

Thanksgiving
The News-Journal will be printed a day early for the Thanksgiving edition. All deadlines will be moved up one day.

The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

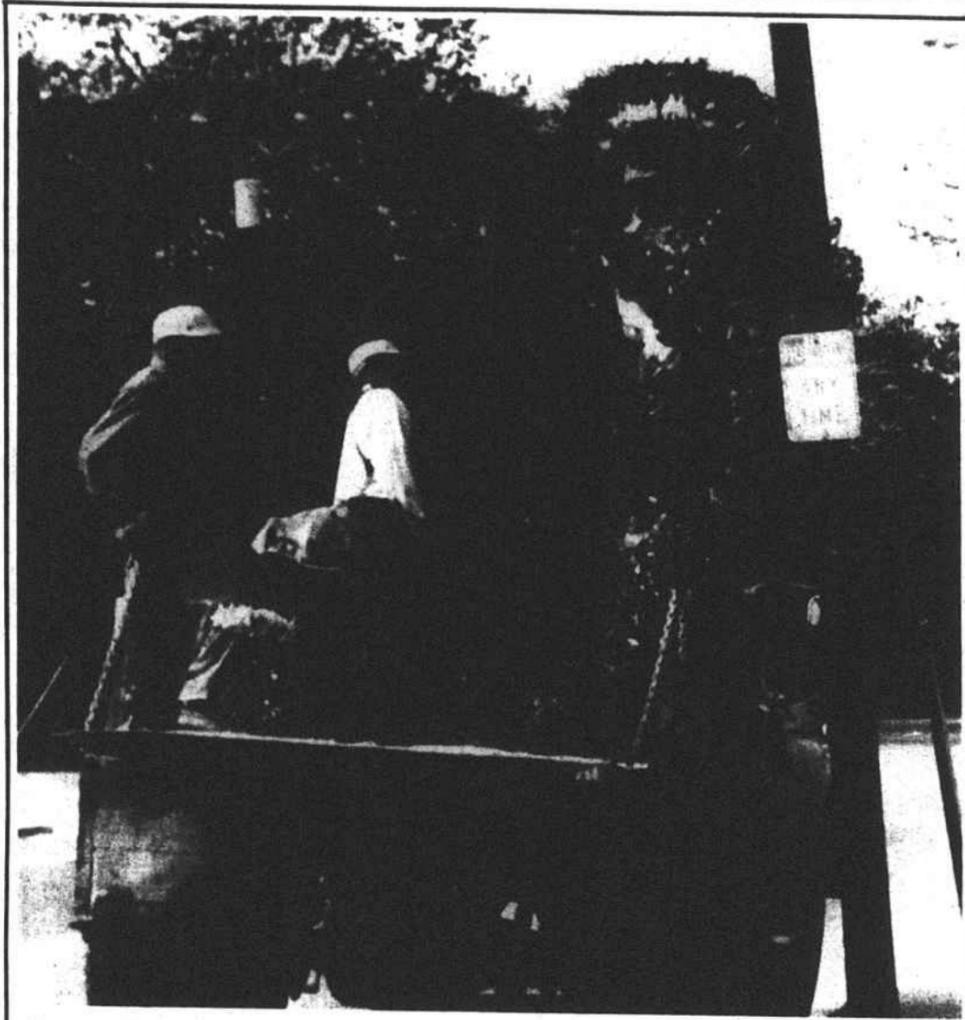
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Almost Christmas

City workers were busy last week putting up Christmas decorations through Raeford's downtown area. Although many residents feel it is just a little too early for the Christmas ornaments, City Manager Ron Matthews disagrees. According to Matthews there is a great deal of time involved with getting the decorations

up. "We have to get them up when the weather permits, and we have got to check all the light bulbs to see if they are working," Matthews said. "If they need replacing, we have to order them and that takes time," Matthews added.

Hazardous Dump Sites To Be Clear Next Week

By Sherry Matthews

Although hazardous residue found in the soil of three Ashley Heights dumping areas has not been removed, state officials said Monday that the mandated clean-up should be close to completion by the end of next week.

Officials from both the North Carolina Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the state Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD) say that after the cleanup, they will take final soil samples to determine if toxic residues left from earlier battery and transformer dismantling operations still remain.

