In 2014, 602 youth participated in Hoke County 4-H programs and 2,213 youth participated in school-enrollment programs. More than 400 volunteers assisted in providing these programs.

The Hoke County 4-H Fund grant supplements the cost for volunteer training and development, club registers, youth and adult leadership development workshops, curriculum materials, life skills materials, awards and incentives to youth and adult volunteers. Without the grant received from the Hoke County FunFair Fund, many youth and adults would have to pay these expenses. Youth leaders and adult volunteers use the time to make a difference in molding 4-H’ers into successful adults. Positive adult and youth relationships are crucial in any young person’s life, regardless of the family structure.

The Blue Springs Community Development Corporation held its 20th Anniversary Celebration Friday evening at the L.E. McLemore Building. More than 50 guests attended. State Rep. Garland Pierce presented the CDC with a Resolution of Congratulations from the N.C. House of Representatives. The resolution marked the first of three planned events to commemorate the anniversary. A Community Festival/Resource Fair is set for June 20 in Maclin Park and a culminating Community Recognition Scholarship Partnership Dinner is scheduled for July 19. A festival call and application for vendors, performers and community service partners for the June 20th event are available at the CDC office. For more information contact Cathy Janes at 875-904-5121.

Teen birth rate down, but still high

The teen pregnancy rate has been declining recently; however, it still allows us to worry about our ranking not only in the United States but specifically even in Hoke County. The teen birth rate is higher in the United States than in many other countries around the world.

In Hoke County, there were 24 teen pregnancies in 2015. This sounds low compared to the state’s number of over 11,000. But Hoke County ranked 23rd out of 100 counties in 2015. Of the 22 teen pregnancies, 23 were born to 15-17 year olds and one to an 18 year-old. Repeat pregnancies were 25% of the teen pregnancies.

North Carolina ranked 20th out of 50 states of having the most teen pregnancies.

Teen birth rates differ substantially by race, ethnic group and region of the country or state. The highest rates in African American African American and Hispanic Hispanic women are usually higher than in White White women.

• 17% of teen pregnancies are a result of repeat pregnancies.
• 60% of teen pregnancies involve a child born to a juvenile.

Traditional clubs meet once a month, special interest clubs meet more often. Membership is free; open to youth ages 5 to 19. There are several traditional clubs – Lucky Leaders Club for the 5-8 year-olds, Monarch Club and Southside Club are open to youth ages 9 to 13, and the Hockhockson Rockets is available to youth ages 13-19. Our special interest club is the Hoke County Hot Shots Shooting Sports Club, which is open to youth ages 6-19. 4-H 19 is the process of developing a youth Livestock Club.

For more information regarding Hoke County 4-H membership, contact Cathy Janes at 875-904-5121.

Lucky catch

Jeremiah Lookler and Judy Less won rods and reels in the annual Fishing For Success fundraiser Saturday.

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State Rep. Garland Pierce makes the presentation.

In Hoke County 4-H volunteers work to support, teach, mentor and guide the 4-H’ers and help them to achieve their goals. These funds are important to Hoke County 4-H and the community in helping to make a difference.

A large part of being a 4-H’er is learning, growing and developing positive attitudes towards school, work, and life-long learning. Positive youth members perform well educationally, are engaged in learning, have good social skills, and are less likely to have a baby.

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Special Worship events**

- **ROCKFISH COMMUNITY MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION** - Sunday, May 30, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., at the Raeford First Baptist Church.

**Military service-connected meetings**

- **RETIRED MILITARY ASSOCIATION AND LADIES AUXILIARY** - The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., at St. John's United Methodist Church, Raeford, NC. For more information, call 910-613-1123.

**SPECIAL WORSHIP EVENTS**

- **FAMILY SOUP SUNDAY** - Sunday, May 31, 2015 at 10:30 a.m., at the Raeford United Methodist Church. All are invited to enjoy the meal and fellowship after worship.

**LEGAL**

**CREATOR’S NOTICE**

- **THE NEWS JOURNAL** - Raeford, N.C. - April 22, 2015

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Raeford City Council will hold a public hearing on May 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the possibility of increasing the city’s HUGA from $50,000 to $100,000 of CDBG funding designed to increase the City’s Capacity in the CDBG program. The hearing will be held at City hall at 315 E 36 St., Raeford, NC. Council members may participate in discussions or vote on the use of CDBG funds. All citizens are encouraged to attend. For additional information or to submit written comments, contact the City of Raeford at 910-875-6623 or City Manager at 910-875-6625. Written comments due by May 1, 2015. (expires April 2015)

**NOTICE OF SALE**

- **AMERICAN FLAG STORE** - 501 Carolina Drive, Raeford, NC 28376
  - **COURIER:** The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs is announcing that we will be taking applications for Section 8 Housing Program in Hoke County. Interested parties can pick up an application at the Hoke County Tax Records on 404 S. Main St., Raeford, NC 28376 or located in a RA-20 Agricultural District, which allows a Class B Manufactured Home to be installed as a conditional use. For more information, call 910-875-6623 or visit www.hokecounty.net.
Defender fruit

You may have heard nutritional reports about ‘free radicals’, those rogue electrons in all of us that help cause cancer and age your skin. So you’ll be glad to learn which fruit these body-damaging free radicals fear most — STRAWBERRIES.

All fruits contain some antioxidants, like vitamins C and E, but strawberries are found to be twice as strong at zapping free radicals as oranges and red grapes, and 7 times stronger than bananas and apples. Your good health is worth defending!

Howell Drug
311 Teal Drive • Raeford
875-3365

NOW REQUEST REFILLS ONLINE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE, MOBILE DEVICE OR COMPUTER
VISIT: www.howelldrug.com