

Fall Festival Guide is in this issue!

The News-Journal

\$1.00

If it happened, it's news to us



Thursday, October 11, 2023

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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Schools hire Spells as superintendent Board picks Westover band director to lead Marching Bucks

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Editor

The Hoke County Board of Education voted Tuesday night to hire Dr. Kenneth Spells as superintendent, and also voted to extend Interim Superin-

tendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell's contract through the end of December.

As part of the personnel report, the board also voted to hire Jeremy Ross as the new band director for Hoke County High School. Ross will come to Hoke High after serving as marching band

director at Westover High School in Cumberland County.

Spells has signed his contract with the school district, Shotwell confirmed. He will start in January and will make a salary of \$185,000 a year. Spells has been superintendent of

the Hazel Crest 152 1/2 school district in Hazel Crest, Illinois since 2019, according to a biography on that district's website. Prior to that, Spells served as superintendent of schools for South Bend School Corporation in South Bend, Ind. (See *SCHOOLS*, page 10)

NC Fall Festival kicks off with Turkey Bowl

Friday night football game is also Hoke County Homecoming

The 2023 North Carolina Fall Festival starts with kickoff this Friday, October 13 at Raz Autry Stadium with the Turkey Bowl football game and Hoke County High School's annual Homecoming.

The game will see the 2-6 Hoke High Bucks football team take on the 2-5 Union Pines Vikings for the Turkey Bowl trophy. The

game will start at 7:30 p.m. this Friday.

The Fall Festival events will continue Saturday, October 14 with the third-annual Marvin Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament. Golfers will tee up at the Bayonet at Puppy Creek Golf Course, which was recently renovated. Registration for the (See *FESTIVAL*, Page 6)



Upchurch Elementary School's Boys of Distinction club hosts Breast Cancer Awareness event
Boys of Distinction at Upchurch Elementary School hosted a Breast Cancer Awareness walk/run event Saturday, October 7, 2023 in the gym to promote Breast Cancer Awareness. Participants walked a total of 30 laps in the school's gymnasium and raised funds that will be sent to the American Cancer Society. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed every year in the month of October to raise awareness about the most common form of cancer among women. (Contributed photo)

City makes plans to work on utility improvements

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Editor

The City of Raeford will use \$9.5 million in state funds to make improvements to its utility system, and help with sewer hookups in a city neighborhood currently without

them.

The city was announced to receive the money as part of the General Assembly's recently passed budget.

"We've got a capital improvement plan for the water and sewer system, so we're going to try and knock out as many of those projects

as possible," Raeford City Manager Dennis Baxley said.

Repairs to the city's water treatment plant will be first on the to-do list.

"In general, just to improve the operation of the plant," Baxley said. "Upgrade some pumps, and we may

include the cleaning and painting of the tanks."

Then, the city plans to work on a system that will tie the water treatment and wastewater treatment plants together. With the system in place, "staff can monitor the operation of the water and treatment plant

remotely or from their desktop at work," Baxley explained. "It should tell you where problems exist, if something happens."

Additionally, some of the money will go toward helping with sewer hookups.

(See *CITY*, page 6)

County wants to keep greenery on courthouse site

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Editor

If it seems like the fencing erected downtown around the construction site for the new Hoke County Courthouse and administration building keeps moving around – that's be-

cause it has.

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners voted last week at the board's regularly scheduled meeting to have Metcon and J&K, the joint venture partners working on the construction, move the fencing further away from the street.

It was the second time the county asked the builders to adjust the fencing around the construction site. The first time, commissioners discussed, the fencing was placed around a fire hydrant at the construction site, and had to be moved to allow fire departments access to the hydrant.

The second time, it was because of a request from Commissioner Bobby Wright, brought up and added to the meeting agenda last week.

Wright proposed, also, that the county not take out the trees and other greenery that were planted at the site, on the side of the lot facing

Main Street.

"I'd like to put it in the form of a motion, that I think we shouldn't destroy the trees and the fine shrubbery we've got," Wright said, after the board voted to add the matter to the agenda.

(See *COURTHOUSE*, page 5)

Hoke County Legends

Pastor, businesswoman Dr. Louise K. Thomas

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Editor

Today many women answer the call to ministry, but when Dr. Louise K. Thomas began preaching, she didn't always get a warm welcome as a woman standing in a church pulpit.

That didn't matter to her – as her dedication to her faith showed. The first woman to become presiding elder of her church, she served as a pastor for over 50 years. She was

(See *LEGEND*, page 2)



Dr. Louise K. Thomas

White Oak scholarship will live on

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Editor

It took years of hard work and donations from generous people and organizations, but now the White Oak School Scholarship has been secured for the future through the North Carolina Community Foundation.

