

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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Meeting set for public as builder starts 801 housing project

A public meeting to introduce 801 Housing, a project for enlisted military families, has been set for tonight at 7 in the cafeteria of Scurlock Elementary School.

Earlier this year, the Corps of Engineers awarded Universal Services Company, Inc., of Houston a contract to build the housing, which a private management company will lease to the

Army for 20 years.

The 250 two- and four-bedroom houses will be sited on the corner of Rockfish and Townsend Roads in eastern Hoke.

Supporters of the project say it will build up the county's tax base and will stimulate the economy.

Critics of the project say 801 Housing will

mean higher law enforcement, school and fire protection costs, and say enlisted families are likely to spend their money in Fayetteville or at Fort Bragg's PX and commissary, not in Hoke County.

Hoke has been under consideration for an 801 Housing project since 1989.

Despite a push from Congressman Bill Hefner

and Hoke commissioners, the project has run against several roadblocks in its two-year history.

The project was frozen last November by Defense Secretary Dick Cheney as part of an effort to cut military spending.

But 801 Housing came off the federal back burner early this year when the U.S. Department (See 801, page 8)



Thanksgiving visitor

Jennifer Rinker felt right at home with a Thanksgiving visitor to the Children's Developmental Center last week.

The Rev. Oscar Henderson of Robeson County visited the Center's children and those of Hillcrest Day Care II the day before Thanksgiving.

World War II vet Wilson McBryde recalls bombing of Pearl Harbor

Saturday marks the 50th anniversary of the date the Japanese bombed the U.S. Pacific fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The Japanese intended to knock America on its heels, enabling them to continue their conquests around the Pacific rim. But the attack instead sealed the Japanese' fate, pushing the United States once and for all into World War II.

When he was drafted into the Army July 25, 1941, Hoke County native Wilson McBryde had no idea he would be part of such a momentous event.

After spending 11 weeks in Virginia in basic training, McBryde was assigned to the Corps of Engineers. He was one of 1,500 draftees forming a new unit, the 34th Engineers.

"I was in Company A," McBryde recalled Thursday afternoon, sitting in his home on N.C. 20 near Dundarrach.

"When we were on the way to California...on the train," he said, "the headlines in the paper was no draftees were being sent overseas."

You can't believe everything you read in the papers.

When McBryde arrived in California, a sailor approached some of the men and asked if they knew where they were going to be stationed.

"There's some things you don't forget."

They said no, and the sailor told them they were headed to Hawaii.

"Well, of course, so many of us didn't even know where Hawaii was," McBryde said.

Sure enough, McBryde and the 34th Engineers were shipped to Honolulu on the island of Oahu. McBryde was in Hawaii for about two months, building roads and railroads, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

Ironically, the military had just gone off alert when the attack came.

"We had been on alert for three days before," he said. The alert ended Saturday. The attack came Sunday morning.

"We were standing in the chow line about eight o'clock," McBryde recalled. "There was a roar of airplanes overhead."

"Someone said the Navy was doing some maneuvers," he said.

The attack came without warning.

"I think everyone must have been sleeping," he said. "It looked like they were mighty careless, I

(See VET, page 5)

Cut and sew industry set to move to Hoke County resolves rezoning problems

Despite a protest from two neighbors during a public hearing, county commissioners voted unanimously to rezone the old, abandoned Ashmont School property near Ashley Heights from residential to industrial use.

Property owner Bill Gozzi, a real estate developer from Moore County, asked for the property to be rezoned so a light cut and sew industry can move into the building, said Patric Zimmer, Hoke's economic developer.

The company makes drapes, bedsheets, pillow cases and covers for computers. Zimmer would not give the company's name, only saying it was moving from Moore County.

The company will bring 15 current workers into the plant and will hire an extra 60, Zimmer said.

Concerned the property might not be kept clean or could change hands to a disreputable industry, two neighbors voiced their opposition to changing the zoning.

The property was zoned RA-20 — useable for housing and farming only. Now it is zoned Industrial, suitable for a wide range of light industries. Any heavy industry or junk yard would have to get a conditional use permit — also requiring a public hearing — before moving in.

"If they get in there and renovate the school building," Zimmer said, "I don't think it would disadvantageously affect the adjacent land owners."

