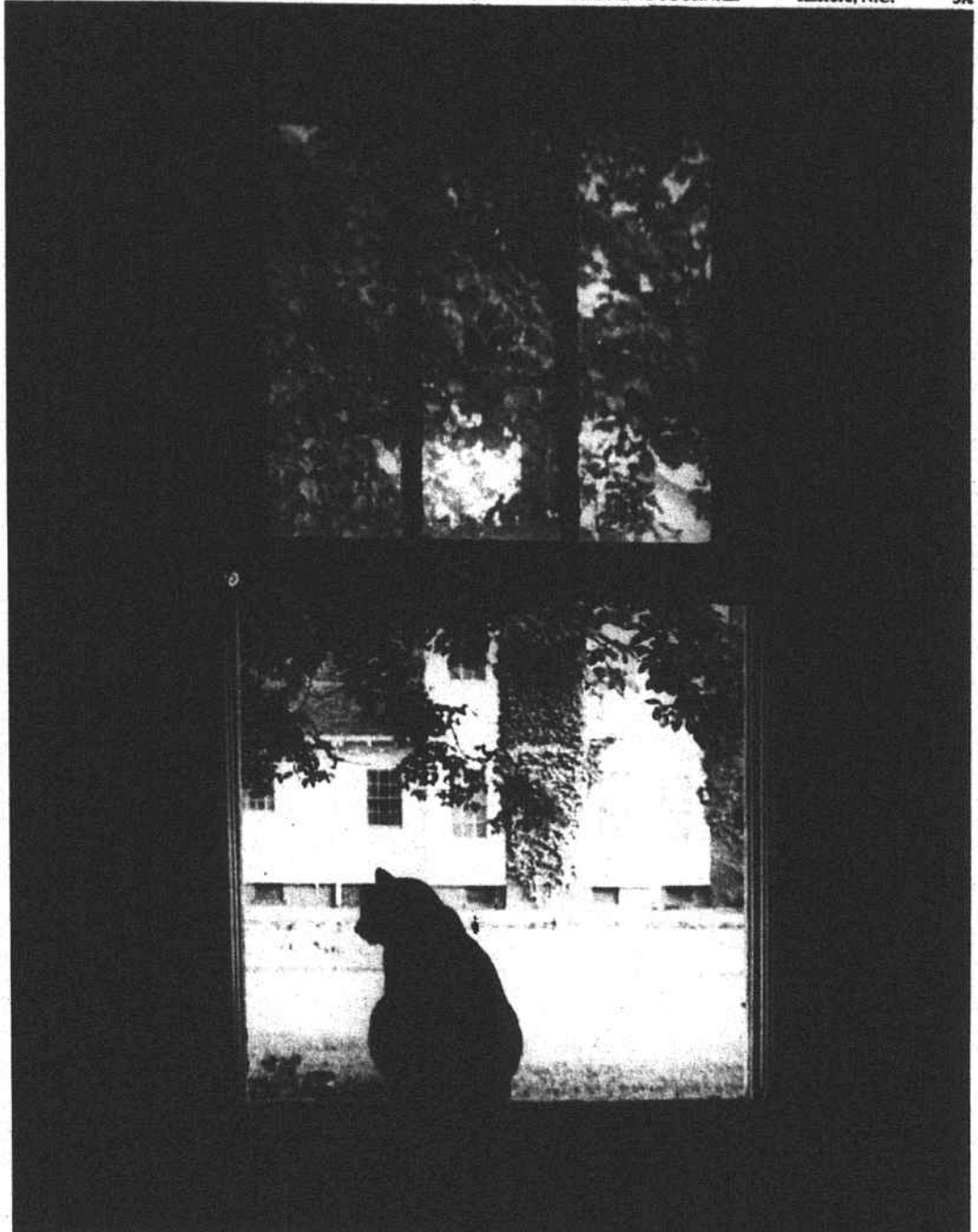


County Mum On School Budget

By Sherry Matthews
 Members of the Hoke County Commission agreed Monday to study a school budget request which includes \$150,000 increase for the coming fiscal year.
 The \$1,024,799 county school budget request includes a \$7,000 raise in the superintendent's salary from \$6,000 to \$13,000 and some \$64,000 budgeted for roof repairs on three of the seven schools.
 "I think this is a very thorough budget," School board chairman W.W. Cameron explained to the commissioners.
 Even though there is a \$150,572 increase in the school board's request, Superintendent Robert Nelson told the commissioners that some of the increases shown were not "true increases."
 "Some things have been moved from one category to another, making those items seem like increases," Nelson said.
 One of the major "new" items, Nelson and the school board are pulling for is the Junior ROTC program for the high school.
 The program has been available for Hoke High for over two years but according to Nelson, the funds have not been allocated to get it started.
 This year, the school board has requested \$20,000 for an ROTC instructor.
 According to Nelson, a survey showed that at least 120 students had shown interests in participating in the program.
 "Given a couple of years, I suspect there will be at least 120 students in the program annually," Nelson said.
 After Nelson and finance officer Don Steed explained the budget, a silent group of commissioners studied the proposal.