Former Hoke County Commissioner and White Oak School alumna Ellen McNeill spearheaded the effort to get the locally-sponsored

White Oak School Scholarship set up through the NCCF. It took raising \$40,000 to establish the endowment, including some \$20,000 of which was raised recently in a rush to the finish line. Individuals and organizations – including many who wished to remain anonymous, McNeill said – donated enough money to meet the goal.

Now that it's under the NCCF, two Hoke County high school students each year will receive a \$1,000

scholarship each, continuing into the future, in honor of White Oak School.

When McNeill found out that raising a total of \$40,000 could ensure not just one but two scholarships each year, it was an incentive to double down efforts to make it happen.

"That really got me working with the community, but I had such a short time to do it. That's when the community really backed us," she said.

(See *WHITE OAK*, page 5)

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Health Department offers WIC, breastfeeding help

SUBMITTED BY THE HOKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
The Hoke County Health Department is championing the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to raise awareness about the significance of breastfeeding for both mothers and infants. As the department continues its commitment to improving the health and well-being of the community, they highlight the vital role of WIC in supporting and promoting breastfeeding practices.

aims to safeguard the health of these vulnerable populations by offering nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to other healthcare services. Breastfeeding is widely recognized as the optimal source of infant nutrition, providing various health benefits. The Hoke County Health Department encourages new mothers to embrace this natural and nurturing practice, as breast milk is designed to meet their baby's unique nutritional needs. Not only does breastfeeding offer essential nutrients and antibodies, but it also helps protect infants against illnesses, such as respiratory and gastrointestinal infections. It reduces the risk of childhood obesity, diabetes, and allergies. Studies have shown that breast-

feeding promotes optimal cognitive development in infants and enhances their immune system response. Moreover, breastfeeding benefits mothers by aiding postpartum recovery, reducing the risk of certain cancers, and fostering a strong emotional bond with their children. Recognizing the importance of breastfeeding, the WIC program is pivotal in supporting mothers who choose to breastfeed. WIC provides breastfeeding counseling, education, and assistance to help mothers overcome potential challenges, such as latch difficulties, low milk supply, or public breastfeeding concerns. The program also offers breast pumps and encourages workplaces to provide breastfeeding accommodations, ensuring mothers can continue breastfeeding even after

returning to work or school. In addition to breastfeeding support, WIC offers a variety of nutritious foods to supplement the diets of pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and young children. These foods include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, dairy products, and protein-rich sources, ensuring that

the mother's and child's nutritional needs are met during critical stages of growth and development. The Hoke County Health Department urges all eligible women and families to explore the benefits of the WIC program, emphasizing that no one should feel alone in their breastfeeding journey. By embracing

this natural and beautiful bond between mother and child, we can collectively nurture a healthier future for our community. Remember, breastfeeding is more than just food—it's a gift of love and lifelong health for your child. Let us support you in this incredible journey.

Spectrum announces launch of fiber-optic network in Hoke

Spectrum today announced the launch of Spectrum Internet, Mobile, TV and Voice services to 265 homes and small businesses in Hoke County. Spectrum's newly constructed fiber-optic network buildout in Hoke County is part of the company's approximately \$5 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)-related investment in unserved rural communities, which includes \$1 billion won in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) RDOF auction. The company's RDOF expansion will provide broadband access to approximately one million customer locations as estimated by the FCC across 24 states in the coming years. "Spectrum is bringing gigabit broadband to unserved communities across America through RDOF," Tim Williams, Vice President of Construction at Spectrum, said in a statement. "Our

investment is making it possible to deliver the high-value broadband, mobile, TV and voice services now available in Hoke County. We are providing local residents and small businesses superior connectivity at highly competitive prices, backed by a team of skilled local technicians and U.S.-based customer service." North Carolina State Rep. Garland Pierce, who represents Hoke County in the N.C. House of Representatives, said the service would help "fill the connectivity gap." "Many rural communities often fall behind when it comes to internet availability, and communities in my district have experienced this first-hand," Pierce said in a statement. "Spectrum's partnership and broadband expansion through RDOF will help close the digital divide once and for all for many of our unserved residents. Now business, school

and residents will be able to fill the connectivity gap that has been missing for so long." Spectrum Internet delivers speeds up to 1 Gbps and Advanced WiFi for both residential customers and small business clients, featuring starting speeds of 300Mbps, with no modem fees, data caps or contracts. Spectrum Business Internet offers its clients plans with starting download speeds of 300Mbps, with 600Mbps and 1 Gbps options. Local residents and business owners should visit spectrumrural-expansion.com to learn more about when their home or business may be able to receive Spectrum services. Spectrum is a suite of advanced communications services offered by Charter Communications, Inc. a leading broadband connectivity company and cable operator serving more than 32 million customers in 41 states. (Submitted by Spectrum Internet)

Local programs join forces on overdose awareness

SUBMITTED BY HOKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
The Hoke County Health Department and the Tia Hart Community Recovery Organization recently joined forces to raise awareness about International Overdose Awareness Day. Despite a rescheduling due to inclement weather, the event held on September 25 proved to be an informative and impactful gathering for the community, organizers said.

