

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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SPREAD YOUR STUFFIN
at the
N.C. Turkey Festival
RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 18-21

Spreading the word

Billboards are going up around the state notifying motorists about the upcoming Turkey Festival scheduled for Raeford September 18-21. This board is located on U.S. 401 north of Raeford. Festival sponsors announced this week that the Chapel Hill recording group Touchtone has been added to the entertainment lineup for Saturday, September 21. Touchtone, who play Irish music, will join Nantucket, The Steel Bandits of Atlanta, The Apple Chill Cloggers, Carbon Badger,

Southern Addition, Revue II, The Regiment Band of Fayetteville, The Ray Codrington Jazz Band and the Voices of Consolation on two stages Saturday for continuous music from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Les Sandy and his band will perform Wednesday, along with 82nd Airborne Concert Band and Chorus. The Embers will be in concert Friday night at the old Armory Park.

State investigating Hoke pesticide dump

By Ed Miller

Allegations that pesticides and other hazardous waste has been dumped in a section of Hoke County will be investigated, said a spokesperson for the North Carolina Department of Human Resources said Monday.

Although a report on a site in the Ashley Heights Community has not yet reached state officials in Raleigh, preliminary tests show no contamination above the ground at the site, said Lee Mittelstadt.

"If it's there, it's buried," according to Mittelstadt.

The alleged site is at an old community dump behind Koppers Company Inc., on N.C. 211 just inside Hoke County.

Flint Worrell, a waste management specialist with the Department of Human Resources, investigated the site, said Mittelstadt.

When Worrell's report gets to Raleigh, the case will be assigned to an investigator with the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Act (CERCA), said Mittelstadt.

A federal program, CERCA is made possible through the Superfund, an account set aside to clean contaminated waste sites, she said. If these investigations result in

the appearance of contamination, the case will be turned over to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), she said.

EPA will assign a priority to the case of low, medium or high.

Mittelstadt said that low priority means the site will be watched, medium priority means the site will be put on a list of sites to be cleaned up and high priority says clean-up will be immediate.

Recent reports on the allegations say that pesticides are suspected of being buried on the site.

Worrell was tipped to the site because of reports from older residents of the area who say they remember canisters being discarded at the old community dump.

While EPA officials say the buried containers can cause no immediate harm, an uncovered container can cause skin irritations and ingestion of a container's contents can be fatal.

Exposure to the chemicals over time can cause cancer, reports say.

The Hoke County site could be related to five sites discovered last week in Moore County and three others discovered in that county in 1984.

The site has not been related to an area in Ashley Heights that was found to be contaminated with lead two years ago.

Antioch housing units approved by commissioners

By Ed Miller

Forty units of low-rent, federally subsidized housing to be built in the Antioch Community were approved Monday night by members of the Hoke County Commission.

With changes made in a contract with the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority by Hoke County Attorney Duncan McFadyen, the county is no longer responsible for putting streets and alleys into the proposed subdivision.

Also because of contractual changes, the commissioners are not responsible for building or upkeep on water or sewer lines or building sidewalks in the project, McFadyen said.

"Basically, it (the contract) provides the same services for the project that other county residents get," said McFadyen.

Included in the contract is a clause saying that no taxes shall be paid on the project.

Instead, payment in lieu of taxes will be made.

Up to 10% of the rent collected on the units will be paid instead of the tax rate, said McFadyen.

Those payments will be made by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), said Raeford Housing Authority Chairman J.H. (Buddy) Blue.

According to the contract, the county cannot place a lien against the project or any of its occupants if payment in lieu of taxes is not made.

The contract had to be changed before it could be signed by commissioners.

"The county is not in the water and sewer business," County Manager William Cowan said at the commission's last meeting.

The county is also not allowed to pave roads, said Cowan.

"That is a state activity," he said.

The Indian Housing Authority is building the complex with part of \$2.25 million given them by HUD,

said Commissioner James Albert Hunt.

Although anyone with limited earnings can live in the project, preference will be given to Indians, according to Blue.

Hoke's 75th

Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce President, Tom Howell presented commissioners with ideas on celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the incorporation of Hoke County.

Howell asked the commissioners to be thinking of members to be appointed to a committee to plan festivities.

He also asked the commissioners appoint a chairperson to head the committee with three members each being appointed by the City of Raeford, the Chamber of Commerce and the county.

The committee needs to be together by October 1, said Howell.

Such a celebration will show

Hoke County is progressive and consistent in keeping with celebrations associated with the 25th and 50th anniversaries of the county, said Howell.

"We're not asking for money; we're basically asking for support," said the Chamber of Commerce President.

The anniversary of Hoke County's charter is in February, but the anniversary of the actual incorporation is on April 3, said Howell.

Ceremonies that could be incorporated into the festivities may be the re-dedication of the renovated Hoke County Courthouse, dedication of a war memorial to be placed on the courthouse grounds or the dedication of the new Burlington Park, he said.

Airport zoning

Members of the Raeford-Hoke Airport Commission were on hand for the Monday night meeting as commissioners considered a zoning

ordinance proposal for the area around the Raeford-Hoke Airport.

The ordinance was passed by the Hoke County Planning Board during their July meeting, airport Commission Vice-Chairman Wayne Byrd told county commissioners.

"What we are asking is to have control of the heights of any structures built in direct movement of the aircraft and aircraft patterns at the airport," Byrd said.

The zoning ordinance, written by former Airport Commissioner John Plummer, calls for regulations of structures on all sides of the airport for 2,500 feet, said the vice-chairman. Those structures should be no higher than 75 feet, according to the ordinance.

In the area around the runway and for a distance of two miles off each end of the runway, there should be nothing taller than 35 feet built, said Byrd.

