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GSX HAZARDOUS WASTE PROPOSAL STILL WITH US

by Robeson County Clergy and Laity Concerned

The GSX Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility proposed for Scotland County may still gain approval if we do not act and express our opposition. Although representatives from the State Agencies have heard our concerns during public meetings and hearings in March and April, the application process is still in the works. The company has responded to the State's second notice of (application) deficiency, and the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Board reports that the application is complete: This means only that all of the State-required information has been supplied. Contrary to statements made by company officials, this does not mean that the application is satisfactory or that construction will begin soon. In no shape or form is the review process complete. There is now a 45 day comment period. At the end of this time a tentative decision on the application will be made. After the tentative decision, there will be a public hearing held in order to provide more information.

supply. These are valid public concerns. The applicant has not provided adequate documentation to substantiate the ability of the proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility to treat toxic waste."

Planning to operate above one of the state's most active aquifers, GSX proposes accepting waste from at least eight states, processed from 50,000 to 500,000 gallons of hazardous chemicals each day and dump half a million gallons of its discharge into the Lumber River.

Indicated is that GSX cannot even estimate the treatment system's level of efficiency. An Agency for Toxic Substances officials states, "...Until a particular waste is actually treated by a system, it is difficult, if not impossible, to predict the rates of removal for particular chemicals by that system." GSX has not demonstrated actual plant experience, nor provided any data from treatability studies associated with the wastes that it proposes treating. Officials remain sensitive to the fact that biological treatment systems-- as GSX proposes-- may not work effectively on certain chemicals. In some cases, the system may be entirely impractical.

At capacity, GSX would accept more than 50 times the annual amount of toxic waste that all of North Carolina industries send to off-site treatment centers. The company proposes pumping more than 50 different toxic substances into the river at maximum contaminant levels. Most of the toxics the company may dump are not currently regulated by state and federal agencies. Despite company claims that each treatment waste water batch will be tested before discharge, the report goes further in citing problems with the company's definition of batch and the testing procedure. In effect "...Waste water from the hazardous waste treatment facility would be replaced prior to being tested for the presence of chemicals which can be harmful to public health," says one official.

Cancer risk and potential impacts on the water supply are given particular attention in the report. If the total allowable increased cancer risk for all chemicals in the affluent is the basis for discharge, setting actual acceptable levels for each individual chemical or a "batch," as defined by GSX, will be impractical if not impossible. If the river contains toxics from other sources prior to the GSX/LMAC outfall, the additional load presented by this outfall may cause the total concentrations to exceed acceptable risk levels or standards."

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How, Robeson and Scotland County residents ask, can the state consider licensing a company with such blatantly destructive designs? Recognizing the company's poor track record in handling and disposing highly toxic waste, how we or state decision-makers have confidence that GSX will operate safely and in accordance with hazardous waste laws and regulations. GSX is plainly and wholly unacceptable. Just as the U.S. Ecology Radioactive Incinerator was inappropriate for our area and North Carolina's needs, GSX is inappropriate, unsound, and unwanted. Citizens of this area do not have to bear this unnecessary large and dangerous burden. We have fought GSX and stalled its licensing for over two years. We should not stop until

GSX-like U.S. Ecology has its application denied and withdraws from this area.

In order to ensure this, we must remain on top of the situation. Keep your yellow ribbons flying. Respark discussions on GSX and its dangers with your local and county elected officials. Write them or call them. Initiate this discussion and opposition with your church committees, civic groups, and other social and/or professional associations. Call and/or write your state representatives and senators. Write and call your decision-makers in Raleigh. These are the people with great contact with the problems and who have a direct influence on the licensing. Your calls or letters addressing any of our many concerns can be sent to any of the following officials: Send Mail To: Governor James G. Martin 116 West Jones Street Raleigh, NC 27611

Phillip J. Kirk Jr., Secretary Department of Human Resources 325 North Salisbury Street Raleigh, NC 27611

William L. Meyer (in charge of the GSX application) Solid & Hazardous Waste Branch, Bath Building, 306 N. Wilmington St. Raleigh, NC 27611

Remember, we do make a difference. These are our communities. We have established roots and we do not have to compromise our lives, our health, and our safety for the benefit of big business and top-down decisions. Soon, there will be a planning meeting on GSX. Please watch for notices for this meeting. For more information call Robeson County Clergy and Laity Concerned at 739-7854 or 739-7851.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-racial Setting."

THE CAST OF

"STRIKE AT THE WIND"

The Eleventh Season of "Strike at the Wind" is being presented each Thursday through Saturday night at 8:30 p.m. at the Lakeside Amphitheatre, three miles west of Pembroke. The drama will continue through September 6, 1986.

