

The News-Journal

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Making a point

School board member Shirley Gibson makes a point during an earlier discussion on school facilities.

\$3.5 million bond issue OK'd

Members of the Hoke County School Board unanimously agreed Monday to present a proposed \$3.5 million bond issue to the county commissioners.

The proposal includes plans to add new classrooms to county schools and to make renovations and repairs at the existing facilities.

The plan to improve the buildings with money from a bond issue was presented at a special meeting last week by board member Walter Coley.

Proposals to improve the county's school facilities have been presented by other board members during the past six months.

Coley said he borrowed ideas from those proposals to come up with his plan.

"I think it's a good compromise of everybody's plan," Coley said. The proposal calls for:

- Building an additional 12 classrooms at Hoke High School at a cost of \$600,000 and repairing lights and ceilings plus adding lockers at a cost of \$50,000. The total cost for Hoke High would be \$650,000.

- Adding 12 classrooms to Upchurch School (grades six, seven and eight) at a cost of \$600,000. Plus renovating the vocational education building, tearing down the TMH building, landscaping the grounds and improving teacher's lounges and toilets at a cost of

\$100,000. The total cost for Upchurch would be \$700,000.

- Removing the trailers from Turlington School (grades six, seven and eight). Plus improving the teacher's lounges; repairing the library building and the gym and gutters; maintaining the main building; improving the secretary's office and the toilets and covered walks. The total cost for Turlington would be \$250,000.

- Adding either a multi-purpose room or four classrooms to McLaughlin School (kindergarten through fifth grade) and making improvements to teacher's lounges for a total cost of \$200,000.

- Building eight new classrooms at Seurlock School (kindergarten through fifth grade) at a cost of \$400,000. Plus adding and repairing toilets and water fountains; remodeling the cafeteria and multi-purpose room at a cost of \$250,000. The total cost for Seurlock would be \$650,000.

- Constructing four additional classrooms at South Hoke (kindergarten through fifth grade) at a cost of \$200,000. Plus repairing the gym; adding and repairing toilets and enlarging the kitchen at a cost of \$50,000. The total cost for South Hoke would be \$250,000.

- Adding six classrooms to West Hoke (kindergarten through fifth grade) at a cost of \$300,000, and also building a multi-purpose

room at \$200,000. The proposal also calls for removing the stage and repairing rest rooms at a cost of \$50,000. The total cost for West Hoke is \$550,000.

The proposal also calls for an additional \$250,000 to purchase land that would eventually be used as a site to build a new facility.

School board member Shirley Gibson was opposed to the additional money for the land and argued against it at the special meeting last week and again at Monday's meeting.

"I just can't see buying land right now," Gibson said.

Although Gibson agreed with the rest of the proposal she said she was against the money for the land because it was not known what kind of school would be needed or where it would be located when the time came to build.

Gibson suggested adding an amendment to the proposal stipulating that any land purchase be made after the facilities were repaired.

Board member Bobby Wright disagreed with the amendment saying, "I don't see the reason to put additional restrictions on ourselves."

Wright also said that including money for a land purchase in the proposal would show the public that the board's intention was to build a new facility in the future.

Although Gibson eventually

voted for the proposal without the amendment to finish the repairs before purchasing land, she stated that her priority was to make the improvements first.

"I just want to see us get the facilities repaired," Gibson said.

In other business, the school board

- Unanimously passed a motion to contribute \$10,000 of revenue sharing funds for the purchase of new uniforms for the Hoke High School band.

The band booster club has raised approximately \$8,000 of the needed \$26,250 for 175 new uniforms.

In a second motion, board members said they would approve the purchase of the uniforms if the band booster club can show a legal note for the balance of the cost of the uniforms.

Band Director Jimmy James and Faye McMillan, chairman of the band boosters, said the company making the uniforms has promised delivery within 120 days after an order has been placed.

- Approved a proposal by CII Engineered Systems, Inc., Richmond, Va., to revamp the heating and air conditioning systems at Hoke High School for the purpose of saving energy costs.

The company guarantees that energy costs of \$12,475 a year will be saved when improvements are

(See BOND, page 2A)

Over \$2,000 taken in break-in

Over \$200 in jewelry and firearms were stolen from a Hoke County residence over the weekend, according to Sheriff's Department records.

Stanley Faircloth, Rt. 4, Fayetteville, stated in the report he noticed the items were missing when he returned home Sunday afternoon.

The missing items included two diamond rings, a gold class ring, a diamond necklace, an Ithica 16 gauge shotgun, and a Remington 12 gauge shotgun.

Records state deputy Danny Hardin found pry marks at the rear patio door.

Other items were found on the bed.

In an unrelated case, a red and white bicycle was reported stolen from the residence of Charlie Thomas of Red Springs.

