

The News-Journal

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County vying for teacher tenure program

By Ed Miller

The Hoke County school system is hoping to be a pioneer in a new teacher tenure program that may later be incorporated into the state system.

Over the next two years, the State Board of Education will pick 16 counties that will try out a program which sets up strict rules and regulations for the advancement of teachers. Hoke County wants to be one of the districts chosen, School Superintendent Robert Nelson said last week.

If the state chooses to make the

program mandatory, school systems will have to convert with little or no state help, but, if Hoke County can become a pilot for the program, the state will offer "almost daily assistance," Nelson said.

The new system will put North Carolina teachers into one of five categories and is designed to upgrade the overall quality of the schools, Hoke County Personnel Director Gloria Williams said.

The first level will be called "initial certification" and requires

that a teacher be a graduate of a state approved education program at the college level, said Williams.

This level actually starts during the second year in college when undergraduate education majors must take a test and be accepted into the program, Williams said.

Upon completion of college, a teacher may be hired under initial certification and given non-continuing contracts or those that have to be renewed every year, according to Williams.

A teacher must spend at least

two years under this type of certification.

If a teacher receives good evaluations during the first level of certification, that teacher may be re-employed under a "probationary period" category, Williams said.

The teaching certificate becomes continuous, but a teacher must also remain on the probationary level at least two years.

The Board of Education will have control over a teacher's contract at the probationary level, Williams said.

With the present system, a teacher may be recommended for tenure, or career status after three years.

Under the proposed system, a teacher must have completed four years of practice before becoming eligible for tenure, Williams said.

After three years at "career status 1," a teacher may be recommended to move up to "career status 2," Williams said.

To achieve "career status 3," an educator must have completed a master's degree and three years at level 2, said Williams.

The teacher must also have received exceptional evaluations under a state regulated "performance appraisal system."

Williams said no presently tenured teacher will ever have to participate in the program, but if they do, they will enter the system on at least the career status one level.

However, there will also be no more automatic pay raises for those teachers who remain outside the program, Williams said.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather has been cooler for the past few days but the rain still comes down. It hasn't rained as hard recently as it did the first of last week.

We were talking to Judson Coates last week and he was saying that the average rainfall in a year for Hoke County is approximately 50 inches. According to Coates, we are getting nearer that mark than most people realize.

After talking with Judson, I ran into Robert Gatlin and asked that he provide me with the rainfall figures for the year. Gatlin said that he had the figures for Raeford and that we have had, as of Monday, 35 inches of rain this year. We still have over five months ahead and if this keeps up we will go way over our average rainfall.

Robert did say that according to what folks have been telling him that in the Quewhiffle section of the county they have recorded 40 inches or more. There have also been more than Raeford's 35 inches in the Wayside Community. (Maybe Neely could tell us if he stayed around the county long enough.)

I haven't talked to anyone about the record rainfall for Hoke County in a year but I do know that we have had some wet years. Maybe someone will let me know this figure or figures before next week.

I received a letter last week from Mrs. W.M. McPhail and it was about a television program that could be seen on Channel 12, Florence each Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. Dr. D. James Kennedy, a Presbyterian, brings information concerning the separation of "Church and State."

Mrs. McPhail states, "I think the general public will be glad after hearing Dr. Kennedy's broadcasts, that they had such an opportunity because the facts have come to me only through this ministry. It should be broadly publicized."

I don't disagree with Mrs. McPhail that people should be informed about their rights of freedom of religion, but I would disagree about broadly publicizing a TV program that would keep people away from their place of worship at 11 o'clock Sunday morning.

Thanks for the letter.

