

The News-Journal

Volume LXXIX Number 9

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Thursday, June 18, 1987



Graduation

Valedictorian Timothy Ward and Salutatorian Mary Emily McDonald enjoy graduation ceremonies (top, left) Anthony Monroe waves to his friends (top, right). A group poses for a photograph (bottom).



278 graduate from Hoke High School

Friday evening's commencement ceremonies at the Hoke County High School stadium marked a turning point in the lives of 278 graduating seniors. For on that warm night, members of the Class of '87 took their first steps toward adulthood.

The seniors, dressed in white caps and gowns, began the ceremonies by walking single file onto the football field past stands jammed with relatives and friends.

After they were seated in folding chairs on the field, members of the Class of '87 responded with cheers to a saying they have heard throughout the school year.

"You cannot get to heaven

without this particular class of '87," Senior Class President Beverly Peterkin said during her welcoming remarks.

Superintendent Dr. Bob Nelson delivered the graduation address. He first addressed the parents attending the ceremonies.

"Hoke High is not a perfect high school," Nelson said. "We need to be honest with ourselves and admit that we are not perfect parents and that our children aren't perfect."

"We know that there is nothing easy about bearing the responsibility of another person's life," he said. "However, these graduating seniors, their parents and teachers have a

right to feel a certain amount of pride."

"We have done a pretty good job with the class of '87," Nelson said.

Turning his attention to the graduating seniors, Nelson read a passage from Rogers and Hammerstein's 1945 musical *Carousel*. The passage is a monologue from the play's final scene. It is a graduation speech delivered by the character Dr. Seldon to seniors living in a rural community in 1888.

"All I hope is that now that we've got you this far, you'll turn out to be worth all the trouble we took with you," Nelson read.

"You'll have to find your own happiness," he said.

"Keep your faith and courage and you'll be all right."

Nelson then read the lyrics to the show's closing song, "You'll Never Walk Alone."

He picked out the names of individual seniors and told them they will never walk alone. "The teachers will be watching over you," he said.

"God speed; our best wishes go with you."

During the ceremonies, it was announced that Timothy Ward had the highest grade point average for four years and was named valedictorian. His grade point average was 95.184.

Mary Emily McDonald was named salutatorian with a grade point average of 95.117.

Residents voice complaints over budget matters

Taxes, communications targeted

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

The county commissioners room was flooded with concerned residents Monday night during a public hearing scheduled to hear comments on the proposed 1987-88 budget.

The hearing is required before the proposed \$7.1 million budget can be adopted. The budget proposes a three-cent tax rate hike to 84 cents per \$100 valuation.

Much of the opinions which residents expressed centered on this tax increase as well as on the proposed central communications department, literacy needs and school facilities.

County resident Jim Knotts said he thought there should be a way for the tax burden to be more evenly distributed on residents rather than mainly on the landowner.

Knotts was upset this was the case and said that utility rates would also be going up soon.

"Everyone's getting a hand in my pocket before I get a chance to do anything with it myself," Knotts said.

Other residents who are retired stated they were on a fixed income and could not afford more taxes.

Chairman Wyatt Upchurch explained that many residents were not responsible for certain taxes now because the federal government did away with the household personal property tax. He said, as a result, the county lost a large portion of the tax base.

Currently much of the revenue the county receives comes from the two half-cent sales taxes.

A county resident commented that the budget would be in good shape if residents who owed taxes would pay them. Commissioners

agreed this would lower the proposed tax increase.

Several residents opposed building expenditures for the proposed communications center, saying the \$28,000 seemed far too much for new building when current county structures could be used for this purpose.

County fire department chiefs Johnny Baker, president of The Hoke County Firefighter's Association, stated that dispatchers were swamped with an abundance of emergency calls.

Baker said that all the emergency services had expanded and the county was growing in population. He said the county needs the proposed services to handle emergencies.

Also during the hearing, Literacy Council Director Barbara Buie made a request to the commissioners to grant the council \$10,000 for literacy education in the county.

"We cannot have freedom unless we have literacy," Buie said.

She said that on July 4, the ABC television network will be focusing on the problems of literacy and how to resolve them.

Board of Education Robert Wright made a request to commissioners that they consider the board's request for funding this year.

Wright stated that figures which school architects gave the board "scared" members of the board in that they were above the figures originally provided for in the bond issue.

In other business, Jimmy Morrisey, President of Hoke County Branch National Association for (See COUNTY, page 2A)

County planning board OKs subdivision street provision

Members of the Hoke County Planning Board approved a private street provision for the county's subdivision regulations at their meeting last Tuesday.

The provision outlines the treatment and maintenance of streets in subdivisions in the county.

Board chairman Brown Hendrix said the provision would allow for individual agreements between property seller and buyers concerning the type of streets to be provided in subdivisions.

The proposed provision was sent to the county commissioners for consideration at their meeting Monday night. The matter was tabled for further study.

The proposed provision is based on the minimum specifications for private streets in Cumberland County. Changes in this document were made before accepting the provision, such as increasing the lot size under consideration from 20,000 to 30,000.

In other business, the board reviewed a proposed amendment to the subdivision regulations on single lot division. The matter was tabled for consideration at a later meeting.

In additional business, the board considered changes in the minor subdivision definition.

County Attorney Duncan McFarland (See BOARD, page 2A)

Richards selected district Principal of the Year

Frank H. Richards, principal of South Hoke Elementary School in Hoke County, has been selected 1987 Principal of the Year for the South Central Education District (Region 4) in a program co-sponsored by Wachovia Bank and Trust and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Richards will compete with seven other regional winners representing the state's eight school districts for the two

statewide Wachovia Principal of the Year Awards. Statewide winners will be announced July 12 at the Department of Public Instruction's annual meeting of principals in Wrightsville Beach.

