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Cabarrus County man hired as Hoke manager

Few things need to be changed about the manner in which Hoke County is being fiscally run. However, the man named Tuesday night to head up the county government says he will work to improve communication.

Cabarrus County Parks and Recreation Department Director William K. Cowan, who was named Tuesday night by the Hoke County Commissioners to replace former County Manager James Martin, says he is going to examine the county's communication network and will meet with department heads "as soon as possible."

The 32-year-old Winsor native will take over the reins of the county on November 1,

Commission Chairman John Balfour said Tuesday.

Cowan will be paid an annual salary of \$28,500 and will be given a travel allowance of \$2,000.

In Cabarrus County, which has a population of about 90,000, Cowan is credited with turning around a dying recreation department and making it one of the most viable in the state.

During 1980, Cowan received a national parks and recreation award for his accomplishments.

Cowan is married to the former Teresa Oliver and they have one son, Jonathan.

Mrs. Cowan is a teacher and under contract for the current year in Cabarrus County, but the family will be moving to Hoke County around Christmas time from their home in Concord, Balfour said.

Cowan, who has a B.S. Degree from East Carolina University in Parks Management, has served in Cabarrus for eight years.

One of his top priorities will be to review the county manager's role as controller of department heads to make sure that all areas of the county government are being run as efficiently and as effectively as possible, Cowan said.

In addition, Cowan said he would also

meet with appointed committee members and with elected officials.

The existing management system is running "pretty well" and there is no pressing need to change anything, the new manager said.

Cowan was in the county last Wednesday and on Sunday, and has toured the area with his wife.

In addition to the recreation award, Cowan was appointed to the North Carolina Outdoor Policy Panel by Governor Jim Hunt in 1982, and he is serving as the treasurer of the Cabarrus Arts Council Inc.

Cowan has also served as a guest lecturer to the local Cabarrus area Council of Governments on budgets.

Grades combined at Scurlock to accommodate more students

By Ed Miller

"The gain of a teacher" and lack of space has caused school officials to rework classes and to shift students at Scurlock School, Superintendent Robert Nelson said.

Because of the overcrowding, teachers are now instructing two grades in one classroom.

The system is a throwback to the "old one-room" school days, but student education is not suffering, the superintendent said.

The state has given the school system "another teacher for Scurlock as the result of "10-day adjustments" in enrollments, Nelson said.

However, the school did not have an available classroom.

Every year attendance is measured for the first 10 days of classes, and if more or fewer students than are anticipated show up for school, the state adjusts teacher allotments accordingly, said Nelson.

Every space was in use, Nelson said.

There have also been some

changes made by combining two grades in one class.

This combination class is taught much in the same fashion as the old one room schools were, Nelson said.

While one grade level is getting direct instruction, the other is working on assigned material, said Nelson.

There are four combination classes, one for each grade level, said Scurlock Principal George Woods.

According to Nelson, the grades are being put together to keep class sizes within state regulations.

By law, grades K-3 can only have 26 students. Grades 4-6 can have 29 and grades 7 and up can have 33, Nelson said.

In terms of difficulties caused by the combination classes, Nelson said: "I suspect that it causes more problems for teachers than for students."

The teachers have to prepare lessons for two grade levels as well as having to contend with two totally different levels of achievement, Nelson said.

Nelson could only think of one case in his 17 years as a superintendent that there have been no 10-day adjustments.

According to Nelson, there are still new students coming into the school almost everyday, and that has had an effect on the first 10-day totals.

The transient nature of some of the population in that area has caused many of the adjustments.

It is not really a matter of anticipating numbers of students, said Nelson.

The state looks at the 10-day figure and adjusts, he said.

After the first 10 days, the county gained 3.5 new teachers because of adjustments, said Nelson.

Contending with adjustments and the maximum occupancy regulations has caused many changes at Scurlock.

There should be no permanent damage to students because of the changes, he said.

There will be a one or two-day adjustment period for students, but "normality" should return after that, the superintendent said.



