and all the rights and privileges of citizenship and marriage, that were restricted to white men of property at the beginning of our nation's history.

In the two hundred-plus years since our nation's founding, freedoms, protections, and rights and privileges under the law have been expanded exponentially to previously marginalized and victimized communities within this nation. But the passage of anti-gay marriage amendments has stopped this long, grand tradition in its tracks and exposes the American dream to the forces of reactionary conservatism, ignorance, bigotry, and hatred. Until Americans all over this country, and particularly in the south, realize that the variety of forms of marriage defined by states, which grants to the married couples it chooses to recognize rights and privileges under the law, is inherently unequal, then the work of the civil rights movement remains unfinished.

The good news: Many great and historic champions of civil rights – including the North Carolina and national branches of the NAACP – as well as President Obama have recently and explicitly recognized marriage as a civil right, one which should extend to all citizens of this country, regardless of their sexual orientation. Let's hope it's just the beginning of a new and positive era of growth in the nation's historic struggle.

Dr. Charles Beem is an Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.



Required reading for church leaders

"Where is Church?" is the provocative title of a new book by a former Presbyterian minister, former board chair and interim CEO of Habitat for Humanity, and former top level leader of the John Crosland and Centex real estate development and construction businesses.

The author, Paul Leonard, is my longtime friend. I have admired his intellectual gifts, commitment to service, and leadership skills for more than a half century. So I looked forward to reading his answer or answers to the question the book's title raises.

Toward the end of his book Leonard writes that many people, after hearing the title of the proposed book, wanted to answer its question, "Where is Church?"

"The myriad answers were diverse, often confusing, and sometimes even contradictory," writes Leonard. "Here is my answer: Ultimately, to find church, looking in a mirror is a good way to begin. Do you see reflected there an instrument of peace, eyes sensitive to the world's injustice and inequality, ears that can hear the unspoken needs of a neighbor or a child, a heart willing and a strength capable of demonstrating love in a concrete and practical way in your community and world? If so, then reach out to fellow travelers on that road or others whom you need because you can't be church alone. It is when two or three are together in His name that church



One on One
D. G. Martin

happens. "I doubt that Jesus' preaching and teaching by itself would have made Him the center of a religious movement. It was the healing, the touch, the listening, the confronting of injustice, the reaching across religious barriers, and the sacrifice of His life that changed His world. And it can change ours."

Before the reader gets to this sensible, challenging and uplifting answer, he or she follows Leonard's long and still unsuccessful search to find a church organization that puts his high standards of commitment to service above an inward focus on the needs of the organization.

Leonard's worries about whether the established church could be the answer to the "Where is church?" question began as early as 1965 while the Mecklenburg Presbytery was delaying approval for his ordination. "While waiting for ordination, it is true, I developed a painfully different understanding of the church. My seminary experience taught me that the church is Christ's hands and feet in the world. Outside the seminary, however, my experience showed the Protestant Church appeared to be ruled by an emphasis

on prestige, economic power, and status, leaving it unable to pursue its true mission. I saw people tip their hats to theology, but rarely let it enter the equation when they made decisions regarding public policy, or economic issues."

Leonard's experience as a dynamic associate pastor of a large church and as the founding pastor of an active interracial church earned him praise but left him without his answer to his "Where is church?" question.

His search and disappointing results continue. For instance, he and his wife decided to leave a church even after "we had the joy of working with members of the congregation to build two [Habitat] houses...." The Leonards were disappointed that the church did not commit more dollars for community service while it was raising money for an expensive renovation of its slate roof.

I wrote an enthusiastic recommendation for the book because it gave a compelling and inspiring look at the source of Leonard's success as a leader in business and service. But I included the following important caution: "His description of his long, sincere, and intense search for a church to accommodate his deep faith and call to service is profoundly unsettling and should be mandatory reading for every religious leader and anyone else who cares about the future of organized religion."

We Get Letters

Turn out to oppose DOT Galatia plan

To the Editor:
The News-Journal has well informed readers of the DOT plan to close Galatia Church Road at the intersection at Stoney Point Road just over the line in Cumberland County to through traffic.
Now is the time for all of us to voice our opposition to this plan.
Please attend the meeting Thursday, July 26, 2012 from 4-7

p.m. at New Century School on Century Circle.
Speak with DOT representatives if you wish. Write your thoughts on the form provided by the state.
It won't take long, but attendance is vital. This is the only meeting held to make our wishes known.
Century Circle is easy to find, easy to get to. Drive only one mile up Stoney Point Road from

the Galatia Church Road intersection in question. Turn left and drive to the school. You can't miss it.
You may email your concerns to jbradley@ncdot.gov.
Please help. Please attend. Let's all work to keep Galatia Church Road open.
Jane Gillis Turner
Fayetteville

We have sea service people here too

To the Editor:
Here in this predominately Army town, we have a tendency to forget we also have a lot of sea service people. These include the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Seabees. Fayetteville has a branch and ladies auxiliary unit of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA). Those eligible to join are active duty and retired sea service members and wives. We have members in Raeford, Lumberton, St. Pauls, Benson, Hope Mills and Fayetteville.

