

# The News-Journal

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## Bid for deputy pay hike put on hold

By Ed Miller

An effort to secure higher wages for sheriff's deputies was tabled until October by members of the Hoke County Commission Monday, after two motions to grant the hikes failed to gain support.

Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington requested that money left over from salaries earmarked for new deputies be used to raise salaries of present deputies.

"The money is already in this year's budget," Barrington said. "Because of a selective process us-

ed to screen deputies, it has taken longer than expected to pick three additions to his staff, the sheriff said.

There was money allocated in the budget for salaries beginning in August, he added.

While the money may be in this year's budget, the county will have to come up with additional funds next fiscal year if the deputies are to keep their increases, Commission Chairman John Balfour said.

Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch asked the sheriff why he had not

brought the matter up at budget time.

The commission met with Barrington in a session to discuss matters in his department while working on the budget in the spring.

During that meeting the sheriff was asked if he would rather have more men on his force or raises for the ones he already has.

Barrington answered that he would like to have the extra manpower, but he also requested a 10% raise for his staff.

Former County Manager James

Martin cut the number of requested new deputies from five to three and the pay increase from 10% to 7.5%.

Barrington said that he has to train a deputy only to have him move to another county or another job paying more money.

Two deputies have already left this year and another is expected to leave within the next month, Barrington said, adding that it takes about \$15,000 to train a new deputy.

Deputies in Hoke County are

also overworked for the amount of pay they receive, said the sheriff.

"For every week any other county employee works, my men work two weeks," he said.

In 22 years, the sheriff's department has turned over 24 times, Barrington said adding that a detective in Hoke County can move to another county nearby like Cumberland or Moore and make more money and work fewer hours as a patrol officer.

There was no action taken after the hour long discussion except to

table consideration of the matter until the next meeting.

### Ambulance bought

Acting on recommendation of Hoke County Emergency Services Director Bill Niven, the commission voted to buy back a recently wrecked ambulance from the insurance company, which is purchasing the new one.

"The engine (of the wrecked vehicle) is in perfect shape," Niven said. (See WRECK, page 11)

