

The News-Journal

Si c'est arrivé, les nouvelles sont pour nous

75¢

No. 45 Vol. 106

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Teachers, careful with those Facebook pages

School board considers policy forbidding employees to friend students online

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Teachers, don't click that "Friend" or "Follow" button on your student's Facebook or Twitter account.

The Hoke County Board of Education discussed last week an expanded social media policy that

sets boundaries on teachers' online interactions with their current students, and outlines expectations for employees' social networking behavior. The policy could go into effect following a vote set for next month.

The Hoke County Schools staff handbook already set down expecta-

tions for teachers' online interactions with their students. The proposed policy, developed by the North Carolina School Boards Association, expands and updates the existing expectations, school officials said.

School employees are not allowed to knowingly communicate with their current students through

a personal social network page like Facebook or through online forums. Teachers can still use the Internet to communicate with their students, but they'll have to stick to official staff email. "The policy requires that all electronic communication to students be school-related and accomplished through school-

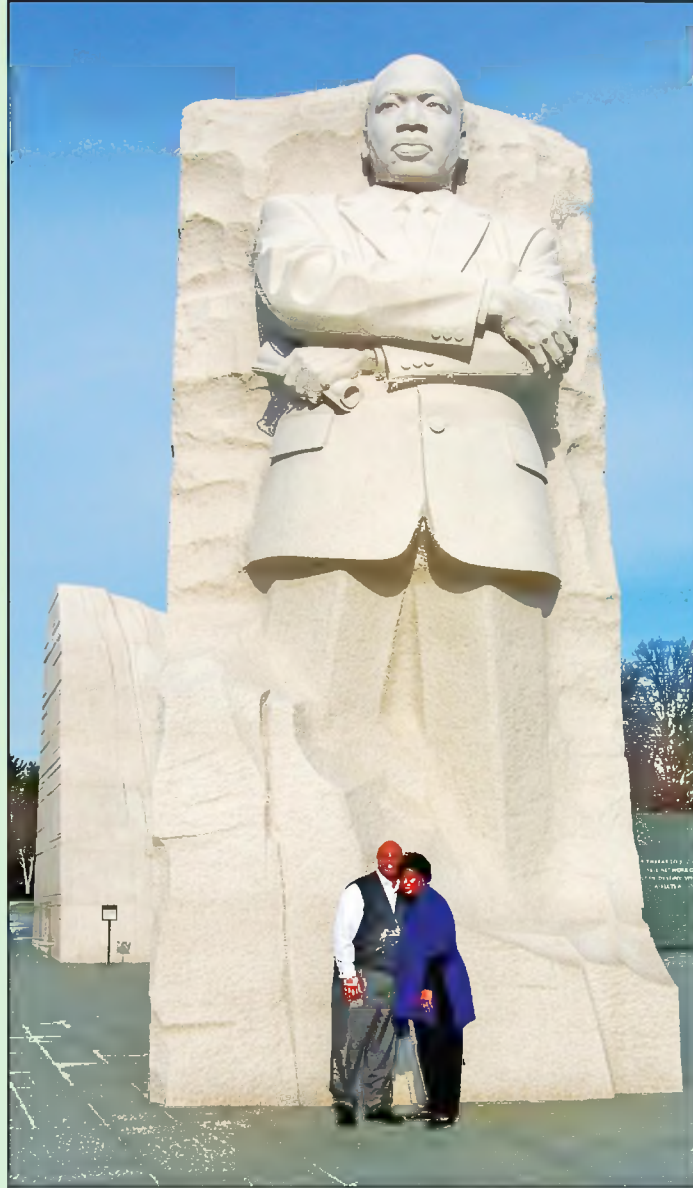
controlled resources," according to the policy briefing.

"There is no good reason for any staff member to friend a student," school board attorney Nick Sojka said during the board discussion.

