

# The News-Journal

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## Raeford signs flood pact

By Ron Anderson

Members of the Raeford City Council took a further step in speeding along a storm drainage runoff study Thursday by awarding the job to the lowest of three bidders.

The study will be conducted by the Southern Pines firm of Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates who submitted a bid of \$7,900. City Manager Tom Phillips said the consulting engineers should begin their work the latter part of December.

Results of the study are expected this spring. "The study will tell us where the problems are and suggest possible solutions," Phillips said.

Raeford has been experiencing problems with flooding recently. The city was hit with more than 4.5 inches of rain in a two-hour period on Sunday, November 3 causing waist-deep water to flow over Patterson Street and through the E. Donaldson Avenue.

Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates will be analyzing drainage patterns and developing necessary calculations to determine the adequacy of existing facilities, according to a proposal submitted to the city.

They will also be identifying problem areas and making recommendations on how to improve the drainage problem as well as preparing maps and cost estimates for the proposed improvements.

The other two firms to turn in bids were McKim and Creed Engineers at \$8,950 and Finkbeiner, Pettis & Stroud at \$8,500.

Both companies had previously submitted higher bids prior to council's October meeting, but resubmitted their proposals with lower price tags.

City Manager Phillips said the original proposals were "so high we couldn't live with them."

During a short discussion before council voted on accepting Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates' bid, Councilman Bob Gentry asked Phillips if he felt the low bidder was able to do the job as well as the higher bidders.

"I don't believe there's any question that any of the three are capable of the work," Phillips answered.

Also during the meeting, veteran City Councilman, Graham M. Clark, was presented a plaque in recognition of his 16 years on the city council.

Clark fell short of a ninth term in office by seven votes during November's election.

"There have not been many people who have served as long as you have," said McNeil.

"I've enjoyed serving with you boys-all of you," Clark told the councilmen.



### Appreciation service

Raeford City Councilman Graham Clark (right) accepts a plaque of appreciation from Mayor John K. McNeill during last week's special council meeting. Clark, who was defeated in the November 5 election, served on the board for more than 16 years and served as Mayor Pro Tem.



### Death scene

Law enforcement officers and rescue personnel investigate the scene of last Friday's fatal crash. A Lumberton man, who was driving the car on the

right, was killed in the accident which occurred during heavy rains Friday on State Road 1244 just outside Raeford.

## Wrecks leave one dead, one critical

Three automobile accidents in Hoke County last weekend left one person dead and several injured.

Walter Clifford Mitchell was pronounced dead at the scene Friday after his 1977 Chrysler crossed the center line during a rain storm and hit a 1974 Chevrolet driven by Everline McByde Hailey.

McByde was pronounced dead at the scene by Hoke County Medical Examiner Dr. Robert Townsend Jr.

Mitchell, 61 of 505 W. 34th St. Lumberton was traveling south on Rural Paved Road 1244, .8 miles west of Raeford when the accident occurred at approximately 3:55 p.m., according to a report by Ben Burr, investigating officer for the NC Highway Patrol.

Everline McByde Hailey, Rt. 1, Shannon, and passenger Frances Haymes, Rt. 1 Shannon, were traveling north on the road when the Chrysler hit them head on.

Records show that both Hailey and Haymes were transported to Cape Fear Valley Hospital, but Monday a hospital spokesman confirmed that only Hailey had been treated and released.

In another incident, Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said that Cynthia Murchison, 30, of 106 Bethel Road was taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital early Saturday morning to be treated for injuries she received in a single car accident.

At approximately 3:55 a.m. Murchison was traveling south on Main Street in her 1977 Chrysler, when she apparently slammed on her brakes, went over the median and rammed into a tree on the opposite side of the street between 6th and 7th Streets, the chief said.

"From all indications, she was by herself," Wiggins said.

Murchison was taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital.

On Monday, a hospital spokesman said Murchison was in critical condition and was in

the intensive care unit.

Wiggins said the Chrysler was totaled in the accident.

A five-car accident occurred in South Hoke around 12:20 Saturday morning, according to NC Highway Patrolman Ben Burr.

A 1978 Ford was totaled after it went through a fence and cable at the Nashville Club on 211 East and hit three parked cars.

According to the report, the car was being driven by Pamela Locklear, Rt. 1, Shannon when a 1970 pickup truck driven by her husband, Wilbert Locklear attempted to pass her.

Three people were injured and transported to Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton, according to the report.

Damage to the three vehicles hit amounted to approximately \$1,500.

Both Wilbert and Pamela Locklear were charged with careless and reckless driving, the report indicated.

## Three charged for break-in

Three Raeford residents were arrested and charged with breaking into a McCain residence last Friday.

The trio was charged with breaking and entering and larceny in connection with a break-in Friday at the residence of Ruth Collins, of McCain, according to records at the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Arrested were Jerry McNeill, 30, of 146 Nevada Road, Raeford, his wife, Patricia Johnson McNeill, of the same address, and Horace (Deno) McAllister, 36, of Scotland Avenue, Raeford.

The McNeills are both being held in jail while McAllister has been released on bond.

The three allegedly took items valued at \$1,879 from Collins' house including a color TV, a VCR and a kerosene heater.

According to the report, a man riding by the Collins residence at approximately 3:46 p.m. on Friday noticed a green Chrysler parked in the driveway, and two black men and a black woman coming out of the house.

