

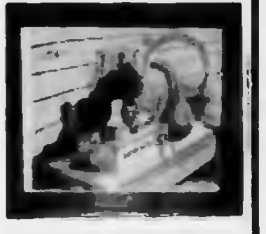
# The News-Journal

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

Covering Hoke County Like A Roof Since 1905

We salute  
Hoke volunteers

Faye Butler  
creates  
beauty  
On 1B



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25 CENTS

## Cellmate says Cummings admitted to murders

The Superior Court trial of Edward Lee Cummings, charged with the slaying of two Wake County sisters, continued this week with his former cellmate testifying that Cummings admitted to the murders after his arrest last year.

Inmate Fred Jacobs, 42, of Route 1, Shannon, told the court that Cummings said he had killed both of the sisters, Karen Marie Puryear, because she had "ripped him off of some drugs and some cash".

Jacobs said Cummings told him that Karen's sister, Teresa Annette Puryear, was also killed because of drugs. He said Cummings told him Teresa had been told to take a briefcase containing several pounds of cocaine to Durham but had left

it in Rocky Mount.

The Hoke County Superior Court session, presided over by Judge Robert Farmer, resumed Monday after an Easter holiday recess from April 16 through 26.

Farmer ordered separate trials for the slaying of the two sisters. Cummings is being tried first for the slaying of Karen Puryear.

The bodies of the sisters were found in shallow graves in Hoke County near McCain last January 13. Cummings, 45, was arrested last January 20 and charged with the slayings.

In testimony which lasted more than an hour, Jacobs said he had shared a six-man cell with Cummings at the Hoke County

jail. He said several other inmates were present when Cummings told him about the slayings in August of last year.

At the time, Jacobs was awaiting trial for possession with attempt to sell LSD and Qualudes.

He said he had told Cummings that he didn't want to hear about his case, but that he told him anyway. "We'd be just sitting around talking and he'd bring it up."

Jacobs, a long-time offender on charges including breaking and entering, drug dealing, and robbery, was grilled with questions by Defense Attorney Jim Parrish.

Parrish asked him about his criminal record, motives for committing crimes as well as his knowledge of drugs.

Jacobs denied that he was testifying in order to obtain a reduced sentence when Parrish asked him about his motive for being a witness.

Jacobs told the court that he had already agreed to plead guilty to charges against him before his statement about Cummings was given to the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

However, upon cross-examination by Parrish, Jacobs could not remember what day it was that he had given the statement.

Jacobs said that he was testifying because Cummings is prejudiced against Indian women and white women. The Puryear sisters were white. Cummings is black.

In testimony, Jacobs said that Cummings had told him he had a .22 caliber pistol and a sawed-off shotgun and that this information was part of the statement Jacobs gave to Sheriff's deputies.

Jacobs testified that Cummings had also told him he had a .32 caliber pistol with a pearl handle, but that this information was not in the statement he'd given county officials.

During testimony earlier in the trial the state medical examiner testified that the gunshot wound found in Karen Puryear's head could have been made by a bullet larger than a .22 caliber gun but smaller than a .45 caliber gun.

(See TRIAL, page 2A)

## Thieves get over \$12,000 in property

A Raeford residence was robbed of over \$12,000 worth of property this month, according to Sheriff's Department records.

James Conner reported a break-in and larceny at the Glen E. Lane residence, Route 4, Raeford.

Records say that someone entered the garage, broke the window on the door, unlocked the door and went into the house. They entered the residence sometime between 4:30 p.m., April 18 and 9:30 a.m., April 19.

Property worth \$12,908 was taken including a 1983 Chevrolet truck with a king cab on the back, jewelry, clothing, a television, firearms, foodstuffs, tools and \$270 worth of cash.

The vehicle was later recovered.

Alton Cummings, Route 1, Red Springs, reported a break-in at his residence.

Records say someone entered the screened porch on the center of the house sometime around 12 noon, April 17.

Property, totaling \$992, was taken including a VCR, a chain saw and foodstuffs.

Doris Jackson, Faber Street, Fayetteville, reported a break-in at the home of her sister Mrs. P.E. Beasley, Myra Road, Raeford.

Records say someone broke the window with a brick and entered the residence sometime between 4 p.m., April 18 and 2:30 p.m., April 20.

