

# The News-Journal

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## Bid for public defender apparently denied

By Ron Anderson

A request for an additional public defender to help ease the crowded Hoke County court dockets has apparently been denied by the North Carolina Court Administration.

Although the exact status of the request is unclear, local members of the judiciary are not optimistic.

Because of the increased work load, 12th Judicial District Public Defender Mary Ann Tally and Chief District Court Judge Sol. G. Cherry requested funding for an additional assistant public defender, whose responsibility would be Hoke County.

The final decision rests with the

North Carolina General Assembly, but sources say state court administration officials have apparently nixed the plan, citing funding cutbacks.

The official stance of the public defenders office is there is still hope the position will be filled, however, Cherry and District Court Judge Warren Pate say they believe the request was denied.

Both Tally and Cherry have written letters to the state Administrative Office of the Courts asking for funding from the General Assembly for an additional public defender's position.

A letter in response to his request gave the impression that

Court Administration Director Franklin Freeman Jr. did not believe the position was justified now, Cherry said.

A decision has not been made as to whether a recommendation will be made for funding the slot in the 12th District, Court Administration Research and Planning Director Robert Giles said.

"I am aware the request has been made and do know that it is being considered," Giles said.

The Administrative Office of the Courts can only recommend that funding be provided for an additional public defender for the 12th District, the final decision is made by the General Assembly.

The recommendation will apparently not be made during the upcoming short term of the Legislature, other sources say.

The only way the 12th District could hire an additional assistant public defender is if provisions were made for one in the state budget.

The 12th Judicial District serves Cumberland and Hoke counties, and the Public Defender's Office in Fayetteville currently employs 10 staff attorneys who serve the two counties.

One of those attorneys handles all of the cases in Hoke County plus "some cases in Cumberland County as well," Tally said.

According to figures at the public defender's office, 118 files on defendants in Hoke County were closed in 1985.

Another 37 juvenile cases in Hoke were handled by the assistant public defender assigned to the county.

Figures from the Administrative Office of the Courts show that the 12th District Public Defenders Office handled 2,785 cases from July 1, 1984 until June 30, 1985.

"You can see from that the vast majority of cases are in Cumberland County," Tally said.

Still, Tally says she feels the assistant public defender assigned to Hoke County is overworked

because of the work in both this and Cumberland County.

"I feel a strong need for an additional assistant's position whose primary responsibility would be in Hoke County," Tally said.

"It would give priority to Hoke County cases."

Although he does not believe there is a need for fulltime attorney here, there is justification for an assistant public defender to spend a majority of the week in Hoke County, Cherry said.

Felony cases in Cumberland County often prevent the assistant public defender assigned to Hoke

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## Commission goes to D.C.

By Ron Anderson

The Hoke County commissioners cancelled their regular monthly meeting on Monday in order to attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Goals Conference in Washington D.C.

All five commissioners, plus County Manager William Cowan and clerk to the board Oleita Lopez, flew to the nation's capital on Saturday to meet with other county leaders from across the United States.

The commissioners returned to Hoke County on Tuesday.

"It's important for board members to meet with commissioners from across the country," Cowan said last week, before embarking on the trip.

"You can learn how other counties are dealing with their problems."

Cowan said one problem facing counties throughout the nation is a loss of revenue due to federal cutbacks and the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction act.

Federal revenue sharing is expected to run out in October unless it is reauthorized by congress.

The current strategy of NACo is to have revenue sharing reauthorized "even if it has to be reduced under Gramm-Rudman," Cowan said.

Hoke County received \$430,000 in revenue sharing last year.

Four workshops on general revenue sharing were scheduled for the conference.

Other topics discussed at the conference were the increased cost of liability insurance and solid waste collections.

At a "Charlie Rose" breakfast,

(See COMMISSIONERS, page 2A)



Winter sky

Textures of a Hoke County afternoon sky are reflected in the four panes of this window located outside Raeford. The skies will begin taking a different appearance as spring approaches.

