

Commission Considers Grant

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to add a quarter mile stretch to the state road system.
*Agreed to the recommendation of Dr. Sarah T. Morrow, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Human Resources, for an increased program of cheese and butter distribution. The commissioners appointed the Hoke County Department of Social Services as the lead

agency to coordinate ordering and delivery of surplus food and authorized director Ken Witherpoon to seek and designate other agencies (civic and church oriented organizations) to help hold down the cost of distribution.
*Appointed Fred McCormick to a three-year term and Jesse Locklear to a two-year term and reappointed Harless Wright, L.A.

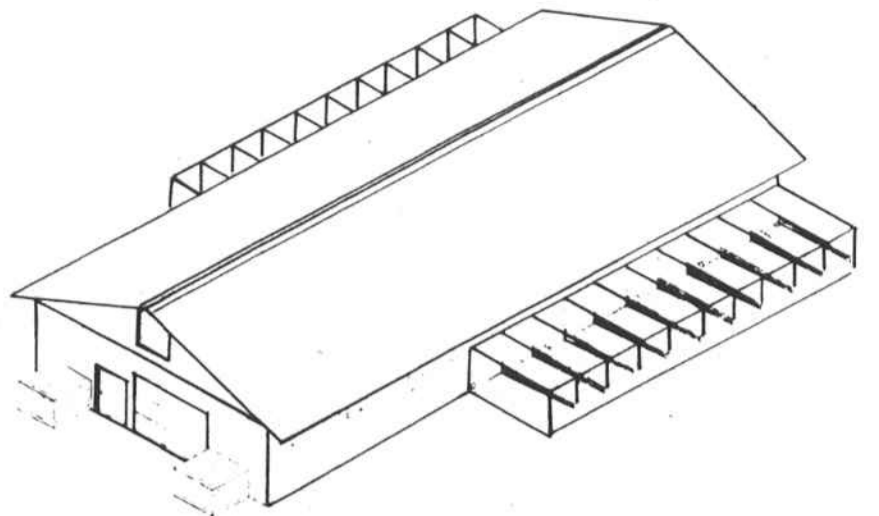
McGugan, and Carl Pratt to the Allendale Community Building Board of Trustees.
*Scheduled an April 18 public hearing on revenue sharing and a June 20 meeting for public budget hearing.
*Agreed to declare a boiler located in the Pilot building as "surplus" so that the county manager can dispose of it by sale.

Marijuana Case 'Plea-bargained'

By Sherry Matthews
Ten Wilkes County people plead guilty in Superior Court last week in connection with the 1980 marijuana raid and arrests made in Hoke County.
The defendants, who have been in and out of court for over two years, were charged with trafficking in marijuana and manufacturing. All plead guilty to the lesser charges of possession of marijuana and the manufacturing of marijuana in an apparent plea bargain.
Superior Court Judge William Z. Wood sentenced each of the 10 defendants to two consecutive five-year prison terms but suspended the sentences for five years.
The terms of the supervised probationary period include a fine of \$3,000 to be paid by nine of the defendants, while the 10th is to pay a fine of \$6,000, Powell said.
"If you miss even one of those payments, you are going to trigger these 10-year sentences," Judge Wood said.

Judge Wood also informed the defendants that their probation officers could make periodic searches of their homes and vehicles.
"The old iron is hot, and if you want to risk it, break one of these stipulations, and the sentence will be triggered," Judge Wood said.
"It won't even take a quarter of an ounce to activate your sentences," he added.
The controversy over the 1980 raid and arrests, where over three acres of growing marijuana and three stacks of cut marijuana were seized by Hoke County authorities, started when a Cumberland County Superior Court judge "put the state out of court" because of the destruction of the marijuana by Hoke County Sheriff's officers.
Superior Court Judge Anthony M. Brannon, on May 26, 1981, dismissed the charges, ruling that the burning of the marijuana was a

violation of due process, Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell said.
Judge Brannon's decision was reversed by the Court of Appeals on July 6, 1982, after the state appealed the case.
The 10 defendants, Donnie R. Anderson, Ronnie Anderson, Larry B. Crouse, James C. Rhodes, Randy K. Byrd, Randell S. Smoot, Barry D. Barker, Edward Smoot, Warren G. Wood and William C. Durham, were to appear in Superior Court on motions, but after a discussion with District Attorney Edward Grannis, each decided to plead guilty to the lesser charges.
"You boys better find another way to make a living," Judge Wood said.
With the entering of the guilty pleas, the case can now be resolved and put to rest, Powell said.
"It has been a long ordeal, and I'm glad that it is over," she added.



Proposed Animal Shelter
An artist's perspective of what the proposed animal shelter will look like if completed.

