

Words that encourage receive cash award

Harvesting Positive Life Choices marked Let's Talk Month



John Whigham



Jackie McLean awards Derrick Elliott \$100.

The requirement of poems, raps and spoken word pieces in a recent competition was that they address and encourage positive teen action and behavior.

The winner was Derrick Elliott. For his spoken word entitled "God's Message," he won a \$100 check.

John Whigham's spoken word piece was the second place winner.

The contest was part of a community carnival entitled "Harvesting Positive Life Choices," that took place at Raeford City Park in Robbins Heights.

The event celebrated "Let's Talk Month," declared to open up communication that would help prevent teen and adolescent pregnancy. The event included games for children, entertainers and booths and was sponsored by Hoke County Teen and Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council (TAPP).

Partnering with TAPP were Hoke County Health Dept., Hoke Cooperative Extension Services, Hoke Juvenile Services, Robbins Heights Community Association, Hoke County Parks & Recreation, Hoke County Veterans Association, First Health of the Carolinas, Behavioral Healthcare of the Carolinas, Healthy Hoke Task Force, WMFA Radion Station and the Blue Springs-Hoke County Community Development Corporation.

God's Message
How could I not love life
When living's only right
As I walk in the light of Christ
I feel comfort giving the public advice.

Lord forgive my sins
I've been in the presence of disloyal men
Only if I could go back then
I would try to change.

But since I can't who could I blame
I refuse to accept hell and the open flame

So I try to stay focused on change.
I noticed my Momma's pain.

God show me the way
To carry on just another day
Show my brother another way
To make pay.

Instead of hustlin' drugs
Where the kids play
Females having sex at a early age
Not knowing a thing about AIDS.

It's sad but that's how it is in these last days
Positive is the only way to stay
Give yourself to the Lord, get saved
Continue to pray
And thou shalt be blessed in many ways.

—Derrick C. Elliott

Hoke Social Services honors bosses on their day

Their employees honored the management team of the Hoke County Dept. of Social Services on Boss's Day.

Coordinated by the Hoke County Chapter of the NCSSA, each unit provided a dish for the afternoon gathering as each of the management team members received a Certificate of Appreciation "for all they do for their employees throughout the year."

Management team honorees are Robert Mercer, director of Social Services; John Morris, Child Support Enforcement supervisor; Linda Balfrey, Adult Medicaid supervisor; Judy Locklear, Income Maintenance Programs manager; Kay McMillan, administrator of Personnel and Finances; Tammy Chaney, Adult Protective Services supervisor; Shirley Carson, Work First supervisor; Sheffie Turner, Food Stamp supervisor; Diane Simmons, Children's Medicaid supervisor; and Miguel Valazquez, administrator of Hoke Area Transportation Service (H.A.T.S.).



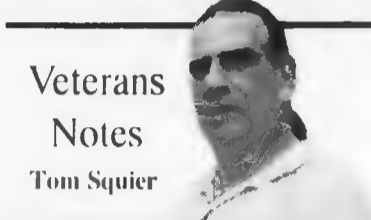
From left are Robert Mercer, John Morris, Linda Balfrey, Judy Locklear, Kay McMillan, Lu Evelyn Locklear, Tammy Chaney, Shirley Carson, Sheffie Turner; and seated is Diane Simmons. Miguel Valazquez is not pictured.

American Gold Star Mothers help veterans and families

American Gold Star Mothers has a mission "to help veterans and their families and other Gold Star Mothers in any way we can," according to Ann Wolcott, president. Gold Star Mothers are those who have lost children in America's wars and conflicts from World War II until now and the Global War on Terrorism. There are about 1,200 member mothers worldwide. "Some mothers don't join because it surfaces the pain too much when they join an organization that constantly reminds them about what happened," says Wolcott, whose son was killed in Vietnam in 1969.

Gold Star Mothers Day is always the last Sunday of September. The organization does not hold recruiting activities but it only takes five mothers to form a local chapter.

Two members whose sons were killed in World War II are 106 and 107 years old. For more information



Veterans Notes
Tom Squier

about American Gold Star Mothers, call (202) 265-0091 or e-mail agsmoms@aol.com or visit the website at <http://www.goldstarmoms.com>.

If anyone is interested in forming a local chapter, please contact the Hoke County Veterans Service Office at 875-2147.

DFAS: use only official sites

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service warns military and retired users of myPay to use only the official

myPay website when checking on their accounts or making changes in information. The site is <https://mypay.dfas.mil> when seeking to access account information. "Personal information is available and should be safeguarded," said Claudia L. Bogard, director of corporate communications for DFAS. "Don't provide your personal information to any Web site unless you know it can be trusted." Some look-alike sites have appeared recently causing confusion and collecting personal information for commercial or other uses.

Online Veterans Day cards

The American Legion, nearly 3 million members strong, has made available a way for readers to send e-mail Veterans Day cards to their favorite veteran via their website which is www.legion.org. The free service allows cards to be

sent as tributes to members of all services. Each card will include music for the appropriate branch of service as well as space for a personal message.

Military kids' scholarships

The Defense Commissary Agency has scholarships available for children of active duty, retired military members and National Guard and Reserve families, according to Edna Hoogewind, Defense Commissary Agency Liaison for the program. For further information check the Scholarships for Military Children Website at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. In addition to scholarship details, anyone wishing to make a donation to the fund can support military families according to Hoogewind. Since 2001 the program has awarded more than \$2 million to over 1,500 eligible children.

