

The News-Journal

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

75¢

No. 13 Vol. 107

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

FirstHealth breaks ground on hospital Hoke Community Hospital on schedule for opening in fall 2013

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

FirstHealth of the Carolinas Chief Executive Officer David Kilarski paused in his remarks to the large crowd gathered in a soggy field next to Fayetteville Road while he glanced over his shoulder at the large earth-moving equipment already dig-

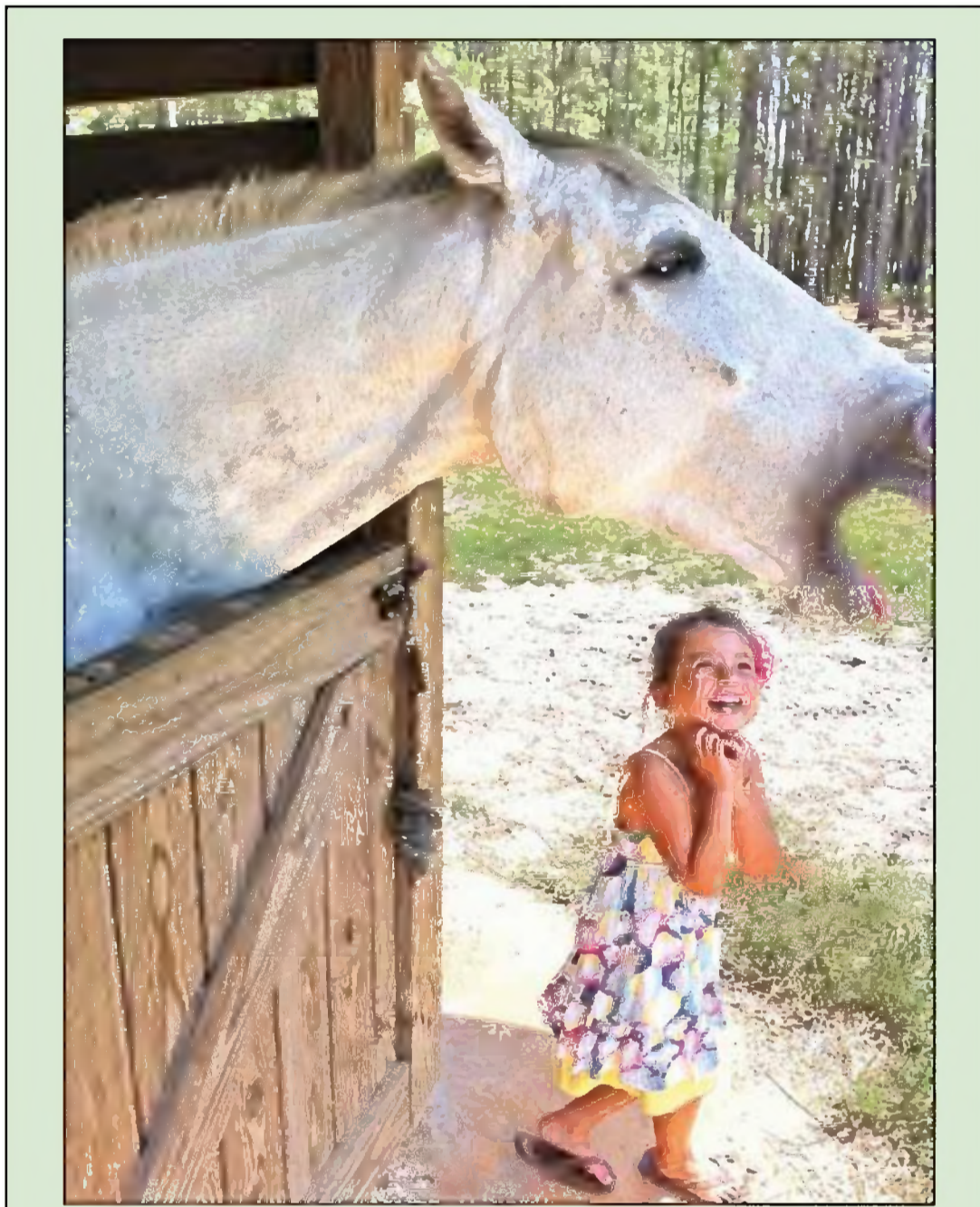
ging into the soil.

The real groundbreaking had started a few minutes before local and state officials could hoist their shovelfuls of dirt, marking the start of construction on Hoke County's first hospital.

"You can see that we've gotten a little ahead of ourselves with the groundbreaking," he said. (See *GROUNDBREAKING*, page 7A)



Dignitaries and hospital officials turn the ground but were beat to the punch by machinery.



