

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, August 14, 1991

## West Hoke gets principal; other staff changes announced

West Hoke Elementary, headless since Principal Milton Williams took over Scurlock Elementary, has a new principal.

Superintendent Bill Harrison announced Jerome Miller will be the new principal at last night's School Board meeting—the night before teachers go back to work at the school.

Harrison credited Miller with turning around Crooked River Elementary in St. Mary's, Georgia.

"That school has shown tremendous gains in student achievement," he said, despite a high student turnover rate. The school is near a military base and students often do not stay at the

school long.

Miller developed a good rapport with the St. Mary's community, Harrison said.

"He's done the types of things that I want to see done here," he said.

"The people in St. Mary's, Georgia, are not very happy with Hoke County right now."

Miller has been principal of Crooked River Elementary since 1989. He also served as assistant principal of St. Mary's Elementary and assistant principal of South Scotland Primary in Laurinburg.

Harrison praised Milton Williams for leaving (See SCHOOLS, page 8)



**Futile**  
Chris Hikel finds cleanup of a yard near Spanco a bit premature following last Wednesday's afternoon flood. The News-Journal recorded 2.6 inches of rain in less

than two hours. Water was waist deep in a number of areas around town and in the county. (More photos, page 3.)

## County junkyard breaks law

Hoke County officials were all smiles when they won a court decision in late April backing up a fairly new junkyard law; little did they know they would be charged with improperly running a junkyard themselves.

The City of Raeford issued a cease and desist order July 31 against the county for breaking a city zoning law because of junk cars the county parked next to the Old Armory building on Central Avenue.

"We won't ever put cars there again," County Manager Barry Reed said Friday. He said the city asked the county to do something about the cars, but did not mention the letter he received was a cease order.

City Manager Tom Phillips said Mike McNeill, Raeford's zoning administrator, first approached the county about the unsightly cars in the spring, when several were added to the lot.

"Mike said, Barry you have to do something about those cars," Phillips said Monday. "Barry said, well, we're going to sell them."

"Sometime in June I got word from the county manager offering that if we would give them a little more time, they were going to sell them."

The county will auction off the cars September 14 at the Old Armory, Reed said.

Phillips verbally gave the county through the end of July.

Toward the end of July, still nothing had been done about the cars, some of which had been salvaged for parts, city officials said. McNeill reminded county Finance Officer Charles Davis



Surplus county vehicles form "junk yard" at the old armory.

nothing had been done about the city's request.

Phillips said he learned through the exchange that "Barry said they weren't going to do anything about it," largely because the city never gave the county anything in writing.

"So we gave them something in writing," Phillips said: an order to bring the property "into compliance with the Zoning Ordinance within 7 working days."

Reminding Phillips the county intended to auction off the cars in September, Davis wrote a letter to the city proposing three solutions to the county's car problem: put a portable fence around the cars, move the cars inside Armory Park or park them at the City Garage.

(See JUNK, page 4)

## Chief jailer returns to detective work

### Crumpler says no more changes

Jimmy Riley, whom former Sheriff Alex Norton demoted from chief deputy to chief jailer, is back on Hoke County's detective force.

Riley worked his first day as a plainclothes detective Monday, interim Sheriff Frank Crumpler said.

Riley said he was glad to be back in detective work.

He has mostly worked toward "changing shifts around" since coming back to the front office, he said.

"We're working things around right now trying to get things back to the way they're supposed to be," Riley said.

He had tussled with former Sheriff Alex Norton over the demotion, filing a grievance through the county; Riley claimed he lost more pay than he ought to have due to the demotion.

Norton demoted Riley when he and his deputies were sworn in December 4 during a reorganization of the department. Riley replaced Chief Jailer Jerry Goza, who moved to a job with the state Department of Corrections.

Riley's salary was cut from \$25,292 to \$18,380. Norton then asked for and got \$3,500 from the county commissioners to give Riley a raise, though still less than he made as chief deputy.

After Riley filed a grievance with the county, the Hoke County Personnel Advisory Board recommended the sheriff raise Riley's pay to \$24,720, the lowest salary to which Riley could be demoted under county policy, the board said.

