

The News-Journal

\$1.00

If it happened, it's news to us



No. 27 Vol. 116

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

266 cases, 3 more deaths last week Schools report 52 with COVID after first week in class

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke's numbers continued to rise with the county seeing a high level of virus spread, along with more hospitalizations and deaths, according to health officials.

Hoke County has seen 440 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in

the past 14 days, including 266 new cases over the last seven days. The state's most recent count shows the county's death toll at 59 people since the start of the pandemic. There have been three more deaths in the last week, Hoke health officials reported.

The county has recently been among the highest in the region

for hospitalizations. Another five people from Hoke were sent to the hospital with COVID-19 in the last week, Health Department Director Helene Edwards said Monday.

Area hospitals have reported they are feeling the strain as more patients with COVID-19 need inpatient care to battle the virus.

Both Cape Fear Valley Health and FirstHealth of the Carolinas reported seeing high numbers of COVID-19 patients throughout the hospital systems. Both have implemented visitor restrictions and are asking people to only go to the emergency room for actual emergencies, and use non-emergency care options like primary care or

urgent care where needed.

Schools see cases

Last week was the first week of school for Hoke County Schools students and teachers, and the first time many students had set foot inside a physical classroom since the start of the pandemic. With
(See COVID, page 6)



Chamber music

A crowd enjoyed the music of the Sand Band in the early evening last Thursday at a free concert sponsored by the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber hosted the event as an end-of-summer get-together for the community. The concert was held at the Old Armory park on East Central Avenue in Raeford.

Students, parents call for change after viral post

Petition seeks to change dress code

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Some students and parents at Hoke County High School voiced concerns and called for changes to the school dress code after a student's post on social media went viral.

A girl's description of allegedly being touched inappropriately by two other students in a classroom could not be verified through the Hoke County Sheriff's Office, which said there wasn't a report filed related to the incident. Due to policies meant to protect student privacy, school officials said they couldn't comment on the specific situation or discuss any disciplinary actions that might have been taken.

"Policies protecting students' privacy are in place and adhered to, thus we cannot disclose information about any disciplinary action taken pertaining to any particular student. However, we take all allegations seriously," Hoke County Schools said Tuesday in a statement. "The district's protocol is to promptly investigate any and all allegations and if needed, to report those to the appropriate authorities, launch an investigation, initiate a safety plan, and offer support to the student, while also maintaining student privacy and confidentiality."

The community's reaction to the viral post was swift with students writing a petition, and parents
(See VIRAL POST, page 6)

He's in semifinals on America's Got Talent

Hoke High graduate Tavis Cunningham and musical group IaChord have advanced to the semifinals on the performance competition television show America's Got Talent.

Cunningham, who graduated with the Bucks Class of 2020, joined forces with two fellow music lovers he met while attending college at the UNC-Greensboro.

Cunningham, Christoff Hairston and Julian Kennedy make up the male vocal trio IaChord.

The three college students went from sitting at the same table in the college cafeteria, to singing together. They recorded a cover of The Clark Sisters' "Name It, Claim It" that went viral on
(See GOT TALENT, page 3)



Cunningham, in screen capture.

VFW fundraiser set to help veterans

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ralph A. Pandure Post 10 in Hoke County will hold a fundraiser this month to raise money to help support veterans and their families.

"Our post is inviting all veterans, their families and the civilian communities in

Hoke County for a fundraising event to better serve veterans and veteran families," an announcement about the event said.

"Hoke County has one of the highest rates of soldiers with disabilities in the United States per capita. We
(See VETERANS, page 4)



Congressman visits

Rep. Dan Bishop, above left, who represents Hoke County as part of the Ninth Congressional District, speaks with One Stop Barber Shop business owner Michael T. Swinney during a visit to Hoke County August 19. The Congressman visited many local businesses to ask how they're doing as part of his tour through the county. His visit also included a stop in Rockfish, right, meeting with Sheriff Dr. Hubert Peterkin and Raeford Police Chief Marc Godwin to discuss public safety, and speaking at the Hoke County GOP meeting. (Catharin Shepard, contributed photos)

County will take part in national 9/11 memorial

Hoke County will take part in a special ceremony happening nation-wide this September 11 to commemorate the victims of the terrorist attacks of 20 years ago.