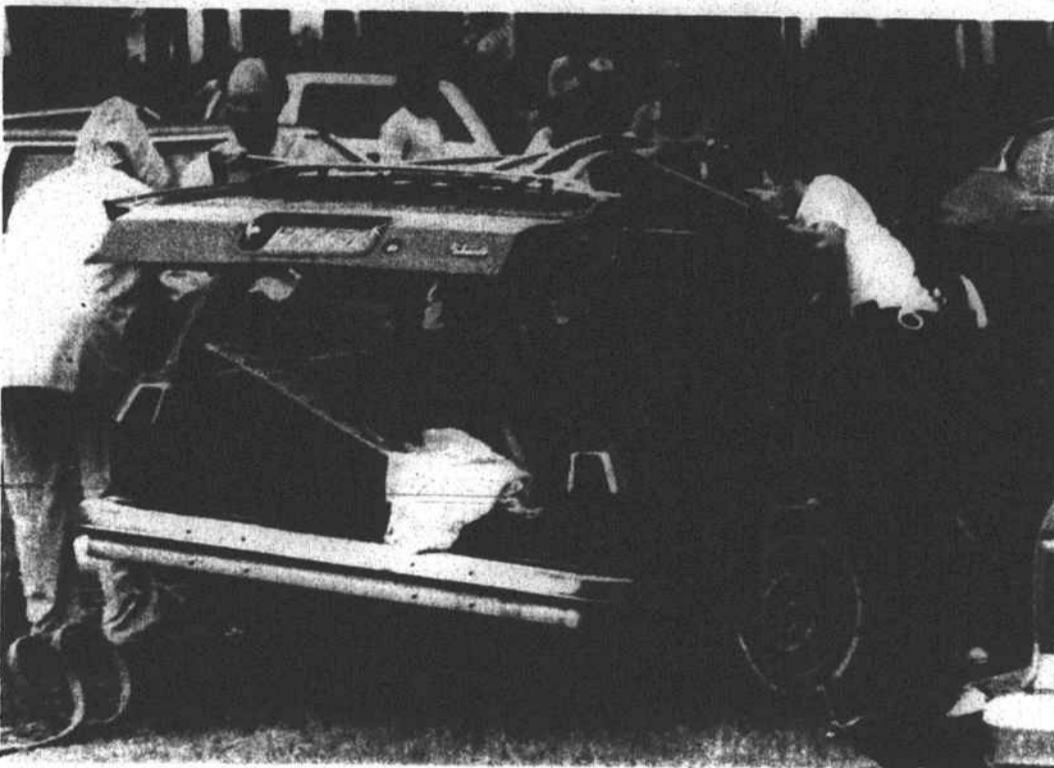
The Democratic convention ended last Friday and it seems as of today that all are in agreement and want party unity. But if you read between the lines everything didn't come out "rosy."

It won't be long before the Republicans will have their convention and then we will find out what the Democrats have done to keep President Ronald Reagan from balancing the budget.

They spend millions of dollars for the job and it seems to me that they have an impossible task. You can't please everyone, but they try.

I know many readers of this column don't play golf and care less about who makes par or a hole-in-one. It was brought to my attention this week that Scott Poole

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Helping where needed

Sheriff's deputies, rescue squad personnel and Emergency Medical Service personnel worked to remove injured victims from a wrecked vehicle at the intersection in front of the North Raeford Fire Sta-

tion Monday. The wreck, which occurred during a heavy rain storm, killed a nine-year-old Rockfish girl and sent two more family members to Cape Fear Valley Hospital.

Rockfish child dies in wreck

A nine-year-old Rockfish girl was killed Monday and her mother and brother seriously injured after the car in which they were riding was hit broadside by a truck delivering insulation.

Angela Christine Wright, 9, died at the scene of the accident, which occurred around 3:30 p.m. Monday at the intersection of Road 1203 and Road 1311 just in front of Burlington Mills and the North Raeford Fire Station.

"She was killed instantly," said Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins who was at the scene.

Angela was riding in the car with her mother and younger brother, Jeff, aged two, when the accident occurred.

According to Wiggins, the Chevrolet Vega, apparently driven by Mrs. Elizabeth Burns Wright, pulled through a stop sign just as the truck entered the intersection.

The truck did not have time to hit the brakes, Wiggins said.

