

The News - Journal

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Help Coming From Three Directions

Federal Programs Aim At Poverty

Hoke County and nine others in Eastern North Carolina will come under concentrated federal aid in an effort to cure their economic problems.

Money and other assistance from three sources will be poured into the area to assist local leaders in developing manpower, providing jobs, and administering other programs designed to improve the lot of the poor.

In Washington, it was announced last week that a multi-million-dollar campaign will be waged in the 10-county area to fight rural blight.

A major North Carolina newspaper reported officials in Washington and Raleigh are winding up plans for a \$2 million "Concentrated Employment

Program," and predicted it will be approved within six weeks. The program is intended to help rural people find jobs in their own areas, the newspaper reported.

In addition to Hoke, the area includes Scotland, Robeson, Cumberland, Bladen, New Hanover, Columbus, Fender, Brunswick and Sampson counties.

The 10-county area is among the hardest hit in North Carolina by the mechanization of farming operations. Thousands of people who formerly worked as tenants or day laborers on farms in the area are virtually tied to the soil which no longer provides them a decent living.

The two-year program will

emphasize on-the-job training for workers, which will require extensive involvement by business and industry in the area.

If approved, the program will be only the third in the United States.

Gov. Dan Moore is expected to announce further economic development plans for Eastern North Carolina sometime this week.

Meanwhile, a \$35,651.25 federal grant has been received by Southeastern Economic Development Commission--which includes all the counties except New Hanover that are a part of the employment program.

The grant, boosted by \$11,883.75 in cash and \$1,317.12 "in kind" from the nine counties, was made to estab-

lish an office and hire a director and other personnel for the district development office.

The third boost to Hoke is coming through Sandhills Community Action Program (SCAP), whose program is being reorganized to place more emphasis on manpower development. A story about that program is elsewhere in this issue.

Jim Fout, manager of Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, is chairman of the development commission--part of an area program which covers most of the southeastern seaboard.

Purpose of the commission, according to Fout, is to identify and isolate problems it encounters, and to plan and direct action.

"The solutions will not always involve money," Fout declared. "We will solve the problems locally, where possible, and look elsewhere for the answers if they are not to be found here."

The development commission is supported in Washington by the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

Each of the nine counties has four directors on the commission and an advisory committee of 10 members.

Directors from Hoke include Fout, Dr. Robert Townsend, Jake Austin and Robert Windley.

The 10-member advisory committee for Hoke County includes Ralph Barnhart, Bobby

Gibson, Earl Hendrix, Lonnie Bledsoe, Louis Oxendine, Washington McAllister, James Thomas Jr., Franklin Teal, and Neal A. McDonald.

The commission office will be established at Elizabethtown, where Bladen County already has provided space in the county courthouse. That contribution was valued at \$1,317.12 "in kind" toward the local share of the initial appropriation.

The remaining share of the local contribution was divided among the other counties on the basis of their population. Hoke County's share was \$534.77.

Other assessments were: Brunswick, \$713.03; Columbus, \$1,426.05; Cumberland, \$4,159.31; Fender, \$594.14; Robeson, \$2,495.59; Sampson, \$1,188.37; Scotland, \$772.44.

Anti-Poverty Unit Is Re-Organized

A reorganization of Sandhills Community Action Program is under way, according to a report from headquarters at Carthage.

Special emphasis is to be placed on employment.

Three principal divisions will be established to encompass the administrative and community services functions heretofore in operation and the third will be the manpower division.

Except for the headstart, senior citizens and family planning programs, all efforts of the community service and the administrative division will be to support the manpower division. Under the director of manpower, other staff personnel will specialize in the areas of job development and placement, employment training and vocational counseling, and follow-up.

The community service division will serve the manpower program by recruitment, outreach, follow-up assistance, and by other supportive services such as transportation, child care placement, housing and loan assistance.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps, new careers, FACE, on-the-job training, and other work experience programs will be integrated into the manpower division. All programs will be supervised by the director to insure coordination of all manpower in efforts.

