

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, March 25, 1992

Day care head to pay 15 months back rent to County

Dwight Oxendine, chairman of Hoke K.I.D.S., Inc., a South Hoke day care center, owes 15 months back rent to Hoke County. The day care center is housed in South Hoke Community Building.

Oxendine has arranged with county officials to resume payments, he said yesterday; but concerns

over maintenance of the building, on which he says his non-profit company has spent a large sum of money, has prompted him to renegotiate the contract with the county at the next board meeting April 6. Oxendine would not say exactly how much he has spent on repairs.

Oxendine made his first two rent payments to

Hoke County in 1990, then stopped paying, according to county records. But Oxendine says the county has failed to maintain the building properly.

The center's director, Pearlie Brooks, told him she had reported maintenance problems to the county, he said, but "she didn't get any results."

The county allots \$750 per year per building for maintenance, Oxendine said — not enough to keep up a building in bad shape like the South Hoke Building, he said.

However, the lease agreement signed by Oxendine and Wyatt Upchurch, chairman of the (See DAY CARE, page 4)

Regional cargo airport gets push by officials meeting in Laurinburg

Local and state officials pushed the proposed "Transpark," a huge industrial park centered around a cargo airport, at a meeting Wednesday afternoon in Laurinburg.

"It is going to happen, I think," Ernest Pearson, assistant secretary for economic development, said of the project. "It is now a matter of how big it is and where it is."

The application deadline is in April for sites wanting the state to build the project. Area leaders, including Hoke's Board of Commis-

sioners, have lined up behind a proposal to site Transpark at Laurinburg-Maxton Airport.

At a recent meeting, leaders from Maxton and Laurinburg and the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission voted to donate the airport to the state if it would put the Transpark there. The offer includes thousands of acres of land.

"Laurinburg-Maxton is aggressively going after this," Pearson said, though he would not say if the state is favoring any site for the project.

However, he praised the efforts of Laurinburg and Maxton to get the project.

"You've got a very effective team here for a smaller town," he said.

Laurinburg has some things going for it from the start, Pearson said. First, its location.

"The boom area for the state will be the east," he said.

"You've got the quality workforce," he said. "You've got a substantial part of your workforce that's underemployed."

The concept is speed

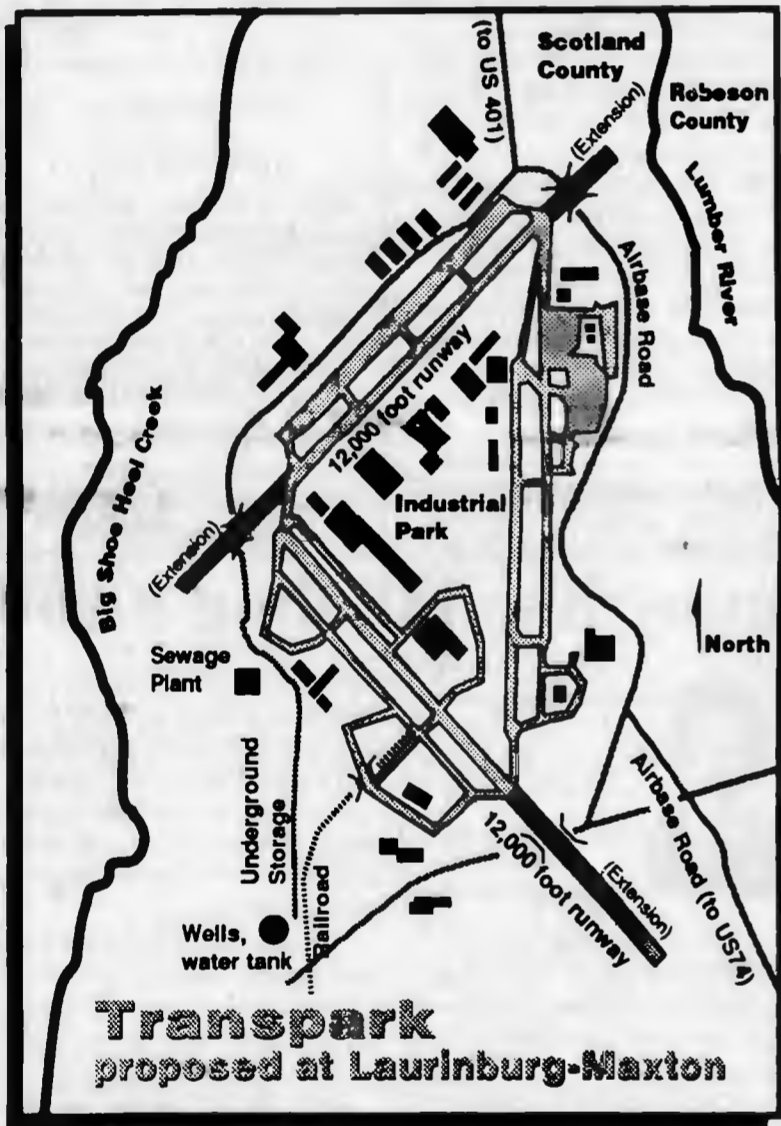
The concept behind Transpark is speed, Pearson said. "In the future, business is going to be driven by speed, speed and more speed," he said.