The event featured a guest speaker series that included notable figures such as Rep. Garland Pierce, Hoke County Sheriff Roderick Virgil, LuEvelyn Tillman from Greater Vision Counseling and Sharon Hunt from Community Organized Relief Efforts (CORE). Each speaker brought a unique perspective, emphasizing raising awareness about opioid overdose prevention and supporting those affected. One of the pivotal aspects of the event was the distribution of Narcan to all participants. Narcan, also known as naloxone, is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of opioid overdoses.



The Health Department and Tia Hart Recovery Center hosted the Overdose Awareness Day. (Submitted photo)

This initiative aimed to put this critical tool in the hands of community members who might be able to help someone in need. Additionally, the event offered naloxone training to those who were interested. This hands-on training equipped attendees with the knowledge and skills to administer naloxone effectively, increasing the chances of saving lives during opioid-related emergencies. The opioid crisis continues to affect communities nationwide, and events like this play a crucial role in combating the devastating effects of addiction. The Hoke County Health Department and

Tia Hart Community Recovery Organization are making strides toward a safer and healthier future for all by raising awareness, providing life-saving resources, and fostering a sense of community. Shirley Hart, founder of Tia Hart Community Recovery Organization, expressed her gratitude for the partnership. "Working with the Hoke County Health Department to raise awareness about overdose prevention has been an incredible experience. Our communities need support now more than ever, and by joining forces, we are making a real difference," she said in a statement.

Two charged with trafficking fentanyl

Authorities with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office have arrested two people following a traffic stop that turned up suspected fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine and psychedelic mushrooms. Officers with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office Violent Crime Task Force arrested Dennis Larell Maynor, 32, of the 6100 block of Independence Place in Fayetteville, and Chazmine Tyree Sherrod, 29, of the 700 block of Old Wilmington Road in Fayetteville on charges including two counts of trafficking a Schedule I controlled substance, possession with intent to sell or

deliver a Schedule II controlled substance (meth), possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The Hoke County Sheriff's Office Violent Crime Task Force conducted a traffic stop Friday, October 6 in the parking lot of the gas station located at Fayetteville Road and Wayside Road. Hoke County Sheriff's Office Special Operations were in the area and went to assist, according to a press release. "The occupants of the vehicle were identified as Dennis Larell Maynor and Chazmine Tyree Sherrod. A canine went around the vehicle and gave a positive alert.

A search of the vehicle resulted in 76 grams of suspected fentanyl being located. Detectives also located a 9mm firearm, six (6) grams suspected cocaine, five (5) grams of suspected methamphetamine, a pack of psychedelic mushrooms and items of paraphernalia. All items were found in a common area of the vehicle," according to the press release from the sheriff's office. Investigators determined Maynor and Sherrod had previously been convicted of a felony. They were arrested at the scene and taken to the Hoke County Detention Center. Maynor and Sherrod were held under \$100,000 secured bonds.

Carolina Horse Park fundraiser 'Casino Royale' is Friday

The Carolina Horse Park Foundation in Hoke County is celebrating its 25th anniversary and will hold its "Casino Royale" fundraiser event this Friday, October 13 from 6-10 p.m. at Village Pine Venue in Carthage. Supporters can try their hand at roulette, craps, blackjack and poker. Attendees can enjoy a night of silent and live auctions, hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. Auction items include trip packages, Fairfax & Favor Windsor and Mini-Windsor handbags, a Bourbon Boys basket, clothing

and accessories from local shops, photo packages, a spa day, football tickets and much more. Tickets are \$85 for a single guest, \$150 for two tickets, with other options available for larger parties. Each guest receives \$10,000 in chips at the entrance. Tickets are available online. Visit <https://carolinahorsepark.com> for a link to purchase tickets. The auction raises money for the park, located in Five Points in Hoke County. The Carolina Horse Park Foundation is a nationally-recognized

equestrian competition venue that was founded in 1998. The 501c3 not-for-profit organization hosts many equestrian events throughout the year, drawing riders to Hoke County who strive at high levels of competition. Even former Olympians have been among the competitors. Besides horse trials, the Park hosts agricultural and other fun outdoor activities. Visit <http://www.carolinahorsepark.com> for more on the Carolina Horse Park's upcoming events. The park is located at 2814 Montrose Road.

