

Viewpoints

School building should get started in Hoke Co.

Now that Hoke County school officials are beginning to realize that the construction of new classrooms is unavoidable, the time has come to get started on a building program.

For the past year, officials have been wrestling with a redistricting plan which will fit too many students into too few desks and classrooms.

A year ago, a citizen's advisory group recommended a \$6 million 10-year facilities building plan. The money to implement the plan was set aside by the county commission. All that is needed now is a set of blueprints and for the public to give its OK to a bond issue, which is not designed to raise taxes.

Currently the inflation rate is running about 3% per year, which means that taxpayers will be facing costs increases of about \$180,000 each year the construction is delayed.

We encourage the school board to get going and iron out the final details of a solid building program.

Hoke County needs more school facilities; the taxpayers cannot afford to wait.

Combined dispatching is priority for 1986

A suggestion now being kicked around to merge the county's emergency dispatching systems is a good one. Efforts should be made to bring the plan to fruition during the upcoming fiscal year.

Currently dual dispatching systems are being operated by the City of Raeford and Hoke County at a high cost, and as of July, both governments will pay separate \$3,000 dues to be members of the Police Information Network (PIN).

To hold down costs, county dispatchers, whose job it is to keep up with the ambulance service, the rescue squad, rural fire depart-

ments and sheriff's deputies, are also required to work as jailers while on duty.

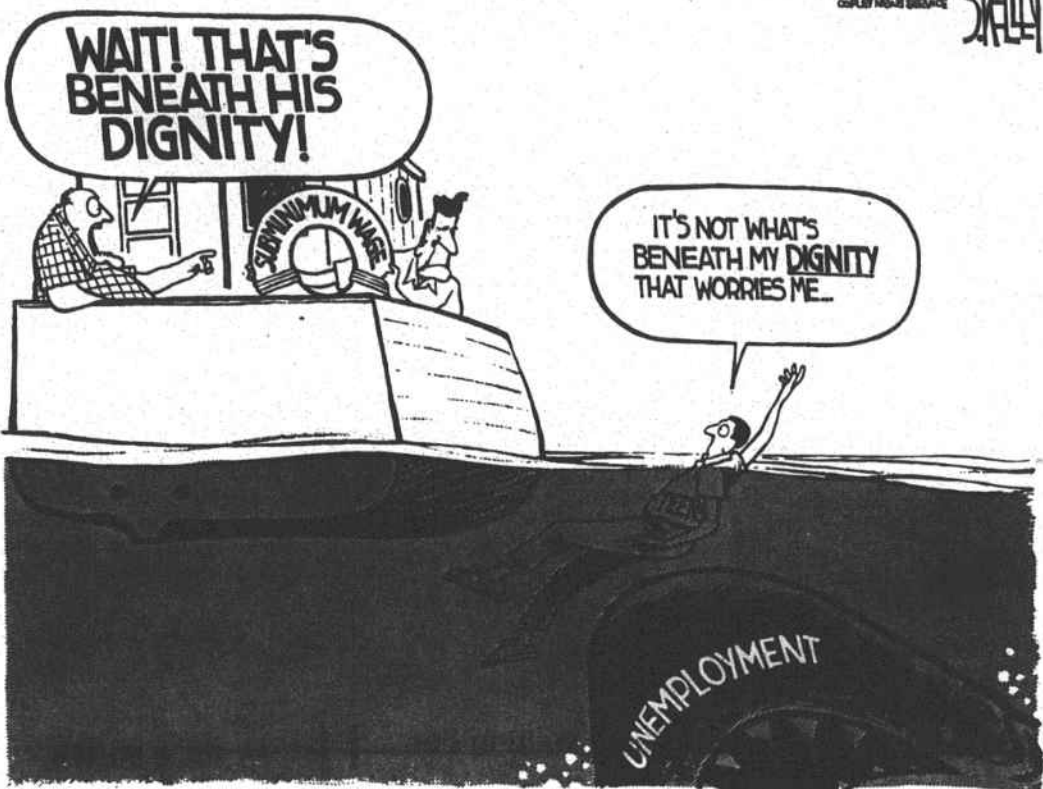
The system has worked well in the past, but as the demand for services is increasing, the dual dispatching is beginning to show signs of wear.

Sheriff Dave Barrington estimates it would cost an additional \$59,000 per year to hire the personnel needed to maintain a separate central dispatching service.

At present the city is paying over \$45,000 a year for dispatchers' salaries and \$3,000 to be members of PIN. Because of the city's need for extra police service from a central dispatching system, it would be fair for some of those municipal funds to be paid to the county to help defray the higher costs.

