

Elections board sends complaints to state

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Two complaints alleging that a Democratic Party organizer signed up Hoke County nursing home residents for absentee ballots that they did not request will go on to the North Carolina Board of Elections for investigation.

The Hoke County Board of Elections voted two to one Thursday afternoon in favor of sending the complaints to the state for further investigation.

In one complaint, an Autumn Care Nursing Home resident who suffers from Alzheimer's disease was signed up to receive an absentee ballot for the General Election on November 8.

Board of Elections records show that an absentee ballot request form for the individual was mailed to the board. The ballot request form contains a box where people requesting an absentee ballot for a primary election, and who are registered as unaffiliated with a political party, can check which ballot they want to receive — either Democratic, Republican, Libertarian or Non-partisan. On the absentee ballot request filed for the Autumn Care resident, the Democratic box was checked, although the ballot was requested for a General Election, not a primary election, and the resident in question is registered as a Republican, not an unaffiliated voter.

The complaint, filed by Hal Nunn, alleged that the local Democratic Party was intentionally seeking to influence the election by filling out ballot requests for nursing home residents that they didn't request.

"I believe someone from the Democrat Party was going around to the nursing homes and saying they were representing the Board of Elections and they were

illegally filling out absentee ballot requests for patients without family permission," Nunn, who works for The News-Journal as a sports writer and advertising representative (but did not represent the paper in this matter—Editor), wrote in an emailed complaint to county Board of Elections Director Caroline Shook.

Nunn called for the board to investigate the matter.

"It's a federal offense to falsely fill out election forms. Someone needs to investigate," he wrote.

The second complaint, filed by local businessman Cliff Overby, reported that, while responding to a client who operates a senior living and care center, he was reportedly told that a woman came in and "identified herself as being with the Hoke County Democratic Party and was there to help residents file and fill out requests for absentee ballots."

The individual in question left a card identifying herself as Wanda Blue, an organizer with the Hoke County Democratic Party. A photocopy of the card was attached in the paperwork filed with the complaint.

Additionally, Overby wrote in the complaint filed September 23 that he was told a group of three individuals from the Cumberland County Democratic Party also visited the nursing home "saying they were there to do some of the same things and had just left from visiting another care facility in Hoke County. The activities director did say the same group of 3 from Cumberland County had been to the Hoke County High School and asked to leave."

After discussion and disagreement at a meeting last week, Board of Elections Chairman Robert Vaughn and board member John Harry, both Republicans, voted to send the matter to the state for investigation. Board member Gloria

Hill, the Democratic member of the board, voted against sending the matter to the state board.

By state law, county elections boards are made up of three appointees chosen by their local political party. Two members are of the same political party as the sitting North Carolina governor, and the third is from the opposing party.

Additionally, Shook said the elections staff would mobilize Multipartisan Assistant Teams (MATS) to visit all of the nursing homes in Hoke County to assist any residents who were incorrectly signed up for absentee ballots.

LEGAL

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NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF HOKE

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 16 JT 36

IN RE: HARLYN STEVICK, a minor juvenile SHELBY YOUNG, Petitioner vs. JONATHAN STEVICK, Respondent

TO: JONATHAN STEVICK: TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action in the District Court of Hoke County. The nature of relief being sought is as follows: Termination of Parental Rights.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than November 14, 2016 and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff shall apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 6th day of October, 2016. Regina Roberts Sutherland Board Certified Family Law Specialist Willcox, McFadyen, Fields & Sutherland 112 E. Edinborough Avenue Raeford, North Carolina 28376 (910) 875-4065 32-34C

NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF HOKE

Pursuant to the requirement of G.S. 105-375 (c) notice is hereby given to the listing owner(s), current owner(s) and lienholder(s) that a Judgment will be docketed against the property described below on November 21, 2016.

Execution will be issued on the Judgment and the property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interest and costs, may be paid before the Judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as provided by law.