Transpark, first proposed by a University of North Carolina professor and popularized by Governor James Martin, is based on the way industries now make products from parts made around the world and the way they market those finished products around the world, Pearson said.

"This is not a dream, this is happening right now," he said.

The idea is for manufacturers to be able to fill orders "just-in-time," Pearson said, cutting time, and thus cost, for their customers. And the best way to do that is to build your plant right next to a major transportation hub.

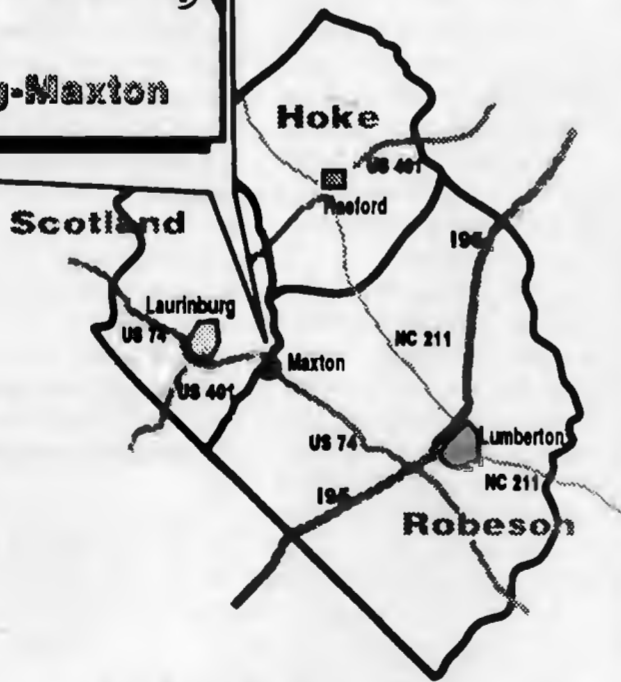
The state is recruiting some heavy-duty industries, Pearson said, though he declined to name (See TRANSPARK, page 14)



Reed: air cargo park would bring Hoke thousands of jobs

A huge industrial park centered around a cargo airport would bring Hoke County thousands of jobs and large amounts of industry if it is built at nearby Laurinburg-Maxton Airport, the county manager said last week.

"It would be unbelievable," Barry Reed said. Even though the project would not be built in Hoke County, it would be so big it could create up to (See REED, page 14)



Hoke's developer leaving for new job

Patric Zimmer, who has been Raeford and Hoke County's director of economic planning and development for almost two years, will take a new job starting April 10, he said yesterday.

Zimmer will become Rockingham County's economic developer, where he will shed his role as planner, he said.

"I've enjoyed it here," he said. "It's been a good learning experience."

Zimmer says he and the Planning Board have "laid a good foundation" so that a new planner/developer should be able to pick up where he left off.

In Zimmer's tenure, Hoke has seen some big changes:

- the adoption of a county-wide zoning law.

"That was a major step in the right direction for the county in terms of the growth that Raeford and Hoke County will see over the next few years," Zimmer said.

The zoning law allows citizens to challenge, or support, certain proposed uses of land in various categories or zones.

"Already...we've had classic cases of where residents would have had no say-so whatsoever...without zoning being in place," he said.

"That alone speaks for the importance for zoning and what it means for protecting the landowners' rights," he said.

- founding of the Plant Manager's Association.

Managers from Hoke's major industries have begun to get to know each other and work together on projects like "Adopt-a-school" and improving workplace literacy.

- gaining a Community Block Development

Grant from the state to move Fayetteville Transformer Co. to a Hoke County site. The money was given to the county to loan to FTC.

As FTC pays back the loan, the county can use that money in a revolving loan fund for economic development projects.

It's all part of what Zimmer sees as having been his biggest challenge, "helping the small to medium-size business that's in a position to put itself over its initial start-up hump."

Public loan money helps entice banks and other major lenders to take part in such projects, as they take about half the risk, yet have full security, Zimmer said.

- cooperation between industry and education.

