

# The News-Journal

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## Hoke College Decision Waits On Course Survey

By Sherry Matthews

Sandhills College officials had not reached a decision Tuesday on the feasibility of a satellite branch of the school in Hoke County, but a spokesman said efforts were being made to hasten the matter.

"We are getting ready to poll students at Hoke High School and try to hit a number of the larger employers in the Raeford area," Sandhills Assistant to the President George Lewis said.

Included in the survey will be Hoke High juniors and seniors, Burlington plant employees and Faberge plant employees as well as staff members from within the Hoke school system.

"I don't know if we will poll the House of Raeford turkey plant," Lewis said.

"We may do a survey there...I am just not sure at this point."

According to Lewis the surveys, which are expected to begin next week, will help Sandhills officials gauge how "strong a demand" there is for a college satellite and what type of courses such a college extension would provide.

"I think the surveys will provide us with a lot of needed information," Lewis said.

In addition to the surveys carried out at the high school, students will also be given a sample survey to take home.

"Those surveys will go to the

parents for their comments," Lewis said.

Lewis "anticipates" that all the forms should be filled out and processed within "the next two weeks."

"Once we examine the surveys, we will know what we have to do," Lewis said.

"We are going to wait and get a clearer picture of the feasibility of a satellite before we check out the building and its needs," he added.

Raeford's Main Street Branch of United Carolina Bank (UCB), which is slated to shut its doors in March, has been offered as a possible site for the proposed college extension.

"We have not looked at any other sites," Lewis said.

"It is pretty clear that the Chamber of Commerce and other residents prefer the UCB building," he added.

Hoke Chamber of Commerce Director Earl Fowler agrees with Lewis' comments.

"We would like to see the satellite put in the UCB building," Fowler said.

"I think it would help downtown revitalization efforts," he added.

Lewis agrees.

"I think it could help pick downtown up," Lewis said.

"If you have 250 students coming through, for example,.... that

would be a lot of traffic in the downtown area," he added.

"I don't think a satellite on Main Street will work miracles but it can help," Lewis said.

"There are definite advantages to having a satellite college and placing it on Main Street," Chamber of Commerce President Steve Parker said.

"I think it is a means of upgrading education. We can move semi-skilled workers up to skilled workers and give unskilled workers a chance to advance as well," Parker said.

"In my opinion, it is a prerequisite to attracting industry to our community," he added.

"We need this satellite. It can do this county a lot of good," Parker said.

Parker, Fowler and Lewis are all hoping that the survey results will reflect a "positive" attitude toward the college satellite.

"We need to know that we can expect 15 to 18 students enrolled in each class that is offered," Lewis said.

"Any less would be a money losing situation...that would not benefit anyone," he added.

Although no decisions will be reached until "after the surveys have been studied," Lewis does not anticipate any problems.

"I think things are moving along very well," Lewis said.



**Some days nothing goes right**

The Beagle puppy seems to be finding a leisurely afternoon walk along a Rockfish Creek tributary a difficult task. While trying to cross the water on this log, the pup lost his footing and went swimming.

However, the mishap occurred before the weather returned to winter and pup dried easily in last week's warm 60° temperatures.

## Food Stamp Early Reporting Cranks Up Again March 1

By Sherry Matthews

The three-month state reprieve from the early food stamp monthly reporting program will be lifted March 1, and the Hoke County Department of Social Services (DSS) must again process the revised client forms.

Hoke and the other 99 counties were given the stay while changes and improvements in the program were made, Hoke DSS Food Stamp Supervisor Delores McLeod said.

"There have been changes in the requirements. I am not sure those changes will help ease our staff's workload," McLeod added.

When Hoke became a test county for the monthly reporting program, hundreds of clients got "lost in the shuffle and left waiting for services" and DSS workers got "bogged down with too much paperwork."

According to McLeod, the newly revised monthly reporting retrospective budgeting program,

requires "less paperwork" yet places "more burden on the social worker."

