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No. 33 Vol. 111

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

'Eat the elephant one bite at a time' Repairs, restored services, it's all going to take some time



Sign of recovery—I-95 reopens and heavy traffic here eases

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

With utility services restored, students returning to school and roads either reopened or marked for repairs, Hoke is one of dozens of North Carolina counties working toward recovering from the effects of Hur-

This Week

When power failed so did county water Page 4

County gives \$100k for food Page 4

Similar storm in 1945 Page 4

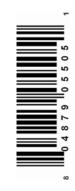
Early voting starts Page 12

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ricane Matthew.

"You eat an elephant one bite at a time," Hoke County Solid Waste Director Don Russell said, describing the recovery process for his department.

Life was starting to get back to normal for local residents over the weekend as both Duke Energy and Lumbee River Electric

Steele Road, the only entrance to the transfer station.



BY KEN MACDONALD

I found Don Russell at the Scurlock garbage site, all animated behind a locked gate, talking to a county worker. "We gotta get power here, some way, some how," he was yelling over the din of traffic. Or words to that effect. It was Tuesday morning after Matthew whooped up on us.

I had been out to the Hoke transfer station, where all the county's garbage goes to get tidied up for a trip to a landfill, to see the Road That Was No More. Pretty impressive if you're into bad news. Looked a lot like that picture we put on the front page two weeks ago-of Johnson Mill Road, where water cut through like it was building an intracoastal waterway. Maybe worse. I left to find Don.

He agreed to ride with me back to the transfer station road and fill me in on what the county was planning to (See OTHER STUFF, page 4)

Membership Cooperative (LREMC) met their deadlines for getting service back on to all customers in Hoke County – with the exception of three LREMC customers who received assistance Monday morning, according to the company's outage map.

Water service was fully restored to Hoke County utilities customers October 11, and

a day later, county officials dropped the voluntary boil water advisory after receiving clear water test results.

Hoke County students and teachers returned to class Monday, although there's still no word on whether they'll have to miss out on any scheduled vacation days (See RECOVERY, page 11)

FEMA help now available, but only by phone or online

By CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

Hurricane Matthew caused an estimated \$1.5 billion in damage in North Carolina and also claimed 26 lives in the state, according to officials, and now the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other groups are working to help residents recover from the storm.

The state Department of Public Safety announced that more than 36,000 people have registered with FEMA to receive assistance, and the agency has provided over \$17.7 million in disaster assistance to people affected by the hurricane as of Monday morning.

FEMA can provide assistance "in the form of grants (See FEMA, page 12)

Disagreement arises over WHMS shelter



The shelter, as Hurricane Matthew rages, awaits residents. (Ken MacDonald photo)

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

The Red Cross shelter at West Hoke Middle School shut down Friday after more than a week of operation, and the 14 people still at the shelter were assisted to other locations, according to local emergency management.

The shelter no longer needed to be open and it could reopen if there was a need for it, Hoke County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Director Maj. Freddy Johnson reported. (See SHELTER, page 11)

October 19, 2016

47 Years Ago October 23, 1969

A man is shot three times at the Record Room in downtown, reportedly after he knocked the assailant's sister to the floor. Leroy Cathran stumbles to Elwood Avenue and collapses and is taken to Moore Regional Hospital.

Harold Gillis, manager of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, will head the "Citizens for One Cent Local Option Sales Tax." Mrs. J.A. Hunt, Mrs. Lawrence McNeill, Mrs. James Thomas and Mrs. Neill McFadyen will serve on the board.

The woman who for many years was head of the lunchroom at Hoke High School, Mrs. Lucy Smith, dies after several months of illness. She was born in Blue Springs in 1893 and "worked tirelessly for her church and community." She was a charter member of the Lumbee River REA and served as secretary for more than 26 years. She also fed the Kiwanis Club for many years.

Thursday, Hoke High School will hold its homecoming parade and game. The parade will begin at 5 p.m. at Raeford Elementary School, head down Main Street, and out Harris Avenue to the Hoke Athletic Field. The parade will feature the Hoke High Marching Band, class floats and beauties representing each of the high school classes. The Bucks will host the Dunn Greenwave. Homecoming queen contestants are Pat Macko, Deborah Rogers and Pam English.

Coca-Cola Company suspends manufacture of Tab and Fresca in response to a statement by Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Robert Finch. The two low-calorie drinks contain cyclamates as sweeteners. The company is working on a substitution.

Mary Neil Senter and Julian West King pledge their marriage vows in a candlelight ceremony Saturday evening at First Baptist Church. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Leonard Senter of Raeford. Parents of the bridegroom are Ernest Lee King of Kinston and Mrs. Laura Jackson King of Jacksonville Beach, Florida.





Carson Davis, president of Woodmen of the World Camp 118, presents Walter Coley, chairman of the Hoke Board of Health, with a new American flag. Attending are M.R. Mills, Bill Southern, Mrs. Irvin Hubbard, Mars Frances Parks, Mrs. B.L. McLamb, Mrs. Iola King, Mrs. Leonor Evers, and T.C. Jones.



These students have been taking part in an experimental program for people out of school sponsored by the Neighborhood Youth Corps. Left to right: Mrs. Lee Cameron, teacher, Helen McKenzie, Jenny Mae Morrison, and Patsy Locklear; second row, Betty Ruth Graham, James McLaughlin and Larry Oxendine.



Homecoming Queen candidates: Pam English

Howell moves to table the plan, promoted by the U.S. Army, until it can be studied. Commissioners express concern that the plan gives the military too much power. The plan restricts development near the Fort Bragg reservation.



Deborah Rogers

Pat Macko

Community Calendar-

Items should be submitted for the Community Calendar by noon Friday before the publication date. You are asked to keep in mind that paste-up of the calendar page is done on Monday before publication. Also, if an ongoing item has been discontinued or needs to be changed, you are asked to contact the editor as soon as possible.

October 22 & 27

FAMILIES ALL READ (F.A.R.) is a Smart Start program designed to encourage families to go F.A.R. reading together. Children 0 up to 5 will receive a free book when accompanied by a parent and an additional book on their 5th visit and thereafter. For more information, call the Hoke County Public Library at 875 - 2502. Our October programs are: October 22, 2 p.m. -MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE!; October 27, 6:30 p.m. - HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

October 29

DIABETES HEALTH SYMPOSIUM will be held in the senior room at L.E. McLaughlin Building from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. spnosored by the Hoke Public Health Advisory Council.

