

...Turkey festival underway

(Continued from page 1A)

As a result of the publicity, promoters are anticipating as many as 30,000 visitors may attend the events in Raeford.

A turkey committee meeting is planned for August 15 at 7 p.m. at the Hoke County Library.

Everyone interested in helping and wanting to take part in the Turkey Festival are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Here is what is planned thus far for the festival:

Wednesday--Opening ceremonies with Secretary of Agriculture Jim Graham and local dignitaries at 10 a.m. The cooking seminar with Chef Louis Osteen at 11 a.m. Finals of the statewide Turkey Cooking Contests. The master of ceremonies for the event

will be Dick Jones of WITN, Washington, N.C. Entertainment will be provided by Les Sandy and his band, as well as musical groups from Ft. Bragg. The Turkey Parade begins at 6 p.m. (Turkey Olympic contestants will ride in the parade.) A Turkey Carnival sponsored by the Raeford Jaycees will be held throughout the week of the festival.

Thursday--Turkey Golf Tourney, tentatively scheduled for Arabia Golf Club, Turkey Tennis Tournament at Deer Track Racquet Club and a bridge tournament. Thursday night a Turkey Stuffin, Stomping, Shootin (food, square dancing and turkey shoot) will be held. The event is being sponsored by the Raeford Woman's Club and details are still being worked out.

Friday--Golf, tennis and

bridge continue. The Embers in Concert from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Turkey Park Ball held in Armory Park Raeford. Tickets are \$6.

Saturday--Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by the Raeford Kiwanis Club and a turkey walk sponsored by the American Heart Association will be held in the morning. Artists and craftsmen will begin displaying their handiwork and competing for \$1,000 in prize money at 10 a.m. Entertainment will begin at 10 a.m. with such bands as: Revue II, the Apple Chill Cloggers, Ray Carrington's Jazz Group, the Frances Purcell Voices of Consolation, Carbon Badger and others. Nantucket from 2 to 3 p.m., sponsored by Carolina Turkeys and Tarheel Hatchery. A Turkey antique and race car show

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Turkey Olympics will begin next to the Depot beginning at 3:30 p.m. The Olympics will include events like the best costumed turkey, the fastest turkey, a turkey slalom race, a high jump for turkeys, an eating race and the Gobbler's Grand Gallop. At 6:30 p.m. a Turkey Horse Show will be held at Star Farms on U.S. Highway 401 north of Raeford.

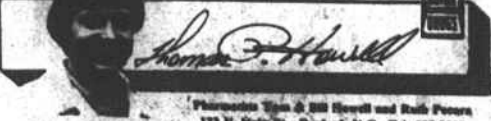
The turkey festival committee is looking for persons who are willing to house visitors to Raeford.

Those with space for visiting dignitaries or for rent are encouraged to contact the Chamber of Commerce to register.

For additional information and a list of contact persons for events, call the Chamber office at 875-5929.

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Abused children need reassuring listeners

By David Roberson
Duke Univ. Medical Center

According to a Duke University Medical Center social worker, talking with children who are suspected victims of sexual abuse not only helps determine if abuse has actually occurred, but is also the beginning of an important therapeutic process for the child.

"The (sexually abused) child is a victim in two processes -- the abuse and 'the system,'" said Nancy Berson, coordinator of Duke's child protection team. Her lecture on interviewing sexually abused children was part of a series sponsored by the schools of medicine at Duke and the University of North Carolina.

For the therapeutic process to begin, Berson said, the abused child needs to feel comfortable about discussing what has occurred.

"Too often, parents pressure children to talk when they aren't ready," Berson said. "If you don't get answers, I don't think you should pressure children. You should let them know it's okay if they're not ready to talk."

Sexually abused children may not feel comfortable discussing their situation with parents, Berson said. In such cases she encourages parents to involve professional counselors from medical or mental health institutions or social service agencies. She added that sexually abused children who are able to discuss the abuse with their parents should still be taken to a doctor for a physical exam.

One reason sexually abused children may feel reluctant to talk with parents is that children most often know their abusers. In 96 percent of sexual abuse cases seen at Duke, the children knew the perpetrators, Berson said. Fathers, stepfathers or mothers' boyfriends were responsible for the abuse in 43 percent of cases.

"The sexual abuser is not the stranger who offers the child candy -- it's Uncle Joe or Daddy," she said. Abuse by women does occur, but it is much less frequent.

Sexual abuse of children usually occurs over a long period and can begin in infancy, Berson said, adding that victims as young as eight months old have been seen at Duke

in the past year. The abuse usually intensifies as the child grows older.

The average age of sexual abuse victims seen at Duke is 5.7 years for girls and 7.6 years for boys, Berson said. Girls were victims in 83% of the cases.

"There's a lack of data about boys," Berson said. "It's difficult for boys in our society to admit they've been molested."

Berson noted that at Duke there was physical evidence of sexual abuse in only 45 percent of cases.

"That's the most important statistic to us," she said. "In the majority of cases there is no physical evidence whatsoever."

Signals that may indicate a child has been sexually abused include nightmares, bedwetting, new fears of men or all adults, sexual knowledge inappropriate for the child's age, withdrawal or complaints of stomach aches or a sore bottom, although other reasons may account for these problems.

Health care providers and social workers rely on a variety of techniques to build rapport with children and make them feel comfortable discussing sexual abuse. Art therapy, writing on a chalkboard or paper and use of dolls or puppets are all useful techniques, Berson said.

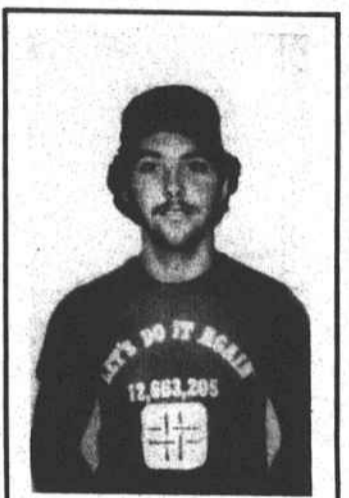
The use of dolls in working with sexual abuse victims has attracted wide attention, Berson said, but she recommends the technique only for those with proper training -- not parents. Often more than one interview is necessary to assess the situation.

For both parents and counselors of sexually abused children, Berson said, it's important not to ask "why" questions or to phrase any question in a way that implies the child has done something wrong.

When an abused child feels comfortable talking about the situa-

tion, she said, the guiding principle for parents and counselors should be to believe and offer support to the child. According to one study, no more than two or three children per thousand have been found to invent or aggravate claims of sexual abuse or molestation.

"Give assurance," Berson said. "These children need to be told it was not their fault."



Safety winner

Bruce Butler is the Safety Suggestion Winner for the month of August. Bruce will receive for his suggestion a \$25.00 gift certificate from the Burlington Employee Store, reserved parking for a month, and a certificate of appreciation. His suggestion was to place a light over the steps behind the Shop's back door. There is not adequate lighting in this area and could cause a tripping hazard.

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The Raeford Jaycees, on behalf of the Girl Scouts, wish to thank the following for donations for the auction held Aug. 3.

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