Festival

(Continued from page 1)
tournament closed earlier this week, with golfers set to enjoy lunch at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The annual Melissa Kaye Senior Bingo Day will be Wednesday, October 18 at the Raeford Civic Center from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Over 100 seniors signed up and there is a waiting list for people hoping for cancellations. The event is named in honor of the late Melissa Pittman, longtime Festival director. The North Carolina Fall Festival Parade will take place Thursday, October 19 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The parade will feature floats from

Hoke County schools, local businesses, nonprofit groups, as well as car clubs, sports teams and more. The Hoke High School Mighty Marching Bucks will perform. The parade will begin at the high school and go down Harris Avenue, onto Main Street, then left on West Donaldson Avenue to Bethel Road, and back to the high school. The street fair downtown will be from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, October 21 on Main Street in Raeford. The big day will start with an opening ceremony at 9 a.m. at the main stage, located beside the Chamber of Commerce office at the corner of Main

Street and East Central Avenue. The event will feature scores of vendors selling everything from home décor to jewelry and apparel. This year, all of the food vendors will be located in the area behind PNC Bank. There will be live entertainment on two stages, the main stage beside the Chamber of Commerce, and the stage next to the Hoke County Public Library. See inside this week's issue of The News-Journal for full details on the event schedule, information on vendors and performers, and more about the 2023 North Carolina Fall Festival.

City

(Continued from page 1)
"Some of this money is also going to be set aside for some sewer connections in Cameron Heights," Baxley said. A member of the community had sought assistance from the state to help pay for the connections. The sewer service is already there but some lines may need extending, the city manager said. "She went to Raleigh and petitioned to get some money and we agreed to oversee the project for her," he said. The funds come to the city through the Department of Environmental Quality.

Other projects
Now that the Raeford City Council has the parks master plan in place, the next step will be to tackle the improvements and ad-

ditions at the city's park facilities according to the priority ranking of four projects recommended by the plan. "I talked with the engineers today and we'll meet probably the first of November and start putting together a project and applying for funding, probably from the parks and recreation trust fund," Baxley said. In other local projects, the city also recently agreed to buy a former parking lot from the House of Raeford, in order to expand the Raeford Cemetery. The council met in a special called session at 8 a.m. Friday, September 15 to consider the option. The council members heard a brief update on the matter from City Manager Dennis Baxley before voting unanimously to buy the land. The parking lot is about 3.26 acres. The House of Raeford put

the property up for sale through bids at Iron Horse Auction. The city made the winning bid of \$154,150 on September 12, according to the contract for purchase. The purchase also included a 10 percent buyer's premium, bringing the total final sales price to \$169,565. The land's most recent assessed tax value was \$215,520, according to the property tax card on the county's GIS. The total value including the building on the property was assessed at \$339,140, based on the tax card record. The contract included time for the city to conduct due diligence work regarding the site. That work is underway now, Baxley reported this week. "We're waiting to get the phase one back and to actually do the loan closing," he said.

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Haunting Tales from The News-Journal Archives



Bones believed Cameron's were found in this area on Cameron farm ... Excavation was filled after the search was completed. Cameron's home is in the background. (Photo from 1979)

Bones believed to be Cameron's found; widow dies of apparent self-inflicted wound

Originally published by The News-Journal December 20, 1979

Mrs. Winnie McNeill Cameron, 69, was found dead Friday of a gunshot wound apparently self-inflicted. The day after investigators reported bones believed those of her husband, Edward Leon Cameron, missing 35 years, had been found buried near the Cameron home in Timberland. Hoke County Sheriff David Barrington reported a note

written by Mrs. Cameron said she had killed her husband. He declined to say what else the note contained. The sheriff said the investigation was continuing. The Camerons' son, Edward Leon Cameron, Jr. of Warren Township, N.J., and a friend of the family, Joe McLeod, a Fayetteville attorney, flying in a borrowed airplane, discovered Mrs. Cameron's car on the Cameron farm. Barrington found the body about 50 feet from the car in woods near the

edge of the property. He said she had been shot in the chest with a .32 caliber, six-shot revolver, which was still in her hand, and no other wounds were found on her body. Her son and McLeod started searching for her Friday afternoon after they failed to find Mrs. Cameron at home and noticed that a gun was missing from the house.

A reporter for The News-Journal had failed to get a response to his knock on the door of the farmhouse Friday morning and saw no one nor a vehicle on the grounds when he walked around the side of the house to see whether Mrs. Cameron was out?

He had gone to the Cameron home to get pictures of the area where the digging for the bones had been done and of the farm house and to see whether Mrs. Cameron would comment on the news stories published Thursday and Friday about the search for her missing husband.

The bones were found in the place where a privy once stood, east of the house in digging with a backhoe by an operator, both from Crumpler Funeral Home Wednesday and Thursday morning. Some were found each day, the sheriff said. The search for the remains of the missing man was started by the sheriff after the FBI in Florida relayed to the sheriff's department Oct. 25 information provided by the Camerons' oldest child, Mrs. Annie Blue Cameron Perry of Orlando, Fla., who requested it to be given to Hoke County authorities. The elder Cameron was last seen the night of April 8, 1944, the night before Easter. A search warrant obtained by the sheriff provides this information.

