

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

50¢

No. 30 Vol. 95

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

'Reign of terror' ends with guilty verdicts

Jordan, Barefoot found guilty of crime spree that ended after shooting a Scotland deputy

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Timothy Lee Jordan and William Glenn Barefoot were found guilty on Monday of attempted murder, ending what District Attorney Kristi Newton called a "reign of terror."

The two were convicted of shooting Scotland Sheriff's Maj. Dan Skamperle in western Hoke County on March 30, 2001.

Newton told the jury that Jordan and Barefoot "acted in concert" in the premeditated crime that left a trail of terror.

"Did they have malice?" Newton said. "You bet they did. It was not only an assault upon a person. It was an assault upon the badge. They (law officers) get up every day and put their lives on the line for us. The only line between law abiders and law breakers is law enforcement."

Assistant District Attorney Mike Hardin echoed Newton's comments, saying the men were extremely dangerous.

"They wallowed in the thrill of just stealing," Hardin told the court. "They left the houses of victims looking like war zones. They robbed a pregnant woman and tied up a 70-year-old man."

The signature of the bandits were gloves, camouflage or dark ski masks and weapons. They shot

Skamperle three times and made their getaway in sight of witnesses at Parks Grocery on Aberdeen Road.

Hoke 911 operators were told by a caller that Skamperle might be dead. Rescue workers arrived as grocery store owners Albert and Michael Parks and others were helping him to remain conscious. Skamperle is disabled because of injuries he sustained in the attack.

"I feel very good for all the victims that this reign of terror is over and can never be repeated by them," Newton said.

"The only reason Skamperle is alive today is because the gun of one of the assailants jammed after they began shooting him.

"Maj. Skamperle was actually shot in the back while he was still in his vehicle. He turned at the last minute in a last ditch effort to save himself.



Above: Defense Attorney Jack Carter sits between defendant Timothy Lee Jordan (left) and William Glenn Barefoot. Left: District Attorney Kristi Newton.

Otherwise, it would have been a direct shot into his chest."

Newton said Barefoot, 38, was sentenced to a minimum of 66 years in prison after an alleged crime record that spanned 15 years. Jordan, 19, was sentenced to a 52-year minimum term in prison. After three hours of deliberation, the jury returned guilty verdicts on 47 counts, including assault with a deadly weapon to inflict serious injury. The jury included seven men and five women. They found Jordan guilty of 23 charges against him. Barefoot was convicted of 24 charges.

Judge Robert Floyd presided over the three-week trial heard in Cumberland County's Superior Court. Because of the large number of witnesses from Hoke and Scotland counties, Newton said the trial was ordered to be held in another jurisdiction. Despite the men entering separate pleas of not guilty, Newton said they never testified on their behalf and no defense witnesses testified.

Newton presented 300 photos, blood and DNA samples and 100 items of evidence, and interviewed 80 witnesses. She commended Hardin and (See CONVICTED, page 8A)

This Week



Squier awarded Long Leaf honor
page 3A

Healthy Hoke Task Force gets award
page 4A

Health Fair offers free screenings
page 4A

Index

Births	3B
Calendar	2B
Classifieds	7B
Deaths	5A
Editorials	2A
Engagements	3B
Legals	4-6B
Public Record	5A
Religion	10A
Schools	4, 8B; 7A
Socials	3B
Sports	6A
Weddings	3B

Hoke's top stories are on the web
www.thenews-journal.com

5 students arrested in three incidents involving weapons

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A string of violent incidents involving teens suspected of possessing weapons on and off the Hoke County High School campus has resulted in the arrests of five students. In one of the incidents, a 17-year-old female student is recovering from injuries inflicted by a younger student who used a tire iron in a fight on campus that erupted over a boy. In another, deputies arrested two students after one allegedly waved a gun from his yard after school to threaten another student on a school bus.

"The students have been suspended because they presented an imminent threat to the safety of our students," said Assistant School Superintendent George McFarley. "That is in accordance with our school policy. They have not been allowed to return to school pending further investigation."

"The administration at the high

school has the right to take whatever action necessary to immediately address a situation to safeguard the well-being of students and staff, and that is what they did."

McFarley said these precautions were approved to retain a clean, learning environment.

The case involving a gun occurred following a fight between two male students on a school bus at Blue Springs and McNeill Farm roads last Thursday.

According to authorities, Hoke High student Samuel Locklear allegedly threatened James Robert Sturdivant with a handgun from across the street. The bus was loaded with 16 other students at the time of the confrontation, said Maj. Thomas Carlton of the Hoke Sheriff's Office.