This is a national organization. The Fleet Reserve is our voice in Washington, D.C. With the promised benefits to our service members constantly being threatened, we need our voice to be heard. The number of lobbyists we are allowed in Washington depends on the number of members we have in the organization. The FRA was instrumental in getting back our medical and prescriptions.
The branch president, Leonard Galloway, is a retired GMGC and a dedicated member. If you

have questions, call him at 910-875-6020. The Ladies Auxiliary president is Linda Campbell, a dedicated, hard-working lady. She may be reached at 910-630-1121.
We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Retired Military Association, Building 120, Old Elizabethtown Road in Fayetteville. Please come and join us to learn more about us. The ladies and men meet on the same night, same building, separate rooms. Welcome aboard.
Thelma Galloway

I learned a lot about shopping

My wife and I always have this debate as to who are the best shoppers, men or women. I say in most instances a man knows what he wants and spends less time shopping. She then challenged me, "If you spend a week with me shopping, I will not only show you how to save money but have fun doing it." I figured there was no way she could change my mind, but if I declined, she would say that I was afraid of being converted.

I must admit that I had no idea the amount of planning that a woman puts into a shopping trip. We were to go grocery shopping. The first thing to do was to dig out the coupons and separate them. Some stores double the amount. The next job was to place the ones less than 50 cents and the ones more than 50 cents in different piles.

My wife explained to me that we would go to the store that doubles the coupons first. That store may not be the cheapest, but the doubled coupons would offset the slightly higher prices. So only buy items you have coupons for at that store. Buy other items from a different store that has lower prices.

The next stop was the store that has a customer discount card. My wife said that she would do all the shopping because I would surely



Paul Burnley

present the wrong discount card. I was only along to observe. My job was to push the cart and to inform the bagger if I want paper or plastic.

Our next stop was also a store that had a discount card and a number of specials. After shopping for about 45 minutes, my wife discovered she did not have the discount card for that store in hand. She knew that I was going to pay, so she had left her pocketbook in the car. So I had to return to the parking lot to get her bag while she continued shopping. The car was parked quite a distance from the entrance to the store, so I had to walk across the parking lot carrying my wife's pocketbook (looking like an idiot).

After completing that mission, and after two hours, which included three more stores, we headed home. By now, the frozen juice was liquid and the frozen food was getting mushy. At the checkout counter I had chosen paper, not plastic. By now all the bags were wet. I was glad I did not buy any ice cream that day. As I lifted the bags from the trunk of

the car, two broke, spilling cans and jars all over the garage floor. My wife was right when she said that I would learn a lot by going shopping with her. The first and foremost thing I learned is not to go grocery shopping with her again.

The next adventure was a shopping trip to a department store. To plan for this operation you need to write yourself notes to remember everything and to stay on schedule. One store opens at 7 a.m. From 7 to 9 a.m. all items with blue tags are 10 percent off, but after 9 they return to regular prices, unless there is a blue light above the item, which means it is a "blue light special." That means it will have the discount for one more hour.

You have to keep checking your watch. So often you have wasted the morning looking and checking colored tags and lights. This seems like a game to some people. I must admit I learned a great deal from the experience. There can be significant savings in shopping. But there is a cost in time and aggravation. You have to weigh the benefits against the cost of time. The greatest lesson learned was never go shopping with my wife again.

Paul Burnley can be reached at pburnley@aol.com.

The case for a farmers market

"The biggest remaining hurdle fresh food advocates face is the pervasive perception that to eat locally and healthily is somehow 'elitist'—not to mention more costly and time-consuming than buying fast or processed meals. The minute you purchase an organic apple, you are suddenly lumped among NPR-listening, NYT's crossword-puzzle-doing, out-of-touch-with-the-common-man liberals..."

Do the economics for dividing the costs of the fresh ingredients among three or four people—for most dishes I doubt it will come out to much more than a large take-out Domino's pizza. "

—Danielle Crittenden

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Obituaries

Anthony W. White
Anthony Wayne White, 54, of Aberdeen died Sunday, July 22, 2012 at his home.

Born July 4, 1958 in Moore County, he was a son of the late Robert Lawrence White.

He was a warehouse manager for Gulistan Carpet and he loved hunting and fishing.

