

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather for the past couple of days brings to mind that fall is just around the corner. Someone said that the temperature Tuesday morning was in the 40s. This is really a fall morning. Anyway it's about time with school starting and the first college football games coming up Saturday.

Robert Gatlin hasn't brought in his rain chart, but besides the cool weather which will be welcomed by students returning to the classrooms, rain is certainly needed in the state. We are better off here than in other parts of the state.

Someone asked me this week if the City of Raeford was going to place restrictions in the use of water. So far I haven't heard anyone at City Hall mention that it was needed here. So maybe the rain will come before it is needed. Let's hope so!

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The Hoke High Bucks lost a close one here last Friday night before a good crowd. They travel to Pine Forest this week and return here Sept. 10 to play Red Springs. If you haven't joined the Booster Club be sure to do so. Go by the drug stores and they will be glad to take your money. Be a Booster.

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The Open House held by the Hoke County Schools last Sunday afternoon was well attended. Some went to see the new construction and others went to see where their kids would be this year and meet the teacher if they were present at the school.

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The following letter is self-explanatory:  
Dear Sam,

In view of all the recent controversy surrounding some of our law enforcement officials, it may be hard for some of our citizens to keep their faith in our system and its people. We are very pleased to report to you a side of the coin that many times gets overlooked in all of the hoopla and excitement of our age. This is an example of a law enforcement agency acting with speed, decisiveness, hard work, and sound judgment to solve a crime.

Just this week our business was broken into and several items were stolen. We reported the incident to the Raeford Police and within two days our merchandise was returned to us. We really never expected to see our goods again! Now, we know that there is nothing sensational about this case, and the headline to it could hardly compare to others related to law enforcement officers that have appeared recently. We just want people to know that behind the uproar, furor, and sensationalism, many times you will find hard-working, dedicated, honest men quietly going about the task of keeping the peace and upholding the law. Our hats are off to the Raeford Police Department, Zeke Wiggins, Officer Harvey Young, and all who assisted in the investigation. They did a fine job and are well deserving of our continued respect as are, I am sure, many others in agencies presently undergoing extreme criticism.

Thank you,  
The Staff of Wood Furniture Company

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A class ring was brought by the office this week and it will be returned to the rightful owner if he or she will come by and identify the ring. This much will be said about it, that it is a Fayetteville High School ring.

## N-J Office Shut Monday

The News - Journal office will be closed Monday, Sept. 6 for the Labor Day holiday.

Deadline for social items, church and community news, regular features, and information on upcoming events will be noon on Friday, Sept. 3, for next week's issue.

# County Signs HUD Contract, \$460,000 Windfall Is Official

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## Hoke Men Among Six

Four Hoke County men, including an assistant elementary school principal, are among six persons arrested last week in connection with the theft of \$35,000 worth of tobacco from Robeson County.

Those charged following an investigation by State Bureau of Investigation agents are Wendell Ronnie Branch, 25, of Raeford, assistant principal of Scurlock School; Glenn Currie Gibson, 42, of Rockfish; James Thomas Jones, 55, of Rt. 1, Shannon; William Sidney Drakeford, 40, of Marshville; Kenneth W. Jacobson, 19, of Cumberland, and James Walter Watson, 38, of Raeford.

According to SBI spokesmen, a tractor trailer rig loaded with tobacco was stolen from a St. Pauls truck stop Aug. 19. The truck, with its load intact, was later recovered from a wooded area near Raeford.

School Supt. G. Raz Autry said that Branch agreed to take a leave of absence from his teaching duties until a hearing scheduled for next Wednesday in Lumberton is held.

## Detective Quits City

Det. C.E. Campbell has resigned from the Raeford Police Department effective this week, Police Chief V.L. Wiggins announced.

