

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

**VOLUME XXX NUMBER 46** 

## RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA S8 PER YEAR

weather report on television it seemed from the conversation of the newscasters that "Spring had Sprung." So Monday morning this writer was prepared for the singing of the birds and the budding of the

of the birds and the budding of the flowers and trees as he started to

work. This was not the case at all.

The thermometer showed that the

weather was below freezing outside

and when I started to drive off all

the windows were iced up on the

morning as far as the car was moncerned. It seemed that the

temperature was just about at the freezing point. The days are warm and it is hard to expect ice on your

car in the morning. The long-range forecast seems to be that Spring is "just around the

. . .

The basketball games Sunday left Carolina and Duke fans some-

what bewildered. Both teams lost in the regionals at Raleigh and this

has caused a tremendous commo-

tion at Greensboro. Many fans want to sell their tickets for the

reginal finals and hotel and motel

reservations are being cancelled.

So it is not only the fans that are upset because of the upsets.

. . .

The annual combined men of the

church supper was held at the First

Baptist Church last week. The men were entertained by the Hoke High Chorale and it was an excellent program, after being fed a turkey

supper by the ladies of the Baptist

This year after a count by the President of the Baptist men.

Ashwell Harward and the tallying

by the pastor of the church, the Rev. Billy Beaver, the Baptists came up with the highest attend-

The reason for mentioning about the count is that when someone

asked for a recount it seemed to

have been overlooked. The count came out to about seventy present

but later in the week the Rev. Mr. Beaver told me that over ninety

So you men that ate two plates

All joking aside, it was a fine

and were counted twice, fork over

\* \* \*

Williams (Whistle) Gulledge who

now lives in Kansas City was by the office last week and it brought forth

much conversation about old times. He is visiting his brother and sister, Jesse Gulledge, and Susan Gul-redge Long. William left here with the National Guard in 1940 and

after the war settled in Kansas City.

finished school here in the 1930s.

He was born and raised here and

plates were served.

another \$3.50

affair

One thing that occurs at this meeting is to see which church has the most present from their church.

This was also the case Tuesday

car.

corner.

Church.

ance

**Chamber Board Endorses Community Plan** \*\*\*\*\*\*

**Fund Drive Continues** 

## **Douglas Baker Day Set For Friday**

### by Cassie Wasko

A fund-raising effort, begun here Saturday, is gaining momentum as local residents learn of the plight of a Raeford youth. Mayor John K. McNeill signed a

proclamation Monday designating Friday Douglas Baker Day in Raeford. The proclamation cites Doug's dedication to his work and community and will be a part of an

intense effort to raise funds Friday. Douglas (Doug) Baker, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Baker, is suffering from a long-term illness that has sapped the family's fi-nances. The illness was discovered last May, the family said. Doug remained in his job as a

city employee until he became unable to work in January. Since that time, costly treatments at N.C. Memorial Hospital and stays at



Douglas Baker

Moore Memorial as well as the need for a hospital bed and oxygen tanks in the home have caused costs to sky-rocket.

Doug was born and raised in Hoke County, and, over the years, he has accumulated many friends here.

"Doug is one of the most unselfish people I have ever known.

Shortly before press time Wednesday, The News Journal staff learned that Douglas Baker died in the early morning hours. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

He has given numerous hours to the community," Larry Long of radio station WSHB, said. A 1976 graduate of Hoke High, Doug has been active in the North Raeford Volunteer Fire Depart-ment and the Raeford Jaycees. "He joined the Laycees last

"He joined the Jaycees last year," Robert Pecora, Jaycee in-ternal vice-president, said. "He helped with our Haunted House project last fall." Doug is also an active member of Pittmer Gross Restitt Church

Pittman Grove Baptist Church.

"Doug is one of my favorite people. He is a real fine, dedicated young man." Raz Autry, superin-tendent of schools, said.

City Manager Ron Matthews id. "I found him to be a said. personable young man who seems to enjoy being with his fellow workers. He has a good sense of humor

Matthews also said that Doug has given many hours to his community through the North Raeford Fire Department.

In a presentation last Wednesday

JOHN R. MCNEILL, JR., MAYOR RONALD L. MATTHEWS. CITY MANAGER WILLCOX & MCFADYEN. ATTORNEYS AY LAW

### CITY OF RAEFORD P O BOX 606 RAEFORD NORTH CAROLINA 28376

## PROCLAMATION John Douglas Baker Day City of Raeford Marci 16, 1979

WHERLAG, John Douglas Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Elwood Baker, Route 3, Box 314 is a lifelong resident of Raeford and Hoke County; and

WEREAS, John Douglas Baker, better known as Doug Baker, is employed by the City of Haeford; and

WHEREAG, John Douglas Baker has merved faithfully the citizens of Haeford while employed by the City of Raeford; and

WHEREAD, John Douglas Baker has given many hours of his time and effort in service to his community, especially with his voluntary fireman's work with the North Raeford Fire Lepartment; and

WHEREAG, The City of Bacford and surrounding communities would like to fonor him with his own special day.

