

The News-Journal

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

Covering Hoke County Like A Roof Since 1905

Search for Hoke principal continues

See page 7

Local youth attend 4-H camp

See page 12

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25 CENTS



Welcome moisture

A slow-moving cold front brings welcome clouds and much-needed rainfall to Hoke County. The moisture is helping fall crops (especially tobacco

and soybeans) that have suffered from the drought conditions that have plagued the Southeast this summer.

Photo by Sally Jamir

Local child support program ranks tenth in North Carolina

By Sally Jamir

Hoke County ranks tenth statewide for its Child Support Enforcement Program, according to internal statistics recently released by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

The rating is based on nine criteria ranging from total collections versus total administrative expenditures (cost of running the program) to the percent of child support forms returned for correction.

DSS Director, Ken Witherspoon, explained that when a mother applies to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) for assistance she will get an initial payment if she qualifies. Then DSS will attempt to secure this amount of money from the absent father.

Witherspoon said that in order to obtain the funds, paternity must first be established. Afterward the money is advanced to the mother from the AFDC program and is later collected from the father.

According to Witherspoon, when someone defaults on their child support payment, the agency attempts to garnish their wages.

Another alternative in obtaining these payments is to initiate a federal and state debt set off on the tax refunds. If this is done, the tax refunds of those who owe payment would automatically be sent to the DSS for use in the AFDC program.

"The default rate here is 42 per- cent," (See LOCAL, page 6)

Festival plans 'look super'

By Sally Jamir

North Carolina Turkey Festival plans "look super," according to Evelyn Manning, chairman for the festival committee, which met Monday night.

Festival plans are on schedule for the event which runs from September 18 through 20.

Manning said that as part of the festival's official activities, Lynne Maxwell, committee treasurer, will be making a presentation to the North Carolina Turkey Federation Board.

As part of her presentation, she will perform a rap and jingle she wrote for the festival. The jingle is also being taped and played on area radio stations as a promotion for the event.

Publicity for the festival has received excellent coverage, according to Manning. Well-known poultry and general farming publications, such as the *Poultry Times* newspaper and *Carolina Farmer* have offered coverage.

A unique form of publicity will occur in the collaboration between

the festival committee and the Canadian Jump Team, which is practicing jumping this week at the Raeford Airport.

In early September, the team will be participating in the World Sport Parachute Jumping Championships in Turkey. During the competition they will wear official N.C. Turkey Festival T-shirts which have been presented to them by the festival committee.

Manning says pre-festival sales for T-shirts are doing well as are (See FESTIVAL, page 7)

Cunningham to stand trial on September 4

A Raeford man charged with striking two law enforcement officers is scheduled to appear in district court on September 4, according to records at the county courthouse.

Robert Clester Cunningham, 32, of 1215 Fuller Street was arrested Sunday, August 3 after he refused to show his driver's license and walked away from a law enforcement officer, says an arrest record filed by N.C. State Trooper D. H. Monroe. The incident occurred at approximately 2:45 a.m. on

Scotland Avenue near the Main Street intersection.

Cunningham allegedly assaulted N.C. Trooper B.T. Burr "by striking him in the face and mouth with his fist while the officer was attempting to discharge the duty of his office," according to the arrest record.

Another report, filed by Trooper Burr, says that Cunningham also hit Trooper Monroe in the face with his fist while the officer was attempting to discharge the duty of his office.

The News-Journal learned of the

incident through a letter to the editor submitted for publication last week. The letter, written by Robert Terry McGregor, says that Cunningham "was badly beaten by some of our officers on Saturday night."

A spokesman for the highway patrol, First Line Sergeant E.W. Coen, acknowledged that a scuffle took place after Cunningham refused to show his license to law enforcement officers. Coen did not want to comment on the details of (See TRIAL, page 7)

District court judge orders six defendants to 'sing praises'

Six defendants charged with disturbing the peace were ordered last week to "sing praises" as a condition of a prayer for judgment ruling by District Court Judge Lacy Hair, according to court records.

The six stood trial for disturbing the peace by creating unreasonably loud, disturbing and unnecessary noise in the South Hoke community by using boisterous and profane language and shouting that disturbed the quiet, comfort and

repose of people in the vicinity. Hoke County Commissioner James A. Hunt was the complainant in the case.

The defendants were also ordered not to curse, carry on, raise Cain or provoke their neighbors.

The six found guilty in the case were: Clarence Clark, 16, Rt. 1, Box 624, Red Springs; Larry Chavis, 26, Rt. 1, Box 624, Red Springs; Kenneth Johnson, 16, Rt. 1, Box 640 G, Red Springs; Juanita

Cummings, 16, Rt. 1, Box 624, Red Springs; Gary Rogers, 19, Rt. 1, Red Springs; and Patty Cummings, 17, Rt. 1, Box 628, Red Springs.