October 30

"MORAL MARCH TO THE POLLS RALLY" featuring Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president of the NC NAACP, will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at Sandhills Community College, Owens Auditorium, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst. The event is for all citizens of Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Chatham, Lee, Randolph and Richmond counties. He will address defending the right to vote in NC, expanding voting rights, race-based redistricting, and other efforts that undermine equal protection under the law. Learn how to get involved in the "It's Our Time, It's Our Vote" campaign to make recent historic court victories against voter suppression real at the ballot box. The event is sponsored by Democracy NC, the NC NAACP, and the Moore County NAACP, a non-partisan, issues-oriented organization whose mission is to ensure the equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination.

October 31

DSS BOARD MEETING (regular meeting) will be held in the Hoke County Social Services T.B. Lester Jr. building's conference room, 314 S. Magnolia St., at 4 p.m. For further information, please contact the Hoke County Department of Social Services at 910-875-8725.

November 1, December 6

COFFEE WITH A COP will be held at Hardee's at 4 p.m.

November 4 & December 9

AMERICAN RED CROSS FIRST AID/CPR/AED CLASS SCHEDULE (Adult/Child/Infant) - Classes may be changed/cancelled depending on availability of instructor, holiday and inclement weather. All classes will be held from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. To register or for more information, call Hoke County Health Department at 910-875-3717 ext. 2106.

NOTICE: In order to keep our Calendar up-to-date, we are adding an expiration date to the following announcements. If you would like the event to continue in our calendar after the expiration date, please call (875-2121), fax (875-7256) or email (robin@thenews-journal.com) requesting this at least a week before its expiration

Military service-connected meetings

- VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS RALPH A. PANDURE VFW POST #10 meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at its Post Home, 14 Hanger Lane, Raeford Airport, Raeford. For information, contact Commander John F. Harry at 910-987-9821, email johnfharry@yahoo. com or visit vfw.org. (expires January 2017)
- DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS- Hoke County Chapter 17 meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the National Guard Armory, Teal Drive. For information, call Adjutant George Balch at 910-875-4410 or e-mail: gbalch@nc.rr.com. (expires May 2015)
- Calling all ACTIVE AND RETIRED NAVY, MARINE AND COAST GUARD to join Fleet Reserve Branch 259 located in Fayetteville. The Branch and Unit meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Retired Military Association building off Gillespie Street. (expires January
- AMERICAN LEGION POST 20 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the National Guard Armory on Teal Drive. All members and those interested are encouraged to attend. For information, call James McKee, 910-277-0597 or John McRae, Adjacent, 910-286-1705. (expires
- SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 62, the "Sandhills" Chapter for Raeford, Aberdeen, Southern Pines and Pinehurst, meets the 1st Saturday of each month, 1800 hrs at the Southern Pines VFW Post 7318 Clubhouse in Southern Pines, 615 South Page St. All present and past Special Forces soldiers are invited to attend. For additional information, contact Chapter 62 President, Tom Galbicsek at: tngabs@yahoo.com



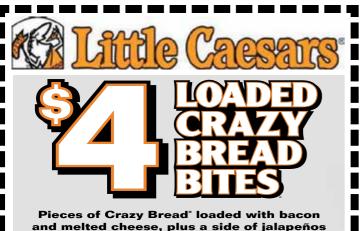
October 23, 1991

A new land use plan before the Hoke Commissioners proves worrisome. Commissioner Tom

The Hoke High Bucks prove themselves worthy of a shot at the conference title Friday, defeating Purnell Swett 18-12.

Meet Rosa lister-McRae Your School Board Representative Saturday, October 22 7 • 9 a.m.

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www.thenews-journal.com DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PHOTOS IS 5 P.M. OCTOBER 20

It breaks our heart not to see the usual parade of children in our office this year, but we're overwhelmed with hurricane recovery coverage and need to ask your help with our annual contest. We're going ahead with the event, but will accept entries using an online form that is on our website www.thenews-journal.com. Next year...we'll be back with in-office photos!



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Advertising Deadline: October 19



Liberal bashing isn't working so well

Whether as Democrats while this was a one-party state or Republicans since the GOP's 1972 resurgence, North Carolina conservatives have repeatedly used a reliable political tactic: Point at their opponents and holler, "Liberal! Liberal! Liberal!"

Or, for emphasis, "Ultra liberal!" And, in a really tight spot, "Mondale liberal" - no exclamation point needed.

The combined appeal to both preserve traditions - implicit in "conservative" - and to reject foreign ideas - implicit in "liberal" - worked so well that Democrats began calling themselves "progressives" in the 1980s.

In last week's debate, Gov. Pat McCrory used the liberal tool at least three times in his first answer alone and, as a sign of his unease over recent polls, modified it with "very" at least twice. To further season the expletive, he tied Attorney General Roy Cooper, his opponent, to previous attorney general and governor Mike Easley and former Gov. Bev Perdue, both supposedly liberals, then to Charlotte's mayor, "very liberal" Jennifer Roberts. Guilt by association works in politics.

Liberal bashing worked in the past. The late U.S. Sen. Jesse



Helms used it to perfection, and his pronunciation of the word -"libruhl" – curdled the brie of the state's Volvo drivers. But it doesn't appear to be working in 2016.

Today's electorate is different. It's truly purple, neither solidly Democratic nor Republican, nor majority conservative. Every year, North Carolina's cities and suburbs grow faster than the slow-growing, or not-growing, rural areas.

Remember, Barack Obama won this state in 2008, when he ran as the liberal alternative to moderate Hillary Clinton.

When liberal bashing worked for Helms, Gov. Jim Martin and Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner, conservatives ran with conservative presidential candidates, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush. This year, a reasonable argument can be made that Hillary Clinton is more conservative than Donald Trump, even if he's not liberal.

Liberal bashing also demands

a conservative issue, like tax increases. But in the gubernatorial race, McCrory's claim to have cut taxes is undercut by the reality of the GOP's "tax cut." It lowered income taxes for the affluent but expanded the sales tax and eliminated income tax deductions and credits.

The main issue of the 2016 campaign, however, isn't the so-called tax cut, it is HB 2, the bathroom bill that has cost North Carolina jobs and entertainment dollars. Cooper on Tuesday night and Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Deb Ross on Thursday night wrapped HB 2 around the necks of their opponents as effectively as Bush tied Willie Horton to the esophagus of Michael Dukakis in 1988. For example, HB2 is not playing well in especially hard hit Cary, a town of 150,00 people, many of whom are traditionally GOP-friendly college-educated voters.

Cooper may have been called liberal in the debate, but he tied McCrory to the libertine Donald Trump.

