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County puts housing project on hold

By Ed Miller

Members of the Hoke County Commission passed a motion tabling the signing of a contract that would give Hoke County another 40 units of federally subsidized housing in the Antioch area.

The contract must be signed by September 1 or the money will be lost, said Raeford Housing Authority Chairman J.H. (Buddy) Blue.

Funding for the housing is coming through the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority from the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD), Blue said.

Commission members delayed signing the contract because of wording that would make the county responsible for non-county activities such as paving streets and installing water and sewer lines.

"The county is not in the water and sewer business," said Hoke County Manager William Cowan.

Cowan added that the City of Raeford does deal with water and sewer systems.

Money has been budgeted to run water from Raeford to the project if needed, said Blue.

Also, according to the manager, the county is not allowed by the state to pave roads.

"That is a state activity," said Cowan.

"We need to watch ourselves to make sure we don't get in a liability situation," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

County Commission Chairman John Balfour said he would not sign the contract as it is currently written.

County Attorney, Duncan McFadyen is to work on clarification of the contract's wording for a

presentation at the mid-month's meeting.

According to Commissioner James Albert Hunt, HUD gave the Indian Housing Authority \$2.25 million to build projects with.

The project, when completed, will give preference to Indian occupants, but anyone with limited earnings is eligible, said Blue.

Grant discussed

In other action, commissioners passed a motion allowing Balfour and Cowan to confer with Raeford City Manager Tom Phillips and Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill

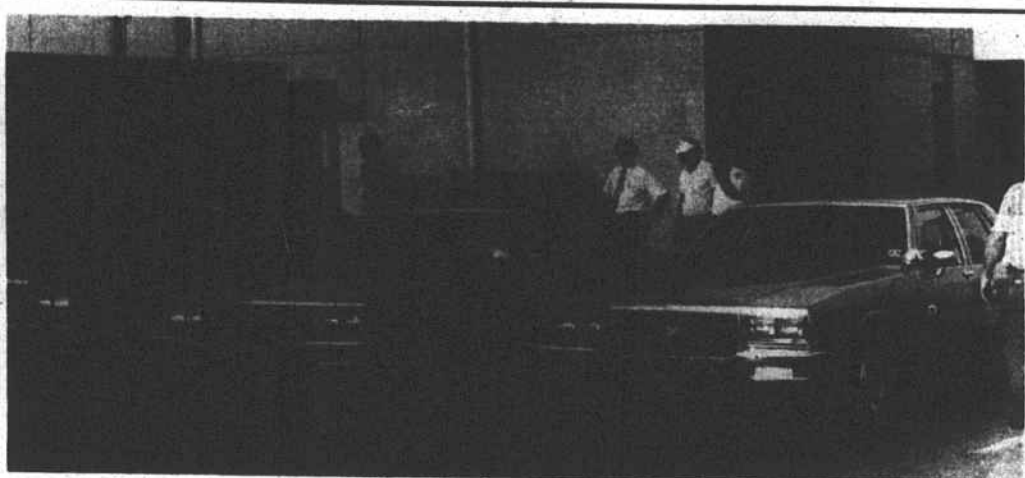
and perhaps repairing some old sewer lines, said Cowan.

In Monday night's meeting of the Raeford City Council, Phillips said the money could also be used to extend water and sewer lines to a planned motel site outside of Raeford.

The amount of money allocated Hoke County is dictated by population of the county, according to a memorandum from the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management.

The 1985 General Assembly appropriated \$60 million each for

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Almost new

Two old cars and a new car, used for comparison, were on hand for Monday night's meeting of the Raeford City Council. The two old cars have been rebuilt by the city's shop and are as good as new, according to City Manager Tom Phillips. Taxpayers saved over \$7,000 per car by rebuilding in-

stead of replacing the cars, Phillips said. Pictured (R to L) are Police Detective Robert Murdock, Raeford Fire Marshal Terry Tapp, Phillips, Councilman Bob Gentry and Police Chief Leonard Wig-

Main Street to be closed

By Ed Miller

Raeford's Main Street will be closed on the day of the First Annual North Carolina Turkey Festival if the merchants involved agree to the closing, according to a motion passed Monday night by the Raeford City Council.

Councilmen agreed to the closing from 10 p.m. Friday, September 20 to 6 p.m. Saturday, September 21.

