

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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Return to school is denied

Suspended Hoke High School student Steven Calloway still cannot return to his classes.

Superior Court Judge Craig Ellis Monday rejected a motion to stay the effect of the county Board of Education decision to suspend Calloway for the rest of the school year. Calloway filed a civil lawsuit against the school board Feb. 4 to contest his suspension from school that cost him graduation with his high school class next spring.

Calloway was given long-term suspension following a weapons search at Hoke County High School Jan. 13 in which he turned in a pocketknife he had brought to school. He said the knife was a tool he used at his after-school job at an automobile body repair shop, and he brought it to school by mistake. The school has a policy forbidding students to carry any type of weapon on campus.

Hoke County Schools attorney Tom Holt said Ellis heard arguments concerning whether Calloway could be allowed back into classes at the high school until a hearing on the merits of the case is held. Ellis heard Calloway's case in Scotland County Court.

He said that second hearing would be held after the school board prepares and submits to the petitioner an official record of what has transpired in Calloway's case. The board has 30 days to submit the record.

"The school had in fact made accommodation for Steven to get his diploma through the extended day program," Holt said. He said Calloway could have started attending afternoon extended day classes Jan. 21, but did not elect to do so.

Holt said Calloway and his parents rejected allowing Calloway to attend the extended day program based on their perception that there is a stigma attached to it. He said that he and the school board do not believe there is such a stigma.

(See CALLOWAY, page 4)



Cupid on wheels

Steven Inman stops for a second during a Valentine mission Monday to deliver flowers to his grandmother Jackie Hargrove, who owns Ms. Jackie's Day Care. Inman brought her the flowers and a tiny teddy bear from Calico Corner florist.

Storm zaps Hoke's power for 5 hours

Thousands of Hoke County residents found themselves without electricity for five hours Friday as a winter storm peppered down a mixture of sleet and freezing rain that coated the area, including power lines, with a treacherous layer of ice.

Temperatures hovered around 32 degrees Friday and Saturday despite forecasts predicting a Friday high in the middle to upper 30s and a Saturday high of 40.

Carolina Power & Light Co. district manager W. J. Stephens said a static line stretched between two transmission towers broke under the weight of the ice about 10:30 a.m., then wrapped around one of the towers, shorting out power supply to four Raeford substations.

The power outage affected some 3,000 residential CP&L customers and four industries in Raeford: Burlington Menswear, Chesebrough-Pond's Inc., House of Raeford Farms Inc. and Spanco Yarns.

Another estimated 8,000 residential customers of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation had no power due to the same storm.

Alan Smith, LREMC manager of marketing and member relations, said his cooperative depends on power supplied by CP&L along the transmission line (See STORM, page 4)

Survey: Hoke schools see share of violence

Students and teachers in some of Hoke County's schools agree on at least one issue — school violence must be curtailed — according to a survey given in January by the Hoke County School Safety Task Force.

The School Safety Task Force survey — answered by 1,367 students and approximately 200 teachers at Hoke County High School, East Hoke Middle School and West Hoke Middle School — elicited similar responses from both groups concerning violence in schools.

Teachers and students had three suggestions at the top of their lists, Task Force Chairman Ann Hardin said: alternative schools, more weapons checks (including the use of metal detectors) and the presence of police officers on campus. This is especially notable in light of the fact that Hoke County Schools Superintendent William Harrison has said he is working to have an alternative school in place at the beginning of next school year. A location has not been secured, and Harrison is looking into the use of the J. W. Turlington building for that purpose.

(See SURVEY, page 5)

Local legislators discuss special crime session

Members of Hoke County's legislative delegation are up to their ears fighting crime and say they don't think they'll leave a special session of the General Assembly any time soon.

Legislators reported on the progress and promise of the special session at a breakfast honoring them Saturday at Burlington Industries.

"I really thought we'd get out of there in three weeks, but after the past week I don't know if we'll ever get out of there," said Sen. Richard Conder, who represents the 17th

District. Legislators heard from victims' families for a large part of last week.

"Unfortunately the crime situation in the state is accelerating without limits," he said.

Conder said that the state cannot excuse criminals because of the unfortunate backgrounds — including poverty and single-parent homes — many of them suffer.