Also in district court, William Benton Hodges, 17, 113 Stable Place, Raeford, was found guilty of violating the terms and conditions of his probation. Hodges was sentenced to a two-year prison term as a youthful offender.

Records say he committed the violation by refusing to maintain

employment during probation by quitting his job at the House of Raeford.

Hodges' violation also included failing to keep appointments with his probation officer and refusing to attend a tour of McCain Prison.

Records say Hodges was found guilty of 10 counts of larceny in the March 7 session of district court.

Grady Franklin Hardin Jr., 29, Rt. 2, Box 254, Raeford, was found guilty of violating the terms of his probation by failing to

notify his probation officer of his whereabouts on July 15.

According to records, the failure of notification was in violation of the probation judgment given him January 23 in district court for a Driving While Impaired (DWI) charge.

David Harold Wright Jr., 17, found guilty of violating the terms of his probation, was sentenced to two years in the North Carolina Department of Correction.

Records say his suspended

sentence was revoked.

Originally Wright was sentenced to eight years (four two-year sentences) on January 24 in district court for five counts of breaking and entering into a coin operated machine.

According to records, Wright failed to keep the conditions of his probation by failing to maintain employment and by failing to observe the curfew of 10 p.m.

(See DISTRICT, page 6)

Murphy is local volunteer weatherman

By Sally Jamir

The weather is a popular topic of conversation with everyone. For farmer and retired military man, Virgil Murphy, it is more than just a passing interest.

Murphy is a volunteer weatherman for the Agricultural Extension Service. He is one of 85 volunteers in 85 counties across the state who provides information to the North Carolina Agricultural Weather Service and the North Carolina Extension Service in Hoke County.

Each day Murphy collects data on air and soil temperatures, and rainfall (when necessary). He uses apparatus provided by the United States Weather Bureau.

The data he collects is sent directly to the National Weather Service Headquarters in Suitland, Maryland where it is used in weather forecasting. The news media obtain the data soon afterward in enough time to be used in morning weather reports.

Twice a week, Murphy phones the weather information into the Extension Service Office where it is recorded on charts of six month periods each.

The data collected from the volunteers and the 15 Agricultural Research Stations in the state are used by the Extension meteor-

ologist at N.C. State University in writing agricultural weather advisories.

"Soil and air temperatures recorded over long periods of time are used in calculations by researchers in order to help farmers decide when they should plant crops and when they should harvest."

"It gives farmers a rough idea of when they should plant. They can tell you within a day when crops will be mature under certain conditions," Murphy said.

Temperature information is also used to predict when certain insect pests will emerge. This assists farmers in their pest control programs.

Agricultural Extension Service chairman Willie Featherstone recruited Murphy as a volunteer weatherman and appreciates the service the volunteer does.

"The only way we can get the information is if people phone it in," Featherstone said. "We get 100 coverage with all volunteers combined."

Murphy takes temperature readings in the evening when the temperature begins to decrease. The maximum-minimum thermometer he uses to collect data registers both the highest and

lowest temperatures of the day and needs to be re-set before the next days temperatures are taken.

The soil temperature thermometer must be placed four inches in the ground in order to get an accurate reading.

Murphy keeps the miniature weather station in the yard next to his house which adjoins fifty acres of his property. Roughly 38 acres are kept in hay and pastureland.

Thirty Whiteface Herefords graze on his land, ten are steers, two are bulls and 18 are brood cows. Steers are kept an average of 12 months and then sent to market.

"Usually the steers go to market in the fall, but the price is down so we'll keep them until the spring," Murphy said.

Murphy, like all livestock breeders, faces the challenge of producing animals which have marketable characteristics and are free of the negative effects of 9909.

He is one of six farmers in the state who is using an advanced insecticide application to control horn flies. If not controlled, the flies, which feed on the blood of calves, can decrease the animal's weight gain by one-half to three-

(See WEATHER, page 7)



Virgil Murphy

Around Town

By Sam Morris

Last week the temperatures were in the 90s most of the week. The afternoon and evening thunder-showers have helped with the heat and also helped keep the crops from drying up. We could have used more rain, but we are not hurting in Hoke County like they are in many sections of the state.

According to most people I talked with Monday, it seems we had about 1 1/2 inches of rain Sunday night. The forecast is for more rain Monday night and Tuesday.

The forecast for the week's temperature is for the 80s. This should make it seem like fall of the year.

Now to continue the vacation account:

On Thursday morning, July 31, we left the motel and went to the Anderson Bakery Co. in Lancaster, PA. This company advertises that it is the maker of pretzels and claims to be the largest plant in the United States. It was started in 1889.

As you enter the room from which you will tour the plant, (See AROUND, page 6)