

The News-Journal

The 25th issue of our 83rd year

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, October 2, 1991

Hoke invited to join trash burning compact

Hoke County commissioners were invited last night to join Cumberland and Bladen Counties in negotiations over a proposal to turn trash from the three counties into fuel for DuPont's Fayetteville plant.

Though more expensive than dumping garbage in a landfill is today, the project could save the county money in the long run, said officers of the company that wishes to run the trash burning plant.

Under the proposal, made at a meeting between commissioners of Hoke, Cumberland and Bladen Counties at the Howard Johnson Hotel on I-95, each county would truck its household

garbage to a landfill in Cumberland where BCH Energy, a proposed private venture, would run a garbage separation plant.

The separator would use fairly new technology to remove recyclable stuff — glass, steel and aluminum, for instance — from the trash.

The plant would also separate useless materials such as rocks and wire — BCH estimates no more than 25 percent of the total amount of garbage — for burial in Cumberland's Ann Street landfill.

The rest would be sent to a boiler plant next to the DuPont polymer plant at N.C. 87 on the Cumberland-Bladen border. The \$40 million



George Armistead

boiler would actually be in Bladen County, while the DuPont plant is in Cumberland.

The boiler — again, using fairly new technology — would burn the trash to make steam, which in turn would be used by DuPont to make

"The net effect...is a win-win situation for the communities and, we think, for Du Pont."

— Armistead

electricity for its plant.

Cumberland commissioners voted at the meeting to enter negotiations with BCH Energy (BCH stands for Bladen-Cumberland-Hoke); Hoke and Bladen board members will decide whether to enter negotiations Monday at their regular meetings.

Commissioner Tom Howell says the project is worth looking into. He said he liked BCH's low projections for cost increases.

Hoke commissioners are also looking into using a regional landfill in Troy, which would cost less at first, Howell said, but would increase in cost much faster than the BCH proposal.

"You've got to look exponentially at the costs over the next 20 years," he said.

Counties across the United States are looking at new ways of getting rid of their trash as state and federal governments tighten laws controlling

landfills.

North Carolina will soon require counties to line new landfills (Hoke's landfill has less than a year's life left) with plastic, and control and monitor fluids that leach into the soil. Counties will also have to monitor gases formed by rotting garbage that escape through the surface. All in all, the measures promise to be very expensive.

Hoke's relatively small amount of trash makes it impossible to justify digging a new landfill in the county, Howell said. The county's only option is to take part in some regional trash scheme.

"Our volume is so low we're definitely going to have to go this direction," he said.

Another advantage of the BCH proposal is that it would help the three counties meet recycling goals mandated by new state law.

The proposal would benefit DuPont by eliminating its plant's dependence on foreign oil.

Tom Gill, works manager for the Fayetteville plant, cited the ease with which oil costs rose during the Persian Gulf War.

(See TRASH, page 4)

Widening begins on U.S. 401

Construction to widen a portion of US 401 began this week at the Hoke-Cumberland counties border.

The first section of road scheduled for widening is a six-mile area between Brock Road in Hoke County and School Road in Cumberland County.

The existing two-lane roadway will be widened to four lanes with a center median.

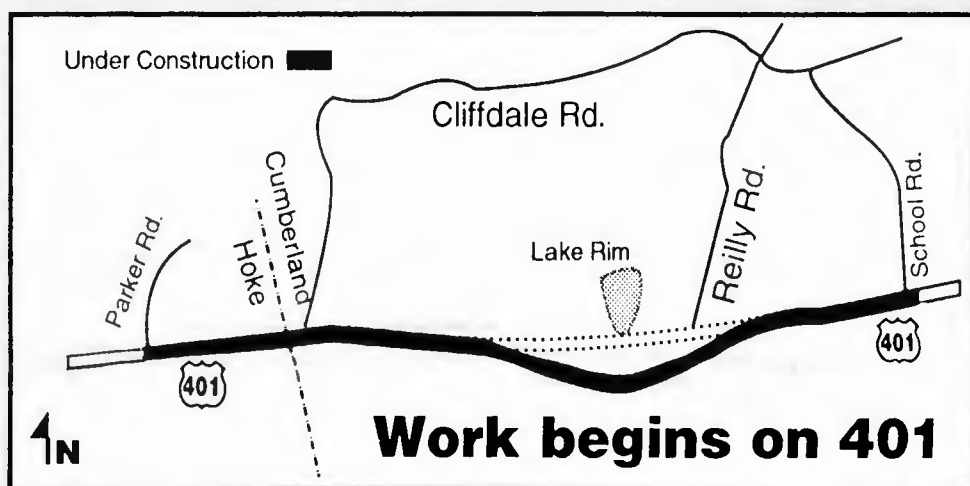
On Monday, the contractor began clearing trees and brush in the area.

Motorists traveling the road may not notice the work at first, the State

Dept. of Transportation says, because of the direction part of the new road will take (see map). In the area of Lake Rim, the widened section will run a quarter mile south of the existing U.S. 401.

The \$6.8 million contract was awarded to Barnhill Contracting Company in Tarboro. The project is scheduled for completion in Dec., 1993.

