

# The News - Journal

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

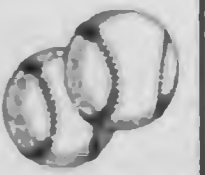
Covering Hoke County Like A Roof Since 1905

Hoke High seniors honored

See page 11A

Legion baseball is back

See page 1B



Volume LXXVIII Number 8

Thursday, June 12, 1986

25 CENTS

## Food assistance plan helps residents stay healthy

By Sally Jamir

The Department of Social Service (DSS) Food Assistance Program has made it easier for Hoke County's unemployed to obtain jobs, according to Ken Witherspoon, DSS director.

The food assistance program, reviewed by the DSS Planning Board on May 27, includes food stamps and the nutritional program for mothers with infant children (WIC).

"The Food Assistance program has helped people to be healthier. If people can stay healthy they've

got a chance of going to school, they've got a chance of improving and finding jobs," Witherspoon said.

The food assistance program in the county has a high participation rate with 3,425 people receiving aid in April, according to figures recently released by the N.C. Department of Human Resources. This figure is down from 3,628 participants in March.

According to Witherspoon, the decrease is partially due to the rise in agricultural jobs. Those who are employed in seasonal occupations

use food assistance less in spring and summer than in winter.

Children (ages 0-11) make up the largest portion of participants, a total of 1,218. Of the remaining 2,207, there are 397 participants who are 60 and older. There are 361 people who have an earned income of some kind. According to Witherspoon, the amount of income earned is not sufficient to pay for all the needs of the household.

Witherspoon commented on this underemployment by saying that people "just haven't had the op-

portunity to make enough money to survive today. There are a lot of hard working people who need to make more money at better paying jobs."

The average size of the household which receives food stamps is 3.3 in number, a size which reflects the trend in the sizes of households of non-welfare families in the country.

It is at the beginning of the month when food stamps allotments are made to the recipient families and individuals. Witherspoon related that it is at

this time of the month when grocery stores have their sales and advertise more frequently in order to catch the notice of not only the general public but the food stamp recipients as well. It is also when food stamp recipients do most of their buying.

Witherspoon maintains that it is the high visibility of the food stamp program especially at this time and throughout the month which results in the public's image of participants as those who are given assistance, but do not work in the community.

"Just because you don't make much money doesn't mean you're lazy. There are a lot of hardworking families who are poor," Witherspoon said.

Food stamp allotments must be stretched to last an entire month. Based on total benefits of \$144,192 for the month of April for 3,425 participants each meal averages less than 46 cents.

Witherspoon states that even at this low amount job-seekers are benefited as a result of improved health. Generally, it is less expensive. (See PROGRAM, page 3A)

## EDC approves 86-87 budget

By Sally Jamir

Members of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) approved their 1986-87 budget at a meeting of the commission on May 29.

The \$52,400 budget is essentially the same as last year's with the addition of \$2,400 now needed to pay for utilities at the A&R Depot building which houses both the EDC and the Chamber of Commerce offices.

Because the office building and surrounding property is owned jointly by the city and the county, utility costs are shared equally by the two entities, according to John Howard, EDC director.

EDC operating costs are \$50,000, 75% of which is paid for by the county and 25% is paid for by the city.

Activities of the EDC are funded by \$30,000 in state funds, a \$13,000 special appropriations bill and \$6,500 grant advancement monies.

According to Howard, there is the possibility in the future that some duties of both the EDC and the chamber will overlap to the extent that appropriate budget adjustments will have to be made.

Howard describes the EDC as being a "tribunal of the three bodies of the Chamber of Commerce, the City Council and the County Commissioners which keeps in mind the priorities of the commission rather than the priorities of each of the three bodies."

Essentially the EDC and the chamber both have the priority of working toward a "better standard of life, creating more job opportunities and retaining jobs already in existence," Howard said.

Howard explained that the difference between the two bodies is that the chamber works toward the development of small businesses and the EDC concentrates on attracting large industries.

Among other specific priorities of the EDC are the widening of Highway 401, the establishment of an industrial park(s), and development of five, 10 and 15 year fund- (See EDC, page 2A)



### Hoke County High School graduation

Members of the Hoke High School class of 1986 express feelings of joy during graduation exercises on Friday night. Rain was falling five minutes before the ceremonies began, but the showers left enabling the 258 seniors to graduate under clear skies.

Parents, relatives and friends filled the stadium to watch the seniors receive their diplomas. Lifelong educator Ruth C. McSwain gave the graduation address.

## \$500 offered for best turkey recipe

Whenever you serve your family a favorite turkey dish, you may just be serving up a recipe worth \$500. That's the top prize being offered in the Fifth Annual North Carolina Turkey Cooking Contest to be held September 18 in Raeford.

Four other cash prizes will also be awarded — \$250 (2nd prize) and \$100 each (3rd, 4th and 5th prizes). The five finalists who will compete for these prizes will be chosen by a panel of food experts, who will individually review all entries submitted.

The contest is sponsored by the North Carolina Turkey Federation and is open only to North Carolina residents. North Carolina's turkey producers produce and process more turkeys than any other state in the nation, and North Carolina is the only state to hold an annual statewide turkey cooking contest.

To enter, send your favorite recipe (or recipes) using any turkey part or parts combination, or any turkey deli item, with your name, address and telephone number on the first page of each. The recipes

may be marinated, fried, baked, broiled, barbecued, or grilled and served as a salad, hors d'oeuvre, casserole, etc. The finished dish should serve from four to eight people.

To receive a sampling of the winning entries from past turkey cooking contests and an official entry blank (not necessary for entering), send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Turkey Contest Recipes, c/o NC Poultry Federation, 4020 Barrett Drive, Suite 102, Raleigh, NC 27609.

