



INSIDE
the annual
Halloween Costume Contest
Edition

Early voting tops 3,900

Already more than all votes in 2014 mid-term

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

More than 3,900 people have voted in the early one-stop voting period so far, according to the Hoke County Board of Elections.

By Friday a total of 3,902 people had cast ballots in the election, including 2,418 Democrats, 793 Unaffiliated, 681 Republicans and 10 Libertarians. The Raeford site saw 2,692

voters and the Rockfish site saw 1,205 voters.

Early voting turnout has been strong across the state of North Carolina, according to information from the State Board of Elections.

“With several days of in-person early voting remaining, ballots cast so far in the 2018 general election already have exceeded all ballots cast early during the 2014 midterm election,” according to a statement from SBOE spokesman Patrick Gannon.

Two early voting sites are open in Raeford and Rockfish for citizens to cast their ballots ahead of the 2018 General Election. The Raeford early voting site is located in the commissioners’ room in the Pratt Building at 227 Main Street, while the Rockfish early voting site is located at the Rockfish Community Building at 2749 Lindsay Road.

Early one-stop voting runs this week
(See *EARLY VOTING*, page 5)



Grabs you

Robert and Monic Russell and their grandson CJ started collecting Halloween decorations years ago, and display them at their home on Harris Avenue. Animatronic trees reach out to grab the unwary, skeletons roar and the Reaper revs its bike. (Catharin Shepard photos)

No 401 access for shopping center

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The owner of Stonegate Plaza shopping center told occupants that the state Department of Transportation “shot down” a plan to add U.S. 401 access to the center, according to business owners who lease space in Stonegate, but DOT officials report they’re waiting on the developer to pay for required roadway improvements first.

There isn’t a way to turn from U.S. 401 directly into the parking lot of the shopping center. Customers reach Stone-

gate Plaza by turning down nearby Flagstone Lane, which also provides road access to Stone Gables Apartments, the Lumber River EMC offices and an assisted living facility. There is also access off of Pittman Grove Church Road.

Several business owners who rent space in Stonegate Plaza have expressed concerns that the arrangement makes it harder to get customers in their stores.

Charles Allen, who owns and operates Rockfish Pharmacy, said that after months of not
(See *ACCESS*, page 7)

Fall Festival offerings begin with parade

By MELISSA PITTMAN
N.C. Fall Festival director

Each year there are memorial events that happen with the Festival, whether you call it Turkey, Poultry or Fall Festival. Everyone who has ever been to the festival has memories—some good, some bad.

The 2018 N.C. Fall Festival will ever be remembered as “the Never-Ending Festival.”

The first event was held on Monday, September 10 and the last event will be held on Saturday, November 10. Of course, the events are all geared for the enjoyment of those attending. So, here are a few that are still to come with the Festival:

Parade

Thursday, November 1 – The ever-popular parade—because everyone loves a parade—will
(See *FESTIVAL*, page 7)

Raeford native to head Edgecombe Community College



Dr. Gregory McLeod is a Raeford native. (Sarah Louya, Rocky Mount Telegram photo)

By AMELIA HARPER
Rocky Mount Telegram

Dr. Gregory McLeod feels right at home in his new post as president of Edgecombe Community College.

“My wife and I are both from North Carolina and we wanted to get back home,” McLeod said. “We feel that we have come home here in Tarboro.”

McLeod, 47, originally hails from Raeford, a town near Fayetteville that is

about half the size of Tarboro.

“At heart, I am a country boy,” McLeod said.

McLeod and his family have settled nicely into the community. His son, Jordan, 15, attends Tarboro High and his daughter, Kyla, 13, attends Martin Millennium Academy.

McLeod attended the N.C. School of Science and Math when he was in high school.

“I had a math teacher, a white woman,

who saw something in me, pulled me aside and said ‘I think you have what it takes to make it to go to the School of Science and Math.’ At first, my parents were a little reluctant, because I would have to live at the school, but they knew it was a way to help me be able to get a scholarship to attend college, so they encouraged me to apply” McLeod said.

McLeod earned an N.C. Teaching Fellows Scholarship and attended
(See *MCLEOD*, page 8)

Republican chair, voter question partisan material left in voting area

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A voter and the chairman of the Hoke County Republican Party raised concerns last week about a piece of partisan campaign material that was reportedly left on a

sign-in table at the polls during early one-stop voting.

Hoke resident Kelby Glass sent an email to county elections director Towanna Jackson Thursday, October 25.

“I wanted to bring to your attention an observation I made

last night while voting. Last night, 10/24/2018, at approximately 6:45 p.m. my wife and I went to vote at the Board of Elections in Raeford. As we walked in my wife went to the first attendant and I went to the second. As the lady was signing me in I noticed laying on the

table in front of her was a blue in color ‘sample’ ballot,” Glass wrote in the email. “I looked over the ‘sample’ ballot and noticed it was provided by an organization to reelect Tony Hunt, Harry South-erland, and others I can not recall. As I looked over the ‘sample’

ballot I noticed all of the democratic candidates were highlighted in bold, in a larger font, and the circles next to their names filled in.”

“I certainly support an individual’s right to bring whatever
(See *COMPLAINT*, page 10)



The Fall Festival Thursday-Saturday, November 1-3

Parade Nov. 1 • Stuffin' & Stompin' Dinner Nov. 2 • Main Event Nov. 3

MAIN EVENT on Main Street — Vendors, Music, Food, Entertainment

Call 910-904-2424 for more details and information.

