

... Tax hike backed

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for someone to stand up and say I appreciate paying taxes," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

Hoke County School Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson did exactly that.

According to Nelson, he likes paying taxes because he gets so much in return.

"I know that my trash is going to be picked up," said Nelson.

The superintendent also said he likes knowing that there is a health department, an ambulance service, police and sheriff protection, recreation facilities and educational services available for his use.

"Those are things I can't do for myself," he said.

"I think I'm getting a bargain in return," said Nelson.

Lillie Rheams, representing the Hoke County Civic League said she and her organization want to keep the present services the way they are.

In a letter read by Rheams, the Civic League agreed to the tax hike if it is needed to keep services at their present level.

"Start absorbing costs today," said Rheams.

County employee Ben Hadden said: "I'd go along with seven cents if it will help county employees."

County employees need the salary benefits that can be derived from a tax hike, said Hadden.

In the last budget work session held by the commission, Commissioner James Albert Hunt suggested that a penny could be cut out of the tax hike by reducing cost of living salary increases to county employees from 5% to 3%.

One cent added to the tax rate will produce \$31,280, Cowan said in that session.

Tax cutters missed

"Where were all those people who called me and said they just couldn't take another raise in taxes?" Commission Chairman John Balfour said after the public hearing was over.

In other action during the meeting, commission members voted to sign a contract with American Refuse Systems, Inc. (ARS) to pick up garbage from dumpsters in the county next year.

According to the contract passed by the commission, ARS will em-

pty the dumpsters in the county for one year with an automatic renewal for another year if neither party wants out of the contract.

Any raises in the rates of the service must be based on the consumer price index (CPI), the contract says.

As an example, Cowan said that if the CPI went up three percent, the rates for dumping trash boxes will go up three percent.

The estimated value of the contract is \$138,500, said Cowan.

That value is "strictly an estimate" based on the amount of garbage hauled last year, said Cowan.

The rate is based on \$6.72 per box, he said.

Also included in the contract is a clause saying that ARS will pay a \$75 fine for every box scheduled for pick-up that is missed, said Cowan.

Tabled by commissioners until a later meeting was a vote on the proposed secondary road improvement program presented by members of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT).

According to a summary sheet given commissioners, Hoke County's "anticipated 1985-86 allocation" will be \$97,585.

About 15% of the allocation will be for road additions, property owner participation projects, volunteer fire departments, project overdrafts and drainage projects.

Another 15% will be used for "unpaved road stabilization projects."

About 20% will go to paved secondary road improvement projects such as widening.

The balance of the money will be used to pave secondary roads, according to DOT officials.

The total amount that can be used for paving projects is \$48,792.

Based on priorities, the paving will begin with State Road 1491, State Road 1487 and State Road 1414, officials say.

Any money left over will be used to begin other projects.

Other business

Commissioners also:

• Passed a motion to pay legal fees to County Attorney Duncan McFayden for the period ending June 13.



Season's beauty

Lilies in gardens around Hoke County make the landscape brighter this time of year. These flowers were found in a Raeford bed.

Photo by Becky Jones

... Tests scores rise

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ning to catch up to the region, the figures show.

Reading scores from grade six show a gain in scoring of two months, from 6.0 last year, to 6.2 this year, said Nelson, adding that this represents a gain on the region and the state which remained constant at 6.7 and 7.1 respectively.

Out of 23 possible comparison points between Hoke County and the region, the county gained on the region in 13 places, said Nelson.

"We held our own in six places," said Nelson.

"In four places we lost ground and all of them were in the second grade. And, we don't know why," said Nelson.

When comparing state figures with Hoke scores, the county students gained on state averages 15 out of 23 places or 62.5% of the comparable areas, said Nelson.

Four points of comparison stayed the same and ground was lost in four places, he said.

The four points where scoring fell were again in the second grade, said the superintendent.

The News-Journal

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Faberge hires 120

Over 120 new temporary employees started to work at Raeford's Faberge plant last Monday to help the facility gear up for the Christmas rush production.

According to Personnel Manager Bob Gregory, the employees will work until the end of September.

The workers will be employed at tasks which have to be done by hand, such as special holiday

packaging, said Gregory. "We also have a number of sales promotions going" that require special packaging, he said.

"Faberge hopes to be able to keep some of these people on a permanent basis," said Gregory. Currently, Faberge's Raeford plant has 485 permanent employees.

The total work force at the plant now is 612, said Gregory.

... Around Town

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make the mail on Wednesday. The post office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th.

So let me give you a few of our deadlines that must move up to accomplish this early delivery. All classified ads must be in the office on Friday, June 28 by 4 p.m. Display ads must be in the office by noon on Monday, July 1.

In the social department, all weddings must be in the office by Thursday noon, June 27. Other social news must be in the office by 4 p.m. Friday, June 28.

All articles, features and columns will have their deadline moved up one day. So if you have been bringing articles in on Monday, move up to Friday.

We hope this doesn't inconvenience most of our writers, but this schedule must be met to get the paper out on time.

The office will be closed Thursday, July 4.

The following letter was received this week from Dayna Elliott, who was manager of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce some years ago. It follows:

Dear Sam:
We've been with the Lee Carpet Division of Burlington Industries here in Chicago for a few months and I've enjoyed keeping up with Raeford through my N/J subscription. We're soon to move to our permanent new home, though, so please have my subscription changed to: Dayna Elliott, 253 Sea Marsh Drive, Kaiwah Island, S.C. 29455.

Enclosed is a check for the deposit; I'm so glad that important building is being put to such good

and creative use.

Thanks for all the support the N/J is giving Josh and Jay's Eagle Scout monument project. They're excited about it and hope it will have lasting value for the community.

Hope you're doing well. I'll try to stop in to say hello next time I'm in Raeford.

Sincerely,
Dayna Elliott

It was good to hear from you, Dayna. I hope we can see each other the next time you come to Raeford. Thanks very much for your generous donation for the depot. Maybe you won't recognize it the next time you are here. Keep those donations coming!

Bob Gentry, chairman of the American Legion Golf Tournament Committee, called Monday and asked that I pass on the following information about the Legion's Annual July 4th tournament.

The tournament will be played at the Arabia Golf Course and will start with a breakfast at the Edinborough Restaurant at 7:30 a.m. Play will begin immediately after the meal at the course.

You can come to the breakfast and sign up for the tournament at that time, Gentry said. The price of the entire event, including breakfast is \$20 for members of the club and \$25 for non-members.

Gentry stated that it would be handicap play and that 20 to 25 players would be awarded during the play. Proceeds will go to the Legion fund.

So if you like tournament golf, celebrate the Fourth with the American Legion at Arabia.

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