

The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

Volume LXXV Number 31

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$10 PER YEAR

25 CENTS

Thursday, November 24, 1983

College Satellite Eyed For Hoke

By Sherry Matthews

An "investigation" into the possible development of a community college system within Hoke County is being studied by a group set up to push the county forward. "We are going to look into the possibility of creating a satellite of Sandhills Community College in Hoke County," Hoke Chamber of Commerce Director Earl Fowler said.

legue system and Hoke County School system personnel in an effort to define the "educational" activities within the county. "We are only in the beginning stages, but we are very encouraged at this point," Fowler said. During the meeting, Sandhills Director Raymond Stone told Fowler and others that some 1,600 Hoke County students had enrolled in Sandhills last year. "We don't know at this point how many of those county residents enrolled were part-time, full-time or drop-outs," Fowler said. "All we really know is that there

were a lot of county residents interested in the community college system," Fowler added. The PAC team, comprised of county business, governmental and civic leaders, has been working since August on trying to remove obstacles, develop potential and push Hoke forward, according to Fowler. "We would love to be able to consolidate the system under one roof. From what we have heard up to this point, there is a good possibility that something might work out," Fowler said. "I don't want to get anybody's hopes up because we are not sure

of anything at this point," Fowler noted. Although Fowler and his PAC team are "uncertain" of where the facts might lead them, he admits that he is "encouraged" by what he has "learned so far." "We are encouraged enough by what we have heard to continue to dig for more facts," Fowler said. At present the committee is plowing through resource data figures and evaluating the possibilities "very carefully." "There is still a lot of work to be done," Fowler said. The team is aiming for a two-year community college system

that would be consolidated "in some way" with Sandhills Community College, Fowler said. "We are taking a long hard look, and what we have seen so far is very promising," Fowler said. "The mere prospect is extremely exciting," Fowler added. Although Fowler appears hopeful at this point he stressed the importance of not "getting too sure of anything." "I don't want to jump to any wrong conclusions and give people false hope," Fowler said. The old National Guard Armory and a downtown Raeford building are being eyed as possible locations

for the college. In addition to the community college plan, the PAC team has also been looking into the possibility of plugging telephone lines into the Fayetteville system and providing motel accommodations to the county. "We don't have anything firm at this point, but there are some out-of-towners expressing interest," Fowler said. According to Fowler, at least one Hoke resident and two non-locals are interested in seeing a 50-bed motel erected in Hoke County. (See COLLEGE, page 2A)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The rains came Sunday, but from all the forecasts it will be nice for the Thanksgiving holiday. The temperatures are to be in the 70s the first part of the week, reaching 75 degrees on Tuesday. So this should make up for the rainy Sunday.

Most of the businesses and offices will be closed on Thursday for the holiday. If you are looking for a church service on Thanksgiving Day then you must go out of Hoke County, as far as I know.

There will be a Union Service on Wednesday night before Thanksgiving at the Parker United Methodist Church on the Fayetteville Highway. This is sponsored by the Raeford Ministers' Association. Time of the service is 7:30 p.m.

So be sure to attend this service and give thanks for your many blessings during the year.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Raeford Kiwanis Club annual Pancake Supper. This event will take place Thursday night, December 15 at the W.T. Gibson School cafeteria. The serving will start at five o'clock and continue until eight o'clock.

In talking to a Kiwanian last week, he said that the supper this year is going to be the biggest and best that the club has ever put on. Now this should be some affair because the lines have been long in years past and that was with the late Israel Mann cooking the pork sausage.

Hope to see you there!

Last week I quoted something that John Plummer said at a Kiwanis Club meeting. Last Friday John said that he wouldn't ever open his mouth again at a club meeting. Does anyone want to bet?

Mrs. Grace Malone of the Dunderach Community called me last week and wanted me to give thanks to the splendid work of the Stonewall Fire Department.

On Sunday, November 13 at 11 o'clock in the morning a furnace at the Malone home caught fire beyond the regular operating procedures. Mrs. Malone said the fire flashed up and that in a few moments the fire department had arrived and put out the fire. She stated if they hadn't been so prompt her house could have been lost.

All of these people are volunteers and they should be thanked many times for their work. Not only Stonewall, but all the Hoke County volunteer departments.

A note was received from William Covington of Charlotte last week: It is as follows:

Dear Sam:

I was interested in the name of the Wilmington, Del. newspaper and thought you might be too.

William Covington

The name of the newspaper was (See AROUND, page 2A)



Not quite ready for the holiday

While most Hoke County residents wait anxiously for Thursday's Thanksgiving holiday, these turkeys seem a bit anxious as they flock together in one of Wyatt Upchurch's turkey houses. Each of the feathered birds seem a little worried that they might be chosen to adorn a family buffet table Thursday morning.

Time Off, Family Highlight Hoke County Thanksgivings

With cool air settling in for the coming winter, weary hunters trading a running deer for a paper target, grocery stores packed with overeager shoppers and Christmas decorations popping up on city streets, it is easy to tell that Thanksgiving is just a few days away.

In Hoke County, turkey shoots, where would-be hunters try to bring home the holiday feast, have sprung up, seemingly, overnight.

A community church service, designed to bring everyone together in a celebration of thanks, has been set for Wednesday night

at 7:30 in the Parker United Methodist Church sanctuary.

Canned food donations given to those who would otherwise be without on Thanksgiving day are either going on or nearing the final stages of development.

While for most, the big "turkey day" celebration means a time to give thanks, it also means a four-day vacation with all the trimmings.

City and county employees will be treated to a four-day weekend with both offices closing both Thursday and Friday.

The Hoke County Courthouse

will also be closed for two days this week in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Most local merchants and banks will keep their doors closed only Thursday, re-opening for business on Friday.