## Hoke farmers face uncertainty

By Ron Anderson

Farmers in Hoke County have something in common with farmers throughout the United States: they are facing an uncertain future.

In 1985, the gross income for county farmers was \$20 million as compared to \$21 million in 1984, according to County Extension Chairman Willie Featherstone Jr.

However, Featherstone said the figures are misleading because the income from the county's poultry industry is included in the statistics.

"Poultry is the number one income producing commodity in the state," Featherstone said.

If the poultry income wasn't counted, the amount of money lost last year in field crop production would be more apparent.

Last year it was estimated by economists at North Carolina State University that 8% of the state's 75,000 farmers had extreme financial problems.

Eleven Hoke County farmers who have not made a payment for three or more years on their loans from the Farmers Home Loan Administration received letters last week that require a response within 30 days.

Failure to respond to the letters will result in a demand for payment of the entire FmHA loan, according to Eddie Miller, special projects administrator and public information officer at the state FmHA office in Raleigh.

Miller said the demand for payment of the entire loan is the last step before foreclosure.

Five other county farmers who were at least \$100 delinquent on their loans in December of 1985 also received letters from the FmHA last week.

Although a failure to respond to the second set of letters won't result in immediate foreclosure, Miller said "it's on the way."

In the letters, farmers were given a list of options to stop the

foreclosure process.

Those options include: rescheduling the loans with lower payments for farmers with limited resources; allowing farmers to partially liquidate; and allowing borrowers to request a deferral of FmHA payments for up to five years.

"If farmers take advantage of these options there will be a lot less foreclosures," Miller said.

Earl Hendrix, 53, who has been farming most of his life, represented the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association on a recent 16-day trip to Brazil.

The trip was to study soybean production in Brazil, one of the United States' chief competitors in soybean production.

Hendrix currently farms 3,000 acres of land with his two sons.

They are diversified farmers growing tobacco, soybeans and white potatoes, and they are having trouble competing with coun-

(See FARM, page 11A)

## Raeford storm runoff problems could cost \$167,000 to repair

By Ron Anderson

Repairing the storm drain system in the City of Raeford will cost an estimated \$167,376, members of city council were told Monday night.

Construction costs for the project are \$139,480 plus \$27,896 in engineering, inspection and contingencies fees, according to a storm drainage runoff study prepared by the Southern Pines firm of Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates.

The firm was hired in November by the city to do the study at a cost of \$7,900.

Repairs to the city's existing drainage system can be accomplished in four phases, Gary Culp, a senior technician with the firm, said.

The first phase calls for replacing an existing pipe near the end of East Donaldson Avenue with two larger pipes and rerouting a sewer

main to provide a clear passage for all outflowing water.

According to the drainage report, this is the major outlet pipe for approximately 70% to 80% of the entire city.

The estimated cost to finish the first phase is \$47,892.

The price includes two manholes, four concrete piers, ditch regrading, seed and stabilization processes and land clearing.

Since the pipe lies within the North Carolina Department of Transportation's right-of-way, all maintenance and upgrading should be performed by the highway department, Culp said.

The second phase is estimated to cost \$60,960 and calls for replacing an existing pipe located 240 ft. from East Donaldson Avenue and Patterson Street with two new pipes.

At an estimated cost of \$11,040,

phase three calls for replacing an existing pipe with a larger one near the intersection of Lamont Street and Oakwood Avenue.

The final and most expensive phase calls for replacing a pipe near the intersection of Wilmoth Avenue and the A&R Railroad lines with either a larger pipe or two pipes of the same size.

The estimated cost of phase four is \$47,784.

During a city council meeting in February, City Manager Tom Phillips asked the engineering firm to study the city's subdivision ordinance to see if passage of a drainage ordinance would be feasible.

Included in the final study were copies of the drainage policies for the cities of Greensboro and Raleigh.

