



New Sun?

This photo of the solar eclipse was taken in Greensboro by a Parkton resident that works in Raeford at Faberge. Jim Skinner took this hiding sun shot as it was reflected onto a piece of white cardboard

through a telescope. Taken at about 12:35 p.m., the picture shows the sun just as the moon moves across during the eclipse on May 30.

Canners need pressure check

By Ellen S. Willis
Home Extension Agent

WHY BLANCH VEGETABLES

There's one step in the freezing of vegetables that some homemakers think they can ignore. And that step is blanching.

But blanching -- that is scalding of vegetables in hot water or steam before you put them into the package -- is a must. Here's why!

Blanching inactivates most of the plant enzymes that might otherwise cause toughness, change in color, mustiness, loss of flavor, softening and loss of nutritive value.

And blanching vegetables before freezing reduces the number of micro-organisms in the food.

Also blanching can enhance the green color vegetables, including peas, broccoli and spinach -- giving them a fresh-from-the garden look.

It also wilts leafy vegetables, such as spinach and other greens, making them easier to pack into the freezer container.

In addition, blanching displaces air that is trapped in the tissues of vegetables -- and it saves and preserves the flavor of fresh vegetables.

So if you're thinking about saving a step -- and not blanching your vegetables -- reconsider. And blanch.

Cream Cheese Pound Cake
(Agnes Walters)

- 1 1/2 cups butter flavored shortening
- 1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese (softened)
- 3 cups sugar
- 6 eggs
- 1 tablespoon butter flavoring
- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- Cream butter flavor shortening and softened cream cheese. Add sugar and beat until fluffy. Add eggs, two at a time. Add butter flavoring. Add flour gradually until all has been mixed in. Put in greased and floured 10 inch tube pan. Bake at 325° for 1 1/2 hours.

Cream Cheese Sheet Cake
(Agnes Walters)

- 1 stick margarine (melted)
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 1 box powdered sugar
- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese (softened)

Front Burner

Combine cake mix and 2 of the eggs. Add melted margarine. Put mixture into a greased oblong cake pan. Cream together remaining 2 eggs, powdered sugar and cream cheese. Spread this on top of other mixture. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes. (Cake will sink in middle, but is a delicious rich cake).

Chili Con Carne

- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 2 cups canned tomatoes
- 1 10 1/2 ounce can tomato soup
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 clove garlic, mashed
- 1 16 ounce can red kidney beans with liquid

Heat oil in a 10 inch skillet, then brown the green pepper, onion and ground beef in the oil, stirring occasionally. Add the tomatoes, tomato soup, paprika, cayenne pepper, bay leaf and chili powder. Cover, simmer over low heat for about 1 hour, stirring occasionally. (Add more water if the mixture becomes too thick). Then add the garlic and kidney beans with liquid and heat thoroughly. Yield: 6 servings.

Board of Education holds closed session

No action was taken in a special executive session held Thursday by the Hoke County School Board, Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson said.

The special session, which was to have originally been held during the monthly meeting last Tuesday, had to be postponed until Thursday because Board Chairman Bill Cameron was called out of town.

Of the session, that was called to discuss personnel matters, Nelson said: "We just talked."

There are no more special executive sessions planned, Nelson said.

...Meeting on US 401 widening urged

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dangerous areas of the stretch, Hollers said.

"Now is the time to push with Rufus (Democratic Party gubernatorial nominee Rufus Edmisten) and with Billy Rose," Hollers said.

Other federal funds might be available for the widening of Highway 401, but the money could

not be used for purchasing rights-of-way for a four-lane road, she said.

Hollers was unsure whether any land for a four-lane highway had been purchased during the late 1960's and 1970's when the project was funded by the state highway department and scheduled for construction.

If the land was owned by the state, perhaps more money could be obtained for the widening project.

Additional federal discretionary funds might have also been available for the project earlier, but Hollers says that President Ronald Reagan eliminated the use of the money.

"If Reagan hadn't eliminated the money, we might have been able to get money to widen 401 as an evacuation route for Ft. Bragg," she said.

Local officials and others in Hoke County believe that a widened thoroughfare connecting Raeford with Cumberland County is vital to the growth of the area.

County's unemployment rate drops below 10%

By Ed Miller
For the first time in at least nine months, unemployment figures in Hoke County dropped below the double digit mark to 9.9% during April.

The jobless rate in the county was down for the second straight month in April, according to figures released recently by the state Employment Security Commission (ESC).

Out of a labor force in Hoke County of 8,260, 7,440 were work-

ing with 820 still on the jobless rolls.

This county has seen increased employment in trade and construction, said ESC spokesperson Debbie Farmer.

Industries in the county are not laying off and the turnover in plants is not as high as it has been in past months, Farmer said.

Construction in the county is also on the rise because of good weather, she said.

"There have been a lot of col-

lege and high school students hired for summer jobs also," she said.

As to the reasons why the drop in unemployment has occurred, Farmer said: "I think the overall economy is getting better."

In April, the unemployment rate for Hoke was 9.9% as compared to 10.8% in March and 11.2% in February, ESC releases say.

According to the ESC report, Burlington County was the only county in the state that had an increase in the unemployment rate

and that was only by one-tenth of 1%.

The report termed this increase as "insignificant."

Although the number of jobless in the county is down, Hoke and Robeson counties are tied for the highest unemployment percentage rate in the surrounding six county area; however, there are still nine counties in the state where that figure is still over 10%.

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