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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

The weather last week had some cold nights. When the temperatures get into the 40s, it is time to change from cool to heat. For a couple of days a jacket was needed. But as usually happens this time of year it will warm up, so that means that you must go back to cool on the heating system. As this is being written Monday morning it is in the 70s and we are getting more rain. This is one thing that the people in the eastern part of the state don't need. The fall season came in last Thursday so we should start having cooler days. The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for highs on Wednesday and Thursday will be in the 70s and lows around 60. Friday and Saturday the highs will be in the low 70s or high 60s and the lows around 50. Rain will end Wednesday.

Jeanette Jordan, chairman of the Raeford Baptist Church Centennial celebration, was by the office Monday morning and gave me some details about their big day, Sunday, November 21.

There will be a worship service beginning at 10:30 on that Sunday morning. There will be four former ministers of the church that will have 10 minutes during the service. These ministers are as follows: the Reverends Judson Lennan, (See AROUND, page 11A)

Hoke's education plight heard in Raleigh

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

It's a long and winding road... a journey we're trying to take the court system through

Retaining teachers a huge problem

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff Writer

The state is failing to meet the basic, sound educational needs

and show all the dynamics of our school system," expressed lead spokesman Jeff Moss, Hoke County Schools' Associate Superintendent, involved in low wealth lawsuit proceedings this

of Hoke County's student population—that's part of the premise Hoke School Superintendent Don Steed and other educators (See TEACHERS, page 12A)

week in Raleigh.

Substandard education... substitute teachers... aging and out-of-date equipment... lack of supplies... losing teachers that flock to surrounding counties for higher supplements...

"Our teachers and our Board of Education are working hard for the education of our students," Moss said. "We just need more. Folks don't like change all the time, but we live in change. It's

important for me to feel, regardless of the outcome, we have made a difference for these children and future generations.

"I'm seeing the good with the bad. One of the factors is the socio-economic status of a number of children living here in poverty. The County Commissioners fund as much as they can in their budget. But, there's only so much money in the pot." These inequities continue to

be portrayed in a protracted court battle between five low wealth counties and the State of North Carolina.

The low wealth lawsuit, which was filed in 1994, is composed of plaintiffs including school systems in Cumberland, Robeson, Vance, Halifax and Hoke counties. Defense pleadings are currently being heard by the court in Raleigh, with a pro (See COURT, page 12A)

Subdivision change on board's agenda

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

On their October 4 agenda, Hoke County Commissioners will be looking at a decision on whether to keep or change the 10-acre minimum for parcels of land not regulated by the county's subdivision ordinances. They are also being asked to make a zoning change that would allow expansion of an industry that residents of the area oppose.

Another request requiring a decision from commissioners is a request for a rezoning from residential to neighborhood business that would allow businesses at Scull and Fayetteville roads east of Raeford. That request has had no opposition.

All three requests have been recommended for approval by the Hoke County Planning Commission.

The proposed parcel size (See SUBDIVISION, page 10A)

Flood relief springs from all over Hoke

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Outpourings of goodwill in response to the devastation of Hurricane Floyd are flowing bountifully in Hoke County as food, clothing and money donations continue to be collected.

Across hurricane-ravaged North Carolina, the path of floods and heavy winds have left at least 47 people dead, 3,000 homes destroyed and close to 40,000 people have applied for disaster relief through FEMA and state assistance.

Hoke Emergency Manage-

ment is still organizing food drives. A large truck of donations was transported to Fayetteville to the Food Bank on Friday.

"We've had a very good response for the drive," said Emergency Management Coordinator Al Schwarzbher, also the County Fire Marshal. "We're pleased with the response."

Hoke's Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator Debbie Locklear said the communications center has been besieged with people asking questions about flood victims and how (See RELIEF, page 9A)



DECA students who participated in a food drive for flood victims Saturday are, from left, Maurice Price, Ben MacDonald, Amanda Goosby, Monica Dial, Marquette McBryde and Kim Farmen. Not pictured are Melissa Plummer, Thomas Oldham and Megan Willis. (Contributed photo)

Hoke High helps in relief effort

Imagine yourself a teenager who has been displaced by flooding from Hurricane Floyd—no home, no clothes, no toilet articles, your life, including your education, has been disrupted, and you're concerned about missing relatives and friends. Hoke County High students have shown themselves to be sympathetic to the plight of students at another school—Jones County High School—who are undergoing those experiences.