"Before clients were given a five-page form to fill out, now they only have two pages to fill out," McLeod said.

The "lack of information" accumulated by the newly revised forms only adds to the eligibility workers' load, according to McLeod.

With the new forms, social workers must now "get in touch"

with the identified household to verify information.

"I have no idea how long each verification will take," McLeod said.

"March will be a test month for everyone...we will be able to get some feel for the time each form will take," she added.

In addition to the reduced form pages, McLeod said other changes in the monthly reporting program will take place.

Of the 1,414 households that are

presently certified for food stamps, only those households with six or more members will be targeted by the monthly report forms.

"Before, the forms were sent to all the households who had any earned income," she added.

The new plan requires only six-member or more households with or without earned income to fill out the food stamp forms.

"The total number of households has been greatly reduced.

ed. That will ease some of the problems we had before," McLeod said.

"In the past we were dealing with 595 to 625 client households. With the new regulations we anticipate working with 195-200 households," McLeod said.

Another improvement to the monthly reporting program is the addition of the Hoke DSS to the state computer system.

"We will feed the computer (See EARLY, page 12)

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

Winter has returned to Hoke County after a week or so of Springtime.

In this Column last week we stated that it was hard to get dates and facts about the Raeford Kiwanis Club because all the Charter members were deceased. Lo and behold, this was not the case.

After the paper hit the newsstands on Wednesday, it was brought forth that Dr. K.B. Geddie, a charter member was still alive.

J.B. (Jaybird) McLeod called me Wednesday night and said that he had visited his sister, Mrs. Bill Davis, nee Catherine McLeod in High Point a couple of weeks ago and that she was talking to him about seeing Dr. Geddie recently. He is still practicing medicine at the High Point Medical Center.

Jaybird called his sister and got me the address of Dr. Geddie. I have both his home and his office address.

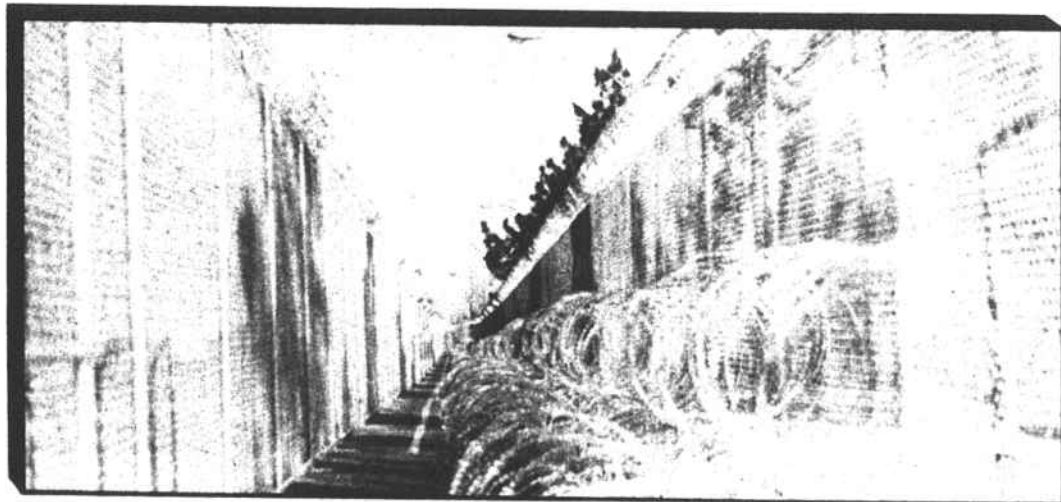
Dr. Geddie left Hoke County in the 1920s and he was replaced by the late Dr. R.A. Matheson.

John Howard, who gave the history of the Club at their banquet last Thursday night, announced that Dr. Geddie was still alive. He stated that the club would have liked to have had him present for the 60th Anniversary.

