

Hoke unemployment falls

Computer lab open

Unemployment rates rose in 72 North Carolina counties in November, according to the state's Employment Security Commission. Rates fell in 21 counties and were unchanged in seven.

Hoke's unemployment rate dropped from 8.4 percent in October to 8 percent in November.

Vance County had the state's highest unemployment rate at 12.3 percent in November, mostly attributable to layoffs in the manufacturing industry. For the second consecutive month, Watauga County had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 2.2 percent.

Child care training offered

Child Care Connections is offering training to Hoke County child care providers. On-site training, one-on-one and special educational state-required classes are being offered. For more information, call Jackie Rushing, provider consultant, at 904-6688. For quality enhancement, call Monica Walls and for parent specialist, call Shakera Graham, also at 904-6688.

Juvenile prevention project launched

The Blue Springs-Hoke County Community Development Corporation has launched a new pilot juvenile prevention project aimed at reaching young people between the ages of 11-18 years old.

Directly funded by the Governor's Crime Commission, this project will focus on hard hitting real-world prevention messages designed to interrupt risky behavior practices that make young people susceptible to an array of societal challenges that include premature parenting, sexually transmitted diseases, controlled substance use and abuse.

"Turning It Around" will serve students who are interested in really giving themselves positive life opportunities toward creating new life paths and new life perspectives. Day reporting options, after school participation, and day-long contact sessions are available for students. Juvenile court counselors and officers, school counselors and principals, parents, and community partners of the project may make student referrals to the program. A comprehensive package of services will be provided for students that include health exams, risk management counseling, group counseling and support, and transportation.

Recruitment is open for the project. Service will be delivered at the downtown offices of the CDC. For more information or to register students, interested parents and other referral sources may contact the offices at 910-904-6548 and speak with juvenile prevention coordinator Rashad Rahman or Christina Davis-McCoy, CDC executive director, at 910-904-0312.

Support groups help

Do you feel like no one cares? Do you feel there is no hope? Would you like for someone to listen to you? If you have answered "yes" to any of those questions and decided to talk about solving issues in your life, then you are invited to be a part of Hoke County Youth and Family Services and Domestic Violence Center's support groups for adults and children. Starting this month, the groups meet on Mondays and Thursdays at 6-7 p.m. at the center. For more information, contact Sharon Boge at 875-8989.

Medicare information

Anyone with questions about the Senior Health Insurance Information Program for Medicare should call the SHIIP volunteer at 875-3613.

Buy groceries, help kids

Children's Development Center has partnered with Harris Teeter in making an investment in the education of Hoke County's children that are served at the CDC.

In order to help CDC, obtain a VIC card from Harris Teeter and purchase groceries that have a Together in Education label.

Give the cashier your VIC card and this account number: 4904. After your first visit, you do not have to give the number again.

Two percent of the Together in Education purchases will go to the CDC.

Dial-A-Story is back

Dial-A-Story is back at the Hoke County Public Library. New stories, magical tales and happy endings may be heard by dialing 875-2039.

Improvement ideas on downtown wanted

In evaluating the needs of down-

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

town Raeford, the Raeford Downtown Revitalization Committee is soliciting ideas from citizens.

Those with suggestions may put them in suggestion boxes located at the Post Office, Pratt Building, Hoke County Courthouse and City Hall.

H.E.L.P. Thrift Store

The Hoke Emergency Liaison Program (H.E.L.P.) is a non-profit thrift store. H.E.L.P. is here for your shopping needs and will accept your tax deductible donations. Proceeds go to help Hoke County residents in need. The store is located at 120 Main Street in downtown Raeford. For more information, call 875-8857.

Prevent child abuse

Call Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina if you need to talk about stress, would like free parenting information, are concerned about a child, or would like to get involved in child abuse prevention in your community. The number is 1-800-354-KIDS.

Senior information

Senior citizens who need information about services offered in Hoke County or who need transportation or nutritious meals should call the Hoke County Division of Aging, located at 132 West Elwood Avenue. The phone number is 875-8588.

Back to school adults helped

Professional outreach counselors from Fayetteville State University Educational Opportunity Centers will assist adults with choosing a college, and with admissions and financial aid applications, career information and more. The services are free. Call (910) 672-1171 or 1-800-572-3646 for an appointment or for more information.

Scholarship established

A scholarship has been established for the six-year-old twin daughters of Raeford Police Sgt. Cliff Stauffer Jr., who also served for many years as a volunteer with Hoke County Rescue. The 33-year-old officer was killed in an automobile accident February 18. Donations will be placed in an interest-bearing account. Mail to: Holly and Megan Stauffer Scholarship Fund, c/o The Fidelity Bank, PO Box 416, Raeford, NC 28376.

Installing a well?

