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County approves phone system upgrade

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners Monday approved contracts with ATCOM Business Technology Solutions to replace telephone systems for the sheriff's office and other departments.

The phone replacements for the sheriff's office, the Department of Social Services and the Hoke Area Transit Service (HATS) offices, as well as installation of call reporting software for all county departments, cost about \$141,000.

The proposal was approved as part of a five-item consent

agenda at the regularly scheduled and last commission meeting for 2016. Other consent agenda items included a declaration proclaiming January 2017 as National Mentoring Month by request of Maggie's Outreach Economic Development Center; budget amendments for the Department of Social Services

and the sheriff's office; and an amended contract for the company that annually conducts the county audit process.

The commissioners additionally voted not to approve a tobacco-free/smoke-free policy for the Environmental Health office on East Central Avenue on the request of

the Hoke County Health Department.

The department is in the accreditation process and is going through a list of about 140 items that must be addressed during the process, director Helene Edwards reported. One of the issues is that (See COMMISSION, page 10)



Shopping with the Sheriff...and Santa
Hoke County Sheriff Hubert Peterkin and deputies with the Sheriff's Office took seven families shopping for Christmas at Walmart this week. The department has for several years donated toys to local families in need at Christmas, but this year decided to take Santa with them and spread the joy by letting children and their families "Shop with the Sheriff." At right, Sheriff's Office Deputy Dedrich Graham helps with the shopping. (Catharin Shepard photos)



Horse rides elevator, roams nursing home, all in a day's work

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

His name is Rusty Nails Victory Lap by Voltage, but you can call him Vic-

tor: a short nickname for a short, though adventurous, little horse.

Victor, a miniature horse born and bred in Hoke County, has set his hooves on everything from a retirement center elevator to a fancy show ring to a tent at the North Carolina State Fair. For the second year in a row, he's received a special honor recognizing the work that he — and owner Randy Crosier — do in the community.

Crosier, a longtime Hoke resident, has been keeping horses for more than 60



Victory Lap, better known to his fans as Victor, is a champion halter horse and a community service volunteer with his owner, Randy Crosier.

years. She got Victor several years ago as a way to continue working with equines.

"As most older people do, I was downsizing. I had full sized horses at one time, then I went to ponies, and now I'm into miniature horses," she explained.

She found just the horse she was looking for without even having to leave the county. Local businesspeople Mac and Tammy Cox breed and train miniature horses at their local farm. That's where Victor's name came from — Rusty Nails is the name of their ranch, and Voltage is the name of Victor's dad.

"The Victory Lap part of his name comes from the fact that Mackie races cars," Crosier said.

Victor was bred to be a show horse and compete against other miniature horses (See VICTOR, page 6)

This Week

Man charged with child sex assault
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Mosque threat case continued
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OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

The final hurdle—getting back into the U.S. for the third time in three days after fiestas with children and friends in Mexico. At the border this time of year, the wait can be measured in hours as cars filled with holiday shoppers line up for their chance at McAllen, Texas-area stores, which seem to me to be more in number per capita than anywhere I've seen. Never a parking space at a Walmart or even the mall, and that's at least until midnight. If you didn't know the shortcut in Reynosa, the wait to get into the U.S. could be half a dozen hours, but even with it, it's sometimes two or three.

But our final fiesta was in Miguel Aleman, a much smaller town of maybe 15,000 people, on (See OTHER STUFF, page 6)



Performers

Two students of music and performing arts instructor Ebony Peterkin, also known as Ladysticks, perform for the audience during the Ladysticks Presents Christmas Eve held December 9 at Mt. Pisgah Community Resource Center. Students of the world-renowned drummer gave instrumental and vocal performances along with dramatic performances during the evening, which was catered by Olive Garden. Peterkin is opening a new studio in Fayetteville to continue offering lessons.

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