

# The News-Journal

The 6th issue of our 83rd year

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, May 22, 1991

## Commission unseals minutes from closed session on sheriff

On a motion from Hoke Commissioner Tom Howell, board members voted to unseal minutes from a closed session held Monday, May 6 in which they voted to support a petition to consider removing Sheriff Alex Norton from office.

The petition accuses Norton of "willful and habitual neglect and refusal to perform the duties of his office and for willful misconduct and

maladministration in office."

Immediately after unsealing the minutes, Commissioner Cleo Bratcher moved to change the words regarding his motion in favor of the petition.

Commissioners voted to change the wording from "Mr. Bratcher moved to sign a petition" to "Mr. Bratcher moved to give Mr. McFadyen

permission to sign a petition." Duncan McFadyen is the county attorney.

The vote also added "and the commissioners should stay out of it" to the end of the motion.

According to the minutes, McFadyen told commissioners "he could only sign the petition at the direction of the board."

Neither Bratcher nor McFadyen would com-

ment on the minutes after the meeting.

"I think the clear implication was that you wanted me to sign," McFadyen told commissioners Monday night.

One commissioner has already backed away from the vote to support the petition.

L. E. McLaughlin said last week he meant (See MINUTES, page 4)

## Committee: jail needs addition

### \$2 million 2nd floor proposed

A committee head told county commissioners Monday night they should spend \$2 million to double the capacity of the county jail.

Raz Autry, who headed the committee appointed by county commissioners to study the jail's long range needs, told commissioners they should use existing jail space as much as possible.

"You just don't have the land" to build a new jail, he said.

*The estimated cost—\$2 million—is so high, Autry said, because of "astonishing" state jail rules.*

"The problem we kept facing was that you need a jail accessible to the courthouse," Autry said. "Another problem is where to put the female prisoners."

The estimated cost—\$2 million—is so high, Autry said, because of "astonishing" state jail rules.

"We expected something similar to this," Chairman Wyatt Upchurch said of the cost, "but not as great as this."

"You've got to have recreation rooms now," Autry explained.

Adding onto the old jail will mean getting 48 new spaces upstairs, but losing 20 of the 32 existing first floor spaces.

"Once you start adding to a jail, then you've got to meet state standards," Autry said.

Commissioner Cleo Bratcher also complained about state jail rules.

"I know I don't get three hot meals a day," he said. The state prescribes a menu of three different hot meals jailers must provide their inmates each day.

"I guess the thing that really bothers me is that we can come up with rules to keep people locked up but nobody can come up with anything to keep people out of jail," he said.

### DSS fails strict court-ordered test

In other business before commissioners, Bob Mercer, head of Hoke's Department of Social Services, said his department failed a court-required test and must pay an \$11,792 fine.

Local departments of social services are being tested because of a court case in which a U.S. judge found counties were failing to process Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Medicaid claims within the federally prescribed time frames.

The state Department of Human Resources pulls out files randomly through a computer; those files are watched as they go through a county's processing. The county is graded on its performance.

If counties fail the test, they pay fines.

Hoke is not alone in failing the test.

"Across the state, there's about a 75 percent fail rate," Mercer said.

He attributed Hoke's failure to stricter monitoring, a high turnover rate at the department, heavy case loads carried by social workers and the flexibility of state officials' interpretations of the

(See JAIL, page 4)

### Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

Last week when the thermometer had readings of over 90 degrees, I would have said that anyone was out of their head to predict that my heat would be turned on again this season. Monday morning I turned the air conditioning switch over to heat and it has been on that setting all day. Maybe I can turn it back to cool sometime on Tuesday or Wednesday. We have had over an inch of rain since Sunday morning. This was needed by the farmers.

The forecast calls for the temperatures to start up again on Wednesday. The high for Wednesday could be in the 80s and the lows in the 60s. Thursday, Friday and Saturday the high could be in the 90s and the lows in the high 60s. No rain is forecast, but we could always have a thunderstorm with 90-degree weather.

The annual meeting of the Raeford-

Hoke Chamber of Commerce was held last Thursday night at Gibson Cafeteria. There were approximately 150 people in attendance. As usual other events were scheduled for this night and I believe that this held the attendance down from previous years.

Dr. John C. Ropp installed the new officers and directors. The new president is L.S. Brock, Jr. and he replaces Walter Coley. If these officers and directors will heed the charge put on them by Dr. Ropp, then we should have a banner year ahead.

