

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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Widening 211 west, 401 south moves step

Rural transportation board recommends funding to widen roads to four lanes

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization has recommended the funding for expansion of Highway 211 between Raeford and Aberdeen and U.S. 401 Business north of Laurinburg to U.S. 401 Business east of Raeford.

For more than 13 years, the two major highways that link Hoke County to Moore and Scotland counties were listed as future projects for widening beyond two lanes, but have remained unfunded by the N.C. Department of Transportation. Prior efforts by Hoke and Scotland

counties for the state to fund these projects were unsuccessful.

The Lumber River RTPO also approved recommending completion of Interstate-73 74 from Greensboro, urging it be constructed on the western corridor of Hoke and advance into Scotland County, continuing on to the coast. I-73 74 was not previously on the state's Transportation Improvement Plan for Hoke and Scotland's region because the route is still undetermined.

If funding is approved by the DOT, the way will be paved for the two major arteries to be widened to four lanes and add a possible interstate between Hoke and Scotland, according to Hoke Com-

mission Chairman Charles V. Daniels and Scotland Commissioner retired General Clint Willis. As Hoke's and Scotland's representatives to the regional transportation advisory committee for Division 8, they also serve with Richmond County representative Bennett Deane. Robeson and Bladen counties, included in Division 6, also have members who serve on the Lumber River RTPO.

Daniels and Willis praised the late Bob Gentry, mayor of Raeford who served on the Lumber River RTPO. Gentry fought for 20 years to gain support for funding of the two proposed projects toward Aberdeen and

Laurinburg.

"Bob was with us forever as a senior member," Willis said. "This was the first time we had a grass roots effort that made any difference at all. It's history making that we approved these priorities."

"I think our transportation coordinating committee did an excellent job in identifying the routes most pressing for this region."

Daniels said he felt the presence of Gentry was "right there" when they (See WIDENING, page 7A)

Hometown National Guard may not be home for Christmas

Camp, instructor at Fort Stewart, worked with local Guardsmen

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Since local N.C. National Guard members were deployed on October 1, they have been training seven days a week at Fort Stewart, Georgia, for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

No longer weekend warriors, their next military assignment could lead them to Iraq by the first of the year, according to Captain Luke Burnett, company commander of the HHC 105th Engineer Battalion.

Leading the Raeford engineering unit

that consists of some Hoke residents, Burnett says the outlook of local soldiers serving in the National Guard is positive. Representing Raeford, Rockingham, Laurinburg and St. Pauls, 133 local men and women were activated for duty in October.

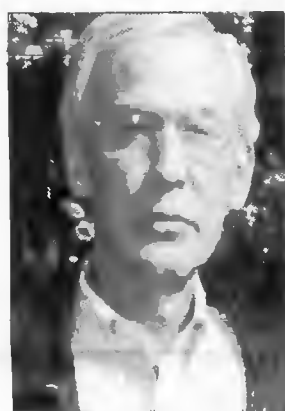
Burnett expressed doubt, however, whether any battalion members would be allowed to take leave to come home for Christmas.

"When it comes to dates, we cannot be too specific," Burnett said. "We would just like to make sure everyone in Raeford knows how much our soldiers

would like to thank the Hoke community for their support.

"We are doing what we need to do for our country. We should

(See GUARD, page 4A)



Lt. Col. Pete Camp, retired from the U.S. Army Special Forces.



Seth Posey, 4, son of James and Ingrid Posey, eats traditional Thanksgiving food with his father at Forever Kids Preschool on Rockfish Road, where parents were invited to dine with their children on Friday.



Declan Ballard dines on Thanksgiving dinner with his grandmother Marti Thomas and mother, Lori Ballard, at Forever Kids Preschool on Rockfish Road Friday. The four-year-old's father is SSgt. Eugene Ballard of the 82nd Signal Battalion.

Guard welcomes carepackages

Members of the HHC 105th Engineer Battalion from Raeford that have been deployed by the N.C. National Guard to Fort Stewart, Georgia would welcome letters or care packages from Hoke citizens, according to company commander, Captain Luke Burnett.

