

The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

Volume LXXVI Number 6

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$10 PER YEAR

25 CENTS

Thursday, May 31, 1984

Legislative funds eyed again for courthouse

An attempt will be made to obtain funds for the restoration of the Hoke County Courthouse during the State Legislature's short session which began on Wednesday, state Rep. Daniel H. DeVane said.

If a bill that has been proposed by state Senator David Parnell passes, the county could get \$82,500 to begin the repairs on the 72-year-old courthouse.

According to Devane, for a bill to be considered by the Legislature in the short session, it must first be unanimously backed by the local delegation.

Although the Hoke County representative said he could not speak for other members of the delegation, Devane did say that he will be supporting that bill for the courthouse.

"From what I understand, this bill is being held over from the last long session," said Hoke County Manager James Martin.

The bill was introduced during last year's regular session but was not funded. The short session bill should be similar, Martin said.

That bill failed to reach a vote, and other funds from the "pork barrel" bill, which had been expected to come to the courthouse went to another Hoke County historical site.

During the last session, Mill Prong, a 181-year-old Hoke County landmark, received \$25,000 from the pork barrel funds.

Currently the county is taking bids for work to be done to the courthouse, but actual construction will depend on state funding, the county manager said.

"We are now taking bids for (contractors to make repairs to) the metal area of the roof, the water carry-off system and outside masonry," Martin said.

Alternate bids are being taken for window repair and some inside plaster repair, he added.

According to Martin, the alternate bids will be considered by the County Board of Commissioners only if there is money left over after contracts are awarded for the outside repairs.

The next step in the process of making the repairs will be the

awarding of contracts to construction companies on the basis of the amount of money on hand, Martin said.

If any contracts are to be awarded at all, the state must come through with the funds, he added.

County officials hope to couple the Legislative grant with other federal monies to make the needed repairs on the historic structure.

County employees and officials have complained about a lack of space in the facility and the poor condition of the courthouse.

In addition to exterior problems with the building, the courthouse has been sighted as having inadequate bathroom facilities and poor heating, air conditioning and ventilation.

Repairs also need to be made to correct peeling paint and plaster. The roof of the building around metal flashing is leaking and needs repairing, and exterior bricks need to be rechinked and sealed to prevent leaking.

In order to complete the repairs, county officials hope to garner about \$189,000 in federal and state grants.

Some of those funds will have to be matched with local money.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather for the past few days has been hot. We have had an occasional rain, but not enough to make the folks with a garden happy. We are thankful for what we get, but as usual we want more.

The forecast calls for the weather to continue as it has been, so we can expect a thundershower every so often.

The following letter was received last week and we will comment on it at the end:

Dear Mr. Morris,
You said to write if I ever had any news. I don't know that this qualifies as "news," but it was interesting.

Today I fixed some flowers from my yard to take down to the Viet Nam Memorial in Washington to put beneath Sam Warlick's name. Sam and my brother Harold (Gatlin) were born the same month and were best boy-hood friends. I always take flowers down in May to remember Sam's birthday and again on November 30, the anniversary of his death.

Today as I was placing the bouquet a lady asked if she could take my picture placing the flowers. She was from a newspaper in Carbon County, Pennsylvania and planned to use the picture on Memorial Day.

I asked if she would please send a copy of the paper to the Warlicks and a print to *The News-Journal*. She said she would. I know it probably won't get there by Memorial Day, but maybe *The News-Journal* can use it when, and if it comes. Please ask someone to be on the lookout for it.

We are proud of all our Hoke County veterans and especially those who gave their lives for our country.

If there are other Hoke County mothers who would like for me to put a flower by their son's name, I'd be happy to do so.

Sincerely,
Lilmar Taylor-Williams

Lilmar Taylor-Williams is the daughter of Marion Gatlin and the late Mrs. Gatlin and lives near Washington. We think that her placing of flowers on the Vietnam Memorial was very thoughtful. But her offer to do so for any Hoke County is what you would say, "beyond the call of duty." It is so good to have someone that loves her native county so much.

The picture she writes about in her letter is appearing elsewhere in *The News-Journal*. She must have made an impression on the lady from Pennsylvania, as a nice letter accompanied the photo.

We appreciate your letter, Lilmar Sue, and we hate we didn't get to speak to you last weekend. You are a credit to Hoke County.

Maybe the letter brought Memorial Day to my attention, but it seems more has been written and more has been on TV this year than in recent years. It could have been the return of the Vietnam soldier to be placed in the tomb of the Unknown Soldier that has brought forth the publicity. Anyway we think it is wonderful. We think that the giving of one's

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Remembering Raeford dead

Mrs. Lilmar Taylor-Williams, who is the daughter of Marion Gatlin of Raeford, takes a moment to place flowers at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. in memory of Marine Lt. Sam

D. Warlick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Warlick of Raeford. Lt. Warlick was killed in action in 1967. (Photo by Andy Mihalik)

History teacher only suspect in commerce of pornography

By Ed Miller

Former Hoke High history teacher Robert Taylor was apparently the only adult involved in the illegal commerce of "obscene" photographs taken of local minors, the probe into the matter revealed.

