



Parents speak

A large group of parents from the Jones Hill area of Raeford gather at Tuesday night's meeting of the

Hoke County Board of Education to protest school bus service being taken out of the community.

Parents lobby successfully for Jones Hill bus service

By Ed Miller

About two dozen parents, some of them angry, appeared before the Hoke County Board of Education Tuesday night in an effort to have bus service restored to the Jones Hill area of Raeford.

According to Dorothy McKoy, buses have been taken out of the Raeford area and children are having to walk to J.W. McLaughlin School.

Most parents expressed concern for later months in the school year when it is cold.

"We made a decision last summer to serve all of the area or none of it," said Hoke County School Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson.

While there had been bus service to the Jones Hill area, that was the only area in the school district that was being served by buses, said Nelson.

One parent, who would not give her name, demanded the bus service be restored and accused Board of Education members of transporting white children while black children were left to walk. She was removed from the

meeting by friends who told her to calm down and that her accusations were unfounded.

Steps are being taken now to work out a plan to provide service to all students in the McLaughlin district who live a mile or a mile and one half away, said Nelson.

"We have reason to believe that we should know by the end of the week if it is possible to provide the service," Nelson said.

Bus schedules are being rearranged now to allow some buses to drop off students at Upchurch Jr. High School, then the High School and then return to the McLaughlin district to pick up those children, said School Business Manager Don Seel, who is working on the problem with some of the area principals.

In an effort to help Board of Education members understand part of the problem, Ann Griffin said that children would not accept rides that would get them to school quicker.

"Their parents have taught them not to take a ride from a

stranger," she said. "They're scared."

There also appears to be some problems in communications at the schools themselves, Brenda McRae, a parent, said.

Her child was not allowed to use a telephone in one of the school offices, she said.

Board member Walter Coley advised the woman to have the child ask a secretary to make the phone call home for her.

In a presentation at the meeting, Terrell Carpenter, Hoke County High School student and State Champion long jumper, met and received a certificate from Board of Education members and Nelson.

Carpenter was recognized because of his outstanding athletic accomplishments which include gold medals in the 100 meter dash and the long jump in this year's Junior Olympics.

"This man is hard to watch when he's running," said Nelson.

Board members set a special meeting on September 30, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss school facilities.

Raeford Council OK's plan for downtown commission

By Ed Miller

Members of the Raeford City Council gave City Manager Tom Phillips permission to go ahead with plans to establish a Downtown Revitalization Commission.

The commission would function "as a policy-making body to modify, redevelop and move to implementation of the revitalization of downtown Raeford," said Phillips.

Efforts to form the commission are the results of discussion between Phillips, Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Director John Howard, a group of local citizens and Jim Dougherty, of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD), said Phillips.

Phillips had hoped to have a list of prospective commission members for the councilmen's consideration, but many of the people on the list had not been contacted prior to the Monday night's meeting, said the manager.

The list will be ready for councilmen by their next meeting, Phillips said.

According to the manager, the group will represent a "pretty good cross section from the community."

The commission needs to be established now so they can form a

set of bi-laws and set out their purpose and objectives, said Phillips.

In other discussion at the meeting, councilmen were informed of the need for a storm water management plan.

Currently, there is no plan, said Phillips.

"Somebody is complaining after every heavy rain about how much water is standing in their back yard," said Phillips.

"Every time a building or a parking lot is built, the water problem gets worse," said Phillips.

City Council members decided to allow Phillips to bring in two construction companies, at their next meeting, to give their opinions on how the storm water can be disposed of without flooding in certain areas.

Phillips has recommended that councilmen at least allow one of the firms to make up a plan for the water disposal.

"At least that way we will have a good plan of action when the time comes to spend the big bucks," said Phillips referring to a time when money for construction might need to be spent.

McKim and Creed Engineers, of Wilmington, and Finkbeiner, Pettis and Stout, Limited, a Greensboro firm, have already submitted proposals for making up a plan and doing construction if the need arises, said Phillips.

One firm has submitted a higher estimated price than the other, said Phillips.

"Why have the guy with the higher price waste our time?" Councilman Bob Gentry asked.

Both plans are different and may call for different solutions and the cheaper company may not be the best, said Phillips.

McKim and Creed just finished construction to remedy a similar problem at Pope Airbase, said the manager.

Councilmen agreed also to buy a truck for hauling leaves to the landfill.

The truck will be a used garbage truck and will sell for \$4,500, said Phillips.

According to a study done by Phillips and other city employees, the "rear packer" truck will require sanitation workers to make two trips to the landfill per day where they have been making five per day using a flatbed truck.

The amount of travel can be more than cut in half, he said.

