

# The News-Journal

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

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No. 21 Vol. 109

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

## Trench collapse kills Raeford man



Rescuers at work. (Fort Bragg photo)



Nettles, at graduation

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The Department of Occupational Health and Safety (OSHA) is investigating a trench collapse on Fort Bragg that killed a man from Raeford last week.

Although authorities did not of-

ficially release the victim's name, Hoke County friends and family reported that Hoke High graduate Clyde Thomas Nettles Jr. died in the accident. They shared the news on their Facebook pages, posting photos of "CJ" and outpourings of sympathy.

Nettles was 22 years old and

engaged to be married. He played football for the Hoke High Bucks during his time in high school. In messages posted online, loved ones remembered him for his contagious laugh, bright smile and big heart.

The construction worker was (See ACCIDENT, page 4A)



### Adjusting for the future

Home Food, a Raeford fixture for 96 years, is changing its emphasis from groceries to produce. Clockwise from above: P.J. McNeill drove from Moore County to shop; Kim Hollingsworth helps customer Jodi Onachila; a rooster is free-range or at least free to roam the feed and seed store; the oldest McNeill still has his own seat to supervise. (Catharin Shepard photos)

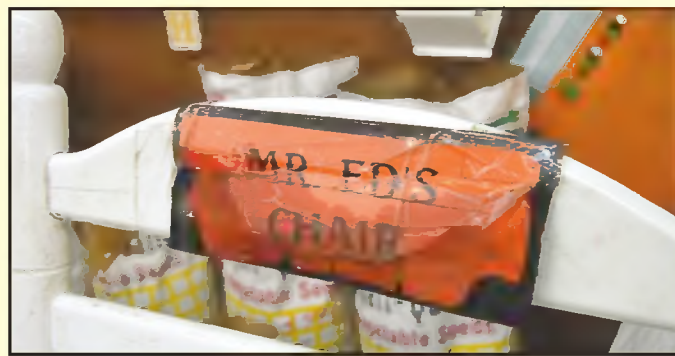
## After nearly a century, Home Food charts changes

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Buying a farm-fresh watermelon at Home Food was worth the drive all the way from Moore County for P.J. McNeill.

Shopping for locally grown fruits and vegetables and fresh-caught fish is something she and her husband Lamont McNeill can't do in Moore, she said.

"Some of this stuff we have (See HOME FOOD, page 6A)



## Neighbor hit with 2x4

Investigators with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested a man Sunday for allegedly hitting his neighbor on the head with a wooden 2x4, according to a report.



Rowsey

Authorities called to the 4200 block of Old Maxton Highway arrived to find Garrett Locklear lying on the ground with a laceration to the head. Suspect Charles Junior Rowsey, 50, of the 4200 block of Old Maxton Highway was reportedly waiting for authorities to arrive. Rowsey confessed at the scene that he hit Locklear on the head with the wooden plank while the two were arguing, officials said.

Deputies charged Rowsey with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. He was held under a \$15,000 unsecured bond. Locklear was treated for his injuries at an area hospital.

## Woman assaulted in home invasion

Investigators with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested a woman last week for allegedly breaking into a home and assaulting the homeowner.



Blackmon

Officers arrested Dejhi Blackmon, 26, of the 4700 block of Star Rite Lane in Parkton on charges of robbery with a dangerous weapon, second-degree kidnapping, felony breaking or entering, felony larceny after breaking or entering and felony possession of stolen goods.

(See ASSAULT, page 6A)

### This Week

- Calendar ..... 2B
- Classifieds ..... 7B
- Deaths ..... 3A
- Editorials ..... 2A



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## No tax-free weekend this year in this state

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Shoppers used to buying school supplies tax-free shortly before students return to class will have to go out of state this year if they want to find bargains.

From 2002 to 2013, the state held a special weekend when consumers could buy computers, clothing and other back-to-school supplies without paying sales tax. However, citing the need to

cut costs, the state stopped the tax-free weekend program last year. Officials also ended a similar weekend in November that offered shoppers a chance to buy some appliances without paying sales tax. The state lost millions in sales tax revenue every year because of the events, officials said.

However, if shoppers are willing and able to pay for gas to drive out of state this weekend, they can still find tax-free deals. South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia continue offer-

ing tax-free weekends. The tax-free weekend for South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia is set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday while Georgia will hold its sales tax holiday Friday and Saturday.

As of Tuesday, the average price of gasoline in North Carolina stood at \$3.44 a gallon for regular, while the average price of gas in South Carolina was \$3.27, according to gasbuddy.com. Gas prices in Virginia and Georgia stood at an average of \$3.34 and \$3.42, respectively. The (See TAX-FREE, page 6A)

### OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

We started a company on our most recent youth group outing—Rude Awakenings LLC. You need that limited liability part for the kind of company we formed, which is one that, for a fee, offers a wake-up service for hard-to-awaken teenagers.

The Methodists, whose conference we crashed, wanted each group in attendance to find a way to raise a little money for a hunger abatement program, and our service was an answer to those sissy ideas other groups came up with like selling cupcakes and glow sticks. Pa-lease. (See OTHER STUFF, page 4A)

## Walker files for school board



Walker

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

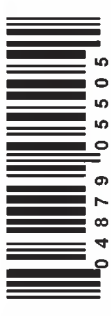
Military veteran and longtime Hoke resident Gilbert Walker announced this week that he plans to run for a seat on the Hoke County Board of Education.

Walker said he decided to run for a four-year term on

the board because he tries to be active in the community and wants to help make sure Hoke schools produce graduates who are able to compete in the workplace.

"I hear sometimes of students graduating and not being able to read, write in cursive or be able to write (See WALKER, page 6A)

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