School-age children will also receive what they believe is a "well-deserved" vacation, filled with outdoor games and trips to visit long distance relatives.

In addition, the Hoke County Library will remain closed both Thursday and Friday, but will reopen its doors to the public on Saturday.

Officials: SAT Scores To Rise

By Sherry Matthews

Although Hoke County's "college-bound" students scored below the state's mean average for Scholastic Aptitude Testing (SAT) during the 1982-83 school year, school officials are optimistic about plans for future improvements.

Efforts are being made to work with students prior to testing and to make the test available to younger students, one official said.

"There is room for a lot of improvement with those scores," Hoke School Director of Instruction Marilyn Semones said.

The 101 students who took the SAT fell below the state average by a total of 78 points. Hoke students were 31 points below on the math section of the test and 47 points lower than the state's verbal mean score.

The mean grade for Hoke students taking the test was 347 for the verbal section and 400 for the math.

Of the 101 students taking the test only one boy and two girls scored above 500 on the verbal and only two students scored above 600 on the math section of the test. Hoke students scored 57 points

higher on the math portion of the exam and only 31 points lower than the state average.

"I think math is easier to study for, and the test questions appear to be easier," Semones said.

"With the verbal section, there is so much more of a variety of questions that can be asked. It makes it much more difficult to study for," Semones said.

Although Semones believes Hoke students have improved their scores since last year, the previous year's test scores have apparently been lost in the summer shuffle. (See SAT, page 2A)

Rival Ambulance Firm Nosing Around

By Sherry Matthews

After only two months in operation, the county-owned ambulance service may be getting some outside competition.

In a letter from Hoke Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director Bill Niven, County Manager James Martin was informed that a "private ambulance service" was planning to start up an operation in Hoke County.

Niven has requested that the

county commissioners adopt an "intent" ordinance that will prevent any other service from operating within the county until some "final action is taken on the ambulance ordinance."

"There is not enough business here for two ambulance services," Niven said.

Niven refused to comment on who was considering operating a service in the county.

"I would prefer to wait and talk

about this after the county meeting Tuesday night," Niven said.

Martin, too, was vague about who would be running the "planned" service, but he did admit that a private service was looking at Hoke.

"There is an indication that a potential firm is thinking about coming into this county," Martin said.

"I don't think we really need (See RIVAL, page 11A)

City, County Lose CD Bids

By Sherry Matthews

Bids for over \$1 million in Community Block Grant funds sought by Hoke County and the City of Raeford were denied by the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD), local officials said last week.

Hoke County had hoped to receive over \$540,000 to construct a Tylertown water system, and the city attempted to garner more than \$660,000 for housing rehabilitation.

Both bids failed. "I understand that the money ran out shortly before our priority number came up," Hoke County Manager James Martin said.

"We failed to get anywhere with this application," Martin added. The city also fell short in the application process.

"This was the first time we had tried something like this," Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill Jr. said.

"It was a very competitive field. We just did not make the priority list," McNeill said.

In May, NRCD received \$141 million in Community Block Grant requests for projects ranging from housing rehabilitation to street paving.

Of the monies requested, only \$51 million could be provided to those cities and counties scoring the most points and showing the most need, Lumbee Council of Governments Community Coordinator Dan Stroh said.

Hoke and Raeford were two among 230 who submitted community block grant applications.

"This was a real competitive process," Stroh said, adding that only 96 of the 230 received funds.

According to Stroh, the community revitalization applications were scored in areas of community need, project design, benefit to low and moderate income persons and other public and private funds used for project activities.

"Some of those things you simply cannot dress up in your application," Stroh said, noting that com-

munities could not show more poverty than they actually had.

Stroh said that Hoke County ranked 145 out of 189 who applied for the community revitalization funds while the City of Raeford received a higher ranking, placing 124 out of 189 applicants.

"I would not say that Hoke or Raeford ranked low. A few points on either application would have made a big difference in the whole process," Stroh said.

"I am sure that a lot of good applications didn't get funded. Those who didn't should re-examine their entries and apply again next year," Stroh said.

In May, Hoke County Commissioners applied for \$541,250 in community block grant funds proposed to provide 150 homes in the Tylertown area with a water system.

The application called for a 200,000 gallon elevated tank, water distribution lines and a booster tank which would serve a community presently relying on water wells.

Of the monies applied for, \$83,000 was expected to go to improving the Rockfish area park and the Burlington Park in Raeford.

The city, who also fell short in the application process, had applied for \$662,500 that would have gone towards housing rehabilitation, street improvements and corrective drainage.

If the monies had been awarded to the city, approximately 27 homes in the South Wooley Street area would have been rehabilitated.

South Magnolia Street and Maxwell Street in Raeford would also have benefitted from the block grant funds.

"We lost out this year, but I think we will probably try again," McNeill said. "After all, this was just our first try."

Stroh agrees that all rejected applicants should not "quit."

Farm-City Is Deemed Successful

Nearly 300 city and county residents packed the Raeford National Guard Armory Monday night for the Hoke Extension Service's annual Farm-City Banquet.

The dinner appeared to be the largest in the history of the Hoke farm-city celebration.

During the nearly three-hour banquet, that was designed to bring "better communications between city and farm people," a slide show was presented depicting where the extension service began and where it was going to "take the nation" in the next four years.

Hoke Extension Chairman Willie Featherstone spoke to the "packed house" about the extension service's role in Hoke County life.

"We are working to help two groups, rural and urban people, (See FARM, page 2A)



Inside Today

Agnes Walters gives her sliced apples one final turn in the dicing process before she cans them for the coming holiday season. We take a look at Walters' other prize winning goodies and crafts in this week's B-section of The News-Journal.