Mrs. Wright and her son were injured and taken to Cape Fear Memorial Hospital, Wiggins said.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Wright was in an intensive care unit in serious condition and her son was in satisfactory condition, a spokesperson for the hospital said.

Neither the driver of the truck nor his passenger were injured, said Wiggins.

The accident was

"unavoidable," and the driver of the truck was not charged, the chief said.

There was no evidence of excessive speed, he added.

Angela is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.G. (Buddy) Wright and her brother Jeff Wright as well as her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Burns, of Raeford, Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Wright, Sr., of Rockfish and great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bundy of Rockfish.

Graveside services are tentatively scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday at Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Crumpler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Experience sought for manager's slot

By Ed Miller

Someone with experience in municipal management is what county Commission Chairman John Balfour is looking for to fill the position being vacated by Hoke County Manager James Martin.

"We are looking for someone experienced in county management or the county manager's field," Balfour said Monday.

Possibly an assistant county manager or a manager from another county will have the needed experience to take the position, Balfour said.

Whoever the choice is, he should meet the public well and be able to grasp the special problems of Hoke County. That is what a county manager is supposed to do, the chairman said.

Although no formal applications have been accepted, Balfour said persons with experience in large scale management are needed.

City managers may work just as

well as county managers for the job because they know the problems of the job only on a smaller scale, Balfour said.

For budget purposes, applicants should have a working knowledge of accounting principles and the laws governing those principles, said Balfour.

"I understand that there may be some assistant county managers across the state that are seeking positions," Balfour said.

James Martin, who served as manager for more than six years, announced his resignation last week after a 30 minute executive session with the County Commissioners.

Martin has been offered the position of county manager in Robeson County.

After accepting the offer, Martin announced his resignation in Hoke County to become effective August 31.

County Commissioners accepted Martin's resignation with "deep regrets."

School board adopts budget

By Ed Miller

Over \$60,000 in cuts in local funding to the Hoke County school system were accepted with little reaction Friday as members of the county Board of Education unanimously approved a \$1.1 million operating budget for the current fiscal year.

The final budget is up 12% over last year's school operations.

"You have certainly made this (budget cutting process) easy for us," Board member Ruth McNair said to school administration officials as they handed out copies of the new budget proposal.

Included in the presently funded amount is \$200,000 for roof repairs to South Hoke and Hoke High Schools, Superintendent Robert Nelson said.

In cutting \$60,000 from the budget, a 15% raise for clerical personnel was reduced to 10% by action from the board and some secretaries, whose employment was to be extended another two months per year, will not receive extra work.

Board of Education members had their travel budget cut by \$1,000, Nelson said.

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Suspect captured during break-in

By Ed Miller

A Hoke County man was in jail Tuesday under \$25,000 bond after he was arrested on July 12 for allegedly breaking and entering a residence and carrying a concealed weapon.

Acting on a telephone tip, Hoke County Sheriff's Deputies J.R. Riley and Jimmie Foster went to the residence of Gilbert Worth Ray and discovered that the home had been entered, reports say.

Upon entering the Airport Road residence, the deputies allegedly saw Neil Ray lying on the floor of a side room.

According to reports, Ray had a .22 calibre pistol under him.

After contacting the owner of the residence, who was not at home at the time of the alleged break-in, deputies found that the 36-year-old Ray did not have permission to be in the house, and the suspect was arrested.

In unrelated matters, the heat of summer may have sparked at least two apparent thefts of air conditioners.

On Tuesday, July 10, sheriff's deputies took a report from J.L. Williams and Son, Inc. saying that

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Inside Today

These students, the children of migrant workers in Hoke County, seem ready to answer questions posed for them. To find out more about the pupils and the programs the school system is providing for them, see page 10 of today's News-Journal.



Ahh, the good old days

This old Stutz was just one of the many old cars that passed through Raeford last Thursday as the North Carolina Regional group of the Horseless Carriage Club of America tour the Southern Pines area. The club made Raeford a rest stop and parked their tin lizzies at the Edenborough Shopping Center for about an hour while passers-by stopped and ogled.