## Legal action unfounded says House of Raeford

A spokesperson for The House of Raeford said Monday that legal action taken by the Fast Food Merchandisers (FFM) company against the local plant are unfounded.

Brenda Branch, Food Service and Deli Food Manager for The House of Raeford, said in a telephone interview Monday that FFM "hasn't named anything we're guilty of and we're not guilty of anything."

Fast Food Merchandisers which operate Hardee's restaurants obtained a preliminary injunction on May 23 ordering two House of Raeford plant employees not to give out trade secrets of the fast food company which they learned while working for FFM in Monterey, Tennessee, and Rocky Mount.

According to Branch, the injunction requires the plant to keep records of what projects the two employees are working on.

"We don't know what trade secrets they're talking about. There are no trade secrets in this business," Branch said.

Fran Leerkes and Walter Ulm left FFM about two months ago in order to work for The House of Raeford. According to Branch, Ulm was vice president of operations at FFM plants in Rocky Mount, Forest City and Monterey, Tennessee, and Leerkes was an engineer at the plant in Tennessee.

The House of Raeford has been a client of FFM for one year. "We presently buy from them turkey (See ACTION, page 3A)

## Suspended sentence given in grocery store fire case

A Raeford man pleaded guilty to charges in connection with the fire in February that damaged the Raeford Food Lion grocery store in this week's session of District Court.

Donald Martin Calloway, Rt. 3 Box 47D, Raeford, pleaded guilty to charges of injury to real property and breaking and entering in the case, according to records.

Calloway, 24, had come before the court on cases of "burning of a building used for trade". On February 15, Calloway was arrested for allegedly setting the fire which damaged the Food Lion store.

At the time of the fire, Calloway was taken to Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh for evaluation. Because of this he was not immediately served a warrant for arrest.

According to Jean Powell, Assistant District Attorney, Calloway was not tried on felony charges because of mental difficulties at the time of the crime and there were no prior crimes or personal history which would indicate that his motive was malicious.

According to court records, Calloway was sentenced to not less than 12 months and not more than 18 months. The sentence was suspended for five years. The question of restitution was left open.

Powell said that judgement included a direction that he continue prescribed treatment and medication.

(See COURT, page 3A)

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather has been hot for the past few days. The temperature Sunday and Monday was about 95°. Now this is the weather we usually have in August. So you can get prepared now for the 100° weather in August.

Even though we had about five inches of rain about two weeks ago, it has been soaked up by the hot weather and we need rain again. If it does come, you can expect heavy lightning, due to the extremely hot weather.

The crops seem to be doing fine, but they can hurt if we don't get some rain.

Many people were sorry to hear and read about the mishap to Kathy Ormsby, the N.C. State track star. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Ormsby of Rockingham. They lived in Raeford many years ago when Dale worked for Burlington Industries. He is now plant manager of the Richmond Plant in Rockingham.

The Ormsbys lived in the house, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Hubbard, on West Elwood Avenue. They were members of the First Baptist Church while in Raeford.

We hope that the injury will not turn out as bad as it has been reported in the daily papers.

I know that the local community extends all the sympathy they can give to the Ormsby family.

The old picture I mentioned in this column last week also struck memories in the mind of Rosa (See AROUND, page 2A)

## County fire district tax rate reinstated

By Sally Jamir

Hoke County Commissioners unanimously agreed to continue the ten-cent tax rate policy for county fire districts at their budget work session Monday night.

The 1986-87 tax rates will be ten cents in all fire districts with the exception of Puppy Creek and Stonewall. According to finance officer Charles Davis, these districts may need to raise their rates in the future in order to improve their equipment and facilities.

In other business, categories of the budget were discussed. Fund balance appropriations with a total of \$390,000 is a \$20,000 increase over last year's budget. Revenue estimates total 5.7 million, 92% of which will come from property taxes.

Much of the session was dominated by discussion on public assistance which totals \$541,475. Aid to Families with Dependent Children is the bulk of expenses in public assistance with a total of \$240,000.

The major part of the expense in this category is used for salaries.

According to county manager William K. (Bub) Cowan, the budget amount of \$541,475 "provides for a \$27,000 increase in public assistance over last year, which is the second consecutive year the increase has been over 12.3%."

The federal government shoulders the bulk of the funds (68%) used in the program. State and local government share equally the remainder of the costs.

Various concerns voiced by the commissioners were that the figure would keep growing and that problems the assistance is trying to solve are being perpetuated in the community.

Commissioner Clyde Upchurch raised the question "are we duplicating services?"

County salaries were discussed. Also discussed was the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) budget totalling a recommended \$256,818.

The current system of providing services was discussed. Alternative ambulance use and employee arrangements for fulfilling on-call and on duty services were discussed as a means of decreasing expenditures of the service.

According to Davis, a study is being made of when most calls come into the EMS.

In addition, the building committee of the County Commissioners agreed to send a letter to representative Danny DeVane requesting \$20,000 in special appropriations (pork barrel) funds from the legislature for completion of the courthouse.

The commissioners appointed Dale Teal to the position of Tax Collector in the executive session of their regular meeting last Monday morning. Teal's duties will also include those he previously performed as the tax supervisor.

There will be a public hearing for the county budget on Monday evening, May 16.



### Courthouse renovations

Renovations to the Hoke County Courthouse are on schedule and should be completed by September. County Manager William K. Cowan said that the county offices in the building should be reopened in October. The commission's building committee is sending a letter to Representative Daniel DeVane asking for \$20,000 in "pork barrel" funds to help pay for modifications during construction.