

Viewpoints

County needs airport funds

Hoke County would be making a mistake by not taking advantage of an offered state grant to improve the airport.

The state funds, which have been offered in a matching \$75,000 grant, have been earmarked for the construction of a new terminal at the airport.

Local officials are questioning the need for a \$150,000 new terminal building at the facility and suggesting that part of the matching grant could be used for more pressing airport needs.

The thinking is sound, and according to a spokesman for the state Aeronautics Council, a

revision of the use of the money might be acceptable.

Members of the newly appointed airport authority will be wrestling with the task of determining the needs of the local landing strip and will have to recommend whether to accept or pass on the grant.

In light of the needs of the airport and the county's recent push to land new industries here, we believe failure to use the state money would be a step backwards.

A well-run upgraded Raeford-Hoke County Airport would be an attraction to industries, most of whom rely heavily on use of air travel.

If the state is willing to pay half of the tab to upgrade the airport, we believe this county should take advantage of it.

Although Hoke County probably does not

Editorial

need to spend \$150,000 on a terminal, a less costly facility could be constructed and the balance of the funds could be used for other improvements like runway lights, taxiways, apron parking and runway resurfacing.

Because air traffic in North Carolina contributes more tax revenue to state coffers than airport improvements take out, other grants in the future will probably be available to Hoke County for additional work.

With the state's help, this county could construct an excellent small airport facility, which would attract pilots and industrial users from the surrounding area.

However, if the county passes on using the cur-

rent grant, we may have to fight harder for funds in the future.

Both Raeford and Hoke County have adequate matching funds for the airport in the budgets recommended for the upcoming fiscal year.

Those funds should be approved by the city council and county commission as a budget for the airport authority.

Once the money is approved, it will be up to the appointed authority to determine the needs of the airport and to determine how the money should be spent.

The airport authority is not a study group. Its members are a commission impaneled to do a job and have the right to operate with a budget.

We believe that elected officials should allow their appointed representatives to start improving the airport, and we encourage the authority members to use the funds provided by the state.



Madilyn



May 8

Letters To The Editor

Society help appreciated

To the Editor:

The Hoke/Raeford Humane Society would like to thank everyone who helped to make our recent Bake and Raffle sale a success. Thanks also to Food Lion for allowing us to hold the sale in front of their store.

We still have many more raffle tickets to sell. But hurry, the drawing is June 15. There are 10 prizes to be given away and they're all nice ones.

Our members have been doing a great job this past year and we have accomplished a great deal. But as long as the pet population continues to boom we shall be needed to carry on our work.

If you would like to be a member of the Hoke/Raeford Humane Society please contact me at any time during the day at the phone number listed below. We need many new members and you won't be asked to do anything that you don't want to do.

Membership is only \$10 a year per family, which works out to about 20¢ a week! We've added many new members recently but our goal is a minimum of 500. Remember, you won't be asked to do anything other than pay your yearly dues if that is what you want.

All remaining unsold raffle tickets and raffle stubs and money should be turned in to Frances Gatlin. The deadline is Thursday, June 14.

Again, we want to thank everyone who came out and showed their support for us, and thanks especially to everyone who baked something for us.

There certainly are a lot of good cooks in Hoke County.

Sincerely,
Sheryl McGinnis

Community spirit 'alive and giving'

To the Editor:

Re: Mr. Jack Letzgas' letter to the Editor in the June 7 issue of *The News-Journal*.

Mr. Letzgas asks the question "Where is the community support in Raeford?"

My thinking is that it's right where it's always been, and is very much alive. I have never known the people of our community to fail when a need arises among us.

It really bothers me that anyone would dare portray us as other than a warm and loving people.

We all have our priorities, and if we've been putting the emphasis on relieving human misery first - I can't seem to feel apologetic about that.

We have no pets at our house now except for the grandchildren. We're neither lonely nor unhappy about that, nor do we expect it to shorten our lives.