Listing Taxpayer(s): Deborah DeBerry Current Owner(s): Deborah DeBerry Lienholder(s): Stockbridge Capital, LLC

Property Description: PIN: 38494-00-01-048 Address: 3938 Gainey Road "LYING AND BEING in Blue Springs Township, Hoke County, North Carolina and being all of Lot Number 31 of the Wildwood Subdivision as shown on that map entitled "Wildwood Subdivision", dated May 10, 1998, drawn by Jimmy F Cain, RLS and recorded in Plat Cabinet 2, Slide 2-27, Map 8 of the Hoke County Public Registry." The Tax Collector, Hoke County, North Carolina 910-875-8751 32-33C

NOTICE OF 2016 GENERAL ELECTION

A General Election will be held in Hoke County, North Carolina on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 to elect the following officers:

- President and Vice-President of the United States
- United States Senator
- US Representative in Congress (District 8)
- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Council of State
- NC State Senate (District 21)
- NC House of Representatives (District 48)
- NC House of Representatives (District 66)
- District Attorney (District 16A)
- County Commissioners (2 Seats)
- Register of Deeds
- NC Supreme Court Associate Justice
- NC Court of Appeals Judges (5)
- NC Superior Court Judges (District 16A)
- NC District Court Judges (District 16A)
- Board of Education (2 Seats)
- Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor

All voters registered with the Hoke County Board of Elections are eligible to vote in the General Election. Residents who are not registered to vote may register by October 14, 2016, at the Board of Elections office at 227 North Main Street in Raeford, NC; or at a one-stop site during the early voting period from October 20th until November 5, 2016.

Absentee Voting (by mail) will begin on Friday, September 9, 2016 and the deadline for applying by mail is 5:00 PM on Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

Absentee One-stop Voting will begin on Thursday, October 20th and will end on Saturday, November 5, 2016. One-stop Voting locations will be at the Board of Elections office at 227 North Main Street in Raeford and at the Rockfish Community Center at 2749 Lindsay Road in Rockfish. The hours will be from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM weekdays; from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM on Saturday, October 22 and Saturday, October 29, 2016; from 2:00 PM until 6:00 PM on Sunday, October 23, 2016; and from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at the Board of Elections office. The hours will be from 1:00 PM until 8:00 PM weekdays, and from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM on Saturdays, October 22, October 29, and November 5, 2016 at Rockfish Community Center.

The polls will be open from 6:30 AM until 7:30 PM at all polling places in Hoke County. Robert E. Vaughn, Chairman Hoke County Board of Elections

LEGAL ADVERTISING

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CREDITOR'S NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION Before The Clerk COUNTY OF HOKE IN THE MATTER OF ERNESTINE BURNS CURRIE 16 E 184

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Ernestine Burns Currie, deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit them to Kathy D. Currie, Co-Executrix, of the estate of the decedent at 7414 Soundview Dr., Gig Harbor, WA 98335 and Sharon C. Barnett, Co-Executrix at 208 E. Stadium Dr., Eden, NC 27288, on or before the 12th day of January, 2017, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Co-Executrix.

This the 12th day of October, 2016. Kathy D. Currie, Co-Executrix Of the estate of Ernestine Burns Currie 7414 Soundview Dr. Gig Harbor, WA 98335 And Sharon C. Barnett, Co-Executrix 208 E. Stadium Dr. Eden, NC 27288 32-35P

NOTICE OF SALE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE OF NORTH CAROLINA SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION HOKE COUNTY 16SP207

IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF A DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY GAIL F. KAHLNBECK AND LINDA K. KAHLNBECK DATED APRIL 24, 2015 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 01111 AT PAGE 0725 IN THE HOKE COUNTY PUBLIC REGISTRY, NORTH CAROLINA

Under and by virtue of the power and authority contained in the above-referenced deed of trust and because of default in the payment of the secured indebtedness and failure to perform the stipulation and agreements therein contained and, pursuant to demand of the owner and holder of the secured debt, the undersigned substitute trustee will expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the usual place of sale at the county courthouse of said county at 11:00AM on October 26, 2016 the following described real estate and any other improvements which may be situated thereon, in Hoke County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land situate in the County of Hoke, State of North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

Being all of Lot 9 in a subdivision known as River Bluff, Phase II, according to a plat of the same duly recorded in Plat Cabinet 2, Slide 2-34, Maps 005 & 006, Hoke County, North Carolina Registry.

And Being more commonly known as: 188 Brooke Run, Lumber Bridge, NC 28357

The record owner(s) of the property, as reflected on the records of the Register of Deeds, is/are Gail F. Kahlenbeck and Linda K. Kahlenbeck.