"But then again, he could change it into anything that he wants," said Michael Aaron, who owns land next to the school.

"I guess that's the risk taken with changing to industrial," Zimmer said.

"In that case, we kind of disapprove of the idea," Aaron said.

The Planning Board had recommended approval of rezoning the property, but did so with-

out holding a public hearing as called for in a section of the zoning law.

In another zoning matter, the board approved the county's first seven requests for conditional use permits, though no legal public hearing was held on them as apparently required by law.

The county board approved requests from Charley Chandler, Everette Parker, Roger L. Locklear, Samuel Locklear, Pauline Hunt, Virginia Lonkert and Unellar B. Rogers for permits to put single-wide trailers on land zoned RA-20.

On land zoned RA-20 (over 90 percent of the county), a permit is required for single-wide — or Class B — trailers, while double-wides may be set up and houses built without the special permit.

The seven had gone before the Planning Board first for public hearings on their requests; but it became clear none of them had notified all the people who owned land within 500 feet of theirs, as required by the zoning law.

According to several statements made at those hearings, the seven had been told by Linda Revels, county zoning administrator, they only had to notify people who lived within 500 feet of their property.

The Planning Board voted to recommend approval to county commissioners on each request as long as proper notification went out in time for the county board's meeting Monday.

But the county board did not hold public hearings on the requests, though it agreed to hear comments on one disputed request.

Planning Board member gets limit on one permit

Marcia Snow, a home owner adjacent to property owned by Everette Parker and also a member of the Planning Board, asked the county board to place a limit on the amount of time Parker could keep a trailer on his property.

(See COUNTY, page 10)

Man, grandson killed in wreck

A one-car accident claimed the lives of a 75-year-old man and his nine-year old grandson late Monday afternoon on Airport Road.

According to the Highway Patrol, Lawrence Lee Butler and his grandson, Toney Carpenter were killed when their car crashed into a tree about a mile southwest of Raeford Municipal Airport. Another grandson, Travis O'Brian Carpenter, 5, was slightly injured.

The patrol says Butler apparently

swerved to avoid a moped and left the road on the left side. The car crossed over across a ditch and struck a tree.

A Scotland County trooper who is investigating the accident reported both Butler and Carpenter were wearing seatbelts. An autopsy was scheduled.

Toney Carpenter was a fourth grade student at Scurlock Elementary School.

Principal Milton Williams said a guidance counselor cancelled other engagements (See FATAL, page 5)



Toney Carpenter

Pre-holiday crime wave hits county

A man with a gun robbed the A&P Store on S. Main Street Sunday.

The man first entered the store about 5:30 p.m., asking the manager about a delivery he was supposed to have gotten through Western Union, said Capt. Dick McNeill of the Raeford Police Department.

He returned about 6:15 and watched the store's two employees, McNeill said. The man again asked employee Bonnie Phillips about Western Union, then pulled a pistol and told her to get him the money from the office.

He followed her into the office where she gave him the money, McNeill said, then fled the store on foot. The robber was last seen running toward Main Street.

(See CRIME, page 9)

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather over the Thanksgiving holiday was perfect. The temperatures were in the 70s & 80s during the day and in the 60s at night. It continued into the first of the week. There was a trace of rain on Saturday night and Monday, but thunderstorms on Tuesday.

The forecast calls for the mercury to take a drop on Wednesday and continue the colder weather into the weekend. The temperatures will be in the 50s from Wednesday through Saturday and the lows for this period will be in the 20s and 30s.

The above average temperature stopped in November, where we had normal temperatures after 22 months of above normal.

Saturday, December 7 will mark the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. In 1941 on that day the Japanese bombed

Pearl Harbor and it was the beginning of World War II for American troops.

Many veterans can recall exactly where they were and what they were doing 50 years ago. It is hard to believe that this happened 50 years ago. Time moves swiftly as you get older.

The Mullet Roast was well attended last Tuesday night at the Hoke Civic Center. The sponsors of the event said that it was a record crowd for the event.

Some of the state, county and city politicians were on hand and they were shaking hands. It was good to see Representative Danny DeVane and Pete Hasty in attendance.

According to the business leaders in attendance things don't look as bad here for the future as it does across the nation.

Sheriff Wayne Byrd and his helpers did an outstanding job in preparing the (See AROUND, page 5)