

# The News-Journal

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Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

No. 37 Vol. 110

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

## Butterball investment double what it planned Company to add 250 workers next year at former House of Raeford plant

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Butterball will continue adding jobs at its Raeford plant next year and has invested millions more in the processing facility than it first announced at the start of the project, company officials said at a ribbon cutting last week. "When all is said and done on this first phase, and I will tell you it is a first phase, we will have put close to \$55 million into this facility," Butterball Chief Operations Officer Joe Nally said.

The company bought the former House of Raeford processing plant in February and announced plans to invest \$26 million into the facility and hire at least 350 people over a three-year period. Once the company actually got into the building and performed renovations, Butterball increased those expectations.

So far, the company has hired about 225 people to work at the Raeford location. Officials decided to move three slicing lines into the facility and plan to hire at least another 250 people in 2016. Eventually, the company will employ

between 500 and 600 people at the plant, officials reported.

There are parts of the plant that are not completely finished right now, Nally said, and hinted at additional expansion in the future.

"We have plans for other things coming down the road; we're not 100 percent sure what that may be. We've talked about burgers, we've talked about hot dogs and sausage, but believe me, as fast as we're growing, as much stuff as we've got going on, we will definitely figure out what else to

(See BUTTERBALL, page 4)



Butterball officials cut a ribbon with Mayor John K. McNeill (right), Commissioner James Leach (second from left) and the Chamber's Sharon Burney (center).

## Piedmont Natural Gas to expand reach in Hoke

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Piedmont Natural Gas, recently acquired by Duke Energy, is offering service to customers in parts of Hoke County and plans to work with Butterball on providing gas for its plant in Raeford.

The company has built a facility on N.C. 211 a few miles west of town.

The company has about 750,000 customers in North Carolina and more in Tennessee, spokesperson David Trusty said.

"We have a pretty extensive natural gas distribution network," he said.

The gas company was founded in 1951 and has lines that run from Charlotte to Wilmington and pass through the counties south of Hoke. All together, the company maintains 25,000 miles of natural gas pipeline that provide gas to homes and businesses.

(See GAS, page 4)

## Waste plant online, savings anticipated

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Hoke County should start saving money on its bills this month as the new wastewater treatment plant gears up into full service.

The county previously contracted with the Fayetteville PWC to pay for wastewater processing. With the new plant up and running now, the county can treat the water locally, the board of commissioners discussed

Monday night at the regularly scheduled meeting.

The board additionally approved a change order for the plant that included about \$122,000 of county funding from the enterprise

(See PLANT, page 4)

### This Week



4 youth attend conference  
Page 2

Children give blankets for children  
Page 6

Browsing the Files ..... 2  
Classifieds ..... 8  
Deaths ..... 2  
Editorials ..... 3  
Sports ..... 5

## Veterans Day Service



Marla Grant and her daughter (top) lead a Veterans Day Service audience in the Pledge of Allegiance Wednesday, and veterans pray (bottom). A large crowd attended the service at the Hoke Courthouse. (Hal Nunn photos)



Maultsby finishes the last of 50 marathons in 50 states. (Contributed photo)

## Raeford native nails 50 marathons in 50 states

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

John Maultsby has run in boiling heat, in freezing temperatures, encountered dangerous wildlife on the trail and battled dehydration and injuries while chasing his dream of running 50 marathons in 50 states.

Last month, the 73-year-old grandfather of two ran number 50 in New

Hampshire, bringing an end to a 13-year odyssey. His wife, their children, his mother Lois Austin and many more family members were there to cheer him across the finish line.

Born and raised in Raeford, Maultsby joined the Air Force when he was 19 and went on to live and work in many different places, finally ending up in Las Vegas where he works at the MGM Grand

(See MARATHONS, page 6)

## Wreck hurts 3, ties traffic

A driver allegedly ran a red light at the intersection of Highway 401 Business and North Fulton Street around 4:30 p.m. Monday and caused a chain reaction accident that damaged four vehicles and sent three people to the

(See WRECK, page 4)



This 4-car accident Monday occurred when a driver ran a red light. (Catharin Shepard photo)

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