



Spirited display
The pumpkin-colored caution light at Five Points slows vehicles on Calloway Road and provides passengers an opportunity to see the labors of Jon Calloway, who outdid himself on decorating his yard for Halloween this year.



Events planned for youngsters Friday eve

The bad news is that the haunted house planned at the North Raeford Volunteer Fire Dept. for the day before Halloween has been canceled.

The good news is that the firefighters and their families are planning a carnival on Halloween night.

Equally good news is that the folks at First Baptist Church will be having their annual alternative to Halloween October 31.

Then there is the Pillow Talk for Kids event to take place at Abundant Life Ministries Church of God in Christ Friday night. In addition, Word of Life Temple is offering Halleluiah Night.

The Halloween carnival at North Raeford Fire Dept., located on Turnpike Road, begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free but hot dogs will be sold for 50 cents.

The First Baptist alternative event is free. Called Light the Night Fall Festival, it features the bouncer that kids love, an equally enjoyable fire truck to be explored, hay rides, games, door prizes, hot dogs, cotton candy, snow cones and popcorn. Plus, for those kids wearing non-scary costumes, a contest will take place. Hours are 6-8 p.m.

Pillow Talk - A Night in Christ is for youngsters 3-18 begins at 7 p.m. Friday and concludes at 8 a.m. Satur-

day. Youngsters who want to participate should RSVP to Althea Lawton, 495-0674; or Tyshica Tucker, 858-7568.

The church is located at 306 Stevens Street.

Halleluiah Night is scheduled at 6-9 p.m. at the church at 1988 Fayetteville Road just outside the Raeford city limits. There will be games and other activities for all age groups. No demonic costumes allowed and only treats — no tricks — are allowed.

For those who want to continue the holiday atmosphere into Saturday, Sandy Grove United Methodist Church's Fall Festival is November 1. Breakfast, a yard and bake sale will begin at 7 a.m. Lunch served at 10:30 a.m. until vittles are gone. Children's games, including a hay ride, will take place in the afternoon. Dinner is at 4-6 p.m. and a cake walk will be held during the dinner hours. Raffle drawing and an auction are scheduled for 6-8 p.m.

And here, is an early Christmasy sort of giving event: St. James United Church of God, located on Highway 401 By-Pass, is having their Love Thy Neighbor giveaway Saturday, November 1. Clothes, household appliances, whatnots, shoes etc. will be given away.

Other stuff

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phone system. That was an actual conversation a friend had with the staff and helpful computer last week.

But at least I don't have to worry about it any longer. For National Boss Day, the folks here gave me a new phone, and it has only five buttons, not 37 like I wrote about before. It's also has a very cool design:



If this column ends up being short, poorly written or lacks substance, blame it on the kids. For the last week or two I have been taking photos of children dressed for Halloween. And while time consuming to photograph 108 kids, it's been a blast!

They've come in dressed as everything imaginable - one was a sand-

wich for heaven's sake.

And there was the toucan who inflated herself as I watched from my window. Her little suit had battery-powered fans that blew her up to the size of an ostrich (and required a wide-angle lens for the picture).

They came in laughing and they came in crying.

Some of the latter could be bribed with candy to smile. Others and their parents entered negotiations that would have been the envy of professional athletes. One kid left with a dollar, some candy, a promise of an immediate cheeseburger and a deal that she could spend the night with a friend that evening.

This year we didn't have a pregnant woman with her belly painted like a pumpkin, but we did have a dog dressed for trick-or-treating.

No, I may not have gotten anything else accomplished, but I had fun. ♦

Thursday night found me at Turlington School for Jane Sellars' class production of a murder/mystery comedy play that several of the class had written. Pretty impressive - especially a choreographed fighting scene.

I wish someone would bring drama regularly to Hoke County.

