

# The News-Journal

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## Hirings Spark Commissioners' Ire

By Warren Johnston

Members of the Hoke County Commission will file a formal complaint with the 12th Judicial District Court over the selection of a Cumberland County resident to serve here as the Driving While Impaired (DWI) coordinator.

Commission members voted unanimously Monday during a regular bi-monthly meeting to object to Chief District Court Judge Sol Cherry's selection of an out-of-county resident for the post created by the October 1 Safe Roads Act.

Cherry said Monday that the volume of cases in Hoke County did not justify a selection of a

county resident to fill one of the three new coordinator positions.

"I didn't get but three or four applications from Hoke residents," Cherry said, noting that of the applications he received, none were qualified.

The chief judge did admit that a qualified Hoke resident had applied, but that her application apparently "got lost."

"I never received it. I don't know what happened," Cherry said.

The position was apparently not advertised in Hoke County.

The coordinator will serve in Hoke at least two days per week

and will work with local officials to provide public service jobs for those convicted of DWI, Cherry said.

According to the law, public service jobs can serve as an alternative to spending time in jail.

In response to the commission's action, Cherry warned that if the county did not cooperate, local residents would be serving jail terms rather than providing community service.

"A lot of Hoke County residents are going to jail, if the county government doesn't get in the spirit of things," Cherry said. After a check with magistrates,

Cherry said he determined that Hoke County had from five to seven DWI cases a week.

Cumberland County has about 60 per week, the judge said.

Commission members voted that Chairman John Balfour should write Cherry to point out the county's objection to the appointments.

Prior to the decision Commission Vice Chairman James Albert Hunt noted that Hoke officials had not done a proper lobbying job with Cherry to get a county resident in the coordinator's position.

"It's politics. We need to go

over there and take Cherry by the hand," Hunt said.

"Let me contact him. I've been in jail, and I'm mean as a bulldog," Hunt said.

In accordance with the law, the commissioners OK'd the use of county office space for the new coordinator, and agreed to provide necessary office equipment and the limited use of a secretary.

"If it is a Cumberland County employee, we can find the space. We have some small space," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

Cherry said he was unsure what effect the new law would have on the DWI case load.

If the case load increases, then

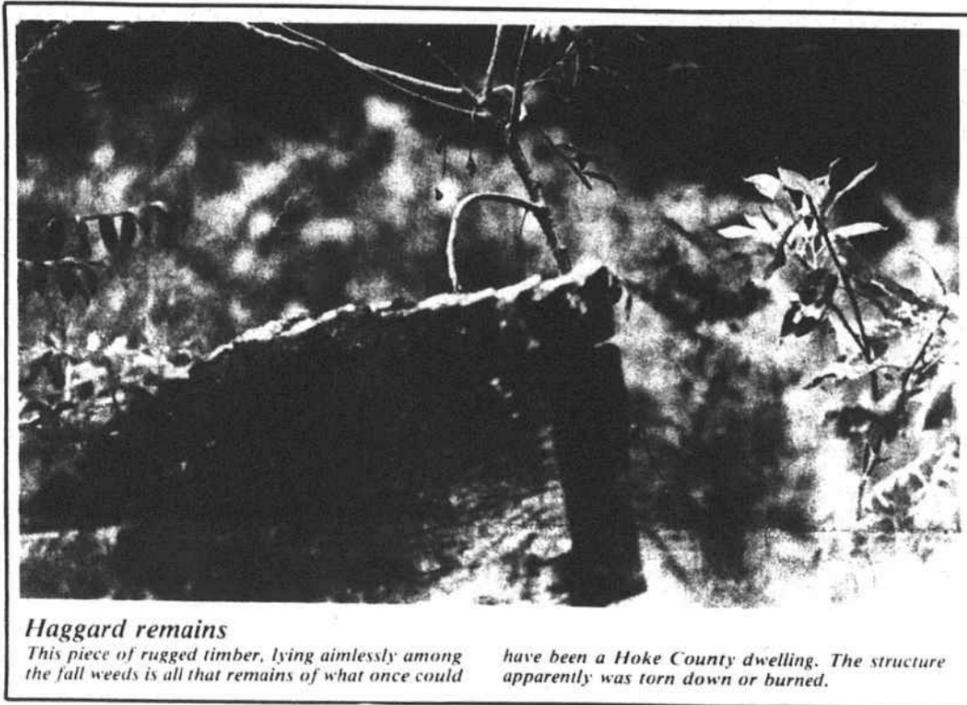
the coordinator could spend more than two days here, he said.