Mrs. Perry remembered seeing her father's body on a bedroom floor and her mother in the kitchen with pots and pans of bloody water in the sink, on Easter morning. Mrs. Perry was 10 years old then. The following week after returning from school one day, the child saw her father's face, when she looked into a hole in the outhouse. Mrs. Perry talked to investigators after calling during psychoanalysis memories of her father's death, memories which had been repressed, the sheriff said. The Camerons had an argument the night of April 8. On Easter morning, Mrs. Perry asked her mother where her father was, and her mother replied that he had left. During that day, Mrs. Perry saw her mother go into the unused front bedroom several times. After Mrs. Cameron left the house, Mrs. Perry opened the bedroom door. She saw her father's body about five feet from her and he appeared to be dead. That night, while Mrs. Perry was in bed, she heard sounds of movement in the backyard and saw

a large cardboard box on the back porch. Barrington said Mrs. Perry was hypnotized at one point during the investigation to be sure that no other information was being hidden inadvertently in her subconscious. The hypnosis was effected by State Sen. Joe B. Raynor of Fayetteville, whose work has helped investigations of previous criminal cases elsewhere. The sheriff also said that the therapy Mrs. Perry received in Florida recently has enabled her to face the childhood memories and the emotions she had suffered from her father's death. He said Mrs. Perry came to Hoke County from Orlando and helped the investigators. She is a member of the faculty of Valencia Community College of Orlando. Dr. John Butts, deputy state chief medical examiner, said Friday night the chief medical examiner's office in Chapel Hill as early as that time had established a presumption that the bones were those of Cameron. He said an analysis revealed that the body had been chopped up or cut up.

On order of Dr. Robert Townsend, a Hoke County medical examiner, Mrs. Cameron's body also was sent to the medical examiner's office for an autopsy to determine scientifically the cause of Mrs. Cameron's death. Found with the bones at the site; of the old outhouse were part of a billfold and the picture of an unidentified woman encased in a plastic frame. Barrington said Monday the motive for the killing has not been determined. He also said the back of the woman's picture found in the search bore the name Kate McD. King. He said she was an aunt of Mrs. Cameron. "McD." is an abbreviation of "McDiarmid."

In reference to the quarreling between Cameron and his wife Aug. 8, the sheriff quoted Mrs. Perry as saying she heard them arguing in Raeford and then again, after she went to bed, in the house, but she was unable to make out the words.

Digging was done under the supervision of Hoke sheriff's officers, SBI Agent Wade Anders, and Dr. Page Hudson, state chief medical examiner.

The 1944 story follows in full.
*** No word has been received

of E. Leon Cameron, prominent and popular Hoke County farmer, who disappeared from his home at Timberland about two o'clock in the morning the night of Saturday, April 8. Members of his family are at a complete loss to explain his action.

He, with his family, had been in Raeford Saturday night and on returning home he posted his farm books up to date and then, without a word to anyone, stepped out the back door. It was said that while he may have had about \$40 in his person, he did not take his pocketbook and probably had no papers with him by which he might be identified, having left his driving license and other papers in his wallet which was found in some work clothing worn during the afternoon.

Apparently there were no money worries, as in the past few years he had cleared the title of his farm lands and had a substantial balance of money and War Bonds in the local bank. He was not dressed as if he planned to go on a trip and did not leave in his car which was there in the yard. Officers have checked the various means and routes by which he might have left and no regular bus or taxi from this section has been found to have taken on a passenger in that section who meets the description of Mr. Cameron.

Loss of memory or possibly foul play are feared to have been the cause of his disappearance, though no evidence of the latter has been found and no reason for it can be advanced by persons best acquainted with him. County and State authorities have been given descriptions and a general search is being conducted throughout the Carolinas and Virginia.

He is described as being five feet seven inches in height, weighs about 150 pounds, ruddy complexion and 34 years of age. When last seen he was wearing his work clothes.

Cameron's brother, the late John B. Cameron served for many years as clerk of Hoke County Superior Court.