Goldsboro businessman Woody Wilson Jr., who was allegedly dismantling battery casings containing lead and salvaging transformers containing contaminated oil, has been required to remove the "toxic-laced" soil which was discovered over four months ago by local health officials.

The land where Wilson allegedly conducted his operations was found to have toxic levels of lead and medium range cancer-causing Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB).

Tests to determine the level of toxic materials in the soil were performed in August, and Wilson was required at that time to remove scrap material and heavy metals from the soil.

"The soil has not been moved as of yet," DHR Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch Eastern Area Supervisor Terry Dover said Monday.

Wilson is living in Goldsboro and apparently is no longer conducting the dismantling operation in Hoke County.

Although the cleanup has been lingering for over two months, Dover said things were "moving along."

"It is not really unusual for it to take some time," Dover said.

According to Dover, Wilson had to get approval from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Hazardous Waste Division in order to transport the soil to a hazardous waste landfill in that state.

North Carolina does not have that type of facility.

"It takes time to get everything approved," Dover said.

Wilson will have to pay in the range of \$10,000 to have the six inches of contaminated soil removed, Dover added.

Once the soil is removed and lime is turned into the land, Dover said DHR officials will conduct one "final" soil sample to determine if "everything is all right."

"I assume he is going to be in full compliance once the soil has been moved," Dover said.

"We will do a final testing of the site. We don't anticipate, at this time, any problems," Dover added.

After Dover and his crew have completed their test, they will turn the investigation over to NRCD.

NRCD Acting Regional Supervisor for the Division of En-

vironmental Management Nick Nolan does not see any problems with the soil once Wilson has completed his clean-up requirements.

"We have not really turned up anything over 50 parts per million of PCB in the soil. Most of the samples we have taken show levels of 20 or 30 parts," Nolan said.

"As long as they are less than 50, they are not considered a problem," Nolan added.

Federal and North Carolina laws consider 50 parts per million of PCB hazardous. However, some states pinpoint the danger level as low as 10 parts per million.

Despite the earlier testing results, Nolan said his department will also do a final soil sample once Wilson has complied with the clean-up requirements.

"We want to wait and make sure he has done all the things he has been required to do, then we will go in and do our final tests," Nolan said.

"I don't really see any potential dangers out there once he gets the soil moved," Nolan added.

"I feel like the threat or potential hazard associated with PCB's is minimal. Once the contaminated soil has been disposed off, I don't think there will be much of a threat," Nolan added.

Wilson is expected to haul the six-inches of toxic soil to a South Carolina hazardous waste landfill by the "first part of next week."

"He has cooperated with us through this thing. I think he will get everything cleared up by next week," Dover said.

Patrolmen: DWI Arrests Expected To Be On The Rise

By Sherry Matthews

Although officials speculate that newly enforced Driving While Impaired (DWI) laws kept "many" would-be drinking drivers off the roads in October, local highway patrolmen say the numbers are "picking up once again."

"It was a little slower than usual in October, but things are beginning to pick up a lot this month," Hoke State Trooper Scott Burgess said Tuesday.

Hoke court records confirm Burgess's opinion.

In October there were only eight DWI cases reported while in November there are already five awaiting trial.

Burgess recently added another six offenders to the five already on the court docket.

"I made six arrests just last week on DWI charges," Burgess said.

Although most felt the "stiffer" DWI laws would keep drinking drivers away from their vehicles, Burgess said the "scare" was wearing off.

"People were a little scared at

first, but I think they are regaining their confidence now," Burgess said.

"In my opinion, they are definitely going back to their old ways," Burgess added.

Although Burgess said the new DWI forms that arresting officers must fill out "only takes a few minutes more to complete", court officials say the "paperwork" involved with the new law clogs up the justice system.

The first DWI case tried in Hoke District Court last month took

nearly an entire day to process, one Hoke clerk said.

"Everyone was just learning the procedures at that time," the clerk said.

"Things are getting a little faster, but it still takes quite a while to process all the forms," she added.

Although the new laws require "more time", Hoke Magistrate E.G. Inman said "it was a good thing."

"It only takes a magistrate 15 or 20 minutes longer to fill out the ad-

ditional forms," Inman said.

"If it helps keep drunk drivers off the road, then I think it is worth the extra time," Inman said.

Burgess agrees.

