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Wazzit?  
Contest  
Inside

If it happened, it's news to us

75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

## Murder suspect turns self in

### Stepson suspected in point-blank shooting of man raking yard

By Jason Beck  
Staff Writer

A suspected killer has turned himself in, five days after he allegedly shot his step dad dead in the family's front yard.

The matriarch of the family is also facing obstruction

charges in the case.

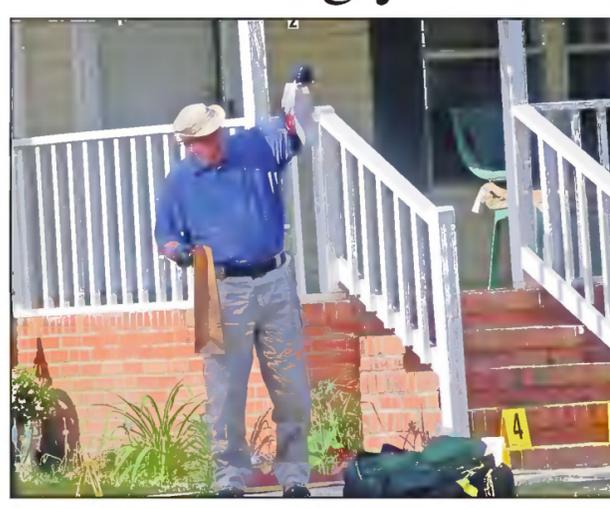
Jamel Marquis Hurst, 21, of Raeford surrendered to the Hoke County Sheriff's Office yesterday afternoon, under the guidance of his attorney Greg Thompson. He was held under \$100,000 secured bond. His first appearance

was this morning.

At about 7:30 Thursday morning, officers responded to a shots fired call at 212 Scotland Avenue, at the fringe of Raeford's city limits. Upon arrival, officers found Thomas F. Campbell, 49, lying on the ground dying from a



Hurst Campbell



Evidence tech Larry Wilson gathers evidence at the scene.

single gunshot wound to the head.

Scores of curious on-lookers swarmed the area as emergency responders worked to save Campbell's life. However, the man was pronounced dead at Cape Fear Valley Memorial Hos- (See MURDER, page 5A)



Ashelynn Priest (left to right), De'Ja McRae and Kyle Bullock are overcome with excitement after the East Hoke Lady Eagles soccer team captured its third Southeastern Conference title last week, beating Spring Hill 3-2 in middle school soccer. (Photo by Sue Priest)

## Deaths bring concern over driver's ed cuts

By Jason Beck  
Staff Writer

Over the last month, at least six teens from the area have been killed in traffic accidents, including two from Hoke County.

Those statistics align with a sobering North Carolina trend that has seen 700 teens die in wrecks in the last four years. Overall, traffic fatalities are the leading cause of death for teenagers.

However, the state is facing massive budget cuts and driver's education may be the first program to go. Kalen Wilhide, Hoke County's driving instructor, is not okay with that.

"They need more time on the road," Wilhide said. "You know there is no way that driver's ed instructors can teach a student all they

will need to know about driving. However, we can give them the basics and teach them how real the chances of being involved in a collision are."

In the governor's most recent budget recommendations, the state may cut \$1.3 million from the driver's education program. Other media outlets have reported the program may be cut out all together.

Currently, every student in a North Carolina public school is offered free driver's education courses. This costs the state about \$30 million a year.

Wilhide owns All the Way Driving School here in Raeford. Her company contracts with the school system and provides the training. (See DRIVER'S ED, page 6A)

## Kiwanis fights membership loss

By Jason Beck  
Staff Writer

For years a group of the county's business owners, community leaders and politicians have met on Thursday nights to network and find ways to help children in the community.

Like many groups, however, the Kiwanis Club has fallen on hard times. The drop-off in attendance hasn't been sudden; many of the

members may not have even noticed. However, with an average of about 10 members at each meeting, organizers know something needs to be done if the club is to survive here in Raeford.

"In the 1970s there were 60 or 70 people every meeting," said Wendell Young, a 22-year veteran of the club. (See KIWANIS, page 6A)

### This Week

Your vote online could provide ramps for seniors page 5A

South Hoke men arrested on drug charges page 6A

Schools name top employees page 4A

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## Homeless coalition to raise awareness with storefront

By Jason Beck  
Staff Writer

A store recently raided and closed by police for selling counterfeit goods has been transformed into a hope for the homeless.

It's all part of an emerging effort to help reduce the number of down and out people here in Hoke County.

Organized by commu-

nity activist Martha Beatty, the Hoke County Coalition Against Homelessness has set up shop in a storefront on West Elwood Avenue.

Beatty, who has been concerned with many social issues throughout the years, has created a committee to address homelessness here.

"It's to continue to raise awareness to people that there

are people here who don't have a home," Beatty said. "We will provide food and clothes to people, help find opportunities for employment."

Dora Graham, one of the members of the committee, said there are homeless people here, even if the community at large overlooks them. (See HOMELESS, page 5A)

## Date set for election runoff

Staff Reports

For most political candidates the primary elections are over and it's time to start looking toward the November general election.

However, for Raeford's Tim D'Annunzio and a trio of other candidates, the battle to become their party's top nominee is still raging on.

The Republican D'Annunzio, who has raised more than \$1 mil-

lion to unseat Democrat Larry Kissell from the US Congress District 8 seat, must first defeat Harold Johnson, a former Charlotte TV broadcaster, in a runoff.

D'Annunzio received 37 percent of the vote in last week's primary.

Only Republicans will be allowed to vote in that runoff, but there will be a race for Democrats to follow as well.

Elaine Marshall, former

secretary of state, is facing fellow democrat Cal Cunningham in a fight to challenge Republican incumbent Richard Burr for his US Senate seat.

Marshall edged out Cunningham and several others in the primary but not by the required 40 percent margin.

Early voting for the runoff election will begin on June 3 and will run to June 19.

### Military Support



Melissa, a student at Rockfish-Hoke Elementary School, tries on military gear during Military Appreciation Day, an annual event that draws hundreds of parents to the school. (MacDonald photo)

