

The News-Journal

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

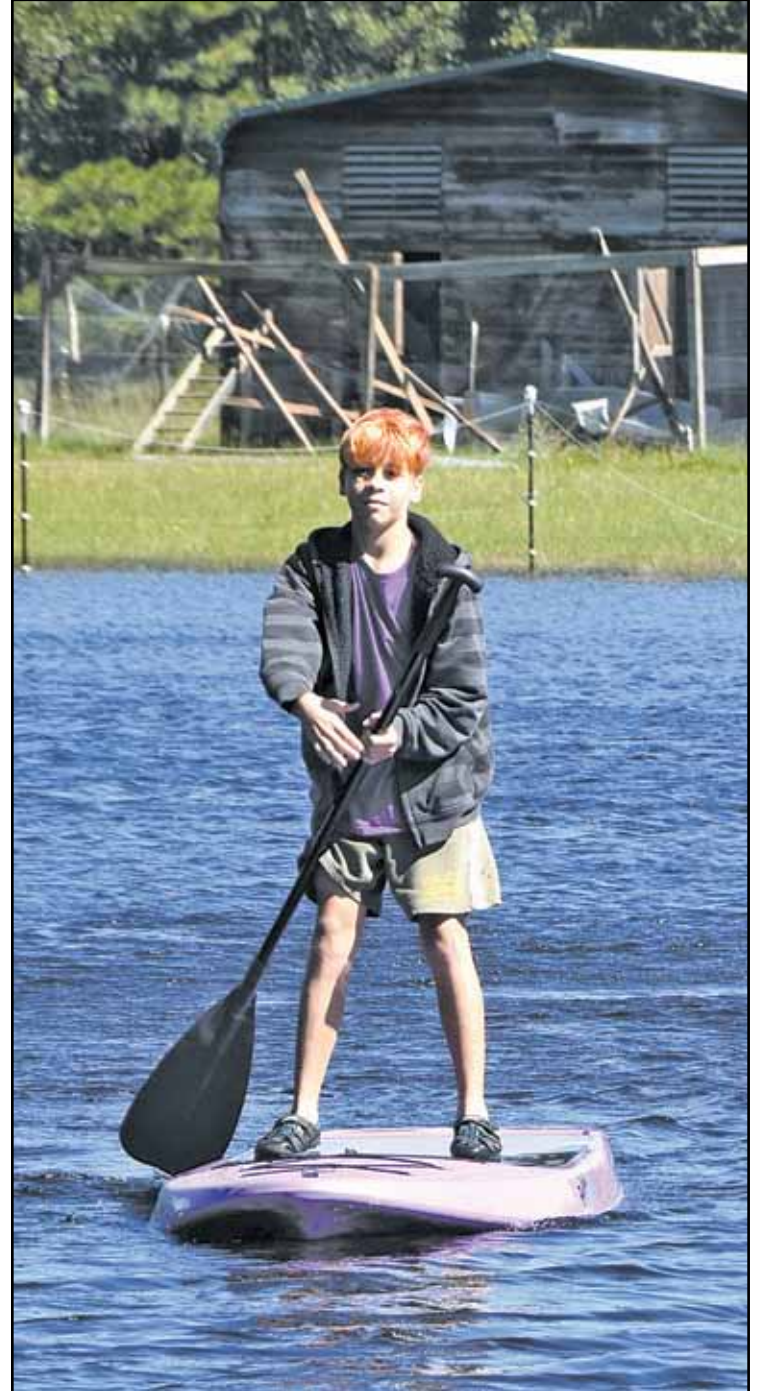
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No. 32 Vol. 111

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

The 'hardest part' starts Recovery begins after Hurricane Matthew strikes



One organization the county's needy turn to felt the full brunt of Hurricane Matthew—the H.E.L.P. store on Central Avenue (left). The storm peeled back the building's roof, depositing ceiling tiles onto clothes and supplies. 12-year-old Samuel Young (right) made the best of things, paddling his board across a field beside his yard on Balfour Road. (Ken MacDonald photos)

'What we do for our citizens now is going to define us, period'

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The storm might be over, but the hardest part is still to come.

