



## County fire ordinance updated

### Pine straw loses favor

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

For the first time since 1992, the Hoke County Board of Commissioners has approved an updated version of the county's fire ordinance including several new policies that could play a role in future development.

Fire Marshal Maj. Freddy Johnson and Assistant Director Benny Nichols wanted to take a look at revamping the ordinance because the existing document was outdated.

"It was over 20 years old and it was out of code compliance," Johnson said.

(See FIRE ORDINANCE, page 3A)

## Man sought in beatings



Jackson

Authorities are searching for a Raeford man wanted for allegedly attempting to kill his ex-girlfriend and one other person by beating them with a shovel handle.

The Laurinburg Police Department on Monday asked citizens

to be on the lookout for Willie Leon Jackson, 29, of the 800 block of Hilltop Road in Raeford. Investigators alleged that Jackson attempted to kill former girlfriend Cheryl Medlin, 20, and her friend Robert McRae, 30, at McRae's home

(See BEATINGS, page 4A)

## Man charged with assaulting wife



Whitehurst

Sheriff's deputies arrested a Raeford man Monday on charges that he tied up his wife and assaulted her in the couple's home.

Investigators arrested Richard Alan Whitehurst, 33, of the 300 block of McDougald Drive in Raeford on charges of

second-degree kidnapping and misdemeanor assault on a female. He was held under a \$30,000 bond.

Whitehurst's wife reportedly told officers her husband physically assaulted her, removed her

(See ASSAULT, page 4A)



Clockwise from above: Valerie Livingston holds her ears as the Bucks football team celebrates with excitement when it received the 2012 N.C. Turkey Bowl championship trophy, defeating Raleigh Sanderson 49-7 Friday night; Harvey Jenkins, a 70-year-old avid tennis player, made it to the second round of the Festival tennis tournament; the Just Us Plus Dancers wobble. (Hal Nunn and Catharin Shepard photos)

## Turkey Festival off to wobbly start

### But that's a good thing, says organizers referring to the theme

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The 2012 North Carolina Turkey Festival got off to a wobbly start Monday night at the official kick-off ceremony, and that's exactly how organizers wanted it.

"All you have to do is wobble," executive director Melissa Pittman told the crowd gathered at the old Armory for the festivities. The "wobble," Pittman's version of the dance created by rapper V.I.C., is the theme for this

year's festival. The Just Us Plus Parks and Recreation dancers gave a demonstration, but Pittman said she hopes to get everybody doing the wobble during the festival.

The ceremony offered a chance to thank the people working with the public and behind the scenes to make the festival a success. Putting the festival together this year has been a positive but at times "emotional" experience, Pittman said.

"It has also been a very emotional festival filled with many losses," she said.

The festival organizers took time to remember the many festival supporters who passed away over the last year and in years past, including Russell Smith, Christina Payton, Bob Gentry, Kay Thomas, Carol Burnett, Pat Kelly, Raz Autry, Gene Paul Thacker and others.

"The people in Hoke County who love this festival have given so much," Pittman said.

Thacker also received a special memorial

(See FESTIVAL, page 6A)

## Parade takes new route

Frequent fliers to the North Carolina Turkey Festival will notice something seems backward this year about the annual parade set for Thursday afternoon in downtown Raeford.

"This year we have been asked to reverse the parade route," festival executive director Melissa Pittman

(See PARADE, page 6A)



New Parade Route

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## Raeford soldier dead in Afghanistan helicopter crash

A Fort Bragg soldier who recently lived in Raeford was one of two people killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan last week.

Chief Warrant Officer 2

Thalia Ramirez, 28, recently of Raeford and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jose Montenegro Jr., 31, of San Juan, Texas died September 5 when their helicopter crashed in Logar Province, Afghanistan. Military officials are still investigating why the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter crashed and have not released further details about the incident.

Ramirez and Montenegro, who were stationed at Fort Bragg, were assigned to the 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade of

the 82nd Airborne Division. They were serving a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. They were scheduled to return to the United States

(See SOLDIERS, page 4A)

## OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

My, my, how things have changed in the world of air traveling since I last flew in February.

No more peanuts.

No, they have found a way to charge you for everything. Board the plane early, \$9; access to a private club in the airport, \$50; pick a better seat at the last moment—I didn't look at the price.

But the most notable change was at boarding.

"We'll start pre-boarding Early Boarders™," the gate lady said on the P.A. A few people who'd paid the \$9 proudly walked to the scanner.

(See OTHER STUFF, page 4A)

## Imagine whirled peace

### The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind

On September 21, Turlington Alternative School and Don Steed Elementary plan to take part in an international art and literacy project, Pinwheels for Peace, by "planting" pinwheels with messages of peace.

Pinwheels for Peace is an art installation project started in 2005 by two art teachers, Ann Ayers and Ellen McMillan of Coconut Creek, Florida,

as a way for students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world and in their lives. In the first year, groups in more than 1,325 locations throughout the world were spinning pinwheels on September 21. There were approximately 500,000 pinwheels spinning throughout the world. Last year, 2011, over 4 million (See PINWHEELS, page 4A)



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