The reorganization will mean

the loss of two home service workers in Hoke County, according to reports from a local source.

The Sandhills anti-poverty organization operates in Hoke, Moore, Lee and Montgomery counties. SCAP headquarters in Carthage is supplemented by county offices in each of the three other counties.

Hoke County has been without a community action program administrator since James R. Attaway, first paid director of the local program, resigned several months ago.

The last session of Congress substantially modified the anti-poverty program throughout the nation, delegating control to local government bodies, more or less.

The anti-poverty program in Hoke County up to this time has dealt primarily with the Headstart program for preschool children; the Neighborhood Youth Corps; Job Corps, and several other programs beneficial to young people and elderly citizens.

When the local program was first outlined, the county asked for a federal grant to be used in this county alone. The federal government said, however, that Hoke didn't have enough people by itself to qualify for a grant.

Bike-Riding Victim Loses Damage Suit

A \$10,000 damage suit brought in behalf of a 13-year-old Hoke County boy, A.C. Cummings Jr., by his mother, Mrs. Mary Jane Cummings, was decided in favor of the defendant this week in the current civil session of Hoke Superior Court, Judge Maurice Braswell presiding.

The complaint charged that young Cummings suffered severe pain and injury when the bicycle he was riding September 18, 1964, was struck by a car operated by William Carl Willis, defendant in the action, and that Willis was negligent in not keeping proper lookout, not blowing his auto horn, or applying brakes.

Testimony indicated the boy came off a dirt road onto a paved road, crossed to the other side, and was struck by the automobile when the bike's front wheel was off the pavement. The victim allegedly was thrown 40 feet.

A 12-man jury returned in favor of the defendant.

The case took the better part of the first two days of the session, and late Tuesday afternoon, the court waded into another case which was expected to take considerable time.

In that case, Louvenia Burke and Monroe Burke are plaintiffs against Nationwide Insurance Company.



MARKS THE SPOT--State Highway Patrolman E. M. Roberts is shown here examining the spot where a two-year-old Hoke County child was struck late Sunday afternoon. The youngster died a short time later at the Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton, becoming the county's second traffic victim of the year.

★★★★★★ Hendrix Candidate For Board

David Hendrix, Arabla farmer, filed last week as a candidate for county commissioner, subject to nomination in the May Democratic primary.

Hendrix became the fourth candidate vying for two seats on the five-man board of commissioners, which two years ago began a staggered term arrangement, with two seats becoming vacant one year and the other three vacancies occurring two years later.

Incumbent commissioners whose terms will expire in December are J. A. Webb of Asheville. See CANDIDATE, Page 9

Zeke Wiggins Was NOT Drunk

Everybody who read the item said it couldn't be true. And it wasn't. But it was in the paper, just the same.

In last week's edition of The News-Journal, a paragraph in the court news listed this judgment:

"Leonard Wiggins, Red Springs Rt. 1, public drunkenness, costs."

Leonard (Zeke) Wiggins is a non-drinking Raeford policeman and was the arresting officer in the case. His name appeared as such on the warrant. Through our error, it was copied from the warrant instead of the name of the defendant, James S. King, who pleaded guilty to the charge and was assessed court costs.

We apologize to Officer Wiggins and to our readers and regret any embarrassment it may have caused Zeke.

Child, 2, Is Killed When Struck By Car

A two-year-old boy was killed late Sunday afternoon when struck by a car near his home on a rural paved road south of Antioch near the Robeson County line.

Harold Jacobs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roman Jacobs, Raeford Rt. 2, died at Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton about two hours after the accident.

State Highway Patrolman E. M. Roberts said eyewitnesses told him the child darted across the road in front of a parked

auto and ran directly into the path of a car operated by Sarah Chavis Bullard, Red Springs Rt. 1. Mrs. Bullard apparently had no chance to avoid hitting the child, he said.

The youngster was struck by the front center of the car and dragged 74 feet, Roberts said.