Both Raeford and Hoke officials feel a local resident would better understand what jobs need to be done here and would have a better rapport with public staffers overseeing the work.

Raeford City Manager Ron Matthews also said Monday that he would have preferred a local resident in the job.

Cherry was told in a meeting in Raeford last Friday of the city manager's objection to the appointment, Matthews said.

The matter did not come up during Monday night's City Council meeting.



Haggard remains

This piece of rugged timber, lying aimlessly among the tall weeds is all that remains of what once could

have been a Hoke County dwelling. The structure apparently was torn down or burned.

## City Gives Final OK To Tough Sewer Law

By Warren Johnston

A new sewer use ordinance which will give the City of Raeford the power to force local industries to comply with discharge requirements was passed into law Monday night.

Members of the Raeford City Council voted unanimously during a regular monthly meeting to give final passage to the ordinance, which outlines strict requirements for industrial discharges into the municipal sewer system.

"As a result of the action, city engineers will begin a precise testing program during October on discharges from Raeford's three major industries, City Manager Ronald Matthews said.

Testing started Monday on Faberge and the House of Raeford, Matthews said, adding

that Burlington will be tested later in the month.

All of the industries are cooperating, the city manager said.

City officials believe that Faberge and Burlington are in compliance with required discharges.

Each of the industries will pay one-third of the cost of testing and will receive samples in order to verify city results, Matthews said.

If the industries are not in compliance, the firms will be faced with paying surcharges, the city manager said.

Prior to the meeting Matthews said he had met with representatives from the House of Raeford, and that industry appeared to be making progress towards cleaning up its discharge.

The testing will determine if the turkey processing plant is violating

the new ordinance and the appropriate steps will be taken if excess discharges are found, Matthews said.

In other action, Raeford has been approved for a state matching grant to build a new terminal at the city-county airport, Matthews told council members.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) Aviation Division notified the city Monday that a maximum of \$75,000 in matching funds has been set aside for an airport terminal, Matthews said.

A contract on the facility must be let by June, but that timetable might fit with the city's plans to turn the airport over to a joint city-county airport commission, the city manager said.

In order to put the final touches (See TERMINAL, page 11)

## Differences Brew Over Rockfish Park Deal

By Warren Johnston

Following a lengthy executive session, members of the Hoke County Commission agreed Monday to pursue efforts to secure a park site in the Rockfish Community.

County Attorney Duncan B. McFadyen was instructed during a regular meeting Monday to pursue the completion of the purchase of the six-acre site at the agreed price or to take legal steps to recover the county's costs in the transaction.

Commission members exercised an option on the Rockfish site in February, but have been unable to purchase the land because of the owner's apparent failure to complete his part of the bargain, Chairman John Balfour said.

The owner, Ray Brock, had agreed to move a road off of the property and to get approval for the move from surrounding property owners.

In a letter to the commission, Brock's attorney Charles A. Hostetler said his client had completed the requirements of the sale.

In addition Brock was also keeping a \$1,200 option fee paid by the commission because the transaction had expired, Hostetler said.

McFadyen said he disagreed with the opinion outlined in Hostetler's letter and believed that Brock had not moved the road to the satisfaction of the surrounding property owners.

The county hopes to use the park for baseball fields, and the

road in its present location would prohibit that use, Balfour said.

Brock provided the county with two handwritten notes signed by two owners saying it was OK to move the road.

However, when McFadyen prepared a more binding document for the two owners, their wives and a third owner, signatures could not be obtained.

"They're apparently not happy with where he moved the road," McFadyen said.