(See RUNOFF, page 11A)

## Man charged with Food Lion fire recaptured after escape from Dix

A Raeford man, who is charged with setting fires at the Food Lion store in Raeford on February 15, was apprehended at his parents' residence on Saturday after he apparently escaped from Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh.

Donald Martin Calloway, 24, of Rt. 3, Box 47D, drove home in a van owned by *The Raleigh News and Observer* that was parked on the hospital grounds, according to a report filed at the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Detective Weaver Patterson with the Hoke County Sheriff's Department received a call shortly before 6 p.m. from a friend of the Calloway family who informed the law enforcement officer that Calloway was at his parents' home, the report says.

The caller also said *The News and Observer* van was located on Camp Lane Road near Harmony Heights.

The van was retrieved, and Calloway was picked up and returned to Raleigh.

Warrants have been issued charging Calloway with setting the Food Lion fires.

Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said on Monday that the warrants won't be served until Calloway is released from the hospital.

In an unrelated incident on Saturday, police officer Vincent Sinclair apprehended a shoplifter who allegedly had a \$24.28 pork loin concealed under his coat, according to Wiggins.

Orlando McAllister, 35, of Raeford, was arrested and charged with shoplifting in the A&P store around noon, Wiggins said.

The store's meat manager, Cliff Yoder, called the police department when he noticed McAllister walking around the store with the meat under his coat.

Also, police officers arrested William Fred Fincher, East Sixth Avenue, Raeford, at approximately 4:30 p.m. last Thursday after Fincher, 43, allegedly broke a front door window at 710 N. Main Street.

A witness, who said he saw a man attempting to break into the house, contacted the police after he saw the suspect downtown, Wiggins said.

In another incident, a GMC blower valued at \$600 was reported missing from Miller's Garage at the corner of Adams and Central Avenue.

Wiggins said the blower was taken off the rear of a wrecker sometime last Thursday night.

Lumber valued at \$1,627.12 was reported stolen from a house being

built by Kenny Tew in Twelve Oaks at Carmon Road, Raeford, sometime between 4 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. the following morning, according to reports at the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Also, items including 48 pieces of china, tools, a car stereo and articles of clothing were reported stolen Friday from the residence of Earlene Jacobs, Rt. 1, Red Springs.

According to a sheriff's department report, Jacobs noticed the items were missing when she returned home from work at 7 p.m. and found a soft drink bottle on the floor.

A window at the rear of the house was broken, and large tennis shoe tracks were found in the yard, the report says.

Reports also indicate that the Carolina Turf Company, Rt. 1, Raeford, was broken into sometime Friday night or early Saturday morning.

Missing were an oxygen and acetylene bottle with a cutting torch valued at \$500 and a gray briefcase.

A soft drink machine had been damaged, but not entered, according to the report.



**The Hoke Diamond**  
(.75 carat - Value over \$4,000)  
to be given away during  
**JUBILEE WEEK**  
Celebrating 75th Anniversary of Hoke County  
1911-1986  
MAY 4 - MAY 9, 1986



**The Hoke Diamond**  
Raffle tickets are now on sale for the .75 carat Hoke Diamond which is on display at Kinlaw's Jewelry Store on Main Street in Raeford. Tickets are \$7.50 each. Proceeds from the raffle will be used to help celebrate the Diamond Jubilee Celebration in May.

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather over the weekend was nice. It was somewhat cool, but if you got out of the wind it felt almost like spring. The rain last week was needed, but so far we have missed a snow. Only a few flurries have fallen this year.

The forecast is for the temperatures to get into the high 50s for the remainder of the week. No rain is in the forecast.

Be sure to get a look at the Hoke Diamond. It will be given away during the Diamond Jubilee Week. There will be only 750 tickets sold, so be sure to purchase yours when they go on sale.

Monday I had to make a trip to Louisburg. We went early Monday morning and got back home about 12:30 p.m. We arrived in Raleigh about 8:30 a.m. and it seemed that every person in Wake County was (See AROUND, page 2A)