"The law is good, but people are beginning to test the law enforcement officers again, Burgess said.

"I think people are becoming less cautious than they were when the law was first enacted," Inman said.

"You can't stop people from driving or drinking. They are going to do what they want to do and

simply suffer the consequences," Burgess said.

Although the records show that more DWI offenders are being arrested in November, there are less teenage arrests being made.

"Since this law has been enacted, I have not seen one person arrested under 19," Inman said.

"They have all been adult offenders."

Burgess, too, said he was picking up fewer "provisionary" (See DWI, page 2A)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather Monday morning was cold. I don't believe the frost was ever prettier than it was at the Arabia Golf Course about eight o'clock. The greens were silver and it took about 45 minutes for the frost to leave after the sun came through. It wasn't too bad playing, except for the wet fairways. The cold weather didn't bother any of us playing.

The forecast is for rain Tuesday and for the temperatures to be in the 50s during the day, for the remainder of the week. This should make for nice fall days.

The dedication of the North Carolina National Guard Armory on Teal Drive took place last Friday morning. There wasn't as many in attendance as you would expect, but still the affair went off in top fashion.

It was in 1938 that the old armory building on the old Fayetteville Hwy was dedicated. This affair was pushed by all officials of the county and city and it brought forth Gov. Clyde R. Hoey as the main speaker. Also on hand was the Adjutant General John Van B. Metts. It was a big day with parade, barbecue lunch and much to do about the building.

The affair Friday was presided over by Capt. A.B. Dickson, Jr. and the main speaker was the Ad-



Flying high

Both the North Carolina and American flag flew high Friday with a clear blue sky as background. The raised flag, and the pretty day helped add to the excitement of the events that took place in Raeford on Veteran's Day. We take a look at Friday's happenings in this week's B-section of The News Journal.

Number Of Student Dropouts Declining In Hoke County

By Sherry Matthews

The drop-out rate for Hoke County students has decreased by 2.2% in the 1982-83 school year and has dropped below the state's average by 1%.

During the year, only 5.7% of those students enrolled in Hoke High and Upchurch Junior High did not complete the year. The state's drop-out average was 6.7%.

"Our drop-out rate has been decreasing for the last five years," School Community Director Woody Westall said.

Since the 1978-79 school year, Hoke's drop-out rate has declined

by 6%.

Of the 1,236 students enrolled in Hoke High School during 1982-83, 70 or 6% of that enrollment failed to complete the year.

During 1981-82, about 9% of Hoke High's students were added to the drop-out list.

At Upchurch Junior High School, 26 out of 863 students dropped out during the 1982-83 year. That is 18 less than the year prior when 44 students failed to complete the school term.

"We are steadily getting better," Westall said.

Although Westall admitted that

is was "hard to put your finger" on the exact reason that students drop-out of school, he did note that various school programs were helping drop Hoke's student loss rate.

"Our vocational education programs are keeping more students interested in school," Westall said.

"There is more emphasis now on things students can do other than merely academic," Westall added.

In addition to vocational education courses, Westall credits the "alternative education center" to a (See STATE, page 2A)

Council To Meet About Manager

No "definite" plans have been made to fill the Raeford City Manager's position that Ron Matthews will vacate in Mid-December, Mayor John K. McNeill Jr. said Monday.

"The board has not decided how they want to handle this. We have not met together to discuss the situation," McNeill said, adding that he felt members of the city council would meet in a specially called session "fairly soon."

Although Matthews is set to leave his position in less than a month, McNeill said he believed the city council had "plenty" of time to find a replacement.

"We will probably handle this situation like we have done in the past," McNeill said.

In years past, the city council has placed advertisements in the North Carolina League of Municipalities publication seeking applicants for the position.

Once applications arrive, council members screen the applicants during specially called meetings to determine "the right person" for the job.

"That is probably the route we will take this time," City Councilman Vardell Hedgpeth said.

"It is really a little early to say what we are going to do,"

Hedgpeth said.

The councilmen were alerted to Matthews' resignation during an executive session last Monday night.

"We discussed it very briefly then," McNeill said.

Matthews, who has held the city manager's position here for over five years, has accepted a city manager's job in Elizabeth City.

He is scheduled to report to his new job January 3.

"We have not made any real decisions, but we will have the position filled in plenty of time," the mayor said.