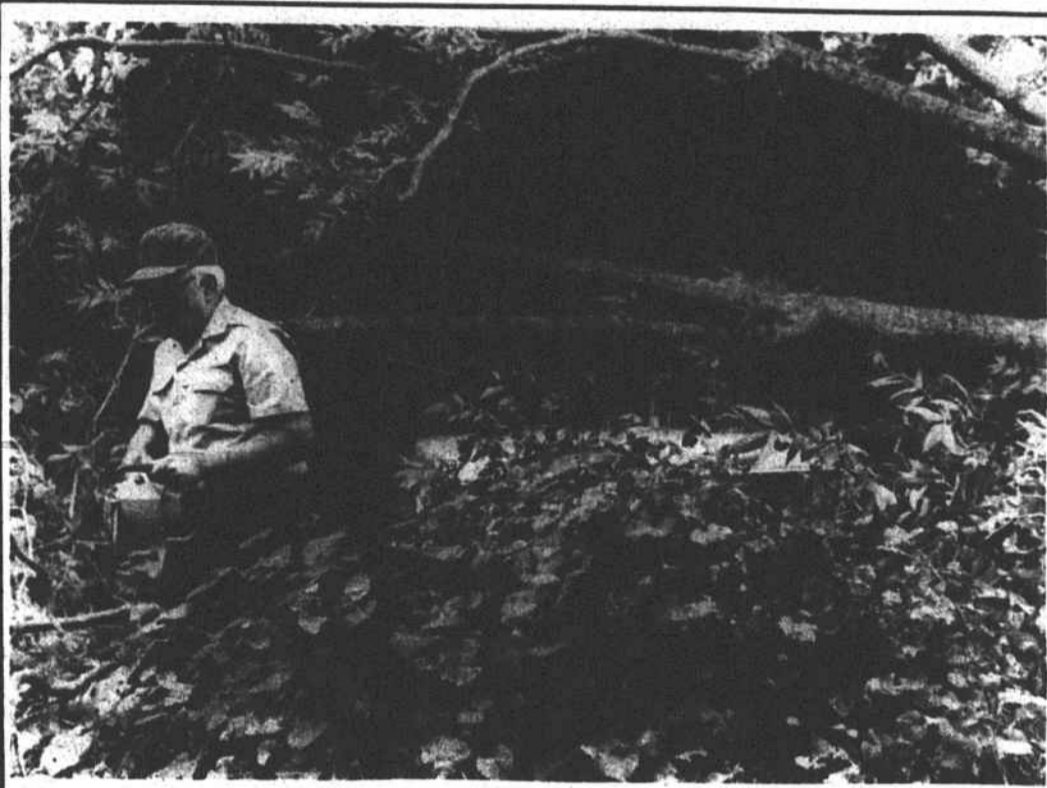


Photo by Becky Jones

### Shades of March

Last Saturday, a tornado touched down in the Dundarrach area throwing down trees and reaping destruction. Here, Walter Malone helps saw T.W. Jones' truck out from under the tree that fell on the vehicle. There were several large pecan trees down

in the yard. When one of them fell, it took a large grape vine down with it. The truck sustained damage to the windshield and hood. Jones' house made it through the twister intact.

## Pupil attendance bothers county school officials

By Ed Miller

A steady increase of school enrollment on each day of the first nine days of this year could be costing Hoke County state funds and students a proper education, members of the Board of Education were told last week.

According to approximate figures from the first week and a half of school, there were about 87 more children in school on the second day of classes than on the first, Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson said during a board meeting Tuesday.

There were about another 76 new faces on day three and still more on day four, the first day after the Labor Day break, Nelson said.

Nelson said that apparently, many children are staying out of school until after Labor Day and missing valuable instruction time.

"Students need to be there for 180 days," Nelson said.

There is also concern from Nelson that this county may not be getting all the funding due it from the state because the "average daily membership" (ADM) is lowered by children missing the first few days of class.

After the fourth day of school, the ADM was about 4,880

students, but on the ninth day, almost 4,951 children reported to Hoke County Schools, Nelson said.

These figures were not official as of Tuesday night, the superintendent said.

### Wandering students

On another matter board members also expressed concern about unconfirmed reports of Hoke County children going across county lines to schools in other counties.

In addition the elected officials also noted a concern for several county students who are attending a county private school where there is apparently only one teacher, who is allegedly uneducated.

"It is not that I mind Hoke County children attending private schools, but I am concerned that these children are not getting the type of education they need. There is not one thing I can do about it," Nelson said.

The school was never called by name during the meeting.

Members of the board could not recommend any remedies for the problems.

In other action, the board accepted a bid to reroof four addi-

tional county school buildings.

By doing the work on the additional schools, about \$200,000 will have been spent from the roofing fund set up by the county for repairs this year, Finance Officer Don Steed said.

The accepted bid, from Temple Construction Company for \$69,934, was the lowest of three received by Steed.

Because of careful shopping and low bids from contractors, the overall plan to repair all bad roofs in the school system, due to be completed in 1987, is about a half a year ahead of schedule, Nelson said.

The construction should begin sometime this week on the roofs at Hoke High and McLauchlin schools, Steed said.

### State help sought

In administrative action, the Hoke school board has promised \$1,000 to the State Board of Education for the building of a new facility to house that group.

The board plans to raise the money by asking for corporate contributions, Board Chairman Bill Cameron said.

If they cannot raise it that way, (See SCHOOL, page 11)

## Airport taxiway grading creating a problem

By Ed Miller

Taxiway grading at the Raeford-Hoke Airport is apparently not being done properly, and a meeting is being scheduled between members of the Airport Commission, City Manager Tom Phillips and City Engineer Bill Sellars to correct the problems.

The decision to ask for the meeting was made at the regular session of the airport authority last Thursday night.

