

The News-Journal

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

75¢

No. 1 Vol. 109

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

SPRING?
Temperatures in the 70s the first part of the week brought children to McLauchlin Park for a break from winter. Brianna Baylor, 10 months old, enjoyed a swing (below). Madelyn Schettler preferred a slide. (Ken MacDonald photos)



Board tries third time for voting site

State board rejects plan

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Elections will make a third attempt this week at getting state approval for a one-stop early voting site plan, according to director Caroline Shook.

The state did not accept the second plan because only two out of the three board members signed off on it.

"They told us that if that last plan that went in was not unanimous, it would not be considered," Shook said. Now the board has until the end of the week to submit another plan that must be signed by all three board members. If they

don't approve one by then, it's possible the state could just assign a one-stop voting plan for the county, the director said.

The board members previously voted unanimously to approve the plan, which moved the one-stop voting site from the county offices to the Hoke County Public Library and also designated the Conference B Headquarters (R.L. Douglas Headquarters Building) as a second early voting location. However, after Board of Commissioners Chairman James Leach spoke out against moving the voting site to the library, citing concerns over accessibility, Board of

(See VOTING, page 5A)

Truck driver attacked

An unknown attacker assaulted and robbed a truck driver in Raeford last week, according to the Raeford Police Department.

Kenneth Casper, 46, of Gold Hill had parked his truck at the Wilco-Hess gas station on Aberdeen Road in Raeford last Friday. He was walking back to the vehicle when a man report-

edly attacked Casper and stole his wallet.

The man jumped Casper and knocked him down before taking the man's wallet. The truck driver suffered a dislocated shoulder from the assault. He was taken to an area hospital for treatment.

Raeford police are still investigating the case.

Longtime broadcaster Peterkin dies



A man who spent nearly 60 years of his life sharing gospel music over the radio, and

even longer sharing love and support with family and strangers alike, passed away this week at the age of 91.

Well-known local broadcaster and church deacon James Peterkin died Sunday night after suffering from ill health for some months.

Known to many fans as the "Leg-

endary James Peterkin," the broadcaster was dedicated to spreading the gospel through the airwaves and even at the end of his life still tried to spend time doing his radio show at the WTEL 1160 AM station in Red Springs.

Peterkin often said about the Gospel Hour that he was "trying to lift up a bowed-down head." As a broadcaster, he would pick gospel songs for individuals or play a recording of a prayer. He would often dedicate the music or prayers to people who were sick, shut-in or going through a difficult time. He also provided information for voter registration, places for Civic League meetings, church information and

other community news.

The Hoke County Civic League began honoring Peterkin for his work in 1985, on the 30th anniversary of his radio ministry. They continued the special recognition for nearly another 30 years before his passing. In his nearly six decades of broadcasting, Peterkin never accepted any money for his time with the radio station.

Peterkin had suffered from failing health for some time, but even nearing the end of his life he still tried to make it through the Gospel Hour show at the radio station. Just a little over a month ago, using a walker and an oxygen mask, he made it through part

(See PETERKIN, page 6A)

Olympic equestrians compete at horse park

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Riders from the United States Olympic equestrian team are just a few of the competitors who will be

saddling up this month for the inaugural Cloud Eleven-Galivan North LLC Carolina International CIC and Horse Trial at the Carolina Horse Park.

The competition, also called a three-day event or "eventing," will put riders and horses through their paces in dressage, stadium jumping and a cross-country jumping course. The horse trial is set for March 20-23 at the park in Five Points and spectators are invited to attend.

Eventing started off as a test for military cavalry riders and since then has become a popular—and challenging—test for some of the best riders in the world, former Olympian and event chairman Robert Costello said.

"It was a competition to highlight the training of a horse that was used for war," he said. It's a bit like a triathlon for horses with different events on separate

(See HORSES, page 4A)



Ariel Grald, 25, guides her horse over a jump at the Carolina Horse Park. She will be competing in the Carolina International CIC.

Musician holds concert

Folk and world musician Joe Craven will perform Thursday in the Mary Archie McNeill Auditorium at Turlington School, a concert arranged by the foundation named in McNeill's honor. The foundation is now part of the N.C. Community

Foundation.

Craven's concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$10, and Hoke students will be admitted free.

Craven plays fiddle, mandolin, ukulele, balalaika, and percussion instruments, among

others, and also works with school children. He was violinist and percussionist for the David Grisman Quintet.



Joe Craven

Questions sought for debate

What do you want to see the candidates debate?

The News-Journal and the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a political debate for candidates running for office in Hoke County, and are now seeking questions or issues from the public for the candidates to debate.

Send in your questions to News-Journal reporter Catharin Shepard at cshepard@thenews-journal.com, or bring a written question to The News-

Journal office at 119 West Elwood Avenue in Raeford between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Questions must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 24.

Organizers will select several of the best questions to use in the debate. Questions should focus on topics of local importance. Please specify which political race the question is meant for (Hoke County Board of Commissioners or state Senate District 21).

(See DEBATE, page 5A)

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