In the final tally, the new truck will cost \$4,500 but will save the city \$4,650 in the first year.

"It will pay for itself in a year," said the manager. "Man hour savings alone will basically pay for it."

Councilmen also:
• Passed a new travel policy for city employees.

Couple convicted of DSS fraud

By Ed Miller

A Lumber Bridge couple was convicted last week in Hoke County District Court of welfare fraud for illegally appropriating food stamp and Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) funds.

Carla C. Ransom and James J. Ransom, both of Rt. 1, Box 98B, in Lumber Bridge, were fined a total of \$750 and ordered to repay to the Hoke County Department of Social Services (DSS) a total of a sum of \$2,277, according to district court records.

Although both defendants were charged with "welfare fraud," Carla Ransom was tried for violations in the food stamp program, records say.

The woman obtained food stamps for which she was not entitled, according to a warrant for her arrest.

She did not report her husband's income, warrants say.

At the time of the violations, James Ransom was working for James J. Jacobs Logging Company, warrants say.

Warrants were issued on the couple on August 14.

Carla Ransom was found guilty of not reporting that income and sentenced to a year in jail, suspended for five years on supervised probation, fined \$250 and ordered to repay \$939 in restitution to the DSS, records say.

Also included in the order from District Court Judge Warren Pate was a clause saying the defendant cannot receive food stamps for the next six months.

James Ransom was prosecuted on charges of defrauding the AFDC program, according to warrants.

The man did not report income he was earning from October 1984 to March of 1985, warrants show.

He was also given one year in prison suspended for five years on supervised probation, records show.

James Ransom was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and \$1,338 in restitution to the Hoke County DSS, records say.

The couple's fraudulent actions were uncovered by a "wage

match" in cooperation with the North Carolina Employment Security Commission (ESC), Hoke County DSS Director Ken Witherspoon said.

The wage match is a process by which wages reported to DSS case workers are matched against those reported to the ESC.

The matches are run on a quarterly basis.

Eventually, unreported wages will turn up, said Witherspoon.

Unreported wages may not be found the first quarter a match is run, but they will turn up the next time, said Witherspoon.

It is very hard for a person to lie about wages earned and not get caught, said the director, adding that new computers at the DSS, the ESC and in the offices of Hoke County aid in the uncovering of fraud.

"The advantage is with us, I believe," said Witherspoon.

With some of the county computer capabilities, crossmatches can even be run with other states to keep people honest, said Witherspoon.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather for the past week has been about as hot as I can remember for September. The temperature has been over 90° in the daytime and in the 70s at night. The rain has left us for the time being.

Most farmers have taken advantage of the weather, and tobacco and corn has been harvested.

The forecast is for cooler weather by the weekend with the temperature being in the low 80s. The report is for showers, maybe Wednesday. We will welcome the cooler weather.

The Turkey Festival will start next week and most of the plans have been finalized. The city has done an excellent job of cleaning the city up for the occasion. Now if each person would be sure to clean their yard and mow the grass, it will make Raeford look good for the event.

Monday, September 16 has been designated as T-Shirt Day. Everyone should wear a Turkey Festival T-Shirt on that day. They can be purchased at many locations in the city.

(See AROUND, page 2A)



Stinging problem

These sandburs thrive on the Main Street vacant lot next to the old Raeford Auto Co. and the new county office building.

Festival cleanup urged

Raeford and Hoke County residents are being encouraged to "clean up" for the upcoming North Carolina Turkey Festival in order to enhance the community's appearance.

"Not in a long time have we had an opportunity like this to show off our county," Hoke County Economic Developer, John Howard said.

Raeford municipal workers and county personnel have done a good job improving much of the public property, but the community still

needs a "spruce up" in order to make a good impression on the thousands of visitors who are expected to come here during the September 18-21 festival.

Festival promoters are planning for crowds which could reach 30,000 on Saturday when recording stars Nantucket, Touchstone and the Steel Bandits perform on Main Street in Raeford.

Over \$5,000 has been spent by the festival committee in promoting the statewide event to draw (See CLEANUP, page 2A)



Official shirt

Mrs. Evelyn Manning (right), who was in Raleigh recently for the North Carolina Poultry Federation banquet, presents Governor James G. Martin with a "Strut Your Stuffin' T-shirt, while Federation President Oren Starnes of Monroe looks on. Mrs. Manning invited the gathering of about 1,200 to attend the festival scheduled for Raeford next week.

The governor is being encouraged to wear his shirt on Monday for Festival T-shirt Day. The T-shirts were donated by Faberge Inc. to help raise funds for the event. We take a look at the festival and the plans in a special section in today's News-Journal.