The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale. Any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. This sale is made subject to all prior liens and encumbrances, and unpaid taxes and assessments including but not limited to any transfer tax associated with the foreclosure. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. This sale will be held open ten days for upset bids as required by law. Following the expiration of the statutory upset period, all remaining amounts are IMMEDIATELY DUE AND OWING. Failure to remit funds in a timely manner will result in a Declaration of Default and any deposit will be frozen pending the outcome of any re-sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, the Substitute Trustee or the attorney of any of the foregoing.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR LEASE-HOLD TENANTS: If you are a tenant residing in the property, be advised that an Order for Possession of the property may be issued in favor of the purchaser. Also, if your lease began or was renewed on or after October 1, 2007, be advised that you may terminate the rental agreement upon written notice to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time notice of termination is provided. You may be liable for rent due under the agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. The date of this Notice is October 5, 2016. Grady I. Ingle or Elizabeth B. Ells Substitute Trustee 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400 Charlotte, NC 28216 (704) 333-8107 <http://shapiroattorneys.com/nc/> 16-084386 32-33C

NOTICE OF SALE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE OF NORTH CAROLINA SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION HOKE COUNTY 16SP229

IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF A DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY GARETT G. SCHNEEG AND ADRIENNE L. SCHNEEG DATED FEBRUARY 3, 2011 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 931 AT PAGE 1001 IN THE HOKE COUNTY PUBLIC REGISTRY, NORTH CAROLINA

Under and by virtue of the power and authority contained in the above-referenced deed of trust and because of default in the payment of the secured indebtedness and failure to perform the stipulation and agreements therein contained and, pursuant to demand of the owner and holder of the secured debt, the undersigned substitute trustee will expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the usual place of sale at the county courthouse of said county at 11:00AM on October 26, 2016 the following described real estate and any other improvements which may be situated thereon, in Hoke County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

Being all of Lot No. 44 in a subdivision known as Heartland, according to a plat of the same duly recorded in Plat Cabinet 3, Slide 3-3, Maps 2 and 3, Hoke County Registry.

And Being more commonly known as: 151 Yellowstone Ct, Raeford, NC 28376

The record owner(s) of the property, as reflected on the records of the Register of Deeds, is/are Garrett G. Schneeg and Adrienne L. Schneeg.

The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale. Any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. This sale is made subject to all prior liens and encumbrances, and unpaid taxes and assessments including but not limited to any transfer tax associated with the foreclosure. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. This sale will be held open ten days for upset bids as required by law. Following the expiration of the statutory upset period, all remaining amounts are IMMEDIATELY DUE AND OWING. Failure to remit funds in a timely manner will result in a Declaration of Default and any deposit will be frozen pending the outcome of any re-sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, the Substitute Trustee or the attorney of any of the foregoing.

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Listing Taxpayer(s): SALLIE BELLE MCLEAN Current Owner(s): Estella McMillan; ALL HEIRS AND ASSIGNS OF ESTELLA MCNEILL; Hinton McNeill; ALL HEIRS AND ASSIGNS OF HINTON MCNEILL; Annie B. McNeill; ALL HEIRS AND ASSIGNS OF ANNIE B. MCNEILL Lienholder(s): NA Property Description: PIN: 19420-00-01-087, 19420-00-01-088 and 19420-00-01-089 Address: S. Old Wire Road & N. Duffie Road "Beginning at a stake 125 feet N 48 W from a corner of McPhaul's one acre tract in the North edge of Red Springs Road and runs S 48 E 125 feet to McPhaul's corner; thence N 40 E 210 feet to a stake; thence S 48 E 210 feet to a stake thence N 40 E 269 feet to a stake; thence N 49-30 E 294 feet to a stake; thence N 44 W 350 feet to a stake; thence S 44 W 775 feet to the beginning. Containing 4.6 acres." The Tax Collector, Hoke County, North Carolina 910-875-8751 32-33C

Listing Taxpayer(s): JAMES MCPHATTER Current Owner(s): ALL HEIRS AND ASSIGNS OF MAGGIE MCNAIR; JAMES MCPHATTER Lienholder(s): NA Property Description: Pin: 69435-14-01-190 Address: Stevens St. "BEGINNING at a stake in the South margin of Robeson Ave about 256 feet East from North Steuait Street, and runs South 107 feet to a stake, thence East 156 feet to a stake in back line of this tract thence with said line North 107 feet to a stake in South margin of Robeson Ave, thence with said margin of said Ave 156 feet to the beginning. This land being lots #73-74-75 in subdivision of lots of Margaret C. Keith and according to map of lots drawn by W. B. Robinson R.S. of Red Springs. This map of lots is recorded in Hoke Co. registry in Book 2 Page 246.