The witness asked one of the men (who happened to be carrying a radio) what he was doing.

"I was checking," the man allegedly replied.

The sheriff's department was notified of the incident.

Law enforcement officers found noone at Collins' residence when they arrived but did see that someone had entered the house by breaking the glass on the kitchen door.

Later Detective Ed Harris and Deputy Mack High found a green Chrysler parked in front of the residence of Jerry and Patricia McNeill on Nevada Street in Raeford.

Noone was home at the residence so they had the Chrysler towed away and waited for the McNeills to return.

At 5:55 p.m. Jerry McNeill, and Horace McAllister drove up in a blue Ford.

Inside the car was apparently the missing VCR.

The two men were taken into custody, and the law officers waited at the McNeill residence.

When Patricia McNeill returned home, the officers allegedly found the remainder of the stolen property in the living room of the trailer.

In an unrelated incident, Tony Lamont McRae, 20, of Rt. 1 Box 309 Shannon, was arrested and charged with the theft of an amplifier worth \$200.

According to a sheriff's depart-

ment report, Lamont allegedly took a the amplifier from a car belonging to William Thomas Winston, Rt. 1, Box 308, Shannon.

McRae, 20, allegedly stole the amplifier from Winston's car sometime on Saturday, November 11 while the vehicle was parked in the front yard of Winston's yard, records say.

McRae had allegedly sold the stolen property to another person.

The stolen amplifier had been recovered.

In another incident, Fred English, Rt. 4, Box 388, Raeford reported a break-in at his residence sometime Wednesday while he was at work.

The report says that English left his home at 6 a.m., returned at 9:15 that evening and discovered a kerosene heater and color television set missing from his house.

Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins reports that an undetermined amount of money was removed from a money bag at David's Food Store, 103 Main St., Raeford on November 17.

The chief also said that two turkeys and two peacocks were stolen from the residence of Jack Ellis, 509 E. Elwood Avenue, Raeford.

## Suspect being sought for rape

Law enforcement officers have suspects and are continuing to investigate last week's rape of a 75-year old Hoke County woman, Sheriff Dave Barrington said Monday.

"No arrests have been made, but we do have several suspects," Barrington said.

The sheriff's office received a call that a 75-year-old white woman in the Hillcrest area had been raped at 1:44 a.m. last Wednesday.

Detective Weaver Patterson and deputies Ronnie Lowery and Wayne Gardner arrived at the victim's residence at close to 1:48 a.m., Barrington said.

The officers said the victim told them she had been asleep on the couch when she heard someone knocking on the door.

Thinking it was a neighbor, the woman opened the door.

The suspect walked into the residence and hit the victim in the

face with his fist, Barrington said.

Then the suspect dragged the victim into the bedroom and allegedly raped her.

After the victim was interviewed by the law officers, she was taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital where she was treated and released.

Barrington would not speculate when an arrest would be made, and he deferred further comment about the investigation.

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

Hurricane Kate came up the coast last Friday and it brought much rain to Hoke County. It didn't do any damage, but it was a miserable day. It cleared Saturday, but the weather was cold.

The forecast for the coming week is for cooler weather and the temperatures being in the 50s and 60s during the day. So maybe winter will arrive on Thanksgiving.

The Downtown Revitalization Committee and the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Christmas tree lighting and caroling on Sunday, December 1 at 5 p.m. The tree that will be lighted is between the Raeford United Methodist Church and the Hoke County Courthouse.

This tree was planted by a Girl Scout Troop that had used the church many years ago. It is a white pine.

(See AROUND, page 2A)



### Inside today

It takes many hands to prepare a Thanksgiving bird, and The House of Raeford has some of the best. We take a look at the local turkey processing plant on page one of section B in today's News-Journal.

## Faberge gives big push for United Fund

Employees at Faberge set a new record this year by contributing \$15,000 to the 1985 Hoke County United Fund Drive.

The figure represents over half of the local fund drive's goal of \$28,953.

"We had an opportunity to ask the employees to participate in the community and they responded. I'm so proud of them," Don Hammes, Faberge vice president of manufacturing, said.

Of the 510 employees at the local plant, 87 percent participated in the fund drive.

A number of employees pledged over \$200 and Hammes said he believes many of them also contributed at home.

Director of Personnel, Bob Gregory, said that he met with the various supervisors in the plant and explained to them the goals of the Hoke County drive.

(See UNITED, page 2A)



### Piles of cash

Ken Witherspoon, president of the 1985 Hoke County United Way Fund Drive, (center) accepts money and pledges for the local drive from Don Hammes, vice president of manufacturing, Faberge, (left) and Bob Gregory, director of personnel, Faberge. Employees at the local plant managed to raise \$15,000 for the drive.

## Tree lighting planned Sun.

A Christmas tree lighting program has been planned for Raeford this Sunday afternoon.

The program features carolling by a community choir composed of members from various local church choirs beginning at 5 p.m. and lasting for approximately 45 minutes.

The choir will be under the direction of Associate Minister Ray Harris of the Raeford Presbyterian Church.

At the end of the singing, Christmas lights will be turned on throughout downtown Raeford.

Also a large white pine tree between the Raeford United Methodist Church and the courthouse will be lighted with small white lights.

Residents are urged to decorate early so they may participate in the lighting.

The program, sponsored by the Downtown Revitalization Committee (See TREE, page 2A)