

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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## Hoke homemakers lead way for higher littering fines

Better recycle that paper cup, bub. Thanks to the efforts of Hoke County's Mildouson Extension Homemakers Club, North Carolina will have higher fines for littering as of October 1.

Club member Joan Balfour said she got the idea from driving trips.

"In my travels, I had seen other states with road signs saying five hundred dollar fine, and the roadsides were clean," Balfour said.

Balfour helps the club pick up trash along a stretch of Highway 20 in Dundarrach; she says it is tiring to clean up the roadside only to turn around and find litterbugs have dirtied it again.

After being told again and again the only answer was to go to the legislature and get litter laws toughened, she approached Danny DeVane, the state house representative from Raeford.

DeVane, chairman of the House Environmental Review Commission, sponsored a bill to raise the fines.

A senate committee substituted a similar bill, which was approved by the House last night, making the higher fines law.

Fines for littering range from \$50 to \$200 now; a bill passed last night by the General Assembly raises fines to between \$100 and \$500.

(See LITTER, page 9)



### BIG boom

Amazing as it may seem, the damage done to this oak tree in the Puppy Creek area of Hoke County was caused, not by a tomoado or a direct artillery hit, but by lightning. The tree, similar in size and appearance to the oak visible in the left background, was struck Sunday, June 30. Loretta Wooters (left) and Amanda McCraney (center) were in the home of Teresa McCraney (right) when the bolt knocked nearly all the limbs and bark off the tree, and

split it down the middle. The strike also knocked a squirrel from the tree to a neighbor's yard across Will Monroe Rd. where the McCraney's live. Wooters said she looked out a window in the rear of the house and saw a red glow. She said the sound was "like nothing I've ever heard before in my life."

## DeVane votes for new districts

### Stonewall joins Antioch in plan's Indian district

Danny DeVane, state house representative from Raeford, voted in committee yesterday for a bill that does away with the three-member district in which Hoke now sits.

The bill would create three districts that cover parts of Hoke County; each have a majority of one of the three main races in the area: white, black and Indian.

The redrawn 16th District, in which DeVane lives, would be 66.25 percent white.

The 85th District, in which freshman Rep. Adolph Dial, an

Indian, lives, would be 58.56 percent Indian.

The 87th district, in which Rep. Pete Hasty lives, would be 51.52 percent black.

Hasty, a white, appears to have the most to lose as the committee shifted precincts around so the 87th would have a majority of eligible black voters. He has said he probably can't win the district next year.

"I'd love to say I could...but the history has been that blacks vote for blacks, whites vote for whites and Indians vote for Indians."

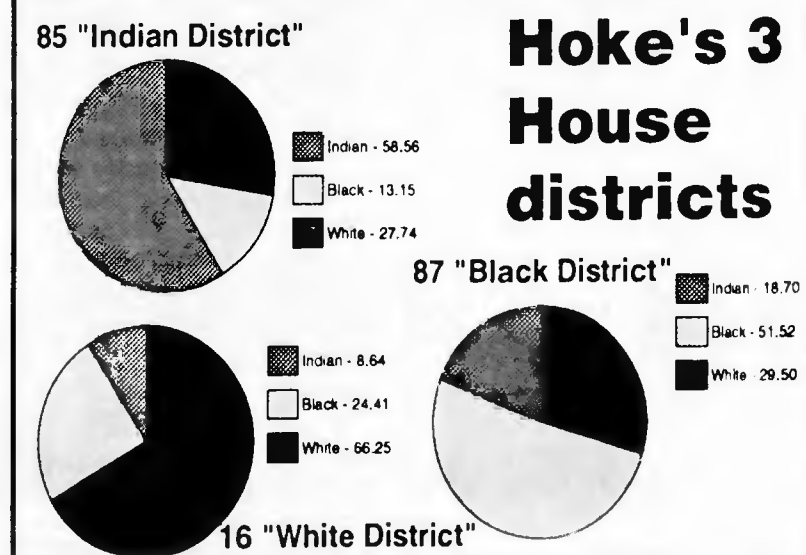
He said he preferred the three-member district in which politicians had to deal with each of the three races.

"You've got to deal with everyone, you've got to hear the complaints and comments from everyone," he said. "That's the way I think it ought to be and that's one of the main reasons I'm opposed to the new plan."

He said Danny DeVane wouldn't help him get support for a substitute plan that would keep a three-member district. Hasty, unlike DeVane and Dial, was not on the committee and could not directly introduce such a plan.

"He has said that he won't support any changes. I guess if he's happy with it, I would too."

(See HASTY, page 10)



## Hefner keeps Hoke

United States Congressman Bill Hefner can breathe a sigh of relief. The new map drawn by the North Carolina General Assembly marking the region he represents in Washington should be easier to win next time.