Former State Bureau Agent Enters Not Guilty Plea

By Sherry Matthews
A former State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) agent plead not guilty in Superior Court last week to charges that he altered evidence and obstructed justice in four Hoke County drug cases.
Arnett Andrew Dove, 25, who was an SBI agent for three years, is charged with changing a lab report in the case against Julius Locklear and of obstructing justice for falsifying lab reports in the cases of Clarence Bratcher, Elwood McNair, and Ervin Benny.
Dove was indicted by the Grand Jury on January 17, seven days after he was fired from his position as SBI agent.
Superior Court Judge William Z. Wood instructed Dove's at-

torney to file any motions by April 1.
In another unrelated incident, a 22-year-old Fort Bragg woman plead not guilty to charges that she killed her stepfather near the Rockfish area last month.
Victoria S. Burnette, who was indicted by the Grand Jury on second-degree murder charges, was arraigned in Hoke County Thursday.
She is accused in the February 8 stabbing death of Roger Keith Shannon, 43, also of Fort Bragg.
Shannon's body was found the next day with multiple stab wounds to the chest, back, and stomach.
Burnette, whose bond has been

reduced from \$50,000 to \$40,000, is still being held in the Cumberland County Jail awaiting trial.
In an unrelated case in Superior Court last week, William Henry McMillan, aka Cornelius McNeill, who was indicted by the Grand Jury for possession with intent to sell and deliver and the delivery and sell of a counterfeit controlled substance, saccharine as LSD was given a suspended sentence by Judge Wood.
"You must be a brave man or a fool, trying to pass saccharine as LSD," Judge Wood said.
Someone could have put a knife through your heart for pulling such a stunt, Judge Wood added.



A member of the Hoke High Beautyshop Singers leads Superintendent Raz Autry back to his seat after a tribute by the singers, during his retirement last week.

Hoke Man Sentenced For Killing

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murder, guilty of voluntary manslaughter.
McNeill's attorney, Phillip Diehl, asked Judge William Z. Wood, to give the defendant a "probationary sentence," but Miss Powell argued that the state

wanted a "substantial active sentence".
Judge Wood sentenced McNeill to six years in prison, which is the maximum penalty for voluntary manslaughter.
"I think he shot her and intended to shoot her, and I don't think

six years is enough in exchange for a human life," Judge Wood said.
As part of the judgement against McNeill, Judge Wood instructed the defendant to reimburse Buie Funeral Home for the expenses of Joyce Cunningham's funeral.

WIC Program Open To County Residents

Are you a pregnant or breastfeeding woman? Do you have a child under five years old? If so, you or your child may qualify for the WIC Program.
WIC is a Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children under five.
It is funded and administered by the Department of Agriculture through the local health department.
WIC supplements a person's regular diet with iron and protein rich foods such as milk, eggs, cheese, cereal, fruit juice, and infant formula.
The WIC Program also provides individual counseling on good health care and eating habits during pregnancy and childhood.
You may qualify for WIC if:
-You are a resident of Hoke County.
-You are a pregnant or breastfeeding woman, infant or child under age five.
-You meet present WIC income standards. This is based on the total gross income in the

household and the number of persons living in the house.
-You are a nutritional risk.
A person is at nutritional risk if he/she has an inadequate growth pattern, under/overweight, or a medical history of nutrition related problems in the family such as anemia or "low blood," miscarriages, or premature births.
A health professional, doctor, nurse, physician assistant, or nutritionist, must determine if an individual has a medical problem

which could cause this person to be at nutritional risk and qualify for WIC.
If you feel you or a member of your family is eligible for the WIC Program, visit the Hoke County Health Department or call at 875-3717.
Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA-related program should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

Swept Away

A member of the Hoke High Beautyshop Singers leads Superintendent Raz Autry back to his seat after a tribute by the singers, during his retirement last week.

Autry Fete Successful

By Sherry Matthews
Raz Autry took his final bow as superintendent of the Hoke County Schools, at an appreciation dinner held in his honor Wednesday night.
The move ended a nine-year reign over the county school system, which was sometimes marked by controversy.
Over 400 well-wishers attended the honorary dinner which featured Charlotte-Mecklenburg Superintendent Jay M. Robinson as guest speaker.
"We've had too few Raz Autry's in our school system," Robinson said.
Autry, who has been involved in the field of education for 16 years in Hoke County and 33 years altogether, announced his retire-

ment this past December and officially left his position on March 17.
"We are glad you will have time to do some of the other things you have wanted to do and haven't had the time for, but we will miss you terribly," J. W. Turlington Principal Emma Mims said in a tearful tribute to Autry.
Some of the other things Autry

intends to do is work on children's books, tend his peach farm, and "do a little fishing."
"I placed the children I've worked with above everything else in my life," Autry said in his final remarks as superintendent.
"I gave it my best shot," Autry said.

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