

Just reaching peak

Crepe myrtles are blossoming over Hoke County and bringing color to hot summer days. These buds

are just about to burst into full bloom.

## 'Meals on Wheels' in jeopardy, volunteers needed to deliver

A lack of volunteers is jeopardizing a program which would bring hot meals to shut-in Hoke County residents.

Efforts have been "less than successful" to attract the persons needed to deliver the meals which would serve more than 25 county residents, Hoke County Health Department Director Lloyd Horne said Monday.

For several months, staff members from the North Carolina Division of Aging, along with a local advisor council, have been attempting to begin the Meals On

Wheels program in Hoke County, but without success.

The program is funded, however, about 30 volunteers are needed to get the meals rolling, Horne said

Only about nine have been

Volunteers would deliver the meals to home-bound residents Monday through Friday.

About 25 residents have been approved for the service, but many more are qualified and waiting, Horne said.

Program sponsors hope to get enough volunteers to allow each driver to work only one day per

"It only takes about two hours per day," the health director said.

"Some cases could be less," he

Volunteers must furnish their own vehicles. Volunteer riders can assist in the delivery.

Persons interested in helping with the program should contact Horne at 875-3717.

## Airport commission cuts fees, hopes to attract more planes

In an attempt to attract business, the new Airport Commission set tie down fees for the Raeford Hoke Airport at rates lower than those of other area landing fields.

As of August 1, fees for the air-port will be \$12 per month for a tie down on grass and \$15 for ones on the apron of the runway or on asphalt, Hoke County Airport Commission members decided Thursday.

Persons wishing to rent a tie down from the city must sign a lease agreeing to pay the fee with the penalty for non-payment being a ticket, which can be written by a local policeman, a deputy sheriff or a member of the airport

Further non-payment of rent will result in a lien against the airplane, Vice Chairman Wayne

In other action, the authority voted to "regretfully accept" the resignation of Marianne Baker from their ranks.

In a letter outlining the reasons for her resignation, Baker cited family illness as the major cause of

Airport leases were also discussed at the meeting and an agreement with A.J. Furches was approved.

There was more time spent discussing a trade to be made with Raeford parachute jump school owner Gene Paul Thacker.

The final decision of the authority was to give Thacker two tie downs on the south-east corner of the runway apron in exchange for a fuel pump and two tanks that Thacker, with permission, installed on city property.

The agreement, to be formally drawn up by City Attorney Palmer

ing that ownership of the pump and tanks will revert to the city if. at the end of a year, Thacker chooses not to renew the lease, said authority Chairman Frank Baker.

Commissioner L.E. McLaughlin was asked by Byrd to look into the possibilities of getting an unleaded fuel pump installed at the airport

for pilot use. Many airplanes now are designed to burn the fuel which is less expensive than aviation fuel, said Byrd.

Although no action was taken, there was a great deal of discussion about what to do with a hangar at the airport belonging to Tom

Cameron.
After a motion by Vice-Chairman Byrd, the commission voted to send Sheriff Dave Barrington a letter requesting that his department regularly patrol the

## Shift of city health service is considered by county DSS

employed by the City of Raeford will retire and plans are being made to continue the extra service for the elderly being provided by the city, but efforts are also being made to cut costs.

When she retires "we want the service to continue at the same level," said City Manager Tom Phillips.

However, the city is also looking into combining the service with that being provided to county residents through the Department

of Social Services (DSS).
The Raeford "home health which is not part of the St. Joseph's Home Health program, is a registered nurse who works fulltime for the city to provide care for municipal employees and for about 40 elderly residents, said Raeford Personnel Officer Rhonda Holt.

The nurse takes elderly persons shopping who do not get around

well on their own. The clients are also taken to visit doctors and do other things that would require aid, said Holt.

Dorothy Shell travels around to visit shut-ins in town for about six

hours each day. Shell also examines and treats city employees, who are involved in minor accidents.

One of the greatest benefits of having the nurse is that she keeps city health care insurance rates low, said Holt.

Over a three year period, health care insurance costs for the city dropped from \$14,000 to \$3,500,

This could be a direct result of preventative health care summaries that Shell keeps on all city employees.
"I don't believe there are many

cities that have a full time nurse like Raeford," Holt said.

"The money Mrs. Shell has saved us is many fold what her salary

According to Phillips, there is a possibility that the services of the nurse will be combined with the

"If they can do it, and do it as well as we do, and if any money can be saved by the move, we might give it a try," Phillips said. Discussions on the matter of in-

tegrating the services into DSS are in the preliminary stages, both Tom Phillips and DSS Director Ken Witherspoon say.

"We (Phillips and Witherspoon) have had one 20-minute phone conversation discussing the matter," said Witherspoon. Phillips has been asked to look

into the situation and find out the original idea behind the nurse, Witherspoon said.

If the service is integrated into DSS, there may be a need to develop some volunteer assistance groups to help out, Witherspoon



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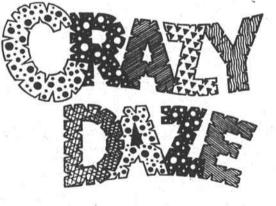


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