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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Protested convenience store gets nod

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

At the first scheduled meeting of the new year, the Hoke County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the appointment of Barry Mayo as the county's new finance officer.

The board also approved a controversial convenience store on Wayside Road.

Mayo, who most recently served as the finance officer for Warren County, started in the new position Monday.

Mayo will earn a starting salary of \$89,716, according to County

Manager Tim Johnson. Mayo is originally from Hillsborough and has degrees in business and public administration from St. Augustine College in Raleigh and N.C. Central University.

The county commissioners voted in July to hire a new officer but also chose to keep former chief

finance officer Garvin Ferguson as an assistant.

Residents protest store

After hearing from several county residents opposed to the plan, the commissioners voted four to one in favor of approving a conditional use permit allowing

a convenience store with gasoline sales on a two-acre lot at 1970 Wayside Road. Commissioner Tony Hunt voted against approving the permit. The county planning board recommended denying the permit.

During a public hearing, five (See STORE, page 6A)



Incognito

Mr. and Mrs. James Bradley, and dog Alley... um... brought in the new year at a fiesta held by Family Chiropractic New Year's Eve. Only the dog was brave enough to reveal her face.

Another arrest made in Rockfish break-ins

Authorities arrested last week a third suspect in connection with multiple breaking and entering cases in the Rockfish community.

Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested Cody Morris-Stewart, 18, of the 100 block of Kirkland Place in Raeford on charges of seven counts of felony breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, one count of felony larceny, one count of felony possession of stolen property, five counts of misdemeanor



Morris-Stewart

larceny and five counts of misdemeanor possession of stolen property.

The Sheriff's Office previously charged two other people in connection with the same set of break-ins that mostly occurred between December 18-24, 2013. Investigators arrested (See ARREST, page 4A)

Sex assault charges filed

A man from Raeford was charged last week with allegedly sexually assaulting a sleeping juvenile, according to the Hoke County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies arrested Rakeen Dillard, 23, of the 200 block of Quail Drive in Raeford on a charge of first degree statutory sexual offense.

Dillard was arrested in connection with an alleged incident on November 19 of last year. The victim, whose name was not released due to state privacy laws protecting juveniles, reported to their

mother that they had been assaulted while asleep. The victim's mother confronted the suspect, who fled the victim's house on the 400 block of Rockfish Road.

Deputies were able to locate Dillard after the juvenile's mother called on December 31 with information about his whereabouts. Dillard was arrested and taken to the Sheriff's Office where detectives interviewed him, then brought him before a magistrate.

He was held under a \$50,000 secured bond.

Team sports take students beyond Special Olympics



Now Exceptional Students can enjoy sports year-round.

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

For many years, the only time exceptional children in Hoke County had the chance to participate in sports was through the yearly Special Olympics – but that's changing now through Project Unify.

"Project Unify is trying to bridge the gap with exceptional children and sports," Hoke County Schools athletic director Gary Brigman said.

The program, which is now catching on in many North Carolina schools, offers exceptional students the chance to play sports year-

round. That's something many children with special needs have never gotten the chance to experience, Brigman said.

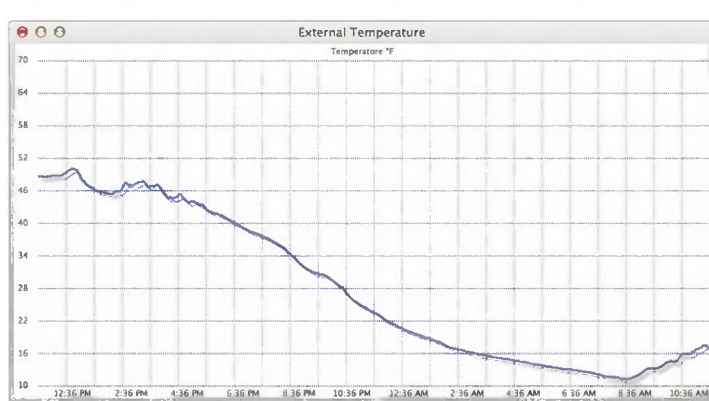
Brigman, working in concert with Richmond County Schools' athletic director Kevin Mabe and with both counties' exceptional chil- (See UNIFY, page 4A)

This Week

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OTHER STUFF



Monday's temperature drop from the 60s to 11.5 degrees.

BY KEN MACDONALD

I'm legendary in my house for sitting at the kitchen table, eyes glued to the laptop screen for every radar frame update. "It's going to start raining... wait for it... wait for it... now!"

My daughter once walked through the kitchen and said, "Why doesn't Dad just look out the window?"

Hmpf.

If you're a weather nut, you understand.

And if you're a weather nut and live in Hoke County, (See OTHER STUFF, page 6A)

FirstHealth restricts visitors due to flu

FirstHealth of the Carolinas is trying to protect patients, visitors and staff by trying to limit the spread of the flu at its hospitals this flu season.

From December 15-January 4, 57 patients visited the FirstHealth hospital in Hoke emergency department with

the flu. In that same time period, 124 patients with the flu visited the Moore Regional emergency department with the flu, spokeswoman Emily Sloan said. So far this flu season, 13 people have died of the flu in North Carolina, according to the state Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services.

The FirstHealth hospital system is asking visitors who are visiting people in the hospital to take some precautions. People who have flu-like symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore (See FLU, page 6A)

Hope for Hoke gives away blankets

Hope for Hoke conducted its fifth annual blanket giveaway on December 21 outside of Bo's grocery store.

"The people were very patient and grateful. There were some immediate needs addressed on the survey forms that hopefully with community help through donations of resources, time and labor can be addressed

with assistance," Hope for Hoke founder Lynn Baum said in a report about the blanket giveaway. "There were acts of kindness already shown from the Hoke County community. Bo's grocery store allowed us for the fifth year to utilize their parking lot to give out the blankets. Harbour Laundry Systems donated free

washing and drying of the used blankets both on Main Street. Volunteers such as Mr. Earl Dockery, Mr. John Anderson, Mr. Blurt and Mr. Wall (or relative of) helped Hope for Hoke give out blankets."

"A young man from Raeford donated a roll of plastic bags and an elderly woman (See BLANKETS, page 4A)

