

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, July 3, 1991

County getting out of Raeford Auto contract; will buy building

Hoke County commissioners decided to buy their way out of a contract with a developer to fix up the old Raeford Auto Company building on Raeford's Main Street as court facilities. Instead, the county will renovate the building itself.

Plans to renovate the building has lain dead because the state discovered the ground under the building was contaminated by gasoline leaking

from rusting iron tanks.

Plans for the renovated building call for a courtroom, judge's chambers, the chief judge's office, a conference room, district attorneys' offices, public defenders' offices, the Clerk of Court and possibly child support. Much of the office space has been housed temporarily in the first floor of the old Bank of Raeford building

just up Main Street.

Under the current contract, Raleigh developer Davidson and Jones bought the Raeford Auto Company with the provision it would renovate it and sell it back to the county.

But the developer is having some financial trouble; company official Ray DeBruhl agreed to rescind the contract with the county if it pays

interest and covers Davidson and Jones' costs.

Commissioners agreed to buy out of the contract for \$102,298.91. The building originally cost about \$65,273.

In the new budget, commissioners approved \$105,000 for a line item titled "Capital outlay-land."

(See COUNTY, page 14)

Man shot to death outside club

A Raeford man was shot to death outside a Jones Hill club late Friday night. Another Raeford man was charged with his murder.

Archie Purcell, 26, was found dead by Det. Danny Wilson of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department after being called to investigate a report of shots fired at the club.

Matthew Vidal Kelly, 18, of 1581 McBride Lake Road was charged with the murder and placed in Hoke County Jail without bond. He allegedly shot Purcell in the face at close range with a sawed-off shotgun.

Kelly and Purcell were apparently arguing over a woman.

"This all started from a domestic-type thing," Det. Wilson said.

Purcell was apparently leaning into a car in which Kelly sat.

"As Matthew came out of the vehicle, Archie was looking in and then boom," Wilson said.

Purcell was pronounced dead on the scene by Dr. Robert Townsend. The body was sent to the medical examiner's office in Chapel Hill.

Wilson said he planned to charge Kelly with possession of a weapon of mass destruction and possession of a weapon by a felon on probation.

The murder charge would violate five terms of probation Kelly is now serving for prior crimes. He had been paroled from prison only three weeks before the shooting.

(See CRIME, page 3)



"A Coke and a smile"

Kristen Register takes a break from clowning duties for a soft drink at Operation Celebration in Raeford Sunday. The weather was hot, but a

crowd turned out at the old armory for a brief ceremony to welcome home troops from Operation Desert Storm.

School Board selects new school principals

Hoke County is getting two new principals to lead its two new middle schools.

The School Board announced Monday night that Jack Burgess, a principal at Westmore Elementary in Moore County, will lead West Hoke Middle School on Highway 211 West.

Randy Bridges, an assistant principal at Lee County's East Lee Middle School, will head East Hoke Middle School on U.S. 401 North.

"I think my bottom line philosophy is very simple," Bridges said yesterday, "to provide the best teaching and learning experience possible."

His teachers will have enough leeway to use their strengths in the classroom, he said.

"I think you achieve those goals by allowing the teachers to have a great deal of input," he said.

Jack Burgess has also served as assistant principal at Union Pines High School in Cameron, as a teacher, coach,

and job counselor.

He cited much the same goal as Bridges: the best possible education for the student.

"It's just going to take a tremendous amount of cooperation and hard work to meet that goal."

"I'd like to increase the emphasis on reading and certainly on science concepts and continue the programs that are already in place with improvement in test scores," he said.

Burgess and Bridges replace outgoing principals Emma Mims and Leo Salzer. Mims retired last month and Salzer was fired by the board of education despite a recommendation he be continued by then-superintendent Bob Nelson.

Burgess and Bridges were recommended by new superintendent Bill Harrison at his first official board meeting Monday night.

He said 14 people applied for the jobs; a search committee recommended seven to him.

Sheriff's hearing is over Judge expected to decide next week

Sheriff Alex Norton can rest for awhile. The trial to decide whether or not he will keep his job is over, Superior Court Judge Donald W. Stephens said Wednesday he would decide Norton's fate by next week.

"It is one of the most difficult tasks that I have ever been assigned for obvious reasons," Stephens said at the end of closing arguments Wednesday.

In finishing her case, District Attorney Jean Powell said Norton lied on the witness stand when questioned about court papers which had been changed by one of his deputies. The petition charges Norton told Sgt. Josh Brown to illegally add his name to court documents after it was discovered they had been served by an underage deputy.

