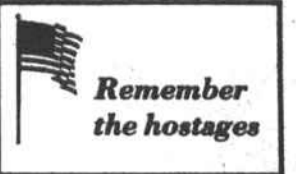


Early edition

Next week's edition of The News-Journal will be one day early, so the staff can spend July 4th with their family. All deadlines will be moved up one day.

The News-Journal



The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

Volume LXXVII Number 10

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$10 PER YEAR

25 CENTS

Thursday, June 27, 1985

Support given for full tax rate increase

By Ed Miller

Overwhelming support of a seven-cent tax rate hike greeted the Board of Hoke County Commissioners during a public hearing Monday night held on the county's general fund and Revenue Sharing budgets.

Of 11 people who spoke during the hearing, only two voiced negative opinions.

Mabel Riley, a former Hoke County Commissioner, said money is being wasted in the county on services such as the proposed Sandhills Community College Satellite, the ambulance service and recreation.

"Every year for the past several years, taxes have gone up. It's like we have a little money tree that we can pick it off when we need it," she said.

Riley also spoke against the opi-

nions of the Hoke County Higher Education Foundation.

Members of the foundation say county residents who are presently attending no classes will go to a class offered closer to home.

The closest technical colleges or community colleges to Raeford are in Fayetteville.

Others are Robeson Tech in Lumberton and Sandhills Community College in Southern Pines.

"If anyone wants to go to a movie or bowling or something in the same places as those community colleges, they can manage," Riley said.

However, in her argument against recreation she said, people who live in the county do not use recreation facilities because they cannot afford to drive into Raeford to get to them.

"Sure we need the services, but

can we afford them," she said.

According to Agnes Mae Campbell, who operates the Johnson Company and does not want taxes raised, classes are already being offered in adult education at Hoke County High School, and that is enough.

Campbell also spoke out against recreation.

"I think families can go back to creating their own recreation and not pay so much for it," she said.

"I don't like paying those high taxes," she said.

Campbell suggested additional taxes on beer, wine and cigarettes.

Hoke at crossroads

Raeford-Hoke Economic Developer John Howard called the positive comments by calling for commissioners to approve the budget as it stands with the seven-

cent rate hike.

"Gentlemen, I believe we are at a crossroads in this county," said Howard.

Howard commended Hoke County Manager William Cowan and his staff in their work with the budget saying that it was a fiscal plan of growth that had been carefully cut where needed.

A person with \$30,000 in property valuation would only pay 21 cents per day in a year for the tax hike, Howard said.

"People use the services everyday," said Howard.

Howard also called for a study committee to be appointed from the general population to look at the budget and recommend cuts if they felt them necessary.

College trial sought

Raeford Southern National

Bank Manager Steve Parker, representing the Hoke County Higher Education Foundation asked that the college be funded for one year.

According to Parker, if the college works, it will be an asset to the county, if it fails, "we will not be back."

Juanita Holland echoed Parker's and other foundation members' sentiments by saying that if a college is close, it will attract local people.

"We are at a crossroads," said former Hoke County Commissioner and current school employee Harold Gillis.

"I have always been told that in similar situations you either go forwards or you turn around and go back. As businessmen, you don't want to go backward," Gillis told commissioners.

"I think we must look at this thing realistically."

"We can't always keep a no growth policy," said Gillis.

The county administration must move forward by "thinking toward the future of Hoke County," according to Gillis.

"We may have to bite the bullet and raise taxes," said Upchurch Jr. High School Principal Allen Edwards.

During the hearing, County Manager Cowan told the public that next year's loss of Revenue Sharing may mean an additional 13 cents on the tax rate.

"As a citizen, I would recommend taking seven cents now and not hitting us with 20 cents next year," said L.S. Brock.

"I'd like to sit here long enough

(See TAX, page 2A)



Waiting it out

Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins (right) confers with State Bureau of Investigation agents Tuesday as they wait for other members of a special negotiation team to arrive from different parts of the state. Wiggins, who went to school with Junior

Long, tried to talk the man out most of Tuesday afternoon. About 4:30 p.m., Wiggins sent for the special team. "I don't call on you very often, but when I do, I need you," the chief told the leader of the team.

Gunman holding police at bay

By Ed Miller

A Raeford man, Junior Long, said by police to be in his late 40's, was still locked inside apartment 106 of Raeford's Countryside apartment complex Wednesday morning.

The man has been in the apartment since about 3 p.m. Tuesday when Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins tried to serve involuntary mental commitment papers on him, said Wiggins.

Long is in the apartment alone but is thought to have two guns with him, said Wiggins.

Just after 3 p.m. Tuesday, a gun blast blew a hole through the roof of the apartment as Wiggins was about to step inside the door to talk with the man, said the chief.

Police and State Bureau of Investigation officers waited on Long to come out of the house all Tuesday night and were still

At 9 a.m. Wednesday, Long was talked out of the apartment by S.B.I. agents. Officers made contact with the man when he opened a door to whistle for his dog, Wiggins said.

waiting Wednesday morning.

Relatives and church members tried for hours to get Long to come to the door or just talk to them late Tuesday afternoon, to no avail.

Wiggins, who went to school with Long, tried to get the man to talk to him for hours Tuesday afternoon, but no answer came from inside the apartment.

Residents in the apartments surrounding 106 were evacuated Tuesday.

The main objective is to get the man out safely, said Wiggins.