"It's the recovery phase that's the hardest. That's what we're fixing to start," Hoke

County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Director Maj. Freddy Johnson told county officials Monday morning.

Hurricane Matthew sideswiped North Carolina Saturday, bringing strong winds and heavy rain to an area that just a week earlier saw historic amounts of rainfall.

The back-to-back hits took a toll on Hoke County, leaving behind washed-out roads, thousands without power and water, and a long list of logistical problems for officials trying to get the county back to normal.

Hoke received over 10 inches of rain for the second time in two weeks, with some

residents in the eastern and southern areas of the county reporting their rain gauges caught upwards of 12 or even 14 inches of rainfall from the storm. Winds gusted up to 40 miles an hour, tearing down trees that also took power lines down with them.

(See MATTHEW, page 10)

This Week

Elections complaint filed
Page 6

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Look for this symbol to find stores that sell The News-Journal



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www.raefordnj.com



Top: Second Harvest Food Bank volunteers give out food and water at McLauchlin School—and talk about the storm. Left: Lines formed at gas pumps early in the week after the storm passed. On Monday, police had to direct traffic at some stations. Many people came from other towns. (Ken MacDonald photos)

How to help

Residents who made it through the storm and who want to help local flood victims can donate items or money to support recovery efforts.

Donations of bottled water and nonperishable food can be made to the

Hoke County Department of Social Services, which reopened Tuesday. The phone number to contact for more information is (910) 878-1974.

Donations of money can go to the American (See DONATE, page 6)

A little Facebook inspiration



Serena Harding
15 hrs · McColl, SC · 🇺🇸

My heart truly aches for the people who are without basic necessities. At work today, the busiest I've ever seen, I still found myself almost in tears, when a customer "paid it forward", his meal was \$8 and some change, he paid for the lady behind him which was \$26 and change. It was so sweet to see her reaction, she was very grateful, and kept asking If I was serious. So I get off work, stop at the store, and over hear a family discussing their needs in the parking lot. I couldn't not help. I tell them, go in the store get ANYTHING they needed, I will pay for it, the 1st thing they pick up is milk for the baby. The little \$26 n change I spent on this family filled my heart with such joy. We both walked out crying, we hugged and went our separate ways. I didn't want a thank you, I'm just happy I was able to help a family in true need. Those tears were real, the need was real, and I thank God for putting me there at that moment to help that family! #HeDidThat #HelpingOthersBringsMeJoy #ImGrateful #TheNumber26 #TearsOfJoyAndSadness

A bit of inspiration from Serena Harding, a Raeford native.



BROWSING THE FILES

47 Years Ago October 16, 1969

Some 50 people turn up at the county courthouse to show support for a local sales tax. Other than local officials, most attend at the urging of Schools Superintendent Donald Abernethy, and support the option because it benefits schools and would hopefully allow lowering property taxes. They also see garbage dumps in the county's future.

District Court Judge J.E. Dupree hands down several "stiff" sentences to convicted impaired drivers. He says it's time to get serious about the offense. A Fayetteville man gets

his third conviction for driving under the influence and is sentenced to two years in jail for two convictions, sentences that are suspended. He's put on five years probation.

The Hoke High Bucks defeat the 71st Falcons Friday 14-0. The victory puts the Bucks at 3-3 for the season. The main gun for the Bucks is running halfback Larry Fellows. He gains 106 yards rushing.

25 Years Ago October 16, 1991

With Hoke's new zoning ordinance, mobile home dealers say the wait for a home is so long it will put them out of business. The Hoke

Planning and Development Commission is looking into a change to reduce the wait.

Raeford City Council will decide Turlington School's future one day before the election that will decide most of their fates. Despite opposition from people who live near the school, the Planning and Development Commission approves a plan to use the school for offices, recreation and the community college. Middle school students now at the school will soon move to the new West Hoke Middle School.

With a new part-time manager, the H.E.L.P. store has its feet firmly on the ground. Nora Cockburn begins work Thursday.

