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THE WEST CRAVEN

HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 2 No. 34

Vanceboro, N.C. - Thursday, August 30, 1979

12 Pages

Price: 20

Citizens discuss Medical Center at annual meeting

By Connie Bryan

"This is your medical center!" was the theme of Tuesday night's community meeting at the Vanceboro Medical Center. Joe Thomas, Chairman of the Board of Directors, presided over the meeting, which was designed to answer questions and listen to comments from local residents. Thomas stated at the outset that the board plans to have more community involvement.

In his progress report, Family Nurse Practitioner George Roberts remarked that the Medical Center is seeing about 18 patients per day. He also reported that he plans to institute a program of patient education concerning what the clinic has to offer in addition to particular health problems.

In response to comments

by several concerned citizens present, Chairman Thomas and other board members addressed the issue of getting a doctor for Vanceboro. Thomas stated that he had been in contact

with the New Bern back up doctors and at this time with the present patient load a doctor would not be justified. When asked to explain why several other area towns had doctors,

24-Hr. Medical service available

Medical care is available for area residents on a 24-hour basis 7 days a week through the Vanceboro Medical Center. If you need medical assistance during the clinic's office hours on Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 244-1785.

In an emergency situation such as heart attack or severe injury after office hours, night, weekends, or holidays, first call the rescue squad by dialing "0" (Operator) then asking

for Zenith 146. Tell the dispatcher your name, location and type of emergency. Then dial 633-2788. Tell the doctor you are a Vanceboro Medical Center Patient and ask him to meet you at the Craven County Hospital Emergency Room.

For urgent problems, which are not life-threatening but will not wait until the next office hours, call the 633-2788 number for a consultation with the doctor.



George Roberts, FNP

Thomas replied that these doctors were paid by the federal government and hired by them.

According to board members, there are some programs in the area which are federally funded. Commenting on these projects, it was pointed out that although Maysville has two doctors, they see only 14 patients per day and that the Auroa doctors do not make hospital visits.

Thomas commented that the board felt that the best approach would be to work

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School Board meets

New school is coming

Hiram Mayo, Superintendent of the County School system, informed school board members at their meeting last Thursday that the funds for a new elementary school in Vanceboro had been officially approved by the County Commissioners. He reported that the Commissioners had agreed to fund the school for the next three years in the amount of \$670,000. Half of this money (or \$335,000) will come from county funds with the school system matching this figure. The agreement, which was made at the July 31 meeting of the Commissioners, came when Commissioner, Grover Lancaster made a motion that the county make a definite commitment to the project. The motion was

unanimously approved. When asked when the new school will be completed, Mayo projected that it should be ready by the 1982 school year. He added that Architect Bobby Stephens is already at work on the plans.

In other action, the board approved the recommendation of Lunchroom Supervisor Martha Smith that the prices of school lunches be increased. The prices were set at: .50 cents for K-6 grades, .55 cents for 7-12; and .75 cents for adults.



Marie Anderson of Rt. 1 Vanceboro is the Secretary-Receptionist at the new Wilkerson's Funeral Home in Vanceboro. Marie will be available on Monday and Thursday from 9-5 p.m. to receive Burial Association, insurance, or any other types of payments. She will be doing general office work as well.

However, the primary aspect of her job will be to receive family and friends when there is a death in the area.

Marie is the wife of Calvin Anderson and is the mother of two sons, Clifton, age 10, and Ashley, 7. She has been employed by Beauford County Community College for the past four years.

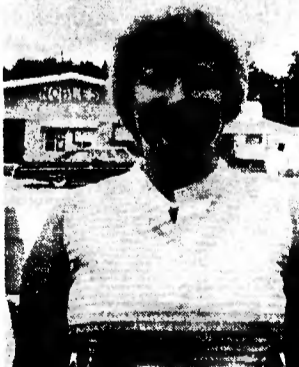
What's your opinion of the Medical Center?



Howard Tyre



Jimmy Shepard



Sharon Bland



Marlene Copeland



Alonza Thomas



Mrs. B. L. Buffkin

[Editor's Note: The HIGHLIGHTS took to the streets again this week to get the opinion of area citizens on an issue of current interest. This week citizens had an opportunity to express their feelings about the Vanceboro Medical Center at its annual community meeting held Tuesday night.]

Howard Tyre, retired farmer, "Everyone should appreciate the Vanceboro Medical Center. If more people knew more about the operation of the center, they would use it more. The Medical Center is one of the main causes of having a drug store here. We can appreciate that, too."

Jimmy Sheppard, "Wonderful! It's nice to have it down here. The staff is very good. I like the Medical Center."

Sharon Bland, "I'm glad we have the medical center available. FNP Roberts does a fine job, but I would like to see a doctor in town."

Marlene Copeland, "It's a good thing for this area. It is very convenient for taking children instead of having to take them away to a doctor. I'm well pleased with the service."

Alonza Thomas, retired farmer, "The Vanceboro Medical Center gives very good service. When I first went there back in May of last year, I was well pleased with it."

Mrs. B. L. Buffkin, retired school teacher, "The medical center is a great asset to the community. It has really helped us. Doctor Overby and George Roberts have been around to Benson and myself. I'm really proud of them and all the staff. The doctors have been very nice to us. I think the medical center is a wonderful thing for Vanceboro."