



A bloomin' okra

This pretty flower is actually an okra bloom that was spotted in someone's garden. Flower lover's might be able to tell the difference but to most eyes the okra bloom appears to be another summer flower opening its petals to the August sun.



Hoke County District Court Judge Joseph Dupree.

Hunt Given Jail Sentence, Suspended For Resignation

By Sherry Matthews

Hoke County Commissioner James A. Hunt was asked to resign his office in exchange for a suspended sentence in Hoke District Court Friday.

Hunt, who has been plagued by financial problems since December, was in Hoke District Court for failing to comply with an earlier order to pay off a worthless check.

According to District Court Judge Joseph Dupree, Hunt had been given until July 28 to pay back the bad check and pay court expenses, but the commissioner apparently failed to follow the order.

In addition Hunt failed to show up in court Friday to explain why the order had not been met.

Judge Dupree issued a warrant for his arrest and had instructed sheriff's deputies to immediately begin searching for the nine-year commission member.

"If they had not found you before this court session ended, I had ordered your confinement without bond until the next session of District Court," Dupree told Hunt after he was brought into the courtroom.

During Hunt's sentencing, Dupree alluded to his own arrest for driving under the influence charges.

"I had to appear before this court, and I was guilty, but I did show up on my scheduled day," Dupree told Hunt.

"Many people have been sympathetic towards you and have tried to help you avoid more problems, including this court, but it is time for this foolishness to end," Dupree said.

"I am giving you a 90-day active sentence, but I will suspend that sentence if you resign your position as county commissioner," Dupree said.

"You have embarrassed this county long enough," Dupree added.

(See HUNT, page 11)

County Mulls Sales Tax Hike

By Sherry Matthews

In an effort to "decrease" an expected property tax increase for next year, Hoke County Commissioners voted to hold a public hearing on an optional one-half cent sales tax that will bring revenues into the county.

County Manager James Martin told the board that implementing the new tax would probably help "lessen" the blow of increased property taxes.

"I see this as a way taxes will have to be increased less," Martin said, adding that this new tax would probably not prevent a property tax increase in the future.

"It (sales tax) will not prevent a tax increase, in my opinion, but it will probably mean less of a tax increase," Martin added.

The new tax, voted into law by the General Assembly in July, allows county commissioners to levy an additional sales tax and designates portions of the money to be spent on schools or water and sewer needs.

Under the law, commissioners can levy the additional tax by their own vote or by referendum vote.

Hoke Commissioners are holding a public hearing to get feedback on how county residents feel about the new tax.

"I believe this tax is a lot fairer than the present one cent tax," Commission Chairman John Balfour said.

The one cent tax that is presently in effect allows for the monies collected in a particular county to stay within that county.

"As I see it, that is an unfair distribution," Balfour said.

With the one-half cent tax, most counties will see more revenues than they have in the past considering that the monies will be shelled out on a population basis.

If commissioners decide to implement the sales tax, Hoke County could receive some \$400,000.

Of that money, 40% or approximately \$160,000 would be earmarked for the schools capital reserve fund during the first five years the tax is in effect. During the second five years, school revenues would be cut to 30% of

(See TAX, page 11)

Turkey Plant Given October 1 Deadline

By Sherry Matthews

Members of the Raeford City Council decided Monday night to toughen an existing sewer use ordinance in order to bring all local industries in compliance with state clean water standards by October 1 and to get a state imposed moratorium on future development lifted.

The amendment of the existing sewer use ordinance calls for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) charges to be levied against any industry that is not meeting city sewer standards by October 1, City Manager Ron Matthews said.

"The city has had the option of waiving excess BOD charges in the past, but after October 1, we will have to pass all charges on to any violator," Matthews said.

According to Matthews, BOD charges are not the only fines that can be levied against non-complying industries under the amended ordinance.

If industries go beyond certain limits of discharge, then the city will have the power to prohibit that discharge from entering the town's sewer system, Matthews said.

If an industry's discharge exceeds 800 milligrams per litre then the city must prohibit that industry from dumping that BOD into the system, Matthews said.

According to Matthews, 118 North Carolina cities with heavy industrial waste were mandated by the state to develop a municipal pre-treatment program.

Although the pre-treatment program will not be mandated until January 1984, state officials apparently wanted Raeford City Councilmen to take immediate action on the amended sewer package.

State officials have indicated that their primary concern is when the city will be in compliance, Harold Jensen, engineer with

(See SEWER, page 11)

Around Town

by Sam Morris

Well, it didn't take long for the cooler weather to return to summer. It seemed like the fall of the year for a couple of mornings, but it is now back to warm nights.

According to reports we had approximately two inches of rain in Hoke County during the last part of July. This is under 50% of the normal rainfall for this month. It did help the crops, and as one farmer said to me Sunday, tobacco and cotton are doing fairly well. The corn crop is in bad shape and I believe the soybeans are the same way.

The forecast is for summer weather to continue and since it is the first week of August, we should expect many more days of hot weather. Of course a thunder-shower every once in awhile would help.

Jimmy Plummer of the Wayside Community called me Monday and said that some members of his graduating class at Hoke High School would like to have a class reunion. The Class of 1946 is the one that Jimmy is wanting to get together. Of course I am more than willing to help in any way that I can, because class reunions are my favorite dish.

So if you can remember when you finished, and if it was in 1946

you should get in touch with one of the following people:
William Clark
902 East Scottsdale Drive
Laurinburg, N.C. 28352
Jimmy Plummer
Route 4 Box 492
Raeford, N.C. 28376
Telephone 875-5461

Don't delay for they would like to have the reunion in September and it takes some planning to have a successful reunion.

Mark Tuesday, August 9, 1983 - 7:30 p.m. on your calendar. This is when Congressman Bill Hefner will be at the county courthouse to get your views or suggestions.

Paul Dickson brought a book by the office last week and Warren Johnston said that Dickson said I would more than likely read it and make a few comments on the book. The book is a history of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. It was written by Albert Coates who for many years was head of the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill. I have read other books written by Mr. Coates, so I was glad to have a chance to read this one.

(See AROUND, page 10)



A wooden rainbow

Nature sometimes has a strange way, especially in the hidden sections of the woods where few people tend to travel. With weekend storms that produced damaging winds and heavy rains, creatures of the woods took shelter. Mother Nature apparently gave the little creatures a rainbow of their own to enjoy. Although the colors aren't there, the shape and perhaps the pot of gold can be seen?

Action Committee Plans For Future

A committee, designed to remove obstacles, develop potential and push Hoke County forward, held an initial meeting Thursday.

The Progressive Action Committee, which is made up of county business, governmental and civic leaders and was organized by the Hoke County Chamber of Commerce, plans to concentrate in areas like housing, downtown revitalization and industrial development.

"It is time to stop waiting on someone else to do it for us," Chamber Director Earl Fowler said, adding that the group had the combined ability to move ahead aggressively and accomplish a great deal for Hoke County.

Downtown vacant stores should be looked at as an opportunity, rather than a problem, he said.

If a decision is made that Raeford needs a 20 to 30 unit motel, then the committee has the ability to find 100 local investors willing to gamble on the venture, Fowler said.

Those attending the breakfast meeting, sponsored by the Chamber, Southern National Bank, Heritage Federal Savings and Loan Association and United Carolina Bank, were asked to complete a questionnaire outlining seven potential county needs.

Covered in the survey are questions about the needs for develop-

(See COMMITTEE, page 10)