Details of the event are elsewhere in the paper.

We want to thank J.B. McLeod for bringing this Correction to our attention.

(See AROUND, page 13)



**Not an easy escape**

For those hospital inmates that might plan an escape, fence that surrounds the old McCain TB facility.

## McCain Seeking Community Support

By Sherry Matthews

Although over 75 years of tuberculosis (TB) care is now a faded memory and double-wired fences surround the once public entrance to Hoke County's McCain Hospital, state officials and hospital personnel feel the revamping as a prison unit was "a move in the right direction," and are trying to rekindle community support for the facility.

"I hated to see the TB hospital go, but I believe we have bettered ourselves with this move," State Representative Daniel DeVane said.

"I think this has been a shot in the arm for the area," he added.

In October, the TB hospital closed its doors for the last time after state legislators voted to shut down the facility.

Just last week, the facility reopened to give the public a view of the new 300-bed prison hospital.

"Everything is going smoothly," McCain Superintendent Nancy Lowe told the nearly 300 guests assembled Wednesday afternoon for tours of the facility.

"I couldn't be happier with the transition," she added.

Since the state prison system took over in October, 110 inmates, and 225 staff members have been moved into buildings that were erected in the early 1920's.

When the hospital reaches its maximum capacity, 300 inmates and 215 employees will be housed within the walls, according to Lowe.

"We are going to eliminate some positions as our employees retire," Lowe said.

"We plan to maintain a staff of about 215," she added.

Although a lot of changes have already taken place, including a barbed-wire fence complete with a 24-hour posted guard, Lowe said there were "still some major renovations to be finished."

"We should have our total population here by June or July. I think our renovations will be completed by then," Lowe said.

"It is going to take a while, but we are getting there," she added.

The new McCain prison hospital will serve minimum custody patients from all the state's 89 prison units.

In addition, some medium custody paraplegics and quadriplegics will be housed within the hospital walls.

(See MCCAIN, page 13)

## Precinct Meetings On Tap Thursday

Hoke County Democrats will meet Thursday March 1 at 13 precinct polling places to elect delegates to the county party convention.

The county-wide convention is scheduled to be held March 14 in the Hoke Court House.

During the precinct meeting, members will also discuss and pass resolutions on issues that concern them and could strengthen the state Party's Party to People program.

"These precinct meetings represent grass-roots democracy in action," Hoke County Democratic Party Chairman Harold Gillis said.

Gillis also stressed that the democratic party "is seeking" broad participation in its meetings at both the precinct and county level.

"It is our goal to hold meetings in every precinct in the county and to continue to build on this strength at the county convention," Gillis said.

"We urge all democrats to attend these meetings and to show their interest in good government," he added.

The meetings will be held at these locations: Allendale, Community House; Antioch, Community House; Blue Springs, South Hoke School; Buckan, Pinehill Fire Station; McCain, Shiloh Presbyterian Church; Puppy Creek, Wayside Community House; Raeford 1, Courthouse; Raeford 2, Old County Office Building; Raeford 3, Hillcrest Fire Department; Raeford 4 Hoke Civic Center; Raeford 5, Upchurch School; Rockfish, Community House; Stonewall, Community House.



Marion Gatlin

## Marion Gatlin Man Of Year

Former City Councilman Marion H. Gatlin was named the winner of the "Citizenship Award" by the Raeford Kiwanis Club last Thursday night during 60th Anniversary festivities.

Gatlin was cited for working more than 40 years to try to improve the quality of life in the Hoke County community.

During the period he was a teacher in the Hoke County school system for 18 years and served on the Raeford City Council for 10 years.

He was Mayor pro tem under two mayors while serving on the city board.

During the fiscal year 1956-1957 he also held the position of President of the Hoke County Chamber of Commerce and was president of the Kiwanis Club in 1952.

The "Citizenship Award" is made each year to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the community.

(See GATLIN, page 12)