

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, May 20, 1992

## Hoke's hopes dashed as Kinston gets cargo airport

To the dismay of many Hoke County citizens, the Kinston Regional Jetport was chosen Tuesday over the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport to host a proposed state industrial airport.

Hoke Countians waited with baited breath yesterday as the Air Cargo Authority deliberated in Chapel Hill; Gov. Jim Martin had earlier narrowed the choices to Kinston and Laurinburg.

Representatives from both airports made presentations to the Authority yesterday, starting late in the morning. After spending two hours behind closed doors, the Authority voted 13-1 for the Kinston site in Lenoir County, east of Fayetteville.

Factors cited in choosing Kinston over Laurinburg included higher value of property,

buildings and utilities, an existing control tower and a bigger, stronger runway.

Backers of the Laurinburg site had predicted thousands of jobs and massive economic development would come to the region — including Hoke — if Transpark came here.

Leaders from Maxton and Laurinburg had voted to donate the airport and thousands of acres

of land to the state if it sited the huge industrial park at Laurinburg-Maxton, just across the Hoke County line.

Hoke joined Scotland and Robeson Counties in donating money to a lobbying campaign; two South Carolina counties bordering Scotland County endorsed the Laurinburg proposal along with South Carolina lawmakers.



Two-fisted action

Hal Siler, president of the Sanford Area Chamber of Commerce, shows off his ability to draw two Bart Simpsons at the same time during the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet last night.

Siler was featured speaker, poet and cartoonist at the dinner, at which Clyde Upchurch was honored as Person of the Year and the first Leadership Hoke participants received certificates.

## Powell wraps up case against Morston

Prosecutors in the trial of Kerry Morston, accused of murdering Southern Pines police detective Ed Harris, finished presenting evidence to jurors yesterday.

Since Thursday, District Attorney Jean Powell and Assistant Attorney General William Farrell called witnesses, policemen and state investigators who painted a picture of an alleged drug dealer — Bernice McDougald — so angry at having to flush an ounce of cocaine down the toilet he directed the murder of the drug detective who caused the loss.

### The night of the murder

Harris was among several police who responded to a report of gunfire the evening of April 4, 1991 at Holiday Town Apartments, a public housing development in Southern Pines.

Several witnesses testified Harris, during a search for a gun, found what appeared to be 12 hits of crack cocaine in or near a trash can close to the apartment of McDougald's girlfriend. After seeing McDougald enter the apartment, witnesses said, Harris told McDougald through the front door that if he had any drugs in the apartment, he should hide them well because he was going to get a search warrant.

McDougald later said he had flushed an ounce of cocaine down the toilet after Harris' warning, testified Scott Fairley, who said he was in the same room with those who were later charged with killing Harris.

Fairley said McDougald told others over a bottle of gin to "go out and shoot the hell out of him."

McDougald proceeded to give orders to several other young men, Fairley said, including Shannon McKenzie, who was to ring the doorbell at Ed Harris' home.

McKenzie, who pled guilty earlier to lesser charges, testified Thursday he rang the doorbell to Harris' western Hoke home and ran away while Morston shot Harris several times with a 9 millimeter pistol.

Led by McDougald, eight men armed with three high-powered rifles and, it later turned out, a 9 millimeter pistol piled into a car to look for Harris, McKenzie said.

They first went to the Southern Pines police station "to see if he was there or if he had left," McKenzie said.

When they didn't find Harris' green Ford at the police station, McDougald directed driver John Chisolm to Ed Harris' house on Calloway Road in Hoke County, McKenzie told the jury. The car stopped just past the house, he said.

"We got out the car," he said. "We walked down the road."

While they watched Harris' house, a car pulled into the driveway and dropped off a passenger who entered the house.

"Terry (Evans) and Bernice said it was his son," McKenzie said, referring to Anthony (See TRIAL, page 5)

## School Board seeks raise of \$336,221 for budget

Citing state cutbacks, rapid growth and the cost of running three new schools, the School Board asked county commissioners Monday night for a \$336,221 raise to be funded by Hoke taxpayers.

The state last year cut back half the money it sends local school boards for energy — gas, electricity and fuel for buses. For 1992-1993, the state will cut the rest of that money.

