

Viewpoints

Industrial development now appears untracked

If the action taken by the Hoke County Commissioners last week is a result of giving the officials a few days of relaxation in Seattle, taxpayers should consider making such junkets a regular monthly activity for the board members.

After spending time at the national convention in the state of Washington, the Hoke officials came back fired up about industrial development, a topic which had almost been ignored by the body before.

At their second budget meeting last week, the commissioners voiced concerns about spiraling county costs and the need to make Hoke County a competitive force on the industrial recruitment scene.

Before pumping \$24,000 into the program, the board members talked about hiring a qualified fulltime industry hunter and developing an industrial park. There will be more money if it is needed, they said.

The action and the sudden burst of leadership must have come as

a surprise to county taxpayers and unemployed residents, who have grown used to a commission with a more passive growth posture.

As Commissioner James Albert Hunt put it, Hoke County officials have been "messaging around" for 10 or 15 years hoping that an industry would stumble over us and settle here.

The wishing and hoping has not paid off. Industries are not begging to locate in Hoke County, and the demand for services is outdistancing the taxpayers ability to pay.

Despite having an extra \$400,000 from the one-half cent sales tax, the commissioners had to borrow another \$373,800 from the fund reserve account in order to balance this year's \$5.4 million budget and to hold an ad valorem tax rate increase to five cents.

Next year the financial problems will probably be greater. Additional money will be borrowed from the fund balance, interests on those dollars will be lost and taxes will be increased again. Taxpayers will be paying for the county's past indolences.

If the trend is going to be reversed, the local tax base must be increased by adding industries, businesses and taxpayers. However, the process is going to be a long one.

For example, this year's draw from the reserve fund of \$373,800 would take an increase in the tax base of about \$50 million dollars to replace. To put that into perspective, the current evaluation for Faberge is \$30.6 million and Burlington is \$29.6 million.

Editorial

Counties just do not add \$50 million to the tax base overnight. With an all out recruitment effort, this county would be lucky to make that goal in the next 10 years.

The costs of obtaining industry is high, and the process is gradual, but the rewards are worth the expense.

This year, Burlington Industries will employ about 1,600 workers and will pay approximately \$220,000 in local county ad valorem taxes, along with \$166,000 in Raeford taxes. Faberge will employ around 900 persons and will pay just over \$225,000 to the county and \$168,000 to the city.

Together the two industries pay about 19% of the county's tax burden and 52% of the city's. When the contributions from the other smaller industries in the county are added, the percentage climbs higher.

In addition, the "ripple effect" of an industry makes a substantial dent in the tax base. More persons working creates a need for more restaurants, stores, entertainment, housing, etc.

The commissioners are on the right track. This county needs a full time industrial recruiter, and the position should be filled soon.

Delaying industry hunting further only opens the door for higher county ad valorem taxes.

Needed.
Planned.
Inevitable.
Exorbitant.



Letters To The Editor

Cherokees seek community support

To The Editor,
This editorial is by the Chief Gray Eagle, Rev. Edgar Bryant, the Chief of the Cherokee Indians of Hoke County tribe to all people.

Whereas Cherokee Indian Day has been proclaimed by the Hoke County Board of Commissioners to be July 28, and each year hereafter, we, the Cherokee Indians of Hoke County will hold a parade on that day.

We will gather at the grounds of the old Armory, Raeford at one o'clock and go from there to the A&P parking lot to begin our parade which will end back up back at the grounds of the old Armory.

We will be singing praises to the Lord as we march and we invite everyone to come and support us. Some of you may march with us if you believe in the Lord as we do. The parade will be at 2 p.m.

After the march we will have some more singing praises to the Lord and the preaching of the word of God: Daniel Chapter 7, Zechariah ch. 14, Matthew 24 and Revelation ch 20.

You need to sit down and read these chapters in your Bible as they are the prophecy of Christ our coming king.

It will do everyone good who looks at this editorial to read these chapters. If you have questions come see us or write us and we will give you the answers straight from the word of God. We will tell it like it is. Amen.