The street needs to be closed on Friday night to allow time for booths to be set up on sidewalks along the strip, said Beverly Pasternak, Executive Secretary for the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

Pasternak gave councilmen a rundown of scheduled events for the five days of the festival.

Representing the Chamber of Commerce, Pasternak also gave councilmen a packet containing festival paraphernalia including a shirt and balloons.

"Preserving the past...Creating the future" is the new slogan recently adopted by the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission, according to Development Director John Howard.

In a presentation to councilmen, Howard said that he is currently working with three industries hoping they may choose Hoke County as their home.

Although Howard could not comment on the nature of the industries or their names, one of them would employ 50 people and require little from the county or city in the way of special utilities, said the developer.

Searching for industry is a major portion of Howard's job, he told councilmen.

Also important to the future of Hoke County's economy is "significant business," said Howard.

The new Price Rite building supply center, currently being built in Rockfish, and the new First Hoke Savings and Loan were deemed significant businesses by Howard because they are specialized and involve area and community support, he said.

Howard also listed supportive projects ongoing that will help to insure the economic future of the county.

Extended area telephone service, the four-laning of Highway 401, the establishment of a community college, downtown revitalization, and finding funding sources are just a few of the projects Howard listed.

"Animation in the community" was cited by Howard as being a drawing card for attracting outside interests.

"The Turkey Festival is a wonderful example of animation in the community," said Howard. (See MAIN, page 2A)

Board of Education decision upheld, Baker terminated

By Ed Miller

A Special Superior Court Judge, James A. Beatty Jr., has found in favor of the Hoke County Board of Education in a case where a teacher appealed her dismissal from the school system.

Ethelyn H. Baker, whose contract was not renewed before the 1984-85 school year, appealed the decision of the Board of Education up to the superior court level.

The case was heard on July 10.

In a summary of his findings, Beatty said "the evidence presented to the board substantiates its conclusions that Mrs. Baker's actions and reactions constituted inadequate performance...when reviewed in the light of the reasonable expectation that teachers are held to a higher standard of personal conduct given the youthful ideas they are supposed to foster and elevate."

"The findings of facts made by the Hoke County Board of Education on November 5, 1984 are

substantially supported by the evidence presented during the hearings of October 29 and 30, 1984.

On those dates, the school board met in closed sessions to hear testimony as to the reasons for the teacher's dismissal.

Before those meetings, on August 13, 1984, a Professional Review Committee found unanimously that Baker should be reinstated.

According to Beatty, the committee did not give enough consideration to "the effect which Mrs. Baker's inability to get along with her fellow faculty members had upon the maintenance of order and respect for adults among the children who witnessed or were affected by the actions, statements and relationships which Mrs. Baker exhibited with others."

"Mrs. Baker's sometime insulting remarks to teachers and abruptness with parents is not the type of behavior that teachers

should use for children to imitate or emulate," Beatty said.

"Mrs. Baker, through her evidence and testimony does not dispute the substance of the facts found by the board, but rather that she offered her own characterization or explanation of what happened," he said.

According to testimony given in the court hearing, Baker's attorney, Yvonne Mims Evans, told Beatty that some of the incidents for which the teacher was fired did not happen the way the Board of Education said they did.

Baker is alleged to have verbally abused students, walked out on parent-teacher conferences, been abusive to other teachers and been so intolerable to get along with that three teacher aides walked out on her in one year, according to Martin N. Erwin, attorney for the Board of Education.

Although Judge Beatty found in favor of the school board, he also

(See BOARD, page 2A)



The wait

This is the meal line at 4-H camp. Sure, one has to stand in line, but there is much fun to be had in line when no one is looking. For more about this summer's 4-H camp, see page one of B of today's News-Journal.

Incubator could draw businesses

By Ed Miller

Raeford and Hoke County could become an attractive location for small business owners if a "business incubator" is incorporated, Economic Developer John Howard told members of the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission.

In Tuesday's meeting of the commission, Howard explained that a business incubator is a large facility that will house a number of small businesses under one roof.

The incubator concept began when the 1983 North Carolina General Assembly formed the N.C. Technical Development Authority, a group charged with research and development of activities in small business, said Howard.

The authority also makes special offerings to help areas start incubators, said the developer.