Hoke Schools will lose \$168,000 due to the cutbacks.

Bill Harrison, superintendent of Hoke Schools, said the proposed budget included only necessary increases.

"I think if we took away the new schools ... and some of those things that we have little or no control over, this would be a little growth or no growth budget," Harrison said.

Among other things, the proposal asks Hoke taxpayers to:

- raise salaries from \$175 to \$250 per tenured teacher. Teacher salaries are paid by the state, but most school systems offer locally funded supplements.

"Our teacher supplements are not anywhere close to being competitive with surrounding (See BUDGET, page 12)

## Downtown may get permanent stage

Downtown Raeford could get a permanent stage this year if two Turkey Festival officers get their way.

Jackie Lynch, director of the festival, and Marvin Lynne Maxwell, a past president, have the green light from the county and the library's board of trustees to build a permanent stage next to the Hoke County Public Library. But not yet from the body that owns the land.

Members of the School Board, which owns the library's property, told Lynch and Maxwell they wanted to see a site plan for the proposed stage — which would be built with donations — at their meeting last Tuesday.

"Hopefully they can call a session ... to get it approved," Lynch

said later. "Then we'll go from there."

"This is not a Turkey Festival stage," Maxwell told the School Board last Tuesday. "This is for the community, the school system, churches, any organization that would like to use the stage."

"The Turkey Festival is just initiating this and getting the action done," Lynch explained.

The North Carolina Turkey Festival sets up a temporary stage next to the library for entertainment each September. After seven seasons, that stage is wearing out.

The North Carolina Turkey Festival board of directors plans to build a new "library stage" anyway Maxwell said yesterday.

(See STAGE, page 9)

## Fayetteville man arrested in shooting

A Fayetteville man shot another man three times after he found his estranged wife and the man together at a motel early Sunday, according to a sheriff's report.

Martin Steven Parker, 47, was charged with trying to kill David Draughton, 52, an unemployed Raeford man, according to the report.

Parker fired six shots from a .38 caliber pistol at Draughton in a room at the Raeford Inn about 2:15 a.m. Draughton was hit once in the chest and twice in the legs, according to the report.

Draughton returned fire with a .22 caliber rifle, according to the report, shooting 10 times at Parker but missing.

Parker was arrested by Ken Weston, a trooper with the State Highway Patrol, who was first lawman on the scene.

Detectives recovered both guns, and a bullet from Draughton's ankle, said Mike Underwood, a captain with the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Parker was released on \$10,000 bond.

### Man charged with molesting 5-year old

A Hoke County man was charged Friday with molesting a five-year old girl in April.

Wilbur Cecil Thompson, 50, of 1189 Poole Road was charged with a first degree sex offense that he allegedly committed April 20, according to a sheriff's report. Thompson was released on \$5,000 bond.

An April 24 examination of the girl by Chapel Hill doctors revealed sexual trauma, according to the report.

(See SHOOTING, page 4)

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather for the past week was very seasonable. The temperatures during the day were in the 80s and the lows at night were in the 50s and 60s. We had some rain last Wednesday and again Monday night and Tuesday. It helped, but with the wind and warm weather it is dry again.

The forecast calls for a cool front to move through the state Tuesday and the temperatures for Wednesday and Thursday will be in the 70s during the day and the lows at night will be in the 50s. Friday and Saturday the highs will be in the 80s and the lows will be in the 60s. There could be some rain on Thursday.

This coming weekend will be Memorial Day holidays.

Most people will take Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Many people will be traveling to the beaches and the mountains to spend these days. So if you and your family are going

to be on the highways over the holidays please drive safely. The life you save may be your own.

Recently I wrote in this column that Raz Autry said that he could place wheel chairs with people in need. The item brought forth two wheelchairs and they have both been placed in homes with people who need them.

Now Raz says that he could use some more chairs. So if you missed the last request, how about looking in your basement or attic and let Raz pick up a wheelchair that isn't being used. I know that it will be put to good use and I know that you will feel better knowing that someone in need has been helped by you.

It is just over a week before we will go to the polls again to elect two county commissioners for Hoke County. There are four candidates running for the two seats and so far

(See AROUND, page 12)