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Early spring

Even though the tulip trees at the Hoke County Courthouse are usually some of the earliest bloomers in the county, the flowers in February

came as a surprise this year. Now that the weather has turned cold again, it can only be hoped that the blossoms are not severely damaged.

Photo by: Ron Anderson

New cardiac training would save Hoke lives

By Ron Anderson

Chances of surviving a heart attack in Hoke County will improve if patients are treated within eight to 10 minutes of the attack by highly skilled emergency medical technicians (EMTs) using the latest equipment, according to the county's Emergency Services (EMS) medical director.

Dr. Ron Milewski says according to statistics published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, patients in rural areas have a 3% chance of surviving a heart attack.

Statistics published by The American Heart Association say the chances of survival improve 25% to 35% if patients are treated with a defibrillator and administered drugs within eight to 10 minutes of the attack, according to Milewski.

With more training and better equipment, local EMTs would be able to "transport heart attack patients in a stable condition" to hospitals thereby saving more lives, Milewski said.

A request made by Dr. Milewski and Hoke EMS Director William T. Niven to approve tentative funding for the advanced training of 12 of the county's EMTs and to

purchase new equipment was tabled unanimously by county commissioners earlier this month.

The cost of the 120 hours of training for the EMTs plus the new equipment is estimated to be \$25,000.

"By spending only \$25,000 more you're going to have a crack paramedic team," Milewski said.

Two or three counties in the state are currently using Advanced Intermediate EMTs, but the success is not yet known because the programs have only been in existence for a short time, according to Milewski.

Other benefits of the training cited by Milewski include the certification to allow EMTs to administer drugs to patients other than those suffering from heart attacks and the ability to remove items from the throats of choking patients.

"If the county is interested in getting more industry, I think it would be to its advantage to be able to advertise the service," Milewski said.

During its first two years of operation under county ownership, providing EMS has cost taxpayers about \$210,000 per year.

Costs are projected to dip under that amount during the current fiscal year.

The budget for operating the county's Emergency Services program was \$233,361 for its first months of operation which began in September 1983 and ended in June of 1984, according to county finance officer Charles Davis.

That figure includes the cost of purchasing the initial equipment necessary to operate the service, Davis said.

The county billed residents who used the service during those months \$60,269 and was able to collect \$23,304.

From July 1984 to June 1985, the county spent \$261,549 on EMS.

The billing for that year was \$78,370 with \$55,423 collected.

Davis said the amount collected for that year included an insurance refund received by the county.

The anticipated cost to provide EMS to the county during the fiscal year which ends this June is \$240,607.

The county anticipates billing patients \$82,464 and collecting \$45,000.

Most Hoke County food stamp recipients not on welfare

By Ron Anderson

The majority of Hoke County residents receiving food stamps are not on welfare, statistics from the N.C. Department of Human Resources show.

As of last Thursday, a total of \$154,793 in food stamps were distributed to 1,175 households in the county during the month of February, the figures indicate.

Of those households receiving food stamps, 927 were not receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or receiving

Medicaid as compared to the 248 who were.

The statistics were presented Monday during a monthly meeting of the Hoke County Department of Social Services (DSS).

"Most of the people receiving food stamps are on a fixed income or working low paying jobs," DSS Director Ken Witherspoon said. "These people need food stamps to eat."

According to the statistics, the average household receiving food stamps is made up of 3.2 people. Statistics also show that during

the fiscal year ending in September, 1985, a total of \$2.01 million worth of food stamps were issued in the county.

The stamps went to 3,962 individuals who made up 1,244 households.

An average person received \$134.84 worth of food stamps each month for the fiscal year, the figures indicate.

During the year, the amount of households receiving the stamps decreased from a high of 1,281 households in February to 1,168 households in September.

"As the income of the county goes up, the amount of food stamps go down," Witherspoon said.

By training food stamp interviewers to obtain accurate information, Witherspoon said the amount of fraud occurring in the local program is on the decline.

"The best place to eliminate fraud is at the interviewing process," Witherspoon said.

Even though the number of Hoke County residents receiving food stamps decreased during 1985, statistics show that the

number of people applying for other types of assistance has increased.

In 1984, a total of 559 residents applied for either Medicaid, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or special state-county assistance.

In 1985, the figure rose to 665 applicants.

One reason the figures are higher is because of an increase in the number of those applying for new Medicaid programs which aid pregnant women and children whose parents are financially deprived.

Witherspoon said the new programs have a "low dollar cost" but are "high in potential benefit in the future."

The programs save money in the long run by reducing the number of birth defects and by keeping children healthy, according to Witherspoon.

With the added number of applicants comes the need for additional help.

"There is a potential that we will need an additional person to process applications," Witherspoon said.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather was almost like summer last week. The temperature got into the 70s and this is something for February. It turned somewhat cooler over the weekend. As this is being written Monday afternoon, the thermometer reads 58°.

