

The News-Journal

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Board names IEA director in split vote

By Ed Miller

Members of the Hoke County Board of Education voted 3-2 in favor of hiring a man recommended by the school administration to serve as the new Indian Education Affairs (IEA) director.

Votes were divided along old and new member lines, and Chairman Bill Cameron broke a deadlock after board members Shirley Gibson and Eddie McNeill cast dissenting ballots.

The vote to approve Mitch Tyler of Scotland County came after a recommendation from Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson.

Long-time board members Bob-

by Wright and Walter Coley voted to accept the recommendation of the superintendent.

Nelson had tapped Tyler despite a recommendation from the IEA Executive Committee who wanted Jerry Oxendine for the job.

"I don't think we should go against so many people who want Jerry Oxendine," said Gibson, noting that about 40 members of the Indian community attended the December Board of Education meeting in support of Oxendine.

"I think they (IEA Executive Council) should be involved," said Gibson.

"They have been involved. The

problem is that they and I disagree," said Nelson.

According to the superintendent, Tyler is "best qualified" for the job.

Prior to coming to Hoke County, Tyler had been IEA Director in Scotland County, Nelson said.

State and national IEA officials have said the wishes of the local IEA council did not have to be considered when making a recommendation for the director's position, the superintendent said.

Parent involvement is very important to IEA personnel, but parents act as advisers and not as

policy makers, Associate Superintendent Ginny Hayes said.

Accreditation eyed

In other action, the Board voted unanimously to try to get Southern Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation for all elementary and middle schools in the county by the end of next calendar year.

"We should be working for accreditation. I'd like to see all of them accredited," Cameron said.

Currently both Upchurch and Hoke High are the only schools in the county accredited by the group.

All of the seven county schools are accredited by the State of North Carolina.

If all goes according to plan, the schools should be accredited by December of 1986, Nelson said.

"Part of that time will be waiting time," said Nelson.

Gibson said that she was concerned a major extra work load will be dumped on teachers in preparation for the accreditation process.

The biggest part of the work is on-going, but the teachers will have to do their part, Nelson said.

The superintendent also told board members the only costs

associated with the project for this year would be about \$200 for manuals.

Band funded

The Board also passed a motion allocating \$500 for the Hoke High Band to travel to Raleigh for the Gubernatorial Inauguration Parade.

School officials have been soliciting money from local businesses, individuals and industries and has so far raised \$850 of the \$2,000 needed to pay for transportation costs to the parade.

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Zoning plans back on track

By Ed Miller

Members of the Hoke County Commission cleared the way Monday for establishing a new County Planning Board by repealing an outdated ordinance which had been on the books for 18 years.

Just after rescinding the old ordinance, the commissioners set February 4, at 9 a.m. for a public hearing on a new law.

According to County Attorney Duncan McFadyen, the old ordinance had to be repealed before a new one could be established.

As soon as the February public hearing is over, the new ordinance can be adopted, McFadyen said.

The new Planning Board will consist of seven members, according to the proposed ordinance.

Initially, members will be appointed for one, two and three year terms and afterward, members will be appointed for three years at a time.

County residents have been regularly attending County Commission meetings in recent months to support countywide zoning.

The Planning Board is being reformed as a first step for zoning, according to members of the commission.

Although members of the proposed Planning Board cannot vote a zoning ordinance into existence themselves, they will make set objectives, make studies and adopt plans for achieving objectives, according to the ordinance.

Any zoning laws passed will have to be made by the County Commission upon recommendations of the Planning Board.

In making ready for the Planning Board, a committee from the County Commission submitted 10 names to be considered as members of the proposed board.

The names will not be made public until the whole commission can look them over and add to the list, said Commission Chairman John Balfour.

According to Balfour, particular attention was paid to the geographic locations in the county of candidates submitted.

In other action, a motion was passed to table a request from the Hoke County Literacy Council for \$5,000 in additional funding.