The policy does make some exceptions for teachers and (See SOCIAL MEDIA, page 5A)



Hundreds gathered Monday night at the Rouse Community Center to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commissioner James Leach (above) and Barbara Buie were among participants in the program. At right, Hoke natives Tommy and Gail McNeill visited the King memorial in Washington, D.C. Monday.



King's legacy celebrated Monday

Members and supporters of the Hoke County Civic League joined together Monday to celebrate the life and legacy of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the League's annual memorial banquet.

The Dr. Matthew Rouse Jr. Community Resource Center was packed with hundreds of guests who took part in the

banquet dinner on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and heard from guest speaker the Rev. Dr. Robert B. Clark Jr. of St. Jude Missionary Baptist Church in Hope Mills. The banquet shone a spotlight on King's work and the work still ahead for community leaders. Guests also received literature on how to become more politically active in their community.

Minister Eula Hines read a scripture from Psalms. Pastor Jenell Morris of Greater Solid Rock Church presided over the evening's events and Pastor Vera Hollingsworth of Christ Free Will Baptist Church offered the opening prayer.

Voices lifted in the historic anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" before (See KING, page 4A)

State official tipped Butterball about raid

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A North Carolina Department of Agriculture official warned a Butterball veterinarian when she learned Hoke County investigators planned to raid the company's Shannon-area farm seeking evidence of animal cruelty, according to documents filed in court last week.

Hoke County Sheriff's Office Det. Sgt. Donald Schwab Jr. filed a search warrant January 6 seeking phone records for several people including Dr. Sarah Jean Mason, Director of Animal Health Programs/Poultry Division of the state Department of Agriculture, a Butterball official and a company veterinarian.

According to the affidavit, Mason admitted to Assistant District Attorney Michael Hardin that she called Butterball-employed veterinarian Dr. Eric Gonder and told him about the pending raid. The detailed search warrant and affidavit made (See BUTTERBALL, page 5A)

Survey will count Hoke's homeless

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A statewide nonprofit is joining forces with the Hoke County Coalition Against Homelessness to find out just how many people in the area are homeless.

The North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness conducts the survey every year to get a better idea of the number of people living without shelter, and this year the local coalition will provide that data for the Raeford/Hoke County area. The survey helps identify those in need of services, program advocates said.

(See SURVEY, page 4A)

This Week



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Battle over districts continues in court

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Many North Carolina voters, including Hoke County residents, still don't know which candidates will be running for election to represent them in state and federal races because the contested district maps are still under judicial review.

The Raeford/Hoke Chamber of Commerce usually invites lawmakers to meet with constituents in an informal breakfast session the week after Valentine's Day, but this year organizers don't know which officials to invite because the district boundaries are still uncertain.

"We could invite who we have (See DISTRICTS, page 3A)

OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

The sun goes down before supper, it's too cold to ride my bike without layers upon layers of technical fabric, and now I'm eat up with a cold. In my house that's a formula for whining, and that's what was happening Sunday until I chanced upon a news item about the good (and surely lunatic) folks of Nome, Alaska, who were awaiting a Coast Guard ice breaker and a Russian oil tanker to bring them 1.4 million

gallons of fuel with which to finish the winter.

After clicking the story, and then downloading the local newspaper (The Nome Nugget), I now retract my whining and wish instead to give thanks to God that I live in Raeford, North Carolina.

Let's begin with the worst first. The sun in Nome rose on Jan. 12, the date of the most recent issue, at 11:41 a.m. Yes, that's lunchtime. It set at 4:39 p.m. (See OTHER STUFF, page 4A)

Sorta Sumo

Hoke High assistant principals Heriberto Corral (left) and Joel Brewington entertained the Lumberton and Hoke wrestling crowd last week in a for-charity sumo match. Ultimately, Corral came out on top, as in the photo below, but Brewington took a round as well. The Bucks, meanwhile, beat Lumberton and are now 2-0 in the conference. (Hal Nunn photos)



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