City taxpayers, who pay about 40% of the county ad valorem taxes, would save money, and all county residents would receive a better vital service.

The central dispatching unit would be more efficient and could save lives and property. We endorse the concept of a unified service, and encourage city and county officials to put their heads together and to implement the plan during the next fiscal year.



Letters To The Editor

Modern Klan myth given new meaning

To the Editor:
Since hatred is its same old ugly self since time began, many sane, intelligent people are at a loss on why the Ku Klux Klan terms itself a "Modern Movement." After all, even a school kid knows that the cowardly bullies have always "preached" their rotten "sermons" of hate under the protection of "white sheets."

Thus, clarification on this subject is badly needed. Please, dear reader, now therefore, let's get some enlightenment. Perhaps some revolutionary changes in the Klan has 'modernized' it somewhat. Reason number one: women can join! The Klan could not hide its "faggoty-queerish" image (men only) any longer, so a few women now and then helped save some face, so to speak.

Speaking of saving some face is reason number two: The major breakthrough came when some "bed-wetting" members suggested dark olive-drab military array in preference over rubber white sheets, which of course, was too heavy, too expensive, and melted too easily, at cross-lighting ceremonies.

Dark olive-drabs can be tossed into washing machines after each meeting, and no one will ever notice the stains. Wonderful! An embarrassing situation, thus solved, a breakthrough, indeed!

Now dear sane, intelligent reader: You no longer have to suffer puzzlement over the term "modern klan." We've been "to class," honey, and now you know!

Thank you, Sincerely
Daniel Edwards
Pine Ridge, Box 301
Bladenboro, N.C. 28320

Spaying program needs more help

To the Editor:
As most residents of Hoke County are now aware, the Hoke-Raeford Humane Society has implemented a subsidized low cost spaying program for residents of Hoke County.

There has been some confusion as to the particulars of this program as evidenced by phone calls I

have received.

I would like to explain that the Humane Society set this program up to help residents, who would not otherwise be able to afford the entire fee to have their female cats and dogs spayed, to have this operation performed at a reduced cost to them.

In effect, this program should only be used by people who are on a fixed income, unemployed, or generally cannot afford to pay the full veterinarians fees, due to lack of money.

If you are financially able to pay the regular price of a spaying operation, we encourage you to do so. The Humane Society's funds are limited and this program will only continue as long as we have the money.

For the past two years we have been actively fund raising so that we could get this program started. Many of you have bought cakes and pies and hand-made crafts from us at our various fund-raisers. We thank all of you who have helped us to help make this program possible. We are now able to turn some of this money back to the people of Hoke County who have so generously donated to our cause.

As I mentioned earlier, however, our funds are limited and we need continuing support from the community in order to keep this important program viable. If you would like to donate any amount of money, please send it to me at the address listed below. No contribution would be considered too small. If everyone in Hoke County just contributed one dollar, think of how much we could accomplish with that!

Again, we thank you for your support and we urge you to have your pets spayed, whether on our program or not. With about a 95% mortality rate in our local pound, we need to take serious measures in order to reduce the unwanted pet population.

Please be kind: Stop Litter-Spay and Neuter.

Sincerely,
Sheryl McGinnis, Sec.
Hoke-Raeford Humane Society

Spinal research helping victims

To the Editor:
I wrote last year regarding a

worthwhile organization, SPINAL CORD SOCIETY (SCS) for public awareness.

I feel there are many we have not reached and, too, new injuries have occurred since that time.

This is a non-profit International organization that is moving fast towards its goal of CURE for paralysis due to spinal cord injury.

SCS opened a SPINAL CENTER at the University of Minnesota Hospitals and Clinics, Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 20, 1984.

It is the first and only one in the world specializing in advanced treatment for chronic spinal cord injury and related neural problems (MS, stroke, palsy, head injury, spina bifida, etc.)

The new SPINAL CENTER is very successful and with new research in various locations, we are excited and have high hopes that it will be beneficial to the many chronic spinal cord injured victims and those with other neural related problems who have suffered and been handicapped for so many years.

The CENTER program is the beginning of the end of lifetime paralysis.

Several cure research conferences have been held and the 1985 International Convention in which there will be at least nineteen (19) research participants will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 19-20, in the new Radisson University Hotel which is across the street from the SPINAL CENTER.

I feel we have many people who are either a victim, a relative, a friend, or just plain interested that may not be aware of this very worthwhile organization.