Main Street accident

A three-car wreck at the Main Street, Donaldson Avenue intersection Tuesday afternoon resulted in four people being only slightly injured, according to Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins. Garry Wood, of Raeford, was driving his 1980 Fiat (center) west on Donaldson Avenue. He stopped at the sign crossing Main, but failed to see an oncoming car heading south on Main Street. When he pulled into the road, he was hit in the right side by a Volkswagen being driven by Elizabeth Baker. Wood's car then flew into the air, rolled over and hit Louise Sessoms

who was sitting at the stop sign on West Donaldson waiting to go east. Sessoms was driving a 1984 Pontiac (right), Wiggins said. Wood was charged with a safe movement violation, said the chief. Damage to the Wood car was reported at \$3,200. Baker's car reportedly had about \$1,700 in damage, and the Sessoms car had about \$175-200 damage, Wiggins said. The drivers and passengers of both the Wood and Baker vehicles were slightly injured, but none were believed to have entered the hospital, Wiggins said.

Creek water flooding crushed Raeford sewer line

By Ed Miller

Thousands of gallons of ground water and sand are pouring into the Raeford sewer system through a crushed pipe which runs under Rockfish Creek, members of the Raeford City Council were told Monday night.

A recent television camera inspection of an 18-inch sewer line in Raeford has shown that about 800 feet of that line is crushed allowing creek and ground water to pour in, City Manager Tom Phillips said.

The line will be closed, he said.

The line, that starts at Prospect Avenue and runs to the sewer plant, has a 24-inch line running parallel to it that will have to service the area until the crushed line can be replaced, Phillips said.

According to Phillips, he knew something was wrong with the line because the sewer plant was treating more water than the water department was pumping.

Another 200 feet of the line can be repaired by the city, Phillips said.

The 18-inch line will be out of

service until at least next year when money can be budgeted for the replacement.

Phillips stressed that use of the 24-inch line for the whole area can only be a temporary condition because if more line is needed, there is nothing to fall back on.

The replacement of the 18-inch line must be a "high priority" item for next year, Phillips said.

According to estimates from contractors, it will cost between \$40,000 and \$60,000 to replace the pipe, Phillips said.

Much of the line is below the water table and a section of it runs under a creek so a lot of extra water and sand has been getting into the system, said the Manager.

Three or four dump truck loads of sand has had to be removed from one section of the pipe, Phillips said adding that this sand has also been ruining pumps at the sewer plant.

The seriousness of the line's condition was realized recently when video tape cameras were put into the line and the inside was actually

filmed.

"It was a real gutter movie," Mayor John K. McNeill said.

The video tape is on record in the City Manager's office.

TV hike axed

After a lengthy discussion, council members voted to deny a rate increase requested by the city's cable television franchise holder Alert Cablevision.

Alert is changing its basic channel line-up and wanted an increase in its basic service from \$8.60 to

\$10, Alert area manager Harrison Daniels said.

To be added to the basic service is the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) and Channel 18 from Charlotte, Daniels said.

The basic service will no longer include ESPN, the sports station or the CNN new station.

Those channels will be offered, but subscribers will have to pay for an "expanded service" to get them, Daniels said.

However, along with those two (See CABLE, page 11)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

There was a good rain Sunday night and it would seem that soybeans should not need any more before harvesting. Now the reason I make this statement is that a retired farmer told me this on Monday morning. The day (Monday) is now sunny as this is being written.