Friends

Bella Burdette makes a friend at White Wind Farm. She is the granddaughter of Meg and Rick Burdette of western Hoke County, and the daughter of Ricky Burdette and Adrian Paluga of Fayetteville. (Cary Wilson photo)

Homeowner shoots intruder Wounded man in critical condition, another charged

A Hoke County homeowner shot an intruder Friday afternoon when several people attempted to break into his White Chapel Lane home, the Hoke County Sheriff's Office said.

Gregory Paul Lowrie of Cambridge Arms Apartments in Fayetteville was shot one time and remained in critical condition Tuesday at an area hospital, authorities said.

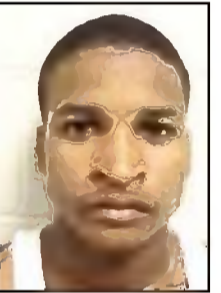
Deputies arrested Samuel Arthur Bernard Sweeney, 19,

of Distinct Circle in Fayetteville on charges of breaking and entering, and conspiracy to commit felony larceny. Sweeney was arrested Sunday, June 3 and held under a \$500,000 secured bond.

The following day, officers arrested Lora Rose McNeill, 26, of School Street in Fayetteville on charges of breaking and entering and conspiracy to commit felony larceny. She was transferred to Hoke County Tuesday and held

under a \$500,000 secured bond.

The homeowner, a soldier, told authorities that he heard knocking on the front door shortly before someone kicked in his back door around 4:45 p.m. Friday. (See *INTRUDER*, page 7A)



Sweeney

Break-in suspects chased, arrested

Two men wanted in connection with a breaking and entering were arrested last week after leading Hoke County Sheriff's Office deputies on a 100-mile-an-hour car chase that ended when the suspects crashed in a wooded area off of Davis Bridge Road.

Dennis Larell Maynor, 21, of Danish Court in Fayetteville was arrested on felony charges

of breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods, conspiracy to commit breaking and entering, fleeing to elude law enforcement and misdemeanor resisting, delaying or obstructing a law enforcement officer. He was held under a \$200,000 secured bond.

Nicholas Delroy Owens, 23, of Little Avenue in Fayette-



Maynor

Owens

ville was arrested on felony charges of breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods, conspiracy (See *BREAK-IN*, page 7A)

Young students spend week learning basic law enforcement

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

More than 30 high school students are getting a taste

This Week

Soldier sentenced in child's death
page 7A

New principal begins at West Hoke Elementary
page 4A

State considers 'chicken nugget' law
page 6A

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this week of what it's like to be a law enforcement officer during the first-ever Hoke County Youth Police Academy.

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office is conducting the academy and offering students from Hoke High School and Sand Hoke Early College High School the chance to learn about criminal investigations, crime scene forensics and more. Hoke County Sheriff Hubert Peterkin said he had heard of police departments that operated similar programs and wanted to offer the same kind of training for Hoke students.

"It shows them how they

can help," he said.

From Monday through Friday this week, the students are exploring different areas of law enforcement work in a sampling of what they would experience if they were participating in the Basic Law Enforcement Training program. The group planned to tour the jail and the courthouse, work with radio equipment, learn about road patrol and participate in other activities. The program proved popular enough that the sheriff's office expanded its original maximum enrollment from 25 to 31 students.

Sgt. Michael Accello, who oversees the G.R.E.A.T. anti-

(See *ACADEMY*, page 7A)

OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

In February 1994 I was driving in from Laurinburg in the old piece-of-junk Chevy Luv—they couldn't even spell Love correctly—and began losing engine cylinders in front of Hoke High School. It had only four, and by the time I reached the house (on Main Street) I was down to one. It reminded me of a John Blue Festival hit-and-miss engine attraction, but without the smell of cotton candy. I went the next day to see a dealer in Southern Pines and asked them

(See *OTHER STUFF*, page 7A)



Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin talks to students in the first class. (Catharin Shepard photo)

Ambulance company says it's facing more than \$1 million in unpaid bills

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

During the first year of a three-year service contract, Hoke County ambulance service Med1 lost more than \$1 million in unpaid bills and Monday night asked county commissioners for financial help in offsetting the loss.

Med1 representative Thomas Bryant told the Hoke County Board of Commissioners that the

ambulance company lost \$1.2 million over the last year for transporting people to the hospital even when they could not pay for the service.

"We've accumulated enough financial history to make a strong prediction regarding the financial stability of Med1 in Hoke County," he said. "We've reached a point where the amount of uncollectible claims have come to a serious detriment to our financial stability." (See *AMBULANCES*, page 6A)

