



The face of a fire

Flames were shooting out of the roof of the house (upper left) at 1514 Simmons Street Monday afternoon as North Raeford Fire Department arrived. The wood frame house, owned by Torlea Flowers, was being lived in by Johnnie LeGrand and family, according to reports. The alarm came in at 3:30 p.m. Although no one was hurt in the fire, the house appeared to be a total loss. Many spectators turn out for the fire and North Raeford is assisted by Raeford and Hillcrest fire departments (above). Those firemen along with the Raeford Police, were essential for crowd control. Ununiformed Raeford fireman Wayne Mills (left) surveys the damage while an unidentified spectator crosses to less crowded territory.

Despite vote CD on target

By Ed Miller

Hoke County's chances for receiving \$753,000 in Community Development Block grants will not be affected by the County Commissioners' decision not to put local money into the housing rehabilitation project, state officials say.

Before deciding against the measure, the commissioners were told last week local contributions to the project would improve the chances of receiving the grant funds.

"It won't affect it at all," said Penny Craver of the state Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD).

Hoke County Manager William Cowan confirmed Tuesday the commissioners apparently did not know about NRCD's change in evaluating procedure before the decision was made not to add local money.

"I guess he (Commissioner Cleo Bratcher) took a chance," when making the motion not to improve the application's chances, Cowan said.

Lumber River Council of Government (COG) Director Jim Perry told commissioners in their last meeting that there may be as many as 100 points available for the Hoke County application if the money was put in.

The County Commission voted unanimously not to budget "even a token amount" for the cause in that meeting.

Community Development funds, if granted, are to be used in the renovation of 53 houses in the Tylertown area of the county.

There are three more houses in that area that will be demolished with the money, according to the application for the grant.

There are 164 people living in the houses slated for renovation, according to the application.

Of that number, 86.6%, or 142 have low to moderate incomes.

There is a total of \$616,000 to be used for housing rehabilitation with each house to be allocated \$11,000.

The application is estimating that it will cost \$500 per unit to tear down the unusable houses and \$3,000 per unit to buy the lots on which they stand.

Estimates for legal work have been placed at \$250 per unit for a total of \$750, according to the application.

As a local option, which will be funded automatically if the base amount is funded, \$56,243 have been applied for to be used to improve two streets in Tylertown.

McCullum and Blue roads serve 23 houses in the development, according to the application.

Over 2,700 feet, or both roads, will be paved to a width of 22 feet.

Curbing and gutters are not included in that price.

The county must buy the property for McCullum Road before it can be paved, according to the application.

County asked to clean up for recruiting

By Ed Miller

Hoke County residents are being urged to clean up their property to aid in the effort for economic development.

"There are places in this county where we could not possibly bring clients," said Raeford-Hoke Economic Developer John Howard.

"We need to remove the areas where the best foot of the county is not put forward," Howard said.

"Visual pollution is a high spot for judgment when others visit our home," said Howard, adding that "it is a negative factor for recruitment."

"At present, it is difficult in my

position to show off our county for fear of embarrassment," he said.

"We have such a beautiful county, but really, the beauty is in pockets, and we have far too many eyesores," he said.

A major concern, according to Howard, is the unsightliness of junkyards in the county, especially those close to major thoroughfares in the county.

"These places can be environmentally disguised," said Howard.

"Consideration needs to be given by owners to a tasteful, proper environmental blending of these operations with the

surrounding areas," said Howard.

"I'm not proposing a committee to clean up the county. I want people to take a look at what is around them," said Howard.

There are buildings that have been left for years to settle into dust, he said.

"Property owners should look around to see if they are contributing to that unsightliness."

They can consider upgrading such buildings, donating them for destruction or removing them and selling the lumber, he said.

According to the developer, cleaning up now can positively influence the future of the county and upgrade attitudes, he said.

As an analogy, Howard said: "Have you ever noticed how much better a car runs after you've washed it?"

Howard commented little on the issue of garbage containers in the county.

"I'm satisfied that the Hoke County Commission is looking into the solid waste collection problem very dutifully," he said.

"I am also satisfied that the city (Raeford) is conscientious about its collections."

"Maybe both could do more, but for now I'm concerned about what we as citizens are allowing to happen and continue without correction," Howard said.



Everything for the good junkie

Over an ounce of cocaine, 70 qualudes and about an ounce of marijuana were confiscated last Friday when 31-year-old Jerry Arnold Scott was arrested on drug charges. Scott was released from the Hoke County Jail after posting a \$20,000 cash bond. Scott is facing charges of trafficking in cocaine, sale and delivery of qualudes, possession with intent to manufacture cocaine, maintaining a dwelling and two cars for purpose of storing, selling and delivering controlled substances, simple possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, Sheriff Dave Barrington said.

