



## City seeks second police chief in a year

### News-Journal files Freedom of Information Act request seeking information

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

For the second time in about a year, Raeford officials are looking for a new chief of police to lead the city's law enforcement department.

A notice posted to the city's website and at Raeford City Hall advertises the position, along with ads seeking full-time and part-time

police officers.

The right candidate for the job should have a bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in police science, law enforcement, criminal justice administration or a closely related field. The city is looking for someone with seven years of experience in police work, three of which must be at the rank of sergeant or higher. The right candidates must

have completed Basic Law Enforcement Training or the equivalent.

Among special requirements for the position are that the candidate must be at least 21 years of age, must meet physical standards and complete a substance abuse screening, pass a criminal background investigation, be able to work varied schedules as needed and "maintain a positive image."

Pay for the position is advertised at \$48,360 to \$71,801 commensurate with level of experience. The job was posted December 7 and will remain open until filled.

#### Seeking information

The News-Journal filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the city and the district attorney's office, requesting copies of any

complaint or grievance filed against former chief Edward Duncan Jagers or against the city in regards to the former chief. The News-Journal also requested a copy of any emails from any public officials regarding any complaint or grievance against Jagers. The offices have not yet responded to the request, which was submitted December 8.

(See CHIEF, page 5A)



Morgan Koskinen, 10 months old, meets Santa Claus for the first time at the Raeford-Hoke Museum. The Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce and The News-Journal helped make sure Santa could hear kids' wishes. Tony Santangelo played a big role. Story, page 5A (Catharin Shepard photo)

## Man faces child sex charges

### Served as Sunday School director at Mt. Elim

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A Mt. Elim Baptist Church Sunday school director was arrested this week on charges that he allegedly took indecent liberties with two girls under the age of 16.

Vinson Henderson, 43, of Les Norman Road in the Shannon community was charged with felony indecent liberties with a child and misdemeanor sexual battery, according to warrants for his arrest.

Henderson allegedly kissed one of the girls on the lips and grabbed her about her buttocks to pull her closer to him, according to an arrest warrant the Hoke County Sheriff's Office filed at the Hoke County Courthouse. Henderson allegedly used his tongue to kiss a second girl and also grabbed her buttocks. The first alleged incident reportedly occurred in July of this year and the second alleged incident was reported taking place on November 13.

One of the girls was 13 years old and the other was 15 years old at the time of the alleged incidents, according to the warrants.

Mt. Elim Baptist Church Senior Pastor Chris Webb said he learned about the charges Monday.

"Of course it's a sad moment" (See CHARGED, page 5a)

## Dog owner guilty of cruelty

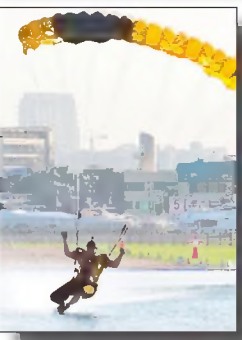
By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The owner of a neglected pit bull-type dog that died after being taken into county custody is guilty of misdemeanor cruelty to animals, a Hoke County judge ruled this month.

Samekia Simmons-Evans of the 100 block of Windsor Lane pleaded guilty to a charge of cruelty to animals nine months after an animal rescuer called

(See CRUELTY, page 4A)

### This Week



Raeford man wins skydiving medal page 4A

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## Blanket giveaway reaches 200

### One man had given his own blanket away to someone homeless

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Although the lines stretched around the side of Bo's grocery store Saturday, generous donors made sure there were enough blankets for everyone who showed up, Hope for Hoke organizer Lynn Baum said.

For the second time, Baum organized the blanket drive to make sure people in Hoke County spend the winter wrapped up warmly. Hope for Hoke gave away more than 200 donated blankets this year.

"There were so many people," she said. "We were bombarded with lines around the back."

Hope for Hoke collects gently used, good condition blankets and sheets year-round at the donation box in the Walmart parking lot. It takes days to wash and dry all of the donated blankets and usually costs around \$60 or more in change to pay for the Laundromat services, Baum said.

But this year, Laundromat owner David Harbour saw what Baum and her husband were doing and stepped in to help. He let the couple wash blankets for free, and even refunded some of the money they spent earlier, she said.

"He washed and dried them for free," Baum (See BLANKETS, page 4A)



Carolers with the Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church—West performed Christmas songs Friday in the parking lot of a gas station next to Walmart. (Catharin Shepard photo)

## Woman struck by whacko car

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A woman sustained injuries Friday when her malfunctioning car went into reverse and knocked her down at a Raeford gas station.

Misty Locklear of the 3300 block of Highway 74 West in (See STRUCK, page 5A)

## News-Journal works to address mailing issues

For the last month or so, many readers of *The News-Journal* in Shannon, Lumber Bridge and occasionally Red Springs and Aberdeen have reported delayed postal service, sometimes by days or even a week or more.

The newspaper is mailed in Raeford each Wednesday after- (See MAIL, page 5A)