Test scores show improvement

By Ed Miller

Recent results from achievement test scores show most Hoke County school first through ninth grade students are improving.

Test scores for 67.5% of the students made at least one year's progress in this year's battery of exams.

According to Hoke County School Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson, traditionally, students in this county have not progressed a year in achievement per a year in school.

Recently received figures from the state and the region show that out of 37 places where comparisons can be drawn, 25 points showed that Hoke students progressed at least a year.

According to Nelson, 12 out of

37 places, or 32.4% of comparable points showed that students did not make the needed progressions in a year.

"We ought to be concerned that in one-third of the cases we did not make a year's progress in a year. But, in two-thirds of them we did and that's better than we've been doing," Nelson said.

In comparison with national averages, or norms, 30 out of 43 points of comparison showed Hoke County students to be at or above national norms.

That averages out to be about 69.76%, said Nelson.

"Thirty percent of our groups are not at national norms, but it's so much better than it was," said Nelson.

According to the superinten-

dent, in 1983, 41.4% of achievement test scores were at or above the national norm.

By 1985, that percentage had risen to 69.7%, said Nelson.

Also, this year marks the first time the total achievement average scores for the ninth grade was above national norms.

This year's Hoke ninth graders averaged a score of 9.8, translated to read ninth grade, eighth month, said Nelson.

The national norm is 9.7, ninth grade, seventh month, he said.

In comparison with the region, which contains 17 school systems, Hoke County is beginning to favorably compare, said Nelson.

Grades six and nine are beginning to compare, said Nelson.

(See TEST, page 2A)

New ideas for improving county offered at seminar

By Ed Miller

New ideas were given and welcomed at a seminar last Tuesday entitled "Look Up Raeford-Hoke."

"I feel that we accomplished the objective to acquaint a total cross section of the people with the future," Raeford-Hoke Economic Developer John Howard said.

About 50 people attended the seminar, said Howard.

Most of those people attended

representing multiple capacities, said Hoke County Extension Service Chairman Willie Featherstone.

"I attended representing the Extension Service. Barbara (Buie) attended for the Literacy Council and it just so happens that we're also black," he said in meeting last Wednesday to discuss the impact of the seminar.

According to questionnaires filled out by those who went to the

meeting, industry growth and improvement on the quality of life for all in the county are the priorities to be looked at if Hoke is to become a thriving county.

"We must recognize social change, educational change, job skill change requirements brought on by advanced technologies," said Howard.

"We now live in the information age where our total lifestyles are being changed for us almost faster

than we realize," said the developer.

Different sections of the population were discussed in the seminar.

"As a community, it appears to me impossible for any segment of the community to want to accomplish something without a full knowledge and cooperation by all the other segments," said Howard.

In Wednesday's meeting, the group also discussed how to get the

population involved with improving Hoke County.

One citizen told others at the meeting there are about 25 people in Hoke County that will work on their own for the good of all.

A pyramid effect was discussed. If each of those 25 people contact four or five other people, a large number of interested citizens can be reached, Howard said.

"I believe they call this synergy

when the whole is greater than the sum of its parts," said the developer.

"Perhaps the most important question of all is whether we will let the future just happen to us here in Hoke County or whether we will take steps to shape it with our values, our resources, our dreams and our imaginations," Howard said.

(See NEW, page 3A)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

Summer officially began last Friday, June 21. It was nice over the weekend, but the thermometer is now going up. The nights are also warm.

We haven't had any rain for the past five days, so it would be welcomed. None in the forecast for the next five days.

According to the forecast, the temperature on Thursday will be 96°. Summer is with us to stay.

The News-Journal will publish a day early next week due to the July 4th holiday. We must come out on Tuesday so that the paper will

(See AROUND, page 2A)



Grandfathered under new law

Mobile home lots in existing parks, like this one, would be allowed to remain in business under a recently passed mobile home ordinance. New parks will be required to pave streets and increase lot sizes.

Mobile home park law clarified

By Ed Miller

Mobile home park owners will not have to meet the requirements of a new ordinance to add residences if lots were ready for trailers before June 3, Hoke County Planning Board members decided last week.

During a sometimes heated meeting last Thursday night, Planning Board members voted to make the allowances only if sewer, water and electricity had already been run to the lot before June 3.

Board members also made exceptions for park owners whose construction was held up by the county's inspection department.

In the case of Jack Lanier, owner of several lots in Harmony Heights Mobile Home Park, construction on putting down a septic

tank was halted because of the passing of the ordinance, he said in the meeting.

Planning Board members also faced verbal abuse from one park owner who claimed the ordinance was passed in secret.

"Frankly, I want to know who started all this," said O.D. Ferris.

Planning Board Chairman Brown Hendrix, Jr. told Ferris that Hoke County originally started working on an ordinance in 1974, and that the current ordinance was first discussed again in February of this year.

"Don't go telling me how the hell to run the damn place," Ferris said.

"Here you go trying to tell me what to do. I'm telling you this is

just like Russia," said Ferris.

"There's a lot of unfair things in here," he said.

Another park owner charged there should have been two public hearings before the ordinance was passed.

"You didn't give a chance for the second public hearing," Floyd McNeill said.

State law only requires one public hearing, County Attorney Duncan McFayden has said.

Other questions were clarified during the meeting.

According to Hendrix, a park that is partially filled now and has lots set up and able to immediately accept trailers can add trailers under the grandfather clause.