

## Crime Victims Public Forums Set To Begin

Raleigh--A series of six forums will be held across the state during the months of September and October. The forum, conducted by the Victims Committee of the Governor's Crime Commission, will give citizens the opportunity to express their views about programs, rights and services for crime victims, including funding for the Victim Compensation Act of 1983 and creating a statewide network of support services for crime victims.

Crime Commission Chairman, Senator Larry Cobb, said, "We need to develop more efficient and effective ways to ensure that the criminal justice system gives every consideration to the all too often forgotten victim. We are encouraged by the preliminary findings of the victims throughout the state before finalizing our recommendations to the Governor."

The 15 members of the Victims Committee are studying the needs and problems of crime victims and will propose recommendations to the Governor's Crime Commission. The forums will complete the Committee's yearlong work.

Thomas A. Danek, chairman of the Victims Committee, said, "That time has come for the state to respond compassionately, efficiently and comprehensively to the needs of innocent crime victims." He noted that programs and services for the offenders far surpass those for the victims.

Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety Joseph W. Dean said, "We are extremely pleased that the North Carolina Victim Assistance Network is assisting us to conduct citizens to make them aware of these important forums." The North Carolina Victim Assistance Network, known as VAN, is a newly organized statewide association of concerned citizens, professionals and crime victims who are promoting coordination among crime victims' programs across the state.

Crime victims, concerned citizens and criminal justice officials are encouraged to attend these forums and voice their concerns. The forums begin at 7 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. The dates and locations are: September 16 Asheville, City Council Chambers, September 18, Charlotte, County Commissioners Room, County Office Building, September 23, Winston Salem, City Hall, City Council Chambers, September 25, Fayetteville, City Hall, City Council Chambers, October 7, Washington, City Hall, City Council Chambers, October 9, Wilmington, City Hall Council Chambers.

For more information about the forums, write to the Governor's Crime Commission, Post Office Box 27687, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27611, or call (919) 733-5013.

## Big Brothers/ Big Sisters

Support the third annual Great Eastern Road Rally sponsored by radio station WSFL and Women of the Moose, Havelock, for the benefit of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the lower Neuse.

The Road Rally is fun. This is NOT a race, it is a test of your driving skill and ability to follow directions. Not only will it test your driving skill, you will learn something about the county in which you live. Drivers in the past were surprised at where the directions took them. And, as in the past, the prizes are super.

Now, for those important details - 1:00 p.m., Saturday, August 23rd is the starting time. The Jaycee Fairgrounds Highway 70 East of New Bern, is the starting point. Come to the Fairgrounds at least an hour prior to the starting time to have your vehicle checked, registration form completed and pay the registration fee of

\$10.00.

To pre-register, call the Big Brother/Big Sister office at 637-2460. You will be given your own starting time and a registration form will be mailed to you. You must bring the completed form to the Fairgrounds on the day of the Road Rally. If you wait until August 23rd to register, you must be there by noon. Vehicles will be scheduled to start every 45 seconds. The Rally should be completed by 5:00 p.m. The course is approximately 100 miles.

The only requirements to enter are to have a valid driver's license and a vehicle with a current inspection sticker. The \$10.00 fee is per vehicle. You can have as many riders as you like. We suggest at least one additional person to serve as a navigator!

Please help us make the 1986 Road Rally a big success. We know it will be fun for everyone.

## "Wheels for Life"

Mrs. Christine Day has been appointed Chairman for the annual "Wheels for Life" Bike-A-Thon in Vanceboro. The event is scheduled for October 4, 1986, with a rain date of October 11, 1986. This ride will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a research-treatment-education center where physicians and scientists working side by side have actually succeeded in rewriting medical textbooks through painstaking research and treatment advances.

This institution, now the largest childhood cancer research center in America, owes its establishment to a promise made years ago by entertainer, Danny Thomas. His dream became reality when the doors of this non-sectarian research hospital opened in 1962 dedicated solely to the conquest of hopeless diseases of children.

When St. Jude Hospital accepted its first patient, the survival rate for children diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia was less than five percent. Today, the disease-free survival figure for children in long-term remission has grown to more than 50 percent. Procedures that originated at St. Jude are now being used to treat children throughout the United States and other parts of the world.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital has treated children from 39 states and 29 foreign countries. Upon referral from their physician they are admitted to a research study without regard to race, creed, national origin, or ability to pay. The sole criterion is a medical determination that their disease is under study. They receive the very best and latest total medical care because it is through these children that we will learn how to save others.

St. Jude Hospital is largely supported by voluntary contributions which are tax deductible. Events such as the "Wheels for Life" bike ride raise the funds to continue the research and treatment programs which are freely shared with all physicians and research scientists, extending the benefits of its work beyond its wall to children throughout the world.



## Red Fish

The red fish, now popular in a Cajun seafood recipe, is the state saltwater fish of North Carolina. Cooked Cajun style, and called red and black fish, the channel bass is being exploited heavily commercially in the Gulf of Mexico and reportedly elsewhere. Commercial fishermen are getting top dollar for the new fad in seafood.

As a result, many North Carolinians are concerned about the sudden and enormous interest in red fish (red drum or channel bass).

Bill Hogarth, director of N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, recently received several requests and a petition directed to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission, "to consider adopting regulations to prevent commercial exploitations of the N.C. state fish and reduce the recreational harvest as well."

The petition continues, "This proposal is made in the light of the increased marketability of this fish, and the conservation measures adopted and or proposed in the Gulf states."

The Florida Marine Fisheries Commission recently passed a rule to make red drum a game fish, which would greatly restrict the harvest of red fish by all fishermen in Florida state waters. Commercial fishermen have challenged the rule legally; however, and it will be close to Christmas before the new rule could go into effect, if all the legal hurdles are cleared and the Governor approves.

Hogarth said the red drum issue in North Carolina will be discussed at a N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission meeting September 23 in Morehead City at the Marine Fisheries Conference room beginning at 10 a.m. Due to the new Administrative Procedures Act, it would take 9-12 months after September before any new laws could go into effect, if in fact the Commission decides changes are needed, he said.

"N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries law enforcement officers will be vigorously enforcing the present regulations wherever red drum are caught in state waters as well as handled by fish dealers in the state," Hogarth said.

North Carolina regulations now have a channel bass minimum size of 14 inches, and only two per day in possession larger than 32 inches.

For further information, please contact the Division of Marine Fisheries by calling toll free 1-800-682-2632 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Dr. Gage is board certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiology.

#### OFFICE LOCATIONS

P.O. Box 68 Pollocksville, NC 28573 919-224-4591 919-633-1010	532 Webb Blvd. Havelock, NC 28532 919-447-7088	P.O. Box 529 Vanceboro, NC 28586 919-244-1785
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