Hoke Farm Bureau passes resolutions for state consideration



Audrey Avery

Hoke County Farm Bureau's annual membership meeting, with approximately 125 members and guests present, was held on October 20 in the West Hoke Middle School Cafeteria.

Guest speaker Audrey Avery, field representative with North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, spoke of membership benefits. A film of the history of North Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance was shown.

Agency Manager Rick Sandy, reported the county is doing very well with the insurance program. Agents Cheyenna Wright, Kathy Brewer,

Reggie Pickler and Jim McMillan were introduced; also, customer service representatives Elaina Johnson and Kelly Parker. Secretaries Janice Creekmore, Norma Dooley and Darlene Leatherwood, were also recognized.

Earl Hendrix was elected as president. Other officers are Robert Wright, vice-president; James Warner Jr., secretary-treasurer; and directors Johnny Boyles, W. W. Cameron Jr., Sarah Leach, Anthony Oxendine and Keith Walters.

Resolutions concerning cotton,

flue-cured tobacco, livestock, forestry, field crops, poultry, natural resources, law and order, labor, agriculture policy and general topics were adopted by the County Farm Bureau to be sent to the North Carolina Farm Bureau office in Raleigh for their consideration.

It was announced the annual meeting of the North Carolina Farm Bureau will be held in Winston-Salem on December 7-9, 2003 at the Adams Mark Hotel. The national meeting of The American Farm Bureau will be in Oahu, Hawaii January 11-14, 2004.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature addresses concerns of the elderly

Dr. Mary K. Thomas attended the recent 10th anniversary celebration and fall meeting of the N. C. Senior Tar Heel Legislature in Raleigh.

The Senior Legislature, established by the N. C. General Assembly in 1993, provides information and education to senior adults on matters being considered by the General Assembly and make recommendations on the legislative needs of older North Carolinians. Dr. Thomas is the delegate to the Senior Tar Heel Legislature from Hoke County.

Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue was the

keynote speaker at a luncheon commemorating the 10 years of the Senior Legislature. She praised the Senior Legislature for their advocacy on behalf of senior issues. Karen Gottovi, Director of the N. C. Division of Aging, noted that the work of the Senior Legislature has contributed to the General Assembly taking such action as increasing funding for home and community based services for older adults by \$16 million dollars over the last 10 years and increasing the Homestead property tax exemption for older and disabled adults.

At the meeting Thomas heard presentations from state officials and budget analysts about current issues of importance to older adults. Information was also presented about the status of pending federal legislation, including the efforts underway to address the need for a national prescription drug program for seniors.

Delegates to the Senior Legislature identified five priority issues for action by the General Assembly in the 2003 short legislative session.

These issues request the General Assembly:

- restore the \$1 million in funding credit for long-term care and Community Care Block Grant in 2003.
- pass legislation to make the tax credit for long-term care insurance permanent. This credit will expire with the 2004 tax year unless action is taken by the General Assembly in the short session to remove the sunset provision.
- should take steps to ensure that the Medicaid Community Alternatives Program for Older Adults (CAP/DA) remains a viable service for older and disabled adults in our state.
- restore funding for senior centers to the 2001-2003 level. In 2003-2003 the state appropriation to senior centers was cut \$381,000. The 2003 General Assembly restored \$100,000 of this cut.
- take steps to ensure that national criminal background checks for employees in long-term care facilities are completed.

Officers for the Senior Tar Heel Legislature for 2003 to 2003 were also elected during the meeting. Chosen were speaker, Vernon Dull from Davie County; speaker pro tempore — Lamar Moore from Davidson County; deputy speaker pro tempore, Pat Capehart from Beaufort County; secretary, Wanda Hinshaw from Guilford County.

To find out more about the Senior Tar Heel Legislature, call Thomas at (910) 875-3848.

Financial Strength Through North Carolina People

Hoke County Farm Bureau
520 Harris Ave. • Raeford
875-4091

IT'S ALL AT THE Raeford United Methodist Church
FRIDAY, NOV. 21
Breakfast 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.
OR A DELICIOUS MEAL
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Barbecue Pork or Chicken
or Chicken Salad - \$6.00
with all the trimmings
EAT IN or TAKE OUT

YARD SALE
Saturday, Nov. 8th
9am - 5 pm
220 Keith Avenue
Raeford, N.C.
Jones Hill Area

GOOD LUCK FIGHTING BUCKS!

Hoke County vs. W. Charlotte,
November 7, 2003
2003 N.C. State High School Football Playoffs

Chavis & Sons Lawnmower and Small Engine Repair
(910) 843-8326

Shouldn't We Talk?
About Living Wills, Health Care Power of Attorney, Organ Donations & Advanced Directives in Health Care.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Thursday, November 6, 2003
Hoke County Library
Speakers: William Fields, Attorney
Jeanne Connolly, Hospital Development Specialist for Carolina Donor Services
Holly MacDonald, Liberty Home Care & Hospice Operational Manager
Sponsors: Liberty Home Care & Hospice & Family Caregiver Support Program at the Lumber River Council of Governments

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