The forecast is for rain Tuesday and for the thermometer to reach only into the 40s. One forecaster stated that there is a possibility of snow on Friday.

Maybe this colder weather will keep the fruit trees from budding. If it keeps on with the warm weather, we could lose the peach crop again this year. I haven't talked to Raz Autry about the peach crop this year, but he seemed in a good mood Monday, so I would say his peach crop is all right at this time.

The article in *The News-Journal* last week about the plans for the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Hoke County had a mistake in it. It stated that a Dr. Ray Hines would direct the pageant. This should have read Dr. Ray Harris. Dr. Harris is the director of music at the Raeford Presbyterian Church. He has directed musicals before coming to Raeford and the committee feels fortunate in having someone with his talents to help with the pageant. He will co-direct along with Mary Archie McNeill.

Just to pass along some more information, Mrs. Grace Ellis of Cameron who wrote the pageant has written many plays and pageants for towns and counties in North Carolina. Her husband is the pastor of the Cameron Presbyterian Church.

Once again we would ask all Hoke County people to check for (See AROUND, page 9A)



Danny DeVane

DeVane named top Hoke citizen

Rep. Daniel H. DeVane was named for the Hoke County "Citizen of the Year Award" by the Raeford Kiwanis Club last Thursday night during Ladies' Night activities.

DeVane was cited for his willingness to serve his fellow human beings and his genuine interest in people.

In 1981 DeVane was elected to a seat on the N.C. House of Representatives for the 16th District. He was re-elected in 1983 by receiving the highest number of votes.

During the last session, DeVane served on the appropriations committee and the base and expansion budget committee.

In 1976, DeVane began his first four-year term as a Hoke County Commissioner and was re-elected in 1980.

DeVane is a former member of the Hillcrest Volunteer Fire (See DEVANE, page 2A)

Hanging investigation remains in DA's office

The results of a State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) probe into the death of a man found hanging in the Hoke County Jail in October are stalled in the district attorney's office and have not yet been made public, Sheriff David Barrington said on Monday.

"I understand the district attorney has the report, but I haven't received any information as to why it has not been released," Barrington said.

"I would like for him (District Attorney Ed Grannis) to make it public as soon as possible."

The investigation into the death of Robert Chappelle was turned over to Grannis for disposition in October.

At that time, Barrington said he hoped the results of the investigation, which included interviews with about 20 witnesses, would be made public.

Grannis could not be reached

for comment this week, but in early December, the district attorney said he hoped to make the results of the probe public after Christmas.

In January, Grannis said he was still studying the investigation report, and could not comment until he had finished the review.

Attempts to reach the district attorney by telephone in February have not been successful, and he failed to return at least six calls during the last 30 days.

Chappelle, 28, was found hanging from the bars in a holding cell, where he was the lone occupant, on October 5 about an hour after he was arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

The SBI entered the investigation after a request was made by Barrington and after a petition signed by about 20 local residents was sent to Gov. James Martin asking the state to determine if Chappelle's death was a suicide.



Painting class

Anne Phillips concentrates on her rendition of a ram during an oil painting class at the Hoke County campus of Sandhills Community College. There is more about the college and what is being offered to local students on page 1 of section B in today's News-Journal.

Shannon man gets 14 years for drug sales

A Shannon man was sentenced to 14 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to eight drug-related charges in Superior Court last week.

Jerry Arnold Scott, Rt. 1, Box 306, Shannon, pleaded guilty to a charge of possession with intent to sell and deliver Diazepam, maintaining a dwelling for the sale of a controlled substance, two counts of maintaining a vehicle for keeping or selling a controlled substance and possession with the intent to sell and deliver marijuana.

Scott, 32, received a four-year

active prison term for the offenses.

Scott also pleaded guilty to charges of possession of cocaine with intent to sell and deliver, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Records say Scott was sentenced to an additional 10 years for the three charges.

In an unrelated case, James David West, Rt. 4, Box 117, Raeford, pleaded guilty to charges of possession of marijuana with intent to sell and deliver and carrying a concealed weapon.

West, 24, was fined \$500, sentenced to four years, suspended

for five years, and placed on supervised probation.

Records say West had 41 bags of marijuana when he was arrested on September 13, 1985.

West was also fined an additional \$500, sentenced to four years, suspended for five years, after he pleaded guilty to a charge of selling marijuana to an Alcohol Law Enforcement officer on January 19.

In another case, Venenarda Graham, 1915 Autry Street, Raeford, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of assault inflicting a serious injury.

Graham was sentenced to six months, suspended for two years, placed on supervised probation, and ordered to pay restitution costs.

Records say Graham broke Balbina Cobb's left middle finger when he struck her with a piece of lumber approximately two feet in length on November 5, 1985.

Also, Robert Lee Purcell, Rt. 3, Box 155, Raeford, pleaded guilty to a charge of Driving While Impaired (DWI).

Records say Purcell, 49, was sentenced to two years, suspended