

...Motel planned

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ference room.
"We could have cut costs and left out the meeting room, but we plan to be a service-oriented motel, so we went ahead and planned for it," Ballard said.
The facility is being built by Ballard Farms, Incorporated; however, there are three major stockholders in the company.
According to Ballard, he and his wife own 33%, a western North Carolina man, Al Willette owns 33% and Wilbur McLamb of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, owns 33%.
Ballard is a Pinehurst resident. Members of the City Council took no other action during the meeting although discussion was held about staggering the terms of councilmen.
One option, according to Councilman Gentry is to make the terms last two and four years.
The newly elected members of the council with the most votes will

stay in service to the town for four years and the others will have two year offices, said Mayor McNeill.
According to a note from City Manager Phillips, a resolution will need to be adopted outlining terms in office.
Mayor McNeill has signed a proclamation making the week of March 24-30 Family Focus Week in Raeford.
The special week is being sponsored through the Hoke County Agricultural Extension Service, according to the proclamation.
The purpose of the special week is to call attention to the family unit.
"The foundation from which our society grows and maintains its well being is in the family unit," according to the proclamation.
The Extension Service will sponsor a "Family Fun Frolic" at Hoke High School's Gibson Gymnasium on March 30.
The Frolic will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.

...Thacker trial set

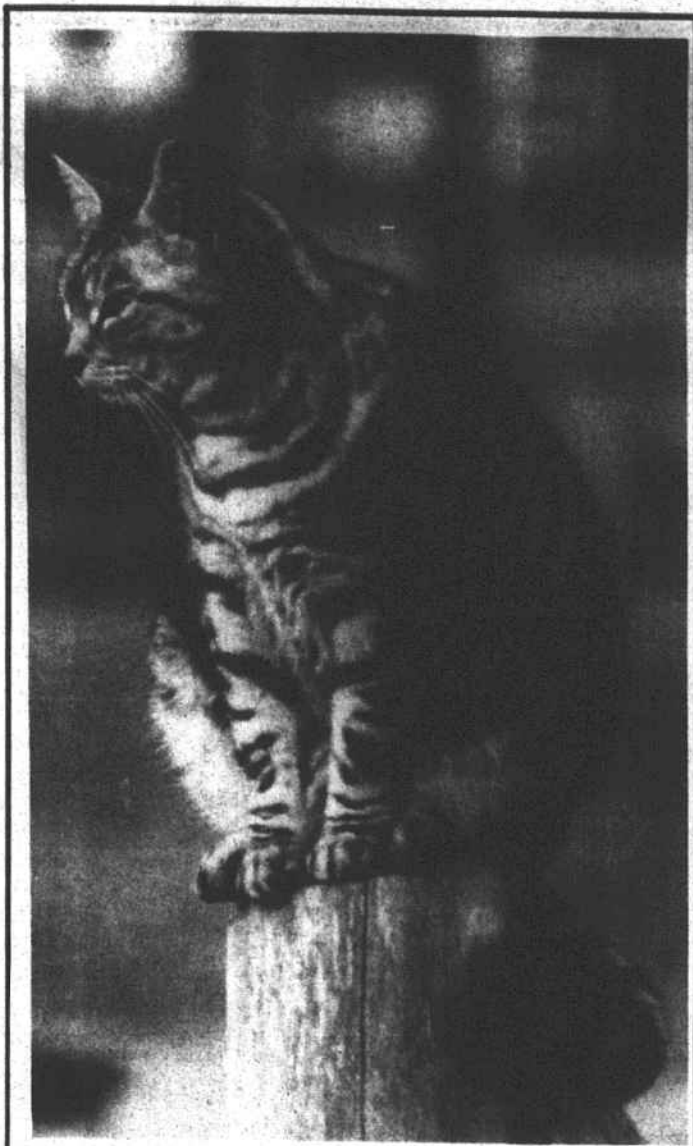
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However, Thacker strongly disagrees with the charges.
"I didn't have a damn thing to do with what you're talking about," said Thacker in a phone interview Monday.
"Some guy I never heard of said he saw a truck," Thacker said.
According to Wolfe, a witness who is currently in jail in Florida said he saw Thacker's pick-up truck on the grounds of the Raeford-Hoke Airport when planes, allegedly flying in cocaine, were landing.
"I don't think there's a court in the world that will convict you if you didn't do something," said Thacker.
When confronted with the rumors of the charges being dropped, Thacker said: "We filed a motion for dismissal, and that's when (Florida officials) came back with the pick-up truck thing."
According to previous

statements by Cumberland-Hoke Judicial District Assistant District Attorney John Dickson, the 52-year-old Thacker stands to spend up to 30 years in jail without a chance for parole if convicted of the charges.
When asked about the future of his business if he is convicted, Thacker said: "I don't even plan to go to jail."
Raeford Aviation is an incorporated business and will function normally even without him, said Thacker.
He is a former member of the Army's Golden Knights.
Thacker was arrested and charged on May 2 of last year in connection with the alleged unloading of 1,600 pounds of cocaine at the Raeford-Hoke Airport on July 15, 1983, according to Florida officials.
The drugs would have an approximate street value of \$14 million, authorities have said.

