

## Governor tours Hoke damage

### 'There are a lot of people hurting, we've got to step up'

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer



The governor, left, talks with Rockfish Fire Chief Todd Wood, center, and Commission Chairman James Leach. (Catharin Shepard photo)

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper visited the Rockfish Fire Department Monday to offer his thanks to local first responders, before touring storm damage in south Hoke as part of an effort to support counties affected by Hurricane Florence.

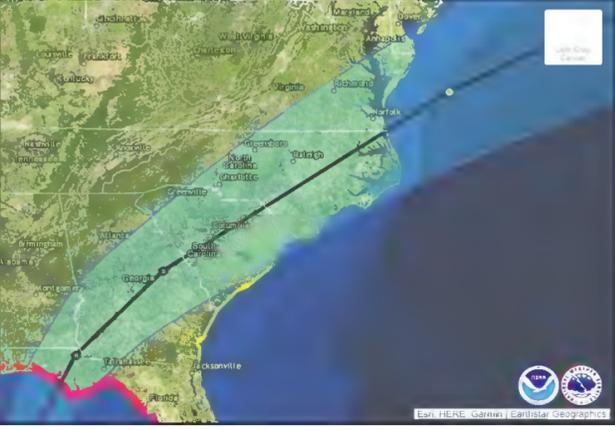
"I wanted to come here to the Rockfish Fire Department for the number one thing, to thank all of the first responders because these men and women put their lives on the line to go out and save the life of another. We have a lot of those first responders all over our state and here in Hoke County is no exception," Cooper said.

Many people across the state had to be evacuated for Florence, and the state's first responders were there to help them get out, the governor said.

"We had over 5,000 water rescues, so we know that is critically important," he said. "I also appreciate the local, state and federal officials - we've got a number of them here today - for working together. We worked together on response to this horrible tragedy that the people of North Carolina have faced. Now we've got to work together on the recovery phase of this. There are a lot of people who are hurting, there are a lot of people without homes, a lot of businesses are damaged, farms damaged, churches underwater. We know that we've got to step up and help."

(See GOVERNOR, page 7)

## Hurricane Michael forecast to bring us wind, rain



Michael, on Tuesday, was forecast to track nearly over Raeford.

### Emergency center here to be partially staffed

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Forecasters and emergency management officials are keeping an eye on Hurricane Michael, a category three hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico that could travel through North Carolina this week as a tropical storm or tropical depression.

Even though Hurricane Michael is on the wrong coastline to directly impact North Carolina, its predicted track could still bring it far in overland to drop inches more rain in the storm-weary Carolinas.

Hurricane Michael is forecast to make landfall somewhere in the Florida panhandle Wednesday

and move inland through Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina through Thursday, according to the National Hurricane Center. The storm was moving at about 12 miles an hour Tuesday morning, and should move away from the United States out over open water on Friday.

Should the storm follow

the predicted track and pass over North Carolina, by the time it arrives it would likely be classified as a tropical storm or tropical depression at that point. Hoke County could see the effects from Michael late Wednesday night through Thursday.

(See HURRICANE, page 12)

## Voter registration extended to Oct. 15 due to Florence

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Due to Hurricane Florence, Hoke citizens will have the chance to register to vote through October

15 for the General Election set for November 6.

Legislation passed by the North Carolina General Assembly and signed by Gov. Roy Cooper last week extended the usual regis-

tration deadline in 28 counties affected by Hurricane Florence, including Hoke.

Before the extension, the deadline to register to vote in the upcoming election was Friday,

October 12. Now, citizens have until 5 p.m. Monday, October 15 to register to vote. The legislation also included many of Hoke's neighboring counties, such as Robeson, Cumberland, Moore and

Scotland.

The original registration deadline of 5 p.m. October 12 remains in effect for all other North Carolina counties.

(See VOTING, page 7)

## Home Food celebrates 100 years

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Hoke County's oldest locally-owned grocery store marked a special milestone this weekend with a party that could only happen once in a century.

Multiple generations of the McNeill family joined friends, customers and supporters for a celebration Saturday as Home Food Market officially opened its doors for the 100th year in a row.

The grocery and feed store's centennial celebration took place at the original storefront located at

117 North Main Street in downtown Raeford. The free public event offered food, a wood carving demonstration, pet adoptions, axe

throwing, live music and more.

Hoke County itself was just seven years old in 1918 when

(See HOME FOOD, page 12)

### Chamber to host political forum

The Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce will host a political forum for local candidates, and the event is free and open to the public.

The forum will be 6 p.m. Tuesday, October 16 at the senior room in the Old Armory building, located at 423 East Central Avenue in Raeford. Invited participants

running for election include candidates for Hoke County Board of Commissioners, State House of Representatives District 48 and judicial races for the Hoke-Moore district.

Candidates will have three minutes to discuss their platform and then will answer questions from

(See FORUM, page 6)



The McNeill family gathered in front of the store. (Contributed photo)



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