Survivors include his wife, Debbie Richardson White of Aberdeen; one daughter, Brittany Daniel White of Aberdeen; one son, Tony Ray Gilbert and wife Autumn Leigh of Parkton; his mother, Clemateen (Tina) Hardin Britt and stepfather Robert of Raeford; his stepmother, Nancy White of Texas; two sisters, Teresa Dean of Pinebluff and Carolyn Deese of Denver, Colorado; four brothers, Ronnie Haynes Jr. of Troy, George Vaden Haynes II of Pinebluff, Doug White and Mike White, both of Texas; and six grandchildren.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, July 25 at 11 a.m. at Pinebluff Cemetery.

Condolences accepted online at PinesFunerals.com.

Maurice A. Jones

Maurice A. Jones, 41, of 923 North Jackson Street died Tuesday, July 17, 2012.

Survivors include a son, Shadonta; a sister, Lena; and his grandfather, John Hobson Sr.

The funeral was held Saturday, July 21 at 2 p.m. in Mount Olive Holiness Church. Burial was in Freedom Chapel Church cemetery.

Robert W. King

Robert Williams King, 70, of Raeford died Saturday, July 14, 2012.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; sons, William, Lynwood, Terry, Jason and Robert; siblings, Georgiana, Beulah, Jessie, Shirley, Vivian, Candis and Henry; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held Friday,

July 20 at 2 p.m. in Buie Funeral Home chapel in Raeford. Burial was in McLaughlin Chapel Church cemetery.

Andrea W. Carter

Andrea Wickman Carter of Raeford died Tuesday, July 17, 2012 in FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital at the age of 54.

She was born February 17, 1958 in Cumberland County.

Survivors include a son, Jeremi Dale Carter of Spencer; her mother, Claudette Klewicki and husband James of Raeford; a sister, Theresa Williams of Hope Mills; and a niece, Olivia Williams of Hope Mills.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

Silas Locklear

Silas Locklear Jr. of Hoffman died Monday, July 16, 2012 in FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital at the age of 45.

He was born June 27, 1967 in Scotland County.

Survivors include his parents, Silas Locklear and Ellaree Locklear of Raeford; two sons, Joshua Allen Locklear and Raymond Ion Locklear, both of Hoffman; a daughter, Stephanie Lynn Locklear; their mother, Teresa McKenzie of Hoffman; two brothers, Jerry Locklear of Aberdeen and David Locklear of Pinebluff; four sisters, Lela Hunt, Patricia Bullard, Stella Locklear and Ruth Locklear, all of Raeford; and three grandchildren, Brianna Fairley, Brayden Locklear and Lilyanna Patterson.

The funeral was held Sunday, July 22 at 2 p.m. at Pinegrove Holiness Church in Hoke County. Burial was in the church cemetery.

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

Plate sale to help homeless

The Hoke County Coalition Against Homelessness will hold a plate sale Friday, August 3 at the Raeford Civic Center to raise money for helping Hoke County's homeless population.

From 11 a.m.-1 p.m. guests can buy \$5 plates of spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread and dessert or baked

chicken, rice and gravy, green beans and dessert with a choice of lemonade or iced tea. Dining is eat-in or carryout. The group will deliver for purchases of five or more plates.

For more information or to arrange for advance tickets, call Martha Beatty at 261-5894 or Betty Perkins at 875-8225.

Words cannot adequately express our gratitude to those who expressed their sympathy and helpfulness to us so beautifully at the time of our recent sorrow. May God bless you all.

**The family of
Rosa
Williamson**

**H.E.L.P.
your community!**

Donate gently-used clothing, shoes, household items & new toys to help those in need in Hoke County.

**110 E. Central Ave.
Raeford
910-875-8857
M-F 9-5 • Sat. 9-3**

Raeford soldier dies in wreck

A Fort Bragg soldier living in Raeford died Monday night after crashing his motorcycle into an ambulance in Fayetteville.

Benjamin Pasley of the 100 block of Lee Court in Raeford crashed into an ambulance at the intersection of Owen Drive and Eastern Boulevard shortly before 8 p.m. Monday evening. The ambulance was traveling on

Owen Drive, responding to a call, according to a statement from Fayetteville authorities. Pasley was driving north on Eastern Boulevard, officials said.

Pasley was transported to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center where he later died. Excessive speed and alcohol did not appear to be factors in the accident, police said.

Two arrested for April assault

Two Raeford men were arrested this weekend on charges accusing them of stabbing and robbing a man in April.

Hoke County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dean Austin Stocks, 21, of Raeford and charged him with attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, robbery with a dangerous weapon and conspiracy to commit robbery. He was held under a \$400,000 secured bond.

