

The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

Volume LXXV Number 21

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$10 PER YEAR

25 CENTS

Thursday, September 15, 1983

Ambulance Business Immerses Commission

Service Level Is Maintained

By Warren Johnston

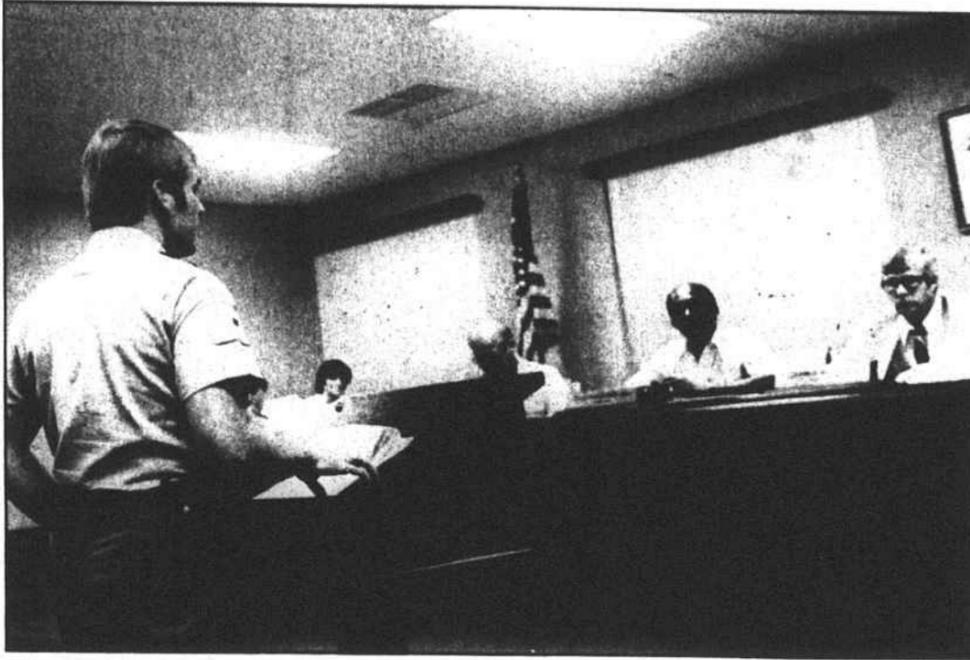
Noting that Hoke County needs to stay in step with the future, members of the county Commission voted unanimously Monday night to maintain the new publically operated ambulance service at its present level of expertise.

Commission members had considered dropping the service, which will be taken over by the county prior to January 1, back to a basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level, but rejected the idea following recommendations from local doctors and others.

"I believe we have to concentrate on bettering our community," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said, noting that it would be a move backwards to drop the current EMT-Intermediate level of training.

Following a sometimes heated public question-and-answer session Monday, the commission voted to approve the EMT-I service, but decided to reduce the number of working ambulance crews.

Under the present contract with private owner Jim Henley, Hoke Ambulance Service must maintain (See SERVICE, page 2A)



Intent listeners

Hoke County Commissioners listen intently to statistical information presented to them by Hoke County Ambulance Service Emergency Medical Technician Lee Sudia. Sudia and other ambulance service personnel, rescue squad members and physicians were on hand at Monday night's special commission meeting to discuss the quality and type of ambulance service the county will run when they take over the business.

Immediate Takeover Considered

By Sherry Matthews

Hoke County Commissioners may have to take over the ambulance service business sooner than expected if the present contractor does not pay his insurance bills, County Manager James Martin told board members Tuesday.

The commissioners were back in session for a specially called meeting Tuesday to discuss the possibility of taking over the ambulance service before January 1 as originally planned.

During an executive session at Monday night's specially called meeting, ambulance service operator Jim Henley asked the commissioners to increase his subsidy by another \$3,690.

Henley, who recently filed a re-organizational bankruptcy on behalf of the service, apparently told the board he needed that money to cover the cost of his vehicle insurance.

Presently, the collision insurance on Henley's ambulances has run out and his liability insurance is expected to be terminated September 15 if he does not provide the needed funds.

