

## 2,000 Horses Expected For State Show

The North Carolina State Fair Horse Show will be Oct. 15-22 at the James B. Hunt Horse Complex on the fairgrounds in Raleigh. Show Manager Glenn Petty predicts the show will feature over 2,000 of the best horses in the country. He said horse facilities offer new amenities for show participants.

"We have paved the parking lot on the west side of the arena building, and have constructed additional horse-washing facilities. Also, we will construct a new cafeteria, office area and exhibitor lounge immediately after this year's fair," said Petty.

The main horse facility structure has 100,000 square feet and a seating capacity of 5,000. The main structure is connected to a covered, 36,000-square-foot warm-up ring. Two other open warm-up rings are in the 30-acre complex. Five permanent barns house 500 total horses, and 420 temporary stalls are in reserve. Restrooms, showers, and horse wash areas are in the barns.



These children recently completed a pre-school program for four-year-olds at the Children's Playhouse of Mooreville. From left are Erin Cook, Benjamin Hastings, Patrick Burch, Emilee White, Jason Christenbury, Erica Martin and Lindsay Meadows. Kelly Dowdy also was a member of the class. The Children's Playhouse offers developmental services for children six months to five years. It is directed by Mrs. Billie Ray and Mrs. Robin Aven.

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## Duke Uses Parents To Calm Young Patients In Surgery

Those tearful goodbyes outside the hospital operating room when parents bid their sick children farewell have been replaced by smiles at Duke University Medical Center in Durham.

Now, parents can accompany their children into the operating room, even holding them in their arms while anesthesia is administered, according to Dr. Edmond C. Bloch, chief of pediatric anesthesiology. The approach provides emotional comfort and support to children, reducing the need for preoperative sedatives, he adds.

"Before, we depended on drugs to quiet the child," Bloch explains. "Now we depend on the parents."

The unusual program is being watched closely by other hospitals, considering similar projects, says Alexander Gordon, a therapeutic recreation coordinator at Duke. He adds that 300 questionnaires were sent to 30 major medical centers throughout the United States and Canada. It was learned that fewer than 10 percent allowed parents to be with their children at the time

anesthesia was administered. Most commonly cited reasons for not allowing parents in the operating room were that "parents may not like to be watched," "the parents' presence may pose an infection risk," or "it could upset the child," Gordon states.

"We feel the only reasons parents should not be present are if they don't want to be, if the child doesn't want them to be, if the child is under six months, or if the child's condition is tenuous," he says.

Only one parent is allowed to accompany the child. As the parent cradles the child on his or her lap, the anesthesiologist places a nitrous oxide mask over the youngster's face.

"Once the child drifts off to sleep, the parent leaves, joining the child in the recovery room after the operation," Bloch explains.

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## Counsel On Aging

By Anna Rice, Outreach Director  
Phone 663-5112 or 873-5171

One aspect that continues to be a great concern is the issue of spousal impoverishment. Fortunately, the American Association of Retired Persons' Women's Initiative is diligently working to bring this issue to the forefront. That organization's September issue of "Highlights" notes the difficulty surrounding the present framework of governmental regulations.

The case of Rose S. in New York shows the plight faced by many spouses of Medicaid recipients. Rose S., the article explains, was dependent financially on her husband, but after he entered a nursing home and became eligible for Medicaid, she was left with a monthly Social Security check of \$400. Her rent alone cost \$410 per month.

Most of her husband's income went to the nursing home. Rose S. was forced to sue her husband and New York's Medicaid program. Fortunately, she was able to obtain court-ordered support. If Rose S. had not sued, she would have become impoverished.

Medicaid's eligibility process forces many older Americans into poverty. To qualify for Medicaid, recipients must have income, savings, and assets that fall below a state-determined level. In addition, older people can become medically needy by "spending down." Their out-of-pocket medical expenses reduce their income and assets to the state's Medicaid eligibility level usually less than the poverty level.

In the case of married couples, even if only one spouse is applying for coverage, the income and assets of each individual are usually diminished to a low level. Thus, the spouse of the Medicaid recipient also becomes impoverished. Both persons, whether having been retired from a job or having stayed in the home, are affected deeply by the impediments of Medicaid.

Spousal impoverishment can occur also after an elderly person qualifies for Medicaid. With few exceptions, an institutionalized person's entire income must be used for his nursing home care. A woman who has relied on her husband's income, as Rose S. did, can have serious financial problems if he requires nursing home care.

AARP suggests a number of measures to prevent spousal impoverishment. Among them, the federal government could devise an equitable method of dividing a couple's income and assets when one spouse applies for Medicaid, so that the other spouse has enough money on which to live and can remain independent of other public assistance programs.

Safeguards against spousal impoverishment demand the immediate attention of Congress and the states. Couples who have worked a lifetime to build economic security for their retirement should not be forced to relinquish the fruits of their labor because of the medical needs of one spouse. The federal government should take steps to protect the financial security of the other spouse.

Individuals who have not received notice of the changes, and believe they are affected by the court ruling, should immediately contact their county department of social services. In order to determine a household's eligibility for back benefits, individuals must contact the county department of social services as soon as possible but no later than March 31, 1988.

GS Council Speakers Bureau  
Catawba Valley Area Girl Scout Council has formed a speaker's bureau as a public service to clubs and organizations in the area. Speakers will present a 30-35 minute program on Girl Scouting in Catawba Valley Area Girl Scout Council and Girl Scouting in your community.

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So that no one person or group could become too powerful, the writers of the Constitution balanced the powers of government among three separate branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Each branch checks on and is checked by the other two branches. For example, the President's power to suggest laws and to veto laws are ways to check Congress' power to make laws.

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## Postal Service Schedules Examination

The United States Postal Service has announced an examination for the position of distribution clerk in the general mail facility in Charlotte.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, political affiliations, age, mental or physical handicap, or any other non-merit factor.

The starting salary for the position is \$10.15 per hour. The examination is being held to establish a register of eligibles from which future machine distribution clerk vacancies in the Charlotte office will be filled.

All interested persons who meet the requirements are urged to apply. Deadline for applying is 5 p.m. Sept. 4.

No experience is required. All applicants will be required to take a written examination designed to test the abilities required to perform the duties of the position. The examination will consist of four parts — number series, address coding, address code memory and address checking.

Individuals in this position are required to operate a machine which sorts and distributes letters. Interested persons should submit application Form 2478-AB, to the General Mail Facility, 2901 I-85 South, Charlotte, North Carolina 28226-0098.

Applicants will be notified of date, time and place of the examination and will be sent sample questions.

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