If you are hiring a well contractor to construct, install, repair, alter or abandon a well, ask to see his or her pocket card. This from Greg Caulder, of the Environmental Health Services, Hoke County Health Center. The pocket cards recognizes the contractor has successfully completed the necessary requirements of the state. The cards are issued by the Well Contractor Certification Commission of the N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources.

To anonymously report uncertified well contractors, call (919) 733-3221; or contact Caulder at 875-8756.

Search the well contractor data base at <http://gw.ehnr.state.nc.us>.

Seniors in Motion gives mobility

Senior citizens and physically challenged persons can continue to live at home and remain independent with the help of the Seniors in Motion program, which provides mobility equipment, usually at no cost to the patient.

The equipment available in this program includes motorized and manual wheelchairs, scooters and other mobility equipment plus free in-home evaluations and equipment fittings.

Call 1-800-594-1225 for a "mobility needs" consultation and free in-home evaluation.

Family planning services

Hoke County Health Center offers these services through their Family Planning Clinic:

- Annual physicals that include cervical cancer screenings;
 - Follow-ups and referrals for medical problems found during examination;
 - Education on abstinence, birth control and sexually transmitted diseases;
 - Free educational literature;
 - Free or reduced-cost birth control with fees based on a sliding scale;
 - Medicaid and Health Choice accepted.
 - All services are confidential.
- Call 875-3717 to schedule an appointment.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF HARRY NELSON TUDOR NORTH CAROLINA HOKE COUNTY

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Harry Nelson Tudor, deceased, are notified to exhibit them to Dorothy J. Tudor, Personal Representative of the decedent's Estate on or before March 18, 2003 at 325 Knighthawk Loop, Aberdeen, NC 28315, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Dorothy J. Tudor, Personal Representative. Claims against said decedent (said decedent's estate) may also be exhibited to the Estate's attorney, Robert N. Page, III, P.O. Box 947, Aberdeen, N.C. 28315. Dorothy J. Tudor ROBERT N. PAGE, III ATTORNEY AT LAW P.O. BOX 947 ABERDEEN, NC 28315 38-41C

CREDITOR'S NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HOKE COUNTY THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION 02-E-205

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the ESTATE OF JOHN DANIEL PICKLER, SR., of HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, this is to notify all persons having claims against the said ESTATE to present them to

the undersigned on or before April 7, 2003 or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said ESTATE, will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 25th day of December, 2002. HARRY DIXON PICKLER, SR. P.O. BOX 127 BELMONT, NC 28012 39-42P

CREDITOR'S NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HOKE COUNTY THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION 02-E-181

Having qualified as CO-ADMINISTRATORS of the ESTATE of ROBERT ARCHIE OXENDINE, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, this is to notify all persons having claims against the said ESTATE to present them to the undersigned on or before March 25, 2003 or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said ESTATE, will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 18th day of December, 2002. BETTY JO OXENDINE P.O. BOX 663 ROWLAND, NC 28384 ROBERT R. OXENDINE P.O. BOX 423 ROWLAND, NC 28384 38-41P

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE DIVISION DOCKET NO. 3:00CR130-V PUBLIC NOTICE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, v. AUDREY DEAN MCGIRT, GERALD O'KELLY MacALLISTER, et al., Defendants. PUBLIC NOTICE OF ACTION AND PENDING FORFEITURE OF PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that the above-captioned defendants have been convicted of one or more criminal offenses in the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina. As a result of the defendants' conviction(s), the court has ordered that all of their right, title, and interest in the property described below has vested in the United States of America. The government intends to dispose of the property as the Attorney General and/or the United States Department of the Treasury may direct.

The property is as follows:
(i) real property known as Ashley Heights Trucking and located at 615 Railroad Avenue, Aberdeen, North Carolina, as more particularly described in a deed to defendant as grantee recorded at Book 362, Page 21, in the Hoke County Public Registry;
(ii) the tractor vehicles, trailers, and any and all other property shown on the attached Exhibit A, except for any such items that have already been released by the government;
(iii) \$21,822.69 in U.S. funds, iden-

tified as proceeds from two checks from Lancer Management Company dated March 15, 2001, for \$14,322.69 and \$7,500.00, in settlement of insurance claims on one of the vehicles and a trailer listed on Exhibit A, less any amounts already paid for repairs and/or related expenses; and,
Any other person or party who claims to have rights or interest in, or claims against, the subject property, in order to protect such interest from forfeiture by default, must file a petition with the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina (Charles R. Jonas Federal Building and United States Courthouse, 401 West Trade Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202) within thirty (30) days after the final publication of this notice or within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice, whichever is earlier. The petition must allege a legal interest in the property and seek a hearing for adjudication as to the validity of the alleged interest. The petition must be signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury and set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title or interest in each of the forfeited properties and any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim and the relief sought. Petitioners should serve a copy of the petition upon the United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina at the address below. Additional procedures regarding this action may be found at 21 U.S.C. § 853(n).

