

# ... County manager leaving

(Continued from page 1)

Comprehensive Education Training Act (CETA) funds.

According to the letter, the county has 30 days to repay the funds or interest may build up.

The county was accused by the state of allowing applications for CETA jobs to be taken before a minimum 30-day period was ended, Martin said.

The rules and regulations of the CETA program say that a person must be unemployed for 30 days before he can get a job offered under the program, Martin said, noting that the rules are unclear as to whether the waiting period must be up before an application can be accepted.

This is not the first time the county has been presented with this problem, Chairman John Balfour said.

The county successfully defended its position to the state a number of years ago, Martin said.

Now, three years later, the final audits of the federal government are finished, and they are questioning the funds, Martin said.

At Commissioner Cleo Bratcher's suggestion, the Board will get a copy of the regulations and check the wording of the questioned section.

According to the letter, the county has the right to appeal. Finance Officer Charles Davis will go to Raleigh on July 19 to hear other alternatives which face the county.

On another matter, the commissioners had to rescind a motion from their last meeting of accepting a grant from the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

According to Martin, he received

a letter that was actually a progress report on the grant for \$1,900, but he read it quickly and thought it was the final word of award on the grant.

The letter states that the grant application has been accepted by the state, and that it has been sent on to the United States Department of Energy.

In other action, the commissioners:

- Appointed Leland Strother as an alternate member to the Raeford Zoning Board of Adjustment.

- Appointed Annie Goins to replace Robert Taylor on the South Hoke Community Center Board of Trustees.

- Reappointed Harold Brewer, Harless Wright, Clidie Mae Locklear and Willie McPhaul to the South Hoke Community Center Board of Trustees.

# ... Development funds increased

(Continued from page 1)

## Deputies hired

Also included in the new budget are funds for the hiring of three deputy sheriffs at \$12,485 each.

Money will also be provided for purchasing the new officers patrol cars, equipped with sirens, blue lights and radios.

Sheriff Dave Barrington had requested five new deputies, but all were trimmed earlier from the budget by County Manager James Martin.

The commissioners restored the three positions after a meeting with the sheriff.

## Development help

Funds which will help the county's industrial development program were also increased in the new budget.

In the past the county had been providing \$14,000 for industrial development. That money was channeled through the Chamber of Commerce.

An additional \$10,000 was added to the effort during Tuesday's action.

More funds could be made available if they are needed, Upchurch said after the meeting.

A committee has been organized to make recommendations on the hiring of a person to head up the industrial development program.

Commission members noted that they favored a fulltime, qualified industrial developer.

"Every county around us has got one. We have been sitting around for 10 to 15 years hoping something will flow to Hoke County," Hunt said.

In order to keep local ad valorem taxes low and to balance the budget, about \$379,000 was taken from the county's fund balance.

To replace those funds with ad valorem taxes, the county would have to increase the tax base by \$49 million, Upchurch.

Faberge currently has a tax evaluation of \$30 million and Burlington Industries is valued at \$29.6 million.

The tax base increases normally by only about \$500,000 each year, Martin said.

"We have got to get to work on industrial development," Upchurch said.

"If we don't get something to cure the sore, the sore will continue to eat at us," he added.

The county money will be added to \$10,000 from the City of Raeford and \$10,000 provided by the state Legislature.

# ... Schools to receive new roofs

(Continued from page 1)

"I've got a feeling that the cuts (proposed cuts on the budget) are

going to be painful," said Nelson before the meeting last night.

In another matter, School Board

members discussed a proposed plan for the development of teachers that will effect the whole state.



## Weeds beware

Not a threat to any human life and limb, this rolling cultivator is sudden death on weeds. The monster is pulled behind a tractor and rolls along the rows of a field cutting the root systems of weeds. The

cultivator does not pull weeds up or disturb much of the lay of the soil, but it does kill weeds or anything else that grows in between rows of crops.

Photo by Rebecca Jones

# Robbery suspect being sought

By Ed Miller

Although an arrest is not imminent, Raeford Police do have a suspect in an attempted armed robbery last week at The Buckstop, Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said Monday.

At about 1:40 a.m. last Thursday, the store clerk had been in the process of closing the convenience store and had gone outside to throw away dirty mop water, when the attempt occurred, Wiggins said.

As she returned to the store, a shotgun was thrust in her face and she was told to go back inside.

A man apparently asked for money, but when the clerk told him she had none, the suspect took the clerk's pocket book and a set of store keys. He fled the building, the chief said.

Some of the contents of the pocketbook and the keys were found the next day near Hoke High Stadium.

About \$72 was taken from the purse. Other missing items were valued at another \$34, Wiggins said.

The investigation is continuing, he added.

Under North Carolina law, a person convicted of armed robbery or even attempted armed robbery will receive seven years in jail without parole or probation, Wiggins said.

In an unrelated matter, Carolina Telephone and Telegraph reported to Hoke County Sheriff's deputies that someone shot out a telephone junction box apparently using a high powered rifle.

The wires inside the junction box were severed and phone service to parts of Cumberland, Scotland and Moore counties was

temporarily interrupted, reports say.

Carolina Telephone and Telegraph reported the damage to the junction box at \$800.