NUM TERREPORE, I John K. McNeill, Jr. 19 virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Barford Lineuy proclaim March 14, 1979 as John fouglas (Doug) Baker Lay in Rawford, North Carolina. I de further call usan all etitems of Nawford and aurrounding communities to give their support and honor to Doug Baker on this day.

-IGNED this 17th day of March 1979.

By: John K. Mc Meller J. Vayor

Anaid L. Matthews City Manager

night, Doug was named honorary fire chief by the North Raeford Fire Department. Firemen presented a plaque in appreciation of his

State Figures Drop

services to the fire department. The drive for funds began last weekend when two local women (See BAKER, page 11)

# **Annual Jobless Rate Increasing Here**

Although the unemployment rate in Hoke County has been dropping in the last few months. Stephen Benkosky of the local Job Services office reports an over - all increase of 2.1 percent in the rate during the past three years. While the unemployment rate in January stood at 7.7 percent, a decrease

from the December rate, unemployment here is still higher than in many areas of the state.

Since 1976, many surrounding counties have recorded an annual decrease while Hoke has mercased its unemployment rate each year. Benkosky said. The state rate since 1976 has decreased from an annual average of 6.2 percent to 4.3 percent for 1978. The 7.7 percent rate for January is lower than any annual rate since 1976.

	1976	al Unemploymer 1977		
And the second second second second		- + (17) (F) (F)	1978	Change
Cumberland	7.0	7.6	6.0	-1.0
Hoke	7.9	1) 1)	10.0	up 2.1
Moore	6.2	5.4	3.8	up
Robeson	10.8	10.0	7 9	
Scotland	6.8	6.2	4.5	
State	6.2	5.9	4.3	1.9

The Board of Directors of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce Tuesday morning en-dorsed the North Carolina Governor's Community of Excellence

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1979

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

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Program. The purpose of the program is to help communities become more attractive for the location of industry and related economic development.

The objectives are to help individual communities become better prepared for industrial and economic development; and to provide the state's Economic Development Divisions and their allies a better inventory of communities to bring the attention of industrial firms seeking new plant locations. The designation of a Community

of Excellence is evidence that a community has improved its com-petitive position. "However," the state-prepared brochure on the program adds, "the designation if hased upon achievement is correct based upon achievement in certain categories. not competition with other communities.

The brochure adds, "No promise is made that the designation as a Community of Excellence will result in the location of a new industry or the expansion of an existing firm.

'The Department of Commerce's pledge to a Community of Excellence is that special attention and promotion efforts will be given to these towns and that the Department will work in partner-ship with a Community of Excellence to achieve their goals of jobs and investments."

Earl Fowler, manager of the chamber, said the chamber will recommend a joint Raeford city and county effort, with the cham-ber to implement the program with its manpower and "expertise." First, however, he said, the cham-ber will recommend that the city council and the board of county commissioners and reasons it.

commissioners approve it. Fowler said the program already is being implemented by the carry-ing out of the chamber's revitalization program, started more than a year ago.

He said the chamber in connection with the program also will recommend that all through truck traffic be re-routed so that it would no longer use Main Street. The plan would not apply to local trucking. Fowler said the chamber also is

supporting a move by Danny Morrison to go into a salvage business which would remove junk autos not only from Hoke County but from any community in the

state which requests the service. Federal aid in obtaining equip-ment to compact junk cars could be obtained.

The compacted cars would be shredded in Kernersville and their types of metal separated. Most of the classified metal would be recycled for use by auto manu-

factures and for export, he said. The chamber is endorsing the plan from the environmental standpoint. Fowler added. He said the Raeford-Hoke chamber will encourage other chambers to act to clean their communities of junked

**O'Neal Leaving** For Jones Post

Freddie O'Neal has resigned as an agent for the Hoke County Agricultural Extension Service to join the staff of the Jones County Agricultural Extension Service April 1.

O'Neal sent a letter of resignation dated March 6 to the Hoke County commissioners with copies also addressed to County Extension Chairman Wendell S. Young and County Manager James Martin.

His letter said he was resigning to become livestock agent.

O'Neal has been serving as livestock agent and also working with 4-H clubs in Hoke since July 14, 1975, after graduating from North Carolina State University the the previous month.

He is a native of Hyde County on

the coast and is married to the former Miss Ginger Wall, a native of Garner, near Raleigh. Mrs. O'Neal is working for Carolina Power & Light Co, at its district office in Southers Piece office in Southern Pines.

Young said Monday morning an agent to fill the vacancy being left by O'Neal hadn't been found yet but is being sought.

O'Neal's letter says, "I would like to thank you all for the support that you have displayed in the past for the Agricultural Extension Service.

O'Neal will be working from the Jones Extension offices in Trenton, the county seat. Jones County is near the coast and due east of Hoke.

Berder Niven and Whistle were the night attendants at Graham's Serv-Station when it remained open For 24 hours a day.

