

The News-Journal

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Wednesday, April 23, 2025

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

No. 9 Vol. 120

County employee insurance changes

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Editor

A change to Hoke County government employee insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield North Carolina is meant to save money with cost pooling in a self-funded cooperative. After the change takes effect July

1, Hoke County Government Medical Insurance will increase by 6.7 percent, with no increase in dental premiums. If the county had not changed to the new option, insurance costs under the current plan would have gone up 13.5 percent, officials discussed at the commission meeting (See *INSURANCE*, page 8)

Rezoning weren't properly advertised, tabled until May 8

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Editor

Two rezoning requests, including one intended for future high-density housing on Townsend Road, ended up tabled last Thursday night after citizens told the Hoke County Planning Board that the rezonings were not properly advertised.

The first rezoning request was for about 14 acres of land on Townsend Road, which would rezone the property from Residential Agricultural-20 (RA-20) to Residential-8 (R-8) with high-density option. The request was submitted by Raeford Development.

The second rezoning request (See *REZONINGS*, page 3)

Schools seeking new contract for driver's ed

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Editor

Teens getting behind the wheel for the first time could be receiving instructions in driver's education from a new company starting this summer, depending on the outcome of a request for prices from Hoke County Schools.

The Hoke County Board of Education voted last week to approve sending out a request for price information request for a new contract to provide driver's education training. The district's current contract expires June 30.

Under the board's policy 6450, Purchase of Services, "Contracts (See *SCHOOLS*, page 3)



NASCAR Xfinity series comes to Rockingham

Driver Jesse Love blazed down the track at Rockingham Speedway in the NASCAR Xfinity series, behind the wheel of the Number 2 Whelen Chevrolet Camaro SS for Richard Childress Racing. Love came in first but ended up disqualified after his car failed a post-race inspection, giving the win to Sammy Smith in the North Carolina Education Lottery 250. (Jason Jackson photos)

Feel the thunder: NASCAR's epic return to "The Rock"

JASON JACKSON
Sports Photojournalist

racing fan or just someone who loves a good story.

Imagine a sunny Saturday where the air buzzes with excitement, the smell of gasoline mixes with the cheers of a pumped-up crowd, and the ground shakes as 38 cars race by. That's what went down this past Saturday when NASCAR roared back to Rockingham Speedway after more than 20 years away. The North Carolina Education Lottery 250 wasn't just a race—it was a wild, emotional party that pulled everyone in, whether you're a

A Nod to the Busch Series Era

Rockingham Speedway, a staple of NASCAR's past, hosted Busch Series races from 1982 to 2004, with legends like Mark Martin, Jeff Burton, and Jamie McMurray etching their names into the track's history. Those races were characterized by tight, abrasive racing on a 1.017-mile layout where tire wear and track position were paramount. (See *NASCAR*, page 10)



Elijah McCormick, of Raeford NC and American Idol Finalist, Sings The Star-Spangled Banner. (Jason Jackson Photo)

Hoke looking for fuel vendors

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Editor

About a year after choosing to create a county-owned fuel point where county vehicles can gas up, Hoke County leaders have voted to put out a request for qualifications from vendors who can supply fuel for it.

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners voted Monday night to approve a request for qualifications

(RFQ) for fuel services. The services are specifically for 89 octane gasoline, diesel fuel and propane.

In addition to servicing the county fuel point, the vendor would also be responsible for providing fuel for 10 emergency backup generator locations and potentially additional generator or shelter sites during declared emergencies or disasters.

"Hoke County is soliciting qualifications from experienced and qualified fuel vendors to provide the

delivery and servicing of 89 Octane (Regular) Gasoline, Highway Diesel Fuel, and Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) to various county-operated locations," according to the document that the board approved Monday night.

As for the scope of the work, in addition to providing routine fuel deliveries, the vendor must make sure to maintain a fuel resupply schedule "to ensure no interruption (See *FUEL*, page 4)



Honoring Deputy McPherson

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office honored Deputy Chris McPherson by presenting an honorary deputy badge to his wife. "We recently lost our brother after his courageous battle with cancer. His dedication and service to Hoke County will never be forgotten. Rest easy, brother we've got it from here," the Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post. (Hoke Sheriff's Office photo)

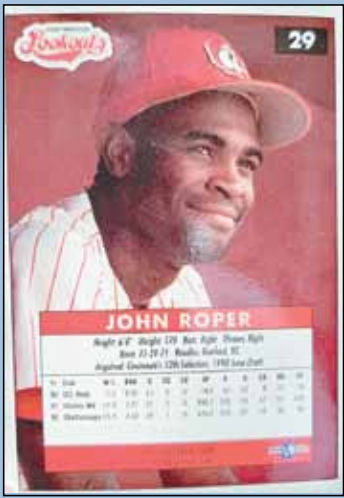
Hoke County Legends Professional baseball player John Roper

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Editor

John Roper is one of Hoke County's many home-grown athletes who excelled in sports as a student, and took the next step to go on to play baseball professionally in both the minor and major leagues.

Roper grew up with a love of sports, and possessed both the talent and drive to excel on the baseball diamond and on the football field. A living legend, he helped lead Hoke County High School to the state 4A Baseball Championship his senior year.

(See *LEGEND*, page 10)



John Roper

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Editor

Tens of millions of dollars in state funding for Hoke County projects, and federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina are just a few of the pieces of legislation in the works right now.

The bills have been introduced in their respective legislatures, but where are those bills now in the process of potentially becoming law?

Federal Lumbee Fairness Act

In January, North Carolina Sens. Thom Tillis and Ted Budd, both Republicans, reintroduced legislation called the Lumbee Fairness Act that would grant the Lumbee Tribe federal recognition. Rep. David Rouzer likewise introduced the legislation in the House of Representatives.

The state of North Carolina recognized the Lumbee people as a Tribe in 1885. In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Lumbee Act, which "recognized the Lumbee as the Lumbee Indians of North Carolina but denied Lumbee Indians Federal benefits associated with such recognition."

The most recently reintroduced bill, is far from the first time that North Carolina's legislators have tried to get federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe. The bill has been introduced multiple times, most recently last year, with all previous attempts dying without Congress having taken action.

The Lumbee Tribe had the support of not only some North Carolina elected officials, but also the president, in its pursuit of federal recognition. Just a few days after his

inauguration in January, President Donald Trump signed a memorandum, "Federal Recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina," directing the United States Department of the Interior Secretary to "pursue all options to finally grant the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina with full federal recognition."

The pursuit for federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe has drawn criticism from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The State of North Carolina currently recognizes eight Tribes: the Coharie, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, the Meherrin, the Sappony, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation and the Waccamaw Siouan, according to the UNC American Indian Center.

(See *UPDATES*, page 8)

BROWSING THE FILES

82 Years Ago

April 15, 1943

The biggest war financing operation in history began Monday. The Treasury calls it “The Second War Loan Drive.” It will run for three weeks. Uncle Sam will borrow Thirteen Billion Dollars from the Nation, Sixty Two Million is to come from North Carolina and One Hundred and Twenty Seven Thousand of this from Hoke County. Lawrence McNeill, who is War Bond Chairman for Hoke County will be assisted in this Special Drive by Tommie Upchurch. The money will be raised and everybody will do his part.

“Many women in Hoke County will be interested in the following information which was recently released by OPA,” says Josephine Hall, Home Agent. “On March 3 materials to build 150,000 steel pressure cookers of the 7 quart size were allocated to three pressure cooker manufacturers. Since the supply of cookers will fall far short of meeting the unprecedented demand, all pressure cookers produced in 1943 will be rationed. The Department of Agriculture will be responsible for allocations to states and will outline rationing procedure just as soon as possible. No orders will be filled by the manufacturers this year direct to individual users.”

Dean Schaub, Director of Extension Work in North Carolina, has asked that 5,000 cookers be sent to North Carolina. This will



Some fancy stitching went into this quilt made by Mrs. Carl Pratt, Rt. 1, Red Springs. Mrs. Pratt, who is president of the Allendale-Antioch Extension Homemakers, brought the quilt by the Hoke County Extension Office this week for display. She said it took her three weeks to complete. In all, she plans to make five quilts, one for each of her daughters. (From April 1978)

be an average of 50 to a county. Since Hoke County is small it is expected that the county will not be allocated over 30 or 40.

When the managers of the Home Food Market, large locally owned grocery, arrived at the store Saturday morning they found that they had been neatly robbed the night before. The full length glass

in the front door had been taken out and was carefully set to the side, while the robber walked in. He had removed the quarter-round, and lifted the glass out with plyers. About \$300 that had been put in, what was thought a safe place, for the night before was missing.

Hoke County farm youngsters were invited today to compete in

a \$6,000 wartime food production and marketing contest sponsored by the National Junior Vegetable Growers Association.

Would one ever have thought several years ago that Raeford would have housed many Hollywood celebrities? Well the service and cuisine of the Raeford Hotel under the management of St. Cloud and Lewis has brought many movie actors here this past winter who were playing for Fort Bragg soldiers. The past week Dick Powell was here for several days. His desire for privacy and quiet was respected. That’s what brings ‘em.

Bill Upchurch, now assistant manager of Pender’s has decided not to play ball this season. He has his contract with the Richmond Colts but will not sign as he is awaiting his call to the army.

The election of Mayor and Town Aldermen last week was a quiet affair. Only sixteen votes were cast and little interest was shown. Carl Morris who served out Dr. Brown’s unexpired term was elected Mayor and three old Aldermen were elected; they are Lawrence Stanton, Neill McFadyen, A.V. Saunders, two new ones are Milton Campbell and Crawford Thomas.

65 Years Ago

April 14, 1960

Hoke County’s board of commissioners had a long and hard day on Wednesday at a special meeting. They heard several property owners on matters of tax valuations, and were to act on these before adjourning late yesterday, and they heard representatives of other boards and departments in the county on matters concerning the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The sacred cantata, “The Seven Last Words of Christ,” by Theodore Dubois, will be presented by the combined chorus from the Raeford Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in the Presbyterian Church Friday night, April 15, at 8 o’clock.

Special education teachers met at the J.W. McLauchlin Elementary School Friday. The group gathered to discuss problems that arise in this special field and to look at some new aspects of training. Two supervisors from the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction’s Division of Special Education attended to give the teachers information on the latest methods of instruction being used throughout the state.

In Hoke County recorder’s



By summer the vines will probably have covered this old pickup truck by U.S. Highway 401 just south of the Raeford city limits. (From April 1978)

court Tuesday, Judge Harry Greene had to deal with one man for breaking into the soft drink machine at a local service station, and with two soldiers for driving the same car drunk on the same night, possessing beverages illegally, and with working over the county jail from the inside.

plots than usual in spite of a recommendation last week that the city raise its prices on burial spaces. The city council was told April 3 that some people are choosing Raeford as a last resting place for their relatives because it’s cheaper to bury them here than anywhere else.

A man of the community was seriously injured Friday when the car he was driving overturned on the access road between Highway 211 and Upchurch High School. He was taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville following the accident around 11 p.m. Police Chief Lawrence Stanton said that the man would be charged with speeding. He was listed as in fair condition, suffering from lacerations and a severe head injury, according to hospital officials Saturday. Last reports state his condition satisfactory. The car, a ‘59 Oldsmobile, was declared a total loss by insurance adjusters.

47 Years Ago

April 13, 1978

When they left clad in shorts and summer wear, the temperature in Raeford was in the 80s. But upon arriving in Wisconsin, they found a chilly 42 degrees awaiting them and the sunshine and warmth of North Carolina were 23 hours behind them. Thirty-four students, all from Hartford, Wisconsin, came to Raeford last week as part of a domestic exchange program. About 30 Raeford kids spent a week in Wisconsin in February.

The stage is set for a lively public hearing in Raeford this Thursday night when local residents will get the chance to tell Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and military representatives what they think of a military air zone that has been proposed for Hoke County. Public sentiment here has been running strongly in opposition to the proposed zone, called a Military Operations Area (MOA).

