

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The United Fund drive is still going on and since the third week has slowed down to a snail's pace. The budget for this year is bigger than in recent years and with inflation more money is needed by all agencies participating in the fund. A new agency was added which makes the need greater.

The United Fund has paid 100% to agencies every year but one since it was formed approximately 20 years ago. This does not mean that the goal was met every year, but when it was not met a surplus from another year left the directors with enough money to pay off. This will not be the case this year as all surpluses have just about been used up.

The United Fund is operated in Hoke County by volunteer or free workers. The operating expenses for the county run less than 1% and this is for supplies that are needed for the campaign.

So if you haven't donated to the fund or you feel that you could give a little extra, it would certainly help to reach the goal.

Send contributions to Eugene Carter at The Bank of Raeford or to this writer at The News-Journal. Thanks.

The bowl selections for the holiday football games are just about complete and N.C. State will be in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta. So all you State men get ready for a trip to Georgia in late December.

The following letter was received last weekend and I believe that it is self-explanatory to football fans.

Dear Sam:
I need your help in locating an old friend that I haven't heard from recently. The last time I heard from him was after the State-Wake Forest game which is a pattern he has developed through the years I have known him--he always called after State had lost or Carolina had won. Since it has been a long time since either of these has happened, I guess he hasn't had a sufficient good reason to call. He used to respond when called Ashwell, but since the State-Carolina game he may have changed that too.

If you happen to see Ashwell Harward, give him my regards and ask him to give me a call before basketball season.

Sincerely,
Graham A. Pope

Ashwell, I will not let Graham know what you had to say at Chapel Hill before the Wake Forest - Carolina game.

The Raeford Merchants Association are selling tickets on the Playhouse or Santa House that was used a couple of years during Christmas. The house will make a fine Playhouse for children, so buy a ticket and help the merchants with the Christmas lighting. I believe you can find a ticket with about any local merchant.

This office will be closed Thanksgiving Day along with most local businesses. So get your news in early for next week's paper.

Put Leaves Behind Curb City Says

Pickup of leaves in the city will be made on a daily schedule but residents are asked to place their leaves behind the curb instead of in the gutter, street superintendent Dewey Inman said.

Leaves left in the gutter have created problems if they are washed or blown into the drain pipes and may cause the drains to become blocked. For this reason, everyone is asked to leave leaves behind the curb.

Leaves may be bagged, but it is not required.

Inman urged more cooperation to keep the streets free of leaves.



COUNCIL SESSION - Extra chairs had to be brought into the small meeting room when the city council heard views pro and con on re-hiring ex-city manager John Gaddy.

Gaddy Supporters Heard

Council Vows New Manager

About fifteen spectators crowded into the city council meeting Thursday night as the full council rejected a move to rehire ex-city manager John Gaddy and vowed to continue a search for a new manager.

M.K. (Mac) Sessoms, Jr., an organizer of a petition drive which began after Gaddy pleaded no contest to misappropriation of funds last month and resigned his post, argued that Gaddy should be given a job with the city.

"To put the bare facts on the table, due to some mistakes, I'll put it that way, he resigned. But if he could work until this new manager comes in, it would help his ability to go out and get a job", Sessoms told the council.

Sessoms said he had collected over 300 names on his petitions but that he had more out that hadn't been turned in yet.

Several city employees, including Graham Niven, Harvey Young, Police Chief Leonard Wiggins, Thomas Carpenter, and Lacy Mor-

risey were present, with Carpenter and Morrisey saying Gaddy had done a good job and ought to be considered for some position.

Defeated candidate for city council Danny Morrison urged abandonment of the city manager form of rule and assign Gaddy a new position with no responsibility for handling funds.

"If you shake up one, you ought to shake up all these department heads", Morrison said. "Looks to me, he'd be willing to take a cut in pay, he wouldn't have to handle no money".

Newly-elected city councilman David Lovette, who will replace councilman Robert Weaver in December, discouraged the bid to hire Gaddy.

"Why not have some private citizen hire him to work. That might help the man, they could write him a good recommendation", Lovette suggested.

"Are there any jobs open now?" Sessoms asked the council. "Isn't there a city garage foreman job open?"

The council, along with Mayor John K. McNeill, generally agreed it would not be appropriate to eliminate the city manager job and create any new jobs now.