Through state funding, one-time grants of up to \$200,000 are offered to begin an incubator.

The money must be matched with cash or real estate, said Howard.

An incubator must be operated

by a non-profit corporation, the developer said.

Once the incubator is established, the state takes the deed to the building, he said.

An incubator arrangement will provide small business people with low rent spaces, lower than they could find elsewhere in the town, shared support services and basic equipment, such as copying machines, commissioners were told.

The system offers participants access to technical, management and business assistance.

Currently, there are 14 incubators operating in North Carolina, but they have been in existence for such short times that only one is operating to potential, said Howard.

Another benefit to Raeford and Hoke County is that there are no incubators close by, he said.

According to the developer, a prime example of the type people who would be attracted to an incubator in Hoke County would be a man or woman currently in

(See ECONOMIC, page 10A)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather has been perfect for the past few days. The temperatures have been in the 80s during the day and in the 60s at night. It does seem a little strange for this type of weather in August.

The forecast is the same for the remainder of the week, but it could get in the high 80s by the weekend.

We folks that have lived in Raeford all our lives don't think much about the changes that are taking place every year. We just change with things and accept them as either progress or going backward.

Luke McNeill, who retired several months ago, has taken up the hobby of making TV cassettes of people and places in Hoke County. He has also put together some old pictures and films of things around Raeford many years ago. Luke has mailed many of the cassettes to friends that live away from Raeford. He has received many letters thanking him for bringing back fond memories of Raeford and Hoke County.

I have chosen one of these letters to run in this column this week that will speak for all these former Hoke natives.

This first letter is from Mrs. Thelma Johnson Vann of Riverside, Calif. She is an aunt of many people in Hoke County, including Agnes M. Johnson Campbell and all the Clyde Upchurch family.

Her letter is as follows:

"Don't faint, Luke dear, it is Aunt Tee. I don't know if Jimmy ever thanked you for the wonderful tape you made him, for he was a very poor letter writer, and as you know he did not live too long after receiving the tape, and too, he had no video machine, but he was thrilled and so longed to see the tape... well, when Frances was getting ready to leave California and Van and I were helping her sort out and get ready to sell, the tape came home with me... At that time I was too numb to think, so I put the tape on the shelf with all Van's movie equipment... yesterday, out of a clear but windy sky, he said I am going to buy a video

(See AROUND, page 10A)

Turkey fest plans

Miss North Carolina and the rock band Nantucket have been signed to take part in the first North Carolina Turkey Festival scheduled for Raeford September 18-21.

Joni Parker, who was recently crowned Miss North Carolina, will ride in the first Turkey Parade on Wednesday evening, and nationally known recording stars Nantucket will perform Saturday on Main Street.

The Nantucket performance, which is scheduled from 2 to 3 p.m. will be part of the day-long continuous music and entertainment on Saturday.

The rock group is being sponsored by Carolina Turkeys and The Tarheel Hatchery and will be free to the public.

Opening ceremonies for the festival will be held Wednesday morning. North Carolina Secretary of Agriculture Jim

Graham, along with local elected officials, are expected to take part in the festivities.

Chef Louis Osteen of the Pawleys Island Inn in Pawleys Island, South Carolina, who has gained a nationwide reputation for his skill in preparing fine food, will conduct a seminar and turkey cooking demonstration following the opening ceremonies Wednesday.

While Osteen is on the podium, five cooks, who are finalists in the North Carolina Turkey Cooking Contest, will begin preparing recipes and competing for more than \$1,000 in prize money.

Golf, tennis, bridge, eating, square dancing and turkey shooting are on tap for Thursday.

As part of the activities, the festival will present the Embers in concert for a three-hour performance at the first Turkey Park Ball to be held Friday night at Armory

Park in Raeford.

Hoke County, the festival and North Carolina received national recognition a week ago when weatherman Willard Scott donned a turkey hat and broke the news on the NBC Today Show about the events planned for Raeford.

Scott's notice of the North Carolina event was a result of contacts made with the show by Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce Executive Secretary Beverly Pasternak.

CBS and ABC were also contacted by Pasternak and future coverage from those networks is expected.

Additional promotion for the festival includes billboard, radio, television, newspaper and magazine advertising, coordinated through Hodges Advertising in Fayetteville.

(See TURKEY, page 11A)