

Proposed Mental Programs For McCain Hospital Described

A copy of the proposals for use of part of the McCain Hospital facilities for mental health program was given to *The News-Journal* last week by Dennis Brewster, manager of the Hoke County Unit of the five-county regional Sandhills Center for Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

The proposals are contained in a letter written by Dr. Steven Dingfelder, Sandhills Center area director, to Dr. R.J. Blackley, director of the State Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services. The

division is part of the State Department of Human Resources. The proposals were drawn up at Dr. Blackley's request. Meanwhile, a Hoke County Study Committee has been established to see what the hospital could be used for in the future; whether it should continue as it has been for the past 73 years, as a special hospital for treatment of tuberculosis and other lung diseases; or whether it should be converted to a general hospital; or given other roles.

After completing the study, the committee will make recommenda-

tions to the state HR department. The committee was established in response to reports that state government sources are considering more changes in the hospital's operations. Last year Hoke County people and organizations responded similarly to a proposal made to state officials that the hospital be closed. The result was that the hospital was continued though the number of beds were reduced.

Brewster endorsed the proposal for the study by the Hoke committee, which is composed of representatives of the Hoke County and Raeford governments and the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce.

Dingfelder's letter to Blackley follows. Dear Dr. Blackley: On March 19, 1982, our Center Coordinators, myself, our Regional Director (Mr. J.K. Horne), and several of the regional office staff visited McCain Hospital. After a comprehensive review of the hospital building, the approximate half dozen three bedroom brick ranches, and apartment/dormitory building, we began to refine our thoughts and concerns as they relate to the development of pro-

grams on this campus. We are excited about the potential to develop meaningful programs for our catchment area, the region, the state and the nation. I do not think it is farfetched to mention the nation as I believe this campus could be the nucleus from which a state-wide prevention institute could be developed that would lead the nation in the development and initiation of meaningful prevention techniques and approaches within the areas of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services. One of the services often recog-

nized as needed in the South Central Region is that of a therapeutic community for alcohol and drug abusers. Sandhills Center would be interested in developing a therapeutic community on the campus of McCain Hospital. Such a facility could serve 12 clients. It would utilize the dorm/apartment building which presently exists. This building is in moderately good condition and could be upgraded to the necessary standards without an inordinate amount of (See MENTAL PROGRAM, Page 18)

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Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather over the weekend was again perfect for outdoor activities. The thunderstorm Sunday afternoon held off until late in the day. I don't know how much rain fell, but the water hole in my driveway was full Monday morning.

We also had some hail mixed in with the rain Sunday. It was about the size of popcorn, that is after it is popped, and fell for just a few minutes. When I mentioned it to someone Monday afternoon, they said that Mr. Will Monroe stated last Saturday that they had hail Friday night that did damage to the gardens in the Puppy Creek area.

There could have been damage to tobacco, but as of this time I haven't heard of any damage.

The forecast is for the temperatures to be in the 80s for the remainder of the week. Now this is the weather I like.

Now, every so often a friend of mine will send me a message and about half the time he will get his "foot in his mouth."

Last week, either Thursday or Friday, I found a note on my desk that was on the memo pad of Pam Frederick, office secretary. The note is as follows:

"Mr. Morris:
"How do you retire from a job when you have no job?"

"Patrolman in Hamlet."
Now of course this is Gene Coen, now Sgt. Coen of the State Highway Patrol that was stationed in Raeford for many years. He had sent the message over from Richmond County by the driver of the National Linen Truck who works parttime as a deputy for the Richmond County Sheriff's Dept.

I am sure that someone told Coen that I had retired because he couldn't read well enough to get it out of the paper. As far as having "no job," the only time I ran into him while on duty in Raeford was at some place they served coffee. Now if this is a job I will have to say what I did for 46 years was "no job."

Anyway it was good to hear from the Patrolman and know that he is still in the neighborhood.

Chris Watkins, who until last Sunday, has been the Director of Music at the Raeford Presbyterian Church, gave a farewell speech to the congregation after the morning worship service. Now Chris was more to the community than just at the Presbyterian Church.