"I hope this silence is a good sign," Nelson said.
 According to County Commissioner James A. Hunt, the silence did not mean they were exempt from "the chopping block."
 County Commission Chairman John Balfour took a different stand from Hunt, saying that he realized how "important" the school system was.
 "We need to get people educated so they can get out and find a job," Balfour said.
 Although the commissioners took no action on the proposed school funds, two work sessions were set to examine the entire county budget.
 In other commission business, tax rates in three of the 10 fire districts were raised by one to two cents.
 If the proposal gets the final approval from the commission the Tyllertown and South Antioch Districts each raised their fire tax rate by two cents or from 8 to 10 cents in South Antioch and 7 to 9 cents in Tyllertown.
 The Rockfish fire district would raise their fire tax rate from 9 to 10 cents.
 These rate increases are included in the county manager James Martin's budget proposal which must be approved by the commissioners by July 1 under state law.
 Seven of the 10 districts who did not increase rates are: Crestline at 8 cents, Hillcrest at 9 cents, North Raeford at 10 cents, Pine Hill at 6 cents, Puppy Creek at 7 cents, Stonewall at 8 cent and West Hoke at 10 cents.
 Tyllertown, which has no trained fire personnel, requested the increase so that they could purchase \$4,200 in fire suits, and other fire equipment.

Because there is no trained personnel, the residents in the Tyllertown district do not receive reduced rates on fire insurance.
 For the other two fire districts, the increase will provide a \$4,500 payment on a new fire truck for Rockfish and a drop tank and 40-foot ladder for Antioch.
 In further business, Parks and Recreation Director Denise Melton requested that the recreation department be considered for the old National Guard Armory should the state turn it over to the county.
 According to Melton, the old armory drill hall could serve as a "multi-purpose" room, using it for aerobics, karate, volleyball and tumbling.
 Rooms could also be set up in the facility for recreation offices, Melton said.
 In a final act during the three-hour meeting, commissioners accepted a \$10,000 federal Emergency Shelter and Food grant to be used by the Department of Social Services.
 The commissioners appropriated \$2,000 for June 1983, while the remaining \$8,000 would be spent in the coming fiscal year.
 "This money will come in handy," Social Services Director Ken Witherspoon said, adding that it would be "only for the actual purchase of food."
 According to Witherspoon, the federal monies will help provide food to some of those people who are caught up in the web of the food stamp program and cannot get assistance elsewhere.
 At this point, some 93 households have been suspended or did not receive their benefits, 127 households had to be extended and 150 are waiting for appointment they wanted in May, Witherspoon said.



Cat's eye view
 This lonesome cat sits atop a window sill apparently waiting to catch a ride from some passer-by or perhaps just catch a glimpse of a person or feline wandering by on its way home!

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...United Way
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 Raeford and Hoke County's continued commitment to the United Fund concept," said Matthews.
 A contribution of \$3,000 from the Burlington Foundation was the largest single contribution.
 Witherspoon said particularly successful employee participation campaigns occurred at Burlington, Tex Elastic, the Board of Education, the City of Raeford, Open Arms Rest Home and Sky City.
 A contribution or pledge of at least \$100 qualifies for Century Club membership.
 Campaign volunteers, Century Club members, businesses, and others will be recognized at the United Fund's Annual Meeting later this month.
 The allocation of the extra funds will be decided by the Hoke County United Way Board of Directors. The funds will probably be divided between the requesting agencies, Matthews said Tuesday.
 "That decision is up to them," he added.

...Around Town
 (Continued from page 1A)
 Maybe if I live for another 20 years the same good fortune will come my way. Just let me say, congratulations, Frank.
 * * *
 While on the subject of golf, how many of you watched the match on TV Sunday afternoon? The last threesome of the course took about five and a half hours to play their round. There were three holes empty when the other players finished, 16, 17 and 18. As the announcer said, there was no excuse for the slow play.
 To some of you readers that don't play golf, this is almost unheard of on the Pro Tour. There is a \$200 fine for slow play, but as one golfer stated, this is peanuts to a golfer that is trying to win \$72,000.
 In the British Open & U.S. Open, slow play brings a penalty of two strokes. Now this makes the golfers play faster because this penalty could cost them thousands of dollars. When you hit the pocketbook hard, people will take notice.
 I have been playing golf some 20 years, and for the first time I was in a group that a player made a hole-in-one. This happened Monday at the Arabia Golf Course on the 18th hole.
 A threesome composed of Dr. John Ropp, Frank McFadyen and I were playing. Frank hit a five wood on the approximately 180 yard hole and it hit in front of the green and rolled into the cup.
 This was the second hole-in-one for McFadyen and it picked his spirits up, after a somewhat bad hole or two earlier.

I also think that the TV viewers, as well as the spectators, will soon lose interest in the matches with this type of play. The tours are financed by the gate recipients and TV movies.
 So maybe the pros should get together and find a penalty that will not let this happen again.
 * * *
 A group of local baseball fans went by bus this past weekend to Atlanta to watch the Braves play a series with the St. Louis Cardinals. The Braves won three of four games, so most of the local fans should be happy.
 I haven't seen anyone that made the trip, but I'm sure the bus didn't break down. I looked for the Raeford people on TV, but didn't see any of them.
 * * *

You know we all like one sport or another. Some are die-hard for baseball, football or basketball. It seems to me that a person that likes auto racing is the most die-hard of any sport fan with whom I have ever come in contact.
 Not for me, that sun gets too hot in the infield.

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