Locklear, 16, of Blue Springs Road, was charged with assault by pointing a gun and simple assault. He was released to the custody of his mother on a written promise to appear in court.

Sturdivant, 18, of Old Maxton

Road, was charged with simple assault.

"The bus driver stopped to put out Mr. Locklear," Carlton said. "He exited the back door of the bus while his sister was attempting to get off the bus at the front door."

"He went into his house and allegedly came back with a handgun. He made threatening gestures from his front yard with the gun toward the bus. The sister basically got the gun away from him and apparently took it into their home and hid it."

Carlton said no injuries resulted from the incident.

"Our deputies responded quickly and arrested the two boys on the scene," Carlton said. "They did not resist. The situation could have escalated. Their quick response prevented the situation from heating up into a major problem."

According to Carlton, the weapon was not loaded with a clip of ammunition.

"We do not know if the Locklear (See ARRESTED, page 9A)



Top: Students attract attention after being allegedly threatened by a student with a gun. Bottom: Detective Joseph Brown, equipped with body armor, files a report.

SBI continues probe of former Parks and Rec director

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Even though former Hoke Parks and Recreation director Artis Gay was demoted in December 2001 to athletic director because of an alleged misspending complaint, county commissioners have yet to publicly announce that action was taken. Gay resigned on May 3 and a State Bureau of Investigation probe, which began last December, continues.

Gay repaid all the \$830 of county funds

he allegedly took, according to county records.

Gay was employed under the administration of former county manager Bernice McPhatter, who resigned last October. She has been charged with embezzlement and forgery in a separate matter.

Almost a nine-year employee, Gay reportedly agreed to a voluntary garnishment of wages in order to make up the alleged discrepancy. He was unavailable for comment.

County records indicated Finance Di-

rector Shirley Rush signed a payment agreement with Gay last fall. Rush was suspended without pay in August 2002. She was indicted on one count of assessorship after the fact in the embezzlement case of McPhatter. Both Rush and McPhatter are awaiting trials.

County commissioners were apparently not advised of the possibility of misappropriations in Parks and Recreation prior to a special audit that uncovered possible unauthorized use of funds after McPhatter resigned.

On December 3, 2001 commissioners met in a closed session and secretly demoted Gay after learning of the allegations. Rush was on administrative leave with pay at the time, pending an SBI investigation in connection with McPhatter. Since a personnel action was taken by the board against Gay, it was required by state law to announce its decision to the public. The board may have been in violation of the state's open meeting laws.

(See PROBE, page 7A)

Developer looks at old hotel with eye for possible renovation

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

A conversation between Raeford Mayor Bob Gentry and John Hagan, president of National Senior Living, has led to interest in the former Raeford Hotel as a possible location for an assisted living facility.

Gentry announced at the October 7 city council meeting that nationally known developer John Kennedy will be touring the hotel along with an architect

associated with his company. They are meeting with city officials at the site this morning (Wednesday).

Gentry said the idea that the long-vacant hotel building might be renovated into an assisted living facility came when Hagan mentioned to the mayor a project underway in Tampa. A hotel that had been vacated was being converted into such an assisted living facility that would include apartments, a cafeteria and other amenities.

(See HOTEL, page 7A)

Alert residents help apprehend convicted felons

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

In what Maj. Thomas Carlton of the Hoke County Sheriff's Office calls "one of the greatest examples of why Community Watch works," deputies apprehended two convicted felons who are now in Hoke Jail.

Citizens of western Hoke County spotted a "suspicious vehicle" lurking in their neighborhood for several days. With Tom Squier, Hoke Veterans Service Officer, as spokesperson, they took their concerns to the HCSO. Yesterday deputies picked up Ja-

son Lamont Seymour, 32, of Roosevelt, New York, and Steven Augustus Edwards, 33, of Hempsted, New York, and charged each with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, which is a felony charge; and possession of a handgun that had the serial number removed. Seymour is under \$25,000 secured bond, and Edwards is under \$10,000 secured bond.

An investigation into the men's activities in Hoke County continues, Carlton said. Both have extensive criminal records and were convicted of felonies in the New York, he added. "We're trying to determine the exact

purpose of their loitering in the area for several days, according to witnesses."

Squier said he first spotted the vehicle the men were in Monday at about 9 p.m. "It seemed to me the occupants were watching my house," he said. "They were sitting there in the dark with the motor running."

A former law enforcement officer and retired Green Beret, Squier approached the vehicle and was told by the driver twice to get away from the vehicle. Squier said he felt threatened when they told him not to go near the (See ALERT RESIDENTS, page 9A)