

The News-Journal

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Implementation tied to \$2.5 million bond issue

Committee gives OK to school plan

A committee of local residents, who have been studying the needs of the Hoke County schools since November, put finishing touches on a \$6.2 million long-range facilities improvement plan Tuesday night in preparation for a public airing of the proposal next week.

The group's sweeping recommendations include the closing of one school, the gradual replacement of another and a restructuring of school classes.

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Although the plan is tied closely to the "urgent" passage of a \$2.5 million bond issue, there are no recommendations for raising ad valorem taxes in the proposal.

Here is what the committee recommended:

•Expand Upchurch Junior High School to a sixth through eighth grade facility with approximately 1,200 students. The school is now just grades seven and eight.

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•Establish kindergarten through fifth grade elementary schools at West Hoke, South Hoke, Scurlock and McLauchlin. All of those facilities are now K-4 schools.

•Close Turlington School as soon as possible. Classes now held under the gymnasium floor would be eliminated immediately by using temporary classrooms.

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•Add 21 new permanent classrooms at the elementary schools to accommodate needed expansions to K through 5.

•Add about 10 permanent classrooms to Hoke High School. Replace the Class IV buildings at Upchurch with new buildings.

The plan calls for most of the improvements to be spread over a 10-year period with much of the work to be done during the 1987-1988 school year.

During that year 19 new classrooms would be constructed at Upchurch at a projected cost of \$532,000, 21 classrooms would be built at the K-5 schools for \$735,000 and 10 classrooms would be constructed at the high school for a cost of \$227,500.

Those \$1.5 million in improvements could be paid for with the bond issue.

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In the 1989-90 school year, replacement of the three Category IV buildings would be started.

That recommendation calls for a total of 28 classrooms to be replaced for around \$823,200. The fund (See SCHOOL PLAN, page 2A)



Soon to be gone

On a drive through town or the country around Raeford, one cannot help but see dogwood flowers at every bend. Sadly, the time of year for dogwood blooms is almost over. Within two to three more

weeks, it will be another nine months, at least five of them cold, before this sight unfolds again. (Photo by Becky Jones)

Robbers hit churches

By Ed Miller

Easter Sunday proved to be a day of loss for some area churchgoers after thieves hit choir rooms in three of the county's churches during morning services.

Members of the Raeford United Methodist Church, the First Baptist Church and Antioch Presbyterian Church suffered losses after someone went into choir rooms and removed wallets and pocketbooks containing money and credit cards.

There were no exact figures of the amount of loss at the Methodist Church, but around \$40 was reported to have been taken from First Baptist.

Antioch was hit the hardest.

There about \$120 was believed to have been taken.

Although all the crimes apparently took place in a similar manner, local authorities are not commenting on the connection between the incidents.

Officers from the Hoke County Sheriff's Department and the Raeford Police Department are investigating the incidents. No arrests were anticipated on Tuesday.

In other crime, Hoke County Sheriff's reports say that a breaking and entering and larceny occurred at Rt. 3 Raeford last week.

Former Hoke County Commissioner Ralph Barnhart reported that someone had entered a residence under his care and removed a water pump, a set of

handles from a sink and damaged a door.

The total value of the damage was reported to be around \$450.

There are no suspects in the case, the reports say.

Another breaking and entering and larceny was reported by Wyvast Lowery of Raeford.

Lowery reported that his house had been entered Friday and a typewriter, stereo, two rod and reel rigs and a wall plaque had been taken.

The total value of the stolen items was around \$650.

Sheriff's deputies have the matter under investigation.

Helen Faircloth, of Raeford, (See CHURCHES, page 11A)

College study expected by May 15

An architectural feasibility study of two Raeford buildings being eyed as possible sites for a satellite branch of Sandhills Community College will be completed in the next two weeks, a Chamber of Commerce spokesman said Tuesday.

Architects, along with Sandhills officials, toured the old Bank of Raeford building and old Raeford Armory last week, Hoke-Raeford Chamber of Commerce Director Earl Fowler said.

Both buildings are being con-

sidered as possible locations for the proposed branch of the college, Fowler said, noting that the Armory is being looked at "purely" as a backup for the downtown bank.

"We're still primarily looking at the bank building," the chamber director said.

Fowler and others backing the school see the college in the Main Street building as a first step in revitalizing downtown Raeford.

A completed architectural

feasibility report is expected in the next two weeks, he added.

Officials are hoping that architects will determine that the bank building, which is being given to the county by United Carolina Bank (UCB), will be suitable for the initial school, and that future expansions might fill other downtown vacant buildings.

A private grant was provided for the architectural study, and if everything goes according to plan a college branch could be opened in Raeford by the fall.

Unreported move lands local woman in county jail

By Ed Miller

A former Raeford resident was sentenced to six months in jail in Hoke County District Court last week after she violated the conditions of a probationary term given earlier for a shoplifting charge.

According to court records, Victoria Graham, now of Fayetteville was originally sentenced to six months in jail on two counts of shoplifting.

While serving three years probation, she moved without consulting

her probation officer and was also arrested again last month and charged with another shoplifting.

District Court Judge Warren Pate upheld the original sentence, records show, and the 31-year-old woman is to begin serving time at 9 a.m. April 27 in the Hoke County Jail.