"They have to go through the court system," he said.

Sen. Aaron Plyler lauded the Drug Alcohol Rehabilitation Treatment program for its work in warding off future crimes. Plyler,

who also represents the 17th District, said he hopes the legislature is able to increase that program, in which addicts are helped through the treatment process by former drug and alcohol abusers, by 500 beds.

And Sen. David Parnell, representing the 30th District, explained the importance of legislative appropriations committees in the crime-fighting process.

"Nearly all the bills involve money," he said of the governor's \$118 package which addresses the state's crime levels. "They're (See LEGISLATORS, page 5)

Woman attacked at work; robber takes \$150 in change

A woman working at a Hoke County gameroom said she was assaulted and the gameroom was robbed Monday night, according to a Hoke County sheriff's department report.

The report said Denise Deak, 17, of Route 1, Aberdeen, was working at the Community Grocery and was in the bathroom around 11:35 p.m. Monday when she heard a noise.

She told deputies she came out of the bathroom and saw two men in the gameroom, one of whom ran toward her, knocked her down, and kicked her in the head, the report said.

The men then ran out of the building.

Deak said she got up and noticed a lock on one of the video machines was broken and that the gameroom

cash box containing approximately \$150 in coins was missing. She also said she saw the men running toward Calloway Road.

The suspects have not been identified, and no fingerprints were left at the scene, the report said.

The two suspects were described as black males, one of whom was about 6' 3" with a slim build and a short, flat-top haircut.

He was wearing a dark sweat suit and shoes with lights in them.

The incident is under investigation.

Couple's ride to work stolen

Howard F. and Melinda Paine of 203 Ridge Manor Dr. were getting ready to go to work Tuesday morn-

ing when they discovered their blue 1993 Ford Mustang was missing from their driveway, a sheriff's department report said.

The Paines said their vehicle had been locked.

The theft is being investigated by sheriff's detectives.

Raeford police get "a breather"

Police officers in Raeford have enjoyed a relatively quiet week since last Wednesday, Raeford Police Chief J. E. Murdock said Tuesday.

"Every once in a while we get a week where we're just doing routine stuff, and that just tickles us to death," Murdock said.

"A breather is good for us — we don't get enough of them."

But even slow weeks have their action.

Henry James Morrison, 39, of 515 Odom Drive was charged with one count of shoplifting Saturday, Raeford police Maj. James McNeill said.

Morrison was in Jones Department Store at about 1:15 p.m. when a store clerk apparently saw him put two boxes of trash bags worth \$2.66 inside his coat and attempt to leave the store without paying for them.

McNeill said the man stopped Morrison as he went out of the door. Morrison then tried to pay for the bags, "but it was too late, because he had already concealed them."

Police arrived on the scene where Morrison was charged and taken to jail on \$300 secured bond.



Sen. David Parnell (left) and Sen. Aaron Plyler listen to breakfast speakers.

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather last Thursday through Saturday was the "old time" winter weather.

I can't remember when we were without electricity for five hours over the entire county. Snow is bad enough, but when it rains and freezes on the trees, power lines and roads we are almost helpless.

The roads weren't too bad so we were 33 percent all right.

Monday the sun came out and the temperature was near 60 degrees. I believe that most of our citizens were ready for the sunshine.

The forecast calls for the warm weather to continue for the remainder of the week. Wednesday the high will be in the high 50s and the low in the high 20s. Thursday the high will be in the 60s and the low in the 30s. Friday and Saturday we will see the highs in the 60s and the

lows in the 40s. No rain is in the forecast.

I attended the Legislative Appreciation Breakfast, sponsored by the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce last Saturday morning at the Burlington Industries conference room. All our lawmakers were present or they were represented. Congressman Bill Hefner couldn't get out of Washington because of the ice.

Danny DeVane, former legislator and now a worker for the Dept. of Transportation was Master of Ceremonies. After a few witty sayings he introduced our lawmakers and he told them they had three minutes to talk to the gathering. Now I know why they stay in session for six months rather than 60 days. They don't have watches and I don't believe that if they did they could tell time.

All joking aside, I was impressed (See AROUND, page 12)