Now concerning our tribe, why we are marching: we would like to explain to you and all who will come our tribal ancestry and heritage. We are related to the

Eastern band of Cherokee and to the Western Cherokee in Oklahoma thru the Chief John Lowry of Robeson County who signed as a headman and Chief of the Cherokee Indian Nation in the "Treaty with the Cherokee of 1806" and thru various Cherokee Indians of Robeson County who have lived with the Eastern band such as Randall and Elizabeth Locklear.

We are a branch of the original Cherokee Indian Nation which at one time covered seven states. We are working under this treaty and under the 1913 Cherokee Indians Act. And it's 1977 Reratification which is North Carolina General Statute 71-1, both of which were passed by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

We have proof and records of all these acts and treaties and we know that they are our treaties. We have nothing to conceal as we are Christians. As you read this, prepare to come out and be with us and to help so that we may keep on keepin on.

You may make a donation or you may need counsel from the word of God. You need to take time out for Jesus. May the Lord bless you real good. Support your Hoke County Cherokees. We are praying for you.

By my hand, in service of Christ,
Chief Gray Eagle:
Rev. Edgar Bryant
The Cherokee Indians
of Hoke County Tribe

Community watch doing good job

To The Editor:
Our Hat's are off to the Rockfish Community Watch Directors.

We commend them for an excellent organization and their community spirit.
We are proud to be a small part in the good work.
J.L. & Edith Fitzgerald

Champs appreciate backing of team

To The Editor:
The Bambino championship was won by the Braves and sponsored by United Carolina Bank.

On Thursday July 12, a dinner was held at Edenborough Shopping Center by Bob Conoly and Bill Jones to honor the Braves.

We would like to give a special thanks to all the parents, coaches, and United Carolina Bank who helped make this a success.

The team members are: Chris Smith, Ricky Baldwin, Dion Purcell, Derrick Graham, Redrick Graham, Jeff Baker, Danny Attello, Edward Young, Paul Nethery, Jason King, George Beatty, Simeon Quick and Detrick Meyer.

THANK YOU
Clayton Singletary,
Coach
David Purcell, Coach

Military spending needs looking into

Dear Editor:
Everyone has heard the stories about the military spending \$800 apiece for screwdrivers and \$150 apiece for claw hammers or whatever and other hair-raising examples of outrageous waste, but there's something about all this that puzzles me.
When a reporter gets hold of one of these stories and it makes

headlines, the military brass says it is "instituting measures to curb the practice," and the story fades away. Then a few months later something else comes out, like the military admitting it disposes of \$3 billion worth of surplus parts each year to junk dealer, then a little while later discovers it needs them back. The junk dealers are happy to oblige, selling the parts back at several times what they paid for them.

What puzzles me about all this is where are the investigative reporters? Looks like some of them would be interested in locating the clerk or the officers or whoever who authorized the paying of \$800 screwdrivers, along with the dealer brazen enough to charge that much. Looks like those hard-hitting guys on "60 Minutes" for example would be chomping at the bit to flash their lights on such people and cross-examine them on television. But nothing happens, the practice goes on, and nobody gets fired.

I's look into this myself but I'm going to be tied up the next few weeks watching political conventions on television.
Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed, however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by The News-Journal by noon on the Monday of the publication week.

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Imprecise horoscope causes unfortunate problems

Horoscopes have fascinated me since I was about six. That was the first year my mother would allow me to read the one that appeared regularly in the Atlanta newspaper. That was also the year I learned to read.

At six, I didn't get much out of the daily fortune columns because I had a hard time understanding "buzz phrases" like: "take the initiative," "emotional involvements" and "gird your loins." Horoscopes are governed by innuendoes, and now that I am older, I still find them imprecise.

My wife and I read them from time to time, but they always leave me wondering. For example, I read one last Saturday morning and got into a good deal of trouble.

I had awakened early and was quietly enjoying the newspaper when I ran across the fortune telling column.

"Start the day with a phone call and your spirits will remain high all day. Romance enjoys highly favorable influence. Move swiftly," the horoscope said.

I knew right off that if romance was involved, that I had better make the phone call to my wife. It was the weekend. We were both home. If I called her from the house, the telephone would ring busy. I went to the office. There, I knew I could start with a "phone" call and have my spirits lifted all day.