Graham has also been made to pay about \$100 restitution and court costs, records show.

In another case, John Everett Davine, of Fayetteville, plead guilty

to death by vehicle and was sentenced to three years probation.

According to court records, on December 10, Davine's car left the road on the left side and was struck by an on coming vehicle driven by Lester David Ray, 54.

Ray, who was driving a 1971 Volkswagen, was pronounced dead at the scene. Davine and a passenger in Ray's car were injured in the accident.

Davine was also fined \$500 and required to pay court costs.

In an unrelated case, another Raeford resident was sentenced to two years in prison for breaking, entering and larceny.

Fred Fincher, 42, was sentenced after pleading guilty to charges of going into Raeford City Councilman Joe Upchurch's garage and taking a \$180 gas grill.

Fincher was arrested March 5 under a warrant records show.

Another Raeford woman was also found guilty of shoplifting last week.

Linda Michelle Johnson plead not guilty to charges that she allegedly took cigarettes and deodorant from the local A&P store, according to court records. However, she was found by Pate to be guilty.

She received a six-month jail term that was suspended in exchange for one year probation.

She was also made to pay court costs and \$100 fine.

A Laurinburg man will be serving

time in the Hoke County Jail according to court records.

Jay William Quick, 56, of Caldonia Road will serve eight days at the rate of two days per week-end for three weeks on a driving while impaired (DWI) charge.

He started his sentence last week-end.

Quick, who was arrested last November 6 also received two years "special supervised probation" (See DWI, page 2A)

Around Town

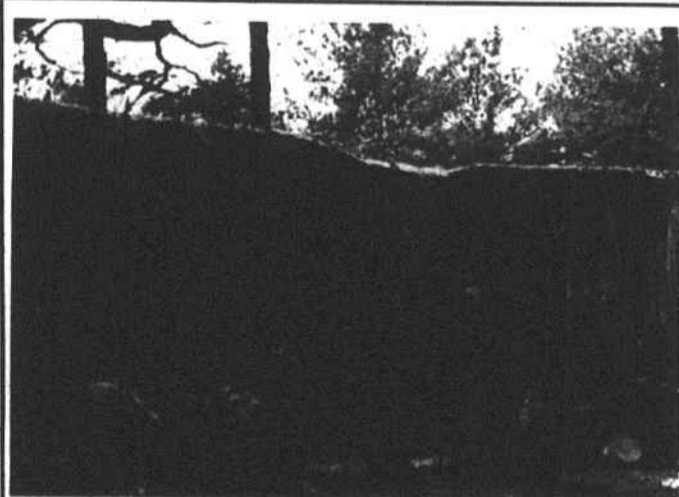
By Sam Morris

It seems that some weather system settled over North Carolina Sunday and Monday. It caused rain and the temperatures were in the 40s and 50s for most of the time. This was not good for the many people who had a holiday over the Easter weekend. It even caused sleet in parts of Virginia and Washington, D.C. Most of the country was in better condition and had a beautiful Easter weekend.

The forecast is for fair weather until Friday or Saturday but the temperatures will be below normal.

Raz Autry appeared at the office last Thursday and left word that I was almost correct on the amount of peaches that he was expecting this year.

To put the record straight he has (See AROUND, page 2A)



Fire leaves trailer total loss

A fire that started around 4 a.m. Tuesday left nothing but a pile of charred rubble for owner Al McKeithan. According to Hoke County sheriff's reports, McKeithan and his wife were at work and their children were at a babysitter's house when the blaze started. No one was hurt. Hillcrest and North Raeford fire departments responded to the fire after being tipped off by a deputy on patrol. When the two stations arrived at the fire, the trailer was totally engulfed, a spokesperson for the Hillcrest Department said.

Defendant recaptured after freedom run

By Ed Miller

A routine session in Hoke County District Court erupted in chaos Friday morning after a defendant bolted from the courtroom and headed for freedom.

Gary Bease bent over and pulled away from the grasp of the sheriff's deputy who was standing beside him as he appeared before District Court Judge Warren Pate. Bease ran from the judge's bench, leaped over a low wooden fence that surrounds the front of the courtroom and headed for the door, witnesses said.

A spectator in courtroom, Brady Locklear, jumped from his seat apparently to try to stop the escapee, but the effort was to no avail.

Bease ran down the aisle, broke the glass in the main door and was on his way out of the building apparently before many in the courtroom knew it.

Sheriff's deputy Ronnie Odom and former deputy Craig Hart along with detective Ed Harris gave chase to the escapee.

Cumberland County Deputy Larry Flinchul cornered the running Bease with his car.

The defendant, who was coming before the court on malicious injury to real property charges, was recaptured within minutes on Central Avenue in Raeford in front of Conoly's Exxon.

According to a spokesman for the Hoke County Sheriff's Department, Bease was being arraigned to drop his charges at the time of the escape.

An earlier psychiatric evaluation had determined that the defendant was not fit to stand trial, the spokesman said.

Bease is in the Hoke County Jail awaiting further psychiatric (See DEFENDENT, page 2A)



Inside Today

This Hoke County youth makes it look easy as he sails effortlessly through the air on his way to a good leap in the running broad jump competition held during last Thursday's Special Olympics. We take a look at the games on page 1 of Section B in today's News-Journal.