A local woman was arrested Friday following the shooting death of a Raeford man, police Chief V.L. Wiggins said. The 27-year-old woman was arrested and charged with murder in the slaying of a 21-year-old. Officers responded to a call around 1:25 a.m. and arrived at the home to find the victim had been shot and killed. Police say they confiscated a 12-gauge shotgun believed to be the murder weapon.

The City of Raeford hasn’t been selling any more cemetery

Two political rivals for the office of Hoke County Sheriff seemed to be in perfect agreement Monday night at a meet-the-candidates forum held by the Raeford Lions Club. Incumbent Sheriff D.M. Barrington and Raeford Police Officer Harvey Young had nothing but kind words for each other. They might have been fraternity brothers.

25 Years Ago

April 12, 2000

At last night’s Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Don Steed formally announced his retirement, effective June 30, after 31 years with the Hoke County public school system. Summing up some of his thoughts in a memo, Steed said, “I would like to thank Hoke County for thirty-one years.” “I want to thank our former Board of Education for hiring me and this present Board for allowing me to serve with them. It has been a pleasure to work with two boards of education that have been so dedicated to the students of Hoke County. No member had any hidden agenda, and each member put the students’ well-being ahead of everything else.”

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners has frozen hiring in the Sheriff’s Department because the department’s budget is overspent. The board had complained about a budget shortage in the sheriff’s department last week, and was forced to transfer money from the county’s general fund to cover an extra \$41,285 in Y2K upgrades.

Hoke County, “the county of promise,” will be able to promise more in the way of incentives to attract business and industry, thanks to a new state ranking. The N.C. Department of Commerce recently moved Hoke from one tier to another allowing a greater state tax credit to existing and future businesses and industries.

At Monday evening’s City Council meeting, Council members voted to annex property and also re-appropriate its use to make it possible for John Leandro to build a new Open Arms Rest Home facility.



Mavericks claim 12U Championship

The Mavericks, who play at JALARC in Hoke County, took the 12U championship for 2025 boys’ basketball. Pictured are (from left): Jaquari Dennis, Va’Lonea Pegues, Airek Peterkin, Micah Monroe, Peyton Dew, Assistant Coach Jamelle Leak, Aarion Lindsey, Mathew Tappen, Elliot Santiago, Coach Angelo Leak, Assistant Coach Jeo Parter. (Contributed photo)

Supporting West Hoke Middle sports

Terry Moore and Reed Lallier Chevrolet supported West Hoke Middle School Softball and Baseball teams with supplies and a monetary donation. Teacher Maizie Quick offered thanks to Moore and the dealership for supporting West Hoke Middle School student sports. (Contributed photo)



Outstanding Senior

Tyler Howard received the Outstanding Senior Award in Music Excellence for Performance from UNC-Pembroke and has been nominated for a Pinnacle Award, which is the highest award a student can receive at UNC. Tyler Howard is attending UNC-Pembroke working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Music with an Emphasis on Vocals. She has a 3.6 GPA and is set to graduate Cum Laude with honors on May 10th. (Contributed photo)



HCHS CLASS OF 1990

Announces their 35th Class Reunion:
The Show Must Go On: A Night at the Movies
June 14, 2025 5pm-11pm
The cost is \$50 per person. Dinner will be served.
There will be fun, games, entertainment, dancing with a live DJ, photo opportunities, food, and dessert along with a variety of drinks.

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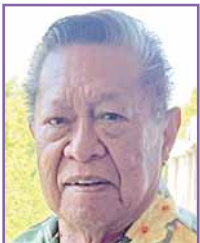
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Obituaries



Maurice Ancheta
Maurice Ancheta

Maurice Modesto Ancheta of Fayetteville, formerly of Raeford, died Thursday, April

17, 2025 at the age of 86. He was born June 25, 1938. He was a loving and committed husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, friend, and child of our Heavenly Father. He proudly served his family, God, church, community, and country (U.S. Army, MSG, retired). He lived with an open heart that was genuine and caring towards all who came into his life, sharing his joy and lively spirit freely with all. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alice Ancheta and

Candido Ancheta; his first wife, Helen Louise Ancheta, and a daughter, Luana Louise Ancheta. He is survived by his second wife, Jeanne Ancheta of the home; a son, Jeffrey Ancheta and wife, Kathy of Fuquay-Varina; a brother, Tony Ancheta, and two sisters, Alice Panui and Luana Ancheta, all from Hawaii; two grandsons, Robert Ancheta and wife, Robin, and Christopher Ancheta and wife, Christy; a granddaughter, Kayla Ancheta; and five great grandchildren,

Elena Ancheta, Colt Ancheta, Ethan Ancheta, Skylar Ancheta, and Malia Ancheta. The family will receive friends Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Rivers of Living Water Church from 11-11:45 a.m. A funeral with full military honors will be held at noon with Reverend Johnny Rivera officiating. Burial to follow the service at Lafayette Memorial Park West. **Connie Smith** Connie Millan Smith died April 12, 2025, and went home



Connie Smith

to rest with her Heavenly Father, at the age of 62. She was born January 18, 1963. The Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, April 25 at Leach Springs Missionary

Baptist Church. Visitation will be held from 1-5 p.m. Thursday, April 24 at the Buie's Funeral Home chapel. **Daisy Wilson** Daisy Wilson died April 17, 2025, and went home to rest with her Heavenly Father, at the age of 78. She was born June 2, 1946. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 23 at St. Andrews Christian Holiness Church of God.



Basketball star signs books

Hoke County basketball legend Gilbert McGregor held a book signing at the Raeford-Hoke Museum to greet visitors and sign copies of his book, "The Blind Truth: Lessons From a Basketball Life," co-authored with Tucker Mitchell. (Contributed photo)

Rezoning

(Continued from page 1) was for about half an acre of land on Highway 401 Business, which would rezone the property from Residential Manufactured Home to Highway Commercial. The request was submitted by Miriam Cervantes. Several citizens, including a man who works as a code enforcement officer for the City of Fayetteville, told the planning board members that the county didn't post a sign about the proposed rezoning at the Townsend Road location. North Carolina law requires that the county zoning office post signs informing citizens about proposed rezonings, so residents can attend public hearings about the matter to voice their thoughts. The Interim County Planner, Jackie Lowery, confirmed that was not done for either of the two requests on the meeting agenda. Additionally, several residents said they received letters in the mail about the hearing very late, with one person saying he received his letter the same day as the hearing was scheduled. After hearing from the residents, planning board member Tommy Wright recommended that the board table the two rezoning applications until May, so that the planning and zoning office could comply with the law regarding the posting of the signs. The board voted to table each of the two rezoning requests. Both will likely reappear on the planning board's agenda for its next meeting in May. This is not the first time that a Hoke County citizen has pointed out that the county was not properly advertising hearings related

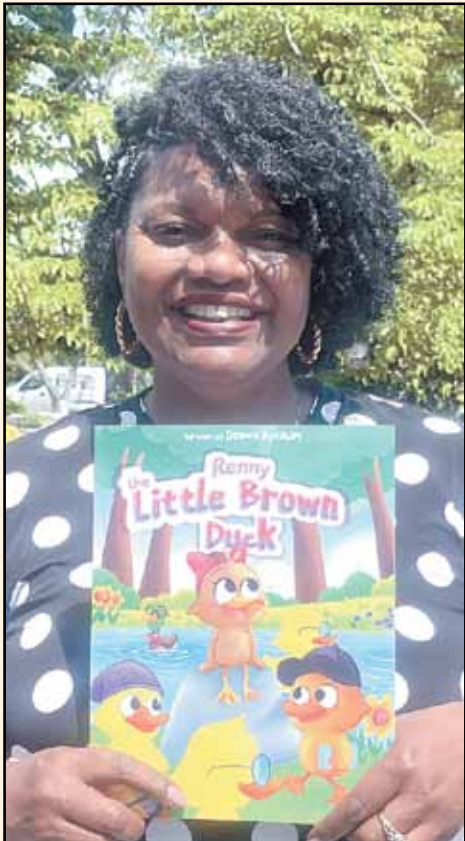
to planning and zoning matters. Brandi Simpson appeared before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners last year and brought to commissioners' attention that letters sent out to inform nearby property owners of one rezoning meeting, had errors in them that might have confused residents about when the public hearing would be held. Simpson went on point out other issues with the notification process, including the lack of posted signs. What is the approval process? Here's a brief rundown of how rezoning approvals work: •If a property must be rezoned to allow for smaller lot sizes or the high-density housing option, the developer and/or property owner must submit a rezoning request application to the planning office. •The planning office adds the rezoning request to the planning board's meeting agenda, and advertises the public hearing. This includes actions like publishing a notice in the newspaper, placing a sign on the property in question and sending out letters to every property owner within 500 feet of the property in question. •The planning board holds a public hearing on the rezoning, at which time any citizen may speak to voice their thoughts on the proposed rezoning. •The planning board may vote to recommend approving or recommend denying the rezoning request. •The planning board's recommendation then is sent on to the Hoke County Board of Commissioners. •The Hoke County Board of Commissioners will hold a pub-

lic hearing, which also must be advertised. Citizens may speak to voice their thoughts on the proposed rezoning, this time to commissioners. •The Hoke County Board of Commissioners may vote to approve or deny the rezoning request. •A similar process is followed when a developer submits a preliminary subdivision plat approval request for a major subdivision. •Rezoning from RA-20 to a different residential zoning changes the size of the lots, which plays a role in determining how many houses can go on a property. For example, the RA-20 zoning means lots must be a minimum of 20,000 square feet. The R-8 zoning means lots must be a minimum of 8,000 square feet. Hoke County's high-density option allows slightly smaller lots than under typical R-8. •R-8 with high-density option is only allowed where county sewer and water service is available, unless commissioners approve a waiver for the project. After completing the rezoning process, if a subdivision is in the works for the property, the developer must then submit a preliminary subdivision plat approval request. They are separate processes, with the rezoning coming first and then, if the property is slated for major subdivision development, the plat approval request coming second. Both require the process of public hearings before the planning board and commissioners. The Hoke County Planning Board does not make final approval of rezonings.

Local author Abraham releases first children's book

Deanna Abraham, a passionate new author and proud resident of Raeford, North Carolina, has spent over half her life dedicated to nurturing and guiding children. As a mother of two and grandmother of five, she has made child development her life's work. Her extensive experience in the daycare field includes roles as a family childcare home provider, teacher, director, and child care consultant. Through every role she has held, she has remained committed to her belief that every child is unique and deserves individualized care that celebrates their abilities. She views challenges as opportunities to uncover and develop hidden strengths. Her debut book, Renny the Little Brown Duck, is a children's book inspired by her own daughter, who, like Renny, has faced attention deficit challenges. Written with love and empathy, the story aims to help parents see their children from a fresh perspective, fostering understanding and patience. The book also addresses the

emotional impact of these challenges, drawing from her personal experiences. She recalls when her daughter, once a joyful and playful child, faced struggles with self-esteem and a loss of joy. Through Renny the Little Brown Duck, she hopes to reignite joy for children while encouraging meaningful conversations about supporting those with unique needs. Renny the Little Brown Duck is available for purchase on Amazon for \$14.99. Readers may also borrow a copy from the Raeford Library or request it through other library systems. (Contributed by the author)



Author Deanna Abraham and her first book, Renny the Little Brown Duck. (Contributed photo)

