

The News-Journal

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

Students attend
SADD convention

On 10A

Lopez elected
to board of directors

On 8A

Covering Hoke County Like A Roof Since 1905

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Commissioners OK CDBG cash match

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Members of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners Tuesday night made a pre-commitment of a \$60,000 cash contribution for the proposed Community Development Block Grant application.

The county is not officially committed to the contribution until after the second public hearing on the grant on May 4.

Prior to the decision, Economic Developer John Howard told commissioners that due to the competitive nature of the grant that a cash match less than \$50,000 would "greatly increase the odds of not being able to win."

He said that a match in the range of 10 to 15 percent of the \$600,000 possible grant monies would be appropriate.

"I recommend \$60,000 as an appropriate cash match for the commissioners to consider," Howard said.

Based on preparation surveys which have been done for the grant application by temporary staff, Howard said there were 500 severely depressed homes in the county which needed renovation.

He said the staff would need to meet with the Citizens Advisory Council and decide on what portion of this housing would be the target areas for improvement.

"There is no question of Hoke County qualifying for the grant," Howard said.

County Manager William (Bub) Cowan said the cash match funds appropriations would need to be reserved in next year's budget.

Cowan explained that up to 15 percent of the grant monies given to the county could go to local op-

tion needs, such as a countywide water system, street and drainage improvement and possibly even solid waste collection centers.

Use of the money in this way is allowed if the projects it is used for benefit low and moderate income residents.

If the county received \$600,000 in grant monies, up to \$90,000 of this money could be used for local option improvements.

"I have no problem with spending \$60,000 to get \$90,000, if we don't raise taxes," said Commissioner Chairman Wyatt Upchurch.

Commissioner Mabel Riley expressed the concern that if taxes were raised, rural residents would not be able to afford them.

In other business, commissioners approved a proposed massage parlor ordinance and set a public hearing for the ordinance for May 18 at 7:30 p.m.

County Attorney Duncan McFayden said the ordinance "puts strong regulations" on those who establish massage parlors, health salons and clubs and requires them to be "first rate" businesses.

The proposed ordinance states that its purpose is "to protect the general health, safety, welfare and morals of the citizens and residents of Hoke County."

In further business, commissioners approved a proposed revision to the Hoke County Subdivision Regulations and set a public hearing for the ordinance for May 18 at 7:45 p.m.

The revision would define a minor subdivision as one "involving no new public or private streets or roads, no easements and no utility extension."

Egg hunt



Anthony Graham, 2, is ready for the Easter Egg hunt to begin at an Easter party at Hillcrest Day Care last week. Anthony, the son of Tony and Debbie Graham of Raeford, had a basket full of eggs and candy by the time the hunt was over.

School Board adopts budget

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Members of the Hoke County Board of Education last Wednesday adopted their 1987-88 budget which includes a five percent increase in teachers salaries as well as a teacher supplement which has not been given for several years.

Business Manager Don Steed has informed Hoke County Commissioners that this year's increase of 6.76 percent in the budget's total of \$1,395,070, is the same percentage of increase that the board received in the 1986-87 budget.

Steed said in a statement to the commissioners that the board had several objectives in mind when they decided on next year's budget.

The board intends to implement the Basic Education Plan as instituted by the state, maintain Southern Association standards, enhance the Extended Summer School Program and work toward better educational opportunities for students in the county.

Included in the ten new items in this year's budget is \$43,000 for the salary increase, \$30,500 for teacher supplements and \$5,000 to establish soccer, a new sport for the school system.

Jacqueline Gladney, N.C. Association of Educators president-elect for District 10, said of the recent move by the board, that "It would really be great if the commissioners approved this item in the budget."

"Teacher morale would be overwhelmed," she said. "We are elated that the Board of Education supports us."

Before the board decided on the \$100 per teacher supplement, Gladney, a Hoke High School librarian, sent information from the N.C.A.E. to school board members regarding teacher supplements in other counties.

The supplements will be paid for by military impact aid funds from the Department of Defense.

The 10 new items which have been added to the budget total \$117,950. Three major items, totaling \$29,615, have been deleted from the budget, Steed said in the letter.

A portion of the salary of the Personnel Director, \$18,000, was cut from the budget. This portion will be paid for from federal funds.

This year the school will not be responsible for a one-time fee of \$9,815 which is part of the schools' Liability Insurance.

