

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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Move to new middle schools delayed until Oct. 21

Hoke County's two new middle schools will not be ready when school starts August 26.

In fact, if things go as planned, they won't open until October 21.

The School Board voted to delay the opening of the schools at last night's board meeting.

The decision came after school officials met

with building contractors for the two schools Thursday.

School officials learned how far behind construction was on the two schools, then decided to move their opening date back.

But Superintendent Bill Harrison hopes things don't go as planned; he'd like to see the schools

open sooner.

That's why officials decided on setting the opening date so late in the semester; it gives officials time to move the date up if construction finishes sooner than expected.

"I think that setting the date and getting in earlier would be a whole lot more positive than

setting a date and having to move it back," he said.

He said he hoped the move, which will come in the middle of the school semester, will involve the whole community.

"We feel that with the new leadership in the (See SCHOOL, page 5)

County residents get first taste of zoning



David Woodcox objects to zoning plan

County and planning officials were pleased with the first public meeting held on zoning in Hoke County, but not some citizens.

Hoke's county commissioners held the meeting—intended to explain proposed zoning laws to the public—Monday night at Rockfish's Volunteer Fire Department. Two more like meetings will be held in coming weeks.

Supporters say zoning will protect landowners from neighboring uses which would interfere with the use of their own land or lower its market value.

"We're trying to keep like areas with like areas," Patric Zimmer, Hoke's plan-

ning director, told a crowd of between 60 and 75 residents of western Hoke County.

There are eight types of land use allowed in the proposed zoning ordinance, Zimmer explained; residential/agricultural, two kinds of residential, multi-family residential, mobile home parks, highway commercial, neighborhood business and industrial.

Each type has restrictions as to what uses can and cannot be made on land so zoned, he said.

For instance, no heavy industry can go onto a piece of land zoned for residential use.

"There's ninety-six acres right next to my lot and someone could come right in and put a hog farm right next to my house"—Albert Bahoric

People who would like to use their land in a way not allowed because of the way it has been zoned may have three alternatives, Zimmer and Agnes Wanman, a state official in the area Community Development office in Fayetteville, said.

Conditional use

If allowed by the zoning district, the land owner may seek a conditional use permit.

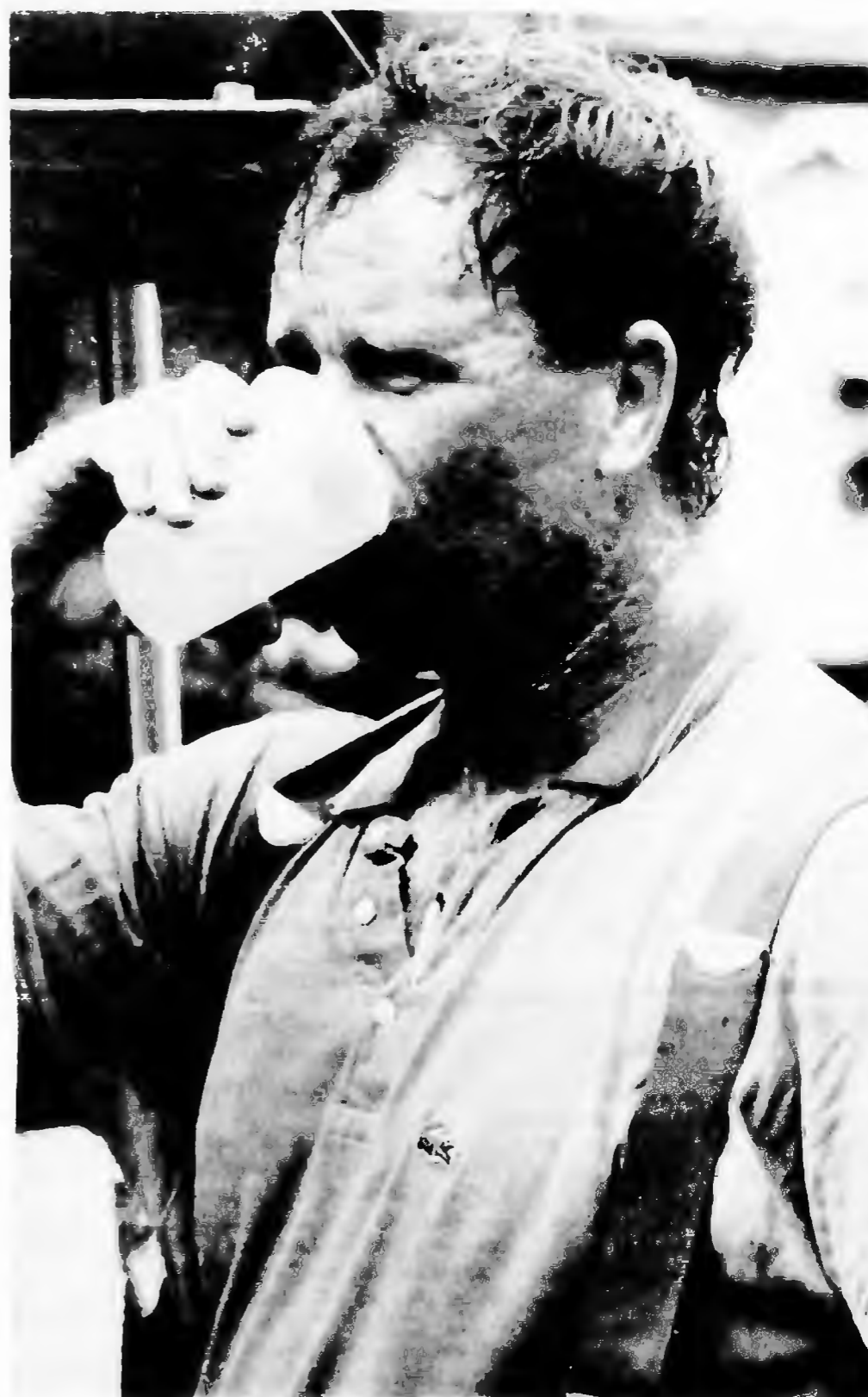
The land owner must go before the Planning and Development Commission with his request in an open hearing; the land owner's neighbors may attend the hearing and voice their approval or opposition; the PDC then makes a recommendation to county commissioners, who decide.

