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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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KKK papers found in area mailboxes

Mail carriers finding recruiting propoganda in Ashley Heights

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Two mail carriers have found Ku Klux Klan propaganda and recruitment materials placed in dozens of mailboxes in the western part of Hoke County.

Aberdeen Post Office carrier Kate Howard, who delivers mail in Moore and Hoke

counties, said she came across the first packets a week ago in mailboxes near the Hoke-Moore line.

"I started picking them up last weekend and I picked up more this weekend," Howard said. "I was shocked when I came back after Thanksgiving and I picked up a whole boatload more."

Monday, another carrier working on

Howard's day off picked up a thick stack of the papers left in mailboxes on Ashemont Road. The papers were also left in boxes on Reservation Road and Calloway Road, among other locations.

"I think this is probably going to blanket the whole Ashley Heights area," Howard said.

The materials included two different

packets stapled together, each one with information printed from the white supremacist group's website. One packet urged voters not to vote for Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush because his wife is Mexican-American.

"A vote for Jeb Bush is a vote for open borders and for an accelerated browning of

(See *KLAN*, page 7)



Mary Katherine Hodgin (standing) and Riley Sutherland prepare some of the 1,000 luminaries for downtown. Lights are up on Main Street.



Duke plans transmission line for city

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Duke Energy is planning to build a new transmission line to connect its Raeford substation with another line that runs to a substation in Richmond County, and wants to connect with the community about the project.

"We're investing in a new transmission line to connect our existing Raeford substation, located off of Old Wire Road, to our existing transmission line that runs from the Woodruff Street substation to the Richmond substation," the company said in a statement.

Property owners who would be affected by the proposed transmission line have been notified directly by letter, the company said.

Duke Energy seeks to build the new transmission line to help improve its service in the area, the company reported.

"The new line will provide greater capacity and enhanced reliability for your community, including customers of local cooperatives," the statement said.

The company will hold an open house Tuesday, December 8 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the senior room in the Hoke County Old Armory

(See *DUKE*, page 7)

'Hometown Christmas' is Thursday downtown

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The first annual Hometown Christmas is set for 6 p.m. this Thursday with Santa Claus arriving at 6:15 p.m. to help light the Raeford city Christmas tree at the corner of Main Street and Central Avenue.

Main Street in Raeford from the Hoke County Public Library

to the shopping center at Harris Avenue will be lit by a thousand luminaries, along with the city's brand-new LED Christmas lights that are now on display on the lamps downtown. Local elected officials and children from the Hoke County Schools' music programs will help welcome in the holiday season.

Caroling, classic Christmas movies, free popcorn and other

goodies, hayrides and horse-drawn carriage rides, story time at the library, arts and crafts for kids and tours of the Raeford-Hoke Museum are among the activities planned for the event which runs until 8 p.m. After the tree lighting, Santa will be available for "Selfies with Santa" at the Chamber of Commerce building.

Downtown businesses have

decorated their windows for the season and will stay open later than usual Thursday, and businesses in the county will set up tables on the sidewalks to meet and greet citizens. The event is meant to offer fun and fellowship while supporting local businesses.

Weather for the evening is predicted to be mostly clear, but

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Kiss and sell

Heather Greer (left) and Destiny Locklear found a way to make a little money for Christmas — sell mistletoe, that plant under which lovers are supposed to kiss. The two were hard at work Monday on Lundy Lane. Two-year-old Maddison Davies was enjoying the outing. (Ken MacDonald photo)

Man stops for Coke, wins \$150,000

For the second time in a week, a person won big off of a lottery ticket purchased in Hoke County.

Joe Gunter, a construction supervisor from Laurel, Mississippi, was visiting Hoke County with his workers to build a pipeline when he decided to stop for a drink at the 211 Lucky Stop on Aberdeen Road. He bought five \$5 scratch-off tickets and gave four of them away, but it was Gunter's own

ticket that proved to be a winner.

"I'm scratching and I see a '1' and I'm thinking, '\$10,'" Gunter said in a statement. "I keep scratching and the zeroes kept coming."

Gunter won \$150,000 in the Golden 7s game. After taxes, he will receive \$103,876.

After realizing he'd won, Gunter called his wife and they cried together over the

(See *WINNER*, page 7)

Celebrity chef to hold show at Hoke High

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A celebrity chef will demonstrate his culinary prowess Friday at Hoke High School in a dinner prepared live in front of an audience.

Chef Jerome "Rome" Brown got his start in the culinary arts at Gardener's BBQ in Rocky Mount. He later served in the U.S.

Army, studied under other chefs, and got his first big break working at Walt Disney World Resort. In 2011, he appeared on Food Network's "Extreme Chef," and today he cooks for the stars, serves as a consultant and travels around the country for various events.

Hoke High School culinary teacher Laniice McLean connected with Brown after

(See *CHEF*, page 7)

Looking for job? Career fair is Thursday

Several local organizations will hold a career fair Thursday, December 3 at Raeford United Methodist Church on Main Street.

Maggie's Outreach Community Development Center, the NCWorks Career Center, American Legion, Hoke County, the Hoke County Reentry Council and Raeford United Methodist Church joined forces to

host the career fair. The fair is set for 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. at Raeford United Methodist Church on Main Street in downtown Raeford.

Health care, manufacturing, industrial and construction job opportunities will be available. Candidates should "dress to

(See *CAREER FAIR*, page 7)



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