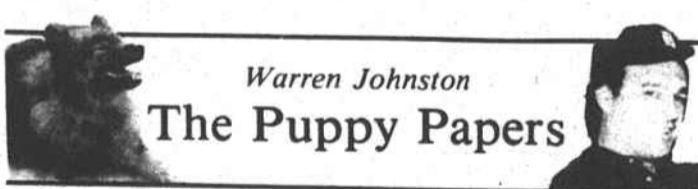
I called my wife to see how she was doing. She was asleep. It was 6 a.m.

When I told her about the horoscope, she suggested that I had taken leave of my senses, and that I should make another telephone call to the local mental health unit. She hung up.

My spirits were crushed, and stood no chance of being "lifted all day."

I returned home and re-read the horoscope. It came out the same. I threw the newspaper away. I decided to write a precise horoscope which would not leave the reader wondering about the meaning. Here is what I came up with for the coming week:

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) The telephone call which awakened you earlier brings romance, not just a deranged caller. Be forgiving. Clean the house and cook dinner all week for your mate. It will be appreciated. (My wife is an Aquarius.)



Warren Johnston

The Puppy Papers

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Go on a diet. You have gotten way too fat. If you are way too skinny, eat more, but whatever you do stay away from restaurants which offer special prices on dinners of bananas and boiled octopus. The combination will make you sick, particularly after 12 martinis. Try going to work instead. The activity will be rewarding if you are on the payroll. Stay out of hot tubs during the month of August.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Don't expect everything you have always wanted to come true this week. If all you get is an offer from the guy sitting next to you on the cross-town bus to let you have a bite of his liverwurst and sliced onion sandwich, you should feel lucky. But don't accept the offer. Move to another seat and warn the other passengers.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A young man with a high-pitched voice, who claims to be Michael Jackson, will offer you \$1 million "just because you did not try to hit him with a stick and throw him off your property." You will believe the young man to be an imposter, hit him with a stick and throw him off your property. In the fracas, he leaves one sequined glove behind. You will spend the rest of the week wondering if the young man was really Michael Jackson.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This week you will become twins. The right half of you will go to work and carry on responsible duties. The left half will go to the beach and try to have a great time. The only problem is everyone will give both of you strange looks, and your boss will accuse you of only putting in a "half-hearted" effort. Small children will laugh at you as you walk down the beach. You will bury yourself in the sand. Your left side will become sunburned. By the end of the week, you will wish you had never been born a Gemini.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Good Fortune will follow you all week. You will try to lose him by running down an alley, but it will be to no avail. He will be waiting at every turn. Before long, you will be considering spending the weekend with a group of wondering gypsies, who claim to be less fortunate.

LEO (July 23-August 22) Stay away from drive-in movie theatres. The one in your area will be taken over by a group of rabbit growers who are on convention. There will be rabbits in every car, and Bugs Bunny will star in every movie. The cleanup job will be terrific.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22) The active pursuit of knowledge is in the stars for you. Go back to school. Be sure that you are enrolled. Otherwise, you might be arrested for being a suspicious character who is hanging around a school yard.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22) Extra precaution against invaders from outer space should be taken. Word is out in the galaxy that persons born under your heavenly sign are throwing extravagant parties during the week. Check your guest list carefully. Watch the Uranusians. They tend to drink too much and should not be allowed to drive.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21) Be careful about your money. Two fellows will approach you during the week and ask that you put \$100 into a paper bag. They will also claim to have put \$100 each in the bag. You will be left holding the empty bag. They spend the \$300 on ice cream and a flight to Salt Lake City. Once there, they will become Mormons and will promise never to pull the bag trick again.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21) During this week you will have a mysterious rendezvous. You will not know the identity of the person you are meeting, only that he needs a shave and that his breath smells of garlic. Once you give his pet monkey a quarter, the person will go away and will never be seen again, except for a brief moment during the third quarter of the Pfeiffer-Long Beach State football game.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19) You will realize this week that because of the untimely date of your birth, you have always been shortchanged on presents. You finally grow weary of hearing "but your birthday is so near Christmas," and decide to move your personal celebration to July. You become a Cancer and are followed by Good Fortune for the rest of the week.