"Presently, if any Tom, Dick or Harry decided to build a structure

at the end of the runway, it will close that airport," Airport Commissioner L.E. McLaughlin said.

The ordinance also calls for no public assemblies to be held on airport property.

"We just don't want houses or a group of little leaguers to have a plane come through them," said Byrd.

As well as protecting the interests and relieving liability from airport and county commissioners, the ordinance will also protect people who may buy land around the airport.

The ordinance may make developers tell people what they are getting into when they buy land around the airport, County Commission Chairman John Balfour said.

According to Byrd, there are no structures built around the airport currently out of compliance with the ordinance.

(See COUNTY, page 12A)

McCain escapee caught

Within hours of his bid for freedom, members of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department captured the felon who escaped from the McCain Prison Unit last Friday.

David Silva, who was serving a 15-year sentence for armed robbery with a hostage, was captured with no problems by Hoke Deputy

Ronnie Lowry and Detective Weaver Patterson, reports say.

According to the report, the two deputies were told of a hitch hiker on U.S. 401 South by dispatchers.

The man was reported near Bethel Church.

In searching for the man, the deputies found a hunting knife inside Silva's pants, reports say.

Affray draws gunfire

A Raeford man, 22-year-old Michael Murchison, was released from jail under a \$100 unsecured bond last weekend after being charged with shooting a man.

Murchison has been charged with aggravated affray with a deadly weapon, according to reports from the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Michael Priest also known as Sculley, 26, the man Murchison allegedly shot, was taken to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center with a .38 calibre gunshot wound in his left side last Friday night, reports say.

According to a statement from Priest, he was standing on the corner of U.S. Highway 401 and Raeford's Main Street at the caution light when a car passed him and shots were fired.

However, Hoke County Detective Weaver Patterson was called to the Sheriff's Department investigating the alleged shooting

when Murchison turned himself in, reports say.

According to Murchison, the alleged shooting was self defense. Priest was allegedly trying to stab the man, Patterson said in his report.

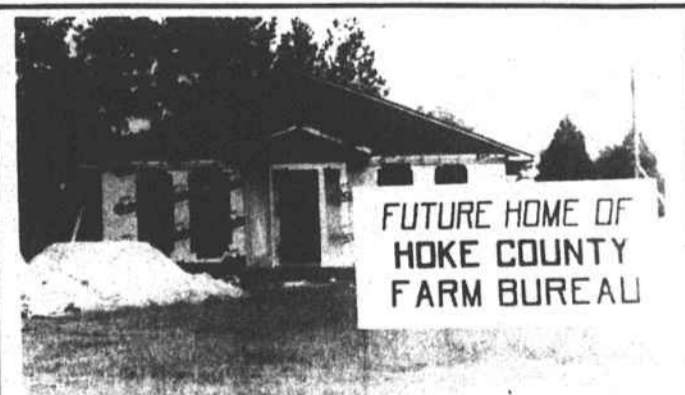
The man also told Patterson that he was not trying to kill Priest and that he aimed for the man's leg.

In another county incident, Marvin Baker reported to sheriff's deputies that his house was robbed on August 8.

Almost \$8,500 worth of personal property was taken and Baker's house was left ransacked, reports say.

Extensive camera equipment, a video camera and player-recorder, a high powered rifle, jewelry, cash and expensive tools were included in the list of missing property, according to reports.

Area residents say they saw an unusual truck before the robbery. (See MAN, page 10A)



Growing up and out

Hoke County's Farm Bureau offices are too small, hence the above expansion. The new location is on Harris Avenue just beside The Pantry. "We ought to be in it in 30 days," according to Farm Bureau Operator Bob Blankenship. Two new agents were recently hired at the bureau and their sales were so good that office space ran short, said Blankenship. The building is costing about \$50,000, he said. "The location is just perfect. Harris Avenue is the most traveled road in Hoke County," said Blankenship.

Baker appeals ruling

By Ed Miller

Former Hoke County school teacher Ethelyn H. Baker has filed challenging appeal of a Superior Court ruling that her termination by the Hoke County Board of Education was correct and legal.

In a recent session of Hoke County Superior Court, Special Judge James A. Beaty Jr. ruled school board members were right in their reasons for firing Baker after the 1983-84 school year.

Baker gave notice of and signed the appeal on August 8, according

to records from the Hoke County Clerk of Court's Office.

Baker could not be reached for comment.

Shortly after Baker filed the appeal, an amended order was received by the clerk's office from Judge Beaty.

While basically the same as results from the first order, Beaty advised school officials not to delay in documenting incidents with teachers as the principal did in Baker's case.

(See BAKER, page 2A)



Concentrate

This young man is obviously working on something ingenious. He is taking part in one of the Hoke County Library's summer programs. For more about the programs, see page one of section B in today's News-Journal.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather Monday turned hot again after somewhat cooler weather over the weekend. We have had many thunderstorms during the past few days and the fields in part of the county are becoming impossible to work in to get out crops.

Someone told me Sunday that in the Duffie Station section of the county, they have had 23 inches of rain in a month. Now this is more than one-third of a yearly average. The normal rainfall is approximately 52 inches per year for the county.

The forecast is for continued warm weather for the remainder of the week.

If this column doesn't seem to make sense then I will blame it on the cataract operation I had last Thursday. Everything is done fine, but the implant lens has not adjusted as yet. It will take a few days, and a one-eyed man is not the same as one with two-eyes when writing.

I was sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Marie Dew Wrenn of Lubbock, Texas who died August 20. The funeral will be held in Rutherfordton on August 23.

Mrs. Wrenn was born in Raeford and was living with her daughter, Mrs. Kitty Marcus Chestnut at the time of her death.

(See AROUND, page 2A)