Officials also arrested Glen Edward Maynor, 16, of Raeford on charges of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, robbery with a dangerous weapon and conspiracy to commit robbery.

He was held under a \$500,000 secured bond.

Stocks and Maynor are accused of attacking Abundio Hernandez in the vicinity of Scurlock School Road, stabbing him multiple times and robbing him on April 22.

Stocks and Maynor have also recently been charged with other crimes. Stocks appeared in court in February on charges of ID theft, breaking and/or entering a motor vehicle, conspiracy to commit breaking and/or entering a motor vehicle and misdemeanor larceny and received a suspended sentence and probation. Maynor was also arrested on charges earlier this year in connection with an armed robbery at the Lucky Charm Sweepstakes in Raeford.

Breaking and entering arrest

A Raeford woman was arrested last week and charged with breaking into a house and stealing money.

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office charged Claire Olivia Vanmeter, 32, of the 100 block of Willis Circle in Raeford with felony breaking and entering and felony larceny. She was held under a \$60,000 secured bond.

Vanmeter is charged with entering the residence of Robert Thompson without his permission, officials said. Investigators believe she removed money from the residence, according to a press release. Vanmeter attempted to elude authorities but was located and arrested in Fayetteville, the sheriff's office said.

Other stuff

(Continued from page 1A)

I say "life and death" because I thought about killing her. Walk 50 yards; wait on her to catch up. I know what you're thinking: "You shop at Rack Room?" And "You shouldn't let her litter."

Exactly, but I was leading the group of 12 and didn't even detect the problem until the 14th verse of She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain faded off from the rear of the group as Sock Girl started encountering sharp rocks. It was too late then to go back and search for the shoe.

All these years and I've yet to get used to adventures with youth groups. You never know what they'll do and say.

"Who will ascend the hill of the Lord?" I had asked them, expecting no answer except possibly from Jasmine, who has the Old Testament memorized and parts of the New too. The speaker at our conference of 300 teenagers knew her name by the week's end because, to her, there is no rhetorical question, and she always gets the answer right. Anyway, "Who will ascend the hill of the Lord?" I had said as we drove nearly straight up toward the parkway summit. From the rear, "The church van!"

On the trail, I pointed out a tiger lily, blooming by the path. Someone in the back, at the fringe of hearing range, said, "Tiger!?" And then the whole group began chanting "lions and tigers and bears," which led to

a few thousand choruses of "We're off to see the wizard."

All that IS certain is we'll never ever see any wildlife, and at some point we'll get lost.

I hide my incompetence—from both myself and those in my charge—by pretending I'm okay with being un-found. I quote to them from Bruce Cockburn:

There's roads and there's roads
And they call, can't you hear it?
Roads of the earth
And roads of the spirit
The best roads of all
Are the ones that aren't certain
One of those is where you'll find me
Till they drop the big curtain

After climbing to the top of a waterfall that was higher than the temperature back in Raeford, and failing to find the trail I thought would loop us back to where we'd parked the van, I did have the good sense to turn us all around and make us go back the way we'd come, even though Sock Girl was not happy, and it was going to make us late for fishing and supper. Though I'm quite sure there was a shortcut from the top of the falls, another quote was ringing in my mind:

"If a man is in need of rescue, an airplane can come in and throw flowers on him, and that's just about all. But a direct lift aircraft could come in and save his life." ~Igor Sikorsky

Correction

In a recent story, *The News-Journal* incorrectly stated Cape Fear Valley Hospital is seeking an additional 28 beds for its fu-

ture Ramsey Street hospital. The hospital system is seeking the additional beds for its existing facility on Owen Drive.

More arrests made in Lucky Charm robbery

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested more people in connection with an armed robbery that took place earlier this year at the Lucky Charm Sweepstakes internet café in Raeford.

Officers arrested Crystal Renee Darby, 24, of Hillcrest Mobile Home Park and Danny Harris Jr. of the 200 block of Tonya Loop on various charges related to the robbery.

Darby was charged with first-degree kidnapping and conspiracy to commit robbery, robbery with a dangerous weapon and conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Harris Jr. was charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon, second-degree kidnapping and conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, according to a report.

Darby was held under a \$200,000 bond. Harris Jr. was held under a \$400,000 bond.

The armed robbery happened shortly before midnight May 9 at the Lucky Charm Sweepstakes on U.S. 401 Business in Raeford. According to reports, investigators believed at least three people entered the business carrying

several firearms. The suspects threatened and endangered the life of the clerk and held a firearm to a customer's head during the initial struggle, according to the sheriff's office. The clerk called 911 to report the robbery after the suspects fled on foot.

