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2014 shaping up to be big election year

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The first of several election filing periods this year—this one for three seats on the Hoke County Board of Commissioners—will open on February 10 and run until

February 28. The seats currently occupied by commissioners Ellen McNeill, Tony Hunt and Jean Powell are up for election this year. So far, three people—Harry Southerland, Michael Lindsay and Allen Thomas—have announced they plan to seek election to the

commission. All three plan to run as Democrats.

If enough candidates in each party file to run, the county will hold a primary on May 6. Election Day is scheduled for November 4.

Three seats on the county board of education are also up for

election this year. Board members Barbara Buie, Della Maynor and Irish Pickett currently occupy the seats. The filing period for the board of education opens July 7.

The office of the sheriff, currently occupied by Sheriff Hubert Peterkin, and the position of the

county coroner, currently held by G. Franklin Crumpler, are also up for election this year. Peterkin announced in August that he plans to run for office again.

There are several state races slated for 2014 that will affect
(See *ELECTION*, page 4A)

County hires finance officer

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County's new chief finance officer starts work Monday, according to County Manager Tim Johnson.

After conducting interviews with candidates, the county board of commissioners chose to hire Barry Mayo, the current finance officer for Warren County. Mayo will earn a

starting salary of \$89,716. The commission is set to officially confirm Mayo to the position at the first board meeting of the year on January 6.

Mayo graduated from Orange High School in Hillsborough in 1981 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in business from St. Augustine College in Raleigh in 1985. He went back to school and earned an MPA in public administration from N.C.
(See *FINANCE*, page 3A)



Number 24 for East Hoke Middle School, K. Thorpe, tries to put a lay-up over the top of West Hoke defender #34 J. Baldwin in the annual hardwood battle between the middle schools recently. East Hoke defeated West Hoke 61-43. More Sports, page 4A. (Hal Nunn photo)

Looking Back at 2013



Hoke's first hospital opened to a big crowd.

With Hoke's first hospital opening, the 2013 was a big year for the county. Here's a look back at the year's news events:

February:

Parks and Recreation Director Elgin Blue dies just days before he was set to be inducted into the Hoke County High School Sports Hall of

Fame. Parks and Recreation employee Kendrick Maynor later became the new department director.

David Frame, 16, was shot and killed while he and three other people were allegedly attempting to rob the All American Mattress and Furniture store on Highway 211. Deputies arrested Ronald

This Week

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Two arrested for area break-ins

Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office last week arrested two people from Lumber Bridge on charges they committed several motor vehicle break-ins in the Rockfish community.

Officers arrested Joshua David McQuage, 24, of the 200 block of Culbreth



Ransom
Road in Lumber Bridge and Jami Rae Ransom, 30, also of the 200 block



McQuage
of Culbreth Road in Lumber Bridge. Authorities charged McQuage with seven felony counts of breaking and

(See *BREAK-INS* page 4A)

OTHER STUFF

By Ken MacDonald

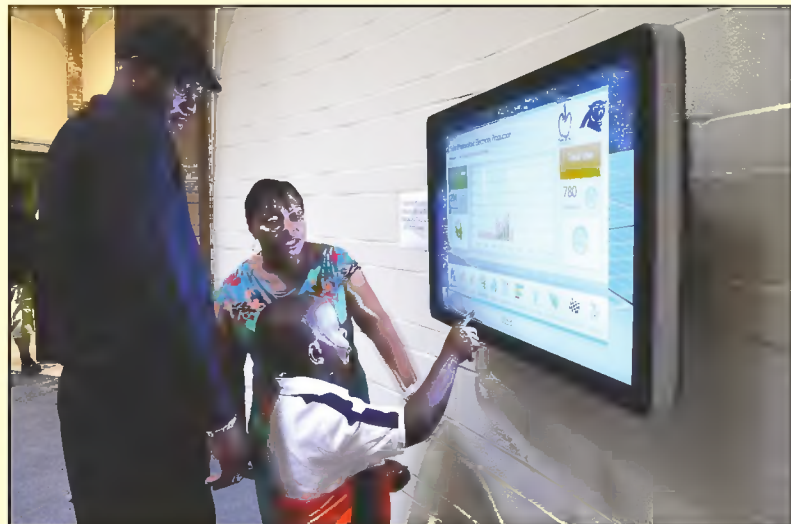
Long Johns on, "Termooscut" blanket covering my legs, and backpack strapped in place, I departed my driveway Saturday afternoon on the scooter. Next stop, the beach. Well, technically the next stop was the gas station. If your full tank is less than 2 gallons, it would be stupid not to top it off and risk running out somewhere in the Green Swamp.

I'd ridden my bicycle from Raeford to the beach before, yet somehow doing it on a scooter seemed
(See *OTHER STUFF*, page 4A)

Man busts Craigslist thief

A man who spotted a stolen paint sprayer up for sale on Craigslist set up a sting operation of his own to catch the thief, according to the Hoke County Sheriff's Office.

Gary Scott told deputies December 23 that his employer Christopher Perry had
(See *THIEF*, page 4A)



Visitors get a look at technology at Sandy Grove Middle School when it opened in August.

Ross Jr., 24, of the Park Place Mobile Home Park in Raeford, Amie Lynette Ross, 27, of the 100 block of Park Place Mobile Home Park in Raeford and Lewis Vega, 21, of the 300 block of Providence Way in Aberdeen in connection with the robbery.

March:

Cape Fear Valley opens its outpatient facility, Health Pavilion Hoke. The facility offers a number of outpatient services such as imaging and

doctors' offices.

The House of Raeford announces it is getting out of the turkey business and will shut down the slaughterhouse in Raeford, laying off nearly 1,000 workers. The cook plant will continue to operate. The plant had its final day of operations in July and officials expected the plant would be fully vacated in December.
(See *LOOKING BACK*, page 3A)