(See SCHOOL, on page 2A)

Judge calls for recess in Cummings trial

The Superior Court trial of Edward Lee Cummings, the Wake County man accused of murdering a Raleigh woman, was recessed last week after the woman's mother and Hoke County officials were called as witnesses by the defense.

Cummings is accused of slaying Karen Marie Puryear of Raleigh, whose body was found in a shallow grave in Hoke County last January.

Judge Robert Farmer recessed court last Wednesday saying that court proceedings had "moved faster than the court had anticipated".

A judges conference was

scheduled for this week and Superior Court will not be in session. Farmer said the case would resume on the week starting April 27. At this time, the prosecution, led by Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell, will continue presenting evidence and calling witnesses.

Farmer told the jury that the court case would probably last through the week of May 4.

On the Tuesday, before court was recessed, Karen's mother, Faye Puryear, was called to the stand.

Puryear testified that Cummings and her daughter began to have a relationship when Karen was 15.

Proceedings to resume Monday

They were not married but had three children together, one of which died in childbirth.

She testified that she reported her daughter missing in November of 1985. Shortly after, she said, she discussed the children's future with Cummings suggesting that the Department of Social Services could help the children.

She reported that Cummings became upset when she suggested this, making threats to anyone who would try to take the children away from him.

In cross-examination by defense lawyer Jim Parrish, Mrs. Puryear also testified that Cummings loved the children.

Also testifying last week were Hoke County Sheriff's Department officials Detective C.E. Harris and Sheriff Dave Barrington.

Harris said that the day on which Karen's body was excavated from the shallow gravesite in Hoke County where it was found, there was a 4-by-8 piece of plywood and a bucket found near the site.

The plywood, retrieved from the

water by a nearby resident, had reddish-brown and blue stains. Laboratory tests have been performed on these stained areas to determine materials present in them.

Barrington, who testified last Wednesday, described the house which Cummings was building in Hoke County near State Road 1219. He said the house had three bedrooms, one of which was finished, another nearly completed and another which was not completed.

He said that the windows were complete but were covered on the inside with some kind of material. Earlier on Wednesday, Raleigh

native Bonnie Fowler, who said that she had been hired as Cummings' babysitter, testified that she had been to the house with Cummings in January of 1986 and that the house had "no windows".

In cross-examination, Fowler was shown a photograph of the house which had windows on it, which she said was the house she had seen.

Barrington said, during cross-examination, that the house belonging to Cummings was further away from the gravesite where Puryear's body was found than was a house and farm belonging to another resident in the county.

(See TRIAL, on page 3A)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather was nice for Easter and since that day the temperatures have been in the 80s in Hoke County. It has rained and last week we had over three inches. The ground is wet, but the sunshine and wind will soon dry out the fields.