J.H. (Buddy) Blue, Jr., Chamber of Commerce manager, suggested any decision on hiring Gaddy for some other city job should be left up to the new city manager when he is hired.

"Leave that problem to the city manager", Blue said.

On a motion from councilman Sam Morris and seconded by councilman Benny McLeod, the vote was unanimous to continue with Bill Sellars as interim city manager while the council continue to find a new city manager.

Mayor McNeill promised he would place advertisements in the Charlotte Observer and the Raleigh News and Observer this week.

The council agreed to go over all applications at their next meeting in December. The mayor said he has received some applications already which have been shown to the council members.

Housing Agent Says:

'Public Housing Is Great Need'

"I'm here to work and I'd like to help as many people as I can," said Willie Featherstone Jr., new assistant agricultural extension agent.

"My job is to improve sub-standard housing in Hoke County," he said.

Featherstone, a native of Heath, Arkansas and a 1972 graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, where he was an agricultural economics major and obtained a minor in mathematics, started work Nov. 1.

He said that he had three main goals he'd like to accomplish. These goals involved the rehabilitating of some houses within the county that do not have proper facilities, assist persons who would like to buy or build a new house, and to try to establish a public housing area in Hoke County.

"This office is totally educational. We will try to help people to acquire new housing and buildings," he said. Featherstone said he would like to work with the county planner and others who could aid him.

"I can't do anything by myself. It will have to be a joint effort in Raeford," he said.

Featherstone said he has been trying to get himself acquainted with the county.

"I've attended orientation meetings and tried to familiarize myself with the county and learn some of the people within the county," he said.

Featherstone explained why he went into extension work.

"One of the main reasons I majored in agriculture was to get into extension work. I like being able to help people and that's the main reason I'm in extension work," he said.

Featherstone said he specialized in agricultural economics and thought it would help him with his work here.

"Hoke County, like any other rural county, has problems in



NEW AGENT - Willie Featherstone, new housing assistance agent who will work under the county extension service, discusses his objectives and plans for the next two years.

housing and there is a lot of work that I can do to improve sub-standard housing," he said.

"Public housing is a great need of the county. A lot of people that deserve good housing and don't have the ability to rehabilitate them need the service. These people are the financially deprived and the elderly," he added.

"I don't see how people can sit aside and forget about these people. It should be a joint effort by the county," he said.

"The housing program is new and

a lot of people don't know about it. If there are some people who have questions or ideas about public housing, I'd like to talk to them," he concluded.

Featherstone joined the Army in August of 1972 and was stationed at Ft. Bragg until his discharge last August.

Featherstone and his wife, Willie Josephine live in Fayetteville. She is a 1973 graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and teaches kindergarten in Hope Mills. They plan to relocate in Raeford soon.

N-J Offices Close Early

The News-Journal offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

The paper will be published one day earlier next week.

News items of club meetings, church events, and community interests must be received by The News-Journal no later than Friday, Nov. 21 for publication in the next week's edition.

\$600,000 From HUD

Plans Argued

Trio Caught

A trio of Sandhills Youth Center escapees is being held on charges of armed robbery of a motor vehicle after the allegedly took a young Hoke woman's car at knife-point Saturday morning outside a church near Five Points and fled to South Carolina where they were apprehended Sunday afternoon.

Lester Mitchell Hawkins, Edward Nealy, and Carl Thomas Hipp, Jr., all 17, escaped from Sandhills Youth Center in McCain about 6:30 P.M. last Friday and apparently spent the night in the Community United Methodist Church at Five Points before they were discovered by Mary Eileen Strickland, 20, and her seven year-old sister Lisa Rebecca Walters, according to Sheriff D.M. Barrington.

The group told officials of the Darlington County Sheriff's Department where the car was left when they were caught, Barrington said.

He said prison officials brought the suspects back to the Hoke County jail Sunday.

Barrington said the three did \$400 in damages to choir robes while they were in the church.

News of the escape was transmitted over the police information network following the escape Friday, he said.

Hawkins, Nealy, and Hipp have been charged with malicious injury to personal property, misdemeanor breaking and entering, and escape, along with the armed robbery charge.