I hasten to add that we have had a wide variety of pets. We cried when someone killed our cocker spaniel. We had a royal funeral when our hamster died. When our gentle big German shepherd died of old age we decided that was enough.

If we do not feel inclined to contribute to the Humane Society, except through our taxes, that should be recognized as our right, and not a reason to label us as heartless.

Yes, Burlington Industries is a big and successful business. I, for one, am very grateful to them for all the support they've given to Hoke County over the years. I'm sorry Mr. Letzgas feels as he does about those who do not contribute to his cause.

The News-Journal has given very adequate coverage to the Humane Society's cause, and I'm sure has been very helpful.

Frankly, though, many of us are beginning to resent those who would attempt to make us feel guilty every week when we read our *News-Journal*.

Would Mr. Letzgas have any idea how many worthy causes we're asked to contribute to during the year? If so, then he must know we have to choose to support some, not all of them.

Could we please now hear about someone else's favorite charity?

Sincerely,
Mrs. Brown Hendrix, Sr.

Volunteers helped literacy fish fry

To the Editor:

Hoke Reading/Literacy Council wishes to express thanks to all who helped to make our annual Fish Fry a success.

More than 60 volunteers sold tickets, cooked, served or helped in some way.

Hoke County is indeed fortunate that so many of its citizens are willing to do for others.

While the county may not yet have felt the impact of our existence, we are seeing positive results in many of the individuals we have served.

For instance, they are joining the ranks of volunteers. Many of our students and former students

helped to make the event successful.

As a tutorial program we are expected to teach adults to read and we do. But, it's only because of the out-pouring of support for literacy and the willingness of our volunteer to invite the students to participate in our shared society that we can truly help the illiterate build for himself a better life.

Sincerely,
Barbara J. Buie
for Hoke Reading/Literacy Council

Olympic problems smack of politics

Dear editor:

A lot of thinkers are trying to guess - or maybe a lot of guessers are trying to think - why the Russians have pulled out of the Olympics.

One theory is they're trying to get even with the United States for pulling out of the Olympics in Moscow four years ago, causing Afghanistan to vote Republican.

Another theory is that it's sheer politics; they have something up their sleeves involving international relations or arms control or nuclear freeze or a poor potato crop.

It's that last theory that has some big-time columnists beating on their typewriters.

Politics, they say, should be kept out of the Olympics, makes no difference how many more missiles or fewer potatoes Russia has.

You try to get politics out of the Olympics or any other human organization, up or down, and most likely you'll be accused of playing politics.

J.A.

Atlanta following pattern

By Cliff Blue

SOUTH AND SCHOOL INTEGRATION ... The public schools in the South have integrated faster than public schools in the non-south, especially in metropolitan areas -- where many schools continue in 1984 to be almost totally black or Hispanic. That's the view of the U.S. Education Department.

But this faster integration and busing has produced a reaction. Private schools have sprung up in all parts of the South (because of the percentages involved in integration, which sometimes made the transition inevitably if temporarily burdensome).

A national news magazine reported in May that, for the first time since the 1954 Supreme Court decision desegregation in the South is either at a standstill or moving in reverse, though the South as a region still remains ahead of most of the rest of the nation.

Atlanta is an example of the new trend in some areas of the South. A third of the city's public school students were white in 1970. Today Atlanta's schools are 91% black -- similar to those in the national

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capital. A civil rights group spokesman acknowledges that the "white community" has just moved over to the private sector.

HEALTH COSTS...Patients are spending about the same amount of time in community hospitals today as they did 20 years ago, but the average costs have increased more than eight times, says the Health Insurance Association of America.

The average cost to the hospital was \$38.91 per day in 1963, the Association says. By 1982, it had risen to \$327.40 per patient per day, a 741 percent increase.

During that same period, the nation's cost of living as measured by the Consumer Price Index rose by 215 percent, the Association notes.

Almost half of the hospital expenses involved are for salaries and professional fees.

