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Agency lifts FirstHealth sanction

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A month after FirstHealth of the Carolinas learned it was in danger of losing Medicare and Medicaid funding due to a fire in an operating room that burned a patient, the oversight agency has

announced it is lifting the potential sanction.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) lifted the "immediate jeopardy" status on FirstHealth Moore Regional and Richmond Memorial hospitals operated by FirstHealth of the Carolinas, according to a state-

ment from the hospital system.

"CMS completed its validation survey of the hospitals today. The immediate jeopardy was lifted, and no deficiencies or findings were noted in the survey," officials said in a press release.

The team was "very complimentary" of FirstHealth's staff

and processes, according to FirstHealth of the Carolinas Chief Executive Officer David Kilarski.

"The physicians, staff and leadership team immediately implemented policy changes and trained staff related to fire prevention procedures during surgical cases," he said. "Our highest pri-

ority continues to be the safety of our patients and staff and delivering the highest quality of care in the region."

The agency placed FirstHealth's hospital facilities under immediate jeopardy status after learning of an incident involving a patient (See *FIRSTHEALTH*, page 4A)



Car goes airborne

This SUV hit an embankment at Bethel Road near Wallace McLean Road Saturday night, and according to a witness, went airborne before crashing into railroad tracks and flipping into a field. The driver, unidentified at press time, was partially pinned beneath the vehicle, and was taken by helicopter to a hospital. (Ken MacDonald photos)



Turkey Festival returns for 29th year

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer



Yes, Raeford, there is going to be a Turkey Festival – even after the House of Raeford changed its emphasis to chicken production.

The North Carolina Turkey Festival returns next week to kick off the 29th year of friends, food and entertainment in Raeford, and the House of Raeford continues to support the endeavor despite getting out of the turkey business. (See *TURKEY FESTIVAL*, page 4A)

Stolen truck crashes, driver faces charges



Robinson

The Hoke Sheriff's Department charged a Fayetteville man with breaking into cars on Cypress Drive in Raeford Friday after he led them on a high-speed chase into Cumberland County.

Jeffrey R. Robinson Jr., 24, of 315 Maloney Avenue, Fayetteville was charged with multiple counts of breaking and entering into vehicles, conspiracy and possession of a stolen vehicle, according to a department release.

Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin says someone called August 30 to report cars being broken into along Cypress Drive, and when officers arrived, they spotted a truck (See *CHASE*, page 4A)

Hobby photographer wins \$175 grand prize

Candace Pierce was determined to get a good photo of her children splashing in the family's backyard pool in Raeford, and ended up taking home the grand prize in The News-Journal's Oh Snap

summer photo contest.

Pierce, who serves as the internet technology director for Hoke County government, snapped the winning shot of Thomas, 9, and Addison, 7, in July and submitted it for the contest. It was the first photography contest she had ever entered, but photography is a longtime favorite hobby.

"My kids hate it because I take pictures of them all

the time," she said.

The family spends a lot of time in their backyard pool during the summer months, and this year Pierce decided it was time to try her hand at underwater photography. Shooting with her usual Canon digital camera, she found a special piece of equipment to protect the camera and allow her to shoot underwater.

"It's kind of like a glorified ziplock bag to make it waterproof," she said.

It took several tries of directing her children to get the shot she wanted. The

photo she ended up submitting to the Oh Snap contest (See *WINNER*, page 6A)



Candace Pierce took this prize-winning photo of her children in a swimming pool. She became The News-Journal's Oh Snap summer snapshot contest champion.

This Week

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Now get current weather and history for downtown Raeford from The News-Journal:
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OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

For two months I've been reading "The Real George Washington" by Jay A Parry, recommended by my father, and I'm approaching the halfway point. It's a high school-level book, say the reviewers, so I guess I should have finished long before now, but every few pages brings a new revelation for this boy who was taught U.S. History, first at Upchurch Jr. High and then at Hoke High by "Okay, class, read chapter six today, and answer the questions at the end of the chapter." (I hope that today's kids don't learn history this way.) I suspect I was studying Janet's hair the day my high school class read the chapter on the Revolutionary War, for instance, because somehow I missed that it began a year BEFORE the Declaration of Independence and continued seven years afterwards.

Another reason it's taking so long is I have to constantly (See *OTHER STUFF*, page 6A)

Longtime Jordan Clinic closing

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

One of the oldest continuously operating doctor's offices in Raeford is permanently closing its doors next week, according to

FirstHealth of the Carolinas.

The Jordan Clinic on Campus Avenue, founded and operated for many years by the late Dr. Riley Jordan, will close Thursday, September 12, the hospital system said in a (See *CLINIC*, page 4A)

