

# The News - Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

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## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Spring has arrived and with the birds singing and the trees budding, it makes one hate to stay indoors. The temperature goes up to about 70 degrees each day and it is my kind of weather.

Janice Pickler was by the office the first of the week and was telling me about the class of 1959 at Hoke High School going to have a reunion on April 14. She said that all but three of the class had been contacted and was hoping that this newspaper could help her with that problem.

The three classmates that have not been contacted are Cleanna Greathouse, Sara Edwards and Jimmy Beasley. If you know the whereabouts of these people, please get in touch with Janice. She can be reached by phone at 875-2100 or you can write her at 112 Prospect Avenue, Raeford, N.C. 28376.

The finals of the NCAA basketball tournament will bring forth a champ that will not be who the bookies had picked. Some of the teams, I believe three of them, are playing in the finals for the first time. Of course, most of us old folks remember Michigan State playing Carolina many years ago.

There is plenty of talent these days and about any team can make it to the finals.

It is about the same in golf if you watch these money-making events on TV each weekend. It has so far crowned four players with \$40,000 or more for the first time. All the golfers are good these days and when one puts four rounds together he comes out the winner. Of course the pressure gets to the young players sometimes and they blow up during the final rounds.

They will soon be at Greensboro and it will give Tar Heel fans a chance to see them first hand.

The following letter was received last week and we think it is self-explanatory:

Dear Mr. Morris,

In relation to the County Commissioners meeting on March 5, 1979, in which Mrs. Ruth Pecora and I made a presentation concerning funding problems with the Hoke Co. Assoc. for the Developmentally Disabled, I would like to express to you my appreciation for your article in the March 8 issue of *The News-Journal*. Mr. Lindau did such a fine job on the article; I've been approached by several citizens of Hoke Co. on how impressed they were with the way it was written. The fact that it was on the front page also had great impact. *The News-Journal* has always been so cooperative with us and it is greatly appreciated. I definitely commend Mr. Lindau on his writing and both of you for your interest in our program. Thank you so much for helping us help others!

Very Sincerely,  
Judy Hendrix

The Class of 1970 is planning a reunion for November, 1979. They are interested in getting the addresses of classmates to send further details about the reunion.

If you are interested please send your name and address to Sharon Ashburn, 316 N. Dickson Street or Deborah Rogers Purcell, Route 2 Box 549, Raeford, North Carolina. (If married please include your maiden name)

Mary Alice and I accompanied by Sam and Louise Sneed of Red Springs spent last weekend in Charleston, S.C. We went to talk with hotel people about the upcoming reunion of old Battery 'F', but we also visited some places of interest while on the trip.

We visited Middleton Place and Charles Towne Landing and were among the many tourists that enjoyed and appreciated what we saw.

The flowers were not completely in bloom, but should be in the next two weeks.

The travel was heavy and after listening on TV about closing gas stations on Sunday, I wonder where (See AROUND TOWN, page 6)

## At Mid-Month Meeting

## Board Okays Chore Help Funds For Elders

The Hoke County commissioners Monday night were informed the state would grant \$10,000 toward purchase of a new ambulance, acted to employ 12 people to help the elderly remain in their homes, and adopted a new county privilege license ordinance for businesses.

These and other matters were considered during the commissioners' mid-month meeting for March.

The commissioners also adopted a motion to release to the State Office of Employment Training surplus funds for employment of people under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act. They are \$22,628 in Title II and \$19,735

in Title VI. Both programs are for economically disadvantaged people.

The money, however, will be available to the county office of the State Employment Security Commission after the ESC takes over from the county administration of the CETA program.

The release of the funds was recommended by Hoke ESC office director Stephen Benkosky because qualified people to fill some of the vacant CETA positions have been unavailable. He said most of the county's unemployed are workers in textiles or jobs related to textiles, and available jobs open are for

clerical workers and teacher aides.

He said of the 13 new positions requested, we will do good to fill six, and off the four vacancies existing, they will fill two.

Benkosky said 97 county positions will be taken over in the transfer of CETA administration.

One problem in filling CETA positions, he indicated, is in the difference in pay scales. He said an electrician sought for a CETA position would be paid \$4.50 per hour, but the electrician is holding back in hopes of getting a Scotland County job paying much more than that.

In other business, Benkosky

informed the commissioners that the ESC needs another room for a new fulltime counseling position it has been assigned.

The commissioners decided after a discussion to put off action on the request till their next regular meeting, which will be held April 2, starting at 9 a.m.

