

# THE Northampton County TIMES-NEWS

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**ALBEMARLE PROJECT** — Work is continuing on the Northampton side of Roanoke River on the Albemarle Paper Co. water pollution abatement project. The \$2.5 million project, which is in Gaston, represents only a portion of the pollution control program underway at the Roanoke Rapids paper mill. The body of water at the bottom of the aerial photo is a tributary of the Roanoke known as Little River.

## northampton chaff

Linda, who recently decided to change her eye color to green with a change in contact lens tint, found that when she placed the green lens against the brown iris of her eye the results produced her natural brown. She has succumbed to nature's way.

Gaston's new Town Hall, more than a decade in the making, will have at least one frill, thanks to community spirited Harold Wray of Wray's Roofing & Sheet Metal and owner of Wray's Sporting Goods.

Harold donated several cedar shingles to rim the upper exterior of the \$25,000 building. The town has appropriated \$300 to have the ornamental shingles installed and work has already begun on the project.

The shingles will add a bit of class to the building being constructed by Rufus Hux & Son of Roanoke Rapids.

Randy Burnette of the Gaston-Gumberry 4-H club tried his best to enter flowers he had grown in competition in the 106th annual North Carolina State Fair but he was unable to get the plants to Raleigh in time for the judging.

At least, he tried.

Traffic deaths in Northampton are running a bit behind last year's mark.

On this date in 1972 there had been 18 persons killed on county roadways, compared to only 16 so far this year.

The little town of Severn could end up without a mayor.

Mayor R. D. Johnson, an employee of Severn Peanut Co., failed to file for reelection by the filing deadline last Friday.

With no candidate on the ticket, balloting now is open to write-in candidates only.

Rich Square politicians are engaging in a little game of musical chairs in the upcoming municipal election in the county's largest town.

It seems that former Mayor Grace Lambertson, successful insurance agent and mayor for the past four years prior to her recent resignation, feels she can be more effective as a board member than as mayor over the board. Ms. Lambertson is one of 10 candidates seeking seats on the town's commission in next month's election.

Switching from board seat to mayor's seat is Commissioner Jimmy Outland, who has served as commissioner through Ms. Lambertson's tenure and prior. Outland is unopposed and is a sure shot for the post unless someone wages a might powerful write-in campaign against him.

To add to the politics and polka Rich Square-style, former Mayor Charles Myers Sr., who was removed from office in a Lambertson victory over four years ago, has entered the race with the female former mayor for a post on the town board.

Acting Mayor Joe Gordon will serve but a short time as the town's chief executive. He is back in the commissioner's race.

Mrs. Charles Myers Jr., daughter-in-law of former Mayor Myers who is candidate for commissioner, entered the race for commissioner. She apparently didn't like the music, however. She withdrew her name from the race hours after she filed.

In Rich Square, everyone's eyes are on the Nov. 6 election.

Linda Newsome, congenial secretary at the Halifax-Northampton Highway Patrol Office, has come to the conclusion that her fourth grade science teacher was right about the colors in the spectrum.

## Decision Due Next Week On Appeal

# Pollution Authorities Struck Down By Supreme Court

**ROANOKE RAPIDS** — Albemarle Paper Co. here is continuing consultation with firm lawyers to determine if appeal measures will be sought following a state Supreme Court ruling that struck down pollution abatement authorities in Northampton and Halifax counties.

The court ruling handed down late last week declared unconstitutional a 1971 General Assembly act authorizing use of tax-exempt revenue bonds for financing pollution abatement facilities for private industry.

Pollution abatement and industrial facilities financing authorities in Halifax and Northampton were nullified in the high court ruling.

Establishment of the authorities in the two counties was challenged in companion law suits filed by Dr. John Stanley, mayor of Woodland, and by Charlie Edwards, Roanoke Rapids real estate developer.

The authorities in Northampton and Halifax were created to issue tax-exempt bonds for construction of water and air pollution control devices at Albemarle Paper.

The water treatment facilities would primarily be located across the river in Gaston from the plant in Roanoke Rapids. Air abatement projects are all sited for the Halifax side of the river.

The \$15.9 million combined projects are designed to elevate the quality of waste water effluent from the paper mill and to harness harmful particulates, now being discharged into the air.

The company has a mid-summer 1975 deadline to complete the projects.

Construction has been underway for over a year on the Northampton side of the Roanoke on a series of lagoons and holding ponds that will eventually treat Albemarle waste water. The water will be

forced across the river through a hugh pipe that has already been constructed along with a bridge.

Water treated in the series of lagoons will be nearly as pure as water before it enters the plant, company officials report.

Engineering is still

underway on the air pollution abatement phase of the project.

In answering the suit in the test case, Albemarle stated that it may be forced to close down the Roanoke Rapids mill if the new method of financing is not upheld in the courts.

