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If it happened, it's news to us



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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Dryness leads to water restrictions In commission vote, County asks residents to conserve

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners voted last week to have county water customers water their lawns on odd/even days of the week based on their address, to help ease strain on the county's water pumps during a dry period.

County Utilities Director Hilton Villines requested the board consider the action, which he recommended due to concerns over the county's well pumps having to run longer than they should.

The vote took place with three county commission members present, as Chairman Harry Southerland and Commissioner

Lonnie Baldwin were absent from the meeting.

Hoke County Manager Letitia Edens was on vacation last week and so wasn't present for the discussion or the vote.

The News-Journal reached out to the county to learn more about the matter.

Edens prepared a statement on

behalf of the county and provided it to the newspaper Tuesday.

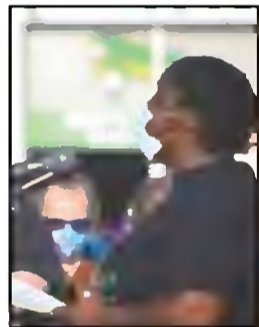
Low rainfall and high temperatures are to blame, according to the statement.

"I have reviewed information from engineer Adam Kiker of LKC who has worked with Hoke County Utilities on numerous projects to include our water sup-

ply. In the most recent review well production records found that our county-wide water system behavior during this current period of low rainfall, has experienced very little (<0.25" according to Fayetteville Fire Station 11) of rain over the past three weeks, and this period of low rainfall coupled
(See WATER, page 8)



Above, Jackie McLean tells about witnessing events on September 11, 2001 in New York City. At left, a flag contains names of victims; bottom row, speakers read names of those who perished—from left, Brandy McPherson, Freddy McPhaul, Judge Warren McSweeney. (Catharin Shepard photos)



20 years later, remembering September 11

'I flew literally into the eye of the storm that morning. I had no idea what I was going into.'

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

It's been 20 years since Jackie McLean looked out of an airplane window into a bright, clear Tuesday morning above New York City.

For just a little while longer everything

was fine, as far as she and the other passengers knew.

"I flew literally into the eye of the storm that morning. I had no idea what I was going into," she said.

McLean was one of the thousands of people who boarded airplanes bound for the city on September 11, 2001, and who

were still in the air when terrorists crashed a hijacked airplane into one of the Twin Towers.

Two decades later, McLean was one of the speakers who shared the "full circle" story of that experience with a crowd gathered at Freedom Park in Raeford.

The first sign something was wrong

was when the pilot didn't give the usual "welcome to New York" message over the intercom.

"Our pilot didn't say anything to us. He didn't say a word."

The plane had been descending, but started going back up again.

(See 9/11 CEREMONY, page 5)



Hoke High Class of '71 50 Years Reunion

Hoke County High School Class of 1971 celebrated its 50th Class Reunion on August 21 at Holiday Inn and Suites in Fayetteville. The weekend started with a meet-and-greet on Friday at the home of Valencia McCall, and culminated with a banquet on Saturday. In attendance at the banquet were, left to right: first row, Verline Thomas, Stephanie Adkinson, Carolyn Dockery, Randy Livingston, Eva Carpenter; second row, Charles Thomas, Valencia McCall, Barbara McMillan, Larry McMillan, Dorothy Meekins, Delois Godwin, Samuel Cole; third row, John Willie McNeill, Billy Bease, Willie Rush, Ricky Campbell and Vernetta Carpenter. (Contributed photo)

'Casino' shut down for violations

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County law enforcement last week shut down a "casino-style" video sweepstakes operation located a few hundred feet from Cape Fear Conference B Center, alleging it violated the county's zoning ordinance.

Further action on other sweepstakes business in the county could be on the way in the near future, officials said.

Deputies with the Hoke Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant Wednesday, September 8 at a 15,000 square-foot building located 10263 Fayetteville Road. The building had been set up as
(See CASINO, page 8)

Driver dies after fiery wreck on US401

A man from Fayetteville died Monday after his vehicle crashed into a tree and caught on fire in Hoke County.

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol said that a 30-year-old man from Fayetteville died at a hospital following the accident.

The News-Journal chose not to publish his name as it was unclear whether his kin had been notified of his death.

The accident happened around 4:19 p.m. on Laurinburg Road near Ryan McBryde Road in the Bowmore area of Hoke County. The driver was driving a 2017 Ford when he reportedly ran off the road to the right and struck a tree. His vehicle caught on fire, the Highway Patrol said.

When law enforcement first arrived on the scene, the vehicle was already engulfed
(See CAR DEATH, page 4)

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