Schools

(Continued from page 1) entered into with entities or individuals to provide a driver education program for students must be awarded on a competitive basis through requests for proposals to contract and in accordance with the requirements of State Board of Education Policy DRIV-001." The board must solicit competitive bids through a formal bidding process. The company must provide the following: services to all students in Hoke County, all equipment and supplies, vehicles, fuel, inspections and maintenance, staff for classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel training, student registration opportunities, monthly invoices and completion of all N.C. Department of Public Instruction required reports. The company must also have each staff member maintain a North Carolina driver education certificate issued by the State Board of Education. Employees of the company will have to adhere to all background checks and drug checks are required by Hoke County Schools board policy. The recommended company will be submitted to the board of education for approval by May 13, and the new contract will begin July 1. **Public comment** During public comment, Cassie Harjala announced that in order to help working parents spend more time volunteering in schools or local nonprofits, she

is partnering with local childcare centers to offer childcare for those parent volunteers. Harjala announced Volunteer Village Co., www.volunteer-villageco.com, which has more information. A parent who said she is a current CPS investigator and previously served as a social worker in Cumberland County Schools, addressed the board to say her six-year-old son has been suspended twice in the current school year. In tears, the parent said the school denied her the ability to do a classroom observation, and her child's teacher could not meet with her during the school day planning period due to other obligations. The parent said she reached out to people at the district, who scheduled a meeting. She ultimately did not attend the meeting, because she felt the meeting would be "unbeneficial." "At this point I feel like I'm beating a dead horse and I have no help and nowhere to turn in regards to help for my son," she said. She asked the school board for help. A grandparent addressed the board to bring up a complaint about her grandson being suspended from school, potentially in relation to an altercation on the playground. She was told that the child, an Exceptional Children (EC) student, was suspended for "hitting back," she said. "That told me my grandson was not the aggressor in the situation, he was defending himself," she said. Thereafter, she struggled to get in touch with a school administra-

tor to discuss the situation, the grandparent said. **Other business** In other business, the school board heard the following matters: •An update on construction progress on the high school project. •Heard a presentation regarding a potential Board of Education van purchase. •Heard a presentation on the Reading Horizon program. •Heard a presentation on CANVAS renewal order. •In the Spotlight on Success, the board recognized SandHoke Early College High School's custodians as the Custodial Team of the Month. •In the Spotlight on Success, the board recognized North Carolina Governor's School Scholars. The two students selected this year are both juniors at SandHoke Early College High School: Hailey Benson, and Gabriel Cabezu. •Board Chair asked for a moment of silence in memory of a student. •In the consent agenda, the board approved meeting minutes from March, and a first read of school board policy revisions for policies 3000, 3130, 4150, 4310, 6220, 7130, 7360/8225, 3100, 3200, 4303, 5240, 7100 and 4329/3711. •Approved local, state and federal budget amendments. •Approved a plan for OpenGate Weapons Detection System. •Approved the personnel report, after a lengthy closed session.



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There are not enough words to express our heartfelt appreciation for the love and support you have shown to us during the loss of our loved one. We will forever miss Jhakeita and our hearts are heavy but we Thank God for her life and the ray of sunshine she brought into our lives.

-The Family of Ms. Jhakeita Rena' Smith



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VIEWPOINTS

Reminder about Viewpoints page

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Leaving the nest? Consider purchasing renters’ insurance

MIKE CAUSEY
Insurance Commissioner



Caps and gowns have been ordered. Graduation announcements are being sent out. Before long, young men and women will be walking across a stage at high school and college campuses across North Carolina to accept their hard-earned diplomas.

Not long afterward, a number of young adults will be moving out of their parents’ homes, some temporarily, others permanently. Some will be moving into dormitory rooms or apartments while at college. Others leaving the family nest may be moving into some other form of rental housing.

One of the items to check into when moving into your own space is renters’ insurance. Renters’ insurance is affordable and can be an invaluable tool for peace of mind. You’ll know that if your belongings are stolen, damaged or destroyed by fire, storms, smoke, vandalism or other covered causes, they will be replaced promptly.

Many renters have a misconception regarding what is covered

inside their rental home. Your personal items, such as your clothing, laptop, cell phone television and furniture are not covered by your landlord’s policy. Landlord policies only cover the landlord’s property.

If you’re renting, you may want to check the homeowners’ policy that your parents have. Some homeowners’ insurance policies include coverage for their children renting while away at college.

I encourage you to reach out to your insurance agent to discuss renters’ insurance. Or you may want to get quotes online. This coverage ensures you’re prepared for unexpected emergencies.

A renters’ insurance policy protects your personal property against damage or loss and covers you in case someone gets injured while on your rented property. Also extends protection to your home’s contents and the personal belongings of those who share your space. Coverage is subject to a designated limit, which is agreed upon by you and the insurance company and specified in the insurance policy.

Typically, renters’ insurance protects against several perils, including fire, lightning, vandalism, theft, ice, snow and sleet.

Water or steam damage from

plumbing issues is generally covered while flood damage from nearby streams is not covered and requires a separate flood insurance policy.

If your rental home becomes temporarily uninhabitable because of a covered incident, renters’ insurance kicks in to cover additional living expenses, such as housing, meals and storage. Remember to keep your receipts.

Renters’ insurance shields you if you’re held liable for injury to others or damage to the rental property. It can cover medical expenses for individuals accidentally injured on your premises.

Some insurance companies offer discounts if you have burglar and smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems or deadbolt lock on your exterior doors. Ask your agent if you’re eligible to receive any discounts.

Remember to read through your policy to make sure you understand it before you sign it. If you have questions, ask your agent.

If you need help with your insurance, please call our toll-free number at 855-408-1212 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays to speak to a consumer expert. You may also visit our web page at www.ncdoi.gov.

Fierce debates over tariffs, manufacturing jobs



Frog Holler
Philosopher
Ron Huff

There is a fierce debate going on about the use of tariffs to balance trade and bring back manufacturing jobs that were lost overseas in the last four or five decades. I was always skeptical about allowing cheaper foreign-made goods into the country at the cost of decent jobs. Why was this a good idea at the time and what results might we really expect from a policy of imposing tariffs to more closely align the cost of imported goods with the cost of producing these same goods at home? The first thing to expect is that prices of these goods will have to increase to pay for the increase in their cost added by applying tariffs. When, and if, these tariffs are instituted and held for a few months, we will see these prices rise. In the mean- time this is creating havoc.

For those who claim that tariffs will not increase prices, I can only ask who will pay the tariffs if not we who are the end users of the products? Tariffs do not pass to the manufacturer of the goods, but to the businesses that import these products. In a short-term situation, importers and sellers will absorb some of the extra cost in hopes that the situation is temporary, but if you believe that these sellers can, or will, permanently absorb significant costs to protect consumers, then maybe pigs will fly after all. This is not the way our businesses work. The cost of luxury items that have large mark-ups might not vary as much, but we are not talking

workers, and even those who have “good” manufacturing jobs are complaining and must constantly threaten strikes to get a living wage. I have heard that Amazon’s workers are not treated well in spite of their owner being one of the richest men in the world. I’m not sure that significantly increasing manufacturing is what we need in this brave new world except when industries are critical.

Our real problem is too much money held by too few. Why is the focus not on creating policy that requires that more be distributed to the working class? Tax cuts might help, but only if targeted to those who need them. Cutting significant spending from the government will not happen unless these costs are simply transferred to the states, once again – us; or our entitlements or services are cut. Thinking that corporate tax cuts will filter down defies history and human greed. Perhaps a substantial minimum wage would be the most effective way to help those who are really stressed. Trump now says we should be ready for pain. I agree, if his present direction is maintained, but I wonder how many will willingly go along in order to possibly make a better future in a decade? If we are suddenly interested in the future rather than the present, how about our policies on energy, an area where we could have progress with very little pain?

More later.

Peach cobbler bread pudding

COMMALITHA HOLTON
Contributing Writer

I know that this is not your typical bread pudding. Bread pudding calls for actual bread and not a “dough” and its custardy and this is has no custard BUT I am still going to call this Peach Cobbler Bread Pudding, and you can rename it want in your household, but for me and mine.... Peach Cobbler Bread Pudding it will forever be as it was called the first time an old friend made and served this to me! Regardless of what it’s called, you’re definitely going to fall in love with this easy dessert. It has delicious peaches



Whipped up
with
Commalitha

embedded in sweet dough, with a delicate taste of cinnamon in each bite and the gooey sweet glaze that soaks through the entirety of it all. It is a no miss type of dessert that you can’t go wrong with! Add some of your favorite ice cream and you’ll have a for sure hit on your hand!

Ingredients

2 cans (15 oz) sliced peaches in syrup
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp nutmeg
2 tsp vanilla extract
3 tablespoon cornstarch

Ingredients (Dough)

2 1/2 cup flour
1/4 cup white sugar
2 tablespoon brown sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 stick butter
2 1/4 cup buttermilk
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 tsp cinnamon & 1 tsp

Sugar (mixed)

Instructions

Preheat your oven to 400.

Drain your peaches. Add the syrup to a pan and heat over medium heat. Add sugars, cinnamon and nutmeg. Stir until combined. Chop the sliced peaches into small pieces and add to the syrup. Simmer for 10 minutes and then turn down heat. Take cornstarch and add 3 tablespoons of the warm syrup and mix together to make a slurry. Add to the peach syrup to thicken, simmer for an additional 5 minutes. Slowly stir in vanilla extract. Remove peaches with a slotted spoon or strainer. Add to your dough

Place your stick of butter into a 9x9 baking dish and into the oven

For the dough, in a medium bowl mix together your flour, sugars, and baking powder. Add buttermilk and vanilla extract. Gently mix well and fold in your peaches. Remove the baking dish with melted butter from the oven and add your dough, spread evenly in the pan. Sprinkle cinnamon sugar mixture.

Bake for 25 minutes until golden brown.

Remove from the oven and pour the glaze over the top of the bread. Serve with your favorite vanilla ice cream or a large glass of milk!

Enjoy and Happy Cooking!

Fuel

(Continued from page 1)

in County operations, not to exceed 48 hours between necessary resupply intervals.” The vendor will also have to submit weekly fuel pricing updates for the 89 octane gasoline, diesel and propane, along with weekly fuel usage and cost reports, as well as logs of any emergency fueling services and site-specific delivery verification, the RFQ said.

The county is looking for a vendor that can submit an emergency response plan detailing how it will maintain uninterrupted fuel services during declared emergencies.

The RFQ went into deeper specifics on information the commissioners want to review about each potential vendor before moving forward.

The step comes about a year after the county board hired Oakes Grading Inc. of Youngsville to work with the county on constructing the fuel point.

County grants manager and Hoke Emergency Management

Coordinator Andrew Jacobs has been working on the project.

PUBLIC MEETING DATES

Board of Commissioners

1st & 3rd Monday

7:00 p.m.

227 N. Main St.

Raeford

City Council

1st Monday

7:00 p.m.

315 N. Main St.

Raeford

School Board

2nd Tuesday

6:00 p.m.

505 S. Bethel Rd.

Raeford

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Citgo Mart.....	803 E 4th Ave Red Springs	Howell Drug.....
CVS Pharmacy.....	230 Cole Rd	311 Teal Dr
Cynergic Inc.....	742 S Main St	Jay's Food Mart.....
Daniels' Exxon.....	113 E. Central Ave	10827 Hwy 211
Dollar General.....	105 Fayetteville Rd	J & L Grocery.....
Dollar General.....	3879 Aberdeen Rd	685 Rockfish Rd
Dollar General.....	7369 Rockfish Rd	Luck Stop.....
Dollar General.....	147 Davis Bridge Rd	4302 Hwy 401
Edinborough Restaurant.....	240 S Main St	Lucky Stop.....
Fast Mart #12.....	644 W Prospect Ave	2196 Rockfish Rd/401
Fast Shop.....	W Prospect Ave	Muncheez Express.....
Food Lion.....	4530 Fayetteville Rd	5609 Fayetteville Rd
Food Lion.....	232 Cole Ave	Murphy Express. 4625 Hwy 401 @ Walmart
Food Mart.....	Hwy 211 S	211 Lucky Stop.....
Food Stop.....	513 W. Prospect Ave	6797 Aberdeen Rd
401 Lucky Stop.....	2196 Hwy 401	Petro Mart.....
401 Shop-N-Save.....	724 Harris /401	1970 wayside Rd
HCC Pharmacy.....	402 S Main St	Poco Shop #4.....
		103 N Main St
		Quickstop.....
		1314 N Fulton St
		Short Stop #5.....
		148 Davis Bridge Rd
		Short Stop #64.....
		Hwy 211 W
		Short Stop # 68.....
		N Fulton St
		Sunoco.....
		705 Laurinburg Rd
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The News-Journal

Published every Wednesday by Brown Publishing, LLC

Jessica Hendrix Brown, President • Raymond Taylor Brown, Vice President

119 W. Elwood Avenue, Raeford, NC 28376 • (910) 875-2121

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Postage at Raeford, N.C.