Richards is a graduate of Pfeiffer College in Meisenheimer, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He also received a master's degree in administration from East Carolina University.

He has been an educator for 22 years. In 1965, he began as a high school math teacher in Montgomery County, where he taught for one year. He then taught math at the high school level for nine more years in Hoke County before becoming assistant principal.

A former elementary assistant principal and community school coordinator, Richards became principal of South Hoke Elementary in 1982.

This is the fourth year of the Wachovia Principal of the Year program, which is open to all public school principals in the state.

Regional winners were selected from among principals nominated by their local school systems. The selection committee included principals, teachers, college educators, lay people and representatives of Wachovia Bank.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather is hot and the air conditioners are running all night. When you wake up and it is 70 degrees outside, it has cooled off much during the night.

It seems that most of the county had rain Saturday night and the rainfall was from 1/2 to one inch. This was not as much as most of the farmers wanted, but as one farmer said, "Every little bit helps!"

The forecast is for the possibility of rain Tuesday and Wednesday and then clearing for the remainder of the week. The temperatures for this period will be in the 90s each day.

Betty High, campus director for the Hoke County unit of Sandhills Community College, will leave the county and her job here on June 30. She has done an outstanding job here and has made many (See AROUND, page 2A)

Many ignorant of garbage ordinance

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Many people in the area are not aware that there is an ordinance regulating what trash can be placed in the green dumpsters at the 30 waste sites in Hoke County.

The ordinance governing the disposal of garbage, refuse and other solid waste became effective Aug. 1, 1984, according to Health Department Environmental Health Director Mike Wood.

Wood said that if people would not discard illegal materials, such as furniture, appliances and tree limbs, at the sites they would be much easier to clean. Dumping these materials in the green boxes costs the county thousands of dollars each year in order to clean the sights.

"We clean up five to seven sites about two or three times a year, each site costing about two hundred to five hundred dollars per site," Wood said.

Sometimes a backhoe is needed to move the volume of trash that collects at the green box sites, and

making for an unsightly area, Wood said.

The extra trash is not all coming from Hoke County, Wood said. Some of it comes from outlying areas such as Cumberland County.

"There's no question we get some (trash) from outside the county," Wood said. "It's difficult to say how much."

A resident from the Rockfish area has called the large site in that area a "disgrace" because of trash which is dumped there by residents from inside and outside the county.

Whoever it is that does the illegal dumping, Wood stresses that there is a \$50 fine if people are caught dumping. There is also an award for anyone who can provide information leading to the apprehension of those who dump illegal trash into the green boxes.

The ordinance states that its purpose is to "provide for the efficient, universal use of the bulk container sites, and to protect the public health, and public and

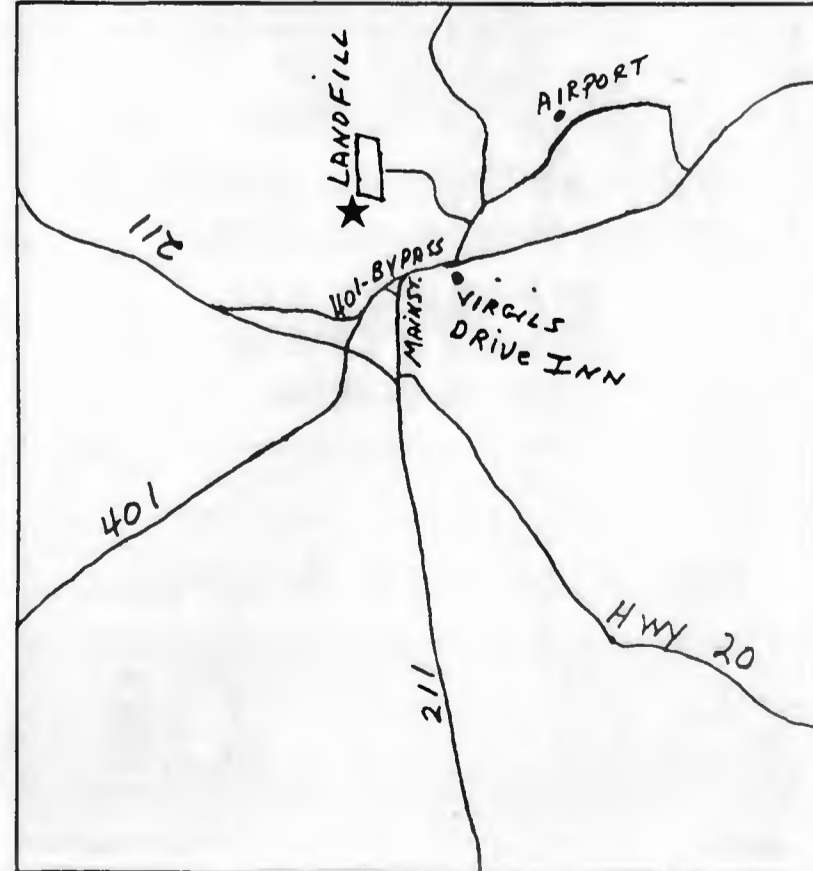
private properties in Hoke County."

Refuse which is not allowed to be dumped in the bulk containers, or green boxes, include large dead animals and hazardous wastes. These materials could be dangerous to people in the area.

In addition, materials residents must not dump in the containers are tree limbs, automobiles or automobile parts and large household items such as refrigerators, stoves, couches, hot water heaters and other items of similar size.

Also, residents must not dump highly flammable materials containing fire or hot ashes or any poisonous or highly flammable materials or any other refuse that may be dangerous or damaging to the containers or landfill equipment.

The landfill is located off RP 1305 west of U.S. 401. It is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



Landfill
A star marks the location of the county's landfill.