

More funding granted for N.C. senior centers

By VANCE TREFETHEN
State and National Editor

The state has awarded 22 grants totaling \$500,000 for the construction and renovation of senior centers to serve senior citizens throughout North Carolina, the assistant secretary of the Division of Aging of the N.C. Department of Human Resources said in a prepared statement released last month. The grants included funds for the construction of 11 new centers for senior

citizens. Ernest Messer said in his statement. "Presently we have 72 centers in 59 counties. One of the goals of the Division of Aging is to make senior centers available to older citizens in all 100 counties of the state," Messer said. Senior centers provide an important service to communities, said June Barbour, public information officer for the Division of Aging. "They serve as focal points in the community," she said. They allow

senior citizens to participate in cultural programs, arts and crafts projects, recreational activities and medical and nutritional programs.

"Some of the centers are blood pressure clinics. Most of the centers are also nutrition sites for the area," Barbour said.

The 38 centers currently receiving operating funds from the state serve over 35,000 elderly people, she said.

The Chapel Hill senior center, which did not receive any of the state grant money, serves about 60-65 senior citizens a day, said Executive Director Gloria Williams of the Pittsboro administrative office.

"We provide a number of activities such as the ability to gather and socialize," she said. "Most of our seniors are classified as socio-economic disadvantaged. (The centers) have made a tremendous difference in their lives."

Reagan, aides looking for ways to trim federal budget

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan and his senior advisers waded through the federal budget again yesterday in search of \$42 billion in savings for next year that would allow them to hold on to the politically popular notion of a "freeze" on government spending.

Administration documents being used in the preparation of the budget for the next fiscal year, however, show that holding spending at current levels would yield only a fraction of the savings necessary to get to the goal of holding the deficit to \$170 billion.

Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, meanwhile, reiterated that the administration sees deficit reduction as the No. 1 priority, adding that the failure to stop the flood of red ink "would discourage the rest of

the world."

Reagan met twice yesterday with a dozen aides to go over ways to trim the \$206 billion deficit projected in fiscal 1986, which begins Oct. 1, 1985.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said that most of yesterday's discussions would be devoted to domestic spending programs with military spending due to be on the agenda next. He said the group would meet again today to continue non-defense discussions.

Posing for pictures with a group of congressmen, Reagan was asked whether he would go along with proposals to cut defense spending.

"We are in no position to talk about those things yet," he said.

A working document White House budget director

David Stockman has used in budget briefings with congressional Republicans lists six categories of government programs and outlines how a freeze would apply to the programs in those categories of whether a freeze could be applied at all. A copy of the document was obtained by The Associated Press.

For example, there are 19 programs listed ranging from general revenue sharing and subsidies to the U.S. Postal Service which already have been frozen, thus no savings are possible without cuts.

Another category lists 15 programs such as unemployment insurance and the highway trust fund for which money comes from specific taxes, and freezing outlays for those programs would do nothing to trim the deficit.

Anti-porn groups preparing for obscenity law fight

The Associated Press

Over the past few years, proposals to change the state's pornography laws have prompted heated debates in legislative meetings between anti-pornography activists and those who worry that the change would affect First Amendment rights.

"It's an emotional issue, and people don't think very clearly about it," said

George H. Gardner, executive director of the N.C. Civil Liberties Union. Changing the state laws could lead to censorship of books and movies that many people would not consider obscene, he said.

But Sam Currin, U.S. attorney for the state's Eastern District, and his assistants said they heard a growing outcry from North Carolinians who

wanted to shut down X-rated movie theaters, adult book stores and sex-oriented cable television programming such as the Playboy Channel.

H. Robert Showers, an assistant U.S. attorney in Currin's Raleigh office, said some people became addicted to "violent adult pornography" that he said could prompt them to commit "rapes, child molestations...murders."

"I don't like to sound like some fanatic or right-wing person because it (public complaints about pornography) came from all over the state," Showers said.

Meanwhile, anti-pornography groups are again laying the groundwork for another attempt to modify the law.

"I think the political climate is right," Currin said.

Local citizens can help in bringing criminals to justice

By MARJORIE MORRIS
Staff Writer

Local citizens interested in earning extra money and seeing local crimes solved can help the Orange County Crimestoppers in arresting and indicting criminals.