Liberal bashing has worked in the past, but it does not appear to be effective in a year when conservatives are running with Donald Trump and away from HB 2.



egislators can still fix this HB2 mess

I had never even considered the

danger that existed. I now feel that

I must peer indiscreetly over the

privacy divider separating urinals

to satisfy myself that my neighbor

has the proper equipment! If not, I

will feel obligated to question that

person as to why the equipment is

not present. In the event that the

possible offender replies that it is

a case of accidental, malicious or

even voluntary dismemberment,

he/she will be asked to present

his/her birth certificate on the spot

appearance enter the restroom, a

mere display of the proper equipment, presumably to all present,

will legitimize him and give him

the proper credentials needed

to spy on the true objects of his

sexual desire, namely everyone

else in the room. But what if this

person of unknown sex underwent

surgery to become a male, got

halfway through and decided

not to continue. In this case, the

Should a person of female

and banished if necessary.

Frog Holler

Philosopher

Ron Huff

Have you ever done something that you thought was the right thing to do only to cause unintended consequences that made you rethink your original position? If not, you are some kind of good decision maker, as well as being clairvoyant. The best thing to do when this happens is to admit you made a mistake and try to correct it. This might not mean that you were wrong in your thinking, only that all things had not been considered. Sometimes being right is not enough.

In an attempt to protect us from a bogeyman that most of us had not even considered, our legislature passed the controversial House Bill 2, commonly known as the bathroom bill. Yes, I said commonly, as it has been shouted from the televisions and published in the papers all over the country. It has further tarnished the reputation of our once progressive state in the eyes of the nation.

bathroom of the apparent different sex as our legislators desire.

I have heard the argument that children might be in some kind of danger from the current system but, as a practical matter, I think this is very remote. It seems to me that this law protects us from nothing, even if it was enforceable, which it is not. From a philosophical standpoint, the law makes a judgment on what true sexual orientation actually is, when that concept itself can be debated.

Sorry to drag you through some of this, but I believe it points out the folly of this effort to protect us, even if it was well meaning. And for this pseudo-protection, we trade some real world benefits. The NBA All Star Game was relocated from Charlotte. Many artists, including Bruce Springsteen, have cancelled appearances, and, most recently, the NCAA has announced that none of the basketball playoffs will be allowed to take place in the state. While many couldn't care less, I have heard estimates that this bill has already cost the state a billion dollars and it does not appear to be going away.

Our legislators need to reconsider this, balancing practicality

We Get Letters Storm shows Hoke needs new leadership

To the Editor:

Each and every week, all across our country, there are some poor souls that put on a choir robe, stand in the choir and sing like they are number one knock-down singers and the reality is they couldn't carry a tune in a bucket. It's sad to say, but true. Perhaps no one told them they couldn't sing, but whatever the case, they simply aren't cut out to be choir singers. This same sad state occurs across all of society in every profession, whether it is sports, broadcasting, law enforcement, politics and virtually every conceivable position, job or appointment that exists, including county commissioners. I am convinced that our commissioners are just such poor souls as the described choir singers. They simply are not cut out for the position they are in. Once again, I find myself suffering due to their

necessities and as much safety as humanly possible within the constraints of what was available for them to work with. They did an outstanding job and we should be proud of them. They were suffering too, but they put the residents of the county first. I appreciate them all.

My community lost power located at our wells to insure that the residents retain fire produring the storm and, as a result, we lost water too. As tection when disaster strikes. it turns out, our county water Hoke County needs new supply wells do not have permanent stationary generators for backup power. This is an unacceptable situation. This condition transcends any consideration of inconvenience to flushing toilets, washing or cooking. This speaks directly to fire protection! The most well equipped, dedicated, eager fire department is just a couple of notches above useless without water to fight a fire during a disaster. Can you envision the new multi-story apartments on incompetence. 401 ablaze during the 24-hour period the power was out and there was no water in that part of the county? Sure, the fire department could fill their tanks out of a pond or creek, but many of the roads were blocked and ers-just a suggestion. the turnaround time would make their efforts futile. I am certain the firemen would give it their No excuse for not having generators for water system

best effort but they shouldn't be handicapped by a lack of readily available water. Especially since the residents have spent so many tax dollars installing countywide water service. For the cost of a splash pad, the county could install 10 to 12 permanent standby generators

leadership. We need people who know what is important. People that are dedicated to the betterment of the county instead of themselves. People that understand that the timing of a matter is just as important as the results of the matter. People more interested in the condition of services than the size of a campaign sign. We need qualified people making decisions that affect our lives and tax dollars. The commissioners we have just aren't suited for the position they are in. I call for them to recognize their failures, accept their inadequacies and bow out with some dignity intact. To end this on a positive note, I believe some of them would make good used car salesmen or zookeep-**Rick Bounds** Raeford

I know that many say to hell with what others think and support this bill based on partisanship, what they have heard about it or what they fear could happen under the worst of circumstances. There is that old fear again.

This bill was rushed through the legislature and poorly consid-

During Hurricane Matthew, Hoke County residents took a beating and many lost power and water. Some are still suffering as I write this. During the storm, and immediately afterward, Hoke County personnel worked around the clock to ensure the residents were afforded as many basic

To the Editor:

I was totally amazed that, during Hurricane Matthew, my water became little more than a dribble. I grew up on a well—when the lights went out, we no longer had water. Moving into an area with a municipal water system, I thought that would no longer be an issue.

For some of us, this bordered on being anywhere from a minor to a major inconvenience. But, what if there had been a fire? No

longer would the pumper truck be able to hook up to a fire hydrant. They would have been nothing but dribbles.

How could there be no provision to provide electricity for the water pumps in the event of a longer duration power outage? Are there no backup generators?

Agreed, this is a rare event, but what if one of the hospitals had caught fire?

I sincerely hope that with

Water everywhere but none to drink

To the Editor:

"Water, water, everywhere, nor a drop to drink."-Samuel Taylor Coleridge

This was Hoke County a week ago. Millions for the

ethanol plant, hundreds of thousands for a splash park but not enough vision nor money for backup electrical generators. What will it take for some people to wake up from classic

Democratic Party incompetence fueled by prejudice, ignorance and deceit? More thirst.

FEMA releasing funds to help

mitigate effects of a future di-

saster like this, someone orders

generators for each pump that

needed one. And, they need to

provide manpower to test those

generators on a regular basis (an

annual test is not a regular basis).

Fortunately, this did not add into

the destruction we did have, but

I feel there is no excuse for this.