Carnell Locklear returns for his eleventh season as the popular Boss Strong. Locklear also serves as General Manager of the outdoor drama.

Also returning for his eleventh season is Robert Bryant as Shoemaker John. Bryant is a crowd pleaser.

Michelle Martin returns for her second season as Dolly King.

And Gene Locklear, Jr. is performing his first season as Steve Lowrie, brother of Henry Berry Lowrie and member of the Lowrie Gang.

For more information on the exciting drama, call 521-2480, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Saturday or 521-3112 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on performance nights.



Carnell Locklear as Boss Strong



Robert Bryant as Shoemaker John



Michelle Martin as Dolly King



Gene Locklear, Jr. as Steve Lowrie

Will Five Go Into One? Merger Possibilities In Robeson County

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the tenth in a series of articles about school merger possibilities in Robeson County. Will five go into one? History shouts "No!" We hope history will be proven wrong. The series of articles was written by Bruce Barton, editor of this newspaper.

WILL ROBESON COUNTY MERGE THEIR FIVE SCHOOL SYSTEMS INTO ONE? Some challenges facing merger in Robeson County, as well as elsewhere are:

- 1.) Agreeing on a plan for the election of the new board of education; 2.) Reorganizing and properly utilizing the central office staffs; 3.) equalizing per pupil expenditures, especially where one unit has a supplemental levy; 4.) Equalizing salary supplements; 5.) Equalizing opportunities upward rather than downward; dealing with negative feelings where loss of opportunities occur in the equalizing process; 6.) Justifying and securing capital outlay funds if more is needed in one unit than the other; 7.) Establishing new attendance lines to utilize facilities and achieve a racial balance; 8.) Involving citizens and staff who may feel further removed from the policy-making body and administration; 9.) Dealing with the city versus county attitudes; 10.) Inability of the county commissioners to guarantee funds beyond their terms of office; and, most importantly in Robeson County, reconciling the "Racial Differences."

As recently as November 1984, a state school survey committee recommended dissolving the five school systems in Robeson County and merging into a single system.

"The recommendation also included retaining only six of the county's ten high schools: Lumberton, West Robeson, South Robeson, Fairmont, Red Springs and St. Pauls."

A study commission was formed with representatives from all five systems, with County Commissioner Jack Morgan as Chairman.

A February 4, 1985 editorial in *The Fayetteville Times* noted succinctly:

"The Robeson County Schools Study Commission has bent to political expediency in its proposal for a public referendum on merger of the five school administrative units in the county.

"The study commission would have done better to leave the question of how to achieve merger to the commissioners. Even

though a referendum may be the only political approach that will fly, by its recommendation the study commission has made such an approach inevitable.

"By also proposing that the referendum ask voters to commit to a significantly higher level of local financing for schools, the study committee is shunting too many decisions to the political fates which are properly ones for the committee and for the elected officials.

"Experience has shown that the referendum route is the most divisive and least-successful means of achieving school merger.

"There does seem to be a new wind of change blowing in Robeson on school matters, a new sense of the need for more cooperation and unity, perhaps a new willingness among the various political, racial, and geographical groupings to seize the uncommon opportunity to more toward sensible administrative structure and more community support for schools throughout the county.

"But to expect this incipient trend to bear fruit in widespread support for a school merger referendum, one loaded also with a tough question of finances, could be asking more than it can bear.

"The School Study Commission has done good work in gathering the facts about the state of public education in Robeson, in seeking the expertise and guidance of the state-level consultants whose work has been instrumental in other merger situations, and in fashioning a model of what public education ought to be in the county in order that all children are served soundly and fairly.

"In proposing that the next step should be a public referendum, however, it has laid aside its own responsibility too soon and tossed this immensely important issue into what could be a fiery furnace of political confusion.

"School merger is without doubt an issue involving every citizen. But that does not mean such decisions are best made in a public referendum. The Robeson County Board of Commissioners should take their own counsel about how to take the legal step of merger. The major consideration should be the future wellbeing of the children in every part of the county, and what is required to assure a future of increasingly better public schooling."

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

Wayne Jackson Of WECT To Receive Pete Ivey Award



WAYNE JACKSON... WECT-TV "Carolina in the Morning" host to receive Pete Ivey Award.

BY GENE WARREN
Wilmington-Wayne Jackson, who has been a television newscaster with WECT-TV in Wilmington for 32 years, has been chosen to receive the College News Association of the Carolinas' Pete Ivey Award Thursday, August 7, at the CNAC Summer Conference at Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The annual award, given in honor of Pete Ivey, long-time news bureau director of UNC-Chapel Hill, salutes an individual in the news media who has made outstanding contributions to higher education in the

Carolinas.

