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Muddy fourth

Youngsters and adults gathered in Parkton last Wednesday to take part in Fourth of July activities. These girls wrestle for a watermelon in the mud while they are sprayed with water from a fire hose, perhaps to keep the contest from getting too heated. Parkton is in neighboring

Robeson County. There were no organized public activities in Hoke County to celebrate the nation's birthday. This photograph was taken by Jim Skinner, who works at Faberge and lives in Parkton.

Extra land 'out' for Camp MacKall

By Warren Johnston

Although the U.S. Army is planning an expansion of the facilities at Camp MacKall, no future land acquisitions from Hoke County are being considered, Eighth District Congressman William G. Hefner said Friday.

Hefner was in Raeford on Friday campaigning.

During a recent meeting with Ft. Bragg officers, Hefner said he was assured by post commander Gen. James J. Lindsay that there is no plan to acquire more land from either the Sandhills Wildlife Reserve or from Hoke County as part of the Camp MacKall project.

There are also no plans to reactivate a "corridor" linking Ft. Bragg to Camp MacKall through Hoke County, Hefner said.

Funds for the corridor plan were denied by Congress in 1953, after a delegation from Hoke County lobbied for its defeat.

Under the original plan the western end of Hoke County would have been acquired by the Army.

Some county residents had feared the plan might have been reactivated after the Army announced plans to expand the Camp MacKall facility to accommodate a "top secret" project.

The project, which is "highly classified," will be contained within the present boundaries of Camp MacKall, the Congressman said.

"The general assured me there are no land acquisitions planned," Hefner said.

The meeting was set up with

Gen. Lindsay and members of his staff to help improve the communication between Congress and Ft. Bragg, Hefner said.

In addition, efforts are also underway to improve the relationship between Ft. Bragg and Hoke County.

Plans are taking shape to set up a future session with Ft. Bragg officers, Congressman Hefner, Charles G. Rose and Charles Whitley and leaders from surrounding counties, including Hoke, the Eighth District representative said.

"One of our objectives would be to see better communications between Ft. Bragg and Hoke County," Hefner said.

Because of his position as Chairman of the House Military Construction Subcommittee, Hefner says he can help Hoke County develop a better relationship with the Army, and also may be able to earmark future base construction funds to benefit the county.

Currently Ft. Bragg operations are centered in an area which is accessible to Cumberland County and difficult to reach from Hoke.

Members of the Hoke County Chamber of Commerce and others hope to establish better access to Ft. Bragg in an effort to attract more military personnel and civilian workers as residents.

The \$63.32 million recently appropriated for Ft. Bragg construction was primarily to be used for existing projects and could not have been diverted to uses which might have been of more benefit to Hoke County, Hefner said.

(See HEFNER, page 10)

Courthouse, other county projects funded by NC solons

Restoration of the Hoke County Courthouse seems assured after members of the state legislature approved funding last week of \$67,500 for the rehabilitation.

In addition, other Hoke County projects garnered another \$68,000 in state funds during the legislative short session.

The courthouse funds were part of the legislative "pork barrel," and were engineered by state Sen. David Parnell.

County officials had attempted to get \$82,500 funded by the state, but Parnell said Monday those funds were cut by a legislative budget committee.

Local solons were unable to get

the project funded during last year's long session, and came away during that term with a total of only \$25,000 in matching funds for Hoke County. That money went to the restoration of the Mill Prong House.

The courthouse money from the state will be combined with over \$100,000 in local facilities fees to help restore the deteriorating 73-year-old structure.

Library project

Parnell, who represents Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties, was also able to land \$5,000 for the Hoke County Library.

The money will be used for the

library's history room, Librarian Elizabeth Burgess said.

A microfilm reader printer will be purchased with the state funds and with other money given by the City of Raeford.

Any money left over will be used to purchase books and microfilm for the history room, Burgess said.

Industrial development

Members of the House delegation, who also represent the three-county area, were able to obtain \$10,000 in "special project" or pork barrel funds for the Raeford-Hoke County industrial development effort.