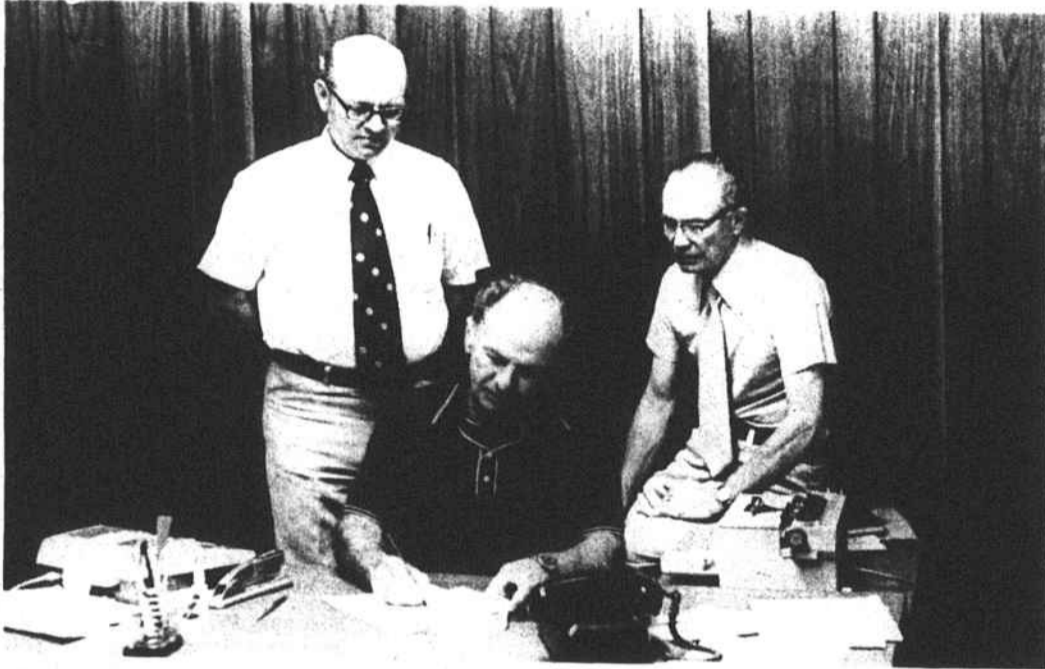
Campbell, 26, who has been a city police officer for the past three years, was promoted to detective and assigned to juvenile investigations a year ago. He resigned to accept a position with another law enforcement agency, Wiggins said. Off. H.E. Young was named to replace Campbell as detective.

## Troopers' Hearing Sept. 17

The two state troopers charged with rape, crime against nature and kidnapping in connection with an incident involving a Hoke County woman Aug. 19 are slated for a preliminary hearing here on Sept. 17 in District Court.

Jimmy D. Thigpen, 24, who was assigned to the Hoke troop in April, 1975, and Wiley W. Snow Jr., 24, a Raleigh patrolman, were both released under \$25,000 combined bond after they were served with warrants last Thursday morning by Sheriff D.M. Barrington.

Both men, who have resigned from the Highway Patrol, are accused of kidnapping Mrs. Bobbie



SIGNS CONTRACT -- County planner L.G. Simpson (left) and T.B. Lester, county manager, look on as Ralph Barnhart signs the contract for \$460,000 in community development funds which Hoke County was awarded this year from HUD.

## County Buys Armory Land

County officials handed over a check for \$22,500 Monday as part of the share of the land purchase for the proposed new National Guard Armory which is expected to be constructed here sometime before 1980.

The \$22,500 in county funds is part of the agreement worked out with city officials earlier this year on costs of the project. Under the plan, the city is paying 25 per cent of the costs, or \$7,500 of the price of the land.

The land, a five acre site bordering U.S. 401-bypass west of the city at Teal Dr., was purchased from developer Julian H. Wright.

Under a federal assistance program to replace older and outdated

armory facilities, localities are required to provide a minimum five acre tract with water and sewer connections and assume 12.5 per cent of construction costs.

Col. Elbert McPhaul, of the engineering office of the Adjutant General's office of the National Guard in Raleigh, estimated the cost of the new structure at about \$464,000. The local contribution, not including the land purchase, would amount to \$58,000 under the matching formula.

The new facility would contain about 18,000 total square feet. Under a "reversion" clause, the old Armory building on Central Ave., built during the '20's, will be

turned back to the county for its use.

Under the timetable for replacing older Armories, Raeford would come up for funding in fiscal year 1979, according to McPhaul. The Raeford facility was one of 23 in the state targeted earlier this year as "sub-standard" under military requirements.

The 401-bypass location was approved by National Guard officials as satisfactory this spring.

## Holiday Closings

All city and county government offices, including the courthouse and board of education building, will be closed all day Monday, Sept. 6 because of the Labor Day holiday.

The Hoke ABC store will remain closed all day Monday.

There will be no regular residential or business delivery of mail on Monday.