Under the proposal, the

pollution authorities in both counties would have issued bonds for the amount needed to complete projects in the respective counties. Money would be borrowed at a much lower interest rate than the company normally would be

(See POLLUTION Page 12)

## Report Due Dec. 1

# Utilities Board To Review EAS Report

**JACKSON** — A report to the state Utilities Commission on proposed extended area telephone service (EAS) between four Northampton exchanges will be in the hands of the commission Dec. 1.

Grady Strickland, Roanoke

Rapids District Manager of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co., informed county commissioners of the progress of EAS via a forwarded letter from W. T. Jones, CTT general commercial manager.

The report was originally scheduled to be reviewed by the commission Aug. 1; however, according to Jones' letter, "due to unusual costs, such as building additions and outside plant circuit construction, associated with the provision of EAS" between Jackson, Seaboard, Woodland and Conway, the report is being delayed 60 days.

Strickland said in an interview that a tremendous amount of cable construction that wasn't anticipated is involved in the study report that will propose higher telephone service rates should EAS be approved by the commission and subsequently voted in by subscribers.

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Strickland noted that the company must adjust its rates

upward to accommodate the expense incurred by extending the service to the four towns. He noted that there would be a loss in revenue due to the elimination of long distance calls. He also stated the company would gain revenue in areas such as billing for calls that ordinarily would be toll calls.

Strickland noted that Rich Square is not included in the proposal due to a petitioning effort in the town against the expanded telephone service.

Should the commission approve the EAS proposal of CTT setting a new, higher base telephone rate, subscribers would then be polled in by-mail balloting. Fifty per cent plus one of the telephone users voting must carry the proposal in each of the four exchanges. A negative vote in one exchange would kill the issue.

In 1967 when Conway, Seaboard, Rich Square, and Woodland were included in the measure carried out in the county seat where it passed with a 59.6 per cent affirmative vote.

Conway carried only 42.4 per cent; Rich Square, 32.3 per cent; Seaboard, 38.5 per cent; and Woodland, 33.2 per cent.

(See REPORT, Page 12)

# County Home To Be Accepted Oct. 29

**JACKSON** — The renovated County Home building will be accepted by county commissioners Oct. 29, subject to settlement of minor details, the commissioners agreed Monday in the regular mid-month meeting.

Raleigh Engineer Paul Brown and architect Dave Arnold appeared before the majority of items criticized by commissioners earlier this month have been corrected and the remaining complaints are being handled now.

Both men urged the board to occupy the building as soon as possible. The Department of Social Services will be housed in the structure that was rejuvenated to the tune of \$250,000-plus.

County Manager Tim Ellen stated that telephone crews will have to be in the building a week to 10 days to complete the switch-over of phone service from the present Social Services Building on Jefferson Street.

The spacious new facility will house all facets of the welfare department including the food stamp program.

Social Services Director Jim Clark stated that instructional space is available in the building and his department plans to expand services in that area now that room is available.

Social Services plans to be in the building Nov. 1.

The building the welfare department will leave behind will be converted to a multi-purpose office building housing the Sheriff's Department and numerous other offices.

Work on converting the

abandoned County Home into an office building has been underway for nearly two years.

In other business, the commissioners:

—Appropriated \$1,500 each to volunteer fire fighting units in Conway, Gaston, Jackson, Rich Square, Seaboard, Severn and Woodland.

—Authorized payment of \$1,250 in contributions each to the Woodland and Rich Square rescue squads.

—Approved a contract totaling \$4,300 with Brewer Paint & Wallpaper Co. of Rocky Mount for painting the exterior of the courthouse.

The job is to be completed in 30 days after work commences.

—Okayed a bid of \$14,734.72 for 40 additional eight cubic yard containers to be used in the solid waste disposal program. Sanco of Winston-Salem was low bidder.

—Accepted a low bid of \$32,081 submitted by Simpson Equipment Co. of Wilson for a new 35 cubic yard compacter truck.

—Failed to act on a request submitted by J. D. Drewitt of Seaboard that the new Social Services building be dedicated to the late Mildred Joyner.

The board did honor Miss Joyner in a resolution.

—Heard a report by Board Chairman Jasper Eley that Northampton is one of only eight of the state's 100 counties not presently levying the optional sales tax.

—Heard a request for the purchase of a tract of land at Pleasant Hill for \$500 by a private citizen. The county has a \$1,153 lien on the

property. Commissioner Jack Faison said he would investigate the matter and report back to the full board.

—Failed to act on a request by state Rep. Roberts Jernigan that a Social Security sub-office be located in Ahoskie to serve part of the Roanoke Rapids office and an agent is in Jackson one day weekly to handle Social Security claims.

—Did not act on a request by Surry County Commissioner W. B. Brinkley that the tax discount period be extended beyond the present period which was just made uniform statewide this year.

# Revelle Applauds U.S. 158

**CONWAY** — State Rep. J. Guy Revelle of Rt. 1, Conway Tuesday stated he was pleased with Gov. Jim Holshouser's inclusion of his pet U.S. 158 improvement project in the seven-year road plan announced for the state Friday.

The governor stated that \$10 million has been appropriated for improvement of 158 from Interstate 85 near Norlina to U.S. 13 at Winton.