How old is your smoke detector?

Does your home have a working smoke alarm? According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the answer is likely yes: NFPA research shows that most American homes have at least one. But do you know how old your smoke alarms are? If you're like most people, you're probably not sure.

A recent survey conducted by NFPA revealed that only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced. That lack of awareness is a concern for the Raeford Fire Department along with fire departments throughout Hoke County, because smoke alarms don't last forever.

"Time and again, I've seen the life-saving impact smoke alarms can have in a home fire, but I've also seen the tragedy that can result when smoke alarms aren't working properly," says Charles Tapp, chief of the Raeford Fire Department. "That's why we're making an effort to educate residents of Raeford and Hoke County about the overall importance of smoke alarms, and they do have a life limit."

The Raeford Fire Department recommends smoke alarms be replaced at least every 10 years but, because the public is generally unaware of this, many homes have smoke alarms past their expiration date, putting people at increased risk of them possibly not working properly.

The department, along with NFPA, is promoting this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years," to better educate the public about the critical importance of knowing how old their smoke alarms are and replacing them once they're 10 years old. Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15.

To find out how old your smoke alarm is, look on the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture is marked. The smoke alarm should be replaced 10 years from the date of original installation. The Raeford Fire Department also says smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and that batteries should be replaced at least once a year or when they begin to chirp, signaling you that they're running

low. Remember, a new home with electric smoke alarms still have batteries in them for backup when power is out.

Call the Raeford Volunteer Fire Department at 910-875-5150 and arrange for them to come out to your home and check your smoke alarms. They will replace the batteries and/or install a new smoke alarm to make sure you are protected from fires in your home. If you contact them back after 12 months, they will also come and re-install new batteries annually for you. Upon your request, they will also perform a fire safety inspection on your home while they are there. If you don't live inside the City limits of Raeford, contact your local Fire Department and ask them to assist you with checking your smoke alarms.

Also, have you considered volunteering in your community? Tapp says the department would like to talk to you about that also. "There is no better feeling than being able to help your fellow neighbor in their time of need during an emergency." If you do not get an answer, please leave a message; someone will call you back.

NAACP president to speak

The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president of the N.C. NAACP and leader of the Moral Monday Movement, will be the featured speaker at the "Moral March to the Polls Rally and Tour Stop" Sunday, October 30 at 5 p.m. at

Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College. The rally is for citizens of Chatham, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph and surrounding counties.

Barber will address defending the right to vote in North Caro-

lina, expanding voting rights for all people, and race-based redistricting.

The event is sponsored by Democracy N.C., the N.C. NAACP, and the Moore County NAACP.



Barber



SPECIAL WORSHIP EVENTS

Philippi Presbyterian Church
128th Year Anniversary Homecoming
October 16, 11 a.m. (covered dish to follow)
Rockfish Church of God
22nd Annual Homecoming Celebration
October 16, 11 a.m.
Trunk-O-Treat (no demonic costumes)
October 29, 6 - 9 p.m.
Pastor and Family Appreciation Day
November 6, 11 a.m.
Word of Life Temple, Inc.

Christian Skate Night
October 20, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Usher Board Service
October 23, 3 p.m.
Youth Sunday
October 30
Hallelujah Night (no demonic costumes)
October 31, 6 - 8 p.m.
Christmas Party (\$20)
December 10, 6 p.m.
Faith Tabernacle Glorious Church
3G Project and Family Harvest Festival
October 31, 6 - 8 p.m.



Gift of camp

The "Munson Minions," as they're known, turned over several hundred dollars to Camp Monroe so that a child can go to camp next summer. They raised the money with a fun run held last month at Godwin Archery, a sponsor. Accepting the money is camp director Andrew Plyler. The Minions are Justice (left to right), Max, Aurora, Liberty and Freedom (in car seat).

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Items should be submitted for the Community Calendar by noon Friday before the publication date. You are asked to keep in mind that paste-up of the calendar page is done on Monday before publication. Also, if an ongoing item has been discontinued or needs to be changed, you are asked to contact the editor as soon as possible.