A toll-free hotline is available for those who have questions about the project. Resident Engineer Charlie Brown can be reached at 1-800-472-9004.



Work begins on 401

Shooting victim dies; man charged

A Hoke County man was charged with murder yesterday after a victim of a Sunday shooting died in the hospital.

Frederick Morrissey Jr. died at 11:40 a.m. yesterday at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville, where he had been treated for a gunshot wound to the face.

Andre Cunningham, 26, of 1215 Fuller Street, Raeford, who had been charged with attempted murder, was charged with murder after he turned himself in to the Sheriff's Department.

The shooting occurred in the men's room early morning hours of Sunday at the Zodiac Lounge on Vass Road, the sheriff's department said.

According to department reports, Cunningham and Morrissey scuffled in the men's bathroom of the lounge, formerly known as the Center 1000—the scene of numerous disturbances in the past.

Cunningham allegedly shot Morrissey in the bathroom.

When officers arrived they found Morrissey on the floor of the bathroom, bleeding from a gunshot wound in his mouth. They recovered five spent .25 caliber shells and an automatic pistol.

Morrissey was taken by ambulance to Cape Fear Valley Hospital; meanwhile, Cunningham allegedly fled the lounge on foot.

Detective Danny Wilson traced Cunningham to Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst where he was under treatment for cuts in his back and a bullet lodged in his left arm. The bullet reportedly was fired from the same gun used to kill Morrissey.

Cunningham was held until Hoke deputies could retrieve him and charge him with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injuries. He was held in Hoke County Jail on \$25,000 bond.

That charge was upgraded to murder yesterday after Morrissey died.

Stolen trailer recovered

A Roseboro man's stolen trailer — a refrigerated model worth \$5,500 — was discovered Wednesday on a lot behind O'Berry's Food Store on U.S. 401 North.

Berry Galin Ashton, owner of the trailer, reported to sheriff's officers the trailer was parked at a lot owned by Donald K. Ward of Center Street, Raeford.

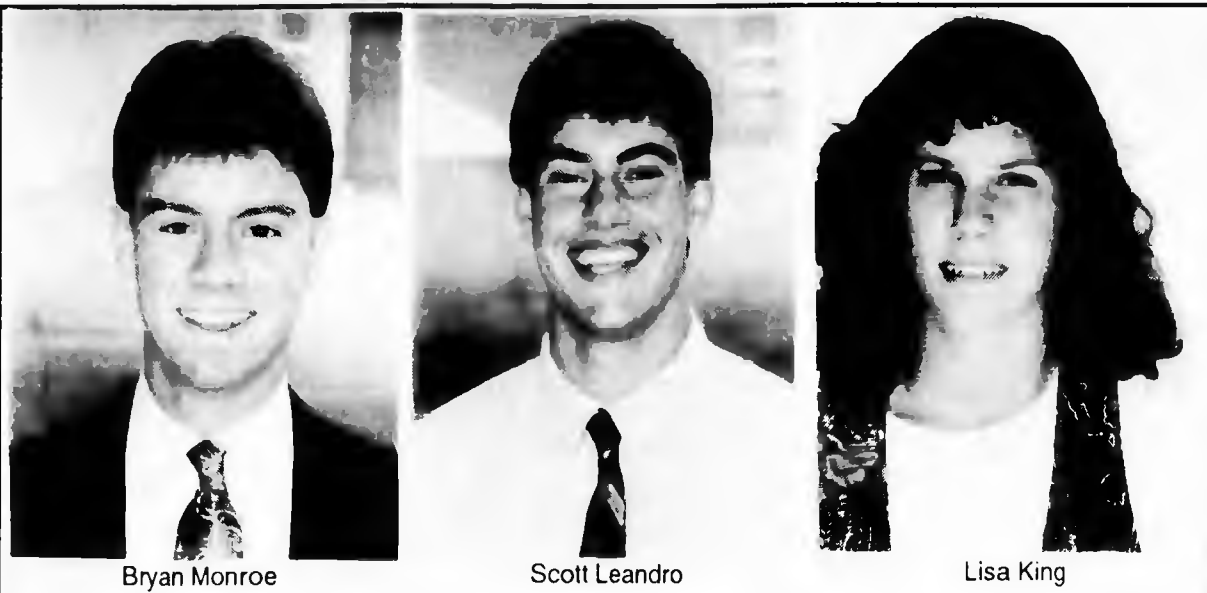
One escapes from Sandhills

One prisoner escaped from Sandhills Youth Center yesterday, said Program Director J. C. Smith.

Brandon Scott Younts, 20, of Durham, fled the prison about 10:44 a.m., he said.

Younts was in the youth center on charges of breaking and entering, larceny, unauthorized use of a vehicle and possession of stolen goods.

Younts is white, 5-feet 6-inches, 140 pounds, with green eyes, brown hair and a thin mustache.



Bryan Monroe

Scott Leandro

Lisa King

Three nominated for Morehead awards

Hoke High School has selected three nominees for Morehead Awards.

Bryan Monroe, Scott Leandro and Lisa King will compete for scholarships to the University of N.C. worth nearly \$10,000 per year.

The prestigious award also provides money for summer activities all over the world.

