

The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

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Volume LXXV Number 52

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$10 PER YEAR

25 CENTS

Thursday, April 19, 1984

School hearing slated

By Sherry Matthews

A 20-member committee, appointed to study the condition of the seven Hoke County schools, will hold a public hearing April 30 to announce recommendations for upgrading and improving the facilities.

The public hearing, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Hoke County Courthouse, will cap nearly four months of work by the committee.

"They have done a super job," Hoke School Superintendent Bob Nelson said.

Nelson serves in an ex-officio capacity on the committee and has attended each of the group's meetings.

"They have worked diligently. I think they have come up with a very realistic and workable proposal," he added.

Preliminary plans call for the eventual re-grouping of students and the elimination of one facility.

Under the proposal, Upchurch Junior High School would be gradually replaced with new buildings while the J.W. Turlington school would be eliminated.

Cost estimates show that the proposed construction would run between \$3 and \$5 million.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The way the weather has been the past few weeks it makes you wonder if you should sit by the television to see when we will have a storm warning in the area. It seems a warning comes across the bottom of the screen every time it gets cloudy these days. Then the next day you will read where winds have caused damage in the state. This area is becoming almost as bad as the midwest for high winds and tornadoes.

The forecast is for the Easter weekend to have temperatures in the 70s. Now this should fill the churches or the beaches this upcoming weekend.

It seems that people don't attend church on Easter Sunday like they did several years ago. Some folks would be at church on Easter that didn't attend at any other time during the year. In most churches extra chairs had to be brought in to accommodate the crowd. This has not been true in recent years.

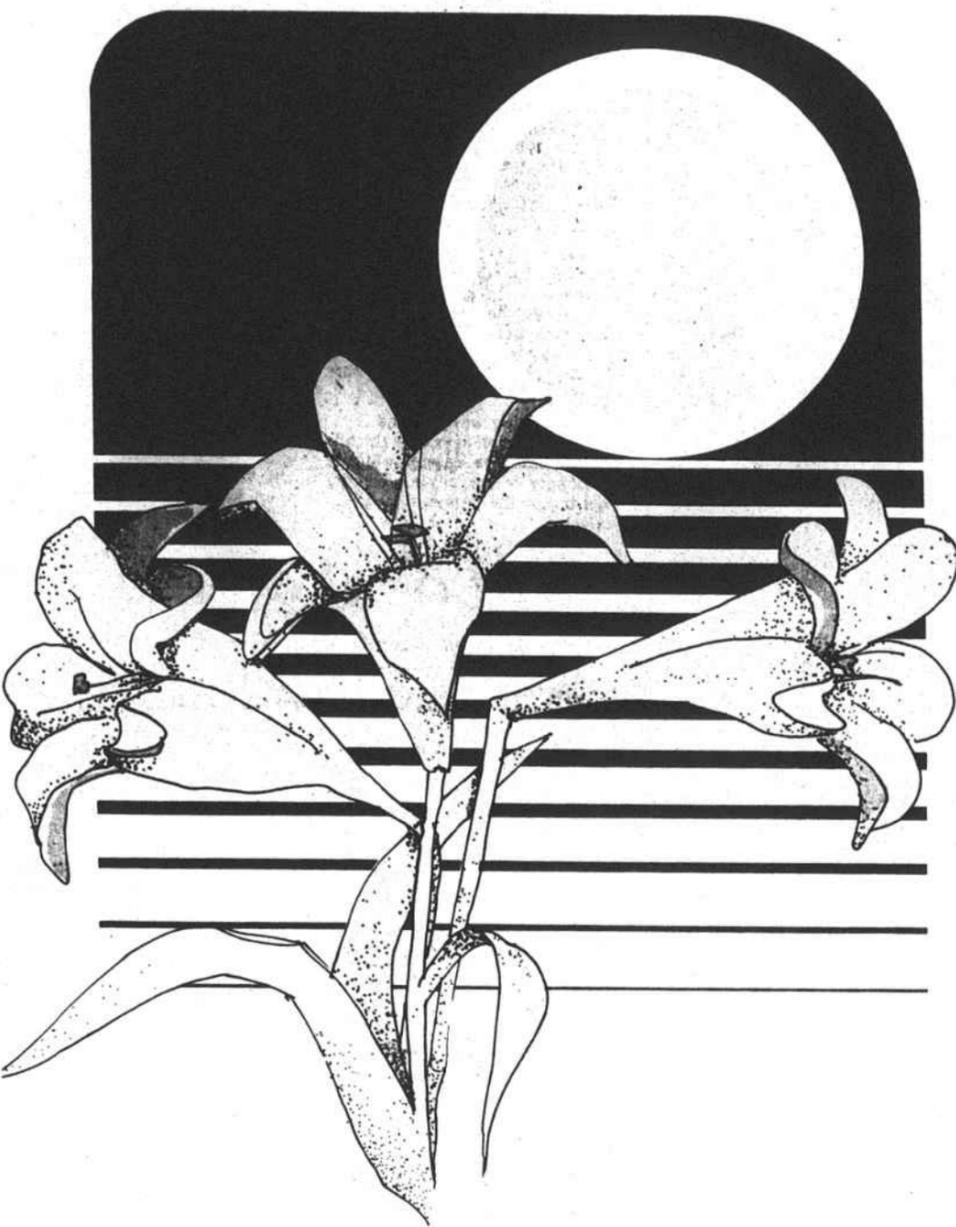
The thrill of new dresses and corsages has been taken over by taking a trip during the long Easter holidays. Of course the Easter rabbit still brings the Easter baskets and eggs to the youngsters but we don't hear about Easter egg hunts like we had in the "good old days." Did you ever win a prize for finding the most eggs or for finding the prize egg?