Barbara Buie, Director of the Literacy Council, made the presentation to commissioners.

According to Buie, the Literacy Council Board of Directors has put

more emphasis on literacy and less on fund raising this year.

"We started the new fiscal year with more money than we ever had," said Buie.

"We have not worried about getting money. We have concentrated on teaching," she said.

After showing concern about over staffing at the Literacy Council, Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch was reassured that Buie and one part-time staff member are the only paid personnel in the facility.

According to Buie, the facility may seem overstaffed on paper because the part-time position has been filled by three people in the last year.

Another staff member may be considered if the needed funding is granted, Buie said.

Again, Upchurch showed concern when asking if the Literacy Council is duplicating any services now being provided by the Hoke County Board of Education.

The Literacy Council is not working with students, Buie said.

As an example, there are three people from Hoke County who work at the McCain Prison facility who are enrolled in the program.

(See LITERACY, page 10)



(Photo by Bob Nelson)

All rise

Former Governor James B. Hunt and Lt. Governor Bob Jordan stand as the Hoke High Band pass the reviewing stand and the North Carolina State Capitol in last Saturday's inauguration parade. Hoke High sported one of the largest bands in the

parade. The trip was made possible after local businesses raised over \$2,000 to pay for transportation costs to Raleigh. There are more photos on page 14 in today's News-Journal.

Raeford rejects cablevision rate hike one more time

By Ed Miller

For the third time in three months, Alert Cablevision was denied a rate hike by members of the Raeford City Council Monday night.

The council denied the raise even with the knowledge that Alert can take an automatic 5% hike in accordance with a 1984 federal regulation.

According to Alert Vice-

President Edwin Pettis, had the City Council decided to give the company a rate hike, Alert would not have put the automatic hike into effect.

In fact, Alert could have taken a 5% hike at the end of 1984 and another at the beginning of 1985, said Pettis.

That move was not made by the company "in the interest of excellent relations," said Pettis.

Because of the passing of the end of the year, the company is no longer eligible for the first raise, Pettis said.

Pettis admitted that the timing for asking for the raise was poor.

A sports channel, ESPN, had just been taken off the basic company channel line-up when the hike was requested.

The channel had to be removed from the basic line-up because of

federal regulations requiring the company to carry all channels in its broadcast area on basic, said Pettis.

"My thoughts are, the timing was poor and public awareness was bad," said Councilman Bob Gentry.

"They just cut (ESPN) off. The public was not made aware," Gentry said.

According to Councilman

Vardell Hedgpeth, Alert promised unchanged service for one year and went back on their word when the sports channel was removed.

"To me, morally, that's not right," Hedgpeth said.

Hedgpeth made the motion to deny the hike, adding: "If he (Pettis) wants his 5%, he can go get it. We don't have to give it to him."

During his plea for the hike, Pettis said that even if ESPN were

returned to the basic programming, it would only be a temporary situation.

"With things going the way they are now, a new channel will be springing up in this area soon, and we will have to take (ESPN) off again," said Pettis.

"There is a tower about half up now in Lumber Bridge," he said.

According to Pettis, Channel 26

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Around Town

By Sam Morris

Someone told me the other day that I could put in my column this week that winter has arrived. Yes, it came in over the weekend. The thermometer has been below freezing for the past few nights and the wind has kept the chill factor low in the daytime.

We also had around three inches of rain during the past week and this was needed.

The forecast is for continued cold weather and for rain by the weekend.

The following letter was on my desk and we think it will be of interest to the folks who use the Hoke County Library.

