

Good stand

This year's tobacco crop in Hoke County is looking pretty good, according to County Extension Agent Willie Featherstone. A few farmers had to re-plant their crops because of dry weather, Featherstone said, adding that three farmers he knew of had to

re-plant twice. "The majority of the county looks good and it (tobacco) is about on schedule for this time of year," said Featherstone. However, local farmers will still face subsidy cuts and a poor market in the coming months.

...Central dispatching studied

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According to Barrington and Cowan, the idea is not a new one. "It's been discussed with the major boards but we have never agreed," said Barrington.

"It's been talked about several times since I've been here," said Cowan.

"I think the current dispatch system needs to be improved," said Cowan.

According to the county manager, a meeting was held on May 9 with members from the county fire departments and representatives from the Hoke

County Sheriff's Department attending.

A central dispatch system was discussed at that meeting, he said. Although some costs would be incurred from the consolidation move, others would be offset.

City and county governments and taxpayers would not have to pay for two separate radio systems and money for a new PIN machine, to be rented soon by the police department, could be saved.

According to Wiggins, the new machine is needed by the police department.

"Through no fault of the Hoke

County Sheriff's Department, we (the Raeford Police) are not getting the full potential out of the PIN machine," said Wiggins.

"There will be less problems on us and them (the sheriff's department) too if we have an in-house machine," said Wiggins.

According to the police chief, on many occasions, police officers need to sit down with the machine and figure out license plate numbers and such.

Those operations take time and there may be other material that needs to be entered into the machine's system, said Wiggins.

...School funds probed

(Continued from page 1A)

public at large and the staff of the schools while simultaneously refusing adamantly to sacrifice the educational needs of nearly 5,000 children and young people in out seven schools," Nelson said.

Nelson ended by asking the commissioners not to further cut the budget as it may result in "damaging and tearing down that which has been strenuously built up over time."

Inspection fees OK'd

In other action during the meeting, commissioners voted to accept as a tentative measure, a new inspection fee schedule presented by Anges Wonman of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, Community Assistance Division.

In the new schedule, current inspection fees will be increased by

50%, said Wonman.

The old fee schedule is not covering the costs of inspections, she said.

Copies of the new fee schedule are available at the county office building.

Other matters

In other business, the commissioners:

•Set June 24 at 7:30 p.m. as the time for a public hearing on the county's revenue sharing budget and on proposed boundary extensions for Stonewall, West Hoke, Pine Hill and Puppy Creek fire departments.

•Appointed Rachel Locklear, Will Pope, Leonard Wiggins, Harold Livingston and Ken Witherspoon to the Hoke County Youth Services Task Force.

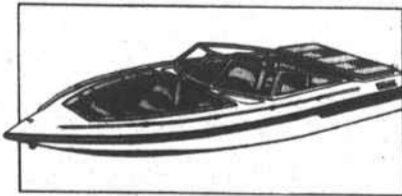
•Contracted with Pittard, Perry and Crone to do an audit of this year's budget for a fee of \$5,000.



Missing
Tammy Marie Barrentine, 14, of 103 Yadkin Trail has been missing since April 28, when she was last seen walking away from home. Barrentine is 5'2" tall, has black hair, dark brown eyes and was last seen wearing a light blue skirt and red shoes. She has a faded gold necklace and ring. Anyone with information about Barrentine should contact the Raeford Police Department.

The News-Journal
The News-Journal is published every Thursday by Dickson Press, Inc., at 119 W. Elwood Avenue, Raeford, N.C. 28376. Second Class Postage is paid at Raeford, N.C. (USPS 388-260). Subscription rates are payable in advance at \$10 per year in Hoke County and \$12 per year outside of Hoke County.

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