October 13, 18, 22 & 27

FAMILIES ALL READ (F.A.R.) is a Smart Start program designed to encourage families to go F.A.R. reading together. Children 0 up to 5 will receive a free book when accompanied by a parent and an additional book on their 5th visit and thereafter. For more information, call the Hoke County Public Library at 875 - 2502. Our October programs are: October 13, 6:30 p.m. - FUN FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN LITERACY WORKSHOP; October 18, 6:30 p.m. - FALL FUN!; October 22, 2 p.m. - MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE!; October 27, 6:30 p.m. - HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

October 13

WEST HOKE MIDDLE FIRST PTO MEETING will be held at West Hoke Middle School in the gym from 6-7 p.m. We will have light refreshments. There is a \$5.00 fee to join. We accept cash or check.

October 14, November 4 & December 9
AMERICAN RED CROSS FIRST AID/CPR/AED CLASS SCHEDULE (Adult/Child/Infant) - Classes may be changed/cancelled depending on availability of instructor, holiday and inclement weather. All classes will be held from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. To register or for more information, call Hoke County Health Department at 910-875-3717 ext. 2106.

October 18

Hoke County Parks & Recreation trip to the NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR with leaving the parking lot at 7 a.m. and returning at approximately 6:30 p.m. The cost will be \$15.00 per person (transportation). Money is NON-REFUNDABLE. Senior citizens 65 and up admission will be free, teens and adults ages 13-64 admission will be \$10 and children 6-12 admission will be \$5. If you or someone you know is interested, please come by the office to pay and sign up. The deadline was October 5, 2016.

October 29

DIABETES HEALTH SYMPOSIUM will be held in the senior room at L.E. McLaughlin Building from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. sponsored by the Hoke Public Health Advisory Council.

October 30

"**MORAL MARCH TO THE POLLS RALLY**" featuring Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president of the NC NAACP, will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at Sandhills Community College, Owens Auditorium, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst. The event is for all citizens of Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Chatham, Lee, Randolph and Richmond counties. He will address defending the right to vote in NC, expanding voting rights, race-based redistricting, and other efforts that undermine equal protection under the law. Learn how to get involved in the "It's Our Time, It's Our Vote" campaign to make recent historic court victories against voter suppression real at the ballot box. The event is sponsored by Democracy NC, the NC NAACP, and the Moore County NAACP, a non-partisan, issues-oriented organization whose mission is to ensure the equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination.

News-Journal to again publish most popular section

The News-Journal office will again be crowded as some 150 families make their way to the paper over five days this Halloween season for the annual Costume Contest. Thousands look forward to the newspaper special edition with photos of the contestants and winners.

Goblins, superheros, fairies and pumpkins will have their photos made free of charge.

It's the newspaper's most popular time of the year as everyone looks forward to seeing the photos of the costumes.

Parents are encouraged to begin making or select-

ing their children's costumes early and to avoid the crowds by having their children's photos taken early. Picture days this year are Oct. 12-13 from 8-5 p.m., Oct. 14 from 8-noon & Oct. 19-20 from 8-5 p.m. No appointment is necessary. The paper will provide a small candy gift for participants,

and then print their pictures in a special tabloid Nov. 2 that will be included with that week's edition of *The News-Journal*.

Advertisers are encouraged to make reservations soon with sales rep Hal Nunn. It's one of the paper's most-read and anticipated features. Call 875-2121.

PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN
October 12, 13, 14 &
(Wednesday & Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Friday 8 a.m. - noon)
19-20 (Wednesday & Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Photos will be published in the NOVEMBER 2 issue of The News-Journal.

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Each child will receive a treat for having their picture taken

RULES
1. Children must be 12 years old & under.
2. Children must be dressed in costumes.

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1/2 page \$220
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Advertising Deadline: October 19

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When water comes back on, you gotta boil it

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Many Hoke County utilities customers were left without water service for several days after Hurricane Matthew hit because some of the pump stations lost power, according to officials.

