

The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

Volume LXXVII Number 38

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$10 PER YEAR

25 CENTS

Thursday, January 9, 1986

Deputies' suit against Hoke County dropped

By Ron Anderson

Law suits filed against Hoke County by employees seeking overtime payment were dropped last week, according to County Attorney Duncan McFadyen.

The suits were filed by five former and current sheriff's deputies after the Supreme Court ruled last February that state and local governments were required to pay overtime to all employees who

worked more than 40 hours a week.

However, new legislation signed by President Ronald Reagan on November 13 allows state and local governments to continue offering time off in lieu of overtime pay.

The five plaintiffs filed voluntary dismissals Thursday with the Clerk of U.S. District Court in Fayetteville, McFadyen said.

Along with the county, Hoke

County Manager William Cowan and Sheriff Dave Barrington were also named as defendants in the suits.

"The action is dropped against everybody," McFadyen said.

The suits were filed by deputies Ed Harris and Jimmy Riley and former deputies Craig Hart, J.W. Jones and Ronnie Odom.

Attorneys representing Hoke County advised the defendants to

file the voluntary dismissals, according to Cowan.

The Greensboro firm of Smith, Moore, Smith, Schell and Hunter was hired to represent the county.

"After the president signed the law, we didn't think the claims were valid," Cowan said. "We felt they were frivolous lawsuits."

Cowan said he felt the deputies had a potential law suit before the law was signed.

Before Reagan signed the legislation, some counties in the state paid their employees for previously worked overtime.

Hoke County didn't, but Cowan said payments would have been made if the federal government had ordered them.

"I have no intentions of breaking federal law," Cowan said.

Beginning April 14, the county must comply with the Fair Labor

Standards Act, Cowan said.

From that point on, employees will be compensated for overtime with either money or time off at the rate of time and a half.

Also, county employees will be entitled to compensatory leave.

If an employee accrues 20 hours of overtime and then resigns, the county must pay the worker for the overtime, Cowan explained.



Tax Listing

Frances Lewis (second from right) receives a lot of assistance with listing her taxes from Assistant Tax Supervisor Mary Matherly (left) and tax listers Joann Tillman (second from left), Jenny Gibson (third from left) and Shirley Rush (right). Taxes may be listed through January 31, Raeford

Township residents must list their taxes in the county office building Monday through Friday from 8 - 5 and Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon. Residents of all other townships list their taxes at the Hoke County Library Monday through Friday from 8 - 5 and Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon.

County adds support for EAS

By Ron Anderson

Members of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners reinforced their support of Extended Area Service (EAS) between the Raeford and Fayetteville telephone exchanges during a commissioners meeting on Monday.

Last February, the commissioners unanimously requested that the North Carolina Utilities Commission establish direct telephone communication between the two areas.

The strengthening of their position comes during the week Carolina Telephone Company will be sending ballots in monthly bills asking customers to vote either "yes" or "no" for EAS.

The ballots were mailed on Wednesday and customers should receive them by Saturday.

In order for a vote to count in the polling, the telephone company must receive the answered ballots by January 27.

If EAS is established, it will cost Raeford telephone subscribers an additional \$4.52 per month.

But the commissioners are convinced that the establishment of EAS will greatly improve the economic growth of the county.

The first thing some people are going to notice is that their bill will be increased, Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

"We must encourage them to look beyond that," Upchurch said.

Many activities encouraging people to vote for EAS will be going on throughout the county this week.

The Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce is sending letters to its members urging them to vote for the expanded service, and members of some churches will be calling other members to remind them of the polling.

Also, a group of citizens will be going from door to door in the Rockfish area asking people to support EAS.

"I think it (EAS) is the one key ingredient to the county's economic development," County Manager William Cowan said.

Remapping \$151,000

In other business, Don Holloway, manager of N.C. Land Records Management Program, told commissioners it will cost approximately \$151,300 to remap Hoke County.

Holloway said the cost of the project could be spread over three years and the county would be qualified for matching grants of \$16,000 each of those years.

"Mapping is the key to modernizing land records," Holloway told the commissioners.

Sixty-five of the counties in the state are either already mapped or in the process of being mapped, Holloway said.

The City of Raeford was mapped during 1979-80.

"Our major efforts are to get the rest of the county mapped," Holloway said.

Having comprehensive maps of the county will aid the county in locating property lines and in entering addresses to update the area, according to Holloway.

(See COUNTY, Page 10)

'Brainstorming' helps solve schools' facility problems

No final plans were made, but members of the Hoke County Board of Education say they are closer to finding a solution to the schools' facility problems after a "brainstorming" session held last Thursday night.

And although no decisions were made as to how to go about tackling the problem, board members agreed that the session was a step in the right direction.

"We've expressed our opinions more tonight than we ever had before," board member Walter Coley said after the meeting.

"This was simply a discussion.

It's going to be late January or February before we'll be able to nail down any direction we'll be heading in," Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson said.

Board members are waiting for the results of committees studying Turlington School and the county's elementary schools before they make any decisions.

"Our task is to renew, update, and modernize the facilities for Hoke County schools," Nelson said.

The sub-tasks fall into three categories: repair, renovate and

replace, Nelson said.

The superintendent said it will be necessary to begin making continuous progress in all three areas.

"We've got to realize we're not going to solve all these problems overnight," he said.

Nelson presented three suggestions on how to go about solving the problems of middle schools (grades six through eight).

•Continue using Upchurch School as a middle school and raise and replace parts of the facility.