Delay In Getting Data Cited By Hoke Sheriff
Mrs. Annie Blue Cameron

Perry authorized the FBI last March to give the Hoke County Sheriff's Department information concerning the death of her father, James Leon Cameron, 35 years ago. But the federal agency didn't relay it till Oct. 25. Hoke Sheriff David Barrington is quoted by The News & Observer of Raleigh as saying last week. Barrington told The News-Journal Monday, however, he was not upset by the delay because seven months more, after 35 years, didn't make much difference. The newspaper article published last week quotes Barrington also as saying the FBI report also contained a mistake. The seven-month delay and the error combined served to delay the start of the investigation by the Hoke sheriff's department and the SBI that led to the discovery of bones apparently those of Cameron, who reportedly walked away from his farm home in Timberland during the night of April 8, 1944. The sheriff said Mrs. Perry, who lives in Orlando, Fla., told the FBI Board a year ago of her childhood memories of seeing her father's body on the floor of a bedroom in the Cameron home and of seeing his face in the outhouse later but didn't authorize its relay to Hoke County till three months later. The FBI offices in Charlotte and Florida said they couldn't explain the delay. One mistake in the FBI report was Mrs. Perry's home was in Tallahassee, Fla., instead of Orlando. This caused a delay in the start of the investigation in addition to the seven-months delay in transmitting the report. Mrs. Perry later led the investigators to the place where the outhouse had stood. Cameron's wife, Mrs. Winnie McNeill Cameron, continued living in the farm home till her death Friday, the day after a report said the bones had been found. She was found dead on the farm of a bullet wound apparently self-inflicted, and a note she had written said she had killed Cameron, the sheriff has reported. The sheriff was among the people who attended the graveside services held Monday afternoon in Raeford Cemetery.

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SPORTS

The Gridiron

Fighting Bucks' comeback falls short at Southern Lee

SCOTT BOUCHER
Sports Writer

The Bucks traveled to Lee County last Friday hoping to ruin Southern Lee's Homecoming festivities. It did not go the way the Bucks were hoping. The come-back fell short and the Cavaliers held on for a 21-14 victory in front of the home crowd for Homecoming.

The offense struggled for much of the game but the defense kept the Bucks in the game. Neither team was able to find the endzone until late in the 2nd quarter when Southern Lee's JoJo Douglas went in on an 11-yard TD run with 3:11 in the half.

The Bucks next drive ended on

the only turnover of the game when Julian McNeil intercepted a Brandon Saunders pass and returned it to inside the Hoke County 40-yard line. A Mike Blanks 5-yard TD run with 1:39 left in the half gave the Cavaliers a 14-0 halftime lead.

The defense controlled the third quarter and the Bucks offense started to get some momentum and move the ball. The Bucks reached the end zone with 8:14 left in the game when Sr RB Jairo Ortiz found the end zone from 2 yards out.

The mood in the game seemed to be going the Bucks' way until the ensuing kickoff when Southern Lee ran the ball back for a TD and a 21-6 lead with under 8 minutes left in the game. The

Bucks would return the favor on the next kickoff returning it to the Cavalier 9-yard line. The Bucks would again find the endzone and the two-point conversion to cut the lead to 21-14. The Cavaliers looked to try and run out the clock on its next drive and settled for a field goal attempt with under 1 minute to play. The defensive front line blew up the play and got a huge block off the field goal and the recovery, setting the Bucks up near mid-field. The Bucks were unable to



Senior WR #3 Seriyon Wilson looks in on the play call.

connect on the passing plays and the game would end on a sack to run out the clock.

The Bucks return to action this Friday night as they host Union Pines for Homecoming.



So. #14 Jaime Gueta makes run towards the goal at Richmond.

Down on the Pitch - Boys Soccer

SCOTT BOUCHER
Sports Writer

The Fighting Bucks hosted Lee County before going on the Road to face Richmond County. The Bucks fought until the end against Lee County before falling 3-2. The Yellow Jackets went up 2-0 in the first half. In the second half Jr. Jose Vazquez De La Cruz and Sr. Johnathan Peña each found the net to keep the Bucks in the game. Lee County's Brandon Harding would score the game winner and his third goal of the game for the difference in the game.

In the second match of the week the Bucks traveled down Rockingham to take on the Raiders of Richmond County. The Bucks would take a 1-0 lead into halftime and then extend the lead for a 3-1 victory. The Bucks' Joas Hernandez (Fr) Leo Ramirez (Sr) David Flores (Sr) each netted a goal while assists were recorded by David Hernandez (Jr), Vazquez De La Cruz (Jr), and Dinari Bascombe (Sr).

The junior varsity team split the games during the week losing against Lee County 3-1 while winning 1-0 at Richmond on a goal from Yahir Jueraz (Fr).



Bucks line-up for their first score of the game (Photos by Scott Boucher)



Senior P #29 Josue Hernandez-Lima flips the field on this punt.



Jr. #10 Jose Vazquez De La Cruz takes the corner against Lee County. (Photos by Estephanie Tolentino)



2023 Cross Country Seniors: Aiden DeRieux, Xavier Bell, Raley Edwards, Nakel Jacobs, Logan Lopo, Dequavious Mosley and Matias Rylander (not pictured). (Photos by Scott Boucher)

It's A Runners World - Cross Country

SCOTT BOUCHER
Sports Writer

The Fighting Bucks cross-country hosted its last conference meet of the season. This night would also serve as Senior Night for seven runners on this year's boys team. This evening the coaches and runners took the time to celebrate the accompaniments of Xavier Bell, Aiden DeRieux, Raley Edwards, Nakel Jacobs, Logan Lupo, Dequavious Mosley, and Matias Rylander.