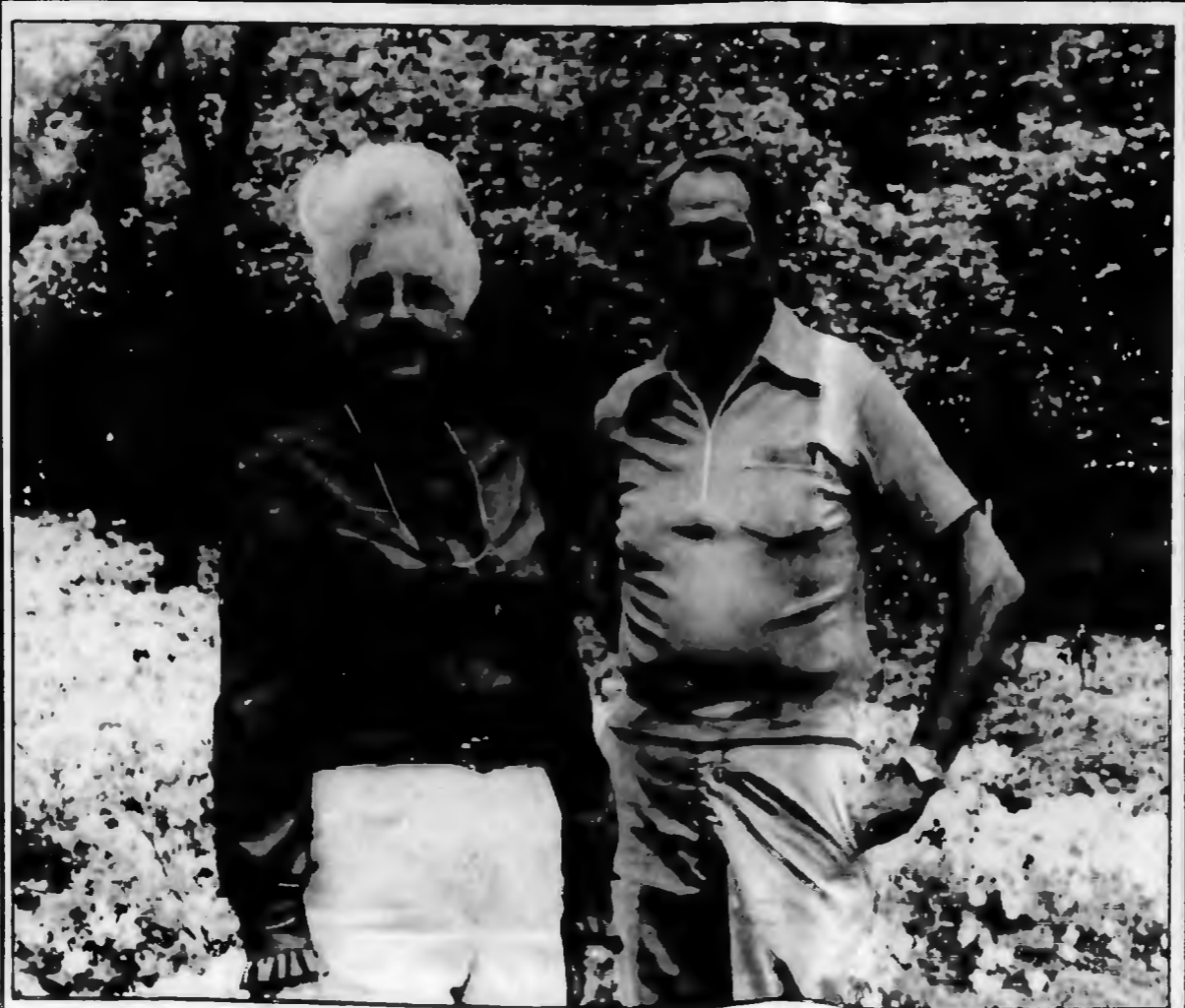
The forecast is for the weather to remain hot for the remainder of the week. Maybe we have seen the last of the cold weather.

I don't believe that the peach crop was hurt at all. My friend, Raz Autry, has been on a visit to Korea and I haven't had any information about the peach situation.

The dogwood trees are in full bloom and it doesn't look like many of the trees were hurt by the cold weather. Hugh Lowe was telling me Monday that one tree in his yard was not as pretty as the others because it had been hurt by the cold weather when it was budding.

So maybe the peach crop will be like the dogwood blossoms and only a few trees will be hurt. Let's hope this is correct.

The nice weather on Easter Sun-
(See AROUND, on page 3A)



Azaleas
Gene and Janie Barbour take great pride in their azalea gardens in the Cumbernald County section of the Rockfish Community. We take a closer look at those gardens on page 1B.

Two Raeford sites purchased for intermediate care homes

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Two sites have been located in Raeford by a Southern Pines firm, and have been purchased for the establishment of intermediate care facility homes for the mentally retarded, according to a company spokesman.

Charles Stephens said last week that Professional Community Services (Procomm) purchased land on the northwest side of town off Highway 2 and on the east side of Raeford.

The sites were found after negotiations for two other sites in the county were aborted. Stephens said the owners of this land wanted the company to purchase more land than it needed for the facilities.

According to Stephens, the site on the northwest side of town already has a house standing which will be renovated for use as an ICF home.

He said the house should be ready by late May or around June 1 for occupancy by clients.

A home will be constructed on the location on the east side of town, after a building permit is acquired. Stephens said construction on this home should begin in the

next two to three weeks.

Southeastern Health Care Investors will be building the structures. Procomm will be operating the homes.

In February, the Raeford City Council voted against rezoning an area in the city limits so that the homes could be built.

"It's taken some time to locate the homes close-in to the city, but I think this will be better in the long run," Stephens said.

Stephens said that hesitancy on the part of residents to have the homes located in their communities is founded mainly upon "fear of the unknown."

However, he said, "when you see them, it is very hard to be threatened by them."

He said clients residing at the home will be attending the Adult Developmental Activity Program which is offered by the Sandhills Center for Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

The program will be instructing them in areas including daily living skills and job skills.

Services provided at the home by Procomm are funded by Medicaid through the Department of Human Resources.