The fatality was the second of the year on Hoke County roads. The first occurred about three weeks ago when a Raeford woman died in a crash just west of Raeford on N. C. 211.

Town Citizens Vote April 20 On Bond Issue

April 20 will be set as the date for Raeford citizens to vote for or against a \$700,000 sanitary sewer bond issue.

That date is expected to be officially established Monday night when town board holds its March meeting.

Bond attorneys in New York City have completed preliminary legal work in connection with the referendum and have set a timetable which town commissioners are expected to adopt.

The bond issue is being asked to increase the capacity of the town's sewage disposal plant and to provide an additional outfall line to Burlington Industries.

For more than a year, town commissioners have been wrestling with what consulting engineers say is a serious problem.

The town's sewage treatment plant, completed in 1963, already is loaded far beyond its designed capacity, the designer says, and serious trouble is liable to develop at any time.

To date, the plant has operated satisfactorily--except for a brief period just after it was put into operation and some "kinks" had to be ironed out.

It's a miracle, according to the engineer, Richard Moore of Asheboro, because the plant was designed for a B.O.D. (biological oxygen demand) of 2,800, and the average load during a testing period last summer was well above twice that amount.

Why, town commissioners are frequently asked, is a plant already overloaded that was designed to accommodate a city of 35,000 and was supposed to be sufficient for Raeford for

15 years? The answer, engineers say, is vastly increased industrial use, primarily by Burlington Industries and Raeford Turkey Farms, Inc., both of which have expanded operations since the new sewage treatment plant was

See BOND ISSUE, Page 9



NOMINATED--Paul Currie, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Scott Currie and a student at Hoke High School, is one of five young men from this congressional district to be accepted as a nominee for the Coast Guard Academy. The announcement was made by Principal Raz Autry. Currie will compete with the other four nominees for the single appointment to be made by Rep. Alton A. Lennon. Two other Hoke High seniors are competing for appointments to service academies, including John Pope (U. S. Military Academy) and Ralph Huff (U. S. Air Force Academy).

Local Businessman Says

'Give Turkey Plant The Credit For Killing Moonshine In Hoke'

BY JIM TAYLOR

A Hoke County businessman who asked that his name be withheld this week challenged an article in last week's issue of The News-Journal which reported "...the annual report of Sheriff Dave Barrington indicates the manufacture of 'stump hole' whisky has slowed to a trickle since legal sale of liquor was voted in about five years ago."

"I do not wish to take anything away from Sheriff Barrington, his deputies, or ABC Officer Kermit Riley," the man said, "but bootlegging has all but disappeared here for another reason."

The reason: Raeford Turkey Farms, Inc., and other industries in the area that employ uneducated workers have made it unnecessary for a great many people who used to distill illegal whisky to keep at it.

"It's a fact that the turkey plant, the shoe factory (B. F. Goodrich) in Robeson, and the iron works in Southern Pines are paying good wages to some of the people who

used to make whisky," the informant said. "I know, because I have talked to many of them."

He said he took a swing through south Hoke County and the northern part of Robeson County not long ago, seeking a jar of white whisky for a friend who wanted to take it out-of-state.

A few years ago, the first stop would have produced the whisky, he said, but not this time.

"The first fellow I approached -- who used to keep it all the time -- said he didn't have a drop. When I asked him why, he said he had a good job, made a good paycheck every week, and didn't have to fool with the stuff anymore."

At several other houses where one might have found white whisky a few years ago, no man-of-the-house was to be found.

"Their children, or whoever was home, told me the man was at work in one of the plants I've mentioned previously."

See MOONSHINE, Page 9



SNOWMAN--If this roly-poly man had a heart, it would be like the song--a cold, cold one because he is just plain frozen inside and out. That probably is the reason Graham Niven is lending him his own tologans, shaping up the shoulders is Jeff Abernethy. His sister, Beth, watches. The white fellow was a guest in the Abernethy yard Saturday afternoon.