

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

75¢

No. 8 Vol. 107

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

County tax bills, records going online

Residents of east Hoke particularly want internet convenience, officials say

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke residents will soon be able to pay their property tax bills online or search a public database of county property tax payments from the last 10 years.

The county is moving to put the public information online and is also setting up an

automated system that will allow residents to pay their tax bills online with a credit or debit card, tax collector Daphne Dudley said.

It's just one new option and residents can still come in to pay in person if they don't have internet access or don't want to pay a fee for paying online, she said. The county is also automating its phone payment system so residents paying property taxes over the

phone can expect a fee as well.

If paying with a Visa card, the fee for paying online or through the phone is \$2.95. If it's not a Visa card, the charge is 2.5 percent of the total amount you're paying, Dudley said. Before the changes, the county paid the fees to allow residents to pay with a card over the phone.

Currently, there is no fee to pay with a card

inside the tax office but that could change too, Dudley said. Paying with a check in person avoids all of the credit card fees.

The county moved to offer an online payment system because many residents, particularly in the eastern part of the county, frequently asked about a way to pay property taxes without having to come to the tax office in Raeford. (See **TAX BILLS**, page 8A)

Hunter pleads in shooting

Accident killed soldier on trail

A man pleaded guilty last month in the 2011 shooting of a U.S. Army soldier on the All-American Trail.

Allen Thompson of Moore County pleaded guilty to criminally negligent hunting in the shooting death of Capt. Jeremiah Sipes, 33, of Montana. Thompson accidentally shot Sipes while hunting on the trail, according to court documents. Thompson faces up to 120 days in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. The sentencing hearing is set for month.

Sipes was shot and killed while running on the All-American Trail on New Year's Day 2011. The trail is closed to pedestrians each fall into the first of the year for hunting season. After Sipes' death, Fort Bragg officials posted larger, more easily visible signs at the trail entrances and exits to let guests know whether the trail is open or closed for pedestrians, bicyclers, horseback riders and others.

The Army Criminal Investigation Division handled the case. The redacted report of the investigation will be available after Thompson is sentenced, a CID representative said.



Above, Don Steed team members Allison Leis, Carol Lewis, Linda Chapman and Tammy Kondzitch show the shirt supporting a first grade student and cancer victim; at left, walkers pass luminarias. (Catharin Shepard photos)

Relay persists for cancer cure

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

In the middle of a noisy crowd at Raz Autry Stadium and with loud music booming from the main stage, three women paused for a private moment in front of a tiny white paper bag.

Tychenna Williams, clutching a bouquet of pink flowers, knelt down on the side of the walking track to take a photo of the luminaria bearing her mother's name, as sister Cicely Harrington and cousin Larachel McPhatter-Morrissey stood

together with her in quiet support.

Shirley Harrington passed away March 25, 2012, and at this year's Relay for Life fundraiser, her family gathered for a special memorial in her honor—and to give hope to others who, like Harrington, face a battle with the disease.

"My aunt Shirley had cancer. Her type of cancer was thyroid cancer, and we lost her in about three months' time, which was something that was very hard for the family," McPhatter-Morrissey said. (See **RELAY**, page 6A)



2,000 Girl Scouts

...from central and eastern North Carolina converged on Five Points Horse Park over the weekend to celebrate the organization's 100th birthday. The girls took part in camping, making crafts, performing in a talent show, and going on nature hikes. (Catharin Shepard photos)



OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

This week it's time for another episode of We Do Science So You Don't Have To.

An app that is crazy popular, getting attention from the likes of CNN, is Ugly Meter, which uses the iPhone's built-in camera to capture a photo of the owner, then rates the person's appearance on a scale of 1 to 10. Remember, this is the ugly meter, so a 10 is the (See **OTHER STUFF**, page 5A)

Soldier killed in Afghanistan

United States Army Staff Sgt. Brandon Eggleston, a Special Forces soldier who lived in Raeford, was killed in Afghanistan last week.

Eggleston, 29, died April 26 in Ghazni province, Afghanistan as a result of injuries sustained when his vehicle drove over an improvised explosive device. Eggleston

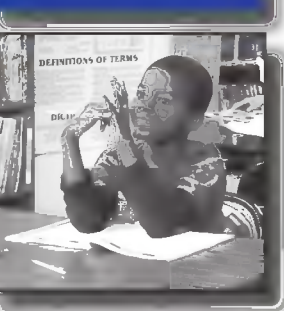
was originally from Eden. He lived in Raeford with his wife Karen and their two children.

Eggleston was assigned to 4th Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group based at Fort Bragg, according to the Department of Defense. He graduated from Morehead High School in 2006 and earned a degree (See **SOLDIER**, page 8A)

Mom sentenced for child abuse

The mother and grandmother of an infant burned by chemicals used to make methamphetamine were found guilty on multiple charges and sentenced. (See **ABUSE**, page 8A)

This Week



Literacy Council honors student
page 5A

Calendar 2B
Classifieds 5B
Deaths 3A
Editorials 2A
Legals 3-4B
Sports 7A
Worship 2B

