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Emergency medical personnel tend to Helen Oxendine after she was thrown from her vehicle in an accident yesterday on Shannon Road. (Photo by Pat Wilson)

Woman killed in Tuesday accident

BY PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Helen Ann Oxendine, 26, died in surgery after she was taken to

Cape Fear Valley Medical Center with head injuries. She was thrown from her automobile as it rolled over several times at the intersection of Shannon and Balfour roads.

This week

State urges awareness of severe weather page 4A

School makeup days are set page 8B

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Around Town



BY SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

The snow has vanished except for some of the large piles that were cleared from the roads. With the 70-degree temperatures and the rain, it left in a hurry. Most of the people have resumed their daily routine after a few days of getting cabin fever. Ben Haddon left an article on my desk last week and it gave daily reports for many who were snow bound. Thanks, Ben! With the major league going south for spring baseball training, maybe we can look forward to an early spring. Let's hope so!

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs Wednesday to be in the 70s and the low 40s. Thursday (See AROUND, page 11A)

The accident occurred shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday. State Trooper F.K. Crumpler said Oxendine, a Shannon Road resident, was not wearing a seat belt. Neither was the unidentified girl

riding in the automobile with her. A man who arrived at the scene shortly after the accident said the child did not appear to be hurt badly and was trying to get out of the overturned car when he arrived. She, too, was taken to Cape Fear Valley. Oxendine was driving a late model Ford Escort northwest on Shannon Road when she apparently lost control of the car and veered off the highway to the

left. The vehicle went into a ditch, and indications are it flipped several times before landing upside down in Balfour Road. Crumpler said the vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed when it left the road. An ambulance en route to the scene was sidelined when it struck a cow, according to reports. No injuries in that mishap were reported.

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Planning Commission takes look at 'smart growth'

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke County Planning Commission covered ground on Thursday night, discussing how plans for a 5-lot maximum on road frontage property within one year could be expanded into "smart growth." Board members also recommended approval of a conditional use permit for "Bradford Lane Farm Inc." located in Quewhiffle Township. If approved by

Hoke's commissioners, it will enable a veterinarian clinic to operate in a RA-20 zoned area complemented by a horse training facility.

Subdivision changes

"The Planning Commission asked me to look at ways to enhance the five-lot maximum that was added to our subdivision ordinance," Hoke County Planner Linda Revels said. "If we're going to look at exceeding the five-lot maximum allowed in one

year, I would like to see something in the regulations that lets people, who want to build above the five lots, be approved if they're planning greater setbacks on larger lots over 1/2 acre," she said.

"A perfect example are some of the double-wide mobile homes on Army Road situated on large, spacious lots that front the road and the "River Bluff" subdivision on Arabia Road, designed with large homes on greater acreage," Revels said. "These areas

are absolutely gorgeous."

At the Board's request, Rev-

Revels pressured by some, says her job not 'on the line'

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

County Planner Linda Revels' job is to guard against unplanned growth in Hoke County, sharing her visions and recommendations with the Planning

Gunmen rob business, home

Six victims terrorized in west Hoke

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Detectives at Hoke County Sheriff's Department are investigating a major heist that occurred last Thursday evening in the Ashley Heights community, leaving six people held hostage in an ordeal of terror.

"We're just blessed there were not six homicides," said Captain Thomas Carlton, Hoke's chief

deputy and detective. "We're very thankful that did not happen. The victims were afraid, faced with the circumstances of this robbery," he said.

"We consider this a random act of violence," he said.

According to Carlton, no injuries resulted from the one-hour rampage involving two robbers, who broke into Ashley Heights Transport. Carlton said the gun-

els will formulate ideas to keep (See PLANNING, page 12A)

Commission, an board appointed by County Commissioners. However, Planning member Donald Louya is worried that some of the board may not appreciate Revels' efforts.

"Mrs. Revels was told by cer- (See PRESSURED, page 12A)

Legislative breakfast draws 100 to honor elected officials

BY PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Politics was served up with scrambled eggs and biscuits at the Raeford/Hoke Chamber of Commerce's annual Legislative Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday.

Approximately 100 people attended the breakfast — up about 20 from last year's attendance. Lawanna Hayes, executive secretary of the Chamber, said she attributed the larger attendance to this being an election year.

The breakfast "went well," she said.

Republican Representative (8th District) Robert "Robin" Hayes expressed his own appreciation by saying, "It's not too often we get appreciated."

Also in attendance were N.C. General Assembly members Senators Aaron Plyler, William Purcell and David Weinstein and Representatives Donald Bonner, Ron Sutton and Doug Yongue.

Representatives from Judicial District 16-A were District Attorney Jean Powell and Judge

William McIlwain. Most of Hoke's local elected officials plus some candidates attended the breakfast.

Hayes and General Assembly members addressed matters of concern to Hoke County residents to include issues relating to education: impact aid, low wealth, teachers' salaries and student safety. They also spoke of efforts to bring jobs to rural areas such as Hoke, and of health care.

This year— unlike in the past— no questions came from the floor after elected officials spoke.

Senator Tony Rand of Cumberland County was also in attendance. "Hoke County is not in my district but you're in my heart," he said.

Co-sponsored by Sprint, the breakfast was hosted by Burlington PerformanceWear and was held in their conference room. A.K. "Dooie" Leach, chairman of the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Board, served as master of ceremonies. "We're all after the same thing— good government," Leach said.



Jean McPhatter greets customer Pam Frederick at Howell's fountain. (Photo by Victoriana Summers)

Howell's pharmacy moves from downtown

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Historic Howell Drug Company, a family pharmacy in downtown Raeford, is moving its pharmacy and drug gifts division to the new medical arts mall

at FirstHealth of the Carolinas on Teal Drive. Saturday significant moving day for Howell after more than a half century of service to the community. Howell is leasing a 3,000 square-foot facility, opening on Monday at its new FirstHealth location.

"It's nostalgic to leave because we've enjoyed the personal hospitality of helping local customers and knowing them on a first-name basis," said pharmacist-owner Thomas Howell. "It's been a trademark to operate down-

(See HOWELL'S, page 6A)