During a past meeting of the

commission members had asked that the city do some soil moving to clear drainage ditches and level out the taxiway.

The earth movement has started, but Commission Vice-Chairman Wayne Byrd said it would appear that workers moving the soil are unclear about where to move the dirt.

It was determined, before the request to do the construction, that the top of a hill in the taxiway be removed and the dirt be used to fill

low spots in the taxiway.

Part of the request was for the city to go to a nearby location and put top soil over the existing clay base so grass will grow on the strip.

Apparently, there has been some confusion about the instructions, Commission Chairman Frank Baker said.

It was agreed that the persons running the equipment should also be at the meeting to see for themselves what needs to be done.

In other action during the

meeting, new Commissioner Carroll Scarborough was sworn into office.

Scarboro, a licensed pilot, was chosen by the Hoke County Commissioners to replace resigned member Marianne Baker.

As per the Airport Commission Charter, the governing body that appoints a member is responsible for replacing that member if the appointee is unable to complete his term in office.

## Manager's job offer rejected

By Ed Miller

An anonymous candidate who was offered the job of Hoke County Manager Monday has rejected the position, members of the County Commission said Tuesday.

After making a telephone call to the candidate, who was not named, Commission Chairman John Balfour, announced to fellow board members that they would have to "start from square one."

However, further efforts are being made to change the candidate's mind, commission members said.

According to Balfour, the man was made the offer Monday night with the provision that he answer to commissioners within 24 hours.

"The reasons he gave (for rejecting the offer) made me respect the gentleman even more," Balfour said.

According to Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch, the candidate who did not accept the offer is asking for a job. (See JOB, page 11)

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather Monday made one think of October days in the fall of the year. The low was down in the 50s and the high for the day was near 70. The wind was blowing and a sweater or jacket felt good in the morning hours. The forecast is for it to remain cooler for a few days.

Hurricane Diana, after keeping everyone on their toes, finally hit land early Thursday morning with winds of about 115 mph and left about 17 inches of rain on the coast. We can be thankful that it came in at low tide.

After talking to many Hoke County people who own cottages at the beach, they stated that some damage was done, but not as much as you would expect. It seems that the hardest hit were some buildings at Carolina Beach. The beach erosion was not as bad as many thought it would be.

It seems that warnings given to (See AROUND TOWN, page 12)



### Preparing to feed multitudes

More than 1,500 plates of fish were sold Saturday during the annual Shrine Fish Fry held at Edenborough Shopping Center. Here A.J. Lundy Jr. dips the fillets in flour to prepare them for the fryer. The proceeds from the event will go to help burned and crippled children.



### A study in emotion

The faces of these Hoke High cheerleaders show varying degrees of emotion during Friday's close loss to Seventy-First High School. We take a look at the game and other sports on page 8 in today's News-Journal.

## Prisoner attempts suicide

By Ed Miller

A prisoner in the Hoke County Jail allegedly attempted suicide last Friday and is now in the hospital of Central Prison, Sheriff Dave Barrington said Monday.

John Jr. Clark, who was supposed to appear in Hoke County Superior Court this week, was seen by other prisoners in the jail as he passed out after cutting an artery in his forearm, the Sheriff said.

According to Barrington, prisoners are issued encased razors, that are approved by the state, each morning for about 30 minutes to shave.

Clark, 22, apparently crushed the casing and extracted the razor. Clark was facing the sink of his cell, which is on the back wall, when he injured himself. He stood there and bled until he passed out.

That is when the other prisoners saw what had happened, Barrington said.

"He lost what appeared to be a large amount of blood before anyone saw him," the sheriff said.

When finally alerted, deputies administered direct pressure to the wound until medical personnel could get there and put about nine clamps on the arm to stop the bleeding, Barrington said.

Later Friday, Barrington obtained a "safe-keeping" order on the prisoner and had him transferred to Raleigh, he said.

Clark was to appear in court charged with discharging firearm into occupied property, second degree kidnapping, two counts of first degree burglary and felonious larceny.