

County industries hire additional workers

Nine Hoke County industries hired additional employees in 1986, providing 764 more jobs than were available in 1985, according to a recent study by the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission.

House of Raeford Farms, Inc. topped the list by hiring 400 additional workers within the past year. In December 1986, there were 1,250 employees at the turkey processing plant as compared to 850 employees in December 1985.

Faberge hired the second highest number of additional employees in

1986. In 1985, there were 492 workers employed at the Raeford plant. By December of 1986, the number rose to 593, an increase of 101.

Other industries that increased their workforce in 1986 include:

- Tar Heel Hatchery, Inc. with 100 additional employees.
- The Burlington Menswear plant with 73 additional employees.

- JRA-Spanco with 30 additional employees.

- Carolina Galvanizing Corporation with 29 additional employees.

- The Burlington Dyeing plant with 15 additional employees.

- Hoke Rubber Products (new industry) with 10 employees.

- Southeastern Materials with three additional employees.

The number of employees remained the same for 1985 and 1986 at Parish Sign and Service, Inc. (14) and Raeford Salvage (8 - 10).

The report was presented to members of the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission last Tuesday night by Economic Developer John Howard. Howard called the

numbers "amazing" and said, "Our unemployment rate has gone down because of the success of these industries."

The county unemployment rate this past November was 6.8 percent. In November 1985, the rate was 8.6 percent.

"The rate isn't too far off from our neighboring counties," Howard said. "I'd like to see our unemployment rate be the same as the state's."

The state's November unemployment rate was 5.1 percent. According to the NC Employ-

ment Security Commission, Hoke County had a labor force of 9,170 in November. The 6.8 percent unemployment rate means that only 620 of those in the labor force were still looking for work.

The low unemployment rate is expected to hold steady or even improve this year.

Spokesmen for both Faberge and Tar Heel Hatchery say expansions will create additional jobs for county workers.

Tar Heel Hatcheries is predicting that 20 to 24 jobs will be created by June; Faberge is plan-

ning to expand in the near future; and Burlington Industries has projected steady employment rates for 1987.

"We just can't be pleased enough at the profitability and success of resident industries and local businesses over the past calendar year," Howard said.

"Surely this demonstrates the strength of the management of these companies. To have 764 new jobs for our people from these various diversified firms is just as important to our people as if we had landed a large brand new industry."



Planning Board

The Hoke County Planning Board discusses proposed subdivision regulations with county and state officials during a recent board meeting. Board members are

nearing completion of a review needed before the regulations go to county commissioners for approval.

Nearing completion

Planning board continues study of Hoke Subdivision Ordinance

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Members of the Hoke County Planning Board drew closer to a completion of a review of the Subdivision Ordinance draft in their meeting last week.

During the January 6 meeting, two changes were cited by the board regarding utility requirements on subdivided land.

In section 406, involving water and sewage systems, the board combined the two parts of the subsection 406.1.

Part "a" of the subsection states that these utility systems shall be "designed and installed in accordance with the standards and specifications of the health department and/or the governmental agency responsible for the approval of such systems."

The board added a subsection regarding final approval of the plat, or parcel of land.

The subsection 406.1, part "b"

states that before this approval takes place "all lots on the plat to be recorded must be certified in writing by the health department to be large enough to meet health department standards for on-site water and/or sewer systems" when these systems are going to be used.

Jim Dougherty, N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, attended the meeting and upon suggestion of the board said he would look into putting a clause into the Ordinance concerning the exchange of land between parents and children.

A board meeting was set for January 20 at 7 p.m. so that these changes to the regulation could be acted upon and the review completed.

Ten board members were present at the meeting as well as Dougherty, Jack Ellis from the Inspection Department and County Manager William (Bub) Cowan. Dougherty spoke briefly

concerning the Land Use Plan update. He said his office would be able to prepare the plan with the exception of the land surveys and the colored maps.

These two items would need to be done by the Planning Board.

Dougherty said that Hoke County had grown a lot since the 1979 plan was drawn up. He said an efficient way of conducting the surveys would be for the board to divide the county into sections and assign each section to a member so they can drive on county roads and record "what is where".

Members will be given codes to indicate certain sites in the county such as houses, mobile homes, and industry, he said.

"You'll be surprised what you'll learn about your own county," Dougherty said.

Although there is already much information about the county in the 1979 plan, it will take about two months to get the updated data, Dougherty said.

Hotel shooting leads to arrest

A shooting incident last week at the Raeford Hotel Apartments led to the arrest of a Raeford resident, according to a police department spokesman.

Police Chief Zeke Wiggins said last Thursday that Wilbur Harris, Apartment 5-A, Raeford Hotel Apartments, was arrested for assaulting a law enforcement officer January 7 after a shooting was reported to the police department at about 8:30 p.m.

A resident at the apartments called in the complaint of the shooting. Accounts of the shooting reported that two or three shots were fired in the apartment.

Wiggins said Sergeant Michael Dial and officers David Smith, Dick McNeill, Steve Coughlin and Detective James Murdock answered the call to investigate the

shooting and then to coax Harris, 58, out of his apartment.

Deputies Humphery, Gardner and Sheriff Deputy Loyd Leazer from the Sheriff's Department answered the call to assist police in the ordeal.

Sheriff's Department records say that Leazer and Wiggins both tried to talk Harris out of the room. The attempts were unsuccessful.