I believe the paralyzed need to know of the advances being made in cure research. If you fall in this category, please write Spinal Cord Society, P.O. Box 69, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55445. Also, they have a toll free number, 1-800-328-8253.

Thank you sincerely for printing this letter.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Calvin W. Howard,
President,
Piedmont Chapter

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ANPA NCPA

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Wilderness is pushing farm interests to limit

By W.B. Jenkins

N.C. Farm Bureau Federation
The word "wilderness" tends to warm the heart of even the most callous city dweller, but add the federal government to the equation and you have an entirely different animal.

The Bureau of Land Management is now studying the possibility of adding millions of new acres to the federal wilderness system in a number of states, and while all this sounds rosy on the surface the ramifications of this action have many people worried.

What a lot of folks don't realize is that once Congress designates an area "wilderness", that land is locked up for all but a few hearty hikers, since vehicles are banned from such areas. In addition, no new energy or mineral develop-

ment is allowed, shutting down a major source of revenue. Cattlemen running animals in a wilderness area are allowed no new range improvements such as wells, windmills or water tanks.

Currently in the U.S. over 217 million acres of land are being managed as wilderness. That's an area larger than the present size of the original 13 states plus Kentucky and West Virginia.

So while many Americans think of wilderness as a place away from city noise where they can relax in a campground, reality reveals something entirely different. In other words, what you see is not always what you get.

As this wilderness area study process continues, our elected representatives ought to be asked the question, "how much is enough?"

Snake hunt fails to turn up anything but bottle

As part of the summer enrichment program, the Hoke County Culture Club held a snake hunt.

The event had been suggested in the state arts council's brochure as a "recommended summer fund raising activity for rural culture clubs."

Since we fall into the club category, and had been scraping the barrel for things to do lately, a snake hunt seemed like a wonderful idea.

"I'm tired of barrel scraping. Let's get us a fat rattler," Sadie Louise said. "Besides, we need the money."

We hired a local magistrate for a guide. He didn't know much about snake hunting, but he worked cheap and was being considered for future membership in the club.

"You can get him for a song and few sips of my homemade wine," Sadie Louise said, noting that the judge's favorite tune was "Home, Home on the Range."

The time came for the hunt. Everybody piled into the old Blue Bird at just about dusk dark. We headed out for the roundup, thinking that before long we would have the bus brimming with reptiles.

According to the plan, which never made much sense to me, one is supposed to spot a snake as it crawls out onto the road to get warm.

Instead of running over it with the Blue Bird, which, as far as I am concerned, is the proper way to dispatch a rattlesnake, we were



Warren Johnston

The Puppy Papers

supposed to jump out, surround it and chase it into a Styrofoam cooler.

Once the viper was in the cooler, the magistrate said he would put the snake in his home freezer.

"What are you going to do, make snakesicles out of it?" Sadie Louise asked.

The magistrate assured us the snake did not suffer from the experience in the freezer. "He'll just sort of hibernate until he is stiff as a board."

Frozen rattlesnakes are highly prized by big city taxidermists. "They make a killing on them," the magistrate said, pointing out that the club coffers would also benefit.

Once stuffed, the snakes are sold for a whopping sum to psychiatrists, who sleep with them instead of Teddy Bears for therapy.

Well, we rode around the back roads of Hoke County, and everybody had their eyes peeled for snakes. We didn't see any.

A huge snake that stretched across half the highway had been

spotted by a school board member in the very area we were hunting.

"You know you can always trust a school board member," the magistrate said, and we nodded our heads in agreement.

However, the snake was not to be seen that night. There was some loose conversation and a great deal of speculation that the serpent might have gone to Florida for the summer.

The search drug on. Sadie Louise passed around a bottle of her fortified homemade huckleberry wine, and we all took a drink, just to ease the tension. The magistrate had two slugs as part of his payment for being the guide.

"Have you ever done this before?" Sadie Louise slurred, beginning to question the credentials of the judge and to feel the effects of the wine.

"I think the only way to catch a snake is to go out there and get him," she grunted, reaching for the door of the Blue Bird.

As it turned out, the magistrate had never captured snakes by riding around the countryside, but he had talked to several people who said they "did it all the time."

Well, we didn't see a thing that night. Finally, it got dark and we went home with nothing but a bad taste in our mouths from Sadie Louise's wine and an empty Styrofoam cooler.

The Culture Club still needs money. Some members have suggested that we catch low-flying bats, remove their tiny radar units and sell the devices to NASA.

Some of us are looking forward to the beginning of opera season.