He directed the community choir in many special concerts and also directed two productions for the Raeford Junior Woman's Club. I don't believe that any flaw could be found in any of these productions. He was a perfectionist and he would almost go to the extreme to get things perfect.

We have at Dickson Press done many programs for Chris and you always knew what he wanted and they were always "top rate."

As a good friend of Chris' said to me Monday he could get under your skin, but you still came out liking him. This is correct. I could have broken his neck many times, but I still admire the talent this young man has and I know that over the years his productions will become better and better.

Good luck, Chris!

The Dickson Press lost a faithful employee this week. Harold Mc-

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Appropriate For Roofs Repairs

Board Given Proposed School Budget

The Hoke County commissioners Monday morning were presented with a proposed 1982-83 county school system budget which would include \$1,161,991.

County Schools Supt. Raz Autry told the commissioners the proposed budget, which also contains \$6,563,462 in state and \$1,770,372 in federal funds, has been "cut to the bone."

He said if cuts have to be made the only ones possible are the total cultural arts program and reduction in the number of vocational education teachers. A \$35,000 cut in the athletics budget, he also

said, would eliminate athletics at Upchurch Junior High School.

Autry told the commissioners the people of the county will have to decide whether to support athletics, music and art, and vocational education. He suggested this support would require an increase in the county property tax rate.

Autry said it would not be fair for the school board to state that the commissioners didn't give the money to keep the school system at its present level, and it wouldn't be fair for the commissioners to say that they gave the board of education money and it was up to

the board to make the cuts.

The members of the school board attended the meeting, and school system business manager Don Steed read to the commissioners the specific proposed items in the budget.

Autry said before Steed started his report that cutting the cultural arts program off would cut \$15,000 in supplies and \$175,000 for teachers; and cutting the vocational program could reduce the money for teachers to \$75,000 from \$150,000.

He also said that if the commissioners cut out all help in the

superintendent's office they wouldn't save but \$14,000 in local money. This would include the \$6,000 annual supplement the superintendent has been paid the past nine years; \$6,000 for Harold Gillis, the vocational education director, a state-required local appropriation, with the state paying the remainder of the director's salary; and \$2,000 of the associate superintendent's (J.D. McAllister's) salary, also state-required with the state paying the remainder.

Autry also said during his talk he was going to retire at the end of the

year after 36 years in public education work. 15 of them in the Hoke County school system.

The commissioners didn't act on the total budget proposal during the meeting but did adopt a motion to appropriate \$63,000, payable from the 1982-83 year's budget, to pay for repairs to the roofs of J.W. Turlington School and Upchurch Junior High School.

Commissioner Danny DeVane, in making the motion, explained that this would allow the work to be done during the summer.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

The commissioners also adopted a motion authorizing a survey be made to pinpoint the mosquito problem reported in several areas of the county. They acted after hearing about 12 residents from different sections of the county report that mosquitoes constituted a problem for them and for livestock; being informed by Dr. C.S. Apperson, a North Carolina State University Agricultural Extension Service entomologist generally about conditions favorable to mosquito activity and of control problems.

Lloyd Horne, administrator of the Hoke County Health Department, said costs of a program should be weighed against the benefits, and he said he assumed the commissioners had a longrange (annual) program in mind. He said that costs would range from \$25,000 to \$30,000 annually.

The group of residents appearing before the commissioners was headed by Rick McMillan. The residents spoke of gnats being a nuisance also, and a person later said that gnat control and mosquito control were two different things, because of the differences in living conditions between the two species of insects.

He also said that funds are available to help pay for control programs, from the State Department of Human Resources Vector Control Branch, and the Department of Entomology of State University.

ROCKFISH COMMUNITY BUILDING

The commissioners inspected the 50-year-old Rockfish Community Building after lunch, to help them decide whether to buy it back and move it to another lot; or to build a new building.

After looking over the old building, the commissioners voted to accept the offer of resale for \$5,000 and relocate the building.

The commissioners then decided to meet at the Rockfish Fire Station at 8 p.m. Tuesday to get from the people of the community some ideas for a new site for the building.