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Property Description: PIN: 29440-00-01-358 Address: 327 Brewer Drive "Lying and being in Antioch Township, Hoke County, North Carolina, and being all of that tract or portion of land being known as Lot Fifty Five (55) as shown on a map recorded in Book of Maps 8 at Page 49, Slide 196, in the Hoke County Public Registry being entitled "Sandy Acres Subdivision" and being approximately .49 acres.

Being a portion of the land described and recorded indeed Book 234, Page 413 and all of that land conveyed in Book 250, Page 702 of the Hoke County Registry.

For additional reference see Deed Book 362 Page 384." The Tax Collector, Hoke County, North Carolina 910-875-8751 32-33C

For additional reference see Hoke County Registry, Deed Book 85 Page 40 and Hoke County Estate Division File 87-E-12." The Tax Collector, Hoke County, North Carolina 910-875-8751 32-33C

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Listing Taxpayer(s): ARETHER MAE CAROLYN BALDWIN Current Owner(s): DERRICK KRAUT Lienholder(s): FORT BRAGG FEDERAL CREDIT UNION; PUPPY CREEK PARK; ICA MILLER

Property Description: PIN: 79463-00-01-096 Address: 6108 Arabia Road "BEGINNING at a stake in the southern right-of-way of State Road No. 1003 that leads from Arabia to Sandy Grove Church, said beginning point being where the Pate line and the Smith line intersects with said State Road No. 1003 and runs thence with the right-of-way of said road S 79-00 E 100 feet to a stake; thence S 11-00 W 217 feet to a stake; thence N 79-00 W 100 feet to a stake; thence N 11-00 E 217 feet to the point of the BEGINNING, and containing 0.5 acres and being a part of Tract No. 6, Map Book 2, Page 305 of the Hoke County Public Registry and part of the lands described in Deed Book 92, Page 278 of the Hoke County Public Registry and being all of Lot No. 1, as shown on a survey prepared by R.H. Gatlin, R.S., on November 14, 1964, entitled "Lots of W.L. Smith." The Tax Collector, Hoke County, North Carolina 910-875-8751 32-33C

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To be on the safe side concerning diabetes, as with any health condition, it's important to know the signs.

Be alert if you experience constant thirst or hunger; the need to urinate often; dry, itchy skin; sudden weight loss; nausea or vomiting; blurry vision; numb or tingling hands or feet; or a lack of energy. To lower your risk of diabetes, control your weight,

exercise, and get a regular checkup.

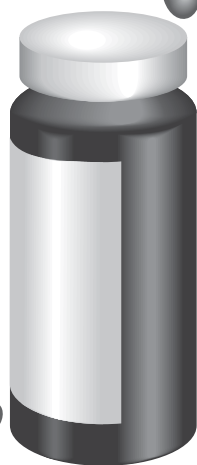
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(910) 875-2121 DEADLINE: 10 A.M., MONDAY FAX (910) 875-7256

PLACING A CLASSIFIED AD
Ads can be placed 24 hours a day on The News-Journal website at www.thenews-journal.com. Also available by phone at 910-875-2121, fax 910-875-7256, or in person at 119 W. Elwood Avenue.

CORRECTIONS
Persons should check their advertisement for accuracy the first time it appears online or in the newspaper so that necessary changes can be made. The newspaper will not be liable for mistakes in an advertisement beyond the first week of publication.

PAYMENT
Easily, securely pay online. Advertisements mailed

or brought to the newspaper office should be paid upon placement.

EDITOR'S NOTE
The News-Journal reserves the right not to publish classified advertisements it considers to be of questionable taste. The publication of an advertisement is not an endorsement of the worthiness of the product or service being offered.

Readers are advised to use caution when responding to classified ads that sell items or offer services outside of Hoke County. The News-Journal is often unable to verify the legitimacy of such ads.