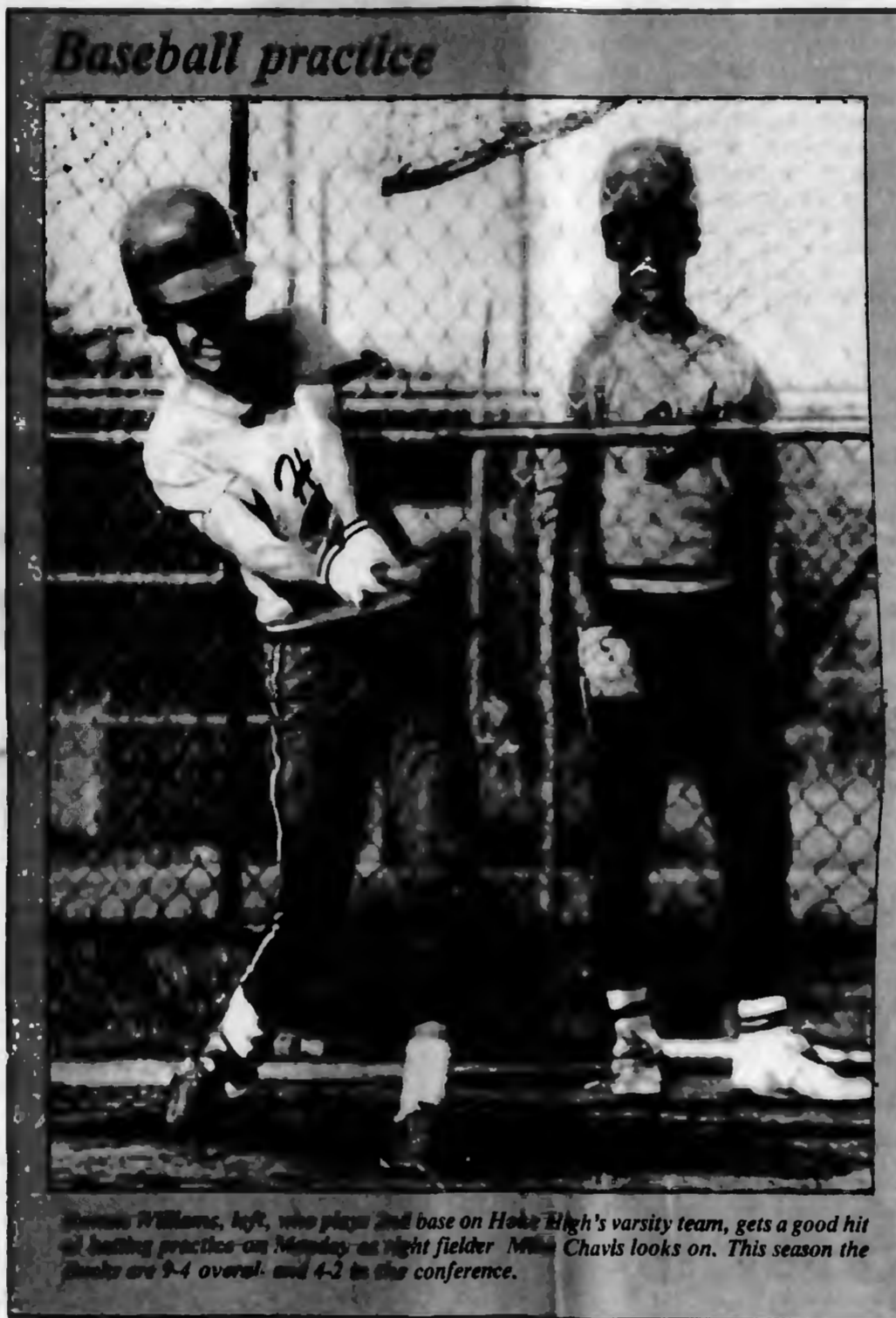
Over \$800 worth of property was taken including a VCR, firearms and a television.

Records say Willie Lee Watson, Vernon Lowder Road, reported that someone took \$550 worth of fishing equipment from his shed sometime between 12 midnight, April 15 and 1:30 p.m., April 22.

C.V. Pate, Laurel Hill, reported that someone took a \$200 battery from the tractor at his residence sometime between 12:05 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., April 21.

Joel Edward, Route 1, Aberdeen, reported a break-in at his residence.

(See CRIME, page 2A)



Baseball practice

Willie Williams, left, who plays third base on Hoke High's varsity team, gets a good hit during practice on Monday as right fielder Mike Chavis looks on. This season the boys are 9-4 overall and 4-2 in the conference.

## Draft budget shows increase in taxes, more school money

By Sally Jamir  
News-Journal Staff Writer

An anticipated budget estimate presented last week at a Hoke County Commissioners' meeting shows increased salaries and more money for the school system, but would raise the tax rate two percent, a county spokesman said.

County Manager William (Bub) Cowan presented the preliminary \$7.3 million operating budget last Tuesday during discussion on whether or not commissioners should approve a \$60,000 cash match for a Community Development Block Grant application.

Cowan stressed that the budget is currently only a draft budget and the figures included "may change radically" in the next few weeks. Changes in figures would depend on what financial supplements the county gets.

The tentative budget figure is \$1.6 million higher than last year's budget of \$5.7 million.

Cowan said the tax hike of two cents per \$100 valuation would raise county revenues \$65,000 each year.

County Finance Officer Charles Davis said these taxes would probably be raised anyway even if the cash match were not approved.

The cash match would be supplied by one time revenues from the discontinued revenue sharing funds and revenues from the new half-cent sales tax.

The base salary increase could mean a five percent rise in salary for county employees currently on the payroll.