Aid started for victims after fire

By Ed Miller

A relief fund has been started by some Raeford citizens for the family of a local man who was burned to death last week when his home was destroyed by fire.

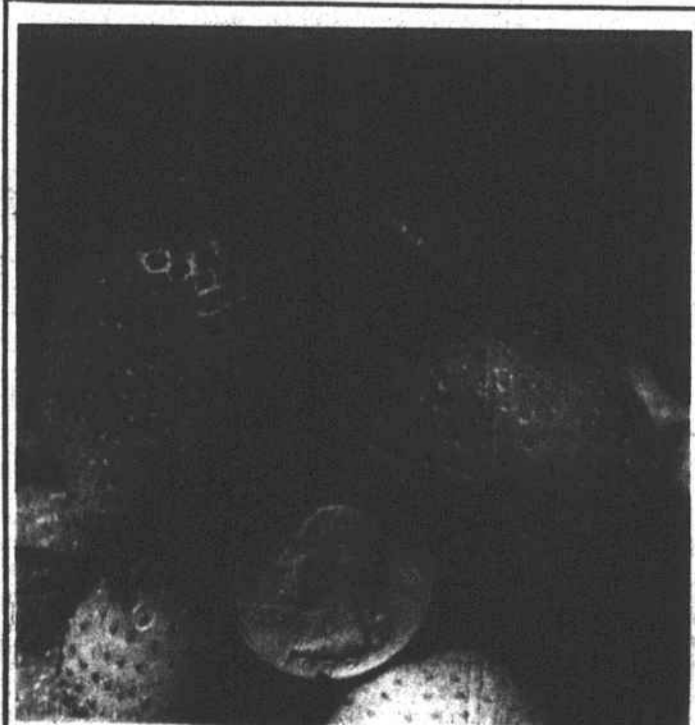
Persons wishing to give money to the Billie Barefoot Relief Fund should take them to United Carolina Bank and give them to Cary Posey or to Allen Simmons Realty, both on Main Street, Raeford.

According to Simmons, everything the family owned was lost in the fire, and there was no insurance to cover the loss.

Billie Howard Barefoot, 42, died in the fire that consumed his home last Thursday night, said Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington.

Barefoot and his family lived on Rt. 2, Box 478 B, on Rockfish Road, Barrington said.

According to the sheriff, a fan in the window of one of the homes three bedrooms probably helped the flames that were breaking through the roof of the house



Mound of berries

These giant strawberries were picked last week from a one-acre patch in Rockfish. The berries were grown on plastic, which caused them to mature sooner than others grown conventionally. We take a look at the patch on page one of Section B of today's News-Journal.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

Summertime has arrived and it is time to turn on the air conditioner. This will cut down on the fuel bill, but the electric bill increase will take care of the fuel money.

The need for rain is becoming alarming, and if it doesn't come soon, it will have a tremendous effect on the crops this year. Most farmers are now irrigating their tobacco.

The forecast is for continued warm weather with a chance of showers later in the week.

Raz Autry, Hoke County's peach expert, told me on the golf course last Wednesday that the last cold snap killed all his peach crop. He thought that he had gotten by the earlier very cold weather in good shape, but it could have had some effect on his crop that didn't get noticed until the last final cold hit.

Now he is working hard to produce enough watermelons and cantaloupe to offset the peach loss.

Sunday, April 28, between two and five o'clock in the afternoon, (See AROUND, page 10A)

Raeford man released following drug bust

By Ed Miller

A Raeford man, charged with drug trafficking, was released from jail Monday after he posted a \$20,000 cash bond.

Jerry Arnold Scott, of Rt. 1, Shannon, Box 306, was arrested Friday on charges of trafficking in cocaine, sale and delivery of qualudes, possession with intent to manufacture cocaine, maintaining a dwelling and two cars for purposes of storing, selling and delivering controlled substances, simple possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia, Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington said.

Scott was released on a \$20,000 cash bond posted by his father on Monday, a courthouse official said.

Scott was arrested in a joint venture by the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) and the Hoke County Sheriff's

Department, Barrington said.

A search warrant issued to the 31-year-old Scott on April 18 noted that these materials were confiscated: Two cars, a 1973 Dodge and a 1975 Buick; 19 bags of white powder, allegedly cocaine; a total of \$682 in cash; a memo book; less than one ounce of marijuana; one bottle of mannitol; one bottle of insulin; a .25 calibre pistol; a cocaine kit including a spoon and syringe; two bong (waterpipes); a set of scales and one qualude, Barrington said.

According to the sheriff, Scott sold 70 qualudes to an Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) officer.

When law enforcement officers drove up in Scott's yard, the suspect ran and tried to hide over 28 grams of cocaine, Barrington said.

Barrington estimated the street value of the cocaine alone to be over \$2,000.