

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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Medical center controversy resolved with signing of lease

After a spring impasse followed by weeks of negotiations, members of the Hoke County Medical Complex, Inc. and the Hoke Family Medical Center, Inc. signed a lease for the South Main Street building.

According to Dr. E. Harvey Estes of the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation, members of both boards approved a lease after continual negotiations over

price and time limits. Estes, one of the instrumental organizers of the new Hoke Family Medical Center, said Ann Himmelright of the new organization and Younger Sneed of the HCMC signed a lease last week.

"The monthly lease price was set at \$3500 a month. There was an agreement that the (old) group would make available an amount to match

\$88,000 for any improvements to the building," Estes said.

The owners, HCMC, also accepted responsibility for upkeep and general maintenance of the building, constructed originally to bring in new doctors to Hoke County.

"That figure does not include utilities, but it does include maintenance," he said.

The general terms of the lease, he said, will allow for a three-year rental of the facility, with the option to renew the lease at the end of three years.

Estes said at the time of the renewal, they will also renegotiate the monthly price tag, "to be no more than local community standards".

(See LEASE, page 12)



"Hello school operator?"

"I need an outside line." Holly Carver found her first day of school in kindergarten at Rockfish-Hoke most rewarding, but she did seem to want to check in on the home front. Alas, no outside lines from Verna Barnhill's class. So it's back to work, or rather play. (Related stories, page 3.)

Rain: boon or bust for local crops?

Eight days of rain left Hoke crops soggy, but farmers aren't predicting major field damage yet.

"We've certainly fared better than our neighbors to the east," Gary

Warren of the Cooperative Extension office said.

According to the News-Journal/Farm Chemicals weather computer, 5.43 inches of rain from August 13 to

August 21.

"It's been a little heavier than normal," Warren said of the rains. "It's been a little more than we like to see at one time."

Warren said the fields should be drying up enough this week for farmers to get back into them.

"We had ample water, probably a (See CROPS, page 5)

Junkyard decision expected in court

After nearly four years of dormancy, a Hoke County ordinance may finally come out of limbo.

The so-called "Junkyard Ordinance" awaits a Court of Appeals decision before the County pursues prosecuting more violators under the 1987 local law.

That decision is expected this week.

The initial property owners prosecuted by the county were Huey I. Byrd and his wife, Zenobia, who operated a welding and repair shop.

The Cumberland County couple, according to a 1991 judgement, said the enforcement of the ordinance would cost them too much to continue operating their business.

But County officials persevered in the case.

One important issue regarding the "junkyard" law is the cost of fencing in or planting around the property's perimeters.

The Byrd's attorney presented an estimate of over \$1000 for planting shrubbery along the grounds, and an approximation of about \$6,700 for wire fencing.

Regardless of the cost, County Attorney Duncan McFadyen said the County intends to enforce the regulation until a court tells it to do otherwise.

But enforcement of the law hinges on the Byrd case.

The Byrds appealed the 1991 judgement, and if the Appellate judge agrees with them, the county will no longer have a junkyard law.

McFadyen said if the judge upholds the earlier decision, other cases will soon follow.

In fact, he said, several cases are pending, waiting for the appellate decision.

If the court reaches a favorable decision for the Byrds, junkyard owners and operators will not be given a free reign of operation.

The state Junkyard Control Act will still be enforced in the county where it applies.

If a violator fails to comply with the state law, their case can be turned over to the state Attorney General's office for further action. In fact, three businesses along US 401 were notified that they were not in compliance with the state law in 1988.

Sonny Uphole with the Division of Highways office in Aberdeen, Hoke's district, said his office recently received a complaint of a junkyard violation on US 401 involving several old, decaying trailers. He said he also received a few complaints of property owners located along highway 211, but they were out of state jurisdiction.

Turkey Festival all set

Turkey Festival time is just around the corner and "loose ends are being tied," says President Lynn Worley.

The Festival board of directors met Monday and determined everything is pretty much falling into place.

The schedule is set (a printed version is available at the depot), entertainment is lined up, 88 craftsmen are signed up to date,

food vendors are lined up, and even a new turkey suit is ready for duty with a new head, new feet and tail feathers.

The Festival, Sept. 17-19, is North Carolina's official tribute to the turkey, one of the state's top industries. In recent years it has drawn upwards of 50,000 people, and revolves around the hallowed turkey cooking contest, which again this year will be held

at the Hoke Library Thursday, the 17th beginning at noon.

Another top draw this year will likely be hot air balloon rides by Bungee Masters, Inc. of Fayetteville. The \$10 rides are for all ages.

Some other new things:
• A Richard Petty safety display. Sound boring? Think again. This is a hi-tech Petty robot that (See FESTIVAL, page 9)

Hoke residents asked to help hurricane victims

The Highlands Chapter of the American Red Cross has issued an appeal to Hoke County residents for financial assistance for victims of Hurricane Andrew.

The Red Cross provides emergency food, clothing and shelter and other assistance for those affected by disasters.

Direct assistance is given in the form of purchase vouchers to

allow the victims to purchase exactly what is needed. This method allows the families to "participate in their own recovery and supports the economy of the affected area," the Red Cross says.

"Making a direct cash contribution to relief efforts is the most efficient way of helping," said Bob Ziegler, executive director of (See DISASTER, page 12)



With fields still too wet from rain for ground-based spraying, many farmers turn to aerial spraying for pest control. Larry Upchurch, pilot of this plane, says crop dusting is booming.

Around Town

Some readers of this column seemed to doubt the rainfall in the city and county last week because of the source of my information. These sources tell me that the figures are correct. Maybe I should get Robert Gatlin to supply me the information, since he wasn't doubted while he furnished the figures.

I am glad that the Hurricane Andrew kept on its westward course and hit Florida rather than North Carolina. It was far enough south that we didn't have any effects from the storm. I hope that as it works its way across the gulf it will reduce windspeed and play itself out.

Summer did return this week, but not with the 100 degree weather of last month. The forecast for the remainder of the week calls for the

highs Wednesday through Friday to be in the 90s during the day and the lows at night will be in the 70s. Saturday the high will be in the high 80s and the low will be in the 60s. There is a chance of rain Friday and Saturday.

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The political season is now here and it is not only the national candidates, such as president and vice-president who want your vote. During the past two weeks I have received letters from senatorial candidates and letters from congressional candidates.

What is strange to me is that this year I received letters from both the Democrat and Republican candidates for the office of senator. The letters (See AROUND, page 12)