...Phone rates going up

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current Fayetteville rate is \$11.60 per month.
Local business rates would go up \$18.89 to \$29.67 per month, the projections show. Fayetteville business customers now pay \$27.78.
When local service was established with Fayetteville, Parkton rates only increased to a level matching those of the larger Cumberland County exchange.
Because of the recent ruling by the North Carolina Utilities Commission, long distance rates between Raeford and Fayetteville are also expected to increase, Tharrington said.
The ruling calls for short inter-area rates to be deregulated, which could mean an increase in the cost

of calls from Hoke County to Cumberland County and Ft. Bragg, Tharrington said.
That rate change will probably take place in the next two years.
If supporters of the extended service between Fayetteville and Raeford obtain endorsements from the Chamber of Commerce, the county commission and the city council, and if there is a strong indication that the customers want the change, Carolina Telephone will mail out the ballets, Tharrington said.
If the vote is favorable, then extended service would be put to use, he said.



Keeping the watch
Irma Periwinkle keeps a watchful eye from her perch atop a Raeford fence post for an unsuspecting robin or other creature. Cats make good watchmen for the first signs of spring, some of whom they devour.

...Depot to begin soon

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Houston, W. Coker, A. Stevens, T.B. Upchurch Jr., A. Ferguson, R. Neeley, G. King, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Willcox, Dr. Ramnik Zota, Mrs. J. Andrews, Graham Clark, Tony Austin, Tom Cameron, Pittard & Perry, Vardell Hedgpeh, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Burnette, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Leach, Mr. and Mrs. James Wood, James G. Wood Jr., Margaret Wood, Western Auto, Harold

and Peggy Gillis, Marianna McLean, Josephine Hall, Talmage and Louise English, Edna McNeill, Mr. and Mrs. Ashwell Harward, Mr. and Mrs. Neill McNeill, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Archer, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Upchurch Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conoly, Mr. and Mrs. D.R. Huff Jr., Mr. and Mrs. David Howell, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford L. Thomas Jr. and the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

Wrecks cause injury

Two major wrecks were reported in Hoke County last week, one on last Thursday and the other on Monday.
On February 28, Joel Mitchell Mishew, of Wagram, was driving his 1983 Chevrolet pick-up on rural road 1189 when it left the road and overturned, according to

investigating officer Ben Burr.
Mishew was taken to Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton and admitted, Burr said.
On March 3, a car driven by Linda Faye, of Gibson, ran off rural road 1214 and flipped three times.

...College Ok'd

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vide an office for the director of the college," a letter from Archer to the County Commission says.
Foundation Member Steve Parker told the School Board that the first year of the college satellite will prove to the North Carolina Community College System that the need exists in Hoke County for the facility.
After it has been proved that the need exists, the college system will take over the salaries of the program director and his secretary, Parker said.
According to Archer, the college satellite will start on "a small scale" by putting together a curriculum that will suit recent high school graduates for taking basic courses in English, math and sciences.
Students should not have to go out of the county to take those types of basic courses, Archer said.
If students can take the basic courses in Hoke County, they will be better prepared to take more advanced course work at one of the surrounding community colleges or technical institutes, said Archer.
The satellite would also be very receptive to offering courses need-

ed by employers in the local industries.
There are over 800 students in the county now having to travel to take course work, members of the Foundation said.
A poll taken last year showed that 1,600 local residents would be interested in studying nearer home if a facility were available.
Board of Education members only ask if it is feasible to operate classrooms for four nights per week on \$15,000.
It may be possible to do it on less than the allotted amount, Steed said.
In other action at the Board of Education meeting, four Hoke County High School students were given letters of appreciation for their efforts in discovering a fire at the school during a basketball game last Friday night.
Tony Hodge, Jock Holloway, Anthony McNair and Timmy Morrissey are all members of the Junior ROTC unit at the school.
Through swift thinking and action, "they may have prevented a major fire at the school," Superintendent Robert Nelson said.

...Around Town

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Raeford has been a baseball town in the past and it should be easy to get the ball rolling again.
Harold Gillis, chairman of the Hoke County Democratic Executive Committee asked me to remind all Democrats to attend their precinct meeting on Thursday, March 7, starting at 8:00 p.m.
Remember if ten people don't show up for the meeting it can't be called a meeting of record. So mark it on your calendar now to be at your polling place Thursday.

Wake Forest to help the athletes with their studies. He took this job after playing basketball in Italy for several years.
Congratulations to Gilbert on his new job and his success with it.
It was good to see that the Raeford Kiwanis Club is bringing the circus back to the city in April. We will write more about it in the weeks to come.
The following letter is self-explanatory:
Dear Sam:
The Hoke High School Class of '65 is planning our twentieth reunion on April 6, 1985 and we need some help. As is often the case, many of our classmates have moved away and we have lost track of them.
We need the addresses or whereabouts of the following:
W.J. Bennett
Kenneth Black
Lorraine Wright Davis
Lorraine Jennings English
Joanne Fowler Garner
Barry King
Jennie Crissman Lewis
Catherine McKenzie Meeks
Ann McLean King
Ann Parnell
If anyone knows the addresses or other information that could help us locate these classmates we would certainly appreciate it. Call John Plummer at 875-4243/875-2677 or Mary Neil Senter King at 875-4576.
If you could mention this in your column or somewhere else in *The News-Journal*, we would be most grateful.

Sincerely,
John A. Plummer

We are born on the wings,
on the wings of a dove...
And on the wings of a dove shall we depart and go forth.
We would like to express our sincere appreciation for cards, flowers, food, visits, prayers and all other kindness shown during the loss of our loved one.
The Family of
Howard F. Ellis

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