



Nonprofit health center faces shutdown

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A nonprofit healthcare center that opened in Raeford two years ago has apparently shut its doors, at least for now, reportedly due to a situation related to its grant funding.

Health Center, located at 102 West Southern Avenue in Raeford, has provided medical care for hundreds of low-income children and adults on a sliding fee scale. The clinic offers healthcare for people regardless of their ability to pay, with fees as low as \$20 for those who met income requirements.

CEO Delvin McAllister said Monday that the center is waiting on the results of a grant renewal that would provide funding to keep the doors open. "At this point we are scheduled to discontinue seeing patients on the 22nd of this month. However we are waiting for renewal ... every health center has to go through a competitive process," he said.

center could continue to operate, McAllister said. "We hope to find out something in the next couple of weeks," he said. South Central Community Health Center started as an outreach of Community Health Interventions and Sickle Cell Agency, (See HEALTH CENTER, page 6)

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Shots into car send two to hospital

Gunfire erupted Monday morning at West Prospect Avenue and College Drive in Raeford, and police arrested the alleged gunman after two people went to the hospital.

Lloyd and Gary Wayne Hobson were taken to a local hospital for treatment, with Hobson receiving treatment for gunshot wounds.



McBryde faces charges including two counts of attempted first-degree murder, two counts of assault with a deadly (See SHOOTING, page 3)

Splash Pad Week declared for kids

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County's children get to celebrate the approaching end of the school year with some fun in the water at the Hoke County splash pad later this year.

children. Children who play outdoors are healthier and suffer less obesity and obesity-related health problems such as diabetes and heart disease, and Hoke County leaders believe strongly in providing safe and enjoyable activities for the children of Hoke County," the resolution stated.

The splash pad, which opened for the first time in 2017, is the first public water park feature in Hoke County. It is free of charge and open to (See SPLASH PAD, page 6)



Sprinters give it everything in a dash on the track at Raz Autry Stadium during Special Olympics. (Ken MacDonald photo)

Athletes give it their all at Special Olympics

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," dozens of children repeated after Hoke County Sheriff Hubert Peterkin.

With the flame burning bright to one side of the field at Raz Autry Stadium and the shining medals ready at

the winners' podium, more than 100 children from Hoke County Schools and the Children's Developmental Center joined in saying the Special Olympics Athlete's Oath to kick off the opening of the 2019 games.

Hoke County Schools hosted the 2019 Special Olympics Thursday at Hoke High School, bringing together children with special needs to have a

day of fun competing in wheelchair races, the long jump, the softball throw and other games. Other stations offered activities like face painting, a relay race with hula-hoops and traffic cone obstacles and fun with a brightly colored parachute. Volunteers including community members and high school students joined in to (See OLYMPICS, page 10)

Hoke ambulance service proposes new payment model

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A new payment model proposed by Cape Fear Valley's ambulance service could mean no out-of-pocket expenses for Hoke residents needing a ride to the hospital, but a higher charge for

non-residents. Cape Fear Valley's Hoke ambulance service director Robert Godwin presented the proposal to Hoke County's Board of Commissioners Monday night. Currently the county pays the ambulance service a yearly stipend and mileage. That won't change, and

they're not asking the county taxpayers for more money, Godwin said.

Hoke residents would have their insurance billed first, and any charges that the insurance company did not cover would be written off. Residents with no insurance wouldn't have to pay anything for

an ambulance ride, Godwin said. "That sounds too good to be true," Commission Chairman James Leach said.

"We were hoping you'd say that," Godwin said. Cape Fear Valley proposed to raise its ambulance rates for non-residents only from \$350 for basic

transport and \$450 for advanced life support transport, to \$800 and \$850 respectively with a slightly higher mileage cost of \$12 per mile.

The increase would only be for people who have addresses outside the county, Godwin said. About (See AMBULANCES, page 3)



Heavy rains flood Northwoods. (File photo)

Northwoods still waiting on DOT

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Residents of Northwoods Estates are still waiting on North Carolina Department of Transportation crews to clean out the storm drains to hopefully help stop the recurring flooding every time the area has a hard rain-fall.

(See NORTHWOODS, page 6)

OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

Over the years, more than a few hurt children have crossed our path as church youth volunteers. Victims of loss, sometimes neglect, hit hard by life before they should have been, these were wounded, fragile birds. Whatever their circumstances we knew they at least needed Grandma, the name we all called Glenda Lester. She threw her arms around them (and everyone else) the (See OTHER STUFF, page 11)



Youth trip: Glenda covered in shaving cream.



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