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Postmaster:

Send address changes to:

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Middle School playoff preview with Deon Cranford

SOFTBALL

- Rockingham, Hamlet, West Hoke have all secured playoff berths.
- Sandy Grove is in with a win over Cordova
- Spring Hill is in with a win over Carver OR if Ellerbe loses to Hamlet
- Carver is in if they beat both Rockingham and Spring Hill OR if they win one of their final two games and Ellerbe loses to Hamlet OR if they beat Spring Hill and Ellerbe loses to Hamlet and they win the tiebreaker draw.
- Ellerbe is in if they defeat Hamlet and Carver loses to Spring Hill OR if they lose to Hamlet and Carver loses to both Rockingham and Spring Hill OR if they defeat Hamlet and Carver defeats Spring Hill and they win the tiebreaker draw.
- East Hoke and Cordova are out.
- Rockingham secures the #1 seed with at least one win this upcoming week over Carver or Cordova, or East Hoke.
- Hamlet secures the #2 seed with at least one win this upcoming week over Cordova or Ellerbe.
- Sandy Grove secures the #3 seed with a win over Cordova.
- West Hoke has already secured at least the #4 seed. They would move up to #3 if Cordova



Wild one in Raeford
Forty-six runs were scored in last Thursday's softball game between West Hoke Middle and Carver Middle, but it was West Hoke's Lady Tigers who edged the Lady Eagles 24-22 to earn a huge home field victory. (Contributed photo)

were to upset Sandy Grove.
My projection is that the play-offs will look like this...
#1 Rockingham (first round bye)
#4 West Hoke vs #5 Spring Hill
#2 Hamlet (first round bye)
#3 Sandy Grove vs #6 Ellerbe

GIRLS' SOCCER

Richmond County and Hoke County each have three teams competing for the conference crown.
#1 Rockingham (8-0) and #2 Ellerbe (7-1) will each receive a first-round bye. Rockingham will

host the #4/#5 winner and Ellerbe will host the #3 #6 winner.
Hamlet (5-2) and Sandy Grove (5-2) will meet on April 29 for the final regular season conference match. The winner will receive the #3 seed and the loser will be

seeded #4.
Also in the tournament are East Hoke at #5 and West Hoke at #6.
Tournament dates and times are currently TBD.



The East Hoke Eagles wrapped up their regular season with a 6-0 defeat of Spring Hill last Monday, finishing the season 7-1. East Hoke lost its second match of the season to Hamlet, but rebounded in its very next match to defeat the defending champion, the Rockingham Rockets, ending Rockingham's 12-match winning streak. East Hoke has earned a first-round bye and home field advantage in the coming playoff tournament. (Photo by Amanda Crowder)

BOYS' SOCCER

The middle school boys soccer bracket is tricky. There is still one match left to be played in the regular season between Hamlet and Sandy Grove. That match will be played on April 29. While East Hoke is locked in at number 1, Rockingham is locked in at number 2, and Ellerbe

is locked in at number 4, seeds 3, 5, and 6 will all be impacted by the outcome of the Hamlet/Sandy Grove meeting. So, I've created two brackets. One showing what the tournament will look like if Hamlet wins and the other showing what it will look like if Sandy Grove wins (See the

Brackets on the News-Journals Facebook page).
The race is so tight, that if Sandy Grove wins, they will follow East Hoke and Rockingham as the #3 seed. If Hamlet wins, Sandy Grove drops all the way to #6 taking the final spot in the bracket.



West Hoke Middle School Softball finished the regular season with a record of 5-3. Head Coach Porcha Locklear says that it's their first time making the playoffs in 8 years. (Contributed photo)

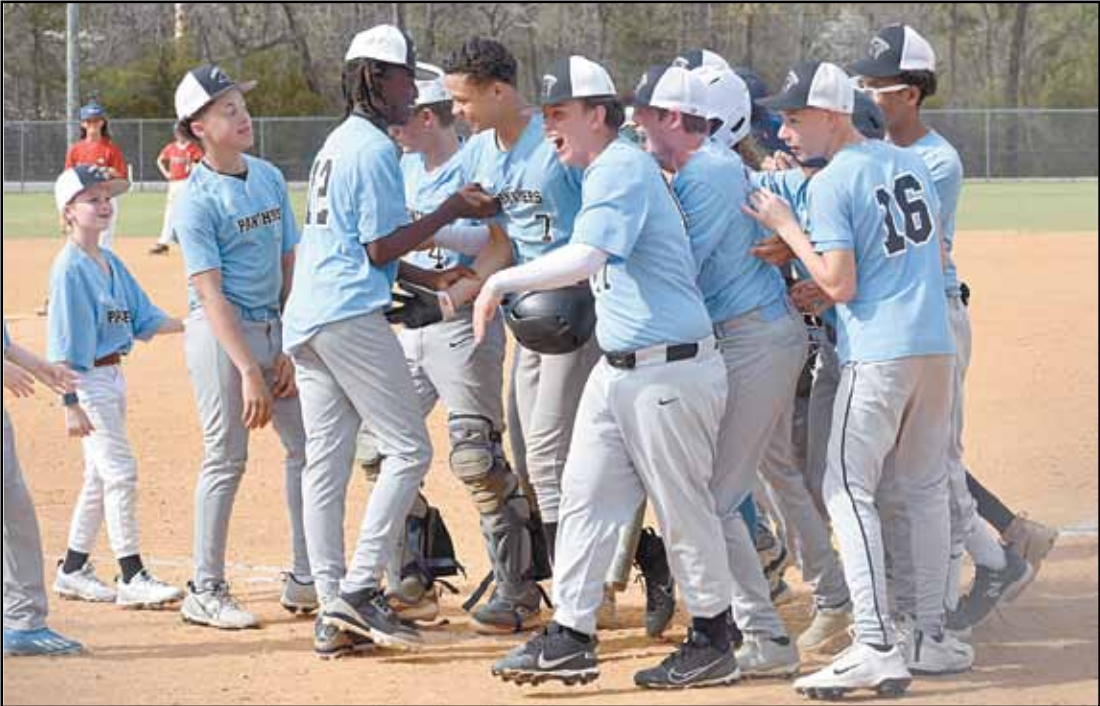
BASEBALL



Pitcher Matthew Jones (Eighth grade) leads Sandy Grove to a 19-1 victory over Spring Hill on Wednesday April 2nd.

East Hoke's Justin Womack smacked a 2-run homer over the right field fence that traveled far enough to disrupt the nearby softball game in their April 10th matchup against Hamlet Middle School. (Contributed photo)

Rockingham, Sandy Grover, Carver, East Hoke have all secured playoff berths.
• Hamlet is in with a win over Ellerbe OR a loss to Ellerbe and a Spring Hill loss to Carver and win a tiebreaker draw
• Spring Hill is in with a win over Carver OR a loss to Carver and an Ellerbe win over Hamlet and win a tiebreaker draw
• Ellerbe is in with a win over Hamlet and a Spring Hill win over Carver and a tiebreaker draw.
• Rockingham secures the #1 seed with at least one win this upcoming week over Carver or East Hoke.
• Sandy Grove has secured at least the #2 seed. Will receive the #1 seed if Rockingham loses both of its games this week.
• Carver will secure the #3 seed with at least one win this upcoming week over Rockingham or Spring Hill OR an East Hoke loss to Rockingham
• East Hoke has secured at least a #4 seed. Can move up to #3 with a win over Rockingham and Carver losses to both Rockingham and Spring Hill
My projection is that the playoffs will look like this...
#1 Rockingham (first round bye)
#4 East Hoke vs #5 Hamlet
#2 Sandy Grove (first round bye)
#3 Carver vs #6 Spring Hill



Sandy Grove baseball team celebrates Triston Locklear's homer against West Hoke on Thursday April 3rd. Final Score: Sandy Grove - 15, West Hoke - 0

LEGAL

CREDITOR'S NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
Before The Clerk COUNTY OF HOKE IN THE MATTER OF CHRISTOPHER B. NIXON Estate File No: 25E000116-460
All persons, firms and corporations having claims for CHRISTOPHER B. NIXON, deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit them to Lisa C. Nixon, Executrix, of the estate of the decedent at 551 Lakeview Lane, Cameron, NC 28326 on or before the 23rd day of July, 2025, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Executrix.
This the 23rd day of April, 2025.

Lisa C. Nixon, Executrix
For the estate of CHRISTOPHER B. NIXON
551 Lakeview Lane
Cameron, NC 28326
9-12P

CREDITOR'S NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
Before The Clerk COUNTY OF HOKE IN THE MATTER OF ROBERT WAYNE MIMS, SR. Estate File No: 25E000109-460
All persons, firms and corporations having claims for ROBERT WAYNE MIMS, SR., deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit them to Robert W. Mims, Jr., Administrator CTA, of the estate of the decedent at 249 Stubby Oaks Road, Aberdeen, NC 28315 on or before the 23rd day of July, 2025, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Administrator CTA.
This the 23rd day of April, 2025.

Robert W. Mims, Jr., Administrator CTA
For the estate of ROBERT WAYNE MIMS, SR.
249 Stubby Oaks Road
Aberdeen, NC 28315
9-12P

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NORTH CAROLINA, HOKE COUNTY 23SP000126-460

Under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed by Jasmine J. Keen and Jeremy R. Keen dated June 5, 2017 recorded on June 6, 2017 in Book 1195, Page 349 of the Hoke County Public Registry ("Deed of Trust"), conveying certain real property in Hoke County to Joel S. Jenkins, Jr., Trustee, for the benefit of Union Home Mortgage Corp.. Default having been made of the note thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust, and the holder of the note evidencing said default having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door of the county courthouse where the property is located, or the usual and customary location at the county courthouse for conducting the sale on May 1, 2025 at 11:00 AM, and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described property situated in Hoke County, North Carolina, to wit: Being all of Lot 102, in a subdivision known as Wedgfield, Phase 3A, and the same being duly recorded in Plat Cabinet 4, Slide 4-52 Map 8, Hoke County Registry, North Carolina. Save and except any releases, deeds of release or prior conveyances of record. Said property is commonly known as 113 Yates Mill Street, Raeford, NC 28376; Parcel ID: 494660201493 A deposit (no personal checks) of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, payable to Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, PLLC, will be required at the time of the sale. Following the expiration of the statutory upset bid period, all the remaining amounts are immediately due and owing. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-21.30, if the highest bidder at the sale, resale, or any upset bidder fails to comply with its bid upon the tender of a deed for the real property, or after a bona fide attempt to tender such a deed, the clerk of superior court may, upon motion, enter an order authorizing a resale of the real property. The defaulting bidder at any sale or resale or any defaulting upset bidder is liable for the bid made, and in case a resale is had because of such default, shall remain liable to the extent that the final sale price is less than the bid plus all the costs of any resale. Any deposit or compliance bond made by the defaulting bidder shall secure payment of the amount, if any, for which the defaulting bidder remains liable under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-21.30. THIRD PARTY PURCHASERS MUST PAY THE EXCISE TAX AND THE RECORDING COSTS FOR THEIR DEED. Said property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS WHERE IS." There are no representations of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale. This sale is made subject to any and all superior liens, including taxes and special assessments. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the current owner(s) of the property is/are Jasmine J. Keen and Jeremy R. Keen. An Order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-21.29, in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. The notice shall also state that upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination [N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-21.16(b)(2)]. If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in their sole discretion, if they believe the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Cape Fear Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee, Attorney Aaron Seagroves, NCSB No. 50979 Matthew Cogswell, NCSB No. 58827 5550 77 Center Drive, Suite 160 Charlotte, NC 28217 PHONE: 980-201-3840 File No.: 23-53961 60240 9-10C

PUBLIC NOTICE- Updated CITY OF RAEFORD HOKE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE MATTER OF ZONING SANDHILLS REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC 1565 N MAY ST SOUTHERN PINES NC 28387

You are hereby notified that an application is now pending before the Raeford Planning Board whereby the above-named SANDHILLS REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS LLC is requesting preliminary subdivision approval of entire parcels of PIN# 694251501079 located on Mockingbird Hill Rd. The property is approximately 6.18 acres currently zoned as R-6 (Residential) and located in the ETJ (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction). Owner requests a subdivision into 5 lots for single family residential development, remaining R-6 (Residential). The property is owned by the applicant.