The Hadley - Peoples Co. agreed to sell the old building back to the county for \$5,000 on condition the county relocate it. Jerry Bundy, however, appearing before the

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Hoke Group With State Officials

Meeting On McCain Slated Next Week

A meeting of the Hoke County Study Committee for McCain Hospital with State Department of Human Resources secretary Dr. Sarah Morrow, department staff member and State Sen. Sam Noble is to be arranged for next week to discuss the McCain situation.

Noble, in Raeford Friday afternoon, talked with the staff member, James Woodall, by telephone regarding the proposed meeting after putting in the call to Woodall to find out what the situation regarding the hospital matter was currently.

The Hoke study committee of six people was established after word was received that the state planned

to make changes in the hospital, the only state institution still caring exclusively for tuberculosis patients and other afflicted with pulmonary diseases.

Noble after talking with Woodall quoted Woodall as saying that so far this fiscal year McCain Hospital was \$600,000 "in the hole" and that \$400,000 in state money had been transferred from another account to carry the hospital through the remainder of the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Noble said Woodall told him that the trouble was too many patients were ineligible for federal Medicare

assistance and too many were unable to pay.

Woodall also told him, he said, that the Sandhills (mental health) Center director had some ideas for using part of the hospital for mental health programs but the state hasn't the money to finance them. Noble pointed out that "new money is going to be hard to come by."

Woodall said, Noble reported, that Dr. Morrow has appointed a group headed by Ben Aiken, to "come up with alternatives" at McCain.

However, he said, the "Willie M." program, which is included in

Hoke Jobless Rate Was 10.3% In March

Hoke County's unemployment rate in March was 10.3 per cent, compared with 11.4 February, figures from the State Employment Security Commission show.

Hoke's unemployed in March totaled 800 people of a work force of 7,740.

The March 1981 unemployment rate for Hoke was 10.6 per cent, with 790 people out of jobs in a

work force totaling 7,440 at the time.

Statewide, Hoke's rate in March was a drop from the previous month experienced by 43 other counties, the ESC reported last week. The rate remained the same in four counties.

The statewide rate for March was 9.7 per cent, up half a percent from the February figure.

Nationally, the March rate was

9.5, down one-tenth of a percentage point from the February rate.

The highest county rate registered in March 1982 was Swain's, with 25.4 per cent. It was one of 65 counties whose rates were in double figures that month.

The state's lowest in March was in Orange County, where it had been the state's lowest the four successive previous months.

80 -- Not 15 -- McCain Beds Said Occupied

A newspaper article about McCain Hospital's future published Monday contained two errors, Earl Fowler, coordinator of the Raeford - Hoke County Committee to evaluate the potential future of the hospital, said Tuesday.

At McCain Hospital

Group To Recommend TB Care

The Raeford - Hoke Committee to evaluate the potential future of McCain Hospital will recommend that the hospital remain open as a treatment center for tuberculosis patients, with a minimum of 100

beds. He quoted a member of the hospital administration as saying 80 of the hospital's 115 beds are occupied. The news story says only 15 of the 115 beds are occupied, quoting hospital administrator

John Watson. The source indicated, however, that Watson was misquoted on the figure.

The news report also quotes Watson as saying that while efforts to cut costs for operations of

The committee will make the recommendation and give its expression of support for mental health use to Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., and Dr. Sarah Morrow, secretary of the State Department of

Human Resources. The committee decided this at its second meeting, which was held Thursday.

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Primary Date June 29

The date for the primary elections in North Carolina have been changed to June 29, Rose Sturgeon, executive secretary of the Hoke County Board of Elections, said Monday she has been informed officially.

Runoff primaries, if necessary, will be held July 27.

She said the deadlines for candidates' filing for the General Assembly (House and Senate) and Congress (U.S. House of Representa-

tatives) remains noon Friday, however and the deadline for registering to vote remains May 17.

The General Assembly had set June 10 as the primary date when they meet April 27 but the U.S. Justice Department the following Friday ordered the date changed to June 29. JD's approval of the amended State House and State Senate redistricting plans was given on condition the primary date be changed.