More than 6,500 customers lost water service after the storm, according to Hoke County Utilities Director Hilton Villines. Workers were in the field Sunday

attempting to restore service, and about 800 people in Arabia and Antioch were among the first to get their water back on.

"They got power there, the water's flowing there," Villines said Monday afternoon.

The rest of the water system was up and running Tuesday morning, Hoke County Manager Letitia Edens said. All residents now have access to water, but for people still without power to run their water heaters, it was cold

water only, she said.

Boil water advisory

The county—along with Northwest and Hillcrest water services—issued a voluntary boil water advisory October 9 for county residents who lost water service. The advisory was just a precaution and not mandatory, Villines said.

"We put it out so people would be cautious for safety reasons," he said.

At the time the advisory was

issued, officials weren't sure how long the power would be out and how long the system would sit idle. But at least some of the pumps got power back within two days, officials reported.

Mandatory boil water orders are only implemented when there's a risk of coliform bacteria in the water. That wasn't the case here, and there wasn't any issue with contamination, Villines said.

Residents on the city of Raeford's water system also didn't

need to boil their water, according to city manager Dennis Baxley.

Utilities officials were waiting to get water test results back from a laboratory before deciding whether to drop or extend the boil water advisory. The test results were expected back by 1 p.m. Wednesday.

During the service outage, grocery store shelves went bare of bottled water as the wait for water service restoration stretched out for several days. At the Food

Lion on Cole Avenue in Raeford, the store brought in a pallet full of bottled water Monday afternoon and gave it away in the parking lot for free to help storm victims.

The county Department of Social Services also started collecting donations of bottled water, along with nonperishable food, to help residents who were still without water service.

Tuesday afternoon, bottled water was being sent to volunteer fire departments in areas affected worst.

Roads take big hit in storm

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Just days after Department of Transportation workers were able to reopen some of the roads flooded by historic rainfall, many of the same roads—along with dozens of others—were closed again by flooding, fallen trees and downed power lines from Hurricane Matthew.

As of Tuesday, the North Carolina Department of Transportation reported that Gillis Hill Road, Galatia Church Road, Pittman Grove Church Road, Rockfish Road, Club Pond Road, L. McLaughlin Road, Potter Road, Old Wire Road and Palmer Street all suffered damage or flooding and were closed in some locations. Johnson Mill Road, which was seriously damaged in the 200-year rainfall event September 29, remained closed in two places.

Gillis Hill Road at the Hoke/Cumberland County line joined the list of roads on the waiting list for extensive repairs. The road broke apart in raging floodwaters around the 3200 block, leaving a deep, wide hole in the roadbed. C.C. Steele Road in Hoke County also washed out, leaving the county solid waste department scrambling to find ways to deal with residents' trash disposal without being able to access the landfill and transfer station.

Besides the roads listed as closed by the DOT, the Hoke County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Division also posted a document with additional road issues. As of Tuesday afternoon, the list included 30 roads with issues such as flooding, sinkholes, total washouts of the roadway, and downed trees and

power lines. Many other roads that were temporarily blocked by trees were reopened Monday or Tuesday as crews with chainsaws worked to clear the debris.

Crawford Wright Road developed a sinkhole in both lanes at the Crawford Wright Pond, where the heavy rainfall caused the pond to overflow the dam. Arabia Road, which was impassible Saturday due to the floodwaters, developed multiple sinkholes.

At North Old Wire Road near Dundarrach, officials noted that "half the road is missing."

Other roads weren't damaged, but tangled trees and power lines made crossing them difficult to impossible.

Some roads that were not marked as closed still had obstacles blocking the way. On Club Pond Road, some drivers dared to creep around low-hanging wires from a downed power line that crossed the roadway just above vehicles' rooftops. Drivers on Main Street in Raeford and on Turnpike Road near Upchurch Elementary School both slowed down to sneak past—or under—low-hanging trees that leaned over the roads.

Work crews were out assessing the damage after the storm, but an estimated time for repairs was not immediately available due to the extent of the damage.