If a citizen has information about a crime that has been committed locally, he can call Crimestoppers to report what he knows about the crime. Information leading to an arrest or

indictment will result in a reward for the citizen. Monetary rewards will vary depending on the crime. All calls will remain anonymous.

Every week, starting this month, facts about an unsolved local crime will be publicized by area radio and television stations and newspapers. Guaranteeing anonymity, Crimestoppers will ask residents to report any information they might have about the crime.

Anyone calling Crimestoppers will

receive a secret number to use as identification when calling back to see if the information given led to an arrest. At the time of the second phone call, the caller will be given a second number.

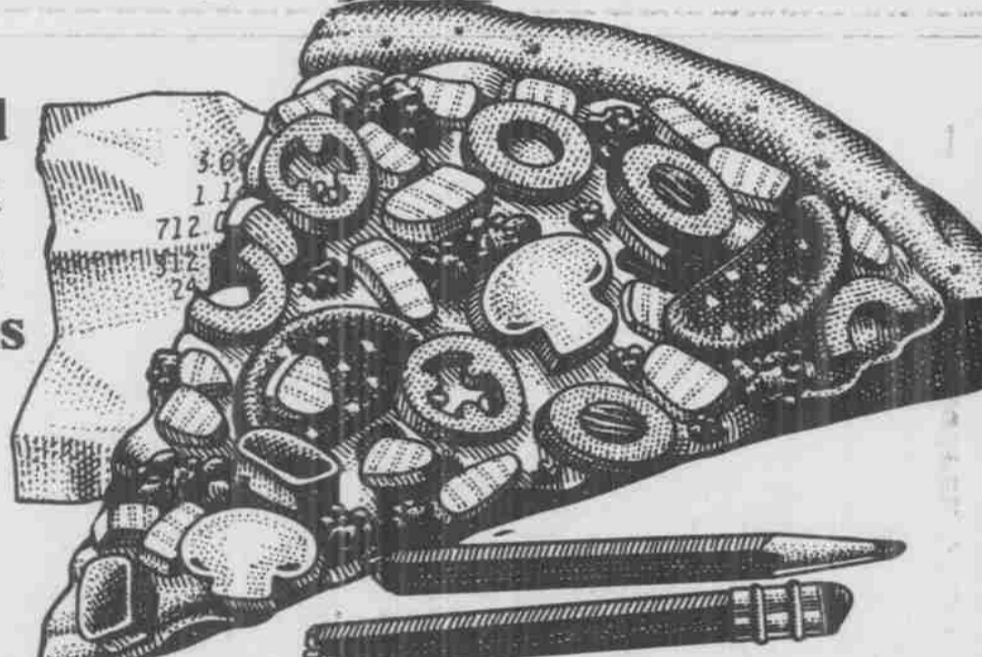
The two numbers will be the only way Crimestoppers personnel and the caller will know each other when the reward payment is made at a place of the resident's choosing.

No police officers will be involved; the organization is staffed by volunteers. Crimestoppers, a private, non-profit

organization, will be funded through donations from individuals, civic and social groups, professional associations, corporations and retailers. Contributions, which are tax deductible, will be used for local reward funds, telephone costs and other related expenses. No Crimestoppers' personnel will receive a salary.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners allotted \$2,000 to underwrite the program, and Crimestoppers has asked for similar donations from the Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough town councils.

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Textiles

unemployment or cuts in employee hours.

"We are running full blast, and we haven't seen a cutback," according to Sam Crawford, sections manager of labor relations at Firestone. "Our business is good. We've heard reports about plant closings though."

Textile and apparel imports increased 48 percent from January through July 1984. Imports increased to \$11.2 billion for 1984 while exports remained at \$1.89 billion. That translates to 13 percent of the nation's total merchandise trade deficit.

"Crafted with Pride" is the United States textile industries' defense strategy to hold back the tide of foreign textiles.

"North Carolina is the largest textile producer in the United States," said Charles Dunn, executive vice-president of the North Carolina

Textile Manufacturers Association. According to Dunn, North Carolina produces 25 percent of the U.S.'s textile products and 7 percent of U.S. apparel.