There will be no city garbage pickups made on the holiday. Pickups usually made on Monday will be made Tuesday, Sept. 7.

The regular monthly meeting of the county commissioners is scheduled for 9 A.M. Tuesday, Sept. 7, due to the holiday. The Raeford city council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, Sept. 13.

## Rose Introduces Bill On Rural Energy Office

"The energy crisis is not over for rural Americans," Rep. Charlie Rose (D-NC) said Tuesday as he introduced legislation to establish a Rural Energy Office in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"American farmers are called on to provide increasing amounts of the world's food and feed and fiber; yet the fuel and energy needs of these citizens are not being addressed by our government," said Rose.

"Families who want to spend their lives working on the land are being forced to find other work or abandon rural areas because the energy-related costs are too exorbitant."

The Rural Energy Office will assess the fuel and energy needs of citizens who reside outside standard statistical metropolitan areas, looking to such needs as home heating and cooling, transportation, agricultural production, electrical generation, conservation, and research and development.

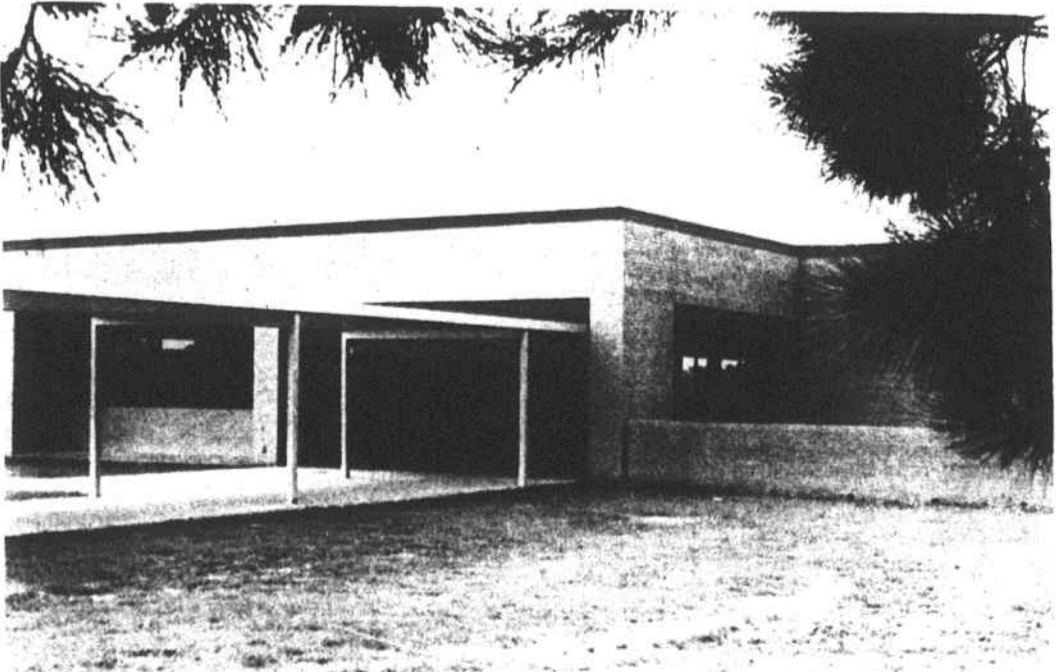
"We are not advocating the

establishment of a new bureaucracy," Rose assured his colleagues. "Energy experts at USDA, presently scattered over eleven separate agencies in the Department, will be directed to staff the Rural Energy Office, therefore mobilizing the expertise already found there."

Rose noted that his constituents in Eastern North Carolina, faced with increasing shortages of natural gas, have been disappointed by actions of the Federal Energy Administration, an organization tuned to urban pressures and the interests of the oil companies.

"If we expect rural Americans to maintain our farm land and our forests and our agricultural production and our rural way of life, we must help them survive," Rose said. "The Rural Energy Office will serve them and us, too, as a result, as its staff helps identify problems and sources of energy related to all of rural America."

Rose is chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy, page 11



MEDIA CENTER -- Almost twice the floor space of the old library, the new Hoke High School Media Center contains 16,000 volumes. The \$330,000 building has 38 carrels, or listening booths, for students who wish to listen to music, literature or language tapes and records. It also has a large screen that may be pulled down to permit film viewing for 200 to 250 students.