

# The News-Journal

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## Architects Suggest Replacing Schools

By Sherry Matthews

Two Hoke County schools should be "phased out" within the next five years, a 21-member committee appointed to study the facilities was told Tuesday.

According to state Division of School Planning Engineer Floyd P. Barnes and Architect Rolf W. Seifert, both J.W. Turlington and Upchurch Junior High School should be replaced within the next five years.

The cost of replacing the two schools could exceed \$10 million.

In addition, renovations which would put all the county's schools in top shape, could run as high as

another \$10 million, the state engineers said.

The survey, conducted over the past two months, shows that Turlington's design is "inadequate for a modern educational program," and its mechanical systems are "obsolete" and in "poor condition."

The study also verifies that the school, which houses 807 fifth and sixth graders is "far too overcrowded."

"I would not spend a lot of money trying to fix this facility up," Seifert said.

"I would only spend money for

safety and health purposes," he added.

"Keep it maintained as good as you can and phase it out as soon as possible," Barnes said.

Questions were raised concerning converting the Turlington gym into classrooms.

Presently, there are four classrooms underneath the gym, according to Hoke Superintendent Robert Nelson.

"You probably could make four classrooms up there without too much problem," Barnes said.

"You could at least close off the bottom and get those students out of the basement area," he added.

Of the four Turlington buildings, three received a class IV rating as well as a "C" rating for handicapped facilities.

The class IV rating indicates that the school could "probably" last another five years.

"That is just long enough to get a new facility approved and completed," Seifert said.

The survey also shows that a facility with a "C" handicap rating "needs substantial modifications in order to be used satisfactorily by handicapped persons."

"Turlington is a problem," Seifert said.

"It is not the worst I have ever seen, but it is bad," he added.

Both Seifert and Barnes recommended that Turlington be "maintained for health and safety purposes" until the facility could be replaced on a new site.

"You should also consider reducing the size of the school if that is possible," Seifert said.

"The buildings are safe enough to use until you can get out," Barnes said.

Upchurch Junior High School received the second lowest rating by Seifert and Barnes, who also recommended that the school "eventually be phased out."

The survey shows that Upchurch, with a student population of 812, needs major improvements in six of its eight buildings.

Only the gym area and the media center facility received high marks.

"You have some problems at this school that need to be addressed," Seifert said.

Although both schools have been recommended to be phased out, neither received the lowest rating used by Seifert and Barnes.

"We use a 'V' rating for those schools that should have already been vacated," Barnes said.

(See SCHOOLS, page 2A)

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weatherman called for a little snow on Monday and he was half right. The forecast was for a few flakes to fall and then it would fair up and turn cold. There was a little more than a few flakes and if it had been colder we would still have snow on the ground.

Now this is the kind of snow I like. It is really pretty coming down, it doesn't stick, and then the sun comes out and melts what is left around on the cars and north side of buildings.

The ladies at the newspaper office were awaiting me Monday morning with smiling faces. It seems all of them would like to have two-feet of snow and to have it last a week. Maybe it was mean, but I just had to go back before they left for lunch, and ask if they had their sunshades with them.

Anyway, we need a little snow every winter and now that we have had our snow, let's see the spring weather come early.

I have learned that the American Legion monthly meeting will be held this month on Monday night, February 13 at 7:30 at Edinborough Restaurant instead of on Tuesday night, February 14. A conflict at the restaurant is the reason for this one time change.

The filing date for candidates was at noon Monday and it brought forth a race for all jobs on the ballot.

Most of the names have appeared on the ballot before, but there are also some new people seeking office.

Please watch the ads placed by all candidates and see why they are seeking these offices. If they don't say in their ads then make it a point to inquire about their qualifications, etc. on why they want the job. If they can't give you a good answer, then mark them off as a person that can serve you in office.

Of course to be able to vote you must be registered. So if you haven't registered, be sure to do so before the primary election.

A few months ago an item was in this column about Miss Carrie Sturgis of Rock Hill, S.C., a former high school teacher in this (See AROUND, page 12A)



Intricate pattern

Monday's first snow of the season gives these trees near the Raeford Presbyterian Church a light top-

ping which, contrasted against the dark branches, forms an intricate pattern of shades.

## Hoke High Preps For SAT's

By Sherry Matthews

Hoke County High School juniors and seniors may have a chance to improve their Scholastic Aptitude (SAT) scores this year with the help of a "preparation course" set to be taught prior to the exam, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ginny Hayes told school board members Tuesday night.

The course, designed to "train students in test-taking skills," will give students a chance to go over sample questions similar to those on the SAT.

Students will be reviewed on verbal and "quantitative" information as well as receiving "training in how to take the test," Hayes said.

"We need to do a lot of things to get our SAT scores where we want them. I think this course will help," she added.

At present, 50 students have

shown an interest in enrolling in the course, according to Hayes.

"I think there will be others signing up before the course actually begins," she added.

Hayes also told school board members that she did not think the school system would have to pick up a tab for the SAT course.

"At this point, it does not appear that this course will cost the school system any money," Hayes said.

There will be eight two-hour sessions of the SAT preparation course, Hayes said.