Russell Walker Ashley Heights

Tim Tapio

Raeford

Christians should vote for Trump

To the Editor:

In my opinion, it is not time to stay home and not vote. There will not be another chance after this election. At least we have a chance with Trump now. Mr. Trump is against one world government. I do not feel he will tolerate the Trilateral Commission, America's new secret government. I feel Trump stands for the First and Second Amendment. Trump is pro-Israel. Trump

plans on appointing conservative pro-life judges. Trump supports a strong military. Trump believes that we should be able to pray at school ballgames and have freedom to say Merry Christmas. Mr. Trump may be the candidate that the Most High God uses to defeat Clinton. There are some 40 million Christians who must get out and must vote for Donald Trump. In my opinion, there is a gradual, continued approach

to centralized government and a control of individuals through socialistic programs. On the surface they might appear beneficial, but they all eventually will lead to a people who become submissive to a socialistic government. In my opinion, Trump does not want our country to become another economical Marxist country.

Bronzie Lawson Raeford

Submit letters to the editor online: Look for heading "Send Us Stuff" at www.thenews-journal.com

ered when adopted. It has been stated that passage of the bill was a smokescreen in itself, but for this discussion I will only write about the "bathroom" part of HB2.

I have often heard that "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" This may be a classic example of the failure to apply this rule. I have been in my share of public bathrooms and

presentation of the birth certificate will clear up the whole mess and banish her from the men's room with her prying eyes.

This confusion can be avoided by having a sex checker assigned to each bathroom to check everyone's birth certificate on entry and verify that it is authentic through the state sex clearinghouse. This way the transgender must go to the with ideology. They have traded real benefits for an unenforceable law with dubious benefits. There is no shame in admitting that the consequences have been too dire and that we can live with the old status quo. Call your legislators and let's give them an excuse to fix this. The people have the power! More later.

We welcome your letters

The News-Journal welcomes letters to the editor and encourages readers to express their opinions.

Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. The street address and phone number will not be published, but are required so we may verify authenticity. The name of

the writer and, in some cases, the town the writer is from will be published at the end of the letter.

We are not able to publish letters that are essentially thankyou cards.

We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, as well as those that exceed 300 words. We will not

publish letters that we consider to be in poor taste or libelous. In some cases we may add an editor's note as a postscript when we believe a correction, explanation or amplification is warranted. We may also, at our discretion, limit the number of times an individual writer may submit a letter for publication.

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October 19, 2016

Matthew's closest comparison isn't Hazel, meteorologist says

By CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

To accurately compare the devastation Hurricane Matthew caused in the Sandhills region, you have to go back further than Hurricane Floyd in 1999. Hurricane Fran in 1996 or even Hurricane Hazel in 1954, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Mike Moneypenny.

"For the southern Piedmont areas, the closest storm that I saw for the extent and the record (of rainfall and flooding) was actually back in 1945," he said.

A tropical storm that hit Hoke County on September 17, 1945 is perhaps the closest comparison to the rainfall and flooding damage that followed after Matthew dumped over a foot of rain on some parts of the Sandhills, the meteorologist suggested.

"That was by far the worst flooding we saw in the North Carolina Piedmont of any of them," Moneypenny said.

"Now, we have had worse flooding in the state in recent memory...but Floyd and Matthew didn't reach as far west into the piedmont as the '45 storm," he added.

The 1945 "Homestead" hurricane - named for the city in Florida where it first made landfalltracked all the way up the Sunshine State, through coastal Georgia and

eastern South Carolina before it finally tore through central North Carolina. The storm started out as a Category 4 major hurricane but weakened as it came over land. It was at tropical storm strength when it came through the Sandhills.

The Homestead hurricane and Hurricane Matthew, though more than 70 years apart, were similar in how much rain they dumped on the Sandhills. The tropical storm brought about eight inches of rain to the Fayetteville area, with the highest recorded rainfall marked at over 14 inches in Rockingham, according to a 1945 rainfall record from the Army Corps of Engineers. That's about the same amount of rain that the Category 1 Hurricane Matthew dumped on Fayetteville on October 7, according to meteorologists.

The timing of the "Homestead" hurricane and Hurricane Matthew also had something in common.

Hurricane Matthew hit the Sandhills just a week after a severe thunderstorm caught meteorologists by surprise and dumped about 10 inches of rain on the area. Likewise, the Homeeastern North Carolina in September 1945 was the second in a row of two severe storm systems to drench the state with soaking rain, leading to the record-setting flooding. The storm was "preceded by three to five days of rain earlier in the month," according to Moneypenny.

"There was thus little storage capacity in the soil or the streams to handle an additional two months' worth of rain falling in a 24-hour period. The resulting flooding is regarded as the worst on record for piedmont rivers, including the Neuse, Cape Fear, Lumber, and Pee Dee river basins.'

The 71-year-old record still isn't broken, even after Hurricane Matthew, Moneypenny said.

"That crested about 10 feet higher on the rivers than Matthew did," he said.

The damage from the 1945 flooding was so severe that it led to changes in how officials managed water resources such as Jordan Lake and Falls Lake.

"There was no flood control

County approves \$100k in food for flood victims

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners voted Monday night to give the county's Department of Social Services \$100,000 to provide food for residents affected by Hurricane Matthew while waiting on the state to take action on disaster food stamp availability.

Local social services officials have been waiting on a decision from the state on whether it will provide funding for disaster food stamps, also known as Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) benefits. But in the meantime, there are people in Hoke County who lost all of the food in their refrigerators and freezers and don't have the money to replace it, the county commissioners discussed during the meeting.

While help is available to citizens who already receive SNAP benefits and need to replace food lost during the storm, those who don't receive SNAP benefits don't have any help available except through individual organizations' food banks.

"I know we're waiting on the state to make a decision, but let's do all that we can do, all that's in

our power," Commission Chairman James Leach said. After discussing possible ways

to assist residents, the commissioners voted unanimously to provide DSS Director Della Sweatt's department with \$100,000 to help residents in need as well as extending the DSS service hours.

It will be up to the discretion of Sweatt and County Manager Letitia Edens to put the program together and get it running quickly to help residents affected by the storm, the board decided.

Sweatt discussed the possibility of using food vouchers instead of buying and distributing boxes of food. She said she would need to speak with local grocery stores before deciding on how to proceed.

As of Tuesday, the plan was to provide a \$150 voucher for people to use at one of four local grocery stores, after they show proof of residency, family size and other demonstration of need, Edens said.

Sweatt was working with her staff and local grocery stores to try and put the program together quickly, the county manager reported.

'She's going to run it through her food and nutrition program and speak with the two Food

stead hurricane that descended on at all upriver back then," Moneypenny said.