Records say Thomas stated he noticed the bike was missing sometime between 8:30 p.m. Sunday and 6:30 a.m. the next day.

Thomas and another man went looking for the bike and found two other stolen bikes in a stream

located on RPR 1135, the report says.

The bikes were returned to the owners.

Another bike was reported stolen from the home of Leroy Jasper Jr. of Red Springs.

According to records, Jasper stated that his daughter's bike had been stolen sometime between Saturday, 6 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

The bicycle was recovered at 3 p.m. on Monday.

A gun larceny was reported by Doris Ayers, Rt. 1, Aberdeen.

On March 30, Mrs. Ayers reported to the Sheriff's office that a .38 special nickel plated revolver was missing.

Deputy Allen Gardener was responding to a call early Friday morning when his vehicle was struck by Leonard Baldwin Jr. 19, of Rt. 1, Lumber Bridge.

The accident occurred on Rural Paved Road 1300, near The Center, a nightclub.

Records say approximately \$1000 damage was done to the patrol car and about \$200 to the car driven by Baldwin.

Also, a camper was reported missing this weekend from under the carport at the residence of Janie Bullard Jacobs, Red Springs.

A ten-speed girls Western flyer was also reported missing from the residence.

According to records, there were tire tracks leading away that may have been from a truck.

A shoplifting incident at the A&P in the Edinborough Shopping Center was reported last Thursday to the police department, Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said.

A young male subject was observed putting four cartons of Marlboro cigarettes in his jacket and then leaving the store around 9 p.m.

Wiggins also stated at 7:55 a.m. on Sunday a complaint of a break-in at the Corner Cafe on Main Street was received.

Missing items included chicken, steaks, pork ribs, and plates valued at \$238.84.

The thief apparently broke the lock off the back door to gain entry.



High shot

David Carthens (right) hits the ball high for his children Lekisha (center) and Lamont (left) during an Easter Monday day in the park. Recent sunny weather and 89° temperatures have made outdoor

activities in Hoke County and across the south pleasant, however, the dry weather and low humidity are causing problems for farmers and local firefighters.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

Spring arrived on March 20, but summer came early and arrived on March 31. The temperature at three o'clock Monday afternoon was 86°. Now this is summer weather. This is also a record high for this date.

We still haven't had the rain that we need. The forests are dry and a ban has been placed on fires at this time. So be careful when you are out in the woods. A careless dropped match or cigarette could cause plenty of trouble.

The forecast is for the temperature to be in the 80s on Tuesday and then go into the 70s for the remainder of the week. No freezing weather is predicted.

The program that will be presented May 7, 8 & 9, the week of the Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Hoke County, is now in the rehearsal stage. They will need a few good bodies to put this production on in a first class manner. So contact Mrs. Mary Archie McNeill if you would like to be in

(See AROUND, page 3A)



Director Betty High

Sign ups urged at Hoke college

College students home on spring break who need additional credits may desire to contact the Sandhills Community College about the summer courses now being planned, according to Betty High, Director of the Hoke County campus of Sandhills Community College.

Summer courses will be in mini-sessions so students will still have some time off to enjoy the summer.

(See COLLEGE, page 11A)

Hoke County retail sales drop in '85

Retail sales in Hoke County hit the lowest level since 1981 during the end of November and the first part of December, reports recently released by the State Department of Revenue show.

During period, retail sales in Hoke County dropped to \$3.7 million, which was down over \$400,000 from the previous month.

The November-December sales were down almost \$600,000 from the same period during 1984.

Sales for the 12-month period through December 15 were off by \$1.66 million over the previous year.

During the period sales by county merchants were \$50.4 million compared to \$52 million during 1984.

Local observers pinpoint the closing of Hoke Auto Company as one of the causes for last year's drop in retail sales.

(See RETAIL, page 11A)

Reward offered for school vandalism

A fund to provide award money to anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of vandals at county schools was established by the school board Monday night.

Rewards of up to \$300 will be offered to individuals providing the information.

Anyone having information on vandals, should contact School Business Manager Don Steed at 875-4106.

Hoke High School was hit by vandals twice during March.

A fire completely destroyed the contents of Room 22 on the McDonald side of the high school on March 16.

The room was used to instruct handicapped students in life skills. Officials said the fire started on a dresser under a window in the room.

The State Bureau of Investigation was called in to investigate the cause of the fire.

Official said another room located on the Gibson side of the school was also entered the night of the fire.

On March 27, vandals broke into the Hoke High Gibson Cafeteria and destroyed the contents of a walk-in cooler by spraying a CO2 fire extinguisher inside.

Turkey, potatoes and dressing that had been prepared for lunch the next day were all ruined.

An investigation into both incidents is continuing.