

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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## Hoke County recipient of half-million \$ grant



Economic developer John Howard feels pride at Hoke County's procurement of a Community Development Block Grant.

By June Lancaster  
News-Journal Staff Writer

Hoke County has been awarded a \$542,800 Community Development Block Grant. Hoke County Board of Commissioners' Chairman Wyatt Upchurch was notified of the grant award last week in a letter from Governor James G. Martin.

The grant includes \$472,000 for rehabilitation of 40 residences in the Tylertown community and \$70,800 in local option money which has been earmarked for two solid waste compactor stations.

The county applied for the block grant in mid-May after a county-wide survey was conducted and a citizens advisory group selected

Tylertown as its target area.

This was the third time Hoke County had applied for a block grant to rehabilitate Tylertown. Because the county had been unsuccessful twice before, the groundwork for this year's grant application was laid very solidly several months ago.

Under the direction of the Hoke County Economic Development Commission, a planning grant of \$4,323 was applied for and received last March.

The planning grant made it possible to employ two part-time staff people, Barbara Rogers and Major (Ret.) Ronald Scurry, to gather information used in the grant application.

The work done by Rogers and Scurry and the citizens advisory group made it possible for all areas of the county to be analyzed so that the best application possible could be filed, says John Howard, director of the EDC.

Howard says his feeling on learning of the grant was "one of great pride in the ability of our local team and government to have worked effectively with Jim Perry, chief planner of the Lumber River Council of Governments, in putting this together."

Rogers said, "I'm just happy that the state awarded us the grant. I'm also pleased the county commissioners gave as much money (\$50,000 in matching funds) as

they did. That helped our application."

"I'm extremely excited about the grant. It's the culmination of a great deal of work," Scurry said.

The competition for CDB grants is intense. This year 112 communities applied for grants in North Carolina.

The fact that Hoke County was ranked 15 out of the 56 communities in the state to receive such a grant this year is significant, Howard thinks.

He said, "We didn't just get lucky the third time around. Being ranked 15 out of 112 applications certainly puts us in the 'outstanding' category. We in Hoke County

can take great pride in that ranking."

The CDB grants are awarded on the basis of a competitive scoring system. The system assesses applications on severity of needs, treatment of needs, local commitment, appropriateness and feasibility and benefit to persons of low and moderate income.

In the local commitment category, Hoke County received 300 points, the maximum number possible.

The local commitment, Howard believes, was demonstrated by the input of the citizens advisory committee. Their dedication as they participated in work sessions on (See GRANT, page 18)

### Theft a problem

## Pine straw farming is big industry

By June Lancaster  
News-Journal Staff Writer

Pine straw. "It's always been there but it has now become big business," says Julian Johnson, one of the major producers of pine straw in Hoke County.

According to Willie Featherstone, agricultural extension agent for Hoke County, pine straw harvesting has become profitable and not only for those in the business.

It has also become profitable for those people who are taking pine straw without permission. Theft of pine straw has become an increasing problem in the county, as sheriff's department and court records show.

Some landowners and farmers have been in the pine straw business for years. Now the increasing demand for pine straw in the last few years has encouraged more people to go into the business.

The newcomers are primarily people who lease land from others and then rake and bale the straw for sale to nurseries and landscapers all over the state.

In addition to the increased demand for pine straw, the depressed agricultural economy of recent years has made it important for farmers to look for alternative sources of income. (See PINE, page 11)



Teamwork--Sam McNair Sr. (right) loads straw into a 1949 baler while Jimmy McLean (left) ties bales. Frank "Joe" Bryant (center) inserts a divider and, receives the bales.

## Raeford turkey to soar with the eagle

By Pat Allen Wilson

The Raeford symbolic turkey will be struttin' her stuffin' in red, white and blue this year, thanks to the Constitutional Bicentennial Committee of Hoke County, headed by Glenn Langdon.

The opening of the third annual North Carolina Turkey Festival coincides with the 200th birthday of the signing of the Constitution of the United States. In recognition of this, various activities will have a patriotic theme.

Anna Jordan, program chairman for the bicentennial committee, says programs are planned to help understand the constitution and how it was formed. "It's not just a patriotic display. We want

the citizens to reread the constitution and stop and think about it," she says.

Former Chief Justice Warren Burger, national chairman of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, reminds Americans that it takes only 23 minutes to read aloud the document that begins, "We the people..."

"Twelve minutes if you read fast," Burger adds.