Local record of flooding

The News-Journal's archives showed that Hoke County didn't escape the 1945 flooding that set records across the region. A story published in The News-Journal on September 20, 1945 detailed the event and its fallout.

"Numerous highways crossing the Pee Dee, Cape Fear, Neuse and Roanoke rivers have been blocked and highway and rail traffic is being greatly disrupted while thousands of acres of farm lanes from the mountains eastward are being flooded," according to the story. "In Hoke County, Rockfish Creek poured a flood of water into the pond of Raeford Power and Manufacturing Company's hydro plant and threatened it dangerously until a five-foot temporary dam atop the concrete spillway was removed. When the dam was replaced in 1928 following the flood that year, concrete abutments were erected and a soil five-foot dam with a concrete facing was added to the dam."

Lions, Walmart and IGA. She has

to first make sure they'll take the

People seeking to get a food

voucher don't have to qualify for

food stamps to get the temporary

assistance, but the sign-up process

will be similar in order to try and

avoid abuse of the system, Edens

shouldn't be coming in and getting

missioners transferred from the

General Fund to DSS should be

able to help more than 660 fami-

lies and individuals in the county

with their food needs during the

ing on implementing the DSNAP

program, the county manager

how to do it, based on the emails

details on its Facebook page and

website on how to seek assistance

from social services once the local

voucher program is up and run-

ning, and as soon as details are

released about the state's decision

on whether to provide DSNAP

benefits to Hoke and other coun-

ties affected by the hurricane.

we're getting," she said.

Meanwhile, the state is work-

"They are trying to figure out

The News-Journal will post

storm recovery, Edens said.

a \$150 voucher," she said.

"If you make \$100,000, you

The amount of money the com-

voucher," Edens said.

said Tuesday.

said.

"Wiseacres who saw this extra construction put in claimed the power company was burying its money...but, in the opinion of company officials, this extra construction saved the dam in this week's flood."

According to the story, the raging waters of the Cape Fear have now backed water across the Hope Mills dam until the Rockfish is now actually flowing upstream at that point."

The roadways of Hoke County didn't fare any better in the Homestead storm than they did in Hurricane Matthew, according to the archived story.

"Unpaved roadways have been badly washed, and the Red Springs highway was covered at two places, near the T.D. Potter farm and at Antioch, for some hours. Drowning Creek is flooded at all highway crossings from near Aberdeen and most of them have been closed, with an all-time high stage expected at Lumberton today," it reported.

Hoke County's schools were closed for two days due to the flooding and damage to the roads.

Rev. Al Anderson of the Open Door Soup Kitchen, which has locations at 399 Oakdale Gin Road and 1308 Stevens Street, reported that his volunteer organization saw a huge number of people in need stopping by for a meal after the storm. He was also in talks with the Red Cross about the possibility of using the soup kitchen's locations as a Red Cross feeding site.

The Open Door Soup Kitchen is open five days a week from 4-6 p.m. and on Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

Additionally, a Red Cross member present at the meeting spoke with the board about the possibility of working together to set up a feeding site so that people in need can get a hot meal.

The commissioners also authorized the use of the Hoke Area Transit Service (HATS) to help people who might not be able to get transportation otherwise to pick up a voucher and get to the grocery store, or for other transportation needs. For a period of time, the county will take on the cost so that passengers can use HATS free of charge while citizens recover from the storm, the board decided.

HATS is open and running and residents can call 875-8696 to get assistance.



70°W

The track of the 1945 storm. (Weather Underground image)

When power went out

When Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperative's power service went down, so did service to the Hoke County's water treatment facilities, bringing water service to a halt for more than 6,000 county utility customers.

The county is working on a plan to install generators at the water treatment facilities with an estimated cost of about \$80,000 pergenerator--ormore, depending on the size of the generator in question, according to Hoke County Utilities Director Hilton Villines.

operations center, and Westgate, Bridgeport and Bedford.

60 W

uses electricity from LREMC,

tors and the need to work within a budget, the county is trying to get generators in to places where water service is most critical, such as the 401 corridor where two hospitals rely on county water service.

so did county water

But while the sanitary sewer lift stations at Scurlock and Don Steed Elementary have generators, the water system that provides drinking water still

Villines said. Due to the cost of the genera-

Other stuff

"Not every water treatment facility has generators; that's something that we're working on now," he said.

Some Hoke County services do have backup generators. The Hoke County Board of Commissioners recently approved a contract with the National Power Corporation for maintenance of the county's generators. The contract included generators located at the emergency 911 center, the Hoke County Jail, Beaver Creek, the Scurlock sewer lift station, the Don Steed lift station, Hoke Landing, Johnson Mill Road, Highway 401, the emergency

1967 — The Upchurch High

School Class of 1967 is plan-

ning its 50th Class Reunion

Celebration. For more infor-

mation, contact Walter Blue,

910-875-3318, Delorise Lide,

910-875-2480 or Annie Little,

Birthday Celebration will be held

November 5 from 6 - 10:30 p.m.

at The Highlands, 17160 Plant

Road, Laurinburg, NC. Cost is

\$25 per person. Please dress in

'70s attire or red and white. You may mail your payment to Hoke

County High Class of '74, PO

Box 1444, Raeford, NC 28376.

Please make checks and money

1974 — Class of 1974 60th

910-695-5519.

"We're trying to strategically place them and are talking with a vendor," Villines said.

The utilities director wasn't sure how long the project will take

Besides the issue of power outages, there was also the problem of breaks in the water lines. When roads such as Crawford Wright Road eroded, the county's water pipes were exposed and, in some cases, broke open entirely.

The county issued a voluntary boil water advisory until last Wednesday, when water was back on to everyone in the county and water test results returned clear.

The county's water system has been built over the last 25 years in five phases.

(Continued from page 1)

do about garbage. "You can do without air traffic controllers," he had told Hoke Commissioners Monday. "We learned that in New York." He listed a few other services citizens can forego. "But you can't live without garbage pickup."

With Don in the truck, about half a mile down the road, I cracked my window, then turned on the air conditioner, then selected outside air. "Yeah, I haven't washed in a few days," he exclaimed. Don never just says something. "Sorry if I stink!" He hadn't slept much either, and that was my impression of quite a few county employees-Freddy Johnson, the emergency management

Bratcher at (336) 841-5388 or

(336) 338-2286 cell or Damon

director for the sheriff's office. Sheriff Peterkin. The county manager, Letitia Edens. The county IT person. Candace Pierce. Actually. the list is rather long. From my vantage, everyone from James Leach on down kicked in. And then, of course, there were the volunteer firefighters, the deputies and police, the power folks, DSS, the churches, the citizens.