At Tuesday's meeting, the commissioners declined to fork over any more funds to Henley and the ambulance service.

"If we keep dumping money into his service, we will continue to do so until January," Commissioner James A. Hunt said.

"If we give him more money, we just won't know when we will be faced with this problem again. It could be next week, it could be next month," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

If Henley does not come up with the insurance money, the banks might repossess his ambulances, Commission Chairman John Balfour said.

The repossession would constitute a breach of contract, and the county would then have to take over the ambulance service, Balfour said.

"We may be forced into the ambulance service within the next three or four days," Hunt said.

If the county is forced to go into "quick service", members of the Hoke Rescue Squad have offered to help as "much as possible."

The rescue squad has already agreed to turn the county-owned ambulance back over to the commissioners and has offered assistance in an emergency situation, "if we are needed."

"We will not leave you stranded" (See TAKEOVER, page 2A)

Turkey Plant's 'Final' Deadline Set By Law

By Sherry Matthews

Final enforcement teeth were approved Monday night and added to Raeford's sewer use ordinance during the regular monthly City Council meeting.

The new regulations will allow city officials to collect surcharges from any industry that is discharging into the municipal sewer system, and that is not meeting state clean water standards.

Surcharges will be levied on industries which are not meeting the new standards as of October 1, ac-

ording to City Manager Ron Matthews.

As of this week, The House of Raeford was the only industry still not meeting the city's sewer standards, Matthews said.

The firm had promised to furnish the city with a time-table indicating when revisions would be completed to the plant's pretreatment system.

As of Monday night the timetable had not been delivered to the city.

Under the ordinance, which was amended by councilmen in

August, any industry not meeting the city's sewer standards will now have to pay \$47 per 1,000 pounds in excess Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) charges, \$18 per 1,000 pounds in Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) charges, \$37 per 1,000 pounds in excess Total Suspended Solid (TSS) charges, and \$12.90 per 1,000 pounds of Total Kjeldhal Nitrogen (TKN).

According to Matthews, the higher of the BOD or COD charges will be assessed against the industry along with additional charges for excess TSS or TKN.

Councilmen were split in their decision over the amount of excess BOD charges to be levied.

"For over 15 years, the city has been charging \$30 per 1,000 pounds for excess BOD, but the \$47 is what it is actually costing the city to handle the excess waste," Matthews said.

"I think we should start collecting the \$30 before we try and collect more," Councilman Joe Upchurch said.

"We should not place an additional cost on them (the House of Raeford) when they are trying to

come into compliance," Councilman Bob Gentry said.

The House of Raeford has repeatedly promised to get its system into compliance, but has apparently failed to do so.

At the August council meeting, turkey plant engineer Jerry Donaldson told Matthews and councilmen that the new pretreatment unit would "soon" be ready to meet the city's discharge standards.

Donaldson also said he would forward a letter indicating when the plant would be in compliance.

Matthews said Monday night that he had received no "correspondence" from Donaldson or any other turkey plant officials.

"We have made several calls to Donaldson and the plant, but no one has replied," Matthews said.

"We should not charge them anymore when they are doing all they can do," Gentry said.

"We have given them about five years to get this thing worked out, and they still aren't in compliance," Councilman Vardell Hedgpeth said.

(See PLANT, page 13A)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The hot weather is still with us and records are being broken across the nation and the state. It was 100 degrees in Fayetteville Sunday and it was very near that figure Monday. I was at the UNC-Memphis State football game in Chapel Hill Saturday and it was only 97 degrees there. Isn't this fine football weather?

The figures for Hoke County kept by Robert Gatlin appear elsewhere in the paper. Be sure to read them because you will be amazed at how hot it has been this summer.

The forecast is for rain Tuesday night and for the temperatures to be in the 80's for the remainder of the week.

The 1st Annual Raeford Woman's Club Golf Tournament will be held at the Arabia Golf Course Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25. The format will be individual scores and will be flighted after Saturday's round. The entry fee is \$30 for both days' play including golf cart.

Trophies will be awarded for 3 places in each flight. Other prizes will also be given.