Hmm... Let me rephrase that. ♦

I had lost track of one of my best friends from college, even after several valiant efforts to find him. Do a Google search for "Tom Brown" and you'll understand why. I found out a few years ago he was living in Atlanta, but that wasn't much help either. Do you know how many Tom Browns there are in the Atlanta area?

So when I answered a phone call a couple of weeks ago and it was Tom, I was shocked. He was at the Red Springs house of another friend from school, Jackie Odom, and they were headed to the beach for a weekend of R and R. Did I want to join them for a night? You betcha.

Tom grew up in Clinton, and after a violent end to his family while he was in high school, moved in with the family of Tommy Kennedy (formerly of Raeford).

When I met him, though a genius, he was a on the 10-year plan.

I vividly remember being introduced to him in his upstairs room in Cullowhee more than 25 years ago. Beside his bed was a Volkswagen engine. Tom believed if you could

read you could do anything, and was rebuilding the engine (in his bedroom) using a book for guidance. Another time I visited I noticed a dog walking around with a bandaged leg and middle section. The dog, Tom said, had been shot, so Tom got some books from the library and some ether from the lab where he held a part-time job tending rats, and performed surgery to remove the bullet.

I was thinking about these stories and others as I drove to Holden Beach, and was wondering what I would find. In our school days, Tom had some malady of the eyes, and even with repeated experimental surgery in Atlanta - an adventure I accompanied him on at least once - the doctors didn't seem to be making much headway.

Well, it was the same of Tom. Smart, a possessor of a dry wit, and incredibly kind and humble. And legally blind.

He could make out shapes, but I held my laptop screen to his face to show him a picture of the family. An inch from the screen, he panned the photo and said he thought he could make everyone out from the hair (or lack thereof).

In the morning, he came downstairs and began making breakfast as I was kicked back looking at the waterway. I walked over to the stove to check progress. "Tom, the bacon is cooking with the stove set to 'one,'" I said. "I like to cook it slowly," he said. Same of Tom.

I turned the burner up a tad and came back a few minutes later. A saltshaker that had apparently fallen in the pan was cooking along with the bacon. This time, I didn't say anything, but just quietly removed it.

As we talked I discovered he uses a reading machine and is pursuing a doctorate of philosophy from Georgia State.

It occurred to me that this was his life's story. An unfair number of incredible challenges, but probably the person he is precisely because of them. ♦

Hospice training held

October 2 was sunny, cool and windy, but a gorgeous fall day. The fish fry sponsored by the Raeford Methodist Men was a huge success. Over 60 volunteers donated time and talent for this event to benefit our Hoke County hospice patients and families.

Everyone on the Liberty Hospice Team sends a big thank you to the Methodist Men, volunteers and everyone who attended the fish fry. This support enables our hospice team to provide enhanced service to Hoke families.

On Oct. 8, ten new Hospice volunteers graduated from our Hospice volunteer training class. The Hospice team is very happy to welcome Janice Griffin, Molly Griffin, Dean James, Patricia Jackson, Verleen Green, Helen Goins, Amanda Holloway, Marlies Kellermann, Robin and Steven Knudson. We look forward to working with each and every one of these volunteers.

In addition, several "old" volunteers attended the classes to update their training. Volunteers are a vital part of our program and provide invaluable service to our patients and families.

November is National Hospice Month and we will be offering two new programs. Both of these programs are supported with funding from the Lumber River Council of Governments/Agency on Aging.

CareGiver training classes will be



Liberty Home Care & Hospice
Ruth Phillips

held at 7 p.m. each Monday night in November at the Senior Services Office in the Old Armory. This is an 18-hour training course to help those who are taking care of ill family or friends in the home.

Liberty Home Care and Hospice nurses will teach the course that will cover the basic skills needed to care for housebound patients. The course will include instructions, demonstrations and hands-on activities. For additional information and to register, please call 875-8198.

The Bereavement Support Group will meet on Tuesday, November 4 and 11 at 10 a.m. at the Raeford Presbyterian Church. This group is open to anyone in the community.