To check updates on road closures, visit the DOT's website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/RegionSummary.aspx?co=47> or the local emergency management road closures list available at <http://tinyurl.com/hj8thr6>. The News-Journal will also try to keep road status updated on our Facebook page.



Oakwood Avenue, behind old Johnson Concrete, was destroyed at its lowest point. (Ken MacDonald photo)

One garbage site open, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., washed-out road closes county landfill

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County's solid waste department was left with a lot of trash and nowhere to put it this week after flooding from Hurricane Matthew destroyed the road to the county landfill, leaving officials scrambling to find a temporary solution.

C.C. Steele Road was left with a 10-foot-deep hole in the roadbed, making it impossible for trash trucks to access the transfer station, county solid waste director Don Russell said Monday.

"That was the only one thing out there that could put us out of commission. Anything else would have been just a glitch, but the road's washed completely out," he said. "We can't get in, we can't get out, and that's the only disposal facility. All the trash in Hoke County comes through us."

Russell and his staff were working Tuesday on a temporary fix. Power was back on at the Scurlock convenience site, which was upgraded just a few years ago and is the most modern site available.

"It's the largest site, it's the most centrally located...we've got more capacity there than anywhere in the county," Russell said.

The plan as of Tuesday was to get the Scurlock convenience site up and running and then try to process an entire county's worth of solid waste through it.

"If we can keep it open, keep the cans empty, people in this county will have somewhere to take trash. That's the best we got right now," Russell said.

The county announced it would open the Scurlock site at 6 a.m. Wednesday and keep it open until 10 p.m.

Once trash goes through the compactor at the Scurlock site, the county can transport the trash to the landfill in Fayetteville. But it's a long drive, especially with roads out, so it may take up to three hours for each trip, Russell said. Unfortunately, Robeson County landfill is down right now, and the Moore County landfill won't take trash from Hoke County because they don't have a permit for it, he added.

The department was also working on getting two trucks in service to transport the trash to Fayetteville.

"Two trucks are stuck in the landfill. I've got one in the body shop, I've got one over at the



Emergency Communications Director Jimmy Stewart talks about activity in a meeting of department heads.

Volvo in St. Pauls, but they're out of power and not working now," Russell said. He was trying to get both trucks back in working condition quickly.

"Hopefully, with two trucks, we'll keep that site open," he said.

Tuesday, he was looking into a possibility of driving two trucks from the transfer station through the Community Forest and out to Vass Road.

All but one of the county's solid waste disposal sites lost power, and the one that stayed up was too small to meet the needs of an entire county, Russell said. The site at Five Points did have power Monday, but "that's a small site at the furthest end of the county," he said.

Russell said that workers could heavily staff the Scurlock site as all of the other sites are closed and that his department was willing to keep the site open 24 hours a day if necessary.

They hoped to get the Scurlock site open for customers by Wednesday if at all possible, he said.

The department is already working with engineers to start the process of repairing the washed-out road, but Russell warned that there is still water over the road, which may cause delays and require additional paperwork.

"We may have to deal with permits from the Corps of Engineers," he said.

The Hoke County Board of

Commissioners voted unanimously Monday during an emergency meeting to appropriate \$275,000 to the solid waste department to provide for immediate needs.

The county landfill shutdown also impacted Raeford residents, as the city relies on the county's facility for trash disposal. City Manager Dennis Baxley reported the city is currently transporting its trash to a Fayetteville landfill, which may result in delays in trash pickups for city residents. It will not impact city recycling pickups.

County residents who have private company trash service should contact the service for information on any delays or service interruptions for their trash pickups.

Schools lose power, close for a week

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Some Hoke County schools were left without power after Hurricane Matthew and a few suffered minor damage from the storm, according to school officials.

Hoke County Schools closed for students the week of October 10-14, with the days designated as optional teacher workdays for staff. Staff members who couldn't make it in to work due to damaged homes, flooded driveways or other storm-related problems will have a chance to make up the time so they won't have to use an annual leave day, according to the school system.