If you wish to play, send check to Raeford Woman's Club P.O. Box 582, Raeford, N.C. 28376 or contact Mrs. Mary Cameron or Frank Baker.

A call came last week from Bud Wilson, who has recently moved to Hoke County from Brownsville, Texas. Mr. Wilson said that he was a veteran and was somewhat disappointed that the only flag flying at

(See AROUND, page 2A)



Flying in memory

The U.S. flag in front of the Raeford Post Office flew at half mast last week in memory of the 269 passengers and crew that were killed when a Russian jet shot down a commercial airliner on its way to Seoul, Korea. The lowered flag represented Hoke County's only public tribute.

PCB, Lead Laced Soil Destined For South Carolina Landfill

By Sherry Matthews

Contaminated soil, which has been ordered removed from a portion of three dump sites in the Ashley Heights area, will apparently be carried to a South Carolina hazardous waste landfill, a state health official said Tuesday.

Recent lab test conducted by the North Carolina Department of Human Resources (NCDHR) Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch indicated that the sites, which were used as dumping grounds for old batteries and transformers, were "very, very low" in lead contamination, NCDHR eastern area supervisor Terry Dover said Tuesday.

According to Dover, state officials tested four "hot spots" on the site, used by Goldsboro

businessman Woody Wilson, and took three different level samples.

"There was some lead contamination in the soil, but the good news is that it is limited to the upper six inches," Dover said.

"Those concentrations were way, way below the hazardous waste limit," Dover added.

At this point, Wilson will have to clean the sites and remove the top six inches of soil, according to Dover.

"As of Monday, he (Wilson) has indicated to us that he will cooperate with our decision," Dover said.

The state has given Wilson 60 days to get the sites cleaned up.

"That is a general date. It really depends on a lot of factors," Dover said.

"It depends on the degree of dif-

ficulty in removing the soil and what expense this will entail," Dover added.

"We are really only interested in getting the site cleaned up. That is all we want," he added.

Dover also indicated that Wilson would have to move the soil to a hazardous waste dumping site and ruled out the possibility of using an incinerator to get rid of the contaminated debris.

"Land disposal is the cheapest method, and the only alternative in this case," Dover said.

Once the sites are cleaned to the state's satisfaction, we will probably be through, Dover said, noting that he would not rule out the possibility of levying fines against Wilson.

"If he cleans the site up com- (See SOIL, page 2A)

Still, Weeds Busted

By Sherry Matthews

A Hoke County man was arrested Monday after officers uncovered a patch of marijuana and a liquor still in the vicinity of his home, sheriff's records show.

Elmore Campbell, 60, of Rt. 3, Raeford was arrested around 3 p.m. Monday by Hoke County Sheriff's Detective C.E. Harris and ABC officer Jim Madden.

According to the report, Harris and Madden were "working the woods" off the Lake Elizabeth Road just west of Raeford when they spotted a patch of marijuana.

The two officers followed the path from the marijuana patch to the home of Campbell, who was apparently cleaning a object for a liquor still.

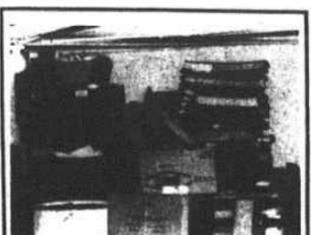
The report also indicates that the officers found a 55 gallon "drum type" liquor still on a separate path leading from Campbell's home back into the woods.

The still was destroyed on the scene, the sheriff's report shows.

Ten stalks of marijuana, approximately six feet tall, were confiscated and Campbell was arrested.

According to the records, Campbell was charged with the felonious manufacturing of marijuana, possession of a non-tax paid liquor, and possession of equipment used for the purpose of manufacturing a non-tax paid liquor.

Campbell was in the Hoke County Jail Tuesday under a \$3,000 secured bond.



Inside Today

Old records and court files that probably date back to the formation of Hoke County lie in the damp concrete "dungeon" beneath the Hoke Courthouse. We take a look at the dungeon and the fading conditions of the county's oldest public building in this week's B-section of The News-Journal.