

# The News-Journal

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If it happened, it's news to us



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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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## Fall Festival returns in October

### Back from the pandemic, seeking vendors, supporters

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Preparations are underway to bring back a longtime favorite event that, like so many other festivals, had to cancel its schedule in

2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This October the North Carolina Fall Festival will fill the air downtown with live music, the smell of funnel cakes and the energy of a community gathering together for the first time since the pandemic started.

Fall Festival president Dee Inman said the festival board of volunteers hopes to make the event a sort of comeback for Hoke County after months of social distancing and other safety precautions kept people apart.

"People are excited to finally be able to get out and socialize," she said.

While not all the typical events are on the schedule this year, familiar favorites are returning: the golf tournament, Senior Day, (See *FESTIVAL*, page 3)



## What's this?

Inquiring minds want to know

Folks in Raeford have a keen sense of curiosity, enough to stop and ask, "what is THAT?" when something new or different appears. Something new and different did appear in downtown Raeford in the Edenborough shopping center parking lot recently, and it had at least one citizen calling the News-Journal to try and find out more.

A big white truck cab hitched up to a piece of heavy equipment was parked down at the (See *WHAT'S THIS*, page 4)



Clockwise from top: a giant wood chipper awaits transportation from its port at the Edenborough Shopping Center on Main Street; The A&R Railroad is ferrying cars from Raeford as part of a new contract; some of the containers which are being shipped are getting a fresh coat of a very green paint, the company's brand color. (Catharin Shepard and Ken MacDonald photos)

## Donated fire truck will help train next generation

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Even after carrying firefighters into the thick of fire and accident scenes for more than three decades, the engine of the fire truck parked under a shelter at Stoney Point Fire Department started right up with a strong, loud rumble.

Stripped of the Stoney Point name, it still

carried axes, ladders and other equipment as it rolled out from the station. The truck originally manufactured in 1985 came to its new home in Hoke County Monday, where trainers will use it to help teach young people how to be the next generation of firefighters.

Several years ago, Sandhills Community College and Hoke County High School teamed up to offer a firefighter academy for (See *FIRE TRUCK*, page 6)

## 124-house subdivision to be constructed behind Walmart

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners approved last week a major subdivision plat request for a new development that will bring up to 124 new homes to the Club Pond Road area.

The commissioners approved the plat request for a subdivision that will be called

Cameron Village, to be located behind the Walmart shopping center at Club Pond Road and U.S. 401. Double D Engineering submitted the request, which includes a 93.66-acre parcel of land and a 23.86-acre portion of another tract of land at the same location.

The property was already zoned as Residential (R-8), allowing a minimum lot size of 8,000 square feet. The plans submitted to (See *SUBDIVISION*, page 6)



Chief Donnie Smith of Raeford Fire Dept., Fire Academy graduate Sol Vasquez of Aberdeen Fire Dept., Chief Freddy Johnson of Stoney Point Fire Dept. and Chief David Schroer of Hillcrest Fire Dept. with the retired fire engine. (Catharin Shepard photo)

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