Detectives with the sheriff's office investigated and were able to identify and arrest two of the suspects shortly after the robbery. Arrested were Javonda Eugene Sentel Morris, 29, of the 200 block of Tonya Loop in Raeford on felony charges of robbery with a dangerous weapon, first-degree kidnapping, conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, altering serial numbers on a firearm and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. He was held under a \$500,000 secured bond. Officers later arrested Glen Edward Maynor, 16, of the 300 block of Purvis Court in Raeford on felony charges of robbery with a dangerous weapon, first-degree kidnapping, conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana. He was held under a \$400,000 secured bond.

Sandy Grove

(Continued from page 1A)

the nation, a spokesperson said. The school itself will include a number of unusual features including on-site geothermal and solar electricity generation that could produce more electricity than the school itself can use, allowing the school to sell the excess to Progress Energy.

The school system agreed to lease the building from the developer until the school is paid off. At that time the property will revert to the county, which will sign it over to the school system.

The Board of Education has not yet openly discussed student assignment for the new school. The 74,000 square-foot school will have room for about 600 students. The facility will meet Leadership

in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards, the developer said.

"I appreciate our Board of Commissioners and Board of Education members working together to bring the promise of a new much needed middle school into reality," Williamson said.

The school should be completed in time to open next fall for the 2013-14 school year, officials reported.

Local officials with the county and school system and other elected officials were invited to attend the groundbreaking Thursday morning. The Hoke County Board of Education convened its usual meeting following the groundbreaking.

Market

(Continued from page 1A)

know that we will be back."

The Hoke County Farmers Market will not open Saturday, July 28. The market will reopen Saturday, September 15 at the annual Turkey Festival. The Rockfish market on Lindsay Road is permanently closed.

The Farmers Market posts updates about availability and its schedule on its Facebook page under the name Hoke County Farmers Market.

For more information about produce from market growers for direct from farm purchases, contact Cohen at 489-4842.

Hungry for more?

There's another way residents can find fresh farm-grown produce from fields in and around Hoke County. The Community Support Agriculture program will continue providing participants with bags of fresh, in-season produce every week during the five-week pe-

riods. There are three sessions each year including spring, summer and fall vegetables and fruits.

The program also offers an option to receive fresh beef each week, for an increased fee per week. The vegetable option also includes fresh eggs, locally produced honey and homegrown herbs.

Last year the program was a joint effort with another county's CSA, but this year enough local growers chose to participate that the produce was straight from Hoke, a spokesperson said earlier this year.

The CSA program is a project of the Hoke County Cooperative Extension. Participants pick up the packages of food once a week at the cooperative extension office.

For more information about the program or to sign up, contact county horticulture agent Mary Hollingsworth at the extension at 875-3461.

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Clark

(Continued from page 1A)

candidates but the second and third place finishers, Clark and Larry Shaw of Fayetteville, were close enough to require a second primary. Shaw asked for a recount but even after all the ballots were counted again he still fell two votes short of Clark's total.

Clark said the second primary was like an entirely new election to him and he approached it as such.

"In the primary, you had six individuals running in that race, so every individual is going to have their constituency. To assume that because he (King) led in the primary that would necessarily translate into a runoff is farcical. These are two different types of activities," Clark said.

Another Hoke County candidate, Allen Thomas Jr., carried Hoke County in the May primary but threw his support behind Clark after failing to gain enough support in Cumberland.

"Hoke County as a whole should be proud to be sending one of our own to Raleigh to represent us. After the May 8 primary, I announced my full support of Ben Clark by doing a radio commercial urging people to go out and vote (for) him. I am very excited about the results of this election and I want Ben to know that we are all so very proud of him," Thomas said in an email.

Overall, Clark spent about \$40,000 during the course of his campaign, the candidate said, about \$15,000 more than the reported amount King's campaign spent during the elections.

Plans and goals

Now Clark has a head start on many of the representatives and senators still seeking office. However, until the votes are official following the general election and Clark is sworn into office in January, he plans to make the best of the time by meeting with local officials and residents to find out what Hoke and Cumberland counties need from the state and how the new District 21 senator will be able to help make it happen.

"All of these folks, they have their own needs, like the League of Municipalities, the commissioners, and they come up with their priorities so we can say, what are the priorities for this community, how do they jive with what the mayors want, what the county commissioners want, as well as non-profit agencies want," Clark said. "...So then as I actually get sworn into the legislature I can

have those needs in my mind, on paper, whatever, and I make sure that whatever things I get involved in, I keep those things to the forefront to the extent possible, try to fill those needs."

Being elected doesn't come with a "magic wand," but Clark said he hopes to use the opportunity to do what he can for the people in the district once he understands from the people in charge just what those needs are.