Dr. Barry Wall, principal at Hoke High, was visiting on the Internet and found a site listed as "Adopt a School." He felt a kin-

dred in Jones County High School in that it is considered one of the low-wealth counties in North Carolina—as is Hoke.

The school, located in eastern North Carolina in Trenton, has been hard hit by flooding. Wall spoke with the assistant principal, a Mrs. Lassiter, who told him that students there were "in dire need of clothing." Blue jeans, T-shirts and tennis shoes were among the things needed as well as personal hygiene items and non-perishable foods.

Wall spoke with students at Hoke High, and they all said they (See HIGH SCHOOL, page 8A)



Mechanic-in-training

Standing on a cola cartoon and appropriately dressed for the occasion, three-year-old Christine Byrd uses a ratchet like a professional "grease monkey" at her father's vehicle repair shop, Byrd's Alignment. She is the daughter of Tracy Byrd and Richard Byrd.

Sheriff's advisory board picked, links community, law enforcement

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Some citizens perceive it as a golden opportunity to know what's happening around the county. Sheriff Jim Davis visualizes the first Hoke County Sheriff Citizen's Advisory Board as a stepping stone for every day people, serving as a liaison for community awareness and crime prevention.

Davis announced last Thursday the final selections are completed for participants in the Advisory Board. Invitations were mailed last week, informing 15 citizens they were chosen to join the board.

A meeting was held on Tuesday at the Hoke Public Library, where the advisory committee members were inducted officially by Davis.

"Tuesday night was a time

to get to know each other and share information and ideas," Davis said. "The Advisory Board is composed of all volunteers from around the county."

"We are very pleased we had the number of responses we did receive."

Davis expressed a positive attitude, predicting more opportunities would be available in the future for others to become involved.

Among the honorees selected as members of the advisory council are: Willard Page; Vandelyn Barber; Jeff Sumner; Joe Monroe; Susan King; Jane Quinones; Lester Baker; Jimmy Bunce; John Harry; Thomas Squier; Thom Berg and Mary Roper.

Also, Woodrow Cooper, Brenda Taylor, Carl Pevia, who was unable to attend the first meeting, Rick Barber, Art Watson and Neil McPhatter.

Interim officers were chosen at the meeting. Among those appointed are: Squier as Media Relations spokesman, Taylor as Chairwoman, Rick Barber as Vice Chairman and Vandelyn Barber as the recording secretary.

"This is a concept I talked about during my candidacy for sheriff," Davis said of his motivations. "I had experienced this before from the federal sector. It's one piece of the concept of a community-oriented police."

Davis said he received numerous phone calls since the board's selection—"all positive" congratulatory remarks about the citizens. He praised the Advisory team as a "diverse group of citizens" from around the county. Davis considers it one which will be "community-based," involving interest in crime prevention (See ADVISORY, page 10A)

Republicans name Melissa Pittman chairperson



Melissa Pittman

are women, according to the new Hoke Republican chairperson.

The new Republican chair falls into both those categories.

Melissa Pittman, 33, was recently chosen to head the party. Former Chairman Marc Hennemann accepted a job trans-

fer that took him to Florida.

"We felt it was time to get a young, energetic person who is aware of what's going on in the county and city and the political environment," said Gene Shelnett, a former chairman and secretary-treasurer.

Pittman, a lifetime resident of Raeford, is the daughter of Jimmy and Judy Pittman. She said she is honored that members of the Republican Party have the faith in her to hold the chairperson position. She said she looks forward to bringing new and fresh ideas to the party.

Pittman released this statement, "I hope that more people will start to become involved in

the Hoke County Republican Party. We all have a voice but for that voice to count we have to get involved. We, as citizens of Hoke County, have to not just wish a difference would be made but actually get involved and make that difference. Citizens need to become actively involved in the national, state and local level of politics."

Republicans meet on the second Saturday of each month. Pittman encourages all members of the party to attend the meetings. She said people must be willing to work to make a difference. "There are a lot of good things beginning to happen in (See REPUBLICANS, page 10A)