The school system released students early Friday, October 7 as the hurricane approached the North Carolina coast.

Students will have to make up the missed days, along with making up some of the time off from the previous rainfall and flooding that closed schools at the end of September. October 28, originally scheduled as an early release day for students and a half-day of professional development for staff, will be a full day for students. Information on makeup days for this week's absences was not yet available.

Updates on school closings can be found online on the Hoke County Schools website, <http://www.hcs.k12.nc.us/>, and The News-Journal will also continue posting updates on closings and delays on its Facebook page.

Storm damage

Some Hoke County schools suffered minor damage from the storm.

At Hoke County High School, strong winds ripped the vinyl siding off of some classrooms on the Gibson side of campus. Upchurch Elementary was without electricity for several days after a tree on Turnpike Road crashed down, taking a long stretch of the power lines with it. East Hoke Middle School was still without power Tuesday, but officials hoped to get the power back on at all county schools by the end of the day.

Workers took down over 500 ceiling tiles at Don Steed Elementary as a precaution as the storm approached. The elementary school, which is eight years old, has had problems with a leaky roof from the very beginning, officials reported. After the 200-year rain event that hit Hoke County September 29, workers had to replace nearly 600 of the ceiling tiles and clear out classrooms that flooded.

However, none of the damage appeared bad enough that it would require significant repairs, according to Hoke County Schools Director of Public Information Jodie Bryant.

"Overall, our schools really held up pretty well in the storm," she said Tuesday.

A few schools did suffer broken fences due to fallen trees, Bryant said.

Many school sports events were canceled or rescheduled due to the devastation in the region.

Numbers you may need

Have a storm-related question?

Call the Emergency Operations Center at 878-1227

Need bottled water?

Call or stop by your local fire department

Need food assistance?

Call the Department of Social Services at 875-8725

Need to report price gouging?

Call the state at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM

Want to donate?

Bottled water and nonperishable food to Department of Social Services at 314 South Magnolia Street, Raeford or donate money to American Red Cross, www.redcross.org.

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get the paper each week in the mail

SPORTS

Bucks fall to 1-6 overall and 0-1 in conference Friday's game at Lumberton cancelled



The Hoke County High School Lady Bucks tennis team was suppose to have the conference tournament this week but, because of the school being closed, we are not sure if they will play a conference tournament. These five seniors will be moving on no matter what: Kamaria Harris (left to right), Alexa Burnett, Monica Maynor, Savannah Wade and Veronica Buckland.



Hoke High quarterback Kevin Thorpe throws out of the end zone last Thursday night as the Bucks fell to Richmond County 35-7.

Tennis seniors ready for future

BY HAL NUNN
SPORTS WRITER

The Hoke County High School Lady Bucks tennis seniors are ready to move on from high school and take the next step in life. Each year, we catch up with them and ask a few questions. This year's questions: 1-How long have you been at Hoke High? 2-How long have you played tennis? 3-What do you plan to do after high school? 4-If you could change one thing about Hoke High and one thing about Hoke County, what would that be? Their answers: Kamaria Harris: 1-I have been at Hoke all four years. 2-I have played tennis two-and-a-half years. 3-I plan to attend FSU and play tennis or go to N.C. Central and take law

classes. 4-At Hoke High, I think we need a better track program and tennis program. I would hire a whole new coaching staff for those and improve the program overall. In Hoke County, I would want to see something for kids to have more freedom to do stuff because there is nothing for us to do outside of going to Fayetteville. Alexa Burnett: 1-I have been at Hoke all four years. 2-I have played tennis for three years. 3-I plan to go to ECU and take Physical Therapy. 4-At Hoke High, I would add a swimming pool and, in Hoke County, I would like to see a movie theatre or bowling alley. Monica Maynor: 1-I have been at Hoke all four years. 2-I have played tennis for three years. 3-I plan to attend college and go into the military, maybe

learning more about biology. 4-I like the way Hoke High is but maybe we could add a rugby team or lacrosse team because those are up-and-coming sports and, in the county, free WiFi for everyone. Savannah Wade: 1-I have been at Hoke for three years. 2-I have played tennis for two years. 3-I plan to go to ECU and get a nursing degree. 4-At Hoke High, I think they need to make the school entirely indoors and build a swimming pool. In the county, we really need a theatre. Veronica Buckland: 1-I have been at Hoke for two years. 2-This is my first year playing tennis. 3-At Hoke High, I would like to see the students be able to leave campus for lunch and, in the county, it would be really nice to have a Chick-fil-A restaurant.