A public hearing will be held by the Raeford Planning Board at Raeford City Hall on Monday, April 28th, 2025 at 5:15 pm and by the Raeford City Council on Monday, May 5th, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Nelson James
Chairman
Raeford Planning Board

IN THE MATTER OF ZONING PADELMA AUTO SALES LLC PAOLA CERVANTES 529 HARRIS AVE RAEFORD NC 28376

You are hereby notified that an application is now pending before the Raeford Board of Adjustment whereby the above-named PADELMA AUTO SALES LLC C/O Paola Cervantes is requesting Special Use approval of Used Car Sales to be located at 529 Harris Ave (PIN# 694340901065) located in a strip mall inside the corporate city limits. The property is approximately 0.63 acres currently zoned as HC (Highway Commercial). The property is owned by LOS ROSALES LLC.

A public hearing will be held by the Raeford Board of Adjustment at Raeford City Hall on Monday, April 28th, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Charles Tapp
Chairman
Raeford Board of Adjustment

All interested citizens are hereby requested to attend these public hearings and express their views and opinions for the benefit of the said boards. For those unable to attend the meetings in person, you may contact the Codes Administrator in writing by email at flocklear@raefordnc.org by 2 pm on Monday, April 28th, 2025 and she will deliver your comments and concerns to each respective board.

This notice to be published on April 16th and 23rd, 2025.

Kelly Chapman
City Clerk
8-9C

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION CUMBERLAND COUNTY FILE NO. 24 CVD 009235-250

WALTER GENE TYN-DALL
Plaintiff
v.
WALTER DALLAS GENE TYN-DALL
AND DANIELLE MARIE WHITAKER
Defendants
TO: Danielle Marie Whitaker
Address Unknown
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-captioned action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

COMPLAINT FOR CHILD CUSTODY

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than May 26, 2025, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 16th day of April, 2025.
JAMES H. COOKE, JR.
Attorney for the Plaintiff
717 Hay Street, Suite J.
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301

Telephone: (910) 483-7680
Publish Dates: Wednesday, April 16, 2025, Monday, April 23, 2025, Monday, April 30, 2025
8-10C

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NORTH CAROLINA HOKE COUNTY 25SP000029-460

Under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed by Sherry Lee Blackburn and Mary Beth Blackburn to Tim Williams, Trustee, which was dated April 7, 2020 and recorded on April 17, 2020 in Book 1306 at Page 165, Hoke County Registry, North Carolina.

Default having been made of the Note thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, NCR.E. Trustee, LLC, Substitute Trustee, having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of trust, and the holder of the Note evidencing said default having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door of the county courthouse where the property is located, or the usual and customary location at the county courthouse for conducting the sale, April 30, 2025 at 11:00 AM, and will sell to the highest bidder the following described property situated in Hoke County, North Carolina, to wit:

SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT A INCLUDING A 2020, CMH ULTRA PRO 568, 28X56

BEING all of Lot No. 18 of RATLEY ACRES SUBDIVISION as shown in Map Book 7, Page 26 of the Hoke County Public Registry.

THIS BEING a portion of the same property conveyed to the Mortgagor herein by deed from Hubert A. Peterkin, Sheriff of Hoke County, NC recorded on March 28, 2017 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Hoke County in Deed Book 1188 at Page 345 and by deed from Mary Beth Blackburn dated April 7, 2020, and be recorded simultaneously herewith in the Hoke County Register of Deeds Office.

TMS: 69434-12-01-058

Included in the real property is a 2020 CMH Ultra Pro mobile home, Vehicle Identification Number OHC029127NCAB which is affixed to the real property. This mobile home is being sold as a part of the real property as is permitted by the provisions of N.C.G.S. §25-9-604.

Save and except any releases, deeds of release or prior conveyances of record.

Said property is commonly known as 261 Ratley St., Raeford, NC 28376

A Certified Funds Check deposit (No Personal Checks, No Cash) of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale. Following the expiration of the statutory upset bid period, all the remaining amounts are immediately due and owing. THIRD PARTY PURCHASERS MUST PAY THE EXCISE TAX AND THE RECORDING COSTS FOR THEIR DEED.

Said property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." There are no representations of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale. This sale is made subject to all prior liens, unpaid taxes, any unpaid land transfer taxes, special assessments, easements, rights of way, deeds of release, and any other prior encumbrances or exceptions of record. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the current owner(s) of the property is/are Sherry Lee Blackburn and Mary Beth Blackburn.

An Order for Possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. §45-21.29, in favor of the purchaser and against the party(ies) in possession of the property, by the Clerk of Superior Court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the Notice of Sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least ten (10) days, but not more than ninety (90) days, after the sale date contained in the Notice of Sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination [N.C.G.S. §45-21.16A(B)(2)]. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee or substitute trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee or substitute trustee, in their sole discretion, if they believe the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy.

NC R.E. Trustee, LLC,
Substitute Trustee
Benjamin A. Barco, Attorney
Crawford & von Keller, PLLC
710 Military Cutoff Rd., Suite 250
Wilmington, NC 28405
Phone: (910) 363-1637
Fax: (910) 363-1650
8-9C

PUBLIC NOTICE DOCKET NO. SP-71928, SUB 0 APPLICATION OF ONAWAY SOLAR, LLC, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 13, 2025, Onaway Solar, LLC, (Applicant), filed an application in the above-captioned docket seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1(a) for construction of a 45 MW AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility to be located in Hoke County, North Carolina. The GPS coordinates for the proposed Facility are 34.953 N and 79.191 W. Applicant's site layout illustrating the footprint of the facility may change to some degree based on government land use requirements, interconnection requirements, or similar factors. Applicant plans to sell electricity produced to Duke Energy Progress, LLC.

Details of the application may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 430 North Salisbury Street, 5th Floor, Dobbs Building, Raleigh, North Carolina 27603 or 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300 or on the Commission's website at www.ncuc.gov.

If a complaint is received within ten days after the last date of the publication of this notice, the Commission will schedule a public hearing to determine whether a certificate should be awarded, will give reasonable notice of the time and place of the hearing to the Applicant and to each complaining party, and will require the Applicant to publish notice of the hearing in this newspaper. If no complaint is received within the time specified above and if the Commission does not order a hearing upon its own initiative, the Commission will enter an order awarding the certificate sought by the Applicant.

Persons desiring to lodge complaints may file statements to that effect with the Commission. Such statements should reference Docket No. SP-71928, Sub 0 and be addressed as follows: Chief Clerk, North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

Statements may also be directed to Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.
8-11C

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON REQUEST FOR ANNEXATION

The Public will take notice that the City Manager of the City of Raeford has called a public hearing at Raeford City Hall, 315 N. Main Street, Raeford, North Carolina, on Monday, May 5th, 2025, at 7:00 pm on the question of annexing the following described territory, requested by petition filed by Thomas F. Wright, pursuant to G.S. 160A-31:

The property identifiable as Parcel Identification Number 694241101050, and further described in the General Warrant Deed recorded at Deed Book 454 and Page 627 of Hoke County Public Registry, as follows:

A certain tract or parcel of land in Raeford Township, Hoke County, North Carolina, situated about 0.5 miles Southwest of Raeford, North Carolina, fronting on the Northwest side of U.S. Highway No. 401, about 114.5 feet Northeast of its intersection with State Road No. 1238 (Dudley Street) and about 376 feet Southwest of its intersection with W. Palmer Street, adjoining the lands of Donald Raborn on the Northeast and by J.H. Wright on the Northwest, being further described as follows:

COMMENCING at North Carolina Grid Station "Hungary", said station having a northing of 1,460,318.790 and an easting of 6,323,663.661 (1983 Datum); running thence from station "Hungary", S 66° 33.7' W 503.97 feet to a 5/8 inch iron in the Northwest right of way line (50 feet from the center) of the U.S. Highway No. 401, said iron being the southernmost corner of the Donald Raborn tract described in Deed Book 248, at Page 461 of the Hoke County Registry, and being THE POINT OF BEGINNING; running thence from the beginning as the Northwest right of way line of U.S. Highway No. 401, S 58° 03.5' W 330.00 feet to a 5/8 inch iron in said right of way line; thence leaving said road, a new line, N, 31° 53.07' W 400.00 feet to a 5/8 inch iron; thence, N 58° 03.5' E 330.00 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod; thence a new line to and along the Southwest line of the aforementioned Donald Raborn tract, S, 31° 53.7' E 400.00 feet to the point of BEGINNING, containing 3.03 acres; more or less, and being a portion of the J.H. Wright lands as described in Deed Book 103, at Page 335 in the Hoke County Registry. THIS being the same property conveyed to Stedman Housing, Mart, Inc. by J. H. Wright and wife by deed recorded in Book 260 Page 783 of the Hoke County Registry.

For reference, the parcel is identified as "Thomas F. Wright, PO Box 70, Raeford, NC 28376, Zoned HC, PIN No 694241101050" on the Map entitled "Subdivision for Wright Business Investment LLC," recorded at Cabinet 4, Slide 4-28, Map 002 of the Hoke County Public Registry.
/s/ Kelly Chapman
City Clerk
9C

CREDITOR'S NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION Before The Clerk COUNTY OF HOKE IN THE MATTER OF LOUISE SMITH WILLIAMS Estate File No: 25E000098-460

All persons, firms and corporations having claims for LOUISE SMITH WILLIAMS, deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit them to James A. Williams, Jr., Executor, of the estate of the decedent at 204 Pinehaven Circle, Raeford, NC 28376 on or before the 7th day of July, 2025, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Executrix.

This the 9th day of April, 2025.

James A. Williams, Jr. - Executor
For the estate of LOUISE SMITH WILLIAMS
204 Pinehaven Circle
Raeford, NC 28376
7-10P

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF HOKE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 25CV000293-460

COUNTY OF HOKE, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina,

Plaintiff,

v.

JUAN MANUEL GONZALEZ;
SPOUSE OF JUAN MANUEL GONZALEZ;

Defendants

JUAN MANUEL GONZALEZ
AND SPOUSE OF JUAN MANUEL GONZALEZ.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: foreclosure sale to satisfy unpaid property taxes on your interest in the property described in Book 1307, Page 746, Hoke County North Carolina Registry, which is more completely described in the complaint.

All that certain tract or parcel of land situated in Hoke County, North Carolina and more particularly described as follows:

PIN: 49467-03-01-168

Property Location: Dunrobin Drive, Raeford, NC

Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim that you may have in the property. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than June 2, 2025 and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 17th day of April, 2025.
RUDOLPH K. SMITH
RKS Law
Attorney for Plaintiff
Post Office Box 2095, Fayetteville, NC 28302
(910) 486-3230
Publication Dates: 4/23/2025; 4/30/2025; 5/7/2025
9-11C

PUBLIC NOTICE DOCKET NO. SP-71928, SUB 0 APPLICATION OF ONAWAY SOLAR, LLC, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 13, 2025, Onaway Solar, LLC, (Applicant), filed an application in the above-captioned docket seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1(a) for construction of a 45 MW AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility to be located in Hoke County, North Carolina. The GPS coordinates for the proposed Facility are 34.953 N and 79.191 W. Applicant's site layout illustrating the footprint of the facility may change to some degree based on government land use requirements, interconnection requirements, or similar factors. Applicant plans to sell electricity produced to Duke Energy Progress, LLC.

