

Club

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justice. Law officials, including the sheriff's drug dog and handler, remained on the scene to conduct a full inventory of the club. Deputies found nothing unusual, Chief Deputy Wayne Gardner said. Gardner said Dial was released that night on bond.

Dusting off the books

Superior Court Judge Craig B. Ellis issued the temporary restraining order against the club. This is the first step in a civil nuisance abatement case brought by District Attorney Jean Powell against the club's owners, Dial, and his wife, Nancy.

The restraining order prohibits any illegal activity from occurring on the property until a full preliminary hearing is held. Dial is scheduled to appear in Superior Court next week.

"Our deputies have charged people at this place with possession of drugs and concealed weapons," Sheriff Wayne Byrd said in a written statement. "This place has just been a problem in the community. Thanks to a cooperative effort between our office and ALE's nuisance abatement team, we might be able to close this place for good."

In January the sheriff requested the state's nuisance abatement team investigate reports against the club, allowing the district attorney to open a civil case against the club, agent Rodney Johnson said.

History of reports

Johnson said he and agent Robert Ivey investigated over 80 service calls reported on the club between April 1993 and January 1997. Calls include incidents of drugs and illegal weapons.

If Dial violates the order, he faces fines and penalties, the most severe of which could be permanent loss of his property, Johnson said.

The Friday order follows a 1991

civil action against Dial for another club, Cousins, located on N.C. Highway 211, Johnson said.

Johnson said the first civil action lacked the teeth of this second order because it only targeted the establishment and not Dial as an individual.

"It was drawn up to keep him from being a nuisance at that property, but it didn't keep him from going somewhere else," he said.

"If this particular case against Dial sticks, he will not be able to conduct business anywhere else in the state," Johnson said.

Team created in 1994

The state general assembly created the team in 1994 based on a 1913 statute. The targets public nuisance properties, such as "crack houses," clubs and other establishments which harbor illicit and illegal activities.

"It's a very effective law," Johnson said.

No other state has a program like this, he said.

So far, this team scored a 100 percent success rate, Johnson said. Since its inception in 1994, the team assisted law enforcement officials in closing 45 establishments throughout the state, including another club in Hoke County.

The Zodiac Lounge on Vass Road closed in 1995 as a result of a similar investigation.

The key to this program's success is that unlike criminal cases, civil cases get offenders where it really hurts — in their wallets, Johnson said.

"People don't realize civil statutes are where most of your teeth are at because it goes for the pocketbook," he said.

The team only takes a case if community outcry warrants it or if the local law enforcement requests it, Johnson said.

"We deal with the worst of the worst," he said.

Republicans

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said. "I am happy to move from the corruption and deception."

Cummings accused the Democrats of stealing the Republican platform. "The Democrats attempted to take our political agenda under the disguise of bipartisanship," Cummings said.

She attacked Democratic Party members, calling them "incompetent,

insecure, less confident and uncomfortable," thanks to Republican Party achievements.

"We must be commended, but we must be more vigilant in our efforts," she said. "We cannot take a recess."

Convention elects Shelnett

Shelnett, a local car lot owner, replaced school teacher Mark

Henneman as the county's GOP chairman.

Henneman finished a special one-year term which the N.C. Republican Party granted in 1996.

Shelnett ran for county commissioner last year and lost, despite the party lines crossover of 1,000 voters for him.

He attributed his loss in the com-

missioners' race to a lack of registered Republicans in the county.

"If I had received as many Republican votes as I did Democratic, we would have a Republican commissioner on the board now," he said.

Shelnett urged fellow Republicans to be more active in gaming party support. He promised he would set the example and continue to be active throughout the county.

"If we expect to garner support, we have to set the example as a group," Shelnett said. "We've got to get Republicans out to vote."

News-Journal Weather Watch

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	Wed-Thu	Thu-Fri	Fri-Sat	Sat-Sun	Sun-Mon	Mon-Tue	Tue-Wed
Precipitation (inch)	00.15	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
High Temp.	78(14:532)	61(13:569)	61(15:093)	69(14:487)	69(16:196)	80(15:124)	77(15:300)
Low Temp.	52(07:577)	39(06:526)	42(08:018)	46(04:205)	51(08:019)	50(06:203)	49(06:002)
High Avg. Wind	18(21:412)	15(14:464)	10(10:570)	10(13:166)	11(09:167)	9(13:298)	9(14:221)
High Wind Gust	36(21:418)	28(14:443)	17(12:522)	23(13:158)	19(08:450)	18(13:295)	15(14:532)
High Wind Dir.	NW	NW	NNE	WSW	E	SW	W
HighBarom.	30.12(08:119)	30.29(07:534)	30.34(09:539)	30.42(07:327)	30.38(09:435)	30.02(08:011)	30.18(08:011)
Low Barom.	29.77(00:52)	29.98(08:03)	30.26(02:35)	30.16(15:55)	30.00(06:13)	29.86(04:02)	29.85(14:20)
High Humidity	91(09:459)	99(14:237)	99(09:250)	80(17:170)	89(06:333)	86(08:012)	96(13:165)

Remarks: All readings recorded downtown. Readings are for previous 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m.



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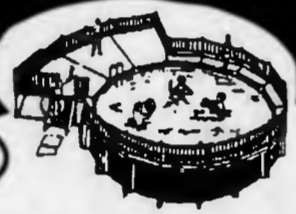


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- One (1) 355 Rex Trashmaster S/N HNR-109-T

As authorized by NC G.S. 160A-269, any person may, within 10 days from the publications hereof, increase the bid by submitting in writing to the Hoke County Clerk to Board at 227 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 266, Raeford, NC 28376 an offer increasing the amount of the bid being considered by at least 10% of the first one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and 5% of the remainder and must be accompanied by a bid deposit equal to 5% of the increased bid amount.

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