"It's not just me going there as an individual, I am going there with the community," he said. "I want to be a true representative of the community's voice when I'm there in the legislature and not just my voice."

Clark said already there are quite a few people wanting to speak with him.

"It's like my voicemail just exploded," he said. "I don't want people to think I'm ignoring them, so before I can really go forward doing a lot of the things I want to do to prepare, I need to communicate with these individuals. It was at a point especially on election day where I'm making a call and talking to somebody and I'm getting two or three more voicemails coming in as I'm talking."

He doesn't have a checklist of goals yet, but Clark said his priorities are still in the same areas: supporting education, economic development and military members.

"I am a solid advocate of a strong public education system, I believe I benefited immensely from having that benefit as a child when I came up through the system, and I want all children coming up from the system today to have that benefit and I want it to be there for them," Clark said.

The candidate said one major issue he hopes to discuss with local officials is how to foster economic development in the area.

"What as a state senator can I do to help that process of attracting business, helping create an environment to grow our own business, and those are the things that you do," Clark said.

And as a military veteran himself, supporting military families and veterans is another priority, Clark said.

"We know that we've heard individuals, our state, claim to be very military-friendly. Well, I think we need to go beyond saying that and actually show that in more concrete ways," he said. "...Why is it that a military member can get assigned to our state and support our freedoms, yet we're going to tell

those individuals that while you're assigned here but you may not be a resident here, but still we're going to require your children to pay out-of-state tuition rates if they choose to go to a public university in the state of North Carolina? I believe that is just flat-out wrong."

Clark said he would like to revisit a bill that sought to change that policy but failed to pass the state General Assembly.

The candidate thanked voters and the people who worked with his campaign for their support. He plans to spend time working with constituents in both Hoke and Cumberland counties, he said.

"I don't represent the counties as individual elements, I represent the entire constituency of senatorial District 21, and that's what I'm going to do," Clark said.

Adding to history

Clark grew up in Cumberland County where he graduated from Seventy-First High School and later joined the United States Air Force, where he served for 20 years. He retired from the military as a lieutenant colonel after serving in many posts around the world.

Clark holds a master's degree in Business Administration from Southern Illinois University and also completed a graduate-level teaching certification program at George Washington University. He taught pre-engineering technology classes at a Maryland high school before moving back to North Carolina. Today he works with General Dynamics Information Technology as the Chief of the Technical Support Branch at the Fort Bragg Mission Training Complex.

Clark's win in the runoff marks the first time in recent years that a person living in Raeford has been elected to state office. Danny DeVane was the last local resident elected to a state office in the General Assembly, according to Hoke Board of Elections Director Caroline Shook. The first were Thomas McBryde and J.W. Johnson, elected in 1914 shortly after the county was created and before the state moved to a districting system that included multiple counties within a single district.

A number of others have also served over the years but none recently, Shook said.

The election results are considered preliminary until the canvass this week. Officials did not expect the results to change after canvass.

Mentors

(Continued from page 1A)

Into Action, Inc., a faith-based nonprofit dedicated to supporting young people in the community.

"It's been a vision that has finally come to reality for me," Maness said.

For the last year and a half she's sought to find a way to help form positive relationships between mentors and children in Hoke County. Now Maness and the CIA Board of Directors are hoping to find mentors in the Hoke community willing to give their time and skills to connect with kids that could use a good role model.

"Our mission is that we're faith based and we want to provide services to the children of Hoke County, and we're sticking to the ages 10-17," Maness said. "We just want to be able to provide preventive programs, enrichment activities, things to build leader-

ship skills, mentoring where we have people volunteer and they want to work with a child."

Maness said she especially hopes to reach out to military families. Children of military families experience upheaval in their lives when a parent deploys, and it puts stress on the parent left behind at home, she said.

"The parent that's at home, they can't do it all, and that's too where I feel a lot of children fall through the cracks," Maness said. The group hopes to reach out to children who could benefit from extra support, like those in foster homes or in the juvenile justice program, she added.

Helping children build character, self-esteem and leadership skills to help them excel in life are among the program's goals. The group also plans to take referrals from social support programs.

Called Into Action is in the process of obtaining its 501c3 nonprofit status. At this time, Called Into Action cannot perform fundraisers, but they are hoping for donations of people power in getting things going, Maness said.

Right now the group is looking for people willing to volunteer as mentors. Volunteers will face a criminal background check and a driver's record check before they are allowed to work with the kids, Maness said.

In the future the group hopes to do some community service projects with the children and find other ways to support Hoke's up and coming generations.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Maness by calling 476-8070, or through the site <http://www.calledintoaction.org>, or at the group's Facebook, Called Into Action, Inc.

Crash

(Continued from page 1A)

worked as a truck driver for Walmart in Hope Mills for 15 years where he was still employed at the time of his death, according to an obituary.

