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The Loris Scene

Mayor: Loris was ready for Hurricane Dorian

BY SCOTT HARPER
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After the damage caused by tropical systems in Loris in recent years, Loris residents and city officials made sure things were ready for the arrival of Hurricane Dorian last week.

Fortunately, the city was spared any major damage as the hurricane passed to the east of Loris and stayed just off the coast until it made a landfall in the Outerbanks of North Carolina.

According to the National Weather Service, Loris and nearby areas picked up 5-6 inches of rain from the hurricane.

"We had no serious flooding problems whatsoever," Mayor Todd Harrelson said Friday, the day after Dorian skirted the city.

The winds did cause some scattered roof damage and there were some downed trees, he said.

"We worked very very hard on our ditches and our culverts and pipes," Harrelson



Getting prepared

Loris Fire Department Volunteers did a joint training session before Dorian with Loris Police Department. This time on LPD's alternative rescue (High-water / 4x4) trucks in preparation of Hurricane Dorian and other potential disasters. Both teams if needed would have worked together to rescue area citizens.

said. "The guys worked into the night many nights in advance. And, right on up until dark the night of the storm."

Flood prevention is something the city has been focused on for many months. A hydrology study was conducted to help determine

what areas need the most attention. One of those areas is Forest Drive.

The job of replacing 18-inch pipe with 24-inch pipe

in that area began in late August. The job is being done by Chris Holmes Construction Company. That will help move water

faster than in the past. When there is very heavy rain, some areas may still flood but the water is expected to move out of the area much faster once the rain subsides.

Precautions taken

As the storm approached, Loris City offices closed at noon Wednesday, Sept. 4. However, the city's Emergency Operations Center was fully staffed.

A curfew was put into place for 12 hours beginning at 7 p.m. Sept. 5.

Residents were warned of the curfew by a loud siren from the public safety building that lasted about one minute.

The Loris City Council meeting that was supposed to take place Sept. 3 was rescheduled to Sept. 10.

"I think the workers did a fantastic job. All the department heads met daily for the briefings and the rest of the staff, including the police and fire chiefs, were on the job all night," Harrelson said. "Everybody worked together."

COURTESY



Ricky Dew signs for council seat.

Candidates file for mayor, four council seats

BY SCOTT HARPER
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The stage is now set for the November elections in the City of Loris.

The deadline for filing was supposed to have been Sept. 6 but because Loris City Hall was closed due to Hurricane Dorian, the cutoff was at noon Sept. 4.

When that time passed, only two people had filed to run for the mayor's seat -- incumbent Todd Harrelson and Loris City

Council member Michael Suggs.

It will be a rematch of the special election held in June to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Henry Nichols who died in February.

A runoff was required in that race after Harrelson won the original election by only one vote. In the runoff two weeks later, Harrelson received 270 votes while Suggs garnered 237.

Council seats

There are three council seats expiring this year.

They belong to Joan Gause, Lewis Hardee and Jan Vescovi. All three of the incumbents filed to seek another term for the seats.

The only newcomer who filed to run against the incumbents is Veda Nichols, the widow of Mayor Henry Nichols.

Unexpired council seat

An election will also be held to fill the unexpired term of

the council seat vacated by Harrelson when he was elected mayor.

That seat will expire in 2021. Two people filed to run for that position.

Carroll D. Padgett Jr., a retired probate judge who has also served as Loris city attorney will face local businessman Richard (Ricky) Dew. He is the owner of Dew's Sugar Shack and The Back Porch food truck.

The election takes place Nov. 5.

Local animal shelters were prepared for Dorian

BY VIRAJ NAIK
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Some cats and pups from the Horry County Animal Care Center began a trip Wednesday afternoon ahead of Hurricane Dorian's expected arrival.

More than 30 animals -- mostly cats -- were moved from the facility on Industrial Park Road and are en route to Port Washington, New York.

North Shore Animal League America made a stop at the Conway area shelter to pick up the animals so the shelter would have more room for evacuees' pets. Local storm shelters do not allow pets inside.

"We go ahead and transfer out all the animals we possibly can," said Horry County Animal Care Center Director Kelly Bonome.

The center's staff had been working hard to prepare for the storm.

While the center has a solid

disaster plan in place, Bonome said unfortunately the shelter has had to implement the initiative multiple times during the past few years.

"Most of the team has been through it at least once," she said, "so they know the game plan."

In the past, the center has taken in farm animals and even exotic pets because of widespread flooding.

"We know where those danger areas are," Bonome said, "and communicate with people we've offered assisted to in the past to see what their plans are."

All of the animals that are taken to other facilities are adoptable and transferrable. About 120 animals will remain at the center, including those belonging to people staying at local shelters.

About 15 animals from evacuees had been taken in as of Wednesday.

The center will care for



VIRAJ NAIK / THE LORIS SCENE

The Horry County Animal Care Center placed animals in portable kennels this past Wednesday before Dorian. The animals were taken to a North Shore Animal League America bus that transported them to Port Washington, New York.

those animals and post on Facebook to let owners know their pets are OK. Once it is safe, the pets can return home.

The HCACC has a limited number of team members who will be staying at the shelter this week to care for the shelter's guests.

"And then afterwards, depending on how much damage there is, we'll be ready to handle animals that get picked up from rescue operations," Bonome said.

Several animals were taken to All4Paws Animal Rescue in Pawleys Island to be transported to out-of-town locations or even out of state.

During hurricanes, the network the animal care center has with other shelters is vast, Bonome said, and the HCACC has also been in touch with the other shelters in the region.

"We're all getting our populations down," Bonome said. "Those [other] shelters are

pretty close to the shore or in low-lying areas, so we continually talk back and forth because if it turns out that the worst happens, we may have to help them as well."

The center also has a working partnership with the Humane Society of the United States, which can provide transport services, if needed.

Bonome encourages those who feel unsafe where they are -- including those in Zone A (areas east of U.S. 17 Business) who were ordered to evacuate by the governor -- to reach out for help by calling the county's hotline at 843-915-5150. By doing so, they can speak with someone about housing, including sheltering for pets.

"If you don't feel you're safe in your home, go get help," Bonome said, "and we have help for your pets."

ANIMALS, A2

OUTSIDE



Weather

High 87, sunny
 WEDNESDAY NIGHT
 Low 69, mostly clear
 THURSDAY
 High 87, sunny
 FRIDAY
 High 87, mostly sunny
 SATURDAY
 High 85, partly sunny

HAPPENINGS

The Loris Area Lions Club meets the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month from 7-8 p.m. at Dale's Seafood, 100 South US Highway 701 Bypass, Tabor City, N.C. For additional information on our meetings and or the Lions Club's organization, call Lion Jim Murph at 756-7900.

The Loris Civitan Club, an all volunteer service organization organized in 1938 where men and women

have an organized way of approaching community problems through service and fund raising activities, meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month (except December) at Backyard BBQ, 5107 Main St., Loris. For additional information call Charles Webster at 756-4300.

The Master's Table has its monthly food giveaway every fourth Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.

until noon. Must present proper ID and is an equal opportunity provider. Thanks to all who help with our pass out. The store is open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Loris First United Methodist Church, 3507 Broad St., has a Blessing Box available each Friday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. This box contains nonperishable food items and individuals in need are encouraged to come to the box. It will be located inside the church.

Dogwood Hill Baptist Church Food Pantry, 1040 Mt. Zion Rd., Loris, has a food pantry the third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Salem Baptist Church, 4008 Salem Road in Aynor, has a Food Bank on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 9 a.m.-noon. The mission: "We serve Christ when we serve people."

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