



Good Turkey Festival expected despite obstacles

Saturday's events, mostly at alternate locations, all coming together, say organizers

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

The N.C. Turkey Festival parade held annually in Raeford was called off due to repairs on North Main Street, and the site of the street fair on Saturday has shifted somewhat for the same reason. Hurricane/tropical storm Ophelia is threatening as this is

written.

But nothing has dampened festival spirits. People are still excited about festival activities, William Daniels, festival director, reports.

On Monday, Daniels says he is putting out "small fires" as plans were being finalized. It is his first turkey festival; the Hoke County native took over the responsibili-

ties from previous director Jackie Lynch.

This year's logo of "Shake Your Tail Feathers" seems to have been inspired by the first ever dine and dance gala that was held this past Saturday night. That event went "very well," according to Daniels. About 70 people attended.

"We think there is something for everyone," Daniels says of this

year's activities. "We've really made an effort to have something for all areas of our diverse culture."

Daniels says he wants festival participants to know there are a lot of things geared for the children. Storytelling at the library

stage begins at 9 a.m. Thursday and runs through early afternoon. North Carolina author Nancy (See FESTIVAL, page 3A)

Subdivision would 'tap out' county's sewage allowance

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

A planned subdivision near Raeford would "tap out" the amount of gallons per day the county is allowed by the city for sewage treatment. At the same time, the city is looking into expanding the city's wastewater treatment plant.

Developer Ron Huff of H & H Constructors appeared before the Raeford council members regarding plans for his company's proposed Riverbrook subdivision.

Riverbrook forms an "L" from 401 Business to Rockfish Road and borders a wooded area that follows Rockfish Creek on the southeast side of Raeford.

Plans are to tie a sewer line

directly into the wastewater treatment plant, located across the creek. A pump and force main would be required as the subdivision is lower than the plant.

Riverbrook is located in the county, and sewer services would be bought from Hoke, which, in turn, buys from the city.

Original plans were for 441 (See SEWER PLANT, page 6A)

Hoke athletic director leaves town, warrant for arrest remains unserved

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin said former Hoke athletic director Jose Yopez, who was fired two



Jose Yopez

weeks ago, has left the state after Hoke District Attorney Kristy M. Newton and the Sheriff's Office began investigating allegations Yopez misappropriated county funds.

DA Special investigator John Joseph is also involved in the criminal probe concerning Yopez, working closely with the county's finance office and Peterkin.

An arrest warrant has been

issued for Yopez, according to Peterkin, for obtaining property by false pretenses.

However, the warrant remains unserved while Yopez is located.

"Other charges are likely pending," Peterkin said yesterday. "We are looking for him since he apparently fled."

"We have entered him into the state's wanted list on the computer network, and we will find him."

County commissioners have kept a tight reign on information leaking out since uncovering some of Yopez's questionable activities, including an accusation he (See YEPEZ, page 5A)



City employees attach festive flags to the Depot in advance of the N.C. Turkey Festival, being held this weekend in Raeford. Most events Saturday will be in McLauchlin Park and along Donaldson Avenue because of construction on Main Street.

Citizens speak at hearing on proposed ethanol plant

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke commissioners appealed

to citizens last week to support a proposal for an ethanol processing plant to be constructed at the Hoke Regional Industrial Park

on N.C. 20, but some facts about past problems with potential smell and emissions at some out-of-state plants may cause further concern.

However, Monty Shaw, communications director for Renewable Fuels Association, spoke out

positively on behalf of ethanol processors today.

"Concerns about energy and smell were concerns in the '90s, but modern plants today are required to comply with new regulations," Shaw said. "These plants are required to install an

emission thermal oxidizer that burns off any emissions from the process.

"Occasionally, in an industry someone makes a mistake, is fined and must rectify the mistake," he said.

(See ETHANOL, page 7A)

Hoke residents pitch in with Katrina help

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke County residents, accustomed to minor damage from fringes of coastal hurricanes, are showering more than sympathy on victims of Hurricane Katrina—the most damaging storm of the 21st Century in the United States.

Local groups are gathering donations for hurricane relief to help millions of people displaced

by the colossal disaster.

Local utility companies have mobilized personnel to assist in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi with recovery efforts and are also donating moneys to victims. The Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation has deployed a total of 20 employees from Hoke, Robeson, Scotland and Cumberland counties to help in the hurricane-ravaged region to restore power. Ten employees returned last week, and another

10 were dispatched on Saturday to stay for two weeks, according to Ruby Clark.

"Our employees' association also voted on Monday that we would donate \$1,500 from our employees' assistance fund to the victims of Hurricane Katrina," Clark said. "We have given disposable cameras to our crews sent to Mississippi and Louisiana so they will be bringing back photographs to show (See HELP, page 7A)

FEMA to bring week-long emergency course here

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The disaster could be swift and deadly. Some could survive, but casualties would occur if Hoke County ever took a direct hit from a bio-terrorism plot, accidental chemical spill or natural disas-

ter, according to Major Freddy Johnson, supervisor of major operations for the Hoke Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management director.

To ensure Hoke agencies are ready to respond to such an incident, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

is staging a week-long Integrated Emergency Management Course in Hoke November 14-18. County and city leaders will attend the course taught by experts in the field. A combination of classroom lectures and discussions, a small group planning session and (See FEMA, page 4A)



West Hoke resident Andrew Diemer competed on Bossa Nova at the Grotonhouse II Horse Park in Hamilton, Massachusetts in June and will be in competition this week at The Carolina Horse Park in the U.S. Eventing Association championships. See story, page 4A.

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