



DUKE BASKETBALL

Devils bitten by rebounding struggles

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GREAT LOSSES

ACA has forced insurers to broaden their policies

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Rocky Mount TELEGRAM

ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA ■ MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016

50 cents

Officials work together to help domestic violence victims

BY BRIE HANDGAAFF
Staff Writer

Local officials are working together to dispel myths and misconceptions about legal protections for victims of domestic violence.

"The most dangerous time for a victim is leaving," Nash County Senior Deputy Elizabeth Cahoon said. For that reason, authorities often refer victims to My Sister's House, which has trained staff to take victims through the entire process from the moment they

"There is no typical victim. It can happen to anyone."

Elizabeth Cahoon
Nash County senior deputy

reach out for help through possible court cases, emergency sheltering and counseling.

In 2015, the organization assisted 750 victims with the justice system, sheltered 149 people for 2,797 nights and answered 1,195 crisis calls related to domestic vi-

olence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

"Our services are absolutely confidential and 100 percent free," Cynthia Kornegay, the organization's executive director said.

In addition to preparing a personalized safety plan for domestic

violence clients, staff usually assist clients with applying for an ex parte order of protection.

If approved by a judge, deputies serve the suspected abuser – whether man or woman – with the order that specifies they are not permitted to see or contact the victim.

Another court date then is scheduled for the abuser and the victim to make their case to the judge, who can decide whether or not to grant a more permanent domestic violence protection order.

Officials said sometimes deputies serving an abuser with the ex parte order witness warning signs of escalating violence, but Kornegay said oftentimes the court order is enough of a reality check to get the aggressor to stop the controlling behavior.

"There is a small, small number of batterers that don't stop and those are the most horrific cases any of us work," she said.

See DOMESTIC, 3A

SHARING TRADITIONS, DRESS



TELEGRAM PHOTO / ADAM JENNINGS

Layali Kasem, 12, front, and Sharmin Parveen, 10, left, line up for a fashion show with other children Saturday during the International Festival of Cultures in Brown Auditorium at Nash Community College.

Festival brings different cultures together

BY BRIE HANDGAAFF
Staff Writer

Language was just one of the differences between cultures celebrated on Saturday at the annual International Festival of Cultures.

Hundreds of residents tried new food while learning about the daily lives, faith, art and more of different cultures.

This year's event also included a new addition to the line up of entertainment with a fashion show of colorful and symbolic garments worn by those in Islamic cultures and from India.

"In our community, a lot of culture groups exist, but they operate in their own segments of our city, but this event brings everyone together," Rocky Mount Human Relations Director Archie Jones said. "I was raised here, so for people like myself, it is an opportunity to see and be more aware of other cultures calling Rocky Mount home."

"We're nationally at a crossroads where we've got a very, very obnoxious voice speaking of hate and intolerance ... I wanted to let him see other people and cultures and learn other things while he is in his formative years and counterbalance that prejudice."

Kat Rhodes
Rocky Mount mother

Eunice Carrasco-Hill was born in Carolina, Puerto Rico, but came

to the United States in the 80s and called the Twin Counties home in 2008. When she realized her heritage wasn't represented at the event, she was eager to participate. She said

See FESTIVAL, 3A

Newcomer targets seat of incumbent

Two vie for school board

BY AMELIA HARPER
Staff Writer

Amid the fervor of the presidential primaries and the focus on the Connect NC bond issue, Edgecombe County will be deciding the future makeup of the Edgecombe County Board of Education on March 15.

Although three school board seats are on the ballot, only District 6 features a contest between two declared candidates.

The incumbent, Janice Davidson, has represented District 6 since 2000. Davidson, an attorney, said she is a long-time supporter of public education and sees it as a means for all members of the community to

advance and progress.

"I am passionate about Edgecombe County Public Schools," Davidson said. "Over the years, I have served as grade parent, HOSTS volunteer, school improvement team member, PTO president and school board member. My two children were educated by wonderful, caring teachers at Princeville Elementary, Pattillo Elementary, Martin Middle and Tarboro High School. I care deeply about the teachers, the families and especially the students in District 6. That is why I am running for my fifth term on the board of education."

Davidson said she feels

See INCUMBENT, 3A

Nash County to buy old library building

BY LINDELL JOHN KAY
Staff Writer

Nash County is set to purchase Nashville's old library building for \$100,000.

The Nashville Town Council approved the sale last week. The Nash County Board of Commissioners is expected seal the deal at its regular monthly meeting

today. The building at 202 Alston St. will be used by the Nash County Sheriff's Office for office space for detectives and narcotics agents, said County Manager Zee Lamb.

The Harold Cooley Library was housed in the building for 32 years before

See LIBRARY, 3A

TODAY'S HEADLINES

SUNNY TODAY



Art by Tamala Jere, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School

High, 64; low, 43.

2A

NATION

Former first lady Nancy Reagan dies at 94, leaving a legacy of devotion and love for husband Ronald Reagan.



5A

CAROLINA

The demand for local craft beer and whisky has spurred regional malt houses to open all over the country, and locally grown barley farms are popping up in North Carolina.

6A

WORLD



A suicide bomber kills at least 47 people and wounds dozens, officials say.

5A

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