ROBERT J. CONRAD, JR. UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WILLIAM A. BRAFFORD ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY Carillon Building, Suite 1700 227 West Trade Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202 (704) 344-6222

Year	Make	Vehicle Identification #	Registered Owner
TRACTORS			
2000	VOLVO	4V4ND4RJOYN778850	Ashley Heights Transport, Inc.
1998	VOLVO	4VG7DACK7WN755719	Ashley Heights/Jose Corona
1993	PETERBUILT	1XPCDR9X4PN333559	VIMAC Transport
1989	VOLVO	4V1WDBJGKN620635	Audrey McGirt/Ashley Heights TRAILERS
1993	UTILITY REEFER	1UYVS2487PU935712	Jose Corona/Ashley Heights
1994	DORSEY REEFER	IDTV61Z25RA221056	Ashley Heights Transport, Inc.
1990	AMERICAN REEFER	1YKR0482XL3046367	Ashley Heights Transport, Inc.
1992	WABASH REEFER	1JJV482S6NL173106	Miquel Llanas & L Transportation Inc.
1996	UTILITY REEFER	1UYVS2480TM591909	Ashley Heights Transport, Inc.
1994	UTILITY REEFER	1UYVS248XRU094505	Ashley Heights Transport, Inc.
1995	UTILITY REEFER	1UYVS2482SU657505	Ashley Heights Transport, Inc.
1985	GREAT DANE REEFER	1GRAA9620FB095046	Audrey Dean McGirt/McGirt Trucking
1991	UTILITY REEFER	1UYVS2485MM532811	LEASELINE FINANCIAL, INC

CREDITOR'S NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HOKE COUNTY THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION 02-E-217

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATRIX of the ESTATE of CHARLES TROY HEDGPETH, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, this is to notify all persons having claims against the said ESTATE to present them to the undersigned on or before April 7, 2003 or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said ESTATE, will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 25th day of December, 2002. DIANNE S. HEDGPETH P.O. BOX 98 RAEFORD, NC 28376 39-42P

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF RAEFORD HOKE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA IN THE MATTER OF ZONING

Merlin H. Jones 323 Clay Street Raeford, NC 28376

You are hereby notified that an application is now pending before the Raeford Planning Board and the Raeford City Council whereby the above name Merlin H. Jones is requesting a conditional use permit to operate a day care at 323 Clay Street.

The above property is zoned R-6. A public hearing will be held by the Raeford Planning Board on Tuesday, January 21st, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at city hall.

A public hearing will be held by the raeford City Council on Monday, February 3rd, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at city hall.

CREDITOR'S NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HOKE COUNTY THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION 02-E-218

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the ESTATE of SAMANTHA FRANCINE LOCKLEAR of HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, this is to notify all persons having claims against the said ESTATE to present them to the undersigned on or before April 9, 2003 or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said ESTATE, will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 1ST day of JANUARY, 2003. ERNEST LOCKLFAR 310 BRANCH RD. RED SPRINGS, NC 28377 40-43P

CREDITOR'S NOTICE State of North Carolina Hoke County The General Court of Justice Superior Court Division 02 E 163

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ELLA LOCKLEAR, Hoke County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before April 15, 2003 or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 8th day of January, 2003. Benny Locklear P.O. Box 1358 Raeford, NC 28376 41-44P

CREDITOR'S NOTICE State of North Carolina Hoke County The General Court of Justice Superior Court Division 02 E 140

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATRIX of the ESTATE OF DWIGHT MCNEILL, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, this is to notify all persons having claims against the said ESTATE to present them to the undersigned on or before APRIL 15, 2003 or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said ESTATE, will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 8th day of January, 2003. JANICE P. MCNEILL 222 COVINGTON RD. RED SPRINGS, NC 28377 41-44P

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Raeford Hoke County North Carolina

In The Matter of Zoning T. B. Upchurch, Inc. P.O. Box 1559 Raeford, NC 28376

You are hereby notified that an application is now pending before the Raeford Planning Board and the Raeford City Council whereby the above named T. B. Upchurch, Inc. is requesting a conditional use permit for a planned use development at the intersection of Palmer Street and Thomas Drive.

The above property is zoned RMF-12. A public hearing will be held by the Raeford Planning Board on Tuesday, January 21st, 2003 at 6:00 pm at city hall.

A public hearing will be held by the Raeford City Council on Monday, February 3rd, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at city hall.

All interested citizens are requested to attend these meetings and express their views and opinions for the benefit of the said boards.

This public notice is to be published on January 8th and 15th, 2003. L.S. Brock, Jr. Chairman Raeford Planning Board Betty Smith Assistant City Manager/City Clerk 41-42C

Have your pets spayed or neutered.

It Stops THE KILLING!