

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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## NCFAST blamed for DSS backlog Hoke office will work the weekend, Feds threaten funding cut

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The Hoke County Department of Social Services (DSS) will work over the weekend if necessary to meet a state-mandated deadline to resolve a backlog of food stamp (Food and Nutrition

Services or FNS) applications, Director Della Sweat said.

The NCFAST computer system, which was intended to be an easy one-stop way for people to apply for some social services, has been plagued with implementation issues since the state unveiled it. Those complications added up to

a backlog of FNS applications that now threaten nearly \$90 million in federal funding for the program administration, state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) division director Wayne Black wrote in a recent letter to all North Carolina county social services directors. The United

States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has threatened to pull the funding from the entire state program if counties don't quickly catch up on the applications, Black wrote.

Hoke County's DSS started working with the NCFAST system in October 2012 and immediately

encountered "numerous problems" with the system, Sweat said. Those problems have continued causing delays for clients seeking their benefits, she said.

Sweat said that to compensate for the NCFAST issues, Hoke County DSS reached out to  
(See DSS, page 4A)



### Snow rapport

Avery Modlin (front) is all smiles and so is her sister Riley Modlin (back) and Thomas McGirr (middle) as they get pushed down the hill on a sled by Kristi Posey and Terri Frahm in front of the Methodist Church on Main Street last week. (Hal Nunn photo)

## Snow, sleet dismiss students... to Saturday school

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Hoke County last week received several inches of snow that stayed on the ground long enough to impact travel and businesses for days, marking the first

major winter storm to hit the county in recent years.

Official snowfall totals were about four inches of powder last Tuesday night, although some areas of the county may have received a little more or less than that amount. With temperatures barely

rising above freezing for several days, the snow stuck around long enough to melt and re-freeze as ice. Warming temperatures Thursday and Friday finally started the melt, and rainfall Saturday cleared the last remnants of the winter storm.

(See SNOW, page 6A)

## Ambulance service goes for proposals

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Three years after signing Med1 as the county's exclusive medical transport company, the contract is up and the county will consider other offers.

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to prepare a request for proposals from ambulance service companies. Any company, including Med1, interested in providing medical transport for the county will be able to submit a proposed agreement for providing service. It's not the same as accepting bids for a project and the commissioners can consider factors other than cost when deciding which company to accept, County Manager Tim Johnson said.

Med1 president Richard Hicks flew in from Atlanta to discuss the matter with  
(See AMBULANCES, page 6A)

## City asked to rename Robbins Heights Park

By BILL LINDAU

The Raeford City Council heard a request to rename the park in the Robbins Heights Community in memory of one of Raeford's civic leaders, as council held its first monthly meeting of the new year Monday evening.

Betty R. Perkins spoke to council of the request to have the park renamed the Martha R. Beatty Park.

Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill III said the council would take the request under advisement. No further action was taken.

Perkins described the late Beatty as a  
(See PARK, page 6A)

### This Week

**Election filing begins next week**  
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## Committee announces Sports Hall of Fame

The Hoke County High School Athletics Hall of Fame committee announced last week this year's list of sports honorees.

The committee selected Terrell Carpenter, Russell Davis, Lonnie Hendrix, George Maynor, Alexander McMillan, Vernon Mor-

ison, Harold Thompson and David Wood to join many other former Hoke High athletes and coaches in the hall of fame. The program, started three years ago, seeks to recognize the accomplishments of people who have made an impact through their local athletic involvement.

The awards banquet will be held this Friday, February 7, at 5 p.m. in the West Hoke Middle School cafeteria. Tickets for the banquet are \$25 and are available through the athletic department and at The News-Journal office on  
(See FAME, page 4A)

### OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

My truck, a 1994 S-10, turns 20 years old this month and as most guys surely do, I have been reflecting on the life events we've gone through together.

In 1995, I ran over the towline of my sailboat and ripped the front off the boat, for example. A short time later, I locked its keys inside on a sailing trip and spent two hours in the middle of nowhere retrieving them. In the same time frame, I nearly killed my best friend trying to play a practical joke with the truck, having left it in neutral while we used it to try to straighten the mast of the aforementioned sailboat. It nearly ran him over. I lost a huge popcorn popper over its side once. There were also a few times when she did me proud—when my friend was  
(See OTHER STUFF, page 4A)



### Help catch a thief

This screen grab from video isn't perfectly clear, but perhaps someone can help identify a thief who stole a trailer from an Eisenhower Drive home in East Hoke Monday. Homeowner Brandon Herron's cameras caught the thief on tape, and he's narrowed the truck model to a late '90s Dodge Ram. Anyone with information should contact the Hoke Sheriff's Dept.



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