The \$10,000 can be used in any manner the city and the county wish for industrial development, state Rep. Daniel H. DeVane said.

The state funds could be added to local contributions to pay the cost of hiring a new industrial recruiter, DeVane said, noting that the funds could also be used to help purchase an industrial park site.

Originally the funds were requested by the late Chamber of Commerce Director Earl N. Fowler and were to be used for an industrial park, DeVane said.

"There is no restriction on them, though," he said.

Children's Center

State House members DeVane, Pete Hasty and Sidney Locks were also able to obtain \$44,000 from the Human Resources budget for the Hoke County Children's Center.

The money will be used to pay off the mortgage on the Center's new building on Jackson Street in Raeford, DeVane said.

Recreation funds

House members also secured \$3,000 for the Hoke County Recreation Department. According to DeVane, the

money is earmarked for the old Armory ball park and will be used to restore the facility, which has fallen in disrepair.

Bathrooms and other facilities at the field will be helped with the state funds, Recreation Director Denise Melton said.

Literacy Council

The Hoke County Literacy Council will also receive funds from the state as a result of the efforts of the local delegation.

The council will receive \$8,000 in pork barrel funds, DeVane said. The money can be used for general operating expenses during the coming fiscal year, he added.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

Robert Gatlin, observer for the National Weather Service, came by the office Monday and gave me some figures for the month of June which should be of interest to most readers.

Gatlin said that we had 3.7 inches of rain during June and that it fell in five days from June 16 through June 21. There was no rain on June 19 and 2.3 inches fell on June 17. Since June 21 we have had 5/100 of an inch of rain. Except for the days mentioned about rain, the skies were clear the rest of the month.

He stated that June was a hot month. During a five day period June 16-20, the following highs were recorded: June 16, 100 degrees; June 17, 90 degrees; June 18, 98 degrees; June 19, 100 degrees; and June 20, 101 degrees. The low temperature was 44 degrees on June 1 and the lows during the month were mostly in the 60s.

The weatherman stated that the low for July so far was Monday, July 9 when the reading was 52 degrees.

It was nice Monday morning, but the forecast is for the hot weather to return during the week.

(See AROUND, page 11)



Pushing trash

Garbage crusher operator Jerry Tew had a full day on Friday at the Raeford-Hoke landfill, after city haulers got untracked and back on schedule. Municipal pickup fell behind after two trucks broke down last week. Some residents waited a week for pickup, but according to City Manager Tom

Phillips, the vehicles are repaired and collections should be back to normal. However, Thursday and Friday were busy days at the landfill as the city tried to catch up, Phillips said. Here, Tew flattens the refuse before it is buried in the landfill pit.

Possibilities numerous for surplus city funds

By Ed Miller

Surplus funds in the Raeford budget could be used for an intensified effort for industrial development and for downtown revitalization, City Manager Tom Phillips said Monday.

Members of the state legislature failed to repeal the North Carolina intangibles tax before adjourning Saturday, and as a result Raeford is going to have surplus unbudgeted funds.

During a meeting last week, members of the Raeford City Council said action could not be taken to rescind a municipal ad valorem tax increase because the intangibles tax income was threatened.

The city budget for the coming year was approved with the one-cent tax rate hike, before council members learned that state one-half cent sales tax rebates had been under estimated.

With the sales tax money, the budget for the new fiscal year should contain between \$32,000 and \$45,000 of unbudgeted revenue.

Surplus funds will probably be put into a reserve fund for the coming year, Phillips said.

Phillips said there were a "number" of items the money could be spent on, but noted that

the funds could not be spent without the approval of the city council.

Both of the city's garbage trucks were in ill-repair last week and the purchase of a new one may be on the agenda during the year.

The motor had to be replaced in (See SURPLUS, page 10)

Inside Today



Rehearsals are over, and the play will begin. We take a look at the Youth Summer Theatre on page 9 of today's News-Journal. The group opens Friday with the production of "Broadway Our Way."