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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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Hoke teacher turnover among highest

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Last school year Hoke County Schools had one of the highest teacher turnover rates of any school district in the state, according to data from the North

Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Over 27 percent of teachers in Hoke County left the school system last school year, Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson said, based on figures from a DPI draft report presented to the

North Carolina General Assembly. According to that report, the county ranked fourth in the state for teacher turnover. The county also ranked fourth in the state for teacher turnover when looking at the five-year average rate of nearly 21 percent.

"Like the state, we did experience an increase in our teacher turnover rate," Williamson said.

Last year the school system, which recruits from other states as well as inside the state, noticed that more Hoke teachers left because they were able to get jobs

back in their home states. Those teachers chose to move back to their home state to teach once those jobs were available, Williamson said. There are also other issues that could be adding to the local and statewide issue of
(See *TEACHERS*, page 6A)



Two-year-old Samantha Forrey is recovering from a kidney tumor, but she got some love from the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

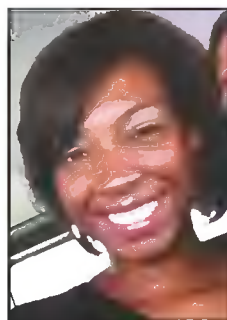


Murder charges filed in woman's shooting death



Baker

Scotland County investigators arrested a man from Rowland last week and charged him with murdering a college student from Raeford.



Clegg

Deputies with the Scotland County Sheriff's Office arrested Timarius Frederick Baker, 20, of the 200 block of West Church Street in Rowland on a charge of first-degree murder in the shooting death of Demosha Clegg. Baker was also charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon, and pending charges included arson of a vehicle and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Authorities said Clegg, a 21-year-old student studying social work at Elizabeth City State University, was last
(See *ARREST*, page 6A)



Ferguson records at Freedom East Presbyterian Church.

Make-A-Wish helps local two-year-old Cancer survivor 'went through a lot'

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

When Maritza Forrey woke her two-year-old daughter up one morning in April and discovered a lump protruding from the little girl's stomach, her mind went back to just two months before when her father had died of stomach cancer.

"I'm like, no way, no," she said, recalling the moment she realized there was something wrong with her youngest child, Samantha.

That day she took the girl to an area hospital. That night, Forrey and her daughter were on an ambulance heading for UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill. There she got the news she and her husband Aaron had feared:

the lump was a cancerous tumor on the toddler's kidney.

Samantha underwent surgery to remove her left kidney along with a 13-centimeter-long tumor attached to the kidney. She ended up staying in the hospital for about two weeks, including a stint in the intensive care unit for treatment of liver failure.

Through it all, Samantha was in good spirits, cheerful and playful. When she was up and walking
(See *WISH*, page 6A)

Local actor films commercial here

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

An actor who grew up in Raeford returned home this weekend to reconnect with his family history while filming a commercial for the genealogy website ancestry.com.

Bryan Ferguson and a film crew with ancestry.com visited the Freedom East

Presbyterian Church Saturday to capture a snapshot of Ferguson's family history for the commercial.

"It was awesome. I was so excited to get an opportunity to bring it out here when it was presented to me," Ferguson said.

Ferguson, who now resides in Los Angeles, said he has always enjoyed studying
(See *FILMS*, page 6A)

This Week

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Christmas at the museum



With the Covington deer back at their perch (See story, page 4 B), and trees decorated, the Raeford-Hoke Museum hosted the Garden Club's Christmas Home Tour Sunday and visitors to Santa—including Colton Smith—on Saturday.

OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

"We should be able to do the 10 challenges in about two hours," Jon Strickland, our facilitator, was saying to me as we headed for the start of a low ropes course, a series of obstacles that require a group to work together to complete.

"Uh huh," I mumbled, "you don't know this group."
Don't get me wrong. The 13 middle and high school kids and two other adults are nearly a perfect group—you'd love hanging with them—but not once that I can think of had we ever tried to accomplish anything as a team. Except, perhaps, tried to get out of a fast food restaurant with everyone ac-
(See *OTHER STUFF*, page 6A)