Our CareGivers Support Group will meet on November 7 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Services office in the Old Armory. If you have questions about any of these programs, please call the Liberty Office.

The Hospice office is located at 336 S. Main Street in Raeford and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with staff on call 24 hours a day. As always, we are very grateful for your support.

Escape

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Peterkin notified county commissioners by letter on September 18 that the jail was in danger of being shut down by the state. Jail consultant Donnie D. Byrd of the N.C. Dept of Human Resources, had inspected the jail during an unannounced visit two days earlier and said it would be the last time he would give a warning of violations of the state statutes.

It was not the first time Byrd had written up the jail for having the surveillance booth in the rear of the jail unmanned, Peterkin told commissioners. Peterkin said he needed an additional person on each shift to man the

annex section and comply with statutes. The sheriff went before commissioners on October 6 with his request for four more jail personnel, but no action was taken. They held a special meeting October 13 and discussed expansion, improvements and possibly the building of a new jail but did not fill Peterkin's request for the additional officers. He had also asked for the four jailers during budget planning sessions early this summer, citing a recommendation by the state inspector.

As his officers began a manhunt for the four missing inmates last night, Peterkin said, "Some things you got

to pay attention to."

Peterkin added that the inmates "acted on what we were talking about."

Peterkin wrote in his budget request in June the ratio of jailers to inmates should be one officer to every 12 inmates. "Currently the ratio in the Hoke County Jail is one officer to every 23 inmates."

Peterkin wrote in September that the jail population had peaked at 97 inmates in August, and he also included a copy of his budget request for the commissioners to review again.

There were 55 inmates at the jail prior to the escape.

My older brother smokes.
So does my Dad.
Now I've got asthma
and can't play
basketball.
They can do what
they want, as long
as they don't do it
around me.

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PARENTS / FAMILIES: PLEASE CUT OUT THIS
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT & SHARE IT WITH YOUR CHILDREN.

FirstHealth
OF THE CAROLINAS

The N.C. Health & Wellness
Trust Fund Commission

Hoke County Schools

realityunfiltered.com

Hoke Parks & Rec has sports, trips

Titanic exhibit

Are you interested in seeing the 7,500-square-foot exhibit on Tuesday, November 18, 2003? The bus will be leaving the parking lot of the former National Guard Armory at 7:30 a.m. and returning approximately 4:30 p.m. The price will be \$20 pp and includes ticket and transportation; lunch will be on your own. There are still seats available. Money must be paid by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 31, 2003.

Miami, Florida

Do you want to get away after the winter holidays? Come join Parks & Recreation on a trip to Miami from February 29 through March 5, 2004. The package includes round trip transportation; five nights deluxe hotel

accommodations (brand new hotel); five breakfasts (hot buffet); three dinners; cruise on Biscayne Bay (see the homes of Paul Newman, Rosie O'Donnell, Gloria Estefan, etc.) visit the Bayside Marketplace; visit the Miami Beach and South Beach areas; admission to Flamingo Gardens. The price: \$419 pp double occupancy; \$399pp triple occupancy; \$568 single occupancy.

Half of the money is required by November 21, 2003; the balance by 5 p.m. January 16, 2004.

Fall sports

Football, cheerleading and soccer programs are ongoing. Soccer games are played at Turlington Field and Hoke High. Football games are at

Armory Park (former National Guard Armory).

Senior bingo

The seniors continue to enjoy bingo. The next session will be on Wednesday, November 12 at 10 a.m. until noon at the Hoke County Library with prizes and refreshments.

Senior bowling

The seniors continue to enjoy bowling at Sandhill Bowling Lane in Aberdeen. The van leaves the parking lot (old National Guard Armory) at 1 p.m. and returns approximately 4:30 p.m. every Thursday. If you are interested, call on Tuesdays.

If you are interested in any of the above, call 875-4035.

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