An hour will be devoted to the verbal format while the second hour will deal with the quantitative material, she added.

Instructors from Sandhills Community College will administer the course.

According to Hayes, each stu-

dent who enrolls in the class will have to pay a \$10 registration fee.

"The course will be offered prior to the actual May 5 testing day," Hays said.

"I hope this course will help" School Board Chairman W.W. Cameron said.

"It sounds good," he added. In other business, school board members unanimously adopted eight policies describing the board's "position."

"Most of these policies have already been in effect, we just need to get them in black and white," Personnel Director Gloria Williams said.

Included in the package is an annual leave policy, a human equity policy, a promotion policy, transfer policy, an employee's grievance policy, a student's grievance policy, a drug policy and (See HOKE HIGH, page 12A)

## Effort Renewed For CD Funds

By Sherry Matthews

Members of the Hoke County Commission decided Monday to renew efforts to gain \$750,000 in Community Block Grant funds to improve two residential sections.

A public hearing on the grants is scheduled for February 20 at 7:30 p.m., and the commissioners hope to receive suggestions from residents to determine how applications should be filed.

Hoke's 1983 application was denied by the state funding agency, Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD). They had hoped to receive over \$540,000 to construct a Tylertown water system.

"I want to see us go in the right direction with the application this year," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

Hoke was one of 230 counties that applied for grant monies last year.

"A lot of counties go after these funds," Lumber River Council of Governments (COG) spokesman Dan Stroh said.

Stroh will be assisting the commissioner with this year's application, according to Hoke County Manager James Martin.

"It is extremely hard to get funded," Stroh said.

According to the COG spokesman, any application that the "county chooses to make" must meet all the state requirements to "even have a chance at getting funded."

"You need something that clearly benefits 80% low and moderate income families," Stroh said.

"Any project you address has got to show a basic human need," he added.

"The application has got to be very competitive to have a chance," Stroh said.

During the meeting, the commissioner's discussed applying for funds that would benefit the Shawtown area or the Oakdale Gin Road area.

An application in the Shawtown area would deal with housing rehabilitation plus sewer and street improvements.

Work in that area would benefit approximately 43 families.

The Oakdale Gin Road applica-

tion "could be made" for weatherization of homes with insulation and storm windows.

"These are just suggested areas," Martin said.

"You need to get some input about what area is in the most need," Stroh said.

"There may be other areas that have not been discussed that would make a better project package," he added.

"I think we need to shoot at a good target...we need our share," Commissioner James A. Hunt said.

"Anywhere we could get funding in Hoke County, I would be very proud," Hunt added.

"I think we should go after the money," Commissioner Cleo Bratcher said.

The commissioners set a second public hearing date to discuss the Community Block Grant application for April 2.

"We will come back in April and review the application with you," Stroh said.

## Dispatcher snubbed

In other business, board members dashed hopes of getting a central communications dispatch center for ambulance, rescue and fire calls.

"The present dispatchers do a good job, but they have got too much to handle," Hoke Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director Bill Niven told the commissioners.

At present, all emergency dispatching is done through the Hoke County Sheriff's Department with the jailers handling most of the incoming calls.

The EMS council decided that a central dispatch unit would help solve some of the dispatch problems, Niven said.

"We just can't afford to hire dispatchers right now. I am in favor of it, but we just can't fund it," Hunt said.

The dispatch question was raised after Niven discussed charging county residents who called for emergency vehicles when the victim was already deceased.

A lot of times the ambulance is (See FUNDS, page 2A)



Visibility marred

About an inch of snow fell on Hoke County Monday. Here motorists are slowed, but not stopped, on Raeford's Main Street by the falling white stuff.

## Witnesses Tighten Time Frame Of Events In Morrison Slaying

By Sherry Matthews

Although no arrests have been made in connection with the December slaying of Raeford businessman Daniel Morrison, authorities have placed witnesses at the crime scene "just a few minutes" before the shooting apparently occurred, Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said.

"Through our conversations with a lot of people, we have got it down to between three and five minutes," the chief said.

"There is still a little blank spot in there that we are trying to fill. That is the time that is most important," Wiggins added.

Despite the narrow time frame between the shooting and when alleged customers were in Morrison's Grocery on Harris Avenue, Wiggins would not verify that an arrest would be made in the near future.

"We are constantly working on this thing," Wiggins said.

It is our top priority, he added. Although the slaying took place over a month ago, Wiggins said he was not giving up.

"I still believe that we will get a break in this case," Wiggins said.

"We are working very hard to find out who did this," he added.

The body of the 54-year-old

Morrison was found around 9:35 p.m. by a customer. He had been shot to death.

Hoke Medical Examiner Robert Townsend said earlier that Morrison died from multiple gunshot wounds.

Although nothing has been reported missing from the store, SBI agents and Wiggins have "not ruled out" the possibility of an armed robbery as a motive in the slaying.

"We are not ruling out anything at this point," SBI senior agent Frank Johnson said.

"We are following up any leads we get," he added.



## Inside Today

Raeford resident Nquyet Thi Tran has spent most of her life in the United States helping other refugees. We take a look at what she is doing on page one of Section B in today's News-Journal.