The county was chosen as one of 60 communities across the country to participate in the first annual National Flag of Honor

Across America Memorials. Organizer Brandy McPherson presented the information to the Hoke County Board of Commissioners last month.

The county will host a ceremony September 11 that will include reading the names and information of 50 of the people who died
(See MEMORIAL, page 3)

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SPORTS



Hoke's Varsity Football Team earns their second win. (Photo by Glen Young Sr.)

Hoke High football defeats Lumberton 43-0

JESSICA HENDRIX BROWN
Sports Writer

The Hoke County Bucks football team dominated in yet another game, this time on the road against the Lumberton High School Pirates. The Bucks won 43-0 at the away game Friday night, giving them a 2 game winning streak and hopefully the momentum they'll need to take on the Southview Tigers this Friday. Hoke's big win against the Pirates started with the Bucks scoring a safety when Lumberton missed the snap on a punt at the end of its second pos-

session, giving the Bucks a 2-0 lead. Hoke followed it up with an 8-yard run by Warren Avery bringing them to a 9-0 lead with 3:11 left in the first quarter. With less than a minute left in the first half, a long punt return brought Hoke County to the Pirates' 8-yard line; Devontre Daniels, who led Hoke County with 60 rushing yards on six carries, scored on the next play with 19 seconds on the clock, bringing the score to 16-0 at the half.

The second half began with Hoke County recovering a fumble, and Hoke's Lavell

Jackson returned it 30 yards for a Bucks touchdown, the extra point was good, making for a score of 23-0. Hoke County then had two 7-yard touchdown runs first by Warren Avery, who ran seven times for 59 yards and two touchdowns, and the second by Jaleb Tupulua. In the 4th quarter, a 25-yard pass from Avery to Kamonte Williams brought the Bucks to their 43-0 victory. The Bucks host South View High School this Friday night at home in the Raz Autry Stadium, kicking off at 7:30 p.m.



Senior, Julio Antinozzi, takes the corner kick for the Bucks. (Photo by Jessica Brown)

Bucks soccer ends their 5 game winning streak with a 4-2 loss against Terry Sanford

JESSICA HENDRIX BROWN
Sports Writer

After an Intense match at home Monday night, The Hoke High Men's Varsity Soccer team ended their 5 game winning streak with a 2-4 loss against the Terry Sanford Bulldogs. The Bulldogs scored twice in the first half, shutting the

Bucks out 2-0 by halftime. Hoke came back strong in the second half, scoring a quick goal against the bulldogs but couldn't keep the bulldogs out of their defensive end and Terry Sanford quickly answered the Bucks' goal with another of their own. After a corner kick in the last 20 minutes of the game, the Bucks were able to

score a second goal, bringing the score to 3-2. After a series of fouls and yellow cards given to Terry Sanford, the Bulldogs put in their fourth goal. The Bucks goals were scored by Ivan Rodriguez-Baez (Jr.) and Ke'Nautica Billinger (Jr.). Hoke plays at home tonight and Thursday night at the Raz Autry Stadium.



Hoke tennis team wins

Hokes tennis team is on a roll with wins against Scotland High School (5-3) and Lee County High School (9-0) last week. Back row left to right: Molly Bartch, Caitlyn Moore, Bailey Mass, Alyssa Pridgen; middle row, left to right: Alyssa Cascavilla, Jada Carvajal Garcia, Kyla Sites.; front row, left to right: Ava Burrow, Bella Khantivong; not pictured: Taylor AcFalle. Varsity tennis is coached by Lee Artis. (Contributed photo)

Bucks volleyball team to play Lee County



Bucks volleyball plays at 6 p.m. Thursday at Lee County High School. (Contributed photo)

THE BUCKS TAKE ON SOUTH VIEW HIGH SCHOOL THIS FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE RAZ AUTRY STADIUM!

SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2021

7:30 PM

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WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPT. 6TH IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.

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