Anyway, by the time we reached the washed out transfer station road, Don received a phone call from back at the Scurlock site. The gigantic generator he'd been searching for so that a trash compactor could be fired up was no longer going to be needed; power was back on. And in the chaos of the moment, no one knew exactly

ASAP so we can get an infor-

mation packet to you via mail

when it had come back on.

Don, who comes off as part director, part cowboy, was ecstatic. He was talking loud (and smelly) in my ear, jubilant that the first piece of the puzzle was in place. Scurlock, just one of five of the county's garbage collection "convenience sites, was coming back online. And if you're going to get only one site going, it was the best site because of its capacity and central location, he said.

But now about the second problem. Getting compacted garbage to a landfill-most likely in Fayetteville—was going to require garbage trucks, and two of them were at the transfer station on the other side of the gaping hole in the road. A third was in the shop.

Don listed the options. The most desperate was going to Florida where he'd found one he could rent.

We were talking about possibly driving them through the Community Forest, on the other side of the field by the transfer station, when Freddy Johnson drove up. I hadn't yet offered my idea of a Fort Bragg helicopter lift when I departed as the two of them talked shop.

Turns out, that's exactly what they did-drove the trucks through woods. Armed with an ATV, chainsaws and the local geography knowledge of Hank Richards, who lives near the transfer station, they spent the afternoon blazing a trail out to June Johnson Road.

Every aspect of recovering from a storm like Matthew probably has a behind-the-scenes story like this one.

And it ended bright and early Wednesday morning when Scurlock reopened. And Don had had a bath.



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L-R, Tammy Parker, Betty Turner & Elizabeth Smith



Class Reunions

875-4912 or 910-875-1823 for additional information.

1975 — The Hoke County High Class of 1975 is planning its 40th year reunion. We are searching for our members and contact information. Please respond with contact information to: trinybooks@aol.com, gbhill27@gmail.com, 910-213-7110, 910-977-9076 or 910-978-4455.

1977 — Hoke County High School Class of 1977 will meet every Monday at 7 p.m. at Virgil's Drive-In. Any interested classmate may call James Quick at 910-273-1863.

1998 — Planning for the class of 1998 reunion has been completed. Please contact April

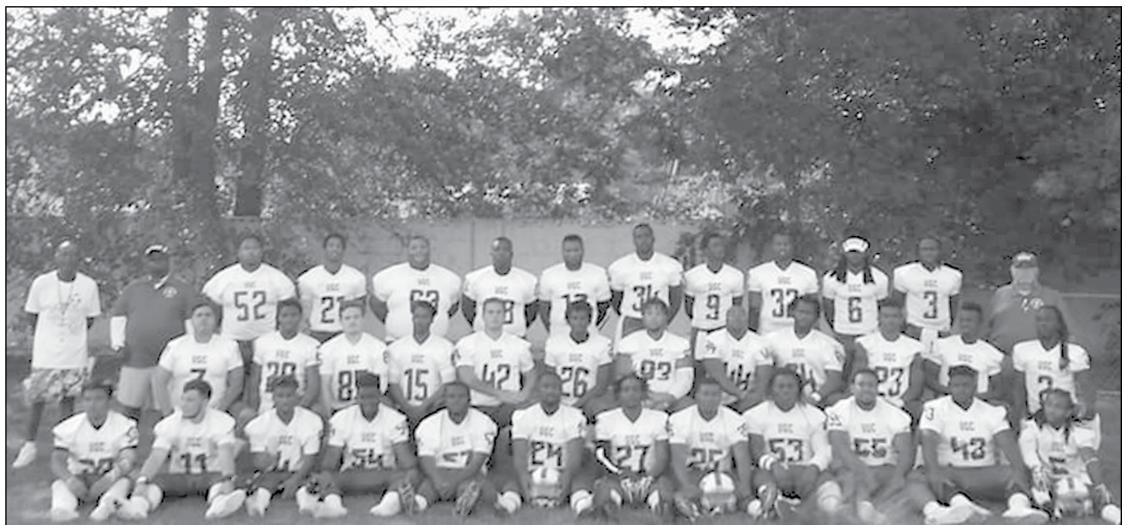
First Baptist Church 333 N. Main St. • Raeford, NC All ARE SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES **Resume Tuesday**, November 1 6 p.m. **TRUNK OR TREAT** Wednesday Night Supper October 31 • 6:30 - 8 p.m. 5:45 p.m. **Old Armory Park** Youth Missions (Many churches participating) 6:30 p.m. Free Popcorn, Hot Dogs, Cake Walk **Prayer Meeting** & Bounce Houses 6:30 p.m. Safe Alternative to Trick or Treat For more information call (910) 875-3508

Williams at (910) 690-6707 or email. **SUBSCRIBE** to The News-Journal

Call 875-2121 or visit www.raefordnj.com get the paper each week in the mail



Sports



The University of God's Chosen is a new religious-based university in Hoke County whose football team is 1-1 on the season. Pictured is the football team (roster in alphabetical order): De'Monte Armstrong-DB, Dajuan Birch-DB, Kenneth Bogawitch-WR, Donocan Britton-DB, Donell Kahele-Burnette-RB, Malik Cain-DI, RauQuan Chavis-WR, Darius Cox-DB, Derek Dovolis-LS, Jabari Evans-DB, Kiliki Ikaika Haia-LB, Demetrius Hollingsworth-Defensive Coach, Montarius Hughley-DL, Adrien Jones-DL, Tysheim Jones-DB, Kenneth Kelly Jr.-LB, Johnny King-RB, Jermaine Love-DL, Sam Marsh-FS, Marcus Mayers-LB, Walter McCoy-OL, Raeqwan McClinnahan-WR, Kenden McPhatter-DL, Keyonte Monroe-OL, Malik Muldrow-OL, Laquest Peterkin-DL, John Phillips-DL, Ronald Robinson-OL, Michael Ross-DL, JaMarcus Sanders-RB, Kevin Simmons-DB, Coach Ian Smith-Head Coach, Phillip Swindell-LB, Curtis Walker-Defense Coach, Cedric Williams-WR, Willie Williams-QB, Chris Vasquez-K.

University of God's Chosen

BY HAL NUNN Sports writer

The University of God's

Chosen is a new form of religious-based university that is a dual enrollment combination of



secondary education and religious-based college. Demetrius Hollingsworth founded the local school in 2014 that works with

John Sports Academy 24-12 and losing to Webber International University 29-0.

