

Hoke gets disaster declaration FEMA adds county to list of eligible for assistance

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Working with state and federal offices, Hoke County officials were able to secure a disaster declaration for Hoke County that will allow residents and local governments access to federal recovery funds.

After over a week of efforts attempting to get Hoke County added to the list of county declared a disaster area for the purposes of securing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) support, Hoke was added to the list of counties in North Carolina affected by Hurricane Florence. Before the declaration, the county was considered to be "disaster-adjacent."

So far 27 counties in North Carolina – now including Hoke and neighbors Cumberland, Robeson, Scotland and Moore – have been added to the list of declared disaster areas as a result of damage from Florence, which struck the area beginning September 13.

With the major disaster declaration, both individual assistance and public assistance will be made available to Hoke County. That means

(See **DISASTER**, page 10)



The canopy at the Poco Shop at Main and Central flipped from its perch during Florence's assault. (Ken MacDonald photo)



Rockfish Hoke Fair opens today

The second annual Rockfish Hoke County Fair is set to begin with a grand opening ceremony Wednesday, September 26 with a big slate of activities and entertainment in the wings for the Fair's five-day run.

For the second year in a row Rockfish will host the fair at 2950 Lindsay Road, courtesy of local businessman William "Brownie" Brown. The Fair will open at 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 26 and run nightly through Sunday, September 30. The organizers are also working with relief groups to help support recovery efforts from Hurricane Florence, according

to a Facebook post on the event's page.

Decades ago, the Raeford Jaycees brought a fall carnival to Hoke County. After years of Hoke no longer having a fair, organizers in Rockfish brought the Fair back for the first time in 2017. Since then volunteers have continued their efforts to offer the Rockfish Hoke County Fair in the autumn.

The fair midway will feature food vendors plus carnival rides and games from a new provider this year. Michael's Amusements of Cumberland County is bringing between 20 and 25 rides including a Ferris wheel. Total Flight Solutions

will offer helicopter rides, and there will also be many other attractions including a petting zoo, pony rides and a car show. Some of the many exhibits on display will include home and garden, farming, Hoke County Schools robotics/STEM demonstrations, amateur radio operators, American Red Cross and the Lion's Club. EXIT Realty will also sponsor a chili cook-off.

The kids' zone is sponsored by the Rockfish Community Chamber and Camp Rockfish, and will offer a duck pond, corn hole, bucket toss, Little

(See **ROCKFISH FAIR**, page 5)

'JessyB' channels weather reporter, covers hurricane on Facebook

'I just decided to make the page as an effort to keep people from feeling like they needed to ride around the county in the middle of a hurricane trying to find out what was going on.'

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Jessica Hendrix is a lifelong resident of Hoke County, but now many more people might recognize her from her recent reports and discussions through a Facebook page set up to help keep people informed during Hurricane Florence.

Hendrix launched "Hoke County Hurricane Coverage With JessyB" the Wednesday before the storm hit. The Facebook page started out with two followers, grew into an audience of more than 700, and then kept collecting attention until about 1,500 people were tuned in to see Hendrix's reports.

"I just decided to make the page

as an effort to keep people from feeling like they needed to ride around the county in the middle of a hurricane trying to find out what was going on," Hendrix said. "It wasn't meant to be a spoof or anything, it was to be kind of funny, kind of entertaining, to keep people in the know of what was going around the county."

Hendrix is the daughter of Carl and Wendy Ivey Hendrix, and the granddaughter of Janet and Howard Hendrix and Richard and Yvonne Ivey, all longtime Hoke County families. She works as a bookkeeper in the Career and Technical Education department of Hoke County Schools. She's also the program

(See **JESSYB**, page 4)



Hendrix in her doctored profile picture.

Bluegrass legend feted on 90th birthday

CONTRIBUTED BY JENI SMITH

Leslie Sandy, one of Bill Monroe's Bluegrass boys, was honored on his 90th birthday Saturday, August 4 at the home of Rick and Kathy Sandy in Raeford.

Leslie played with Bill Monroe on the Grand Ole Opry in the early 1950s. He was featured on Monroe's first recorded album, "Knee Deep in Bluegrass." He also created and assumed the role of the comedian

known as Uncle Puny on the show.

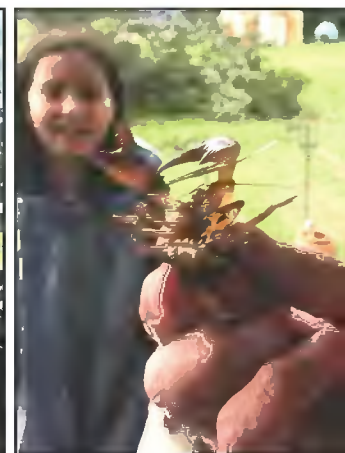
During his musical career, Leslie, along with his brother, Coolidge, played music at that famous Sloppy Joe's Bar in Key West, Florida. While there he met and played shuffleboard with renowned author Ernest Hemingway.

At one time, Leslie had his own country music variety television show on WMFD (now WECT) called The Carolina Jamboree in Wilmington.

(See **SANDY**, page 10)



Sandy plays his fiddle. (Contributed)



Storm visitor

As Hurricane Florence dropped rain on the area Sep. 15, Bradley Moody (left) found this crayfish in the yard of his grandmother Kimberly Clark, in Bowmore. Shannon Clark (right) checks it out. (Contributed photo)



SAVE THE DATE! NOVEMBER 1-3
The Fall Festival Has Been Rescheduled!
 Parade Nov. 1 • Stuffin' & Stompin' Dinner Nov. 2 • Main Event Nov. 3
MAIN EVENT on Main Street — Vendors, Music, Food, Entertainment
 Call 910-904-2424 for more details and information.