ADVERTISING COSTS

\$5.25 for the first 15 words & 40¢ each additional word. There is no charge for ads for an item that has been "found".

AUCTIONS

MINI STORAGE AUCTION of contents of one unit— Saturday, October 22 at 10 a.m. Bargain Barn Mini Storage, 207 South College Drive

CHILD CARE

Lil' Jumping Jacks 4-Star Home Childcare. Now accepting applications. I offer quality care, meals, fun and learning. Call 910-992-2341.

CARRIE'S YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CENTER (Child Care & School-Age Program) Now enrolling ages infant through 12 years old. Creative & Fun Learning Environment. Accepts Subsidy (State & Military). Contact Us Now. 910-904-5434

FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT 3BR 1BA located in Queenmore area, 475 Alex Baker Road. \$475 per month. Call Yvonne Miller for more information at 336-681-6127.

MOBILE HOMES for rent 2BR & 3BR. Limited Time 1/2 deposit. Call 910-638-0489. www.renthavenhome.com

FOR RENT 3 Bedroom 2 Bath House. Call 910-224-6449.

FOR RENT 2 studio apartments. Age 50 and up. Fully furnished with lights, water and cable. \$500 per month plus \$500 deposit. 910-527-3900 or 910-875-0160

HOUSE FOR RENT 3 BR 1 BA. Call 875-3178.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT 3 Bedroom 1 Bath House. Robbin Heights. Section 8 accepted. Call 910-309-8552.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE 3 Tires Like New P215 60R 16 \$50 each. 4-wheel walker with seat \$60. Aluminum scooter lift for automobile \$500. Scooter \$500. Electric wheelchair \$800. Pickup lift \$75. Call 910-875-1711 or 910-224-4221 and ask for Bill.

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A QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET \$125 New In Plastic ASAP Call 910-639-9555
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Pest Control Technician/Inspector-Full time position for hard working, dependable person. Requires ability and desire to work in, under and around homes and buildings. Benefits include health insurance, vacation, sick leave, uniforms and paid holidays. No criminal history, clean driving record and excellent work history. References required. Experience preferred. Drug test required. Please send resume by fax 910-944-2633 or email aparker@nc.rr.com or in person. 124 N Poplar St, Aberdeen, NC, Aberdeen Exterminating. No phone calls.

CNAs: Home Care Agency seeking professional staff to provide quality home care service. Certification required. For an interview, call 910-904-2377. Online applications at divinehomecare.net. EOE

SERVICES

WILLIAM'S LAWN MOWER REPAIR We do Briggs & Stratton & Tecumseh. Call for appointment at 910-875-2694 or stop by at 2692 Calloway Road, Raeford. Thanks for your business.

HOMETOWN CARPET CARE Liv. Rm & Hall, \$26.50, Add. rms., \$20 Sofa & Chair w/ scotch guard - \$50 2-rm. min. 875-6466.

TREE AND STUMP REMOVAL; BUSH HOG, BACKHOE MOTOR GRADER, PREPARE DRIVEWAYS. CALL 875-4759 OR 875-9077

NELL'S

ALTERATION SHOP 542 Cole Ave. Raeford. Call 875-4998

YARD SALES

YARD SALE Friday, October 14 & Saturday, October 15, 8 a.m.-until. Community United Methodist Church at Five Points in the Fellowship Hall. Lots of good stuff.



Join us

When you provide a hot meal to a disaster victim, or give blood to someone you will never meet, train in first aid, or help a member of our military, you join the American Red Cross.

Your support makes the difference. Because of you, the Red Cross can respond to nearly 200 neighborhood emergencies every day.

Click, text or call to join today!



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Text REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation to the Red Cross. Charges will appear on your wireless bill, or be deducted from your prepaid balance. Msg & Data rates may apply. Reply STOP to 90999 to STOP. Reply HELP to 90999 for HELP. Full terms and privacy policy: redcross.org/m

