

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, August 5, 1992

County planning to revamp public transportation system

It won't be so hard for the needy to get around the county anymore. At least not once the county-wide transportation system is implemented.

The system, approved Monday at the County Commissioners' meeting, will expand transportation services already offered by many county agencies.

The director of the Department of Social

Services, Bob Mercer, said the interagency network would better use county funds by providing consistent transportation for the needy without agency overlap.

"We could spread our resources to a larger part of the population," he said. "We would take money that we already have out there, put it in the same pot, and spread it among more people in

the county."

County Manager Barry Reed said currently, transportation services in the county receive 90 percent their funding from state and federal sources. The agencies' collaboration, he said, could potentially save the county money. Initially, the system will operate on a break-even basis.

"We'll spend the same amount of money and provide more services," he said.

And savings are on everyone's minds.

"From a DSS perspective, transportation is close to the third largest item in our budget," he said. "We need to look at this and look at alternative methods to decrease costs or hold them so

(See TRANSPORTATION, page 5)



Too much fun

These Hoke County 4-H campers reached the end of the day and the end of their ropes — they're just too tired to have any more fun. Ashley Atkinson (left to right), Patricia Featherstone, Melissa Godwin, Tricia Subocran and Tora Watkins were at Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Camp near Reidsville.

Questionable taps prompt crackdown

Raeford's city manager will act as a watchdog for water and sewer tap violations as he tightens supervision of lax enforcement.

In a memo issued Tuesday, City Manager Tom Phillips said no violations of city ordinances regarding water and sewer taps will be permitted.

Also, he said, the utilities director and his subordinates are not authorized to make any taps/connections or turn water on without proper payment of fees and possession of a bonafide work order issued by the Water/Sewer Administration.

Tap dance

The more stringent review of city ordinances results from recent confusion over sewer and water taps involving the city utilities director.

Utilities Director Jerry Jackson placed an unauthorized sewer tap last year on property he co-owns with Frankie Gilbert, said city and county officials.

The problem surfaced in July when Jackson and Gilbert requested the property on the corner of Rockfish Road and U.S. 401 business to be annexed by the city.

The pair said they wanted police protection for the property they planned to develop into a convenience store, laundromat and car wash.

But their plans stalled as the city refused their request and reprimanded Jackson for the tap. The city declined to specify what disciplinary actions were taken because of employee confidentiality rules.

Jackson said County Manager Barry Reed gave approval for the pressurized tap. Reed said he told Gilbert he would

discuss the possibility for a tap with engineers, but no action would be taken yet.

However the Gilbert-Jackson contractors, McArthur Construction of Red Springs, placed a tap on the property.

Then some conflict arose over who would pay the price for the tap when a letter from the contractor addressed to the county manager surfaced.

The letter, dated July 24, states: "Mr. Jackson called John McArthur and instructed McArthur Construction to install 4" sewer service and submit bill to the Town of Raeford."

The letter then says the bill was returned and the company was instructed to forward it to Frankie Gilbert.

McArthur said he did not know who returned the bill, but the second bill, dated November 11, 1991 was mailed to Frankie Gilbert, who paid it December 9, 1991.

Jackson said he did not tell McArthur to bill the city for his sewer tap.

"I told him he'd have to bill Frankie Gilbert," Jackson said. "He sent Frankie a bill and he paid it. The sewer line — the sewer tap were handled above board. The city manager didn't have a problem with it. I don't know why it has come down like it has."

'Too much to lose'

Jackson said his billing the city for such a service would be "crazy." "I've got too much to lose."

City Manager Tom Phillips said the city has no record of a bill from McArthur.

"To the best of my knowledge it has not come to the city," he said.

McArthur insists his letter states everything "exactly" as it occurred.

(See TAPS, page 5)

Change in 801 project proposed

Fort Bragg officials say they are showing more consideration for Army junior enlisted personnel by altering the original plan for the 801 housing unit in Hoke County.

Mike Ackerman, director of housing at Fort Bragg, said his department submitted a proposal to change the rank of tenants from pay grades E1 through E9 to E4 and higher.

The reallocation, Ackerman said, stems from a concern for the junior

enlisted person's ability to make the commute to the base without leaving family members without transportation.

"We're more concerned about the junior enlisted that maybe only have one car," he said.

The 250-unit site of two- and four-bedroom houses is located off Rockfish road in the eastern part of the county.

