

# ... ROTC Approved



**Seeking funds**  
Hoke School Board Chairman Bill Cameron asks for shift in school budget during Monday's meeting with the county commission in order to fund the ROTC program.

(Continued from page 1) sharing for roofing was a very "liberal figure", School Finance Officer Don Steed said in an earlier interview.

With the excess money from "lower than expected" roof bids, school board members were willing to initiate the ROTC program although it meant depleting \$23,000 from capital outlay expenditures.

"We wanted to start the program while we were at the top of the list and this was the only way we could do it," Cameron said.

"We are robbing money used for the physical needs of our schools to get the ROTC program funded this year," Cameron said, adding that he needed an assurance that monies for the program would be in the general school budget next year.

"We see a way to fund this program for one year. Now we are looking for support in continuing that program," Nelson said.

Although ROTC has received a great deal of public support during the last few weeks, one objection was voiced during Monday night's meeting.

"I cannot understand why Hoke County is so willing to embark on yet another new program instead of spending money where it is real-

ly needed," county resident Jack McGinnis said.

McGinnis also criticized the school board for wanting to use money for a new program when "these safety hazards and substandard education" exist within the school system.

"We have done what we set out to do with the roofing, and we had money left over that we want to use for the ROTC program," Nelson said.

"It is a worthwhile program and one that will benefit the children of this county," Nelson added.

Commissioner Hunt asked the county board, in a formal motion, to agree to the transfer of monies, but to leave the commitment for future funds up to the Board of Education.

"I am very satisfied," Cameron said after the meeting.

"We got the money transferred to the general fund, and we succeeded in getting the program," Cameron said, adding that he was "very satisfied."

Although the money was officially transferred Monday night, school officials had already scheduled some 85 Hoke High students into the new ROTC class in anticipation of the commissioners' move.

"We had two schedules made

out, one with the program and one without," Hoke High Principal Dr. Linwood Simpson said.

"We already had 85 students signed up for the program, and I anticipate around 110 will actually wind up in the classes," Simpson said.

The program, which has been hanging in limbo since early June, was applied for in the 1970's and Hoke County was placed on a waiting list.

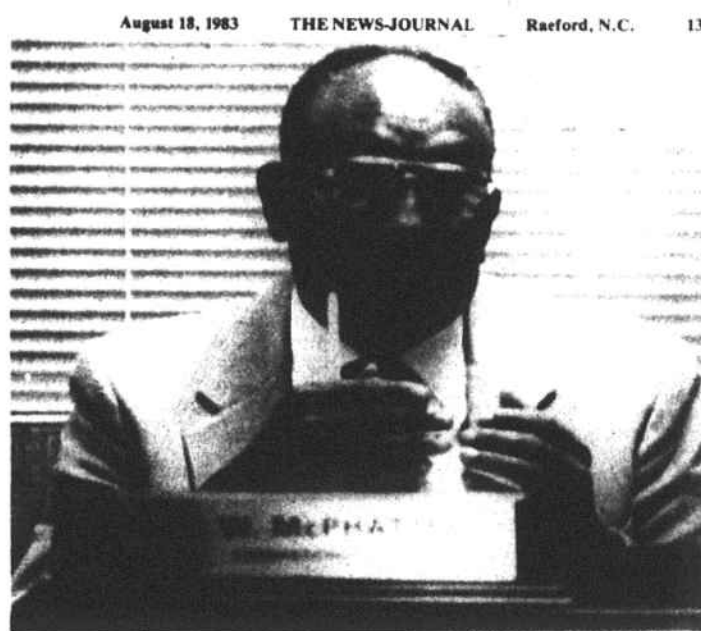
Since that time Hoke High has gradually moved up the list finally making it to the number one slot this year.

"This is the first year that the program actually made it past the administration and the school board," Cameron said.

In the 1983-84 school budget, board members earmarked \$20,000 for the ROTC program, but cut it shortly after the County Commissioners reduced the school's requested funds.

School board members met in a joint session with the County Commissioners in mid-July and requested a 2.3% increase over their allocated funds to be used to initiate the ROTC program. The request was refused.

With the school board's new request, the commissioners did not have to allocate any new money



**Making a point**  
Commissioner Neill McPhatter makes a point during Monday's meeting.

## ...Schools Comply

(Continued from page 1) be needed to "completely" repair J.W. Turlington, Steed said.

"The boiler room will be done immediately because of the potential danger," Steed said.

Although students don't come in contact with the Upchurch boiler room, school personnel will be in and out, according to Steed.

"We don't want anyone to be put in those conditions," Steed said.

Although plans include repairing the boiler room, Steed said that the other buildings would have to wait.

"We cannot afford to do the other buildings right now," Steed said.

"Our budget this year prohibits the expense of making those changes," Steed added.

"We have met the EPA requirements, and we are trying to correct the worst problem," Steed said.

"I would not rule out the possibility that the other buildings can't be worked on in the future," Steed added.

Asbestos was used for many years to insulate heating pipes and in acoustical ceilings.

# ... Sales Tax OK'd For Fall

(Continued from page 1) The new tax is the "first glimmer of hope" in getting additional problems solved, Nelson added.

"I think all of Hoke County will benefit from this tax," Balfour said.

Opposition was voiced to the passage of the tax by two residents who attended the meeting.

"I am very opposed to increasing the sales tax here," Humane Society President Jack McGinnis said.

"The burden of this tax will be placed on the wage earner and the low income residents. We are not the shopping place for the state," McGinnis said.

