

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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## Raeford, county lose bids for funds

By Ed Miller

For the second year in a row, bids by both Hoke County and Raeford to garner over \$1.2 million in federal Community Development Block Grants have been rejected.

Neither the city nor the county scored well enough on applications to qualify for any money, managers of the governmental bodies said Monday.

The Raeford request for \$584,768, and the Hoke County request for \$726,133 failed to receive scores high enough to qualify.

Applications for similar projects were rejected during the 1983 funding period.

Grants were approved based on applications which scored well in areas of community needs, project design, benefit to low and moderate income persons, other public and private funds to be used for project activities and the project's consistency with state pro-

grams.

"We have been notified that we did not score sufficiently to qualify," County Manager James Martin said.

"I thought we had a good application," he said.

A meeting has been set up between Lumber River Council of Governments (COG) Director Jim Perry and representatives from the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD) to determine the short comings of the county's application.

Perry and COG staffers drew up the county's application.

Out of 173 applications received for the grants, only 39 were awarded funding, Perry said.

Only about 20% of the total applications get funded, said City Manager Tom Phillips.

This area was not totally forgotten, however.

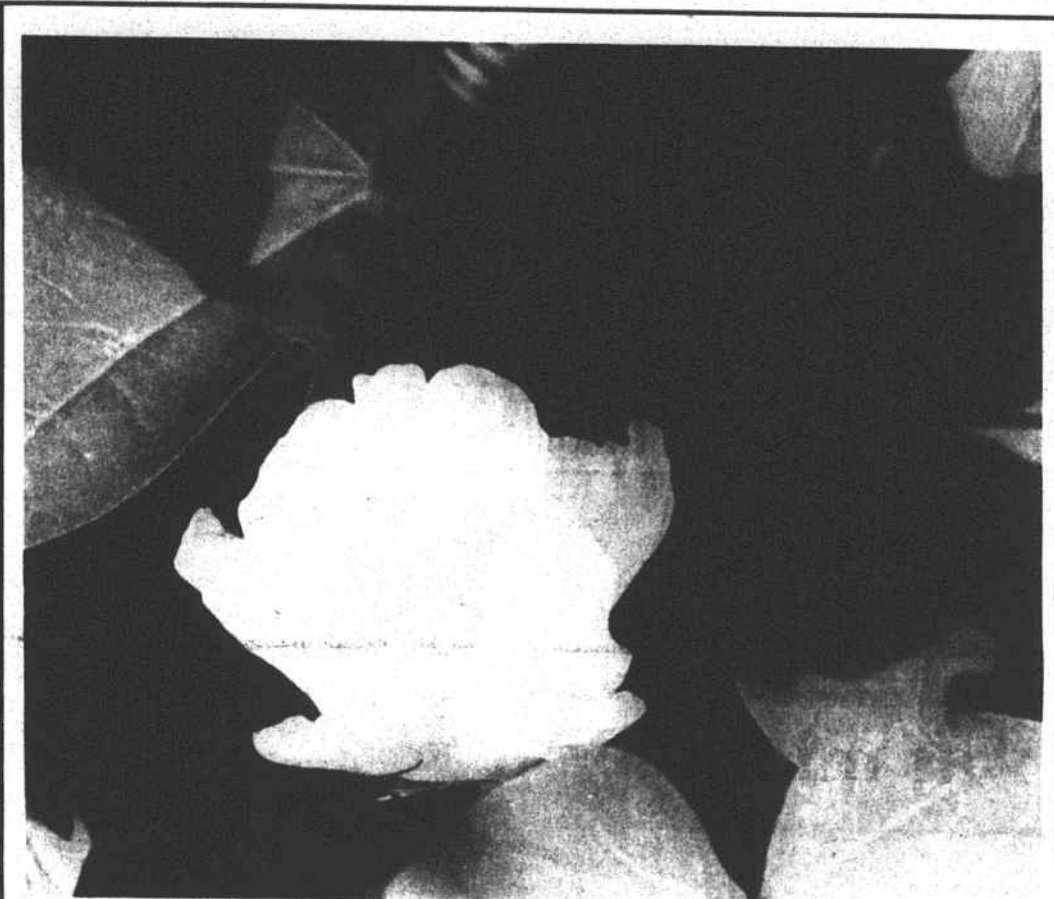
The towns of Rennert and Pembroke, both in Robeson County, were funded and Scotland County's Wagram has been put on "standby" because some money had to be pulled from the total fund to be put into emergency services for tornado victims, Perry said.