This week, the team will play

Sports Briefs Hoke High football After the storm last week

closed schools, the Hoke County High School Bucks did not play. The team was scheduled to play Lumberton

Rockfish Speedway

Rockfish Speedway will crank it up this Saturday night with a full slate of racing action. The gates will open at 3 p.m. with racing action starting at about 5 p.m. This will be the last points' race of the regular season. The Prelude to the Classic (ModLite Feature) will be held November 4 and 5. The Winter Classic will be held November 18 and 19 and will feature a \$1,000 to win Micro 600. For more information,

Although the storm created major damage to the course, the course is open and club members

ment time (2 hours prior for appointments before 10:00 AM). Passengers with out-of-town appoint-Llamada de los jubilados División de envejecer en (910) 875-8588. ments will be notified 1 business day prior to their appointment with what time to be ready.

Medicaid Clients call Hoke Co. DSS at (910) 878-4041.

Senior Citizens call Division of Aging Division of Aging at (910) 875-8588

316 S. Magnolia Dr. • Raeford, NC 28376 (910) 875-8696 • Fax: (910) 875-7110 • TTY-TDD • 1-800-735-2962 316 S. El Dr. del Magnolia. • Raeford, NC 28376 (910) 875-8696 • Fax: (910) 875-7110 • TTY-TDD • 1-800-735-2962

October 19, 2016

Students will attend Saturday make-ups

Police Blotter

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD Staff writer

More than 8,000 Hoke County students went back to class Monday after an unexpected week off when Hurricane Matthew left thousands of people without power or water, and also washed out roads across the county.

"Everything went well. I haven't heard of any issues from anyone," Hoke County Schools Public Information Director Jodie Bryant said Monday morning. "It looks like we hit the ground running."

As things stand, students will have to attend four Saturday schools to make up for the missed week. November 19, January 28, February 25 and March 18 are designated as make-up days. Friday, December 16, originally scheduled as an early release day, will be a full day for students and teachers.

Friday, October 28 will be a full day for students and teachers to make

Raeford Police reported the following recent incidents: September 26

Larceny, breaking or entering, 900 block of Stevens Street, victim Annie Mae McMillian Tyson

Driving while intoxicated, 600 block of Turnpike Road, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged Justin Jerel James, 39, of the 400 block of Cumberland Avenue in Raeford. September 27

Simple physical assault, disorderly conduct, 800 block of Fulton Street, victim Jake Barry Maynor September 28

Fraud-credit card/automated teller machine, Kim's Barber Shop, victim Sean Michael Gersy Jr. September 29

Obtaining a controlled substance by fraud, 200 block of Cole Avenue, victim CVS Pharmacy

Illegal burning, Saw Mill Road, victim City of Raeford

September 30 Larceny, breaking/entering, 100 up for one of the days missed due to the storm that hit Hoke County a week before Hurricane Matthew.

Raeford, N.C.

The schedule was designed to protect the two long breaks students and teachers get during the school year, Bryant said.

"When deciding how to make up the days from Hurricane Matthew, it was important for us to not take away winter break or spring break," she said in a statement.

It's unusual for the school system to have to use so many inclement weather days so early in the year, Bryant added.

There is a possibility that the state could find a way to waive some of the time, which is why the majority of the make-up days are scheduled for months in the future.

This will buy us some time in the event that our legislators decide to waive some of the days missed because of Hurricane Matthew," Bryant said. "The decision to waive days due to a natural disaster or state of emergency cannot be made by the school system, the local school board, or the State Board of Education. This decision would need to be made by the General Assembly."

The school system released all students early ahead of the hurricane's arrival. When Monday morning rolled around, school officials took it day by day to decide whether to open - but, by Tuesday evening, they announced that classes were canceled for the rest of the week.

There wasn't any major damage to the school facilities themselves, according to officials. Hurricane Matthew's gusting winds tore the vinyl siding off of some classrooms on the Gibson side of Hoke County High School, and several schools were without electricity for most of the week. Workers pre-emptively removed hundreds of brand-new ceiling panels at Don Steed Elementary to keep the school's leaky roof from damaging them a week after they had been installed.

The first day back went well at Sandy Grove Elementary, according to a media release from the school system.

cited to return to school. The school day ran very smoothly as everyone got back into their routines. We were pleased with our student attendance, which was 94%," Sandy Grove Elementary Principal Kim Foley said in a statement. "The adjusted routes and pick up points for our buses also worked out really well. After seeing the devastation all around us, our students are also eager to help others by collecting non-perishable food items, clothing, and toiletries for our families in need, as well as for those in Robeson County."

Each school in Hoke County will collect items to send to schools in Robeson County that are in need, according to Bryant. Residents who want to help can contact their local school to donate.

legedly taking a large amount of money from Brown another county resident, according to the Hoke County Sheriff's Office. Authorities arrested Elton

Kenre Brown, 27, of the 100 block of Emerywood Court on charges of identity theft and

Man charged with arson

A man in

Raeford was

charged with al-

legedly setting

destructive fires

on purpose, ac-

Man charged with identity theft

A man from

Raeford was

charged last

week with al-



cording to the Jones Hoke County Sheriff's Office.

Investigators with the sheriff's office arrested Richard Eugene Jones, 38, of the 800 block of East Donaldson Avenue October 5 on charges of felony second-degree arunlawful obtaining a credit card. Brown was accused of stealing the identity of Scott Fuhs, according to the sheriff's office. The event reportedly took place July 29 and other dates on the 7400 block of Rockfish Road.

Brown reportedly confessed to the crime, according to the sheriff's office.

Brown was arrested October 14 and held under a \$1 million secured bond.

son and felony burning of personal property on Arabia Road.

Jones was accused of allegedly setting fire to a structure and a vehicle belonging to Martin Jones on April 13 of this year. The Stonewall Fire Department responded to the scene. The investigation began with the Hoke County Fire Marshall's Office and was turned over to sheriff's office investigators.

Jones was arrested and held under a \$500 secured bond.

block of Lantern Lane, victim Jessica Celeste Chavis October I

Driving while license revoked, driving while impaired, 400 block of Aberdeen Road, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged John Leeward Fairley, 50, of the 200 block of Kemp Lane in Raeford. October 2

Larceny, breaking/entering, 500 block of South Main Street, victim Bob Howard Higgins

October 3

Larceny after breaking and entering, larceny, larceny from motor vehicle, breaking and entering, 1000 block of Fulton Street, victim Henry Eugene Campbell. Police charged Michael Devon Robinson, 42, of the 100 block of Sandy Ridge Apartments in Raeford. October 4

Simple physical assault, 400 block of North Wright Street, victim Larlet Cartrial Henley Driving while intoxicated (alcohol),

1000 block of East Prospect Avenue,

SOCIALS

------ Meddingz Turner weds West

Jessica Lynn West of Fayetteville and Daniel Joseph Gaston Turner of Fayetteville were wed at Galatia Presbyterian Church October 15.