The Just Aircraft Escapade he was flying was a high-wing kit-built two-seater plane with a

Rotax engine.

Chamberlain was an avid boater, motorcyclist and pilot. He is survived by his children, Jeffery G. Davis of Augusta, Donald W. Davis Jr. of Pensacola, Gary L. Chamberlain of Freeville, New York, and Jill L. Taylor of Liverpool, New York; four sisters;

20 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A service was set for Saturday in Pennsylvania. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to Angel Flight, Mid-Atlantic Chapter at angelflightmid-atlantic.org/give.

Abuse

(Continued from page 1A)

with three counts of second-degree exploitation of a child. Officers found evidence that he "engaged in the internet exchange of pornographic material that included children of varying ages,"

according to the Hoke County Sheriff's Office.

Steganus and Ramirez were each held under \$1 million secured bonds.

The address given for both suspects is located less than two miles

from East Hoke Middle School and Scurlock Elementary School.

The investigation is ongoing pending further state and federal charges and the discovery of additional suspects and victims, officials said.

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SPORTS

All-Stars

(Continued from page 1A)

the score shows, as the girls were behind only 5-0 in the last inning. Facing elimination, Hoke rebounded to destroy Reidsville 18-0. Facing elimination again, the Angels pulled out a nail-biting win against Warren County 7-5 to advance to the semi-finals of the state championship against West Brunswick. In the final game of their season, West Brunswick came out on top 11-1, ending the tremendous run by the young

Hoke County girls. "Our girls fought very hard and never gave up," Head Coach Jamie Dover said. "They played with the utmost hustle and determination while displaying good sportsmanship at all times. The coaches and the parents are very proud of what the girls accomplished this year. They dedicated a large part of their summer to practicing, games and fundraising in order to make this incredible history-making run. It was truly amazing how

our community rallied around our team by making generous monetary donations, car wash donations, raffle item donations and ticket purchases. We can't thank everyone enough for their assistance. We would also like to thank our county commissioners, county manager and others in our county government including the Parks and Recreation Department and Advisory Board for all they have done to make our experience possible."



Earl Wolff meets media at ACC Kickoff

Hoke High School graduate and NC State senior safety Earl Wolff answers questions from the media Sunday at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro for the ACC Football Kickoff event. Wolff will be playing his final season for the Wolfpack who are looking to make a run at the ACC Championship this year.



Local boy helps team win State Championship

Chase Jackson of Hoke County helped the Hope Mills Dixie Boys 14U team win the State Championship by beating a team named Dallas from Charlotte 15-5. The team will now represent the entire state of North Carolina August 3-8 in Covington, Georgia for the 14U World Series. They will play a team from South Carolina August 3.

Sports Briefs

Volleyball Tryouts: Hoke High Freshman, JV and Varsity tryouts will be held July 30 and 31 at

McDonald Gymnasium at Hoke High from 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m. All participants are required to have

a physical. FREE Physicals will be given at FirstHealth in Raeford on July 27 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Each student must have the form already filled out and signed by the parent. Forms are available at the school or on the school's athletic website www.ihigh.com/fightingbucks.

Carolina Horse Park will have their inaugural Summer Flurry Shoot...at the Park. The shoot will take place July 26 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Organized by Dewitt's Outdoor Sports, this clay shot will include a pig pickin', prizes, side games and more overlooking the beautiful Carolina Horse Park. The shooters' cost for flurry shooting and dinner is \$25. The cost for a non-shooter is \$10. For more information, go to www.carolinahorsepark.com.



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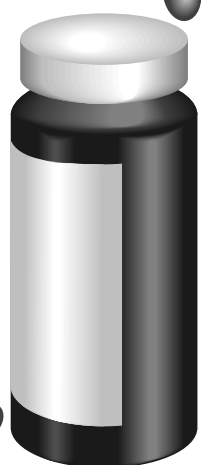
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Upchurch classes will hold reunion

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hundreds of Upchurch alumni will gather next month to remember their school days and celebrate their friendships at the 12th Upchurch school reunion.

The building that today houses Upchurch Elementary was once a school for black students in the days before North Carolina's classrooms integrated. For many years it was an important part of the Hoke County community, and alumni including Joyce Stewart and Retha Hardimon help keep its memory alive.

The Upchurch Alumni and Friends Committee is once again bringing Upchurch graduates back home for the alumni reunion event that is held every three years. It's a chance for old friends to reconnect and catch up, reunion co-chair Hardimon said.

"Some people we don't see until every three years and that means a lot," she said. "I have two girls that were in my class and they come to Raeford for the school reunion and they spend the weekend at my house. That's a lot of fun. If you hear anybody hollering or cutting up, you know it's coming from my house. People

come from near and far for the school reunion."