Details of the application may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 430 North Salisbury Street, 5th Floor, Dobbs Building, Raleigh, North Carolina 27603 or 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300 or on the Commission's website at www.ncuc.gov.

If a complaint is received within ten days after the last date of the publication of this notice, the Commission will schedule a public hearing to determine whether a certificate should be awarded, will give reasonable notice of the time and place of the hearing to the Applicant and to each complaining party, and will require the Applicant to publish notice of the hearing in this newspaper. If no complaint is received within the time specified above and if the Commission does not order a hearing upon its own initiative, the Commission will enter an order awarding the certificate sought by the Applicant.

Persons desiring to lodge complaints may file statements to that effect with the Commission. Such statements should reference Docket No. SP-71928, Sub 0 and be addressed as follows: Chief Clerk, North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

Statements may also be directed to Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.
6-9C

CREDITOR'S NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION Before The Clerk COUNTY OF HOKE IN THE MATTER OF RUTH ELIZABETH MCMILLAN

Estate File No: 25E000078-460

All persons, firms and corporations having claims for RUTH ELIZABETH MCMILLAN, deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit them to Shelton E. McMillan, Co-Executor, of the estate of the decedent at 1250 25th st., St. Petersburg, FL 33713 and Karen McMillan, Co-Executrix, at 245 Matherson Lane, Eagle Springs, NC 27242 on or before the 1st day of July, 2025, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Executrix.

This the 2nd day of April, 2025.

For the estate of RUTH ELIZABETH MCMILLAN
Shelton E. McMillan, Co-Executor

1250 25th st., St. Petersburg, FL 33713
and
Karen McMillan, Co-Executrix
245 Matherson Lane, Eagle Springs, NC 27242
6-9P

CREDITOR'S NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION Before The Clerk COUNTY OF HOKE IN THE MATTER OF JOHN CROOM GADDY Estate File No: 25E000098-460

All persons, firms and corporations having claims for JOHN CROOM GADDY, deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit them to Donna G. Rogers Executrix of the estate of the decedent at 519 Carriage Lane, Jacksonville, NC 28540 on or before the 7th day of July, 2025, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Executrix.

This the 9th day of April, 2025.

Donna G. Rogers - Executrix
For the estate of JOHN CROOM GADDY
519 Carriage Lane
Jacksonville, NC 28540
7-10P

CREDITOR'S NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY KATHLEEN HUSSEY- FEMINELLO HOKE COUNTY FILE NUMBER 25E000080-460

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Mary Kathleen Hussey-Feminello, deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit them to Timothy Dean Morgan as Administrator of the Estate of the decedent at P.O. Box 126, Raeford, NC 28376 on or before the 9th day of July 2025 or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Administrator.

This the 9th day of April 2025.
Timothy Dean Morgan, Administrator of the
Estate of Mary Kathleen Hussey-Feminello, deceased

Willcox, McFadyen, Fields & Sutherland, PLLC
Attorneys At Law
P. O. Box 126
Raeford, North Carolina 28376

Publication Dates: April 9, 2025, April 16, 2025, April 23, 2025, April 30, 2025
7-10C

CREDITOR'S NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KIMBERLY SUE SHELTON HOKE COUNTY FILE NUMBER 25E000075-460

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Kimberly Sue Shelton, deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit them to William C. Fields Jr. as Administrator of the Estate of the decedent at P.O. Box 126, Raeford, NC 28376 on or before the 23rd day of July 2025 or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Administrator.

This the 23rd day of April 2025.

William C. Fields Jr., Administrator of the
Estate of Kimberly Sue Shelton, deceased

Willcox, McFadyen, Fields & Sutherland, PLLC
Attorneys At Law
P. O. Box 126
Raeford, North Carolina 28376
Publication Dates:
April 23, 2025, April 30, 2025, May 7, 2025, May 14, 2025
9-12C

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Insurance

(Continued from page 1)
Monday night.
County Manager Letitia Edens explained why she recommended that the county go with the Carolina Public Sector Employer Cooperative (CPEC) option, described as a “unique funding model using pooling to reduce volatility.”

“We need to pool ourselves with another group in order to keep our stability. If not, we will go to 13 percent,” she said.

The move shouldn’t mean any big changes for employees who receive their insurance through the county plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield North Carolina, according to Mark Browder, vice president for Mark III Employee Benefits.

“What it does is, is it actually smooths out the volatility that you might have on a self-funded basis by working together with other like-minded employers,” Browder said. “To the employee, it’s going to look like a Blue Cross solution. The only change to them would be an I.D. card change, a group number change, but it is Blue Cross network, Blue Cross pharmacy, Blue Cross risk insurance. All of it is a Blue Cross solution. To the membership, things will look very similar to how they look today. The formulary is going to

look exactly the same.”
It should be a “seamless transition” for the employees already on the insurance, he said.
Under the CPEC plan, the premiums would be \$1,209.32 monthly for employee only; \$2,013.15 monthly for an employee and one person; and \$3,115.52 monthly for an employee and their family.
“The employees will not see any changes as far as seeing their doctors, specialties?” Commissioner Tony Hunt asked.
Browder confirmed that was the case.

He explained that there are three primary funding strategies for funding the insurance coverage: fully insured, balance funded/guaranteed cost or self-funding. Self-funding is the most cost-effective, while balanced funded/guaranteed cost is the next highest-cost strategy, with fully insured is the most expensive.

In 2024-2025, Hoke County transitioned into the Intergovernmental Healthcare Alliance (IHA) with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Currently, the county is in the balance funded option.

IHA is the largest collaboration in North Carolina with 18,301 subscribers and over 27,769 members, representing about 23

percent of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina.
In the current year, Blue Cross Blue Shield was “aggressive” in the renewal process, so it is looking for a funding increase, Browder said. If the county didn’t address the matter, it could mean a roughly 13 percent increase in cost.
CPEC will join the Mark III portfolio of options July 1, 2025. CPEC is organized by an Intergovernmental Agreement, is governed by North Carolina Statute. It is regulated by the North Carolina Department of Insurance, and overseen by a board of directors.
“It is owned by the membership, so the groups that are going into this will actually own the cooperative,” Browder said.
CPEC will allow government entities “to collaborate, govern, and manage insurance collectively,” the presentation said.
Over the long term, the option is a more cost-effective solution, Browder said.
“It’s a savings to the county and a savings to the employees,” he said.
The board voted to approve the plan, on the basis that it would save money.
“That’s the most important

thing for me,” Hunt said.

Other business
In other business, the board took the following actions:

- Approved a resolution accepting a bid of \$3,000 for a surplus property at Army Road and Maultsby.
- Did not approve a resolution accepting an offer of bid for surplus property at 202 North Highland Road. A bid of \$5,200 was offered, which was below the amount that the county policy can accept in the first year that the surplus property is for sale.
- As part of the consent agenda, approved a leak adjustment to a water meter for Jennifer Oxendine of Hatteras Trail.
- Approved budget amendments for the Hoke County Sheriff’s Office, primarily for purchase of new vehicles.
- Heard a report on the county tax collections. As of March 2025, the county had collected over 95 percent of owed taxes, about \$36.6 million. About \$1.8 million is still outstanding.
- Discussed plans to meet Monday, April 28 to discuss utilities matters. The meeting will be at 10 a.m. in the commissioners’ room.



SPECIAL WORSHIP EVENTS

NOTICE: In order to keep our Special Worship up-to-date we are adding an expiration date to the following announcements. If you would like the event to continue in our listings after the expiration date, please call (875-2121), fax (875-7256) or email (robin@thenews-journal.com) requesting this at least a week before its expiration.

Raeford Evangelical Methodist Church
Palmer Street, Raeferd
Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 9:30 a.m.
New members welcome

(expire October 2024)
The Raeferd United Methodist Church Preschool has openings in the 3- and 4-year-old preschool classes. If interested, contact Karen Tapp for more information at 910-818-7434.
(expires August 2024)
Food Pantry - Raeferd Evangelical Methodist Church REMC, Located at 379 W. Palmer street, Raeferd, hosts a food pantry on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 4:30 pm until 6:00 pm. Drive-thru pick up is located on the side of the church near the back of the building.

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<div>PAINTING</div> <div>Longhouse Pro Painters, LLC -Interior & Exterior Painting -Cabinet & Deck Painting -Wallpaper Removal -Design & Accent Painting -Custom Mural Paintings -Home or Business Realtors Welcome Investors Welcome Schools Discounts Military Discounts Quality and Affordability 910-758-5020 Facebook.com/LHProPaint</div>	<div>OIL & LP GAS</div> <div>McNeill Oil & Propane 641 W. Prospect Ave. •Propane •Fuel Oil •Kerosene •Diesel Fuel •Gasoline •Motor Oil Call 910-875-3596</div>
<div>MASSAGE</div> <div>MELT BODY THERAPIES Saralyn Smith DeBruler Licensed Massage & Bodywork Therapist 910-603-3864 123 N. Main Street Suite B, Raeferd</div>	<div>Raeferd Oil Company •LP Gas •Diesel •Home Heat 609 W. Prospect Ave. Raeferd 910-875-4151</div>
<div>ATTORNEYS</div> <div>Debbie G. Baker Attorney At Law Auto Accidents, Traffic, Criminal Defense, Civil Call 910-904-5585 or 910-229-9280 for help 24 hours a day. Email: Dbakerattorney@aol.com Website: www.debbiebakerlaw.com</div>	<div>HEATING/ AIR CONDITIONING</div> <div>Southmoore Heating & Cooling, Inc. Sales, Service, Quality Installations <i>Financing Available</i> Certified YORK Dealer 24 hour emergency service •Credit cards accepted. 910-281-4567 or 1-800-682-9276</div>
<div>FLORIST</div> <div>Raeferd Flowers & Gifts, LLC “Your Hometown Florist” 133 Harris Ave. Raeferd 910-354-3540 www.raeferdflowers.com Veteran Owned & Operated “A Name You Can Trust”</div>	<div>DUMPSTER RENTAL</div> <div>GASCON SERVICES LLC Dumpster Rentals Spring Clean Up Special: 4 DAYS \$250, 1st ton included 15 yard driveway friendly dumpsters "Consider Junk Gone!" Veteran Owned/Operated call/text 910 978-3190</div>

Updates

(Continued from page 1)
STATUS: Tillis and Budd introduced S. 107 – Lumbee Fairness Act on January 16, 2025. The latest movement on the bill was the same day, when it was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. Follow the S. 107 – Lumbee Fairness Act: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/107/text>

The latest movement on the House bill version of the Lumbee Fairness act was January 16, 2025, when it was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. Follow the H.R.474 - Lumbee Fairness Act: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/474>

Additionally, the presidential executive order issued a timeline of 90 days from the date of the memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior to “review all applicable authorities regarding the recognition or acknowledgement of Indian tribes and, in consultation with the leadership of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, shall submit to the President a plan to assist the Lumbee Tribe in obtaining full Federal recognition through legislation or other available mechanisms, including the right to receive full Federal benefits.”

That 90-day timeline ends this week, with the federal plan coming due.

House Bill 257 – Funds for Scotland and Hoke Projects

Hoke and Scotland County Rep. Garland Pierce, a Democrat from Wagram, was busy early this year introducing multiple pieces of legislation that could impact District 48.

Pierce filed House Bill 257 – Funds for Scotland and Hoke Projects. If passed into law, the bill would bring \$54 million to Hoke County. The money would be for a new sheriff’s office and law enforcement center, social services building, improvements to sewer and water and more funds for the new courthouse, among other things.

The bill requested \$54 million from the state’s General Fund, passed through the Office of State Budget and Management, in non-recurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to provide a directed grant to Hoke County.

The money would be used for: \$11 million for water and sewer needs.

\$10 million for courthouse construction overages.

\$10 million for construction of a new sheriff’s office and law enforcement center.

\$10 million for construction of a new workforce training center at Sandhills Community College.

\$5 million for construction of a new social services building.