Sports Briefs

Football cancelled this week

Athletic directors from all the Southeastern Conference high schools met yesterday to discuss athletics because of the storm issues. The meeting was not completed by press time but Hoke High Athletics Director Gary Brigman said there will be no football this week. The game at Lumberton has been cancelled. Officials are reporting that Cumberland County, Columbus County, Bladen County and Robeson County are all closed for the entire week and this will put athletics in a difficult situation. Tennis and volleyball will be the two biggest concerns because of regionals and conference tournaments, which may be cancelled. "This hurricane has sort of put us in the same situation as with the snow and ice a couple of years back where we had to cancel conference tournaments in basketball,"

Brigman said. Golf looks to be okay, cross-country may be okay and soccer looks to be good to go. So, volleyball, tennis and football maybe be seriously affected.

Middle school football

Middle school football has started and Sandy Grove is 2-0, East Hoke is 1-0-1 and West Hoke is 0-1-1.

Rockfish Speedway

Rockfish Speedway cancelled last Saturday night's race because of the storm and did not have a race scheduled for this coming Saturday. The next race will be October 22 with a full night of racing in all divisions. It will probably be the last points' race of the season. The next two big weekends will be November 4 and 5, the Big Mod Lite feature called Prelude to the Classic, and then the huge

Winter Classic, where the Micro 600s will run for \$1,000 and cars from all up and down the eastern seaboard will be in Hoke County.

First Baptist Church Golf Tournament

The 5th Annual First Baptist Church Golf Tournament that was scheduled for this coming Saturday has been postponed. It will be rescheduled for later in the month of October or in November. Contact the church for more information at 875-3508.

Hoke County Community Foundation Tournament

The Hoke County Community Foundation Golf Tournament has been rescheduled for this Friday, October 14 at Bayonet at Puppy Creek. There is still room for more golfers and, if you would like to sign up, please call 904-1500.



Offensive Coordinator Tony McCants talks it over with quarterback Kevin Thorpe in the third quarter, when Hoke High cut the lead to 14-7.



The Richmond offense was led by quarterback Leon Zeigler and running back Damontre Bennett who rushed for 149 yards on 20 carries. The Raiders offense racked up 251 yards rushing.

Sports News To Report?

Call Hal Nunn at (910) 875-2121

Worship Together

Spend some quality family time together. Worship at the church of your choice. Our community has a number of churches and a variety of denominations for you and your family.

BAPTIST

Pittman Grove Baptist Church
4921 Pittman Grove Church Rd.
875-5045
CHURCH SERVICES
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Ken Williams

Hillcrest Baptist Church
2699 Hwy 401 Business
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Service 6 p.m.
910-875-6194



PRESBYTERIAN

Antioch Presbyterian Church
ANNUAL GATHERING
October 20, 2016
11:00 a.m.
Barbecue with Hash or Chicken Salad \$8⁰⁰
Includes Beverage & Dessert
Crafts & Baked Goods Booth
6582 Red Springs Rd.
Express Drive Thru Available

Elgin Blue Memorial Basketball Court Dedication

A ceremony honoring Elgin Blue



The Hoke County Board of Commissioners invites everyone to come out to the Hoke County Sports Complex on Red Springs Road on Saturday, October 22 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. We will be celebrating the opening of the new Elgin Blue Memorial Basketball Court. A dedication ceremony honoring Elgin Blue will be held. We will serve hot dogs and all the fixings.

Hoke County Sports Complex
October 22
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

There is no charge and we look forward to seeing everyone there!