

# The News-Journal

\$1.00

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No. 32 Vol. 116

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

## Error costs Hoke 19 vaccine points Not even a third of residents are vaccinated, state says

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Due to an apparent error in how the state was applying vaccination data, Hoke County doesn't have nearly as many people vaccinated against COVID-19 as previously

reported by state and federal agencies, according to an update from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS).

Originally the county looked to be among the lowest in the state for vaccinations, based on the data

tracked through the state's COVID-19 vaccination management system. When state and federal agencies added in the number of people who had gotten their shots through vaccination programs from the United States Department of Defense, Department of

Veterans Affairs, Indian Health Services and the Federal Bureau of Prisons – Hoke's numbers went up, even topping the 50 percent mark for people who had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

However, when data managers

included that information, they apparently only looked at where the shots were administered, not where the people getting those shots actually live, according to an NCDHHS press release sent out Friday, October 1.

(See COVID, page 6)



## 'First Friday' packs downtown

After being delayed a year by the pandemic, First Friday in Raeford kicked off October 1 with music, food trucks and balloon animals for kids. Hundreds of people came out to Main Street to hear the Jebb Mac Band play, bringing lawn chairs and enjoying a night outdoors. The concert lasted into the evening, with the event wrapping up around 10 p.m. The Downtown Raeford Business Association (DRBA) organized the concert as part of efforts to bring more people downtown to see what Raeford's local business scene has to offer.

Clockwise from left: A crowd is framed by Main Street, Raeford; They're listening to the Jebb Mac Band; a dancing girl is brought back to her family by a second child. (Catharin Shepard photos)



## 'Garish,' 'gosh-awful,' 'eyesore,' council describes bus stops

By KEN MACDONALD

"Eyesore," "garish," "sickening," "sad," "awful," and "gosh-awful" were words Raeford City Council members used Monday night to describe new bus stops placed around town.

At its regular monthly meeting, the council took turns relating complaints they'd received about the appearance of the bus stops, placed by Hoke Area Transit using grant funds.

Councilman John Jordan began the dis-

cussion when it was his turn to talk about concerns each councilperson might have that weren't on the agenda.

"What say if any do we have—it's too late, I guess, now—on these bus stops that

(See BUS STOPS, page 4)



A new bus stop at the Chamber.

## Lifesaving officers honored

"They did exactly what they were supposed to," said Police Chief Marc Godwin of three Raeford Police officers cited for saving a man's life in August.

Sgt. Michael Norton and officers Joshua Johnson and Kevin Smith were credited in a proclamation at Raeford City Council's regular meeting Monday for calmly acting under pressure to save the life of a man

who had overdosed on narcotics. "I watched it all on bodycam just like I was there," Godwin told the board. "They did very good, very calm under pressure, and I think they did everything right and if they did one thing wrong the individual would not have made it."

The officers checked vitals, performed sternum rubs and

(See LIFESAVERS, page 4)



Officers honored: from left, Johnson, Smith, Mayor McNeill, and Norton. (Ken MacDonald photo)

## New book features Hoke history, people

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Long before she ran for public office, former Hoke County Commissioner

(See BOOK, page 4)



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