Davis said that based on the personnel management system established last year, staff may actually get pay raises in the range of one to five percent. The specific increase would depend on each person's performance on the job, he said.

Also, additional positions may be established in the County Finance Office, Register of Deeds office, the Health Department, the Department of Social Services and the Library.

Positions may also be created in a new consolidated city and county emergency communications department. The new department would cost \$178,000 and employ a supervisor and a four telecommunicators.

Cowan said that the cost for the public assistance program would rise \$83,000 from last year's budget.

The schools capital outlay budget would rise four to five percent, under the new budget. The recently released schools budget shows a 6.76 percent budget increase for the 1987-88 year.

The contingency appropriation this year would be \$50,000, the tentative budget shows.

The reserve fund balance would be budgeted at \$486,000.

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather Saturday was about as bad as it could be for this time of year. The rain and cool snap felt like it was before Easter rather than after. Sunday and Monday were nice and the sunshine was drying up the mud holes and making it feel like spring again.

The forecast is for a possible shower or two on Tuesday, but after these the temperature will head for the 80 degree mark and will reach it by the weekend. No other rain is in the forecast.

The Constitutional Bicentennial Committee of Hoke will meet Tuesday, May 4 at the Hoke County Library. The meeting will start at 5 p.m. All members of the committee are urged to be present for this meeting.

Plans will be presented for the first event of this celebration, so your input is needed at this time.

I envy people who have a "green thumb." Now if you don't know what a green thumb person is, then you don't know anything about gardening.

Lawanna Hayes of the Chamber of Commerce has given me a note that she would like for me to print in this column. Now the people she is trying to reach in this column don't belong to the Garden Department of the Woman's Club.

(See AROUND, page 2A)

## Woodward to speak at chamber banquet



Kirk Woodward

Motivational speaker Kirk Woodward, owner of People Centered Programs, a human resource development company headquartered in Dallas, Texas, will be the guest speaker at the annual Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce Banquet to be held Tuesday, May 12 at the National Guard Armory.

Woodward, who organized his company in 1983 to publish and market cassette-based training and development programs, at one time served as the membership director for the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, the largest regional chamber of commerce in the United States. He spent many years working in all aspects of radio and television broadcasting and is currently active in community affairs.

"There is a real need for American business to examine the way it does business," says Woodward in his biographical data.

"The rules are changing and changing fast," he said. "The business people, the professionals, entrepreneurs of all types are finding that those tried and true formulas aren't true and don't work. That's where I think I can do some good, and my booking for the next six months suggest I'm right."

During the last few months, Woodward has spoken at banquets

in Rocky Mount, Troy, Ohio, and Marion, Iowa. He has led seminars in Missoula, Montana, Redding, California and Buffalo, New York.

The banquet gets underway with a reception beginning at 6 p.m. Door prizes will be given away, and new chamber officers and board members will be installed at the banquet.

"This is a great time for all of the civic and business persons to come together for an enjoyable evening," said Lawanna Hayes, manager of the local chamber. "The chamber feels the community will appreciate our banquet speaker."

Tickets for the banquet are now on sale at the Depot and may be purchased from any chamber board member.

"It is hoped that everyone will come to the banquet and enjoy a night that will be both a learning and enjoyable experience," Hayes said.

Chamber of Commerce members look forward to the banquet each year.

## Lawsuits against county dropped

Daniels settles out of court, drops claims against driver

Two lawsuits filed by a Hoke County woman against the county and a county ambulance driver, scheduled to be heard in Superior Court on Monday, were settled out of court, according to County Attorney Durcan McFayden.

The lawsuits were filed by Hoke resident Evelyn T. Daniels, after a 1984 traffic accident.

Daniels was being taken by a county ambulance to Moore Regional Hospital at Pinehurst on August 30, 1984, after she complained of chest pains.

During the accident, she and her husband, Robert Daniels, were injured. Mr. Daniels was sitting in the front seat of the ambulance at the time of the accident. He was hospitalized and later died on December 12, 1984, authorities said.

McFayden said that all pending charges in the suits were dismissed and all claims against parties involved were dropped.

In one lawsuit Mrs. Daniels sought in excess of \$750,000 plus \$150,000 in punitive damages for the death of her husband and in the other sought in excess of \$10,000 plus \$150,000 in punitive damages for injuries she suffered.

The accident occurred on N.C. 211 at the intersection of Page Road, according to police authorities.

The ambulance, driven by Horace Mitchell Hayes, reportedly drove through a red light, according to police reports. The ambulance was struck by a car driven by Mary Grace Newton of Moore County, and overturned, according to the reports.

Hayes, a county emergency medical technician was charged with failing to stop for a red light

but was found not guilty in Moore County District Court, according to records.

Records say Hayes was motioned through the intersection by a flagman who was directing traffic due to sewer construction work on a sewer line next to the road.

McFayden said the settlement was arrived at with no expense to the county.



Turkey Staffin

Strut on down to the Turkey Staffin for good food and music at Gibson Cafeteria, Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Have your photo made with the mascot turkey.