Life & Leisure

Hoke is safer because of firefighters

BY PAT ALLEN WILSON Editor

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as the most dangerous job quit." in this country. On Sep firefighters died in the twin tower see it, you have nightmares." holocaust in New York City. This year, to date, 78 have died in the added. United States.

teer firefighters and rescue personnel it." at an appreciation banquet in their honor.

About firefighting, he said, "I love it. involved and get others involved. It's a good feeling when you get to

Accepting his honor Thursday

firefighters' dedication. Lt. Leon said she wants to be a firefighter, too.

McMillan, with the Tylertown Volunteer Carter's wife, Rita, said, "I"m proud of Firefighter of the Year a yearly event. Fire Dept., has been a firefighter since him. It's a lot of stress because you worry, Chamber member Rick Sandy said Thurs-1989. "I will be a firefighter till I die. It's but for the most part I am proud of him." day night safety personnel are "very unirefighting is recognized in my blood; once you get it, you can't Mike Parkins, 21, was a junior selfish" people.

"I just like helping people," McMillan College.

Last Thursday night, the Raeford- reason Chuck Brice, 64, has spent the last hopes to continue as a firefighter. He County a safer place and a better place to Hoke Chamber of Commerce recog- years as a firefighter. "It's a thankless job. would like to work fulltime, he said. nized the dangers of firefighting and Most people don't want to do it because

one fire in particular taught him how much emergency medical technicians as well as The chamber also chose Noah firefighters are needed. It was a barn fire. firefighters. Pierce, of the Puppy Creek Volunteer When the flames were extinguished, There are limits to what junior Fire Dept., as Firefighter of the Year. firefighters found the charred remains of firefighters can do, Rowland said. He Just days earlier, Pierce spoke with man sitting in a chair inside the barn. It can't ride out first and he can't run mutual youngsters of Brownie Troop 354, as was his chief's uncle. "When I see some- aid. On school nights there is a 10 p.m. a part of their Career Day activities. thing like that it makes me want to get curfew.

help people. It's an awesome feel- said. He thinks of those safety personnel the other firefighters vote to accept him.

Firefighting is a family tradition, said don't trust me, well..." night, Pierce said it made him "very Matt Carter, 23, a Rockfish fireman. His

firefighter, beginning at age 16. "It started

Parkins, who volunteers with Rockfish "To help out my community," is the and Lake Rim in Cumberland County,

Creston Rowland, 17, a junior at Hoke the responsibilities of local volun- it's not a paying job. Somebody has to do High, is currently Rockfish's only junior firefighter. His grandfather was a Brice, a South Antioch firefighter, said firefighter and his mom and sister are

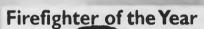
Once he turns 18, Rowland said, he can "9/11, it might have been us," Brice become a "regular" firefighter. That is, if who gave their lives all the time, he added. "That's who I'll be working with. If they

An annual event

grandparents, father and uncles were The chamber annually honors its Noah Pierce shown here with Girl Scout Brownie

We can't thank you enough for getting McMillan, who spent 10 years as a out as something to do for the summer," out of bed in the middle of the night," tember 11, 2001, 343 firefighter in the Navy, added, "When you he said. Then he went to the fire academy Sandy said. "Sometimes it's just to put out at Fayetteville Technical Community a fire in a garbage can and sometimes you save lives."

Said Hoke County Commissioner Chairman Bobby Wright, "Ya'll make Hoke live."





Pride in what they do is a factor in firefighters. Daughter Brianna, who is four, firefighters and rescue squad with a ban- Katherine Bishop, daughter of Daniel and Melody Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

Hoke served by 10 departments

oke County is served by 10 fire county departments overlap-

ping into Hoke. The county's fire marshal is Major Freddy Johnson of the Hoke Sheriff's

County Firefighters Association president.

Forestry's top ranger is Larry Moser. County, serves western Hoke.

Chief there is Adrian Allred.

Wagram-North Scotland (Station 2), departments with two out-of located in Scotland County, serves an area in southern Hoke that borders Scotland.

The chief there is Dan Shaw.

Other Hoke stations and fire chiefs are Office. Johnny Baker, chief of North Hillcrest (Station 1), Bobby Allen; Rockfish (Station 2), Todd Wood; Puppy Creek Raeford (Station 4), serves at the Hoke (Station 3), David Willis; West Hoke (Sta-Hoke County Rescue Base commander tion 5), Richard Wood; Stonewall (Stais Jimmy Stewart, and North Carolina tion 6), Keith Phillips; Pine Hill (Station 7), Billie Williams; South Antioch (Sta-Crestline (Station 72), located in Moore tion 8), Jimmy Carthens; Tylertown (Station 9), Hervon McCollum; and Raeford (Station 10), Dickie Lippard.

Clockwise from right: Matt Carter, left, and Mike Parkins; Charles Brice; Creston Rowland; Leon McMillan