"We just spent \$552 million for new facilities," he said. "We are the most efficient in the world, but this doesn't help if we don't have customers. We are hoping the American consumer will look for American-made products."

"The U.S. industry is one of the most modern and productive in the world, but the bad point is imports are devastating. They're coming from over 100 countries."

"Some countries have state-controlled industries and have wages from 17 cents to \$2 an hour. North Carolina textile employees average \$6.50 an hour."

The present level of imports reflects

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304 dead from gas leak

From Associated Press reports

NEW DELHI, India — Poisonous gas leaking from an insecticide plant seeped through a central Indian city Sunday night, leaving 304 dead, thousands injured.

The death toll is expected to rise. Arjun Singh, the chief minister of the state of Madhya Pradesh, said at a news conference the dead were in Bhopal, the state capital, after the gas leaked from the Union Carbide India Ltd. plant there. He told reporters at least 10,000 people were injured. He said 2,000 people remained hospitalized, and 8,000 others were treated at hospitals and released.

Singh said the number of confirmed deaths was expected to climb. The United News of India said the unofficial death toll was more than 500.

Cuba within rights

MIAMI — Despite Pentagon fears that Cubans might seize a disabled American ship for political purposes, a Cuban patrol boat was "acting within maritime practice" when it moved in to help, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

The 105-foot Seaward Explorer, a marine research vessel chartered by the Navy to map the coast of Haiti, was under tow back to Miami and was expected to arrive in port yesterday, Duty Officer Christopher Kelly said.

The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz was scrambled from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands to assist the Seaward Explorer, which broke down Thursday and drifted within the 12-mile territorial waters claimed by Cuba.

The Nimitz and the nuclear-powered cruiser USS Arkansas, which also headed for the area, never arrived at the scene because the Coast Guard cutter Reliance already had arrived to tow the vessel home.

Egypt - Jordan agreement

CAIRO, Egypt — Egypt and Jordan agreed yesterday on the need for an international conference under United Nations sponsorship to negotiate an Arab-Israeli peace settlement and gave their full support to the Palestine Liberation Organ-

News In Brief

ization in a joint communique. The communique issued at the end of a three-day visit to Cairo by Jordan's King Hussein said the monarch and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak were committed to "achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their inalienable right to self-determination in the form they see fit."

NATO talks begin

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO defense ministers yesterday began three days of talks at which they were expected to boost conventional defense spending — an area which officials said had been shortchanged in recent years as attention focused exclusively on nuclear arms in Europe.

But the talks are overshadowed by a new argument between rivals Turkey and Greece over the status of the Greek island of Lemnos in the Northern Aegean.

Turkey planned to veto Greece's national force goals for 1985-1991 as a result, officials said. Force goals are the pledges of the number and types of troops and weapons available to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's allied command through 1991.

O'Neill renominated

WASHINGTON — Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. was renominated by acclamation yesterday by House Democrats to a fifth and final term in his powerful post after Rep. Charles Stenholm of Texas dropped his conservative challenge.

O'Neill's nomination, behind the closed doors of a caucus of the Democratic members of the new House, came a few hours after Stenholm announced he would not oppose the 71-year-old liberal veteran of 32 years in Congress. To press ahead, Stenholm said, "could very well have become a destructive situation rather than a constructive one" for the Democratic Party.

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sew them there and let Korea send them in."

Harold Davis, personnel director at Parkdale Mills in Gastonia, said global quotas need to be enforced. "If the domestic market rises 3 percent, then global quotas can rise 3 percent."

The only hope for North Carolina is for merchants and consumers to buy American goods, Davis added. "Local merchants need to be aware of 'Crafted with Pride,'" Davis said. "You take all these people out of the labor market, (and) the retailer is going to see a disaster."

The high percentage of imports has made North Carolina textile plants ripe for mergers. "The industry is moving into fewer and fewer and theoretically stronger hands," said Jim Conner, executive vice-president of the American Yarn Spinners Association in Gastonia.

Instead of expensive modernizing, some in the textile industry would rather sell than fight, according to Conner.

"Imports are hurting us bad, and that's it in a nutshell," Callahan said. "Something has to be done."

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