Yes, those were the days when few people had the cars or the money to take trips. Time marches on!

The Democratic county convention was well attended last Saturday at the courthouse. All precincts were in attendance and many candidates were on hand to meet with the voters. Very little business was taken up at the meeting.

State Senator David Parnell of Parkton was the speaker for the convention. He spoke on why we should always vote the Democratic ticket. This is something that is becoming more and more unlikely, as most people now don't follow the party lines at the general election. Maybe they will this year, but I doubt it!

Last week Editor Warren Johnston asked me to inquire from Sherry Matthews about an article (See AROUND, page 11A)



(Drawing by Greg Hathaway)

Local authorities snare cocaine, stolen car

By Ed Miller

Alertness and quick reactions by area law enforcement officers resulted in three unrelated Hoke County arrests during the past weekend.

Following the arrests, a Robeson County man was in jail on drug charges and two Fayetteville men were charged with driving a stolen car.

According to county sheriff's reports, Stephen Donald Stone, a Robeson County resident, was arrested Saturday night and charged with possession of marijuana, possession of illegal paraphernalia and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

Hoke County Deputy Sheriff J. W. Jones was on routine patrol when he spotted two cars at the entrance of Greenbriar Pond on the

Duffie-Red Springs Road, an investigation report shows.

According to Jones, as he approached the car, he observed Stone allegedly putting a plastic bag in his pants.

After Stone revealed the bag, the arresting officer determined that it contained a "suspicious" substance which was suspected of being marijuana, sheriff's reports say.

A further search revealed another plastic bag, which was suspected of containing cocaine.

The suspect also had \$242 in cash at the time of arrest, reports say.

Stone was arrested and placed under \$10,000 bond.

Sheriff's records show that the defendant paid his bond and he was released Sunday.

Investigation reports show that Stone allegedly had in his possession marijuana (amount unknown), three grams of cocaine, a pipe, a pack of rolling papers, a plastic straw and \$242 in cash.

In an unrelated matter Friday night, Raeford Police arrested two Fayetteville men and charged them with being in possession of a "stolen" car.

The car, a white 1982 Oldsmobile, which was allegedly driven by Gregory Davis, 17, and Johnny Pridgen, 19, was spotted on Main Street in Raeford, Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said.

A routine check of the car's license plate revealed that the car was stolen from a Joseph W. Thomas of Fayetteville.

The two men were taken into

County nears airport pact

By Ed Miller

After more than six months, members of the Hoke County Commission tentatively OK'd a resolution Monday night which officially creates a joint airport commission and should clear the way for improved operation of the facility.

However, the county officials did not appoint members to the newly created commission, but are expected to do so once the resolution agreement is approved by the Raeford City Council.

Other members to the commission have been appointed by the Chamber of Commerce and the city council.

Under the agreement approved Monday, a five member commission would oversee the operation of the facility. Two members of the commission would be appointed by both the city and the county and one member by Chamber.