"The new proposal hasn't been ap-

proved yet," Ackerman said. "I think it's feasible."

And so do county officials.

"The higher the disposable income, the more potential money is spent locally," County Manager Barry Reed said.

The 801 project, still under construction, recently posted a \$661,843 bond for road improvements in the area.

"It's a way to speed up the process, as allowed by our subdivision regulations," Reed said.



Stuffed turkey?

Promoting Festival "Get Stuffed" memorabilia: Which is the stuffed turkey? Bobby Averitte? Victoria Lynch? or her grandmother, Pat Swindell?

Turkey deadline approaches

The annual N.C. Turkey Festival is set to kick off September 17, and organizers said deadlines for booth and parade entry soon approach.

Turkey Festival organizer Jackie Lynch said some food and craft booth slots remain unfilled, so those interested should apply as soon as possible before September 1.

A tradition of the area, it will have new additions to the agenda this year.

Some of the highlights are:

•Hot air balloon rides. For \$10 per person you can get a birdseye view of festivities.

The rides, courtesy of Bungee Masters Inc. of Fayetteville, are for all ages (with proper supervision).

•Local rap group UAP (unauthorized personnel). The youth group will bop crowds to anti-drug and AIDS awareness lyrics.

•Flimsy the Clown. He dances, he wriggles and he's sure to be a crowd pleaser.

•Reggae Mon. Reggae group Artists Awareness Ensemble, popular on the college circuit, will sway the audience to an island

(See TURKEY, page 4)

Hoke landowners eye Pope project

Air Force officials began a preliminary search for a site for a proposed military family housing complex last week.

In a meeting held last Thursday, representatives from Pope Air Force Base, the surrounding counties and interested sellers met to discuss the hunt for land tracts.

Pope representatives said they plan to review land offers from prop-

erty owners within a 30 mile radius or 60 minutes driving time of the base, located on the outskirts of Fayetteville.

Tentatively Pope plans to construct 600 units of Air Force family housing in 1995 or later.

According to an information packet distributed at the meeting, landowners have until August 14 to make submittals.

Landowners must include a site map or sketch plan showing boundaries, size, location of access, zoning designation, location of water and sewer lines, location of schools and recreation, among other requirements.

But Hoke officials say there's more to the situation than just buying land.

(See POPE, page 4)

Dial charged with shooting

Former owner of Cousins' Nightclub, Elisha Dial, was charged with shooting into an occupied vehicle following a skirmish at a neighbors' home.

Dial allegedly shot into the car of John Paul Bullard, according to Sheriff's reports.

Det. Bobby Conerly said Bullard and his mother drove to the home of Sabrina Carter to visit his children. Carter's brother Abner and Bullard got into a fight, and allegedly Bullard stabbed him.

When Dial heard of the disturbance, Conerly said, he came to the Carter yard and allegedly fired into the car, wounding Bullard in the foot. Bullard was also charged.

Church robbers on spree

Great Hope Baptist Church on (See CRIME, page 5)

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

It took longer for the cool weather to arrive than had been forecast. Sunday and Monday the temperatures were in the 80s and the lows were in the 60s. The rains on Friday, Saturday and Sunday totaled about 1/2 inch. We need more rain, but we missed it Monday, although the day was cloudy during the morning hours.

Once again the weather forecasters are calling for cool weather. The highs Wednesday through Saturday will be in the 80s and the lows will be in the low 70s and high 60s. There is a chance of rain any day, but Friday and Saturday are the best days.

The Republican Convention is still a couple of weeks away and all you can read and hear is that some of the Republicans want to drop President George Bush and the Vice-President off the ticket. If this should happen it would be the first time I can remember the president not given a chance

for a second term.

I still think that if the economy picks up and the foreign policy remains strong that Bush will be hard to beat. It is still a long time until November.

Don't forget that the deadline for an ad in this year's Turkey Festival is noon Monday, August 10. The tab will appear in the issue of *The News-Journal* on Sept. 9.

Call Tammy Ellis at 875-2121 if you need assistance in placing an ad.

The News-Journal is doing something new this year that I think will be of benefit to both the parents of school children and the people that operate our schools. The new thing is a tabloid that will be published before school opens.

The tabloid will have information about each school, the principals and teachers. This will include what they teach and where.

(See AROUND, page 4)