The bride is daughter of Donna John McNatt Gillis of Daniels West of Hope Mills and late Michael Timothy West of Hope Mills and Little River, South Carolina. She is granddaughter of Mrs. Roy Daniels of Holden Beach and the late Mr. Daniels and Mr. and Mrs. Ted West of White Oak. She is a graduate of South View High School and East Carolina University. She is pursuing a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from Gardner-Webb University, and is a teacher in the Cumberland County School System. The groom is son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Turner of Fayetteville.

His grandparents are Mrs. Carl Turner of Fairfield, California and the late Mr. Turner and the late Mr. and Mrs. the Galatia Church community, Fayetteville. He is a graduate of Seventy-First High School and attended Lees-McRae College. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He is employed by H&H Homes in Fayetteville.



victim State of North Carolina. Police charged Leewood Johnson, 53, of the 100block of R.L. Smith Lane in Raeford. October 5

Larceny, 300 block of West Cole Avenue, victim Neal Alan Sutton

Larceny, 300 block of Crawford Street, victim Patricia Saunders Locklear Driving while license revoked,

driving while intoxicated, 700 block of Laurinburg Road, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged Juan Luis Bello Capote, 30, of the 600 block of Rockfish Road in Raeford. October 10

Larceny, 500 block of East Donaldson Avenue, victim Michael Davis Shortridge

Failure to appear on charges including resisting public officers, carrying concealed weapon, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana; operating a vehicle without insurance, displaying a revoked registration plate, driving while license revoked, possession of a stolen firearm, East Prospect Avenue/Forest Street, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged Travis Devon Dockery, 31, of the 200 block of Laurel Court in Lumberton. October 11

Larceny from buildings, burglary non-forced entry, 300 block of North Magnolia Street, victim Mary Gwendolyn Thomas Wellborn

Failure to stop at a stoplight, no operator's license, South Main Street at Harris Avenue, victim State of North

Carolina

October 13

Larceny, 200 block of South Main Street, victim Malinda Sue Collins Resisting a public officer, communicating threats, 800 block of

Fulton Street, victim State of N.C. and Jasmine Shonte October 14

Larceny of a motor vehicle, breaking and entering a motor vehicle, 300 block of Palmer Green Apartments, victim Leonard William Brock Jr.

Simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, resisting a public officer, communicating threats, 800 block of West Prospect Avenue, victim Constance Rogers Locklear

Breaking and entering, 100 block of West Elwood Avenue, victim Called Into Action

October 15

Driving while license revoked, driving while intoxicated (alcohol), West ProspectAvenue/DicksonStreet, victim State of North Carolina. Police charged LeronzaAkeen Campbell, 26, of the 100 block of Five Points Mobile Home Park Lot 6 in Raeford.

Amanda M. Buie Amanda M. Buie died Sunday, October 16, 2016.

She is survived by her son, Ronald Wesley Buie III.

Public viewing will be held at Millside Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4251 Blue Springs Road, Red Springs on Wednesday, October 19 from 3-4 p.m. A memorial service will begin at 4 p.m.

James F. Scriven

James F. Scriven died Friday, October 7, 2016.

He is survived by his wife, Carrie Scriven; daughters, Stephanie Jackson (Michael), Angeline Scriven (Altwonie), Carrie McCormick (James), Ester Scriven (John), and Dorothy Johnson (Roderick); sons, James Franklin Scriven Jr. (Synetheria), Perry Scriven, and Bennie King; brother, Lacey Scriven (Irene); sister, Christian Baldwin; and grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, October 15 in Buie Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was at McLauchlin Chapel Cemetery, 263

Doc Brown Road, Raeford.

bituaries

Symphony N. Leak

Symphony N. Leak died Saturday, October 8, 2016.

She is survived by her children, Za'Riyah M. Dillard, Zyontea J. Dillard and Zarontae J. Dillard; parents, Angelo and Judy Leak; a special friend, Ferronta Dillard; a sister, Keyshia Morrisey; brothers, Jamelle Leak and Shawn Stocks; grandparents, Leodia Leak and Lorine Billinger; goddaughter, NylaishaMcPhaul; godparents, Paul and Lillie Billinger; nieces, Laquisha McLaughlin and Janiyah Leak; nephews, Juelz Leak and Shawn Stocks Jr.; great-nephew, Daelyn McLean; aunts, Loretta Morrisey, Janet McCollum (Kenny), Yvette Billinger, and Tina Samuel (Wendell); and uncles, Charles Morrisey, Lee Morrisey, Robert Morrisey, and Jimmy McMillan.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, October 15 at J.W. Turlington School. Burial was at McLauchlin Chapel Cemetery, 263 Doc Brown Road, Raeford.

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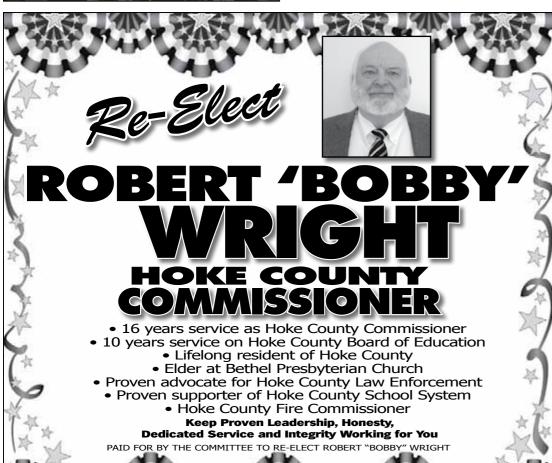
"Our students and staff were ex-

The ceremony was held at 4:30 p.m., officiated by the Rev. Jonathan Sherrod.

The couple resides in Fayetteville.

Mrs. Daniel Turner

King and queen Freedom Chapel AME Zion selected the Rev. Boyd Johnson Jr. as its king and Annie Hollingsworth as its queen for the year 2016-2017. The pageant was held in September. (Contributed photo)



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on January 1 of each year. Medicare evaluates plans on a 5-star rating system. Star ratings are calculated each year and may change from one year to the next. ATTENTION: If you speak Spanish or Chinese, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-844-499-5630 (TTY: 711).

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