

inappropriate behavior in an incident that occurred December 15 in Wise County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

The Supreme Court had the choice to censure or remove Shull and in a unanimous decision, they voted to remove him from the bench.

In an opinion written by Justice Barbara Milano Keenan, the court said that Shull's misconduct shows "his disregard for the dignity of litigants appearing before him and for the dignity of the judicial process." According to the court, Shull had the woman pull down her pants in a December 2006 custody hearing to show a wound on her thigh that she said her estranged husband had inflicted.

Shull and had engaged in self-mutilation. He testified that he believed it was necessary to view the wound.

Shull also testified that he stated to those present in the courtroom that it might be possible for him to determine if the woman had received stitches, because his "father had been a surgeon."

The court found that during a recess in the same custody hearing, Shull made a telephone call seeking information from the hospital where the woman's wound had been treated. Under judicial procedure, both parties in the case should have taken part in such a call.

Shull admitted that he had decided a visitation dispute by tossing a coin. But he said he

court suggests that courts do not decide cases on their merits but instead subject litigants to games of chance in serious matters without regard to the evidence or applicable law," the court said.

"By directing [the woman] to lower her pants twice in the courtroom, Judge Shull ignored the dignity of a litigant who was not represented by counsel and who had a clear history of mental instability."

Such actions by a judge "impair public confidence in the integrity of our justice system," the court said.

In 2004, Shull appeared before the commission after a complaint was filed involving his conduct in a case with a teenage boy. The complaint made

Shull is only the second judge removed from the bench since the commission was created in 1971 to investigate complaints of judicial misconduct.

Shull's attorneys Russell V. Palmore and Stephen D. Otero of Richmond said, "With the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, Judge Shull admits that he could have handled the hearing in a more sensitive manner, and if a similar situation were ever to arise, he would certainly endeavor to do so, by consulting with the officers of the court and other court personnel about the most appropriate manner in which to view the necessary evidence."

But the court ruled otherwise with this final statement:

The judges of the 11th Judicial District are expected to appoint an interim judge.

SUNSHINE AND COOL, WINDY conditions greeted Lee County See Election Page Two

## HONORING OUR VETERANS OUR HEROES

### JMS Plans Veterans Salute

All veterans are invited to a program sponsored by Jonesville Middle School on Monday, November 12.

The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by a luncheon.

Veterans are asked to RSVP by November 8. For further information, call 346-1011.

## IDA Awarded \$487,000 Grant Towards Purchase Of Former Super Sack Building

Lee County Industrial Development Director Tim Long accepted a check last week from the Virginia Tobacco Commission for a \$487,000 grant which will be used to purchase the former Super Sack building in Pennington Gap.

Long explained that the IDA currently has a prospect that is interested in locating at the site with the official announcement expected by January 2008.

"We have a prospect coming into the Super Sack building, but we are finalizing loans. The prospect is expected to create 15 jobs in the first year and 80 jobs within the first three years," Long stated.

Along with the \$487,000 grant, the IDA also accepted

an \$800,000 low interest loan from VCEDA (Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority) to help cover the cost of purchasing the Super Sack building and to purchase equipment for the site.

During their regular monthly session on Thursday (November 1), the Authority discussed the construction of a shell building at the Constitutional Oaks Industrial Park.

"A lot of prospects are interested in seeing a building on the site and this will help us attract attention to the park," Long stated.

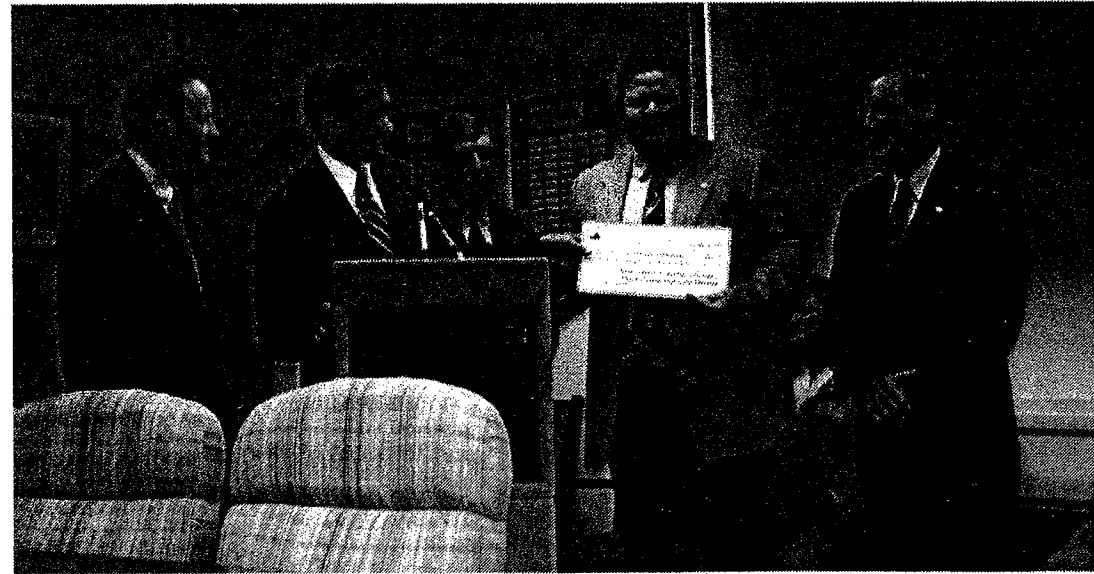
Currently, the IDA has received a \$425,000 grant from the Tobacco Commission, \$100,000 grant from Rural Development

and \$200,000 low interest loan from Rural Development and Powell Valley Electric Cooperative to construct the 40,000 square foot shell building.

"Having a shell building on site will help a business get started easily. The only thing they would need is to finish the interior and they can be up and running," Long stated.

Long said the IDA is also seeking a grant from the Economic Development Authority to do paving work at Constitutional Oaks with Long saying the grading work would make the park more accessible and beneficial.

The IDA adjourned until their next scheduled meeting on December 6 at 6 p.m.



Lee County Industrial Development Authority Director Tim Long accepts a replica check from the Virginia Tobacco Commission on Thursday to purchase an industrial shell building, located adjacent to the federal prison in Hickory Flats. Long is joined by State Senator William Wampler, Delegate Terry Kilgore, who serves as Vice Chairman of the Virginia Tobacco Commission, Ronnie Montgomery, a member of the commission's board and State Senator Phillip Puckett. The Lee County IDA received \$487,000 with the grant receipt tied to the development of new jobs.