"We're certainly not unhappy with it," said aide Elvin Jackson, who worked closely with Hefner on redistricting.

Every 10 years when the census results come out, the General Assembly has to redraw maps of districts spoken for by congressmen and state senators and representatives.

The new congressional redistricting plan, adopted Monday, was a compromise between state senate and house plans.

Hefner, a Democrat who has run in a district with many Republicans, won't have so many Republicans to win over next time. Yadkin, Davie and Rowan Counties were lopped off his Eighth District while parts of Cumberland County including Fort Bragg were added.

"Yadkin and Davie are the only two counties that have far more Republicans registered than

Democrats," Jackson said.

Hefner's biggest opponent last year, Republican Ted Blanton, lives in Rowan County and will not be able to run against Hefner in the next election.

"I think the legislature has specialized in gerrymandering and they're trying to make democratic seats safer," Blanton said.

Blanton's home town of Salisbury is now in a thin, south-reaching arm of the redrawn Fifth District.

Jackson said the new Eighth District was similar to what he and Hefner had lobbied General Assembly members for.

"We had hoped to get something like Lee County...or maybe part of Harnett," he said.

"As it turned out, it came down to Cumberland."

"We've been fighting for our lives for nine elections now," Jackson said. "Ours is the toughest congressional district in the state."

Seven counties in the current district—including the five biggest—are run by republican governments, he

(See DISTRICT, page 4)

## Jim Spencer takes new job

### Scurlock principal says he was entitled to tenure

Jim Spencer, principal of Scurlock Elementary School, has resigned to take over a Scotland County school.

School office staffers were surprised last night when the school board went into closed session to discuss the move.

The School Board voted unanimously to accept Spencer's resignation.

Spencer signed a contract yesterday to head North Laurinburg Primary School.

"The reason that I'm seeking to leave Hoke County is I feel I have something to offer children and I believe Scotland is ready to accept that," Spencer said this morning.

July 1 would have marked the start of Spencer's third year as Scurlock's principal.

Spencer was not approved for tenure by the School Board at the end of April; unlike Upchurch Principal Leo Salzer, who also was denied tenure at that meeting, he was asked to return. Salzer's contract was not renewed.

Board Chairman Shirley Gibson indicated at that April meeting that Spencer needed a third year of probationary status to meet conditions for tenure. Then-Superintendent Bob Nelson had rec-

(See PRINCIPAL, page 10)

## New middle schools: will they be ready?

Where will your middle school student be going when he or she gets on the bus in August?

School officials aren't sure yet. Contractors building two new middle schools have told school officials they are about six weeks behind schedule. There are six weeks left before the school year begins.

The schedule, however, shows construction is right on time.

School board members and the schools' two new principals will meet with architects and contractors later this month to

figure out whether students will be able to move into the new schools when school starts in August.

If not, said Don Steed, business manager for the schools, students assigned to East Hoke Middle School on U.S. 401 North will go to Upchurch Middle School; students assigned to West Hoke Middle School on Highway 211 West will go to Turlington Middle School, he said.

The students and their teachers would move into the new schools as they were completed.

## Around Town

by Sam C. Morris

The weather continues hot, but we have had rain that helps the crops. The humidity continues high so the heat feels hotter than the temperatures show.

The forecast for the remainder of the week calls for the thermometer to register in the 90s during the day and for the readings to be in the 70s at night. These kinds of readings call for thunderstorms anytime in the afternoons.

Let's hope that the power doesn't go off during one of these storms, because it will be hard to survive without air conditioning.

Several weeks ago I wrote about Maurice Fleishman of Fayetteville talking to me on the telephone about a football game played in Raeford in the early 1920s. I had been getting names of the players of that team so I could give them to Maurice. He said he was going to write a story about a game he came to see here in the early 1920s and needed the names of the players.

I didn't call Maurice and as usual things you put off until tomorrow are most always too late. This is so about the

names for him. Last week I read with sorrow about the death of Maurice Fleishman at the age of 89.

He was well known to the older folks in Raeford and Hoke County. Most of the men of the 1920s 30s and 40s went to Fayetteville to buy suits, pants and shirts from Ed Fleishman Bros. Maurice could remember names and when you talked with him, he would start recalling the names of people from Hoke who had purchased merchandise from his store. One thing he would say, was that if the road from Raeford to Fayetteville was closed, his store would go out of business.

Fayetteville has lost a good citizen.

The General Assembly is still in session in Raleigh as this is being written. They still haven't divided the voting districts and they also haven't come up with a budget for the state.

Someone told me last week that a good way to get the legislature to come to an end was to do the following: Stop all pay and expenses to the members and make the members pay their secretaries (See AROUND, page 9)