On another matter, the apparent rash of bicycle thefts in Hoke County continues.

Sandy Tucker, of Raeford, reported to police that two bikes were taken out of her yard last Monday night.

The value of both bicycles was reported at \$200, Wiggins said.

Sometime on the same date, Ronnie Wilson, of East Sixth Avenue, reported the apparent theft of his bicycle, police reports say.

This loss was reported at \$200 also.

Again, on July 9, the local police department received a report from Varris Daniels saying that his bike had been taken for a loss of \$110, reports say.

David York reported that while he was jogging, someone took his keys from the street pants he left behind in a locker room.

York told sheriff's deputies that he and a co-worker left their clothes in a locker room at Upchurch Jr. High School while they went running and, upon their return, he found his keys missing.

After talking to some kids who said they saw some suspects "killing time" around the locker room, York found out nothing about his missing keys, reports say.

In still further unrelated matters, the Bowmore Pool Room was apparently broken into last Friday night, say reports.

While inside, thieves took the drawers out of two pool tables and broke into a juke box.

There was about \$20 in change taken from the pool room, but

there was no damage estimate in the report.

Raeford's Jiffy Stop Number 2 reported the theft of 80 cents in gasoline.

According to reports, the suspects asked the attendant at the store to ring up \$3 in gas on the pumps; however, the attendant had already programmed the pump for \$15 for another customer.

When the suspects had pumped \$7.80 worth, the attendant realized what had happened and told the suspects about it.

The suspects came up with the additional \$4, but left the station still owing 80 cents, reports say.

By the time the Sheriff's Department arrived, the attendant had forgotten what the suspects looked like. The matter is being investigated, reports say.

While on patrol last Saturday, Police Patrolman George Brown reported the breaking of a window at J.W. Turlington School.

Upon further investigation, police found that part of the building had been ransacked and that someone had written on the walls with "magic markers," reports say.

Estimated damage to the building was reported at \$10.

William Gordon Webb reported to police that he had parked his truck at a friend's house and left his wallet on the front seat.

When he returned, the wallet was gone, say reports adding that the total value of the missing wallet was about \$34.

Wiggins also reported that two washers were broken into at the Oakwood Lauderette last Wednesday.

There was about \$30 taken from the washers, reports say.

# Traffic offenses draw jail time

By Ed Miller

Two area men will be serving time in jail after they were found guilty in unrelated cases of driving with licenses revoked during Hoke County District Court action last week.

Larry R. Adams, of Raeford, will be serving time after being arrested June 8 for driving while impaired (DWI) and driving with his license revoked, according to court records.

The 26-year-old man was sentenced to no more or less than two years in the Hoke County Jail.

Glendale Oxendine, 25, was arrested March 16 for driving with no license, records say.

District Court Judge Warren Pate sentenced the Fayetteville resident to two years to run concurrent with any sentences already obligated to serve.

A Red Springs woman was sentenced last week to one year probation for shoplifting, records say.

According to court records, Fanny J. Ramsey was arrested March 25 after apparently taking some coffee, pork chops, bologna,

and spiced ham from the local A&P Store.

The 42-year-old woman was sentenced to six months in jail, but the sentence was suspended and she was given one year unsupervised probation, record say.

Henry Lewis Graham, of Raeford, will have to serve 10 days in Hoke County Jail for his second offense of DWI, say records.

Graham, 44, was arrested on May 5, records say.

Graham was sentenced to two years special supervised probation and fined \$350.

He was also ordered by the court to serve an active sentence of 10 days, records say.

Graham began serving his 10 days last week.

Bobby Locklear will also be spending some time in Hoke County Jail, according to court records.

A resident of Red Springs, the 36-year-old was arrested March 22 for DWI, records say.

Locklear was sentenced to two years special supervised probation, seven days in Hoke County Jail and fined \$500, records say.

Jimmy Roger plead guilty to driving while impaired and simple

possession of marijuana last week on his court date, records say.

He was arrested June 14.

The 18-year-old Raeford resident received a 90-day suspended sentence and one year supervised probation as well as a \$200 fine, according to court records.

## Lightning hits ESPN

If viewers have been wondering what happened to ESPN, the all sports cable channel, in Raeford and surrounding areas, they should fear not because the station will be back on the air soon, Alert Cablevision General Manager Harrison Daniels said Monday.

The cablevision receiver-transmitter was struck by lightning on Thursday and the section of the "dish" that receives ESPN was knocked out, Daniels said.

"We were hoping that the parts needed to fix the dish would get here over the weekend, but they did not," Daniels said.

According to the General Manager, about \$5,000 worth of equipment was knocked out.

The company plans to have ESPN back on the air this week, Daniels said.

# Judge detained, Superior Court cancelled

All cases scheduled to be heard this week in Hoke County Superior Court have been postponed until a later date because a judge is unavailable to sit on the bench.

Superior Court Judge Coy E. Brewer has been hearing an ac-

counting mal-practice case in another county. That case is running longer than expected, Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell said.

Brewer was supposed to hold court in Monday's session of

Superior Court in Hoke County, but will be unable to do so because of the other matter.

Persons awaiting trial in Hoke County may have cases heard during a regular session of Cumberland County Superior Court, Powell said.

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