

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

## 'Freak' power line problem starts house fire

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

An electrical problem with a power line on East Donaldson Avenue left about five families without heat in freezing tem-

peratures Sunday night, then set one house on fire, Raeford Fire Marshal Terry Tapp said.

An unspecified issue with a power line on the residential street in Raeford knocked out the power in the late evening hours Sunday,

when temperatures dipped into the 20s. About six houses were affected though one of them was vacant, Tapp said.

"Something happened with the transformer and caused it to do some major shorting out, and it

sent an unusual amount of power to the houses," he said.

The Raeford fire department responded to the problem twice — once when a resident heard noise related to the issue, and later after smoke was spotted in one of the

houses. It took about an hour for the power company to restore power after the transformer went out, and when the electricity came back on, reportedly one power box inside one of the homes shorted  
(See FIRE, page 5A)

## Lindsay announces commission run



BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Michael Lindsay  
Running for: Hoke County

Commissioner  
Status: Candidate  
Experience: Not previously elected  
Education: Master of Science from N.C. A&T, license of school administration from UNCP  
Position: Paid

Lifelong Hoke County resident and Puppy Creek volunteer firefighter Michael  
(See LINDSAY, page 6A)



### Busy students

Students and staff at J.V. McLaughlin Elementary dressed Wacky Tacky (top) in an effort to support Hunger and Homelessness Relief. The students collected more than 680 non-perishable items. On Tuesday, students heard the Woodwind Quintet and the Brass Quintet from the Army Ground Forces Band from Fort Bragg. The musicians also talked about how music relates to math, reading and science.



The Hoke School Board receives its award.

## Boards win acclaim

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Education and the Hoke County Board of Commissioners were both named "Board of the Year" this month by the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA).

The school board re-

ceived the 2013 School Board Leadership Award, which honors a board for "extraordinary leadership during the 2012-13 school year," according to a press release. To receive the award, "a board must demonstrate excellent governance skills through commitment to the role of  
(See ACCLAIM, page 7A)

## Raccoon tests positive for rabies

A raccoon found in the Wallace McLean Road and Crawford Wright Road area tested positive for rabies, according to Hoke County Animal Control. Family pets

and other domestic animals can get rabies if a rabid wild animal bites them, and the rabies virus can be spread to humans. When rabies from wild animals "spills over" into domestic animals, the risk to people is increased because of close contact with pets, officials said.

Dogs, cats and ferrets should be vaccinated against rabies, Animal Control worker Kristi Pylant said.

"Not only does the rabies vaccine help protect your  
(See RABIES, page 5A)

## 'He promised he'd never hit me' For local woman, homelessness began with abuse

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The day her husband raised a hand to her, Eileen knew she had to leave, even if it meant being homeless.

"He promised he would never hit me. When he grabbed my wrist, it triggered every memory of what had been done to me as a child," she said.

With bruises still fading on her arm, she threw what belongings she could grab into her car, rounded up her

pets and left behind an abusive home for an even more uncertain future.

The mother and grandmother didn't know where she could go, what she could do. Her children were not supportive. She spent nights in her car or in the woods, all the while suffering the pain of an old back injury from a car accident that had left her permanently disabled. The memories from an abusive childhood haunted her, and she knew there was no going  
(See HOMELESS, page 7A)



Illustration

### This Week

Man killed in weekend wreck  
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## OTHER STUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD

"You been to the convention too?" I asked the lady sitting next to me on the plane Sunday as we waited to push back from Nashville and head to Atlanta.

She'd offered me gum and seemed keen to socialize. That she'd likely been to the youth work convention was not a long shot, because the plane was full of us, though most of the others were in their early to mid twenties. And she obviously worked with young people—being energetic, kind, and a quite frazzled around the edges.

"Yes," she responded. "You?"

I explained I went in my capacity of volunteering with youth and to exhibit on behalf of our Mexico house building organization.

"I sort of work with youth indirectly," she said, and  
(See OTHER STUFF, page 5A)

## Donations fund lifesaving equipment

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Three more fire departments in the county now have portable heart defibrillators on hand thanks to a donation from local manufacturing company Unilever.

Automated external defibrillators, known as AEDs, are portable electronic devices that can diagnose when someone has a life-threatening irregular heartbeat and shock their heart back into pumping correctly. The AEDs are built to be so simple to use that even people who don't have much medical training can use them to potentially save someone's life, Med1 training officer Brady Lawson said.

"They have been designed in the last few

years to be basically 'dummy proof,'" he said. "It's really just open it up and press the button, it gives you all the commands, it tells you how to do CPR."

When someone is experiencing a type of irregular heart beat called ventricular tachycardia (V-tach) or ventricular fibrillation (V-fib),  
(See LIFESAVING, page 7A)