The document that marked the birth of the United States we know today is considered one of the most remarkable in history. It has endured for 200 years.

Urging renewed awareness of the Constitution, Chuck Timanus,

publicist for the national bicentennial group, states, "This is an intellectual endeavor as much as a bells and whistles event. Other national celebrations have to do with symbols, whereas this is a living reality."

Events planned on Thursday, September 17, will be highlighted by 200 seconds of bicentennial bell ringing in which Raeford church bells will join other church bells across the nation in celebration. At the same time 200 red, white and blue balloons containing Founders' quotes will be released from the library. This 4 p.m. event will be followed by 200 seconds of silence.

Other patriotic events planned

for September 17 are:

- 10 a.m. - Opening ceremonies with North Carolina Governor James Martin. Included will be the Pledge of Allegiance, singing of the National Anthem and the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution.

- 3-4 p.m. - Fort Bragg Concert Band performance to be concluded by an explanation of the impending bell ringing and silent period by a speaker of the Constitutional Bicentennial Committee of Hoke County.

- 12 noon - Patriotic program by Ray and Lee Harris.

- 4-4:30 p.m. - Performance by (See CONSTITUTION, page 14)

## In search of the Gingerbread Man

By June Lancaster  
News-Journal Staff Writer

If you're the parent of a kindergartner who is going off to school for the first time on Monday, you may be wondering how your little one will find his or her way around a big place like West Hoke Elementary School.

If your child's teacher is anything like Sandra Horne you need not worry. Horne has developed a creative way of introducing her kindergarten students to their new environment.

Horne says, "Everything I teach is inter-related." She proves that with her treatment of the Gingerbread Boy story.

The first week of school Horne reads the story to her students. Then the children hear the story on a record in the listening center of their room during rest hour.

In an art activity the children cut

out a paper gingerbread boy. Next, in a tell and draw lesson, the teacher introduces a lesson on the parts of the body as the students draw and decorate their own gingerbread boy.

Horne combines a health and math lesson as she teaches the children the importance of washing their hands before measuring the ingredients to make a very special gingerbread boy in a cooking lesson.

The cooking lesson is an opportunity for the children to learn about the senses as they taste and smell the ingredients.

They learn about shapes, colors and counting in the shaping and decorating of the gingerbread cookie.

The gingerbread boy cookie is so long, 24 inches Horne estimates, that he has to be baked in the big

(See SCHOOL, page 7)



Sandra Horne (on ladder) and Eloise Furr prepare their classroom.

### Around Town

Sam Morris

It was a surprise to me to find that it had rained early Monday morning. There was a puddle in my driveway and to my good fortune the paper had missed it. I hadn't heard of any rain forecast in the weather report.

The cold front that followed the rain made Monday a nice day to be outdoors. The temperature was in the low 80s and the sun was under a cloud cover. According to the forecast we should have the same type of weather for the remainder of the week. There is a chance of rain on Wednesday and Friday.

Don't forget that school will be opening soon for the students and they will be on the streets and beside the highways twice a day. Also remember that the school buses will be running and they will be stopping and starting. So drive with care. The child that could get hit could be your own.

The Constitutional Bicentennial Committee of Hoke will meet on the second Monday in September. The first Monday in (See AROUND TOWN, page 11)



News-Journal editor Ken MacDonald

## Raeford native begins duties as News-Journal editor

Ken MacDonald is the new associate editor of *The News-Journal*, replacing Ron Anderson, associate editor since April 1986, who has resigned to become news editor of *The Natchez Democrat* a daily newspaper in Natchez, Mississippi.

MacDonald grew up in Raeford and is a graduate of Hoke County High School. He has a bachelor's degree from Western Carolina University and has considerable experience in radio news.

MacDonald was news director of WWNC, Asheville, the top radio station in the country and most recently has been news anchor/reporter for WFNC Radio in Fayetteville.

After several years in the western part of the state MacDonald and his wife Holly, a nurse at Moore County Regional Hospital, returned to Raeford in February so they could raise their family in a small town environment. The MacDonalds have two children, Benjamin, 5, and Leighanne, 2.

MacDonald, who was a dark room technician at *The News-Journal* while in high school, says, "I am looking forward to the challenge of changing from broadcasting to print. I am also looking forward to working with people I have known all my life."

Pat Wilson, former editor of *The Spring Lake News* has been serving as interim editor during the transition. Wilson has eight years experience in reporting and editing.