Rep. Revelle, who said he was "pleased, but not overjoyed" with the Department of Transportation plans for road work in the northeast, noted that all of the roadway between I-85 and U.S. 13 does not need improvement.

"The Transportation

Department must survey the road and determine which sections warrant improvement and upgrading," the representative said. He pointed out that the section from Conway westward to Interstate 95 near Roanoke Rapids needs widening and general upgrading.

Revelle stated that the improvements requested are for two feet of additional roadway on each side of the highway and three feet of hard surfaced shoulder on each side.

Revelle noted that the Conway-to-Murfreesboro segment doesn't need improvement and will not be included in the project. He also stated that sections of 158

in and around Roanoke Rapids and Weldon would probably not be altered.

Revelle in the last General Assembly pushed for improvements of U.S. 158 from the Winton By-pass to I-85 arguing that the state is missing out on a major truck route from Norfolk to the industrious Piedmont region.

Revelle stated he was unable to determine how much of the road would be improved in Northampton County. A general completion date for the \$10 million project is set in 1980.

"I hope the survey will show a more urgent need and hopefully the project can be finished long before 1980," he

(See REVELLE, Page 12)



Seaboard Artist Javon Brothers

# Seaboard Man Displays Art At Soul City

**SOUL CITY** — A Northampton County man has inaugurated the cultural arts program at this pioneering city with a one-man art showing that opened Monday.

Twenty paintings, representing styles that range from realism to impressionism to the abstract, will be on display through November in the building known as The Red Barn at Soul City.

The artist, Javon Brothers of Seaboard, is a native of Elizabeth City and a graduate of Elizabeth City State University with a degree in education. He is employed at the Roanoke Rapids regional office of Social Security where he is a claims representative and an interviewer.

Brothers' painting were discovered by Soul City's Cultural Director Evangeline Redding of Tillery at a one-man art show in the spring sponsored by the Halifax County Arts Council in Roanoke Rapids.

The Roanoke Rapids showing was Brothers' first one-man effort. He has exhibited in his hometown and in Nyack, N.Y., and has participated in art competitions in Roanoke Rapids, in Greenwich Village and in Harlem.

Mrs. Redding stated that response to Brothers' show has been good and added that as a result of the showing at Soul City the

artist will enter black international competition in the fine arts.

"The purpose of the cultural arts program at Soul City is to promote the works of young, struggling artists who otherwise might not have an opportunity to be exposed to the public," Mrs. Redding stated.

Brothers said he considered the exhibit at Soul City an unusual honor since it is the first exhibit ever held in the new city, the brainstorm of developer Floyd McKissick. The art exhibit will be a feature of groundbreaking ceremonies set for Nov. 9 when the first permanent structure of the city will begin to take form. Gov. Jim Holshouser will be a key speaker.

Brothers, who came from a poor section of Elizabeth City, known as 'Cross the Railroad, graduated from P. W. Moore High there. He couldn't afford to enter college so he joined the Army and served in the signal corps on a two-year European tour.

He returned to his hometown and entered ECSU and worked his way through school as the yearbook and newspaper photographer. While at college he fostered his interest in art, a talent relatives recognized he possessed at an early age.

He earned a fellowship to Catholic University in Washington, D.C., but was

forced to turn it down for family responsibility. He is married to the former Edith Spence of Elizabeth City and they have two children, Taviana and Javon Jr.

Prior to entering government employment in Brownsville, N.Y., he taught art classes in Elizabeth City.

Brothers is now 28 and plans in the future to continue his education in art.

The artist's subject matter offers something for every gallery patron. Brothers' paintings depict everything from a tranquil snow scene in Northampton County to a simple line drawing of a nude to a construction of pipes on wood.

Though Brothers dabbles in realism, he does not prefer it. He said it lacks a creative, imaginative quality. "Abstraction is based on creativity," the artist points out.

Several of his paintings deal with black subject matter, even in the most abstract forms. His work is a reflection of his experiences, he admits, and he draws his subject matter from inner feelings he senses in others.

Brothers said he started painting black subjects at a very early age on brown paper bags.

"I feel that if I ever get the break, I could contribute a great deal to the art world, as

least as far as a revolution in black art is concerned," the artist said.

His favorite artists are Picasso and Michelangelo — the former for his mastering of abstraction and the latter for his mastering of all phases of art.

Brothers said he was influenced most by an Italian art professor he had at college, Dr. Vincent de Gregorio with his self-discipline in art.

He also credits his artistic ability to a teacher at Bank Street Elementary School in Elizabeth City who used to take up time with him and buy him art supplies. He feels compelled to do the same for kids now, he says.

Brothers was also influenced by his father who was a preacher and "a self-made man," Brothers says. His first church met under a tree in Manteo.

"I try to appeal to the common man in my work. I am more concerned with the poor since I know what it is to come from a poor environment.

"The most exciting thing in art," he states, "is the pure creative element. It becomes more exciting when I can create and a person can relate to that symbolism. Then I am satisfied."

—Lee Hansley