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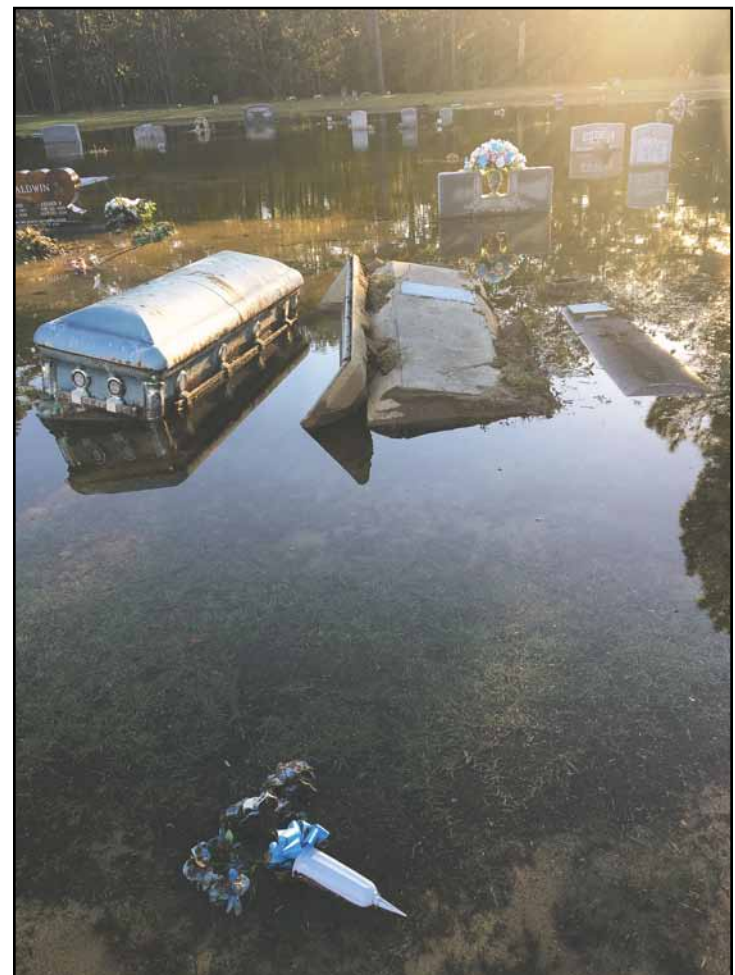
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An EMS worker attends to an accident victim at Shannon and Balfour roads Monday. Driving was perilous with downed trees and lots of water. One car (background) ended up in water after the impact. There appeared to be no life-threatening injuries. (Ken MacDonald photo)



Caskets emerge from floodwaters at Purdie Road Church Cemetery. (Freddy Johnson photo)



Charlotte Samuelson enjoys her flooded backyard with some yoga antics on a paddleboard. (Facebook photo)



The first family to arrive at the shelter at West Hoke Middle School was this mother and two children - and the family dog - from Shannon. She arrived at 8 a.m., saying that because her youngest, in her arms, has a heart defect, she absolutely had to be able to leave her home in case of emergency and couldn't take a chance water would cut her off. (Ken MacDonald photo)



A National Guard truck working for the sheriff's Emergency Management Department got stuck on Duffie Road and even a wrecker couldn't free it. The crew spent a long night cold, but dry, in the back. It was freed finally on Sunday by a Forest Service bulldozer. (Freddy Johnson photo)



The sheriff's department and school personnel load cases of water on trucks for distribution to volunteer fire departments.

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Suzanne Balfour (right) helps patient Flora Hord (left) get fitted for a new pair of glasses Monday morning.

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Hoke Sheriff's Emergency Management Director Freddy Johnson (left) and Hoke Solid Waste Director Don Russell plot a workaround to get garbage collection going again. The county's transfer station is on the other side of this break in the road. And so are two sorely needed garbage trucks. (Ken MacDonald photo)

Matthew

(Continued from page 1)

Local emergency response officials were on the job around the clock during and after the storm, and gathered with county department heads Monday morning to plan for what comes next: a long process of damage assessment and repair, Johnson said.

"What we do for our citizens now is going to define us, period," he said.

Hoke County Commission Chairman James Leach signed a local declaration Friday, October 7 before the storm hit, and North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory also signed a declaration for the hurricane. Based on early damage estimates, Hoke County will meet the \$13 million damage threshold required for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Johnson said.

"We've been declared (a disaster area), so FEMA should set up shop here in the next day or so. There's some other areas they prioritized above us," he said.

Those areas include parts of Cumberland and Robeson counties, which suffered from severe flooding that prompted evacuations, hundreds of water rescues and extensive power outages.