Wiggins said that the manager of the apartments, Mr. Stillwag, was called. Stillwag came and tried to talk Harris out of the room. Being unsuccessful, Stillwag went to a phone and called him. After talking to him a good while, Harris opened the door at about 10:30 p.m.

Wiggins said that at this time the door was partially opened and "a

shotgun blast was fired out the door missing a deputy by about two feet."

Harris was arrested on two counts of assaulting a law enforcement officer and placed under a \$20,000 secured bond.

Stillwag said last Thursday that Harris was a responsible tenant who "paid his bills promptly, kept his apartment very clean" and minded his own business.

Stillwag said Harris had complained of some youths beating on the walls in the apartments and on his door.

According to Stillwag, Harris minded his own business, watched television and wanted quiet.

"The old guy was scared to come out," Stillwag said. "He came out because he knew me." (See SHOOTING, page 2A)



Trailer fire

Hillcrest and Puppy Creek firefighters work to quench a fire at the Dundee Mobile Home Park last Wednesday. Hillcrest Fire Chief Mike McNeill said the fire was put out quickly and that there were no injuries.

Hoke mapping project begins

Landmark Engineering Company of Cary will begin a new countywide mapping project within the next few weeks, according to Hoke County Tax Supervisor Dale Teal.

Phase one of the project calls for aerial photographs to be taken of the area. But before those photographs are taken, the engineering company must establish aerial targets on the ground throughout the county.

Within the next few weeks, company workers will be marking targets by painting on roads or by placing large triangular cloth panels in fields. County officials are asking residents not to tamper with the targets once they are established.

When the project is completed, the county will have a series of orthophotographs.

Orthophotographs are "the most accurate aerial photographs you can get," Teal said.

Whereas standard aerial photographs are somewhat distorted everywhere except in the middle, orthophotographs correct distortions in three dimensions.

Along with the orthophotographs, the project will provide the county with cadastral maps. Property identification lines will be imprinted on the cadastral maps, and because the maps are made of Mylar (a thin, strong polyester film), they may be placed on top of the orthophotographs.

"The new maps will help with tax assessment and will help the county office with the new subdivision regulations," Teal said.

The last time the county was mapped was in 1979, but Teal said the county's 177 existing maps are "worn-out from handling."

The new \$145,990 mapping project was approved by the county commissioners on November 3.

Aerial photographs for the new project must be taken while trees are barren of leaves and on clear days. The photos will be taken between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather was nasty last Saturday, but the rain was needed to bring the water table up to where it should be. According to reports, most lakes are now about normal and the conditions for the farmers look good for the coming year. The late fall and winter rains have helped the dry southeast.

The temperatures for the past few days have been in the 50s and the lows have been around 30°. The forecast is for the remainder of the week to be about the same, temperature wise, but no rain is in sight.

The Jimmy James Appreciation Day committee met last Thursday at the Chamber of Commerce Office. Plans are about complete for the banquet to be held on Saturday, January 24, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the MacDonald Gym. Tickets can be purchased at the

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Nelson's contract extended

The Hoke County Board of Education early Wednesday morning voted unanimously to extend Superintendent Dr. Bob Nelson's contract for four years, according to school board chairman Robert (Bobby) Wright.

Wright said the vote came after an executive session begun during a regular school board meeting Tuesday night. The executive session ended at approximately 1 a.m. on Wednesday.

"We think he'll do great things here," Wright said of Nelson. "We're looking forward to a steady improvement in the school system."

Nelson came to Hoke County in 1983 from Alamance County where he also held a superintendent's position.

Adult Developmental Activity program begins

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

An Adult Developmental Activity Program (ADAP) opened in Hoke County on January 5 and will serve residents who have previously not been able to get such services here.

The program is an arm of the Sandhills Center for Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and is located on 115-117 West Elwood Avenue in Raeford.

The program will initially serve 25 clients who are substantially mentally retarded or physically disabled.

Program Director Bruce Hurst said that the aim of the program is to maximize the independence level of the individual and build their esteem and dignity.

The program is designed to help the clients learn behaviors and characteristics which are as culturally normative as possible by providing a structured program which fills their needs.

Hurst said the philosophy of the program is that "when we take a man as if he were already what he should be, we promote him to what he can be."

He said through various activities, such as demonstration and community outings, clients will be taught basic survival skills including grooming and hygiene and cashing a check.

Instructors will teach classes in language, health, consumer education and community living skills.

"The ultimate goal of the program is to meet the individual needs of each client no matter how small or how big that need may be," Hurst said.

According to Hurst, substantially physically and mentally disabled can attend the public school system until they are 21. After this age, they must find education and care outside the school system.

"This program is designed to provide a continuum of care for them," Hurst said.

Clients are referred to the pro-

gram by the schools as well as agencies, individuals and other sources.

An asset of the activity program is that it will be training clients to increase their work skills and work habits.

"I will be going to local industries in order to obtain work contracts," Hurst said. "We hope they will be receptive."

Hurst explained that one myth which people have of the mentally disabled is that they cannot work, cannot do for themselves.

"The clients take pride in their work and they are highly motivated," he said. "And they can do quality work on a timely basis."

"We have good supervision and outstanding quality control," Hurst said. "And we are able to do work cheaper because they (the clients) are in training and are paid less than minimum wage."

Hurst stated that people in the

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