The award will be presented at the CNAC banquet at 7 p.m. on Aug. 7 at the Quality Royale Bluewater Resort at Myrtle Beach, S.C. Making the presentation will be Gene Warren, public information director of Pembroke State University who is a member of the CNAC Board of Directors.

A native of Hinsdale, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, Jackson graduated from the Radio Institute of Chicago. He was with WCEC and its WFMA affiliate in Rocky Mount from 1951-54 before going to Wilmington to join WECT-TV, a forerunner of WECT-TV. He has thus been with television from its infancy in North Carolina.

Always a sports enthusiast, Jackson has interviewed such athletic greats as Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson, Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris. In higher education, he has interviewed top educators throughout the southeastern North Carolina region.

A service veteran, he served in the U.S. Army from 1944-46.

Jackson is married to the former Lee Love. He is the father of a daughter, Jackie, of Columbia, CA, and two sons, Mike and Steve, of Wilmington. He has two grandsons, Brant and Chris.

OPEN ELECTION FOR INDIAN COMMISSION PLANNED

Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. will conduct an Open Election on August 26, 1986 to nominate a member to serve on the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs Board of Directors for a three-year term. Ms. Della Maynor, a resident of Hoke County, currently serves in that capacity.

Voters must reside in the following townships and counties: Burnt Swamp, Raft Swamp, East Howellsville, West Howellsville, Wishart, Red Springs, Shannon, Lumber Bridge, Parkton,

Rennert, St. Pauls, Saddle-tree, Scotland County, Hoke County.

Criteria for voting: must be Indian, must be 18 years or older, must reside in above districts.

The election sites are being identified and will be announced at a later date. Anyone interested in running as a candidate should declare their candidacy no later than August 18, 1986 at the Executive Director's Office with Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc.

Chamber of Commerce Night at SATW

The board of directors, cast and crew of Strike at the Wind cordially invite each of you to Robeson County's Chamber of Commerce Night on August 8, 1986.

Strike at the Wind is a show that businessmen can support. It tells the story of Robeson County through her people, the way they thought and acted and comingled with one another during the Civil War era. The themes of

the show are a fair reflection of those troubled times.

We look forward to seeing you and your chamber represented on this night. Please contact our office in a few days for confirmation in making reservations. If you would like further information, please call the office at 521-2480, 521-2489 or 521-3112.

by Suzanne Owendine Audience Developer SATW

COUNTY BRIEFS...

TOBACCO MARKETS OPEN LOCALLY

Both Lumberton and Fairmont's tobacco markets opened Monday to a muted chorus of "no surprises." Members of the fabled Border Belt, both markets sold tobacco at prices ranging from a high of \$1.80 to a low of \$.86 per pound. The biggest difference this year is that farmers will be paying an assessment fee of 2.5 cents compared to last year's 25 cents. According to Bill Williford, sales supervisor for the Lumberton market, farmers are expected to fare about like they did last year.

PEMBROKE CONSIDERS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CP&L FOR ELECTRICITY

On July 26, a 60 year agreement with Carolina Power and Light came to an end in the City of Pembroke. Pembroke is now considering alternatives for electric service, and Monday night heard from Ronnie Hunt, general manager of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (IREMC), the rural electric cooperative headquartered in Red Springs.

In presenting a proposal, Hunt said that IREMC could provide electricity to the town in a way that would be more beneficial to the town at comparable costs. Hunt said that "IREMC can and will serve the town and sell electric power on a wholesale basis...The town would use its own power and contract all its services from IREMC. Lumbee River could build, provide services and be responsible for maintenance and upkeep."

Hunt used the town of Red Springs as an example, and noted that they make some \$200,000 profit a year, thusly lowering the tax rate and providing auxiliary services.

The town, awaiting a proposal from CP&L, took Hunt's proposal under advisement.

COMMISSIONERS DENY FUNDING REQUEST FOR STRIKE AT THE WIND

Without much fanfare, the county commissioners denied a request for funds from "Strike at the Wind" Monday night. The \$25,000 request was made by Dr. Adolph Dial, chairman of the board of Robeson Historical Drama, Inc., the sponsoring agency of the popular outdoor drama.

In spite of the presence of a number of cast members and supporters, the commissioners denied the request on a 4-2 vote. Voting no were H.T. Taylor, Carl Britt, Bill Herndon and Henry Douglas. Taylor, Britt and Herndon are white, and Douglas is the lone black commissioner. Voting in favor of the proposal were the two Indian commissioners, Jack Morgan and Wyvis Owendine.

bulletin

VOLLEYBALL PRACTICE AT WEST ROBESON

Practices for West Robeson Senior High Girls Volleyball will begin on Monday, August 11, at 6 p.m. in the West Robeson Gym. All interested students are urged to attend practices.