Hawkins was serving two years for breaking and entering and larceny. Nealy was serving two years for three counts of larceny, and Hipp was serving two years for breaking and entering.

State Opens Employment Branch Office

The Employment Security Commission has opened a new office on West Elwood Ave. to assist job seekers that will remain open five days a week, interviewer-in-charge S.W. Benkosky announced.

The new branch, located in the old county office building next to the public library, will offer full job listings and full training facilities.

The office will not take claims for unemployment benefits, these will continue to be filed at the office in the National Guard Armory on Tuesdays.

Hours at the Elwood Ave. office are 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Mondays through Fridays. Current job listings, which include clerical and production line workers, may be seen.

Benkosky said a larger staff is planned after the office gets organized and full time job counseling will be available.

Youth Nabbed

One Fayetteville youth has been jailed here and another is being sought after SBI agents and members of the organized crime unit of the Fayetteville Police Department reportedly tracked stolen drugs taken from Hoke Drug in Raeford in a break-in earlier this month.

James Timonty Corum, 19, of 908 Hay St., was arrested at his apartment about 10 A.M. Monday and charged with the Nov. 4 drug-store break-in and larceny. He is being held in lieu of \$5,000 bail.

About \$716 worth of drugs & syringes, including narcotics, was reported stolen by Hoke Drug manager, Mike Wood.

Maj. J.C. Barrington and Officer C.E. Campbell accompanied the agents to Corum's home, police chief Leonard Wiggins said. Another man in the apartment at the time of arrest was not charged.

Details were sketchy, but Wiggins said it appeared all of the drugs have been recovered.

The street value of the drugs would be in the thousands, he said.

Tuesday night's public hearing to gain citizen suggestions on existing needs that could be met through a share of community development funds produced a list of ten possible projects but left some dissatisfaction with unanswered questions.

The nearly one and one-half hour long hearing, beginning at 8 P.M. in the courtroom of the courthouse, was the first of two required to be held in order for the city and county to apply for funds from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agency under the Community Development Act.

"All communities selected for a final application are pretty much assured of getting some money", Jim Dougherty, Department of Natural and Economic Resources land use survey planner, told the group in outlining the step by step process involved. \$600,000 could be applied for, Dougherty said.

"What we want are suggestions on what is needed in the community", Dougherty said. A 20 member advisory committee of city and county representatives has already been named to spearhead the joint effort to land funds.

The first suggestion, for a multi-purpose community center, came from a seven-member group of Upchurch school students, who complained of a lack of a movie theater and restaurants.

"People are taking money out of Raeford and going to other places for entertainment", Renee Sessoms said.

The multi-purpose idea was added after Dougherty explained that theaters, bowling alleys, and stadiums are not eligible projects for the funds.

"What about building a center for retarded, disabled, and handicapped persons", Catharin Brown, president of the Hoke Association for Developmentally Disabled urged.

"I'd like to request an emergency receiving home for children, about \$60,000 at today's prices", Benjamin Niblock, director of the county social services office said.

"I want to request funds for the purchase of, and rehabilitation of (substandard) housing", Dayna Pate, Raeford Housing Authority member suggested.

"It could be spent on improvements to the county's community centers, and getting one for the Rockfish community which is without one, and expansion of recreational sites", Dick Lovette, parks and recreation commission chairman said.

"We keep talking about building, I wonder if we ought to look to needs that would be a one-time expenditure, requiring no upkeep. What about water and sewage...."

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An Armory Slated Here

Charlie Morrison, planning board chairman, told a citizen's meeting Tuesday night that Raeford was one of five cities picked to get a new National Guard Armory constructed within four to five years.

Morrison said Jessie Jones, Guard administrative assistant, told him the project would require five acres of land, city water and sewer lines, and would cost about \$300,000.

The present Guard Armory on Central Avenue would be turned over to the community under the plan.

Shots Hit FM Tower

Radio station WSTS-FM is back on the air under temporary repairs following a shooting incident at the station's tower last week which caused over \$10,000 damage and first was viewed as sabotage.

Station personnel notified the Hoke County Sheriff's Office last Thursday afternoon after the 100,000 watt station went off the air shortly after 1 a.m. and workers checked the transmitter site later that day.

WSTS general manager Don Curtis said two bullets, which appeared to have been fired from a .22 rifle, were

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