All of the surrounding property owners apparently use the road on a regular basis, the county attorney said.

"We should try whatever we can to get the six acres at the figure we agreed to pay. Then, if we can't get

it, we should get our \$1,200 back. No matter what it takes," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

In addition, McFadyen was instructed to go after attorney fees and interests on the money if the land could not be purchased.

In other business during Monday's meeting, commission members OK'd a bid from a private contractor to mail food stamps to recipients in Hoke County.

On October 15, Cost Containment Inc. of Raleigh will begin mailing food stamps to county residents for a cost of 50 cents per issuance, including postage.

The commission approved the hiring of a private contractor in September following a request

from Department of Social Services Director Ken Witherspoon.

Cost Containment was the only firm to bid on the contract.

County officials believe that the approximate \$8,400 charged by the Raleigh firm will be less costly than hiring additional staff needed to handle the stamp mailing.

The contract is for the remainder of the fiscal year and contains an option to renew for another 12 months.

In still further business, the commission appointed an interim committee to study the feasibility of adding Moore Memorial Hospital as a co-sponsoring facility for the Hoke Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Cape Fear Valley Hospital is the

sponsoring unit for the ambulance service. However 50% of the patients from this county go to Moore Memorial, Balfour said.

Presently the county ambulances do not have radio contact with Moore Memorial and must relay patient information through Cape Fear, Balfour said.

A committee of the three county doctors, Commissioner Upchurch and EMS Director Bill Niven will look into the co-sponsorship and report back to the commission during the next meeting.

In a related matter, County Manager James Martin said the new county-operated ambulance service is averaging about 3.5 patients a day.

(See STAMP, page 11)

### Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather over the weekend was perfect. Sunny days and cool nights. This is what to expect in the fall of the year, but Monday the temperature got up into the high 80s and it felt like summer was with us again.

The forecast is for nice weather for the remainder of the week with a chance of showers on Thursday or Friday. If I can run into Robert Gatlin maybe we can get the figures for temperatures and rainfall for September by next week.

Date to Remember:

Athletic Booster Club BBQ Supper Friday, Oct. 14, 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. Gibson Cafeteria. Carry out only, \$3.50 per plate.

Someone called the office last week after my comments on (See AROUND, page 12)



Final hours

State Rep. Daniel H. DeVane (center) was on hand for Friday's employee commemoration at McCain Hospital. DeVane and other state representatives fought hard to keep the tuberculosis hospital open. DeVane also led the fight for McCain's employees

once the shut down became official. The festivities Friday marked the final hours of the 75-year-old sanitarium, which became a 300-bed prison hospital on Saturday.

## Hoke Judgeship Bid Riding On Governor

Raeford attorney Warren L. Pate received the endorsement of the Hoke County Commission and the Raeford City Council Monday in his bid for a seat on the 12th Judicial District Court.

In a specially called meeting last Thursday, Pate captured one of three 12th District Bar Association nominations for the seat being vacated December 1 by retiring Judge Joseph Dupree.

Members of the local governmental bodies passed resolutions Monday during separate regular meetings. The endorsements will be taken to Governor James B. Hunt by a delegation from Hoke.

Hunt is expected to decide on a replacement for Dupree within the next few weeks.

Pate finished second in the balloting before the combined Hoke and Cumberland County bar association Thursday.

The 38-year-old Raeford at-

torney garnered 80 votes to finish three ballots behind Cumberland County Assistant District Attorney Stephen H. Nimmocks and 10 ahead of Cumberland attorney Hank Finch.

Pate said Friday he was happy with the balloting and pinned the success of his campaign on the efforts of Hoke Bar Association members.

"I think the voting reflected a team effort on the part of the Hoke County Bar, and showed a sense of fairness by members of the Cumberland Bar," Pate said.

Raeford City Attorney R. Palmer Wilcox, who serves as president of the eight-member Hoke Bar Association, said Monday he is optimistic about Pate's chances to receive the nod from Hunt.

"I think his chances are excellent. He deserves it, and he is (See JUDGESHIP, page 11)