\$5 million for construction of a new mental health/rehabilitation facility.

\$3 million for capital improvements for the County’s 20 volunteer fire departments.

H.B. 257 also includes \$83 million in funding for Scotland County.

STATUS: The bill was filed February 22, 2025. The last movement on H.B. 257 was on March 4, 2025, when it passed a first reading of the North Carolina House of Representatives. The bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations. To see updates, visit <https://www.ncleg.gov/Bill-LookUp/2025/H257>

House Bill 260 - Reallocate Raeferd Sewer Infrastructure Funds

Another major bill that Pierce sponsored is House Bill 260, “Reallocate Raeferd Sewer Infrastructure Funds,” passed its first reading March 4 and was referred to the Committee on Appropriations the same day. The bill is described as “an act to allow additional uses for certain funds allocated to the City of Raeferd.”

The bill would allow the city to reallocate up to \$3 million of funds allocated to the city for extending sewer lines to the Cameron Heights community, to be used for any water or wastewater project. The act would take effect immediately should it become law.

STATUS: The bill was filed March 3, 2025. The last movement on H.B. 260 was on March 4, 2025, when it passed a first reading of the North Carolina House of Representatives. The bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations. To see updates, visit <https://www.ncleg.gov/Bill-LookUp/2025/H260>

House Bill 417: Rockfish Park improvements

House Bill 417: At the request of several Hoke County residents, Pierce filed House Bill 417 in the North Carolina House of Representatives. The bill, “Funds for Hoke County Park,” seeks the money for upgrades and repairs for the Rockfish Community Park.

The bill passed its first reading Tuesday and was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

The funds would be a non-recurring, one-time payment for the park improvements, set for the 2025-2026 fiscal year that will begin July 1 and end June 31, 2026. The bill requests to appropriate the money from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management.

STATUS: The bill was filed March 17, 2025. The last movement on H.B. 417 was on March 18, 2025, when it passed a first reading of the North Carolina House of Representatives. The bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations. To see updates, visit <https://www.ncleg.gov/Bill-LookUp/2025/H417>

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Ads can be placed 24 hours a day on The News-Journal website at www.thenews-journal.com. Also available by phone at 910-875-2121, fax 910-875-7256, or in person at 119 W. Elwood Avenue.

CORRECTIONS

Persons should check their advertisement for accuracy the first time it appears online or in the newspaper so that necessary changes can be made. The newspaper will not be liable for mistakes in an advertisement beyond the first week of publication.

PAYMENT

Easily, securely pay online. Advertisements mailed

or brought to the newspaper office should be paid upon placement.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The News-Journal reserves the right not to publish classified advertisements it considers to be of questionable taste. The publication of an advertisement is not an endorsement of the worthiness of the product or service being offered.

Readers are advised to use caution when responding to classified ads that sell items or offer services outside of Hoke County. The News-Journal is often unable to verify the legitimacy of such ads.

ADVERTISING COSTS
\$5.25 for the first 15 words & 40¢ each additional word.
There is no charge for ads for an item that has been “found”.

<div>FOR SALE</div> <div>1941 Ford 2 door sedan super deluxe 12v conversion \$8500 trade for guns or militaria 386 290 5646</div>	<div>SERVICES</div> <div>ALL TYPES ROOF REPAIR - A new roof isn't always necessary. 3 year repair warranty and 7 year warranty on new roof. 40+ years experience. ALSO BATHROOM REPAIRS - No job too big or too small. Call us for FLOORING & PAINTING needs. God Bless our Military and School Teachers! Call James 910 986-3234 Always remember God loves you!</div>	<div>SERVICES</div> <div>WILLIAM'S LAWN MOWER REPAIR Call 910 875-2694, 2692 Calloway Road, Raeferd</div>
<div>REAL ESTATE</div> <div>LAND WANTED 50 to 150 acres of rural land. Prefer old farm or cleared timberland. Power and water not required. Purchase or multi-year lease. 361-389-4921</div>	<div>YARD SALES</div> <div>TWO FAMILY GARAGE SALE Saturday April 26 7AM-3PM Lots of items from odds & ends, furniture, shoes, toys, womens & kids clothes, mens 2&3X clothes and more!</div>	

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SPORTS

Around the Track We Go - Track & Field

<div>SCOTT BOUCHER</div> <div>Sports Writer</div> <div>The Fighting Bucks Track & Field team hosted the SAC #7 Track Meet of the season. The Fighting Bucks ran against the Raiders of Richmond County and the Fighting Scots of Scotland County. The top 10 finishers for the Fighting Bucks are as follows.</div> <div></div> <div>Brandon Saunders Competes in the Relay. (Photo by Scott Boucher)</div>	GIRLS		6:26.86 Alondra Cardenas 3rd		Discus		2:26.60 Christin Kaltved 1st		High Jump	
	Athlete	Place	100 Meter Dash		70-5 Trinity Baskerville 4th		2:35.85 Cahijah Crawford 4th		6-2 William Leak 1st	
	13.14 Mariyah Nesbit	6th	16.16 Arielle Owens 1st		69-9 Ayana Jones 5th				5-10 Sean Jones 3rd	
	13.50 Nasyria Robinson	9th	16.98 Alyssa McCoy 2nd		68-8 Chariti Manuel 6th				5-8 Kaden Atkins 4th	
	13.67 Sydnie Wilson	10th	20.36 Sariah Jackson 4th		54-4 Khalani Ragston 9th				5-8 Elijah McClain 4th	
	200 Meter Dash		300 Meter Hurdles		Shot Put		5:08.77 Jermaine Manning II 1st		5-8 Timaurion McQueen 4th	
	26.50 Arielle Owens	1st	48.63 Arielle Owens 1st		31-11 Ayana Jones 1st		5:09.07 Johnell Thompson 2nd		4th	
	27.19 Mariyah Nesbit	3rd	53.24 Alyssa McCoy 3rd		23-8 Trinity Baskerville 8th		5:32.98 Christin Kaltved 3rd		5-2 Jordan Mitchell 10th	
	28.14 Alyssa McCoy	5th	1:02.90 Sariah Jackson 4th		23-3 Chariti Manuel 9th		5:33.35 Noah Colon-Nieves 4th			
	28.35 Sydnie Wilson	6th	4x100 Meter Relay		BOYS		110 Meter Hurdles			
28.62 Nasyria Robinson	9th	52.66 Relay Team 3rd		Athlete		Place		22-8.75 William Leak 1st		
400 Meter Dash		4x400 Meter Relay		100 Meter Dash				21-4 Jaydon Smith 2nd		
1:06.86 Malia Pratt 2nd		4:31.30 Relay Team 2nd		11.54 Jaydon Smith 5th				20-0 Marconi Steele 5th		
1:14.92 Faith Matthews 9th		4x800 Meter Relay		11.66 Elijah Thomas 8th				18-0 Devion Coleman 7th		
		12:41.08 Relay Team 1st		11.76 Damiyn Genwright 9th				15-5.5 Chandler Thomas 9th		
				11.77 Caleb Matthews 10th						
800 Meter Run		High Jump		200 Meter Dash				Triple Jump		
2:44.18 Annabelle Lester 1st		4-0 Nia McCoy 1st		22.93 Tyriek Davis 4th				44-0 Sean Jones 1st		
2:49.70 Alondra Cardenas 3rd		Long Jump		23.27 Elijah McClain 6th				31-2.5 Chandler Thomas 4th		
3:19.70 Abby Cardova Sosa 5th		15-5.25 Nia McCoy 2nd		400 Meter Dash						
		15-2 Dasia Morrissey 3rd		52.93 Tyriek Davis 1st				Discus		
1600 Meter Run		Triple Jump		54.94 Josiah McCallum 2nd				98-9 Joseph Castillo 4th		
5:58.38 Harley Hardin 1st		26-3.5 Chariti Manuel 3rd		56.44 Elijah Thomas 4th				93-7 Jahlee Jean 6th		
				57.30 Jalen Walton 6th				92-5 Machai Brown 7th		
				57.75 Damien Genwright 8th				90-8 Christopher Walters 8th		
				58.42 Jacobi Simmons 9th				88-4 Kenneth Ashby 9th		
				58.51 Phoenix English 10th				Shot Put		
								41-9 Machai Brown 2nd		
								41-0 William Leak 3rd		
								36-7 Kenneth Ashby 7th		
								36-1 Christopher Walters 9th		

NASCAR

(Continued from page 1)

The Busch Series events often featured a mix of Cup Series regulars and up-and-coming talents, with multi-car teams like Roush Racing and Hendrick Motorsports dominating the entry lists.

In contrast, the 2025 Xfinity Series race showcased a modernized NASCAR landscape. The field of 38 cars included only one driver—Kasey Kahne—with prior Xfinity Series experience at Rockingham, highlighting the generational shift since the Busch Series days. The racing itself, however, echoed the past. A workable second groove allowed for side-by-side battles and occasional three-wide action, reminiscent of the Busch Series’ competitive flair. The modern Xfinity cars, with their advanced aerodynamics and lower horsepower, demanded precise setups, as evidenced by the post-race scrutiny that upended the final order.

Victory Turns to Heartbreak

In a nail-biting overtime finish, Jesse Love, behind the wheel of the No. 2 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet, outduelled Sammy Smith on the final restart to cross the finish line first. It was a triumphant moment, a perfect cap to the series’ homecoming at Rockingham.

But the celebration didn’t last. During post-race inspection,

officials discovered a technical violation in Love’s car. The issue? A breach of Rule 14.14.2.I-5.h, which governs the setup of trailing arm spacers and pinion angle shims. Series director Eric Peterson explained “All mating surfaces of those parts need to be in complete contact with each other, and unfortunately they violated that rule and were disqualified.” Love’s victory was gone, and he was relegated to last place. Richard Childress Racing announced an appeal on April 21, but as of now, no hearing date has been set. For the time being, the win belongs to Sammy Smith who claimed his third career Xfinity Series win and a \$100,000 bonus as the highest finisher in the final Dash 4 Cash event of the season.

A Nostalgic Revival

The return to Rockingham was a love letter to NASCAR’s roots, and fans embraced it wholeheartedly. Brandon Pilcher, a Fayetteville native and lifelong NASCAR fan, captured the sentiment perfectly when asked, “How does it feel to be back at The Rock?” He replied, “As a longtime NASCAR fan, it feels great to be back at The Rock where I’ve seen so many great races. It felt surreal to be back watching racing again. It just brings back so many memories as a little boy here with my dad.” That hit me right in the nostalgia

feels. “The Rock” proved it’s still got it—multi-groove racing, big moments, the works.

Why We Need “The Rock”

Rockingham isn’t just some random speedway—it’s got soul. Since 1982, it’s been where heroes become legends. Think of David Pearson speeding to that first win, or Dale Earnhardt sealing his seventh championship in 1994—big moments that still give fans goosebumps. It’s where rivalries like Earnhardt versus Rusty Wallace lit up the track, and where a kid named Jeff Gordon showed the world he was the real deal. Even the last big race in 2004 had Kasey Kahne and Matt Kenseth finishing so close you couldn’t blink without missing it.

For longtime fans, it’s like a scrapbook of epic days. For newbies, it’s a chance to feel that old-school vibe—like stepping into a story where every corner has a tale to tell.

When the dust settled, Rockingham proved it’s more than a track—it’s a vibe. Sammy Smith’s shock win, Jesse Love’s tough break, and Kasey Kahne’s big return added new chapters to its story. It’s where underdogs shine, veterans get a second shot, and fans become family. So next time those engines fire up, will you be there to feel the thunder? Trust me, you won’t want to miss it.

Legend

(Continued from page 1)

After graduating, he chose to make sports his profession.

John Christopher Roper was born November 21, 1971 to John and Naomi Roper of Raeferd. He started playing T-ball when he was a boy of about seven years old. As he grew up, he began playing Little League baseball. His love for sports would continue throughout his time as a student, and beyond.

Roper began attending Hoke High in the late 1980s, and would eventually graduate with the Hoke High Class of 1990. During his years with the Bucks, he played football and became a star athlete in baseball.