Monroe is the son of Ronald and Wanda Monroe.

Leandro is the son of John and Kathy Leandro.

King is the daughter of John and Verita King of Aberdeen.

Selection is made after a series of interviews made later in the year.

Hoke has had several Morehead scholars; last year, Amy Wright became the latest recipient.

Builders to start work on 801 housing project

The Army Corps of Engineers picked a developer for the 801 Housing project in Hoke County for military families stationed at Fort Bragg, Congressman Bill Hefner announced Thursday.

The Corps' Savannah, Georgia district awarded Universal Services Company, Inc., of Houston a contract to build the housing, which a private management company will lease to the Army for 20 years, Hefner said.

The 250 two- and four-bedroom houses will be sited on the corner of Rockfish and Townsend Roads in eastern Hoke.

Construction had been expected to start in September, but will now start this winter.

Hefner, who pushed for the project,

says the project will "bring all the benefits of new industry to Hoke County."

He estimated \$210,000 will go to buying the land, while \$15.7 will go for labor and supplies.

How much of construction costs will actually be spent in Hoke County is unclear.

Hefner further estimated 801 residents will spend about \$1.7 million a year in the county, and the project should bring about \$104,000 each year in property tax.

"The economic benefits to Hoke County, both direct and indirect, are considerable," he said.

Hoke County has been under consideration for an 801 Housing project since 1989.

The project will house families of soldiers stationed at Fort Bragg.

According to military officials, 85 percent of the families would be in pay grades E1-E7 and 15 percent would be in grades E7-E9. Pay ranges vary according to the number of years served.

An E1 with one year of service would earn around \$8,000 per year while an E-9 with sixteen years of service would earn close to \$30,000. Soldiers also receive a housing allowance, a food and clothing allowance and other benefits.

Critics of the project warn 801 Housing will mean higher law enforcement, school and fire protection costs, and say the enlisted families are likely to spend their money at Fort Bragg's PX and commissary, not in Hoke County.

Move to schools again delayed

Students and teachers at Upchurch and Turlington Middle Schools won't get into their new campuses until just before Christmas, as supply and construction delays slow the completion of two new middle schools.

Teachers will start moving in the last two days of the semester—December 19 and 20.

School officials had hoped to get students into the new schools, named East and West Hoke Middle Schools, by the beginning of the school year.

It became clear construction crews

weren't going to finish either school in time, so school administrators decided to set the moving-in date back to October 21. But that wasn't far enough back, as it turned out.

"Neither one of them are going to be one hundred percent by October 21," Superintendent Bill Harrison said Monday.

Construction crews slowed down noticeably after the new move-in date was set, he said. Plus, there have been delays in getting essential materials, such as blackboards, to the new schools.

"When we're that late, we figured just wait to the two days before winter vacation," Harrison said.

With those two days plus two weeks of winter vacation, the schools should be fully ready for students when they come back in early January.

"We'll have the facility much more ready," Harrison said.

Community effort

School officials plan to make the move a community effort; they are asking for help from the community. (See MOVE, page 3)

More Festival results posted

Last week, The News-Journal printed the available results from some of the competitions held during the North Carolina Turkey Festival. Here are the remainder of the available results:

Horse Show

About 650 people turned out Saturday and Sunday under sunny skies for the Turkey Festival Horse Show, held at Carolina Horse Farms on Fulford McMillan Road in Timberland.

Horse fans enjoyed seeing youngsters perform in the stick horse futurity each day. Many children brought their own stick horses and wore special costumes for the races.

The serious stuff followed: Hunt Seat and Western classes on Saturday (162 entrants), and English classes on Sunday (95 entrants).

Special class and high point winners got silver platters as trophies: (See RESULTS, page 8)

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather for the past week has been perfect. The nights have been cool and the days haven't been too hot. Fall is with us. This has been perfect weather for the cotton farmers and the cotton gins have cotton piles in fields next to the gin. Maybe the gingers will catch up with the pickers in a week or two.

September made 21 straight months that the temperature has been above normal. This string started in January 1990.

The forecast calls for the same fall-like weather for the remainder of the week. The highs for this period will be in the high 70s and low 80s. The lows at night will be in the 50s. There is a chance of rain all four days, Wednesday through Saturday.

The Hoke High School Bucks won their third game of the season last Friday night. They defeated Laurinburg at the local stadium. The Bucks will play Anson County Friday night at the local high school stadium. The game will start at 7 p.m.

I read in a daily paper last week of the death of Al Grant of Laurinburg. Many people in Hoke County will remember when he worked here for Robbins Mills. The Grants lived in the P.O. Lee house on Bethel Road. Al was retired and ended his career as an executive with the Springs Mills.

Another death last week took from this community a teacher in the Hoke County Schools. Wes Williams, who was in charge of the computers at the schools was buried here Saturday. He came to Raeford to work for Burlington Industries after graduating from N.C. State.

Wes will be missed in the school system and he will also be missed at the Raeford Presbyterian Church where he was a deacon and a Sunday school teacher. We will all miss his wit and pleasant smile.

Recently Ruth Phillips was by the office and she said that she had received (See AROUND, page 3)