"Conditional use is called that because they can set conditions," Wanman said. If the land owner violates those conditions, the county has the authority to rescind the conditional use.

A conditional use hearing "allows the adjacent landowners to have a say," Zimmer said.

In a residential/agricultural district, for instance, Class B trailers (single-wides) are allowed only as a conditional use.

"If you wanted to put in a Class B you (See ZONING, page 12)



Fire break

Stonewall Volunteer fireman Jimmy Maxwell takes a break from fighting a house fire in near-100 degree heat Monday. The house, off Haire Rd., caught fire mid afternoon, but flames were extinguished by farm workers nearby. (See related photo page 12.)

Decision on sheriff delayed once more

Two murder trials on hold too

The decision of whether Alex Norton will remain in his office as sheriff of Hoke County may not come until some time in August.

As of Monday afternoon, Donald W. Stephens, the Superior Court judge from Raleigh who has tried the case, still had not received a transcript he requested of the trial's proceedings, a court official said.

District Attorney Jean Powell, who, along with County Attorney Duncan McFadyen, brought the petition to remove Norton before the court, said she had not received a copy of the transcript either.

Stephens made it clear in open court he particularly wished to review what Norton said on the stand early in the trial: some witnesses' testimony appeared to contradict Norton's.

Murder trials on hold

Powell further said court watchers can expect to wait at least until January before the start of the trials of two highly publicized murders.

Two suspects in the murder of

Tom Cameron, a respected Hoke County businessman, have yet even to be indicted.

Powell said she would have called the case before the last Grand Jury, which determines whether felony cases will be tried, but a chief witness in the case, a State Bureau of Investigation agent, was not available.

Powell said the process is necessarily a slow one.

"You just don't go in and try to try these cases by the seat of your pants," she said.

The two suspects, William McNatt and Tyrone Williams, are still in Hoke County Jail without bond.

Cameron was found beaten to death March 21 near a pond on northern Hoke land he co-owned.

In the other case, nine men suspected in the murder of Ed Harris, a former Hoke County detective, are also still in jail awaiting trial.

Harris was gunned down in the doorway of his home the night of April 4.

(See TRIALS, page 6)

Phone fraud targets some in Hoke

Someone has been making long distance phone calls and charging them to phone customers in the Raeford area.

"We've had a number of them reported to us," said Zan Monroe, a manager at Carolina Telephone in Fayetteville.

The phone-call thieves call the operator from, for instance, a public phone booth posing as someone whose name they picked out of a phone book, Monroe said.

They say they would like to make a long distance phone call and charge it to their number.

They have the operator call the number, hoping the person's wife or child will

answer the phone.

The operator then asks, at the caller's request, if that second number will authorize a long distance call made on another phone.

The person who answers the phone often thinks a family member really needs to make the call when, in fact, it's only a fraud, Monroe said.

A long distance call, to New York, for example, is later billed to the phone number; by then, it's too late.

"We're taking measures to try to track these people down," Monroe said.

"We think we're on the trail of where

some of these calls are coming from," he said.

"We're suspecting that it's coming out of the Fayetteville area."

The rash of phone frauds has popped up lately in the Fayetteville calling area; Raeford's 875 exchange is listed in the phone book, causing some area customers to get conned.

Anyone can be a target: the frauds appear to pick names out of a phone book at random, Monroe said.

"I've even had two or three attempts made on my number," he said.

(See FRAUD, page 4)

'Sister Dolly' leaving

After seven years of ministry here, Sister Delores Glick is leaving St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church and the Raeford area. She is accepting a new assignment in Baltimore, Md.

Glick was the first pastoral administrator in the Catholic Church's Raleigh Diocese. She was also active in community affairs, serving as president of the Raeford Ministerial Association, and with Hospice, Meals on Wheels and the newly formed H.E.L.P. organization.

Glick has been assigned to Our Lady of Fatima Church in Baltimore.

Parishioners are planning a farewell party for her Sunday, July 28 from 2-4 p.m. at the Raeford Civic Center, with a brief program at 3. The community is invited.



Sr. Delores Glick

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather did warm up last week and continues into this week. Monday and Tuesday the temperatures were in the high 90s and the lows at night were in the high 70s. We have had some rain in the county but it is in spots. On Monday it rained in Ashley Heights and Montrose early in the afternoon and later in the afternoon it rained in the Arabia section of the county. We haven't had much rain around Raeford.

The forecast calls for the heat wave to slowly leave us starting Wednesday. It will be in the low 90s during the day and in the low 70s at night. On Friday and Saturday the highs will be in the 80s and the lows will be in the 60s. We could have rain Wednesday and Thursday.

From all reports the farmers are

pleased with the price of tobacco on the Border and Eastern belt. The average price is running near \$160 per hundred pounds. It seems that the price will increase as the better tobacco comes to the market in several weeks.

In recent weeks when the television newscasters started talking about Hoke County, you could expect something bad would come next. Last week on TV came news of skydiving at the Raeford Airport. It was a two part series and showed people preparing to skydive and also showed one of the TV reporters jumping with a member of the Golden Knights of Fort Bragg.

Then on another occasion a report was given on the castle at Rockfish. A news story about the place was also in (See AROUND, page 6)