Norton refused, saying it would make Riley's pay higher than new Chief Deputy Wayne Gardner's, which was \$22,355.

Now, Riley and Gardner are on something

of an equal footing rank-wise, Riley said, though Gardner is still officially the chief deputy.

Riley himself seemed unsure of his rank. "I'm one and he's two, or we're two and two together," he said.

(See SHERIFF, page 9)

## Five apply so far for sheriff's job

Five men have applied for the job of sheriff of Hoke County so far: Larry Godbold, Jim Madden, John McNeill, John Robertson and Thomas Rugg.

The job was advertised by county commissioners as soon as they learned Alex Norton had been ousted from the position. Commissioners will appoint the new sheriff; Coroner Frank Crumpler holds the job—as instructed by the state constitution—until they do.

Godbold does not live in Hoke County and, elections records show, is not registered to vote in the county. State law requires that any office holder be legally able to vote in the county in which he holds office, so Godbold should be unqualified to hold the office. Godbold ran unsuccessfully for sheriff in Cumberland County last year.

Thomas Rugg, 48, of Dundarrach, was the first to apply.

"I felt the desire and the need to serve my fellow Hoke Countians," he said.

A retired helicopter pilot in the Army, Rugg said he has been trained in security work and worked with the Judge Advocate's office.

He served three tours of duty in Vietnam. Rugg is married, has three children and has lived in Hoke County nine years.

(See APPLY, page 8)

## Reaction to dismissal mixed

Ben Ellington's business takes him all over the state.

Referring to the recent Superior Court removal of Alex Norton from the sheriff's post Ellington says, "people tell me, 'You've got the biggest crook in the state.'"

Ellington vehemently disagrees, "I tell them 'no.' That kinda hurts my feelings."

Ellington, who lost to Norton in last year's election, thinks it's a shame the

former sheriff was "branded as a criminal."

"He just got caught up in some things that everybody gets caught up in every once in a while," Ellington says from his motorcycle repair business at McCain.

Across Highway 211, at Parks' Groceries, Michael Parks calls the ousting of Norton "politically motivated."

Parks, whose father was a character witness for Norton during the court proceedings, says, "I think that the charges

were so petty. There was no criminal intent. He has done a good job for the county for the last 29 years. He did make a mistake but I know everyone does—even the county commissioners. They're not perfect."

Michael's cousin Albert Parks thinks it's "unfair for one person to be able to throw somebody out without the people having a say-so."

Albert says the talk "around the res-

(See REACT, page 10)

## Two injured in shootings

Two people were injured in separate shootings over the weekend in Raeford.

Robert Christopher Nance, 18, of Chesapeake, Virginia, was apparently visiting friends in Robbins Heights when he was gravely wounded in a shooting before 1 a.m. Sunday.

One man, Kendall Banness Reid, 21, of 132 Meadow Lane Apartments, has been arrested for the shooting, but Police Chief James (See SHOOTING, page 9)

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The rain came back last week and on Wednesday the rainfall in Raeford and Hoke County was between four and five inches. I have heard that two dams at ponds broke. If you have been toward Aberdeen since Wednesday you may have noticed the Calloway Pond near Timberland. It is one of the dams that broke and most of the water drained out of the pond. I was told Saturday afternoon that since Wednesday more than three inches of rain had fallen and the total was eight inches in three days.

The rain stopped Sunday, but came back early Monday morning and it has been raining all day. More rain is expected Tuesday.

The forecast calls for the high tem-

peratures Wednesday through Saturday to be in the high 80s and low 90s. The lows for the period will be in the 70s. I hate to write it, but thunderstorms are in the forecast for all the days.

The farmers are in the same condition as reported last week. The fields are water logged and the spraying of crops is not doing much good because of the rain. Let's hope it will let it stop for awhile before things are ruined.

Last week some people were talking in the office about the trash and garbage situation in the county. It seems that another of these "no win" problems confronts the county commissioners. The (See AROUND, page 10)