The Bucks welcomed the teams from Union Pines High School, Lee County High School, and Southern Lee High School. In the meet Sr. Nakel Jacobs finished

2nd overall in a time of 17:16.87 while Jr. Isaac Fitzpatrick finished 3rd overall in a time of 17:18.80. The Bucks place in the top ten as they prepare for a very competitive conference championship week. Overall team results for the meet were Union Pines 26, Hoke County 31.

In the girls event the Bucks were again led by freshman Harley Hardin who finished 2nd in a time of 21:34.90 and Alondra Cardenas Resindez who finished 6th in a time of 24:01.66. Sophomore Riley Kirkman would add a new personal record (PR) with a time of 26:38.53. Overall team scores for the girls were Union Pines 20, Hoke County 40.



Riley Kirkman on her way to a personal record.

HOKE COUNTY ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Freshman Harley Hardin - Girls Cross Country

Boucher: How long have you participated in cross country?

Hardin: I did a running program in 4th grade but I really got into it during 7th grade.

Boucher: What got you interested in cross country?

Hardin: I don't really know what actually pushed me into cross country but I liked it because I can run off my problems and it helps with my stamina for wrestling.

Boucher: Do you play other sports at Hoke County High School?

Hardin: Well since I'm a freshman the only one I've gotten to do is cross country but I am looking forward to wrestling.

Boucher: What strengths from cross country cross over to other sports for you? What do you believe to be one of your weaknesses and what are you doing to improve them?

Hardin: Like I said cross country helps with my stamina for wrestling. I think one of my weaknesses is not pushing myself enough when I'm running. I'm trying to push myself more and push my limits, but it might take some more time.

Boucher: Is there a coach or athlete that you look up to as a role model and why?

Hardin: I don't think there is one specific person I look up to but

if I think one it would be my old wrestling coach, Coach Tilley (Ms. Tilley) because she pushes and believes in me.

Boucher: What advice do you give younger athletes coming into the program?

Hardin: It's gonna be tough and you might feel like dying but if you push through it will all be worth it and it will get you far, also sometimes it is actually mind over matter.

Boucher: As a freshman, how do you hope to step up as a leader in the future for this team?

Hardin: I would like to step up with guiding the freshman and helping them next year, and they don't have to be freshman either, they can be any year and still need help which is ok.

Boucher: Have you set any goals as an individual and team for this year and the future?

Hardin: Yes, as I progress through high school and cross country I want to be able to run with the top guys, and make time with them.

Boucher: What is your next goal?

Hardin: My goal is just to keep progressing even if it's by a little bit at a time.

Boucher: As a freshman have you given any thought to your future plans, will cross country or another

sport be a part of those plans?

Hardin: Yes as I move up in high school I still want to keep cross country as one of my sports.

Boucher: What do you believe is most athletes' greatest challenge today?

Hardin: I think maybe setting goals for themselves, sometimes the goals they set either push them too hard or they don't push themselves enough.

Boucher: How do you hope to improve throughout the season?

Hardin: I hope to get better times and better places throughout the seasons.

Boucher: In what area have your coaches helped you most?

Hardin: I think my coaches have helped me with pushing me to my limits.

Boucher: How do you want your teammates to view you?

Hardin: I would like my teammates to view me as a friend they can depend on most times and also as a teammate that can help push them.

Boucher: Do you have any hobbies or interests outside of sports?

Hardin: I don't think I do, I guess sports are kinda my "hobby".

Boucher: What colleges are you looking at in your future? What school would be your dream school?

Hardin: I haven't really looked into schools and my future like that

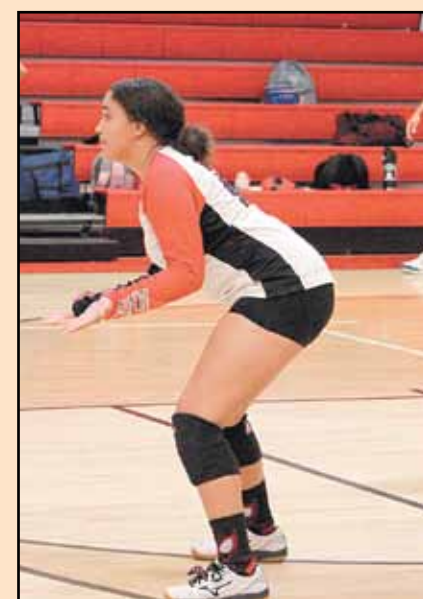


Harley Hardin finished 2nd overall in the last home meet of the season. (Photo by Scott Boucher)

yet, but I just hope I can make it into some type of school or career/job that will make my family happy.