"I don't think a sales tax is an equitable tax," McGinnis added.

"With the tax, we will be getting back considerably more than we will be paying," Hoke resident and former school board member Bobby Gibson said.

If implemented, that tax will be a "real bargain" to Hoke County, Gibson added.

According to Balfour, Hoke County residents spent some \$940,000 through the one cent sales tax and only received \$310,000 back.

"The one-half cent tax is a fairer distribution," Balfour said.

At an earlier county commission meeting, County Manager James

Martin told the board that the new tax would probably help "lessen" the blow of future increases in property taxes as well as generate additional money.

Just before the meeting adjourned Monday night, the commissioners gave the nod to levy the one-half cent sales tax.

Collection of the tax will begin October 1 and will continue from that time.

The net proceeds from the tax will be distributed on a quarterly basis to Hoke and any other counties involved, Martin said.

Hoke County will see the first return on the tax in February, Martin said.

# More Charges Levelled Against Hunt

**Correction**

In the August 11 issue of *The News-Journal* it was reported that Mark Black had been charged with driving left of the center lane.

Later reports indicated that Black was charged with an unsafe movement violation.

We regret the error.

By Sherry Matthews

A 12th arrest warrant was issued against Hoke County Commissioner James A. Hunt last Thursday for failing to comply with an earlier Scotland County District Court ruling.

In addition to the warrant, more worthless check summonses have apparently been issued against the nine-year commissioner in Robeson County.

Although the Robeson County Courthouse would not confirm or deny that Hunt had been issued a further criminal summons, Hoke

Sheriff's records show that a summons had been issued to the commissioner last week.

The Scotland arrest warrant was issued after Hunt failed to meet payment deadlines on 22 worthless checks for which he had already been convicted.

Scotland County District Court Judge Herbert L. Richardson gave the veteran commissioner 22 six-month suspended sentences with one year's probation in each case on July 21.

Judge Richardson had instructed Hunt to pay off the over

\$5,000 in bad checks; \$2,000 of the total owed was to be paid to the clerk's office by July 28 and \$1,000 each week until the balance of the action and restitution in each case was paid in full.

Monday, a Scotland County clerk confirmed that none of the monies had been paid and a warrant had been issued.

Legal and financial problems have plagued the commissioner for over six months.

Since mid-June, Hunt has been arrested 12 times and served three short stints in jail.

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# ...No Action On Pound

(Continued from page 1) month to transport people to the school site," Horne said.

"Every dollar we save in transportation cost can be converted into food money," Horne added.

Although transportation cost will be down, Horne also requested over \$400 for utility bills that will be charged to the site.

"Even with the additional cost of utilities, I think we will still save money," Horne said.

Another important factor in the selection of the site was the number of people being served.

"We have been able to serve more people throughout the county since we moved the site," Horne said.

At the South Hoke site only 27 meals were served while 35 meals are served on the average at the McLaughlin site, Horne said.

"We need to bring as many meals into this county, no matter where the location is, as we can," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

"Some people also feel that the matter would be expedited if the city landfill site were endorsed," McGinnis said.

"The Humane Society endorses the landfill site, if and only if, it will expedite the construction of a new pound," McGinnis told the commissioners.

McGinnis and the other members had favored a 2.5 acre tract of land at the end of North Main Street, donated by Ray Calloway of Elizabethtown, for the location of the new shelter.

Although McGinnis seemed opposed to the landfill site, he admitted that a "compromise" might be the only way to get a shelter completed by the coming winter.

Both county and city governments have appropriated money for the construction of a new shelter, but McGinnis believes "they are still dragging their feet."

The county has allocated \$25,000 for the shelter project and has initiated a site feasibility study.

The study includes both the Calloway property and the landfill site.

At Monday night's meeting, County Manager James Martin read a letter from a Department of Transportation (DOT) Area Engineer that urged the commissioners "not" to put an access road on property that would interfere with a right lane that merges into U.S. Highway 401.

In an earlier interview, DOT Engineer Jerry Maddox said that persons entering the Calloway property would have to cross into the lane "that is merging onto the highway."

"I'm not sure that would be the safest place," Maddox said.

With the DOT study completed, the Laurinburg architectural firm of Jordan, Snowden and McVicar can complete their study, Martin said.

Once the feasibility study is completed, the commissioner will be able to look over the results and make a decision, Martin said earlier.

Although McGinnis endorsed the landfill site, he told the commissioners that he would prefer the Calloway property if the study were favorable.

"I am hoping now that some decisions will be made very soon," McGinnis said.

Although no action was taken on the location of the site, the commissioners voted to forward the DOT letter to Snowden so that the feasibility study could be completed.

In other action, the commissioners took action on these matters:

Authorized Department of Social Services Director Ken Witherspoon to sign "vendor agreements" that cover sterilizations, chore workers, individual child care arrangements, and child day care centers.

Agreed to the sale of county "personal property" at a public auction.

Voted to change their regular September 5 meeting to September 6 because of the Labor Day holiday.

## S. Adams Nominated For National Honor

Sharon L. Adams has been nominated for the Outstanding Young Woman of America award for 1983. She is the daughter of Dorothy and James Adams Jr. and a 1983 graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she majored in Psychology and Drama. She will be entering Duke Divinity School in the fall.

If her nomination is accepted by the committee she will also have a biographical summary printed in the awards annual *Outstanding Young Women of America*.

She will also be a candidate for Outstanding Young Woman of the Year for her own state and from state finalists a panel of judges will select the 10 outstanding young women of America for 1983.

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