To assure that the members of the board will be rotated evenly, the resolution says that one appointee from the City Council and one from the Board of Commissioners will serve a term of three years. The other appointees from these two sources are to serve two years. The appointee from the Chamber of Commerce will serve an initial term of one year.

This provision assures that the airport commission will never be memberless and that all the members will not rotate at the same time.

After their initial term, all airport commissioners will serve terms of three years.

According to the resolution, if there is a vacancy on the commission, the entity that originally made the appointment will fill it.

Members will not be paid and must be residents of Hoke County, the resolution adds.

(See AIRPORT, page 2A)

Troy man is hired as Raeford manager

A 39-year-old West Virginia native, who has been serving as the manager of Troy, has been hired to assume the helm in Raeford by mid-May.

Thomas A. Phillips, who has been the manager in Troy for the last three years, will take over the reins in Raeford on May 14.

Phillips will fill the position which was vacated in January when Ron Matthews left to become the city manager in Elizabeth City.

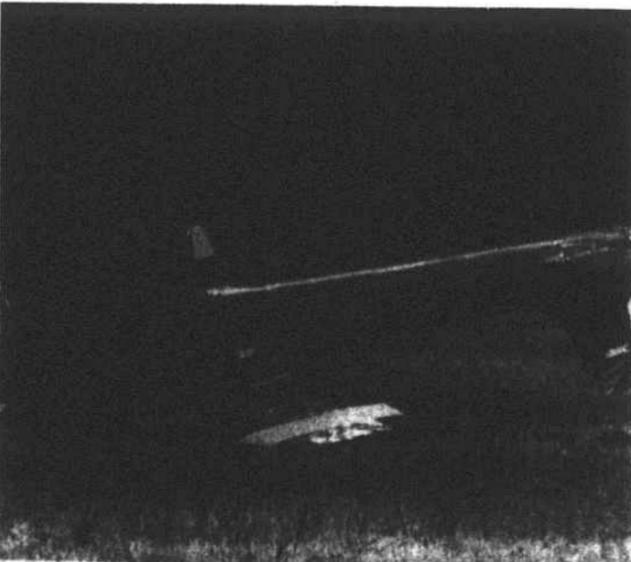
Although he hails from West Virginia, Phillips has spent the last nine years in municipal administra-

tion in North Carolina and several years here in the military.

Prior to going to Troy, Phillips served as the Administrator in Wallace and as the Finance Officer in Spring Lake.

He has an accounting degree from Fayetteville Technical Institute. He has also taken extensive courses in public administration, government and computers from the University of Maryland, Gardner-Webb, North Carolina State and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"We're excited about coming to (See CITY, page 2A)



Minor injuries

No one was seriously injured in the crash of this Cessna 180. The plane, piloted by Tim Thacker, was apparently caught in the turbulence left by a Chinook helicopter that took off shortly before. The \$14,000 plane was a total loss, sheriff's reports show.

Wind turbulence eyed as plane crash cause

by Ed Miller

The pilot of a plane that crashed last Wednesday at the Hoke County-Raeford Airport was back in the air Thursday with only a sore arm.

Tim Thacker was on duty Thursday taking parachutists aloft following Wednesday evening's mishap.

Thacker and three sky divers were apparently only shaken up after the plane they were in flipped over just after takeoff.

The three jumpers, Jerome Branch and Whit Garrison of Ft. Bragg and Alian Grotzer of Switzerland reportedly escaped the crash with only a few bruises.

"One guy had the wind knocked out of him," said parachute jump school owner and father of the pilot Gene P. Thacker.

According to Gene Thacker, the Cessna 180 flipped on take-off due to the turbulence caused by a Ft.

Bragg helicopter that had just left the airport.

"A big Chinook (a two bladed chopper) had been out here doing some touch and goes," said Thacker.

"It is nothing unusual," he said. The air was so calm that the blades of the helicopter had left a turbulence pocket in its wake, according to Thacker.

"They were going up to 3,000 feet to do an accuracy jump," Thacker said.

He explained that these jumps are to practice landing on a specific target.

Although no official estimates of the damage to the plane have been made yet, Thacker guessed that there was between \$7,000 and \$8,000 worth.

"We'll have to turn it over and see what's left," he said.

"We'll do that sometime today," Thacker concluded.



Inside Today

Both the public library and the school libraries are filled with the real and imaginary world of books that help educate both young and old. We take a look at the county's library system and its advantages in this week's B-section of The News-Journal.