

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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New district plan angers public, leaders

Local leaders plan to go to Raleigh to challenge legislators over what they think is an unfair plan to divvy up the county's representation.

A state House of Representatives committee made its final proposal last week to redraw districts for the state house.

Even Rep. Danny DeVane of Raeford says he doesn't like it, and he was in Raleigh

when it all got put together.

The new map, which has drawn criticism from almost every faction in the county, would split Hoke into three districts, each of which would have a sizable majority of voters from Robeson County.

Raeford is effectively split between two districts on the proposed map. Precincts One and Two are in one district; Raeford #3, 4, and 5 are

in another.

In some areas, one person will have one representative; his neighbor across the street will have another.

"It's confusing as hell," said county commission Chairman Wyatt Upchurch near the end of Monday night's board meeting.

Right now, Hoke is in the 16th District, which is made up of Robeson, Hoke and most of

Scotland Counties. The 16th District is represented by three lawmakers: Danny DeVane of Raeford, Adolph Dial of Lumberton and Pete Hasty of Maxton.

Each of the three new districts would have only one lawmaker.

The new 16th District, which has a majority white population, would be made of parts of (See DISTRICTS, page 8)



Rescue workers remove Capt. Judd M. Herman from a biplane that crashed Saturday into a garden off Gatlin Farm Rd. Herman died later at a hospital.



A bystander is comforted after Herman was removed from the plane.

Defense moves to dismiss case against sheriff

Randy Gregory, lawyer for the defense, admitted Sheriff Alex Norton may have made mistakes, but said he should be judged by the voters, not a judge.

District Attorney Jean Powell said the sheriff had acted corruptly and should be removed from office now.

Donald W. Stephens, a superior court judge from Raleigh, heard those arguments Friday after Gregory moved to dismiss a petition to remove Norton from his job as sheriff for lack of evidence.

District Attorney Powell and County Attorney Duncan McFadyen filed a petition seeking Norton's removal on May 7. The trial has run each weekday from June 5 to last Friday.

The trial recessed until next Monday morning when Stephens said he would make a decision on the motion first thing. Stephens is taking a week off for a judges' conference.

"They have shown some potential problems," Gregory admitted. "They've

shown maybe some bad judgement, but they've never shown criminal intent."

"They have picked out some isolated incidents and have played Monday morning quarterback," he said.

"Some allegations are extremely serious and some allegations are not nearly as serious," Powell said.

But Powell, who said the sheriff had to display only one instance of willful failure to perform his duties to be ousted from office, said his decision not to charge Lillie Ann Locklear with a felony is a clear case of corruption.

The felon with a gun

The petition claims the sheriff knew Lillie Ann Locklear, a drug felon on probation who worked as a jail cook, owned a gun and did not charge her with a felony. It is a felony, as well as violation of probation, for a felon on probation to own a gun.

"There is no question that the sheriff (See SHERIFF, page 5)

Plane crash kills soldier

A small home-built biplane crashed Saturday into a garden just north of the Raeford Airport killing the pilot, a Fort Bragg Special Forces captain.

Capt. Judd Michael Herman, 29, died in surgery after Hoke County Rescue Squad members and other emergency workers and volunteers pulled him from the cockpit of the plane.

Children playing ball next door said the plane swooped low over a house, pulled up and then nose-dived in a spin into the ground.

It crashed just off Gatlin Farm Rd. about 30 yards from a house belonging to Carol Caphell. She said she heard what sounded like a bomb going off when the plane crashed.

Other witnesses said the plane appeared to be having engine problems.

Herman reportedly bought the plane over a year ago and had been working on it as a hobby. He only recently flew it for the first time.

He had been stationed at Ft. Bragg since 1989 and is survived by his parents.

Turkey plant wins labor case

An administrative law judge has dismissed all charges against the House of Raeford turkey plant stemming from an August, 1988 walkout by employees and subsequent election on whether to unionize.

The more than 50 labor-related allegations were filed by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) after unionization was voted down by employees 420 to 391 in October, 1988.

Judge Bruce C. Nasdor not only exonerated House of Raeford and its management, but said many witnesses lied or fabricated incidents, and House of

Raeford "attempted to understand the problems and resolve the walkout."

In a 54-page decision issued June 12 and made available to *The News-Journal* Tuesday, Nasdor recounted each complaint, the testimony from the hearing and his conclusion, one after another.

Of one witness Nasdor wrote his testimony was "completely contrived" and "concocted." Of another he wrote "Seldom have I seen a witness openly display such hate, rancor and hostility."

The case stemmed from a mass walkout that virtually shut down the process-

ing plant. Workers complained of long hours and sought a pay increase. Two

unions, the National Maritime Union and UFCW, attempted to sign up workers (the National Maritime Union later withdrew).

While the company held group meetings with employees, the union staged protests in front of the plant, and the week of the election, brought in Presidential candidate Jesse Jackson for a rally with employees.

The union also alleged sexual harassment, safety problems, and wage-hour violations. It actually filed only

unfair labor practice charges.

The union alleged the company intimidated workers into voting down unionization by threatening to fire them or to close the plant. More specifically the Union alleged the company and management:

• Improperly fired Michael Washington, Phillip Freeman, Heyward Davis, Alfreda Hammond, Larry Jones, Mae Helen Daniel and Ernestine Betha.

• Threatened employees with termination if they joined other employees and engaged in "protected and con-

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather for the past week has been hot. The thermometer has been in the 90s during the day and the lows at night have been in the 60s and low 70s. The rain last Sunday night was welcomed by all of us, but especially by the folks with a garden. I haven't heard of any damage from the severe lightning that came with the storm.

The forecast for the remainder of the week calls for the high temperatures to be in the 90s Wednesday through Saturday. The lows will be in the 70s. There is a chance of thundershowers any day with these 90 degree readings.

Anyway, summer will come in next week. What do we have to look forward to at that time?

Peggy Currie told me last Monday night that she had been to Savannah, Ga. to visit an uncle of her late husband. The uncle was Neill D. Currie who lived in

this county many years ago. He told Peggy that he wanted her to give me his correct zip code for his paper. He said that he has been taking the local paper since 1925 and maybe he is the oldest subscriber to *The News-Journal* for continuous years.

Neill must have started taking the Hoke County Journal that was published by the late D. Scott Poole. Paul Dickson started the Hoke County News about 1927 and purchased Mr. Poole's paper in 1928 and combined the two papers and called it *The News-Journal*.

So Neill, if I don't hear from someone who was taking the paper before 1925, you are now #1. Your zip code will be corrected.

Clara Robinson, Post Mistress of the Raeford Post Office, was by the office Monday. She said that people were still coming by the office and asking about (See AROUND, page 6)