President Barack Obama signed a declaration Monday that not only covered the damages North Carolina sustained in Hurricane Matthew but also the flooding from the previous week, ensuring that Hoke County will be able to seek assistance from

FEMA.

"(FEMA) announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the state of North Carolina to supplement state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the area affected by Hurricane Matthew beginning October 4, 2016, and continuing," the agency said in a statement around 7 p.m. Monday.

Flooding

Many of the same areas that suffered flooding in September were once again underwater in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, and many areas that didn't see floodwaters the first time around were also washed out. Residential areas in Raeford and throughout the county flooded, with the water coming into homes in some areas.

The Overlake dam near McLauchlin Lake and the dam on Pittman Grove Church Road at Warner Pond both failed, according to Johnson. The dam on Crawford Wright Pond overtopped, but was still "solid," Johnson said. The spillway at McLauchlin Lake held up but is "pretty much swamped," he added.

"Most of our ponds, dams were all overflowing with capacity water, that significantly added to our flooding—especially the low-lying ones," Johnson said.

Some Hoke residents had a scare Monday night when the National Weather Service included the county in a series of emergency flood warn-

ings due to the Woodlake dam on Surf Lake in Moore County nearing a potential breaking point. Although people were evacuated in Spring Lake, Hoke County was never at risk, Johnson said.

"That has no impact on Hoke County, it all goes the other way. You don't know how many phone calls we got on that," he said.

Local damage

The hurricane's high winds and heavy rains caused damage to some county buildings, leading to multiple closings.

All court proceedings were canceled Monday and Tuesday after the Hoke County Courthouse developed a "significant" leak in the main courtroom that caused water damage and left puddles of water in the chairs, as well as causing issues in other parts of the building. Residents with later court dates were encouraged to call and check the status of court proceedings.

The Hoke County Public Library remained closed after the storm because the building still didn't have power by Tuesday. Library employees were tapped to help answer phones at the EOC while the library remained closed.

Hoke County Schools didn't suffer serious damage from the storm, but many schools lost power. Due to the ongoing conditions in the county, the school system announced Tuesday that classes would be cancelled for the rest of the week for students

and staff could choose to use the days as an optional workday.

The Hoke Area Transit Service (HATS), which operates a fleet of buses and vans for public transportation, was not running its full routes Tuesday due to the many road closures, according to the county manager. However, the service was still offering transportation by appointment.

Shelter

As of 9 a.m. Tuesday, there were still 20 people staying at the Red Cross shelter set up at West Hoke Middle School. The shelter opened Friday ahead of Hurricane Matthew and hosted as many as 50 people at one point. The shelter emptied out Sunday night, only for two residents to return at 4 a.m. that day, Johnson reported.

"It's going to be open until those people are able to take care of themselves, so I think it's going to be for the remainder of the week," he said.

Having FEMA in town to help with the response should provide additional assistance, he added.

"All of the area hotels are full," he said.

Gas, food shortages

After Hurricane Matthew moved on, thousands of residents from harder-hit counties started pouring into Hoke to stock up on supplies that were unavailable in their hometowns.

With gas stations in surrounding areas left with no power to run their

pumps or cash registers, and others either out of gas or damaged by floodwaters, people from throughout the Sandhills region converged on Hoke County to top off their tanks and keep their generators running.

By Sunday morning, gas stations in Raeford reopened to lines of cars waiting at the pumps. At one gas station at the intersection of Palmer Street and 401 Business, a family loaded cans of gas into the back of their pickup truck while a Raeford police officer tried to direct traffic through the crowded area. Long lines continued Monday with as many as ten cars at a time waiting in line to get gas at the Speedway on N.C. 211 across from West Hoke Middle School. That station, like others in the area, ran out of gas Monday night.

Additionally, many people without power turned to fast food restaurants for a quick meal and grocery stores for deli meat, bread and milk. Many of the restaurants on Highway 401 Business were able to quickly reopen after the storm passed and serve the crowds, although at times the lines stretched around the buildings. By Monday night, the shelves at the Food Lion on Cole Avenue were bare of bottled water, bread, charcoal and milk.

The shortages are only temporary as there isn't a supply problem, and Hoke is not cut off from deliveries, according to officials. Deliveries of gas and food were reported as on the way to resupply local stores and gas stations.

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