A survey by the Association of average daily semi-private room charges reveals that the District of Columbia leads the nation, with a rate of \$285.

This rate is more than twice the

average rate charged in Mississippi, \$108, the lowest in the nation.

The southern states generally have the lowest charges, while the highest rates are found in the northeastern and western states, the Association says.

WASHINGTON...A Census Bureau study reports that the percentage of American women who are pregnant when they marry or who have a child before marriage has doubled since World War II.

HEALTH FORECAST...Planning a trip abroad and wondering how safe or healthy you will be? Worldwide Health Forecast in Washington, D.C. may be able to answer your questions, says the Health Association of America.

SMOKING...When it comes to smoking, doctors are practicing what they preach, says the Health Insurance Association of America. A recent medical school study found that fewer than 1 in 3 of the general population smokes.

STATE PARKS...North Carolina state parks and recreation areas swimming facilities and refreshment stands opened for the summer season on Friday, June 1.

Farming test not a fair test of experience

By Warren Johnston

It was a hot Sunday afternoon. I was having a hard time figuring out what I wanted to do. I didn't want to go outside. It was too hot.

The sun was heating up the asphalt on the roads for a four o'clock community egg fry, and the only thing moving through the humid air was a flock of mosquitos who had gotten lost on their way to summer camp in Maine.

I was sitting around under the fan and in my wife's way as she tried to clean the house.

"Why don't you take the farming test that was in the Sunday newspaper?" she suggested.

I had seen the test earlier. It was designed for city slickers. I knew it would be a cinch for me, so I ignored it.

Oh yes, I was raised in the city, but I knew my way around a barnyard.

After all, didn't I help my grandfather raise more than a thousand chickens in our backyard?

I even raised four ducks, a goose and a rabbit without help. Of course, the neighborhood canine bully, Spot, ate them all, but that didn't impugn my reputation as an expert husbandman.

Why should I have to take the test? I asked myself.

Hey, I was the guy who used to watch my grandfather leave his

The Puppy Papers

muddy boots by the basement door just before he would sit down at the breakfast table to dine on the spring onions and radishes he had pulled from the garden that morning.

That sort of early day fare takes a real devotion to the soil, and just to watch someone eating onions and radishes for breakfast requires an agrarian stomach.

I wasn't like these modern city kids. I knew steaks came from steers, and I knew chickens didn't walk around the hen house wrapped in cellophane.

There had been some fond memories, like the time our pet steer sneaked behind me, put his wet nose between my legs and boosted me over the pasture fence, but my brothers and I had shed few tears the night our mother served "ole Blackie" for supper.

Who can forget the chicken killings? Every time the word was out that my grandfather had a few chickens to go on the chopping stomp, three or four of the fellows from the neighborhood would drop in.

We would stand around and marvel at how long they would run after their heads had been dispatched. Some of them would go for two or three minutes.

"You know, I didn't just pop out of the band box or fall off the coal truck, either. I know a lot about farming," I told my wife.

After a little harassment, and biting phrases from my wife like: "prove it" or "put up or shut up," I consented to take the test.

I whizzed along, easily knocking off answers like the size of the average farm is 127 acres and each American farmer supplies food for 76 people.

I even got the father of soil conservation, Hugh Hammond Bennett. I knew North Carolina was first in turkey production.

"Who wouldn't know that?" my wife kibitzed rhetorically over the vacuum cleaner.

I started to falter when I got to the one about the average capital investment per farm in the United States. The cost of farming had gone up since I paid \$4.95 for the duck, goose and rabbit.

I continued to slide through the rest of the test.

"How was I supposed to know we were number seven in hogs?" I retorted after my wife chastised me for scoring only a "fair."

"Anybody who rides down a highway in this state could tell by using his nose that we are ranked high in hogs," she said.

Since then I have spent a good deal of time reading farm news, and I have been putting in an extra hour in my garden each day. I'll be ready for the next test.

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