Boucher: What do you plan to study while in college?

Hardin: Like I said I haven't really looked into my future that far yet.



Jr. #10 Chayna Locklear prepares to receive the serve. (Photos by Scott Boucher)



Jr. #12 Aliyah Morrissey goes all-in on the dig.

Are You Digging It - Volleyball

SCOTT BOUCHER
Sports Writer

The Bucks were on the road twice last week as they traveled to Southern Lee to start the week. In another hard fought five set match, the Bucks found what they needed to take the match 3-2. In its second match the Bucks went to Moore County to take on the Lady Vikings of Union

Pines High School. The Bucks played hard but fell in straight sets 12-25, 19-25, and 12-25. The JV team split the matches during the week winning at Southern Lee 2-1 and falling to Union Pines 2-0. Junior varsity players Aubrey Carpenter and Karmen Campbell are gaining experience playing some games with the varsity as the team prepares for the conference tournament.

Sports News to Report?
Email

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H.A.T.S.

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6:00 AM	6:10 AM	6:20 AM	6:30 AM	6:45 AM	6:52 AM	7:02 AM	7:12 AM				
7:30 AM	7:40 AM	7:50 AM	8:00 AM	8:15 AM	8:22 AM	8:32 AM	8:42 AM				
9:00 AM	9:10 AM	9:20 AM	9:30 AM	9:45 AM	9:52 AM	10:02 AM	10:12 AM				
10:30 AM	10:40 AM	10:50 AM	11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:22 AM	11:32 AM	11:42 AM				
12:00 PM	12:10 PM	12:20 PM	12:30 PM	12:45 PM	12:52 PM	1:02 PM	1:12 PM				
1:30 PM	1:40 PM	1:50 PM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:22 PM	2:32 PM	2:42 PM				
3:00 PM	3:10 PM	3:20 PM	3:30 PM	3:45 PM	3:52 PM	4:02 PM	4:12 PM				
4:30 PM	4:40 PM	4:50 PM	5:00 PM	5:15 PM	5:22 PM	5:32 PM	5:42 PM				
Route 2		SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	BUTTERBALL	MCLAUGHLIN BUILDING	BURLINGTON PARK	DOLLAR GENERAL	DMV	WALMART	JAMES A. LEACH AQUATIC & REC CENTER		
6:00 AM	6:10 AM	6:20 AM	6:27 AM	6:37 AM	6:49 AM	7:00 AM	7:12 AM				
7:30 AM	7:40 AM	7:50 AM	7:57 AM	8:07 AM	8:19 AM	8:30 AM	8:42 AM				
9:00 AM	9:10 AM	9:20 AM	9:27 AM	9:37 AM	9:49 AM	10:00 AM	10:12 AM				
10:30 AM	10:40 AM	10:50 AM	10:57 AM	11:07 AM	11:19 AM	11:30 AM	11:42 AM				
12:00 PM	12:10 PM	12:20 PM	12:27 PM	12:37 PM	12:49 PM	1:00 PM	1:12 PM				
1:30 PM	1:40 PM	1:50 PM	1:57 PM	2:07 PM	2:19 PM	2:30 PM	2:42 PM				
3:00 PM	3:10 PM	3:20 PM	3:27 PM	3:37 PM	3:49 PM	4:00 PM	4:12 PM				
4:30 PM	4:40 PM	4:50 PM	4:57 PM	5:07 PM	5:19 PM	5:30 PM	5:42 PM				
Route 3		ROCKFISH COMMUNITY BUILDING	CAPE FEAR VALLEY PAVILION	STONEGATE PLAZA	JAMES A. LEACH AQUATIC & REC CENTER	WALMART	DMV	SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	BUTTERBALL	MCLAUGHLIN BUILDING	TYLERTOWN COMMUNITY BUILDING
6:00 AM	6:12 AM	6:20 AM	6:30 AM	6:40 AM	6:50 AM	7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:18 AM	7:30 AM		
8:00 AM	8:12 AM	8:20 AM	8:30 AM	8:40 AM	8:50 AM	9:00 AM	9:10 AM	9:18 AM	9:30 AM		
10:00 AM	10:12 AM	10:20 AM	10:30 AM	10:40 AM	10:50 AM	11:00 AM	11:10 AM	11:18 AM	11:30 AM		
12:00 PM	12:12 PM	12:20 PM	12:30 PM	12:40 PM	12:50 PM	1:00 PM	1:10 PM	1:18 PM	1:30 PM		
2:00 PM	2:12 PM	2:20 PM	2:30 PM	2:40 PM	2:50 PM	3:00 PM	3:10 PM	3:18 PM	3:30 PM		
4:00 PM	4:12 PM	4:20 PM	4:30 PM	4:40 PM	4:50 PM	5:00 PM	5:10 PM	5:18 PM	5:30 PM		

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