She said the sheriff's testimony didn't match that of several other witnesses; in particular, that he ordered employee Sarah Norris to draw up a list of papers—which had been served by an underage deputy—for Sergeant Josh Brown to take with him to the Clerk of Court's office.

"We would submit that they were very credible witnesses and their testimony was very consistent...with each other."

Norris testified Norton ordered her to draw up the list; several courthouse clerks said on the stand they saw the same list.

"Sarah Norris was a person who was obviously under a lot of pressure when she was up here," District Attorney Powell said, "but...it was clear that she heard Sheriff Norton tell Josh Brown to go up to the courthouse."

"It all ties together."

That was not the only time Norton lied, Powell said.

"The sheriff said in his statement to the SBI officer that Sergeant Brown was the training officer for Robert Reaves."

"The evidence corroborates with Sergeant Brown's testimony that he was not with Robert Reaves."

"I would question why under the shining sun Josh Brown would say, after the petition was filed, that he was with Robert Reaves." (See SHERIFF, page 5)

Mother, son build dream castle

Two people in Hoke County are working in their backyard to make a dream come true.

That might not sound so special, if you've ever built up a car or started a small business in your garage, until you know their dream is to build a castle.

No, not a sand castle. And not a wooden fort like the carpenter's son had when you were a kid. We're talking a real, live, 60-foot high castle here.

Ingeborg Katolik, a German-born artist living near Rockfish, said she

has been working on the castle's design for three years.

She said she got the dream of building her own castle from her childhood.

"I am raised on a castle as a child; it's called *Schloss Salder*," she said, located in northwest Germany.

Her mother served as a cook in the castle.

Ingeborg's son Gurgin (pronounced Yur-gen) has been building the castle in the backyard almost completely by himself for a year and a half.

"We will make a little development here with a garden," Ingeborg said.

"I make it not for the normal human being," she said. "You have enough people who like to travel and see something beautiful."

"I make a little paradise out here."

She said the castle will serve mainly as a bed-and-breakfast inn for travelers willing to veer out of their way for an unusual experience. An upstairs suite will be Ingeborg's studio.

She plans to paint the ceiling (See CASTLE, page 10)



A castle in Rockfish rises behind its German creator, Gurgin Katolik. His mother, Ingeborg, designed the castle to fulfill a childhood dream.

Fire damages Buie home

Lightning sparked a fire that damaged the old "Buie homeplace" off Vass Road early this morning.

North Raeford and Raeford fire departments and the Hoke Rescue Squad were called out at about 2 a.m., North Raeford Fire Chief Johnny Baker said.

Baker said he believed Pauline Buie lived in the house. She escaped unharmed.

He said fire damage was limited to the upstairs portion of the home, but the downstairs was damaged by water.

Baker said he believes lightning ran in on the house's wiring during a thunderstorm just after midnight. The storm dropped three-quarters of an inch of rain amid frequent lightning strikes.

Baker said he was "kind of expecting" a fire because of the frequent lightning.

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

Summer is now with us and the temperatures have followed the season. The 90-degree weather and the high humidity wears you out in no time. As this is being written Monday afternoon it is raining, but I don't believe it will be enough to wet the ground.

The forecast for the remainder of the week calls for the temperatures during the day to be in the 90s and the lows at night will be in the 70s. One reporter stated Monday that we should have fireworks on Thursday, July 4th; not firecrackers, but thundershowers. As most of us know with the high thermometer readings we could have thunderstorms any afternoon.

Many businesses will be closed Thursday for the 4th. This is one of the holidays that hasn't been moved to Monday. According to the people who keep the figures July 4th is the second most traveled holiday of the year. Labor Day is number one.

If you plan to be on the highways on the 4th, please drive carefully. In this day and time you must drive defensively every step of the way.

Robert Gatlin came by the office last week after the paper was out and said that Lewis Upchurch was not on the 1920 football team. He said that they played together and that Lewis didn't play five years of ball. I showed him the picture, but Robert said it wasn't Lewis Upchurch.

I still would like to know who was on the 1920 team and I would also like for someone to come by the office and identify the people in the picture.

It would be a fine thing if everyone would write the names on the back of pictures. There are many old photos in Hoke County that you can't tell who the people are in the pictures. So check your photo album and put the names on the pictures. Your grandchildren may someday wonder who you are?

Last Friday morning before going to the golf course with Tom Groome, pastor of the Raeford Presbyterian Church, I left the office to get my mail. As I headed up Elwood Avenue toward the post office, I saw someone walking with a lady on Elwood about in front of where Wendell Young lives. Stopping in my (See AROUND, page 12)