

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

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This week

Upchurch School
begins pilot day care
program for staff
page 8A

Chamber to County:
please stay
downtown
page 5A

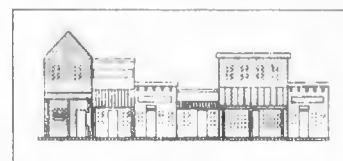
Next week

Winners
of the News-Journal
Halloween costume
contest

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Around Town



By SAM C. MORRIS
Contributing Editor

Once again we in Hoke County can be thankful that Hurricane Irene didn't cause us too much damage. We received between 2 1/2 to three inches of rain and a road was closed because of a washout. I haven't heard of any power outages or of anyone getting hurt during the storm. The Rev. Kevin Campbell, minister of the Raeford Presbyterian Church, stated from the pulpit that someone said he had brought the hurricanes with him. Maybe this will be the last of the year.

The forecast for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, calls for the highs to be in the 60s and the lows will be in the high 40s or the 50s. There is a chance of rain on Wednesday and Thursday.

Don't forget that the Antioch Presbyterian Church Ingathering is this Thursday, October 21. It will begin at 11 a.m. Not only is the food the best, but you can also see many people who will return for the event.

For the past several weeks I have written about the upcoming Centennial of the Raeford Baptist Church. The big day will be Sunday, November 21 beginning at 10:30 a.m. A catered lunch will be served following the worship service. (See AROUND, page 10A)

Arabia residents evacuated as dam fails

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hurricane Irene lashed out on Sunday with a deluge of rain in Hoke County, causing major

flooding.

Irene lingered long enough to dump three inches of water that was measured by Hoke's Emergency Management from 10 p.m. on Sunday night until Monday

morning. However, this didn't include rainfall throughout the day on Sunday that wet roadways, streams and lakes already saturated from Floyd's retreat one month ago.

Some homes couldn't ward off advancing groundwater that rose in the early morning hours of Monday before daybreak. Sheriff's deputies and Ron Fairbanks, E-911 supervisor,

along with fire department volunteers, went door to door in Arabia asking residents to voluntarily evacuate. In River Bluff subdivision near Davis Bridge, (See FLOOD, page 11A)



Spectators and residents gawk as rapid flood waters whisk through River Bluff subdivision on Arabia Road Monday morning. Sunset Lake dam burst at 11 a.m., unable to retain Hurricane Irene's rains, sweeping through the upscale neighborhood. (Photo by Victoriana Summers)

Divided planning board to push 'strip development'

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

The Hoke Planning Commission recommended last Thursday that County Commissioners make changes in the Minor Subdivision Ordinance that would pave the way for land owners to develop more land.

Under the current Minor Subdivision ordinance, five lots are allowed on road frontage. With

the Planning Commission's proposal, a land owner would be permitted to go before the Planning Commission after 12 months to receive permission to add five more lots, waiting an additional year each time for permission to add five more.

Not all Planning Commission members favored the proposal. Former Commission chairman Donald Louya voted against it, calling it strip development. Vice

Chairman Harold Brock countered saying whether or not one likes strip development is a matter of opinion.

Commission Chairman Brown Hendrix Jr. began a discussion that lasted less than half an hour by asking, "Are we controlling somebody beyond where we should be controlling them?" He opened the floor to an audience of mostly realtors and developers. (See DEVELOP, page 7A)

Air war waged on mosquitoes

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Scat, mosquitoes!

Most residents around Hoke County are fed up with the blood-sucking, droning pesky invasion of thousands... millions... zillions of mosquito pests, seen airborne since Hurricane Floyd.

Now, thanks to the efforts of

County Manager Bernice McPhatter and Health Director Don Womble, Hoke plans to get some reprieve from the flying insects seen morning, noon and night. A county-wide spraying program began on Tuesday after County Commissioners approved an application for state aid for mosquito control, along with a plan to eradicate the pests.

"Mosquito spraying must be done," McPhatter told the commissioners on Monday night. "I have been getting an astronomical amount of calls. I've even been getting 25 to 30 calls at home about getting rid of mosquitoes."

Although aerial spraying began yesterday across large sections of the county, (See SPRAYING, page 9A)

Board backs voting official in allegation

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Nipping at the heels of the upcoming City election, a request was made on October 5 to remove a Hoke County Board of Elections chief judge.

The complain letter originated from the law office of attorney Gregory B. Thompson, former campaign manager for James Davis, now elected Hoke sheriff. Thompson sent the letter on October 5 to Willie McCaskill, chairman of the Board of Elections. The letter refers to a former affidavit filed in December, 1998 by a voter, concerning the November Sheriff's race that occurred.

"I don't believe the letter was sent to undermine the present election," McCaskill said. "But, I do have a problem with it coming." (See VOTING, page 9A)

Stadium named after Raz Autry

By KRISTIN GUTHRIE
Staff writer

Board of Education members voted during their October meeting to rename the Hoke County High School stadium after



Raz Autry

Long-time educator and well-known Hoke County citizen Raz Autry.

After hearing that the stadium would be officially named after him, Autry said, "I deeply appreciated it. I was deeply humbled and moved.... I can't think of anything I'd be more honored to have my name on."

Touched that the Board decided to honor him in such a

meaningful way, Autry was still humble and gave credit where credit was due. He said, "The stadium is a monument to the people of Hoke County. Everybody pulled together to build it."

Coming to work in Hoke County in 1967, Autry remembers that the stadium was built the second year he was employed with the local public school system. Before that, Autry recalls that Hoke County school sports teams played their home games at the Old National Guard Armory park.

Claiming 36 years total in education, Autry worked in North Hampton and Montgomery counties before arriving in Hoke County in 1967.

Between his work in these counties and in Hoke, he worked as a teacher and a coach, a high school principal (See STADIUM, page 9A)



'Where's the water?'

"Where's the water?" asks Teresa Johnson, whose storage trailer is in flames on MacFarland Blue Road. Firefighters seem to ponder the same question as they deal with empty hoses. Water was forthcoming from another pumper which arrived quickly on the scene. That area of western Hoke is not connected to the county's water system. (Photos by Cary A. Wilson)

