

The News-Journal

'If it happened, it's news to us'

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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

The weather is still warm and the cold front that was supposed to come through the county last week stayed to the north. As I write this Monday, it is cloudy and it is reported that we could get some rain. We need the rain because it has been about two weeks since the last shower. Anyway, the people who put on the Turkey Festival were happy that it was fair.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the 70s and the lows in the 50s. There isn't much chance of rain. Fall is now with us!

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I haven't heard about the attendance at the events at the Turkey Festival, but from the traffic Thursday afternoon, the parade must have been a success. I had a meeting at the Raeford Presbyterian Church at seven o'clock that evening and I thought for a while that I would miss the meeting. At one time I was within a block of the church and then had to detour several more blocks (See AROUND, page 12A)



Elementary students from around Hoke County got to miss a little school last Thursday so they could come to the library grounds in downtown Raeford and enjoy the storytellers at the 14th Annual N.C. Turkey Festival. Look inside for dozens of pictures which captured the turkey industry's grandest event. (Pat Allen Wilson photo)

30,000 flock to Festival

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

Anne D'Annunzio, who lives in Hillsboro, says the Hog Day events celebrated there "pale in comparison" to Raeford's North Carolina Turkey Festival.

D'Annunzio, a former Raeford resident, has attended

all but one of Raeford's 14 festivals, and was here Saturday for the street fair. "It's great. It is always a lot of fun. Now that I live in Hillsboro, all my friends want me to take pictures because they can't believe we celebrate the turkey and have turkey races."

The festival began Friday, September 11 with the Turkey

Bowl high school football game and ended Sunday, September 20 with golf and tennis tournaments and a gospel sing.

The festival's main events, including a large parade, a three-block street fair and beach concert, took place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The events (See FESTIVAL, page 12A)

Arrests follow parade skirmish

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

"It was a nice parade," said an elderly woman who had enjoyed the Turkey Festival parade Thursday evening. "It's a shame they had to act like that," she added.

Standing at the intersection of Main Street and Harris Avenue, the lady was speaking of those involved in a melee that occurred just as the parade was winding down, and happy spectators joined the Fayetteville State University Marching Band in dancing and prancing down Main Street toward Harris Avenue.

The mood turned from jubilant to mean after Raeford police officers were called away while in a disturbance created when two teenagers began arguing.

Kenny Kermit Rogers, 18, and Raymond Locklear, 17, were cursing and challenging each

other to a fight, according to Raeford Police Detective Greg Thomas. Thomas and Sgt. Cliff Stauffer were attempting to hold the men off one another when Gene B. Locklear, a relative of one of the teenagers, cursed Stauffer several times and would not step back when directed to do so. Stauffer told Gene Locklear he was "charged with inciting a riot" and sprayed Mace at him when he would not stay on the ground as ordered, Thomas said.

Both he and Stauffer inhaled some of the Mace, Thomas said, and an elderly woman standing nearby also ingested some of the chemical and became sick.

The Locklears were put into jail. Stauffer responded to an emergency nearby where a man was suffering from a seizure. While there, Michelle Locklear, 30, re- (See SKIRMISH, page 9A)

Money sought for sewer work

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

The Hoke County-Raeford Economic Development Board is drafting a letter to send to Hoke County commissioners requesting money be allocated for designing three sewer projects.

Included in the fiscal year 1998-99 county budget for economic development funding is \$125,000-150,000. Commissioners are looking into setting up a capital reserve fund and discussed the matter at Monday night's board meeting but made no decisions.

The Economic Development

Board met early the following morning, and interim County Manager Bernice McPhatter told them commissioners were hesitant on funding and were looking for something official.

Commissioner Tom Howell has pushed for action on sewer service. He said Monday night, "It's most important now." He said Hoke's residential growth needs to be balanced with industrial and commercial growth. "We're not going to have intensive commercial development without sewer."

This was the message that came out of an economic devel- (See SEWER, page 9A)

Disgruntled Democrats seek to oust Haddon

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Staff writer

The same day that a group of Hoke County residents asked for the resignation of Ben Haddon, chairman of the Hoke County Democratic Party, they sent out a press release stating he is to be removed from office.

The group, called Concerned Democratic Citizens of Hoke County, wrote Barbara Allen, chairman of the North Carolina Democratic Party, on September 17 and requested an expedited hearing into the removal of the Hoke County Democratic Party chairman. Also on September 17, the group sent out a media release in which they stated they were seeking the immediate removal of their chairman. They cited as their reasons that Haddon had failed to support or endorse any of the local Democratic Primary winners for the upcoming general election. The release was headed "Hoke County Democratic Party Chairman to be Removed."

In May's Democratic primary, Jim Davis defeated incumbent Wayne Byrd in the sheriff's race. Wayne Gardner, chief of deputies of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department, and a Democrat, filed as an unaffiliated candidate after his supporters presented a petition with more than 1,400

signatures.

In races other than that of sheriff, county commissioners Jean Hodges and Tom Howell lost their seats in the Democratic primary to Charles

Daniels and Tony Hunt. Betty Cook lost to Vera Hollingsworth in the Clerk of Court race. These candidates face no opposition in the November election.

In their letter to Allen, the group stated, "On Saturday, June 27, 1998 the Executive Committee of the Hoke County Democratic Party met and approved a resolution for our party to openly support the winners of the Democratic Primary. To the contrary, our chairman has refused to endorse any of our nominees, by name and has failed to mount unified party position for our general election efforts."

The letter went on to state that Haddon had told Davis he would not provide him "any assistance whatsoever."

The letter accused Haddon of openly supporting the unaffiliated candidate opposing Davis in the general election.

In addition to asking for Haddon's release as chairman, the letter requests the state party assist with monitoring the Hoke County polling facilities during the November 3 election.

The letter was signed by (See DEMOCRATS, page 9A)



What happened?

The driver, Carrie McLean Stephens, 42, of Red Springs Road, said she was not sure what happened after her vehicle plowed through a building at 119 West Elwood Avenue, shattering a plate glass window. Stephens was pulling out of the Centura Bank parking lot when the accident happened at around 5 p.m. last Wednesday. Neither she nor her passenger, Sally McLean, 70, were injured. (Knight Chamberlain photo)