"They could use just about anything," Burnett said. "We appreciate any gestures from people who feel like participating to boost their morale."

Items that could be readily used include: Baby moisturizing wipes; jerky such as Slim Jims, snacks, cakes, cookies; magazines; newspapers; and books.

Specify if you want the items or letters to be specifically distributed by Burnett to

Hoke soldiers or to any of the 133 members of the 195th Engineers.

Write or send packages to: Capt. Luke Burnett, Company Commander, HHC 105th Engineer Battalion, The N.C. National Guard, C/O DOIM, Post Locator, 845 Hase Road, Suite 102, Ft. Stewart, Georgia 31314.

A rear detachment of the 105th Engineer group was left in Raeford to operate the National Guard Armory located on Teal Drive. Sgt. 1st Class Fred McNeill and Staff Sgt. Gary McMillan are in charge of the local post.

Also, Sgt. Willie Terry, of Fayetteville, is assisting at the Raeford headquarters.

Barefoot, traveling evangelist wanders through Raeford

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor



What's Your Name? shakes hands with Herman Saunders on the back steps of Raeford United Methodist Church.

The man in the long, white robe and flowing hair and beard wore no shoes and carried only a blanket thrown over his right shoulder — and a Bible. Looking much like the drawings of Jesus Christ found in children's Sunday school books, he walked down Raeford's Main Street last Friday.

Some knew who he was, having read an article about him in a Fayetteville newspaper last week. Others stared.

"I am a Christian preacher. I'm a traveling preacher. I like to emphasize that I don't think that I am Jesus and that this is

not a costume," the man said.

When asked "What's your name?," he responded, "What's Your Name." He was not mocking the person asking; his answer is the name he goes by. It was the question Moses asked God at the burning bush.

"I've been to 13 countries and 47 states," What's Your Name says. "I literally travel the way the apostles did. They actually were sent out on foot. They were sent out carrying no money, without food or water, without a bag and without sandals," he said. "That's the reason I look the way I look."

A website carries the stated mission of What's Your Name?. There also are some

articles written about him, one from Time Magazine, and he said he had been on television shows, the 20/20 Show and Good Morning America.

But that's not what the itinerant evangelist is about — bringing attention to himself. "I like to speak with the media. They explain what I am about." His website has this statement, "The media is an important focus because it reaches so many people, many of whom would not be exposed to the message otherwise." The message he has been spreading for 12 years on his travels is one of "love, tolerance, compassion and communication — among family, friends, our spiritual com- (See EVANGELIST, page 5A)

Traffic accidents claim two lives

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A Raeford man was killed instantly last Thursday evening when his motorcycle collided head-on with a Cadillac near Tabernacle Baptist Church in Rockfish. In a second fatality on Saturday evening, another Raeford man died and his wife was critically injured after his car was struck by a tractor-trailer on Laurinburg Road.

According to Rockfish Fire Chief Todd Wood, motorcyclist Mark Eugene Mayhew, 46, of Posey Farm Road, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident in Rockfish

that occurred at 7:30 p.m. on November 20. Mayhew appeared to have skidded into her vehicle out of control, he added.

Mildred Kelly Carter, of Fayetteville, driver of the Cadillac, was injured and transported to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville. Wood said her head appeared slightly hurt from the deployment of the airbag, but otherwise her injuries appeared to be minor.

The N.C. Highway Patrol report indicated Mayhew was traveling east on Lindsay Road toward Rockfish when he entered a curve. He veered over the center line (See ACCIDENTS, page 8A)



The patriotic artwork of Mark Eugene Mayhew is seen in this 2001 rendition of the American flag on top of farmer Joe Gillis's barn. Located across the county line near Rockfish, the mural was completed in memory of the 9/11 terrorists' attacks at the World Trade Center.



Santa Claus is coming to town

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Linda Steed inducted at ECU

page 1A

Former deputy bench pressing at world level

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