The speaker for the evening was Horace C. Davis of the CP&L Speaker Bureau. He kept the crowd laughing as he used jokes to put over his points and used the names of local people to hold the interest of his audience. He was well received.

It was warm in the cafeteria, but the excellent meal prepared by Wanda (See AROUND, page 4)



Flying machine

What appears to be an attempt to get an old Ford to fly is actually a pair of hang glider taxiing to the end of the "runway" for takeoff. The two Ft. Bragg

soldiers can often be seen hang gliding from this field off Hwy. 20 just outside Raeford. More photos are on page 6.

## DeVane looks at cutting state salaries

Danny DeVane is venturing into hostile territory. But the state house representative from Hoke County says it's all part of this year's session, which is finding pitfalls everywhere it steps in search of a way to cut the beleaguered state budget.

DeVane has asked for figures showing how much the state would save if it cut state worker's salaries on a graduated scale.

DeVane heads the house subcommittee on environment, health and natural resources; that committee was charged this year with looking at possible cuts in salaries and benefits.

"What we're doing," he said of state legislators, "is looking under every rock."

With a \$30,000 cutoff, which he said was to protect classroom

teachers, DeVane requested a printout of how much money would be saved if state employees who make over that figure were handed a pay cut.

"It's not my intent to cut classroom teachers," DeVane said.

"We're finally getting them up to where they ought to be."

Under the plan, workers making \$30,000 to \$39,999 would get a three percent cut; those making \$40,000 to \$49,999 would get a four percent cut and so on.

"If you cut three percent from the thirty thousand range, that's 33 million right there," DeVane said.

The state official who gave DeVane his list stopped at a seven percent cut for \$70,000 and up, but DeVane wanted to see an additional percentage point cut for each \$10,000 more a year a worker makes.

That would mean that top state salary employees, who make (See CUTS, page 4)

## Former Hoke residents guilty of fraud, perjury

A husband and wife formerly of Hoke County were convicted last month in federal court on charges stemming from an investigation into fraud in Fort Bragg housing.

Edward Jameson was convicted of making 38 false claims, 58 instances of mail fraud, making 84 false statements, two counts of theft of federal property and one count of accepting a gratuity as a public official.

His wife, Joyce, was convicted of one charge of perjury—giving false, misleading or incomplete testimony under oath.

Jameson served as lead inspector assigned to monitor Earth Property Services, a company contracted to maintain housing at Fort Bragg, according to John Bruce, an assistant U.S. attorney general.

Earth Property Services and its directors were convicted of billing the government for services they never rendered.

"As the lead inspector, the evidence shows that (Jameson) had to sign off on

all the invoices as they were paid," Bruce said.

The gratuity Jameson accepted was a counter top which had been ordered for the Fort Bragg contract, Bruce said.

The counter top was found installed at Jameson's house at Topsail Beach, he said.

Jameson was also convicted of stealing the counter top and a box of stair treads, many of which were also discovered installed at the beach house, Bruce said.

Four of the false statement convictions involved financial disclosure documents required by the Army.

"He was charged with failing two years in a row to disclose his ownership of the beach house and the financing on it," Bruce said.

The crimes occurred while Earth Property Services held the family housing maintenance contract at Fort Bragg between December 1985 and May 1989.

The Jamesons lived in Hoke County until about two years ago.

## Dayne Crumpler elected to head state association

Dayne Crumpler, secretary/treasurer of Crumpler's Funeral Home in Raeford, has been elected by funeral directors in North Carolina to serve as president of the N.C. Funeral Directors' Association.

"I am the first female ever to be a district director and the first female to be a president," she said last week. "So I'm making history."

The Funeral Directors' Association, founded 104 years ago, now has more than 500 members and a budget of \$350,000.

"Our programs are specifically designed to help the funeral directors with their day to day operating problems and to help with their professional development," she said.

She said her top priorities are legislation affecting funeral homes and building up the educational requirements for the profession.

The association wants to see pre-arranged funerals regulated by the Board of Mortuary Science rather than the Banking Commission, she said.

"I'll be travelling all over North Carolina," she said.



Dayne Crumpler

In August, Crumpler will go to a presidents' training session in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Crumpler is a co-owner with her husband, County Coroner Frank Crumpler, of Crumpler's Funeral Home.

The Crumpler's two sons, Kemp and Kel, are also licensed by the Board of Mortuary Science.