Being retired doesn't seem to fit his nature as he was talking about going back to Kansas City and getting a part-time job. He said that he still wanted to see a few more friends before returning this leek.

William is like my brother. Spec. when he comes in from Texas. There are not as many friends left in Hoke County as when they left in 1940. Just like themselves, many have moved away and of course Time will take care of others. It was good to see him, as it is all

the old gang, and we hope for him many happy days during his retirement

. . .

Since Vardell Hedgpeth has moved his office next to the newspaper office every once and a while we observe an insurance adjuster talking with some car owners who has a bent fender or a crill crushed in. Then on other occasions we hear two car owners talking about a run together and both finding fault with the other. This occurs before the adjuster arrives

Last Thursday morning two men and a woman were in front of the (See AROUND TOWN, page 11)

## **Soldier Dies On Sports Parachute Jump**

A Ft. Bragg soldier died March in a sports parachute jump over the Raeford Airport area after neither of his parachutes opened.

He was identified by a Ft. Bragg spokesman as SFC Thomas Van Buren, 31, of Barrington, N.J., serving with the John F. Kennedy Center for Military Asssistance at the post. His off-duty residence was 702 Roxie Ave., Fayetteville.

Hoke County Sheriff David Barrington reported Van Buren jump-ed with three other sports parachutists from a single-engine plane about 2:30 p.m. from an altitude of about 7,500 feet.

The main chutes of the others opened at about 3,500 feet but neither Van Buren's main nor reserve chute opened and Van Buren hit the ground in woods on Lacy McNeill's farm about a mile east of the airport.

The body was sent to Chapel Hill for an autopsy to be made by the staff of the State chief medical examiner Dr. Page Hudson, to learn whether a sudden illness had prevented Van Buren from opening either of his 'chutes after he jumped.

Barrington said Van Buren's death was the third suffered in parachuting in Hoke County in the past eight years. He said Van Buren was a veteran of more than 100 jumps.

Dr. Robert G. Townsend Jr. of Raeford, a Hoke County medical examiner, went to the scene of the death in response to a call from the sheriff's department.

### State Tax

### Collections Here \$73.257

Gross collections of the state's 3 per cent sales and use tax amounted to \$73.257.99 in Janurary, the State Department of Revenue reported recently.

The collections were made on retail sales totaling \$3,192,961.

The previous month's collections in the county totaled \$55,859.37 from gross retail sales of \$2,693, 395.

## He said the hope was to have a shredder here in two years, so the recycling process could be con-ducted in the county.

## Sheriff, Jailer, Prisoner Hurt, But Not Seriously, In Jail Fight

Hoke County Sheriff David Bar-rington said Monday he, a prisoner and a jailer were injured, but not seriously enough to be hospitalized in a scuffle at the county jail Thursday.

He said they were treated by a local physician and released.

District Court Judge Joseph Dupree on Friday continued prayer for judgment for the prisoner. Frank Tyson, 42, of Harmony Heights Trailer Park, Rt. 1, Raeford, on charges of trespass and assault on an officer pending a pre-sentencing diagnostic study, not to exceed 90 days, at the South Central Diag-nostic Study Center at McCain. The sheriff said he suffered a fracture and a dislocation in his right head when the suffered in the suffered second sec

right hand when he punched Tyson on the back of the head during the struggle in the corridor of the jail. He said his blow jammed one of his knuckles and made a fracture across a finger between the knuckle and the first joint.

Tyson suffered a cut near the left eye when Deputy Sheriff Guy Hardman hit him with a blackjack. the sheriff said. He said the doctor closed the cut with two stitches

Jailer George McGuire needed several stitches to close a cut near his left eye, the sheriff said. He said McGuire suffered the laceration, and a black eye and other bruises when Tyson struck him with his first three or four times about the head.

The warrant charging assault on an officer was signed by McGuire Thursday.

After the judge issued the order in District Court Friday, Tyson was returned to the county jail to await transportation to McCain within

the next two weeks. The sheriff said the scuffle started about 3:45 p.m. in the jail corridor. He said Tyson "jumped" McGuire as McGuire was returning him to his cell from the visitors' box after Tyson had been with a visitor.

He said Tyson grabbed McGuire around the head and, holding it under his arm started hitting McGuire with his free fist.

The sheriff said he, Hardman, the Chief Deputy Alec Norton rushed to help McGuire when they heard McGuire calling for help. Since McGuire had the keys to the jail with him, the other officers had to come through the juvenile section.

Hardman grabbed one of Ty son's arms. Tyson kicked one of the sheriff's legs, and the sheriff hit Ty on in the backside with a knee and punched him once on the head. Barrington reported. The sheriff said Tyson was not

knocked out. He said the officers used no more force than necessary to subdue him.

The sheriff said Tyson is about 5 feet 9 inches tall, is wiry in build, and weighs 155 to 160 pounds.

He said Tyson originally was from the West Indies and came to Hoke County from New York

The trespass charge was issued February 28 against Tyson for allegedly going on the property of (See SHERIFF, page 11)

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