In the matter of employing people to help the elderly at home, the commissioners adopted a motion transferring \$1,620 from the salary budget to public assistance. This amounts to 25 per cent of the \$6,480 necessary to employ 12 chore providers for the three months left in the current fiscal

year. Each will be paid \$180 per month.

The remainder of the \$6,480 will come from the \$14,900 in federal Title XX funds available to the county for this purpose.

The \$14,900 for the county is part of the \$5 million increase in Title XX money the state has been allowed and is distributing among the counties.

The proposed privilege-license ordinance was submitted by Mrs. Elizabeth Livingston, the county tax collector, who explained it to the commissioners at the commissioner's March 5 meeting.

The request for the county assistance was made by Frances Cox while she was acting director of the county Department of Social Services pending appointment of a fulltime director to succeed Ben Niblock. Since the request was filed, Kenneth L. Witherspoon has been appointed director. Niblock resigned last January to become Johnston County Social Services Department director.

Witherspoon, who started work Friday, was welcomed to the county Monday night by John Balfour, chairman of the board of county commissioners.

The chore providers' services mean elderly people can remain in their own homes instead of having to go to rest homes for lack of physical ability to take care of themselves. For examples, the chore worker does the light housework and grocery shopping for the elderly, Witherspoon explained.

Replying to a question asked him by Commissioner Mabel Riley, Witherspoon said the chore workers' jobs could be filled by mothers on public assistance. They could continue getting payments in the program, Aid to Dependent Children, he added.

The chore providers' jobs are given to unemployed people, Witherspoon said. They must be good housekeepers, and, of course, be able to get along with the people they will be helping, he added.

The state currently is not paying part of the expenses of the program but the General Assembly in its current session may provide for the state to pay 12 1/4 per cent of the 25 per cent the county now is obligated to pay, he added.

### AMBULANCE

County Manager James Martin informed the commissioners the county was notified last week that a \$10,000 grant has been awarded to the county under the Governor's Highway Safety Program to help pay for the new ambulance. The cost totaled \$22,685.

Martin said the county would pay the whole amount but the state agency would reimburse the county for \$10,000 of the expense.

In connection with the new ambulance, the commissioners adopted a motion approving \$3,148 for emergency medical equipment after adopting a motion rescinding all its previous acts affecting emergency medical grants.

The ambulance will be used by the Rescue Squad.

### FOOD STAMP MACHINES

The commissioners adopted a motion authorizing the renewed leasing at \$38 per month each five office machines for use in the food stamp program of the county Social Services Department.

The rent amounts to \$87.50 per month per machine, but the federal government pays \$49.50 of it, the commissioners were informed at their March 5 meeting, and the machines save the county the expense of paying two people to handle the work the machines do.

Witherspoon told the commissioners Monday night the machines are a great help with the food stamp program.

### MUTUAL AID

The commissioners adopted a motion to authorize Hoke County firemen, in event of a disaster, going to the aid of firemen of adjoining counties in a mutual-aid agreement. The others which would participate are Cumberland, Moore, Scotland, and Robeson. Under the agreement, each of the others would help the Hoke firemen on request in event of a disaster.

It was pointed out that the agreement already exists verbally (See BOARD, page 9)

## 'Spring For Sure' Opens Friday At Hoke HS

"Spring for Sure," Hoke County's first community theatrical production, will open Friday at 8 p.m. in the Hoke County High School gymnasium.

The other performances will be given in the same place starting at the same time on Saturday and on March 30 and 31.

Ticket sales are reported going extremely well. People who want tickets may buy them at Vardell Hedgpeth Insurance Agency on West Elwood Avenue, or at Louise's Beauty Shop on Main Street.

More information can be obtained by telephoning 875-3501 after 4 p.m.

The prices of tickets bought in advance are \$3 each for adults \$2 each for children. The price at the door is \$3.50 each for adults and children.

A rumor that tickets to the performances are no longer available is false, Mrs. Joe Stanley of the sponsoring Raeford Junior Woman's Club, said Tuesday.

She said no tickets for reserved seats are being sold for this week's performance only, but general-admission tickets for both weeks, and reserve tickets for next week are available for purchase.



REHEARSAL - Some of the members of the cast of "Spring for Sure" rehearse a scene of the musical drama. L-R, front: Cecelia Ropp, Bobby McBryde, and Jo Hudson. In the rear are Janet Best (left) and Gail Conoly.

## Raeford Councilman Informed:

## UCP Aids Center Children Indirectly

The Hoke County Children's Center does receive aid, indirectly in many ways, from United Cerebral Palsy, Judy C. Hendrix, director of the Center, advised Raeford city councilman Sam Morris by letter last week.

