

Walls bond reduction called off

By Ed Galucki

Charles A. "Jack" Walls III, will remain in Lonoke County jail in lieu of a \$1 million cash bond after his bond reduction hearing set for Tuesday, Dec. 16, was called off at the request of his attorney. Walls is being held on six charges of rape, two of violation of a minor in the first degree, and two of solicitation of murder.

Instead of the bond reduction, Circuit Chancery Judge Lance

Hanshaw heard motions to join some of the cases.

Special Prosecutor Betty Dickey said Wednesday that charges filed under John Does 1 and 2 would be tried Feb. 3 -5; John Does 5 and 6 would be tried Feb. 25-27; and John Doe 4 would be heard April 1-2.

A fourth trial date for John Doe 3 and the two counts of solicitation of murder will be set at a later date, Dickey said.

Also approved at Tuesday's hearing was a defense request for a men-

tal evaluation, Dickey said. "We had no objection to it, so long as the evaluation is done at the jail," she commented.

While the order of the trials was changed to expedite the proceedings, Dickey said, as the prosecutor in the case "We are ensuring [Walls] gets the best defense possible. When we are done there will be no after-trial motions that would require this to come to trial again,"

See WALLS on Page 2.

Walls

Continued from Page 1

she emphasized.

Hubert Alexander, Walls' attorney, had requested a bond reduction hearing after Walls' Nov. 18 plea arraignment. At that arraignment Walls answered "not guilty" to the charges against him.

A cash bond requires the full amount be posted. Otherwise, 10 percent of a bond with collateral for the remainder is all that is required.

Walls was originally charged Oct. 8 with two counts of rape following a two-month investigation by the Lonoke Police department and the Arkansas State Police. At the time, Lonoke County prosecuting attorney Larry Cook affirmed the victims were former members of a Boy Scout troop of which Walls was a leader. Walls was released on a \$100,000 bond.

Cook later asked to be recused citing possible ties with Walls' father, a former Lonoke County circuit chancery judge.

On Oct. 22, Dickey, Jefferson County prosecuting attorney, was named special prosecutor to replace Cook.

On Nov. 12, Dickey filed the additional charges of rape, violation of a minor in the first degree and solicitation of murder. Dickey also asked for the \$1 million cash bond.