•Build a new middle school which would hold 1,200 to 1,400 pupils.

•Construct a new, smaller middle school to hold 600 to 700 pupils while continuing to use Upchurch School.

Board member Eddie McNeill suggested a plan to make repairs and improve the conditions at the county's elementary schools first and later come back and work on the middle schools and the high school.

Two transitional ideas were presented by Vice Chairman Bob Wright and Walter Coley.

Wright's idea calls for having two middle schools - one at Up-

church and an additional new one to be built at a new location.

During the transitional period, the 5th grade would remain at Turlington School and 6th graders would be placed at Upchurch and the new middle school.

A transitional plan presented by Coley also calls for the continued use of Upchurch as a middle school and building an additional facility.

Coley's plan differs from Wright's in that all the elementary schools outside of Raeford would be used as kindergarten through fifth grade schools and both Tur-

lington and McLaughlin schools would each be used as elementary schools (one of the schools located in town would be used for kindergarten through second grade students and the other for third grade through fifth grade students).

Both plans by Coley and Wright are only to be thought of as temporary solutions to the problems.

"What we need to decide is whether we're going to build a new middle school or fix up these other schools," board member Eddie McNeill commented.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather is still cold. Monday morning there was a heavy frost, that looked like a light snow. It hasn't rained for a few days and it is becoming dry again.

The forecast is for possible snow Thursday and into Friday. The temperatures will be in the 30s beginning Wednesday. It is according to how the front down south moves that will decide if we will or will not have snow. It is usually heavy when it comes from the south.

Last week I wrote something about Mrs. Frances W. Dickson who wrote the article run in this column two weeks ago. Last week I received the following letter from Fayetteville.

Dear Mr. Morris:

I read with great interest your column of Thursday, December 26, 1985.

"The Reminiscences of Civil War Times" by Mrs. Frances W. Dickson was of special interest to me as it was written by my grandmother.

My mother was Florence Dickson Elliot.

I read your column to our Christmas dinner guests which included fans of Frances Dickson's great grandsons.

(See AROUND, Page 13)



Moving days

Workers continue moving furniture from offices in the Hoke County Courthouse to their temporary locations in the county office building so that renovations can be made at the courthouse. Other offices are being relocated in the Sheriff's Department building and at the Bank of Raeford building.

Couple busted for LSD

Two local residents were being held in the Hoke County Jail Tuesday as more than \$20,000 bond each after being charged Monday night with selling LSD and other drugs.

Benjamin Franklin Taylor, 24, and Beverly Cummings, 22, who both list their address as P.O. Box 264, Red Springs, were arrested Monday evening after they allegedly sold an undercover narcotics agent 25 doses of LSD and 11 doses of mechaqualone, according

to a report by Hoke County Detective C.E. Harris.

An agent from the Cumberland County Bureau of Narcotics (CCBN) entered the couple's mobile home located in the Antioch area at approximately 8:30 p.m., the report says.

As soon as the agent purchased the drugs he signaled to Detective Harris and other officers representing the SBI and the CCBN, who entered the residence (See LSD, Page 12)

City passes new zoning laws

Amendments to the city's zoning ordinance and new zoning maps were unanimously approved Monday by members of the Raeford City Council.

The amendments and maps update the city's existing zoning plan and comply with all statutes and legislation enacted by the state since the existing Raeford zoning ordinance was established 20 years ago, Mayor John K. McNeill said.

"The new zoning area pretty much complies with the zoning that is already there," City

Manager Tom Phillips said.

The amendments polish and define the existing ordinance and clearly say what may be built in various zones, Phillips said.

Additional categories were added to the ordinance to cover apartment complexes and satellite dishes.

Areas that would have been zoned general business under the existing ordinance will now be zoned either highway, commercial, or neighborhood business.

Also, the zoning boundaries

which extend within a mile radius of the city were redefined by natural boundaries so "the average man can identify the extra territorial jurisdiction," Phillips said.

The city's planning board has been working on the amendments and new maps for almost four years.

In another zoning matter, a request to rezone a 3.8 acre lot adjacent to the Board of Education Building on Wooley Street was

(See CITY, Page 10)

Firm eyeing Rockfish building

A Pennsylvania firm has expressed a strong interest in the Rockfish School property, Economic Developer John Howard announced Monday to members of both the Raeford City Council and the Hoke County Board of Commissioners.

If the three-year-old company were to locate part of its operations at the old Hadley-Peoples property, it would initially employ 20 persons, Howard said.

The number of employees should increase to 50 in two years.

Money is the only thing preventing the firm from locating here, and the company is currently seeking \$1.1 million in funding to begin operations.

Once funded, the company could begin operations at the school property within 90 days, Howard said.

"Naturally divulging the name of this firm at this time is not possible in that we still have to work aggressively at seeking financial assistance," Howard said.

"We have an industry executive here who is quite taken with the potential of locating in our community," the economic developer said.

The executive sees the advantages of the local labor force, the cost of utilities and the accessibility to his major markets.

"Hopefully, he foresees the day when his entire Pennsylvania

operation would locate here," Howard said.

Because of what industrial developers call the "Domino Effect," more jobs in the community would affect retail sales, would create more permanent residents and would stimulate more hiring.

If 100 additional jobs were created in the county, it could mean that 351 more people could be added to the workforce in service positions, Howard told members of city council.

Additional workers would also mean an average of \$1.03 million more in personal income annually in the community which would increase bank deposits by \$500,000.