Her letter referred to Morris's question put to her concerning the Center's inability to receive money from the cerebral palsy organization, though four of the eight children served by the Center have

cerebral palsy.

Morris asked Ms. Hendrix the question after Ms. Hendrix informed the council and Mayor John K. McNeill Jr. of the Center's financial needs. She spoke at the council's monthly meeting March 5.

Ms. Hendrix in her letter, written to Morris March 8, said she found out that United Cerebral Palsy "concentrates on prosthetic equipment and various other types

of much needed equipment for the physically handicapped."

She added: "It also aids a state-funded hospital in Durham, N.C., called Lenox Baker Children's Hospital, commonly known as Lenox Baker Cerebral Palsy Hospital. This hospital offers a variety of services, many of which our children have been able to benefit from."

She said the Center staff has taken children of the Center to the

Baker hospital for orthopedic evaluations, physical therapy programs, and special equipment, "all of which the children have received for a very small fee."

"They have been a tremendous help to the Center," Ms. Hendrix added.

"On Feb. 13, 1979, I took one of the children there because he has outgrown his chair. After a brief evaluation, a new chair was put on order."

## Local Citizens Help Meet Family's Needs

by Cassie Wasko

Local residents opened their hearts to a young man here who had suffered for almost a year from cancer and who died Wednesday, a scant two days away from the day named for him.

Doug Baker, 20, a city employee and a graduate of Hoke High, was

honored by having Friday named for him. Local residents baked goods to be sold in a fund-raising effort for his family and merchants donated goods to be auctioned. The Doug Baker Fund Committee reported a total of \$3,750 collected.

The Doug Baker Fund account, opened slightly more than a week ago, rose from a meager \$500

beginning to a total of \$1,900 in donations. About \$1,850 in additional funds was raised Friday through the efforts of the Doug Baker Fund Committee and WSHB radio.

"I just want everyone in the community to know how deeply their help was appreciated," El-

wood Baker, Doug's father, said.

"I would like to thank everyone who helped with the drive," Ronda Pickler, originator of the fund-raising effort, said. "The Bank of Raeford deserves a big vote of thanks for their participation," she

(See HELP, page 9)

## Boy Thinks Honesty Is The Best Policy

While the names of youths appear in the court news each week and the juvenile courts are doing a booming business, the majority of today's young people go unrecognized for the good deeds they do.

David Ray, 13, an Upchurch Junior High student, is just such a young man. David found a billfold in front of the Valu-Mart store on Main Street last week. It contained \$200.

To a young boy, \$200 must appear to be a fortune. Consider the number of candy bars and baseball mitts that money could buy. Although David says he thought about what he could do with that much money, he did not hesitate to turn it in so the rightful owner could claim it.

The owner, Jennie L.V. Killers, has not yet been contacted because of a problem in finding his correct address, but the money is being held for him. The police department has been notified and is expected to take steps to find Killers and notify him that his wallet has been found.

As far as David being given a reward in recognition of his honesty is concerned, his mother said that knowing that the rightful owner had his money back would be reward enough.

## Wagram Man Killed In Hoke Road Crash

A Wagram man was killed about 6 p.m. Monday after the pick-up truck he was riding in hit the shoulder of Turnpike Road about three miles west of Raeford, traveled 351 feet and overturned, State Trooper Louis Rector said.

John Samuel Bryant, 43, of Wagram, was pronounced dead on the scene by Dr. R.G. Townsend, medical examiner.

David Samuel Ray, 35, of Rt. 3 Box 249, Raeford, driver of the truck, was charged with driving under the influence, death by vehicle, exceeding a safe speed and carrying a bottle of alcoholic beverage on which the seal had been broken in the passenger section of the vehicle, Rector said.

Ray was treated at Moore Memorial Hospital and released to the custody of Trooper Rector. He was placed under a \$400 bond.

Rector reported the truck, traveling west, ran off the road on the right side into a ditch.

The officer said the truck then traveled 144 feet along the ditch line, hit the ditch embankment, then traveled 70 more feet and struck SR 1211. The collision with the roadway sent the truck turning end over end, Rector said. The vehicle went 114 more feet before coming to rest on its top, he said.

Rector reported Bryant was thrown through the windshield and Ray thrown out the side of the cab when the truck struck the road.

The officer quoted Ray as saying the truck went off the road out of control because a tire blew out.

Bryant was pinned under the cab of the truck, Rector said.

Bryant's death was the third caused by a traffic accident in Hoke County this year.