The recent changes in the sweather patterns almost make us forget about the drought problems we had during last year. The recent rainfall even though it seems excessive at this time, was much needed to help bring the water table up to a more reasonable level. In fact, we heed much more rainfall in the coming weeks to ensure as great a supply of ground water as possible before planting time.

water as possible before planting time.

The recent rainfall has
caused problems for many
eitzens of the county as well
as for some farmers. The
inconvenience, and danger, of
flood waters in low-laying
areas is always of concern for
those who have property in
those areas. For the farmers,
considerable damage can be
done to wheat crops by

considerable damage can be done to wheat crops by standing water, and tobacco plant beds must be sufficiently drained to prevent water from standing on them.

As we approach the planting season, we must access how the growing season during the past year, and the weather conditions during the winter, have affected the availability of nutrients in the soil. the soil.

the soil.

Crops that were severely affected by the drought last summer probably were not able to utilize all the nutrients that we applied to the soil. Because of this the residual fertility levels in many fields may be very high and only nominal amounts of nutrients need to be applied for this coming year. It would be impossible to determine just

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what the nutrient situation is in any particular soil without a current soil sample.

On the other hand, the more sandy type soils are more subject to leaching. Because of the recent heavy rainfall some of the available nutrients in those soils may have leached below the area where they can be reached by the roots of the coming crops. In this case, additional nutrients need to be applied to ents need to be applied to replace those that have leach-

ents need to be applied to replace those that have leached away.

During the winter it is hard to get disturbed about soil fertility, because there are so few plants growing and so little evidence of the need for plant nutrients. But these problems are there-they will not go away on their own, and they will need to be addressed during the coming year if acceptable performance is expected from our crops.

The one place that soil fertility problems are evident at this time is in the wheat fields around the county. Most of the wheat looks reasonably good considering the planting conditions last fall and the early growing conditions. But there is a lot of evidence of manganese deficiencies in some of these fields.

These manganese deficiencies

These manganese deficien These manganese deficiencies are most evident from the yellowing spots in many fields. To be sure, all yellowing spots are not the result of manganese deficiencies, but many of them are. These problems result from either low levels of manganese or excessively high pH levels

that inhibit the available manganese from being utilized by the plants. In either case, the problem can be handled during the season at a very reasonable cost with foliar applications of manganese. Since the same problem will probably be evident on the soybean crop that will follow, either large application of soil-applied manganese prior to planting or foliar applications of manganese during the growing season can be planned for.

It is an accepted fact now that the margin for error in the farming business is rather small. Because of this we have to be sure to manage our operations in a way that will allow sufficient yields to cover the cost of productions. Because of this I would encourage you to watch your crops very closely during the coming year, and at the first sign of any problem that you cannot readly identify, contact your Agricultural Extension Service by calling 785-8111. The sooner the problem is identified, the more likely it can be corrected and the less effect it will have on yield

RAYA. BRYANT
Marine Lance Cpl. Ray
A Bryant, whose wife, Felicia
is the daughter of Western
and Margert Locklear of
Route 1, Shannon, was recently awarded the U.S.
Marine Corps Good Conduct
Medal.



SGA Making Plans For Fundmisser for Heart Assoc.

"Have a Heart Give Your Part," is the slogan the Student Government Association at RTC has adopted as it prepares to raise money during the month of Feb. for the American Heart Association and the N.C. Community College Alumni Scholarship Fund.

The SGA hopes to raise

Fund.

The SGA hopes to raise \$1,000 and plans to make good its goal by scheduling a number of fundraising activities in February, beginning Monday and Tuesday with its kickoff event. "Faculty and Staff Dress Down."

"What we're roing to do is

"What we're going to do is give the faculty and staff an opportunity to dress down, to come to work in blue jeans if they want to." said SGA President Shirley D'Agostino. "They'll have to contribute 50 cents for each day they dress

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down, and they'll also be required to wear a badge by the heart association. If they are caught not wearing their badge, they'll be fined 25 cents.