Once the injured towns spend what they need for reconstruction, the leftover money will be put back into the fund, and Wagram will get its money, Perry said.

The competition for the grant money is even more fierce in North Carolina than in some states because the federal government has cut the total amount of money coming to the state, Perry said.

Raeford had hoped to use the funds for the revitalization of an area off of Wooley Street.

The county was seeking funds to improve housing and drainage in the Shawtown section.



### Not just another pretty flower

This flower will soon turn into cotton provided the growing cycle goes well. Judging from the number of blooms in the field where this picture was taken,

this year may be a good one for Hoke County growers of the fibrous crop. Cotton ranks third in the county as a cash crop.

## Hoke school board eyes land next to Upchurch

By Ed Miller

The Hoke County Board of Education may be attempting to buy additional land near Upchurch Jr. High School.

After a lengthy executive session, the second in last Tuesday night's meeting, to discuss matters of land acquisition, the board authorized Superintendent Robert Nelson to have his staff look into the possibilities of buying the land.

In a letter to the school board, realtor Thomas F. Wright said that there is "approximately 14 acres plus or minus" of land adjoining the present site of Upchurch.

The owner of the property is willing to sell for \$3,500 per acre, the letter says.

There was no mention by the board outside of executive session as to whether the price is considered too high or if the purchase is to include all the available land.

There was also no mention about funding for the acquisition.

The move to inquire about the land stems from the Long Range School Facilities Study Committee who recommended that additional land be purchased to make room for future expansion of the school.

### Coach's pay OK'd

In other discussion at the meeting, there was a question rais-

ed by School Board Chairman Bill Cameron about the high school

A recommendation was made, by Nelson, as to the amount of the supplement, but that figure was questioned by Cameron saying that, when the coach was hired, he was given a 12-month contract and the summer months' pay was to be his supplement.

The coach is presently being paid the 12-month salary plus a \$4,000 supplement, and it has been that way for a number of years, said School Finance Officer Don Steed.

All of this money comes from local funds and taxpayers, Steed said.

Cameron requested that the coach's contract be looked up in the files and that the motion to pass the contract be looked up in the minutes of the meeting from four or five years ago.

The coach is to be granted a 12-month contract, but nothing was said about the supplement, Cameron read from the minutes.

The board then went into an executive session for personnel matters that lasted about an hour.

When the session was over, the board accepted the recommendations of the superintendent for the supplement.

In action matters, the board ap-

proved the hiring of a number of teachers for Hoke County's school system.

According to school Personnel Director, Gloria Williams, almost all the needed teachers for next year have been hired.

The board also approved a list of substitute teachers for the coming school year.

### Contracts mull'd

On another matter, the school board met again this Monday night and again spent most of the meeting in executive session.

After about 15 minutes in private session, the board opened the meeting and accepted the resignation of Upchurch Junior High teacher Naomi Johnson.

Johnson is believed to have signed a contract with the Moore County system.

Her contract with Hoke County had not been recommended for renewal. She has been a thorn in the side of the board since her teaching assignment was shifted from Hoke High to Upchurch by former Superintendent Raz Autry.

Board members are also considering the contract of former Teacher of the Year Etheline Baker. Baker's contract to teach at West Hoke has also not been recommended for renewal.

## Airport maintenance causing problems

By Ed Miller

Although efforts are being made by members of the Raeford-Hoke Airport Commission to make the local facility safe for pilots, many old problems are still haunting the airport, some members are saying.

Commission Vice-Chairman Wayne Byrd noted that routine maintenance has been neglected and areas like the taxiway are becoming unfit for use.

There are ditches and gully washes all along the unpaved taxi strip making it impossible for a

pickup truck to travel unhampered much less an airplane.

The majority of the taxiway is dirt because vehicles other than airplanes have traveled along the route so often that all the top soil and grass has eroded.

No grass will grow on the taxiway because there is no top soil to hold it, Byrd said.

There are several places on the taxiway where drainage is bad. These places fill up with water every time there is rain, Byrd said.

According to Byrd, some simple grading of the land and movement

of the top soil would improve the strip and allow grass to grow.

During a meeting of the airport commission last month, City Engineer Bill Sellars promised to make the repairs.

As of Tuesday, the strip is of no use to anyone in a plane, Byrd said.

There are blue lights just off the runway apron that signify a taxiway but these lights should not be trusted, the Vice-Chairman said.