Roper joined the Hoke High baseball team roster as a pitcher. With him on the pitcher’s mound, he helped the Bucks rack up a 26-3 record his senior year. He was called on to play in the North Carolina state games in 1988-1989, according to biographical information.

In 1989, Roper and three other teens from Raeferd – Derick Graham, Spade Bailey and Robert Carpenter – helped the American Legion Post 20 win its first ever Western Divisional Championship in baseball. The young men from Raeferd played alongside student athletes from 71st High School and Stedman High School. The team made it all the way to the playoff games.

“Raeferd’s American Legion Post 20 won the Western Divisional Championships earlier this month and compiled a 22-15 record before succumbing to Whiteville Post 137 4-1 in the championship playoffs,” a News-Journal story from July 1989 said.

“We’ve had a super year and we have nothing to be ashamed about,” Coach Gary Brigman was quoted at the time.

After the playoffs run, Roper told a News-Journal reporter that playing on the American Legion team was “a great experience because you get to see things – like pitchers – that you’ve never seen before. In high school, you see average players just like yourself, but the Legion’s like an all-star team. You see the best of everybody.”

His performance with the team caught the attention of scouts, who had approached him about entering the draft. As a high school student, he wanted to complete his degree but also dreamed of going professional.

His performance in baseball certainly caught plenty of attention: “Roper’s high school batting average was 400 last season, and he’s batting around 300 in the series. He pitches and occasionally plays first base.”

He was clocked as throwing a fastball at up to 90 miles an hour. In his junior year, he was 8-2 with a 2.11 earned run average and 95

strikeouts in 57 innings, according to newspaper records.

Roper was modest even as others heaped praise on him for his athletic ability. He kept a focus on wanting to improve, according to a 1989 interview with the local newspaper.

In speaking of his performance that year, Roper said, “It hasn’t been as good as it should have been – I’ve developed some bad habits in batting. I’m looking to improve by keeping my eye on the ball and dipping a little bit when the ball comes to me.”

His drive to get better as an athlete, along with the talents and hard work of his fellow Bucks, took the Bucks baseball team to lofty places. By spring of 1990, the Hoke High baseball team was ranked number 13 in the United States by a poll in USA Today.

“The pitching staff led by John Roper and Jeff Huffman should be the strongest that Hoke has ever had,” Hoke High Coach Joe Critcher said in a March 1990 interview. “Both are being scouted by Division One coaches.”

Other standouts among the seniors on the 1990 team included Derek Graham, Robert Carpenter, Bill Upchurch, Alexander McDougald, Chris Locklear and Bobby Simmons.

“Cricher attributes the magic of the team to its past as the players grew up in the community. ‘They grew up together playing ball, from little league up. The coaching they have received from Little League coaches, middle school coaches and Legion coaches has helped the young men fulfill some of their potential,’” a News-Journal article from the time stated.

Winning the Southeastern 4A conference title was the goal for the team from the start of Roper’s senior season. It was a goal that the team would reach, when the Bucks defeated the Winston-Salem Glenn Bobcats in the first of two games in a “best two out of three” series. The Bucks were the Eastern Regional champs and the Bobcats were the Western Regional champs. The Hoke High team claimed victory with “an easy 12-4 win Thursday night; they relaxed and swung hard, turning in their finest batting performance in post-season play,” a News-Journal story said.

“Needless to say, the Bucks were elated at the victory. No Hoke County baseball squad has ever gone as far, and it may be a long time before any other does so. But even before the game, the team was in a good mood, even though the van broke down on the way to Kernersville.”

The school and athletics conference recognized Roper for his skill and dedication as an athlete. He was named All Conference both his junior and senior years at Hoke High. He was also named to

All Region and All State. Another major accolade came his senior year, when he was named the Southeastern Conference Player of the Year.

After completing his high school career, Roper went into the 1990 baseball draft. He was drafted in the 12th round by the Cincinnati Reds baseball team. He started his professional career in minor league baseball before working his way up through the ranks and claiming a spot in the major leagues.

He started his rookie year playing with the Cincinnati Reds’ team in Plant City, Florida. He earned Most Valuable Player his first year in pro ball.

In 1991, just a year after graduating high school, he returned to North Carolina as a pitcher for the Charleston West Virginia Wheelers. The Wheelers were a Cincinnati Reds farm club that came to the Sandhills to play against the Fayetteville Generals’ baseball team. Local fans got to travel to Fayetteville to see the hometown athlete play in a professional setting.

“‘Yeah, I was a bit nervous,’” Roper said of playing in front of family and friends again, ‘But I was also looking forward to it,’” a newspaper story from April 1991 said.

In that game, he ended up pitching six strikeouts and one walk in the last two innings. In the entire game, he only allowed five hits and struck out at least 11 batters.

“The more confidence the Generals lost at the plate, the more power Roper seemed to build on the mound.”

Roper played professionally throughout the early and mid-1990s, before retiring. Besides the Cincinnati Reds, he also played for the San Francisco Giants.

After his professional career in baseball, Roper went into coaching. He continues today teaching young athletes to improve their skills and chase their own dreams.

The Hoke High Hall of Fame inducted Roper as part of its second-ever class of inductees, in 2013. During the ceremony, his former coach Critcher said of Roper, “The best thing about him is he’s never changed. He’s the same kid that I saw at 12, 13 that everybody’s bragging and calling Kid. Just proud of him and been proud of him, baseball or not baseball.”

Roper said being inducted into the Hall of Fame meant a great deal to him, especially so because it was an honor from his hometown.

“All the kids always ask me, were you ever inducted into any Hall of Fames? I’m like no, man, just the hall of shame,” he joked. “Now I can say I’ve been inducted into a Hall of Fame and quite frankly it is where I would rather be because this is the place that made me who I am today.”

—COMMUNITY CALENDAR—

Items should be submitted for the Community Calendar by noon Friday before the publication date. You are asked to keep in mind that paste-up of the calendar page is done on Monday before publication. Also, if an ongoing item has been discontinued or needs to be changed, you are asked to contact the editor as soon as possible.

Food Pantry - Raeferd Evangelical Methodist Church

REMC, Located at 379 W. Palmer street, Raeferd, hosts a food pantry on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 4:30 pm until 6:00 pm. Drive-thru pick up is located on the side of the church near the back of the building.

NOTICE: In order to keep our Calendar up-to-date, we are adding an expiration date to the following announcements. If you would like the event to continue in our calendar after the expiration date, please call (875-2121), fax (875-7256) or email (robin@thenews-journal.com) requesting this at least a week before its expiration.

Military service-connected meetings

RALPH A. PANDURE VFW POST 10 meets the second Monday of each month at its Post Home, 145 Hanger Lane, Raeferd. It is located off Doc Brown Road at the Raeferd Airport. For information contact Commander George Balch at 910-875-4410, e-mail gbalch@nc.rr.com or visit us on Facebook. (expires June 2025)

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHAPTER 17 meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at 145 Hanger Lane, Raeferd. It is located off Doc Brown Road at the Raeferd Airport. For information contact Adjutant George Balch at 910-875-4410 or e-mail gbalch@nc.rr.com (expires June 2025)

Calling all ACTIVE AND RETIRED NAVY, MARINE AND COAST GUARD to join Fleet Reserve Branch 259 located in Fayetteville. The Branch and Unit meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Retired Military Association building off Gillespie Street. (expires June 2025)

AMERICAN LEGION POST 20 meets on the 1st Monday of month at 6:00 pm. The meeting address: 145 Hanger Lane Raeferd, NC 28376

All members and those interested are encouraged to attend. For information, call Rory Eddings 910 850-8469 or John McRae, Adjacent, 910-286-1705. (expires June 2025)

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 62, the “Sandhills” Chapter for Raeferd, Aberdeen, Southern Pines and Pinehurst, meets the 1st Saturday of each month, 1800 hrs at the Southern Pines VFW Post 7318 Clubhouse in Southern Pines, 615 South Page St. All present and past Special Forces soldiers are invited to attend. For additional information, contact Chapter 62 President, Tom Galbicsek at: tngabs@yahoo.com (expires June 2025)

Others

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study at Raeferd Evangelical Methodist Church located on Palmer Street in Raeferd. New members are very welcome. (expires March 2025)

CHILDREN’S STORYTIME is held Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at the Hoke County Public Library. Library Hours: Monday: 8am-6pm; Tuesday: 8am-8pm; Wednesday: 8am-8pm; Friday: 8am-6pm; Saturday: 8am-4pm (expires March 2025)

ADULTS PROGRAMS are offered Wednesdays at the Hoke County Public Library, times vary. Call us at 910-875-2502 for more information. (expires June 2025)

FOLLOW US on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for more information about what is happening at the Hoke

County Public Library. (expires June 2025)

HOTSPOTS and CHROMEBOOKS are available for checkout with your Hoke County Public Library Card at the Hoke County Public Library. Other available services: •Print •Fax •Scan •Notary (expires June 2025)

TEEN MONDAYS are held at the Hoke County Public Library at 1 p.m. & Thursdays at 2 p.m. Call the Hoke County Public Library at 910-875-2502 for more information. Follow us on Facebook for more information about what is happening at the library. (expires March 2025)

STORYTIME — Want the Hoke County Public Library to visit your facility for a Storytime? Call us at 910-875-2502. (expires March 2025)

READ TO SUCCEED — The Hoke County Public Library is offering an essay contest for school-aged children in Hoke County - 2 elementary, 2 middle and 1 high schooler. Call the library for more information. (expires March 2025)

DIGITAL LITERACY — Digital Literacy classes have resumed. Call the Hoke County Public Library at 910-875-2502 to get registered for classes. Digital navigator office hours are 2pm-4pm Monday-Friday for drop in assistance. (expires March 2025)

WEEKLY AA MEETINGS www.aa.org — Wednesdays: 7:30-9 p.m., Raeferd United Methodist Church, 308 N. Main St., Raeferd, rear entrance. (expires June 2025)

LIBERTY HOSPICE SERVICES is looking for friendly, compassionate people to join our Raeferd team as a Hospice Volunteer. Companionship volunteers are needed to visit one time a week with a patient to talk, to listen, to laugh, sometimes to watch TV or maybe read, sometimes to sit quietly during rest. The gift of your time will always brighten their day. For more information call Linda at 910-875-8198. (expires June 2025)

LINE DANCE CLASS for seniors 55+ starts September 1st. Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost per month is \$25. Cash or check payment can be made from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday at Hoke County Senior Services. Call 910-875-8588 for more information. Payments must be made by September 5th. (expires June 2025)

SENIOR BOWLING is every Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. Please contact Brenda Molchan, Hoke County Senior Services at 910-875-8588 for more information. (expires June 2025)

A MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION is held at the Food Pantry of Carolinas/Masjid Al Madina, 196 Pitman Grove Church Road, Raeferd, between 10 - 11 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Everyone is welcome. Call Muhammad at 651-983-3903 for information. (expires June 2025)

The DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF HOKE COUNTY meet every fourth Monday, via Zoom for now. For login info call 910-875-8982. (expires June 2025)

The HOKE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY meets the third Thursday of every month at PK’s Grill Raeferd Airport at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. For more information please visit the website at www.hokegop.com. (expires June 2025)

WEEKLY NA MEETINGS www.na.org — Mondays: 8-9 p.m., Hoke County Public Library, 334 N. Main St., Raeferd, rear entrance; Tuesdays & Thursdays: 8-9 p.m., Raeferd United Methodist Church, 308 N. Main St., Raeferd, rear entrance. (expires June 2025)

COUNTY SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, sponsored by Tia Hart Recovery Program is open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday at 116 East Elwood Avenue, Raeferd. For more information call Shirley Hart at 910-875-0033 or 910-273-6137. (expires June 2025)

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Fat and diabetes

Many people with Type II diabetes initially have few, if any, symptoms. The disease is often discovered during laboratory tests as part of a routine physical exam. But excess weight is a key factor; 80 to 90 percent of people with Type II diabetes are overweight.

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