"We're really excited about it, especially since it's going to last the whole month." Coincidentally, February is American Heart Association Month, a fact known to Ms. D'Agostino when she made her decision to hold a fund raiser. She also had personal reasons for wanting to give to reasons for wanting to give to the American Heart Associ-

"I lost both of my parents to heart attacks," she said.
"My mother had 32 heart attacks from a Friday to a Monday. The doctor said he had never had a patient before who had had that many heart attacks. She died that

Monday."
The RTC Alumni Association is helping the SGA in planning the event and will also contribute prizes to a raffle drawing scheduled Feb. 26 during a victory dance in the student lounge from 8 a.m. to midnight.

A major source of their contributions will come from a public auction scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 18 in the student lounge. Ms. D'Agostino has visited several of the vocational shops on campus and asked instructors if their students could help by making items for the

Some items have already been donated and perishables, such as cakes and cookies, will also be accepted. Ms. D'Agostino says the SGA will welcome donations of any bind.

"The public is invited and we encourage them to attend," she said. "One of the big reasons we're having it at night is so we can include the evening students in the activities."

Ms. D'Agostino is currently negotiating with a local radio station to come on campus Feb. 20th and accept call-in pledges during a one-hour show. And before the festivities come to an end, the SGA will sponsor another "Faculty and Staff Dress Down" on Feb. 24, 25.

"The second dress down should go over pretty well," said SGA Advisor Drucella Strickland, who is also the school's Veterans Affairs Officer. "Students will be finishing up exams and it'll be a lgood time for the instructors. By the end of the month, everybody will be getting the hang of it and enjoying it a lot more."

Ms. Strickland said many of the students are getting The last time the senate.

met. Shirley was getting help from people who had never volunteered before," she said. "And that's one of her

said. "And that's one of her main goals-to get more people involved."
Ms. D'Agostino has also enlisted the help of Carolyn Robinson, district supervisor of the Fayeteville chapter of the American Heart Associa-tion. Ms. Robinson will pro-vide promotional material to be distributed around camp-us.

us.
"She (Ms. Robinson) was shocked when I called her and told her what we were planning," Ms. D'Agostino said.
"She goes around trying to get people to support her cause and most of the time she says she has to beg people for help."

CERTIFICATE

6.66%

6.45%

## **SCHOOLS NEWS AND BRIEFS**

ROBESON COUNTY

BY LORETTA HUNT

Title IV Public
Hearing Conducted
On Jan. 12 an annual
Public Hearing of the Robeson County Title IV, Part A
Indian Education Project was
held in the Board Room of the
system's administrative offices to discuss and review the
FY 1987-1988 Project application parent committee election results, project needs
assessment and subsequent
priorization, project participant certification, project
particity component planning
and development and budget.
Parent Committee Chairman Agnes H. Chavis, opened the public hearing by
reviewing the federal rules
and regulations established
by the Department of Education in Washington, D.C.
which governs the operations
of Indian Education Programs.
A handout summarizing the

grams.

A handout summarizing the results of the needs assessment ws presented by Mr. Donald Locklear which included Educational Activities, Cultural Activities and Support Services.

District Court Judge Addresses Council "Learning to Get Along With Your Child" was the message Honorable Herbert Lee Richardson presented to

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members and guests of the Chapter I/ Migrant Education Parent Advisory Council during the January 12 meeting at O.P. Owens Auditorium. Robeson County's first lack judge, Honorable Richardson serves the 16th Judicial District Court for Robeson and Scotland Counties. February 9 at 7:30 p.m. was approved for the next Chapter I Migrant Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting in the Board Room of the System's Administrative Offices.

System's Administrative Offices.

Monthly Meeting of the Board
During the Jan. 18 meeting
of the Robeson County Board
of Education, Supt. Purnell
Swett was reinstated unanimously for another four year
term as chief executive of the
county school unit which
enrolls approximately 15,000
students, employs over 900
educational professionals,
and operates an annual budget in excess of forty million
dollars.

"I'm pleased with your vote

dollars.

"I'm pleased with your vote of confidence. I am committed to upgrading the educational services and programs for the students just as much so as I was ten years ago when I began serving as superintendent for Robeson County Schools," stated Supt. Swett.

VALENTINE'S

**GREETINGS** 

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