Dear Mr. Morris:

I want you to know about the kindness and generosity of the Raeford Lions Club. John Ferguson, president of the Raeford Lion Club, presented the Hoke County Public Library with twenty-five new large print books. The Library is delighted to receive the gift, and I know that many of the readers will benefit from the large print editions. A gift such as

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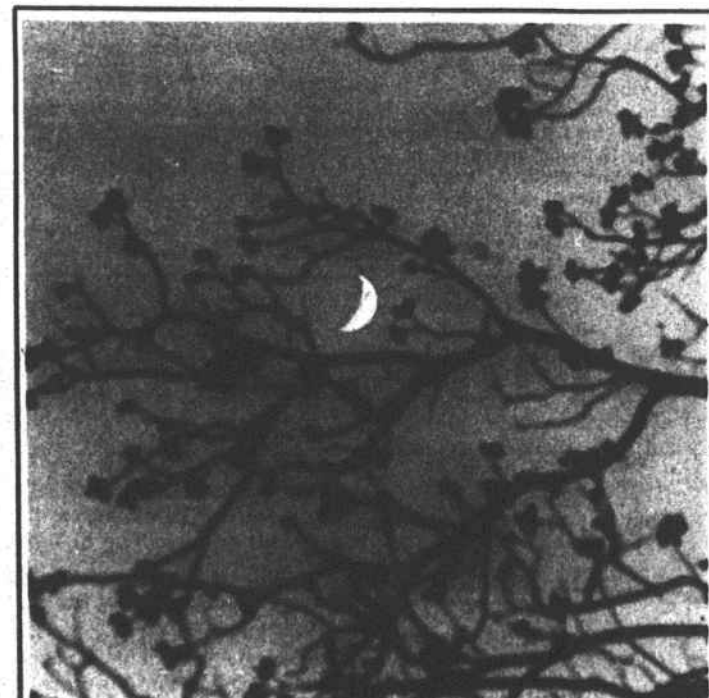


Photo by E.W. Miller, III

Daytime moonlight

The new moon rose while daylight still prevailed last week over Raeford. Through the limbs of an old pecan tree, the moon does not look 287,000 miles away. Soon, darkness fell, and the new moon cast its own light over Hoke County. That may have been the last time the moon was seen for a few days as clouds and rain hid the skies for the rest of last week.

Chamber secretary to start Monday

Members of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted unanimously Tuesday to hire Beverly Pasternak as the new executive secretary.

Pasternak, who will be the first paid fulltime employee of the Chamber since the death of former Director Earl N. Fowler last May, is expected to begin her duties Monday.

"She is eager to start, and we are eager to have her start," Chamber selection committee member Tom Howell said.

"We believe that she will lend

enthusiasm to the position, which is very important to the future of the county," Howell said.

Until renovations are completed on the new Main Street Depot office of the Chamber, Pasternak will conduct business from the old Chamber office on Edinborough Avenue.

As part of the job she will be working with city and county officials and will assist the new Industrial recruiter when that position is filled, Howell said.

Applications for the position were taken over a one-month period, Howell said, noting that

three applicants were interviewed last week.

During the next few months the Chamber will be working on plans for the annual dinner in May, refurbishing the old Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad Depot, organizing next year's Mullet Roast, a fall festival, industrial development, widening US 401 and establishing better telephone communication, board members were told.

Pasternak will be essential to those plans, Chamber President Benny McLeod said at the meeting.

Judge orders new county courthouse

By Ed Miller
A Twelfth Judicial Superior Court Judge has called for the Hoke County Commission to build a new courthouse.

In a letter, addressed to Hoke County Commission Chairman John Balfour, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge D.B. Herring called for the action after an inspection of the facility last week.

Herring noted in the January 3 letter conditions in the courthouse,

calling them "deplorable from a maintenance point of view."

Hoke County's courthouse is "a long standing problem," Herring said.

According to the judge, there is not enough space in the old building to house records from the Clerk of Court's office or from the Register of Deeds' office.

Herring also complains of inadequate office space in the building. "In no way can courtroom

facilities be described as satisfactory," Herring said in the letter.

"While the building is a beautiful old structure, it does not meet today's needs," said Herring. In the letter, the judge requested that he be kept advised on plans for correcting the situation and consulted on new building designs and renovation plans.

Other letters from area residents have called for something to be

(See COURTHOUSE, page 11)