Under Zimmer's tenure, Hoke has seen several liaisons spring up between industry and education, arising out of the concern he says industry has for a better educated workforce.

Sandhills Community College's Hoke Campus, under the direction of Mary Archie McNeill, has started several workforce training programs at local industries, he said.

The public schools' vocational teachers have been working with Sandhills to create a "Tech Prep" program that will be more academically rigorous and will train workers better for better jobs.

Individual industries have recently adopted most of Hoke's schools in an effort spearheaded by House of Raeford and Scurlock Elementary School.

And school leaders are talking to businesses about getting help bringing business and economics courses to children at a much earlier age.

"I look for Raeford and Hoke County to keep moving in a positive direction," Zimmer said.

Family pushes Habitat project Youth writes Jimmy Carter, asks for his help

A Hoke youth wants to build a house for his former babysitter. And he's looking for a little help from the people of his home county.

Brad Johnson, 11, a sixth-grader at O'Neal School in Southern Pines, recently sent a check for \$25 to Habitat for Humanity, a celebrated private housing program for the needy.

Brad had won the \$25 for his entry in the Moore County Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest. According to a letter he wrote to former President Jimmy Carter, the money was to go "towards starting a chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Hoke County, N.C. to help my former babysitter get a decent home."

The former president and his wife, Rosalyn, are famous for their volunteer work for Habitat

"Her house is just awful"—Brad Johnson

for Humanity around the world.

"Aunt" Mary Baldwin lives in an old wooden house on land near West Hoke Middle School. She is not actually related to Brad.

Aunt Mary took care of Brad between ages of eight months and three years. "While my mom and dad were teaching, she was kind of my babysitter," he said Friday.

"Her house is just awful."

Brad is inspired by a chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Moore County. He and his mother, Naomi, say that chapter has tried to get Hoke (See HABITAT, page 4)

2 indicted for murders

Two men were indicted by a grand jury Monday in separate murder cases while a third man was indicted in a shooting that left a youth paralyzed.

Lawrence Charles Hubert McIntosh was indicted for the first degree murder of Jessie Bell McBryde.

McIntosh allegedly turned himself in after shooting McBryde to death October 4 in her Kaynuir Mobile Home Park trailer.

Aundrey Cunningham, also known as Andre, was indicted for the second degree murder of Fredrick Morrissey Jr September 30.

Cunningham allegedly shot Morrissey in the face during a fight in the men's room of the Zodiac Lounge, a night club north of Raeford. Morrissey died two days later in the hospital.

Richard Thomas Cummings was indicted for conspiracy and aiding and abetting the shooting of Chris Nance August 11.

Nance was visiting friends in Raeford when he was shot by an assailant accompanied by Cummings and another man, leaving Nance paralyzed.

The grand jury also handed down the following indictments Monday: Dan Calvin McDuffie; possession with intent to sell cocaine within 300 feet of a school.

Richard Cummings; possession of stolen goods.

Velma Holmes Johnson; forgery and uttering.

Michael Lide; breaking, entering and larceny—two counts. (See INDICTMENTS, page 5)



Wreck victim

Vicki Wiles, 35, of Fayetteville is pulled from her car Friday after she ran into a car driven by Kristian Marcus Norton, 17 of Raeford. Both drivers were taken to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. Wiles was charged with failing to see before starting at the intersection of Cole Ave. and Palmer St.

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

Last Friday was the first day of spring, but it looked like winter was hanging around as the first snow fell in the county.

The temperature was above freezing so we didn't have any snow to stick in the county. Robert Gatlin had predicted snow on March 6, so he was two weeks off. The colder weather continued into the first of the week. We had rain Sunday afternoon and night, but the rainfall didn't reach an inch.

The forecast calls for the thermometer to rise during the remainder of the week. The temperatures on Wednesday and Thursday will see the highs in the 60s and the lows in the 40s. Friday and Saturday the mercury could rise into the 70s during the day and the lows at night will be in the high 40s. We could have some rain Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

Raz Autry said that the peaches were

hurt by the cold weather last Saturday night. It wasn't to the extent that the crop will be below the normal yield, because this freeze just thinned the peaches. He is still holding his breath because the bare peaches could freeze during the next two weeks. Let's hope for the weather to stay warm so the peach crop will be ok.

Bill Cameron said that most farmers in the county are on schedule as far as most crops are concerned. He said that they should be planting corn this week and then it will soon be time to start planting tobacco.

Bill stated that if the rains don't come so heavy that the tractors can't get in the fields, then everything should be on schedule for Hoke farmers.

Last week I had an item in this column about the China-Burma theatre of operation during World War II. I stated (See AROUND, page 8)