About 280 people attended the last reunion in 2009, scholarship committee chairperson Joyce Stewart said. Upchurch operated as a high school from the 1930s until Hoke schools integrated in 1968.

The committee also collects money to provide scholarships to Hoke County students seeking to attend college. The committee presents scholarships every year, organizers said. Some of the previous scholarship recipients will attend the reunion this year to talk about their experiences, Stewart said.

And if people who aren't alumni would like to attend, they're welcome to buy tickets too, Hardimon said.

The alumni celebration is set for Labor Day weekend, Friday, August 31 through Sunday, September 2. Events include a reunion picnic, a dance and a Christian Jubilee with a banquet to conclude the weekend.

The Class of 1964 is sponsoring a breakfast at Upchurch Saturday morning. The picnic will be on the Upchurch grounds from 1-4:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon. The Christian Jubilee will be held

at St. James United Church of God that evening, and the dance will also be held that evening. The banquet is set for the Holiday Inn Bordeaux and Convention Center in Fayetteville Sunday night.

The alumni organizers also plan to put together a yearbook to commemorate the gathering. The journal is accepting advertisements.

Hotel rooms at the Holiday Inn will cost \$91 per night plus tax, organizers said. Participants can call 1-800-325-0211 or 323-0111 to make reservations.

Tickets to the alumni reunion itself are \$75 each. Money orders or cashier's checks along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive tickets and programs can be sent to Upchurch High School Alumni, Post Office Box 1652, Raeford, NC 28376.

For more information, contact James Malloy at (704) 843-4796, Prentis Rogers Jr. at 693-8091 or Vivian Malloy at 875-2391. Alumni who would like to participate in any part of the program are encouraged to write a letter explaining what they would like to do and mail it in.

All ticket money must be received by July 31. No tickets will be available for sale at the door.

Program helps students adjust to new schools

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

There's still a week and a half of vacation left before Hoke High students return to school but the freshman class of 2016 got a taste earlier this month of what they can expect when the first bells ring August 6.

And one thing they can expect on Hoke High's sprawling campus is a race against time.

"Run, run!" a student ambassador cheered as two rising freshmen dashed across the McDonald courtyard, trying to beat the clock in a scavenger hunt. The game was one of many activities geared toward helping students prepare ahead of time to take away some of the stress of the first day in a new school, Student Services Director

Peggy Owens said.

"They do better because they're better prepared," she said.

This marks the 10th year Hoke students starting middle and high school have gotten the chance to test-drive their school day.

The late Superintendent Mitch Tyler brought up the idea of having a summer program to integrate students into their new schools, Owens said. The school system continued developing and working with the idea after Tyler passed away. Now the three-day program gives students a chance to experience the kind of day they'll be living once they get into their new routine.

Besides the programs at Hoke High and Sand Hoke Early College High School, the school system operates similar programs geared

toward helping incoming sixth graders at East and West Hoke Middle schools, Owens said. All four programs cost about \$60,000 total and are paid for through state funds, she said.

Although the programs can accommodate the entire incoming classes, the optional program doesn't have full attendance. About 200 students attended the high school session this year out of the approximately 600 incoming freshmen expected to enroll in classes shortly. The goal is to eventually have all incoming freshmen taking part in the program, Owens said.

School starts Monday, August 6 for Hoke County High School students and Monday, August 27 for middle and elementary school students in the county.

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Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. :: Friday 8 a.m. - Noon

(910) 615-5800

For more than 12 years, Hoke Family Medical Center has provided medical care for families from the center of Raeford. Vicki Hardy, D.O., William R. Laurence, Jr., M.D. and Martina Monroe, M.D. provide quality care for you and your family. They are joined by Wilbur “Buck” Schrum, PA-C, and Mariaeugenia Sierra, PA-C. For your convenience, we offer on-site lab and x-rays. A variety of medical specialists are available by appointment for consultations. Specialties include cardiology, gastroenterology, neurology, nephrology and allergies/asthma.



CAPE FEAR VALLEY CONVENIENT CARE *for HOKE*

104 Southern Avenue • Raeford
Monday - Friday 4 p.m. - Midnight

(910) 615-3140

When a minor injury or illness needs prompt care and your doctor’s office is closed, Convenient Care for Hoke is the perfect choice for you. Come see us for treatment for fevers, earaches, sore throats, nausea, diarrhea, sinus and upper respiratory infections, vomiting, cuts that may need stitches, painful or burning urination, rashes and minor allergic reactions. This is the perfect place for all those minor injuries and illnesses that need immediate care. Don’t wait until the next day to feel better fast!