"The investigation indicates that there was one adult male involved in taking and selling pictures. That was Taylor," Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington said.

There were other adults, including a female, involved in posing for the photographs; however, all are legal aged adults and all apparently willingly participated, Barrington said.

After a consultation with District Attorney Ed Grannis and Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell, Barrington said he did not plan to file further charges.

Any violations which may have occurred would apparently fall under the obsolete laws covering "crimes against nature," and charges would be difficult to prosecute.

During the investigation, which ended after Taylor apparently took his own life, officers discovered that photographs of a Hoke County youth had been sold by Taylor and published in "Skin" magazine, Barrington said.

Taylor had been in contact with this magazine and others like it via a post office box registered under the fictitious name of Alex Lowry, the Sheriff said.

An investigation into Taylor's operation was about to culminate last week when the Hoke High school teacher shot and killed himself.

According to Barrington, Taylor had promised to meet with the sheriff on Thursday and deliver a key to a locked metal box found in the trunk of Taylor's 1981 Datsun sedan.

The Hoke High teacher shot himself prior to the meeting.

Barrington was searching Taylor's residence under a warrant that had been issued because the teacher was suspected of submitting pictures of a minor male child to a California film developing company.

Contained in the metal box were about 900 photographs and slides of a pornographic nature, as well as some magazines and letters from different publishing companies discussing the sale of photographs.

Hoke man being held without bond for shotgun slaying of his wife

By Ed Miller

A Raeford man was in the Hoke County Jail Tuesday awaiting trial on charges that he shot and killed his wife.

No bond had been set for Larry Donald McCain, 32, who has been charged with the May 23 slaying of Sarah Ann McCain, 33, according to a spokesman for the Hoke County Sheriff's department.

Mrs. McCain was hit in the neck by a blast from a shotgun as she lay in her bed, reports show. Deputy A.R. Odom reported

that upon arrival at the house trailer where the incident occurred, the victim was leaning against a chest of drawers, already dead, with a shot gun wound on the right side of her neck.

The investigation showed that a shotgun had apparently been fired twice through a bedroom window, the report says.

Detective Ed Harris reported finding three holes in the curtains over the windows, a hole going through a pillow and into the mattress, and a lead pellet in the bed.

Both deputies reported finding a spent shotgun shell outside of the window.

The suspect and the victim were said to be husband and wife, but were separated at the time of the incident, sources said.

According to the sheriff's reports, witnesses claim to have heard McCain make threatening remarks against the victim to friends.

The case is under investigation, reports say.

United Way behind in reaching '84 goal

By Ed Miller

As the campaign nears an end, the Hoke County United Fund is well behind the 1984 goal of \$26,230 and may not be able to meet the expected needs of local agencies for the coming year.

As of Tuesday, the Fund had collected almost \$21,000, according to Campaign Chairman Ken Witherspoon.

"I'm not sure whether we'll meet our goal or not," said Witherspoon, adding that pledges had not been collected from local banks or from some local businesses who usually contribute substantial amounts.

The drive is scheduled to end May 31, said Witherspoon.

According to the chairman, Burlington Industries has done its usual outstanding job by raising \$12,931 from employees as well as \$3,000 from the Burlington Foundation.

As to the reasons why the goal

may fall short this year, Witherspoon said that there has not been a campaign conducted within state agencies yet.

"We are going to do that in September or October," he said.

According to Witherspoon, there are some identifiable areas where the contributions have not been as strong as usual this year.

"The Century Club (a group whose members contribute \$100 per person) has been off tremendously this year," he said.

If the fund is unable to raise beyond the 80% of goal now on hand, it could mean that some county organizations such as the Rescue Squad, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the 4-H Council, the Lion's Club, the county chapter of the American Red Cross, the Hoke Literacy Council, the Children's Center and the Hoke County Association for the Developmentally Disabled could have requests for funds cut.

Fowler remembered at Chamber dinner

The memory of the late Director Earl N. Fowler was honored during the annual members' banquet of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce held Tuesday evening.

Fowler's widow, Marilyn Fowler, was presented a plaque by Chamber Board member Clyde Uphurch, who noted that "Earl was sensitive to the needs of the community and made Raeford a better place to live."

Mrs. Fowler also received a copy of a resolution praising her late husband, which had been passed by the Hoke County Commission on May 14.

"Earl Fowler served well and put the county ahead of his own

goals," Commission Chairman John Balfour read from the resolution.

In other business, City Councilman Benny McLeod was named president of the Chamber for the coming year.

McLeod replaces Steve Parker, who remains on the job in an ex-officio capacity until a new director can be found.

Tom Howell, Julian Butler, Jimmy McPhaul, Julian Johnson and James Wood were also named to terms on the Board of Directors.

Out-going members Terry Houston and Ruth Parrish will remain temporarily on the board to help with the selection of a new director.



Blooming spring

These wild flowers seem to be flourishing because of the recent wet and warm spring weather. The county was expected to have rain for the balance of the week, which should aid local farmers with young crops.