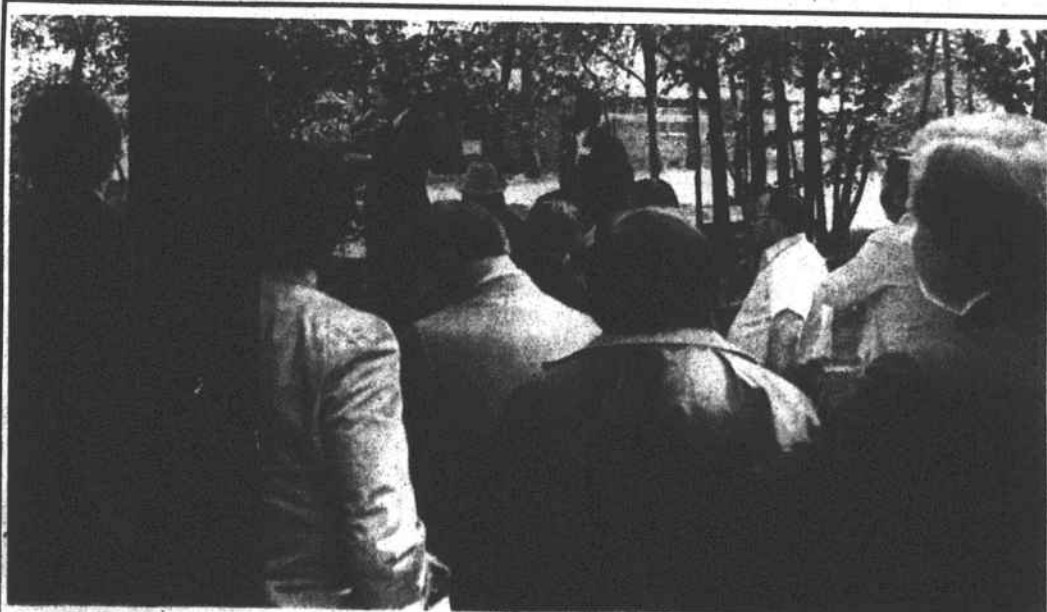
I can't say as much for last Saturday. While sitting in the football stadium at Chapel Hill, the wind chill factor was in the forties and there was a light mist falling during most of the game. It could have been worse if Kansas had defeated the Tar Heels.

The forecast is for the temperatures to get near 80 by the end of the week. It seems now that we go from summer into winter and don't have any nice fall weather.

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Maybe you have noticed that I haven't mentioned anything about the weather coming from Robert Gatlin, observer for Hoke County for the National Weather Service. To those that don't know, Robert

(See AROUND, page 11)



Visit from the candidate

In his second trip to Hoke County, gubernatorial candidate Rufus Edmisten attended a "pig pickin'" fund raiser at the home of Hoke Representative Danny DeVane, Tuesday. Officials at the noon gathering say that about \$5,000 was raised. At the fund raiser, Edmisten said small counties like Hoke are the reason for his success. "People keep saying I will win on coat tails but I have coat tails of my own. The working men and women of this state are my coat tails," he said. "I plan to treat Hoke County fairly. I will be a gover-

nor for the whole state," he said. Edmisten said he plans to build the "infrastructure" of small counties so they will be able to attract industry. Improving roads, schools, water and sewer systems will all help in getting counties like Hoke the industry they badly need, said Edmisten. "I'm going to be looking at places like Hoke County that don't have a fourlane highway," he said. Edmisten said he believed in fairness to all people in all parts of the state. "The mechanic is just as important as the wealthiest man in the state."

Ambulance sponsorship moving to Moore County

By Ed Miller

A shift in ambulance sponsorship, which is designed to improve the services, was given a green light by members of the Hoke County Commission Monday.

As a result of the commission's action, the Hoke County Ambulance Service, which has been backed by Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, is changing sponsorship to Moore County Memorial Hospital.

The switch will improve communications with all area hospitals, Commission Chairman John Balfour said.

"I feel this can only improve service," Balfour said.

This is only the first step in getting the sponsorship changed, according to State Office of Emergency Medical Service (OEMS) Area Supervisor Fred Hardy.

Moore County must now submit a request to the state OEMS. The hospital must then be evaluated and a determination made whether the facility is eligible to sponsor an ambulance service, Hardy said, adding, however, that Moore has

been approved earlier for other services.

The request will then be examined by the OEMS Board for Hoke approval purposes, Hardy said.

"We've already reviewed the proposals. I have looked at it, and I don't see any problems," Hardy said.

In previous operations with Cape Fear, ambulance drivers could communicate by radio only with doctors at Cape Fear, even if patients were en route to Moore Memorial.

Under the new sponsorship, drivers can talk to Moore Memorial, Cape Fear and all other area hospitals, Hardy said.

Raises denied

In a matter pending from the last commission meeting, board members voted to deny raises for county deputies which had been requested by Sheriff Dave Barrington.

Included in the motion was a recommendation that all budgeted salary money not used, be set aside for possible use as merit pay raises during the next fiscal year.

(See DEPUTY, page 10)