If a pilot turned onto and used the taxiway, the plane would probably lose a landing gear or the

propeller because of a four inch difference between the level of the taxiway and that of the runway.

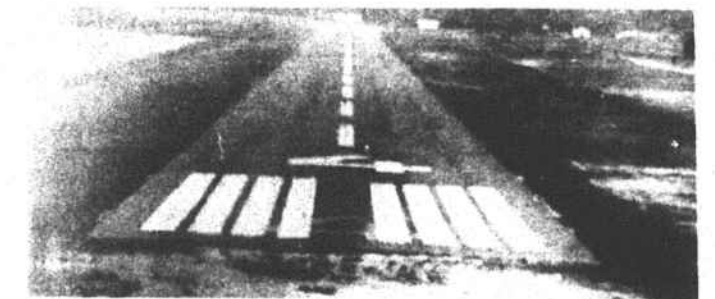
"If I tried to run my plane up on the runway from (the taxiway) I'd lose my prop," said Byrd.

The runway itself, while in good physical shape, presents problems of its own at each end.

At the north end of the runway, there is a ditch about six feet deep that threatens each landing from that end, Byrd said.

Sometimes when one ap-

(See AIRPORT, page 12)



### Bird's eye view

This is the sight that greets a pilot flying into Raeford Airport from the North. Though it is hard to see from this picture, just to the side of the front of the airplane, where there is no grass, is an eight foot drainage ditch. A pilot that is not used to landing at the Raeford Airport could very easily miss the end of the runway. The ditch is only about 25 feet from the end.

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather for the past week hasn't been as hot as many past August days. We are still having afternoon thundershowers in the county, but it seems the rain is missing Raeford.

Freddie Williams said Monday that he was halted twice on the golf course Saturday because of rain. The last time he said his foursome stayed under a shelter for about an hour. So it is hard to tell when you will get caught by a shower these hot afternoons.

The forecast is for the same kind of weather for the remainder of the week.

Last week I had two letters in this column concerning the four-

(See AROUND, page 12)



### Death vehicle

An Antioch infant was killed after she was thrown from this vehicle following a crash Sunday between Spring Lake and Lillington.

## Infant dies in crash

By Pat Wilson

A two-car accident Sunday afternoon on rain-slick NC 210 North took the life of an 11-month-old Hoke County girl and sent five more to the hospital. The accident happened at about

3 p.m. north of Spring Lake, near the South Harnett Elementary School.

According to a report by State Trooper W.R. Glover, the dead infant, Shaunya Fatima Thomas of

(See INFANT, page 13)

## Man receives private cell for making public exposure

By Ed Miller

A Raeford man spent last weekend in Hoke County Jail for apparently dropping his pants in public.

Carlton Taylor, 18, received the active sentence to go along with a six-month suspended sentence and one-year special supervised probation for exposing himself in public, court records say.

According to a warrant for Taylor's arrest dated June 30, he exposed himself in public in front of two or three females, one of which was a little girl.

Taylor was ordered by the court to give \$150 in restitution to the little girl, records say.

In other court action, Monty Doyle Kilman, of Raeford, made an appearance Friday charged with taking someone else's guns and

selling them.

Kilman, 22, had sold a Winchester 30-30 rifle and an X15 Springfield rifle to Jim's Pawn Shop, in Fayetteville, without the owner's permission, records say.

Dennis M. Vliet took out the warrants on Kilman, records say.

Kilman was sentenced to six months suspended for one year of supervised probation, fined \$200 and ordered to pay \$400 restitution to the pawn shop.

Raeford's Raymond Jones was sentenced to no less than nine months and no more than 12 months for misdemeanor larceny.

Jones' sentence was suspended for two years of supervised probation, records say.

Jones, 48, was found guilty of taking a black and white television from John Blue, records say.

To go along with his sentence, Jones was fined \$250.

A Fayetteville resident, Grace Kearney Cobey, was sentenced to two years in jail after she pleaded guilty to misdemeanor larceny or forging checks, records say.

Cobey apparently forged checks to Revco, Food Lion, Maxway and B.C. Moore's in a total amount of \$348.72.

Cobey, 34, was recommended for work release to pay restitution to the stores.

Neil Ray, of Raeford, was sentenced to two years in jail last week for driving while impaired (DWI).

Ray was arrested April 7 for the offense and also for transporting an open bottle of alcohol in the car with him, records say.

(See DWI, page 13)